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Record subsidy allocation not enough

Another Tk 27,360cr to be made available

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The record subsidy allocation of Tk 82,745 crore is set to be topped up with another Tk 27,360 crore in the revised budget in the face of demands from ministries even after the notable price hike of gas, electricity and fuel.

There has been additional subsidy demand of Tk 105,105 crore this fiscal year, shows finance ministry documents prepared for a high-level government meeting in December last year.

But the government is willing to allocate less than a third of the amount sought, according to finance ministry officials with knowledge of the situation.

"We will not entertain all demands," said one of the officials.

So the total subsidy allocation for this fiscal year will end up being a staggering Tk 110,105 crore -- at a time when the government committed to the

International Monetary Fund to bring down subsidy expenditure as part of the \$4.7 billion loan programme.

"We plan to contain spending on subsidies to safeguard priority spending," said Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder and Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in their letter of intent to the IMF.

In the original budget for this fiscal year, Tk 17,000 crore has been allocated to subsidise electricity generation. Another Tk 32,500 crore was demanded.

Some Tk 6,000 crore has been allocated for liquefied natural gas import in the budget. Petrobangla has sought another Tk 5,000 crore.

The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, which got no subsidy this fiscal year, has put in a demand for Tk 19,358 crore in fuel subsidies even after the record fuel price hike in August last year.

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Abdulalim Muaini lies under the rubble of his home next to the body of his wife Esra, in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake in Hatay, Turkey. Muaini was rescued yesterday after 48 hours of unimaginable horror. The bodies of his wife and two daughters were also recovered.

PHOTO: REUTERS

No scope to question polls under AL govt PM tells JS



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no one would get a chance to raise any question about elections under the Awami League government after the recent by-polls to six constituencies and the Rangpur City Corporation election.

Touting those elections as free and fair, Hasina, also the leader of the House, said Jatiya Party has won a

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HSC pass rate falls

Girls fare better than boys

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The rate of success in the HSC examinations dropped to 84.31 percent last year from a record 95.57 percent in 2021.

The dip in pass rate happened because the students had to sit for six more tests this time and they generally performed poorly in English, experts said.

Many students could not access online classes amid pandemic restrictions in 2020 and 2021 and that learning loss was reflected in the results, they added.

The 2021's record high pass rate was possible because the students took tests on an abridged syllabus on three subjects. The following year, they took 12 tests on six subjects.

The latest batch of HSC examinees got less time to prepare for the exams, according to education board officials.

The number of students achieving Grade Point Average 5 fell by 18,767.

All students passed in 1,330 institutions, down from 1,934 the previous year, while no students passed in 50 institutions, up from just 5.

Girls have outperformed boys in terms of pass rate. This has happened for 12 years in a row. Girls also did well in achieving the highest GPA for the second consecutive year.

After receiving the results at her office yesterday morning, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina advised boys to be more attentive to their studies.

Education Minister Dipu Moni unveiled the detailed results at a press conference in

the afternoon.

Last year, 9,69,338 students took the HSC exams between November 6 and December 13.

A total of 1,59,755 students got GPA 5 in 2022, down from 1,78,522 the previous year.

Prof Gazi Ahsan Kamal, chairman of

BOARD	PASS RATE	GPA-5
Dhaka	87.83%	62,421
Rajshahi	81.60%	21,855
Cumilla	90.72%	14,991
Jashore	83.95%	18,703
Chattogram	80.50%	12,670
Barishal	86.95%	7,386
Sylhet	81.40%	4,871
Dinajpur	79.08%	11,830
Mymensingh	80.32%	5,028
Pass Rate: 84.31% GPA-5: 1,59,755		
Girls 86.34% Girls 87,236		
Boys 82.19% Boys 72,519		

Mymensingh Education Board, said, "Many students of remote areas did not have full access to online education. Because of the Covid situation, they were out of the normal education process."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TURKEY, SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

Anger grows over rescue effort

Rescuers launch appeal for help

AFP, Antakya

Rescuers were still pulling survivors yesterday from the rubble of the earthquake that killed over 12,000 people in Turkey and Syria, even as rescue chances dwindled and victims clamoured for help.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday conceded "shortcomings" after criticism of his government's response to the massive earthquake.

The sprawling scale of the disaster that flattened thousands of buildings, trapping an unknown number of people, has swamped relief operations already hampered by freezing weather.

Survivors have been left to scramble for food and shelter -- and in some cases watch helplessly as their relatives called for rescue, and eventually went silent under the debris.

"My nephew, my sister-in-law and my sister-in-law's sister are in the ruins. They are trapped under

the ruins and there is no sign of life," said Semire Coban, a kindergarten teacher, in Turkey's Hatay.

"We can't reach them. We are trying to talk to them, but they are not responding... We are waiting for help. It has been 48 hours now," she said.

DEATH TOLL
12,049

Still, searchers kept pulling survivors from the debris three days after the 7.8 magnitude quake that is already one of the deadliest this century, even as the death toll continues to rise.

As criticism mounted online, Erdogan visited one of the hardest-hit spots, quake epicentre Kahramanmaraş, and acknowledged problems in the response.

"Of course, there are shortcomings. The conditions are clear to see. It's not possible to be ready for a disaster like this," he said.

Twitter was also not working on Turkish mobile networks, according to AFP journalists and NetBlocks web monitoring group.

The window for rescuers to find survivors is narrowing as the effort nears the 72-hour mark that disaster experts consider the most likely period to save lives.

Yet rescuers pulled children from under a collapsed building yesterday in the hard-hit Turkish province of Hatay, where whole stretches of towns have been levelled.

"All of a sudden we heard voices and thanks to the excavator... immediately we heard the voices of three people at the same time," said rescuer Alperen Cetinkaya.

"We are expecting more of them... the chances of getting

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RESCUE EFFORTS

Bangladesh sends team to Turkey
Observes state mourning today

STAR REPORT

A 46 member rescue team left Dhaka last night for Turkey to join the search and rescue operation in the aftermath of Monday's earthquake.

The team includes 24 members from the Bangladesh Army, 10 medical professionals, and 12 personnel from the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Lt Col Md Ruhul Amin, of the Bangladesh Army, will be in charge of the team, read a press release of the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The team will return to Dhaka on February 15, added the release.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has given instructions to Bangladesh Armed Forces to send a team to Turkey.

A 7.8 magnitude quake claimed over 11,700 lives till yesterday.

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DSA CASE

Poritosh gets 5 years in jail

Convicted of 'hurting religions sentiment thru Facebook post'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Hindu teenager was convicted yesterday under the Digital Security Act in a case filed after the violence that left an entire Hindu fishing village burned to the ground in Rangpur's Pirganj in October 2021.

Poritosh Sarkar, who was a 10th grader at the time, was sentenced to five years in prison for "hurting the religious sentiments" through a derogatory social media post.

However, as of 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.

This is the first conviction concerning the communal violence that left over 60 Hindu homes razed.

Not only has nobody else been convicted, but most of those accused in another case of attacking the village are out on bail, while the rest are on the run, according to the Pirganj Police Station.

Poritosh was sentenced under section 31(l) of the DSA which criminalises the publication of anything that "creates enmity, hatred or hostility among different

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Girls have outperformed boys in terms of getting the best grades and passing the last year's HSC exams. The photo of girls celebrating their stellar results was taken at Rajuk Uttara Model College in the capital after the results were published yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

LPG sellers indulging in profiteering

Says consumer rights body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of companies involved in importing liquefied petroleum gas and selling it to distributors are making profits illegally by selling at a rate higher than the one fixed by the energy regulator, found the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP).

"We found a chaotic situation in the LPG market," AHM Shafiquzzaman, director general of the Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection, told a meeting of the importers, dealers and retailers.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has fixed the price of the 12-kg LPG cylinder, the most common form of marketing the fuel, at Tk 1,498 for February.

"We found the 12-kg cylinder selling for

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12KG LPG CYLINDER
BERC-fixed price Tk 1,498
SELLING PRICE
Importers Tk 1,520-1,532
Dealers Tk 1,550-1,600
Retailers Tk 1,700-1,800

Belgium queen commends Bangladesh’s progress

Calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government is making all-out efforts to implement the agendas of the Sustainable Development Goals in the country.

The PM said this when the visiting Queen of Belgium, Mathilde Marie Christine, paid a courtesy call on her at her office yesterday.

Christine lauded the progress of Bangladesh, attained under the leadership of Hasina, in different sectors.

PM’s Speechwriter Md Nazrul Islam briefed reporters after the meeting.

The targets of the 2030 global agenda, SDGs, were aligned in the country’s current 8th five-year plan and the perspective plan 2021-2041, the PM told Christine, one of the UN SDG advocates for 2021-2023.

At the meeting, different other issues, including the Russia-Ukraine war, displaced Rohingyas, women empowerment, girl education, health, social safety net, disaster management and climate change, also came up for discussion.

Hasina said the Russia-Ukraine war created instability and high inflation throughout the world. “The people are suffering. This should immediately be stopped.”

The queen of Belgium appreciated the development of women and children particularly in education. She also said she was very happy to see the progress of Bangladesh.

Hasina informed the queen about her government’s steps for women empowerment in various sectors, including politics, defence, the judiciary and other fields.

She said women and children are mainly getting primary healthcare

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina welcomes Queen of Belgium Mathilde Marie Christine to her office in the capital yesterday. The queen, also a UN SDG advocate, paid a courtesy call on the PM on the last day of her three-day visit to Bangladesh.

PHOTO: PID

SCHOOLCHILDREN ACROSS THE GLOBE

One in 3 lacks access to drinking water: UN

AFP, Paris

One in three children worldwide does not have access to clean drinking water while at school, impacting their health and ability to learn, the United Nations said yesterday.

“Globally, almost one in three schools has no drinking water from an improved source,” the UN cultural agency Unesco said in a new report.

“One in three schools worldwide has no basic sanitation,” meaning a toilet and sewage system, the agency found,

while “almost half of schools do not have handwashing facilities with water and soap”.

Clean drinking water and handwashing facilities are key to protecting children against the likes of Covid-19, parasites, respiratory illnesses and diarrhea, said school health and nutrition expert Emilie Sidaner, who oversaw the report.

Schools without clean drinking water cannot prepare meals for students, contributing to child malnutrition, she told AFP.

Lack of running water and soap is also

a major challenge for girls who “cannot go to school during their period”, she added.

For example, one in four girls did not go to school in Bhutan during that time of the month, Sidaner said.

And one in five had to skip classes during menstruation in Ivory Coast, while one in seven missed school for the same reason in Burkina Faso.

“There needs to be more investment in water and sanitation as well as all other infrastructure that enables quality learning,” Sidaner said.

Modi hits back at opposition after Adani furore

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday defended his record after criticism of his close association with tycoon Gautam Adani, whose business empire has been rocked by corporate fraud allegations.

Investors wiped out around \$120 billion in value from Adani Group after claims of accounting fraud by short-seller US investment group Hindenburg Research last month.

Political opponents accuse Modi of abetting Adani’s rapid rise, allowing the billionaire to unfairly win contracts and avoid proper regulatory oversight.

Hanging body of SI recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The body of a sub-inspector was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his room at Bhaluka Model Police Station barracks in Mymensingh yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Homayun Kabir, 42, hailed from Tangail’s Madhupur upazila, said Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

“We are looking into the matter. Humayun might have committed suicide over family-related issues,” the OC added.

An unnatural death case was lodged with the police station and the body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police yesterday recovered the body of a woman in Jamalpur’s Melandah upazila.

The deceased was identified as Suraiya Begum, 56, wife of Azizul Haque of Jhawgar union in the same upazila.

Quoting family members of the deceased, Delower Hossain, OC of Melandah Police Station, said Suraiya went to sleep with her daughter on Tuesday night. She was found dead inside a cow shed at her home in the morning yesterday. Her throat was slit.

“According to Suraiya’s family, she had no enmity with anyone. We are yet to establish the motive for the killing,” the OC added.

The body was sent to Jamalpur Medical College for an autopsy. A case was filed with Melandah Police Station in connection with the incident in the afternoon.

Man run down by train in Karwan Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after being run down by a train in the capital’s Karwan Bazar on Tuesday night.

Shah Alam, 26, of Cumilla’s Monoharganj upazila, died on the spot after being hit by Lalmoni Express around 11:30pm, said Sekender Ali, sub-inspector of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

Police recovered the body from Shutki Patti area around 1:00am and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

No scope

FROM PAGE 1

seat in one of the by-polls. A BNP lawmaker who had resigned from parliament also got reelected as an independent candidate.

“These have proved that fair elections were held under the Awami League rule,” she said while participating in the discussion on the thanksgiving motion on the president’s speech in parliament.

Apart from the by-polls, the PM said the Rangpur mayoral election was also held in a free and fair manner.

“No one raised any complaints about the Rangpur mayoral election. Jatiya Party won that election defeating Awami League,” she said.

“I hope, after these [by-elections and mayoral election], no one will get a chance to raise any question about elections under the Awami League.”

In her speech, the premier said the government has built the Padma Bridge with its own funding, which was challenging. “This one decision has changed the image of Bangladesh internationally.”

She further said digital services were being spread to every corner of the country. People now can get access to land documents from home, while any bill can be paid online.

Thanking President Abdul Hamid for delivering speech in the first session of parliament this year, the PM said this was probably his last speech. “Because, according to our constitution, no one can become president for more than two consecutive terms.”

He has performed his duties successfully and efficiently as a “very lively president”, she said.

Hamid, who started his political life when he was a student, was also successful as Speaker and deputy speaker of the House, added the PM.

LNG TO BE IMPORTED FROM SPOT MARKET

Responding to a question from JP MP Fakhrul Imam, Hasina said the government has taken measures to import LNG from the spot market to meet the demand for gas in power generation during the current agricultural irrigation season and the coming Ramadan and summer season.

The PM’s answers to lawmakers’ queries were placed on the table during yesterday’s parliament sitting, with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The premier said the government has to import LNG from the spot market at a high price to meet the increased demand for gas, to keep production in the industrial sector uninterrupted, and to continue the production of captive power by different export-oriented factories.

“That’s why the government has decided to increase the price of gas used only in power, industry, captive power and commercial sectors, keeping the gas price for other consumer groups unchanged,” she said.

In response to another question from AL MP Kazim Uddin Ahmed, Hasina said the unprecedented success in increasing agricultural production in Bangladesh and attaining food self-sufficiency during the tenure of the AL government has attracted the attention of the world.

Record subsidy allocation not enough

FROM PAGE 1

Some Tk 16,000 crore has been given to subsidise fertilisers. But that fell way short of the requirement: another Tk 40,247 crore is needed.

The budget has a Tk 5,965 crore allocation for food subsidy, but there is a request for a further Tk 4,000 crore.

Similarly, Tk 11,300 crore has been given to run open-market sales by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, but another Tk 9,000 crore is needed.

The finance ministry is now scoping out the actual requirement for subsidies from the ministries as the prices of fuel, gas, fertilisers and commodities have stabilised in the global market and there have been gas and electricity price hikes in January.

“BPC is now making a profit on petroleum prices, but they have some subsidy arrears – they have requested that sum. But, we will not release it,” said another finance ministry official.

The letter of intent to the IMF suggests as much.

Effective steps are being taken to contain the budget pressures stemming from exceptionally high global energy prices, it said.

“As a result, we do not expect to provide budget support to BPC.”

Although budget subsidies for natural gas and electricity are expected to rise significantly in fiscal 2022-23, they should remain relatively contained at 0.9 percent of GDP.

However, increased subsidies to the order of 0.7 percent of GDP will be required for fertiliser and food this fiscal year amid large increases in import prices, the letter said.

“Going forward, we plan to eliminate all structural subsidies for petroleum products and, to this end, will move to a periodic formula-based price adjustment mechanism by the end of 2023. Furthermore, we will aim at adjusting electricity prices further to reduce subsidies,” it added.

In January, the electricity price was hiked twice by 5 percent each time and Nasrul Hamid, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, monthly incremental tariff hikes are to be expected from now on.

In the same month, the retail price of gas price was increased by 14.5 percent to 178.9 percent for industries, power plants and commercial establishments, who together account for 78 percent of gas use in Bangladesh.

The finance ministry officials said the subsidy for gas and electricity will be increased by Tk 17,000 crore. So in the revised budget, a total of Tk 40,000 crore will be allocated for the two overheads.

But from next fiscal year, subsidy for the two would be gradually pared back, they said.

For food and fertiliser, another Tk 8,000 crore will be made available.

Zahid Hussain, a former lead

economist of the World Bank’s Dhaka office, called for a reassessment of the government’s subsidy plan.

“We have to be clear about who we subsidise,” he said.

The government’s impending switch to an automated fuel pricing mechanism is a good plan.

“But it will have an impact on the lower income people. What is the government doing for them? This needs to be addressed simultaneously. The additional financial burden amid the high inflation is not possible for them to bear.”

Similarly, he called for the reassessment of fertiliser subsidy.

“If the intention of fertiliser subsidy is to attain national food security, then the general subsidy can never be lifted. If we want to subsidise just the poor and the marginal farmers and not the well-off ones, then subsidy needs to be targeted.”

He went on to suggest a card system to channel fertiliser subsidies to poor farmers.

Hussain also questioned the rationale for subsidising urea fertiliser, which is harmful to the environment.

Not just that, given the low prices, the other sectors benefit from the low prices of urea.

“Is it justifiable to subsidise all fertiliser? Fertiliser subsidy should be equitable and environmentally friendly.”

LPG sellers indulging in profiteering

FROM PAGE 1

Tk 1,600-Tk 1,800 in the market,” he said, adding that the companies were selling the bottle for Tk 1,520-1,532 at their mill gates.

DNCRP conducted at least 70 to 80 drives all over the country and found the cylinders of Bashundhara LP Gas, Beximco LPG, Laugls Gas Bangladesh, Omera LPG, Fresh LP Gas and Sena LPG were selling at inflated prices. These companies are the key players in the private sector-dominated LPG market.

The BERC-fixed rate is mandatory for LPG retailers. “People are not getting LPG at that rate,” Shafiquzzaman added.

At the meeting, representatives of LPG importers, operators, dealers and retailers blamed each other.

“Yes, we sold each cylinder at Tk 1,520... but we didn’t tell the retailers and distributors to sell the products at Tk 1,700 to 1,800. Where is the extra money going?” said Jakaria Jalal, representative of the market leader Bashundhara LP Gas.

The dollar rate, the diesel price, the gas price and the electricity price have increased, but BERC did not factor that into the formula even after the companies sent it several letters, he said, while urging BERC to hold a public hearing to refix the pricing formula.

In response, BERC Secretary Khalilur Rahman said they will hold

a public hearing within 15 days to a month if all the companies send documents to support their claim.

“We will not hold a hearing in response to your verbal statement.”

The retail price for LPG will be fixed based on the Saudi contract price, which rose to \$790 at the beginning of this month.

“But those consignments are yet to reach the port.”

This means all the available cylinders in the market were bought at the Saudi CP of \$599, which they were supposed to sell at Tk 1,232.

“But they hiked the price by themselves [before this month].”

The exchange rate, the diesel price and all other variables were readjusted in the pricing, Rahman said.

Two retailers from the capital’s Khigaon and Agargaon areas shared their experiences in the discussion. They said they need to purchase a 12kg cylinder at Tk 1,550 from different distributors.

“We have another Tk 100 expense at least per cylinder in shop rent, transport fee and staff’s salary. Then how can we sell the product at Tk 1,498?” asked a retailer.

A distributor said that his pick-up vans are waiting at the factory gate for four to five days but are still not getting the cylinders.

Dealers and distributors said that they have only Tk 37 to Tk 38 in profit margin as per the BERC pricing, which

is not enough as their cost is upwards of Tk 60-Tk 70 a cylinder.

The shipping cost and premium are higher than last year, said Md Mehedi Hasan, representative of Beximco.

“But it was not adjusted in the pricing formula.”

The shipping fare was \$95 per metric tonne earlier, which is now at \$120, he added.

“The LC [letter of credit opening] crisis is very deep,” said Mohammed Nurul Alam, the chief executive officer of Meghna Group’s Fresh LPG.

Ships are all set to come but due to the banks’ delay, the products are not coming for now.

“One-third of the month is gone and there is no product here. The crisis is absolute,” he added.

In response, Shafiquzzaman said: “You went to a non-transparent process. You are twisting the price on a small scale, but the impact on the consumers is two-three-fold. There is no scope to sell LPG at an inflated rate.” Shafiquzzaman said these companies should have been banned for what they have done, but that is not a solution. “LPG is being used all over the country and it is a basic need.”

Bangladesh’s annual LPG consumption is about 14.28 lakh metric tonnes, with households accounting for about 84 percent of the consumption.

Around 99 percent of the market is dominated by 29 private companies.

HSC pass rate falls

FROM PAGE 1

He added that the success rate varies from one board to another because of the question patterns.

Cumilla scored the best with a 90.72 percent pass rate, while Dinajpur was at the bottom with 79.08 percent.

“I heard that questions for English and higher maths in Mymensingh were more difficult. That’s why fewer students did well in these subjects,” Kamal said.

Dinajpur Education Board Chairman Prof Kamrul Islam said the students enrolled in colleges during the pandemic in 2020 and they had to attend online classes.

“Many students in my board did not have devices to attend the online classes. This can be the reason behind the decline,” Kamrul said.

Students of his boards performed poorly in English this year and that brought down the pass rate, he added.

Data from the education boards shows that 85 percent of the students passed in English in Dinajpur, 82 percent in Mymensingh, 95 in Cumilla, and 92 percent in Dhaka.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, more girls have passed

the HSC exams since 2010 when the total pass rate was 71.72 percent, and for girls, it was 71.88.

COMBINED RESULTS

Counting the Alim exams and HSC vocational tests, the combined pass

YEAR	PASS RATE	GIRLS PASS RATE%
2018	64.55	68.18
2019	71.85	74.84
2020	100*	100*
2021	95.57	96.67
2022	84.31	86.34

*No exams held due to Covid-19; results prepared on the basis of JSC, SSC results

rate was 85.96 percent in 2022, down from 2021’s 95.26 percent.

In 2022, about 93 percent of 90,266 alim examinees and 94.41 percent of 1.11 lakh vocational candidates came out successful.

A total of 9,423 madrasa students and 7,104 vocational students got GPA-5.

Ninety-seven percent of the 224 students who took the exams at eight foreign centres passed the exams.

Poritosh gets 5 years in jail

FROM PAGE 1

or destroys communal harmony”. Sessions Judge of the Rangpur Cyber Tribunal Abdul Mojib handed the verdict.

The verdict against Poritosh is also the first instance where the Rangpur Cyber Tribunal handed down a conviction, that too, against someone whose own cowshed was burnt down in the mayhem.

In addition to being the only one related to the communal violence being punished, Poritosh was put into solitary confinement for eight months while he underwent trial.

The prison authorities had told Poritosh’s lawyer and his family that he was being kept there “for his safety”. Solitary confinement that lasts longer than 15 consecutive days is recognised by the United Nations as “torture”.

Poritosh was denied bail 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, Judge Abdul Mojib sent him to jail again to await the verdict.

At the moment, not only is Poritosh the only one convicted, but also the only one behind bars.

The others accused for the

communal violence include the village mosque’s moazzem Rabiul Islam, who made the calls for people to gather; Saikat Mandal, the mastermind of the incident; and Ujjal Hasan, who had first taken a screenshot of the social media post allegedly made by Poritosh and spread it. They are all out on bail.

Also out on bail are 74 people accused of attacking and burning down the village, while 72 others are on the run.

“We will take the case to the High Court,” said Poritosh’s lawyer Shamim al Mamun.

Ismail Hossain, a sub-inspector of Pirganj Police Station, filed a case under the DSA accusing Paritosh Sarkar and he was taken into custody on October 19.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

A special flight, C-130J aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force, will operate on the Dhaka-Ankara-Dhaka route to carry the post-earthquake emergency relief and medical supplies to Turkey.

Meanwhile, the government has declared one day of state mourning for today marking the deaths in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

The Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.



Colleges around the country were seen abuzz with the celebrations of students who passed their HSC exam with flying colours. After results were published yesterday, the examinees were seen celebrating this milestone achievement of their academic lives with friends. The photos were taken from Dhaka's Viharunissa Noon College, Notre Dame College, Milestone College and Barishal's Amrita Lal Dey College.



What’s the point of spending public money: Quader

Castigates RHD for poor road construction, maintenance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday came down heavily on road engineers for poor construction works, which warrant maintenance within a year or two of the projects' completion.



The minister also castigated the authorities of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) for long delays to install 28 axle load control centres on highways to protect the roads from overloading.

The minister made the remarks during a contract signing ceremony of an RHD project at a city hotel.

RHD yesterday hired two China-Bangladesh joint ventures to expand a 35-kilometre portion of the Dhaka Sylhet Highway at a cost of Tk 2,318 crore.

"We are building four-lane roads but they need repair work after one or two years of their completion. If that is not done, what is the point of building roads and spending huge amounts of public money?" he asked, specifically mentioning the Dhaka Chattogram and Nabinagar-Chandra four-lane highways.

RHD engineers, however, blamed the road ministry's decision to allow overloading beyond the international standard.

MLM scam, in guise of an NGO

Rab arrests 11 over fraud, embezzlement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three years back, Mirza Abdul Quader founded "Global Human Rights and Environment Development Society", an NGO that was supposed to work on human-rights and climate-change issues. However, in the guise of that, he and his cohorts embezzled several millions from hundreds of clients, by turning it into an MLM (multi-level marketing) business.

Rab yesterday arrested 11 people, including Quader, 44, from the organisation's office at the capital's Badda, Rab-1 Commanding Officer Lt Col Abdullah Al Momen told reporters at Rab media-centre in Karwan Bazar.

Though he could not provide the exact embezzled amount, he mentioned that the arrestees targeted people from lower- to middle-income backgrounds and lured them with job offers with salaries ranging from Tk 10,000 to Tk 1,25,000 per month.

They used to take Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000 per person as "donation". Several hundred people who were cheated in the scam started filing complaints, and then Rab started its investigation.

In this course, they raided the fake NGO's office and arrested the 11.

Apart from Quader, the other arrestees are -- Mirza Nasir Uddin, 25; Mahfuzur Rahman, 50; AR Abdul Momen, 49; Mehdi Hasan, 25; Amjad Hossain, 34; Monjurul Hasan Khan, 35; Abdul Barik, 38; Ruhul Amin, 25; Munni, 30; and Nilufa Islam Nipa, 34.

Rab seized four computers, four laptops, 17 mobile phones, Tk 97,380 in cash and several cheque books, vouchers, contracts, pads and seals of various banks from their office.

Momen said Quader founded the organisation in 2020.

They told the targets that after paying Tk 30,000 to become a donor member, their entry-level salary would be Tk 10,000. After becoming a donor member, they were instructed to bring new members. The condition was that if they failed to do so, they would not be paid.

JONNY’S CUSTODIAL DEATH

‘Still deprived of final justice’

Family yet to receive compensation; case may take long time to be disposed of

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

It's been nine years since the brutal custodial torture and death of Ishiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment-waste trader from the capital's Mirpur, and yet, his family is still waiting for ultimate justice.

Jonny's family members, who have been suffering emotionally and financially, are yet to get any compensation from the convicted accused. Twenty-eight months ago, the trial court directed them to give Tk 6 lakh, but the High Court has issued a stay order to this effect.

It is still uncertain when the HC will finally dispose of the convicts' appeals, as their lawyers are visibly not so sincere about moving the appeals and are rather trying to secure bail for them.

A group of 25 to 26 police officers -- including then sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station Zahidur Rahman -- raided a house during a wedding ceremony in Pallabi's Irani camp area and picked up Jonny, who was 28 years old, and his brother Imtiaz Hossain Rocky on February 8, 2014.

Police informants Sumon and Russell called police after Jonny slapped Sumon for stalking and harassing women at the programme. Police brutally tortured the brothers at the station, according to the case statement.

After Jonny fell sick the next day, he was admitted to a local clinic. Later, he was transferred to Suhrawardy Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

On August 8, 2014, Rocky filed a case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka in connection with the death of his brother.

On September 9, 2020, a Dhaka court sentenced three former officers of Pallabi Police Station to life imprisonment and two others to seven years in jail.

The three officers are former sub-inspector Zahidur, and



Neither the government nor police has given us any financial assistance. I can't work regularly, as I become sick very often due to the torture. We now want the High Court to settle the case quickly and give the verdict.

IMTIAZ HOSSAIN ROCKY
Jonny's brother

Don't hold programmes on weekdays

DMP chief urges BNP ahead of party's march today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq yesterday requested BNP not to hold any programme on weekdays as it leads to city dwellers suffering.

He said the party can hold programmes on big fields, instead of occupying roads.

Faruq made this call while briefing reporters at Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) headquarters about security measures taken centring the BNP march today.

BNP will hold the march from Old Dhaka to Jatiya Press Club via their central party office. The party informed the DMP boss about it on Tuesday.

Alongside development work, these political programmes lead to traffic jams if they are held on weekdays, he said.

In response to a query about whether he requested BNP not to hold the march, Faruq said, "I have requested BNP not to cause suffering. We are discouraging it. We have large grounds; all these programmes can be arranged on holidays."

Asked whether BNP has received permission, he said, "We will not obstruct. However, if they violate law and order and commit vandalism or arson, action will be taken against them as per law."

Fakhrul, Abbas get permanent bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted permanent bail to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and standing committee member Mirza Abbas in a case filed over last year's December 7 clash between police and BNP men in Nayapaltan.

The HC bench of Justice Md Salim and Justice Md Riaz Uddin Khan delivered the verdict holding the final hearing on a bail petition filed by them.

On the same petition, the HC on January 3 granted six-month ad interim bail to them.

The case was filed with Paltan Model Police Station on December 8 last year, a day after the clash broke out in front of BNP's Nayapaltan office. The clash left one person dead and many injured.



Sarah Cooke new British envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sarah Cooke has been appointed new British high commissioner to Bangladesh in succession to Robert Chatterton Dickson.

Cooke will take up her appointment during April/May, according to a press release of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Sarah Catherine Cooke is now head of South East Asia Department of FCDO where she has been working since 2020.

She was British high commissioner to Dar es Salaam, head of the Department of International Development in Bangladesh (DFID); DFID Head of Growth and Resilience Department.

She also worked in different capacities in UK Foreign and Commonwealth, DFID, ministries of trade and commerce in the UK, Guyana, Solomon Islands. Sarah Cooke also worked as economic consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers.



AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA

Readers hungry for new books

DIPAN NANDY

Although the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela is yet to go in full bloom, bookworms are already scouting the stalls looking for new reading material.

Some fair attendees are beginning their hunt by collecting catalogues of new books from different publication houses. Looking at all the lists would help them make their decision on what to buy this year, they said.

With new books making their entrance every day. Since the opening of the fair at 3:00pm, the information centre ceaselessly announces the advent of new titles.

Arrangements have been made for authors to interact with the readers directly, via the "Lekhok Bolchhi" stage. On another stage, new books are being unveiled every day. With each passing day, the fair is getting more happening, and so are the sales.

Yesterday at 4:00pm, a discussion programme, titled "Birth Centenary Tribute: Ustad Ali Akbar Khan", was announced to be held on the main stage of the fair located in its Bangla Academy venue.

In that programme, Saim Rana presented the main essay, where he said the reason behind the worldwide fame of Ustad Ali Akbar Khan is his unique style of playing and creativity. In August 1971, Ustad Ali Akbar performed at Madison Square Garden in the "Concert for Bangladesh", organised by famous Beatle George Harrison to the



With new titles hitting the shelves every day, the premises of Ekushey Boi Mela are seeing more and more visitors, who are in search of the books worthy of taking home. This photo was taken in Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

HC allows Adarsha's conditional participation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Bangla Academy to immediately allow publishing house Adarsha Prokashoni to participate in the ongoing Amar Ekushey Boi Mela.

However, the court ordered Adarsha Prokashoni not to sell or display three books, about which Bangla Academy raised objections, at its stall in the Boi Mela.

Three books are: "Mediocrity Sandhane" written by Faham Abdus

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 9

Fajr

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

Sultan Ara Khan's death anniv today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fifth death anniversary of Sultan Ara Khan, wife of Shafiul Alam Khan, a retired employee of Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd in Chattogram, will be observed with due manner today.

Sultan Ara passed away at a hospital in Dhaka on February 9 in 2018.

A milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held today at Khurshid and Associates, chamber of her eldest son senior lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan, at 204 Bijoynagar in Dhaka.

All have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Still deprived of final justice

FROM PAGE 3

former assistant sub-inspectors Qamruzzaman Mintu and Rashedul Islam. The two other convicts are Sumon and Russell.

Besides, the trial court asked each of the officers to pay Tk 2 lakh to the complainant as compensation.

This was first verdict under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

Convicted Mintu has been on the run, and Russell, who had been absconding during the delivery of the trial court's judgement, later on surrendered to the lower court and then secured bail from the HC on November 27, 2022 in this case, Rocky's lawyer Md Rezaul

Karim told The Daily Star. Convicted Zahidur, Rashedul, Sumon and Russell filed four separate appeals with the HC challenging their conviction and sentences.

The HC admitted their appeals for hearing, and stayed the trial court's direction for compensation, lawyer Rezaul Karim said, adding that the convicts are trying to get bail from the HC.

He said if the HC grants bail to the convicts, they will get released from jail and then their lawyers will not move their pending appeals for final disposal.

"This is the sole case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, as people in general don't

dare lodge cases against law enforcers for torture and death in custody," said Rezaul.

Contacted, Deputy Attorney General Sujit Chatterjee Bappi told The Daily Star that a long period may be needed for the HC to dispose of the appeals, as they have not papered books of the appeals through lawyers.

A paper book, which contains all the details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and other documents, is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of an appeal in such a case, he added.

Zahidur's lawyer Kondaker Gulzar Hossain told this correspondent that a fabricated case has

been filed against his client centring Jonny's death, which is a very sensational incident.

"We will move the appeal before the High Court after the sensation is over," he added.

Rocky told The Daily Star, "We're still deprived of final justice. We've almost become destitute fighting the long legal battle. I have almost become physically disabled, as police tortured my brother and I on February 8, 2014."

"Neither the government nor police has given us any financial assistance. I can't work regularly, as I become sick very often due to the torture. We now want the High Court to settle the case quickly and give the verdict," he added.

MLM scam, in guise

FROM PAGE 3

Later, he expanded his business using the "MLM" model.

They told the targets that after paying Tk 30,000 to become a donor member, their entry-level salary would be Tk 10,000. The victims were assigned the job to find cases of child marriage and sand extraction from rivers in their areas and report the incidents to the organisation.

After becoming a donor member by paying Tk 30,000, they were instructed to bring new members. The condition was that if they failed to do so, they would not be paid.

The organisation made sure that this condition would not be disclosed to their targets before they made their donation to the organisation. That was the trick they played to cheat and embezzle money from their targets, said Momen.

HC allows Adarsha's

FROM PAGE 3

Salam; "Unnayan Bivram" written by Zia Hasan and "Aprotiroddho Unnayaner Ovabanio Kothamala" written by Foyez Ahmed Tayeb.

The court issued a rule asking Bangla Academy and the government to explain why the academy's decision not to allow Adarsha Prokashoni to run its stall in Boi Mela should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir

Lytton issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Adarsha Prokashoni's proprietor Md Mahbubur Rahman.

Mahabub Rahman told The Daily Star, "With due respect to the High Court order, we will not display or sell those three books at the Boi Mela."

AKM Muzahidul Islam, member secretary of book fair management committee, said, "I'm yet to receive the order. After receiving it, we will hold a meeting to take a decision."

Readers hungry

FROM PAGE 3

millions of war-ridden refugees of the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

"Ali Akbar Khan conquered the whole world with his music, to the point that his music became synonymous with magic," said Sheikh Sadi Khan, the chair of the discussion.

Meanwhile, on the authors' stage, Habib Anisur Rahman, Gazi Azizur Rahman, Rasel

Raihan and Ismat Shilpi talked to the readers about their new books.

The evening brought the initiation of a cultural event on the main stage, filled with the performances of recitation artists and singers.

The unveiling ceremony of Suraiya Parveen's poem collection "Meghder Shaishab" (Sahitya Koth), was held at Suhrawardy Uddan. 114 new books were published yesterday.

What's the point

FROM PAGE 3

They said at present, two-axle vehicles (six wheels) can carry a maximum of 22 tonnes, three-axle vehicles (10 wheels) a maximum of 30 tonnes and four-axle (14 wheels) a maximum of 44 tonnes all over the country.

However, as per the global standards, the limits are 15.5, 22 and 32 tonnes respectively, they said.

The authorities imposed fines for overloading in August 2016 for the first time. However, it was forced to increase the maximum weight limit of goods-laden vehicles on November 2017 due to pressure from transport associations.

Quader said a project was taken to install 28

load control centres on the highways. "But nobody knows when the work will start," Quader said.

The minister also said smart roads are needed to build a smart Bangladesh.

In September 2019, the government took the project to set up 28 axle load control centres at 21 points across the country at a cost of Tk 1,630.28 crore. The project's original deadline was set in June last year.

He also questioned the purpose of a lengthy contract signing ceremony, terming it a waste of time and money. "We have a lot to do. Speeches will not get them done," said Quader, during his 14-minute speech.

BGIC
বাংলাদেশ জেনারেল ইনসিওরেন্স কোং লিমিটেড
Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd.
Head office, 42, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Job Opportunity

BGIC is seeking a Communication Officer, male/female, who has good skill in English & Bangla, Computer use, taking dictation and transcription. Must be capable of noting, drafting memos/letters and corresponding.

Salary: Negotiable.

If you are interested please submit your CV to our HR Department along with attested copies of all educational certificates, NID and 3 copies of passport size photographs by **28/02/2023**.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested **Technical organization to organize training courses on 'Unemployment Insurance' and assist South-South collaboration between institutions in Bangladesh and Indonesia**. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under **Procurement Notices** at https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS_367536/lang--en/index.htm

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Wednesday, March 08, 2023, by 04:30 PM (BST time)**.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Pubali Bank Limited, the largest online commercial Bank in Bangladesh, is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate of the following tender but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Quotation for Rates of Plain Papers for A4 size & B4 size / Legal, A3 size Plain Papers & Note Sheets for different Divisions in Head Office of our Bank.**
- Civil,, Electrical & Networking works at proposed premises (3rd & 5th Floor) of our Regional Office, Khulna.**
- Enlistment for Civil, Electrical, Air-cooler and vehicles repairing & maintenance works at Pubali Bank Limited.**

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by **16 February, 2023** for serial no.1 & 2 and by **28 February, 2023** for serial no.3 duly filled up all requirements and submit their offer by **19 February, 2023** for serial no.1 & 2 and by **01 March, 2023** for serial no.3 (before 11.00 AM). Tender will be opened on **19 February, 2023** for serial no.1 & 2 and **01 March, 2023** for serial no.3 at 11.30 A.M.

Dilip Kumar Paul
General Manager & Division Head

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড | **Establishment & General Services Division**
PUBALI BANK LIMITED | Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

TENDER NOTICE

Printing and Supplying of Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) Security Cheque Books (on CBS-1 Paper) with MICR Encoding and Text Personalization for the year 2023

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Prime Bank Limited for printing and supplying of MICR Security Cheque Books (on CBS-1 Paper) with MICR Encoding and Text Personalization from the bona fides security printing press/firms for the year 2023.

- Interested bidder(s) must have the following eligibilities:
 - At least 5 (five) years' relevant experience in this line of business.
 - Interested bidders must have the infrastructure of MICR Encoding job with efficient technical team to execute the work within the stipulated time.
 - Has/ Have executed work order of minimum Tk30.00 (thirty) lac in a single transaction.
- Interested bidders, who satisfy the above-mentioned qualifications, may collect the Tender Document from February 09, 2023 to March 13, 2023 (both days inclusive) during office hours (10:00 am to 3:00 pm) on payment of Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka Five Thousand) only (non-refundable) in the form of payment order issued from any scheduled Bank favoring "Prime Bank Limited" from the following office of the Bank:
 - Head office, Facility Management Division, Facilities Tower (6th Floor), Kha-199/2, MaddhyaBadda, Pragati Sarani, Dhaka-1212
- No tender schedule/documents will be sold after last date of sale as mentioned above.
- The interested bidders shall have to attend a pre-bid meeting through digital platform at 11:30 am on March 02, 2023 (Thursday).
- Tender must be submitted in sealed envelope with relevant papers at the Tender Box kept at the office mentioned above from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on March 13, 2023 and be clearly marked as "Tender for Printing and Supplying of MICR Cheque Books with MICR Encoding and Text Personalization" on the top of the envelope. Tender will be opened at 03:30 pm on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representatives, who may like to attend.
- Earnest money (refundable) equivalent to 2% of the quoted value of works in the form of pay order/Bank guarantee in favor of PRIME BANK LIMITED issued by any bank shall have to be furnished along with each tender document without which the tender will be rejected outright.
- Prime Bank reserves right to accept, modify or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- The Bank shall not be bound or under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation. For detail information you may communicate with the below mentioned address.

For any further information please contact Mr. Sahadev Mondal, Cell # 01713277697

Vice President & Head
Facility Management Division

Facilities Tower (6th Floor), Kha-199/2
Maddhya Badda, Pragati Sarani, Dhaka-1212
www.primebank.com.bd

Prime Bank

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Satkhira
Phone No. 024777-41041
Fax No. 024777-41042
E-mail: eesat@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.8700.469.07.001.20-1335 Date: 06-02-23

e-Tender Notice

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

SL. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Tender last selling date & time
01	785083	e-GP/19/EE/ SatRD/2022-23	Protective work by Bullah Palisiding and embankment repairing at Ch: 4+330 to 4+380=50m and 225.00m HBB at 11th (P) & 19th(P) km of Satkhira-Shakipur-Kailgonj Road (Z-7602) under Road Division Satkhira, during the year 2022-2023.	19-Feb-2023 16:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 16:00 on 19-Feb-2023 as mentioned above.

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

Md. Azharul Islam
ID No. 602306
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Satkhira

GD-221

বাংলাদেশ ট্যুরিজম বোর্ড
(জাতীয় পর্যটন সংস্থা)
লেভেল ৯ ও ১০, পর্যটন ভবন, প্লট-ই-৫ সি/১, পশ্চিম আগারগাঁও
শেরে বাংলা নগর প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৭
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পর্যটন মহাপরিকল্পনার বিষয়ে মতামত প্রদান

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সদয় অবগতি জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে বাংলাদেশ ট্যুরিজম বোর্ড কর্তৃক বাংলাদেশের পর্যটন মহাপরিকল্পনার খসড়া প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের নিকট প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। এর সাথে রয়েছে ট্যুরিজম ডাটা ইনভেন্টরী, পর্যটন ডেস্টিনেশন উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা এবং বিপণন পরিকল্পনা। বিস্তারিত পরিকল্পনার খসড়া বাংলাদেশ ট্যুরিজম বোর্ডের প্রয়েবসাইটে আপলোড করা হয়েছে এবং রিভিউ/মতামত প্রদানের জন্য সকলের জন্য উন্মুক্ত করা হয়েছে। নিম্নোক্ত লিংক অথবা কিউআরকোড ব্যবহার করে পর্যটন মহাপরিকল্পনা ডাউনলোড এবং রিভিউ/মতামত প্রদান করা যাবে।

০২। খসড়া পর্যটন মহাপরিকল্পনার বিষয়ে আপনার/আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠানের কোন মতামত/সুপারিশ থাকলে তা নিম্নোক্ত গুগল ফরমের মাধ্যমে অথবা নিম্নবর্ণিত ইমেইলে প্রদান করা যাবে।

ডাউনলোডের লিংকঃ https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fng2l0CzGMK1nuLzxBDFQpS5zFJoALaP?usp=share_link

মতামত প্রেরণের লিংকঃ <https://forms.gle/VPIFU8XppPVrUyTRA>

ই-মেইলঃ jahidanik@gmail.com

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মোবাইলঃ ০১৮ ৩৩৬৭ ৬৭৭৭
ই-মেইলঃ saiful15701@yahoo.com

ডাউনলোডের লিংক
লিডিং-১২২

মতামতের লিংক

TEJGAON INDUSTRIAL AREA
HC seeks list of 435
plot owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted a list of the owners of 435 plots in Tejgaon industrial area along with the details of present status of the plots including their photographs.

During hearing of a 11-year-old suo-muto (voluntary) rule, the HC bench of Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan ordered the ministry of housing and public works to submit the list before it by March 15. The bench also asked the ministry to produce a layout plan and the relevant land acquisition case documents. The court fixed March 15 for resuming further hearing of the rule.

Assistant Attorney General Mohammad Nazrul Islam Khandaker submitted a report from the housing and public works ministry to the HC bench, saying that a total of 435 plots have been allocated in the area since 1950.

Lawyer Manzill Murshid appeared for Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, which became an intervener of this case in 2019, to assist the court for its disposal.

Following a report published on Bangla daily Samakal on March 24, 2010, another HC bench on May 9, 2012 issued a rule upon the authorities to explain why the allocation of the plots should not be cancelled. According to the report, the BNP-led four-party alliance government allocated the plots to some former BNP state ministers and journalists in 2006 by violating a Rajuk plan of 1994.

‘Bangladeshis key
drivers of development’

Says Queen Mathilde, concludes her 3-day visit

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary General's SDG Advocate and Belgian Queen Mathilde yesterday concluded her three-day visit to Bangladesh, highlighting the importance of building resilient communities and leaving no one behind.

She mentioned that the people of Bangladesh are the main drivers of the country's development and that it is critical to build inclusive societies in the aftermath of the pandemic, recent global economic volatility and the devastating floods that hit the country in June last year.

In a statement yesterday, UN Resident Coordinator of Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis said the Queen's visit highlighted once again that progress towards the SDGs needs to be accelerated.

She added that the UN and its partners will spare no effort to support Bangladesh in reaching the SDGs by 2030.

During her visit, Queen Mathilde saw UN's programmatic work covering several sustainable development goals, including climate action, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, and quality education.

She visited a garment factory in Narayanganj, a Unicef ability-based accelerated learning centre in Dhaka, and a water-treatment plant facility in Khulna's Sutarkhali union.

The Queen also went to Cox's Bazar to see the ongoing humanitarian response for the Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar, where she met with Rohingya women, men, and youths, and volunteers working in the camps. She also visited various facilities supported by the UNHCR and its partners.

In a statement, UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh Johannes van der Klaauw said the Queen's visit comes as the Rohingya crisis is well into its sixth year and against the backdrop of a serious decline in available funding.



It is critical to build inclusive societies in the aftermath of the pandemic and the recent global economic volatility.


HILL CUTTING
Take action against
those involved: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take legal action against the persons responsible for cutting down hills and hillocks in Moulvibazar's Kulaura and Habiganj's Dinarpur area.

The DCs of Moulvibazar and Habiganj and director concerned of the DoE have been asked to submit reports to the HC in four weeks after complying with the order.

The bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Ahmed Sohel issued the order following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, seeking necessary orders.



Rupali Bank Ltd.
Procurement Division
Head Office

Sadharan Bima Tower, (Level-7) 37/A, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000
Telephone: +880247121284; E-mail: ho-procurement@rupalibank.org
Website: www.rupalibank.org

Corrigendum Tender Notice
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)	Tender security (refundable)	Tender/ proposal opening date & time
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.	20.02.2023 up to 4.00pm	BDT 3,000.00 (Tk three thousand only)	Tk 3,00,000.00 (Tk three lac only)	22.02.2023 Time: 3:15pm

Note: Details in Rupali Bank Limited website: rupalibank.org/Tender/

Md. Ismail Hossain Sheikh
General Manager
Rupali Bank Ltd.
Procurement Division
Head Office, 5th Floor
34, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

GD-126

ASSAULT ON NAVY OFFICER
Erfan Salim, four
others indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim's son Mohammad Erfan Salim and four others in a case filed over the assault and attempted murder of a navy officer in October 2020.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Asaduzzaman Nur passed the order.

The magistrate issued an arrest warrant against Erfan, who was absent during the hearing.

The court also set March 6 for starting trial.

The four other accused are Erfan's bodyguard Zahidul Mollah, chauffeur Mizanur Rahman, assistant Qazi Ripon, and Madina Group's protocol officer AB Siddique Dipu.

According to the case filed by navy officer Wasif Ahmad Khan, he and his wife were verbally abused and assaulted by several SUV passengers at Dhanmondi on October 25, 2020, following a dispute after the vehicle rear-ended Wasif's motorcycle.

LIVER TRANSPLANT AT BSMMU
Bogura's Monetzar
returns home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monetzar Rahman, 53, of Bogura returned home yesterday after a life-saving liver transplant at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Monetzar's sister Shamima Akter, 43, donated 60 percent of her liver last month to save her brother while the cost of surgery was borne by the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund.

The Department of Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Liver Transplant Surgery of BSMMU confirmed the information yesterday morning.

Monetzar was admitted to BSMMU a few months ago. BSMMU surgeons performed the 15-hour-long complex surgery on January 1 supported by the Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and surgeons from India.

This is one of the only seven liver transplant surgeries performed in this country so far. The liver donor will gradually regenerate the liver. Earlier last month, donor Shamima was sent home.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board
Expansion of Rubber Production of Rubber Garden Management Unit and Improve social benefits of the beneficiaries Project
Rangamati
www.chtdb.gov.bd

Memo No: 29.31.0000.019.07.012.23-130 Date : 06-02-2023

e-Tender Notice
(Limited Tendering Method)


This is to notify all concerned that the following tender has been published through e-GP portal.

Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of works	Publishing & Closing Date
ID No: 782400 & 29.31.0000.019.07.008.22-11	Sinking of 02 Nos deep tube-well at different Rubber Plantation Project village of Bandarban District under Expansion of Rubber Production of Rubber Garden Management Unit and Improve social benefits of the beneficiaries Project CHTDB, Rangamati.	06-February-2023 09.00 & 23-February-2023 16.00

The Interested Firms/persons may visit the web site: (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details of the Tender.

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.

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



(Md. Jashim Uddin)
Deputy Secretary
Member Planning &
Project Director
Phone: 02333372237
mp@chtdb.gov.bd

GD-219

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মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সন্তোষ, টাঙ্গাইল-১৯০২

সূত্রঃ মডাভিপ্রবিপিআরও/বিজ্ঞাপন প্রেরণ আদেশ-১৩/২০০৪

তারিখঃ ২৫ মার্চ ১৪২৯
৮ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩



তৃতীয় সমাবর্তন-২০২৩
সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মাওলানা ভাসানী বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে আগামী ০৫ মার্চ ২০২৩ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য তৃতীয় সমাবর্তন উপলক্ষে সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী আরোও কিছু বিভাগের শিক্ষার্থীদের সমাবর্তনে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য রেজিস্ট্রেশন করার সুযোগ দেয়া হয়েছে। ইতোপূর্বে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লেখিত বিভাগ ও পাসের সন ছাড়াও যে সকল বিভাগের শিক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবেন সে সকল বিভাগ ও পাসের সাল নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলোঃ

২০১৩ (শুধুমাত্র এফটিএনএস বিভাগ), ২০১৪ (এফটিএনএস ও আইসিটি বিভাগ), ২০১৫ (সিএসই, আইসিটি, ইএসআরএম, সিপিএস, বিজিই, এফটিএনএস, গণিত, পরিসংখ্যান, রসায়ন, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও বিজ্ঞানস এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন বিভাগ), ২০১৬ (ইএসআরএম, সিপিএস, বিজিই, এফটিএনএস, গণিত, পরিসংখ্যান, রসায়ন, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও বিজ্ঞানস এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন বিভাগ), ২০১৭ ((ইএসআরএম, সিপিএস, বিজিই, এফটিএনএস, গণিত, পরিসংখ্যান, রসায়ন, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, বিজ্ঞানস এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন ও অর্থনীতি বিভাগ), ২০১৮ (ইএসআরএম, সিপিএস, বিজিই, এফটিএনএস, বিএমবি, গণিত, পরিসংখ্যান, রসায়ন, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, বিজ্ঞানস এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন ও অর্থনীতি বিভাগ), ২০১৯ (ইএসআরএম, সিপিএস, বিজিই, এফটিএনএস (শুধুমাত্র থিসিস গ্রুপ), বিএমবি (শুধুমাত্র থিসিস গ্রুপ), হিসাববিজ্ঞান, ব্যবস্থাপনা ও অর্থনীতি বিভাগ) এবং ২০২০ (হিসাববিজ্ঞান, ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ইংরেজি বিভাগ) সালের এমএস/এমএসসি/এমএসসি(ইঞ্জি.)/এম ইঞ্জি./এমবিএ/এমএসএস/এমএ ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্তগণ।

বিদ্রষ্ট পূর্বে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে আবেদনের নিয়মাবলি ও অন্যান্য শর্তাদি অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

যোগাযোগ সমাবর্তন সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রয়োজনে সকাল ০৯:০০টা থেকে বিকাল ০৪:০০টা পর্যন্ত সমাবর্তন রেজিস্ট্রেশন উপ-কমিটির অফিসে অধ্যাপক ড. সাজ্জাদ গুয়াহাটী (মোবাইল ফোন নম্বর-০১৫১১৭২৫৫২৩)/সদস্য-সচিব অধ্যাপক ড. মনির মোশেদ (মোবাইল ফোন নম্বর-০১৮১৭৪২৯২৬০)/প্রচার, জনসংযোগ ও টেকনিক্যাল উপ-কমিটির সদস্য-সচিব অধ্যাপক ড. মোঃ ফজলুল করিম (মোবাইল ফোন নম্বর-০১৭২৯০৩৪১৬৫) এবং সার্টিফিকেট উপ-কমিটির সদস্য-সচিব ড. মোঃ মোস্তাফিজুর রহমান (মোবাইল ফোন নম্বর-০১৫৩৫১৮৯৬৪১)-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। এছাড়াও সমাবর্তন সম্পর্কিত হালনাগাদ তথ্যাদি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে নিয়মিতভাবে প্রকাশ করা হবে।

ড. মোহাম্মদ হোসেন ইসলাম
রেজিস্ট্রার
টেলিফোনঃ ০২৯৯৭৭৫৩০২২

জিডি-২১৫

জীবনের জন্য বিজ্ঞান
“শেখ হাসিনার দর্শন, সব মানুষের উন্নয়ন”



বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (বিসিএসআইআর)
Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR)
বিসিএসআইআর রাজশাহী গবেষণাগার, রাজশাহী

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Ref No. 39.02.8140.075.40.092.23 Date: 08-02-2023
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following Tender ID:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of tender	Last date and time for tender selling	Last date and time for tender closing	Last date and time for tender opening
01.	787486	Renovation (Civil Work) Work of two units of first floor A-Type Building (used as a general guest house) in the Residential Staff Quarter in BCSIR Rajshahi Laboratories.	23-Feb-2023 12:00	23-Feb-2023 15:30	23-Feb-2023 15:30
02.	787487	Renovation (Civil work), RCC Table, Tiles, Painting, Thai Aluminum, etc. with some Electrical and Power Connection Works of Room No. 303 (2nd Floor) in Oils, Fats and Waxes Research Division & Renovation (Civil Work) of Room No. 306 (2nd Floor) in Fiber and Polymer Research Division in the Campus of BCSIR Rajshahi Laboratories.	23-Feb-2023 12:00	23-Feb-2023 16:00	23-Feb-2023 16:00

These are online tenders, 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.


Dr. Md. Salim Khan
Director (In-Charge)
BCSIR Rajshahi Laboratories

GD-223

Ferdous, Prosenjit reunite after seven years

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Once upon a time, Dhallywood superstar Ferdous was a regular face in the Bengali cinema scene of Kolkata. Between 1998 and 2003, he worked in a record number of films in West Bengal. During those days when the *Hothat Brishhti* star was travelling between Dhaka and Kolkata, he developed a wonderful friendship with the Tollywood megastar, Prosenjit Chatterjee. Over the years, the bond of their friendship grew stronger. However, in recent years, Ferdous was unable to travel or work in Kolkata due to some unprecedented issues. Now, after seven-long-years, Ferdous and Prosenjit met once again in the city of Kolkata. Prosenjit was busy shooting a new film in the city. Upon receiving this news, Ferdous rushed to meet his old friend. As soon as the two met, they embraced each other like long lost friends who had found each other again. Afterwards, the two chatted for over an hour. They talked about the cinema of Bangladesh, Kolkata and India. They also spoke about the advent of OTT, and how it had changed the industry. Apart from this, they also discussed their families, catching up on how each other's lives had been since



they last met. Speaking to The Daily Star from Kolkata, Ferdous said, "I met Bumba *da* after such a long time. Almost seven years! He hasn't changed one bit. As always, he embraced me with sincerity and love. I've always been fascinated by how he treats me. Even after so many years, I have been blown away by how wonderful he is." The actor also added, "Bumba *da* loves me

very much. He has a very big heart and even as a person, he is on another level." A long time back, Ferdous and Prosenjit worked together on films. In total, the two of them have worked in two films together. One was called *Pratihinsha* and the other was named *Phool aar Pathor*. Ferdous said, "At one time, I was very busy working in both Kolkata and Dhaka. At times, I would spend 15 days of a month shooting in Kolkata, and the other 15 days would be spent shooting in Bangladesh. So, even though me and Bumba *da* only worked in two films together, our relationship is very deep and intimate." When asked how Prosenjit is as an artiste, Ferdous answered, "Everyone knows how big of an artiste Bumba *da* is. He is a very talented actor and I am a big fan of his work."

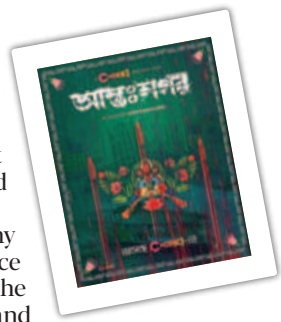


Jaya Ahsan, Ferdous and Prosenjit Chatterjee in Singapore for Darpon film festival. PHOTOS: COLLECTED

During their recent chat, Prosenjit shared with Ferdous that he wants to visit Dhaka. Talking about this, Ferdous said, "Bumba *da* follows all of the news about the cinema scene in Dhaka. He expressed his desire to come visit Dhaka and I will be overjoyed if he comes to my side of Bengal." As the two were catching up, actor Jeet also came up to them. One by one, many others also joined in. Ferdous mentioned that Prosenjit had apparently come to reunite with Ferdous after just finishing a scene for the film. On the same visit, Ferdous also met Bidya Sinha Mim and her mother in Kolkata. Ferdous said, "It was great to meet Mim and her mother suddenly. It was a nice surprise."



Goutam Koiri's 'Antonogor' features star-studded cast



The city itself is witness to many stories that often reflect love and sometimes agony. Inspired by the many emotions we experience and live, along with the internal turmoil and agony experienced by people, Goutam Koiri is set to tell a story that encapsulates all of the above, in his upcoming Chorki original film, *Antonogor*. The script of the project has also been written by Koiri, and follows a star-studded cast of Runa Khan, Shamol Mawla, Sabnam Faria, and Shohel Mondol, among others. Shooting for *Antonogor* has recently been completed. The project has been shot in Gouripur and Old Dhaka, among other locations. The release date is yet to be declared.

Tickets sold out for Beyoncé's upcoming 'Renaissance' world tour



On Tuesday, it was reported that tickets for Beyoncé's upcoming *Renaissance* world-tour has been sold out. According to the concert management group Live Nation, a second concert was added in Stockholm due to high demand. The tour—which is scheduled to include stops in London, Paris, Barcelona, Toronto and the US—will kick-off in Sweden in May. Beyoncé will perform both concerts at the Friends Arena, a multi-purpose stadium with a retractable roof and a concert audience capacity of 65,000. This year's performances will be Beyoncé's first solo world-tour since her *Formation* tour in 2016. She last appeared in Stockholm in 2018, while touring with her husband, Jay Z.

NEWS

9.4m displaced in seven years

FROM PAGE 12
Analysing the data of disasters that took place in the seven years, the study estimates that 12.10 million people belonging to 2.71 million households could potentially be affected each year by different climate-induced disasters, including monsoon flood, flash flood, river erosion, cyclone, storm surge and landslide. The study has also taken into consideration other hazards such as nor'wester, cold wave, and hailstorm. It also assesses that at least 18.33 million people may get exposed to

climate-related hazards in 64 districts a year from 2021 to 2025. Around 66 percent of them would be affected by natural disasters. It anticipates that the minimum economic loss would be \$337.94 million in the same period. According to the study, four northern districts — Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Jamalpur — are very prone to flood and river erosion, while four southern districts — Satkhira, Khulna, Barguna and Patuakhali — are at high risk of being hit by cyclone and storm surge. Besides, 27 other districts are exposed

to disasters. SFB has collected data for the study from multiple sources, including Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Multi Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Modeling and Mapping, National Disaster Response Coordination Centre, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services, Forecast-based Warning, Analysis and Response Network, Needs Assessment Working Group, and Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster.

Educated, yet they chose the wrong path

FROM PAGE 12
arrestees and seized items. Of the 17 arrested Jama'atul Ansar members, five are from Patuakhali, four from Cumilla, two from Barishal, one each from Barguna, Jhalakathi, Munshiganj, Tangail, Habiganj and Magura. The arrestees are As Sami Rahman alias Saad, 19, Sohel Mollah alias Saifullah, 22, Al Amin Fakir alias Mostaq, 19, Zahirul Islam alias Omar Farooq alias Sangwai, 27, Miraz Shikdar alias Ashraf Hossain, 26, Riaz Sheikh alias Jayed, 24, Obadullah alias Sakib, 20, Jewel Mahmud, 27, Elias Rahman alias Thanboang, 32, Habibur Rahman alias Mora, 23, Sakhawat Hossain alias Rising, 21, Abdus Salam Raki alias Dunchuk, 28,

Zobair Ahmed Aiman alias Renal, 29, Shamim Hossain alias Chamdur, 26, Tawabur Rahman alias Maobok, 20, Mohammad Mahmud Dakua alias Haka, 20, and Mohammad Abu Huraira alias Saiso, 22. The arrested KNF members are Lal Mole Siam Bom, Flag Cross and Malsam Pankua. Rab officials said Elias Rahman was inspired to join Jama'atul Ansar by its ameer Mahmud through a messaging app when he was an expatriate in Malaysia. He returned home in October 2021 and left for hills in November that year with a group of 15 militants. Sohel Mollah, a student of computer science and engineering, was inspired by Rakib, finance and

media wing chief of the militant outfit, and joined it. He used to earn money for the organisation using a height and weight measuring machine on the footpaths of the capital before leaving for the hills on September 18 last year with a group of 12 youths, officials added. Zobair Ahmed studied at a Quwami madrasa and took part in the Helafat-e-Islam's demonstration at the capital's Shapla Chattar on May 5 in 2013. He was motivated by the outfit's ameer and left for the hills in November 2021. During his stay in the hills, Zobair talked with his family members twice and told them that he was in Saudi Arabia, said a Rab official.

Belgium queen commends

FROM PAGE 2
services from over 18,000 community clinics across the country. Some 30 types of free medicine are provided from the clinics. About the Rohingya issue, Hasina said Bangladesh sheltered the Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds. The government set up field hospitals in the Rohingya camps for thousands of pregnant women who arrived in Cox's Bazar during the Rohingya influx to Bangladesh, she said. The PM said Bangladesh has so

far relocated 34,000 Rohingyas to Bashan Char island from Cox's Bazar after ensuring an improved environment for them there. Talking about disaster management, she said the success of Bangladesh in this regard has been globally acclaimed. The casualties in recent cyclones and other disasters have declined drastically. Noting that Bangladesh is one of the most climate vulnerable countries, Hasina mentioned about her government's initiatives to offset

the impacts of climate changes, including formation of climate trust fund, creating green-belt, and building dams in the coastal areas. Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud, PM's Principal Secretary Tofazzel Hossain Miah and Maritime Affairs Secretary at the foreign ministry Rear Admiral (ret'd) Khurshed Alam were present. The queen of Belgium arrived in Dhaka on Monday on a three-day visit as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals advocate.

Zelensky wins pledge

FROM PAGE 12
short of a commitment to provide Kyiv with British jets. But it signalled a notable shift in support that could pave the way for other countries to send planes, so far ruled out by countries wary of sending weapons capable of striking deep into Russia. During Zelensky's UK visit, Britain announced the addition of new names to its Russia sanctions blacklist, as well as plans to accelerate the supply of military equipment to Kyiv, including unspecified longer range weapons. Closing his remarks, Zelensky said two years ago he had left the British parliament thanking lawmakers for "delicious English tea"; now he would leave "thanking you in advance for powerful English planes". As he wrapped up his speech in London, air raid sirens rang out in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. Sunak told parliament that Britain would give Ukraine the support it needs "to ensure a decisive military victory on the battlefield this year". Zelensky was also due to meet King Charles and visit Ukrainian troops training in Britain, before travelling on to Brussels, where he is expected to attend a summit of European Union leaders. Last month Britain was the first Western country to offer battle

tanks, pledging 14 of them a little more than a week before the United States and European allies pledged scores. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, publicly more cautious than some other Western leaders on arms deliveries, told lawmakers in Berlin decisions on weapons were best when coordinated behind the scenes, rather than announced separately by countries in a "public competition to outdo each other". Scholz also said he expected strong demonstrations of support for Ukraine from this week's EU summit, and a new round of European sanctions on Russia around the anniversary of the invasion. Western countries have dramatically scaled up their pledges of military support for Ukraine since the start of the new year, culminating with the offer of tanks. Kyiv still wants longer range missiles as well as warplanes. Russian forces have made incremental progress in Ukraine's east in recent weeks, in relentless winter battles which both sides describe as some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Kyiv says it expects Moscow to broaden that offensive with a big push as the February 24 first anniversary of the invasion approaches.

Phone tapping

FROM PAGE 12
different messaging apps, including Messenger and WhatsApp, used by political figures, especially those involved in anti-government politics, are being recorded without permission." He questioned, "What's the logic and purpose of these actions? One logic can be that the government considers their criticisms treasonous. So has the government and the state merged?" The JP chief said another purpose of tapping could be that the government wants to harass all political opponents. Such harassment of political opponents and surveillance obstruct the free expression of opposition.

Hundreds of Thai children facing charges over protests: Amnesty

AFP, Bangkok
More than 200 children in Thailand are facing serious criminal charges, including sedition, for their role in largely peaceful pro-democracy protests that shook the kingdom in 2020, Amnesty International said yesterday.

PM to open Rooppur rail line

FROM PAGE 12
he further said. "It is a dedicated rail line for the Rooppur plant. As part of the project, we constructed a new rail station near Hardinge Bridge. Besides, we set up a 26.52-km-long dual-gauge rail line, including siding and loop line from Ishwardi by-pass station to Rooppur plant." Transportation of cargo will be easier after the inauguration of the rail line. The Rooppur rail station will also boost up railway's income as it will be one of the major hubs of cargo transport in the region, he added. Apart from this, the prime minister will also inaugurate two other rail projects at the same time. The prime minister will open an 11km-long dual-gauge double-line

from Tongi to Joydebpur today. The line will help railway authorities to increase the number of train trips on the Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur route, which links the entire west zone of Bangladesh Railway, said officials. The second line was built at the cost of Tk 1,300 crore under an Indian-funded project, said sources. The premier will also open a 14km-long dual-gauge double-line on the Dhaka-Chattogram route. The sections which will be opened today are Kashba to Mandabagh and Shashidal to Rajapur. The construction was done under a project funded by Asian Development Bank. [Our Pabna and Gazipur correspondents contributed to this report.]

Man kills

FROM PAGE 12
"Hearing her scream, locals surrounded the house. Fearing possible assault by the enraged locals, Hazrat locked him inside the room and called 999 for help," he added. A case was filed with Uttarkhan Police Station in this regard. Police has sent the body to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Lost letters

FROM PAGE 12
and identifies the meaning of historical ciphers. Once the researchers began working through the unique ciphers, they quickly realized the correspondence was written using French, and there was nothing Italian about it.

AFP, Paris

INJURIES, TEMPERATURE

GETTING HELP TO THE SCENE

HOW TO FIND SURVIVORS?

BEFORE THE 72 HOURS STARTS

Kelman emphasised that “ultimately, a successful rescue operation starts decades before the earthquake to try to stop the infrastructure collapsing in the first place”. During an international rescue operation such as those in Turkey and Syria, it costs an average of \$1 million per life saved, he said. “If we would see levels of investment in disaster prevention that we are seeing in disaster response, we would not be in this situation.”



PHOTO: REUTERS

AGENCIES

It is just one of a number of narrowing images that have emerged of some of the millions of children caught in the catastrophic earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

In the city of Kahramanmaraş, Al Jazeera's Resul Serdar detailed how rescuers saved a 14-year-old

UNICEF said the images of so many children being caught up in the disaster were "heart-wrenching".

The issue of aid to Syria was a delicate one, and the

In 1999, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake killed more than 17,000.

The graphic is a vertical rectangular poster with a light yellow background. At the top center is a large yellow triangular warning sign with a thick blue border and a red exclamation mark. Below the sign, the title "IMPORTANT NOTICE ON SYSTEM UPGRADATION" is written in bold red capital letters. The text "Dear Valued Customer" is in bold black. The main message, "Please be informed that for better Customer Service experience, we will upgrade our system on 10th February (Friday), 2023. During this period, certain services will be temporarily unavailable.", is in black. The start and end times are highlighted in red: "START TIME: 09th FEBRUARY, (Thursday), 2023, 11:59 PM" and "END TIME: 10th FEBRUARY, (Friday), 2023, 02:00 PM". The list of affected services is in green, and the restoration notice is in red. The apology and thank you text are in black. The footer contains logos for FinSmart, LankaBangla Finance, and a QR code, along with a "For Details" button and a phone number.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ON
SYSTEM UPGRADATION**

Dear Valued Customer

Please be informed that for better Customer Service experience, we will upgrade our system on 10th February (Friday), 2023. During this period, certain services will be temporarily unavailable.

START TIME: 09th FEBRUARY, (Thursday), 2023, 11:59 PM

END TIME: 10th FEBRUARY, (Friday), 2023, 02:00 PM

The following services of LankaBangla Finance will be temporarily unavailable during system upgradation:

- Mastercard Transactions
- FinSmart App and Shikha Chatbot

Once the system is restored, you will be notified accordingly

We apologize for the inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.

Thank you for being with **LankaBangla Finance**

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There’s a new kit in town

Locally developed Covid testing kit opens a new window for Bangladesh

It is heartening to know that local researchers have developed a new RT-PCR testing kit that can apparently detect coronavirus infections much more effectively than other RT-PCR kits in the country. Developed by a team led by Bangladesh Council of Science and Industry Research (BCSIR), it comes off a year-long trial run where it showed 98 percent sensitivity to the virus. RT-PCR kits are developed by targeting different coronavirus genes, so any change in the gene structure of the virus due to mutation can make them unable to detect it. But the BCSIR kit was developed by targeting a gene that usually does not change over time, making it highly durable and effective, even in asymptomatic cases.

We congratulate the team that has developed the kit, which has already been approved for commercial use. We are told that 500,000 kits will be produced initially – each will cost Tk 250. The low cost of production is an added advantage, as it promises to take a substantial burden off the government which still relies on imported kits. The kits currently in use at the 57 government-run and 105 private-run RT-PCR testing laboratories are imported from China, South Korea and the US. Already, a huge amount of foreign currency has been spent to import such kits, with more than 1.34 crore samples tested using the RT-PCR method alone. Moving away from this obligation will be a relief amid the ongoing forex reserve crisis.

Although coronavirus is far less of a threat than it used to be in the country – with January 2023 recording the second lowest rate of infections since the pandemic broke out – the threat, for those vulnerable, is still potent, requiring continued vaccination and testing. Testing kits will play an important role even if/when Covid-19 transitions into an ordinary seasonal virus. While we welcome the air of positivity surrounding the new RT-PCR kit, we must say that the role of policymakers in this regard has so far been rather frustrating. Far from encouraging local development or production of testing kits and vaccine, we have seen how bureaucratic red tape and politicisation of private efforts thwarted progress.

The global scientific community is working hard to make test kits and vaccines more easily available across the world. There are already talks of preparation for future pandemics, and building domestic capacity is going to be an important part of that preparation. Bangladesh, despite the suffering and uncertainty it had suffered because of heavy reliance on high-income countries for vaccines, is yet to signal readiness to turn lessons into initiatives. Its project to build a vaccine plant and research centre of its own is yet to take off in any meaningful way.

This must change. The current low positivity rate is a matter of relief, of course, but it must not distract us from the challenges that lie ahead. The government should support initiatives that can make us self-sufficient in testing kits and vaccines in the future, and strengthen our biotechnology industry through investment in training and research. It must also further strengthen our public health infrastructure.

Battered, deprived of justice

Plight of OCC-linked survivors of sexual abuse is a wake-up call

The One-stop Crisis Centres (OCC) for women and child survivors of sexual violence have been an important initiative of the government. The idea is to provide all required services, including legal, in one place. But as data from the women and children affairs ministry has recently shown, even such a laudable step hasn't led to the desired outcome of justice. Data related to cases filed by users of the services of 14 OCCs and their 67 cells in sadar hospitals and upazila health complexes shows that the OCCs have served 56,024 women and children over the last 22 years. But of the 17,093 cases filed, only 1,909 have received a verdict. More alarmingly, criminals have received punishment in only 220 of the cases – a meagre one percent.

This is quite disturbing. There is no question about the importance of the services offered by the OCCs, including DNA testing, legal assistance, counselling, rehabilitation, etc. For the victims of violence, sexual abuse, and acid and burn attacks, these can have life-changing impacts. But all these are also a means to an end: justice. To prepare survivors to get past their trauma and rebuild their life – only to see their pursuit of justice delayed indefinitely or denied – puts the whole exercise into question. Add to this all the social and legal challenges that survivors have to endure during trial. Many of them come from disadvantaged backgrounds. In the absence of proper family support, the OCCs are their last hope of getting justice. Yet, they continue to be failed by the state's justice system.

Unfortunately, the extremely low conviction rate for rape and sexual violence cases is a reality shared by not just OCC-linked survivors, but all survivors in general. According to a 2021 estimate, the conviction rate for rape cases in the country stands at a jarring three percent. It shows how those accused of violence often escape punishment using various legal loopholes and their political connections. For instance, Manusher Jonno Foundation, after analysing 25 rape cases filed between 2012 and 2016, found that all the accused had received bail between 24 hours and 15 days of arrest, despite the offence not being a bailable one under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000. It is an exception in one section of the act that is being misused to let rapists roam free, while survivors are made to sit through long days of waiting for justice that may elude them forever.

We must reverse this situation. We urge the relevant authorities to treat cases of sexual abuse and violence with the utmost seriousness. Survivors of such horrific crimes deserve nothing less than that. The justice system, law enforcement agencies, local administrations and society at large must all do their part to help victims get justice. Perpetrators of sexual violence must be punished.

Who killed democracy in Bangladesh?



STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (ret'd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

Obaidul Quader is an oft-quoted person – and for good reasons. I, too, shall quote him at the start of this column. Following the very recent by-elections to the parliament seats vacated by BNP members, he is reported to have said, “Democracy has won.” And he is certain to flaunt the World Democracy Report that shows Bangladesh improving by two ranks. However, there is little to take comfort in the report since, in reality, our acquired marks remain the same; it's only that two countries have done worse than us.

The minister has cited the “peaceful atmosphere” that prevailed during the polling on February 1. Indeed, it was very peaceful. When fewer than 20 percent of voters turn up to vote, it is bound to be peaceful. When the opposition voters are told not to bother to come to the polling stations, it is bound to be “peaceful.” When an opposition candidate goes into hiding, unable to withstand the pressure on him, peace is bound to follow. The recent by-polls represent the state of democracy in our country fairly accurately. The near-empty polling booths, if nothing, displays a lack of trust; in fact, it demonstrates people's apathy towards elections and voting. Most voters feel it is an exercise in futility under the present circumstances, the results a forgone conclusion.

This was the picture in 2014 and 2018 as well. “People couldn't cast their votes in that (December 30, 2018) election... They couldn't vote in the union parishad and upazila parishad polls.” These are not my words but that of a leading member of the ruling party's coalition – the president of the Workers' Party. It is a sign of democratic regression set in motion a decade ago, and in this regard, the prognosis of Levitsky and Ziblatt, who in their both educative and frightening book *Why Democracies Die*, say, “Democratic backsliding today begins at the ballot box.”

Thus, the quinquennial exercise, the national election, always brings forth pious utterances of the political parties – the two main ones in particular – about the state of democracy, how it has been reduced to nothingness by the

other party, and of resuscitating it if elected to power. And the most voluble is the ruling party, who goes into overdrive trying to nullify the oppositions' criticism of its alleged disservice to political and economic egalitarianism. The ruling party has the added advantage, in addition to the public platform, of hogging the time and space of the parliament where, unlike a normal functioning legislature, it goes unchallenged in the absence of an opposition, unanswerable for its plans, policies, actions and deeds. It needs reminding ourselves that the current character of the parliament is unique in that the official parliamentary opposition is also represented in the cabinet.

It is no wonder, therefore, that democracy has come under criticism at home and is being subjected to scrutiny by our friends outside, for which the ruling party has taken umbrage. In this regard, very few can take issue with the Awami League when it decries outsiders' attempt to serve us homilies on democracy or elections. No self-respecting citizen can accept that and should vehemently oppose such attempts.

Like anyone else, I get quite nervous when a plane starts shaking mid-air. It's only when the calm voice of the captain or the cabin crew says, “We are encountering some minor turbulence, it will be over soon,” that I relax. But if I were to get on a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, I would be nervous from the get-go.

And why would I not? It seems as though the management is failing – or simply does not care enough – to live up to our expectations that our national flag carrier would provide an affordable and quality service. Taxpayers' money is spent to maintain an airline instead of leaving air travel solely in the hands of the private sector, because we view air travel as an essential service that the government must provide as a public good. However, Biman's performance can hardly be termed as a source of satisfaction, let alone pride.

There are, sadly, a plethora of complaints against Biman that have come to light. Let's start with the issue of recruitment. In October, examination papers for a recruitment test for various positions in the airline were leaked and, reportedly, high officials of the air carrier were involved in it. Because of the leak,



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKRABORTY

But we need to be reminded from time to time what the stances of the major political parties have been on various national and political issues in the past. For example, in 1994, the Awami League had no qualms in accepting mediation by the then Commonwealth Secretary-General Emeka Anyaoku, and accepted his representative Sir Ninian Stephen to sit between it and the BNP at the negotiating table. While the Awami League may not like to remember the role India played in 2014, history has not failed to record it. Were it not for the turncoats in Jatiya Party, who rebelled against Ershad or were compelled by circumstances to do so and participate in the 2014 election, things might have been different.

While one may not like to hear our development partners say that they would be watching the next elections very carefully, we have to lump it because we have afforded them the opportunity to comment on the state of our democracy. Hopes of a new dawn following our liberation was belied, first with the introduction of, though very short-lived, one-party rule, and then by changes brought

Sometimes, Quader reveals the real state of politics in the country. He is reported to have said recently at a public meeting, “We have not been able to make politics interesting... no good people want to join politics now. No educated, honest person wants to do politics. But they should. Otherwise, politics will lack character” (*Dhaka Tribune*, January 8, 2023). We wonder whether the minister has ever given a thought as to why it is that the good and the educated don't join politics. Politics does not only lack character, it lacks substance too. What we have today is a hybrid democracy where people have become irrelevant and clinging to power has become the be-all and end-all of politics.

The four indicators that Levitsky and Ziblatt warn us to look out for when democracy is in regression are “rejection of (or weak commitment to) the democratic rules of the game, denial of the legitimacy of political opponent, toleration or encouragement of violence. Readiness to curtail the civil liberties of opponents, including the media.” For the observant political observers, these should ring a bell.

Biman’s never-ending turbulence



THE OUTSPOKEN ONE

Anupam Debashis Roy is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

ANUPAM DEBASHIS ROY

The recruitment process had to be suspended.

The pilot recruitment process has also been corrupted. In February last year, 14 pilots were appointed to Biman, all of whom became the subject of an investigation after the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) sent a letter to the civil aviation ministry. According to reports by investigative agencies, these pilots were hired instead of giving at least 30 existing Biman pilots their due promotions. Even worse, in many cases, they were hired from other airlines from which they had either been sacked or denied promotion.

The most flagrant was the case of Sadia Ahmed, whose husband was on the recruitment committee and allegedly bent the rules in her favour. Ahmed reportedly did not have the required 300 flying hours needed to qualify for operating a Boeing 777 aircraft. Also, she had been sacked before by Regent Airways and US-Bangla Airlines. Why, then, was she appointed to operate our national flag carrier?

Since the controversy became publicly known through the media, the appointment of nine pilots was cancelled. But, it's not only the

new pilots who are questionable. According to a report published in this newspaper, two Biman pilots willfully jeopardised the lives of their passengers and about 500 others by concealing the fact that the engines of the plane they were flying had been damaged due to the captain's inappropriate mid-flight procedures. According to the law, the penalty for such a crime is life imprisonment. But instead of penalising them, the Biman authorities promoted one of those pilots to fly long distance flights. Fortunately, the promotion was revoked a day after this newspaper contacted the carrier to inquire about the investigations into the event and the pilots involved.

There are numerous other incidents involving Biman's inefficiency and mismanagement, ranging from making losses year after year, owing money to various organisations, and keeping new aircraft underutilised, to cancelling flights to several destinations, providing subpar customer service, and causing callous accidents on the grounds of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA). All of this happened in just one year (2022), which also happened to be its 50th year of service.

For example, on November 17, at the HSIA, a Biman ground handling equipment collided with a Gulf Air Boeing 787, damaging the main body of the aircraft and taking it out of operation. Previously, on April 10, a Biman Boeing 777-300ER collided with a carrier Boeing 737-800 while it was being brought into the hangar. Not only were Biman's planes damaged in such incidents;

other foreign carriers' aircraft have also been damaged in recent years as a result of the Biman personnel's incompetence. Reportedly, two Turkish Airlines jets were damaged in a similar manner not long ago.

The inefficiency and incompetence of the Biman staff is no secret anymore. The government has noted it to such a level that the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has decided to appoint an international firm at the new third terminal of the airport for the job.

This is utterly irresponsible and unacceptable. Biman is a public asset and therefore is duty-bound to provide good service. With such poor conditions of pilots and staff, Biman will not be able to compete with other airlines and will continue to endanger its passengers and the prestige of the country. It is high time Biman was overhauled to make it efficient. Corruption and nepotism must be rooted out of the organisation. The entire system needs to be accountable and the responsible parties for the misdeeds listed above must be brought to book.

Biman has a long way to go to meet modern aviation standards. The airline must address its poor on-time performance, inadequate in-flight services and amenities, and ineffective management if it is to regain the trust and loyalty of its customers. Only then can it hope to compete with other international carriers and establish itself as a world-class airline. Otherwise, we will never be able to get a “Smart Airline” for a “Smart Bangladesh.”



10th CONVOCAATION

09 February, 2023

Daffodil Smart City, Birulia, Savar, Dhaka



Daffodil
International
University

A landmark to create the Future



Message



PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
BANGABHABAN, DHAKA

On the occasion of the 10th convocation of Daffodil International University (DIU), I convey my heartfelt congratulation to the graduating students, their parents, faculties and university authority.

Education is the irreplaceable tool to face with the challenges of 21st century and various global socio-economic phenomena. It is the sacred duty of educational institutions at different level to impart quality and state of the art curricula to prepare the future leaders of the country. Convocation is a milestone event that recognizes the hard work of students and university as well. I hope the graduates imbued with patriotism and integrity would work for the peace and progress of our country and countrymen. To transform the country as 'Smart Bangladesh' every citizen of Bangladesh will play significant role from their respective fields-this is my conviction.

I wish the 10th convocation of DIU a grand success.

Joy Bangla.
Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Md. Abdul Hamid



Message



Minister
Ministry of Education
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

I am delighted to know that Daffodil International University is going to hold its 10th convocation on 9 February 2023, at Daffodil Smart City, Birulia, Savar, Dhaka. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to congratulate the new graduates, their parents/guardians, and the teachers who have supported them all through to reach this milestone of their academic life. I would also congratulate the Daffodil Management for their untiring efforts and appropriate care for equipping their graduates with appropriate knowledge, skills and aptitude to transform themselves into a useful workforce competent for the 21st century job market.

I feel very proud that the education systems of Bangladesh have been reaching newer heights of quality and standards year on year for the last decade and a half under the visionary leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, MP. The passage of Private University Act-2010 during the Awami League administration has opened doors of new and promising opportunities for higher education in the country. The consecutive governments under the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have granted permission for many new private universities to function and meet the growing demands of higher education in the country. I am pleased to see that Daffodil International University has been working tirelessly to meet the UGC set criteria to ensure modern knowledge-based and technology oriented standard and quality education as an example of good service to the nation.

I hope all the private universities will continue their academic programmes as per the rules and regulations of the Private University Act-2010 and policies set by the UGC. I also hope that the private universities will cater for appropriate provisions of time-sensitive subjects in different disciplines, implement Outcome-Based Education, innovative curriculum, and faculty empowerment opportunities. The nation and the world at large need skilled human resources competent enough to meet the demands of the 21st century job-market. The private universities of Bangladesh have a duty to address this issue of raising our human resources equipped with knowledge and skills that are useful today. The current government policies of quality higher education embedded with the innovations of modern science and technology must be adhered to by all private universities of Bangladesh. Daffodil International University can play a leading role in meeting the educational priorities of the government.

I am sure the graduating students today are ready academically, emotionally and physically to go and utilise the opportunities in the job-market, areas of entrepreneurship ventures and research. I urge them to make a mark in each individual life to help realise the dream of "Sonar Bangla" dreamt by the best of all Bangalees of all times, the Father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I wish the 10th convocation of Daffodil International University a grand success.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu,
May Bangladesh live forever!

Dr. Dipu Moni, M.P.



Message



Chairman
University Grants Commission
of Bangladesh

I am delighted to know that Daffodil International University (DIU) is going to arrange their 10th Convocation on 09 February 2023 at their Ashulia campus, Dhaka. It is, indeed, a very special day for this university because it bears testimony to the accomplishment of students, faculty members, and the management of the university. I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all the graduating students and their families, faculty, university employees, members of the Board of Trustees, and everyone involved with this auspicious occasion.

We are all aware that by 2041, Bangladesh will hopefully become a developed nation and a society built on knowledge. One of the most effective and tested tools for sustainable development is education. In the past 15 years, there has been a considerable expansion in public, private, and specialized universities. Currently, a total of about 162 public and private universities are in operation in the country. The current government deserves appreciation for the initiatives to expand tertiary education. What we need now is to focus urgently on ensuring the quality of higher education. Since private universities are an integral part of our higher education system, quality educational facilities must be provided at an affordable cost by these universities for the benefit of our nation.

The role of UGC is to assist the universities in making qualitative development in their educational programs. I am pleased to learn that Daffodil International University (DIU) has been working hard to attain academic excellence in its educational programs and is conscious of its responsibility towards all sections of the student community and the nation.

With these hopes, I wish the 10th Convocation of DIU a grand success.

Professor Dr. Kazi Shahidullah



Message



Chairman
Board of Trustees
Daffodil International University

A Convocation in the life of a university is a milestone occasion for all the stakeholders - the students, their parents/guardians, the teachers, staff, and the management. The 10th Convocation of Daffodil International University is to be held at Daffodil Smart City, Birulia, Ashulia, Dhaka, on 9th February 2023 is going to display the picturesque beauty of the success and glory that the graduating students of this great institution have ensured beating all odds during and after the devastating crises of the Covid-19 Pandemic. With this momentous event, the whole institution will bask in the warmth of the splendor of our immediate past triumph and remember our earlier successes to be encouraged to be going forward. I would like to extend my congratulations to all the graduating students, their parents, the members of the faculty, the support staff and the management.

Daffodil International University has integrated innovation in its education systems and guaranteed total digital transformation of all its delivery systems that has ensured sustainability of smooth running of our operation and delivery of quality and standard education. During the pandemic situation, Daffodil International University kept the activities uninterrupted by adopting technology and using mechanisms. From day one, the students attended online classes. DIU teachers, students, and management adapted the SmartEdu Systems & Blended Learning Center so that students could learn in their preferred mode. We introduced Teaching Apprenticeship Fellowship Program (TAF), added 50 new modules in Smart Edu to ensure complete systematic operation, incorporated Mentoring Monitoring Systems & Virtual Internship so that students get proper guidance to prepare themselves until they enter the job market. DIU also added AI-based Drop Out Modules so that students' performance and the reasons for the absenteeism from the class can be tracked. Accordingly, the university and its graduates developed different innovative solutions which have demand in this time. We are giving highest priority to developing leadership qualities among the students and the team at the entire Daffodil Family. To bring opportunities for the students, we are collaborating with institutes and industries nationally and internationally.

Today, we are focusing on outcome-based and skill development education considering the present demand of the industry and the future unseen job market. Also, we are bringing dynamic changes in the learning environment, transforming the campus into a total learning zone, which is the demand of the Z Generation. We are constantly bringing innovation and new learning topics based on our findings through research and analytics and considering the demand of the Alpha I Generation. All these major decisions have been taken considering the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and beyond.

In the end, my sincere congratulations to all the graduating students, their parents and guardians, the teachers and staff, who have worked hard collaboratively to bring this moment of the 10th Convocation and I wish them all a great future ahead.

May Allah be our guide in our efforts!

Md. Sabur Khan

An overview of Daffodil International University (DIU) "Glorious Past - Thriving Present - Promising Future".

Introduction: Since its start in 2002, Daffodil International University (DIU) has remained focused on creating a generation of workforce equipped with knowledge and skills required by the 21st century multinationals, corporates, and global job-market. The campus of DIU is situated at Daffodil Smart City (DSC), Birulia, near Uttara, Dhaka in about thirty acres of calm, serene, lush-green open environment free from the humdrum of the city.

PhD programs at DIU: DIU has introduced PhD programs in collaboration with many foreign universities like USIM, CNU, KIIT, UniMAP, OUM, TIU and UM. Currently, 100 faculty members of DIU are currently pursuing their PhD in different universities at home and abroad.

Faculty Members: With 418 full time faculty both foreign and local, a total of 876 faculty members and researchers are in charge of imparting world standard education to students at DIU.

International Students: Currently a total of 450 students from different countries are studying at DIU. A total of 1000 foreign students graduated in the past years.

Scholarship and Waiver: Currently more than 16297 DIU students are enjoying scholarships in each semester. The total of 16310 enjoyed waiver and scholarship in 2021 out of which 132 were awarded waivers under Freedom Fighter Quota.

One Student One Laptop is a flagship project of DIU. More than 50000 laptops have been distributed among students to create an IT-experienced future generation.

CSR and ASR: DIU contributes significantly to Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) and Academic Social Responsibilities (ASR) regularly to many individuals, communities, and organizations all over the country. Daffodil Institute of Social Sciences (DISS) is the CSR based initiative of DIU.

Cheer with the Champions: Daffodil International University (DIU) has achieved success in various sports and competitions. They became champion in the 3rd edition of the Bangabandhu Inter-University Sports Championship 2022. Additionally, Team Diamond of DIU won the NASA Space Apps Challenge 2022 Global Award, outcompeting 31,000 competitors from 160 countries.

Entrepreneurs Network: Daffodil International University has created more than 4000 entrepreneurs worldwide as a direct consequence of the groundbreaking achievements of the Department of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Innovation Lab, Are you the next Startup, Entrepreneurship Development Fund, Co-working space, Business Incubator, Entrepreneurs' Club, Venture Capital Ltd., Startup Market, Startup Bangladesh, Young Entrepreneurs Association (YEA), World Union of Small and Medium Enterprises, Enterprise Competitiveness Institute (ECI), Makers' Lab, Startup Restaurant & Café, Startup Grind, Young Women Entrepreneurs' Forum, etc.

Division of Research: The Division of Research of DIU started its journey in July 2017, and in 2022, it was merged with the newly created Faculty of Graduate Studies. The goal of the Faculty of Graduate Studies is to promote a culture of research at both the departmental and university levels, achieve high global rankings, and develop partnerships with industry. The faculty is divided into three divisions: 1. Research and Postgraduate Studies; 2. Research Funding and Partnerships; and 3. University Rankings. As of 2022, the total number of Scopus indexed publications is 900, an increase from 514 in 2021 and 390 in 2020, demonstrating the significant progress made in research at DIU.

Alumni: DIU has a strong network with its alumni. They are placed in prominent positions at home and abroad. DIU alumni are now in BCS Cadre, Army Peace Mission, and different industries.

Achievements in brief:

- DIU being placed 5th among both public and private universities in Bangladesh and 3rd among private universities in QS World University Rankings Asia 2023.
- DIU was ranked the 1st among universities in Bangladesh in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022.
- The university also was placed 2nd in Scopus Indexed Research Publications in 2022.
- DIU has consistently performed well in the "UI GreenMetric World University Rankings" with a top position in Bangladesh for the past 6 consecutive years, the 7th position in South Asia, and the 191st Globally.
- In 2022, one of the leading dailies "Arthakantha" recognized Daffodil International University as the 'Best University' of the Year.
- DIU became champion in the 3rd edition of the Bangabandhu Inter-University Sports Championship 2022
- DIU BoT Chairman, Dr. Md. Sabur Khan has been elected the President of AUAP, a prestigious international Association of the Universities of Asia Pacific for 2023-2024.
- Dr. Md. Sabur Khan received an Honorary Doctorate degree from Caucasus University, Georgia for contribution in Education, Entrepreneurship and Internationalization.
- Dr. Md. Sabur Khan has received Honorary Fellowship on Entrepreneurship and Education in Said Business School, the University of Oxford by ABRM (Academy of Business & Retail Management).
- Dr. Md. Sabur Khan has received special recognition from World Book of Records, UK based Organization.
- First ever private university in Bangladesh to confer D.Litt. degree upon Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT University and KISS, India.
- DIU is linked with Global Access Asia, an online education system with 60+ foreign universities around the world.

Major Events:

- Bangabandhu Inter University Sports Championship 2022
- 5th Daffodil Captain Cup Golf Tournament 2022
- 15th AUAP General Conference 2022
- FutureNation DIU Job Utsob 2022
- DIU Parents Day 2022
- Global Entrepreneurship Week 2022
- উদ্বোধনী সমাবেশ ২০২৩
- Launching of the book titled "পথিকৃৎ উদ্বোধনদের জীবনসংগ্রাম" edited by Dr. Md. Sabur Khan

Degrees to be awarded at the 10th Convocation

Faculty	Bachelor's Programs	Master's Programs	Total
Faculty of Business & Entrepreneurship	393	210	603
Faculty of Science and Information Technology	2447	159	2606
Faculty of Humanities and Social Science	554	186	740
Faculty of Engineering	1443	22	1465
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences	479	271	750
Total	5316	848	6164

Gold Medalists

Chancellor's Gold Medal		
Md. Mainul Islam ID: 181-43-319	Israt Jahan Emu ID: 183-34-810	Mahiya Rahman Rafa ID: 191-35-2706
Abir Ahmed ID: 181-15-10579	Toahidul Islam ID: 191-47-195	
Chairman, Board of Trustees' Gold Medal		
Abu Shahed Shah. Md. Nazmul Arefin ID: 183-15-12000	Halima Binte Zahid ID: 192-11-6230	Golam Kibrea ID: 181-29-1206
	Nure Saba Tahura ID: 191-10-390	
Vice Chancellor's Gold Medal		
Puja Bhowmik ID: 181-15-10824	S. M. Sakiul Islam Ripon ID: 181-33-632	Arafat Shahrir ID: 183-31-319



Message



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
OF BANGLADESH
26 Magh 1429
09 February 2023

I am happy to know that the 10th Convocation of Daffodil International University (DIU) is taking place at Daffodil Smart City in Savar. On this joyous occasion, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all the graduating students, their parents, current and ex-students, faculty members, officials and staff of the university.

In the light of the philosophy of education of the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami League government has attached top priorities to the education sector and taken various steps for its overall development. Following various timely initiatives taken during the last 14 years of our government, commendable achievements have been made in the education sector. Our government has enacted 'Private University Act-2010' to develop the quality of education at the private universities. While 'Bangladesh Accreditation Council Act-2017' has been passed to ensure standards of quality in higher education both at the public and private universities. Our government aims to ensure higher education facilities to the doorsteps of the people and for this purpose vast numbers of public and private universities have been set up in the country.

Awami League government has adopted the 'Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh: 2017-2031' to improve the quality and scope of higher education and make it internationally competitive. 'Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project' has been implemented to improve the quality of higher education through promoting academic innovation in teaching, learning and research. An academic innovation fund has been allocated to promote creativity and research at the higher education institutions. Bangladesh Research and Education Network' has been established to increase technical skills of the universities and connect the foreign universities and research institutes with local universities. We have laid emphasis on technology-based modern education system and are promoting science-based education to accelerate the development of education by overcoming the impact of Covid-19. ICT and digital technology have been used in education management and programmes considering the importance of science and technology-based education, especially the 4th Industrial Revolution.

I hope that Daffodil International University will play a proactive role to help implement our vision to ensure quality education at the higher education institutions and enhance quality of teaching, learning and research. I believe that the students of DIU will apply their acquired knowledge, talent and creativity to build a hunger-poverty-free Golden Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

I wish the 10th Convocation of Daffodil International University a grand success and a bright future for all the graduates.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina



Message



Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

It's a great pleasure for me that Daffodil International University is going to hold its 10th convocation on 9 February 2023, at its own campus at Daffodil Smart City, Birulia, Savar, Dhaka. I congratulate the graduating students and extend my best wishes for them for their working life ahead. I sincerely thank the Daffodil Management, the guardians, the faculty, the members of staff and the ancillary staff who have done their best to raise this vibrant group of graduates using the best of their potentials.

Bangladesh has, over the last decade and a half, achieved revolutionary height in improving the education standards and quality under the able leadership of the daughter of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Honorable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, M.P. Our government is determined to implement promising adaptable and interactive educational policies to raise a generation of young skilled human resource workforce who would be excelling in their professions and vocations fulfilling the requirements of the 21st century job-providers. During the tenures of the Awami League government many universities have been granted permission to provide education in different disciplines. The private universities will educate their students with applied technology-oriented knowledge and skills and as skilled human resource to support the job providers in the country and overseas.

Daffodil International University has been working tirelessly to improve the culture of technology-oriented quality education. I hope Daffodil will continue to keep up its good work in producing new generations of skilled and patriotic workforce for Bangladesh.

I wish the graduates a glorious life, the faculty more successful in near future. May the 10th convocation of Daffodil International University end up in a gorgeous and grand success.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu
Bangladesh Live Forever.

Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP



Message



Convocation Speaker

Prof. Atul Khosla
Vice Chancellor
Shoolini University, India

I am privileged to learn that Daffodil International University, a high-ranking university in Bangladesh, will confer degrees on thousands of graduate students during its 10th Convocation on February 9, 2023 at Dhaka. It is a great honour for me to have an opportunity to address such a glorious gathering of graduating students.

The convocation is a memorable event for the new graduates, who are celebrating the culmination of their arduous studies with glory and grandeur. As a result, the graduates leave their alma mater to embark on a new journey of a real life filled with challenges, opportunities, work, and achievement.

Nonetheless, it is an event filled with excitement, fulfillment, and joy for all graduates who look forward to a prosperous future, prestigious position, and a secure and peaceful life. I hope and pray that they will achieve their goals and make a difference in their personal life and nation building through hard work and patriotism. I wish all graduates success, progress, and peace in their lives.

Bangladesh has made significant progress toward achieving the MDGs and aspiring to achieve the SDGs. I am confident that the country's socioeconomic development will continue at the expected rate, and Daffodil International University will continue to contribute to the national development of this great land.

I congratulate all graduates of the 10th Convocation and wish them a beautiful and meaningful life filled with high ambition, great achievement, and praiseworthy accomplishment.

Prof. Atul Khosla



Message



Vice Chancellor
Daffodil International University

My heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students of Daffodil International University at the 10th Convocation in 2023. This convocation implies the successes and accomplishments of the students and marks an important landmark in the history of the institution. It is a time for reflection for revitalizing our commitments to the future and future generations. This historic event marks an opportunity to overcome the limitations and set sights on higher goals.

In line with the mission and vision of the university, almost all academic and administrative activities of the university have been digitized and the university has emerged as a prominent ICT oriented university of the country. DIU has set up innovation labs with a view to equip the students with knowledge and skills necessary to face the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Students are provided with on-campus Internet and WiFi facilities, free laptops, campus TV and campus radio.

I am happy to be a part of the ceremony that recognizes the achievements of the students. While congratulating the graduates, I would like to congratulate the teachers and administration for supporting each student on the way to achieving success. I would like to thank the Convener of the Convocation Ceremony and all those who have worked relentlessly to organize the convocation ceremony.

On this festive occasion, I gratefully acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Board of Trustees of the university, especially Dr. Md. Sabur Khan, Chairman of the Board, for visionary leadership and continuous supports for quality education and research in the university.

I would like to thank our distinguished international and local guests, dignitaries and the convocation speaker, Professor Atul Khosla, Vice Chancellor, Shoolini University, India, for gracing the ceremony and encouraging our new graduates.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Honorable Education Minister, Dr. Dipu Moni, MP, for gracing the occasion through representing Honorable President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Chancellor of the university as the Chairperson of the Convocation.

I wish the convocation a grand success.

Professor Dr. M. Lutfar Rahman

Taskin oozing with confidence

SPORTS REPORTER

While the likes of South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka are vying for a place in the top eight of the ODI Super League, Bangladesh find themselves in a favourable position at sixth with 120 points ahead of their series against England in March at home.

The current world champions in both white-ball formats are touring Bangladesh for the first time since 2016 and were the last side to win a bilateral series here. Tigers have won all six home ODI series they have played since then.

With the ODI World Cup coming in October, the focus is firmly on getting to the event in the best possible shape and the Tigers will also be hoping the national team stalwarts like Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Tamim Iqbal finish their careers with a flourish at the global event to mark their brilliant careers. The return of Sri Lankan coach Chandika Hathurusingha, who oversaw Bangladesh's most successful period, also coincides heavily with the World Cup plan.



Taskin Ahmed, the flag-bearer of Bangladesh's present pace revolution, talked to the media about Hathurusingha's return and the upcoming England series.

"We are excited that Hathurusingha is returning. He is a very good coach and an honest man. I am sure we will do well under him. Those who were young at that time have matured now and we are also in a good stead as far team is concerned," the pacer, who made his debut under Hathurusingha in 2014, said.

Taskin shared that the new coach is 'keeping in touch and sharing his plans' with the players and hoped that pacers will keep having more impact in keeping with their rise. He said that England will be a difficult opponent.

"No doubt that they are a world class team and we feel we are too. We don't want to sell ourselves short since we have won against big teams outside the country," he said.

England's previous visit had seen fiery exchanges and Taskin said there will be a good fight.

"Certainly, it won't be easy against them (England) and they are the biggest side in every format but we have the believe that we are one of the strongest sides in our own backyard and we expect to fight with them," he opined while adding that he has started his rehabilitation and will work on a plan before England's arrival.



Sylhet Strikers batters Mushfiqur Rahim and Zakir Hasan shake hands during their 90-run partnership against Khulna Tigers in their last league stage match of the BPL at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Zakir scored 50 while Rahim made 29 as Sylhet confirmed their Qualifier berth with a six-wicket victory.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Girls eye another SAFF triumph

SPORTS REPORTER

The country's football anticipates another trophy in its cabinet as Bangladesh take on Nepal in the final of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur today.

The match will get underway at 6:00pm, local time.

Bangladesh stormed into the final of the ongoing tournament for the fourth time as the regional age group championship was held thrice in two formats: U-18 twice and U-19 once. Bangladesh emerged champions in the U-18 and the U-19 format in 2018 and 2021, respectively, before finishing runners-up behind India in U-18 round-robin format championship in 2022.

Despite the absence of a golden generation of footballers, the budding players showed their potential on their road to the final by beating Nepal 3-1, playing out a goalless draw against India before thumping Bhutan 5-0.

Bangladesh are looking forward to transforming their group-stage performance into the final. However,



Shamsunnahar Junior and Co may face a stiff challenge from the Himalayan girls who stunned pre-tournament favourites India with a come-from-behind 3-1 win to ensure a final berth.

"I think the final is going to be very competitive and a fighting one, which I believe the spectators will enjoy," said Bangladesh coach Golam Rabbani Choton during a pre-match conference at the BFF House yesterday.

Although Choton reckons the final would be tough for them, he also did not forget to mention that Bangladesh never lost to Nepal in the previous six meetings at this stage, having beaten them five

times – twice in both 2018 and 2022 editions and once in the 2023 edition – and drew once in the 2021 edition.

"Our target was to make sure of the final which we have already achieved but our job is still unfinished because we want to become champions by repeating the performance we put in our previous group-stage matches," said captain Shamsunnar, who slammed a hat-trick against Bhutan in the final round-robin fixture.

Choton will certainly bank on the forward trio – Shamsunnahar, Aklima Khatun and Shaheda Akter Ripa – to capitalise on early opportunities, and also hope to not squander clear-cut

chances like how they did against Bhutan.

"Look, the girls availed all three opportunities against Nepal in our first match but they could take only five chances home out of numerous opportunities against Bhutan. We have worked on this area in training and hope the forwards will be more clinical tomorrow [Thursday]," said Choton adding that they would devise their game strategy against Nepal accordingly, having already studied all three matches of Nepal.

Nepal coach Yam Prasad Gurung is eager to taste their maiden trophy, especially after putting up a resurgent performance against India.

"Bangladesh are ahead of us in terms of performance, home ground and crowd, but we know the weak and strong points of Bangladesh, which are our advantage. It is a different match and we will play in different ways," said Gurung.

Nepal captain Preeti Kulung Rai, however, said, "This time we will be trying to take the trophy home because we deserve to win over Bangladesh."

Balbirnie aware of 'tricky' Tigers challenge



SPORTS REPORTER

Ireland opener Andrew Balbirnie had already started assisting his national head coach with his Bangladesh experience ahead of their upcoming Bangladesh tour in March.

Their second tour in Bangladesh, having played three Dhaka ODIs in 2008, will be the first-ever all-format bilateral series between the two nations -- featuring three ODIs, three T20Is, and a Test.

"I certainly been in contact with the head coach back home and giving him the information on the different type of surfaces we are going to come and play," Balbirnie, who is one of the two Irish cricketers -- alongside Curtis Campher -- participating in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), told the media yesterday.

"Not every day you get to play in a top league (BPL) like this, at some really amazing venues," added the Khulna Tigers batter.

Ireland are set to play their maiden Test against the Tigers, and Balbirnie was reminded of the challenges that await his side in spin-friendly conditions.

"Yes, it's a bit tricky as we don't play a lot of Test matches. Probably we played our last Test three years ago back in 2019 at Lord's, which is very different from here.

"It will be tough to plan on a wicket that turns but we will find a way to compete. We know it will be super difficult but it's also exciting to come play Test in such conditions and test ourselves against the best in the world," the 32-year-old further said.

Miroslav Blazevic passes away

AFP, Zagreb

Croatia's famed football coach Miroslav Blazevic, who led the country to a third-place finish at the 1998 World Cup, died on Wednesday, the national football federation said. He was 87.

"The whole football family has lost 'the coach of all coaches' today," the federation wrote on social media.

Blazevic died in the capital Zagreb after a long fight with cancer.

Born on February 10, 1935, 'Ciro' Blazevic started his playing career in his hometown of Travnik in neighbouring Bosnia.

In the early 1960s, he began coaching in Switzerland and moved in 1979 to Croatia, which was then part of the former Yugoslavia.

In Croatia, he took over Rijeka and later Dinamo Zagreb, where he lead the club to their first Yugoslav championship in 24 years.

"Dinamo's 1982 win was the crown of my coaching career," Blazevic told local media in 2021.

From 1994 to 2000, Blazevic coached the national team and racked up a number of impressive wins, including their third place finish at the 1998 World Cup in France.

Cummins, Rohit play down pitch chatter

REUTERS, Nagpur

Rival captains Pat Cummins and Rohit Sharma sought to put the focus back on cricket after a section of Australian media accused India of selectively watering the pitch in Nagpur where the four-Test series between the sides begins on Thursday.

The pitch at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium finds itself under the spotlight even before the match starts with several Australian media pointing out that groundstaff had left the area outside left-handers' off-stump dry at both ends.

Australia's playing XI, which Cummins would not reveal, could potentially feature five left-handed batsmen in their top seven, but the paceman appeared unperturbed.

"That's part of the challenge of playing away," Cummins, whose team just need to avoid a 4-0 whitewash to make the final of the World Test Championship in June, told reporters.

"Home teams want to win at home. In Australia, we're lucky we've normally got pace and bounce.

"Home match advantage, I don't think it's a terrible thing. It's another



challenge and makes touring over here even harder when you know the conditions are custom-made for them."

Cummins said all-rounder Cameron Green, recovering from a finger injury, would miss the opener, joining pacemen Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc on the sidelines.

Australia may blood uncapped Todd Murphy alongside fellow off-spinner Nathan Lyon, and Peter Handscomb might pip Matthew Renshaw for the number six position to bring right-handed variety in their

southpaw-heavy lineup.

"I think it is a factor over here," Cummins said.

"With so much traffic from the right-handers' bowling, at times there is a bit more out there for the left-handers."

Rohit shot down suggestions that India had rolled out a 'doctored pitch' for the conTest.

"You just need to focus on the cricket that will be played on the next five days, and not worry too much about the pitch," he told a news conference.

"All 22 players who will be playing here are quality cricketers...You just got to come out and play good cricket to win the game, as simple as that."

Rohit said batters from both sides would have to think on their feet to counter spin.

"When the ball spins a lot, your method of scoring runs becomes very important," explained the opener.

"You'll have to rotate strike, and see how can you score runs - sweep, reverse sweep, using your feet ..."

"That's what we've told the boys - 'find your own ways of scoring runs'. It's going to be challenging. Australia have a couple of quality spinners who can trouble us, no doubt about that."



Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James poses for a photograph after becoming the most prolific scorer in NBA history on Tuesday, breaking a 39-year record that many throughout basketball believed would never be beaten. James, playing in his 20th season in the NBA, passed Abdul-Jabbar's longstanding total of 38,387 points after nailing a 21-foot shot late in the third quarter against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

PHOTO: AFP



PM to open Rooppur rail line today

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate a rail line, constructed for easing the transportation of cargo to Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, in Pabna today.

She will virtually attend the inauguration programme from Gono Bhaban.

The 11-kilometre-long rail line has been constructed by the science and technology ministry at the cost of Tk 335 crore. The construction work started in April 2018.

The construction work ended a year after its deadline. Its cost, however, did not increase, said Asadul Haque, chief engineer of Bangladesh Railway (west zone) and director of the Rooppur rail project.

The project was delivered late because of the coronavirus pandemic,

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The newly constructed rail line near Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila. The authorities have installed 26-km rail tracks from Ishwardi to Rooppur and set up Rooppur Railway Station mainly for carrying goods to and from Rooppur. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the new rail line and train station today. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

MILITANTS HELD IN HILLS Educated, yet they chose the wrong path

STAR REPORT

At least seven of the 17 militants arrested in Bandarban on Tuesday following a shootout have good general educational backgrounds. Some of them either hold degrees in business administration and psychology or study undergraduate courses, including engineering.

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday disclosed details of the militants and described how they were motivated to militancy and joined newly formed militant outfit Jama'at ul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya.

The Rab also shed light on who motivated the militants, when they fled their homes for Chittagong Hill Tracts and how they were trained in arms and explosives.

Analysing the details, it is found that one of the arrestees has graduated in business administration, one in psychology, two are students of computer science and engineering, one of civil engineering at a polytechnic institute and two others enrolled in honours courses.

Seven of the arrestees have madrasa educational backgrounds. Nine of the arrestees used aliases like the names of Bawm community people to hide their real identities.

The Rab on Tuesday also arrested three members of Kuki Chin National Front (KNF), an armed group in the CHT, following the daylong gun battle in Remakri bridge area of Bandarban's Thanchi upazila.

The elite force seized 11 firearms, including two semi-automatic AK-22 rifles and nine guns, 54 AK-22 rifle bullets, 90 cartridges, materials used for making explosives, syllabus for combat training, and two binoculars after the gunfight.

Commander Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, yesterday briefed reporters at the Bandarban Rab camp and disclosed details of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

NATO FIGHTER JETS Zelensky wins pledge to train Ukrainian pilots Addresses British parliament

REUTERS, Kyiv/London

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Britain yesterday to drum up aid, winning a pledge to train Ukrainian pilots on advanced Nato fighter jets, a big symbolic step up in Western military support against Russia's invasion.

On just his second trip abroad since Russian forces swept into Ukraine on February 24 last year, he met Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and thanked Britain for "marching with us towards the most important victory of our lifetime".

But he repeatedly hammered home a call for combat aircraft, which he referred to as "wings for freedom".

Ukraine "will do everything possible and impossible to make the world provide us with modern planes to empower and protect pilots who will be protecting us," Zelensky told hundreds of British lawmakers in London's Westminster Hall.

Shortly before his arrival, Sunak's office announced plans to expand a programme training Ukraine's military to include its air force, "to ensure pilots are able to fly sophisticated Nato-standard fighter jets in the future".

The announcement gave no time frame and stopped

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS 9.4m displaced in seven years

Over a thousand lives lost, says study

PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least 1,053 people were killed and 9.4 million more displaced internally in different climate-related disasters in 58 districts in seven years from 2014, says a recent study.

During the period, the country suffered economic losses of \$4,120 million due to the disasters, including monsoon flood, flash flood, river erosion, cyclone, storm surge and landslide, found the study.

The country received only \$104 million in humanitarian aid in those seven years following 15 major disasters, the study report said, adding that 42 million people were affected.

Analysing the data of all major natural disasters from 2014 to 2020, Start Fund Bangladesh (SFB), a civil society-managed network of 45 NGOs working in Bangladesh since 2017, conducted the study.

The SFB is going to unveil the report titled "Multivariate Analysis of Climatic Disasters, Financial Flow Analysis, and Analysis of Household Economic Status in Flood-Prone Districts" at a city hotel today.

The disaster management ministry assisted SFB in carrying out the study, which also projected how many people

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Over 42m affected in 58 districts from 2014 to 2020
- Country suffered economic loss of \$4,120m during the period
- 18.33m to be exposed to climate-related hazards a year till 2025

may be affected by different disasters and also prepared a map that shows the most disaster-prone areas.

"People living in disaster-prone areas are exposed to different natural disasters in various ways. Our study will help the government officials and aid workers have a clear idea about how many people could be impacted following a certain disaster and they would be able to take measures accordingly," said Shofikul Alam, programme coordinator of Start Network.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Man kills woman, calls 999 to escape mob

STAR DIGITAL REPORT

"Please save me," a male panicked voice pleaded after calling 999. "I have killed a woman. Locals surrounded my house and they will kill me."

When police reached the caller's address in Dhaka's Uttarkhan area around 10:30pm, they found him locked inside his room, surrounded by angry locals.

Police rescued Hazrat Ali, 47, unhurt, and later arrested him for murdering the woman with whom, according to police, he was involved in an extramarital affair.

Abdul Majid, officer-in-charge of Uttarkhan Police Station, told The Daily Star that the deceased, a 37-year-old mother of two, visited Hazrat's place to put pressure to marry her. At one stage of an altercation, Hazrat killed her, he added quoting the arrestee.

According to Hazrat's confession, the OC said: "The woman screamed for help when Hazrat hit her head with a heavy spice crusher. He then beat her to death".

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Phone tapping without specific reasons illegal

GM Quader says in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament GM Quader yesterday criticised the government for mobile phone tapping targeting specific people.

"Mobile phone tapping targeting specific people without specific complaints is unethical and illegal. It is a violation of the country's constitution," the JP boss said while participating in the discussion on the thanksgiving motion on the President's speech in parliament.

Referring to the news published in domestic and foreign media, GM Quader said, "We are hearing from different places that intelligence technology is being used in our country extensively. We know that from various sources. Smartphones of journalists, human rights activists, politicians and lawyers are being tapped. And the spyware Pegasus developed by the Israeli company NSO Group is being used in this regard."

He also said it is unethical and illegal to target specific individuals and tap their phones without specific complaints. Such technology is used for those involved in terrorist activities and anti-state activities.

"Our point here is that communications over

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Lost letters of Mary, Queen of Scots, finally decoded

CNN ONLINE

A trio of codebreakers has found and deciphered a treasure trove of lost letters written by Mary, Queen of Scots.



The 57 secret letters, from Mary Stuart to the French ambassador to England between 1578 and 1584, were written in an elaborate code.

The findings come 436 years after Mary's death by execution on February 8, 1587.

Most of the letters were kept in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in Paris, mainly in a large set of unmarked documents

that were also written in cipher — special graphical symbols. The documents were listed as dating from the first half of the 16th century and thought to be related to Italy.

Then, a trio passionate about cracking historical ciphers stumbled upon the documents.

George Lasry, a computer scientist and cryptographer from France; Norbert Biermann, a pianist and music professor from Germany; and Satoshi Tomokiyo a physicist and patents expert from Japan, all worked together to find the truth behind the documents.

The multidisciplinary team has worked together for 10 years to find and understand historical ciphers. Lasry is also a member of the DECRYPT Project, which digitizes, transcribes

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



The district administration in Chattogram will organise an eight-day flower festival at DC Park in Faujdarhat area from tomorrow. The lines of flower plants are part of the preparation for the event.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Bangladeshi 'shot dead by BSF'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead allegedly by the Border Security Force (BSF) inside Indian territory adjacent to Laraighat border in Jhenidah's Maheshpur upazila yesterday.

The dead is Ariful Islam, 28, of the upazila's Shyamkur village, said locals.

A group of seven to eight Bangladeshis, including Arif, intruded into India to bring cattle to Bangladesh, said Lt Col Masud Parvez Rana, captain of 58th BGB battalion in Maheshpur.

The firing incident took place in India's Hanskhali border area around 5:30am, he further said quoting Arif's family members.

"Ariful died on the spot," the BGB official said, adding that the rest of the Bangladeshis managed to flee the scene.

BGB sent a message to India's Hanskhali Pakhiura BSF camp for holding a flag meeting but did not receive any response, Lt Col Masud said in the afternoon.

Shyamkaru Union Parishad Chairman Jamirul Islam also confirmed the incident.