

MAGH 18, 1429 BS





RAJAB 9, 1444 HIJRI

"What is happening in Europe today could happen we must remain united and firm, standing together for Nato chief **Jens Stoltenberg** on Russia's war in Ukraine

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Hiked again, in just 3 weeks

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ASIFUR RAHMAN

REGD. No. DA 781

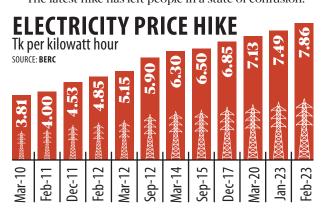
The government yesterday increased the electricity price once again by 5 percent at the retail level -- the second hike in 19 days as it steadily retracts subsidies from the power sector while piling the burden on common people already struggling with inflation.

From today, the weighted average price of electricity will be Tk 7.82 per kilowatt hour, up from 7.13 kWh, according to the government circular.

That means a consumer who used to pay Tk 1,000 a month will now have to pay Tk 1,100 for consuming the same amount of electricity.

From now on, the government will adjust the electricity price every month, Nasrul Hamid, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, told The Daily Star.

"If the fuel prices in the international market have increased, we will increase the price. If not, we will not. We want to get rid of subsidy -- that is the main goal," he added. The latest hike has left people in a state of confusion.



Take the case of Mahbubur Rahman, who works at a private company. He said he mistook the recent price hike with the increase on January 12.

"I could not believe that the government would hike the electricity price again so soon. Īt's unbelievable. We have a limited income. How can it be possible to survive if they hike prices continuously," he added.

Inflation averaged 8.76 percent in the first six months of the fiscal year, up from 5.7 percent a year earlier, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



THE BURIGANGA DY(E)ING ... A boy flashes a smile as he walks on the banks of the Buriganga, blissfully oblivious to the harmful chemical dve that has turned a portion of the river pink. The continuous discharge of industrial and chemical waste from nearby factories has been killing the river for years. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Shyampur area. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN **IMF \$4.7B LOAN**

Programme to nurse economy to health

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund's \$4.7 billion loan programme won't be a miracle worker for the Bangladesh economy. The programme would hold the economy back from falling off the cliff from the whiplash of the pandemic and the Ukraine war and turn it towards the right track.

The authorities made the right decision to come to the Fund -- and most importantly, to come to the Fund early, said Rahul Anand, the IMF's mission chief to Bangladesh,

Turning to the IMF when the country is already in crisis could make the adjustments particularly hard on people - a situation confronting Pakistan and Śri Lanka.

But Bangladesh is not in crisis, Anand said. "Just like countries around the world, Bangladesh is dealing

with the impact of global shocks -- first from the pandemic and then from the ongoing war in Ukraine," he added.

In that vein, the programme's immediate task is to prop up the country's shrinking foreign exchange reserves, which has already hit businesses and ordinary people hard. IMF EXPLAINS ITS LATEST LOAN -- B1 SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Things still bleak on graft front

Bangladesh 12th most corrupt country in world, 2nd most in South Asia, TI index shows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One notch down, Bangladesh ranks 12th highly corrupt country in the latest edition of Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index due mainly to a lack of pragmatic strategies to fight graft.

Of the eight South Asian nations, it remains the second lowest both in terms of score and

rank, ahead of only war-torn Afghanistan. Bangladesh has scored 25 out of 100 in the latest Index. It had scored 26 in four consecutive vears since 2018.

The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean); the average score is 43, according to the CPI 2022.

In terms of ranking from the top, Bangladesh stands 147th among 180 countries, shows the

"The performance is disappointing. We are also well below the global average of 43, which SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Providing employment to 1,200 individuals

other advanced features for environmental control

Supercritical technology having tallest stack in Bangladesh and

SIX BY-POLLS TODAY Focus on B'baria as candidate still missing

STAR REPORT

By-elections to six constituencies are being held today, but the Brahmanbaria-2 has become the centre of attention with an independent candidate "missing" for five days.

Though the family of Abu Asif Ahmed, former president of Ashuganj BNP, kept alleging that he was missing, an election commissioner yesterday said after analysing the circumstances, it seemed to them that he went into "hiding".

There are more twists in the by-polls to Brahmanbaria-2 (Sarail-Ashuganj). The ruling Awami League did not field any candidate there. Instead, the party men are desperate to make Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan,

Powering industrial and irrigation systems

with low priced electricity

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Electoral materials are being dispatched to different polling centres from the assistant returning officer's office in Ashuganj yesterday on the eve of by-polls to Brahmanbaria-2. By-elections to six parliamentary seats, including Brahmanbaria-2, are being held today. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Hathurusingha returns for the second spell



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following months speculation, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) confirmed through a press release on Tuesday that Chandika Hathurusingha had been appointed head coach of the national team for the second time.

Hathurusingha agreed to a two-year deal, starting from February 2023, and will be in charge of the national team across all three formats. The BCB, however, said that it is vet to decide on the role of Sridharan Sriram, who

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Child found dead in Shitalakkhya 7-yr-old's body was wrapped in burqa, mouth gagged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

morgue," he said.

A seven-year-old girl, who went missing from close to her Rupganj home in Narayanganj on January 25, was found dead in the Shitalakkhya river in Dhaka's Demra area.

Kohinoor Akter Sadia, who was still in her school uniform, was discovered wrapped in a burqa with a gag over her mouth, say police. She went missing as she was playing near her

house after returning from school, the girl's uncle Wahidul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday. "From her school uniform, we were able to identify her decomposing body at the hospital

Locals spotted the body floating in the river, around 500 feet south of Sultana Kamal Bridge, around 1:00pm on Monday, Inspector Kaiyum Ali Sarker, in-charge of Demra River Police Outpost, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We recovered the body and sent it to the Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy in the early hours of Tuesday," he said.

"We primarily suspect that criminals strangled her to death and dumped her body into the river," the police officer said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

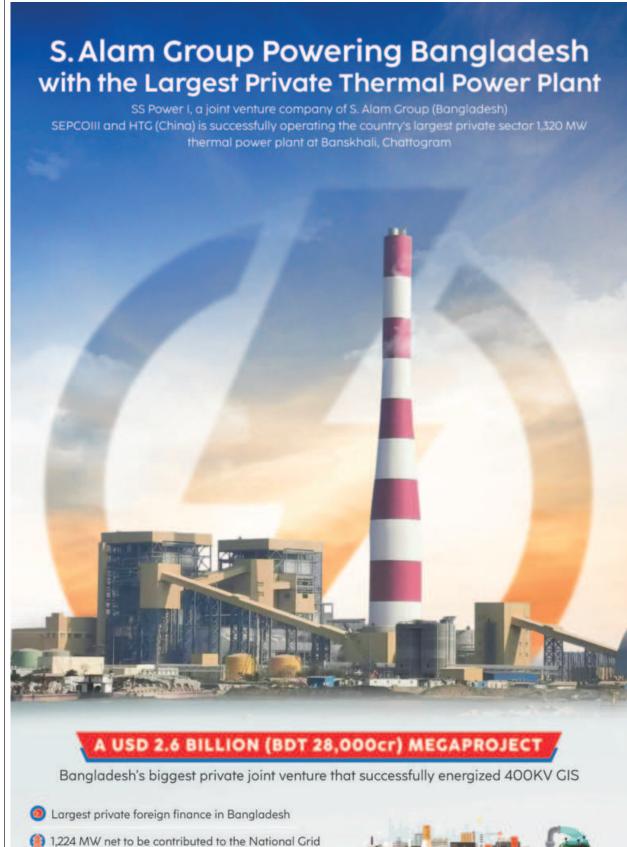
BUSINESS

Fresh blow to small industries

The government decision to increase the power tariff twice last month has created undue pressure on small industries that are unable to keep up with the rapidly rising production costs, according to businesspeople. Customers will now end up bearing the brunt of the higher cost of goods sold, they said. Small companies usually lack the additional investment

capacity needed to face the burden of higher input costs and subsequently become less competitive.

STORY ON B1



BB withdraws DG responsible for forex, Shariah lenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday withdrew the deputy governor responsible for overseeing the forex reserve and treasury management department and the wing that monitors the Shariah-based lenders.

Kazi Sayedur Rahman, a deputy governor of the central bank, served in that position.

Before being promoted to the post of deputy governor in November 2020, Rahman served in various roles within the forex reserve and treasury management department for more than two decades.

In addition, Rahman was also withdrawn from monitoring two other BB wings: the departments of banking inspections 4 and 7.

The department of banking inspection 7 monitors several Shariahbased lenders including Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank, Union Bank and Al-Arafah Bank.

The central bank did not give any reason for removing Rahman for the

But it comes at a time when the country's foreign exchange reserves and the Shariah-based lenders are in a precarious state.

As of January 25, the country's foreign currency reserves stood at \$32.3 billion, down 28.5 percent from a year earlier, according to the BB.

Following allegations irregularities, BB in December last year instructed five shariah-based banks to send a daily log of sanctioned credit of Tk 10 crore and above and also barred them from disbursing large loans of Tk 50 crore and above following allegations of irregularities.

The five banks are: Islami Bank, SIBL, First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank and Union Bank.

The tightened leash on the lenders, where Chattogram-based business giant S Alam Group has substantial stakes, comes after they were put in a delicate position by depositors' withdrawal requests following reports of alleged lending irregularities, compelling them to take emergency liquidity support from the BB.

Abu Farah Md Nasser, another deputy governor of the BB, has SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



Envoys of seven OIC member states call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday. The envoys are, from left, UAE Ambassador Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseif AlHmoudi, Algerian Ambassador Rabah Larbi, Malaysian High Commissioner Haznah Md Hashim, Palestinian Ambassador Yousef SY Ramadan, Maldivian High Commissioner Shiruzimath Sameer, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Essa Yousef Essa Alduhailan and Omani Ambassador Abdul Ghaffar Bin Abdul Karim Al-Bulushi.

Biden rules out F-16s for Kyiv

Minister says Ukraine to receive 120-140 tanks in 'first wave' of deliveries amid new Russia assault fears

AGENCIES

President Joe Biden said the United States would not provide F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine as demanded by Kyiv, which insists it needs those to be better able to drive Russian forces from occupied territories.

However, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba yesterday said Ukraine will receive 120 to 140 Western tanks in a "first wave" of deliveries from a coalition of 12 countries.

Kyiv secured pledges from the West this month to supply main battle tanks to help fend off Russia's full-scale invasion, with Moscow mounting huge efforts to make incremental advances in eastern Ukraine.

"The tank coalition now has 12 members. I can note that in the first wave of contributions, the Ukrainian armed forces will receive between 120 and 140 Western-model tanks," Kuleba said during an online briefing.

He said those tanks would include the German Leopard 2, the British Challenger 2 and the U.S. M1 Abrams, and that Ukraine was also "really counting" on supplies of French Leclerc tanks being agreed.

Kuleba gave no timeline for any of the deliveries. Time will also be needed for training with the tanks.

But Biden on Monday appeared to draw the line on supplying American fighter

jets to Ukraine. 'No," he said when asked by reporters at the White House if he was in favor of sending F-16s or others.

But European leaders said they were open to the idea, even if Ukraine has not yet formally requested advanced fighter aircraft from its allies for the war.

Analysts believe both Ukraine and Russia are gearing up for significant offensive movements in the coming months and Western aircraft could increase Kyiv's strength, with its own air force significantly depleted by 11 months

French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday he would not rule out giving fighter aircraft to Ukraine but warned against the risk of escalation in the

Macron had talks with Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who has already floated the idea of sending Dutch F-16s to Ukraine. "Nothing is excluded in principle,"

Macron said. Any arms delivery "must not weaken

the capacity of the French armed forces," he said, adding that France would have to be confident that the weapons would not be used to strike inside Russia, which could escalate the war.

"There is no taboo but it would be a big step," said Rutte.

Over in South America, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Brazil "has no interest in sending ammunition to Ukraine" during a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz -- the first Western leader to meet the leftist premier since he

He added that he had discussed this idea with Macron and would bring it up with Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping in future planned visits.

Fire breaks out at factory in Mongla EPZ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A fire broke out at a factory in Mongla Export Processing Zone in Bagerhat yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit in VIP Luggage-1 factory in the afternoon. It spread quickly as the factory had glue and other flammable chemicals stored in its premises," said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mongla Police Station.

Around 700-800 workers were inside the factory when the fire broke out. However, the authority was able to safely evacuate all workers.

Although, the fire was under control, it could not be completely doused till the filing of this report at 1:30am.

Eleven fire service units from Bagerhat and Mongla were working at the scene, said Golam Sarwar, deputy assistant director of Bagerhat Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Special drives against air polluters to begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Minister Md Shahab Uddin yesterday directed the Department of Environment and other authorities concerned to start conducting special drives against air polluters today.

He gave the directive in a meeting held at the ministry in the presence of other officials, said a

The minister also said mobile courts will be conducted against companies and vehicles that are responsible for air pollution from today.

Due to the alarming state of the capital's air quality, the ministry and the directorate must take every precaution to prevent air pollution, he asserted. Effective legal decisions must be made and

executed through inter-ministerial discussions, he The minister also directed the project directors

concerned to take effective steps to eliminate the use of hydraulic horns that cause noise pollution.

No Covid death in 24 hrs, positivity rate 0.71pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Things still bleak

is a matter of grave concern,"

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director

of the local chapter of TI, said while

unveiling the flagship report, which

He said Bangladesh is among

Iftekharuzzaman said, "Analysing

122 countries that scored below 50,

which denotes nations having a

the information of the index,

corruption is found to have a three-

conflict and insecurity. Corruption

creates conflict that triggers

countries riven by war and conflicts,

he said, "We've seen in our previous

researches that corruption creates

discriminations and scope for

injustice that lead to conflict

The Berlin-based corruption

Referring to the lowest scoring

insecurity. It creates a vicious cycle."

"serious corruption problem".

dimensional relationship

corruption exists.

No Covid-19 death was reported in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday while 13 others tested positive

The total number of coronavirus deaths in the country remains at 29,442 while the mortality rate stands at 1.44 percent, read a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services.

A total of 1,824 samples were tested across the country during this period. With this, the total number of cases rose to 2,037,556.

The current positivity rate stands at 0.71 percent while the total positivity rate at 13.36 percent.

Meanwhile, 228 patients recovered from the infection in these 24 hours.

Hiked again, in just 3 weeks

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, also mistook the recent price hike with the last one.

"Why are you saying that the share the burden too." some days ago. Isn't it that price hike you are talking about?" Mansur questioned when the correspondent contacted him for comment.

Economists and energy experts said the government lacked a clear strategy for bringing subsidies to

They were also critical about putting the price burden on the consumers instead of curbing corruption and illogical expenditure on the electricity production side.

"We are not seeing any strategy: rather they are hiking electricity prices by themselves. And why will all the burden be put on the consumers?" said Mansur, also the chairman of

There are lots of ways to cut the government's burden like decreasing Commission to identify system loss, sharing the burden with the power producers and so on.

unit, at least Tk 3 should be shared the BERC, a day after passing a with the power producers. They have law in parliament that allowed the been getting capacity charges for years and now it's time [for them] to prices.

price again? They just hiked the price government to form a strategy by Association of Bangladesh, mismanagement and system losses taking inputs from all stakeholders on how to reduce the subsidy.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, echoed Mansur's

The government needs to bring changes in the expenditure structure to make it more efficient instead of passing on all the burden to

"There are questions about huge capacity payments to the private power plants, delays in phasing out rental and inefficient plants. But the government didn't solve those problems, and hiked prices continuously," he said, while urging the government to use the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory loopholes in the system.

The government raised the price

"If the government hikes Tk 10 per bypassing the public hearing of expenses for people who are nearing government to fix all kinds of energy

M Shamsul Alam, senior vicegovernment hiked the electricity He went on to advise the president of the Consumers questioned the pricing process bypassing the BERC.

"We don't know in what process the government is fixing the prices," he said.

The gas-electricity price hike is as per the prescription of the International Monetary Fund, said Anu Muhammad, former member secretary of the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

"The government has no problem with this as all the burden will be put on the consumers. All the products' prices will be hiked except the wages,"

Some political parties expressed worry about the government's

Ganosamhati Andolon said in a statement that with such a decision. the government is increasing the

starvation.

Communist Party of Bangladesh said it is not acceptable that the government is hiking electricity and

gas prices while hiding the truth.

"Wrong policy, corruption, is universally believed to be the most well-known indicator of how much are the main reasons behind the high production cost," it said in a statement.

Democratic Alliance Leftist demanded the phasing out of rental and quick rental power plants and the withdrawal of the high capacity charges that were being paid in the name of subsidy.

Child found dead

Meanwhile, morgue sources said they were working to determine the cause

Hossain. Abir superintendent (Rupganj circle) of Narayanganj police, said they had already detained two persons for questioning over the incident.

"We have launched an investigation into the case," he added.

and ultimately to distrust in the government and its acceptability."

watchdog prepares the CPI based on

corruption.

the perception of corruption, mainly in the public sector, particularly bribery: use of public office for private gains; diversion of public funds; nepotism in appointments; red tape; state capture by vested interests; and mechanisms available for control of

It also considers legal, institutional and policy capacity and practice to curb corruption; integrity of institutions; effective prosecution of corruption cases; laws on financial disclosure and conflict of interest of public officials; access to information; and legal protection for whistleblowers.

Pointing out the reasons for Bangladesh's poor performance reining in corruption, Iftekharuzzaman said that though a zero-tolerance policy on corruption was declared from the top position of the government, there was no pragmatic strategy -- be it in short or long term -- to offset graft during the current period.

On the other hand, the corrupt practices have become acute during the Covid period. "Money laundering took place on a massive scale between 2019 and 2022 but no effective measures were taken," he said.

There were no instances of taking action against big fishes and corrupt government officials; rather, whistleblowers were harassed, he

"No effective measures were taken on forgery in the banking sector ... Bangladesh Bank did not play the role of a controller; it instead worked as a protector of the corrupt," he pointed is universally believed to be the most out.

> Somalia got the lowest score of 2. The worst performers in the CP include Syria, Sudan, Venezuela, Yemen, North Korea, Haiti, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea and Libya, all of which got scores ranging from 12 to

The highest scorers 76) are Denmark, Finland, New Zealand. Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Germany, Ireland and Hong Kong. No country has scored

In South Asia, Bhutan continued to score the highest: 68. It was followed by India and Maldives (40), Sri Lanka (36), Nepal (34) and Pakistan (27).

Interestingly, Afghanistan made progress in the last one year. It ranked 174th and scored 16 in 2021.

"If the current trends continue, there is a risk for Bangladesh to be the worst performer in South Asia," said Iftekharuzzaman.

In 2001 when the TI included Bangladesh in the annual CPI for the first time, the country ranked the lowest with a 0.4 score. With incremental improvement, Bangladesh scored 2.7 in 2011. For the last one decade, the country's score ranged between 25 and 28.

Pointing out the stance of top scoring countries on money laundering, the TIB executive director said, "Corruption paves the way for injustice globally. The countries that score high in the index welcome dirty money from the developing countries like Bangladesh. Though there are legal barriers, money is laundered due to loopholes. These countries actually create the scope for laundering.

"These countries [top scorer] get financial benefit whereas developing countries like Bangladesh get deprived of economic development ... corruption creates an environment for culture of impunity both nationally and internationally.'

Replying to a question, he said TIB only publishes the survey carried out by the Transparency International.

"TIB is not responsible for the low points of Bangladesh. The corrupt are responsible for the ranking," he said, adding that there is no connection of this report to the next parliamentary

Focus on B'baria as candidate still missing

an expelled BNP leader running as an independent, the winner. Even AL Organising Secretary Ahmed Hossain visited the constituency on Monday and took part in Sattar's campaign. Sattar resigned from BNP early December last year.

By-elections to Thakurgaon-3,

and 3, and Brahmanbaria-2 are needed as those seats fell vacant following the resignations of six BNP lawmakers. Allegations are rife in Bogura that AL leaders and activists are

intimidating voters and threatening

them not to show up at polling centres.

ASIF WENT INTO HIDING: EC Rahman yesterday told reporters at his office that they received a probe report from the deputy commissioner, the superintendent of police and the election officer of Brahmanbaria.

"Based on the information available, it seems that the candidate might have gone into hiding."

Noting that the audio clip of a conversation of independent Asif has gone viral on social media, Anisur

the conversation.... it seems that they winner," said Hamid. had a plan."

in its report said that the candidate was "missing" and it was sure that law enforcement agencies had no links with the incident.

"The report said the candidate's

whereabouts was established once.

Bogura-4 and 6, Chapainawabganj-2 But his location could not be traced later as his mobile phone was switched off. However, the law enforcement agencies are still trying," the commissioner added. Asif's wife Meherunnesa Meherin said she e-mailed a complaint to

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal regarding her husband going missing. are being threatened Election Commissioner Anisur continuously. Police are coming to

our house and conducting searches unnecessarily, causing harassment," she told journalists at her house in Ashuganj yesterday afternoon. Jatiya Party candidate Abdul Hamid Bhasani, Zaker Party nominee

Zahirul Islam Jewel and Asif's wife

have expressed worries about fair by-

"There is no sign that the by-polls will be fair. The ruling party and the local administration have become said, "I have heard the audio. From desperate to make Abdus Sattar the written complaint and some other

Zahirul said the general people

He said the local administration are disappointed at the role of the administration officials. ALLEGATIONS OF INTIMIDATION

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal candidate Emdadul Haque Imdad and independent Abdul Mannan in the Bogura-6 by-polls alleged that AL activists threatened many voters not to visit the polling stations.

However, AL nominee in Bogura-6 Ragebul Ahsan Ripu denied the allegation. "We are not threatening anyone.

The by-elections will be held in a

festive mood," he told The Daily Star. Independent runner Ashraful Hossain Alam, widely known as Hero Alam, in Bogura-4 and Bogura-6, said he heard that the results could be manipulated using electronic voting machines.

"If I see any irregularities in using EVMs tomorrow [today], I will boycott the by-elections," he told this newspaper. Asked about allegations of

threats from the AL candidate of capturing some polling centres, Bogura Deputy Commissioner Saiful Islam, also the returning officer, said an independent has filed a candidates informed them verbally regarding the matter. "We have already increased the

number of magistrates, personnel of the striking force, law enforcement agencies, and BGB at those polling stations to ensure fair by-elections." Many voters of the two Bogura constituencies were confused about using EVMs. Take, for example, the

case of Hazrat Ali, 50, a voter from

Bogura's Kahalu upazila. He said

he doesn't know how to cast a vote using an EVM and how the votes are counted. Many voters, especially BNP leaders and activists, are not at all interested in voting as the party is not in the by-polls race in its traditional

EC Anisur said they have completed all preparations to hold the by-elections and asked the local administrations and law enforcement agencies to strictly maintain law and

He said they extensively conducted

stronghold.

EVMs.' Our Brahmanbaria and Bogura correspondents contributed to this

voters' education campaigns on how to cast votes using EVMs. "We hope there will be no problem in using

'No one should provoke conflict in Myanmar'

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two years after the military coup in Myanmar and more than five years after the latest Rohingya exodus to Bangladesh, the scope of restoring normalcy and repatriation of the Rohingyas remain as elusive as ever.

While Myanmar's military junta has been continuing persecution, extrajudicial killings and gross humanrights violations, confrontation of the global superpowers and regional powers has further complicated the situation

These concerns were expressed yesterday at the seminar titled "Restoring Peace in Myanmar: Two Years after the Military Coup" organised by the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University. Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said, "The

Rohingya crisis is already creating internal security threats. Bangladesh could become a hotspot in the future if the situation turns into a regional conflict involving India, China and the USA." "If Bangladesh wants to solve the Rohingya crisis, I think there are other options that we need to explore. Our

to work in the next five years," he added. Commenting on the Burma Act, recently passed by the US Senate, former foreign secretary and ambassador Shahidul Haque said, "The Burma Act is primarily an attempt to build a crisis in an already existing conflict in

diplomacy did not work in this regard, and it is not going

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Locals and students of different schools in Dhanmondi formed a human chain on Satmasjid Road yesterday to protest indiscriminate tree felling on roadside islands there. Recently, Dhaka South City Corporation started renovating the road dividers, and in the process, have damaged or uprooted the trees. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Laws must be

pro-people'

Speakers tell conference on battling fake news

Mexican foreign minister due Mar 7-9

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday welcomed the proposed visit of a high-level delegation led by Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon from March 7-9 and expressed hope that his maiden visit would infuse vigour and vitality in the bilateral relations.

Momen, at a meeting with foreign diplomats, welcomed announcement of the Mexican government to open their embassy in Dhaka by the end of 2023, which will further consolidate ties between countries two and boost trade and commerce, investment, exchange of visits between businesspeople and high officials, and people-topeople contact.

Federico Salas Lofte, non-resident ambassador

Mexico; Alejandro SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Two bodies formed to find mistakes in textbooks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday formed two probecommittees to identify mistakes in textbooks and ascertain whether the errors were the result of any negligence by officials.

Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research (IER) Director Prof Abdul Halim will lead the seven-member probe committee to find out mistakes, read an office order of Secondary and Higher Education Division yesterday.

committee has This been asked to submit its report within one month.

Meanwhile, a separate committee was formed to investigate negligence of the officials.

The committee will be headed by Khaleda Akhter, additional secretary of the education division. This committee, comprising

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4





Biman promotes 58 pilots

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has promoted 58 pilots. The decision came amid shortage of pilots in the airline, as Biman's fleet of 21 aircraft were not being used optimally, according to top officials of the organisation.

Besides, the current Biman administration has decided to create cadet pilots through regular recruitments.

Of the 21 aircraft, six are state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliners, four Boeing 777s, six 737s and five Dash-

Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiul Azim told The Daily Star that there are 159 pilots in Biman at present to operate these planes.

The national flag carrier needs at least 48 more pilots, he said.

Shafiul mentioned that many of the 58 pilots have been promoted: 10 to the rank of first officer of B737 from first officer of Dash 8Q 400, 17 to first officer of B777/B787 from first officer of B737, 13 to captain of B737/Dash-8, 14 to captain of B-787/B-777 from captain of B-737, two first officers of B787s to captains of Dash-8, and two to captain of B-737 from captain of Dash-8.

Those promoted will get permanent confirmation after a six-month training period, based on their performance report by the authorities.

"From now on, we will follow regular recruitment, promotion, posting and actions against the wrongdoers for the smooth operation of all departments of Biman," said the Biman CEO.

"We have a huge demand from passengers on the Toronto route. We will not be able to restore the muchawaited Dhaka-New York route if we don't address the pilot shortage," he added.

To resolve the shortage immediately, the Biman MD said they have also recruited four foreign pilots.

"Apart from promotion and recruitment of pilots, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

a pipeline of

Laws to combat fake news must be propeople, otherwise, they will be misused against those who are vulnerable and protect those who are powerful, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former head of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman said fake news became a tool for achieving political gains, as observed in both local and geopolitical contexts. "Fake news spreads more ahead of the national election," he warned.

The event was organised by ELCOP (Empowerment through Law of the Common People).

Rahman, who chairs ELCOP, was speaking at a seminar titled "Fake News: A Threat to Human Rights and Democracy" at a city hotel.

"During elections, when the flurry of messages increases, there is always a feat of greater violence," said senior journalist Saleem Samad.

He said the Digital Security Act is directly in conflict with democracy, freedom of expression and pluralism, but has left the fundamentalists unscathed. They are one of the key groups that have been spreading misinformation on Covid-19 and spewing hate speech.

misinformation and hate speech should be more social and educational right to freedom of expression is not violated by over-broad legislative provisions criminalising or suppressing

expression, said Samad.

Human rights advocate ZI Khan Panna said unless existing laws are changed, fake news cannot be

Md Johir Uddin Shohag, research consultant at ELCOP, pointed out that the rise of the influence of tech companies and populism helps fake news spread faster.

Eminent economist Prof Abul Barkat said to combat fake news, formal legal measures, corporate commitments, and civil-society actions are needed.



Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University's international relations department said the rise of fake news cannot be tackled without ensuring

digital literacy for the masses.

Saleem Samad, senior journalist

Dr Arghya Sengupta, research director of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy; Dr Lopamudra Maitra Bajpai, professor Strategies to combat fake news, at West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences; Prof Yubaraj Sangroula, former attorney general in their character to ensure that the from Nepal; and Vasily Pushkov, director of International Cooperation, Sputnik International News Agency and Radio from Russia, also spoke at the event.

No specific threats centring Boi Mela Says DMP commissioner; fair starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruk yesterday said there is no specific security threat centring Amar Ekushey

"But if any writer or publisher worries about their security or feels threatened, we will keep watch," he said while inspecting security measures

'Some untoward incidents took place in the past. We have taken three-tier security measures so that no such incident can take place this year," he added. The DMP chief said they have extended the

areas, apart from the fair venue, under CCTV Visitors have to go through archways to enter

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BNP marches from Gabtoli to Mirpur

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders and activists of BNP's Dhaka north city unit marched towards the capital's Mirpur from Gabtoli vesterday, to press home their 10-point demand, including holding the next general election under a non-party caretaker government.

BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain formally inaugurated the programme at Gabtoli's SA Khaleque Paribahan Maidan around 3:20pm.

This was the third such programme of BNP, as the party's Dhaka north city unit marched from Badda to Malibagh on Saturday and the Dhaka south city unit marched from Jatrabari to Jurain on Monday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Mohammad Musa new VC of Maritime University



M Abdul Hamid, Rear Mohammad Musa has taken charge as the new vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Bangladesh, the only maritime specialised public university of the country.

He has become the successor of former vice chancellor Rear Admiral (retd) M Khaled Iqbal, said a press release.

1 killed

Upon firefighters spot, said locals.

Two units of the fire service rescued Mukul at midnight after two and a half hours and sent him to the hospital, said Officer Ali

Police seized the truck but the truck driver and his assistant managed to escape, said Rashedul.

US University Fair held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Graduate and undergraduate students of Bangladesh yesterday met representatives from 13 renowned highereducation institutions in the United States at an education

The fair was organised by the US embassy in Bangladesh, through its EducationUSA platform, which helps students from around the world to apply and join American institutions for higher studies, in partnership with EdPrograms, at a city hotel.

The 13 universities that participated were -- Iowa State University, University of New Haven, University of Delaware, Stony Brook University, Quinnipiac University, Colorado State University, Western Kentucky University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Trine University, The University of Texas at Arlington and the University of

Constitutional

Lalmonirhat-1 constituency, said in 2014, if JP hadn't used by contested leadership of couldn't have become MP also expunged," she said. or state minister.

Meanwhile. Sharmin Shirin Chaudhury gave a ruling FROM PAGE 3 vesterday and said that,

during the discussion on of president's speech, said. Motahar Hossain's earlier related to speech of president's,

"Along with that, the Chunnu unparliamentary language the member under the of parliament of the Begum opposition party Kazi Feroz Ershad, then Motahar Rashid in his speech was

Speaker No specific

the venue at Bangla Academy premises and the thanksgiving motion Suhrawardy Udyan, Faruk

Prime Minister Sheikh speech, which was not Hasina is expected to inaugurate the monthhas been long fair today.

Mexican foreign

Simancas Marin, nonresident ambassador of Cuba; Sinisa Pavic, nonresident ambassador of Serbia; and Menzie Sipho non-resident Dlamini, high commissioner of the Kingdom of Eswatini, jointly met Momen at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday, following presentation of their letter of credence to Bangladesh president at Bangabhaban.

At the outset, the Momen welcomed the nonresident ambassadors to Bangladesh.

meeting, the Momen hoped that the

bilateral relations among Bangladesh and the countries would usher a new avenue during their tour of duty.

Non-resident cordially ambassadors views exchanged bilateral and multilateral cooperation of mutual interests. including trade and infrastructure development, connectivity, Covid situation, and Russia-Ukraine which disrupted the supply chain of wheat, fuel and edible oil and discussed ways and means to address the issue to offset the crisis.

Peace remains

the government against the implementation of the accord," Saukhin said.

Shah Alam, president of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said it was the Awami League government that signed the peace accord. "They have been in power for 14 years with a landslide majority in the parliament. They can easily implement the accord if they are cordial about the issue."

Bajlur Rashid Firoj, secretary Bangaldesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), said the government must fully implement the CHT Peace Accord to fulfil its promises to the people of CHT and ensure their rights.

Poet and journalist Abul Momen, who presided over the rally, said big political parties in the country are silent on this issue. "The parties are fighting over power. It is the moral duty of Bangalees and the people of the hills to pressurise the government into implementing the accord."

Following the rally, a mass procession was brought out, which paraded the main thoroughfares of

Ensure recreation

spaces have shrunk following implementation of various development projects in Dhaka.

Professionals involved the design implementation of such projects must have to take responsibility for this, he added.

Farhana chief executive officer of Bhumijo, presented the possible design of a

Mirpur.

According to Maruf

Hossain, UNDP's town manager, many children's playgrounds are being walled off to restrict access. The universality of the mass sphere is largely destroyed by such a design.

Hussain, Mostak director (humanitarian) playground for children friendly and inclusive children.

in Bauniyabandh area of participation that the slum area can be made sustainable.

Dhaka North Corporation city planner Maksud Hashem stated that there have been several positive changes in the creation of public spaces in Dhaka. He added that the City Corporation is sincerely interested of Save the Children in creating recreational Bangladesh, said it is only facilities and spaces for through environmentally the city's marginalized

No one should provoke

FROM PAGE 3

Myanmar, which may not be good for Bangladesh at this moment."

He emphasised that Bangladesh should not encourage or actively participate in creating a battlefield in Myanmar when Rohingyas who belong to that country are already in its territory.

Rohingya community leader Dr Hla Myint said, "We are the most persecuted community in the world. We demand the together with all our allies to the human rights of the right to self-determination

for the interest of the and exercised." Rohingya people globally and locally.

minister of Myanmar's (NUG), expressed to voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of the

Rohingyas. are my people. We will not action and ensure that tolerate any discrimination Myanmar can return against them and will work to democracy and that end the military dictatorship country's and we want to reach out and build a state where basic respected.

to international actors human rights can be valued

The expressed Prof Zaw Wai Soe, union disappointment over the invitation sent to Myanmar's National Unity Government junta government for the upcoming ASEAN defence commitment minister's meeting and military drill.

discussants The urged the international Zaw said, "Rohingyas community to take urgent citizens are

BNP marches from Gabtoli

In a brief address prior to launching the march, Mosharraf said whenever announces programme, the "usurper" government tries to mislead people by talking about violence. BNP has held 10 rallies peacefully, braving various obstacles. We also held many other programmes peacefully. The fact is that the government gets scared of losing power whenever BNP comes up

with any programme."

Room to Read

committee member. Nazrul Islam Khan, said people are going through a very tough time due to unusual price hikes for all essential items.

He said the government of utility services as it has "taken a stance against the country's people".

Thousands of leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies joined the programme, carrying from Mugda to Malibagh banners, national and today.

Another BNP standing party flags, festoons and portraits of the party's top leaders.

A huge number of law

the area to maintain law and order. Earlier on Thursday, is also raising the prices BNP announced the four-

enforcers were deployed in

day march programme in the capital for January 28, 30, 31 and February 1. The programme will

conclude with Dhaka south city unit's march

Biman promotes

we have already taken measures to promote cabin crew members and recruit 100 cabin crew members by this month," he added.

Several pilots of Biman said in absence of an adequate crew, they are conducting flights without weekly leaves.

"Sometimes, we don't even get enough time to rest in between two flights," said a captain of a Boeing

"For example, while flying on Dhaka-Kuwait

for the return flight right after reaching Kuwait after five to six hours of flying," he said, requesting anonymity. currently Biman

flies to 20 international destinations, most of which are short- or medium-haul. Although Biman has

a huge captive market and loyal passengers, its market share has reduced by around 20 percent in recent years, according to aviation experts.

The absence of planning left many of its new aircraft route, we need to prepare underutilised, they said.

seven members, has been many errors in new school asked to submit a report by three weeks.

been facing criticism after

Two bodies formed

as the government has

textbooks were reported earlier this month following The development came the annual book distribution among students.

BUILDING & LAND SALE/LONG TIME RENT (Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University) Two Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sft) total 1,80,000sft, Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta.

Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com

জরুরী ভিত্তিতে ওয়াশিং প্লান্টসহ ৪০ (চল্লিশ) লাইনের চলমান একটি ওভেন (Woven) ফ্যাক্টরী ক্রয় করা হবে। উক্ত ফ্যাক্টরীটি RSC/Accord সার্টিফাইডসহ সম্পূর্ণ কমপ্লায়েন্স হতে হবে। ফ্যাক্টরীটির অবস্থান গাজীপুর, সাভার, ইপিজেড ও নারায়ণগঞ্জ অগ্রগণ্য। আগ্রহী ক্রেতাগণ আগামী ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।



ক-২৪৪, প্রগতি সরণি, কুড়িল, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২২৯।

FINE FOODS LIMITED

Head Office: New Market City Complex (Level-06) 44/1, Rahim Square, New Market, Dhaka - 1205

Price Sensitive Information of Q2 Accounts

This is for kind information to the Honorable Shareholders and all concern of the Company that a meeting of the Board of Directors held on January 31, 2023 at its Head Office. The Board has taken the following decisions:

Financial highlights of the period of 1st July to 31st December, 2022:

Particulars	Figures in TK. July-Dec., 2022	Figures in TK. July-Dec., 2021	
Turnover	33,088,332.00	298,32,260.00	
Basic Earnings per Share (EPS)	0.019	(0.025)	
Net Asset Value (NAV)	10.51	10.588	
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	(0.113)	(0.090)	

(Md. Sohel Hossain) Company Secretary

By order of the Board

INVITATION TO BID

For Production and Supply of School Bag

First Date of Publication: Wednesday 1 February 2023

ITB No: RtR/2023/WFP/ITB/001

Room to Read Bangladesh invites sealed tender from reputable and eligible suppliers/manufacturers having experience of work with large organizations including UN agencies, INGO and other international organizations in supplying School Bags. Bidding is open to all bidders/companies registered with Bangladesh Government.

Package	Description	Quantity	Estin	nated date of del	ivery
	School Bag	33830 Pcs Date : By 24 A		te : By 24 April 202	23.
	Type: Back pack, Material: Polyester cloth, Closing type: Zipper, Chamber: 3 (1 big and 2 small), Water bottle chamber: 2, Washable: Yes, Waterproof: Yes, Stripe adjustable: Yes Detailed specification and design are provided in the bid form, and also available in the office		Location	Ukhiya	19,845
				Kutubdia	13,976
				Cox's Bazar Sadar	05
				Dhaka	04
				Total	33,830

Envelope containing sealed bids must be marked with the ITB reference number (top right corner) as

Interested bidder must have the following qualifications:

A) At least 5 (five) years' of experience with large international organization/UN Agency/INGO

B) Able to meet the timeline specified above.

C) Able to deliver the goods (School Bag) in the specified locations

Interested bidder who meet the above-mentioned criteria may collect the bid form by paying Tk 500 (non-refundable) for the tender at the address given below from Wednesday 1 February 2023 to Tuesday 14 February 2023 (except Govt. holiday) during work hours. Pre-bid meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 11.00am at Room to Read Country office, Conference Room (4th floor), House 31, Road 4. Block F. Banani.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be collected by interested bidders upon submission of a written application on bidder's letterhead. Bids must be delivered to the address below by Tuesday 14 February 2023 no later than 3.00 pm. Any bid after the deadline will be rejected. All bids will be opened on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 3.00 pm in presence of bidders' representative & Room to Read purchase committee. Room to Read reserve the right to accept or reject all bids without any reason whatsoever.

Administration Room to Read, Bangladesh House-31 (4th Floor), Road-4, Block-F, Banani Model town, Dhaka 1213 Phone # 987-1201, 987-1275, 987-2051, 987-2602 Fax 987-2650. Email: Bangladesh@roomtoread.org

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer Zone-1 (Nagar Bhaban)

"শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

मूजिव

Memo No. egp/dscc/zone-01/07(1)/2022-2023 Corrigendum Notice No. 01

This is for kind information to all concerned that the tender Memo No. egp/dscc/zone-01/06/2022-2023; Dated: 12/01/2023 has been made following amended for Tender ID: 774631. All concerned are requested to take necessary actions accordingly.

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No. name of works	Amended subject	As per original document published on Tender Notice (e- GP)	As per 1st Corrigendum published on Tender Notice (e-GP)
01	774631 WR39/Z_1/MP_D10/FY22-23	Document last selling date & time	31/01/2023 13:00	07/02/2023 13:00
	Development works of road & drainage system from H/N-19/1 to	Opening date & time	31/01/2023 17:00	07/02/2023 17:00
	23/B Kathal Bagan bi-lane, from 34 Free School Street to 63/3 through 35 Free School Street, from 73/C to	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	31/01/2023 15:00	07/02/2023 15:00
	64/A, from 35 Free School Street to 41/1 through 42/5 and bi-lanes of North Road in Ward No. 16 of Zone- 01 under Dhaka South City Corporation (EV 2022-23)	Closing date & time	31/01/2023 17:00	07/02/2023 17:00

Corporation (FY 2022-23). All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum is a part and parcel of the

> Mithun Chandra Shil **Executive Engineer** Zone-1

Dhaka South City Corporation ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২০১/২০২২-২০২৩ Telephone No. 02-223388454 GD-164 E-mail: xenzone1dscc@gmail.com

STAR REPORT approval president

n chancellor

Admiral

FROM PAGE 5 Rashedul.

receiving information. from Gazaria fire service sub-station reached the

Azgar of the sub-station.

Chittagong Stock Exchange PLC STOCK Exchange PLC

PROFESSION WITH CSE Chittagong Stock Exchange PLC has a very strong team of

professionals and been providing excellent working environment to its Human Resources. It is looking for dynamic and energetic candidate to work with the core management team for the position of ASSISTANT MANAGER.

For details including Qualification, Experience, Application Procedures please visit CSE website www.cse.com.bd



EMBASSY OF DENMARK

Career Opportunity

The Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka invites qualified applications for the following position:

Associate Advisor on Sustainable Production Deadline for application: Saturday, 11 February 2023

To apply, please find the details at the webpage: http://bangladesh.um.dk/en/about-us/ job-opportunities/job-vacancy. The application should be sent electronically as a PDF file to this e-mail address: dacambapplication@um.dk no later than Saturday, 11 February 2023. Receipt of applications will not be acknowledged. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Al applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest private commercial Bank in Bangladesh is

hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any or all of the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions

1. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at proposed premises of our Maynamati Branch, Cumilla. Civil & Electrical works at proposed premises of Foreign Remittance Exchange Booth under Principal Branch at Hazrat Shahjalal

International Airport, Dhaka. Please visit our web site, https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp for details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by 09 February, 2023 duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer in the Tender Box by 12 February, 2023 (before 11.00 AM). Tender will be opened on 12 February,

> Dilip Kumar Paul General Manager

> > Moni Kumar Sharma

प्रवाली काश्क लिसिकिए | Establishment & General Services Division PUBALI BANK LIMITED | Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

2023 at 11:30 AM.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Health Engineering Department (HED), Chattogram Division Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

5 No. Loyal Road, Chattogram Tel: 031-2852296, E-mail: hedcdxen@yahoo.com Memo No. 45.02.0000.243.21.001.23-1515 Dated: 31.01.2023

১। এইচইভি সার্কেল-১ কার্যালয়ের স্মারক নং-৪৫,০২,০০০০,০৫১,১৪,০০১,২০-৬১৫০, তারিখঃ ১৯.১২,২০২২খ্রিঃ

২। এইচইডি সার্কেল-১ কার্যালয়ের স্মারক নং-৪৫.০২.০০০০.০৫১.১৪.০০১.২০-৬১৮২, তারিখঃ ২৮.১২.২০২২খিঃ e-Tender Notice (OTM) This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks'

SI. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling document	Tender proposal closing/opening date & time
1	WP14615/ SDP-4 GOB-HED	Construction of Horinmara Kumvoram Tripurapolli Community Clinic (Ward No. old-3 new-7) at Narayanhat Union, Fatikchari Upazila in Chattogram District. (Type-B)	780193	14.02.2023 & 16.00pm	15.02.2023 & 15.00pm
2	WP14616/ SDP-4 GOB-HED	Construction of Khetropur Community Clinic (Ward No. old-2 new-6) at 03 No. Kobakhall Union, Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachari District. (Type-A)	780194	14.02.2023 & 16.00pm	15.02.2023 & 15.00pm
3	WP14617/ SDP-4 GOB-HED	Construction of Uttar Sadhokchara Community Clinic (Ward No. old-1 new-3) at 02 No. Boalkhall Union, Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachari District. (Type-B)	780195	14.02.2023 & 16.00pm	15.02.2023 & 15.00pm
4	WP14618/ SDP-4 GOB-HED	Construction of Ponchari Netrojoy Karbaripara Community Clinic (Ward No. old-3 new-7) at 01 No. Merung Union, Dighinala Upazila in Khagrachari District. (Type-A)	780196	14.02.2023 & 16.00pm	15.02,2023 & 15.00pm

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason who

Feasibility study for Ctg metro rail begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The feasibility study for the construction of metro rail in Chattogram began yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minster Obaidul Quader virtually inaugurated the project titled "Transport Master Plan and Preliminary Feasibility Study for Urban Metro Rail Transit Construction of Chattogram Metropolitan Area (CMA)" during a ceremony held at a hotel in the

The estimated cost of the feasibility study project is around Tk 70.6 crore. It will be done with joint funding from the government and Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica).

The duration of the study is estimated to be from January 2023 to June 2025. It is being implemented by Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA).

Obaidul Quader said that Chattogram is the commercial capital of the country. For this, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has planned to build metro rail here after Dhaka.

work of upgrading Dhaka-The Chattogram highway to six lanes will start soon, he noted.

Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Road will also be upgraded to four lanes, he added.

Quader said the work of Bangabandhu Tunnel is almost complete. It will be open for public after the PM gives her time to inaugurate it.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, Chairman of Chattogram Development Authority Zahirul Alam Dubash, Director of the feasibility-study project Tony Ilho Jung, South Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Jang-keun, and Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury also spoke at the event among others.

Peace remains elusive without CHT accord'

Speakers tell Ctg rally



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctq

It is not possible to establish peace in the rest of the country keeping the Chittagong Hill Tracts in an uproar, said speakers at a rally in Chattogram yesterday.

The implementation of the CHT Peace Accord is a must to establish peace in the hills, they said in the divisional solidarity rally, organised by CHT Peace Accord Implementation Movement, to mark 25 years of the accord's signing, in front of Chattogram Jela Parishad Bhaban.

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, also president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, said the CHT accord was signed after a long movement in 1997.

"I had the privilege to be associated with the process. Twenty-five years have gone by but it is seen with utmost concern that the hills are still in an uproar," said Menon. "The rest of the country is being made unstable due to this. We know from media reports that radical

organisations have been conducting armed training in the hills, involving youths from across the country."

Menon also said he has appealed to the government on multiple occasions to implement the accord fully.

Besides, many indigenous communities were displaced due to the influx of people from across the country during the Ziaur Rahman regime, he said.

"An unwritten martial law prevails in the hills. The displaced people were supposed to be rehabilitated, but whenever we go to talk about the issue, settlers impose strikes and blockades to stop the process," he added.

Saukhin Chakma, member of CHT Regional Council, said as the peace accord has not been implemented in 25 years, the hills are still in a tumultuous state.

"Different groups and sub-groups have been created in the hills under the patronisation of SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

martial law prevails in the hills. The displaced people were supposed to be rehabilitated. but whenever we go to talk about the issue, settlers impose strikes and blockades to stop the process.

> RASHED KHAN MENON Lawmaker



They [AL] have been in power for 14 years with a landslide majority in the parliament. They can easily implement the accord if they are cordial about the issue.

SHAH ALAM President, Communist Party of Bangladesh

যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

যশোর-৭৪০৮, বাংলাদেশ

রেজিমটার দন্তর

1 killed, 3 injured in road crash Man trapped under truck's wheel for 2.5hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A bus-helper was killed after a truck ploughed into a crowd and fell into a ditch at Bhaterchar New Road area in Munshiganj's Gazaria upazila on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Nasim, 18, a resident of Haldia village in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila. Besides, three were also injured in the accident.

Firefighters had to go through a frantic effort to rescue an injured person stuck under the truck's wheel for two and a half hours.

The rescued person Mukul Hossain, 40, is a resident of Rayer Bagh in Dhaka. The two other injured -- Shahjahan, 32 and Md Mehedi Hasan, 28, -- were undergoing treatment at different hospitals in the capital, as their condition was

Injured Mukul is a bus driver and Nasim was his helper. They were waiting at the area to return home after doing maintenance work on

The Dhaka-bound truck -- carrying rods lost control and ploughed into a crowd at Bhaterchar on Dhaka-Chattogram highway around 9.30pm on Monday, said ASM Rashedul Islam, in-charge of Bhaterchar Highway Police Station.

After hitting four people, the vehicle fell into a ditch beside the road, said the officer.

Locals found Mukul stuck under the wheel and sent the other injured to Gazaria Health Complex, where on-duty doctors declared Nasim dead, said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Agrani Bank Limited

Establishment & Engineering Division Head Office, (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Invitation for Tondors

1.	Procuring Entity Name	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering
8	. N. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.	Division, Head office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha
2.	Procuring Entity District	Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Dhaka.
3.	Invitation for	Supply of a full frame mirrorless camera with len
2.	Invitation for	and other accessories for Agrani Bank Limited, Hea
4.	Invitation Ref No	Office, Dhaka. ABL/E&ED/ Eng./ Mecha-012/2023
5.	Date	Date: 30/01/2023
	INFORMATION	
and the latest and the	Procurement Method IDING INFORMATION	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
	Budget and Source of Funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank limited.
	TICULAR INFORMATION	
08.	Tender Publication Date	30/01/2023
09.	Tender Last Selling Date	19/02/2023 during office hour
10.	Tender Receiving Date and Time	20/02/2023 at 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM
11,	Tender Closing Date and	20/02/2023 at 03.00 PM .
	Time	
12.	Tender Opening Date and Time	20/02/2023 at 03.15 PM in presence of Tenderers of their representatives (if any present)
13.	Name & Address of the	Tepresentatives (II any present)
	office(s)	4 1
	Selling Tender Document.	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head office (7th floor), Motijheel C/A
12		Dhaka -
	Selling Tender Document	N/A
	(Others) Receiving Tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineerin
	Document	Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
	Opening Tender Document	DGM's Chamber, Agrani Bank Limited Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office
	CA ((7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkūsha, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
		1000.
Tribut manny	ORMATION FOR TENDER	
4.	Eligibility of Tender	Supplier who have minimum 03 (Three) year of
		general experience of similar nature of works. Year counting backward from the date of publication of
- 1	2 10	IFT.
	8	Having experience in successfully completion of a least one (1) contract of similar Goods within the las
	50	3 years, with a value of at least Tk. 3,10,000/- (Th year counting backward from the date of invitation of
7		this Tender (IFT).
_	100	The Tenderer must process: i) Up to date valid Trad-
		license ii) Up-to-date income tax certificate iii) Vali VAT registration certificate iv) e-TIN Certificate
		The minimum amount of liquid assets or working
6		capital or credit facilities shall be Tk. 4.90 lac. Lette
		of commitment for Bank's undertaking for line of Credit is issued from the concerned Bank in between
		publication date and submission date of STD.
		The Tenderer must submit: i) Catalogue/ Brochun
		must be submitted with Tender iii) Necessary
	3 g g 1	document of authorized Importer/ official reseller agent/ commercial distributor certificate of the
		proposed brand Camera and native lens.
		All other reputed qualification, terms and condition
		of the tenderer are shown in the tender data shee
		(TDS) of Tender documents and all experience certificates will be submitted as per format
		Necessary supporting Documents to be submitted a
-	A STATE OF THE STA	per requirement of ITT Clauses and technical
	Completion Time	specification of the tender.
15.	Completion Time Tender Document Price	30 (Thirty) Days from the date of Contract Signing. Tk. 500.00 (Taka Five Hundred only) per set (non
	- Trace Document Free	refundable) by Pay order/ Bank Draft from any
		schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Agran
PP/	OCURING ENTITY DETAIL	Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
7.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Shyamal Chandra Mahottam
18.	Designation of Official	Deputy General Manager.
10	Inviting Tender	Agrand Bank I ladie of Tarabilah and 9. Tarabilah
19.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
20.	Contact details of Official	Deputy General Manager, Establishment &
	Inviting Tender	Engineering Division, Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha, Motijheel C/A
		Dhaka.
		Tel:02223381674 email: dgmeed@agranibank.org
21	The procuring entity recorve	s the right to reject all tenders or annul the tende

The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender

Shyamal Chandra Mahottam

Deputy General Manager

Constitutional vacuum if not for JP: Chunnu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party MP Mujibul Haque Chunnu yesterday told parliament that if a section of JP leaders hadn't rebelled against HM Ershad to participate in the 2014 election under the leadership of Raushan Ershad, there might have been an unconstitutional situation in the country.

The JP secretary general said this while speaking on a point of order in Jativa Sangsad.

He said that some of them participated in the elections under the leadership of Raushan Ershad in 2014 by rebelling against Jatiya Party founding chairman HM Ershad.

Chunnu said in the 2008 elections, Jatiya Party took part as the grand alliance.

"2014 and 2018... Jatiya Party always participated in elections and is an election-oriented party."

Chunnu mentioned that Jatiya Party has proved that the practice of boycotting the parliament is recalled that the 2014 elections were

boycotted by the Jatiya Party. At the last moment. HM Ershad said not to contest, and he wrote letters to all the candidates across the country to withdraw their nominations. "There was such a situation that day... BNP

doesn't come to the election... If Jatiya Party didn't come then a constitutional vacuum would have been created." Pointing to Awami League MP Motahar Hossain

Ensure recreation for Dhaka's slum children

Experts say at dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Effective planning and sustainable initiatives are needed to create playing facilities and recreational spaces for marginalised children in urban slum areas, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

There is an acute shortage of recreational facilities and playgrounds for children and adolescents in urban areas of Bangladesh including Dhaka.

However, the shortage of such child-friendly spaces is most acute for children in informal settlements, including slums in urban areas, they said at the dialogue held at Save the Children office in the capital.

The dialogue was jointly organised by IPD, Save The Children Bangladesh, Bhumijo and Seep.

Due to the lack of playgrounds and recreational facilities, many children who grow up in different slums of Dhaka have become involved in various crimes, they said.

With the effective involvement of development partners alongside government initiatives, it is possible to create child-friendly spaces in slum areas, they added. Executive Director of Institute for Planning and

Development Prof Adil Muhammed Khan said a plan needs to be formulated now to create at least one child-friendly area in all slum areas of Dhaka.

Prof Akter Mahmud of Jahangirnagar University said the number of playgrounds and recreational



Office of the Registrar Jashore University of Science & Technology Jashore-7408, Bangladesh

স্মারক নং-যবিপ্রবি/রেজিঃ(সিঃ এন্ড এঃ)/১৬০০/ও এস এম/২০২২-৪৭

তারিখঃ ৩১/০১/২০২৩খ্রিঃ

টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

৩০/০১/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১) দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক, ২) দি ভেইলি স্টার ও ৩) দৈনিক গ্রামের কাগজ পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত আউট সোর্সিং জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্লোক্তভাবে সংশোধনী প্রদান করা হলোঃ

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH এই লাইনটি বাদ যাবে এবং Invitation for Tender এর উপরে Memo No: JUST/Reg(S&E)/1600/OSM/22-01, Date: 29/01/2023 এই লহিনটি সংযুক্ত হবে।

> স্বাক্ষরিত/ প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আহসান হাবীব রেজিস্টার যশোর বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

> > যশোর-৭৪০৮

GD-162

"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ, ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ' নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

NORTH-WEST POWER GENERATION COMPANY LIMITED ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

ইউটিসি ভবন, (শেভেশ ৩ ও ৪), ০৮ পাছপথ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫। Phone: 48122117-18, e-mail: info@nwpgcl.gov.bd, web: www.nwpgcl.gov.bd

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ২৭.২৮.০০০০.৩০৬.১৮.০০১.২৩.৫৩

১৬ মাঘ, ১৪২৯ বঞ্চাব্দ। ৩০/০১/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।

নিলাম বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

ঃ বিদ্যাৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়, বিদ্যাৎ বিভাগ।

২। নিলাম আহ্বানকারী দপ্তরের নাম

ঃ প্রকল্প পরিচালক, রূপসা ৮০০ মেঃওঃ কমাইন্ড সাইকেল বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র প্রকল্প, নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, ইউটিসি ভবন (লেভেল-৩), ৮ নং পাছপথ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

ত। নিলামের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ

ঃ রপসা ৮০০ মেঃওঃ সিসিপিপি প্রকল্পের নির্মাণ কাজে আমদানিকৃত ইকুইপমেন্ট ও মালামালের প্যাকেজিংসহ ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী ও অকেজো Steel Scrap (Beam, Angle, Channel, I-section, Rod, Steel Box, Steel Cable Drum, Sheet etc), Wood Scrap (Solid Wood, Packing Wood, Hardboard, Hardboard box etc) 8 পুরাতন ইট "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে" ভিত্তিতে নিলামে বিক্রয়।

৪। নিলামের প্রকৃতি

৬। দ্রদাতার যোগাতা

ঃ খোলা দরপত্র।

৫। নিলামের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ

ঃ ২৭.২৮.০০০০.৩০৬.১৮.০০১.২৩.৫৩, তারিখঃ ৩০/০১/২০২৩ ইং।

ঃ বাংলাদেশের ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান। হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট রেজিট্রেশন ও টিআইএন এর অনুলিপি থাকতে হবে এবং প্রয়োজনে মূল কপি দেখাতে হবে।

৭। দরগত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি স্থান

ঃ প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তর, রুপসা ৮০০ মেঃওঃ সিসিপিপি প্রকল্প, নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, ইউটিসি ভবন (লেভেল-৩), ৮ নং পাছপথ, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

৮। দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিলের স্থান

ঃ জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, খুলনা।

৯৷ দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ঃ ১৯/০২/২০২৩ ইং (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)। ১০। দরপ্রস্তাব জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়

ঃ ২০/০২/২০২৩ ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।

১১। দরপত্র দলিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

ঃ ২০/০২/২০২৩ ইং দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।

১২। জামানতের পরিমাণ (পে-অর্ভার আকারে)

১৩। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা

উদ্ধৃত মৃল্যের ২৫% (শতকরা পঁচিশ) অর্থ।

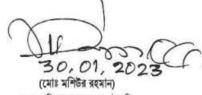
১৪। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিলের মূলা (পে-অর্ডার 🚦 ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

ঃ চুক্তি সম্পাদনের তারিখ হতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিন পর্যন্ত।

১৫। প্রতিটি দরপত্র দলিলের মূলা ও জামানত পে-ভর্ডার আকারে 'নর্থ-ওয়েস্ট পাওয়ার জেনারেশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড'-এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। জামানত ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র দাখিল করলে তা বাতিল বলে গণ্য করা হবে।

১৬ Notification of Award (NoA) ইন্যু করার ১৫ (পনের) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে প্রদেষ আয়কর ও ভ্যাটসহ সমুদর অর্থ ঠিকাদার কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে ও চুক্তি স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে। চুক্তি স্বাক্ষরের ভারিখ হতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিনের মধ্যে নিলামকৃত সকল মালামাল গ্রহণযোগ্য সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতা (Technically Responsive Highest Bidder)/কৃতকার্য দরদাতাকে নিজ জিম্মায় গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

১৭। নিলাম সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী শিভিউলে বিস্তারিত বর্ণিত আছে।



প্রকল্প পরিচালক (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী) রুপসা ৮০০ মেঃওঃ সিসিপিপি প্রকল্প নওপাজেকো, ঢাকা।

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Big time **BADHAN**

Actress honoured with National Film Award after 17-year-career

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Prominent actress Azmeri Haque Badhan recently been honoured with the National Film Award in the 'Best Actress' category for Rehana Maryam *Noor.* Alongside this prestigious achievement, Badhan has also been showered with international awards including, 'Best Actress' in both Valencia International Film

Festival and the Asia Pacific Screen Awards in Australia. Sitting down with The Daily Star, Badhan shared her feelings about this monumental achievement.

This is your first National Film Award, how are you

I am absolutely elated. This is a huge achievement for both me and the team. I got this award for Rehana *Maryam Noor* and for that I am extremely grateful to the film's team. In particular, I am thankful to my director Abdullah Mohammad Saad-who made this film earnestly. Moreover, Rehana Maryam Noor has been honoured in Cannes, which helped people all over the world learn about my country.

How did your family react to you winning this

Everyone, including my parents and daughter, are overjoyed. I would consider this the biggest achievement of my 17-year-long career. However, there is also a bittersweet feeling attached to this moment, as I believe that *Rehana Maryam* **Voor** could achieve even more.

After receiving such a recognition, do you feel even more compelled to be creative?

A National Film Award is a big achievement, so is the love of the people. I had the opportunity to represent my country in places like Cannes, that is a big achievement as well. So, I believe that being an artiste means having both love and responsibility for your art. Achieving this award simply increases the responsibility to do better. I have always strived to do quality work in my life and have never stopped believing in this ideology.



'Unish 20' to hit Chorki this February

Arifin Shuvoo and Afsana Ara Bindu starrer romantic web-film *Unish 20* will be premiering on February 13. Recently, the OTT platform released the teaser, where both the stars created magic with their cracking chemistry on-screen.

Directed by Mizanur Rahman Aryan, the 90-minute web-film created intrigue among the audience with its tagline "Some relationships end in separation, rather than an eternal bond."

Through this film, Bindu is coming back to the screen after eight years of sabbatical, while this is going to be Shuvoo's first film with Aryan.

Previously, Shuvoo and Bindu paired up in the sports drama film Jaago, directed by Khijir Hayat

Kareena becomes detective in new film

Heroine famed actress, Kareena Kapoor Khan is all set to debut a new look in Bollywood with Hansel Mehta's upcoming film, The Buckingham Murders. Her character is inspired by Kate Winslet's character in the American crime drama, Mare of Easttown.

The actress has recently wrapped up the shooting in the UK. Fans can soon expect Kareena to be donning a character she hasn't before. She will be portraying the role of a mother and a detective, investigating a murder mystery in

Apart from also making her debut as a producer on The Buckingham Murders, she will appear in Sujoy Ghosh's upcoming—and still untitled filmbased on the novel, *The Devotion of Suspect X*.

NEWS

HC slams DoE

her client (DoE) but also other FROM PAGE 12 foruncheckedair pollution in Dhaka. The DoE has a shortage of

manpower required for discharging

duties properly, she added. The HC bench also asked the authorities concerned like DoE, Dhaka city corporations and fire service and

civil defence to inform it on February 5 what steps they have taken to control pollution in the capital. The bench passed the order during the hearing of the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for

Bangladesh (HRPB) in 2019 seeking necessary orders on the authorities concerned. During the hearing, the petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid told the HC

that the court has earlier delivered several directives to the government, DoE and Dhaka city corporations and fire service and civil defence to take effective steps on this matter.

If they had taken effective steps in line with the HC orders, the capital would not be so polluted, he added.

Following the same petition, the HC on January 28, 2019, ordered the director general of the DoE to take steps to conduct mobile courts twice a week against those responsible for air pollution in Dhaka.

Deputy Attorney General Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashar represented the state during the hearing.

Death toll hits 100

to middle- and lower-ranking police personnel and their families.

Given the security concerns in Peshawar, the mosque was recently built to allow police to pray without leaving the area. Defence minister Khawaja Asif said the bomber was in the first row in the prayer hall when he struck.

The attack is the deadliest in Peshawar since twin suicide bombings at All Saints Church killed scores of worshippers in September 2013, in what is the deadliest attack on Pakistan's Christian minority.

Peshawar sits on the edge of the Pashtun tribal lands, a region mired in violence for the past two decades. The most active militant group in the area is the Pakistani Taliban, also called Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella group for Sunni and sectarian Islamist factions opposed to the government in Islamabad.

Tunnels to run as deep

of Japan and Bangladesh's Max Infrastructure Ltd are to complete the work within 910 days at the cost of Tk 607.65 crore.

The tender for the remaining 11 packages is now at different stages,

Unlike the MRT Line-6, the works of the MRT-1 will start simultaneously in difference places and most of it will be done underground using cuttingedge technologies, he said.

Two tunnels will be constructed side by side using tunnel boring machines at 10 to 30 metres below the surfaces of expanded roads, he

However, as the roads in Malibagh and Rajarbagh areas are relatively narrow, one tunnel will be on top of another and the depth will be as far as 70 metres from the surface, he added.

Asked, he said the construction work will not create problems for nearby buildings.

Regarding media reports saying a portion of the Purbachal Expressway will have to be taken down for the MRT Line-1 construction, he said it would not happen, adding that they

her client (DoE) but also other responsible departments are department departme four metres of land was kept free on

> the expressway median strip. "We will take around 1.5 metre land for the metro rail, so no road has to be broken down for it."

He said the MRT Line-1 trains, with eight coaches each, will operate at the frequency of 2.5 minutes and will even have a system to operate at the interval of 100 seconds.

He said the underground stations will be built following an open-cut method of tunnelling. But to reduce people's sufferings, they will first cut half of the area and then take the equipment inside and arrange the operation of vehicles there before cutting the other part.

It would not take more than six months to complete this, he added.

Queried, he said they are hopeful of achieving the target by December

Replying to another question, he said when the project was approved, the US dollar was traded at Tk 85 in the foreign exchange market in Bangladesh and future will determine whether project cost will increase or

It put end to illegal power

the parliament on June 30, 2011, and fair manner. made some significant changes to the constitution including the one that ended the illegal take-over of state power.

But, the empowerment of the people has become a cause of heartburn for a section of so-called intellectuals as they never come to power through people's votes, she said, adding that, they have been trying to disturb the democratic process time and again.

The PM reminded all that the Awami League government was the only one in the history of Bangladesh, which handed over state power peacefully on the completion of its 1999-2001 tenure.

She also mentioned that the transparent ballot box and preparing electoral rolls with photographs had been introduced in accordance with the proposal of the Awami League-led grand alliance to hold elections in a free

said the Commission has been constituted through a search committee as per a new law enacted by her government that has made it more transparent and accountable.

The government has given the EC full financial independence so that it can hold a free and fair election.

At the ceremony, the PM administered the oath to the new RCC mayor Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa, who was elected as a Jatiya Party candidate.

Besides, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Md Tajul Islam administered oaths to the councillors including those who got elected from the

Jatiya Party candidate Mostafa won the mayoral race for the second consecutive term in the Rangpur City Corporation elections held on December 27 last.

Submit appeal

Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim.

Senior lawyer Tanya Amir appeared for the writ petitioner while lawyer Md Zainul Abedin Tuhin represented Jamaat during yesterday's proceedings.

Following a writ petition, the HC in a landmark verdict on August 1, 2013, declared Jamaat's registration with the EC illegal. The commission the

same year suspended the registration. Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, then secretary general of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, along with 24 others had filed a writ petition with the HC on January 25, 2009, seeking its order declaring Jamaat's registration illegal.

The petitioners said Jamaat was a religion-based political party and it didn't believe in the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh.

The EC scrapped the registration of Jamaat in October 2018, making it clear that the party will not be able to contest the upcoming national election.

In the verdict, two judges of the three-member HC bench declared the registration illegal. However, the other judge disagreed with the decision of his two colleagues.

Jamaat then filed the appeal with the apex court challenging the HC

Govt to send zero-line

Bangladesh and seek refuge inside a school in Tambru and districts surrounding Naikhongchhari upazila, according to Rohingyas and intelligence officials.

"A huge number of Rohingyas used to live on the zero line across the Bangladesh-Myanmar border," said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at a programme in the capital yesterday.

This area is extremely notorious; they were also involved in drug smuggling there. So, we have been considering dismantling it [the

As a consequence to the fighting among armed groups of Myanmar, some Rohingyas entered Bangladesh territory. Those Rohingyas were also carrying UNHCR cards, said the

"But we will not take anyone officially. The good news is that the camp on the zero line is almost closed now. This is good for us. Let's see what happens," he said, addressing the event held at the Foreign Service Academy.

According to locals, the Konarpara camp housed 4,400 Rohingyas from 630 households. While many of them took shelter at Tambru, others remained untraced.

Contacted, Ghumdhum Union Parishad Chairman AKM Jahangir Aziz said, "We have already completed counting the Rohingyas who have and with the support of the ICRC.

"We found 2,889Rohingyas from 357 families. The survey started on Sunday morning and finished yesterday evening. The activity was coordinated by a member of the union parishad," he added.

"The process of counting the Rohingyas has just been completed," Romen Sharma, upazila nirbahi officer of Naikhongchhari, told this correspondent. "Now we'll go through their details. Then, following directives of higher authorities, we will begin the process of relocation."

Mohammed Rahman said, "We will verify whether these Rohingyas were previously registered with any Rohingya camp [in Cox's Bazar]. If somebody is already registered, he or she will be returned to their respective camp after vetting. Those who are not registered will be kept at a transit camp next to the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in

"We will scrutinise whether any of the newcomers are involved in criminal activities. If we identify somebody involved in a crime, we will notify law enforcers.

Bangladesh now hosts over 1.2 million Rohingyas, who are housed in 33 refugee camps in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya and Teknaf upazilas. Over 8 lakh Rohingyas entered Bangladesh

in 2017 alone.

Hathurusingha returns

appointed as technical consultant for the T20 unit till the T20 World Cup in November last year.

Hathurusingha is set to arrive by February 20, with his first assignment being the white-ball series against England, including three ODIs and as many T20Is, at home, starting from March 1.

Speculation Hathurusingha's arrival had been rife since former head coach Russell Domingo tendered his resignation in December last year. Domingo had a contract with the BCB till the 2023 ODI World Cup, set to be played in October-November in India.

This is set to be Hathurusingha's second stint as Bangladesh coach, having previously served from 2014

"It's an honour to have been given this opportunity to coach the Bangladesh national team once again. I really loved the warmth of the people and the culture of Bangladesh whenever I have been there. I'm looking forward to working with the players once again and enjoying their successes," Hathurusingha was quoted

as saying in the BCB press release. Hathurusingha's first stint with the BCB ended on a sour note, with the Sri Lankan tendering his resignation during Bangladesh's tour of South Africa in 2017 to take over as Sri Lanka's head coach.

However, BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon said that the 54-yearold's reappointment was welcomed by senior cricketers, including Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, and trough of a brainwave.

Tamim Iqbal.

Papon also informed that the BCB was looking for an assistant coach to help Hathurusingha share some of

"We are looking for an assistant coach. It is not possible for everyone to be available for every series, Papon said, adding that the board has already held talks with a few prospective candidates for the role.

Tuning into brainwave

FROM PAGE 12 learned much faster under entrainment had maintained their higher performance level.

The research indicated that the learning boost only occurred when the visual flicker chimed with the

INTERNATIONAL/NEWS

COUP ANNIV West slaps sanctions on Myanmar

REUTERS, Washington

The United States and its allies imposed further sanctions on Myanmar yesterday, marking the two-year anniversary of the coup with curbs on energy officials and members of the junta, among others.

Washington imposed sanctions on the Union Commission, Election mining enterprises and energy officials, among according to a others. Department Treasury statement.

It marks the first time the United States has targeted Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) officials under the current Myanmar sanctions program, a Treasury spokesperson said.

Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom also announced sanctions.

The military has pledged to hold an election in August this year. On Friday, the junta announced tough requirements for parties to contest the election, including a huge increase in their membership, a move that could sideline the military's opponents and cement its grip on power.

The NLD described this year's election as "phoney" and said it would not acknowledge it.



Palestinians face 'shrinking horizon of hope': Blinken

REUTERS, Ramallah

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken shuttled from Israel to the Palestinians' West Bank yesterday, appealing for an end to resurgent violence and reaffirming Washington's backing for a two-state solution to the decades-long

Blinken is urging calm on both sides after last week's killing by a Palestinian gunman of seven people outside a Jerusalem synagogue and anger among Palestinians over actions by Israeli forces and settlers in the occupied West Bank.

He took that message into a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, warning all parties against any action that could threaten a two-state solution.

'We've been clear that this includes things like settlement expansion, the legalization of outposts, demolitions and evictions, disruptions to the historic status of the holy sites, and of course incitement and acquiescence to violence."

Blinken said Palestinians were facing a "shrinking horizon of hope" that needed to

In January alone, 35 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with Israeli troops, in the bloodiest month since 2015, while officials say attacks on Palestinian property by Israeli settlers have also increased.

Iran jails couple in viral dancing video

AFP, Paris

An Iranian court has handed jail sentences of over 10 years each to a young couple who danced in front of one of Tehran's main landmarks in a video seen as a symbol of defiance against the regime, activists said yesterday.

Astiyazh Haghighi and her fiance Amir Mohammad Ahmadi, both in their early 20s, had been arrested in early November after a video went viral of them dancing romantically in front of the Azadi Tower in Tehran. Haghighi did not wear a headscarf in defiance of the Islamic republic's strict rules for women, while women are also not allowed to dance in public in Iran, let alone with a man.

A revolutionary court in Tehran sentenced them each to 10 years and six months in prison, as well as bans on using the Internet and leaving Iran, the USbased Human Rights Activists News Agency (said.

The couple, who already had a following in Tehran as popular Instagram bloggers, were convicted of "encouraging corruption and public prostitution" as well as "gathering with the intention of disrupting national security", it added.

Programme to nurse economy to health 7.8 percent of GDP this fiscal year to the government's budget deficit the government's budget deficit The programme to nurse economy to health

While the IMF would make \$476 million immediately available, the lender's impact would be beyond that: it would give the other multilateral agencies, such as the World Bank, to make more funds available for Bangladesh.

This along with the import curbs placed by the government will shore up the gross foreign reserves to \$30 billion by the end of the fiscal year, according to the IMF's projections.

As per the lender's balance of payments and investment position manual (BPM6), gross foreign reserves calculation does not include the various funds that the Bangladesh Bank has formed from the reserves as well as the loan guarantees provided for Biman, the currency swap with Sri Lanka, the loan to Payra Port Authority and the below-investmentgrade securities. These account for about \$7.5 billion.

When these components are taken out, the IMF projection matches the government's expected foreign currency reserve position at the end of fiscal 2022-23: \$37.7 billion.

Gross reserves would increase to \$34.2 billion in fiscal 2023-24 and \$40 billion in the following year, as per IMF's projections. It would hit \$46.4 billion once the programme ends.

Other than restoring macroeconomic stability by way of the reserves, the programme would also give impetus to some long-due structural reforms such as raising more tax revenues, scaling up social spending, modernising the monetary policy framework, strengthening the financial sector and building climate resilience.

"While confronting challenges resulting from the global headwinds, the authorities need to accelerate their ambitious reform agenda to achieve a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable growth," said Antoinette Monsio Sayeh, the deputy managing director of IMF, in a press release.

Thanks to the reforms ushered in by the programme, Bangladesh's tax revenue would increase from

At the end of the programme, it would be 9.4 percent of GDP, as per the IMF's projections.

The programme would insist on cutting back on subsidies, which would free up more resources for social and development spending.

"Not all subsidies are helping the poor and vulnerable. In Bangladesh where gas and electricity are being subsidised, the rich drive more cars and use more air conditioning," Anand said.

Rationalisation of untargeted subsidies will free fiscal resources to strengthen social safety nets and increase development spending.

Substantial investment in human capital and infrastructure will be needed to achieve Bangladesh's aspiration to reach upper-middle income status by 2031 and meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

By the end of the programme, the size of the annual development programme would increase from the existing 5.2 percent of GDP to 6.5 percent, as per the IMF's projections.

Public investment would increase from 8.8 percent of GDP this fiscal year to 11.2 percent of GDP in fiscal 2025-26, when the programme ends.

Subsequently, Bangladesh's real GDP growth would be back to 7 percent by fiscal 2024-25.

This fiscal year, the growth would be 5.5 percent, as the IMF's projections, which is in line with other multilateral lenders' forecasts.

Earlier last month, the WB pared back Bangladesh's growth forecast for this fiscal year by 1.5 percent to 5.2 percent. In December last year, the government revised down the growth forecast from 7.2 percent to 6.5 percent.

The IMF will disclose the specifics of the loan programme in the coming

mandatory conditions would be a minimum level of net international reserves and domestic revenue collection and a ceiling on Daily Star's request for comment.

7.8 percent of GDP this fiscal year to 8.3 percent next year and then 8.8 the government's budget deficit, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved in the negotiations with the IMF staff mission to thrash out the terms for the loan.

Implementing the income tax law, setting up an asset management company to dispose of soured loans, bringing down the banking sector's default loans to within 10 percent and raising the capital adequacy ratio to the BASEL 3 requirement of 12.5 percent, are among the reforms agreed upon.

Periodically adjusting the fuel price through a formula and increasing remittance receipts through formal channels are also on the task list.

A social spending floor and better targeted social safety net programmes, market-based exchange rate interest rate, developing the capital and bond market, expanding and diversifying exports and modernising the monetary policy framework and reporting on net foreign reserves are the other agreed reforms.

The interest rate on the loan would be about 2.2 percent. Of the \$4.7 billion, \$1.4 billion can be repaid over a 20-year horizon with a grace period of ten years. The remaining amount must be paid back within ten years; the grace period for a portion of the sum is 3.5 years and for another portion 5.5 years.

BB withdraws FROM PAGE 2

been assigned to monitor the three departments.

Rahman will be monitoring 14 departments of the central bank including human resources department 1, human resources department 2, financial integrity and customer services department, and the debt management department.

The central bank has around 50 departments that are monitored by four deputy governors. And it usually reshuffles the responsibilities of the departments from time to time.

Rahman did not respond to The



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2) Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.38

Date: 31/01/2023

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

SI.	Tender	Brief Description of Tender	Publication	Last Selling	Opening
No.	ID		Date	Date & Time	Date
1	773030	Supply of cooling tower dosing chemical.	31-Jan-2023	15-Feb-2023 15:00 PM	16-Feb-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) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2) NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Career Opportunity

Meghna Re-Rolling and Steel Mills Limited a concern of Meghna Group of Industries is going to establish a top-notch steel factory in Bangladesh with the latest European technologies and machinery having production capacity of 1.5 million MT per annum. The vision of this concern is to produce world-class re-rolling products, billets through Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) process that will meet the uprising demand in the local market and will also bring significant economic growth by exporting around the globe. We are encouraging competent professionals to apply for the following positions:

■ General Manager (GM)

Educational Requirements: B.Sc/ B.E/ B.Tech in Metallurgy and Materials Engineering/ Mechanical Engineering Experience and other Requirements: Minimum 15 years of experience in top rated steel industries out of which at least 8 years in leadership positions, with appropriate exposures on Operations and Maintenance of Electric Arc Furnace (EAF), Charge Preparation, Refractory Management, Power Optimization, Production Planning, Procurement Planning, Scrap Yard Handling, Furnace Hearth Maintenance, Ladle & Tundish Management. Skills and knowledge on Cost control, Multi-tasking, Project Management, Certification on Manufacturing Process, Effective Leadership, Risk Analysis and Safety Management.

■ Deputy/ Assistant General Manager (DGM/AGM)

Educational Requirements: B.Sc/ B.E/ B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering

Experience and other Requirements: Minimum 12 years of practical experience in large European standard steel manufacturing industries with strong capabilities on Operations and Maintenance of modern Electric Arc Furnace (EAF), Melt shop/ APC/ FTP, MHS, EOT cranes, Pumps & Compressors, Preventive Maintenance, HVAC, Workshop Management. Skills and Knowledge on Team Management, Mechanical Design (Auto CAD), Data Analysis & Strong Communication Skills.

■ General Manager (GM)

ROLLING MILL

Educational Requirements: B.Sc/ B.E/ B.Tech in Metallurgy and Materials Engineering/ Mechanical Engineering Experience and other Requirements: Minimum 15 years of practical experience in top rated steel industries out of which at least 8 years in leadership positions, with appropriate exposures on Operations and Maintenance, Roll Shop Management, Rolling Mill operations, Multi-Slit Rolling, Production Planning, Procurement Planning, Roll & Guide Management. Skills and Knowledge on Cost Control, Multi-tasking, Project Management, Certification on Manufacturing Process, Effective Leadership, Risk Analysis and Safety Management.

■ Deputy/Assistant General Manager (DGM/AGM)

Educational Requirements: B.Sc/ B.E/ B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering

Experience and other Requirements: Minimum 12 years of practical experience in Operations and Maintenance of Hydraulics, EOT Cranes, Pumps & Compressors, Lubrication, Heavy Duty Roller Bearings and Lube Systems, Preventive Maintenance, HVAC and Workshop Management. Skills and Knowledge on Safety Management, Mechanical Design (Auto CAD), Team Management and Management Reporting.

Compensation & Benefits: Negotiable

If you meet the required criteria on qualification, experience & confident to take the challenge, please send your resume mentioning the position name in the subject line to Human Resources Department, Meghna Group of Industries, Head Office, Fresh Villa, House No-15, Road No-34, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh or Email: career@mgi.org by March 2, 2023.





বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ ১৪/৬-১৪/২৩, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬

ফোন- ০১৭৬৯-৭২১০১০, ফ্যাক্স-০২-৫৮০৫১০১০

ই-মেইল: regoffice@bsmrmu.edu.bd, ওয়েবঃ www.bsmrmu.edu.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: বিএসএমআরএমইউ/রেজি-৩৩৬/২৩/০২

তারিখ: ২৫/০১/২০২৩

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

পদের নাম ও পদ সংখ্যা	শ্রেড ও বেতনস্কেল	মন্তব্য
সহকারী অধ্যাপক মেরিটাইম ল' এন্ড পলিসি-০১ জন	(গ্রেড-০৬, বেতনস্কেল- (৩৫,৫০০-৬৭,০১০/-)	১। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা এবং আবেদনের শর্তাবলি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bsmrmu.edu.bd) দেখুন। ২। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞ সামরিক বাহিনীর (অব:) কর্মকর্তাগণও আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন। ৩। আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিষ ১০ মার্চ ২০২৩। ৪। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস চট্টগ্রাম (৫নং মোহরা ওয়ার্ডের হামিদচর এলাকার মৌজা চর রাঞ্জামাটিয়া ও বাকলিয়া, থানা: বন্দর, জেলা চট্টগ্রাম)-এ নির্মাণাধীন। ৫। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা,য়্রাস/বৃদ্ধি পাইতে পারে।

GD-159

রেজিস্টার বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ

Office of the Divisional Forest Office Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division Rangamati Hill District.



Memo No.22.01.0000.856.01.001.23.346

Date: 30/01/2023

e-Tender Notice: 2022-23 Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of work as started as

SL No	Tender ID	Name of Work& Package No	Last selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	783174	a) Maintenance of Residential Building (Tin Shade) at Raingkhiyong Mukh Forest Check Station Forest Guard Quarter Under Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Rangamati. b) Maintenance of Residential Building at Ghagra Forest Check Station Forest Guard Quarter Under Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Rangamati. c) Maintenance of Head Assistant Residential Quarter Under Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Rangamati.	19-Feb-2023 16:00	20-Feb-2023 15:00	20-Feb-2023 15:00
2	784270	a) Maintenance of Non Residential Building at Karnafully Range Office Bhaban's Tiles Fitting Under Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Rangamati. b) Maintenance of Non Residential Building at Chandraghona Forest Check Station Office By Industrial Iron Sheet and angle Under Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division, Rangamati.	19-Feb-2023 16:00	20-Feb-2023 15:00	20-Feb-2023 15:00
3	784296	01) Purchase of Uniforms For Office and Field Level Employees of CHT South Forest Department Rangamati. 02) Purchase of Shoes / Sneakers For Office and Field Level Employees of CHT South Forest Department Rangamati. 03) Purchase of Winter Clothes For Forest Workers Working in Field and Office Level of Chittagong South Forest Department Rangamati. 04) Purchase of Winter Clothes For Field Level Employees of CHT South Forest Department Rangamati.	19-Feb-2023 16:00	20-Feb-2023 15:00	20-Feb-2023 15:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any

registered Bank's Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and also form e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)



EDITORIAL

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

BCL strikes again!

For how long will they have free reign in our public universities?

We are always bemused at how the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) is able to stay at the forefront of things – rarely for better, and mostly for worse. Just on Monday afternoon, a faction of the ruling party's student wing reportedly vandalised chairs, tables, crockery items and several flower tubs in front of the Chittagong University (CU) vice-chancellor's office. They also halted shuttle train services between CU and Chattogram city, causing immense suffering to students. What did the organisation deem significant enough to react to so intensely? Reportedly, the vandalism was carried out because the university administration passed over the application of former BCL leader Raihan Ahmed for a teaching position at the CU's marine science department. The group's real gripe, as they have claimed, is that the teachers being hired by the university harbour "anti-government" sentiments. Whether one sees such violent displays of loyalty as positive or not, such activities of the BCL are almost yawn-worthy, given the dismal track record of the group inside and outside public university campuses.

The disrespect shown towards the VC of CÚ, and by extension towards the institution itself, is almost elemental to how the BCL operates. More importantly, this is only a repeat of what happened in 2017, when BCL members vandalised the front of the VC's office when their demand for the removal of a teacher, who they alleged was "spreading personal enmity" against elected representatives, was not being met. In August of 2022, in the span of a few days, the BCL at CU made headlines on two separate occasions: 1) when they enforced a shutdown of all academic activities (even semester final exams) for 35 hours to protest members of a faction of the BCL not being elected in its new CU committee; and 2) when two BCL activists, who had been suspended by the CU for harassing some female students in 2021, were able to sit for final examinations.

But of course such audacity and impunity of the BCL extends outside of CU and disrupts the regular operation of many public universities. At Comilla University in November 2022, for example, the president of the BCL unit there reportedly misbehaved with the university's VC for not recruiting BCL men in different posts at the university.

There is no denying that, for years, the ruling Awami League has consistently turned a blind eye to the myriad terrors caused by the BCL across the country's public university campuses. From the kind of vandalism mentioned above, to attacking students (physically and sexually), university staff, and teachers, to even murdering people, there are few forms of crime that have not been exercised by this group – and all while being practically coddled by the AL, save for a few harsh words of admonishment now and again from party seniors at the BCL's rallies and such. How long will this continue while our public universities increasingly become unsafe for anyone not satisfying the arbitrary whims of this group? The ruling party needs to stamp down on its student wing and hold them accountable for their disproportionate reactions to public universities' official decisions. While it is well-known where the BCL draws its sense of authority from, the government must, through its actions, establish that it is illegitimately gained.

Carry out necessary reforms

IMF loan cannot be the only factor behind much-needed structural changes

It is heartening to note that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given the final approval to Bangladesh's USD 4.5 million loan proposal. Even though the loan itself may not make an enormous difference – given that it is quite a small amount – it still sends a positive signal to the market and other multilateral lenders in regards to our economy. Additionally, in order to get the full loan amount from the IMF, which we will receive in instalments over time, Bangladesh will need to carry out a series of badly needed policy reforms.

In regards to these reforms, it is disappointing that the government had waited so long to agree to implement them, and only after being forced to agree to them to get the IMF loan, when our economists and experts had been calling for them for years. It is never a good thing to give up our policy sovereignty over to others, but on the other hand, it is a fact that our economy will benefit from most of the reform measures that it has agreed to implement – including key structural reforms that the government has been stalling over for a long time.

Among the reforms that the government needs to implement are raising the tax-GDP ratio, setting up an asset management company to dispose of soured loans, bringing down the banking sector's default loans to within 10 percent, and raising the capital adequacy ratio to the BASEL 3 requirement of 12.5 percent. The banking sector has been a particular worry for us for more than a decade. And a primary reason for that is the politicisation of the sector, which has allowed influential borrowers who are connected to the ruling party to borrow hefty sums - in many cases, violating rules and regulations of the banking sector – with seemingly no intention of paying them back. The government has repeatedly allowed these individuals - or organisations they are a part of - to get away with such malfeasance without any repercussions, while bending the existing rules in their favour and at the expense of our financial sector and the overall economy.

Given the existing economic reality, the government desperately needs to increase its social spending to support ordinary people – and also because it's a part of the IMF loan agreement – and for that, it needs to urgently raise the tax-GDP ratio. This is something our economists have been harping on for years. And they have even provided the government with roadmaps on how to achieve that. We hope the government finally adheres to their recommendations, as that is the only way to fulfil the IMF's conditions.

There were two major hurdles that prevented such reforms in the past. One was the government's refusal to acknowledge they are needed – which it can no longer do if it wants to acquire the full loan amount. The other was the political will to carry them out, which we hope has also changed. But aside from trying to implement these reforms to get the IMF loan, we hope the government also does it to improve the economic conditions of ordinary people. Keeping that in mind, the government should also look to implement other urgent reforms proposed by our economists and experts for our national interests.

How do LNG subsidies affect public spending on social sectors?

is research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Moumita A Mallick is programme associate at CPD.

KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM and MOUMITA A MALLICK

Energy subsidies have emerged as one of the most important policy challenges energy-importing countries, particularly for developing nations like Bangladesh. The substantial amount of money spent on energy subsidies restricts state spending on vital development areas. Given our current financial stress, the additional requirement for subsidies to meet the expenses of liquefied natural gas (LNG) import would significantly impact the government's capacity to allocate the budget in several ways. The funding and subsidies given to other important sectors, such as agriculture, health, education and social safety, would be reduced because of the allocation made to support LNG import.

Bangladesh's LNG imports have progressively grown after contracts were signed with Qatar's Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Company Ltd (Qatar Gas) and Oman Trading International (OQT) in FY 2017-18. We imported 5.73 million cubic metres of LNG during FY 2018-19, 9.45 million cubic metres during FY 2019-20, and 10.15 million cubic metres during FY 2020-21. Overall, 25.33 million cubic metres of LNG was imported from various sources until June 2021. Of this amount, 93.7 percent were imported under long-term contracts, and the remaining 6.3 percent was imported from the spot market.

During FY 2018-19, Bangladesh spent USD 8.97 per MMBtu on LNG imports from Qatar Gas. The unit cost dropped in the following years, reaching USD 6.23 per MMBtu in FY 2020-21. Similarly, Bangladesh paid USD 8.08 per MMBtu in FY 2018-19 to import LNG from OQT, which went down to USD 6.29 per MMBtu in FY 2020-21. On average, USD 7.98 per MMBtu was paid for purchases from the spot market during FY 2020-21. According to estimations by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a total of Tk 44,991 crore was spent to import LNG between 2018 and 2021.

Since LNG imports began in 2018, government subsidies have increased to keep up with the rising costs. Petrobangla received Tk 1,000 crore in crore in FY 2019-20, and Tk 2,812 in FY 2020-21. LNG subsidies increased in FY 2021-22 owing to the Russia-Ukraine war. The government disbursed Tk 4,000 crore in subsidies to import LNG in the first nine months of FY 2021-22, which might have doubled towards the end of the year. After the for gas (a rise of about 148-178 percent) ADP of FY 2021-22, the health sector's

likely to be eased. Even then, subsidies as a percentage of the budget and GDP would remain a major concern.

If subsidies continue to grow exponentially, the government may be forced to reallocate funds or resources from other economic activities or turn to borrowing funds. The economy may have inefficiencies in distributing and allocating resources across diverse

contrast, the share of health in terms Overspending on subsidies, including those for LNG import, would be a reason for a decrease in the budget for social sectors.

Along with the usual budgetary allocation, recently the finance ministry granted Petrobangla permission to clean and green energy. Additionally, spend Tk 2,000 crore from the Gas

on January 18, the subsidy burden is share climbed slightly to 7.8 percent. In which would ultimately shift the cost burden to social sectors that are of GDP decreased by 0.12 percent. more vulnerable. Bangladesh has to immediately adopt subsidy reform to streamline spending for the energy

> • If the government continues to subsidise the LNG business, the country will have a tough time switching to Bangladesh has a lot of underutilised



VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

sectors and activities.

According to a CPD analysis, in 25 net energy-importing countries, public spending on health and education decreases by an average of 1.63 percentage points of GDP if energy subsidy rises by one percentage point of GDP. If this analysis is considered for Bangladesh, then the social sectors (which in this case includes education and health sectors only) were deprived of Tk 1,706 crore in FY22.

The CPD found that during FY 2022-23, the education sector got 11.8 LNG subsidy in FY 2018-19, Tk 2,500 percent of the overall ADP, up from 10.3 percent in FY 2021-22. However, in terms of GDP, this is 1.83 percent less than that in the previous fiscal year. Having one of the lowest public spending for education in the world, it accounts for much less than the advised minimum of four to six percent of GDP and 20 percent of the national announcement of the new retail tariff budget. Meanwhile, compared to the

Development Fund (GDF) in response to a request from the Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD). Such a decision is against the principle of GDF, which is supposed to be used for the development of domestic gas reserves through exploring on- and off-shore gas fields. More importantly, if the GDF is used for exploring more domestic gas reserves, the financial and fiscal burden due to LNG imports would substantially decline.

Recent trends and developments suggest that the country's development process may be threatened by the rising reliance on LNG from outside sources. The government may consider the following measures in order to improve public spending on social sectors.

Subsidies for the imported LNG industry need to be rationalised. There are concerns that the country's financial stability may be negatively impacted by the rising trend in LNG prices in the international market,

gas resources. Thus, the government needs to invest more into utilising domestic gas reserves.

• To ease the financial strain and excessive subsidy burden for importing LNG and other fossil fuels, the government should encourage increased investment in sustainable energy. By utilising green climate funds, the private sector may invest more in renewable energy. To promote foreign direct investment in smart grid systems, energy efficiency, and renewable and sustainable energy, necessary fiscal instruments must be developed.

• Future long-term LNG contracts must account for and be restricted to the gas demand that is currently in place; they must not consider expected future demand. This will make it easier for alternative energy sources, such as renewable energy, to meet future

Bangladesh must invest in health justice



is a healthcare consultant for the Florida Agency for Health Care

ABM UDDIN

A 2016 research study published in the Oxford University Journal analysed health inequality in Bangladesh, which found that income variance is the prime factor behind health disparities. Private health providers contributed to 95 percent of the health gap, while public providers contributed the least. The study also concluded that healthcare benefit utilisation is pro-rich, and "the poorest people with largest need for health actually received lower benefits."

It is clear that a correlation exists between family/personal income and the level of healthcare one receives. According to the Borgen Project, in Bangladesh, there are 35 infant deaths per 1,000 births for the lowest income quintile, as opposed to 14 infant deaths per 1,000 births for the highest income

The World Bank uses the Gini Index to measure income disparity, which can also be applied to healthcare to decide health inequity, as done by the WHO in member states. The Gini Index data available for Bangladesh from 1982 through 2016 shows that income inequality has only burgeoned every

year, and that we are stuck with everincreasing health disparities.

To effectively confront health disparity, we must embrace health equity or health justice - equitable care for all based on everyone's unique socioeconomic needs. This means expanding healthcare access for the under-served, and acknowledging the right to healthcare and human dignity of those severely afflicted by income

Health equity is currently a major driving force in US healthcare. Gini Index data from 1976-2020 shows that income disparity has steadily grown in the country, exacerbating health disparities. As a result, the US has undertaken major health equity initiatives for the poor, and encouraged all healthcare actors to do the same.

The federal and state governments have designed joint programmes, especially Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), providing comprehensive social and healthcare services to 91 million lowincome individuals as of August 2022. This constitutes one-fourth of the total US population.

In the US, healthcare for lowand middle-income families has consistently remained a major political agenda in all national elections since the 1980s. In December 2021 and January 2022, HIMSS Market Insights conducted a survey on 110 US healthcare executives, in which 89 percent of respondents said that health equity is a part of their core business strategy.

Luckily, Bangladesh has already implemented the core strategy of improving health and healthcare by investing in the poor. A glowing article by Nicholas Kristof published in The New York Times in March 2021, titled "What Can Biden's Plan Do for Poverty? Look to Bangladesh," cited many examples of how Bangladesh has successfully eradicated poverty for 25 million people in the last 15 years, and improved life expectancy by investing in the poor, especially low-income

women, girls, and children. President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, which, among others, allocated funds generously to address child poverty in the US, drew criticisms from detractors. A strong advocate of the plan, Kristof asserted that it would cut child poverty by half, advising critics to look at Bangladesh's examples.

However, there is still a great need in Bangladesh to improve access healthcare for marginalised populations by adopting health equity. A 2017 article published in the International Journal for Equity in Health concluded that about 63

percent of the healthcare costs in Bangladesh are out-of-pocket costs, which are increasing by the year, and the rest is paid by the government. This places an unequal burden on lowincome individuals.

Bangladesh must continue to invest in taking care of its most needy. The government should increase its cost share for health coverage for rural and underserved populations. It must scale up identifying disadvantaged populations across the socioeconomic spectrum and create social safety networks for them.

The government must also work in tandem with private and nonprofit healthcare providers, such as community-based organisations (CBOs), to build the capacity of our healthcare system in order to provide for the complex medical and social needs of those who live at the bottom of the social ladder. CBOs have in-depth experience in rural and community health, and can support evidencebased practices.

Collective action is always more powerful than the government's actions alone. Hence, the political leadership must ensure that healthcare measures are comprehensively informed by

public and private input. Health equity can be a paradigm on which Bangladesh can address the healthcare gap. It must step up its investment in the poor. The government must have NGOs, CBOs, and private healthcare providers on its side when driving health equity initiatives.

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CPI 2022: Disappointing global and Bangladesh performances



is executive director at Transparence

IFTEKHARUZZAMAN

The Transparency International (TI) released its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2022 on January 31. Compared to 2021, the overall situation in Bangladesh and globally have worsened. Scores have improved for 49 countries out of 180 compared to 65 in 2021, declined for 73 compared to 66, and remained the same for 58 compared to 48. Countries that have scored lower compared to 2021 include some of the top scorers. As many as 123 countries (68.3 percent) have scored below 50, which indicates "serious corruption problem," while 104 countries (57.7 percent) are in a more grave situation, scoring below the global average of 43.

Bangladesh has scored 25, the 12th global lowest score and position, and remains second lowest in South Asia, above only Afghanistan. The score is lower compared to 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018. Counted from the top, Bangladesh retained the same 147th position as 2021. Bhutan continues as the best in South Asia, scoring 68. In the rest of the region, scores remained well below the global average: India and Maldives with 40, Sri Lanka 36, Nepal 34, Pakistan 27, and Afghanistan 24.

The trend analysis for 2012-2022 shows that Bangladesh has lost one point and Sri Lanka two. Afghanistan has gained 16 points, Bhutan six, India four, Maldives four (2017-2022), Nepal seven, and Pakistan unchanged. Bangladesh is the third lowest among institutions, many of which are also 31 Asia-Pacific countries, better than only Afghanistan (24), Cambodia and Myanmar (23), and North Korea

descending to the very bottom in South Asia.

Denmark, with a score of 90, has topped the list, followed by Finland and New Zealand (87), Norway and Singapore (84), Sweden (83), Switzerland (82), Netherlands (80), Germany (79), Ireland and Luxembourg (77), Hong Kong (76), Australia (75), Canada, Estonia, Iceland and Uruguay (74), and Belgium, Japan and the UK (73).

The US scored 69, which remains inconsistent with its perceived global influence. China (45) and Russia (28) continue to be low performers. Somalia scored the lowest global score of 12, followed by South Sudan and Syria (13), Venezuela (14), Yemen (16), Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Libya and North Korea (17), and Chad, Comoros, Nicaragua and Turkmenistan (19).

In addition to scores and ranks, CPI 2022 also shows how corruption, conflict and insecurity are interrelated and feed each other, which creates a vicious circle. Corruption leads to deprivation, discrimination and injustice, which create social tensions. By eroding trust and legitimacy of the government, such tensions often lead to violent conflicts, as in some lowest ranking countries.

Corruption-related movements are often violently suppressed by law enforcement affected by corruption. As many as 130 countries have seen significant social protests since 2017, of which Bangladesh faces the possibility of About 80 percent of the corruption-

countries with CPI scores below 50. About 82 percent of the documented violent government responses against protesters also occurred in countries with CPI scores below 50. Some highscoring countries also experienced such protests.

While some at the top of CPI 2022 $\,$ have scored somewhat higher than

related protests happened in notable decline in their score not frustrating because the CPI 2022 data weakening of state institutions by only compared to 2021, but also over a longer term. During 2012-2022, Australia and Canada marked a 10-point decline, Sweden five, Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland and US four, Finland, Luxembourg and New Zealand three, Belgium two, and Japan and the UK one.

Corruption also increases global

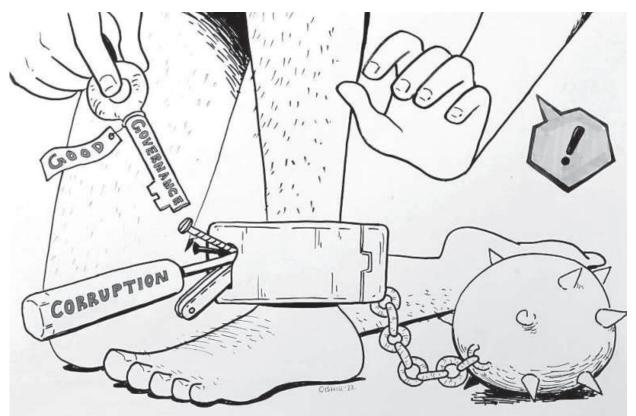
period (November 2019-September 2022) was supposed to be one of zero tolerance against corruption. In reality, it witnessed no concrete strategic action to translate the rhetoric into practice. Public sector corruption, often in collusion with the private sector, deepened and widened around Covid response programmes,

political and bureaucratic influence. Accountability procedures in public services continued to be ineffective. while there were examples of backlash for action against corruption that sent out the wrong message that abuse of power, breach of integrity and violation of laws are protected, even rewarded. Political and government positions continue to be indiscriminately abused. No concrete measures were taken to salvage the banking sector ravaged by loan default, financial fraud and money laundering. Media and civil society space is under further intimidating surveillance, intolerance and reprisal for disclosure and reporting on corruption.

Going forward, impunity must be challenged to effectively bring the corrupt - especially the powerful to justice, irrespective of status or identity. State institutions must be freed from partisan political and bureaucratic influence. Professional expertise, integrity and impartiality of ACC, public service, administration and law enforcement agencies must be upgraded.

To salvage the banking sector, institutional and legal provisions must be created with a particular focus on transparency and accountability. These include Common Reporting Standard for automatic sharing of data on financial transactions, beneficial ownership transparency, and mechanism to address conflict of

Measures for robust disclosure of information, wider and deeper digitalisation of public services, and financial transactions can enhance the capacity to prevent and control corruption. The government must realise that the other name for restricting space for media and civil society is protection and promotion of corruption. A paradigm shift is needed in political and governmental culture to stop using political and public positions as the licence to



and the US, or some maintained the same score as the previous year, for the majority, the score worsened. Finland, New Zealand, Norway, and Germany lost one point each, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands and Singapore two, Luxembourg (17). If the current trend continues, 42 percent were related to corruption. four, and the UK lost five. Many highscoring countries have witnessed

those in 2021, like Denmark, Australia injustice. Countries with high CPI scores welcome dirty money to allow the corrupt to accumulate wealth and invest in host economies, which effective action. incentivise corruption at both ends of illicit financial flows.

improve. This time, it is particularly fish," continued together with the

ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD/TIB public contracting and distribution.

The period also saw endless exposure of money laundering with hardly any The deficit of effectiveness of the

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) The failure of high scorers to and other relevant authorities to walk the talk is no justification for set examples of corruption being Bangladesh's continued failure to punishable, especially for the "big

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ কপিরাইট অফিস, সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় জাতীয় গ্রন্থাগার ভবন, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা।

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সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন বাংলাদেশ কপিরাইট অফিসের রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের (পুরুষ/মহিলা) নিকট হতে কেবলমাত্র জনলাইনে (http://bco.teletalk.com.bd) দরখান্ত আস্কান করা

ক্রমিক	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল-২০১৫ অনুয়ায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা ও প্রকৃতি	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই	
٥	কপিরাইট সহকারী পরীক্ষক স্কেল: ১২৫০০-৩২২৪০/- (গ্রেড-১১)	০১(এক) টি স্থায়ী	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে আইন বিষয়ে স্লাতক ভিগ্ৰী।	 ক) নরসিংদী, ফরিদপুর টাংগাইল, নোয়াখালী, লক্ষীপুর বগুড়া, সিরাজগঞ্জ, রাজশাহী 	
٦	ইনডেকসার স্কেল: ১১৩০০-২৭৩০০/- (গ্রেড-১২)	০১(এক) টি স্থায়ী	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ২ বৎসরের কাজের অভিজ্ঞাতাসহ লাইরেরি ও তথ্য বিজ্ঞানে ডিপ্লোমা।	লালমনিরহাট, কুড়িগ্রাম, যশোর মাণুরা, কুষ্টিয়া, পিরোজপুর পটুয়াখালী, সিলেট ও	
9	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর ক্ষেল: ১১০০০-২৬৫৯০/- (গ্রেড-১৩)	০২(দুই) টি স্থায়ী/ অস্থায়ী	কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হুইতে বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে রাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি এবং কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরে প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলায় ২৫ শব্দ এবং ইংরেজিতে ৩০ শব্দের গতিসহ সংখ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে Standard Aptitude Test এ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।	জামালপুর। খ) এতিম ও শারীরিক প্রতিবর্ধ ক্ষেত্রে সকল জেলার প্রার্থী। আবেদন করতে পারবেন।	
8	গাড়ি চালক স্কেল: ৯৩০০-২২৪৯০/- (গ্রেড-১৬)	০১(এক) টি স্থায়ী	কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সাটিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং বৈধ লাইসেন্সহ হালকা ও ভারী যানবাহন চালনার অভিজ্ঞতা।		
a	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী ক্ষেল: ৮২৫০-২০০১০/- (গ্রেড-২০)	০১(এক) টি স্থায়ী	অষ্টম শ্রেণী উত্তীর্ণ এবং শারীরিক যোগাতা থাকিতে হইবে।	ক) ঢাকা ও গীদপুর। য) এতিম ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীর ক্ষেত্রে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।	

- ২। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবে:
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- গ, সংশ্লিষ্ট পদে উপযুক্ত প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের জন্য লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষা এবং কম্পিউটার অপারেটর পদের জন্য ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ঘ. সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথায়ও কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের সকল শর্ত
- পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আবেদনপত্র পূরণের সময় Departmental Candidate এর যরে টিক চিহ্ন দিতে হবে। অন্যদের ক্ষেত্রে এই শর্ত প্রযোজ্য নয়। তবে সকল চাকরিরত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- ঙ, নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদামান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধানের কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- চ. লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- ছ. মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রসহ সকল সনদপত্রের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং Application Formসহ সত্যায়িত একসেট ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড়া জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দার প্রমাণক হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কপোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি এবং আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে আবেদনকারী যে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা তার মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। জ. কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হাস/বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- বা. নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ৩। আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলী:
- ক) পরীক্ষায় অংশ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীকে <a href=http://bco.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পুরণ করিতে হইবে। আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরুপ:
- Online আবেদন পত্র জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ০১/০২/২০২৩, সকাল ১০.০০ টা।
- Online আবেদন পত্র জন্মাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৮/০২/২০২৩, বিকাল ৫.০০ টা।
- উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে USER ID প্রাপ্ত প্রাধীগণ পরবর্তী ৭২(বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে SMS এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারিবেন।
- Online আবেদনপরে প্রার্থী তার রঞ্জিন ছবি (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০, প্রস্থ ৩০০ Pixel) ও স্বাক্ষর (দৈর্ঘ্য ৩০০, প্রস্থ ৮০ Pixel) স্ক্যান করে নিধারিত স্থানে Upload করিবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ১০০ KB ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ KB হইতে হইবে।

- Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হইবে, সেহেতু Online এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার প্রেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে শতভাগ নিশ্চিত হুইবেন।
- প্রার্থী Online এ পুরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসাবে সংরক্ষণ করিবেন এবং মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার সময় এক কপি জমা দিবেন।
- SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদান

Online -এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করিয়া নির্দেশনা মতে ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করিয়া আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হইলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাইবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থী একটি USER ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Applicant's Copy পাইবেন। উক্ত Applicant's Copy প্রার্থী প্রিন্ট অথবা Download করিয়া সংরক্ষণ করিবেন। Applicant's কপিতে একটি USER ID নম্বর দেওয়া থাকিবে এবং USER ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করিয়া প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পঞ্চতিতে যে কোন টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS করিয়া পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ক্রমিক নং ০১-০২ পর্যন্ত পদের জন্ম ৩ টাকা ও টেলিটকের এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ৩৪.০০ টাকা মোট ৩৩৪/- (তিনশত চৌত্রিশ) টাকা, ক্রমিক নং ০৩-০৪ পর্যন্ত পদের জনা ২০০/- টাকা ও টেলিটকের এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ২৩.০০ টাকা মোট ২২৩/- (দুইশন্ত তেইশ) টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং-০৫ এর পদের জন্য ১০০/- টাকা ও টেলিটকের এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ১২.০০ টাকা মোট ১১২/- (একশন্ত বার) টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য) পরবর্তী ৭২ (বাহাত্তর) ঘন্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, Online -এ অাবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পুরণ করিয়া Submit করা হইলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেওয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হইবে না।

প্রথম SMS: BCO <space>USER ID লিখিয়া Send করিতে ইইবে ১৬২২২ নম্বরে। Example: BCO ABCDEF

Reply: Aplicant's Name, TK ৩৩৪/- or ২২৩/- will be charged application fee. Your PIN is ১২৩৪৫৬৭৮. To Pay fee Type BCO <space> YES<space>PIN and Send to ১৬২২২

দিতীয় SMS: BCO <space> YES <space> PIN লিখিয়া Send করিতে হইবে ১৬২২২ নদ্বরে।

Example: BCO YES 12345678

Reply: Congratulation Aplicant's Name, payment completed successfully for BCO Application for the post of XXXXXXXXX User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (XXXXXXX).

(চ) প্রবেশ পত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি http://bco.teletalk.com.bd অথবা বাংলাদেশ কপিরাইট অফিসের ওয়েব সাইট www.copyright.office.gov.bd এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হইবে। Online আবেদন পত্রে প্রাধীর প্রদত্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যাবজীয় যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হইবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বক্ষনিক সচল রাখা, SMS Read করা এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষনিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্চনীয়।

USER ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করিয়া পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও ভেন্যুর নাম ইত্যাদি তথা সম্বলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী Download পূর্বক Print (সম্ভব হলে রঞ্জিন) করিয়া নিবেন। প্রার্থী প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং উত্তীর্ণ হইলে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করিবেন।

(জ) শুধু টেলিটক প্রিপেইভ মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিভ SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করিয়া নিজ USER ID এবং Password পুনরুদার করিতে পারিবেন।

USER ID জানা থাকলে

BCO <space> Help <space> USER <space> USER ID & Send to ১৬২২২ নমরে Example: BCO Help USER ABCDEF

ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে:

BCO <space>Help<space>PIN<space>PIN No & Send to ১৬২২২ নখরে।

Example: BCO Help PIN 12345678 (বা) প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এ মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হইবে যে, প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রে প্রদন্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক এবং সত্য। প্রদন্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিখ্যা প্রমানিত হইলে অথবা কোনো অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়িলে বা কোনো প্রতারণা বা দুর্গীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করিলে পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি

নিয়োগের পরে যে কোন পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীতা বাতিল এবং প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাইবে। (ঞ) বিজ্ঞপ্রিটি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও বাংলাদেশ কপিরাইট অফিসের ওয়েব সাইট www.copyrightoffice.gov.bd এবং http://bco.teletalk.com.bd অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করিয়াও বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি পাওয়া যাইবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য

www.copyrightoffice.gov.bd ওয়েৰসাইট হইতে জানা যাইবে। (ট) চাকুরীরও প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই যথায়থ কর্তৃপক্ষকে অবহিত করিয়া আবেদন করিতে হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হইলে সৌখিক পরীক্ষায় দলিলাদি দাখিলের সময় যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধামে সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্র প্রেরণ করিতে হইবে এবং যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতি পত্র দাখিল/প্রদর্শণ করিতে হইবে। ফুটিপূর্ণ /অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র কোন কারন দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

(ঠ) Online এ আবেদন করিতে কোন সমস্যা হইলে যে কোন টেলিটক মোবাইল হইতে ১২১ এ কল করুন। ইহা ছাড়াও vas.query@teletalk.com.bd অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাইবে। ইহা ছাড়া টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল এর ফেইসবুক পেজ https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdTeletalk এ মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমেও যোগাযোগ করা যাইবে। (Mail 43 Subject-4 Organization Name: BCO Post Name ****, Applicants User ID, Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে)।

*** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করিয়া হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়া রেজিষ্ট্রেশন সম্পন্ন করিতে পরামর্শ দেওয়া যাইতেছে।



সভাপতি

বিভাগীয় বাছাই/নির্বাচন কমিটি।

GD- 161

CHATTOGRAM



The misfortune of Ichamati

River on the verge of dying due to pollution, encroachment

BWDB officials admitted that the river encroachment and pollution have changed the shape of the river. However, they could not provide any information regarding the extent of the pollution and encroachment.

SIFAYET ULLAH

Seventy-vear-old Akbar Ali was born on the bank of the Ichamati. In his childhood, many boats used to ply the river, while fishers could also make a living out of it.

But gone are the days, thanks to pollution, encroachment and sand extraction. Ichamati, one of the main freshwater rivers in Chattogram, is now on the verge of extinction.

According to data from Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), Ichamati, which originated from Rangamati' Kawkhali, falls into the Karnaphuli near Chattogram's Rangunia upazila.

BWDB built 3 hydrometric stations on the 37km long and 32m wide river for irrigation.

BWDB officials admitted that the river encroachment and pollution have changed the shape of the river. However, they could not provide any information regarding the extent of the pollution and encroachment.

Tayen Kumar Tripura, executive engineer of BWDB, told The Daily Star that traders are constantly extracting sand from this river illegally, resulting in the erosion of its banks.



During a recent visit to this area, this correspondent found that enormous piles of trash are dumped into the river at various

Roajarhat stands on the banks of the Ichamati and works as the primary point of pollution, where wastes are dumped indiscriminately. Recently, the Rangunia municipal authority has removed 400 trucks of waste from this point.

Md Shahjahan Sikder, mayor of Rangunia Municipality, said, "Due to the dumping of waste in Ichamati river, it is getting polluted. The long-standing practice of dumping waste taken to enhance the beauty of the river.

Signboards have been put up, warning people not to litter."

Aliur Rahman, general secretary of Chattogram River and Canal Protection Movement, said rivers are being polluted by businesses, households and sewage every day.

"The harm caused to the rivers by plastic waste is indescribable. We must have a thorough strategy in place to stop this," he added.

According to the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, river encroachment and pollution are criminal offences.

Contacted, Mofidul Alam, director of the Department of Environment in Chattogram region, said, "Due to the shortage of human resources, we cannot always take prompt action against the polluters. However, we continue to carry out regular inspections to keep the rivers free from pollution."

"Dredging of the river is required to keep the water flowing... we have already verbally informed the higher authorities in this regard," in rivers must be changed. A plan has been said BWDB executive engineer Tayen Kumar

When a little goes a long way

Mehedi Hasan Dolon, a cop changing community through personal initiatives

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Nur Islam, 45, residing in the port city's Pahartali area, had lost both his legs in a train accident, pushing his life and family into uncertainty.

Just at the brink of losing all hope, he met with a police constable, Mehedi Hasan Dolon, who emerged as a guardian angel in his life. With the help of a few friends and well-wishers, Dolon managed a second-hand battery-run rickshaw for him which changed Nur Islam's life completely.

Now Nur Islam can earn a living driving the battery-run rickshaw.

This isn't a one-off instance. Dolon has put a smile on several faces by changing their lives through his initiatives. Dolon is now working at Chattogram Range Office in the port city.

When Dolon joined the Bangladesh Police in 2016 as a constable, he had the vision to support his family financially.

But after joining the force, negative comments and attitudes from the public about root-level policing upset him continuously, encouraging him to do something exceptional to redefine his new identity.

And with this desire, he started to aid the people in need around him.

In his six-year career, Dolon helped around 500 people in Bandarban, his hometown Laxmipur and Chattogram by taking support from others.

He has installed two informal institutions titled "Humanitarian Schools" for underprivileged children in Bandarban and the port city's Jhawtala area. In the two schools, around 110 students are studying and the police constable has been bearing the cost of books, papers, and other items.

He has also provided sewing machines to women, and mobile grocery shops to physically disabled persons to turn their fate.

"Several well-wishers have also joined me to support this endeavour," he said.

"Earlier, I used to beg for alms in Kazir Dewri area. But Dolon had given me a mobile shop to sell betel-nut which changed my fate," said Nazu Begum.

Dolon said when he started his humanitarian initiatives, he had no vision. "But now, I want to do something for them to change the community who are deprived of their basic needs," he said.

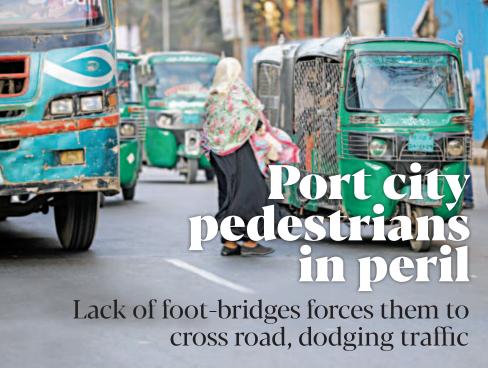


PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Putting their lives at risk, pedestrians in different intersections of Chattogram city are compelled to cross the road by dodging speedy traffic, as most of these points do not have foot-over bridges.

Road crashes have been increasing day by day in the country, and according to experts, one of the reasons behind this is pedestrians crossing roads unsafely, in absence of footbridges. Chattogram city is no exception.

Visiting different areas of the port city and talking to locals, it was known that pedestrians have been suffering due to a dearth of foot-bridges in around 40 areas.

For example, Monwara Begum, a resident of Lalkhan Bazar area, takes her daughter to her school in Jamal Khan area, and so has to cross Lalkhan Bazar intersection every day. accompany

daughter to and from school. To get a transport, we have to cross the very wide Lalkhan Bazar intersection," said Monwara. "It takes at least 15 seconds to cross, and vehicles zoom by very often when pedestrians are in the middle of the road."

"We have to take on this risk every day," she said. "I request the authority to build a foot-over bridge here immediately.

The city currently has 12 foot-over bridges at different intersections. One of these bridges, in Muradpur intersection, remains buzzing with pedestrians from morning to midnight since its installation in 2019,

according to Md Asad, who has been selling fruits there for a decade.

"Earlier, people had to suffer to cross the road," he said. "Now, they can do so safely."

Contacted, Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association, said, "In our study, it was revealed that 9,951 people died and 12,356 were injured in 6,749 road crashes in the country last year."

"Most of the accidents occurred on highways, especially on Dhaka-Chattogram Chattogram-Cox's highways," he said. "In city areas,

the main reasons for accidents were lack of foot-over bridges and footpaths on busy roads, and vehicles racing to get

> passengers." SM Abu president Nirapad Sarak Chai, Chattogram unit. echoed the same.

CCC TO BUILD 38 **FOOT-BRIDGES**

CCC has taken an initiative to construct 38 foot-over bridges, said sources in the city corporation.

The structures would be constructed under a project titled "Development of various roads including Airport Road and important infrastructure development under jurisdiction of CCC".

CCC Chief Engineer Rafiqul Islam said the project, worth Tk 2,491 crore, was approved in the meeting of Executive Committee of National Economic Council on January 4 last

"We expect to start the project work in two to three months," he added.

Good news for adventure aficionados

Basecamp introduced at Foy's Lake Amusement World

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A basecamp for people of all ages, residents, has been introduced at Foy's Lake Concord Amusement World in the

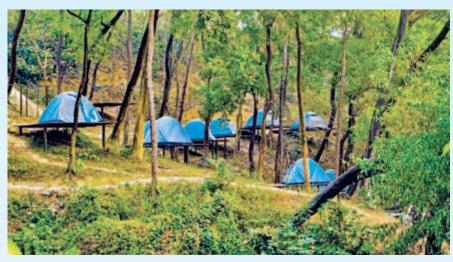
Foy's Lake is situated at Pahartali covering around 336 acres of land having natural lakes and hillocks. The complex consists a dry park, water park, and resort. Now basecamp is the latest addition to the complex.

According to the officials, every year around 30 lakh visitors visit different parks of Concord group. The packages of the basecamp, which

was inaugurated on January 29, start from Tk 150 to Tk 3,000 depending on the client's demands, said the organisers.

Concord Entertainment Co Ltd and Basecamp Adventures Limited jointly introduced the outdoor activity camp inside Foy's Lake Concord Amusement

The major attractions of this basecamp are kayaking, archery, wall climbing, wood cabin, night trail, tree top activities, team building games



and many other outdoor activities with an aim to provide an adventurous experience to visitors, said officials.

Visitors can also now enjoy zip lining

Addressing a press conference at Foy's Lake, Shahriar Kamal, managing director of Concord Group, said, "To add a new dimension to the tourism sector in

the country, we've set up an adventure tourism project like basecamp. We have plans to add more features in the future."

Tamzid Siddique Spandan, founder of Basecamp Adventures Limited, Anup Sarkar, executive director (marketing) of Concord Group, and Mahbub Zaman, chairman of Basecamp Limited, were also present.



What to What to

Star Sports 1 India vs New Zealand 3rd T20 Live from 7:30 pm Star Sports Select HD1 South Africa vs England

Live from 5:00 pm
T Sports
ILT20
MI Emirates vs Gulf Giants
Live from 8:00 pm

3rd ODI

Curator of 'shocker' pitch replaced

AFP, New Delhi

A cricket stadium in India has replaced its chief groundsman after players and pundits complained about a "shocker" pitch at a recent international against New Zealand, an official said Tuesday.

The low-scoring T20 match saw India reach the modest target of 100 with one ball and six wickets to spare at Lucknow's Ekana stadium on Sunday

New Zeland had only managed to score 99 for eight in 20 overs.

It witnessed 30 overs of spin without a single six being hit in either innings, a highly unusual tally in the normally big-hitting format of the sport where pace bowling is used heavily.

"To be honest, it was a shocker of a wicket," India skipper Hardik Pandya

"I don't mind difficult wickets. I am all up for that, but somewhere down the line the curators or the grounds that we are going to play in should make sure they prepare the pitches earlier," he said.

Bayern sign Cancelo on loan

REUTERS

Bayern Munich have signed full back Joao Cancelo on an initial loan deal from Manchester City for the rest of the season with an option to buy the Portugal international, the Bundesliga club said on Tuesday.

Cancelo made 16 league starts for City this season but has not played for the club since their derby loss to Manchester United earlier this month, missing the last three games.

He started only three of 10 games after the World Cup break and lost his place to Nathan Ake while 18-year-old Rico Lewis also emerged as an option for manager Pep Guardiola this season.

"We've signed him on loan now and have the possibility of signing him permanently in the summer," said Bayern's sports director Hasan Salihamidzic.

"Joao is a player we've been thinking about for a while now because we very much appreciate his qualities. He's the optimal fit in our system with his attacking style of play and dynamism, and his mentality and experience fit very well in our team."

Cancelo has been instrumental for City since his arrival in 2019, winning two league titles, while he was also named in the Premier League Team of the Year in the past two seasons.

The versatile 28-year-old has predominantly played as a left back but can also operate on the right



Legendary West Indies cricketer Sir Curtly Ambrose, who is now in Bangladesh as a commentator in the BPL, took to the stage to show his guitar-playing skills and sing a few lines from a Bob Marley song during the break of games at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHME

Hathurusingha set to renew old ties

SPORTS REPORTER from Sylhet

Speculation regarding Chandika Hathurusingha's return to Bangladesh had been going on for more than a week and the fire was fuelled further yesterday when the Sri Lankan left his role as assistant coach for New South Wales. Putting an end to all the speculation, the BCB confirmed in a media release yesterday that Hathurusingha had reached a two-year deal and would begin his second tenure with the Tigers from February.

BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon said at a press conference in Dhaka that there would be no split-coaching duties and that Hathurusingha was arriving as head coach in all three formats on February 20th.

Hathurusingha left the Bangladesh job under bitter circumstances in 2017 following the series in South Africa, with two years of his contract unfulfilled and the relationship with a few players having soured.

Taking over the national team in what will be his second stint raises questions of how fruitful the latest journey will be, especially as many of the national team stars from his era have retired from one format or the other. The BCB president said that a few key stars had previously spoken positively about the Sri Lankan's return.

"We had been talking to Hathurusingha and when we went to Australia for the World Cup last year, that was when we finalised it," the BCB president said.



He added that they were looking for an assistant coach for Hathurusingha. Sridharan Sriram still remains in the equation but the BCB president informed that they "haven't taken a final decision on him yet".

Sriram was in charge of the Tigers despite being termed a technical consultant during the Asia Cup and the T20 World Cup while Russell Domingo was sidelined from the T20 unit before parting ways with the BCB in December last year.

"We are still talking to two others but it's not like they will be coming in similar roles. We are still talking and perhaps we will be able to confirm on the 24th or 25th about the second appointment and who might arrive. We are basically looking for someone who can be fulfil the post of an assistant coach. Given the frequency of tours, it's not possible for one coach to oversee everything. But the head coach role is final and he will arrive on the 20th," Papon informed. It was learned that the BCB had not yet approached Sriram with a specific role but BCB sources informed that he is expected in Dhaka.

The biggest reason for Hathurusingha's appointment was his commitment to a single job, according to Papon.

"Our past experience with him [is a big reason]. The biggest thing is that whenever we are looking at a high-level coach or even if we go mid-level, they won't be able to stay for many days. They count the number of days and want to work for something like 100 or 200 days and many of them have franchise duties and will seek holidays. Hathurusingha doesn't have issues like that and works on a single responsibility wherever he is. That is a big advantage. According to the agreement, he will have holidays. But apart from that, there are no other commitments," he informed.

Hathurusingha was known as a strict character during his previous stint. Whether that quality was also important and how much responsibility he relinquishes to others will be seen in the future. What also remains to be seen is whether his charm will have the same effect and take the Tigers to new heights like his previous term.

MNM not hindering PSG, says Galtier

AFP, Paris

Paris Saint-Germain coach Christophe Galtier has denied that playing Lionel Messi, Kylian Mbappe and Neymar all together in the same side has a negative impact on the team's balance, as the Brazilian was ruled out of Wednesday's match at Montpellier.

PSG said Neymar is suffering from muscle fatigue and received treatment as he sat out training on Tuesday while the rest of his teammates prepared for the trip south following Sunday's 1-1 draw at home to Reims in Ligue 1.

Neymar scored the opening goal against Reims but PSG conceded an equaliser deep into stoppage time as their lead over second-placed Lens remained three points.

PSG have won just one of four league games this month but Galtier rejected suggestions the presence of Neymar, Mbappe and Messi was hurting the team's stability.

"We have at PSG three incredibly strong attacking players -- Kylian, Leo and Ney, with 55 goals and 34 assists since the start of the season," Galtier said.



"To say that we have to leave one of them out to be balanced is a mistake. We've been able to play well and be solid with all of three of them."

PSG face a run of six games in 19 days including the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie against Bayern Munich on February 14.

"January hasn't been good and everyone needs to have it in their heads that February will be better," added Galtier.

London Marathon will be Farah's last

AFP, London

British athletics great Mo Farah has said this year's London Marathon will likely be his last as he contemplates the end of a brilliant career.

The 40-year-old is best known for his success on the track winning gold in the 5,000 and 10,000 metres at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games, as well as several world titles across both distances

And while his marathon career has reached nothing like the same heights, Farah is keen to run in London again after missing last year's edition even though he will be 40 by the time of the April 23 race

"It's been an amazing career and taking part in the London Marathon is a very big deal," he said in a statement issued by event organisers.

"I was gutted not to race last year and I just want to give it one more shot.

"It depends on my body. I just want to get to the start line and see what I can manage. I'm just taking one race at a time."

He added: "I'm not a spring chicken any more. You can't keep coming back in the right shape and, for me, I'd love to be able to finish it at home." Farah last ran in London in 2019, coming fifth,

having finished third the year before.

Mohammedan, Sk Jamal, Rahmatganj into last eight

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan moved into the quarterfinals of the Federation Cup as Group A champions despite twice surrendering their lead in a 2-2 draw against Sheikh Jamal at the Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium in Gopalganj yesterday.

In the group's other match, Rahmatganj came from behind to beat **Azampur FC** 2-1 to advance to the quarterfinals as Group A runners-up. Sheikh Jamal also booked a last-eight berth as one of the two best third-placed teams across the three groups.

Mohammedan, who have been

League with only one win from six matches, remained solid in the cup, finishing the group stage with two wins and one draw.

The Black and Whites came into their

The Black and Whites came into their group final match needing just a draw to finish as group champions. However, it was clear from the outset that both sides intended to secure an outright win, pressing across the field in an attempt to break the deadlock.

Midfielder Arif Hossain finally got the breakthrough, darting into the box from the left before beating Sheikh Jamal goalkeeper Rasel Mahmud Liton with a drive into the roof of the near post in the 28th minute.

But Sheikh Jamal hit back only 16

minutes later as Cornelius Stewart, despite being surrounded by three defenders, unleashed a powerful shot from outside the box to level proceedings in the 44th minute.

Mohammedan restored their lead in the 71st minute as Ashraful Islam Asif drove a 30-yarder into an open net after capitalising on a clearance from goalkeeper Liton, who could not return to his line after coming out to clear a long ball.

But poor defending meant it lasted just five minutes. Gambian forward Sulaymane shrugged off his marker and found the back of Mohammedan net with a grounded shot from outside the box. The creditable draw ensured Sheikh Jamal's last eight berth.

In Munshiganj, newcomers Azampur FC were on course for an upset following a 1-1 draw against Chittagong Abahani in the league last week, but they could not hold onto a sixth-minute lead provided by Rohit Sarkar.

Brazilian forward Valencia Silvia sent Azampur FC goalkeeper Md Razib the wrong way from the spot to level the margin in the 71st minute after Mujahid Hossain pulled back Fatkhulo Fathulloev inside the box. Three minutes later, substitute Ashraful Islam collected a corner and fired it into the top corner with goalkeeper Razib rooted to his spot.



Players of the Dhaka Twelve franchise pose with the champions' trophy after defeating Techno Media by 23-22 points in a nail-biting final of the inaugural edition of Corporate Kabaddi League at the National Kabaddi Stadium in Paltan yesterday. Smriti Akter of Dhaka Twelve was adjudged as the best player of the meet. Narsingdi Legends finished third in the six-team meet.

PHOTO: COLLECTED





FASTBUILD PROVIDES RODS OF ANY SHAPE AND SIZE AS PER DESIGN







It put end to illegal power grab PM about 15th amendment

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the 15th amendment constitution has strengthened the country's democracy and empowered the people to decide who will go to power.

"Stability has been prevailing in the country since the 15th amendment leading to the long-continued democratic process," she said.

The premier made the remarks while addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly-elected mayor and councillors of Rangpur City Corporation at her office in the capital. The 15th amendment, passed by

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

TAMBRU BORDER Govt to send zero-line Rohingyas to transit camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

government has taken an initiative to transfer 2,889 Rohingvas who fled into Bangladesh territory from a zero-line camp amid intense gunfights between two Myanmar armed groups near Bandarban's Tambru border.

According to officials concerned, the Rohingyas will be moved to Kutupalong transit camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila.

national taskforce comprised of officials from the administration, law enforcement agencies, international organisations and other agencies involved -- has already begun working to move the Rohingyas," said Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Mohammed Mizanur Rahman.

On the morning of January 18, a gunfight started between the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), both of which were attempting to seize control of the Konarpara Rohingya Camp.

The camp is situated on the zero line near the Tambru border and run by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The firing left one refugee dead and two children wounded, causing widespread panic among people.

The clash continued the next day, SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



A man climbs over the barrier of the central reservation on the Padma Bridge approach road in the capital's Jatrabari to cross to the other side. Though there is a footbridge, not in picture, just a few yards away, he put himself in harm's way to get there. The photo was taken on Monday.

UNDERGROUND METRO

Tunnels to run as deep as 22 storeys

PM to inaugurate physical work tomorrow

AIRPORT

AIRPORT

KHILKHET

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NORTH BADDA

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RAMPURA

RAJARBAGH

UNDERGROUND LINE

ELEVATED STATION

UNDERGROUND STATION

ELEVATED LINE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's first underground metro rail will be running at a depth of 10 to 30 metres below the ground along most of the 19.87-kilometre route from Dhaka Airport to Kamalapur.

However, the depth would be as deep as 70 metres in Malibagh and Rajarbagh areas. According to engineers, 70 metres is as high as 22 storeys.

The metro authorities revealed the information yesterday as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be officially opening the physical work of the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-1 tomorrow.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the project, said, "The prime minister will inaugurate the depot development work, which falls under package no-1, on February 2. and with this the construction $of the \, country's \, first \, underground$ metro rail will begin.'

The depot will be developed over 92.97 acres of land in of Narayanganj's

The PM will first unveil the project's plaque at Purbachal New Town in Rupganj and then take part in a rally there, Siddique said at a press conference at the DMTCL office in the capital's Eskaton.

The 31.24km MRT-1 rail line will have two parts - 19.87kms from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Kamalapur (Airport route) will be underground, while around 11.36kms will be elevated from Notunbazar to Purbachal (Purbachal route).

The airport route will have 12 stations and the Purbachal route will have nine, seven of which will be above the ground.

Two stations on the Purbachal route -- Nadda and Notunbazar will be underground and used as a transit for passengers to switch between routes.

Of the Tk 52,561.43 crore required for MRT-1, the government will provide Tk 13,111 crore and Japan will give a soft loan of Tk 39,450 crore.

Officially, the project will be completed by December 2026, after which the line will be able to carry eight lakh passengers daily.

This will be the second metro line in operation after MRT Line-6, which was launched partially in December last year.

UNDERGROUND METRO **DETAILS**

MAN Siddique said the project will be implemented under 12

packages and they have already hired a Japan-Bangladesh jointventure firm to develop the depot under package no.1.

MRT

LINE-1

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

DHAKA AIR HC slams DoE for failure to check pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the Department of Environment (DoE) for its failure in taking effective steps to control air pollution in Dhaka despite its repeated directives.

"The capital city has been at or near the top of most polluted cities in the world for the last seven or eight days. Public health is at serious risk due to the air pollution. You are not taking effective measures to control the situation. Will you kill us by not curbing the air pollution?" the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Ali asked DoE's lawyer Amatul Karim Swapna while hearing a writ petition.

The court said some field-level officers of the DoE reportedly have connived with the owners of illegal brick kilns which are polluting the environment.

Those officers don't dispose of on time the appeals of the owners for permission to operate their brick kilns and therefore, so they (owners) can get scope for running the brick kilns, the HC bench said.

Lawyer Amatul Karim told the HC that not only SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Tuning into brainwave can boost learning

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Briefly showing people a visual flicker that aligns with their individual brainwave cycle can boost their learning ability in a visual identification task, a study has suggested.

Neuroscientists Cambridge University sensors to the heads of 80 participants aged 18 to 35 to sample their brainwave rhythms.

They used these to create a visual pulse -- of a high contrast white square displayed briefly on a dark background followed by a blank interval -- at the same tempo as the individual's alpha wave.

Participants got a 1.5-second dose of personalised pulse to set their brain working at its natural rhythm - a technique called

"entrainment". They were then given a visual identification task detecting targets on a cluttered background.

A brainwave cycle consists of a peak and trough. Some participants received pulses matching the peak of their waves, some the trough, while others got rhythms that were either random or at the wrong rate – a little faster or slower.

Each participant repeated more than 800 variations of the visual identification task, and the neuroscientists measured how quickly people

The learning rate for those locked into the right rhythm was at least three times faster than for all the other groups.

When participants returned the next day to complete another round of tasks, those who SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Submit appeal

statement in

SC asks Jamaat on HC verdict scrapping its

two months

PAKISTAN MOSQUE BLAST

Death toll hits 100

Distraught relatives yesterday thronged hospitals in Pakistan's Peshawar to look for their kin a day after a suicide bombing ripped through a crowded mosque in a heavily fortified area of the city, killing 100 people, mostly

in a decade to hit this restive, northwestern city near the Afghan border and comes amid a surge in violence against the police. No group has claimed responsibility.

"My son, my child," cried an elderly woman walking alongside an ambulance carrying coffins, as rescue

emergency unit. At least 170 people were wounded in the blast, which demolished the upper storey of the mosque as hundreds

of worshippers performed noon prayers. Riaz Mahsud, a senior local government official, said the casualty toll was likely to rise as workers searched

through the debris just over 24 hours later. "So far, 100 bodies have been brought to Lady Reading Hospital," spokesman for the largest medical facility in

the city, Mohammad Asim, said in a statement. Authorities say they do not know how the bomber managed to breach the military and police checkpoints leading into the Police Lines district, a colonial-era, selfcontained encampment in the city centre that is home

The attack, in the Police Lines district, was the deadliest workers stretchered wounded people to a hospital A man stacking books for a stall as part of the last-minute preparations for this year's Ekushey Boi Mela, which begins today at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. The photo was taken yesterday.

registration with EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday gave the Jamaat-e-Islami two months to prepare a concise statement of the party's appeal against a High Court verdict that scrapped its registration with the Election Commission.

A concise statement contains the points on which the appellant's lawyers will place arguments before the court.

Yesterday, the apex court said if Jamaat did not submit the concise statement in two months, its appeal would be defaulted (dismissed).

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, passed the order following a petition filed by the writ petitioner for hearing the

The two other judges of the bench

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4