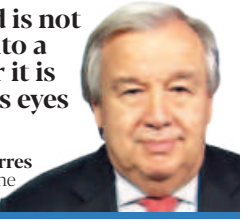




"I fear the world is not sleepwalking into a wider war. I fear it is doing so with its eyes wide open."

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Russia's war in Ukraine



DHAKA WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 26

MAGH 25, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 16, 1444 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00



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## TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE

# Race against time to save survivors

Death toll tops 7,200; frigid weather hampers rescue

AGENCIES

Rescuers in Turkey and Syria battled frigid cold yesterday in a race against time to find survivors under buildings flattened by an earthquake that killed more than 7,200 people.

Tremors that inflicted more suffering on a border area, already plagued by conflict, leaving people on the streets burning debris to try to stay warm as international aid began to arrive.

But some extraordinary survival tales have emerged, including a newborn baby pulled alive from rubble in Syria, still tied by her umbilical cord to her mother who died in Monday's quake.

"We heard a voice while we were digging," Khalil al-Suwadi, a relative, told AFP. "We cleared the dust and found the baby with the umbilical cord (intact) so we cut it and my cousin took her to hospital."

The infant is the sole survivor of her immediate family, the rest of whom were killed in the rebel-held town of Jindayris.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Five-year-old Muhammet Ruzgar is being rescued from the site of a damaged building, following an earthquake in Hatay, Turkey, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Bangladeshi rescued alive after 37 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi student was rescued alive from the rubble of a building in Kahramanmaraş province of Turkey, 37 hours after a powerful earthquake rattled the country on Monday.

Talking to The Daily Star around 10:45pm yesterday, Md Rafiqul Islam, chargé d'affaires at Bangladesh Embassy in Ankara, said Golam Sayed Rinku was hospitalised in a critical condition after he was rescued.

In a Facebook post, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam confirmed the development, expressing his gratitude to Turkey for the rescue operation.

Hafizz Muhammad, a Bangladeshi living in Ankara, told the Daily Star it was a miracle that he was found alive as the building

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## ACCUSED IN DSA CASE

# Teen spends 8 months in solitary confinement

## Instigators of Pirganj violence out on bail

ZYMA ISLAM

On October 17, 2021, an entire fishing village in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila was set ablaze allegedly because a Hindu teen hurt the religious sentiments of the locals through a derogatory social media post.

For this "crime", Poritosh Sarkar, a 10th grader at the time of the incident, was put into solitary confinement for eight whole months.

The prison authorities had told Poritosh's lawyer and his family that he was being kept there "for his safety".

Speaking at a Rangpur court on February 5, Poritosh said, "I was told I was being kept where death-row convicts are kept [solitary confinement] because some of the people who had set fire to the village were also in the same prison and that they would beat me up."

He was out on bail and had shown up at court for a hearing. Within three hours of it, however, he was back in jail as the judge overruled his bail and sent him there to

await the verdict in the Digital Security Act case filed against him.

"I was not allowed to step out of my jail cell for eight months, not for a single day. There were no windows -- just a vent at the top of the cell, which was blocked. I had no way of knowing if it was day or night from inside the cell.

"I counted the days by the meals being given to me. They used to give me my meals through a small opening in the main door. Three times a day, I could see some light through that opening," he described, adding that the jail cell was equipped with a toilet and a tap for bathing.

"Not one single person spoke to me during those days. I tried talking to the guards but they would not respond," said the 19-year-old.

"I spent my days reading books that the jail authorities gave me but there came a day when the higher authorities forbade that too. I spent two and a half months without books or anything to do,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

# Hasina given power to pick AL candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League Parliamentary Party has given the power to AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to nominate the party's candidate for the presidential election.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader disclosed this after the meeting of ALPP held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday evening.

The ruling party's nominee is set to be the next president of the country as no other political party has proposed any name for the presidential election.

Obaidul Quader said he proposed handing over the power to select the presidential candidate to Sheikh Hasina.

"It was unanimously accepted. Now Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, our symbol of unity, will put an end to all speculations regarding finalising the presidential candidate," he added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Matia Chowdhury, Chief Whip Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury and Obaidul Quader addressed the meeting, insiders said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



## LOCALLY DEVELOPED PCR TEST KIT

# Cheaper, more accurate in detecting Covid

Drug admin approves it for use after year-long trial

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A team of local researchers have developed a low-cost RT-PCR kit that they say is capable of detecting coronavirus infection in the human body more accurately and even before any symptoms arise.

The kit, which was developed by Bangladesh Council of Science and Industry Research in collaboration with the University of Dhaka's microbiology department and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's virology department, targets a new gene of the coronavirus.

The RT-PCR kits are developed by targeting coronavirus genes like N, E, S and ORF1AB etc, so any changes in the gene structure of the virus due to mutation can make the kits unable to detect the virus.

The BCSIR kit was developed by targeting the M gene, which usually does not change over time, according to Ibrahim Miah, one of the researchers.

"So, the kit can be used for a long time without any upgradation."

As the kit targets the M protein, it also gives a more accurate result, said Miah, who is also an assistant professor at DU's microbiology department.

He also explained how this kit can detect

Covid-19 patients who show no symptoms.

The detection capability of any available RT-PCR kit depends on how many viruses exist in per millilitre of a given sample.

The other kits can detect Covid-19 if there are 1,000 viruses/millilitre but the BCSIR kit can detect it even if there are only 100 viruses/millilitre.

"It means the BCSIR kit is 10 times more sensitive than all other RT-PCR kits," Miah told The Daily Star yesterday.

During the trial on 200 samples, the kit showed 98 percent sensitivity compared to the gold standard kit, while two other kits showed about 92 percent sensitivity.

"This is a really a commendable invention by our own scientists," said Tajul Islam A Bari, former project manager of the health directorate's Expanded Programme on Immunisation.

After a year-long trial, the Bangladesh Medical and Research Council and the Directorate General of Drug Administration approved the kit for commercial use, with BSMU becoming the first organisation to deploy it at their RT-PCR laboratory.

"This kit is hundred times better than any other kit," said Sharfuddin Ahmed, vice-chancellor of BSMU, while inaugurating the kit yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A woman crosses the Tejgaon rail tracks with a train approaching from just metres away. Despite a law in place, people take such risks almost every day, often resulting in injuries or deaths, while the authorities remain oblivious. According to Section 124(a) of the Railway Act, 1890, if a person attempts to cross a railway track in any means, with the knowledge of a train approaching, they shall be punished with a fine which may extend to Tk 50. The photo was taken in the capital's East Nakhla para.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## In memory of Anwarul Huq

It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Anwarul Huq (Bada).



At 82 years old, he passed peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones. The son of AKM Fazlul Huq Mowla and Noorjahan Begum, Anwarul began his storied career in insurance with Sadharan Bima Corporation. He eventually went on to be the co-founder and former MD of Reliance Insurance Ltd; the longest standing chairman of IDLC; and the CEO of Tysers Risk Management (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Known for his zest for life, his true calling card was the laughter he shared with his family and friends. He was also appointed as the Honorary Consul General to Greece in Bangladesh-- a testament to his ability to connect with people. While his love for squash led him to serve as the senior VP of the Bangladesh Squash Rackets Federation.

We are requesting prayers for his departed soul and that he may rest in peace with his most beloved parents and siblings in the Hereafter. The loved ones that he leaves behind will always remember his infectious laughter, his wonderful sense of humour, and his generosity of spirit.

Husna, Iftekhar and Farah



## Belgium Queen visits Rohingya camp in Cox’s Bazar



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Queen of Belgium, Mathilde Marie Christine, visited the Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar last morning.

She landed at Cox’s Bazar airport from Dhaka on a special flight around 10:15am yesterday.

The Queen is on a three-day visit to Bangladesh in her capacity as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) advocate.

After reaching the camp, Mathilde visited an education centre, primary health service centre, Rohingya women’s market, nursery and eco-shed built with Belgian funding, and talked with Rohingya women.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud accompanied the queen during the visit.

The Belgian queen’s visit to Bangladesh will help with the repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar, Hasan Mahmud said.

He added it will also be helpful to get a better response from the international community about the Bangladesh government’s care for the Rohingyas under the supervision of the United Nations.

Hasan said the only solution to the Rohingya crisis is their repatriation to their own country with dignity.

## Madrasa boy dies by suicide Police believe he was sexually assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 14-year-old madrasa student who police believed was a victim of sexual assault died by suicide at his home in Dhaka’s Kamrangirchar.

Police recovered the boy’s body around 10:00pm on Monday and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

There were signs on the body that indicated that the boy was sexually assaulted, Md Ashraful Haque, sub-inspector of Kamrangirchar Police Station, mentioned in the inquest report.

He died by hanging himself from the ceiling fan in his room, likely because he was unable to tell anyone about his situation, the report read.

In order to determine the actual cause of his death, an

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Ukrainian servicemen fire a BM-21 Grad multiple launch rocket system towards Russian positions on a frontline near the town of Marinka, amid Russia’s attack on Ukraine, in Donetsk region, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Russia suffers ‘deadliest day so far’ Ukraine says 1,030 Russians killed in 24 hrs as fighting intensifies in east

AGENCIES

Ukraine yesterday said the last 24 hours were the deadliest of the war so far for Russian troops, as Moscow pressed on with an intensifying winter assault in the east bringing tens of thousands of freshly mobilised troops to the battlefield.

The Ukrainian claim could not be independently verified and Russia denies its forces have suffered such losses and also claimed to have killed large numbers of Ukrainian troops in recent weeks.

Tallies of enemy casualties from either side have typically been seen as unreliable, and Kyiv offered few details of the latest battles.

But the assertion that the fighting was the deadliest so far fits descriptions from both sides of an escalating campaign of close contact trench warfare, which has left snow-

covered battlefields of eastern Ukraine littered with corpses.

The Ukrainian military increased its running tally of Russian military dead by 1,030 overnight to 133,190, and described the increase as the highest of the war so far. For its part, Russia said it had inflicted 6,500 Ukrainian casualties in the month of January.

The war is soon entering its second year at a pivotal juncture, with Moscow attempting to regain the initiative while Kyiv holds out for Western tanks to mount a counter-offensive later in 2023.

After Russia failed to capture the Ukrainian capital last year and lost ground in the second half of 2022, Moscow is now making full use of hundreds of thousands of troops it called up in its first mobilisation since World War Two.

## Criticising govt can never be sedition: GM Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said criticising the government can never be sedition.

“Our politics is for the people of the country. We raise our voices for them. Through criticism, we point out the government’s mistakes on behalf of the people. This can never be sedition,” he said.

Quader, also the deputy opposition leader in parliament, made the remarks at a meeting in the party chairman’s Banani office.

He said the government has divided the people of the country.

“The Pakistan government discriminated against us before independence. Unfortunately, this discrimination is still prevalent. This is what is contrary to the spirit of independence,” he said.

## Bangladeshi team to join rescue efforts in Turkey

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is sending a joint support team led by the Armed Forces Division to Turkey to conduct search and rescue operations in the aftermath of Monday’s horrific earthquake.

A 12-member rescue team from the fire service has been prepared to go as part of the joint support team that is being dispatched on the instructions of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In view of the terrible earthquake that occurred in Turkey on Monday, the prime minister has given instructions to send a combined aid team there.

This is the fire service department’s first overseas trip to conduct rescue operations in the international arena.

## Mayor sued for cutting three children’s hair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N’ganj

A municipality mayor of Narayanganj was sued for cutting the hair of three male children after publicly accusing them of theft.

One of the children’s guardians filed the case against Gopaldi Municipality Mayor Halim Sikder with Araihaazar Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Azizul Haque.

In the case, three of the mayor’s associates – Faruque, Dipak and Utpal – were also made accused. Faruque and Dipak have already been arrested, said the OC.

The children, aged between 7 and 11, are the students of a local madrasa, said their guardians.

On February 6, Halim, also the joint secretary of Awami League’s Araihaazar upazila unit, cut the children’s hair after accusing them of stealing machine parts from his factory premises.

## HSC results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent exams will be published today.

To get results through SMS, a candidate will have to send an SMS to 16222 typing HSC, first three letters of respective board name, roll number and the year.

Alternatively, candidates can also get results from <http://www.educationboardresults.gov.bd>.

They can also download individual result sheets by entering roll and registration numbers.

Educational institutions can also download their results from <https://dhakaeducationboard.gov.bd/> by putting in the EIN number of the institution.

## Three dead as another migrant boat sinks off Greece

AFP, Athens

Three migrants died and more than 20 were feared missing after a second boat sank off the coast of Greece in just days, the coastguard said yesterday.

The two women and one man who drowned are believed to have been part of a group of 41 people whose dinghy sank after hitting a reef near the island of Lesbos, a coastguard spokeswoman told AFP.

Sixteen people have been rescued so far amid an ongoing search by land, sea and air that’s being hampered by strong winds, she added.

On Sunday, four children and a woman died when a boat carrying another group from neighbouring Turkey sank off the Greek island of Leros.

The coastguard managed to rescue 41 people, including six children and two adults.

The number of migrants requiring rescue has risen in recent weeks as more people attempt to reach Greece from Turkish shores on shoddy and overcrowded vessels despite the rough winter seas.

In December, a two-month-old baby died in a shipwreck off Lesbos.

Some 2,246 people fleeing wars and poverty are known to have lost their lives in the eastern Mediterranean since 2014, according to statistics from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

## Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 1  
was completely destroyed. “His condition is critical,” he added.

Golam Rasul, younger brother of Rinku, a student of the geography department at Kahramanmaraş Sütçüimam University, said, “We couldn’t contact him yet. We have heard that he talked to others in Turkey. We are eagerly waiting to talk to him.”

There are reportedly five Bangladeshi students, including Rinku, in Kahramanmaraş province in Turkey. Mohammed Nore-Alam, consul general of Bangladesh Consulate General in Istanbul, informed this newspaper earlier on Monday that all of them except Rinku were safe.

He added that another Bangladeshi student, who was with Rinku in the building, could come out but Rinku couldn’t.

According to the consul general, all the Bangladeshis in the Gaziantep province, which is near Kahramanmaraş, are also safe.

## Race against time to save survivors

FROM PAGE 1

The 7.8-magnitude quake struck Monday as people slept, flattening thousands of structures, trapping an unknown number of people and potentially impacting millions.

Whole rows of buildings collapsed, leaving some of the heaviest devastations near the quake’s epicentre between the Turkish cities of Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş.

The destruction led to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declaring a three-month state of emergency in 10 southeastern provinces. The government planned to open up hotels in the tourism hub of Antalya, to the west, to temporarily house people impacted by the quakes, said Erdogan, who faces a national election in three months’ time.

Dozens of nations like the United States, China and the Gulf States have pledged to help, and search teams as well as relief supplies have begun to arrive by air.

Yet people in some of the hardest-hit areas said they felt like they had been left to fend for themselves.

“I can’t get my brother back from the ruins. I can’t get my nephew back. Look around here. There is no state official here, for God’s sake,” said Ali Sagiroglu in the Turkish city of Kahramanmaraş.

“For two days we haven’t seen the state around here... Children are freezing from the cold,” he added.

## Hasina given

FROM PAGE 1

AL candidates will submit their candidacy on February 12, the last day for submission of nomination papers for the presidential post.

The name of the party’s candidate will not be revealed before this, meeting sources said.

While many names surfaced in the media over who could be AL’s presidential candidate, three names have been most discussed – Mashiur Rahman, an advisory council member of the party, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

The tenure of President Abdul Hamid, the longest-serving president of the country, will expire on April 23, and according to the constitution, there is no scope for his re-election.

A winter storm has compounded the misery by rendering many roads – some of them damaged by the quake – almost impassable, resulting in traffic jams that stretch for kilometres in some regions.

The cold rain and snow are a risk both for people forced from their homes – who took refuge in mosques, schools or even bus shelters – and survivors buried under debris.

“It is now a race against time,” said World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

“We have activated the WHO network of emergency medical teams to provide essential health care for the injured and most vulnerable,” he added.

The death toll in Turkey rose to 5,434, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said, adding that 31,777 people were injured. In Syria, the toll was at least 1,832, according to the government.

There are fears that the toll will rise inexorably, with WHO officials estimating up to 20,000 may have died.

WHO warned that up to 23 million people could be affected by the massive earthquake and urged nations to rush help to the disaster zone. Earlier, the governments in Turkey and Syria said that more than 25,000 people were injured.

In Geneva, Unicef spokesperson James Elder said: “The earthquakes ... may have killed thousands of

children.”

Scores of schools, hospitals and other medical and educational facilities had been damaged or destroyed, he said.

Much of the quake-hit area of northern Syria has already been decimated by years of war and aerial bombardment by Syrian and Russian forces that destroyed homes, hospitals and clinics.

Residents in the quake-devastated town of Jandairis in northern Syria used their bare hands and pickaxes to find survivors, as that was all they had to get the job done.

“My whole family is under there – my sons, my daughter, my son-in-law... There’s no one else to get them out,” said Ali Battal, his face streaked with blood and head swathed in a wool shawl against the bitter cold.

“I hear their voices. I know they’re alive but there’s no one to rescue them,” adds the man in his 60s.

Turkey is in one of the world’s most active earthquake zones.

The country’s last 7.8-magnitude tremor was in 1939, when 33,000 died in the eastern Erzincan province. The Turkish region of Duzce suffered a 7.4-magnitude earthquake in 1999, when more than 17,000 people died.

Experts have long warned a large quake could devastate Istanbul, a megalopolis of 16 million people filled with rickety homes.

next parliamentary election will have to woo new voters in their constituencies, while some other would lose voters in their strongholds.

According to the EC’s work plan for the 12th parliamentary polls, likely to be held in January next year, it has targeted to prepare a new policy to demarcate constituencies by reviewing the previous policy by January this year and complete the delimitation by June.

KM Nurul Huda-lead commission brought changes to boundaries of 25 constituencies ahead of the 11th parliamentary polls in December 2018. Another commission, headed by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, redrew the boundaries of 87 constituencies in 2013 before the 10th parliamentary elections.

ATM Shamsul Huda-led commission brought massive changes to 133 constituencies before the ninth parliamentary polls in 2008.

## Teen spends 8 months

FROM PAGE 1

Poritosh told this correspondent in the court premises.

This teenager – who has not yet been convicted and was still undergoing trial – was handed down this inhumane punishment, reserved for the hardest of criminals, just for a Facebook comment that he allegedly made.

However, till now no evidence has been found that Poritosh had made any such derogatory post as his phone was broken beyond repair and the Criminal Investigation Department of police was unable to conduct forensic tests on it.

Solitary confinement that lasts longer than 15 consecutive days is recognised by the United Nations as “torture”.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, eminent human rights lawyer, said, “Solitary confinement is only for the most hardened criminals, who can harm or kill other inmates. If the jail authorities kept him there for his ‘safety’, then they failed in their duty to keep him safe.”

Poritosh further told this paper that during his time in the cell he felt suicidal, wanting to end it all.

“But then I would think of my parents, and that I am their only son. That would make me choose to keep living.”

His father, a poor fish-seller at Pirganj upazila, had educated Poritosh in hopes that he would be their future.

Poritosh’s lawyer Advocate Shamim al Mamun told the court on Sunday, “The prison authorities had restricted access to Poritosh to an extent that even I was not able to talk to him until he was finally released on bail.”

Poritosh was denied bail a total of three times by the Rangpur Cyber Tribunal. He was finally released on bail on May 9, 2022, after a High Court order was issued in this regard.

But on February 5, sessions judge of the tribunal Dr Abdul Mojib sent him to jail again to await a verdict.

At the moment, Poritosh is the only person in jail over the Pirganj violence.

“A total of 74 people were arrested for the arson and communal violence, while another 72 are on the run. Those arrested are all out on bail at the moment,” said Mahbub Rahman, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Pirganj Police Station.

Also out on bail are the village mosque’s moazzem Rabiul Islam, who made the calls for people to gather; Saikat Mandal, the mastermind of the attack; and Ujjal Hasan, who had first taken a screenshot of Poritosh’s social media activity and spread it.

Even while they were in jail, they did not have to undergo solitary confinement.

Meanwhile, Poritosh was accused of “hurting religious sentiments, creating communal enmity, ruining religious

harmony” and thrown into a cell that was locked at all times.

According to the data computed by this newspaper in February last year, 60 percent of all those prosecuted for “hurting religious sentiments” under the DSA belong to Hindu community – meaning they are targeted more by this law than members of the religious majority.

The Daily Star found this statistic by analysing the details of the 90 people who were booked under this law between 2020 and 2021.

The case data was provided by DSA Tracker, a project of Centre for Governance Studies.

Two hours after Sunday’s hearing, the judge announced the verdict while Poritosh waited at the docket, crying silently.

As his mother saw her only son being dragged away, she began howling in despair.

“I brought my son to the court only for the hearing. Why is he being sent to jail again?” she wailed.

Barrister Barua questioned the judge’s decision to send Poritosh to jail again using a conviction warrant.

“The judge had not written an order; the conviction had not been given. Then how was he arrested on a conviction warrant?”

## Cheaper

FROM PAGE 1

It will allow Covid-19 testing service faultlessly and at a cheaper rate, he said.

Each kit will cost Tk 250.

The invention also means the country would be saving up on scarce foreign currency reserves: the kits currently being used in the country’s 57 government-own and 105 private-own RT-PCR Covid-19 testing laboratories are imported from China, South Korea and the US.

The import price of each kit ranges from Tk 120 to Tk 1,000, according to DGDA officials.

Considering this, a huge amount of foreign currency was spent to import the kits during the pandemic, when more than 1.34 crore samples were tested using the RT-PCR method.

“We hope it will be possible to supply this kit countrywide. As a result, importing kits by spending dollars will no longer be needed,” Ahmed said.

The country is much dependent on imports for medical devices and the pandemic has exposed the downside of such dependency, said Nasrin Sultana, a professor of health economics at DU.

“The invention of the BCSIR kit is definitely good news for the country,” she told The Daily Star.



## Fire breaks out at Dhaka court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out on the ground floor of a Dhaka court yesterday afternoon. The fire originated around 1:15pm at the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Old Dhaka, witnesses said. A total of six firefighting units managed to bring the blaze under control around 2:15pm, said an official of Fire Service and Civil Defence control room. Meanwhile, another fire broke out at a garment factory in Dhaka's Shyampur area yesterday morning. It took five firefighting units around an hour to douse the blaze, which started around 11:15am, said Khaleda Yeasmin, duty officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters. The cause of both fires could not be known yet.

## NAGAR PARIBAHAN

## Two new bus routes to be launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Nagar Paribahan will introduce buses on two new routes – 24 and 25 – after coordinating with Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development (Line-6), said Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday. Route-24 connects Ghatarchar to Abdullahpur via Bosila, Mohammadpur, Shishu Mela, Agargaon, Mirpur, Kalshi flyover, and Airport Road. Route-25 stretches from Ghatarchar to Abdullahpur via Bosila, Mohammadpur, Asadgate, Manik Mia Avenue, Bijoy Sarani, Jahangir Gate, Shaheen School, Mohakhali, Banani-Kakoli and Airport Road. “Metro rail has already been launched. So, we have decided to operate bus services on the two new routes in coordination with the MRT service,” said the mayor. The DSCC mayor, also president of the Bus Route Rationalisation Committee, made the comments while exchanging views with media personnel after the 26th meeting of the committee at Nagar Bhaban. Dhaka Nagar Paribahan buses will not be permitted to travel on routes that are not covered by this service, the DSCC boss said. Regarding violation of this rule by a bus company called Trans Silva, the mayor said, “We'll give them 15 days' time. If they fail to provide services following the rules properly, we will terminate the contract with them.” Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said some 50 buses will run initially on the aforementioned two routes.

## ‘Dhaka airport’s 3rd terminal to open in Oct’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty percent of construction work of the third terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka has so far been completed, and it will open in October this year, said State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali yesterday. “The spectacular terminal building is now visible. Currently, the interior decoration and installation of various types of equipment are going on,” he said. The state minister was addressing a press conference after inspecting the passenger services and various activities of the existing Terminal 1 and 2 at Dhaka airport and progress of the third terminal.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
FEBRUARY 8

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 5:30

12:45

4:15

5:52

7:15

JAMAAT 6:05

1:15

4:30

5:56

7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Due to mindless pollution and encroachment, the Kalyanpur Khal is merely a narrow stream with dark coloured water. Illegal gas and waterlines have been pulled over the river to facilitate the nearby slums as a result of which, the canal has been further pushed to obliteration. This photo was taken in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH Implementation will fall short: study

NILIMA JAHAN

To achieve the health rights of 3.6 crore adolescents in Bangladesh, the government developed the National Strategy for Adolescent Health and the National Plan of Action to implement it. However, a new study found that the implementation will fall short of addressing the diverse health needs of adolescents. As per the study conducted by Aparajeyo Bangladesh – with financial support from Plan International Bangladesh – the implementation cost of the plan, which was formulated and approved in 2018, is estimated to be around Tk 2,812.7 crore, which is only 0.9 percent of the total health budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Of the seven implementing ministries, the health ministry is supposed to get the lion's share (94.3 percent) of the allocation, whereas the social welfare ministry will get only 0.01 percent, according to the plan. The Ministry of Women and Child Affairs will be given 4.29 percent, the education ministry 1.21 percent, the information ministry 0.01 percent, the disaster management ministry 0.19 percent, and the law ministry will be provided 0.04 percent of the total allocation. What is more surprising is that as per the requirements, 80 percent of the budget is allocated for only three categories of activities – including training (32 percent), workshops, seminars and conferences (30 percent), and advertising and publicity (18 percent) – which is inadequate to address the health rights of a large number of adolescents, the study stated. The study also revealed that only 5 percent of the allocation has been kept for vaccination and other medical needs. The study, titled “Annual Analysis of Budget Allocated for the National Plan of Action of the National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-2030”, also revealed that the implementation of the budget is a significant challenge. An equal amount of the allocation is being disbursed every fiscal year. In the last fiscal year, only over one-third of the total disbursed allocation remained unspent.

For example, it was revealed that the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) had to deal with adolescent-friendly health services, reproductive health medication, sanitary pads, website maintenance, newsletter publishing, training for service providers, and workshops for adolescents from 2017 to 2023. However, it was unable to effectively implement these initiatives. More specifically, DGFP was able to achieve only

ISSUES	
	Inadequate budget allocation
	Failure in spending, implementation
	Lack of human resources
RECOMMENDATIONS	
	Disbursement of entire allocation
	Dedicated tracking mechanism
	Deployment of skilled human resources

31.8 percent of its goal of distributing sanitary pads despite using 69 percent of the allotted time. The study also found that the dearth of adequate human resources is a critical constraint towards the achievement of the targets set by the plan, and the adolescent-friendly health corners in all regions are yet to be functional. The study recommended that the plan requires official disbursement of the entire allocation at the soonest for smooth and timely implementation, and a dedicated tracking mechanism is also needed in this regard.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## BCL infighting leaves 12 hurt

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured during a clash between two factions at Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall of Dhaka University on Monday night. The clash initially started between the followers of BCL President Saddam Hossain and DU BCL General Secretary Tanbir Hasan Shaikat. Later, the followers of BCL General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Enan and DU BCL President Mazharul Kabir Shayan joined forces with Saddam's followers to attack Shaikat's followers. Nine of the 12 injured do politics under Shaikat, according to sources. Of them, four are undergoing treatment at DU's medical centre. The clash ensued over occupying four rooms in the hall, said BCL insiders. Shaikat said, “We will find out who created such a situation in the dorm. We will take organisational action against them.” Saddam said, “All of us do politics under the banner of BCL, we don't have any separate followers. We will take stern action against those who think otherwise.” “We formed a six-member probe committee to investigate the incident. Then we will take action as per the university rules,” said Prof Shah Md Masum, provost of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall.

# Raise awareness to get rid of sound pollution

## Speakers urge at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming sound pollution a silent killer, speakers at a seminar underscored the need for a concerted effort to create awareness in every sphere of life to mitigate the perennial menace. The suggestion came up in a stakeholder meeting titled “Project to Control Sound Pollution Through Inclusive and Coordinated Way”, organised by Department of Environment (DoE) at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium yesterday. EQMS Consulting Limited and Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Studies of Stamford University cooperated with DoE to organise the programme. The meeting's chief guest, lawmaker Khodeza Nasreen, member of the standing committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, stated that they must work to mitigate sound pollution in the same way they work to deal with climate change. She referred to noise pollution as a “silent killer”, claiming that it affects all citizens. It was encouraging to see that private organisations were stepping up to help solve the problem alongside the government, she added. “We have to work at upazila, district and national levels to raise awareness about sound pollution. We can use digital technology to identify sources of sound pollution. I will talk about it in the national parliament”, she said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# ‘A quarter spreading propaganda about textbooks’

## Dipu Moni claims at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni told parliament yesterday that a vested quarter is spreading misinformation and propaganda about textbooks to create confusion ahead of the election. “Their purpose is to incite people against the government by misusing religion and creating instability and anarchy,” she said. The minister said this while participating in a discussion on a thanksgiving motion on the President's speech in Parliament. Terming most of the propaganda about textbooks false, she said Awami League has never done anything against the Quran and the Sunnah. Dipu Moni said these are being spread purposely through photoshopping the pictures of various books and editing the text. “Also, non-curriculum books are being spread by referring to these books as the current syllabus,” she said. “Offensive, nasty statements are being made about book authors, ministers and academics. They are being threatened,” she added. The education minister informed that two committees have been formed regarding the errors in the textbooks. “Any errors in the book are being and will be corrected,” she said. The education minister also said the intention of those who are criticising the books is not to correct mistakes. “If their intentions were honest, they would have suggested correcting mistakes through constructive criticism.” Meanwhile, Jatiya Party MP Kazi Firoz Rashid said there is extreme corruption in the financial sector. “Bank money is being freely looted and is siphoned abroad. Corruption is taking a totalitarian form in today's society,” he said. Firoz also said the President has no scope to address these issues.

# Readers rushing in for the classics

DIPAN NANDY

From the information centre, the announcer said Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's “Adarsha Hindu Hotel”, has been published by Abosor Prokashoni. Even after 73 years of his death, Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's book is being published. This goes to show that no matter what, classic literature books are always in demand. Over 100 publishing houses have brought in Bangla literature classics at their stalls in this year's Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, which are always popular among book lovers. Sadia Tanjin bought Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's “Shrikanta” from Abosor Prokashoni. She said, “There are many reasons to choose classic books over a thousand new books. The literary language of classic writers is catchy and creative. I don't come across such style among modern books.” Noor E-Muntaquim Alamgir, proprietor of Abosor, said, “After 60 years of the death of a writer, there is no copyright to his or her book. Anyone can print them if they want. In this case, the publishers think

that the quality of the book becomes important. I urge everyone to print the books of classic literature with care.” “Even now, people's adoration for Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, Manik Bandyopadhyay and Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay's books is remarkable,” he said. Publishing house Oitijhya has published Jibanananda Das, Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay and Manik Bandyopadhyay's whole works. The publication has also published four novels by Jibanananda Das – “Vibha”, “Malayadan”, “Kalyani” and “Jalpaihati”. A few years ago, Oitijhya published Rabindra-Rachanabali in 30 volumes. “People have a special attraction towards these books,” said Amjad Hossain Kajal, manager of the publication. Apart from this, books of late authors are available in the stalls of more than 100 publications, including Barnayan, Kakoli, Books Fair, Salauddin Book House, Bishwa Sahitya Bhaban, Jatiya Sahitya Prakashan, Student Wage and Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. TASK FORCE SHUTS DOWN TWO



With a stack of Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay's books piled high, a woman and her friend look through the preface of classical Bangla literature books at a stall yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## PUBLICATIONS, ALERTS 12

The task force of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela has recommended the closure of Rabeya Book House and two other publishers for selling pirated

books at the fair. Later, the book fair committee closed two stalls of the latter publishers, the names of which the authorities are yet to disclose. Meanwhile, the task force also

warned 12 other publications not to sell books outside the book fair policy yesterday. The task force chairman and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Implementation will fall short

FROM PAGE 3  
It also recommended that there must be an emphasis on transgender adolescents, awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STI), and deployment of skilled human resources.  
Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajevo Bangladesh, urged the government to implement the budgetary allocation properly to achieve the targets and highlighted the appointment of adolescent health counsellors in every school.

**Investors Wanted for Fish Industry**  
An export oriented Fish Industry, currently exporting Crab and Eel is seeking serious and visionary Investor to help with their expansion to meet the increasing export orders. The Company has two offices, one in Narayanganj and the other in Diabari Uttara. Company is planning to export frozen fish and shrimp against confirmed orders. We invite investors who will understand the huge potential of this market.  
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**Factory-2:** Nolvog, Turag, Uttara, Dhaka.  
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**Email: info@fishjb.com**

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**FACULTY SEARCH**  
Applications are invited for the teaching posts of the following Departments/School:  
1. Architecture 2. Civil Engineering 3. Computer Science and Engineering 4. Electrical and Electronic Engineering 5. Mechanical & Production Engineering (IPE & ME Discipline) 6. Textile Engineering and 7. Arts and Sciences. **Details can be obtained from the website.** Candidates are advised to apply through online format (downloaded from **www.aust.edu**) and send to **reg@aut.edu** with cc to **vc@aut.edu** with full CV, copy of published articles/papers, recent passport size colored photographs and attested copies of all certificates, mark sheets/transcripts, testimonials etc. on or before 26 February 2023. One hard copy should also be sent to the Registrar. Only short listed candidates will be called for an interview. Internal candidates may also apply for the next higher post.

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Head Office  
Sadharan Bima Tower (Level -7), 37/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000  
Telephone: +880247121284; E-mail: [ho-procurement@rupalibank.org](mailto:ho-procurement@rupalibank.org)  
Website: [www.rupalibank.org](http://www.rupalibank.org)  
**Invitation for Tender**  
**Open Tendering Method (OTM)**

Ref. No. Proka/Prokibi/Meca/2023/120	Invitation No. Mechanical/OTM/2023/02	Dated: 07.02.2023
Name of work	Tender selling last date & time	Tender price (non-refundable)
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 100 (One Hundred) Sets of Dual Display Note Counting Machine (Built In Fake Note Detection System & Voltage Stabilizer) for Different Branches of Rupali Bank Ltd.	21.02.2023 up to 4.00pm	BDT 3,00,00,00 (Tk three thousand only)
		Tender security (refundable)
		TK 3,00,000.00 (Tk three lac only)
		Tender/proposal opening date & time
		22.02.2023 Time: 3:15pm

**Note: Details in Rupali Bank Limited website: [rupalibank.org/Tender](http://rupalibank.org/Tender).**

**Md. Ismail Hossain Sheikh**  
General Manager  
Rupali Bank Ltd.  
Procurement Division  
Head Office, 5th Floor  
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GD-214

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Saidur Rahman passes away

STAR REPORT

Saidur Rahman Lasker, a Bangladeshi-born economist, philanthropist, and community leader in Italy, breathed his last on January 31.

Born in Gopalganj, Saidur worked his way up to become a senior economist at the UN in Rome.

In his early life, he obtained a master's degree in economics from Dhaka University in 1961. After his master's degree, he joined as an agricultural economist at the agriculture ministry, after obtaining.

He later joined as a lecturer of economics at Chittagong Government College in 1963 and subsequently at Dhaka College.

Later in October 1966, he got a scholarship for a postgraduate diploma course at the University of Reading, UK. He also did a PhD from the University of Wales.

After completing that, he worked as an economist for six years for the Commonwealth Secretariat, before joining the Food and Agriculture Organization, where he worked for 25 years.

After retirement, he established non-profit schools -- a kindergarten school, a high school, and a hospital -- in his village Khandarpara in Maksudpur, Gopalganj.

He was also a founder member and board member of East West University and Dhaka School of Economics.

In 2020, Lasker was diagnosed with stage-4 bowel cancer and later moved to London.

Brig Gen MR Khan's death anniv today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Brig Gen (ret'd) Prof Md Masudur Rahman Khan, popularly known as Dr MR Khan, said a press release.

On this day in 2012, he passed away at a hospital in Dhaka.

He was laid to rest at Kamalapur graveyard in Sreepur upazila of Magura. To observe the death anniversary, a milad and doa mahfil will be held after zohr prayers today on the premises of MARKS Group, which was established by him, at Mirpur-14 in Dhaka.

3 sent to jail

FROM PAGE 5

The accused is Delwar Hossain, 30, general secretary of ward-5 unit Jubo League under Daganbhuiyan's Matubhuiyan union.

Police said the victim's husband is an expatriate worker. Delwar first raped her around four years ago and recorded the incident.

He raped her multiple times by blackmailing her with the recording and threatening to kill her family members, said police, quoting the victim.

On Monday evening, the victim filed a case against Delwar, who was arrested on the same night, said Md Hasan Inam, OC of Daganbhuiyan Police Station.

[Our correspondents from Gazipur and Feni contributed to the report]

Raise awareness

FROM PAGE 3


Ahmad Kamruzzaman Majumder, founding chairman of CAPS at Stamford University, gave the welcome speech, while Prof Mohammad Ali Naqi, VC of Stamford University, chaired the programme.

Rabiul Alam, additional executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority; Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Poribesh Bachao Andolon; and Alamgir Kabir, joint secretary of Bapa, addressed the programme among others.

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**০১৬২৫৮৮১৯৯৯**  
**০১৭৪৬৪৪৩১৩১**

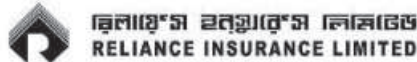
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**Invitation for Open Tender**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the eligible experienced Cleaning contractors to supply cleaner for Bangladesh Krishi Bank Head Office & Local Principal Office, Motijheel and Staff College, Mirpur. Necessary information about the tender is as follows.

Sl. No.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Bank and Financial Institutions Division
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Finance/Bank and Financial Institutions Division
2.	Agency/procuring entity	Bangladesh Krishi Bank
3.	Procuring entity name	Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, Dhaka-1000.
4.	Name & address of the office	Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 2nd Floor, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
5.	Invitation for	Appointing Cleaning Contractor for Bangladesh Krishi Bank.
6.	Invitation Ref No.	HO/Procure-15/63/Part-02(KHA)/2022-2023/932
7.	Tender Package No.	OTM-23/2022-2023
8.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
9.	Budget and source of funds	Bank's own fund.
10.	Tender last selling date	22.02.2023 within 2.00pm
11.	Tender closing date and time	22.02.2023 within 2.30pm
12.	Tender opening date and time	22.02.2023, 3.00pm. Tender will be opened in presence of tenderer or their authorized representative (if present).
13.	Price of tender document (Tk.)	3,000/- (three thousand) Taka only (non-refundable). Intending tenderer should apply in company's letterhead pad for purchasing the tender documents.
14.	Amount of tender security/earnest money	A tender security/earnest money Tk. 200,000/- (two lac) Taka only in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favor of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 from any schedule bank of Bangladesh should be submitted along with the tender.
15.	Performance security	5% (five percentages) of the total contract price in the form of a Pay Order or Bank Draft in favor of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.
16.	Tender selling, drop and opening place	Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 2nd Floor, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
17.	Pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.
18.	Duration of works	02 (two) years from the signing date of agreement (As per details in tender documents)
19.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	(a) Tenderer those who have proven experience in successful completion of the cleaning works at least 01(one) number 10(ten) storied whole building i.e. ground floor to 9th floor at Dhaka owned by govt./semi-govt./schedule bank/ autonomous organization. (b) Minimum 05(five) years of general experience of the Tenderer in manpower providing Cleaning service in public or private sector. (c) Minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of at least 40 (Forty) private Cleaner under 01 contract successfully within the last 03 years. (d) Other required documents as per tender schedule.
20.	Brief description of works	Supply of 1(one) Supervisor, 1(one) Sweeper and 43 (forty-three) Cleaners for BKB Head Office, Local Principal Office, BKB Staff College.
21.	Special instruction	(a) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. (b) The tenderer should be bound to obey all terms & conditions, rules and regulation of PPA-2006 & PPR-2008. (c) The Bank Authority reserves the right to select the tender on the basis of experience in the cleaning works and quoted price for the respective works. (d) If any tenderer produces any false, wrong information or fabricated papers/certificates along with the tender, the related tender will be treated as rejected and the tender security/ earnest money will be forfeited. (e) The lowest price will not be the only criteria for the selection of tender. (f) The tenderer shall submit tender through tender box which is kept at Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 2nd Floor, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
22.	Name, designation and address of official inviting tender	Md. Abdus Samad, Deputy General Manager, Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, 2nd Floor, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

GD-212

**Md. Abdus Samad**  
Deputy General Manager

**Upazila Parishad**  
Nawabganj, Dhaka

Memo No. 46.02.2662.000.18.015.18-143

**e-Tender Notice-02/UPZ/Nawab/2022-23**

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works mention below:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Method of procurement	Amount of tender security (Taka)	Time for completion
1	787156	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-01	LTM	39000.00	90 days
2	787159	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-02	LTM	45000.00	90 days
3	787164	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-03	LTM	27000.00	90 days
4	787165	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-04	LTM	42000.00	90 days
5	787166	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-05	LTM	48000.00	90 days
6	787167	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-06	LTM	42000.00	90 days
7	787168	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-07	LTM	24000.00	90 days
8	787169	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-08	LTM	30000.00	90 days
9	787170	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-09	LTM	60000.00	90 days
10	787171	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-10	LTM	37000.00	90 days
11	787172	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-11	LTM	36000.00	90 days
12	787173	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-12	LTM	39000.00	90 days
13	787174	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-13	LTM	45000.00	90 days
14	787175	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-15	LTM	54000.00	90 days
15	787176	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-16	LTM	36000.00	90 days
16	787177	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-17	LTM	46000.00	90 days
17	787179	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-18	LTM	45000.00	90 days
18	787180	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-19	LTM	39000.00	90 days
19	787181	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-20	LTM	27000.00	90 days
20	787182	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-21	LTM	42000.00	90 days
21	787187	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-14	LTM	48000.00	90 days
22	787188	e-Tender/Dha/Naw/UDF/ 2022-23/W-22	LTM	45000.00	90 days
23	787189	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ ADP/2022-23/W01	LTM	10000.00	90 days
24	787190	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ ADP/2022-23/W-02	LTM	15000.00	90 days
25	787191	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ ADP/2022-23/W-03	LTM	15000.00	90 days
26	787192	e-Tender/Nawab/Dhaka/ ADP/2022-23/W-04	LTM	15000.00	90 days

\* Tender last selling & tender/proposal security submission date is 22/02/2023, 4.00pm for above mentioned tenders.  
\* Tender opening date & time is 23/02/2023, 1.00pm  
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline /hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is requested.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) or (Email: [ue.dhaka.nawabganj@iged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.dhaka.nawabganj@iged.gov.bd)) and Call to + 088 01708-161355  
**Note:** All the above Tender ID Name of scheme are available on e-GP Portal

**Md. Zulfikar Hoq Choudhury**  
Upazila Engineer  
Nawabganj, Dhaka  
Email: [ue.dhaka.nawabganj@iged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.dhaka.nawabganj@iged.gov.bd)

GD-215



## JUBO LEAGUE CTG NORTH UNIT Two VPs of new committee resign

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

After over eight and a half months of the council, the partial committee for Chattogram north district unit Jubo League (JL) was announced on Monday, with SM Rashedul Alam as president and Md Shahjahan as general secretary.

However, there have been expressions of anger and dissatisfaction over the committee soon after the declaration.

The two vice presidents of the newly announced committee – Nurul Mostafa Manik and Rajibul Ahsan Suman – resigned immediately after the committee's announcement.

On Monday, the committee was announced in a circular, jointly signed by Jubo League Central Committee Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash and

General Secretary Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil.

Contacted, Manik said he was a vice president of the same unit in the previous committee and was not interested in holding the same post. "I had submitted my CV for the post of president."

Rajibul also resigned on the same grounds, as mentioned in his resignation letter.

However, Mostafizur Rahman Masud, office secretary of JL's central committee, said he did not receive any resignation letter from any leader.

"The two most eligible leaders have been selected for the office of president and general secretary," he added.

This correspondent could not reach the JL chairman and general secretary over phone despite repeated attempts.

## ATTACK ON CCC PROJECT DIRECTOR Prime accused arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested the main accused in the case filed over the attack on a Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) project director.

The arrestee is Md Shahabuddin, a contractor, said police.

Shahabuddin went into hiding after the case was filed on January 29, said Nahid Adnan, deputy commissioner (north zone), Detective Branch (DB) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

On information, a DB team conducted a drive in the port city's Khulshi area and arrested him around 2:30am.

Earlier, police arrested four other accused in this case.

Golam Yazdani, an executive engineer of the Local Government Engineering Department, who was project director of a mega project of CCC, came under attack by a group of contractors at his office at CCC on January 29.

According to Yazdani, a section of contractors who wanted to get the tender of project works by violating the rule, attacked him as he did not agree to their proposal.

Kamal Uddin, a security officer of CCC, filed a case with Khulshi Police Station on the same day.

## 3 sent to jail over rape of RMG worker Jubo League leader held on charge of raping home-maker

STAR REPORT

A court in Gazipur yesterday sent three youths to jail over the gang rape of a female RMG worker.

The arrestees are – Mosadik Hossain Apu, 32, of Gazipur's Gazaripara area; Riday, 20, of Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila; and Nayeem Islam, 18, of Mymensingh's Trishal upazila.

Quoting the victim, police said she was returning home from work in Gazipur's Rajendrapur area on Saturday morning.

One of the accused intercepted her, took her inside the forest and raped her at knife-point. Later, he called two other accused over the phone and gang-raped the victim.

They left the area threatening her with murder if she disclosed the matter.

The victim filed a case with Sadar Police Station in Gazipur on Monday, said Ziaul Islam, OC of the station.

Police arrested the accused on Monday night and produced them before the court yesterday, which sent them to prison, said the OC.

Meanwhile, in Feni, a Jubo League leader was arrested on Monday night for raping a home-maker on multiple occasions throughout the last four years in Daganbhuiyan upazila.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## KHULNA MISSING CASE 'The abduction was orchestrated' Says PBI after probe

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), after completing the investigation of a case filed over a woman, Rahima Begum, going missing in Khulna, found that the supposed abduction was orchestrated by her daughter. It disclosed the findings to this correspondent yesterday.

According to PBI, 25 days before Rahima went missing, she went to her daughter Moriom Mannan's house in Dhaka's Bashundhara, where the two came up with the plot.

On August 27 afternoon, Moriom sent Tk 1,000 to her mother in Khulna via mobile banking, out of which, Rahima cashed Tk 980 out.

On August 28, Rahima's other daughter Aduri Akhter filed a case with the police station, where she accused five of Rahima's neighbours of kidnapping her.

Inspector Abdul Mannan of Khulna PBI and investigation officer of the case said there was a land dispute between Rahima's family and the accused neighbours.

"Legal action has been recommended against Aduri and Moriom. The exemption of the five neighbours has also been recommended," added Mannan.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Survey of Bangladesh  
Surveyor General's Office  
Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208  
Phone: 08-02-8070080, Fax: 08-02-8170078  
www.sob.gov.bd; info@sob.gov.bd

No. 23.08.0000.006.38.002.17-246 Date: 06 February 2023

**e-Tender Notice No. 12/2022-23**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for procurement as follows:

S L	Tender Proposal ID	Description	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date and time	Tender closing & opening date and time
1.	787446	e-GP-24 (Re KIP): Procurement of Cartridge for Plotter (KIP)	20-02-2023 16:00	22-02-2023 14:30
2	786999	e-GP-33: Re-Construction of Geodetic Survey Pillars	20-02-2023 16:00	22-02-2023 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP System. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Mustafizur Rahman**  
Deputy Director (Admin.) (A.D.)  
For Surveyor General of Bangladesh

GD-210

**ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন**  
নগর ভবন  
প্লট নং-২৩-২৬, সড়ক নং-৪৬, গুলশান-২, ঢাকা-১২১২  
www.dncc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.10.0000.049.99.025.2023

**e-Tender Notice**  
e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Collection a Transport, Waste Management Department, Dhaka North City Corporation for the procurement of following goods:

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Name of works
1	Tender ID: 786855, Ref. No. 46.10.0000.049.26.227.2021	Supply of Brand new 5 ton & 7 ton Capacity Container Box for Waste disposal under DNCC (FY-2022-2023).

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Md. Saiful Islam**  
Executive Engineer  
Collection and Transport  
(Additional Charge)  
Waste Management Department  
Dhaka North City Corporation

(৪ ইঞ্চি x ৪ কলাম)  
জিডি-২১৩

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Cumilla  
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.1900.000.07.002.2021-1067 Date: 06/02/2023

**e-Tender Notice**  
**Tender Notice No: 51/2022-2023**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of Works as stated below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender/ Proposal ID No.	Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Method of Tender
1.	CCB/C/VR/ W-128	a) Improvement of Chaygram Eidgah-East Khudaitali Road at Ch. 00-852m (Road ID No. 419185035) (Salvage materials cost Tk. 38,707/-); b) Construction of 63m Protective Work on the same road under Burichong Upazila, District: Cumilla (3rd Call).	781392	19-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	20-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
2.	GCP-3/ C-W254	Improvement of Srerayerchar Bazar - Kawadi Nutan Bazar via Paschim Panchgachhia UP Office Road at Ch. 1000-2000m (Salvage materials cost Tk. 6,15,652/-) (Road ID No. 419363018) under Daudkandi Upazila, District: Cumilla (4th Call).	781390	22-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	23-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
3.	CCB/C/ M-11	Periodic Maintenance of (Rehabilitation) of Moutupi-Yousufpur Road at Ch. 00-55m & 155-1948m (ID No. 419894005) under Titus Upazila, District: Cumilla.	779641	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
4.	IRIDP-3/CUM/ DW-149	Improvement of Vobanipur pucca road to Vobanipur Mostak fakir house Road at Ch. 00-1000m (Road ID. 419365019) under Homna Upazila, District: Cumilla.	782071	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
5.	e-Tender/LGED/ Cum/GOBM/22- 23/W-106	Periodic Maintenance of Khila-Narida Road from Ch. 75m-575m (Road ID. 419905020) under Monohorgani Upazila, District: Cumilla.	781330	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
6.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/UNR/ER/ W-69/2022-23	Maintenance of Ariora RHD to Durgapur (South) UP Office (Goramara RHD) via Durgapur (North) UP Office Road from Ch. 2685-4620m under Adarsha Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419673002).	778302	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
7.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/VR/ER/ W-75/2022-23	Maintenance of Bibir Bazar School to Rajmangal pur Kajipara Road from Ch. 00-480m under Adarsha Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419274045).	778303	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
8.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/UNR/ER/ W-76/2022-23	Maintenance of Dollai Novabpur GC (Borkorai Moggarpar) - Kachua Road from Ch. 00-760m under Chandina Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419272008).	781744	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
9.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/UNR/ER/ W-75/2022-23	Maintenance of Etbarpur UPC -Maijkar Road from Ch. 00-1185m under Chandina Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419273016).	781743	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
10.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/UNR/ER/ W-74/2022-23	Maintenance of Gomta-Batagashi-Mohanpur Road from Ch. 5500-6500m under Chandina Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419273015).	781742	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
11.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/VR/ER/ W-73/2022-23	Maintenance of Kaliarchar-Basantapur Road from Ch. 00-865m under Chandina Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419274021).	781740	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
12.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/UNR/ER/ W-73/2022-23	Maintenance of Dollai Novabpur UPC-Kaikarai-Kaliarchar Bazar Road from Ch. 410-2610m under Chandina Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419273025).	781741	26-Feb-2023 16:00 BST	27-Feb-2023 12:10 BST	LTM
13.	CAFDRI/P/ Cumilla/UNR/ER/ W-71/2022-23	Maintenance of Nandirbazar-Panchthubi UP Office - Shubamapur Bazar Road from Ch. 4030-6587m under Adarsha Sadar Upazila, District: Cumilla (Road ID No. 419673009).	778304	05-Mar-2023 16:00 BST	06-Mar-2023 12:10 BST	OTM
14.	IRIDP-3/CUM/ RDW-35	(a) Improvement of Hawra Bridge-Pomgaon Steel Bridge (Khalpur) Road at Ch. 00-1360m (Road ID. 419904116), (b) Construction of 2nos. 1.00mx1.00m RCC Box Culvert at Ch. 350m & 950m on the same road under Monohorgani Upazila, District: Cumilla.	782069	05-Mar-2023 16:00 BST	06-Mar-2023 12:10 BST	OTM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Off-line/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited through online at any Branches of registered Bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The Tender Notice will be available on the website: [www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd) and [www.lged.cumilla.gov.bd](http://www.lged.cumilla.gov.bd)

**(Mirza Md. Iftekhar Ali)**  
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GD-208

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**সিভিল সার্জন-এর কার্যালয়, পটুয়াখালী।**  
**[patuakhali@cs.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:patuakhali@cs.dghs.gov.bd)**

স্মারক নং : সিএস/পটুয়া/আউট-সোর্সিং/২০২২-২৩/২৩৬ তারিখ : ০৬/০২/২০২৩ ইং

**আউটসোর্সিং এর মাধ্যমে জনবল সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি : (OTM)**

সিভিল সার্জন, পটুয়াখালী এর প্রশাসনিক আওতাধীন দশমিনা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স-এর জন্য ২০২২-২৩ অর্থ বছরে আউটসোর্সিং এর মাধ্যমে ১১ (এগারো) জন জনবল সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের জন্য পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬, পিপিআর-২০০৮ (সংশোধিত-২০১৯)-এর আলোকে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত জনবল সরবরাহকারী/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে প্রদত্ত শর্ত স্বাক্ষরে প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম যুক্ত সীল গালাকৃত খামে উল্লিখিত পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্র.	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	সেবার ক্যাটাগরি	বয়স সীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
১	বাবুটি/সহকারী বাবুটি	০১	০৪	১৮-৬০ বছর	অষ্টম শ্রেণী/সমমান পাশ
২	ল্যাবরেটরী এ্যানালিস্ট	০১	০৫	এই	এই
৩	ওটি বয়/ওটি এ্যানালিস্ট	০১	০৫	এই	এই
৪	ইমার্জেন্সি এ্যানালিস্ট	০১	০৫	এই	এই
৫	ট্রেনার বেয়ারা	০১	০৫	এই	এই
৬	ওয়াশ বয়	০৩	০৫	এই	এই
৭	আয়া	০১	০৫	এই	এই
৮	নিরাপত্তা গার্ড	০১	০৫	এই	এই
৯	পরিষ্কারকারী কর্মী	০১	০৫	এই	এই
১০	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফিসের যোগ্য কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৬৮১) বাতে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের মূল্য সোনালী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখায় জমা দিয়ে চালানের মূল কপি জমা দান পূর্বক নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সিভিল সার্জন কার্যালয়ের কাশ শাখা হইতে এক উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, দশমিনা হইতে দরপত্র ত্রয়/সরবরাহ করিতে পারিবেন।				
১১	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কোন কারন দর্শনো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র সমগ্র প্রক্রিয়া গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। নির্বাচন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।				
১২	জন্মবল সরবরাহের জয়েন্টিক থেকে ও শ্রম অধিদপ্তর থেকে লাইসেন্স বাধ্যতাকৃত থাকবে। দরপত্র দাতা কোনো তালিকাভুক্ত নন এই মর্মে ঘোষণা/অস্বীকার নামা দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করিতে হবে।				
১৩	দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সিভিল সার্জনের সাথে সন্নিবেশিত থাকিবে। অনিবার্য কারণ বশত: এই দরপত্র বিষয়ে কোন সংশোধনী থাকিলে শুধু মাত্র অত্র দপ্তরের নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে জানানো হইবে। পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে নয়। বর্নিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী হিসাবে গণ্য হইবে।				

**(ডাঃ এস. এম. কবির হাসান)**  
সিভিল সার্জন, পটুয়াখালী।

GD-206



# ‘NONAJOLER KABBO’ sequel will be a documentary film: REZWAN SHAHRIAR SUMIT

“I have been greatly inspired by India’s new wave of docu-films, and have begun following their trends and practices closely.”

SHARMIN JOYA

Rezwan Shahriar Sumit marked his directorial debut with the much-acclaimed film *Nonajoler Kabbo*. The film recently bagged the National Film Award in seven categories. Alongside winning the ‘Best Director’ award, the film also received awards in the ‘Best Film’, ‘Best Actress’, ‘Best Supporting Actor’, ‘Best Script Writer’, ‘Best Art Direction’, and ‘Best Costume Designer and Makeup’ categories. Elated with such a great win, the director shared his feelings with The Daily Star. “It is indeed a great matter of joy, yet, it would have soothed me more emotionally, if I could witness a positive change in the lives of the community I have showcased in my film,” shared the director. At present, Sumit is working on the sequel to his debut film, which has been titled, *Tujan Aitasey* (Tide is Rising). Interestingly, this time, the project will be a feature documentary film, in contrast to the previous fictional project—which was highly inspired by the struggles of a community of fishermen. “When I began researching for my film in 2015, I met with 22 families in Gangamati, char area, Patuakhali, whose lives have been showcased in *Nonajoler Kabbo*,” shared the director. “Since then, I have built a great attachment with them.” Documentary films are not very popular in Bangladesh. However, Sumit believes it is high time the country needs to delve deeper into



this genre of filmmaking. “I have been greatly inspired by India’s new wave of documentaries, and have begun following their trends and practices closely. But I still have a lot of catching up to do,” said Sumit. The director also mentioned how the community of fishermen had suffered even more after the film crew’s departure. “Sadly, after the film was released, they were evicted from the place where they are staying. They were unable to find another place where they could take their community, so they ended up shifting to a nearby forest—where they were eventually not allowed to stay either. At one point, they even had to reside on the banks of a canal next to the sea.” After completing the shooting of *Nonajoler*

*Kabbo*, in 2019, Sumit did not get the chance to visit those families. When he returned to see them, after the pandemic, it completely devastated him. “I was emotionally hurt, seeing them in despair,” he shared. “From a sense of responsibility, and the attachment I had with them, I decided to work on documenting their lives.” “I had never imagined that the conclusion of my film would become the consequence of their reality,” he added. “We have completed 70 percent of the work for our new project, and are waiting for another monsoon to complete it.” *Nonajoler Kabbo* was recently screened at the Dhaka Art Summit on February 5. Sumit also informed us that the shooting for his upcoming film, *Master* is underway.

## Mosharraf Karim set to debut as singer



For the first time in his illustrious career, prominent actor Mosharraf Karim is all set to make his debut as a playback singer. The actor will be lending his voice for the Fazle Kabir Tuhin directorial project *Bildakini*, where he will be seen in a leading role. The song titled *Ja Dekhi Tar Shobi Bhalo* has been written and composed by the actor himself, while the music arrangement has been done by Ashraf Babu. The track will be visualised in a prison cell, where Mosharraf will be seen lip syncing on his own song. According to reports, the *Mohanagar* famed actor will record the song on February 9. The government-granted project also stars Indian actress Parno Mittra.

## Pritom-Xefer on Grammys Red Carpet

Superstar singers Pritom and Xefer caught everyone’s attention on the red carpet of this year’s Grammy Awards, with their stunning outfits.



Expressing his excitement, Pritom wrote on his social media account, “Always watched the Grammy awards and snippet’s on television and YouTube. Never imagined I’ll be witnessing the Grammys with my bestie Xefer wearing a custom made *nokshikatha* tuxedo.” The two friends looked amazing on the red carpet, with Pritom dressed in a custom suit with Bangladeshi motifs on the lapel and Xefer in a gorgeous red saree.

# NEWS

## Rab arrests 17 militants

FROM PAGE 12

The operation. The Rab DG said on information that militants were again gathering in Thanchi and they would cross the Remakri bridge, six Rab patrol teams took position at different points in the area. The gunfight ensued yesterday morning when the militants were crossing the bridge, said the Rab DG. Disclosing the arrests of five militants at the briefing, Khurshid said they were taking time to conduct the operations as they wanted to capture the militants unharmed once their stock of bullets was finished. The operation will continue until the militants are totally eliminated, he said, adding that the Rab arrested 38 militants and 14 members of an armed group in Chattogram Hill Tracts before yesterday’s operation.

## Why govt buying

FROM PAGE 12

charge for the Adani plant in India’s Jharkhand is Tk 6,000 crore. It is Tk 3,000 crore for the Payra plant and Tk 5,000 crore for the S Alam plant. The government should re-examine whether the deal, which was signed in November 2017, is in the interest of the people, Chunnun said. He mentioned that there is so much criticism in India about Adani Group, which has set up a 1,600 MW power plant in its northeastern state of Jharkhand whose sole buyer would be the Bangladesh Power Development Board.

## Madrasa boy dies by suicide

FROM PAGE 2

autopsy must be performed, the report added. Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kamrangirchar Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday an unnatural death case was filed over the incident. “We found signs of sexual harassment after recovering the boy’s body. We are now waiting for the doctor’s opinion before starting the investigation,” he added. The boy was a student of Aligar’s Jamia Nurania Islamia Hafizia Madrasa. According to his elder brother, the boy seemed fine when he returned

from the madrasa on Friday night. “On Monday afternoon, when my father asked my brother about going to the madrasa, he said he would go the next day. “Around 10:00pm, he locked the door to his room. We called him for a long time but he did not answer. Later, we broke his door open and found him hanging from the ceiling fan,” said the brother. Asked about the sexual harassment, he said he first learned about it from the police. “My brother told us that the madrasa teachers used to beat him and forbade him from telling anyone about the beatings.”

## BCL members

FROM PAGE 12

physically harassed her in front of over 100 students. One of the assaulters was an outsider, she added. “Following the assault, I am now suffering from depression.” Santosh Kumar Chakma, officer-in-charge of Khulshi Police Station, said police on information went to the college and brought the situation under control. “If we receive a written complaint, we will take legal action in this regard,” he added. Witnesses and some teachers said the accused BCL activists are followers of Arshedul Alam Bachchu, former general secretary of Omargani MES College Students’ Union. This newspaper tried to reach Arshedul for comments but he didn’t respond to calls.

## HC issues rule

FROM PAGE 12

Manzill Murshid told the HC that the Rajuk chairman and Dhaka city mayors have been served a legal notice a few weeks back for implementing the HC directives. But they did not take any effective steps to this effect which amount to contempt of court, he argued. Following a petition filed by HRPB, the HC on July 3, 2019, the HC directed the Rajuk chairman and two mayors to take necessary steps for removing all unauthorised structures, including shops, from the car parking spaces beside the roads in Dhaka city in six months to ease traffic congestion and to ensure free movement of people. Besides, the HC directed the DSCC and DNCC to submit progress reports after complying with the directive before this court.

## Google unveils

FROM PAGE 12

previously have searched for on Google. The immense attention on ChatGPT has reportedly prompted Google’s management to declare a “code red” situation for its search business. In a tweet last year, Paul Buchheit, one of the creators of Gmail, forewarned that Google “may be only a year or two away from total disruption” due to the rise of AI.

## Potential game changer

FROM PAGE 12

bitumen is common. The project authorities said taking the climate of Bangladesh into consideration where rainy season is relatively longer, concrete pavement is more durable and cost effective and the ride quality will improve due to use of paver machines. Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque, who led a Buet team for the design works of jointless concrete pavement, said the road authorities have to go for concrete pavement gradually for sustainable development. He said as overloaded vehicles run on the Dhaka-Tangail-Rangpur highway, they recommended jointless reinforced concrete pavement instead of bituminous pavement. Besides, considering climate issues, the prime minister on several occasions directed the authorities concerned to go for concrete pavement to reduce maintenance cost, he added. The authorities have to consider life cycle costs, including construction and maintenance costs, before going to implement a project. Considering the aspect, concrete pavement is more viable, he told The Daily Star yesterday. The Roads and Highways Department is implementing the project at a cost of Tk 16,662.38 crore with loan from Asian Development Bank. The project deadline is December 2024. In Bangladesh, flexible pavement is being constructed on almost all roads. But lately, concrete pavement or rigid pavement is being built on some parts of highways, especially in

market and toll plaza areas and the places prone to waterlogging. Santosh Kumar Roy, additional project director, said they decided to construct concrete pavement keeping various benefits in mind. He said Bangladesh experiences rainfall for five to six months a year while temperature relatively remains high during the summer. But bitumen is vulnerable to water and heat, Santosh said, adding that overloaded vehicles cause serious damage to bituminous pavement. He said although the design life span, the life expectancy of a structure, for bituminous road is 10 to 15 years, it has to be repaired every two-three years after the construction due to waterlogging, plying of overloaded vehicles and some other reasons, which need a huge amount of money. On the other hand, the design life span of concrete pavement is 20 to 25 years and its maintenance cost is very minimal, the project official told The Daily Star. Replying to a question, Santosh said the construction cost of concrete pavement is 10 to 15 percent higher than that of bituminous pavement, but the total life cycle cost of concrete pavement is 50 percent lower than the bituminous pavement due to nominal maintenance cost. Besides, the high price of bitumen is now a major challenge for project implementation, he said. He added that except stone, materials used for concrete pavement are available in the country and that’s why concrete pavement is helpful in context of the current US dollar crisis.

Considering all these issues, Santosh said they have decided to build concrete pavement and out of 81km road from Bogura’s Mokamtola to Rangpur, they will construct some 60km concrete pavement. Besides, around 20km of concrete pavement would be built in market areas on the other part of the highway, he added. This correspondent found that construction of concrete pavement in a major portion has already been completed. Santosh said construction of concrete pavement manually causes roughness on the surface, which impacts on the ride quality. But their Chinese contractor is now using automatic concrete-paving machines, which ensure smooth surface, he added. He said they are building two types of concrete pavement – continuous reinforced concrete pavement and joint reinforced concrete pavement. Asked if concrete pavement is comparatively cost-effective and durable, then why other road project authorities are not using this construction method, Project Director Waliur Rahman said, “It is difficult to change a long-time practice. We hope other project authorities concerned will build concrete pavements after knowing about our ‘positive experience.’” RHD sources said officials of the road transport and bridges ministry and Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division visited the road. They recommended carrying out an inspection by the third party as this is something new in Bangladesh.

## Father bins DB probe report

FROM PAGE 12

will file a no-confidence petition against the probe report on the next hearing date,” he said. The court on February 14 will decide in the presence of the complainant and Bushra, also the prime accused, whether the probe report would be accepted. On January 8, Bushra was granted bail by a Dhaka court until the submission of the probe report in the case. Rampura police arrested Bushra from her Banasree house in the capital on November 10 last year after Fardin’s father filed a murder case with Rampura Police Station.

She landed in jail on November 16 after her bail petition was rejected following the completion of her five-day remand. Fardin, a third-year student of civil engineering, was found dead in the Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj on November 7, three days after he went missing. After conducting an investigation for over a month, the DB and Rab on December 11 said Fardin died by suicide after jumping off a bridge into the river. The following day, DB chief Mohammad Harun Or Rashid said they did not find Bushra’s involvement in the incident.

## Jobs, not doctrine, the lure for Africa’s jihadists: UN

AFP, Geneva

Poverty and the prospect of better-paid work, rather than ideology, are what fuel recruitment to jihadist and other violent groups in Africa, the United Nations said yesterday. The conclusion casts doubt on conventional wisdom that religious doctrine is the main lure for joining groups like Boko Haram, al-Shabaab and the Al-Qaeda-linked Support Group for Islam and Muslims (GSIM).



# ‘Save us’

## In Turkey’s worst-hit province, residents cry for help amid weak quake response

REUTERS, Antakya

“They’re making noises but nobody is coming,” Deniz cried out, holding his hands to his head as he railed against the lack of efforts to rescue those trapped under rubble after a powerful earthquake killed thousands in Turkey and Syria.

Desperate screams for help could be heard from those trapped in collapsed buildings in the Mediterranean coastal province of Hatay where people tried to keep warm around bonfires in cold rainy weather.

Hatay, which borders northwest Syria, is the worst-hit province in Turkey with at least 872 people killed. Residents complained of inadequate emergency response and rescue workers said they have struggled to get equipment.

Deniz cried as he pointed to a destroyed building in which his mother and father were stuck, awaiting emergency workers.

“We’re devastated, we’re devastated. My God!” he said. “They’re calling out. They’re saying, ‘Save us,’ but we can’t save them. How are we going to save them? There has been nobody since the morning.”

Rescue workers have struggled to cope with the scale of destruction across southern Turkey and northwest Syria, with the total death toll rising above 5,000 yesterday morning.

Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) has said 13,740 search and rescue personnel have been deployed to the quake region, but the level of damage is huge with nearly 6,000 buildings destroyed in southern Turkey.



Won't let you go ... (From top, clockwise) Mesut Hancer holds the hand of his 15-year-old daughter Irmak, who was crushed to death beneath the rubble of a building in Kahramanmaraş, close to Monday's 7.8-magnitude earthquake's epicentre; a woman waits for the dear ones killed in the earthquake in front of the rubble of her home in Hatay, Turkey; black smoke from a fire rises over central Iskenderun, Turkey. Photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

# UN chief amplifies warnings on Ukraine, climate

REUTERS, United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday told fossil fuel producers they “should not be in business” unless they are credibly aiming for net-zero emissions and warned that the world is walking into a “wider war” over Ukraine. In a speech to the 193-member UN General Assembly presenting his 2023 priorities, Guterres also called for “a new Bretton Woods moment” - referring to the 1941 conference that led to the creation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Guterres has long been pushing for changes to favor developing nations in the global financial institutions. “...If you cannot set a credible course for net-zero, with 2025 and 2030 targets covering all your operations, you should not be in business,” said Guterres.

# WEST BANK RAID

## Israeli troops kill Palestinian teen

AFP, Nablus

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus yesterday, the Palestinian health ministry said, with the Israeli army saying he had fired on soldiers. The ministry said Hamza Amjad al-Ashqar, 17, was “killed by a bullet in the face fired by the occupation (Israeli) soldiers during the aggression on Nablus”. The Israeli army said troops had “responded with live fire towards an armed suspect who fired at them”. “A hit was identified,” the army said, adding that “rocks, explosive devices and Molotov cocktails were hurled at the soldiers” conducting the raid.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
JAMALPUR PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION,  
JAMALPUR.  
Phone-02-997772417.  
E-mail: ee\_jmplpr@pwd.gov.bd

INVITATION FOR RE-TENDER

Memo No. 25.36.3900.164.07.001.23/1117  
Date: 07-02-2023

E-tender is invited in e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Jamalpur PWD Division, Jamalpur for the procurement of:

Tender Description

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Work	Tender Documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender closing Date & Time
1	788143	Re-construction of Jamalpur District Jail. Sub-Head: External Gas Supply. FY-2022-23	22-Feb-2023 17:00:00	23-Feb-2023 12:00:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

GD- 211

(Md. Mubarak Hossain)  
Executive Engineer  
Jamalpur PWD Division  
Jamalpur.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
1012, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar  
District: Chattogram  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.1500.000.99.010.23-596  
Dated: 07/02/2023

e-Tender Notice-25/2022-23

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Sl No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Procurement method	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents
1	GSID-2/CTG/DW-27	Improvement of Goschi Jame Mosque Union: Bagoan, Latitude: 22.4476799, Longitude: 91.9418949; Upazila: Raozan, District: Chittagong.	763594	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
2	GSID-2/CTG/DW-33	Improvement of Lalangara Baitul Amin Jam-E-Mosque Union: Binajuri, Latitude: 22.5098, Longitude: 91.9159; Upazila: Raozan, District: Chittagong.	763706	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
3	GSID-2/CTG/DW-58	Improvement of Soidabad Gawchul Azam Jam-E-Mosque Union: Hashimpur, Latitude: 22.213454, Longitude: 92.030593, Upazila: Chandanaish, District: Chittagong.	763849	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
4	GSID-2/CTG/DW-60	Improvement of Khondoker Para Oliullah (R) Jam-E-Mosque Union: Kanchanabad, Latitude: 22.233690, Longitude: 92.027485; Upazila: Chandanaish, District: Chittagong.	763854	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
5	GSID-2/CTG/DW-66	Improvement of Motiur Rahman (Younus Market) Jam-E-Mosque Union: Bailoli, Latitude: 22.158822, Longitude: 92.006906; Upazila: Chandanaish, District: Chittagong.	763870	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
6	GSID-2/CTG/DW-67	Improvement of Poli Para Jam-E-Mosque Union: Salbaria, Latitude: 22.169466, Longitude: 92.017562; Upazila: Chandanaish, District: Chittagong.	763871	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
7	GSID-2/CTG/DW-68	Improvement of Kamlor Ali Chowdhury Bari Graveyard Union: Mirzapur, Latitude: 22.528850, Longitude: 91.814720; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763872	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
8	GSID-2/CTG/DW-69	Improvement of Machuma Para Jam-E-Mosque Adjacent to Graveyard Union: South Madarsha, Latitude: 22.445722, Longitude: 91.845679; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763924	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
9	GSID-2/CTG/DW-71	Improvement of Eidgh Adjacent to Kala Mia Matobbor Jam-E-Mosque Union: Shikapur, Latitude: 22.408060, Longitude: 91.85209; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763926	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
10	GSID-2/CTG/DW-73	Improvement of Mainna Pukur Graveyard Union: Gumanmordon, Latitude: 22.564871, Longitude: 91.835167; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763929	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
11	GSID-2/CTG/DW-76	Improvement of Saker Ali Jam-E-Mosque Union: Gumanmordon, Latitude: 22.551354, Longitude: 91.823157; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763932	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
12	GSID-2/CTG/DW-78	Improvement of Sorkar Bari Graveyard Union: Gorduara, Latitude: 22.499001, Longitude: 91.864387; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763934	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
13	GSID-2/CTG/DW-79	Improvement of Talukder Para Graveyard Union: Gorduara, Latitude: 22.489539, Longitude: 91.860366; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chittagong.	763935	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
14	GSID-2/CTG/DW-86	Improvement of Moulana Tofazzal Ahmed Jam-E-Mosque Union: Charlakhya, Latitude: 22.28416, Longitude: 91.83677; Upazila: Kamafulli, District: Chittagong.	763947	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
15	GSID-2/CTG/DW-87	Improvement of Rahim Ali Jam-E-Mosque Union: Charlakhya, Latitude: 22.30256, Longitude: 91.8449; Upazila: Kamafulli, District: Chittagong.	763948	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
16	IRIDP-3/CTG/DW-223	Improvement of Burishehar to Madunaghat Road (Moulana Abul Ali Road) Road at Ch: 00-800m; Upazila: Hathazari, District: Chattogram (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 44979.00) (ID No. 415373002).	779692	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
17	IRIDP-3/CTG/DW-234	a) Improvement of Rajib Ali Road at Ch: 00-1020m b) Construction of 02 Nos. 1x1.00x1.00m Culvert at Ch: 362 & 467m on the same road; Upazila: Rangunia, District: Chattogram (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 51929.00) (ID No. 415705131).	779762	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
18	GCP-3/ctg/WDS-357	Improvement of Mithanala Govt. Primary School Connecting Road by BC at Ch: 115-905; Upazila: Miresarai, District: Chattogram (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 452008.00) (EMIS Code-91411131007).	775304	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
19	GCP-3/ctg/WDS-358	Improvement of Purbu Durgapur Govt. Primary School Connecting Road by BC at Ch: 00-370m; Upazila: Miresarai, District: Chattogram (Salvage Materials Cost Tk. 59594.00) (EMIS Code-91411130802).	775305	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm
20	LGED/Ch/VRPP/UB/22-23/W-62	Rehabilitation of Gobadia Challatall Road from Ch: 2575-3000m; Upazila: Anowara, District: Chattogram (ID: 415044004).	767996	LTM	22/02/2023 17:00pm	23/02/2023 13:00pm

GD-208

Md. Hasan Ali  
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মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি

গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭, বাংলাদেশ।

বাংলাদেশে ক্ষুদ্রঋণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার জন্য মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটির সদর বাধ্যতামূলক।

তারিখঃ ০৬/০২/২০২৩

দরপত্র সূত্র নং- ৫৩.০৪.০০০০.০০২.৯৯.০০৪.২৩-৪০৩

নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি এর পুরাতন/ব্যবহারের অযোগ্য কম্পিউটার মনিটর, ইউপিএস, প্রিন্টার, অনলাইন ইউপিএস, স্ট্যান্ড ফ্যান, স্ক্যানার, ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন, মাইক্রোওয়েভ ওভেন, ল্যাপটপ ও অকেজো গাড়ীর ইঞ্জিন নিলামে বিক্রয় করার জন্য প্রকৃত ও অভিজ্ঞ ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে এমআরএ'র নির্ধারিত টেন্ডার সিটডিলে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ-

১.	কাজের নাম	:	মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি এর পুরাতন/ব্যবহারের অযোগ্য কম্পিউটার মনিটর, ইউপিএস, প্রিন্টার, অনলাইন ইউপিএস, স্ট্যান্ড ফ্যান, স্ক্যানার, ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন, মাইক্রোওয়েভ ওভেন, ল্যাপটপ ও অকেজো গাড়ীর ইঞ্জিন নিলামে বিক্রয় সংক্রান্ত।
২.	দরপত্র দলিল প্রতিসেটের মূল্য	:	১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য)
৩.	কাজ সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা	:	৭ (সাত) দিন
৪.	আনেষ্টম্যানি	:	মোট উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২০% টাকা দরপত্রের সাথে যে কোন তালিকাভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে “মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি” এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হইবে।
৫.	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ সময়সীমা	:	২৩/০২/২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত (সকল কার্য দিবস) বিকাল ৩ (তিন) ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৬.	দরপত্র যেখানে পাওয়া যাইবে	:	সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি, গুলফেশী প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮ শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
৭.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	:	পরিচালক (সাপোর্ট সার্ভিস), এমআরএ'র অফিস কক্ষের সম্মুখে রক্ষিত দরপত্রের ব্যাগে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।
৮.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৬/০২/ ২০২৩ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ দুপুর ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৬/০২/ ২০২৩ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ দুপুর ১২: ০৫ মিনিটে।
১০.	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সমস্ত কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	:	চলতি বছরের আয়কর সনদপত্র, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর ফটোকপি (গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করিয়া) দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
১১.	দরপত্রের মেয়াদ	:	৩০/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকিবে।

বিঃদ্রঃ

(ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন নিলাম দরপত্র কিংবা সকল নিলাম দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

(খ) অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃনির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।

মোঃ ফসিউল্লাহ্

এক্সিকিউটিভ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান

GD- 209



# Time for humanity to come together

## Earthquake devastation in Turkey and Syria calls for urgent help for survivors

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the people of Turkey and Syria, whose lives have been turned upside down by a massive 7.8-magnitude earthquake – followed by a series of aftershocks – that devastated vast swathes of the countries on February 6. The first quake was centred in southern Turkey, near the northern border of Syria, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). As of writing this editorial, the death toll has crossed 5,000 – some 3,419 in Turkey, and 1,600 in Syria – with the World Health Organization warning that the death toll could exceed 20,000. Rescuers continue to look for survivors, digging through the rubble, in some cases, with their bare hands. At this most critical juncture, we urge all countries and international organisations to send their full support to help Turkey and Syria.

Monday’s quake is believed to be the strongest to hit Turkey since 1939, when an earthquake of the same magnitude killed 30,000 people, according to the USGS. Eyewitnesses, after the latest quake, have described it as apocalyptic, which shows the immense magnitude of the disaster. According to the Turkish and Syrian disaster response teams, more than 5,700 buildings have been confirmed flattened across several cities, including many multi-storey apartment blocks that were filled with residents who were sleeping when the first earthquake struck.

The wave of destruction swept through 10 Turkish provinces, including Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Diyarbakir, Adana, Adiyaman, Malatya, Osmaniye, Hatay, and Kilis. While in Syria, most of the damage was reported in Northern Aleppo, Hama, Latakia, and Tartus. Even though rescue workers across the two countries have been scrambling to provide support to the victims, it is becoming clear by the minute that they desperately need as much support as possible from the international community. Therefore, we urge the international community to put their geopolitical interests and conflicts aside, and come to the rescue of Turkish and Syrian people on an immediate basis. The sanctions imposed on Syria will do nothing but harm its people at this moment. Therefore, all these factors should be set aside in the pursuit of rescuing the victims of this massive devastation.

Rescue efforts, we are told, have been made difficult by the winter weather. Many victims are reportedly trapped underneath the rubble amidst freezing cold. Meanwhile, hospitals in both countries are being flooded with thousands who were injured. Without immediate attention towards the seriously injured, the number of casualties could climb even higher. Thus, providing Turkey and Syria with urgent medical assistance, as well as emergency rescue personnel and equipment, should also be a high priority for the local, regional and global leaders.

It is at times like these that the international community must come together and act as one, and help out the devastated communities. We urge every country to provide as much assistance to the affected – and in the process save as many lives – as possible. Multilateral agencies such as the UN can play a big role here to ensure that these aid measures are well-coordinated and provided on an urgent basis.

# HC’s frustration is well-justified

## Authorities’ lack of response to air pollution is literally killing us

We share the High Court’s frustration with the Department of Environment (DoE) for allowing air pollution in Dhaka to become so bad that the capital is routinely placed high atop the list of the most polluted cities in the world. We also appreciate the HC taking a stern stance in this regard, reprimanding DoE officials for not implementing the relevant law or complying with past court directives to reduce pollution and its harmful effects. As the court has observed, citizens are indeed being “killed” by their inaction and apathy.

According to a World Bank report published in December 2022, air pollution is killing around 80,000 people every year in Bangladesh by causing respiratory problems and depression, and wiping out around 4 percent of the country’s GDP. The report gives us devastating insights into how outdoor air pollution is causing substantial damage to our health, but we should also keep in mind the devastating effects of indoor air pollution in Dhaka, which has also been found to be the worst in the world. In fact, according to an estimate, Bangladesh witnessed 94,800 deaths caused by indoor air pollution in 2019, resulting mostly from heavy use of solid fuels in cooking. Add to this the nuisance created by construction, illegal brick kilns, vehicle exhaust fumes, etc.

Among other factors that are exacerbating the problem but often remain unaddressed are the filling of wetlands and destruction of greenery, thanks to our mindless pursuit of infrastructure development. The list of causes doesn’t end here, however. The WB report, quite alarmingly, also highlighted how 30 percent of the air pollution in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Khulna cities actually originates outside the country – in India – flowed in by the strong northwest-to-southeast wind. This further complicates the problem for us as we battle the various effects of air pollution including allergies, coughing, general breathing difficulties, respiratory tract infections, diabetes, and eye problems.

With the threats so profound and coming from so many directions – literally – it’s deeply alarming to see the lack of response from the authorities. There seems to be no visible action plan on their part to save us from the serious public health threat that air pollution has become. We urge the DoE, city corporations and other relevant administrative wings to realise the severity of the threat we face and take meaningful action to prevent it. Besides regularly misting or watering construction sites and busy roads, they must expand the drive against illegal brick kilns. We also hope the government will properly follow up on the recent commitment of four countries – including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan – to bring down the annual average of PM 2.5 to 35 microgrammes per cubic metre by 2030.

Air pollution has truly become a silent and deadly killer. The authorities’ business-as-usual approach will not be enough to prevent it.

# The Constitutionality of 15th Amendment



Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar is the secretary of SHUJAN: Citizens for Good Governance.

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR

In 1996, the BNP-led government passed the 13th Amendment to the constitution, allowing the formation of the neutral caretaker government (NCG). The amendment represented a “political settlement” as the then Awami League-led coalition of parties demanded such a system, and BNP, after much resistance, accepted it. It not only allowed a peaceful transfer of power, but also provided equal opportunity to major political parties.

However, the unilateral passage of the 15th Amendment in 2011, in a “majoritarian” manner, by the Awami League-led alliance weaponised the constitution, destroying that political settlement. It started with the BNP-led government passing the 14th Amendment in 2004, which raised the retirement age limit for justices, ensuring that a particular former chief justice would become the chief adviser of the caretaker government before the ninth parliament elections. A further blow to the political settlement came in the form of a divided “short order” of the Appellate Division on May 10, 2011, authored by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, which declared the 13th Amendment “prospectively” void after the 10th and 11th parliamentary elections, although two High Court benches had previously found the amendment constitutional.

It may be noted that Justice Khairul Haque, who was appointed chief justice superseding a senior, revived the appeal against the High Court judgment six years after it had been filed, and authored the short order only eight days before his retirement, with only 10 days of hearing and ignoring the pleas of the amicus curiae. The other three assenting justices were subsequently made chief justices, at least in one case superseding a senior, raising the concern of “some communication” between the chief justice and the government (*The Law and Politics of Unconstitutional Constitutional Amendments in Asia*, Chapter 11: “The Politics of Unconstitutional Amendments in Bangladesh” by Ridwanul Haque). Self-interest might have also played a role in Justice Haque’s authoring the short order, as he would be the chief adviser if the 10th parliamentary election was held under the caretaker government system.

It may be recalled that on July 21, 2010, a 15-member special parliamentary committee was formed, 12 of whom were senior Awami League



VISUAL: STAR

members, to amend the constitution. The committee unanimously recommended on March 29, 2011, after consulting 104 distinguished citizens – including a former president, the incumbent prime minister, three former chief justices, political leaders, editors and civil society members – to amend the constitution by retaining the neutral caretaker government system with a three-month tenure. Next day, the committee met with the prime minister, which led to a change in the committee’s recommendation, and the suggestion to amend the constitution to abolish the system.

On May 31, 2011, the prime minister held a press conference where she said the court had abolished the caretaker government system with an observation that, for holding the next two elections under the system, the parliament’s approval would be required (*Prothom Alo*, June 1, 2011), which was not true. Thus, the 15th Amendment was passed not only defying the unanimous recommendation of the 15-member parliamentary committee, but also through a serious misrepresentation of the Appellate Division’s short order and before the full judgment was published 14 months later. It was a decision serving self-interests, which led to the next elections being held under a political government headed by the same prime minister. As researcher Adiba Aziz

Khan observed, “Despite dissent from the opposition, civil society and voters, the AL-led supermajority Parliament disregarded the direction given by the Court that the NCG should remain in place for two more national elections” (“The Politics of Constitutional Amendment,” *International Review of Law*, 2015).

“basic provisions,” equating them with the “basic structure,” which cannot be amended. This clearly violated the constitutional doctrine of basic structure. The constitutional expert, Mahmudul Islam, said, “No parliament can bind the successor parliament” (*Constitutional Law of Bangladesh*, 3rd Edition, Pg 31), which also makes

Experts have been raising questions on the constitutionality of the 15th Amendment. The constitution represents the will of Bangladesh people, and it should not be amended without their consent. Although our 1972 constitution did not have it, the Fifth Amendment incorporated the referendum provision in the constitution. The 12th Amendment, which was passed in 1991, based on a compromise between the Awami League and BNP and affirmed by a referendum, amended the referendum provision by limiting it to the amendment of the preamble and a few other articles. Although an Appellate Division judgment found the Fifth Amendment unconstitutional, the referendum provision remained as it was included in the 12th Amendment. Thus, it is clear that the 15th Amendment was neither legitimate nor constitutional, as no referendum was held before its passage. No serious deliberations took place on the 15th Amendment before its passage either. Even though the BNP was asked to propose a name for the special parliamentary committee, it refused to do so, and it was also absent during the amendment’s passage. Thus, the 15th Amendment did not have the support of the major opposition.

In addition, the 15th Amendment made about a third of the constitution unamendable by designating them as

the 15th Amendment unconstitutional.

The Appellate Division’s judgment is also unconstitutional. As Mahmudul Islam argued, “Providing the rider clause giving life to the discredited (NCG) system for the next two parliamentary elections, the Appellate Division made judicial legislation interfering with the functions of Parliament assigned by the Constitution and thereby dented the well-established jurisprudence and acted contrary to the rule of law and separation of powers.” The Appellate Division also intruded into political matters, which is a clear violation of “political question” – a doctrine respected by our court in the past. In addition, Justice Khairul Haque materially changed his final judgment by adding the condition of parliamentary approval for holding the 10th and 11th parliamentary elections under the caretaker government system, which amounts to “fraud on the court” and the violation of the professional code of conduct.

To conclude, abolition of the caretaker government system led to two failed elections in 2014 and 2018. Another failed election will have serious long-term consequences for us as a nation. Without a new political settlement, a credible 12th parliamentary election is likely to be a far cry, which can get us into an uncharted territory.

# Why carbon emissions could cost Bangladeshi RMG makers



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

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

At the end of 2022, the European Union and European Parliament agreed to what will become the world’s first Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). In simple terms, CBAM is a tariff on the import of carbon-intensive products. Initially, these products will include those that require a highly carbon-intensive manufacturing process – cement or fertiliser, for instance. But this list could soon be extended. This seems to be the direction to which we are all headed, with regulators around the world becoming more and more focused on limiting carbon emissions and carbon neutrality.

The objective of this new levy is to deter carbon-intensive processes and encourage manufacturers to “green” as much of their manufacturing processes as possible. It aims to prevent what is known as “carbon leakage.” This happens when the EU’s efforts to reduce carbon emissions are hampered by increased emissions from outside the EU bloc via relocation of production to the countries with less ambitious climate policies by EU standards. Also, these efforts could be offset through increased imports of carbon-intensive products.

Why is this important for Bangladesh? Because the EU is the largest export market for the RMG products manufactured in Bangladesh. Our RMG sector is not included in the industry sectors covered by CBAM yet. But it may be only a matter of time. The European Parliament has already signalled a clear intention to include plastics and chemicals by 2026 as well as all sectors covered by the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) by 2030. In addition, indirect emissions such as those caused by the production of energy used in the manufacturing process will also be included in calculating the carbon content of an imported product “under certain circumstances,” according to an EU statement.

While there is some uncertainty as to how and if RMG export will be covered by the EU laws around carbon markets, I think our industry should start planning now for such a possibility.

First and foremost, if the EU were to apply a tariff on RMG import due to the emissions associated with their production, this tariff would need to be built into the price of such products. In other words, the tariff should be passed onto the consumers in the importing

country.

Also, how will CBAM’s imposition on RMG and textiles work for those ethical suppliers who have already determined to become carbon-neutral? Will they take a “wait and see” approach, rather than make investment now to become carbon neutral? Why make an expensive investment now if the EU bands everyone together for this purpose in the future? Bangladesh has already learnt that making huge investments with regards to green factories has little to no direct payback. The CBAM could further dampen the motivation to make more investment – unless how it will be implemented on RMG import is announced soon.

But these are perhaps secondary issues; we need to think about the bigger picture here. This is the ongoing sustainability drive of some of our largest trading partners, and the implications of this for Bangladesh is big. If ever we needed a wakeup call about the need to reduce carbon emissions associated with our main export market, the CBAM is surely that.

At present, our RMG production is still far more carbon-intensive than that in the EU. In fact, we are more carbon-intensive as an industry than Turkey, the US and even neighbouring Pakistan. To give an example, if one were to shift textile production from Bangladesh to the EU, the carbon emission associated with this activity would be reduced by around 45 percent. That’s because the EU has made far more progress than Bangladesh in the use of renewable energy.

Consider this from the perspective

of a fashion brand looking for a production source, which has carbon emission targets to meet. More and more, fashion retailers are documenting the amount of emissions associated with their products, for regulatory and environmental reasons. What if a brand decided to shift all of its production to the EU and out of Asia because it felt that this would be the only way it could meet its supply chain emission targets?

If you think that sounds far-fetched, think again. Targets for carbon emissions are closing in fast on some of Bangladesh’s largest trading partners. Some have set targets for 2030. Things are moving more quickly than anybody could have imagined on this issue.

The answer for Bangladesh is quite simple. We must, with utmost urgency, shift our energy mix into predominantly renewable energy. We don’t have time to waste on this issue, and it means our policymakers, legislators, planners and industry leaders must start working together to devise a smooth transition into a clean energy future. We need a plan and we need to implement it quickly.

As I said earlier, the EU could one day be placing a tariff on RMG products manufactured in Bangladesh because of the emissions involved in their production. That would be a problem, but we may be able to solve it by raising prices.

However, if our customers begin sourcing elsewhere because our energy mix is not environmentally friendly, that is a different challenge altogether – and one that we need to take a proactive stance on.



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Women and Children Affairs**  
**Strengthening Gender Responsive Budgeting in Bangladesh Project**  
 Building No-6, Room-308, Level-3  
 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000

**Request for Expression of Interest EOI**

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) has been implementing a project "Strengthening Gender Responsive Budgeting in Bangladesh (GRB)" with UN Women. The project aims to strengthen institutional capacity to use GRB as a tool to further advance financing agenda for gender equality. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is intended to recruit national consultant to support in the finalization process of National Action Plan for National Women Development Policy (NAP-NWDP).

**Qualifications, experience, and key functions are as following:**

Position name, number, and duration	Educational qualification	Experience	Key functions
<b>National Consultant-NAP-NWDP</b>  <b>Post-01</b> <b>Duration:</b> 4 months	Master's degree in Social Science, Economics, Development Studies, Gender Studies, or from other relevant disciplines.	Minimum 10 years of experience and proven track record working on gender equality issues, particularly with the government. Working experience in preparing national action plan, strategy will be an added value.	- Review the draft NAP-NWDP in relation to 8 <sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan and SDGs gender related priorities.  - Facilitate validation workshops with ministries and divisions.  - Finalize NAP-NWDP.

**Terms and Conditions:**

- Qualified and eligible individuals are encouraged to apply with Expression of Interest (EOI) form and updated CV, 2 copy passport size photographs (with justifying suitability) to the Project Director, Strengthening Gender Responsive Budgeting in Bangladesh (GRB) Project, Building No-6, Room-308, Level-3, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000.
- Please Contact: Cell- 0177764769, Email: noor.shah@unwomen.org, to get the Expression of Interest (EOI) form.
- The application shall have to be submitted directly or via post on or before **02 March 2023 by 04:00 pm** in sealed envelope.
- Candidate's age should be between 35-65 years, age limit may be relaxed for experienced and suitable candidate.
- The applicants shall submit necessary supporting documents in favor of qualification and experience along with the application.
- Only short-listed candidates would have to face an interview at a schedule determined by the project authority.
- Candidates who are employed would require applying with proper channel.
- No application will be received within the stipulated date and time.
- The duty location will be in Dhaka.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any of the EOI.

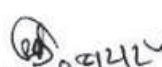
  
 (Most. Ferdousi Begum)  
 Joint Secretary and Project Director  
 Ministry of Women and Children Affairs  
 Telephone: 02-5510050 (Office)





PHOTO : STAR

## A vibrant end to Kumbh Mela

**“This is the only Kumbh Mela in Bangladesh where we gather and celebrate every three years. The fair started on January 27,” said Harihor Dey, one of the organisers.**

NAIMUR RAHMAN AND SHAKIB NILOY

The 11-day-long 21st International Rishikumbha and Kumbha Mela concluded with the initiation of Pandits yesterday.

Kumbh Mela, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, takes place every 12 years in India. However, in Bangladesh, it is celebrated every three years in Chattogram’s Banshkhali upazila.

The word “Kumbh”, which translates to “pitcher”, refers to a mythical pitcher that was used to collect the nectar of immortality during a great battle between the gods and the demons.

According to Hindu mythology, drops of nectar fell in four different locations, and it is at these places



that the Kumbh Mela is held.

The festival lasted 11 days and involved a series of spiritual rituals and ceremonies, including bathing in the holy rivers, attending sermons by Hindu saints, and participating in mass prayers and offerings.

“This is the only Kumbh Mela in Bangladesh where we gather and celebrate every three years. The fair started on January 27,” said

Harihor Dey, one of the organisers.

In addition to the religious aspects of the festival, the Kumbh Mela is also a vibrant cultural event, featuring performances by musicians, artists, and dancers, as well as a bustling market where vendors sell food, souvenirs, and other goods.

The Kumbh Mela is also a symbol of unity and a celebration of cultural diversity. Despite the massive crowd, the festival is known for its peaceful and harmonious atmosphere.

“The event was a success, with everyone leaving with a sense of fulfilment. I have been attending this fair since my childhood and it is gradually changing and becoming more colourful,” said visitor Amrita Harinam Das.



## Mro boy breaks world record

NAIMUR RAHMAN

Football was a relatively foreign concept in the Mro community. However, the magic of football as a game is that it finds itself in the furthest nooks and corners of the world.

And just like that, the football magic reached Chimbuk, Bandarban, where it made a boy dream. His name was Prenchong Mro, currently a fourth-year student of Physical Education and Sports Science Department of Chittagong University, who was determined to introduce the sport to his community and inspire them to see its potential as a profession.

Recently, Prenchong finally inched closer to his dream, as he made it to Guinness Book of World Records for the most football (soccer) toe taps in one minute.

He started practicing for several records and finally made the attempt to break the record on April 24 last year. Guinness World Records approved the video in November and Prenchong got the official letter in this year’s January.

When asked about what motivated him to set this record, Prenchong said, “In early 2022, the idea of Guinness World Record came to my mind. I saw the video of Kanak Karmakar, who held the record for the highest toe taps (197 times in 1 minute).”

“There was no footballer in my community. People from the Mro community knew very little about this sport. That hit me and I wanted to introduce football as a profession here,” he added.

In 2021, Prenchong played for Brothers Union Club in the Chittagong Premier League and won the championship. He is also playing for the district and university teams.



# Killing a canal to save a river!

Contractor filling up Mariamnagar canal with sand after dredging Karnaphuli



SIFAYET ULLAH

The 1.5-kilometre-long Mariamnagar canal in Rangunia upazila is a hub for bamboo trade. Besides, locals use this canal -- which originates from the Karnaphuli river -- for household chores and farmers use it for irrigation.

However, a contractor firm assigned by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) is filling up the waterbody by dumping sand, despite protests from locals.

Mohammed Kamal, a bamboo trader, said, “We bring bamboo from hilly areas by waterways and store them on boats beside the canal. Later, we sell the bamboo and transport it by river routes from here to various areas such as Chattogram city and Cox’s Bazar.”

However, Bashundhara Engineering,

the firm assigned by BWDB for dredging Karnaphuli river, has been dumping sand on the canal for three months. As the waterbody is getting filled, we have no alternatives but to close our business, he added.

Despite having options to store the to-be-dredged sand elsewhere, Bashundhara Engineering is still dumping it into the canal, he claimed.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found that the contractor filled half a kilometre of the waterbody. Many boats were seen anchored in the filled

canal.

Sujon Ahmed, director of the project from Bashundhara Engineering, admitted that they filled the waterbody with the dredged sand.

He said once the dredging of the river is done, they will re-dig the canal.

Tayan Kumar Tripura, executive engineer of BWDB, said, “We have instructed the contractor to dump sand at specific places. If anyone does not follow the instructions, we will take action against them as per the rules.”

Aliur

Rahman, general secretary of Chattogram River and Canal Protection Movement, said, “Sand dumping on the canal has not only destroyed its biodiversity but also affected the residents of the area who depend on the water body. We demand that the government agencies take legal action against those filling the canals.”

According to the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, filling up a waterbody is a criminal offence.

Ferdous Anwar, deputy director of the Department of Environment of Chattogram district, said, “Due to a shortage of manpower, we often fail to supervise and implement environmental laws everywhere.”

“However, we will take prompt legal action against those who are filling up the canal.”





# Sriram’s return still on horizon?

SPORTS REPORTER

Is Sridharan Sriram, the technical consultant of the Bangladesh national team during the T20 World Cup in Australia last year, slated for a return to the national setup? And if he does, then in what form?

Although technical consultant was the role thrown around in his last stint, the former India all-rounder had been in charge as a head coach during the Asia Cup in the UAE and the World Cup in Australia. After Chandika Hathurusingha was named as the head coach in all three formats, the question now being pondered is whether Sriram’s return is still plausible.

Khaled Mahmud Sujon, former team director of Bangladesh and head coach of Bangladesh Premier League’s (BPL) Khulna Tigers, suggested the door has not been closed yet.

“I’m not sure, but as far as I know he [Sriram] still has a chance [of returning]. I am a bit detached from that due to BPL. I had a talk with him before and maybe there are some demands and we want him to come. How much time can he give and in what capacity, that is important,” Mahmud said yesterday.

Whether the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had approached Sriram with a specific role remains unclear. And even as he had met with BCB high-ups during the ongoing BPL in Dhaka, they have not agreed terms.

Although Sriram had been in charge of the T20 side of things last year, whether he is willing to come as a technical consultant still remains to be seen. Will his return create a stir with Hathurusingha?

“Obviously every coach has a different philosophy. From that regard... I feel that Sri and Hathurusingha are mirror images of each other. I have worked with both and



held discussions and yes, obviously, there is the matter of philosophy but both are attacking minded and positive as coaches. Hathurusingha will be given time to build the side since he has been handed the head coach role. I don't think it will be very difficult [for them to work together],” Mahmud opined.

The matter of local coaches being appointed in assistant coaching roles was also brought during Mahmud's brief to the press.

“I had a good relationship with Hathurusingha from before. I have already talked to him over the phone and there was a brief discussion on the matter. He is very positive and he wanted a big team management unit with local coaching staff included so that when the team goes out of the country, the other players get to practice. We want to have some assistant coaches who are working with the team all day,” said the former team director.

There had been criticisms regarding Hathurusingha being a difficult taskmaster but Mahmud, who had been team manager during the Lankan's previous stint, had a different opinion.

“I don't think he's that strict. One thing about him that I really like is his straightforwardness. There are senior stars like Shakib [Al Hasan] and Tamim [Iqbal] who are very important but Hathurusingha does not create that definition in the side where young players won't be respected. He has always shown that respect to everyone. Back then he was younger but he is more mature now,” Mahmud concluded.

Asked whether he himself will return to the team director role for the upcoming England series, he said: “Not sure. It's BCB's call. It's not a permanent job and I fill that role when the [BCB] president asks me.”

Meanwhile, the BCB president Nazmul Hasan Papon has informed the media yesterday that the board is “looking for a foreign coach in the assistant role, and Sriram's name is still on the shortlist.”

# Finch bows out in altered landscape

REUTERS, Perth

Aaron Finch, who called time on his international career on Tuesday, had his first brush with the elite stars of the global game when he faced Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly in 2007.

The Indians were in whites but this was not a Test match but a first-class match between Finch's state side, Victoria, and the touring Test squad at Melbourne's suburban Junction Oval.

Such matches have become an anachronism over Finch's long and distinguished career, but the erstwhile Australia limited overs captain still recalled the curtailed contest with fondness.

“It was amazing,” Finch said with a smile in Townsville last year. “It was meant to be a three-day game and 40 overs in, it was just rained out ... But I got a stat in the game. Didn't get a bat, didn't get a bowl.”

That stat came courtesy of catch at mid-off to dismiss India opener Wasim Jaffer for a



duck off the bowling of left-arm paceman Allan Wise. Although it was 11 years before Finch again faced India in whites during his brief Test career, he went on to accumulate an impressive array of stats in the shorter formats.

A T20 and ODI World Cup winner, he twice held the record for the highest score in a Twenty20 international with his 172 against Zimbabwe in 2018, bettering his own mark of 156 against England in Southampton

in 2013.

The limited-overs cricket that made his name, however, filled up the playing schedule and effectively killed off the first-class tour matches against states, counties and provinces in Australia and abroad.

“The tour games are something that have become less of a priority because guys tend to fly in later for tours,” Finch said. “The Big Bash is going longer and longer, which means the (Sheffield) Shield



Bangladesh captain Shamsunnahar wriggles past a host of Bhutan players during their 5-0 win over Bhutan in the last round robin match of the SAFF U-20 women's Championship at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday. (Bottom) Nepal players celebrate after beating India to seal a final berth.

PHOTO: BFF

# BANGLADESH STORM INTO FINAL

SPORTS REPORTER

Shamsunnahar struck a hattrick as Bangladesh stormed into the final of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship as group champions with an emphatic 5-0 win over Bhutan in the last encounter of the group stages at Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Bangladesh will play Thursday's final against Nepal, who upset pre-tournament favourites India with a come-from-behind 3-1 win to send the defending champions packing.

India needed just one point to ensure a spot in back-to-back finals and they appeared on the right track after taking a 21st-minute lead through Apurna Hazary, but the Himalayan women changed the course of the match drastically by netting thrice in the second half.

Anjali Chand equalised in the 48th minute before Preeti Rai and Amisha Kharki struck in the 69th and 89th minutes respectively to book a final berth with six points from three matches, which included a defeat to Bangladesh.

Although an outright win for India would have seen Bangladesh into the final before they took the field against Bhutan, the upset in the day's first match meant Bangladesh could not afford to lose against Bhutan, who conceded 16 goals in their previous two matches.

Despite being eliminated from

contention, Bhutan seemed that they had come out with a different mindset and were aiming to finish the tournament on a high. They gave the hosts a run for their money in the opening minutes, but the Bangladeshi backline did not waver.

Golam Rabbani Choton's charges grew in confidence as the match progressed and established complete control, keeping the Bhutanese defenders busy as



Shamsunnahar Jr and Shaheda Akter Ripa whipped in several crosses while forward Aklima Khatun unsettled the backline with dazzling dribbles.

She also joined Shamsunnar in scoring twice. Aklima, who finished as the top scorer in the Bangladesh women's football league, got her first chance in the ninth minute when she dribbled past two defenders but failed to muster a shot with only the goalkeeper to beat. Two minutes

later, Unnoti Khatun saw her feeble shot blocked.

Shamsunnar was also frustrated in an attempt to break the deadlock after finding herself one-on-one with opposing goalkeeper Norbu Zangmo in the 17th minute. But she shook that off and turned provider for Aklima, darting into the box from the left and cutting back for Aklima, who took her time before driving home a grounded shot in the 22nd minute.

In the next minute, Ripa squandered a penalty when she drove wide but Shamsunnar made no mistake, doubling the lead after nodding home a curling Unnoti Khatun corner kick on the half-hour mark.

Bangladesh maintained their stranglehold in the second half and Shamsunnar, availing a through ball from Ripa, raced into the box to make it 3-0 in the 53rd minute. In the same fashion, Aklima widened the margin to 4-0 on the hour-mark.

Shamsunnar then completed her hattrick in the 66th minute to complete the rout after Aklima nicely set up the forward with a long ball.

Bangladesh could have added even more gloss to the scoreline afterwards, but multiple chances went begging and no further goals were added by either side.

# Atsu found alive in quake rubble

AFP, Accra

Ghana national player and former Newcastle midfielder Christian Atsu has been found alive in the rubble of an earthquake that killed more than 4,800 people in Turkey and neighbouring Syria, Ghana's ambassador to Turkey said Tuesday.

Atsu, 31, joined Turkish Super Lig side Hatayspor in September, based in the southern province of Hatay near the epicentre of Monday's massive quake.

“I have good news coming. I am just getting information from the president of the Ghana association that Christian Atsu has been found in Hatay,” Francisca Ashietey-Odunton told Accra-based Asaase Radio, referring to a local Ghanaian community association.

The envoy gave no further details on his condition.

# Chelmsford to host Ire-BD series

STAR SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh will cap off their Super League fixtures with three ODIs against Ireland in May, to be played in Chelmsford, England. The tour was supposed to happen in 2020 but Covid pandemic postponed it.

The Tamim Iqbal-led side will get the opportunity to ramp up preparations courtesy of a practice match on May 7 before the series opener commences on May 9. The second and third ODI is slated for May 12 and 14, respectively.

Prior to the Ireland tour, however, Bangladesh will host England and Ireland, in that order, following the end of the BPL. The white-ball England series will run from March 1 to March 14 and the Irish are set to touch down before the series concludes as their all-format series will kickstart with the first ODI on March 18 in Sylhet. The second and third ODI will also take place at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on March 20 and 23, respectively.

Afterwards, Chattogram's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium will host the three T20Is on March 27, 29 and 31, while the solitary Test will commence in Dhaka on April 4.

# Kings emerge group winners

SPORTS REPORTER

The quarterfinal lineup of Federation Cup completed when Bashundhara Kings handed a 2-0 defeat to Chittagong Abahani to emerge Group B champions at Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

Despite the first defeat in third match, the port-city outfit emerged group B runners-up to progress to the last eight berth while Muktijoddha Sangsad defeated Fortis FC 2-1 at Shaheed Birshreshtha Flight Lt Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj to qualify for the quarterfinals from the same group as one of two best third finishers in the II-team tournament.

In Cumilla, Bashundhara Kings dominated the match to have scored one goal apiece either side of the break as Tapu Barman tapped in rebounder home from close after a Suman Reza header off a Yeasin Ararat header came off the crossbar in the 40th minute.

Ten minutes into the second half, Brazilian forward Miguel Ferreira converted from the spot to notch up three wins in a row after defender Mohammad Rocky handled the ball inside the box.

In Munshiganj, Fortis FC needed an outright victory to put behind Muktijoddha Sangsad to seal a place as one of best two third-finisher but the freedom fighters' side finally succeeded with Nigerian forward Emmanuel Ikechukwu breaking the deadlock in the 44th minute before substitute



Sabuj Hossain cancelled out Muktijoddha Sangsad's lead in the 85th minute.

Though the stalemate was good enough for Fortis FC to progress to the last eighth berth, Muktijoddha Sangsad broke the hearts of Fortis in the stoppage time with Burundi forward Selemani Landry netting the winning goal two minutes of the stoppage time in the second half.

# Scavenging to fund one's dream

REUTERS, Cairo

Nationally ranked bodybuilder Ali el-Sharkawy trains in the evenings, but only after the 29-year-old has spent the morning collecting rubbish to support himself through his sporting career.

Although he has won accolades including two bronze medals at national championships, like many other Egyptian athletes practising individual sports, he has been unable to secure funding or external support.

Instead, he uses a horse-drawn cart to collect waste and recycling across Gharbia, his hometown in Egypt's Nile delta, making up to 200 Egyptian pounds (\$6.59) per day.

“I wish there were better options,” Sharkawy told Reuters.

Sharkawy says he has not found state support for his bodybuilding career and that most funding is used for higher profile team sports like soccer. Sharkawy's coach, Mostafa el-Tamimi, said Sharkawy found his own success soon after starting training.

“He is seeking to participate in an international championship, but a bodybuilding career needs support and funding to provide nutrition,” he said.





## BANDARBAN'S THANCHI Rab arrests 17 militants after daylong gunfight

SHARIFUL ISLAM and MONG SING HAI MARMA

Rapid Action Battalion arrested 17 members of newly formed militant outfit Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya and three members of Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF) following a daylong gunfight in Bandarban's Thanchi upazila yesterday.

During the shootout in Remakri bridge area near Thanchi-Boromodak-Likkri link road, the Rab had to fire some 350 shots while the militants and KNF members shot about 200 bullets. The gunfight broke out around 5:00am and continued till 6:30pm, said a Rab official.

Eight to nine Rab members sustained minor injuries in the gunfight and were given first aid at hospitals, Rab Director General M Khurshid Hossain told a press briefing in Thanchi around 3:30pm.

Three to four of the arrestees were seen in the video that was recovered from Masukur Rahman alias Ronobir, military commander and shura member of Jama'atul Ansar, after his arrest on January 23 in Cox's Bazar along with an associate.

The eight-minute video shows militants being trained in modern fighting techniques, including operating assault rifles.

Khandaker Al Moin, director of the Rab's legal and media wing, said they seized firearms and materials used in making improvised explosive devices following

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Students wade through ankle-deep water in Arial Khan river at Bukhainagar of Barishal's Sadar upazila to get to a boat that will take them to school. Due to the accumulation of silt and the consequent rise of numerous shoals, the navigability of the river has decreased significantly. During low tide, the locals have to walk through the water to reach their boats or trawlers.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

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## FARDIN'S DEATH Father bins DB probe report Says he'll file no- confidence petition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The father of Buet student Fardin Noor Parash has rejected the DB probe report that cleared Fardin's friend Amatullah Bushra of murder charges.



Kazi Nooruddin Rana, father of the deceased and also the complainant of the Fardin murder case, told The Daily Star yesterday that he would file a no-confidence petition against the probe report with a Dhaka court on the next hearing date.

Detective Branch Inspector Yasin Shikder, also the investigation officer of the case, on Monday submitted the final report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

In the report, the IO said Fardin died by suicide in November last year and that he was not killed by anybody.

"I scrutinised video footage, the inquest, post mortem and viscera reports, and other circumstantial evidence collected from the place of occurrence and other places and found that Fardin committed suicide. So, Bushra and others named in the case were not involved in the death," Yasin said in the probe report.

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### CONCRETE PAVING

## Potential game changer in road construction

It's cost effective, more durable than  
bitumen-paved road, say experts



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, back from Gaibandha

Ready-mix concrete is on a truck. An excavator carries and pours it onto the surface of an under construction road. Then an automatic concrete-paving machine joins in and does the rest.

This German-made slip form paver machine levels the surface seamlessly, giving it a complete look of a paved road.

This correspondent saw the process in Dhaperhat area of Gaibandha's Saduallapur upazila on Monday as the authorities of an

RHD project is using the state-of-the-art technology for the first time in the country to construct concrete pavement.

The authorities of SASEC Road Connectivity Project-2, under which 190km highway is being expanded into four-lane from Elenga of Tangail to Rangpur, are using two such paver machines for constructing 60km concrete road there. The highway has also service lanes.

Construction of such a large portion of highway with concrete pavement is also new in the country, where flexible pavement using

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## BCL members assault college teacher in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League assaulted a female teacher of Omargani MES College in Chattogram yesterday for not allowing them to enter her classroom with a procession.

Witnesses said Bobby Barua was taking a class on economics for the HSC first-year students around noon. At one point, some 12 to 15 BCL activists in a procession tried to enter the classroom without permission.

As the teacher asked them to wait outside until the class ended, the BCL men had an altercation with the teacher and assaulted her physically.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Bobby said, "They harassed me because I didn't allow them to enter the classroom without permission. I informed Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury about the incident over phone. I have also informed the college authorities of the matter."

She said the BCL men

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## Google unveils its ChatGPT rival

CNN ONLINE

Google has unveiled a new chatbot tool dubbed "Bard" in an apparent bid to compete with the viral success of ChatGPT.

Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and parent company Alphabet, said in a blog post on Monday that Bard will be opened up to "trusted testers" starting Monday, with plans to make it available to the public "in the coming weeks."

Like ChatGPT, which was released publicly in late November by AI research company OpenAI, Bard is built on a large language model. These models are trained on vast troves of data online in order to generate compelling responses to user prompts.

"Bard seeks to combine the breadth of the world's knowledge with the power, intelligence and creativity of our large language models," Pichai wrote. "It draws on information from the web to provide fresh, high-quality responses."

The announcement comes as Google's core product – online search – is widely thought to be facing its most significant risk in years. In the two months since it launched to the public, ChatGPT has been used to generate essays, stories and song lyrics, and to answer some questions one might

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## CONSTITUENCIES EC to publish delimitation draft next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday said it would publish the draft of delimitation of constituencies next week.

"The draft will be prepared taking into consideration the boundaries of constituencies drawn before the 11th parliamentary polls," EC Secretary Jahangir Alam told reporters after a meeting of election commissioners.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal presided over the meeting at the EC office.

Jahangir said anyone can file an appeal against an EC decision after a preliminary list of redrawn constituencies is published. "These objections will be settled before finalising the delimitation."

According to the delimitation law, boundaries

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Firefighters inspect the charred remains of Chandni Textiles in the capital's Shyampur yesterday after a fire ravaged through the top floor of the five-storey factory building. No casualties were reported.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## CONTEMPT OF COURT HC issues rule on Dhaka mayors, Rajuk chairman

### Seeks explanations for not removing illegal structures from parking spaces

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against the mayors of two Dhaka city corporations and Rajuk chairman for failing to implement its directives over removing unauthorised structures from the roadside car parking spaces.

In the rule, the HC asked Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh; Dhaka North City Corporation (BNCC) Mayor Md Atiqul Islam and Chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) Anisur Rahman, to explain in four weeks why the contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them for not complying with its order delivered in July 2019.

The bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton issued the rule following a contempt of court petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) bringing allegations against the two city mayors and the Rajuk chairman of noncomplying HC directives.

During the hearing of the petition, HRPB lawyer

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