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## PRESIDENTIAL POLLS AL to reveal name of its candidate today

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Awami League is going to announce its presidential candidate today, the deadline for submitting the nomination papers for the post.

The ruling party's nominee will be the next president of the country as other political parties, which have representation in parliament, are unlikely to propose any name for the presidential election, and the ruling party has the majority in the parliament.

Earlier on February 7, Awami League Parliamentary Party at a meeting gave power to Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina to nominate the party's candidate.

After the meeting, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the party will

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## TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE

### Death toll likely to 'more than double'

Says UN as  
authorities confirm  
25,000 deaths

STORIES, PHOTO ON PAGE 7, 12



A man brandishing a firearm from a BNP procession at Bormi Bazaar in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur yesterday. Local Awami League activists say the man is a BNP activist while the latter maintains that he is not.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## 200 hurt in AL-BNP clashes

Most of them BNP activists; 19 arrested in Tangail, Jamalpur

STAR REPORT

At least 200 people, mostly BNP activists, were injured in clashes with the ruling Awami League activists and policemen in different districts yesterday.

Besides, four policemen were injured in two districts.

In Tangail, police arrested at least 13 BNP men.

The clashes happened as both parties held programmes across the country.

BNP's pre-scheduled programme was to march in every union parishad to press home its 10-point demand, including the

next national election under a caretaker government.

The AL also held "peace rallies" at the unions.

In Natore town, at least 20 BNP men were injured in a clash with ruling AL men in Pirganj Bazar area.

BNP activists were gathering there around noon when AL men tried to drive them away which triggered that left 20 BNP men injured.

Local AL leaders, however, said the BNP men attacked them first.

But police said no clash took place in the area.

Two clashes between the parties were also reported in Naldanga upazila where at least 10 BNP men were injured.

In Jamalpur, witnesses said BNP supporters were preparing to start marching at Kamal Khan Bazar around 1:00pm when police went there and asked them to leave.

As a clash ensued, a group of local AL men joined the assault.

Locals said at least 28 people, including a policeman, were injured.

Police fired 34 rubber bullets and four teargas shells to calm the situation,

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## JOYDEBPUR-ISHWARDI DOUBLE LINE

### Not before 2028

Project revived but 4yrs already lost; BR now to implement it with Japanese assistance following China's pullout

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After China abruptly withdrew from its role of financier of the Joydebpur-Ishwardi Double Line Project a couple of years ago, Bangladesh Railway (BR) is now reviving it with Japanese assistance.

However, the deadline set for 2024 will now have to be extended for at least another four years.

The delay will not only increase the project implementation cost, but also deprive the country for at least four more years from getting due benefit from the dedicated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge over the Jamuna, which is expected to open in early 2025.

The 14,250.61-crore project was taken up in November 2018 to turn the 162-km Joydebpur-Ishwardi section into a dual-gauge, double line to meet the growing demands for rail operations.

On the other hand, the dedicated dual-gauge, double-line railway bridge over the Jamuna is being built at a cost of Tk 16,780.95 crore to get the desired benefits of the line, which links the capital with the country's northwestern part.

As the bridge is to open in early 2025, the double-line bridge will be fed by a single line until the second line is built.

BR has now prepared a separate Tk 318.49 crore project for carrying



✓ Bangabandhu Rail Bridge to open in early 2025 but the double line connecting the bridge will not be completed before 2028.

✓ Smoother railway communication with north-west and southern regions unlikely before completion of the double-line project.

out the preparatory works for the double-line project.


After completion of the legworks, it hopes to start the physical works by the end of 2025, one year after the original deadline of completion, and complete it within 2028-2029, officials said.

Delay in schedules of trains connecting the capital with the north-western and southern regions have been all too common over the last few years, due a lack of capacity of the single line; and speed and weight restrictions on the existing road cum railway Bangabandhu Bridge.

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আর্তের সেবা, দারিদ্র্য নিরসন ও সমাজকল্যাণে  
আপনার অসামান্য অবদান চিরভাস্বর হয়ে রইবে

আশার প্রতিষ্ঠাতা মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরীর  
দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি



মোঃ সফিকুল হক চৌধুরী  
১ জানুয়ারি ১৯৪৯ - ১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১

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ANURAG MCL, RAJSHAH 2023





**ROLE IN SCIENCE**  
**Help more girls, women tear down barriers**  
**PM urges int’l community**  
*UNB, Dhaka*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday urged the international community to provide opportunities and help more women and girls excel in science.

“It is unfortunate that women represent only 12 percent of scientists and 30 percent of researchers globally,” she said.

The premier said this in a video statement screened at the 8th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly, held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

“Today, we celebrate the women and girls who are making important contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” she said.

Hasina urged women and girls to act as the agents of change themselves. “The women and girls in science and technology must remember that they are not alone. The steps they take would help open the door further for their sisters around the world,” she said.

She also focused on her government’s steps for development of women in Bangladesh.

Turning to Bangladesh, the PM said, “I have made it a priority to have our women and girls lead in every sphere. Our women are doing very well in the field of research and higher education.”

She said scholarships are being

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**Carrying iron rods, two rickshaw-vans moving against the traffic on Dhaka-Chattogram highway near Rayerbagh bus stop in the capital yesterday. Such violation of traffic rules on one of the busiest highways may cause crashes. But it seems that the authorities concerned do not take action against this practice.**

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Indian regulator probes Adani’s links to investors

REUTERS, Mumbai/New Delhi

India’s market regulator is investigating Adani Group’s links to some of the investors in the conglomerate’s aborted \$2.5 billion share sale, two sources said, amid growing concern in New Delhi about a US short-seller’s allegations against one of the country’s top industrial groups.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is looking into any potential violation of Indian securities laws or any conflict of interest in the share sale process, said the two sources who have direct knowledge of the matter.

The watchdog is investigating relationships between Adani and at least two Mauritius-based firms – Great International Tusker Fund and Ayushmat Ltd. – which participated as anchor

investors, among others, said the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the confidential nature of the probe.

Under India’s capital and disclosure requirement rules, any entity related to a company’s founder or the founder group is ineligible to apply under the anchor investor category. One of the sources said the focus of the probe would be whether any of the anchor investors are “connected” to the founder group.

The ports-to-energy conglomerate – controlled by billionaire Gautam Adani, one of the world’s richest people – has seen shares in its seven companies lose more than \$100 billion in market value since the Jan. 24 report by Hindenburg Research, which accused it of improper use of offshore tax havens and stock manipulation. Adani has denied the

charges. Last week, the group’s flagship entity Adani Enterprises ADEL.NS pulled its secondary share offering, India’s largest ever, because of the sharp selloff.

SEBI and the Adani Group did not respond to requests for comment about the investigation. Great International Tusker Fund and Ayushmat Ltd. also did not respond to requests for comment.

Also under the SEBI scanner are Elara Capital and Monarch Network Capital, two of the 10 investment banks that managed the share offering, the sources said, adding that SEBI had approached the two firms last week.

The roles of Elara and Monarch are being examined by the market watchdog to rule out “any conflict” in the share offering process, one of the sources said.

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## Farmer hurt in tiger attack in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A farmer has been attacked by a tiger in the Sundarbans when he was herding cattle there.

Fazlu Gazi, 62, of Bagerhat’s Sharankhola upazila, was admitted to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital on Friday.

Fazlu’s wife Feroza Begum said they let their cattle graze freely. On Tuesday, the cattle went to the forest crossing the dried Bhola river.

The tiger attacked Fazlu when he went to the forest to bring the cattle back home, she added.

According to the victim, there were some boatmen on the spot. Seeing the tiger, Fazlu and the boatmen started screaming. Later, the tiger left him and fled.

“I received wounds on my right leg,” Fazlu said.

Asim Kumar Samaddar, superintendent of Bagerhat Sadar Hospital, said the wounds were deep.

“The victim cannot afford medical expenses. We are providing him with our all-out support,” he added.

## Child raped in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A five-year-old girl has been raped in Jhenidah’s Moheshpur upazila.

The victim’s father filed a case against Fazlur Rahman, 42, of the upazila’s Kullah village, on Friday.

According to the case statement, the accused lured the girl with orange, took her to a nearby orange orchard, and raped her on Thursday afternoon.

The girl was admitted to Moheshpur Upazila Health Complex for treatment, her father said.

Khandakar Shamim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Moheshpur Police Station, said the accused went into hiding. The law enforcers were conducting drives to arrest him.

## Iran celebrates 44th anniv of Islamic revolution

AFP, Tehran

Tens of thousands of Iranians yesterday rallied in Tehran and other major cities to mark the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, as their president said months-long protests had been defeated.

For the past two years, the 1979 overthrow of the Western backed shah was commemorated mainly by Iranians who drove around cities in their cars or on motorcycles due to Covid restrictions.

But this year, waving flags, they took to the streets of Tehran on foot and converged on Azadi (Freedom) Square, one of the capital’s most prominent landmarks, despite chilly temperatures.

## 200 hurt in AL-BNP clashes

FROM PAGE 1

said Kazi Shanawaz, officer-in-charge of Jamalpur Sadar Police Station.

Police arrested six BNP men from the scene, the OC added.

In Araihaaz, Narayanganj, at least 13 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between police and the opposition party.

Lutfar Rahman Abdu, former joint convener of Narayanganj BNP, said the activists were marching on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway around 1:15pm when police suddenly attacked them and used firearms, leaving 10 injured.

OC Azizul Haque of Araihaaz Police Station said the BNP activists threw brick chips at policemen who were trying to clear the road. The police retaliated with rubber bullets and teargas shells.

Three policemen were injured, he added.

In Bogura’s Adamdighi and Sonatala upazilas, opposition activists said police foiled their programmes. However, the latter refuted the allegation.

In Sirajganj town, at least 10 people were injured and five motorcycles were set on fire during a clash between AL and BNP men in the Paikpara area.

In Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat, at least six BNP men were injured in an attack by AL activists, locals said. However, the AL

refuted it.

Police said no clash happened.

In Naogaon, at least five BNP men were injured in an attack allegedly by the AL men in Tilokpur area.

However, AL leaders said the BNP activists had beaten up Chhatra League activists.

In Noakhali, BNP leaders alleged that over 50 activists were injured in six incidents of attack by the AL men.

But AL leaders said the clash happened between two groups of BNP activists.

In Bhola, BNP leaders alleged that over 50 of them were injured in eight separate incidents of attack in three upazilas. The AL refuted the allegations.

In Hnila Union of Teknaf, Cox’s Bazar, at least 15 people were injured and an AL leader’s car was vandalised during a clash.

Leaders of both parties blamed each other.

Police said additional law enforcement personnel were deployed to avoid further violence.

In Sreepur upazila of Gazipur, the BNP said attacks by the AL left nine of their activists injured. But AL leaders said they were the ones who got attacked by firearms-wielding BNP men.

A photo in which a man brandishing a firearm from a BNP

procession went viral on social media. [Our correspondents from the districts contributed to the story.]

## Russia says it staged major strike on Ukrainian energy facilities

REUTERS

Russia carried out a “massive strike” on critically important energy facilities of Ukraine’s military-industrial complex on Friday, the Russian defence ministry said yesterday.

In a daily update, the ministry did not identify the energy facilities it claimed to have hit. It said the strike had also blocked the transport of foreign weapons and ammunition by rail to battlegrounds in Ukraine.

Ukraine’s armed forces said late on Friday that Russian forces had fired more than 100 missiles and mounted 12 air and 20 shelling attacks. It said 61 Russian cruise missiles were destroyed.

Ukraine’s Energy Minister German Galushchenko said Russia had hit power facilities in six regions with missiles and drones, causing blackouts across most of the country.

## Not before 2028

FROM PAGE 1

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, on many occasions, said the delays cannot be resolved until the construction of the rail bridge and installation of the dual-gauge double line from Joydebpur to Ishwardi.

The government took up a project in January 2016 to construct the 4.8km dedicated double-line rail bridge with a Japanese loan. The construction is going on in full-swing and the project authorities are hopeful about opening it by December 2024 or early 2025.

On the other hand, the Joydebpur-Ishwardi double line project, taken in November 2018, was supposed to be implemented within December 2024 under government-to-government initiative between Bangladesh and China.

The BR even completed negotiations with the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation for the project implementation and the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase in December 2018 approved a Tk 11,586.68-crore proposal for the work.

But, China in March 2021 declined to finance the project citing “lack of in-depth preliminary work and insufficient feasibility study”.

China’s decision came four months after the Prime Minister’s Office in November 2020, following

a decision of the cost review committee, directed BR to slash Tk 1,495.52 crore (12.91 percent) from the project’s contract price.

Several BR officials, however, said China’s refusal to give the loan might have something to do with geo-politics.

After the refusal from China, the Bangladesh government turned to Japan for the project’s funding and the country agreed, BR’s Director General Quamrul Ahsan confirmed to The Daily Star.

Following a discussion with an “appraisal mission” of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), BR has prepared a Technical Assistance Project Proposal (TAPP) for reviewing previous feasibility study, prepare detail design for the line and bidding document, BR sources said.

Out of Tk 318.49 crore, Japan is supposed to provide 234 crore and loan agreement is expected to be signed within May, they said. The project is supposed to be completed within June 2025.

The feasibility study for Joydebpur-Ishwardi double-line project was done under a separate project in 2015 and the Chinese company had reviewed it. The company was supposed to prepare a detailed design within their contract price before starting physical works, they said.

But BR now has to hire a consultant

to review that study, which is likely to take six months. Then a detailed designing will start, after which they have to revise the project cost, they added.

“We hope to start physical works of the project at the end of 2025 and it may take three to four years – 2028 to 2029 – to complete,” Quamrul Ahsan told The Daily Star yesterday.

He admitted that the synchronisation between the line and the bridge will not take place right after the completion of the bridge.

Asked, he said the prices of all construction materials have increased in the global market and that may be reflected in the project cost.

“However, it would depend on the detailed design.

“We had nothing to do but go for an alternative financier after China pulled out from the project. So, it is taking time to start,” he added.

BR sources said the new line will be set on the north side of the existing line and the project authorities will have to acquire 56 acres of land for this purpose.

While the consultants will draw the detailed design for the entire Joydebpur-Ishwardi line, Japan may provide funds for Joydebpur to Bangabandhu Bridge East Station (around 80km) in the first phase, the added.

## Maimed, many are left in the lurch

FROM PAGE 12

the various challenges of ailing or injured returnee migrant workers, as many of them need a long-term treatment and face financial difficulties.

They said that once such migrant workers return home, they should be brought under a specific “social safety net” scheme to ensure their survival. Besides, migrant workers should be made aware of their health and safety issues before their migration, they added.

According to WEWB website, it disbursed around Tk 14.4 crore among 1,508 returnee migrant workers for treatment from 2010 to January 2023. Of them, 383 got financial support last year – the highest in a single year.

In a recent report, Oviyashi Karmi Unnayan Program (Okup), a migrant rights group, said it provided medical support to 228 returnee migrant workers from 2019 to 2021.

Of them, 21 percent received it for the workplace injuries they sustained

in the host countries.

Okup Chairperson Shakirul Islam said they have been demanding a special social safety net scheme for the injured and ailing returnee migrants for the past few years.

Under the scheme, medical support can continue until they recover fully. So far, the government has not introduced any such scheme, he said.

“There should be a needs-based sustainable reintegration of such returnees.”

Shakirul also suggested giving them instant cash support at the airport upon arrival.

He said in many cases, it takes more than the expected time for an injured migrant worker to receive the WEWB’s financial support. Besides, those who return home due to workplace injuries often do not get due compensation from employers, he added.

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme, said although providing Tk 1 lakh for treatment is

a positive step, it is not a sustainable solution.

He suggested the expatriates’ welfare ministry or welfare board take steps to ensure special care at government hospitals for those who need long-term treatment.

Also, migrant workers need to be aware of the health challenges in the host countries and the scopes of treatment there, he said, calling upon Bangladesh missions abroad to arrange regular health check-up campaign for Bangladeshi workers.

Contacted over phone, WEWB Director (finance and welfare) Shoaib Ahmad Khan said though they do not have other services except for cash and ambulance supports at present, migrant workers are now under insurance coverage through which they can get more benefits.

About compensation from employers, he said they took the required steps in this regard and many workers already received the compensation.

## AL to reveal name

FROM PAGE 1

not reveal the name of its candidate before the nomination papers are submitted to the Election Commission.

The papers will be scrutinised tomorrow. If there is more than one candidate, the election will be held in parliament on February 19. Members of parliament will cast their votes to elect the president.

The names being discussed for the AL candidate are Mashiur Rahman, PM’s economic affairs adviser; former chief justices ABM Khairul Haque and Syed Mahmud Hossain; Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury; AL presidium member and lawmaker Mosharraf Hossain and AL lawmaker Mostafizur Rahman.

According to section 5 (2) of the Representation of the People’s Order, 1972, all executive authorities of the government shall assist the EC in the performance of its functions, and for

this purpose, the president may, after consultation with the commission, issue such directions as they may deem necessary.

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

Article 50 (2) of the constitution reads that no person shall hold office as president for more than two terms, whether or not the terms are consecutive.

Hamid was appointed acting president of Bangladesh on March 14, 2013, while then president Zillur Rahman was in hospital in Singapore. Zillur died six days later.

Hamid was then elected unopposed as president on April 22, 2013, and was sworn into office two days later. On February 7, 2018, he was re-elected unopposed for a second term.

## Imranur wins

FROM PAGE 12

6.70 seconds in the heats – finishing third – earlier in the morning to seal a semifinal berth. Then he improved his timing to 6.61 seconds to move into the final as the second best, finishing second only on photo-finish to a Qatari sprinter.

The London-based sprinter then further improved his personal timing by clocking 6.59 seconds in the final to take home the gold medal.

This is the first time any Bangladeshi athlete has won a medal at this level of competition. Imranur’s previous best in this event was 6.64 seconds, which he clocked at the World Indoor Athletics staged in Belgrade in 2022.

Bangladesh’s fastest female sprinter Shirin Akter, however, bowed out from the heats after clocking 7.93 seconds in her 60m event on Friday.



DEV PROJECT EXECUTION

## Enact policy to protect locals' rights: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society leaders yesterday underscored the need to formulate a national policy to protect the rights of those affected during the execution of development projects, which often overlooks the concern of communities.

They made the call at a dialogue titled "Community Right in Development Project: Promises and Reality" organised by Centre for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) in cooperation with Diakonia and Reality of Aid.

Md Shamsuddoha, chief executive of CPRD, said Bangladesh despite its limited resources has been executing small to large development projects across the country. But how much those will benefit people largely depends on project planning, implementation and operation.

"If the participation of the community, project beneficiary and other stakeholders is not ensured, the project fails to deliver its desired result. Unfortunately, Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Expansion Project and Sustainable Water Supply Project were seen devoid of local's participation," he said.

There should be a national policy to protect local communities' rights. If their rights are ensured, the influx towards cities will see a drop.

Mihir Biswas, joint-secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said given the sensitivity of climate change impact in Bangladesh, development has to be chalked out carefully. Al Imran, research and advocacy officer of CPRD, presented his keynote presentation on two such projects.

Civil society leaders Aminur Rosul, Nikhil Chandra Bhodro and Md Shahjahan spoke, among others.



Shamsin Ahmed, founder and CEO of Identity Inclusion, became the first recipient of the Stellar Women awards in the development category yesterday. FR Khan, managing director of bti, and Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor of The Daily Star, handed over a token of appreciation to Shamsin at an event at bti Landmark Tower in Gulshan. Stellar Women is a year-long joint initiative by bti and The Daily Star to recognise outstanding women from different walks of life.

PHOTO: STAR

## 'BNP may fall apart if it boycotts polls'

Says Abdur Razzaque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

BNP may fall apart if it boycotts the next general election, said Agriculture Minister and Awami League Presidium Member Abdur Razzaque today.

"BNP will be in an existential crisis if it does not come to the polls. Many of the party men may join Awami League and may go to other parties as well," he said while addressing a peace rally in Tangail.

The rally was organised by Thelimpur Union Awami League at Shilimpur's MA Karim High School ground in Tangail's Delduar upazila as part of its country-wide peace rally.

"The AL is not organising any counter-programme. This peace rally is organised so that BNP cannot create a state of violence like 2015 in the name of a political movement, and push the country towards disaster by destabilising it," said the minister.

Bangladesh moves forward because of police

Says home minister on DMP's 48th founding anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is moving forward because the police force is maintaining law and order, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday.

Bangabandhu wanted Bangladesh police to be a force of the people and they have achieved that title, the minister said while addressing the 48th founding anniversary of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) as chief guest.

Police is playing a key role in maintaining peace and order, said the home boss.

"Bangabandhu dreamed of creating DMP and it was his efforts that started DMP's journey. DMP completes its 48th year today and is working with 50 police stations and some of its internal units."

"When we were disoriented by the rise of militancy, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit was established within DMP, under the direction of the prime minister. CTTC was able to suppress the militancy with great success," the minister said.

DMP has been successfully able to provide security to Dhaka residents, which is now a city of over two crore people, the minister added.

Home Ministry's Senior

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# The fault in our supply and demand

No respite for lower, middle-income class as prices of egg, chicken increase



**Marginal farmers completely rely on these corporations for poultry feed. These corporations represent only 10 percent of the market. However, they are the ones who control the whole market by decreasing and increasing the supply of chicks and feeds.**

SUMON HOWLADER  
President, Bangladesh Poultry Association

MAHUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The struggle of people from low and middle-income backgrounds gets even harder with the increase in the prices of eggs and broiler chicken in just two weeks.

Prices of both items have increased by at least 25 percent in the last two weeks. The price of an egg was Tk 9.5 and a kilo of broiler chicken used to be sold at Tk 160 just two weeks ago. Yesterday, an egg was being sold at Tk 12 and the price of broiler chicken was Tk 200 per kilo.

Both experts and small farmers are blaming the big shots of the poultry industry and intermediaries for the abnormal price hike.

According to the Bangladesh Poultry Association (BPA), the price of a kilo of broiler chicken is Tk 148 at the production level. "At best, its price can be Tk 180 per kg," said BPA President Sumon Howlader.

"The cost of an egg at the

production level is Tk 11.11. Its retail price should not be over Tk 12. Its price saw a hike due to the rise in the poultry feed prices," he said.

"The demand for chicken has increased ahead of the month of Ramadan. Big companies have cashed in on the occasion and increased the price of a chicken up to Tk 57, whereas the rational price would be Tk 40," added Sumon, who represents 10,000 farmers across the country.

"Marginal farmers completely rely on these corporations for poultry feed. These corporations represent only 10 percent of the market. However, they are the ones who control the whole market by decreasing and increasing the supply of chicks and feeds."

"Consumers will ultimately have to pay a higher price during the month of Ramadan and Eid, if big corporations continue to sell at a higher rate to small farmers right now," said Sumon.

Contacted, Mahabub Hassan, executive vice president of Avon

Poultry and general secretary of World's Poultry Science Association Bangladesh Branch (WPSA-BB), said breeders reduced the hatching of eggs by 20 percent in winter. The production has however rebounded only recently.

"It is a supply and demand problem. The market will be stabilised by next month," he said.

"The lax monitoring system is responsible for abnormal prices," said Prof Anwarul Haque Beg of the Department of Poultry Science at Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University.

"The price of a chicken should not be over Tk 40 but there is no one to monitor it. Dealers are often involved in feed price manipulation but go unregulated," he said.

Citing the example of neighbouring country India, where a separate government organisation looks after the industry, he said the government needs to form a body which will work independently to supervise the poultry industry.

Take in more Rohingyas

Momen presses Australia at ministerial conference

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has pressed Australia to take in more Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh while physically attending the eight ministerial conference of the "Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime" on Friday.

Foreign officials ranging across 45 countries attended the event in Adelaide, Australia.

In an interview to Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), the minister said many countries substantially increased the number of Rohingyas they had taken, and he would like to see Australia take more people in as well.

"If they can do it, why not Australia? Australia is relatively more resourceful, and it's high time Australia came forward," he said.

Momen also said he wanted Australia to make diplomatic efforts and press the military junta in Myanmar to allow Rohingyas to return home.

Human rights groups are demanding that officials and politicians kickstart a new regional response to the latest wave of Rohingya refugees as almost 350 Rohingyas died or went missing at sea in 2022 while fleeing civil conflict in Myanmar or refugee

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DHAKA, HANOI  
Celebrating 50yrs of diplomatic ties



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Commemorating the 50 years of diplomatic relationships between Bangladesh and Vietnam, Vietnamese ambassador to Bangladesh Pham Viet Chien and embassy officials yesterday laid floral wreaths at the Bangabandhu Memorial and visited the museum at Dhanmondi 32.

They paid respect to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who laid the cornerstone for the establishment and development of the diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Marking the event, Ambassador Chien in a statement said over the last 50 years, the excellent traditional friendship between Vietnam and Bangladesh have been consolidated and strengthened on the basis of historical similarities and shared values of independence, peace, cooperation and development.

Bilateral multi-faceted cooperation in various fields has been bolstered to be more intensive, substantive and effective. Bangladesh has been the second largest trading partner of Vietnam in South Asia.

"Remarkably, 2021 was the first time that the two-way trade turnover surpassed 1 billion USD, and approached 1.5 billion USD in 2022, recording an impressive 75-fold growth in the last 20 years and a 4-fold increase in the last 10 years," Pham Viet Chien said.

"I believe Bangladesh and Vietnam will move

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BUET STUDENT SONY

## He could not see justice for daughter before death

DU CORRESPONDENT

Father of Buet student Sabekun Nahar Sony -- who died in the crossfire between two factions of the Chhatra Dal two decades ago -- has passed away yesterday morning.

Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan breathed his last around 8:00am while undergoing treatment at Ibn Sina Hospital in the capital. He was suffering from cancer, Habibur's son Maksudur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Sony's cousin Adil Ahmed Tutul said Habibur was diagnosed with cancer two months ago. Since then, he has been receiving treatment regularly.

His namaz e-janaza was held at Bijeshwar village in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila after Esha prayers. His body will then be buried there, Adil said.

"He had long hoped to see Sony's murder brought to justice. But in the end, he was unable to do so," Adil added.

Sony, a second-year student of chemical engineering department at Buet, was killed after being caught in the crossfire, during a factional clash between two feuding groups of BNP-backed student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in June 2002 on Buet campus.

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## Crowds a constant at the book fair

DIPAN NANDY

"There's no better place to share a moment reading and pass on this habit, than a book fair," said Farhana Taher, who was sitting next to a stage at the Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

On the 11th day of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair, there was also a huge crowd in the Shishu Chattar in the afternoon.

Talking about this year's fair, writer Imdadul Haque Milon said, "It's good to see such huge gatherings from the very start of the fair."

In the afternoon, a discussion programme titled "Memories: Ashraf Siddiqui" and "Memories: Sayeed Ahmed" was held on the main stage of the book fair. Yasmin Ara Sathi and Mahfuza Hilali presented the paper.

According to Bangla Academy, 191 new books were published at the fair yesterday.

Among the new books coming to the fair are -- "Padma Setu: Swapnamangal Khotha", collection of literary works on the Padma Bridge, (Bangla Academy); Nitina by Mostaque Ahamed (Anindya Prokash); Dhakeswari Mandir by Amaresh Roy (Matra Prokash); Serbia: Shuvro Shohorer Deshe by Imdad Haque and Sorbongsoha by Samyathath Bhowmik (Anyaprokash); Nishiddho Nagorik by Jamshed Nazim, (Ittadi Grantho Prokash); Bishader Preme Pora Baron By Sanjukta Saha (Student Ways).



Accompanied by her parents, a child looks through the books at a stall with her sunglasses on. It seems, even the scorching heat cannot stop young book enthusiasts from thronging the book fair premises. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## CITY DESK



The AIUB family prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

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Many students were suspended for taking part in the demonstrations and the university was closed down for 63 days to end the protests, he said. Sony's family also had to fight the case in court on their own.

ঢাকার প্রানকেন্দ্রে পুরানা পল্টন  
হোল্ডিং নং-৩৭/২ কালভার্ট রোডে, ৪র্থ  
তলায় (রাস্তার পাশে) ২২০০ বর্গফুট  
ফ্যাট সকল সুবিধাসহ ভাড়া হবে।  
মোবাইল: ০১৭৫৯৭০৬৭৩৩

**FROM PAGE 3**

Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun said currently, 34,000 policemen are working at DMP.

# Celebratin

FROM PAGE 3

toward realising their  
visions to become upper-  
middle income countries  
by 2030 and developed  
nations in the early 2040s,  
living up to the dreams  
of President Ho Chi Minh  
and Father of the Nation  
Bangabandhu Sheikh  
Mujibur Rahman.”

Vietnam and  
Bangladesh established

"Strict legal action will be taken to protect the security of the people and the sovereignty of the state if any person or group commits acts of militancy, terrorism, and sabotage in the future," said the commissioner.

Following the inauguration, a documentary on the overall functions of the DMP was screened. The day ended with a cultural programme where noted artists performed.

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# Take in m

FROM PAGE 3  
camps in Bangladesh, ABC  
reported.

Australian Foreign  
Minister Penny Wong said  
Australia acknowledged  
that Bangladesh carries a

of South Vietnam in Dhaka was opened on February 18, 1974. (After Vietnam's reunification in 1976, it was turned into the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in Dhaka).

Bilateral meeting between President of Vietnam, Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, on the sideline of 76th session of UN General Assembly in New York was held in September 2021.

**FROM PAGE 3**

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said Australia acknowledged that Bangladesh carries a

Wong did not make any fresh commitments on refugee resettlement but said Australia's programme was "generous" by global standards.

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During British era, Prafulya Kumar Sen, a zamindar from Raozan upazila, built the structure on a plot of land measuring 16 decimals.

He said he conducted an inspection of the structure and provided the directorate with a thorough report, claiming that the building appeared to be less than 100 years old and had no noteworthy historical significance.

However, the issue has been lingering for several years. He urged the authorities to take immediate measures.

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However, Abhijit Das, a BCL leader at CMC, denied the allegation.

CITY DESK




Born in Habiganj in 1949, he obtained a master's degree in sociology from Dhaka University in 1969 and worked as a trainer for the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD).

He also established various institutions including ASA University.

বাংলাদেশ শিল্প কারিগরি সহায়তা কেন্দ্র (বিটাক)  
১১৬ (খ), তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১২০৮।

বিটাক কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন "গোশালপাঞ্জ, সুনাঙ্গল, বরিশাল, রংপুর, জামালপুর এবং যশোর জেলায় বিটাকের ৬টি কেন্দ্র স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্প	
<b>দ্রবপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>	
<b>গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার</b>	
১	মহাখণ্ড/বিভাগ
২	সংস্থার নাম
৩	দরপত্র আবেদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম
৪	কাজের নাম
৫	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ
৬	তথ্যিক ও খাত
৭	প্রকল্প/প্রোগ্রাম কোড
৮	প্রকিউরমেন্ট মেথড
৯	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ
১১	দরপত্র ব্যাংক করার তারিখ ও সময়
১২	দরপত্র ব্যাংক খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১৩	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান
১৪	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান
১৫	শর্তাবলী
১৬	গাড়ী সরবরাহের স্থান
১৭	টেন্ডার সিটিংয়ের সময়
১৮	টেন্ডার সিটিংয়ের মান
১৯	দরপত্র আবেদনকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী
২০	বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিটাকের ওয়েবসাইট <a href="http://www.bitac.gov.bd">www.bitac.gov.bd</a> তে পওয়া যাবে।
২১	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সরকার কর্তৃক দরপত্র প্রদান অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

  
 (সি এম ইনা মুন্স হোসেন)  
 উপ-প্রকল্প পরিচালক  
 বিটাকের ডাট কেন্দ্র স্থাপন শীর্ষক প্রকল্প  
 ফোন: ৫৫৩৩০০৫৬

[www.dgme.gov.bd](http://www.dgme.gov.bd)

তারিখ: ০৯-০২-২০২৩ খ্রি.

ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল' কর্তৃক প্রণীত ভর্তি নীতিমালা- ২০২৩ অনুযায়ী অনলাইনে নির্ধারিত ছকে আবেদন করতে হবে।

০৩. আবেদনকারীকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
০২. (ক) ২০২২-২৩ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক শিক্ষার্থীকে ২০২২ সনে এইচএসসি/এ' লেভেল/সমমান ও ২০২০ সনে এসএসসি/ও' লেভেল/সমমান অথবা ২০২১ সনে এইচএসসি/এ' লেভেল/সমমান ও ২০১৯ সনে এসএসসি/ও' লেভেল/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। তবে শর্ত থাকে যে, এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় পাশের পূর্ববর্তী ০২ (দুই) বছরের মধ্যে এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় পাশ হতে হবে।  
(খ) এসএসসি/ও' লেভেল/সমমান পরীক্ষায় বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ এবং এইচএসসি/এ' লেভেল/সমমান পরীক্ষায় জীববিজ্ঞান, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান ও রসায়নসহ উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্র/ছাত্রীরা আবেদনের যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন।
০৩. এসএসসি/সমমান এবং এইচএসসি/সমমান দুটি পরীক্ষায় মোট জিপিএ কমপক্ষে ৯.০০ হতে হবে।
০৪. উপজাতীয় ও পার্বত্য জেলার অ-উপজাতীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে এসএসসি/সমমান এবং এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় মোট জিপিএ কমপক্ষে ৮.০০ হতে হবে। তবে এককভাবে কোনো পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ৩.৫০ এর কম হলে আবেদনের যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে না।
০৫. সকলের জন্যে এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় জীববিজ্ঞানে (Biology) ন্যূনতম গ্রেড পয়েন্ট ৪.০ না থাকলে আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
০৬. ১০০ (একশত) নম্বরের ১০০ (একশত)টি এমসিকিউ প্রশ্নের ১ (এক) ঘণ্টার লিখিত পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় বিষয় ভিত্তিক নম্বর বিন্যাস: জীববিজ্ঞান ৩০; রসায়নবিদ্যা ২৫; পদার্থবিদ্যা ২০; ইংরেজি ১৫; সাধারণ জ্ঞান (বাংলাদেশের ইতিহাস ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ) ১০। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় প্রতিটি ভুল উত্তর প্রদানের জন্য ০.২৫ নম্বর কাটা হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় ৪০ নম্বরের কম নম্বর প্রাপ্তরা অকৃতকার্য বলে গণ্য হবেন। ভর্তিযোগ্য পরীক্ষার্থীদের মেধা তালিকাসহ ফল প্রকাশ করা হবে।
০৭. এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি বা সমমান পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত জিপিএ মোট ২০০ নম্বর হিসেবে নির্ধারণ করে নিম্নলিখিতভাবে মূল্যায়ন করা হবে:  
ক) এসএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত জিপিএ এর ১৫ গুণ = ৭৫ নম্বর (সর্বোচ্চ)  
খ) এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত জিপিএ এর ২৫ গুণ = ১২৫ নম্বর (সর্বোচ্চ)
০৮. লিখিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত নম্বর এবং অনুচ্ছেদ ০৭-এ বর্ণিত পদ্ধতিতে এসএসসি/সমমান ও এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত নম্বরের যোগফলের ভিত্তিতে মেধা তালিকা প্রণয়ন করা হবে।
০৯. পূর্ববর্তী বছরের এইচএসসি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ পরীক্ষার্থীদের সর্বমোট (Aggregated) নম্বর থেকে ০৫ (পাঁচ) নম্বর বাদ দিয়ে এবং পূর্ববর্তী বছরের সরকারি মেডিকেল কলেজ বা ভেটেনারি কলেজ/ইউনিট এ ভর্তিকৃত ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের ক্ষেত্রে মোট প্রাপ্ত নম্বর থেকে ৮.০ (আট) নম্বর বাদ দিয়ে মেধা তালিকা তৈরি করা হবে।
১০. অনলাইনে আবেদন পূরণ করার সময় নির্দেশাবলি [www.dgme.gov.bd](http://www.dgme.gov.bd) ও [www.dghs.gov.bd](http://www.dghs.gov.bd) ভালোভাবে পড়ে বুকে নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী সতর্কতার সাথে পূরণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষা ফি ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা শুধু প্রি-পেইড চেক/টিকের মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।
১১. অনলাইনে আবেদন শুরুর তারিখ : ২৩-০২-২০২৩ খ্রি., সোমবার (দুপুর ১২.০০ টা)
১২. অনলাইনে আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ : ২৩-০২-২০২৩ খ্রি., বৃহস্পতিবার (রাত ১১:৫৯ মি.)
১৩. অনলাইনে আবেদনের ফি জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ : ২৪-০২-২০২৩ খ্রি. শুক্রবার (রাত ১১.৫৯ মি.)
১৪. প্রবেশ পত্র বিতরণ (ডাউনলোড) : ০৬-০৩-২০২৩ খ্রি., সোমবার হতে ০৭-০৩-২০২৩ খ্রি., মঙ্গলবার পর্যন্ত
১৫. ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ : ২০-০৩-২০২৩ খ্রি. শুক্রবার, সকাল ১০.০০ টা হতে ১১.০০ টা পর্যন্ত
১৬. MBBS ভর্তির জন্য Online ফরম পূরণের নিয়মাবলি ও ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগের ওয়েব সাইট [www.mefwd.gov.bd](http://www.mefwd.gov.bd), স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইট [www.dgme.gov.bd](http://www.dgme.gov.bd), স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েব সাইট [www.dghs.gov.bd](http://www.dghs.gov.bd) ও <http://dgc.teletalk.com.bd> হতে জানা যাবে।
১৭. আবেদনপত্র প্রক্রিয়াকরণ, নিরীক্ষণ, উত্তরপত্র মূল্যায়ন, ফলাফল চূড়ান্তকরণ এবং পুনঃনিরীক্ষণ ডিজিটাল প্রক্রিয়ায় সম্পন্ন করা হবে। উত্তরপত্র ও গুণমাত্রা/আইসিআর (OMR/ICR) সেমিনে পরীক্ষা করা হবে।
১৮. বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক যারা বিদেশি শিক্ষা (O-Level/A-Level) কার্যক্রমে এসএসসি/এইচএসসি এর সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ তাদের মার্কার্শীট সমূহ বাংলাদেশে প্রচলিত জিপিএতে রূপান্তর করে Equivalence Certificate সংগ্রহ করার পর অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। সেক্ষেত্রে তাদেরকে পরীক্ষালব্ধ, ডিগ্রিসহ শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর, মহাশালা, ঢাকা ব্যবহারে ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডারসহ আবেদন (স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের মেডিকেল এডুকেশন শাখার কক্ষ নং ২০৪) করে Equivalence Certificate সংগ্রহ করার জন্য এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি এর সমমান পরীক্ষার মূল নম্বরপত্র ও সনদপত্র এবং নম্বরপত্র ও সনদপত্র সমূহের প্রদানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত কপি সাথে আনতে হবে।
১৯. বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক যারা বিদেশ থেকে এসএসসি এবং এইচএসসি এর সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন, তাদের নম্বরপত্রসমূহ সংশ্লিষ্ট দেশে বাংলাদেশি দূতাবাস/আইসিআর, সংশ্লিষ্ট দেশের বাংলাদেশের জন্য নির্ধারিত দূতাবাস/আইসিআর এবং শিক্ষা/পরিবার/হিসাবরক্ষা শাখা, বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক আধিকারভাবে সত্যায়িত হতে হবে। বাংলাদেশি কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানে অধ্যয়নকারী বাংলাদেশি বংশোদ্ভূত বিদেশি পাসপোর্টধারীরা কোনোভাবেই এই সুযোগের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
২০. বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক শিক্ষার্থী এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়ার পর দেশের বাহিরে এমবিবিএস কোর্সে অধ্যয়ন করতে চাইলে বাধ্যতামূলক ভাবে কেন্দ্রীয় ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ পূর্বক ন্যূনতম ৪০ নম্বর পেতে হবে।
২১. কোটার প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিধি বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে।
২২. ভর্তি পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রীয়ভাবে নিয়ন্ত্রিত হয়। যে কোনো কেন্দ্র হতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ সমান সুযোগ নিশ্চিত করে।
২৩. পরীক্ষায় অতীর্ণ/নির্বাচিত কোন প্রার্থীর দেয়া তথ্য (যা ফলাফল নির্মাণে বিবেচিত হয়েছে) অসম্পূর্ণ ও ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে, তার পরীক্ষা/ফলাফল/ভর্তি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। যে কোনো বিষয়ে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

GD- 244



## PADMA TEXTILES LIMITED (LIAISON OFFICE)


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**Padma Textiles Limited (Liaison Office)** wants the following positions for their Gazipura RMG office

<b>1.</b>	<b>Fabric Technician for Knits and Wovens</b>	- 2 Posts
<b>2.</b>	<b>Pattern &amp; Fit Technologist for Ladieswear Knits &amp; Wovens</b>	- 2 Posts
<b>3.</b>	<b>Senior Wash Manager / Technician (both Knit and Woven experience)</b>	- 1 Post
<b>4.</b>	<b>Fabric Sourcing Manager</b>	- 1 Post
<b>5.</b>	<b>Senior Merchandisers for Knit / Woven</b>	- 4 Posts

- Candidates must be Diploma in Textile / Undergraduate pass from any reputed College/University with at least 4 years experience.
- Candidates must be intelligent, sincere, hard-working with a professional attitude.
- Only Candidates thinking about a long term career may apply. Right candidate will be offered excellent career prospects, attractive salaries & allowances.
- Please email your CV to **jobs@padmabd.com** with C.V. & recent photograph along with the Scanned Certificates and contact tel number; within 10 days of publishing the Advertisement.

**Only a short listed candidates will be called for an interview**



## বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এন্ড স্ট্র্যাটেজিক স্টাডিজ (বিআইআইএসএস)

১/৪৬, পুরাতন এলিফ্যান্ট রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০

### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এন্ড স্ট্র্যাটেজিক স্টাডিজ (বিআইআইএসএস)-এ নিম্নলিখিত পদে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদ ও বেতন স্কেল	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা
<b>প্রাথমিক কর্মকর্তা</b> (গ্রো-৯ম, বেতন স্কেল: টাকা ২২,০০০/- ০৩,০৬০/-) সরকারি নিয়ম অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য ভাতাদি।	০৪টি	২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ তারিখে বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।	পিস এন্ড কমিউটি স্টাডিজ, অর্থনীতি/ব্যবসায় অর্থনীতি/ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/উন্নয়ন অর্থনীতি, পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান, আন্তর্জাতিক আইন বিষয়ে অনার্স এবং মাস্টার্স পর্যায়ে প্রথম শ্রেণি এবং অন্যান্য পর্যায় ন্যূনতম দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী/বিভাগ থাকতে হবে। অতিষ্ঠ বা পিএইচডি ডিগ্রিধারীদের আবেদন করা যাবে।
<b>প্রাথমিক কর্মকর্তা</b> (গ্রো-৯ম, বেতন স্কেল: টাকা ২২,০০০/- ০৩,০৬০/-) সরকারি নিয়ম অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য ভাতাদি।	০১টি	২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ তারিখে বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।	সার্বজনিক/অগ্রদ্বারগত ও তথ্য বিজ্ঞান বা প্রাসংগিক বিষয়ে কোন অনুরূপিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা মাস্টার্সের প্রকাশনা কর্তে অতিষ্ঠতা।
<b>গাণিত্যিকাল</b> (গ্রো-১৬ম, বেতন স্কেল: টাকা ৪৬,০০০/-২২,৪৯০/-) সরকারি নিয়ম অনুযায়ী অন্যান্য ভাতাদি।	০১টি	২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ তারিখে বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে।	গাণিত্যিকাল (মিটারসাইকেলসহ) ও ৮ম শ্রেণি পাশ। পেশাদার ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স এবং সত্যায়িত অফিসারের নিকট হতে টার্নিকট সনদপত্র।

২। প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক এবং শারীরিকভাবে সুস্থ হতে হবে।  
 ৩। দরখাস্তের সাথে নিম্নলিখিত নথি/সাক্ষরিতকেন্দ্রসমূহ সংযুক্ত করতে হবেঃ  
 (ক) প্রার্থীর পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত, (খ) ভদ্র চিত্রনাম সনদপত্র, (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (NID)-এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (ঘ) নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র, (ঙ) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সত্যায়িত সনদপত্র, (চ) সদ্য তোলা সত্যায়িত ৩০ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের ছবি, (ছ) প্রথম শ্রেণির ফেলোশিপ অফিসারের নিকট হতে টার্নিকট সনদপত্র।  
 ৪. প্রথম পদের জন্য দরখাস্ত আশ্রমী ২৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট পৌঁছাতে হবে।  
 ৫। গ্রাহকবিভাগে বাছাইকৃত প্রার্থীদের লিখিত ও মৌখিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য স্ব স্ব ক্রিয়ানায় পর ও এসএমএস মাধ্যমে অবহিত করা হবে।

**উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)**

বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইন্টারন্যাশনাল এন্ড স্ট্র্যাটেজিক স্টাডিজ







## Solely focusing on 'SHURONGO'

TAMA MIRZA

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Award-winning actress Tama Mirza has become a household name through her hit web-series and her exceptional performances. This year, she will be working in Raihan Rafi's *Shurongo*—which is due to begin shooting this month.

Speaking to The Daily Star, the actress informed us that she is not taking on any new projects, as she is preparing herself for *Shurongo*. She also said, "I have been solely focused on this film and have been busy with the preparations for it. I have not been thinking about anything except *Shurongo*."

In the film, Tama will be starring opposite Afran Nisho, who will be playing the character of a cave digger. Directed by Raihan Rafi, the actress shared that a majority of the film would be shot inside of a cave, claiming she finds this sort of situation "challenging".

"Afran Nisho bhai is a flawless actor, who is amazing at his craft. I hope together, we can

present a good cinema for the audience," said Tama, when asked about her experience with her co-star.

Asked about her thoughts on what makes a quality project, the actress said, "A good script, good director and good acting is the key to a good film."

Tama Mirza currently has two web-series awaiting release—*Buker Modhe Agun* and *Friday*. The actress described her character in *Buker Modhe Agun* to be a difficult one, the kind she has not played before.

On that note, she expressed that she wants to take on more projects and continue her craft in the future.



## Arnob's Valentine's gift for fans

Recently, Arnob was seen serenading the audience with his hit song *Shey Je Boshe Ache* on his guitar, on Grameenphone's official Facebook page. When the song ends, the singer informs the audience that the artiste's much awaited next album is launching in conjunction with Grameenphone.

Yesterday, a music video of the first song from the album *Arnob and Friends 2* was seen on the official page of Grameenphone.

Re-released almost 19 years later, the hit song *Shey Je Boshe Ache* finally has a music video. The full album is now available on Spotify to stream.

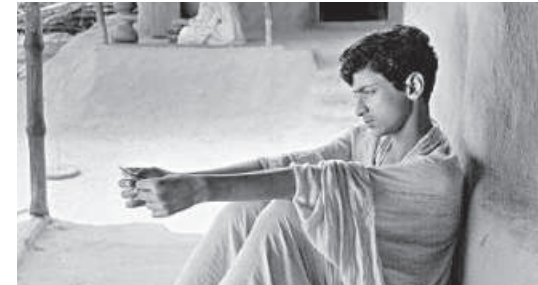
## Satyajit Ray's 'Aparajito' in 73rd Berlinale retrospective

The Berlin International Film Festival will return in February. Also known as the Berlinale to the world cinema, it will begin on February 16 and will last until February 26.

This year's Berlinale will feature another Satyajit Ray classic, *Aparajito*, the second film in *The Apu Trilogy*.

Aside from *Aparajito*, the other four Asian films in the retrospective are *Bag of Rice* by Mohammad-Ali Talebi, *Cruel Story of Youth* by Nagisa Shima, *Manila in the Claws of Light* by Lino Brocka, and *Typhoon Club* by Shinji Smai.

The film went on to win 11 international awards also it was the first ever film to win both the Golden Lion and Critics Award at the 1957 Venice Film Festival.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



সাধারণ পাউডারের তুলনায় প্রতি ধোয়ায় লাগে মাত্র অর্ধেক\*

তাই এর ৫০০ গ্রাম চলবে  
এক মাসেরও বেশি\*\*



সাধারণ পাউডার



সারফ এক্সেল

\*নির্বাচিত দাগের ক্ষেত্রে ল্যাব টেস্টের উপর ভিত্তি করে

\*\*সাধারণ পাউডারের তুলনায় প্রতি ধোয়ায় সারফ এক্সেল অর্ধেক পরিমাণ ব্যবহার করা হলে



## Quake causes 300-km-long fissure

NDTV ONLINE

Researchers have found a 300km rupture caused by two powerful earthquakes near the Turkish-Syrian border.

The first 7.8 magnitude earthquake on Monday was followed by 7.5 magnitude quake.

Scientists from UK's Centre for the Observation and Modelling of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Tectonics (COMET) discovered the ruptures on February 6 by comparing images taken by the European Earth-observing satellite Sentinel-1 before and after the devastating earthquakes.

The longer of the two ruptures stretches 300 kilometres (190 miles) northeast from the Mediterranean Sea's northeastern tip.

According to a tweet from COMET on Friday, the second crack, measuring 125 kilometers (80 miles) long, opened during the second earthquake, almost nine hours after the first earthquake.

The striking lengths of these two fissures is evidence of the large quantity of energy that the earthquakes released.

## Shoot down of object over Alaska was 'success': Biden

CNN ONLINE

President Joe Biden has told CNN that the shoot down a "high-altitude object" hovering over Alaska "was a success," shortly after his national security officials disclosed that the commander in chief gave the US military approval to take the action.

The announcement comes after the administration was subjected to a slew of questions about the timing of Biden's decision to shoot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the coast of South Carolina last Saturday. This time, the president took more decisive action to swiftly take down the object near Alaska, but key questions about the origin of the object and its functionality remain unanswered.

The president was first briefed Thursday night "as soon as the Pentagon had enough information," on the object, National Security Council coordinator for strategic communications John Kirby said, adding that at the recommendation of the Pentagon, Biden ordered the military "to down the object – and they did."



Rescuers help 16-year-old Hediye who survived a deadly earthquake in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey. She was rescued 5 days after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that devastated parts of Syria and Turkey.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Nearly 26m affected by Turkey-Syria quake: WHO

AFP, Geneva

Almost 26 million people have been affected by the deadly earthquake that ravaged Turkey and Syria this week, the WHO said yesterday, warning that dozens of hospitals had been damaged.

As the death toll from the quake rose above 25,000, the UN health agency launched a flash appeal Saturday asking for \$42.8 million to help it address the immediate, towering health needs.

The World Health Organization, which has already released \$16 million from its emergency fund, had previously said up to 23 million people could be impacted.

But yesterday, that rose to nearly 26 million, with 15 million affected in Turkey and nearly 11 million in war-torn Syria.

Among them, more than five million people were considered to be particularly vulnerable, including close to 350,000 elderly people and over 1.4 million children.

WHO estimated that in Turkey, where more than 4,000 buildings have collapsed in the quake, 15 hospitals had suffered partial or heavy damage.

In Syria, where the health care system had already been ravaged by 12 years of civil war, at least 20 health facilities across the hard-hit northwest, including four hospitals, had sustained damage.

This is making it all the more difficult to help the tens of thousands of people who have been injured in the disaster.

And while emergency medical services have

been overwhelmed with trauma patients, essential health services have been severely disrupted, WHO warned.

The UN agency said there was a dire need for immediate trauma care, post-trauma rehabilitative care, essential medicines, prevention and control to prevent disease outbreaks and



access to mental health support.

The agency added that it had flown 37 metric tonnes of trauma and emergency surgery supplies to Turkey on Thursday, while 35 metric tonnes had arrived in Syria on Friday.

"These life-saving supplies will be used to treat and care for 100,000 people as well as for 120,000 urgent surgical interventions in both countries," it said.

## Russia likely lost half its heavy tanks in Ukraine

Claims US

AFP, Washington

Half of Russia's main battle tanks have likely been destroyed or captured by Ukraine, a senior US defense official has said.

Russia "has probably lost half of its main battle tank stock in combat and through Ukrainian capture," Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Celeste Wallander said during an event on Friday.

Ukraine is set to receive an influx of heavy Western tanks from its supporters.

Britain has said its Challenger 2 tanks will be deployed in Ukraine in March, while Germany and its allies aim to get a battalion of Leopard 2 tanks to Kyiv by April.

## Mob storms kills man accused of blasphemy

REUTERS, Lahore

A mob in eastern Pakistan yesterday stormed a police station and killed a man under custody and accused of blasphemy, police said, in the latest incident of religion-linked violence in the Islamic republic. Yesterday, Muhammad Waris, a man in his early 20s, was taken into police custody after a mob attacked him for allegedly desecrating the Quran, police spokesman Muhammad Waqas told Reuters. However, the mob stormed the station, located in the city of Nankana Sahib, took Waris out of the premises, beat him to death and attempted to set his body on fire, Waqas added. "Police could not resist them because a handful of officials were present in the police station," he said, adding that police reinforcements were able to stop the mob from setting the body alight, and were readying action against the crowd.

## Palestinian killed by settler in West Bank

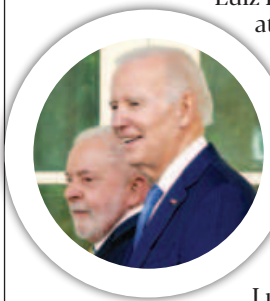
REUTERS, Jerusalem

A Jewish settler fatally shot a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank yesterday, Palestinian officials said. A number of Jewish settlers carrying pistols and one with a rifle had approached the village of Qrawat Bani Hassan and one fired a shot, killing 27-year-old Mothqal Rayyan, a Palestinian witness told Reuters. According to the witness, the Israeli military arrived but only protected the settlers. The Israeli military said its soldiers had been dispatched to the scene after riots erupted between dozens of Palestinians and Israelis. It said the soldiers had responded with riot dispersal measures and shooting into the air, after which the confrontation had ended.

## Biden, Lula vow to defend democracy in Americas

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden and his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Friday at the White House that the two biggest countries in the Americas have successfully seen off attacks on their democracies and will now work together on fighting the climate crisis. "Both our nations' strong democracies have been tested," Biden told Lula, and "both in the United States and Brazil, democracy prevailed." Meeting in the Oval Office, Biden and Lula expressed solidarity over their similar paths. Biden defeated Donald Trump in 2020. In Brazil, Lula defeated right-winger Jair Bolsonaro. "We have some issues on which we can work together," Lula told Biden. "First is to never again allow" the anti-democratic mob attacks.



## No more delay

FROM PAGE 12

DUI members will observe a token hunger strike on February 15 in front of the Jatiya Press Club and submit a memorandum to the home ministry, he added.

After Sagar and Runi were killed at their flat in the capital's West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012, then home minister Sahara Khatun said the suspects would be arrested in 48 hours.

DRU Vice-President Dipu Sarwar, Organising Secretary Saiful Islam, Office Secretary Kawsar Azam, and Women Affairs Secretary Moriom Mony Sejuti spoke among others.

Meanwhile, family members of the slain couple held an exhibition titled "Crime Scene, Do not Cross" at the flat of Runi's brother Nawsher Alam on Indira Road.

## Biden to mark

FROM PAGE 12

they defend their freedom and democracy," she said.

Biden's trip will coincide with a state of the nation address in Moscow by Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 21.

Poland is the main hub for refugees and the funneling in of Western military aid, much of it coming from the United States. However, Biden is considered unlikely to visit neighboring Ukraine, due to security concerns.

Numerous European leaders have visited the Ukrainian capital Kyiv. Biden's wife, First Lady Jill Biden, made a surprise visit in May 2022 to western Ukraine.

## Scientists find

FROM PAGE 12

Researchers also found that the youngest participants in the sample – minimum age 19 – slept the most.

Based on the data, they say sleep duration likely declines throughout people's 20s and early 30s before plateauing until their early 50s and increasing again.

## Death toll likely

FROM PAGE 12

A border crossing between Armenia and Turkey opened for the first time in 35 years yesterday to allow five trucks carrying food and water into the quake-hit region.

Turkey's disaster agency said over 32,000 people from Turkish organisations are working on search and rescue efforts. In addition, there are 8,294 international rescuers.

In Syria, where years of conflict have ravaged the healthcare system and parts of the country remain under the control of rebels, aid has been slow to arrive.

World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus took a flight full of emergency medical equipment into the quake-stricken city of Aleppo yesterday.

Tedros toured damaged areas of the city tweeting: "I'm heartbroken to see the conditions survivors are facing – freezing weather and extremely limited access to shelter, food, water, heat and medical care".

The Syrian government said it had approved the delivery of

humanitarian assistance to quake-hit areas outside its control in Idlib province. A convoy was expected to leave today.

The winter freeze has left thousands of people either spending nights in their cars or huddling around makeshift fires that have become ubiquitous across the quake-hit region.

In Turkey, five days of grief and anguish have been slowly building into rage at the poor quality of buildings as well as the government's response to the country's worst disaster in nearly a century.

Officials in the country say 12,141 buildings were either destroyed or seriously damaged in the earthquake.

"Damage was to be expected, but not the type of damage that you are seeing now", said Mustafa Erdik, a professor at Istanbul-based Bogazici University.

Turkish police yesterday detained 12 people, including contractors, over collapsed buildings in the southeastern provinces of Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, local media reported.

## Help more girls, women

FROM PAGE 2

given to girls to carry out research in agriculture, industry, health, science, art, information technology – all fields in Bangladesh.

Hasina said her government has established science and technology universities across the country to give boys and girls easy access.

Hi-tech parks have created an inclusive environment where our girls can thrive alongside boys in the country, she added.

Hasina wished to see women and girls fulfil their potential for innovation and creativity in science. "We must bridge the gaps in opportunities available to them in developed and developing countries. We want our girls to have their full share in building smart, knowledge-based societies." The PM

congratulated all the women and girls on this International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

The 8th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly was held aiming to bridge between the international community and women in science through linking their knowledge and expertise and its applications in a systematic, critical way for the 2030 agenda and its 17 global goals.

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust, and co-organising member states celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science at the UN Headquarters.

The theme of the assembly was "Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance. (I.D.E.A.) to bring communities forward for sustainable and equitable development."

## Indian regulator probes Adani's links

FROM PAGE 2

Hindenburg has alleged one Adani private entity had a small ownership stake in Monarch – which has previously worked as a bookrunner for the group – saying "this close relationship seems to pose an obvious conflict of interest." The short-seller also alleged that a Mauritius-based fund of Elara has invested 99% of its market value in three Adani stocks.

Adani has said Monarch was selected for previous share sales "for their credentials and ability to tap into the retail market". On Elara, Adani has said "innuendoes" that the firm was in any manner related to the conglomerate founders were incorrect.

When contacted before publication of this story, Monarch referred Reuters to an exchange disclosure on Feb. 3 that said an Adani entity has held "an insignificant", 0.03%, stake in the company since 2016. Reuters was unable to confirm this from public records.

After the story was published, Monarch said in a stock exchange filing that it had not invested in the Adani share offering before its cancellation and there was "absolutely no question

of any conflict of interest".

In the filing, Monarch said the Reuters report "comprises half-truths that paint an incorrect picture." The company did not respond to requests seeking details of the alleged inaccuracies in Reuters' reporting.

Elara did not respond to a request for comment on the regulator's probe and Hindenburg's allegations.

MEETING WITH MODI'S OFFICE

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the market regulator, told India's top court at a hearing on Friday about investor losses following the publication of the Hindenburg Research report that "SEBI is on top of the matter."

Shares in Adani Enterprises extended their losses to 5% in Friday afternoon trade following Reuters' report, having previously been down 2.5% earlier in the day. The stock ended the day down 4.1%.

In recent days, the fallout of the allegations by Hindenburg, which stood to profit from the fall in the value of Adani Group assets, has come up repeatedly as a cause for concern at the national level, including at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, two

government officials said.

Opposition parties have protested in parliament to call for an independent probe into Hindenburg's allegations.

The federal corporate affairs ministry, responsible for regulating Indian businesses, has briefed officials in Modi's office and been in touch with SEBI, the market regulator, one of the officials said. Reuters could not determine the specific details of these discussions, which have not been previously reported.

The ministry launched a review of Adani's past financial statements on Feb. 2.

Modi's office and India's Ministry of Corporate Affairs did not respond to requests for comment about the regulatory probe into Adani after publication of the Hindenburg report.

The conglomerate has previously said Hindenburg's allegations of stock manipulation had "no basis" and stemmed from an ignorance of Indian law. It has said it has always made the necessary regulatory disclosures.

India's Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan on Saturday described the Adani issue as a "storm in a teacup" from a macroeconomic perspective.

Daily Star.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University said nearly 20 million people living along the Teesta have been suffering for years as Bangladesh doesn't get its due share of water.

Contacted last night, NRCC Chairman Manjur said, "Whatever I told The Telegraph is my personal opinion. I did not say it as the chairman of the commission. I have several write ups from 2011 to 2012 where I have shown that India will in no way share Teesta water with Bangladesh."

"The issue was dropped at the last prime minister-level talks. The issue of water sharing is no longer in discussions."

He added that The Telegraph did not publish his comment in full.

He didn't give a direct answer when this correspondent asked whether his speech went against Bangladesh's interest.



## A canal here, a bird refuge there...

One by one, we're losing precious natural resources to greed and apathy

For those keeping score, Saturday's print issue of *The Daily Star* came as another reminder – if reminders were at all needed – that Bangladesh is fast losing its natural resources to pollution, encroachment and degradation of all kinds. It came as a warning that insufficient response from the state is as much responsible for this as reckless conduct by private citizens and entities.

The two reports that were printed shed light into the predicaments of a canal and a bird sanctuary. The first, Karikapara canal, a 3-kilometre stretch of water running through the Khulna city, is on the verge of extinction due to pollution and encroachment. Every day, untreated waste water from a number of wards flows directly into it, while household and industrial garbage is also dumped there, choking the life out of it. This has been causing all sorts of problems both for the aquatic species and residents and farmers of the area. Meanwhile, unchecked encroachment has seen structures illegally built along its banks, narrowing it down to a point that it can no longer be used as a route to transport agricultural produce.

The canal is one of 47 flowing through Khulna city and adjacent areas. The city corporation, which has 31 of them under its jurisdiction, apparently has a list of 460 grabbers and 382 structures built on 26 canals. The question is, why is it sitting on that list? Why was nothing done to protect these canals? Grabbers are usually influential people, which partly explains why eviction drives are so infrequently conducted, or so unsuccessful, in the country. Other state initiatives to protect or revive waterbodies have also been found similarly lacking.

The second report of the day also paints a sad picture of official interventions. It's about a waterbody in Nilphamari known as Nilsagar, once a favourite place for migratory birds. Things changed after 1999 when a project was taken up to develop it into a bird sanctuary, which instead had the opposite effect. Reportedly, as part of the project, century-old indigenous trees were replaced by foreign varieties that neither grow big enough to provide shelter for birds nor produce food for them. As a result, Nilsagar started to attract fewer birds. This shows how insufficient or inappropriate action can lead to disastrous consequences, which natural resources in Bangladesh are no stranger to.

The continued assault on such resources – rivers, canals, hills, hillocks, forests, green spaces, agricultural land, etc. – has been a recurrent theme in Bangladesh's development narrative. Over the last decade or so, we have seen how the triple whammy of pollution, encroachment and bad policy/governance led to indiscriminate destruction and degradation of nature. Numerous warning flags have been raised and ignored, both in equal measure. This is deeply alarming. There is only one way to go following this path: down.

This must change. We urge the government to take a long, hard look at the gap between its environmental commitments and actions/inactions. It must recommit to creating an atmosphere in which all – individuals and institutions – are aware of the impacts of their decisions and held accountable for their failures or transgressions.

## Project to modernise farming must work

Farmers need to be motivated and given necessary tools on time

There is no question that the government's project to introduce integrated farming, using modern agricultural tools, is a farsighted initiative. In order to ensure higher yields, mechanisation of farming and cultivating larger plots of land are essential. The traditional farming of fragmented plots is not economically viable because it is not cost-effective to use mechanised farming on separate plots. Thus, some sort of consolidation of land is necessary to make this TK 3,020-crore project work. That is, however, proving difficult to implement. The project has reportedly encountered major bottlenecks in the form of farmers' reluctance to adopt the synchronised farming method.

As a result, a good policy initiative is finding no headway even after two years. One can imagine that the basic groundwork for getting all the farmers on board with this initiative, which was undertaken in 2021, has not been properly done.

The main idea behind the project is to boost crop production as well as reduce the cost of farming by using transplanters, harvesters and other equipment on 50 to 60 acres of land. But farmers are not eager to do away with the aisles separating their plots, which is a prerequisite for the project to work. While the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) has demonstrated how this synchronised farming can be done with good results, by cultivating the hybrid SL-8 variety of Boro on 110 blocks in 61 districts, somehow farmers are still not fully convinced.

*The Daily Star's* report on this cites farmers in Tangail who alleged that they were ready to form groups among themselves and adopt the mechanised farming method, but they had not received the necessary equipment. The plan is to sell 51,300 machines among farmers at 50-70 percent discounts with subsidies, but as of December 2022, only 16,236 were distributed. This is a major gap and must be addressed immediately.

Having sufficient dialogue with the farmers to motivate them to remove the separating aisles in their plots and adopt this new method is vital. Farmers should be made to understand how efficient and cost-effective mechanised farming can be. This will ultimately lead to greater profits for them. Apart from a vigorous awareness campaign involving all stakeholders, the government must ensure that the farmers receive the various mechanised tools on time and with adequate training on how to use them. To gain their trust in the project, it must ensure that farmers' land rights are in no way jeopardised.

We urge the authorities to reinvestigate the project's implementation with full force. We need reforms like this in our agriculture to ensure our future food security and give our farmers the returns they so deserve for feeding the nation with their arduous efforts. Successful implementation of this project is, therefore, crucial.

# Walk the walk to fight AMR



Kazi Md Mukitul Islam is a PhD candidate at Boston University. His research interests include medical sociology.

KAZIMD MUKITUL ISLAM

Back in 2013, the head cardiologist of a renowned hospital in Bangladesh suggested breathing pacemakers as a last resort to keep my grandmother alive. She had developed an infection that turned out to be resistant to antibiotics. My grandmother had spent most of her life in a conservative village where women rarely go to hospitals, since most doctors are male. Instead, they rely on quick remedies like antibiotics, recommended by pharmacists. The pacemaker could only keep her breathing for three more months.

Long before antibiotics were available, a simple wound often meant the end of someone's life due to a bacterial infection. Beginning in the 1950s, greater availability of antibiotics not only changed that, but also reduced child mortality and improved life expectancy rates. Major surgeries or even cancer chemotherapy would not be possible without effective treatment of bacterial infection.

But these lifesaving drugs, when misused, allow disease-causing bacteria and fungi to grow uncontrollably, and no longer respond to antibiotics designed to kill them. This defiance is popularly known as antimicrobial resistance or AMR, and the pathogens that don't respond to a variety of antibiotics are commonly referred to as "superbugs." A Lancet study estimated 1.27 million deaths associated with bacterial AMR in 2019, more deaths than by HIV or malaria.

And yet, globally, the use of antibiotics is still on the rise. A recent study covering 204 countries shows a 46 percent increase (of daily doses per 1,000 people) in antibiotic consumption between 2000 and 2018. South Asia is among the regions where antibiotic resistance continues unabated for all ages.

So, while antibiotic use in high-income countries plunged in recent times, it has increased rapidly in low-income countries. For instance, in high-income countries, the antibiotic consumption rate (daily doses per 1,000 population) dropped by four percent between 2000 and 2015. Conversely, its consumption increased by 77 percent in low-income countries. In the absence of diagnostic facilities in these countries, both doctors and patients trust antibiotics under the assumption that every disease is bacterial.

Unlike many low-income countries, Bangladesh is self-sufficient, with the capacity to produce antibiotics locally.

Besides, the country has a very high pharmacy density (7.2 pharmacies per 10,000 people) compared to other regions, including the EU and the US. People here must also worry about extensive out-of-pocket expenses when it comes to healthcare. Hence, they prefer a quick fix to an illness, such as using antibiotics. Also, more people can now afford expensive antibiotics.

These trends have been exacerbated even more by the pandemic. For instance, the perception of antibiotics as "big" medicine has been one of the

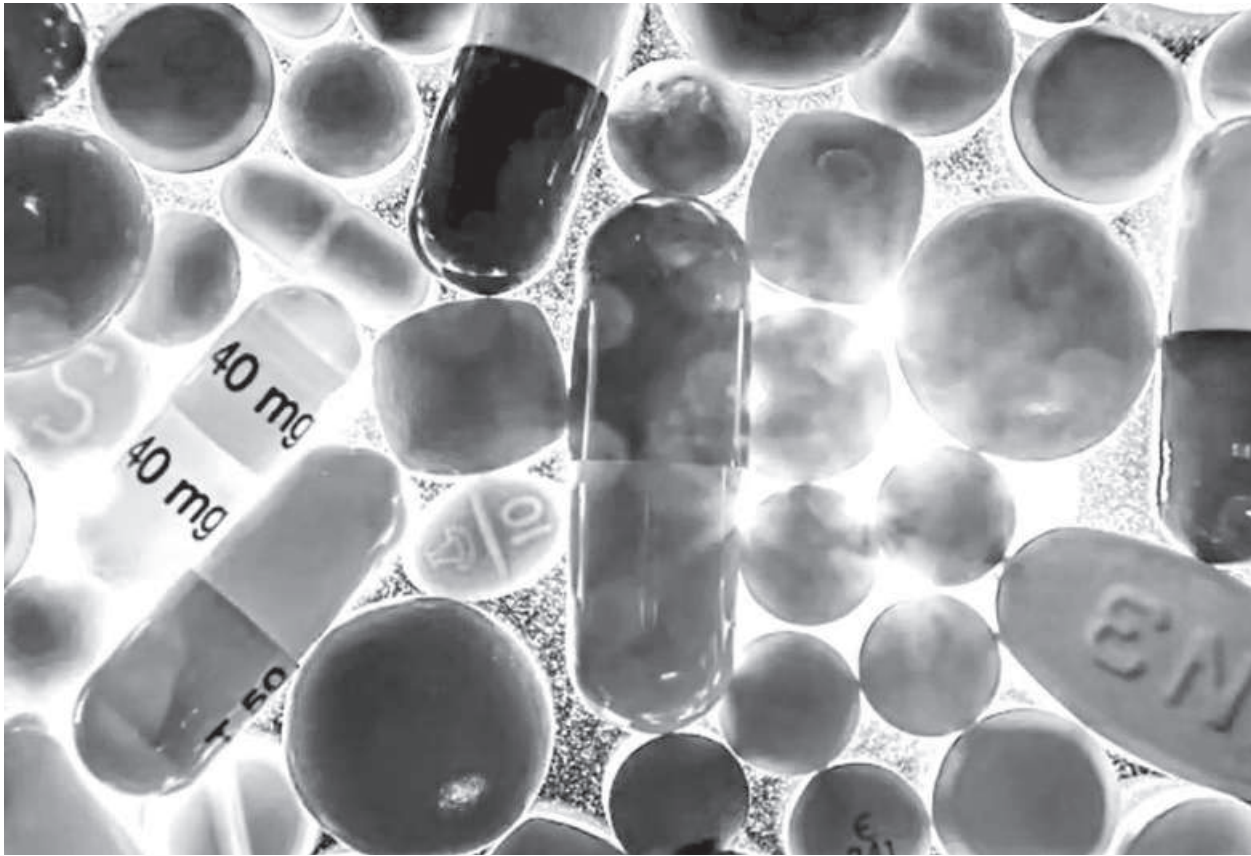


PHOTO: AFP

key social drivers of antibiotic use in Bangladesh during the pandemic. Also, the lack of confidence to treat severe Covid cases and commercial pressure drove the use of expensive antibiotics.

Misuse in the form of overdosing or underdosing is another key concern. A study in rural Bangladesh found that 48 percent of antibiotics purchased were for less than one day's dosage.

World Health Organization data suggest that almost 90 percent of patients in Bangladesh are resistant to ciprofloxacin (one of the leading antibiotics), compared to only 11.5 percent of patients in the UK. Even worse, a professor from Bangabandhu

pharmacies do so either through self-referral or without a prescription. The thriving drug industry and aggressive marketing often push such exploitation. The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) reveals that pharmaceutical companies employ 65 percent of their manpower to influence doctors (and pharmacy owners) to generate prescriptions.

In 2021, the WHO declared AMR as a major public health threat. But it is also highlighted as the overlooked pandemic. Substantial data gap is a major obstacle to global health governance. Most of the studies on AMR rely on a single data source (IQVIA MIDAS) that mostly covers

a decrease in antibiotic utilisation. But this effort must be accompanied by a nationwide awareness-building campaign involving doctors, community influencers, and the media to change the social norm.

The Bangladesh AMR Response Alliance (BARA) was launched in partnership with FAO in 2016 with a similar objective, but their outreach remains very limited. For a broader approach, the Antibiotic Awareness Day in Europe can be a good model. But any further disregard will force vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children, and low-income populations to bear the greatest brunt of increasing AMR.

# AL's counter-programmes reveal its own insecurities



THE STREET VIEW

Mohammad Al-Masum Molla is chief reporter at *The Daily Star*.

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

In a democracy, it is important for a political party to tolerate and respect other parties. When we see that the ruling Awami League lacks such qualities, it becomes evident that Bangladesh's oldest political party is going through a critical phase. One might wonder why I am saying "critical" when the party has been in power for the third consecutive term.

When the BNP started holding divisional rallies protesting against the hike in prices of fuel and daily essentials, the murder of its leaders, and demanding the release of Khaleda Zia, the party received a warm response at the grassroots level. Then, the ruling party showed up with counter-programmes. Consequently, tensions intensified, verging on panic. Although ruling party leaders claimed that the BNP took to the streets with the intention of committing arson and violence, the rallies were found to be largely peaceful. The ruling party's apprehension, however, could not be brushed aside because of the BNP's role in widespread violence and arson preceding the 2014 elections, for which it was roundly criticised at home and

abroad. But this time, the BNP seemed desperate to shake off that stigma by holding peaceful rallies.

Unfortunately, whenever the BNP announced a programme, the AL countered it with their own. Announcing counter-programmes on the same day as the BNP, and often at a venue close to the BNP's, raises the possibility of tension at best and outright violence at worst. The phenomenon remains commonplace till date.

Although the BNP repeatedly asked the Awami League not to announce counter-programmes, the ruling party did not listen. But when Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader requested the BNP to withdraw its mass procession scheduled on December 24 in Dhaka, the BNP did defer it to December 30. Where are such good gestures from the ruling party?

Awami League and its leading front organisations said they announced the counter-programmes for the sake of public safety and to resist the "terror and anarchy of BNP." One wonders, if the ruling party men must take to the streets to ensure public safety,

what is the role of the government, administration, or law enforcement agencies?

Such statements from party leaders not only go against the rule of law but also betray a lack of confidence in the very government they currently run. Does the ruling party think that responsible wings of the government are not capable of ensuring public safety or reining in the BNP (should it turn violent)?

Holding rallies and processions is a constitutional right of a political party. But countering a political event with another, and thus potentially impinging on it, is not. The ruling party can take to the streets with its own political programmes. But when it announces counter-programmes, what it demonstrates is nothing short of political bankruptcy.

The party has been in office for around 14 years now and has done substantial development work which has benefited the people. As such, it should be confident about itself. But a knee-jerk reaction in the form of counter-programmes in response to street mobilisations by the opposition is hardly demonstrative of any confidence it may have.

So why does the ruling party still feel compelled to employ such tactics? There could be several reasons. First, the ruling party takes to the streets to send the message that the opposition will never enjoy a walkover. Second, the counter-programme announcements boost the morale of the party's rank and file, which is perhaps

necessary at AL's grassroots, as BNP rallies themselves have been hugely successful in that respect. Third, and most dangerous, is that they believe a counter-programme would be an effective tool to obstruct and hinder the BNP's programme. Whenever two major political parties announce programmes on the same day and in nearby areas, it creates panic among the people, and leads to more suffering on the streets. Inconveniencing the people in this manner should be unacceptable, but the ruling party pays little heed to such "trivialities."

As the next general election is just a year away, we know that the political parties will take to the streets more often and campaign harder to get their respective messages across. The ruling party will beat its drums, harping on its development activities. The opposition will campaign against the misuse and misdeeds of the AL-led government.

So far, it must be admitted, the BNP has acted mostly maturely. We expect that the party that has been in office for 14 years will learn to reciprocate. If the AL fails to do so, it will be the one to pay the price. Today's voters are more politically conscious and unlikely to repeat past mistakes come elections.

The ruling Awami League appears to be in a bind. Neither does it have the confidence to be gracious to an all but annihilated opposition camp that refuses to collapse, nor can it be confident of a recurrence of either of the previous two elections (held in 2014 and 2018).



# Dhaka: A distant dream

Sara Rashid, based in New York, is interested in how religion and politics shape art in South Asia.

SARA RASHID

“Desher maya tyag kore bideshe chole gecihen apnara?” (“So you have forgone your longing for the country and settled abroad?”) It wasn’t a question, but an attempt to understand a decision that was incomprehensible to him. His words gave away his emotions, which showed hints of scepticism, resigned curiosity, and even attempts at acceptance, but mainly disappointment. As a forest ranger, his work was to protect and preserve the country’s emerald pride, the Sundarbans, and its rapidly vanishing wildlife, which became the nucleus of his existence. He had given his life to safeguarding a national landmark, he would live and die by it, and the impossibility of leaving a land that he had offered himself to, which in return had given him his livelihood, stories, passion, and faith, showed his sadness at our decision to move away from our

chaos I was raised alongside, and it feels like a reunion with a childhood friend. We might not meet often, but when we do, we’re at home. I think back to the rules shaping my New York life, and the rigid structure that guarantees the security needed to survive in a place with few second chances. It feels strangely alien to the life I experience fleetingly every winter in Dhaka; and although on most days I rely on this very structure for survival, today it feels unfamiliar, remarkably sterile, like a life seeped in the insipidity of achieving and chasing, lacking any semblance of spirit or joy.

Dhaka is my place of healing. My days start with ripe pomegranates, my mother waiting with a box of *motichoor laddoos* for us to share over breakfast, and the smell of crisp winter mornings conflated with the unbearable honking of cars doing rounds of school drop-offs. Most



PHOTO: MARUF AREFIN MIM

travelled through geographies, danced through weddings and held hands through heartbreaks, they have weathered fights and nursed each other’s illnesses. All this over hours of retelling the same stories while sharing endless cups of *cha*, and all this while finding a way back to each other, regardless of where life has taken us. Dhaka feels glorious from the sweetness and secrets of childhood friendships. And today, my home is an extension of these friendships. And every winter, without question or delay, they converge in the heart of my beautiful, broken city.

Winters in Dhaka are a ballad carried from the city’s birds to its few remaining trees, from the nonchalance of children playing in parks to the scent of *mehedion* brides, from the hustle of street vendors to the buzz of new friendships forming on university campuses. This season is a celebration of the city, both in defiance of its reality and in honour of it. The lights strung in the corners of every street and the smell of *kachchi* wafting out of the windows mingle with the anticipation of a groom’s arrival and the changes about to mark the beginning of a bride’s new life. It seems as if the city is the bride, dressed in a red *sharee*, adorned in traditional gold jewellery that’s complete with a *teep*, she’s waiting for a glimpse of her beloved as they embark on this journey, one marked by hints of apprehension, but mainly by hopes and dreams.

Through all the mangoes and monsoons of my life, what has remained constant is the comfort and security of Dhaka. A city that cannot be contained within borders, but lives in the souls of those that carry with them a piece of what it means to be from this unforgettable, extraordinary place. A city of heartache and broken dreams, a city of triumph and soul-crushing defeats, a city that breaks you bone by bone, then nurses you back to health. A city exploding with love and longing, I carry all this with me, and once again prepare to leave the city of my faraway dreams, a home that I remember, not one where I live.

**In Dhaka, mourning has dignity, it is patient and empathetic and brings with it the kindness and strength of community. There is less of a rush to bounce back into work or society, less of a need to hide your pain, and more room to grieve and tend to a broken heart. You’re offered the kindness to take more than you can give. There is grace in healing over time, which is a luxury New York cannot extend me. And so, every year, I carry all my love, but more so all my loss to Dhaka; I rely on the generosity of the communities, kindness of strangers, love of childhood friends, and security of family to heal and mourn all I have lost.**

magical country – *mayabi desh*. Dhaka is a dream, albeit an elusive and distant one. Within minutes of landing, I’m embraced by an overwhelming feeling of belonging. I am welcomed by *chaos*, one that has been sown into the very fabric of my being. In fact, I slip right back into the

days, my mornings bleed into the afternoons, as my parents and I spend endless cups of cha over stories about childhoods, relationships, collective and personal traumas and the love that binds us together. When at home, whether I’m reading, eating, working or daydreaming, my parents

and I are always together; the physical proximity they demand of me during my time in Dhaka is a testament to our time apart, and the lives we live away from each other. To my mother, my time at home feels like time borrowed from someone else’s life. She needs me in her line of sight at all times. My name, dripped in honey, echoes off the walls when I’m not near her, as if any moment when she cannot see me is a moment of loss. For this, I count my blessings, because where else can I find a love this pure, without questions or conditions, where I’m enough just as I come, and all I have to do is be.

Home is tucked away in the softest corners of Dhaka: it hides in the flavours of Jhorna’s aloo bharta, in Baba’s worries that come alive when I oil his hair, in the rings that form inside our cha cups as my friends and I retell stories that have held us together for years, and in the *anchol* of my dadima’s *sharee* that dances with the jingle of her keys. Dhaka is my place of loss; it is where I come to grieve the parts of my childhood I’ve lost, and it is where I have buried

loved ones who raised me, like my dadima and nanu.

It’s my first time home since the passing of dadima, and a visit to her graveside is a reminder of how physical loss is, and the suddenness with which it erases parts of home that were tied to a person and their presence. Her passing looms over my head like a heavy, dark cloud; I think of her love for feeding others – pitted lychees waiting for us after school, *pitha* in all seasons, *jhal aam shotto* baking under the winter sun – now there is no one impatiently running after me with a second piece of *gorur gosh* with a side of folktale: “Take two bites or you’ll fall into the river.” Her passing has left a void in this city, and parts of my childhood and of life in Dhaka have left with her.

In Dhaka, mourning has dignity, it is patient and empathetic and brings with it the kindness and strength of community. It doesn’t come bearing a timeline; there is less of a rush to bounce back into work or society, less of a need to hide your pain, and more room to grieve and tend to a broken heart. You’re offered the kindness to

take more than you can give. There is grace in healing over time, which is a luxury New York cannot extend me.

And so, every year, I carry all my love, but more so all my loss to Dhaka; I rely on the generosity of the communities, kindness of strangers, love of childhood friends, and security of family to heal and mourn all I have lost. There’s something in Dhaka’s air, heavy with its own struggles, frustrations, and heartbreak that hide behind its endless optimism and champion spirit. It becomes your companion during times of anguish and loss, but also teaches you to pick yourself up after a fall, instilling the spirit of fighting, of being fearless.

Dhaka is my place of joy, of hope, and of the kind of love that bursts at the seams. It’s the place that has given me friendships of more than 28 years, the comfort and security of which have held and sustained me through the different seasons of my life. Our stories started at the age of three, inside a freshly painted school in the corner of a busy Dhanmondi street; they have

## PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# A blueprint from India for women’s economic empowerment



Anita Zaidi is president of the Gender Equality Division at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

ANITA ZAIDI

Throughout my career, I have seen many examples of triumph against the odds – extraordinary accomplishments that often begin with a small group of individuals seeking to solve a problem. In the best cases, local communities, government, and the private sector align and invest in programmes and policies that create more opportunities for these groups to flourish.

The extraordinary success of women’s self-help groups in India represents one of the best-case outcomes. Established by women determined to build a brighter future for themselves and their families, these groups have thrived thanks to innovative financial and infrastructure support from the Indian government. With over 80 million women participating in 7.5 million such groups, India is fostering the world’s largest community development programme, which is now a key component of the country’s economy.

Women, especially in rural areas, face gender-based barriers to participating fully in their communities and building a livelihood. Many are unable to open a bank account or access credit and are dependant on informal loans from relatives, friends, or money lenders. Moreover, traditional family structures and social norms may constrain women from engaging in activities necessary to start or expand a small business.

Self-help groups were first formed in the mid-1980s to address these barriers by providing access to savings and credit so that women could earn a livelihood and lift themselves

and their families out of poverty. The results speak for themselves: women’s self-help groups have contributed to India’s extraordinarily sharp reduction in poverty, from 55.1 percent to 16.4 percent (415 million people), over the last 15 years.

Initially, new groups were dependant on members, though often impoverished, pooling what little money they had to get started. The Indian government stepped in to alleviate this hardship by providing unsecured loans without the need for a formal, registered business entity. Importantly, these loans are offered at a very competitive interest rate of 12 percent, which drops to seven percent if a group repays its loans within 30 days of the due date. With this support, the average self-help group was able to borrow around INR 200,000 (USD 2,500) each, and in 2021 the limit for collateral-free loans was increased from USD 10,000 to USD 25,000.

Over the past decade, more than USD 60 billion has been made available to self-help groups in India and, cumulatively, women in these groups have saved an estimated USD 6 billion. Access to low-interest loans continues to help an increasing number of women create sustainable sources of income, accumulate assets and savings, and build financial security. And individual group members are building more than their financial skills; they are also raising their self-confidence and influence within the community.

per month. And each woman has her own story. Sunila Devi enrolled her children in private schools, Chitrekha Devi is working toward a bachelor’s degree, and Pushpa Devi has started her own ambitious business renting mobile sound systems, which allows her to employ others.

Now multiply those stories by millions, and you can begin to grasp the full effects of these groups. As each woman contributes more to the household income, she gains more say in household decisions. And collectively, they show what is possible when one of the most essential challenges to gender equality – increasing women’s economic power – is addressed.

Ultimately, we know that increasing a woman’s economic power bolsters her personal agency and empowers her to play a greater role in her family and in her community. India’s government-

**Self-help groups were first formed in the mid-1980s, providing access to savings and credit so that women could lift themselves and their families out of poverty. The results speak for themselves: women’s self-help groups have contributed to India’s extraordinarily sharp reduction in poverty, from 55.1 percent to 16.4 percent, over the last 15 years.**

supported self-help groups demonstrate the transformative effects of policy initiatives that are designed to meet the needs of

marginalised women. The task now is to replicate this success.

The goals should be clear: to make credit accessible and affordable, build women’s financial skills and credit history, and strengthen their financial security. And the various players must be resolute in their support. The closer you look at the details of the self-help groups in India, the more you see the dedication it took from all stakeholders to bring together the people, resources, and tools needed to succeed at this scale. Government agencies at both the federal and state levels were involved, along with banks and other financial institutions, researchers, and an extensive network of non-government and voluntary organisation partners working at the grassroots level in communities across India.

This formula of determination, collaboration, and political will

can be applied to other stubborn barriers to gender equality. One of the more persistent challenges I hear from women, most recently during a visit to Dakar, Senegal, is that entrepreneurs also need business development services, skills-building, and access to markets and value chains. India’s programme shows that this is feasible: Currently, about 20 percent of self-help group members have these additional supports, and efforts are underway to promote women-owned cooperatives and businesses.

Everyone deserves the chance to live a healthy and productive life. My resolution for this year is to remain inspired by the determined efforts of individuals and by our collective capacity – as India’s self-help groups’ remarkable success have demonstrated – to innovate as we strive for a healthier, happier, more equitable world.



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CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Tot's spot

5 Jazz genre

10 Helen's mother

11 Groom's garb

12 Commotions

13 Some marbles

14 Worrier's mountain

16 Wagon-pulling group

20 Boosts

23 Parisian pal

24 Show gratitude to

25 Grating sounds

27 Cochlea setting

28 Upright

29 Roadside marker

32 Part for Ford,

perhaps

36 Laundry problems

39 Pennsylvania port

40 Aerie youngster

41 Go by bus

42 Low cards

43 Wound remnant

**DOWN**

1 Chowder bit

2 Make over

3 Pop star

4 One on a diamond

5 "Taps" tooter

6 Glorify

7 Track act

8 Pindar poem

9 Not neg.

11 Flip call

15 LummoX

17 Move carefully

18 Band boosters

19 Atomizer's output

20 Flower part

21 Bangkok native

22 Rank above viscount

25 Token of love

26 Stag's pride

28 "The Planets" composer

30 Blunt of "A Quiet Place"

31 Window sections

33 Rocker

34 Verdi opera

35 Stag, e.g.

36 Ready to go

37 Sea dog

38 Long time

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I	R	E	N	E	M	A	N	O
E	L	L		L	O	O	T	I
L	O	O	I	N	G		N	E
S	T	O	V	E		L	E	D
			B	E	I	G	E	
C	A	Y		R	O	A	M	S
C	O	P		L	O	O	P	I
L	O	O	K	I	N	G		L
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S	T	O	P			P	O	D





## ChatGPT can (almost) pass the US Medical Licensing Exam

The artificial intelligence (AI) software was able to achieve passing scores for the exam, which usually requires years of medical training.

ChatGPT can score at or around the approximately 60 percent passing threshold for the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE), with responses that make coherent, internal sense and contain frequent insights, according to a study published February 9, 2023 in the open-access journal PLOS Digital Health by Tiffany Kung, Victor Tseng, and colleagues at AnsibleHealth.

ChatGPT is a new artificial intelligence (AI) system, known as a large language model (LLM), designed to generate human-like writing by predicting upcoming word sequences.

Kung and colleagues tested ChatGPT's performance on the USMLE which is required for medical licensure in the United States. Taken by medical students and physicians-in-training, the USMLE assesses knowledge spanning most medical disciplines, ranging from biochemistry to diagnostic reasoning, to bioethics. After screening to remove image-based questions, the authors tested the software on 350 of the 376 public questions available from the June 2022 USMLE release.

After indeterminate responses were removed, ChatGPT scored between 52.4% and 75.0% across the three USMLE exams. The passing threshold each year is approximately 60%. Notably, ChatGPT exceeded the performance of PubMedGPT, a counterpart model trained exclusively on biomedical domain literature, which scored 50.8% on an older dataset of USMLE-style questions.

The authors note their findings provide a glimpse of ChatGPT's potential to enhance medical education, and eventually, clinical practice. For example, they add, clinicians at AnsibleHealth already use ChatGPT to rewrite jargon-heavy reports for easier patient comprehension.

## BREAKING THE CHAINS

### The devastating impacts of domestic violence on mental wellness

DR NUR-A-SAFRINA RAHMAN

Domestic violence is a worldwide issue. Research shows women are more likely to be abused at home. Men are also victims of domestic violence, but they sometimes find it difficult to accept that they are being mistreated or to seek help. Kids are long-term victims of domestic violence.

#### Reasons for domestic violence:

Domestic violence has several causes. One key issue is masculinity. Research reveals that traditional and toxic masculinity, which emphasises dominance, control, and aggression, may contribute to domestic violence. In such cases, men may use violence to dominate their intimate relationships. Some other key factors that contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence include:

1. Power imbalances like unequal allocation of family tasks, decision-making power, and financial resources.
2. Alcohol and drug use impair judgement and increase aggression, making domestic violence more likely.
3. Childhood trauma increases the risk of adult abuse.
4. Mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and personality disorders.
5. Societal attitudes like "the victim is at fault" can contribute to its recurrence.

#### Impact of domestic violence on partners:

Domestic violence can have lifelong mental health effects. Abuse can cause mental health disorders like:

1. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): Abused person may have symptoms including flashbacks, nightmares, and anxiety.
2. Depression: Domestic violence can leave victims feeling hopeless and helpless.
3. Anxiety: Survivors may have panic episodes, excessive worry, and safety concerns.
4. Substance abuse: Trauma survivors may take drugs to cope.
5. Self-harm: Abuse survivors may



self-harm to cope with emotional agony.

#### Indirect impact of domestic violence on children:

Domestic violence has been proven in studies to have a variety of detrimental impacts on children, including different behavioural issues.

- Children who see domestic violence can be affected by trauma in their mental, emotional, and social growth.
- They may battle with guilt, shame, uncertainty, fear, insecurity, trust, and unhealthy relationships in the future.
- Long-term consequences could include an increased likelihood of developing mental health disorders and engaging in violent behaviour later in life.

#### Preventing domestic violence:

1. Communication: Open, positive, and honest communication is one of the best strategies for a marriage to prevent conflict. Learn healthy and non-violent ways to resolve conflicts.
2. Mutual respect: Respecting each other and avoiding name-calling, criticism, and humiliation might reduce violence.
3. Seek help: If one spouse struggles to manage their anger or has a history of violence, talking to friends, relatives, a therapist, or a counsellor can lessen the risk of violence.

4. Education and awareness: Raising people's awareness and teaching them about healthy relationships and ways to solve problems without violence can help stop violence.

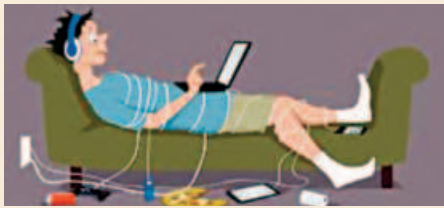
5. Addressing underlying causes: Domestic violence often stems from larger societal issues, such as poverty, gender inequality, and substance abuse. Addressing these underlying causes can help prevent domestic violence.

6. Support for victims: Providing support to victims, including safe housing, counselling, and legal aid, can help them escape abusive situations and rebuild their lives.

7. Providing training and resources to professionals: Providing training and resources to professionals such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and social workers can help them respond appropriately and effectively to domestic violence cases.

Parents can also teach their children about respecting others' personal boundaries and asking permission in all interactions and create an environment where their children can express their feelings and feel heard and acknowledged. If a child reports abuse, parents should listen and help them find help. Thus, parents can prevent domestic violence and create a safer, more peaceful future.

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## HAVE A NICE DAY

### The sad generation

DR RUBAIUL MURSHED

Currently, the world is transforming into an unpredictable place that no one can foresee. These turbulent times are most frightening because younger mindsets can have depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder or emotional unavailability.

Already we have developed a huge generational gap in how much they think of technology and moral values as major factors in social change. Furthermore, there is a lack of quality conversation and collapses of family values such as empathy, and a sacrificing attitude. These lead to damaged relationships in families. We are becoming more and more unable to read their emotional needs. This type of neglect can have short and long-term consequences for the coming generation. Understanding the power of mindsets among Generation Z or "Gen Z" and Millennials is crucial for social scientists.

Following the Silent Generation (1925-1945) and the Baby Boomers Generation (1946-1964), Generation X (1965-1979) and Millennials (1980-1994) began. Gen Z is broadly defined as people born between 1997 and 2012. Gen Alpha (2013-2025), the latest one, may have a completely different mindsets.

According to studies, inflation is a top problem for Gen Z and Millennials. Over-dependence and addiction to technology ranked second as the top problem among young people. However, racism, discrimination are still their top concerns that they are facing today. With the digital world constantly evolving, most people are spending their time online. So, how much time does Gen Z spend online? A widely quoted report found that, Gen Z users use digital devices more than millennials.

The world has changed, and so have the needs of citizens. It is an alarming and sad time for Gen Z and Millennials because it is the most toxic time since the cold war.

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## Rehabilitation physiotherapy for bone fracture

BIBEKANANDA SARKER

Bone fracture is one of the leading causes of accidents in the age of modern mechanical work. For mechanical accidents, sports accidents, and other reasons, the number of fractured patients is increasing day by day. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 3.8% of people suffer from fractures.

#### What is a bone fracture?

A fracture is a partial or complete fracture of a bone that interferes with the normal functioning of the bone and surrounding areas.

#### Causes of bone fracture:

Fractures are more likely to be due to accidental injuries. Example:

1. Generally, fractures happen due to direct injury.
2. Sometimes fracture can occur when people suddenly fall from a greater height.

3. Suddenly apply a strong bone twist or rotating force.
4. If you suddenly put too much pressure on a bone.

#### Risk factors of bone fracture:

1. If the bone density decreases for any reason.
2. If there is osteoarthritis in the bones.
3. If there is any pathological cause in the bones.

#### The most common symptoms of a broken bone are:

1. The fractured area will be extremely painful.
2. Most of the fractured area will swell immediately.
3. The normal motion of the joint near the bone will decrease.
4. Other symptoms may also occur depending on the location of the fracture.

#### What to do if the bone is broken or what is the treatment?

1. First, obtain an X-ray of the patient with a broken bone to determine the extent and type of bone fractures. The X-ray will capture the correct bone position of the patient. It needs to be supervised by a general practitioner or orthopaedic surgeon.

2. Following proper bone positioning, the affected bone fracture area should be immobilised or bandaged. Plaster or a suitable brace should be used to re-x-ray the area of the affected bone with plaster or a suitable brace to make sure that the position of the bone is correct.

#### The role of physiotherapy for fractured patients:

Physiotherapy is essential to restore or rehabilitate fractured patients, as they may experience a variety of deformities, muscle spasms, and reduced joint mobility if they do not receive proper physiotherapy. For proper rehabilitation after a fracture, patients should take physiotherapy, which must be supervised by a graduate physiotherapist.

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## UNFPA and BRAC hosted knowledge dissemination event on COVID-19

STAR HEALTH REPORT

BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP) with support from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and The World Bank, has actively worked in 6 sub-districts of Cox's Bazar since 2021 through the Community Support Team (CST) initiative, with an aim to prevent COVID-19 cases, build community resilience, and reduce healthcare facility load – especially in the remote areas.

In the event jointly hosted by UNFPA and BRAC on 5 February 2023 at Amari Dhaka, the findings on COVID-19 related knowledge and practices from 6 intervention areas of Cox's Bazar were shared.

Since inception, CST Cox's Bazar has developed innovative but consistent approaches in designing and conducting social



behaviour change communication (SBCC) activities that are effective in increasing awareness, learning, and replicating recommended behaviours. Community members were informed about mask use, hand washing, social distancing, and immunisation through direct communication, traditional and neo-media channels, and interactive exercises.

In the event, Dr. Avijit Saha, Senior Research Fellow, BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health presented the status

of awareness about COVID-19 symptoms, mode of transmission, and prevention measures (handwashing, mask-wearing, social distancing) and vaccination across all locations. According to the study, 70% of people were aware that washing their hands with soap and water reduced the possibility of being affected by coronavirus. He also highlighted that 80% of participants have known about the importance of vaccines to reduce the effect of COVID.

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# ‘Axar, Jadeja, Ashwin a blessing’

AFP, Nagpur

India's Rohit Sharma said Saturday it was a "blessing" to lead his champion spinners after they spearheaded a crushing innings victory against Australia inside three days.

Spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja combined to dismiss Australia for 91 inside one session of the third day's play in Nagpur as the hosts took a 1-0 lead in the four-match series.

Ashwin took five in the second innings and a match haul of eight wickets while the left-handed Jadeja grabbed five on his international return from a knee injury to bowl out Australia for 177 in the first innings.

Jadeja also scored 70 with the bat to be named man of the match.

Axar Patel took just one wicket but hit a match-winning 84 in India's 400 all out.

"It's like captaining Cummins, Hazlewood and Starc in Australia," Rohit said.

"When you have quality of Axar, Jadeja, and Ash, having played in India for so many years, playing on pitches like these, it's always a blessing," he added.

"The conditions are there, yes, but you need to exploit them as well and conditions are for both teams. They know which areas to hit, how to keep applying pressure."

Off-spinner Ashwin surpassed 450 Test wickets in the first innings and now has 457 in the bag.

Rohit said Jadeja kept pressing him for a bowl in the second session to complete his own landmark of 250 Test wickets.

"They are all reaching their milestones. Jadeja was on 249 wickets and he was telling me, 'Give me the ball'," Rohit said with a smile.

"Ashwin was on four wickets and he wanted five and that was the challenge I was facing. I really don't know too much about milestones but these guys know about it," he added.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins called Ashwin a "world class bowler", especially at home, and "one of the all time great Indian bowlers".

His side will take a leaf out of India's book when they bounced back from being bowled out for 36 in Adelaide to lose the Test but win the series 2-1 in 2021.

"Australia love playing Test cricket and they take pride in representing the country and so we are quite aware of them bouncing back and what they can do as a team," Rohit said.

Both teams now head to New Delhi for Friday's second Test.



Mushfiqur Rahim and his Sylhet Strikers teammates enjoy a light football session during training at the Academy Ground in Mirpur yesterday. Sylhet, leaders of the league phase of the Bangladesh Premier League, will hope to carry their form into the business end of the tournament when they take on Comilla Victorians in the Qualifier 1 in Mirpur today.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# ‘Not here to just be participants’

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be looking for a far better outing in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 than in recent times when they begin their latest campaign against Group A rivals Sri Lanka at the Newlands Cricket Ground in Cape Town today.

The Tigresses have not managed a single win in three editions of the T20 World Cup across 12 games since two wins against Sri Lanka and Ireland in their maiden T20 World Cup campaign on home soil in 2014.

But the inclusion of a few U-19 World Cup stars, who featured in South Africa just recently, gave captain Nigar Sultana Joty room for optimism ahead of the showpiece event this time around.

"We came here after going through the qualifiers so we know the value of this stage. This is a huge opportunity for them [U-19 stars] to show their capabilities. And obviously, because of how good we are, we have the potential to compete against good sides. We're just trying to give ourselves the chance to showcase that we actually are not here to be participants, we're here for the competition," she said during a press conference following their training session at the Western Province Cricket Club yesterday.

"We have played four World Cups. And, except in 2014, we



couldn't manage a single win in this tournament. So we are looking for our first win here. And we also want to get the momentum and carry it through the tournament. Our target is to play the semifinal," she added.

Three players from the U-19 squad -- Shorna Akter, Disha Biswas and Marufa Akter -- were introduced to the 15-member World Cup squad. Another U-19 star, Dilara Akter, was initially called up but has been replaced by top-order batter Fargana Haque Pinky.

"Obviously I am super excited to see the team. They gained experience during the U-19 World Cup and played good cricket. They are also excited to join the national side and I'm looking forward to seeing them perform," the skipper said.

Joty believes the team atmosphere and bonds they share are the team's biggest strength. "I

think obviously team bonding [is the biggest strength]. As you can see, we can win a game when we contribute as a team. We don't have a power-hitter or a good finisher like other teams. Actually, we don't have the good finisher, but we have a good team. If we can contribute as a team and do well in the three departments, then we can win a match. We are looking to playing good cricket," she opined.

Joty also informed that they were not looking to experiment at the top, especially in the opening slots, despite using two different pairs in the warm-up fixtures against Pakistan and India.

Opponents Sri Lanka already made headlines by defeating South Africa in a tight Group A match, but Joty insisted on taking things 'game by game' and focusing on Sri Lanka first, suggesting that Hasan Tilakratne's presence as head coach gave her side an added advantage going into the fixture.

# ‘Tough for Sriram to join full time’

SPORTS REPORTER

Sridharan Sriram's name had been floating about for a while even after Chandika Hathurusingha's appointment as Bangladesh's head coach for all three formats.

Sriram had been in charge of the Tigers in the Asia Cup and the T20 World Cup last year but he was given the post of technical consultant. The BCB and Sriram were then unable to come to an agreement ahead of the England series because Sriram asked for the head coach role in T20Is, but BCB were looking for someone who could serve full-time and Sriram's IPL obligations were a deterrent.

BCB cricket operations chairman briefed members of the media and talked about Sriram's chances of returning.

"I don't think Sriram is available. Most probably he will not be able to join now since he has an assignment in the IPL. So it will be very tough for him to come here full-time and chances are very slim. We never confirmed he would be given responsibility of the T20 side but he had said that if he wanted any role, it was as T20 head coach. At the same time, we had some terms and conditions. So when we appoint a head coach, he has to be there full time. We can't allow the coach time off for the IPL or other franchise duties. So maybe because of that he isn't interested," he said.

It was learned that the coach held talks with BCB president Nazmul Hassan recently over the role that BCB had offered. The BCB president had suggested to the media previously that Sriram was in the shortlist.

Meanwhile, Khaled Mahmud is set to return to his role as team director from the England series, having already started planning with Hathurusingha. "The decision [on team director appointment] comes from the board but since it's the responsibility of the cricket operations I feel that it should be him [Mahmud]," Jalal told the media yesterday.

# Hijacking success, chasing clout

ATIQUE ANAM

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) seems to have mastered the art of spoiling its own party every time it achieves something substantial. It has this uncanny knack of producing moments of controversy just when the whole nation is looking towards it with great anticipation.

As the nation was celebrating the latest achievement of its indomitable girls in the form of the SAFF U-20 Women's Championship triumph on Thursday night, a sorry episode was unraveling right in front of the media while the team was busy celebrating. One of the most important architects of the success was left in the lurch – deprived of the winner's medal – for he had become one too many in that group dominated by privileged officials.

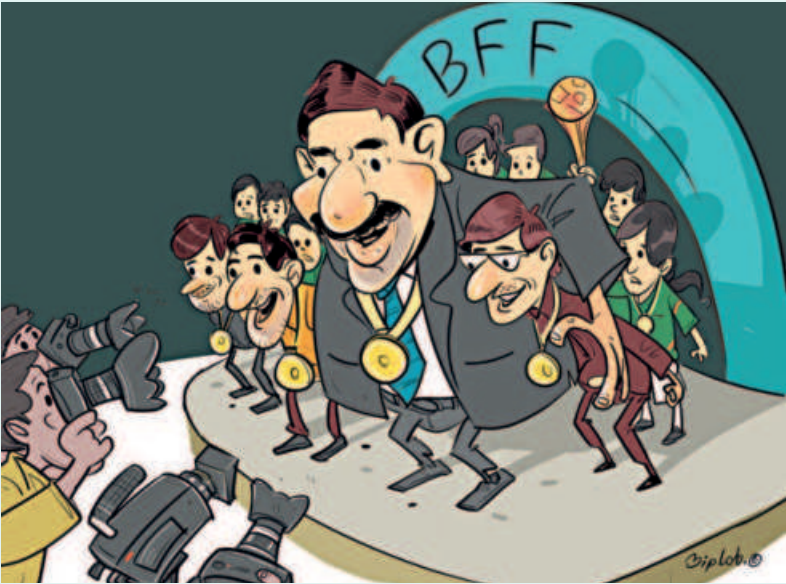
Masud Ahmed Ujjol, the goalkeeping coach of the team, was spotted leaving the pitch bemused and sad when his name did not come up on the list of medal winners, instead there were names of two team leaders and two assistant team leaders on the list to receive medals from the podium. It is hard to find

logic in deeming those four officials more fitting for a medal than the one whose protege had just received the best goalkeeper award.

No matter how humiliating this latest saga is for the coaching staff and the team members, it should not actually come as a surprise to them at all. They have had the taste of it before.

Remember what happened when Bangladesh won the SAFF Women's Championship for the first time just five months ago? The first pictures and footages you saw on media, with garlands around their necks after the plane touched down from Nepal, were of those club officials and BFF members who barely had any contribution to women's football. And then when the much-anticipated press briefing took place at the BFF House, the front seats were all occupied by the same people, hardly leaving any room for the coaches and the players.

The BFF and its archaic members do not seem to learn from past mistakes and misdemeanours. The one thing that they are good at is hijacking someone's success so that they could have their faces



splashed across the newspapers and TV screens and have photographs of their 'achievements' hung on the walls of their offices. And then use these 'achievements' to further their agendas and wield their clout on the corridors of power.

You will not find these bandwagoners – most of whom

are associated with sporting clubs in Dhaka – when you need them for forming teams for the women's league. But you will find them as part of the delegation when the national team is playing in a SAFF Championship, because they know there is a high probability of success and, with that, their chance to be in

the limelight.

In fact, women's football has become a publicity tool for not just BFF members, but the federation itself. Devoid of any sort of success with the men's team for more than a decade, the BFF is trying to use the regional success of women to make itself a bit more appealing to common people and sponsors. These uncouth incidents, however, are hardly helping its image or whatever is left of it.

One can rest assured that many of these people will not be found anywhere near the team when they are up against much stronger opponents outside of the South Asian region. They know the model of women's football in Bangladesh is a short-sighted one, good enough to succeed at regional level for a time period, but destined for failure when it comes to sustainability against a bigger pool of competitors.

Moreover, short-sightedness is a systemic disease that eternally ails the country's football governing body. The BFF was myopic when it handed former coach Jamie Day a two-year extension despite a downward spiral in results, and then it turned completely blind when it

sacked the coach midway through the contract. Afterwards, they slept through an 86,000-dollar fine by the FIFA, so much so that it has yet failed to clear a penny of the fine even a month-and-a-half after the deadline passed.

This is not the first time this sort of fines were imposed and, rest assured, it will not be the last because the BFF officials had claimed on becoming wiser from their previous experience.

And now that they are facing a bigger sanction from the world football's governing body, the BFF officials helplessly claim that they do not have the money to pay the fine. At the same breath, however, they boast of inviting reigning men's world champions for a friendly match for a jaw-dropping sum of money.

These contradictions in their statements and actions, the deprivation of the deserving and the penchant for going for the extravagant while overlooking the basic demands – all of these point to a governing body which is morally decrepit, thoroughly unprofessional and full of people serving personal agendas rather than the national interest.







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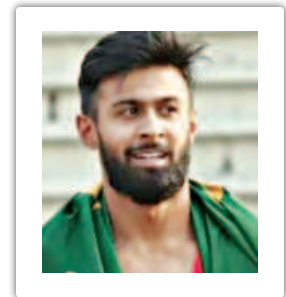


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## Imranur wins historic gold in Asian athletics



SPORTS REPORTER

England-based Bangladeshi sprinter Imranur Rahman created history on Saturday by becoming the first Bangladeshi to win a gold medal at the Asian Indoor Athletics Championship.

The 29-year-old sprinter clocked his best timing, of 6.59 seconds, in the 60-metre event to win the gold medal in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan last night.

Imranur, the two-time fastest sprinter of Bangladesh, had clocked

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PHOTO: REUTERS

A man stands on debris of a fallen apartment block in the aftermath of a deadly earthquake, in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey, yesterday.

## RETURNEE MIGRANT WORKERS Maimed, many are left in the lurch

### Govt provides only Tk 1 lakh each for treatment, ambulance service

JAMIL MAHMUD

Jahangir Sheikh of Faridpur's Madhukhali migrated to the UAE as a construction worker in 2008 with the hope of turning things around for his poor family.

Everything was going well until in November 2020 a workplace accident in Dubai changed the course of the 32-year-old's life.

While Jahangir and another Bangladeshi were painting an under-construction building from the outside, he fell from the second floor and fractured several bones, including in his hands and waist.

"It was after lunch. I was on a tin-made platform outside the building. Suddenly, I felt dizzy," Jahangir said, adding that he had no safety gear on at the time.

He underwent treatment at a Dubai hospital for nearly three months, after which his employer sent him home in February 2021.

"I can't lift heavy objects now and I'm still on medication," said Jahangir, a father of one, while talking to The Daily Star recently.

He now makes ends meet by selling vegetables.

As Bangladesh sends tens of thousands of migrant workers abroad each year, scores return home prematurely after suffering various injuries or illnesses in the host countries.

Although the Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB), under the expatriates' welfare ministry, provides several services to the workers, services for the ailing or injured returnee migrant workers are scarce.

At present, the board only gives such migrant workers a maximum Tk 1 lakh for treatment and ambulance service from the country's airports.

Speaking to this correspondent, Jahangir said he was not even aware of the services.

Migrant rights activists said the services are not sufficient to address

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## SAGAR-RUNI MURDER No more delay, we want justice

### Demand journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists yesterday expressed dismay and anger over Rab's failure to complete the investigation into the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

The government is not willing to solve the case, they told a rally on Dhaka Reporters Unity premises in the morning.

DRU President Mursalin Nomani said journalists met the home minister on Wednesday and told him that they wanted justice without further delay as the deadline for submitting the probe report had been extended 95 times.

"We saw many sensational murder cases get solved, but the mysteries remain unsolved when the victim is a journalist. We hope Rab will finally submit the investigation report in March. If they fail again, we will continue our demonstration for justice," he said.

DRU Joint Secretary Moinul Ahasan said, "If Rab can't do it, the Police Bureau of Investigation should take charge of the probe."

Former DRU president Rafiqul Islam Azad urged journalists to unite and fight for justice.

Attending the rally, Sohel Haider Chowdhury, president of a faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists, said, "We will not accept any cooked-up stories in the probe report. If the investigation officers do that, we will protest. We want to know the motive behind the killings. We also want to know why the probe is being delayed."

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Mahir Sarowar Megh looking at photos of his slain parents at his uncle's flat on Indira Road where the family held an exhibition yesterday. Journalists Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi were murdered in their apartment on February 11, 2012.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## TURKEY-SYRIA QUAKE

# Death toll likely to 'more than double'

### Says UN as authorities confirm over 25,000 deaths

AGENCIES

The death toll from the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria is likely to "more than double", said the UN yesterday, five days after the natural disaster struck the region, leaving more than 25,000 dead.

UN aid chief Martin Griffiths, speaking to Sky News yesterday, said he expected tens of thousands more deaths.

At least 25,880 people have been confirmed dead after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey and north-western Syria on Monday, with multiple aftershocks.

Officials and medics said 22,327 people had died in Turkey and 3,553 in Syria.

Griffiths said: "I think it is difficult to estimate precisely as we need to get under the rubble, but I'm sure it will double or more," said Griffiths.

"That's terrifying. This is nature striking back in a really

harsh way."

He said that a 72-hour period after a disaster was usually the "golden period" for rescues, which had now expired, but that survivors were still being pulled out of the rubble.

Tens of thousands of local and international rescue workers are still scouring through flattened neighbourhoods despite freezing weather that has compounded the misery of millions now in desperate need of aid.

However, Austrian soldiers and German rescue workers called off their searches for several hours in southern Hatay, citing a difficult security situation and clashes between local groups.

In the midst of destruction and despair, miraculous tales of survival continue to emerge.

"Is the world there?" asked 70-year-old Menekse Tabak as she was pulled out from the concrete in the southern

city of Kahramanmaraş -- the epicentre of Monday's 7.8 magnitude tremor -- to applause and cries praising God, according to a video on state broadcaster TRT Haber.

In the city of Antakya, a two-month-old baby was found alive 128 hours after the quake, state news agency Anadolu reported.

A two-year-old girl, a six-month pregnant woman, plus a four-year-old and her father, were among those rescued five days after the quake, Turkish media reported.

In southern Turkey, families clutched each other in grief at a cotton field transformed into a cemetery, with an endless stream of bodies arriving for swift burial.

Compounding the anguish, the United Nations has warned that at least 870,000 people urgently need hot meals across Turkey and Syria. In Syria alone, up to 5.3 million people may have been made homeless.

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## TEESTA WATER SHARING

# NRCC chairman's remarks go against country's interest

## Say Bangladeshi experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts have slammed the chairman of National River Conservation Commission for commenting that West Bengal will not be able to give Teesta water to Bangladesh in the lean season.

In an interview with Indian newspaper The Telegraph, NRCC Chairman Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, an entomologist, said, "[West] Bengal will not be able to divert water to Bangladesh during the lean season, as it has diverted almost all water through Mahananda link channel at Gajoldoba to support agriculture and cater for drinking water needs..."

The Telegraph published the interview on Friday with the headline "Dam mooted to break Teesta logjam: Bangladesh policy maker doesn't see a chance to get more river water from Bengal."

"From the political point of view, the Trinamul Congress is weak in northern districts (in Bengal) and hence, will not be ready to share any water at the cost of

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**"[West] Bengal will not be able to divert water to Bangladesh during the lean season, as it has diverted almost all water through Mahananda link channel at Gajoldoba..."**

**Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury**  
NRCC Chairman

## Scientists find at what age people sleep least

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

People are likely to get less sleep during mid-adulthood compared to early and late adulthood, according to a new study.



The research, published recently in the journal Nature Communications, found that sleep duration decreases during early adulthood until age 33, before it increases again at age 53.

In the study, scientists, including those from the University of Lyon in France, assessed 730,187 participants from 63 countries, to uncover how sleep patterns change throughout the human lifespan and how they vary across different countries.

Participants in the study played the citizen science game Sea Hero Quest mobile game that was designed for neuroscience research.

Those playing the game were surveyed about demographic characteristics as well as questions on their sleep patterns.

The data suggest that people across the study sample sleep an average of about seven hours per night, with women sleeping 7.5 minutes longer than men on average.

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## Biden to mark Ukraine war anniv with Poland trip

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden will mark this month's anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine with a visit to NATO ally Poland, the White House said.

Biden will travel February 20-22, meeting with Polish President Andrzej Duda and also members of the Bucharest Nine, a group of Nato members in eastern Europe, said Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

He will "discuss our bilateral cooperation as well as our collective efforts to support Ukraine and bolster Nato's deterrence," she said.

Biden will give a speech to mark the February 24 "one year anniversary of Russia's brutal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, addressing how the United States has rallied the world to support the people of Ukraine as

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