



## BRT LINE-3 Promises falling flat

### Fickle-minded, ill-prepared authorities likely to launch half-baked service in August

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

When the government took up a project in November 2012 to build a 20.50km road dedicated for buses between Dhaka airport and Gazipur, the plan was to operate spacious and comfortable articulated buses.

But Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Ltd (Dhaka BRT) later decided to operate electric buses instead and started the process to procure 130 electric buses in July 2022.

However, the company changed its mind again and floated a tender to procure 137 diesel-run AC buses for the service expected by August, more than six and a half years behind the original deadline.

Since the company will not be able to hire an operator until the middle of next year, it will engage Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) to operate the buses.

Moreover, all of the 25 stations will not be fully ready to provide automated ticket sales at the beginning, meaning the BRT service will be "semi-automated" at launch. Also, a portion of the flyover may not be fully ready at the beginning.

Shafiqul Islam, managing director of Dhaka BRT told The Daily Star, said he was hoping that 50 buses would arrive in the first lot by July or August and they would launch the service soon afterwards. The next lot would arrive within the following six months.

The BRT Line-3 from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Gazipur was actually an extension of the original plan, which was to build the BRT from the airport to Jhilmil project in Keraniganj.

Another plan to extend the line to Mohakhali was dropped due to what officials said was the bad experience during the BRT implementation. Experts said the partly functional BRT will not ease traffic congestion to the level expected at the outset.

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An excavator scoops topsoil from arable land and loads it onto a truck likely bound for a brick kiln. Despite it being illegal, the lack of law enforcement oversight allows influential people to intimidate farmers into selling the fertile layer of the soil, jeopardising future crop yield. The photo was taken yesterday in Gachhbari area of Sylhet's Kanighat upazila.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## IMF LOAN PROGRAMME

# Getting Bangladesh ready for LDC graduation

### Says the lender's DMD in an interview with Star

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The prospective loan programme of the International Monetary Fund will prime Bangladesh for graduation from the least-developed country bracket and reach middle-income country status by 2031, said the lender's top official.

In the past decade, Bangladesh achieved impressive economic growth and social development, making steady progress in reducing poverty and across many indicators of the Sustainable Development



"Well, I am coming away from this visit very energised by the clear dynamism you see out there and the huge potential that Bangladesh has."

Antoinette Monsio Sayeh, deputy managing director of IMF

Goals, Antoinette Monsio Sayeh, the deputy managing director of IMF, told The Daily Star in an interview on Monday.

"To successfully graduate from the LDC status and achieve middle-income status by 2031, it is important to build on these

past successes and address structural issues to accelerate growth, attract private investment, enhance productivity and build climate resilience. We believe the programme will help to do just that."

Sayeh, who is in Bangladesh SEE PAGE 10 COL 1 RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

## Rohingyas accuse APBn of abuse

### Says HRW report

ZYMA ISLAM with MOSTAFA YOUSUF

A 36-year-old Rohingya refugee activist was preparing a list of refugees allegedly abused by Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn). In consequence, he faced arrest, arbitrary detention and torture, he claimed.

"I was picked up on December 3, 2021, from Thaingkhali Camp 13 on my way to offer Juma prayers in a mosque. I was kept in a room from that day till December 12, 2021, when I was shifted to Ukhiya Police Station," he claimed.

He alleged that he was indiscriminately tortured, and a burning candle was held to his genitals.

In a report by Human Rights Watch released yesterday, he was quoted as claiming, "I was put in a single room that looked like an APBn torture cell with equipment like sticks, rods, and electric shock materials. They kicked me with their boots every time someone came to interrogate me."

Many charges were brought against the refugee, starting from attempted murder, abduction, kidnapping, extortion, assault, to theft and unlawful assembly.

While in detention, his diabetes spiralled out of control and his injuries were so bad that he had to be taken to the field hospital, documents show.

The Daily Star is withholding the names of the refugee and the APBn unit.

The HRW in the report alleged that the APBn was committing extortion, arbitrary arrests, and harassment of Rohingya refugees with impunity.

The rights watchdog based its statements on interviews with over 40 Rohingya refugees, including 10 alleged victims who said that they were detained on apparently fabricated grounds of trafficking yaba. The organisation reviewed police reports and documented more than 16 cases of serious abuse by APBn officers.

A 27-year-old man who allegedly ran a YouTube channel was arrested and charged with possession of yaba tablets, a first information report dated June 25 of last year shows.

The FIR states that the man was hiding 620 yaba pills under his pillow which was discovered by the APBn during a raid. However, a Rohingya man named in the FIR as a witness to the incident disagreed.

"He is not into drugs," the witness, Md Jamal, told The Daily Star. He also said that he was unaware of being named in the case as a witness.

The man allegedly framed could not be reached, because shortly after being released he chose to leave the camp by sea on a trawler, said the witness.

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In spite of the numerous accidents that have claimed lives on rail lines, public awareness has yet to increase, as evident by the two young men in this photo taking a selfie on the lines near the FDC level crossing in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Argentina's Bangladesh visit closer to reality



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lionel Messi's Argentina, the reigning world champions, have agreed in principle to come to Bangladesh for a friendly match in June this year, given all the conditions are met, informed Bangladesh Football Federation's vice-president Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan Manik.

The BFF official informed that they were working on finalising the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## 6 die as 'drowsy' ambulance driver rear-ends truck

STAR REPORT

Computer engineer Lutfurnahar Lima had been living in Florida for over a decade with her father.

The 30-year-old returned home around five months ago to her ailing mother Jahanara Begum, 55.

Lima was preparing documents to take her mother to the US. Her mother was suffering from kidney disease and diabetes.

On Monday afternoon, Jahanara suddenly fell very sick. She was rushed to a hospital in Barishal from her College Avenue home. As her condition was deteriorating, Lima hired an ambulance and started heading towards Birdem Hospital in the capital around 1:00am yesterday.

Their relative Fazle Rabbi, 28, and his friend Masud Rana, 28, also Barishal bureau chief of daily Nabochatona, were accompanying them.

But they could not reach Dhaka.

All four and the ambulance driver Rabiul Islam, 29, and his assistant Jilani, 28, died after their vehicle rear-ended a truck at Naodoba in Shariatpur's Jajira on the Shibchar highway around 4:20am.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jahanara's elder brother Ashraf Ali said, "We, all the family members and relatives, are speechless."

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## More laws to control media will harm journalism

Noab tells Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken an initiative to enact five laws alongside the existing law regarding the mass media. But attempts to control the mass media with so many laws will harm journalism, newspaper owners said.

Leaders of the Newspaper Owners Association of Bangladesh (Noab) met Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday and expressed these concerns.

Quader, also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, was handed Noab's written commentary on the five draft laws regarding the mass media.

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সর্বজনীন পরিশোধ সেবায় নিশ্চিত হবে স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ

ক্যাশলেস বাংলাদেশ স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ

ক্যাশলেস ও স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ গড়ার অগ্রযাত্রায় অংশী হতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত

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## AG office 'sought stay 13 days before HC bail order'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attorney general's office allegedly filed a petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, seeking a stay on a High Court bail order that had not even been passed yet.

The bail order came 13 days after the stay petition was filed, according to court documents and defence lawyers.

In the petition, which was filed on December 21, 2021, the AG office claimed the HC granted six months' ad-interim bail to Hefajat-e-Islam leader Mufti Harun Izhar on December 8, 2021, in a murder case filed after the Hefajat's mayhem at the capital's Shapla Chattar on May 5, 2013.

Actually, the HC granted bail to Harun Izhar, education and cultural affairs secretary of Hefajat, on January 3, 2022, not on December 8, 2021, his lawyers AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Mohammad Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

In response to the petition filed by the AG office on behalf of the state, the then chamber judge of the Appellate Division on December 21, 2021, stayed the "December 8, 2021, bail order".

The AG office didn't attach the bail order to its petition as it was not required.

Mahub Uddin Khokon said the AG office obtained the stay order on the basis of false information.

And because of this, Harun Izhar could not walk out of jail though he was originally granted bail by the HC on January 3 last year, Khokon added.

Yesterday, a three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman, dismissed the AG office's petition and upheld the HC order that granted bail to Mufti Harun on January 3 last year.

Mahub Uddin Khokon said his client had to stay behind bars for more than a year due to the AG office's placing of a wrong petition before the chamber judge.

"We earlier tried to mention this issue before the Appellate Division to redress the situation but in vain. We will make a decision on whether a case will be moved before a court seeking compensation for Mufti Izhar after he gets released from jail," he said.

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Leaders of the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh meet Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at his office at the Secretariat yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 9,000 civilians killed since Russian invasion

Says Ukraine; Zelensky calls for faster weapons supply from West

AGENCIES

Over 9,000 civilians, including 453 children, have been killed in Ukraine since Russia's invasion last February, a senior Ukrainian presidential aide said yesterday.

"We have registered 80,000 crimes committed by Russian invaders and over 9,000 civilians have been killed, including 453 children," Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian presidential staff, said at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss resort of Davos.

"We will not forgive a single (act of) torture or life taken. Each criminal will be held accountable," he said, reiterating that Ukraine wants a special international tribunal to try Russian political leaders and reparations for the destruction caused

by Russia's invasion.

The Office of the UN high commissioner for human rights said on Monday that more than 7,000 civilians had been killed in Ukraine since Russia invaded.

In eastern Ukraine, 25 people were still missing after a Russian missile strike on a block of apartments that killed at least 41 people in the city of Dnipro.

Saturday's strike was one of the deadliest attacks since Russia invaded Ukraine nearly a year ago. The Kremlin denies that Russian troops were responsible.

Ukraine came a step closer yesterday to winning the fleet of Western battle tanks it hopes could turn the course of the war, after Germany said tanks would be the first item on the agenda of a new defence minister.

## Stop digital surveillance without rules

Article 19 urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights organisation, Article 19, has called for a postponement on surveillance using the integrated lawful interception system technology without formulating any rules.

In a press release yesterday, the UK-based body expressed deep concern over the government's recent initiative to monitor mobile, internet and social media through controversial technologies without having specific rules.

On January 12, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told the House that the government has taken initiative to introduce an "Integrated Lawful Interception System (ILIS)" to monitor social media and thwart various anti-state and anti-government activities.

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## 2 killed in row over badminton match

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two men were killed and another was injured following an altercation over a badminton match in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The victims Saidul Islam, 31, and Kaiser Hamid, 28, came under attack by local trader Joynal Abedin and his associates at Larpara around 11:30pm, said Md Nazmul Haque, inspector (investigation) of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model Police Station.

Locals rushed Saidul and Kaiser to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

Saidul's younger brother Monirul Islam, who was injured in the incident, said, "Following an argument, Joynal and his associates attacked us with sticks and sharp weapons while we were chatting in front of my brother-in-law's shop."

Meanwhile, police have arrested two of the attackers while they are on the look-out for the others.

## Dhamrai house fire: Fifth victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female burn victim, who was injured in a fire that broke out at her house in the capital's Dhamrai on January 7, died at a city hospital last morning.

With her, all the five persons who sustained burn injuries in the incident, have died.

Hosna Akter, 30, breathed her last around 9:00am while undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. She sustained 25 percent burns on her body, said its resident surgeon SM Ayub Hossain.

Five members of a family were burnt in a fire on January 7.

The other members of the family were Manjural Islam, 35, a garment worker, his wife Josna Begum, 25, their one-and-half-year-old daughter Mariyam Akter, and Josna's niece Sadia Akter, 18.

## Murder suspect arrested while fleeing to India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Immigration police yesterday arrested a man accused in a murder case as he was trying to flee to India via Brahmanbaria's Akhaura land port.

Swapan Miah, 40, of Manikandi village in Cumilla's Titas upazila, was barred from leaving the country because he was accused in a murder case in Cumilla, said Dewan Morshed, officer-in-charge of Akhaura Immigration Police.

"He arrived at the immigration office in Akhaura to request entry to India. However, the digital database at immigration identified him as being on the blacklist. He was then arrested and handed over to Akhaura Police Station," added the official.

## Promises falling flat

FROM PAGE 1

Articulated or bi-articulated buses are used for BRT services to cope up with the large number of commuters during peak hours, he said, adding that this makes transport more efficient, said transport expert Shamsul Haque.

Besides, these buses would require a smaller number of employees to operate, he said.

"Since we are changing the configuration of the BRT service, we will not get the original flavour of the service," he told The Daily Star.

Besides, the regular buses will increase the operation cost and cause management problems.

Education and training are required to operate BRT buses, but the BRTC drivers will reduce productivity of the service and increase indiscipline, he added.

The project, formally known as Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project, was originally planned to be complete by December 2016 at a cost of Tk 2,037.9 crore.

The delay was caused by issues relating to land acquisition, relocation of utility services, design changes, contractors running out of money, and the pandemic. Moreover, physical work was suspended twice.

As a result, the total project cost is now estimated to be Tk 4,268.3 crore

and the deadline is December 2024. The project witnessed 84.4 percent progress as of last month.

Meanwhile, the construction work has been making people suffer immensely, especially during the monsoons.

Once operational, the 20.5km transit will allow people to reach Dhaka from Gazipur in just 35-40 minutes.

Thanks to congestion and the battered condition of the road, the journey now takes up to four hours.

The Dhaka BRT website says articulated or bi-articulated buses used for BRT services usually have multiple wide doors for people to quickly board and exit.

The authorities originally wanted to buy 50 articulated buses and later increased the number to 120. But that plan was dropped "to reduce operating cost and considering the BRTC's bad experience in maintaining articulated buses".

Then, the decision to buy electric buses was made at the suggestion of Asian Development Bank (ADB), a major financier of the project.

The BRT in July last year invited preliminary expressions of interest, a pre-bidding process, for procuring electric AC buses.

That decision was changed again and the authorities on Saturday

floated a tender for procuring 137 diesel AC buses that are 12 metres in length. They had to change the design of the stations for these buses.

Shafiqul Islam said a preliminary study found the operation of electric buses may pose risks and it would require a proper feasibility study.

Besides, procuring electric buses will take longer, because manufacturers make them only after getting orders, he said, adding that diesel buses are delivered fast.

Electric vehicles would require charging facilities, he said, "That's why we decided to buy diesel buses."

Shafiqul said he talked to the BRTC to operate the new buses until an operator is hired, hopefully by mid-2024.

Asked why the bidding process for procuring buses had not started earlier, he said the ADB was supposed to provide funds for the buses. But the French Development Agency ended up being the financier and this change caused delays.

The authorities' plan to introduce an Intelligent Transportation System to give a fully-automated service may not be implemented before the second half of next year, he said.

"Our service at the initial stage would be semi-automated," he added.

## Rohingyas accuse APBn of abuse

FROM PAGE 1

On December 19, 2021, a group of seven people were arrested for possessing a locally-made one-shooter gun. According to the FIR of the case, a team of APBn-8 was raiding an area close to camp-9 and 10 around 12:45am when they received a tip-off that a group of Rohingya refugees were going to assemble to "commit a crime".

The FIR states that when the APBn reached the spot, the Rohingyas began running away, prompting the cops to arrest them.

One of the accused remembers the incident differently. "I was called to the area by the Head Majhi. When we all got there, I was detained. Later, we were all charged with possessing a gun," the 34-year-old accused told this newspaper.

The gun was recovered in front of hundreds of people, claimed the FIR. However, the man named in the case as a witness, one Nur Kamal, told The Daily Star that he could not remember the incident.

On the other hand, while the FIR accuses them of possessing a firearm, a local media quoted members of the APBn unit as saying that they had arrested the group because they were kidnappers.

"In late October, the APBn launched Operation Root Out in response to a spike in targeted killings by armed groups. The police have arrested at least 900 Rohingyas since mid-2022. But refugees allege that corruption in the APBn has allowed criminal activities

to proliferate, while Rohingyas not responsible for crimes have ended up targeted in police crackdowns," said the HRW report.

Almost every case Human Rights Watch investigated involved extortion either directly by APBn officers or communicated through majhis, the camp community leaders, the report added.

"Police generally demanded Tk 10,000-40,000 [\$100-400] to avoid arrest, and Tk 50,000-100,000 [\$500-1,000] for the release of a detained family member. Families often had to sell gold jewelry or borrow money for bribes or legal costs."

The HRW logged responses from as many as 122 refugees. They claimed that they had been extorted for sums ranging from Tk 2,000 to Tk 7 lakh. Other than money, they were extorted for relief items like soap, rice and tarpaulins.

The report quoted a case study of one 57-year-old betel leaf shop owner who upon being arrested was asked to pay Tk 1 lakh for release. "Because we have such little income from the shop, we couldn't pay any amount to the police," his daughter told the rights watchdog.

The shop owner, now behind bars, was charged with possession of 2,000 yaba tablets and remains in jail. The HRW interviewed a witness named in the FIR, who knew nothing of the case or why he was named, said the report.

A Rohingya refugee, who claimed to have spent 70 days in jail for failing to

pay a bribe of Tk 1 lakh, told the HRW, "APBn officers keep coming to me and my family asking for bribes. They think we have some sort of a money machine. How could we pay so much money? There is no way to earn money. There is no work. We already lost all of our gold to secure my bail. We are helpless."

The HRW said that each camp should task and train non-APBn personnel to receive complaints from refugees against police officers.

It also held donors accountable stating that the 2022 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis received less than half of the \$881 million needed for the year and that donors should support projects to promote Rohingya refugees' safety and protection.

Deputy Inspector General Md Jamil Hasan, in charge of the three APBn units responsible for security in the camps, said that the HRW report was levelling a blanket accusation on the force.

"They are making these conclusions based on one or two unverified cases. They didn't even approach us for our comments on these incidents. There is no question of torturing or harassing the Rohingya refugees," he said.

He claimed that the infighting among the armed gangs in the camps was so intense that when they take actions against one group, it accuses the force of having bias towards another, and come up with claims of extortion.

## Argentina's Bangladesh visit closer to reality

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details, which could be completed by Tuesday night.

"Argentina are expected to come to Bangladesh to play a FIFA friendly in June. They have quite a few conditions that must be met and we are completing the final negotiations," Manik told The Daily Star yesterday.

FIFA's executive member Mahfuza Akter Kiron, also the women's wing chairman of the BFF, informed that they were holding talks with teams such as Morocco and Japan to play against the world champions.

"We haven't finalised their opponents. We are negotiating with a few teams like Japan and Morocco for the friendly," Kiron told The Daily Star.

If the Albiceleste do come in June,

this will be their second visit to Bangladesh, with their first taking place on September 6, 2011 when they beat Nigeria 3-1 in a friendly at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Messi set up two goals for Gonzalo Higuain and Angel di Maria on that occasion while the other was an own goal. Chinedu Obasi scored the only goal for Nigeria in that match, played out in front of a 25,000-strong crowd.

While negotiations with the Argentina team are at an advanced stage, the venue remains an issue.

The BNS, which is the only internationally-recognised venue for hosting FIFA Tier-1 matches in Bangladesh, has been undergoing renovations since September 2021 and there is still quite a lot of work remaining, including the planting of new grass on the pitch, revamping

the galleries and the dressing rooms and installing LED floodlights.

The initial deadline for the renovation was extended from December, 2022 to June, 2023 and the budget increased from Tk 98 crore to Tk 155 crore, informed an official of the National Sports Council who preferred not to be named.

The last time Argentina played in Bangladesh, the BFF had to splurge around three to \$4m. It will also be another costly move for BFF as its president Kazi Salahuddin recently told media that the estimated cost for hosting the upcoming match would be around \$10m or roughly around 100 crore taka.

The BFF will hold a press briefing to apprise the media on details of the negotiations today.

## More laws to control media

FROM PAGE 1

Noab leaders requested that all the stakeholders are consulted before the laws are finalised.

The Digital Security Act and different other existing laws concerned are impediments to independent journalism and freedom of speech, the association leaders said.

AK Azad, Noab president and managing director of Times Media Limited; ASM Shahidullah Khan, Noab vice-president and publisher of New Age; Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star; Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Noab treasurer and editor-in-chief of Manab Zamin; Tarik Sujat, managing director of Bhorer Kagaj; Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of The Financial Express; and Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor and publisher of Bonik Barta attended the meeting.

AK Azad said newspaper publishing is facing two major crises. The price of paper saw a two-to-three-fold increase. Publishing is significantly more expensive now. On top of it, the VAT and tax are causing major losses to the newspapers.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman said the government initiative to enact five new laws alongside the existing ones concerning the mass media will raise the degree of oppression on journalists.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said the government enacts different laws at different times. It is time to think about whether the government is benefitting from these laws.

"The proposed Press Council Act gives the chairman of the press council so much power that the chairman can fine a newspaper or a news agency up to Tk 10 lakh or get the individuals concerned arrested

for publishing a news or photo," he said. It is a terrible law."

New Age Publisher Shahidullah Khan said, "The mass media wants to be on good terms with the government. We shall take corrective measures if anyone points out any errors."

Manab Zamin Editor-in-chief Matiur Rahman Chowdhury said, "Political problems should be resolved through politics and as an experienced politician, Obaidul Quader has expertise in this regard." Tarik Sujat, managing director of Bhorer Kagaj, said, "The pro-liberation Awami League government is in power. We have a lot of expectations from this government."

Obaidul Quader said, "The Awami League does not want any favour from the newspapers. We only want our due recognition. We are not against the newspapers... We do not want any animosity between us."



## HC summons DGHS DG over non-compliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services to appear before it over non-compliance of its order for appointing doctors to 48 vacant posts in the country's prisons.

The DG has been ordered to appear before the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice

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A pile of bamboo hangs from the back of a pick-up truck. At any moment, any of the pieces may have flown off from the truck and hit nearby vehicles, possibly leading to a severe accident. This photo was taken in Tejgaon Industrial Area recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## 'Private investment crucial for growth'

Says IMF DMD Antoinette Monsio Sayeh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Monsio Sayeh yesterday said Bangladesh needs policies to remove excessive regulation and improve corporate governance, as well as the financial sector's efficiency to attract higher foreign direct investment.

Sayeh, who will leave Bangladesh today after a five-day visit, also said increasing private investments is critical for Bangladesh to sustain the recent high levels of growth, which will require structural reforms.

For instance, addressing the weaknesses in the financial sectors by increasing the efficiency of state-owned commercial banks as well as pursuing capital market development to provide new vehicles to channel savings towards long-term investment are needed, Sayeh said while delivering a lecture at Dhaka University yesterday.

She said Bangladesh has one of the lowest revenue-to-GDP ratios in the world, and it needs to do more to raise public revenues for public investments as well as increase support for the poor directly.

"To achieve its revenue goal, Bangladesh needs to reform its key tax policies, increase tax compliance and broaden the tax base," she added.

Replying to questions, the DMD said the IMF is not against subsidies, which already have a significant role in the country's growth. However, the country needs to provide subsidies to the targeted poor.

The lecture was organised by DU's economics department at Mojaffar Ahmed Chowdhury auditorium.

Apart from financial support, the IMF will also support the country to strengthen the government's capacity to design and implement effective economic policies on public financial management, tax policy and administration, and banking, supervision and statistics, she added.

In reply to Prof Selim Raihan's query regarding how to ensure implementation of the policy reforms recommended by the IMF, the DMD said, "It's not an IMF programme, rather the IMF is coming in to support the government's programme. That is a key aspect when it comes to the feasibility of the implementation."



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# Lives deprived of hope

Korail children with cerebral palsy living in inhumane condition

NILIMA JAHAN

Twelve-year-old Rubaiya's world is limited to her bed. A resident of the Korail slum in the capital, she lives in a dark windowless tin shed shanty. She has not seen a glimpse of the sky in the last three years. The last time she went on a trip outside was seven years ago, at her grandmother's home in Cumilla.

Rubaiya suffers from cerebral palsy (CP), a form of disability that affects the development of a person's brain, which affects mobility.

"All of our family members can go out and have a day out on weekends, but Rubaiya and I can't. Her life is confined to the small dark room," said her mother Lucky Begum, who works as a house help.

Rubaiya is among the 24 children in Korail slum suffering from this disability without medical care, because their families cannot afford it.

According to Institute of Paediatric Neurodisorder

and Autism at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), a myriad of factors could cause CP, such as infections during pregnancy, injuries during birth, premature birth, infant infections or accidents that cause traumatic head injuries. Most instances of CP can be identified by the age of two. Sometimes, it can be identified within a few months after birth.

Rubaiya was diagnosed with CP when she was two months old, after a sudden epilepsy that damaged her brain.

Although the brain damage is incurable, her quality of life could have been improved if she had received the required medical care and therapy at the time. But Rubaiya's parents, who struggle to eke out a living, were unaware of the condition. Like most other parents facing the same predicament, poverty and illiteracy forced them to discontinue the treatment.

With the birth of their second child, Rubaiya's mother could not continue with Rubaiya's regular



### DATA ON CAREGIVERS

- 97% women
- 88.6% mothers of the children
- 8.6% grandmothers
- 80% get no help from family members

exercise for a long time. As a result, her condition worsened and she became completely bedridden.

Last year, she hit puberty, and her mother solely takes care of her menstrual hygiene. Her father has arranged space for her shower inside the only room where they all share a living,

as it is difficult to carry a fully-grown teenager to the common bathroom, where other people in their neighbourhood take showers.

For 10-year-old Fatema, who also suffers from CP, taking a shower is more of a harrowing ordeal. She lives in a wooden shanty, on the second floor. So her mother has to carry her downstairs every time, using the ramshackle staircase with loose railings and spindles.

Fatema's parents cannot afford sanitary pads for regular use. She has to manage with damp rags, dried using only the ceiling fan. This exacerbates her health condition as she chronically suffers from a cold and cough.

Like most other mothers in the slum, Fatema's mother did not go for antenatal check-ups during her pregnancy, and gave birth at home, with the help of an untrained midwife.

When born, Fatema did not cry. And when she was just one

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Workers in a plastic-scrap recycling workshop melt down the collected materials to turn them into solid blocks of plastic to be sold to recycling factories. They work amid severe health risks, as they have no protection to prevent the fumes from entering their lungs. In addition to that, these workshops inadvertently contribute to air pollution as they have no mechanism to filter out the toxic fumes. This photo was taken in Dhaka's Kamrangirchar recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Access to healthcare for youths, now easier than ever

Health ministry launches online platforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescents and youths in Bangladesh will now be able to easily access health information and services through the new online platforms launched at a conference yesterday.

In the conference held at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center, the health ministry, with support from Unicef and the Sweden embassy, launched a website and a mobile application to increase awareness and ensure easy access to physical and mental

health information and services for adolescents.

Speaking at the programme, Saiful Hassan Badal, secretary of the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, said, "There are over 3.6 crore adolescents in Bangladesh, who face multiple social barriers to accessing essential information and services related to health care. We have to ensure their easy access to these services from our end."

"Over 70 percent of adolescent girls don't have accurate information about menstruation,

which we need to provide to them," said Md Shahjahan, director general of National Institute of Population Research and Training.

Attending as chief guest, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, "Today's youths are the policymakers of tomorrow's Bangladesh. They are our assets, our future. So we must work on empowering them and addressing their age-specific needs."

He said, "The launch of these platforms represents such commitment, which will also strengthen adolescent-friendly

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The Daily Star



The Daily Star  
22<sup>nd</sup> O & A LEVEL AWARDS PRESENTATION  
CEREMONY 2021-2022

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
for 'O' & 'A' Level Private Candidates  
and Schools

### Criteria for 'O' Level

Minimum 6 (six) 'A' or 7' grades in two consecutive sessions from October/November 2021, January 2022, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Edexcel and October/November 2021, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Cambridge.

### Criteria for 'A' Level

Minimum 3 (three) 'A' grades in two consecutive sessions from October/November 2021, January 2022, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Edexcel and October/November 2021, May/June 2022 to October/November 2022 for Cambridge.

### Private Candidates

Private candidates who fulfill the criteria described above are requested to register their names at The Daily Star office for inclusion as awardees. Eligible candidates are requested to contact at The Daily Star, (64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Level-5, Dhaka 1215) with their original results and certificates and also photocopy of the original results and certificates and 2 (two) passport-size photographs in person by 25th January, 2023, anytime between 11:00 am to 04:00 pm (Except Fridays and Saturdays). Please contact Mr. Tahmidul Hasan, +8801786111100, before coming to The Daily Star office.

No registration of Private Candidates will be taken after 03:30 pm of 23rd January, 2023.

### School Candidates

Any school that has students meeting the above criteria but has not been contacted through email/phone/regular post is requested to contact The Daily Star through email: [o.level.tds@gmail.com](mailto:o.level.tds@gmail.com) or call us on +8801786111100. Registration for school students will be done through school and the school is requested to register the eligible students on our website: <http://tomorrowleaders.net>.

• The schools are also requested to promptly prepare a list of the candidates meeting the above criteria, the number of 'A'/'A\*' grades achieved by each candidate and photocopies of results and certificates for each candidate.

• No registration will be taken for school students after 03:30 pm of 25th January, 2023.

• Note: If you know any private candidate(s) or school(s) that may be unaware of this, please pass on the above information to them so that we may include them in the ceremony.



### 1st death anniversary of Mohammad Abdul Hye

CITY DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Mohammad Abdul Hye, a heroic freedom fighter, a prominent businessman, and chairman of Greenland Group.



He was also a veteran organiser of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad. Different programmes including milad and doa mahfil, discussion and distribution of food among the poor will be held at his Nawabpur village home in Feni's Sonagazi upazila and in different orphanages of Dhaka, reads a press release.

### Access

FROM PAGE 3 health services in Bangladesh."

Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh, said adolescents need easy access to information, skills and services for risk reduction and growth.

He said the app will give them critical health related information that they may be too shy to ask for.

"These platforms have the potential to improve the lives of many young girls and boys in Bangladesh," said Ambassador of Sweden Alexandra Berg von Linde.

The national adolescent health conference was jointly organised by the Directorate General of Family Planning and DGHS, and supported by Swedish embassy and Unicef.

### Maulana Fatehpuri passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maulana Muhammad Nuruddin Fatehpuri, an expert in working with stone inscription, died at his home in Gazipur yesterday.



He was 75. The eminent scholar left behind his wife, two sons, and two daughters. He died of old-age complications.

He was well known for deciphering Arabic, Farsi and Urdu inscriptions.

He was born at Fatehpur village in Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila in 1948.

After finishing his primary education, he went to Karachi and Lahore in 1966 and 1967 for higher education in Elme Kerat and Hadith.

He developed his interest in stone inscription in the 1990s. He was also the Khatib of Boro Bhat Jame Masjid, a Mughal era structure, from 1960 to 2019.

He was an editor of a book related to Dhaka's heritage structures, which is yet to be published.

### Lives deprived

FROM PAGE 3

month old, she was diagnosed with CP, along with pneumonia.

According to BSMMU's Paediatric Neurology Chairman Prof Gopen Kumar Kundu, there are a couple of symptoms which pose a high risk for CP, such as, if infants don't cry within the first minute since birth, don't interact with their mother by the second month, their motor skills don't develop on time, or if they suffer from a seizure.

"If children with such developmental delays could be brought to us within three years of age, their life can be improved with medicine and regular therapies. In most cases, they can maintain a balanced life and attend school," he said.

"Mothers must be counselled not to get hopeless in such cases. Otherwise, they will consider the children as a burden, even though early management can go a long way," he added.

A yet-to-be-published research - conducted mostly on the caregivers of children with CP in Korail - showed that in more than 97 percent of the cases, the caregivers are females. Around 88.6 percent of them are usually mothers, while 8.6 percent are grandmothers.

Around 80 percent of those surveyed said other family members rarely extend a helping hand in care-giving.

"Prolonged bed rest, need for round-the-clock care and mobility impairments reduce the quality of life of primary caregivers. And the level of physical, emotional, social and financial burden and stress among them is much higher than those caring for a child with regular needs," said lead researcher Noorjahan Begum, who is also a paediatric intensive care

unit specialist in Evercare Hospital Dhaka.

"This stress often creates conflict between the caregiver and the sick child, reduces the quality of care and causes relationship troubles," she added.

For example, in 12-year-old Arita's case, her parents got divorced in the aftermath of the diagnosis of her CP. She was initially at her father's place, where she was fed sedatives all the time, to be kept asleep with little to no food. The continuous strain of being forcefully bed-bound caused bedsores and infected her head.

Now she lives with her maternal grandmother in the slum. "She has been living with me since she was three years old. Her parents have already remarried and are busy with their lives," said the grandmother.

"I don't know who will take care of her after my death. Sometimes, I beat her for wetting the bed. But later on, I feel guilty."

Dr Nezamuddin Ahmad, former chairperson of the department of palliative medicine at BSMMU, and the adviser of the Palliative Care Society of Bangladesh - which works on improving the life of 25 children with CP in Korail - recommended a proper rehabilitation system for them.

"Unlike conventional schooling, these children can be given need-based schooling, along with proper medication, required therapy and nutritious meals," he said.

Contrary to common conceptions, Dr Ahmad remarked that this treatment does not require a huge amount of money.

He also highlighted that expecting mothers of low-income settlements must be provided with proper antenatal care, to ensure safe delivery, as the failure of which is considered to be the major cause of CP.

### HC summons Private investment

FROM PAGE 3

Mohammad Ali on January 24 with an explanation.

The HC bench passed the order during the hearing of a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer JR Khan Robin, seeking necessary directives.

Following the filing of the petition, the HC on December 13 last year directed the government to recruit doctors to 48 vacant posts in prisons across the country so that inmates get proper treatment.

FROM PAGE 3

The imposed conditions in terms of implementation can be used to measure the progress of the programme.

However, some of them might prove counter-productive if not contextualised according to the specific country's background, said Sayeh, replying to a student's query.

When asked if Bangladesh can meet the SDGs by 2030, Sayeh said, "More financing will be

needed in support of the poorest countries to be able to achieve the SDGs."

"We are making it a priority to surveil the climate-related issues for the largest emitters and push forward the agenda to address them," said Sayeh.

Earlier, Sayeh met Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her JS office and Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhteruzzaman at his office.

### Topu's jute tea

FROM PAGE 5

Mirza Masud Rubol, member of Entrepreneurs' Forum, said, "Such initiatives should be encouraged by the government and private organisations. The jute-tea is also beneficial for

health..."

Mohammad Meher Hussain, centre-in-charge of Bohumukhi Pat Shilpa Uddogta Seba Kendra, said, "Topu is now the lone producer of the jute tea in the country. The product needs more publicity."

**World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

## VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

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For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:  
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**Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)**  
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)  
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.018 Date: 17/01/2023

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Brief Description of Tender  | Publication Date | Last Selling Date & Time | Opening Date |
|---------|-----------|--|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1       | 778713    | Procurement of Different Cooling System Dosing Chemicals Under Framework Agreement   | 17/01/2023       | 08/02/2023, 15:30 hrs    | 09/02/2023   |
| 2       | 778711    | Procurement of Polyaluminium Chloride (PAC), Hydrochloric Acid (HCl) and Sodium Hydroxide (NaOH) Under Framework Agreement | 17/01/2023       | 08/02/2023, 15:30 hrs    | 09/02/2023   |

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker**  
 Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)  
 Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)  
 NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

### Government target

FROM PAGE 5

of the government fixed rate.

Farmer Rafikul Islam of Debottar village in Pabna's Atgoria upazila said each maund of Aman paddy is selling for Tk 1,250 to 1,300 in the local market, but the government is paying only Tk 28 for each kilo of paddy.

Farmers are showing no interest to supply paddy to the government depots as it requires additional transport and labour costs, Rafik said, adding that they also have to wait for a long time to get the money.

Compared with other districts, the situation is somewhat better in Sirajganj, as 2,163 tonnes

of rice and 200 kilos of paddy have already been purchased till last week, said Saiful Islam, Sirajganj district food controlling officer.

Of the 350 rice mills in the district, 200 millers have made agreements with the government to supply 6,500 tonnes of rice in the scheduled time, he said.

"The paddy procurement programme has been taken up to ensure proper market price of paddy. Many farmers are not interested in supplying paddy to the government depots at Tk 28 per kilo, as they are getting at least Tk 30 per kilo in the markets," he added.

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
 Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD)  
 Road Division, Pirojpur  
 E-mail: [pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com](mailto:pirdivisionrhd@gmail.com)

Memo No. 35.01.7980.462.07.001.20-196 Date: 17/01/2023

### Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal for the following works:

| Tender Package & ID No.                | e-GP/11/PRD/2022-2023 & 768898  |
|--|---|
| Name of tender                         | Construction of "U" Drain work at Ch. 27+587 to 27+646 of Charkhail-Tuskhail-Mathbaria-Pathorghata Road (Z-8701) under Road Division Pirojpur during the year 2022-2023.  |
| Tender last selling date and time      | 31-Jan-2023 at 16:00.   |
| Tender closing & opening date and time | 01-Feb-2023 at 15:00.   |
| Tender Package & ID No.                | e-GP/PMP-Major/01-PRD/2022-2023 & 779123  |
| Name of tender                         | Construction of 3 (Three) Nos. Single vent 1x3.00m (Clear) Length & 3.00m (Clear) Height R.C.C. Box Culvert with U-Type Wing Wall at Ch. 25+550km, 26+300 km & 27+650 km on Barguna (Dakkhin Ramna Kheyaghat)-Dawatata-Mathbaria-Baromasua (Z-8814) (Pirojpur Part) under Pirojpur Road Division during the year 2022-2023. |
| Tender last selling date and time      | 01-Feb-2023 at 16:00.   |
| Tender closing & opening date and time | 02-Feb-2023 at 15:00.   |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Tanvir Ahmed**  
 ID No. 602308  
 Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD  
 Road Division, Pirojpur

# ৪ বছর মেয়াদি BBA

## ভর্তি চলছে

২০২৩ ব্যাচ

### আপন ভাষায় শিখুন

মাতৃভাষায় এবং নিজ দেশের অভিজ্ঞতার আলোকে যেকোনো বিষয়ে জ্ঞান অর্জন করা গেলে তা বাস্তব জীবনে অধিকতর ফলপ্রসূ হয়।

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- বিবিএ (বাংলা মাধ্যম) প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তিচ্ছু প্রার্থীকে ভর্তির আবেদনের জন্য অবশ্যই একাডেমিক রেকর্ডে ৮ পয়েন্টের মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ৫ (পাঁচ) পয়েন্ট থাকতে হবে (বিস্তারিত বাউবি ওয়েবসাইটে দেখুন)। এরপর প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির পূর্বে প্রার্থীর আবেদনপত্র যাচাই-বাহাই করা হবে/প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক সাক্ষাৎকারে অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে।

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## FOOD PROCUREMENT DRIVE

## Government target may fall short

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Nearly two months have gone since the government's food procurement drive began in Pabna and Sirajganj, but the two districts are far from the target this year.

Farmers and millers are showing no interest in supplying paddy and rice to the government depots because they are getting far better prices in the market.

This year, the government is paying Tk 28 for each kilo of paddy and Tk 42 for each kilo of rice.

The 103-day procurement drive began on November 17 last year and will continue till February 28 this year.

According to Pabna and Sirajganj food controllers' offices, they have set targets to purchase 12,786 tonnes of rice and 3,914 tonnes of paddy through 11 depots in Pabna, and 9,540 tonnes of rice and 3,977 tonnes of paddy through seven procurement centres in Sirajganj.

Although about two months have already gone by since the procurement drive started in the two districts, about 25 percent of the rice purchase targets have been fulfilled so far, said officials.

They said despite repeated calls, farmers are reluctant to come to the government depots, while most of the millers are not

interested to supply rice at the government fixed rate.

While talking to this correspondent, Pabna District Food Controller Tanvir Rahman said they were unable to buy a single bag of paddy even after two months of the procurement drive.

Moreover, after all these days they managed to purchase only 1,704 tonnes of rice, compared with the target of 12,786 tonnes, he said.

A total of only 92 millers have agreements with the district food office, and this is the major reason behind the uncertainty over fulfilling the rice procurement target in stipulated time this year, Tanvir added.

He said there are over 500 rice millers in the district, but most of them seemed reluctant to contact them. So, officials were planning to increase the supply limits of the listed millers.

Pabna District Rice Millers' Association President Idris Ali Bishwas said it is quite impossible to supply rice at the government fixed rate, as production cost of per kilo of rice is over Tk 43.

When asked why other millers went for the agreement, Idris said those who have auto-rice mills can easily supply the rice at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A farmer tries to clear out Aman paddy from the remnants of his harvest, after drying the paddy out in the sun and clearing out the scraps. This photo was taken in Jhalakathi's Dopodiya Zero Point area recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## Rab arrests death-row war criminal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Md Nazmul Huda, 72, a death-row war crime convict who has been on the run for almost six years, from Bogura on Monday.

Confirming the information, squad commander Nazrul Islam of Rab-12 (Bogura) said a team of Rab-2 and Rab-12 arrested him from a relative's house near Chandhu stadium in Bogura's Khandar area, based on a tip-off that Nazmul had been hiding at the place for the last three months.

A had been filed against Nazmul with the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on charges of murder, abduction and rape. The tribunal subsequently found him guilty on all three accounts and handed him the death penalty. He had been hiding in disguise in different locations country ever since, "We've already sent him to the Tribunal-1 on Tuesday [yesterday] morning," added Nazrul.

## Topu's jute tea gaining popularity



Mohima Products, a venture by Zakir Hossain Topu from Tangail, has been manufacturing and selling jute-leaf tea for the last several years. The herbal drink is prepared fully organically from native (Deshal) jute leaves, which are then marketed in a powdered form commercially, in perfectly hygienic and modern tea bags, around the country.

PHOTO: STAR

MIRZA SHAKIL

In the 90s, Zakir Hossain Topu, a man from Tangail's Aag Elasin village, went to the US to study alternative medicine. After completing his education, he returned to his village and started working with different herbal items, including black cumin, trifolia (amloki, horitoki and bohera), and moringa.

Throughout this long period, the multifaceted use of jute was increasing day by day in Bangladesh. Its latest offshoot is jute leaf tea. The herbal drink has 30 percent more calories than spinach, and contains iron, vitamin C, vitamin D and anti-oxidants, according to scientists at Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI).

Topu started working with jute leaf in 2014. "I was interested in the herbs that our forefathers used as alternative medicines to fight various diseases," he said. "But then I came to know about the health benefits and prospects of 'green tea', which can be produced from jute leaf."

Topu then established the food and nutrition company Mohima Products, which has been processing and marketing jute-leaf tea for the last several years.

Topu said he has been preparing the herbal drink fully organically from native (Deshal) jute leaves. The powdered leaves are being marketed commercially in the form of perfectly hygienic and modern tea bags.

He sells the products at the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC) of Dhaka, an autonomous government body responsible for the promotion and diversification of jute use in Bangladesh. His herbal teas are a regular feature at the fairs of JDPC. The specially made jute drinks can also be found in different shops and markets in Dhaka and Tangail.

Seema Bose Adahra, director of marketing of JDPC, said Topu's jute tea has also been sent as a gift to the guests at the Climate Summit in Glasgow, Scotland through Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"The jute-leaf drink has huge prospects

considering its health benefits. Government institutions, as well as high profile personnel, are also buying jute-leaf tea from us," she noted.

"However, the product needs more publicity. Its export possibilities are high," she added.

After visiting his Tangail factory recently, this correspondent saw several workers working in shifts. Jute is cultivated in a field near the factory. Some workers were seen collecting mature jute leaves. After sterilising the leaves, they are then dried under a shed at a specific temperature.

Finally, the dried leaves are put inside a machine to make the tea. They are then put inside tea bags, which are then packaged inside a larger packet. A packet costs Tk 300 and contains 30 tea bags.

"I work part-time in the factory and get a decent amount of money as wages," told Badhan, a tenth-grader studying at a local village.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Khoka's PS jailed for amassing Tk 1.5 crore

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Monirul Islam Khan, personal secretary to former Dhaka City Corporation mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, to jail for illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 1.51 crore.

Al-Asad Md Asifuzzaman, judge of the Special Judge's Court-6 in Dhaka, handed down the sentence in presence of the convict at the courtroom.

The court also fined the convict Tk 84.80 lakh, in default of which, he would have to serve six more months in jail.

Meanwhile, the court acquitted the convict's wife Shahnaz Islam of charges as the allegations brought against her could not be proved.

Faruque Ahmed, assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, filed a case against the couple with Ramna Police Station on January 3, 2019.

According to the case statement, on March 15, 2017, the ACC issued a notice asking Monirul and his wife to submit their wealth statements within 15 days.

The couple submitted their wealth statements to the ACC on April 13, 2017. After going through the statements, the ACC found that the couple had illegally earned wealth worth Tk 15,187,973.

Eight prosecution witnesses testified before the court during trial.

Monirul was also jailed for seven years in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case on October 29, 2018.

## Public service bill placed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Service (Amendment) Bill, 2023 was placed in parliament yesterday. The proposed law will force autonomous, legislative, and local government bodies to take clearance from the Finance Division over financial expenditures.

State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain placed the bill, which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the public administration ministry for scrutiny.

The committee was asked to submit its report within 30 days.

Under the existing Public Service Act, 2018, Finance Division has authority over financial matters of government entities, officials, and employees. However, it isn't clear what jurisdiction the division has over the autonomous, legislative, and local government bodies.

However, under the proposed law, public universities, Election Commission, or local bodies like city corporations and union parishads will have to take the opinion of the Finance Division over their financial expenditures.

The revision will also make it mandatory for autonomous, legislative, and local government bodies to take clearance from the finance division.

## DENGUE

## 12 more patients hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till morning yesterday.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 424, according to DGHS.

Some 93 dengue patients, 50 from outside Dhaka, are still undergoing treatment across the country.

A total of 328 patients were released from hospitals. Of them, 170 were from outside Dhaka.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
JANUARY 18

| Fajr        | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| AZAN 5:30   | 12:45 | 4:15 | 5:40    | 7:00 |
| JAMAAT 6:05 | 1:15  | 4:30 | 5:44    | 7:30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

For two years now, after authorities removed hawkers from the footpaths and allotted a separate space for them to conduct business, auto-rickshaw owners have encroached the cleared space and turned it into an illegal stand. A market stands opposite to the spot, which makes gridlock a constant menace for the locality. This photo was taken in Sylhet's Surma Market area recently.

## Ex-UP chairman jailed over embezzlement of Tk 47cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Cumilla court yesterday sent a former union parishad chairman to jail in connection with two cases filed over misappropriation of Tk 47 crore.

ACC Deputy Director Fazlul Haque arrested Jakir Hossain, former chairman of Pirjatrappur Union Parishad in Cumilla's Burichang upazila, yesterday and placed him before the Senior Special Judge's Court.

The ACC filed two cases against Jakir and seven others on May 10, 2022.

As per the case documents, Rana Builders got a contract to develop Port Connecting Road in Chattogram. Later, the company gave the project's subcontract to Jakir's company Jakir Enterprise.

The two companies took a loan of Tk 40 crore from United Commercial Bank's Cumilla branch for the project. Investigators later found that the loan was received using forged documents, and the bank officials were also involved in the process.

The total outstanding loan, including interests, now stands at Tk 46.32 crore.





PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

## ALY ZAKER will remain in our hearts forever

SARA ZAKER



## Ziaul Roshan, Ferdous to star opposite Sreelekha

Popular Tollywood actress Sreelekha is currently in Dhaka, to attend the Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) which kicked off last Saturday. In a media interaction at the festival, Sreelekha said that she has joined the cast of *Mir Jafar Chapter 2*, opposite Dhallywood actors Ziaul Roshan and Ferdous. The film is being directed by Arkadeep Mallika Nath.

"I don't know the details of the film. I just know that shooting of the film will be starting in February," Sreelekha said to the media.

Sreelekha's directorial *Ebong Chaad* was screened at the festival yesterday. After the screening, the actress interacted with the Bangladeshi audience and answered their questions.

## 'Pathaan' set for OTT release on April 25

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's much-anticipated action film *Pathaan*, starring Deepika Padukone and John Abraham, is all set to release on the OTT platform, Amazon Prime Video on April 25.

According to Bar & Bench, the Delhi High Court has ordered *Pathaan's* producers to offer Hindi subtitles, closed captions, and audio descriptions for the film's OTT release for the benefit of persons with visual and hearing impairments.

Recently, the *Pathaan* team unveiled the movie's official trailer to the public, to a very positive reception. Directed by Siddharth Anand, the film is expected to hit theaters on January 25.



**Aly Zaker will always remain in our hearts. His legacy will live on in the mind and hearts of people, who have been fans or have seen his acting and directing skills. His contributions to the silver screen are immense and unforgettable.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

An illustrious figure in the world of acting, Sara Zaker has been a trailblazer in both the theatre stage and on television. One of the prominent figures of the 'Nagorik Natya Sampradaya', Sara Zaker received the Ekushey Padak for her contributions to the field of acting.

The actress also holds the position of the lead organiser, in the upcoming drama festival, *Aly Zaker Notuner Utshob*. The programme will kick-off on January 21 on the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

With the festival on the horizon, Sara Zaker took some time from her busy schedule for a conversation with The Daily Star.

**Why have you taken the initiative to organise such a festival?**

In order to keep the art of theatre alive, new plays are always needed. A steady flow of fresh and new scripts for the stage is essential to keep the art form alive. That is exactly what inspired us to start the festival. Initially, we had planned to organise this festival earlier, but it was stopped due to COVID. Our aim is to preserve the legacy and memory of Aly Zaker through this festival.

**Aly Zaker was still with us when the last edition of this festival took place in 2019.**



**What are your feelings about this festival taking place without him?**

Aly Zaker will always remain in our hearts. His legacy will live on in the mind and hearts of

people, who have been fans or have seen his acting and directing skills. His contributions to the silver screen are immense and unforgettable.

**In many ways, Aly Zaker was a pioneer and visionary. He, along with his theatre troupe, were one of the first to start selling tickets for entry to theatre shows.**

From what I know, nearly 50 years ago, he started the trend of buying tickets to see a play. Aly and his troupe proved themselves to have immense foresight, that is now enabling us to take stage plays to an even larger audience.

**Do you have any further plans for the future to continue to honour Aly Zaker's legacy?**

We have already taken a few initiatives and have started working. A museum called 'Batighar' has been established in his memory, containing various memorabilia from his life, the Liberation War, awards and much more.

Fans of Aly Zaker, who want to remember him, can visit the establishment. This festival has been named after him and carries a lot of expectations. Individuals, who love dramas or stage plays are ardently welcome, alongside admirers of Aly Zaker. We urge you all to come and celebrate his memory.

# NEWS

## Spend money carefully

FROM PAGE 12  
alongside motivating others to increase productivity, he said.

Asked whether the project proposal on buying the new EVMs was placed before the meeting, Mannan said the project was not on the agenda. "The prime minister did not want to know about it. We also did not want to learn anything because the project proposal is under process."

"Right now, we cannot say yes or no regarding the proposal," he added.

In reply to a question on what will happen if the project is not approved, Mannan said, "This is a national question. There are national leaders; there is an Election Commission, a constitutional body, and they will consider the matter."

On January 10, Mannan said the Planning Commission would soon approve the EC's proposal to purchase the EVMs.

According to the EC's development project proposal, it needs Tk 8,711 crore for the purchase and management of two lakh new electronic voting machines. The proposal is now pending with the Planning Commission after it was sent by the EC in October last year.

In August that year, the EC decided that EVMs would be used in a maximum of 150 parliamentary constituencies in the next general election, slated for January 2024.

In line with the decision, the EC prepared the project proposal, as it currently has 1.5 lakh EVMs that can only be used in 70-80 constituencies at one go.

Election commissioners Md Alamgir and Anisur Rahman on several occasions said if the proposal for buying another two lakh EVMs was not approved by January 15, the commission will not be able to use the machines in the way they had planned.

## Umrah now Tk 4,000 cheaper

FROM PAGE 12  
less Tk for their Umrah.

Taslim also hoped that the Saudi government would similarly cut the cost of the Hajj for Bangladeshis and other non-Saudi pilgrims.

According to the HAAB, approximately 3 lakh Bangladeshis perform Umrah each year.

The insurance policy for Umrah is a unified policy that is covered by those who perform Umrah from different countries around the world, including Bangladesh.

It is included in the visa procedures and covers emergency cases such as treatment, admission, hospitalisation, pregnancy, emergency childbirth, emergency dental cases, traffic accident injuries, dialysis cases, and internal and external medical evacuation.

It also covers general cases such as accidental permanent total disability, cases of death and death due to natural disasters, and returning to the body of the deceased to the home country. It also includes coverage for flight delay and flight cancellation, it said.

The insurance coverage period is 90 days, starting from the day of entering KSA, and the scope of its

coverage is only within Saudi Arabia.

Intending Umrah performers can visit the website of the Comprehensive Insurance Program for the Guests of Rahman to view the Umrah insurance policy, verify its validity, and know service providers.

## Scientists use laser

FROM PAGE 12  
Lightning is a discharge of static electricity that has built up in storm clouds, or between clouds and the ground.

The laser beam creates plasma, in which charged ions and electrons heat the air. The air becomes "partially conductive, and therefore a path preferred by the lightning," Houard said.

This means that, in theory, this technique could be used not just to drive lightning away, but to trigger it in the first place.

That could allow scientists to better protect strategic installations, such as airports or rocket launchpads, by igniting strikes at the time of their choosing.

In practice, that would require a high conductivity in the laser's plasma - which scientists do not think they have mastered yet.

## US embassy

FROM PAGE 12  
Bangladesh's efforts in these continued reforms and encourage the Bangladesh government to conduct independent investigations of alleged extrajudicial killings."

On Monday, Asaduzzaman Khan also said he discussed some issues with Lu in a cordial atmosphere on Sunday and informed him about the challenges of tackling terrorism, militancy and Islamic extremism.

Lu, assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian Affairs, was in Bangladesh on a two-day trip on January 14-15.

## Criticism follows

FROM PAGE 12  
importers to install the app on their devices. However, the customers are free to use it or uninstall it from their devices. They can use any keyboard they want," he added.

According to industry insiders, Bijoy is widely used in computers and in professional workplaces, especially in the publishing industry.

However, Ridmik Keyboard, a competitor, is most popular among mobile phone users, they said.

As of 8:30pm yesterday, Bijoy Android Keyboard, which has a 2.9 user rating out of five, was downloaded 50,000 times from the Google Play Store, while Ridmik Keyboard, which has a 4.3 rating, has over 5 crore downloads.

LIRNEAsia's senior policy fellow Abu Saeed Khan noted that the BTRC directive did not refer to any section of the law for violators as it lacked the authority to issue such orders.

"This unlawful decree unequivocally raised a conflict of interest as the incumbent telecoms minister is Bijoy's patent holder," he added.

## Our growing

FROM PAGE 12  
Momen said they are also happy with Ambassador Peter Haas because he is an expert on economic issues. "We are on a higher economic trajectory. Our main focus is on economic development. He (Peter) can help us."

Responding to a question on Rab, he said the elite force is now more mature and things have changed with accountability in place.

Momen said Bangladesh is a leader in the world in terms of stopping extremists and terrorists. "We are very successful. There are no terrorism activities."

## Allegations of copying NatGeo

FROM PAGE 12  
Mushtaq Ibn Ayub, and Roni Basak.

Two science textbooks were prepared in accordance with the new curriculum - Science: Investigative Study; and Science: Exercise Book.

According to allegations made by a national daily in one of its articles, a particular section of the first chapter of the Science: Investigative Study book was taken from the National Geographic website and translated into Bangla using Google Translate.

"The allegations of plagiarism came to our attention. We compared that particular part of the book with an article in the National Geographic Education site and found the allegations to be true," said the professors in their joint statement.

"Though we did not take part in writing that particular part of that book, the responsibility comes on as we were the editors, and we accept

this responsibility. Such allegations against any writer are disappointing and heartbreaking for the whole team," the statement further read.

The professors also said publishing a textbook is a laborious job and they expect dedication from all the authors involved in the process, especially the ones who are involved in writing national textbooks.

It was an experimental edition launched this year, they said, adding that necessary changes will be made in the next edition.

The team will also carefully consider opinions beyond the complaints and make the necessary changes before the next academic year, the statement added.

Meanwhile, National Curriculum and Textbook Board issued some corrections for the class-IX and -X textbooks titled, History of Bangladesh and World Civilisation,

Bangladesh and Global Studies, and Civics and Citizenship.

The NCTB, in a statement released last night, said there were mistakes regarding starting time of "Operation Searchlight" that initiated the Liberation War, the background and context of framing the country's constitution, and the number of parties involved in the United Front Elections of 1954, among others.

Contacted, Prof Farhadul Islam, chairman of the NCTB, said they would send the corrections to all schools today.

On the issue of plagiarism in the class-VII textbook, he said, "Whatever the writers did was unethical. These books are experimental versions and we will look into them while developing the final version. However, the books need no corrections."

## Rab finds militant's grave without

FROM PAGE 12  
The grave was found near the abandoned camp of Sharqiya and separatist group Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) at Luangmual Para, about 29 kilometres from Thanchi and 50 kilometres from Ruma upazilas of Bandarban.

Residents of the nearby Tamlao Para area said 27 families from Luangmual Para and Pynumam Para had to leave their homes because the militants took away their farm animals and food.

They left their homes, leaving

behind furniture, cattle and other domestic animals. Officers saw the abandoned cows grazing there, sources said.

Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, said Rab operations that started in October last year would continue until militant forces are eliminated.

The arrestees also said 40-year-old Zohaer Md Abdur Rahman, who went by the alias Jahir, died in the hills.

On August 30, 2021, Jahir, known as Dr Ahmed among the militants, left his Noakhali home saying that he

was going to Turkey.

His father Rafiq Ullah said militants tricked his son into joining the group and killed him when he wanted to return home.

However, arrested militants said Jahir sustained bullet wounds when another separatist group attacked the KNF and Sharqiya camp on June 6 last year.

He was buried at the camp which was later named after him.

[Our Bandarban, Cumilla, and Noakhali correspondents contributed to the report.]

## Stop digital surveillance without rules

FROM PAGE 2  
election will increase fear among the people."

Mentioning that the law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh have been accused of illegal surveillance of mobile phone conversation and social media activities for many years, he said, "In several cases, the leak of phone conversations of civil rights activists, political leaders and general citizens has created great concern among people."

He said surveillance and monitoring activities cannot be

carried out indiscriminately. "Only activities of a specific person or groups can be monitored for a certain period of time for specific reasons defined in the law."

According to article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966, states have an obligation to protect every citizen from arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, or from unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.



## OUTSTANDING ISSUES

## Pak PM makes conditional talks offer to India

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has made a conditional offer to his Indian counterpart to open talks on all outstanding issues between them, including disputed Kashmir, which he believes could be facilitated by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"My message to the Indian leadership and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is let's sit down at the table and have serious and sincere talks to resolve our burning issues, like Kashmir," Sharif said in an interview with Al Arabiya news channel, telecast by Pakistan's state run TV yesterday.

However, a statement issued by Sharif's office after the interview aired added that such talks would only be possible if India restored the autonomous status in the part of Kashmir it rules that was revoked in 2019.

"Without India's revocation of this step, negotiations are not possible," it said.

The Indian foreign affairs ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. New Delhi has ignored such calls from Pakistan on Kashmir's status in the past.

In the interview, Sharif said he had taken up the issue with UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed on his recent visit to the Emirates.

"He's a brother of Pakistan. He also has good relations with India. He can play a very important role to bring the two countries on the talking table," Sharif said.

Sharif said the wars between the two countries brought nothing except misery, poverty and unemployment.

"We want to alleviate poverty, achieve prosperity and provide education, health facilities and employment to our people, and not waste our resources on bombs and ammunition, that's the message I want to give to PM Modi," he said.



Ukrainian servicemen fire a Polish self-propelled howitzer Krab toward Russian positions, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, on a frontline in Donetsk region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## DEADLY PLANE CRASH

## Nepal finds all but 1 missing person

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Rescuers used drones and abseiled down a deep gorge yesterday looking for the last missing person from Nepal's worst air disaster in 30 years, in which at least 71 people died including small children.

Difficult terrain around the 200 metre gorge and poor weather was hampering rescue efforts near the tourist city of Pokhara, where the Yeti Airlines ATR 72 turboprop

carrying 72 people crashed on Sunday just before landing.

The search was called off after darkness descended, and will resume today, said Tek Bahadur K.C., a top district official.

Rescue teams were struggling to identify bodies, Ajay K.C., a police official in Pokhara who is part of the rescue efforts, told Reuters.

Rescuers had collected what appeared to be human remains and sent them for a DNA test, he said,

but search efforts would continue until all 72 passengers and crew were accounted for.

Search teams found 68 bodies on the day of the crash, while two bodies were recovered on Monday before the search was called off.

One more body had been recovered as of late yesterday afternoon. An official said 48 bodies were sent to a hospital for autopsies, while 22 bodies were being handed over to families in Pokhara.

## China population shrinks for first time in 60 yr

AFP, Beijing

China's population shrank last year for the first time in more than six decades, official data showed yesterday, as the birth rate slows in the face of mounting financial pressures and shifting social attitudes. The world's most populous country is facing a looming demographic crisis as its workforce ages, which analysts warn could stymie economic growth and pile pressure on strained public coffers. Analysts point to the soaring cost of living – as well as a growing number of women in the workforce and seeking higher education – as reasons behind the slowdown. The mainland Chinese population stood at around 1,411,750,000 at the end of 2022, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) reported, a decrease of 850,000 from the end of the previous year. The number of births was 9.56 million, the NBS said, while the number of deaths stood at 10.41 million. The last time China's population declined was in the early 1960s, when the country was battling the worst famine in its modern history.

MAJOR ANTI-GRAFT PURGE  
Vietnam president Phuc resigns

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnam President Nguyen Xuan Phuc has resigned, state media said yesterday, after days of rumours he was about to be sacked as part of a major anti-corruption drive that has seen several ministers fired. The sudden departure is a highly unusual move in communist Vietnam, where political changes are normally carefully orchestrated, with an emphasis on cautious stability.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়  
উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার।  
E-mail - [ukhia@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:ukhia@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd)

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র  
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

মুজিব বর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য খাত  
এগিয়ে যাবে অনেক ধাপ

তারিখ-

মারক নং-স্বাস্থ্য/উখিয়া/২০২৩/

**"খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"**

পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত পিপিএ ২০০৯ এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পিপিআর ২০১৯ এর আশ্রয়ে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য এম এস আর সামগ্রী (মেডিকেল এন্ড সার্জিক্যাল রিকুইজিটস) ক্রয়/ সংগ্রহের নিমিত্তে এম এস আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী বরাবরে সীল গালাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

| ক্রমিক নং | বিবরণ   | সিডিউলের মূল্য   | দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ |
|-----------|---|--|------------------------|
| ১         | মুদ্রনাশ/ডিভিশন                                 | স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়/ স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ।   |                        |
| ২         | সংগ্রাহক সংস্থার নাম ও মোবাইল নং-               | উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার- ০১৭১৬-৭১০১২৭।  |                        |
| ৩         | দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি                                 | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও টি এম)।  |                        |
| ৪         | আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরন                             | এম এস আর সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।   |                        |
| ৫         | দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র                           | ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য নিয়মিত সরবরাহ কার্যক্রম।   |                        |
| ৬         | বরাদ্দের উৎস                                    | রাজস্ব বাজেট (জিওবি)   |                        |
| ৭         | মোট গ্রুপ                                       | ৬টি এম এস আর-গ্রুপ-ক ওষুধ (ইউসিএল বহির্ভূত), গ্রুপ-খ (যন্ত্রপাতি) গ্রুপ-গ (লিটেল সামগ্রী), গ্রুপ-ঘ-(গজ-ব্যাভেজ-তুলা) গ্রুপ-ঙ (এক্স-রে সামগ্রী, কেমিকেল ও রিয়েজেন্ট), গ্রুপ-চ (আসবাব পত্র ও কিচেন সামগ্রী)   |                        |
| ৮         | দরদাতা যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারী যোগ্যতা              | চলতি অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, চেম্বার অব কমার্স/ সরকার অনুমোদিত ব্যবসায় সমিতির সদস্য সনদপত্র, নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, আর্থিক সচ্ছলতা ও যোগ্যতা (শর্তবলীর বিবরণ মোতাবেক)   |                        |
| ৯         | দরপত্রের মূল্য চালানের মাধ্যমে জমাদানের কোড নং- | চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬ সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার শাখায় / সরকারী কোষাগারে জমাদান পূর্বক চালানোর মূল কপি ও অনলাইন ভেরিফিকেশন কপি আবেদন পত্রের সহিত দাখিল করে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।   |                        |
| ১০        | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির তারিখ                         | ১৭/০১/২০২৩ইং।  |                        |
| ১১        | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা                 | উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর ক্যাশ শাখা   |                        |
| ১২        | দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়                   | পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে ০৮/০২/২০২৩ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতি দিন সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার।  |                        |
| ১৩        | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান                            | উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার। (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)  |                        |
| ১৪        | দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়                     | ০৯/০২/২০২৩ তারিখ সকাল ১০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।   |                        |
| ১৫        | দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার স্থান                       | উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার।  |                        |
| ১৬        | দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়                | ০৯/০২/২০২৩ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।   |                        |
| ১৭        | বিশেষ নির্দেশনা                                 | ক) পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট ২০০৮ এবং সংশোধিত পিপিএ ২০০৯ এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত পিপিআর ২০১৯ এর শর্তবলী এবং সংগ্রাহক সত্ত্ব কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্তবলীর আলোকে দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন ও গ্রহণ করা হইবে।<br>খ) বর্ণিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি শর্তবলী হিসাবে গণ্য হইবে।<br>গ) দরপত্রের কোন সংশোধনী অত্র দরপত্রের নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে জানানো হইবে। |                        |

কাজের বিবরণ, সিডিউলের মূল্য ও দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণঃ-

| ক্রমিক নং | বিবরণ   | সিডিউলের মূল্য | দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ |
|-----------|---|----------------|------------------------|
| ১         | গ্রুপ-ক- ওষুধ পত্র (ইউসিএল বহির্ভূত)          | ৭৫০/-          | ১০০,০০০/-              |
| ২         | গ্রুপ-খ-যন্ত্রপাতি                            | ৭৫০/-          | ১০০,০০০/-              |
| ৩         | গ্রুপ-গ-লিটেল সামগ্রী                         | ৭৫০/-          | ৫০,০০০/-               |
| ৪         | গ্রুপ-ঘ-গজ, ব্যাভেজ, তুলা                     | ৭৫০/-          | ৫০,০০০/-               |
| ৫         | গ্রুপ-ঙ-এক্স-রে সামগ্রী, কেমিকেল ও রিয়েজেন্ট | ৭৫০/-          | ৫০,০০০/-               |
| ৬         | গ্রুপ-চ-আসবাব পত্র ও কিচেন সামগ্রী            | ৭৫০/-          | ৫০,০০০/-               |

১। স্ব স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করিতে হইবে।  
২। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় বর্ণিত সকল সনদের মূল কপি অবশ্যই সংশ্লিষ্ট আনিত হইবে।  
৩। দরপত্রের সহিত শর্তবলীর সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজ পত্রাদির ছায়াছবি প্রথম শ্রেণীর পেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হইতে হইবে এবং সত্যায়নকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম যুক্ত সীল থাকিতে হইবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজ পত্রাদি ও নিয়মাবলী পালনে ব্যর্থ হইলে উক্ত দরপত্র বাস্তবিকালে অসম্পূর্ণ/ বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।  
৪। উপরোক্ত দরপত্রের জামানতের টাকা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, উখিয়া শাখার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ পেমেন্টের দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের শর্তবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সরবরাহ করা হইবে। দরপত্রের বিষয় যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর কাশিয়ার/ হিসাব শাখায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

(ডঃ রনজন বড়ুয়া রাজন)  
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা  
উখিয়া, কক্সবাজার।

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বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ  
১৪/৬-১৪/২৩, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬  
ফোন- ০২৭৬৯-৭২১০১০, ফ্যাক্স-০২-৫৮০৫১০১০  
ই-মেইল: [regoffice@bsrmru.edu.bd](mailto:regoffice@bsrmru.edu.bd), ওয়েব: [www.bsrmru.edu.bd](http://www.bsrmru.edu.bd)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং: বিএসএমআরএমইউ/রেজি-৩৩৬/২৩/০১ তারিখ: ১৭/০১/২০২৩

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের ২০১৩ সনের ৪৭ নং আইন দ্বারা প্রতিষ্ঠিত বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ-এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে শিক্ষক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে:

| পদের নাম, পদসংখ্যা, গ্রেড ও বেতনস্কেল             | বয়স            | মন্তব্য   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| প্রভাষক   | সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর | ১। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং আবেদনের শর্তাবলি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তিত তথ্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে ( <a href="http://www.bsrmru.edu.bd">www.bsrmru.edu.bd</a> ) দেখুন।<br>২। আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ২৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩।<br>৩। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস চট্টগ্রাম (৫নং মোহরা ওয়ার্ডের হামিদচর এলাকার মৌজা চর রাশামাটিয়া ও বাবুলিয়া, থানা: বঙ্গর, জেলা চট্টগ্রাম)-এ নির্মাণাধীন।<br>৪। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা/স্বয়ং/বৃষ্টি পাইতে পারে। |
| নেতাল আর্কিটেকচার এন্ড অফশোর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং- ০১ জন |                 |   |
| (গ্রেড-০৯, বেতনস্কেল-২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-)               |                 |   |

রেজিস্ট্রার  
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ

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Memo No. BGC/CEDP/2022-23/G-4/11 Date: 16/01/2023

**e-Tender Notice: 01/2022-2023**

e-Tender is invite in the National e-Gp System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package;

| Sl. No. | Tender ID. No. | Name of Package   | Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission | Tender Closing Date & Time |
|---------|----------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 01      | 774230         | Procurement of IPS for Depts. & Office and Generators for classroom, exam hall etc. | 02- February-2023 01:00 PM                       | 02- February-2023 02:00 PM |

This is an on line tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches up to 02-February-2023, 2:00 PM

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-Gp System portal and from e-Gp Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

16-01-2023  
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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Why this cruelty to an ordinary citizen?

Authorities must respect people's right to protest, prevent police excesses

Just when the government seems to have scored a point in its fight against US sanctions on Rab, with a visiting US official praising progress in reducing extrajudicial killings, it is painful to learn of an ordinary citizen facing extrajudicial excesses in the form of police torture. Allegedly, Md Mostakim, who last week was arrested for protesting a hike in kidney dialysis fees at the Chattogram Medical College and Hospital, was beaten mercilessly while in custody. The goal, apparently, was to teach him a lesson for "disrespecting" the officer-in-charge of the local police station when protesters were dispersed in front of the hospital.

In photos published by a national daily, his left leg is seen covered in bruises. Mostakim alleged that he had been beaten for 15-20 minutes by a cop before he secured bail on Sunday. The very nature of the case in which he and others were implicated – for "obstructing government work and attacking police", despite himself being a victim of assaults even on the protest site – smacks of excesses. The Human Rights Foundation, which fought for his bail in court, has appealed to the Inspector General of Police to take action against the policeman involved in custodial torture, and also demanded that the case be transferred to Rab, PBI or CID.

One side-effect of this incident is that an important issue like the increase in subsidised dialysis fees for the poor has been pushed into the background. This could be a reference point for how subsidy reductions in various sectors are becoming a trend, pushing up the cost of living. This could be an example of how people's out-of-pocket healthcare expenses are rising while government spending on public health is declining, despite promises to the contrary. Instead, it has become a case of random acts of cruelty and intimidation, using legal tools or official badges. Such excesses are precisely why the very name of police still conjures up feelings of dread in citizens.

The fact is, despite recent efforts to paint a picture of accountability within security agencies, the latter remain largely unaccountable, especially when it comes to violations of political rights, including the right to protest and peaceful assembly. While the government may use permission being given for protest rallies by opposition political parties as an example of democratic freedom in the country, the truth is, it doesn't come without haggling or, for activists and general citizens alike, a threat of violence and legal repercussions – with police often deviating from established practices to handle street gatherings.

It goes without saying that when legitimate grievances are suppressed this way, it only leads to further shrinking of civic space. We urge the authorities to respect people's right to protest and address their grievances. They must ensure that no excesses occur in handling protests or in police custody, especially when Bangladesh is trying to mend its image in this regard. As for Md Mostakim, the case against him and others should be withdrawn, and the allegations of torture by police should be properly investigated.

## A commendable initiative, indeed!

High time to make our educational institutions inclusive

We applaud Dhaka University for taking the decision to include a special quota for transgender students in its undergraduate programmes. It has done so in an attempt to promote diversity among its student body, recognising the systematic stigmatisation faced by the community. This decision comes on the heels of another notable development in recent days, when Ankitia Islam became the first openly trans woman to be admitted to the university to pursue her MBA.

The decision is significant because the transgender community in Bangladesh suffers from a range of exclusionary practices, including limited access to jobs, education, legal and health services, and decision-making at the policy level. A majority of them, particularly those who identify as *hijras*, struggle to complete their education, ostracised by their families and society from an early age. They are denied a safe learning space, having to constantly confront harassment and bullying from classmates as well as teachers throughout their education journey. As a result, most of them eventually drop out, limiting their prospects of a future job and a stable life.

We hope DU's stance in this regard will encourage other educational institutions to follow suit, and take inclusive measures to create a safe space for members of marginalised communities. It goes without saying that they, too, deserve a dignified life, which includes the right to education.

While the government has taken some notable steps to give recognition to the transgender community of the country over the last few years, these initiatives have at times fallen short of their desired outcomes because of a fundamental failure to understand the lived realities of the community in question and a general ignorance about the fluidity of gender, diversity and sexuality. For one, there is a tendency to conflate transgender with the term "hijra", though not all *hijras* identify as trans, and certainly not all transgender folks identify as *hijras*.

Given the widespread confusion, *hijras* are often asked to "prove" their authenticity by going through intrusive physical examinations. In 2016, for instance, the government took the laudable decision to provide employment to the community; however, their employment was contingent upon a medical checkup, the process of which ended up being harassing, humiliating and dehumanising for the community members, according to a report by the Human Rights Watch. Twelve of their pictures were even published in print and online platforms, and they were shamed as being "frauds" because their bodies did not conform with our expectations.

As an academic institution we hold in high regard, with a reputed gender studies department, we hope DU will not make similar mistakes. However, we remain wary of the statement that trans people will need to provide "related papers for confirmation". We urge the authorities to make the process smooth and dignified. People who have been humiliated all their lives do not need to go through further humiliation to prove their marginalised status.

## BANGLADESH'S MONETARY POLICIES

# A poor dose of the right medicine



**OPEN SKY**  
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 herbal medicine prescribed by a rural *kobiraj* may be scientifically right, but its inadequate dosage often fails to cure the diseases of patients in the village. The same has been true of our latest monetary policy for the January-June term of FY2023.

Despite all good intentions, Governor Talukder fails to change the parameters of monetary policy well enough to make a perceptible reduction in inflation and prevent the probable depletion of foreign currency reserves.

The policy brands itself as "cautiously accommodative" – a phrase akin to saying that something is "bitterly sweet." No matter what numeral tricks regarding inflation are displayed by the bureau of statistics, whose data is often disputed because of its faulty basket and cunning calculations, inflation is the number one torture for the mass whose savings are evaporating, and livelihood has come under hardship.

Even with the disputed data of BBS, the downward trend of inflation – which some policymakers are seizing with ample self-complacency – is statistically insignificant. The imperceptible downward trend of inflation is attributable to global commodity and fuel prices, and is not a credit to local policymaking, which actually fueled high prices by stubbornly clinging to the strange nine-percent lending rate, and thus letting the rich borrow banks'

**Bangladesh Bank has missed the train by caving in to the pressure of the finance ministry, which dictates policymaking at the central bank being driven by short-term political interests. And this is even more so now, before the general election.**

money at zero real costs.

Despite all the cosmetics of the new monetary policy, that anti-theoretical nine-percent cap still prevailed by signaling that money is still as cheap as dirt for wealthy industrialists who often turn into defaulters. It signals that money is more expensive for people of the middle or lower-middle classes, who resort to availing consumer loans for buying their durables like refrigerators, televisions, small vehicles, and furniture.

The policy twist of the nine-percent cap for capitalists and the 12-percent for fixed-income-earning consumers is an open testimony of favoritism for the super rich. The selective tightening of consumer loans is discriminatory to

the financially weaker section of society, who have little bargaining power.

Usually, economists are noted for their wide differences of opinions. As the British social economist Barbara Wootton observed, when six economists gather, seven opinions emerge.

But not a single economist in Bangladesh supported the nine-percent cap on the lending rate in the face of galloping inflation. Still, the finance minister manufactured his own theory by arguing that the cap is beneficial for the economy.

The nine-percent cap was imposed in 2020, during the pandemic. But oddly, the music is still on when the Covid-induced debility has ebbed long ago. The intent of keeping this cap is to continue nourishing the tycoons at the cost of high inflation.

Recently, FBCCI business leaders met the BB governor and argued for keeping the cap to serve their interests. And the governor catered to their demands. Although he indicated that removing the cap is only a matter of time, it's hard to understand what better moment there could be to justify removing the nine-percent cap than right now. At present, no sensible country in the world has kept any such cap on lending rates as inflation blisters their economy.

Lu has expressed his expectation that the premier will deliver on her promise. Donald Lu also raised issues about labour rights and has advised on what the government should do in order to improve the labour conditions. Our country currently does not enjoy GSP privileges. Lu has given an indication as to what the government should do in terms of enacting better labour laws to meet the requirements for regaining the GSP status. There were discussions about regional strategic issues as well.

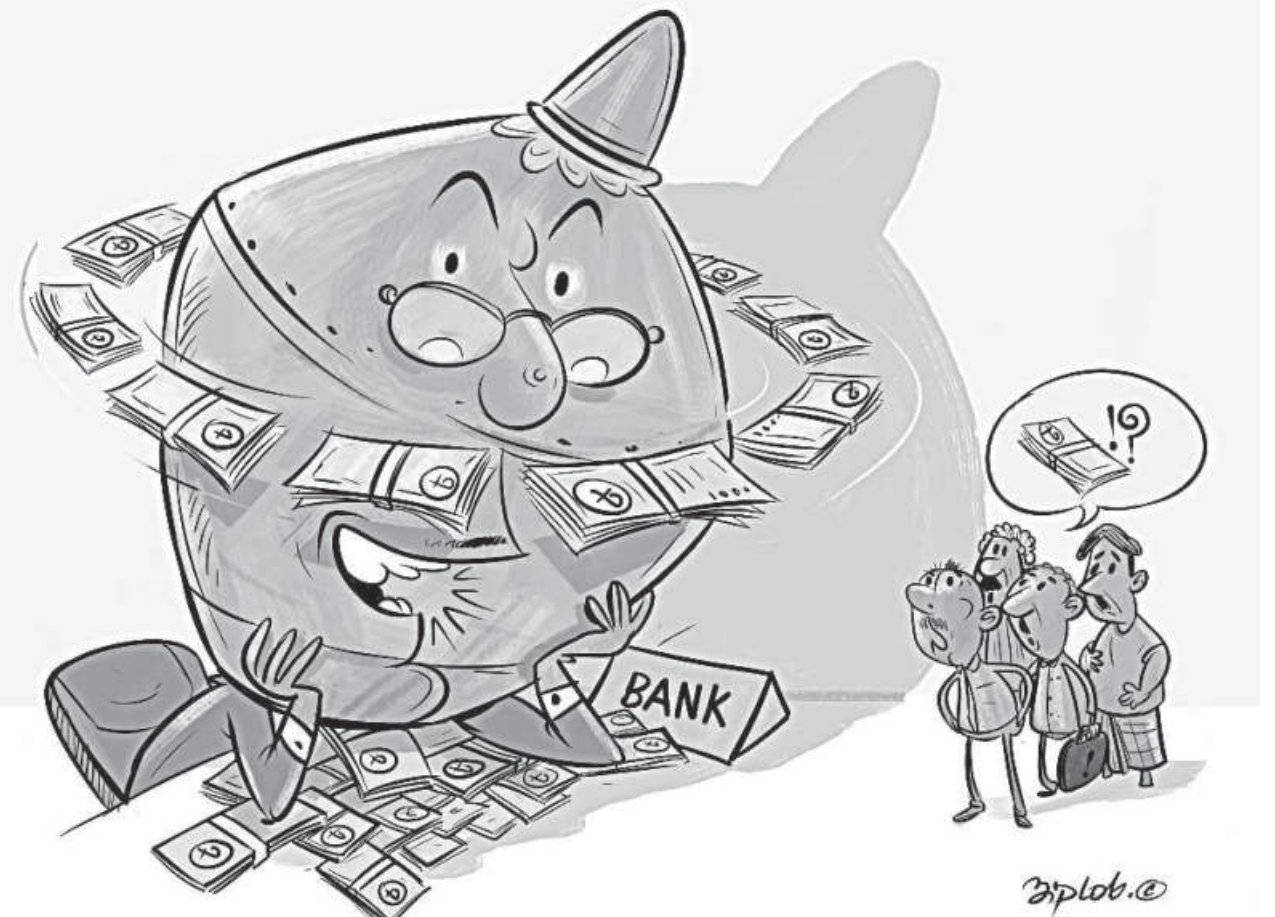
Though these discussions have not been made public, my guess is that the US wants Bangladesh to be a part of its regional strategy. Bangladesh could be a productive partner in that process. If we become a part of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and calibrate that to explore our interests, especially in the economic domain, and also to protect other national security issues from our side (such as resolving the Rohingya crisis) that would be useful to Bangladesh.

Overall, the three main dimensions which were discussed are governance issues (from elections to human rights), economic issues and bilateral business, and strategic issues. This is part of an ongoing discussion, and

The call money rate – the interbank borrowing rate – has recently spiked to as high as 10 percent, evidencing a severe liquidity crisis in the banking sector. The rate was around four percent this time last year, which makes sense because the call money rate usually remains in the repo corridor – the space between the repo rate and

And this is even more so now, before the general election. Herein lies the political economy of our central bank's incapacity of forging an independent monetary policy.

The BB governor is still praise-deserving in that he articulates the necessity of a unified exchange rate to be based on the market – a deviation



VISUAL: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

from which during the previous governor's regime caused the severity of the current dollar crisis and foreign exchange depletion. The governor commanded his apparatus to find the cheating of importers who accomplish money laundering by over-invoicing. Importers also resort to under-invoicing to dodge import duties, worsening Bangladesh's fiscal capacity, which is already the weakest in the region. This murky area was never diagnosed so closely as it is being done now, bringing some hope of tightening the outflow of funds. The governor should seek magisterial power to punish some notorious importers who are largely responsible for laundering USD 8 billion annually from Bangladesh, as per World Bank data.

The government has started frantically borrowing from the central bank since its revenue collection lagged behind the target, as usual, and its *sanchaypatra* source has stopped laying golden eggs of late. The credit growth target in the government sector of almost 38 percent – a desperate rate never seen before in recent decades – must be curtailed if BB wants to combat inflation. Otherwise, the central bank will remain a helpless observer of inflation that draws its vitamins from huge public sector credit and hunky industrial loans.

## What will we get out of Lu's visit?



**M HUMAYUN KABIR**  
is president of Bangladesh Enterprise  
Institute (BEI) and a former  
ambassador of Bangladesh to the US.

**M HUMAYUN KABIR**

The recent visit of US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, Donald Lu, in my opinion, was a type of stock-taking visit since, over the past few years, the relationship between the US and Bangladesh has been a source of some worry. Prior to this, a senior director from the national security council also came to Bangladesh.

In terms of the outcome, it is positive that there was an exchange of ideas and that understanding between the countries has been improved. This visit has ensured that the relationship between the two countries still stands on firm ground, despite some earlier concerns about human rights abuses by law enforcement agencies. There was a concern regarding whether or

not there would be sanctions from Bangladesh's side. These issues have now been resolved.

Another thing to note is that Donald Lu has clearly stated the expectations of his country regarding Bangladesh. He gave an indication as to what should be done to meet these expectations, too. For example, he has given an update about the sanction on Rab and indicated that the agency has improved in terms of human rights abuses and dropped hints about what more the agency should do. Lu has also expressed his expectations about the upcoming national election. He has said that the US wants to see a peaceful environment and expects a credible election. Citing the prime minister's promise to hold a free and fair election,

Lu has expressed his expectation that the premier will deliver on her promise.

Donald Lu also raised issues about labour rights and has advised on what the government should do in order to improve the labour conditions. Our country currently does not enjoy GSP privileges. Lu has given an indication as to what the government should do in terms of enacting better labour laws to meet the requirements for regaining the GSP status. There were discussions about regional strategic issues as well.

Though these discussions have not been made public, my guess is that the US wants Bangladesh to be a part of its regional strategy. Bangladesh could be a productive partner in that process. If we become a part of the Indo-Pacific Strategy and calibrate that to explore our interests, especially in the economic domain, and also to protect other national security issues from our side (such as resolving the Rohingya crisis) that would be useful to Bangladesh.

Overall, the three main dimensions which were discussed are governance issues (from elections to human rights), economic issues and bilateral business, and strategic issues. This is part of an ongoing discussion, and

any discussion is welcome as it clears the air. But the US' expectation is very clear. They want the promotion of human rights and democracy, and they will continue to push for reforms in that regard.

Donald Lu has also met the law minister and home minister. And I presume that the Digital Security Act was an issue of discussion at the meeting with the law minister. It is possible that there may be some updates and amendments to the law as a result of the US and European interest in reforming the law.

Labour rights is an urgent issue for the US as well as for us, as many of our future opportunities will be contingent on how the concerns are resolved. In terms of sanctions, there need to be more reforms in the system(s) for the existing sanctions to be considered for withdrawal.

Finally, we can say that Lu's visit was a positive one as there was an exchange of ideas and expression of appreciation of each other's position for both countries concerned. But the visit did not bear much concrete fruit besides this.

(As told to Anupam Debashis Roy.)



# The who's and how's of allocating loss and damage funds



**POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Dr. Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

SALEEMUL HUQ

During the negotiations on funding for loss and damage in COP27 in Egypt last November, representatives of developed countries had a lot of reservations about such a proposal. My answer to them was that, while their questions were quite legitimate, they would only get answers after we received a political commitment from their leaders to establish the funding mechanism in the first place.

Fortunately, the leaders of all the countries agreed to establish the funding mechanism at COP27 and also to set up a Transitional Committee to address the questions that were being asked. The negotiations at COP28 in Dubai in November this year will be when we will once again agree on how to address those questions and get the funding up and running.

In the meantime, it can't hurt to share some of my own thoughts on the questions that need to be addressed.

**How much money is needed?**

Given the ongoing impacts of climate change, the estimates of the total losses and damages run into many trillions of US dollars. However, it is not expected that such sums of money would need to be made available, at least not immediately. So, in the short term, a few tens of billions of US dollars a year to support the poorest and most vulnerable communities would be worth targeting. It is important to note that such funds are to address loss and damage and are different from funds used for adaptation and mitigation.

**Where would the money come from?**

There is an assumption that money would have to flow from the governments of developed countries to the governments of developing countries, but this need not be the only option. There are many ideas being floated for sourcing the money, including making polluters pay.

My own preference is for all countries to agree to impose a tax on every fossil fuel company registered in their jurisdiction and put that money into a new Global Loss and Damage Fund. This would immediately generate a lot of funds and would not even hurt the fossil fuel companies, as they would retain most of their exorbitant profits.

**Who would manage the funds?**

There are quite a few ways in which to manage the funds, including

**There is an assumption that money would have to flow from the governments of developed countries to the governments of developing countries, but this need not be the only option. There are many ideas being floated for sourcing the money, including making polluters pay.**



Though not an LDC or a member of the CVF, Pakistan, with its lengthy and devastating floods of 2022, could very well use climate loss and damage funds.

PHOTO: REUTERS

employing existing entities such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), or other funds outside the UNFCCC.

My own view is that we are likely to end up with a mosaic of funding channels for different activities, some under the UNFCCC and some outside it. It will, however, require close collaboration amongst all the funding entities to ensure synergies and avoid overlaps.

**Who would be eligible to receive funds?**

This is a tricky question in the context of the UNFCCC since there are several groups, such as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Small Island

Developing States (SIDS), as well as some countries in Africa, who are formally defined as "particularly vulnerable." But these lists exclude countries such as Pakistan, which suffered unprecedented flooding last year. So there will need to be some give and take, again in good faith, amongst the developing countries themselves as to which countries should be eligible to receive funds.

**How would funds be allocated?**

Besides the question of which developing countries should be deemed eligible to receive funds, deciding on the ultimate recipients at the local or community levels is also important, and they could belong to some middle-income countries as well.

In my view, this is by far the most important as well as most urgent question to be addressed, and put off for the cumbersome UNFCCC negotiations process, which will inevitably take time. Those in charge of existing funds that have already been committed, such as the Global Shield and the Loss and Damage window under the V20 Fund of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), should pay close attention to this question. The test now will be to see how quickly they are able to respond to the needs of communities already suffering from impacts of human-induced climate change.

**How can funds be accessed, and by whom?**

Accessing any of the existing channels

of funds requires an exhaustive process of applications from countries or entities, with funds typically taking years to be delivered. Addressing the needs of communities suffering from the adverse impacts of human-induced climate change will require a nimble and more proactive approach to taking the funds to the victims instead of waiting for applications. This is very much the domain of global humanitarian actors such as the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and the World Food Programme (WFP). It is therefore essential that humanitarian actors be brought into these discussions.

**Who should coordinate actions?**

As it is likely that we will end up with a mosaic of actors, some under the UNFCCC and others outside it, there is a need for someone to act as a coordinator. My advice is for the secretary general of the United Nations to appoint a special envoy for loss and damage for at least five years to coordinate between the UNFCCC, the UN OCHA, and each individual country and stakeholder.

As we have only just started facing loss and damage from human-induced climate change, this role will become increasingly more important, requiring actions on a daily basis.

**Most importantly, who pays for loss and damage from human-induced climate change?**

We must always remember that for every impact that is currently occurring, whether in poorer or richer countries, the people who are paying for the losses and damages are the victims themselves. Sometimes they get assistance from their neighbours or from local and national governments, but this is usually much less than what they need. Therefore, the challenge before the UNFCCC is to get the new funding systems to help the poorest victims access funds for addressing loss and damage as quickly as possible.

Let COP28 be the place where this begins as a practice.



**Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Prime Minister's Office**  
**Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority**  
BEPZA Complex, House: 19/D, Road: 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205  
[www.bepza.gov.bd](http://www.bepza.gov.bd)

Ref. No. 03.06.2616.308.07.214.22      Date: 16.01.2023

## Invitation for Tender

### No-01/2022-2023

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible Suppliers for the following goods and service as per terms & conditions stated below.

|                                 |   |  |  |                              |   |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| 1                               | Ministry/Division   | Prime Minister's Office  |  |                              |   |
| 2                               | Agency  | Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)   |  |                              |   |
| 3                               | Procuring Entity Name   | Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA)   |  |                              |   |
| 4                               | Procuring Entity District   | Dhaka  |  |                              |   |
| 5                               | Invitation for  | Open Tendering Method (OTM)  |  |                              |   |
| 6                               | Invitation Ref. No and date   | Ref. No. 03.06.2616.308.07.214.22-      Date: 16.01.2023   |  |                              |   |
| <b>KEY INFORMATION</b>          |   |  |  |                              |   |
| 7                               | Procurement Method  | Open Tendering Method (OTM) (Framework Contract)   |  |                              |   |
| <b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>      |   |  |  |                              |   |
| 8                               | Budget and Source of Funds  | Self Finance of BEPZA  |  |                              |   |
| 9                               | Development Partners (if applicable)  | Not Applicable   |  |                              |   |
| <b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>   |   |  |  |                              |   |
| 10                              | Project/Program Code (if applicable)  | Not Applicable   |  |                              |   |
| 11                              | Project/Program Name  | Not Applicable   |  |                              |   |
| 12                              | Tender Package No.  | Not Applicable   |  |                              |   |
| 13                              | Tender Package Name   | Supply of Dry Food for BEPZA Executive Office  |  |                              |   |
| 14                              | Tender Publication Date   | On or before 22 January 2023   |  |                              |   |
| 15                              | Tender Last Selling Date  | 15 February 2023 During office hour  |  |                              |   |
| 16                              | Tender Last Submission Date and Time  | 16 February 2023 at 12.00 PM   |  |                              |   |
| 17                              | Tender Opening Date and Time  | 16 February at 12.30 PM  |  |                              |   |
| 18                              | <b>Name &amp; Address of the Office (s)</b>   |  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | Selling of Tender Document (Principal)  | Accounts Section, BEPZA Complex, House: 19/D, Road: 6, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205.  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | Receiving of Tender Document  | Executive Director (Admin)<br>Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), BEPZA Complex, Level-04, House 19/D, Road No # 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205.               |  |                              |   |
|                                 | Opening of Tender Document  | Executive Director (Admin)<br>Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), BEPZA Complex, Level-04, House 19/D, Road No # 6, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205.               |  |                              |   |
| 19                              | Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting   | Not Applicable   |  |                              |   |
| <b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b> |   |  |  |                              |   |
| 20                              | Eligibility of Tenderer   | The invitation for tender is open to all eligible tenderer's who satisfy the following:<br>a) The tenderer shall have a minimum of 03 (three) years of overall experience. |  |                              |   |
| 21                              | Brief Description of related Services   | Supply of Bakeries, Grocery & other food items for BEPZA Executive Office  |  |                              |   |
| 22                              | Tender document price   | Tk. 1000.00 (One thousand Taka Only)   |  |                              |   |
| 23                              | SN  | Types of Goods & Service   | Location   | Tender security Amount (BDT) | Completion time                           |
|                                 | (i)   | Dry Food (as stated in the tender documents: Section 6)  | Dhaka, Bangladesh  | TK. 25,000.00                | 01 year from the day of contract signing. |
| <b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b> |   |  |  |                              |   |
| 24                              | Name of Official Inviting Tender  |  | Md. Zakir Hossain Chowdhury  |                              |   |
| 25                              | Designation of Official Inviting Tender   |  | Executive Director (Admin), Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) |                              |   |
| 26                              | Address of Official Inviting Tender   |  | BEPZA Complex, Level-04, House: 19/D, Road: 6, Dhanmondi Dhaka 1205, Bangladesh. |                              |   |
| 27                              | Contract Details of Official Inviting Tender  |  | Phone: +880241060852 Fax: 029635314<br>E-mail: ed.admin@bepza.gov.bd             |                              |   |
| 28                              | <b>Special Instruction:</b>   |  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | (a) Eligible tenderer/manufacturer/suppliers/firms/authorized representative may purchase tender documents from the offices mentioned in SN-18 on submitting written request in their letter head pad.        |  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | (b) Any false, forged and misleading documents furnished by Tenderer shall result in rejection of the tender.   |  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | (c) In case of any confusion arises due to printing mistake or other reason, the Public Procurement Rules-2008 will govern.   |  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | (d) Tender should be submitted original along with one duplicate copy and it should be mentioned on the cover sheet.  |  |  |                              |   |
|                                 | (e) Tender shall be valid for a period of 90 (Ninety) days from the date of opening the Tender(s).<br>The tender notice is also available at web site: <a href="http://www.bepza.gov.bd">www.bepza.gov.bd</a> |  |  |                              |   |
| 29                              | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the Tenders or, annul the Tender Proceedings.   |  |  |                              |   |



16.01.2023  
Md. Zakir Hossain Chowdhury  
Executive Director (Admin)  
Phone: 02-41060852  
E-mail: ed.admin@bepza.gov.bd



## Getting Bangladesh ready for LDC graduation

FROM PAGE 1  
on a four-day tour as part of her Asia trip, cited two areas that pose substantial risks to the economy and need much attention: revenue mobilisation and the financial sector.

At around 9 percent of GDP, Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio -- at around 9 percent of GDP -- is one of the lowest in the world.

"We think it can be considerably increased by looking at tax exemptions," she said, while calling for modernisation of the tax system and improvements in revenue collection.

Not making sincere, proactive efforts on the revenue mobilisation front will make the going difficult for the government as it looks to meet its critical spending needs in the areas of social protection, health, education and infrastructure to create a conducive environment for growth.

In a similar vein, not fixing the financial sector will have a similar undesirable outcome in the form of crowding out private sector credit allocation.

"Bangladesh needs a more efficient financial sector to improve credit allocation to the most productive economic sectors."

The vulnerabilities in the banking sector, particularly in the state-owned bank (SoBs), were exacerbated by the COVID-19 shock, said Sayeh, who was a finance minister in post-conflict Libya.

Structural weaknesses in supervision, regulation and governance, coupled with high defaulted loans and low capital in SoBs could be a drag on medium-term growth prospects.

The risk of defaulted loans is increasing and the authorities need to be very alert to that and take action regarding the matter.

Some key reform priorities include strengthening the corporate governance of banks including the

role of independent directors; resetting the classification and provisioning requirements in line with Basel standards, including the treatment of rescheduled and defaulted loans; stronger enforcement of the current prudential framework by the central bank.

Legal features that allow delayed loan repayment should be addressed and legal measures should be instituted to support stronger enforcement of creditor rights and debtor incentives to repay.

Reforms in monetary and financial policies such as a review of directed lending and regulated interest rates

have air conditioners, these people who are better off are benefiting the most from those subsidies."

Currently, a significant part of the budget is spent on subsidies and some of those subsidies are not benefiting the poor very much.

"Paring down those subsidies to give the government an opportunity to have more resources to spend on targeted social safety nets, to safeguard the impact of price increases on the poor is a big part of what we are looking at to make for better spending on education and health and to benefit the poor."

The IMF programme is aimed at making more

efforts already taken by the authorities, we expect very strong support."

The programme will lay the foundation to unlock Bangladesh's growth potential, harness its demographic dividend and support long-term, inclusive and sustainable growth.

"Well, I am coming away from this visit very energised by the clear dynamism you see out there and the huge potential that Bangladesh has. I was very enthused by the energy I saw and the clear commitment to taking forward the reform efforts. We think that 2023 is going to see a deepening of the reform effort."

This year is posing to be a difficult one with the IMF's growth forecast for the global economy being only 2.5 percent. So for an open economy like Bangladesh's, preserving macroeconomic stability while preventing disruptive adjustments to protect the vulnerable would be imperative.

Policy priorities must focus on containing inflation, softening the impact of these economic disruptions on the vulnerable and building external resilience through continued exchange rate flexibility.

"This will be a year that is somewhat new for Bangladesh in the course of the last 10-plus years."

Sayeh said now is the time to now start taking forward Bangladesh's efforts on the climate side, which are also "macro critical".

Bangladesh also needs to strengthen institutions to meet climate objectives, for instance, to be able to mobilise additional climate financing and support large-scale climate investments.

"Which is why the programme also includes the IMF's new Resilience and Sustainability Facility that will support this effort. In fact, Bangladesh is the first country in Asia to request IMF financing under this new facility."



Antoinette Monsio Sayeh, deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), second from left, along with other members of a visiting IMF delegation, rode the Dhaka metro rail on Monday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

will support the necessary strengthening of the banking sector.

Developing further the bond markets should also be a priority to meet the growing financing needs, especially after Bangladesh graduates from the LDC status in 2026.

Further reforming the National Savings Certificates system and developing a secondary market for government securities will be important, she said.

Another area where the government needs to retrench is in handing out subsidies to ensure sustainable and equitable growth.

"If you look at the fuel prices, it is the people who drive cars, people who

fiscal space and giving the authorities an ability to address the needs that are clearly important and to better serve the poor.

The programme also focuses on modernising the monetary policy framework, which will promote greater macroeconomic stability and help better manage inflation. Increased exchange rate flexibility will help rebuild external resilience.

The authorities and IMF staff have worked closely on a programme that is most relevant to Bangladesh's current economic and social dynamics, she said, adding that the IMF executive board will take a call on the loan proposal on January 30.

"With the significant

## 6 die as 'drowsy' ambulance driver rear-ends truck

FROM PAGE 1  
The front part of the ambulance went under the truck, said Abu Nayeem Mohammad Mofazzal, inspector of Shibchar highway police.

The spot is around 400 metres away from the Padma Bridge toll plaza in Jajira, he added.

"The ambulance driver might have fallen asleep at the wheel as he had been driving for over 26 hours without a break. This might have caused the accident. Besides, there was poor visibility due to

fog," the police officer said. Suruj Uddin Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Padma Bridge (South) Police Station, said, "Visting the spot and analysing the circumstances, we think that the driver was operating the ambulance recklessly and the vehicle's speed was around 120kmph."

Ambulance owner Noore Alam, who lives in the capital, said Rabiul began his journey for Bhola around 11:00pm on Sunday after taking a

patient from a clinic of the capital's Dhanmondi.

But Rabiul had to wait at Laharhat ferry terminal in Barishal Sadar upazila for a while as ferry service was disrupted due to dense fog. He reached Bhola around 10:00am on Monday, Alam added.


Rabiul reached Barishal city around noon and was looking for a Dhaka-bound patient. In the early hours of yesterday, he got the patient and started the journey towards Dhaka, the ambulance owner added.

Talking to this paper over phone, Rabiul's brother-in-law Al Amin Sarder said Rabiul lived in the capital's Khilgaon area with his wife. The couple has a five-year-old son and the wife is expecting.

"I do not know how my sister will lead the rest of her life ...," said Al Amin.

Police said the victims' bodies were handed over to their families.

[Our correspondents from Shariatpur, Barishal and Patuakhali contributed to this report.]



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Education**  
**Pabna University of Science and Technology**  
**Office of the University Engineer**  
**www.pust.ac.bd**

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Consulting Firm**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Ministry/Division</b>                       | : Ministry of Education   |
| <b>Agency</b>                                  | : Pabna University of Science and Technology                          |
| <b>Procuring Entity Name</b>                   | : Pabna University of Science and Technology                          |
| <b>Procuring Entity Code</b>                   | : N/A   |
| <b>Procuring Entity District</b>               | : Pabna   |
| <b>Expression of Interest for Selection of</b> | : Consulting Firm (National) (Lump-Sump)                              |
| <b>Title Of Service</b>                        | : Development of office automation and computerized accounting system |
| <b>EOI Ref. No.</b>                            | : PUST/DOAS & CASD/22/006 18/12/2022                                  |
| <b>Date</b>                                    | : 18/12/2022  |

**KEY INFORMATION**

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Procurement Sub-Method</b> | : Quality and Cost Based Selection(QCBS) |
|-------------------------------|--|

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Budget and Source of Funds</b> | : Non-Development |
| <b>Development Partners</b>       | : N/A             |

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

|                                  |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>EOI Closing Date and Time</b> | : 01/02/2023 1.00 PM |
| <b>Publication Date</b>          | : 16/01/2023         |

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Brief Description of Assignment</b>                      | : The assignment is to provide following Operational Support, Management, Training and Maintenance:<br>Controller of Examination Module: Exams management, Tabulation management, result processing, bill collection and generation, grading, degree/record verification, evaluation, certificate issue and verification(And Customize)<br>Academic Module : Admission management, curriculum management, course enrollment and management, student fees management, routine management, registrar office, User management, Student management, (or Student and Teacher portal) (and Customize)<br>Accounting and Finance Module: Budget Management (code wise), Financial Payment and Receipt from different entities and stakeholders, payables and receivables of student, teachers employees, and other stake holders, Procurement, etc. (and Customize)<br>HR and System Admin Module: Recruitment to retirement process management, Employee attendance and leave management, payroll, training and evaluation, Store and backup all module data, Employee History update, HR setup, Credential management.<br>Post Graduate study/study leave and research collaboration module: Enrollment process, supervisor and co-supervisor assign system, study leave management, research collaboration, etc.<br>Inventory Management System, Training, support and maintenance plan, Server, Server Racks, Online UPS, and others installation (Air-Conditioner, Computer setup, KVM and network Switch, support etc.)<br>Conveyance and others |
| <b>Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required</b> | : Eligibility/Qualification/Experience Criteria:<br>Tenderers shall possess the minimum requirements to perform the contract, which entails setting pass/fail criteria, which if not met by the Tenderers, will result in consideration of its Tender as non-responsive.<br>1. Required software as service / software services on a long term basis;<br>2. The Tenderer / Bidder shall have a minimum 08 (eight) years of general experience in relevant field with 10 universities of which at least 5 public universities and should include special academic and administrative modules.<br>3. The satisfactory completion of supply of similar Goods in 10 Bangladeshi Universities of which at least 05 public universities successfully completed within in the last 04 (Four) years. I.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of this tender.<br>4. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 01 (Single) contracts completed within the last 03 (Three) years with a total value of at least Tk. 30,00,000.00 (Thirty Lacs).<br>5. Integrated IMS including BackOffice, large user handling capacity.<br>6. Bank Solvency Certificate.<br>7. BASIS membership of bidding identity.   |
| <b>Other Details (if applicable)</b>                        | : Please visit <a href="http://www.pust.ac.bd">www.pust.ac.bd</a> or <a href="https://cput.gov.bd">https://cput.gov.bd</a>  |
| <b>Association with foreign firms is</b>                    | : Not Encouraged  |


**Eoi Detail Information**

| Ref No                             | Phasing Of Services | Location    | Start Date | Completion Date |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| PUST/DOAS & CASD/22/006 18/12/2022 | N/A                 | PUST, Pabna | N/A        | N/A             |


**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Name of Official Inviting EOI</b>            | : Engr. Farid Ahmed  |
| <b>Designation of Official Inviting EOI</b>     | : Chief Engineer (Acting)  |
| <b>Address of Official Inviting EOI</b>         | : 3 rd Floor, Administration Building, Pabna University of Science and Technology, Pabna             |
| <b>Contact details of Official Inviting EOI</b> | : Phone : +8802588845405, Fax : 0731-65173, Email : chiefengineer@pust.ac.bd, ictdirector@pust.ac.bd |

**The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders**



Engr. Farid Ahmed  
University Engineer(Acting)  
Pabna University of Science & Technology



**Bangladesh Bank**  
Common Services Department-1  
(Equipment Section)  
Head Office  
Dhaka-1000  
Website: [www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)

**Invitation for Tenders**

**Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka**

|   |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | Ministry/Division         | Not applicable.  |
| 2 | Agency                    | Not applicable.  |
| 3 | Procuring entity name     | Bangladesh Bank.   |
| 4 | Procuring entity code     | Not used a present.  |
| 5 | Procuring entity district | Dhaka.   |
| 6 | Invitation for            | Procurement of 200 PCs 80A toner of HP Laser jet pro 400 M401dn printer. |
| 7 | Invitation Ref No.        | CSD-1(Equipment)/69(3)/2023-105  |
| 8 | Date                      | 16/01/2023   |

**KEY INFORMATION**

|   |                    |                       |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 9 | Procurement method | Open Tendering Method |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

|    |                                      |                 |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 10 | Budget and source of funds           | Own source.     |
| 11 | Development partners (if applicable) | Not applicable. |

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 12 | Project/programme code (if applicable) |   |
| 13 | Project/programme name (if applicable) |   |
| 14 | Tender Package No.                     |   |
| 15 | Tender package name                    |   |
| 16 | Tender publication date                | 16/01/2023  |
| 17 | Tender last selling date               | Not applicable.   |
|    |  | Date Time   |
| 18 | Tender closing date and time           | 30/01/2023 02:00pm  |
| 19 | Tender opening date and time           | 30/01/2023 02:30pm  |
| 20 | Name & address of the office(s)        | Address   |
|    | - Receiving tender document            | BB website and hard copy of Tender Security.  |
|    | - Opening tender document              | Common Services Department-1, 6th Floor, Annex-2 Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. |

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 21 | Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer                      | Tenderers having 5 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 3 (three) contract(s) of similar nature successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years. |
| 22 | Brief description of goods   | Supply of Three Hundred (200) PCs Original HP Black Print Cartridge (80A) for HP LaserJet Pro 400 M401dn Printer of Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.   |
| 23 | Brief description of related services                                | N/A   |
| 24 | Price of tender document (Tk)  | N/A   |
| 25 | Identification of item   | Location Tender security amount (Tk) Completion time in weeks/months from the date of contract signing/award of contract  |
|    | Original HP Black Print Cartridge 80A for HP LaserJet Pro 400 M401dn | CSD-1 70,000.00 8 weeks   |

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 26 | Name of official inviting tender   | Shafayet Arefin.   |
| 27 | Designation of official inviting tender  | Director.  |
| 28 | Address of official inviting tender  | Common Services Department-1, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. |
| 29 | Contact details of official inviting tender  | Tel: 9530148 Fax: 9530120 E-mail: shafayet.arefin@bb.org.bd        |
| 30 | The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. |  |

ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে সহায়তার শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

**Shafayet Arefin**  
Director  
Phone: 9530148  
E-mail: [shafayet.arefin@bb.org.bd](mailto:shafayet.arefin@bb.org.bd)

DCP: 48/2023-192  
Date: 17-01-2023  
GD-87

## AG office

FROM PAGE 2  
The Appellate Division expressed dissatisfaction at the AG office for providing the apex court with false information about the HC bail, Mujibur Rahman, another defence counsel, told this newspaper.

Assistant Attorney General Tamanna Ferdous, who represented the state before the apex court yesterday, could not say anything specifically on this issue.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin told this correspondent that he would not make any comment without examining the relevant files.

The then deputy attorney general, who moved the stay petition before the SC chamber judge on December 21, 2021, could not be reached for comments as he has been appointed a judge of the HC.

## Al-Shabaab launches deadly attack on Somali military base

AFP, Nairobi  
Al Shabaab launched a deadly attack on a Somali military base yesterday, just a day after the government claimed a "historic victory" over the jihadists with the capture of a strategic coastal town.

There were conflicting reports about the death toll after the Islamist fighters stormed the camp in the town of Hawadley north of the capital Mogadishu.

Army chief Odowaa Yusuf Rage said on national radio that five soldiers including a senior officer had died in the attack claimed by the Al-Qaeda-allied militant group.

A clan militia commander near Hawadley, which lies in the central Hirshabelle state, said 11 soldiers had died.



## U-19s take on USA today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will take on USA today in the third and final ICC Women's U-19 World Cup Group A match at Willowmoore Park in Benoni, hoping to finish with three wins after having already topped the group with two wins.

Both Australia and Sri Lanka in Group A are on two points each, meaning Bangladesh are already through to the Super Six. However, a win would ensure that they top the group and avoid Asian powerhouses India from Group D in the Super Six stage.

South Africa or the UAE are likely to be Bangladesh's opponents in the Super Six stage if the Tigresses can hold on to the top spot.

No points will be carried from the first group stage. Accumulated points will come into play after Super Six if a match is abandoned and cannot be played on the reserve day during the semifinal stage, with the side that has more overall points getting the advantage.

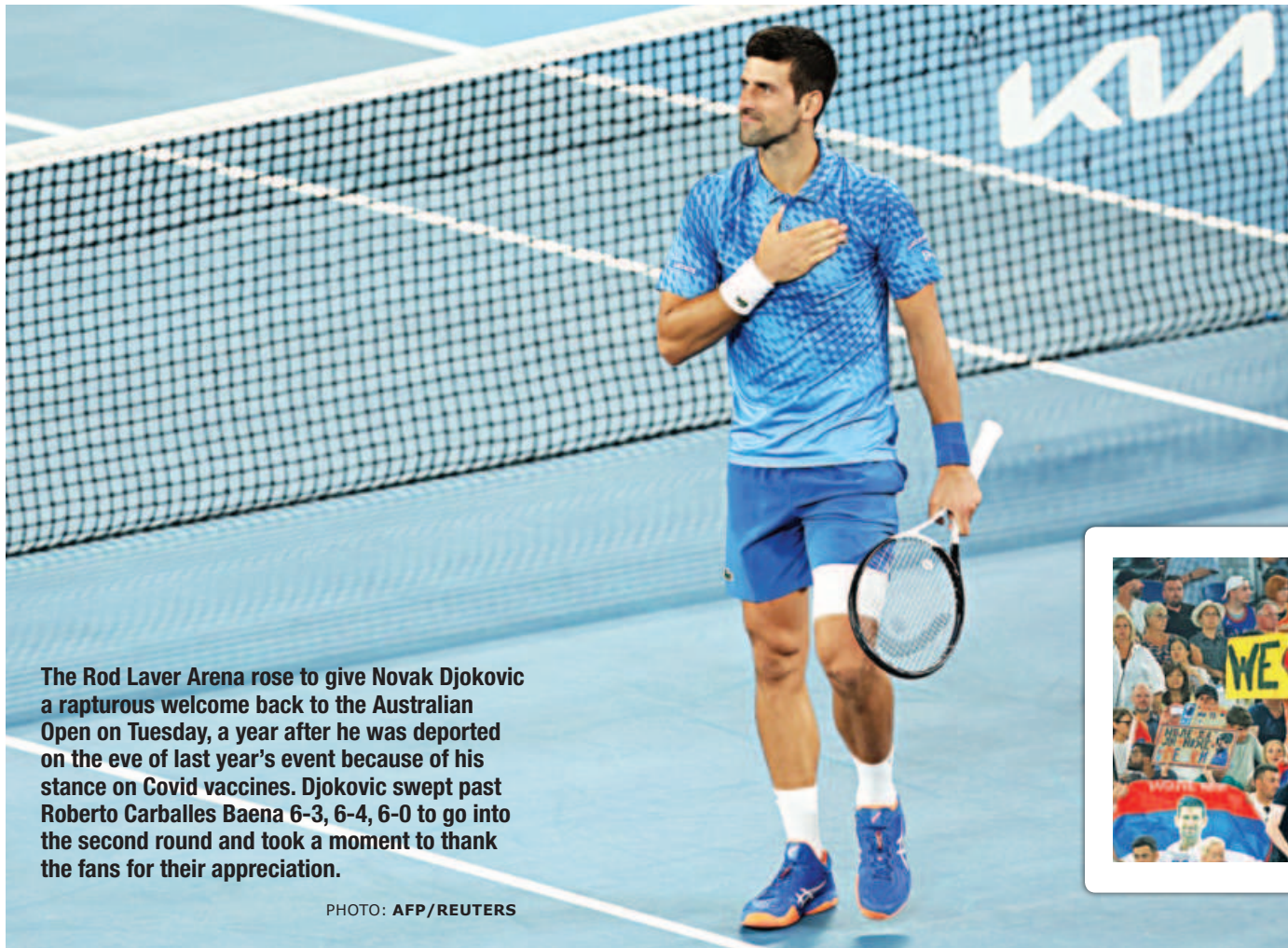
The batting effort from the young guns has come into focus with both games in the inaugural edition of the tournament seeing some tremendous shot-playing.



Bangladesh caused a remarkable upset in the tournament opener against Australia, with Shorna Akter showing her abilities at the death. Opener Afia Protasha then turned heads with her ability to play the big shots, easily clearing the ropes during a 43-ball 53 before Shorna struck a fifty to help Bangladesh to a healthy total against Sri Lanka.

It also gives the feeling that the side are built different to the senior side. "I liked playing power-hitting shots since a very young age. The coaches saw me at the U-19 camp and did some extraordinary work and I was able to play those," Protasha had said after the Sri Lanka game.

Sharp on the field and raring to go, Bangladesh will look to sail through against USA, who were beaten handsomely by the Aussies on Monday. If the batters can keep their mojo, Bangladesh will certainly be able to go to the latter stages following the morale boosting wins in the group stage.



The Rod Laver Arena rose to give Novak Djokovic a rapturous welcome back to the Australian Open on Tuesday, a year after he was deported on the eve of last year's event because of his stance on Covid vaccines. Djokovic swept past Roberto Carballes Baena 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 to go into the second round and took a moment to thank the fans for their appreciation.

PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



## Djokovic gets rapturous reception on return

AFP, Melbourne

Intense heat and torrential rain played havoc at the Australian Open on Tuesday, but Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray battled past their opponents and the elements to emerge with momentous victories.

Djokovic swept past Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena to launch his bid for a 10th Australian Open title Tuesday, with the Serb enjoying a rousing reception following his deportation a year ago.

The 35-year-old showed few signs of the hamstring niggle he picked up in Adelaide this month as he raced to victory on Rod Laver Arena 6-3, 6-4, 6-0.

After not being able to play last year over his Covid vaccination stance, there were concerns over how he might be received by fans in Melbourne.

But, as in Adelaide, the fourth seed walked out to loud cheers and chants of "Nole", with vocal backing during the match from a stadium awash with Serbian flags.

"Thank you for giving me such a welcoming reception that I could only dream of," said Djokovic, who is chasing a record-equaling 22nd major title. "I feel really happy that I'm back here in Australia and on the court where I have had the biggest success in my career."

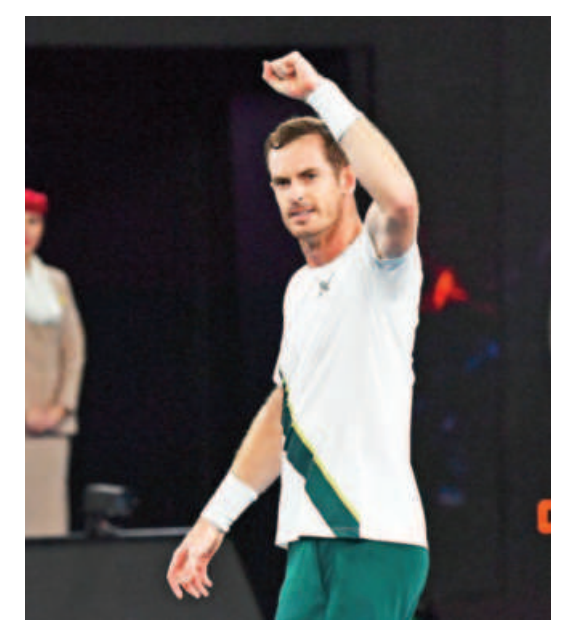
"Definitely this court is the most special court in my life and I couldn't ask for a better start to the tournament."

**MURRAY SILENCES HIS DOUBTERS**

Andy Murray said he had silenced the doubters after defeating Italian 13th seed Matteo Berrettini in five gruelling sets to book a spot in the Australian Open second round.

His renowned grit was on full display in saving match point to topple the Italian 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (10/6) in 4hrs 49mins.

"I think the last few years I've certainly questioned myself at times," said Murray, a former world number one. "There's certainly a lot of people questioned me and my ability, whether I could still perform at the biggest events and the biggest matches. I felt very proud of myself after the match. That's not something that I generally felt over the years at the end of tennis matches. I think I'm proud of the work that I put in the last few months," added Murray, who faces Thanasi Kokkinakis or Fabio Fognini next.



## Tamim rediscovers his mojo

SPORTS REPORTER from Chattogram

Prior to the start of the game against Rangpur Riders yesterday, Khaled Mahmud Sujon, head coach of a Khulna Tigers team still searching for a first win in the Bangladesh Premier League, was asked about his thoughts on the experienced Tamim Iqbal, who has been struggling with the bat. He replied simply: "Form is temporary but class is permanent."

At the end of the game, those words rang true as Khulna finally registered their first win with a nine-wicket triumph after Tamim smashed an unbeaten 60 to chase down a modest 130-run target at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

The 33-year-old has been out of action in recent times as he battles injuries, notably missing the last home series against India with a groin injury.

Interestingly, it was Tamim's first fifty at any level since a half-century against Zimbabwe in August last year. Although

the left-hander was mostly sidelined over the last six months by various injuries, the fact that he had not scored 50 in his last ten innings belied his caliber.

Bangladesh's ODI skipper scored a 37-ball 40 in the second game of the BPL against Chattogram Challengers, but the southpaw did not look comfortable at all. Yesterday was a different case, with Tamim looking more assured despite being watchful initially. Finally, the stylish batter came down the track and unleashed a gorgeous inside-out shot to off-spinner Mahedi Hasan for a six over extra cover.

It was one of two sixes to go along with four boundaries, but the most important aspect was that the innings came at a time when Khulna were desperately seeking a first win after losing three on trot.

There was no looking back for Tamim after that first maximum, with the veteran playing strokes all across the ground.

His flick off Pakistani pacer Mohammad Haris provided a glimpse of the vintage Tamim when on song.



### 'Egg is the secret behind bowling quick'

Pakistan pacer Haris Rauf, who played his first Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) game for Rangpur Riders against Khulna Tigers at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday, revealed that strict adherence to his diet is what helps him generate such blistering pace.

The 29-year-old's fastest delivery clocked in at 150kph and although he did not get a wicket, he remained economical, conceding just 19 in his four-over spell.

Asked about the secret behind his ability to bowl at such speed, Haris said: "Eggs. You need to have protein as it's very important for fast bowlers. When you have enough protein in your

body you will be able to perform well on the ground.

"Training and diet is very important [for players]. Recovery is also important before and after every game once you return to the hotel. Having a good sleep is also crucial," Haris added.

The seamer also revealed how he worked on his accuracy over the years which made him more lethal.

"You have to train a lot in the nets and bowl in a simulated environment where you can feel the match pressure. Working hard at training prepares you to perform in the game as well. Obviously, it can't be achieved overnight as accuracy comes by working day by day," he said.

Despite losing Munim Shahriar at the other end, Tamim showed no intention to hold back. Alongside young Mahmudul Hasan Joy, he added an unbeaten match-winning 89-run stand.

Tamim also ran hard between the wickets to eke out those singles and doubles, reflecting his fitness, which has also come under the scanner since his injury. Unlike in the first three games, Tamim looked comfortable using his feet against both pacers and spinners yesterday.

Tamim smashed his second six when he came charging down the track to left-arm spinner Mohammad Nawaz, bashing the ball over long-on and hinting at a return to form as he reached his fifty off 35 balls.

It was Tamim's 24th BPL fifty and his first in this edition, but more importantly the innings was one that is bound to provide the left-hander relief.



Inter Milan had a fruitful training session at the Prince Faisal Stadium in Riyadh yesterday on the eve of their Supercoppa Italiana clash against AC Milan. After training, a few of the players met youngsters involved in the Madh Sports Academy for a workshop, doing some drills with aspiring footballers.

PHOTO: INTER MILAN

## Robson steals the show

SPORTS REPORTER

A brilliant performance from Robson De Silva helped Bashundhara Kings qualify for the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup with a fighting 4-3 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad yesterday.

The Brazilian scored one and assisted two during a show-stopping performance at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj and, although Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon rested some players, Kings were unstoppable and were leading 4-1 at one stage.

Although Muktiyoddha Sangsad struck two goals within the span of three minutes in the dying moments, the Bashundhara Kings did not allow an upset.

In the other Group B game, Chittagong Abahani were held to a goalless draw by newcomers Fortis FC.

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**The Daily Star NEWSPAPER OLYMPIAD SEASON-3**

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- গ্রুপ -খ (৬ষ্ঠ-৮ম শ্রেণী)
- গ্রুপ -গ (৯ম-১০ম শ্রেণী)
- গ্রুপ -ঘ (১১শ-১২শ শ্রেণী)
- গ্রুপ -ঙ (বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ও তদুর্ধ্ব)

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## Spend money carefully

Says PM at Ecneec meeting; EVM purchase proposal not tabled



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked officials concerned to reduce spending, but not stop expenditure altogether, which would result in dire consequences.

Planning Minister MA Mannan briefed reporters after a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) held at the NEC conference room in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

"If you stop all expenses, we will be destroyed. Don't spend any money on fruitless matter," the minister said, quoting Hasina, who chaired the Ecneec meeting.

State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said the PM asked all to remain cautious about expenditure and maintain austerity. She also urged all to ensure their participation in boosting the country's production

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Recycled materials are piled up on the bank of the Buriganga. Despite repeated warnings and even eviction by the BIWTA, recyclers keep using the bank, which leads to some of the materials ending up in the river, polluting the lifeline of Dhaka. The photo was taken in Kamrangirchar yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## US embassy clarifies home minister's comment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Clarifying things over Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan's comments, the US embassy yesterday said Assistant Secretary Donald Lu, during his visit to Dhaka, did not indicate a time frame for lifting the sanctions on Rab.

Talking to reporters at the Secretariat on Monday, the home minister said the US sanctions on Rab would be lifted soon as Lu had expressed his satisfaction over the force's recent activities.

In response, Jeff Ridenour, spokesperson for the US embassy in Dhaka, yesterday told The Daily Star, "Lu praised the Bangladesh government for the dramatic reduction last year in the number of allegations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances by the Rab."

"We applaud the government of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## BIJOY IN PHONES Criticism follows BTRC directive

Questions over conflict of interest raised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's order to pre-install Bijoy app in all imported and locally manufactured android phones has drawn sharp criticism.

According to the directive, all imported and locally manufactured Android smart handsets must have the app pre-installed before receiving marketing permission. Otherwise, the commission will not certify them, the directive said.

The BTRC order was issued on Friday to the relevant stakeholders, including all mobile manufacturers and the president of the Bangladesh Mobile Phone Importers Association.

Since 1988, the Bangla typing software "Bijoy" and Bangla keyboard known as the "Bijoy Keyboard" is patented to Mostafa Jabbar, posts and telecommunications division minister.

The BTRC reports to this division. "The BTRC's directive to use Bijoy keyboard on all Android phones is another absurd, ridiculous and rights-violating decision," said Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, a writer on ICT, in a Facebook post.

Asked about the decision, the minister, however, said Bijoy has already been recognised as a "standard" keyboard. He said, in 2017, Bangladesh Computer Council recommended Bijoy as a standard keyboard for smartphones and computers. Based on that recommendation, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) recognised Bijoy. The recent decision came following those recommendations.

Besides, the app will be given free of cost, he added. "It is only mandatory for the local manufacturers and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Our growing economy entices US

Says Momen



UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the US wants to maintain good relations with Bangladesh and noted that Bangladesh is "becoming a big economy".

Momen said US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu came to Bangladesh to "help improve the relationship" between the two countries.

"We had a very good discussion. We had a very positive and constructive discussion. They are very happy with us. We are also very happy," he told reporters, adding that President Biden wants to improve relations with Bangladesh in the next 50 years.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## MISCONDUCT WITH B BARIA JUDGE High Court blasts three lawyers

Orders to remove video from social media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the president and two other lawyers of Brahmanbaria District Bar Association (BDBA) for misbehaving with the judge of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Tribunal-1 and creating chaos in the courtroom on January 2.

At the same time, the court ordered the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to immediately remove the videos of the incident from social media.

The manner in which the lawyers scolded the judge of Brahmanbaria is very rare in the history of the world, and if such incident continues to take place, laws and courts will not survive, said the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Justice Razik Al-Jalil.

The bench was holding a hearing of a contempt of court rule against BDBA President Md Tanbir Bhuiyan; Secretary (administration) Akkas Ali and lawyer Zubayer Islam.

"The court is not a place for showing powers. Don't boycott the court. Don't think of only votes..." the bench observed.

"After issuing the rule, we have gone through the precedents of different countries of the world. No incident like that of the Brahmanbaria court took place there. The incident is

beyond civilization. We must think of the issues."

The bench added that if the lawyers don't respect the court, they will not get respect from others.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin represented the state while a section of Supreme Court lawyers including Supreme Court Bar Association President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir and its Secretary Md Abdun Nur Dulal appeared for the three Brahmanbaria lawyers during the hearing.

Momtaz Uddin Fakir said the judge of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Tribunal-1 of Brahmanbaria has misbehaved with the lawyers, but the HC only held the lawyers in contempt of court.

He requested the HC to give them two months' time to place their explanations about the conduct in the courtroom.

But the HC asked the lawyers to appear before the court on February 14 and place their explanations.

Earlier on January 5, the same HC bench summoned the president of Brahmanbaria Bar Association and other two lawyers, directing them to appear before it on January 17 for shouting and creating chaos in the courtroom of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Tribunal-1 and for misbehaving and scolding its judge with abusive words on January 2.

## Scientists use laser to guide lightning bolt

AFP, Paris

Scientists said Monday they have used a laser beam to guide lightning for the first time, hoping the technique will help protect against deadly bolts -- and one day maybe even trigger them.

Lightning strikes between 40-120 times a second worldwide, killing more than 4,000 people and causing billions of dollars worth of damage every year.

Yet the main protection against these bolts from above is still the humble lightning rod, which was first conceived by American polymath Benjamin Franklin in 1749.

A team of scientists from six research institutions have been working for years to use the same idea but replace the simple metal pole with a far more sophisticated and precise laser.

Now, in a study published in the journal Nature Photonics, they describe using a laser beam -- shot from the top of a Swiss mountain -- to guide a lightning bolt for more than 50 metres.

"We wanted to give the first demonstration that the laser can have an influence on lightning -- and it is simplest to guide it," said Aurelien Houard, a physicist at the applied optics laboratory of the ENSTA Paris institute and the study's lead author.

But for future applications "it would be even better if we could trigger lightning," Houard told AFP.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## Umrah now Tk 4,000 cheaper for Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis will now be able to perform Umrah at a cheaper cost as the Saudi government has announced a 63 percent reduction in the price of comprehensive insurance for international pilgrims.

The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of KSA has cut the cost from SR 235 to SR 87 with effect from January 10, reports Saudi Gazette.

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), a platform of around 1,500 hajj agencies, welcomed the Saudi government's decision.

HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim yesterday said that Bangladeshi pilgrims would now pay over 4,000

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Despite space being there on the street, motorbikes take to the pavement in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday. Bikers often seen getting on the pavements putting pedestrians and even themselves at risk.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Rab finds militant's grave without body in hills

STAR REPORT

Militants of Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya have tortured and even killed the recruits who wanted to shun the path, said law enforcers after interrogating suspects.

On January 11, five members of the outfit were arrested in Thanchi and Boangchhori of Bandarban. The suspects told law enforcers that they buried the bodies of recruits who died in the remote hills.

On Sunday, a joint team of Army and Rab searched the now abandoned militant hideout and found clothes of Aminul Islam, a 23-year-old man from Cumilla. However, no corpse was found there.

Aminul's father Nurul Islam, who accompanied the law enforcers, identified his son's clothes. Shirts, pants, tracksuits, and kitchen utensils were found scattered.

The grieving father yesterday filed a case accusing the five arrestees and several unidentified militants of killing his son.

"I want the punishment of those who misguided my son and took him to the hills," said Nurul Islam.

On August 23 last year, Aminul left home saying he was going to his computer shop in Kandirpar, Cumilla. He never came back.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## CLASS-VII TEXTBOOK Allegations of copying NatGeo are true

Admit Prof Zafar Iqbal, Prof Haseena

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professors Muhammed Zafar Iqbal and Haseena Khan yesterday admitted that the allegations of plagiarising content from the National Geographic website for a science textbook for class-VII were true.

The two eminent teachers, who were among five associated with the book, released the statement yesterday following an uproar in social media regarding the issue.

Other authors of the book are: Mohammad Mizanur Rahman Khan,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4