



YOUR RIGHT
TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 35

FALGUN 4, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAJAB 25, 1444 HJRI

20 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE : Tk 15.00

Momen likely to visit US next week

FM says US keen to clear up all misunderstandings

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen is likely to go to the US next week to attend several events there.

The foreign minister is likely to be in Los Angeles on February 19, Sehele Sabrin, spokesperson for the foreign ministry told a weekly press briefing yesterday.

He is expected to inaugurate a newly constructed Shaheed Minar, an initiative of expatriate Bangladeshis, in the City of Paris, Los Angeles.

Momen will also inaugurate a Bangladesh Corner at a public library there. He will also deliver a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Students placing a banner, which reads: "Rabindranath has disappeared!", near Raju Bhaskorjo on Dhaka University campus yesterday. They did it in response to the DU authorities removing a sculpture of Rabindranath Tagore with tape over his mouth. Students placed it there on Tuesday to protest the "stifling of free speech". Story on Page 3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED/PRABIR DAS

VGf PROGRAMME IN RAMADAN

1cr families to get 10kg rice each for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to distribute 10 kilogrammes of rice for free to each of more than one crore ultra-poor and destitute families under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGf) programme in the upcoming Ramadan as part of the measures to cushion them from the cost of living crisis.

The rice would be distributed by the ministry of disaster management and relief, Food Minister Sadhan Chandar Majumder told journalists yesterday at the secretariat.

The government has imported good quality Atap rice from Myanmar for the VGf programme, Majumder said.

The distribution will be carried

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Hit by bike, 7-month-old dies in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family had just attended a pre-wedding ceremony in the capital's Uttara early yesterday.

Mazeda Begum was walking home holding her seven-month-old granddaughter Rafia Akter when a motorcycle hit them near Metro Rail Station No-2 12:45am.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Dummy candidates on AL's mind

Hasina asks party MPs to prepare hard for polls, as 'BNP, allies might in the end join the election'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League plans to field dummy candidates alongside its nominees in all constituencies to make the next election look participatory in the absence of the opposition parties.

At the AL Parliamentary Party meeting on February 7, Sheikh

Hasina asked the lawmakers to prepare a list of probable pretend candidates for their constituencies, sources said.

However, the AL president said the BNP and like-minded parties may eventually take part in the election this time and they are preparing in covert to that end.

Saying the next election would be

tough for the AL, Hasina instructed the lawmakers to work hard for the polls slated for early January 2024.

In the 2014 general election, 154 AL nominees won unopposed after the BNP withdrew from the polls.

The AL supremo had issued similar directives ahead of the last national polls in 2018, but the BNP

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

You will be Remembered...

we are deeply shocked & mourn



Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah

(Born : 30th January 1991 - Died : 17th February 2019)

We remember him in honor of the 4th death anniversary of **Mr. Ekram Uddin Mollah**, the honorable director of the **Osman Group of Industries**. We pray for the forgiveness of the departed soul in the court of Almighty Allah and pray by the grace of Allah will dwell in Paradise.



Osman Group of Industries

ALL IT TAKES IS ONE DAY TO MAKE YOUR FUTURE

Attend AECC Bangladesh's **Multi Destination Education Fair (Canada / UK / USA)**

19th Feb, 2023
10am - 6pm

Renaissance Dhaka Gulshan Hotel
78 Gulshan Ave, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

1:1 interaction with University Representatives
Get Application Fee Waivers*
On-spot Profile Assessment
Avail Scholarships*
On-spot Offer Letters*

USA
✓ Herzing University
✓ Elmira College
→ **Study Group**
✓ Baylor University
✓ Western Washington University
✓ Long Island University - Brooklyn
✓ Texas A&M Corpus Christi
✓ University of Hartford
✓ Long Island University - C W Post
✓ Depaul University
✓ Florida Atlantic University
✓ James Madison University
→ **Navitas**
✓ Queen's College
✓ Richard Bland College
✓ University of Massachusetts - Boston

UK
→ **MSH**
✓ Bay Atlantic University
✓ University of Missouri Saint Louis
✓ University of Creative Arts
✓ University of Surrey
✓ Canterbury Christ Church University
✓ University of Wolverhampton
✓ University of South Wales
✓ University of Huddersfield
✓ University of the West of England Bristol (UWE Bristol)
✓ Study Group
✓ Cardiff Metropolitan University
✓ Oxford International Education Group

Canada
✓ Georgian College
✓ Seneca College
✓ Fanshawe College
✓ Fleming College-Toronto
✓ University of Canada West
✓ Bow Valley College
✓ St. Thomas University
✓ Cape Breton University
✓ Centennial College
✓ North Island College
✓ Capilano University
→ **Navitas**
✓ International college of Manitoba
✓ Fraser International College
✓ Toronto Metropolitan University
✓ Wilfrid Laurier International College

750+ Partner Institutions
14 Countries & 50 Cities
60000+ Global Enrolments
High Visa Success Rate

Australia
Canada
USA
UK

Submit on-spot applications to institutions right away.
You can be the lucky student to get a laptop or cash equivalent to 1000 AUD when you travel to Canada/UK/USA after getting a Visa Grant from AECC

To participate Call ☎ +880-1322-867741

AECC Bangladesh: BTI Landmark, 16 Gulshan Avenue, 2nd Floor, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.

[aecc.bangladesh](#) [aeccglobalbangladesh](#) [www.aeccglobal.bd](#)

aecc Study abroad consultants

Avail Free Services & Scholarships

LUNA SHAMSUDDOHA

1954-2021

Luna, it has been two years since your untimely passing and every moment we have continued to feel your extraordinary presence.

Your unconditional love, strength and encouragement for your family, friends and professional network is larger than life, as your legacy lives on in your absence. **Luna**, we remember your profound influence and service for the betterment of women, our nation and beyond.

May Allah keep you in the highest of Heaven

THE FAMILY OF LUNA SHAMSUDDOHA

17 FEBRUARY 2023

‘Trinamool BNP’ gets EC registration

‘Golden fibre’ its electoral symbol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trinamool BNP established by former BNP leader Nazmul Huda got registered with the Election Commission as a political party following a court order.

EC Joint Secretary Abdul Baten said they issued a circular in this regard yesterday. “In line with a court order, we announced that the party is registered.”

The EC said electoral symbol of the party will be “golden fibre”.

Huda, also former communications minister, founded the Trinamool BNP and sought its registration in December 2017.

But the EC did not register it as its application was filed after a deadline, EC officials said. The party leaders then filed a writ with the High Court challenging the EC’s decision.

In November 2018, the HC, in a ruling, directed the EC to register the Trinamool BNP as a political party immediately.

In 2019, the EC appeal against the HC verdict but the Appellate Division upheld the HC decision in December last year.

Asked if there would be any problem as there are two parties with similar names, Election Commissioner Md Alamgir on February 9 said, “No. There are many other political parties with almost similar name like Jasad [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal].”

A party must be registered with the EC to take part in election. The EC has been providing registration to

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

4 killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Four persons were killed as a bus turned turtle on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Habiganj’s Bahubal upazila around 6:30pm yesterday.

Of them, three died on the spot while another at a local hospital, said Maynul Islam Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Sayestaganj Highway Police Station.

Their identities could not be known immediately, he added.

On information, three fire engines rushed to the spot and rescued the passengers. Many passengers suffered injuries, he further said.

The bus was going to Habiganj from Sylhet, said Shankha Suvro Roy, general secretary of Habiganj Bus Owners’ Association.

Hit by bike

FROM PAGE 1

Critically injured, Mazeda, 50, died at Uttara Adhunik Hospital around 1:45am and Rafia died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:30am.

Witnesses said the motorcycle was so fast that the impact threw Mazeda and the baby several metres away.

Arafat Hossain, a private employee, who was riding the bike was arrested, said Moudut Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Turag Police Station.

He added that the grieving family had not filed a case until the evening.

Mazeda, her son, daughter-in-law, granddaughter and four others were walking to Uttara-18, said Rafia’s mother Noorjahan Begum, adding that the tragedy happened when they were walking across the road.

Mazeda’s nephew Mohammad Uzzal said she raised her two sons as a single mother.

She had a small cattle farm.

Armenia offers peace treaty project to Azerbaijan

AFP, Yerevan

Armenia has presented to arch-foe Baku a project for a full peace treaty to end the Caucasus neighbours’ decades-long dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said yesterday.

The two countries have fought two wars for control of Azerbaijan’s Armenian-populated enclave that have claimed tens of thousands of lives.

Internationally-mediated peace talks between the ex-Soviet republics have since produced little if any result.

Pashinyan said Yerevan had completed on Wednesday “another stage of working on a project of a peace treaty and on establishing (diplomatic) relations” with Baku.

“A project of a comprehensive agreement had been handed to Azerbaijan,” he told a cabinet meeting in Yerevan.

“The document has to be acceptable to Azerbaijan... its signing must bring about a lasting peace.”



PHOTO: REUTERS

People queue for free food served amid the rubble following the deadly earthquake in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey, yesterday.

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

Teenager pulled from rubble

Anger as hopes fade of finding more survivors; death toll passes 41,500

REUTERS, Kahramanmaraş/Antakya

A teenage girl was pulled alive from the rubble in Turkey yesterday more than 10 days after a devastating earthquake hit the region, but such rescues have become increasingly rare, leaving sorrow and anger to mount as hope dies.

The 17-year-old was extracted from the ruins of a collapsed apartment bloc in Turkey’s southeastern Kahramanmaraş province, broadcaster TRT Haber reported, 248 hours since the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck in the dead of night on February 6.

Footage showed her being carried on a stretcher to an ambulance covered with a gold-coloured thermal blanket.

The quake killed at least 36,187 in southern Turkey, while authorities in neighbouring Syria have reported 5,800 deaths - a figure that has changed little in days.

While several people were found alive in Turkey on Wednesday, the number of rescues has dwindled significantly.

Neither Turkey nor Syria have said how many people are still missing.

For families still waiting to retrieve their lost relatives, there is growing anger over what they see as corrupt building practices and deeply flawed urban development that resulted in thousands of homes and businesses disintegrating.

“I have two children. No others. They are both under this rubble,” said Sevil Karaabdüloğlu, as excavators tore down what remained of a high-end block of flats in the city of southern city of Antakya, where her two daughters had lived.

Around 650 people are believed to have died when the Renaissance Residence building collapsed in the quake.

“We rented this place as an elite place, a safe place. How do I know that the contractor built it this way? ... Everyone is looking to make a profit. They’re all guilty,” she said.

Some 200 km (125 miles) away, around 100 people gathered at a small cemetery in the town of Pazarcik, to

bury a young family of four -- Ismail and Selin Yavuzatmaca and their two young daughters -- who had died in the doomed Renaissance building.

“This should have been the fate of the Renaissance constructor, not of Ismail!” his sister-in-law yelled.

Turkey has promised to investigate anyone suspected of responsibility for the collapse of buildings and has ordered the detention of more than 100 suspects, including developers.

Across the border in Syria, the earthquake slammed a region divided and devastated by 12 years of civil war.

The Syrian government says the death toll in territory it controls is 1,414. More than 4,000 fatalities have been reported in the rebel-held northwest, but rescuers say nobody has been found alive there since February 9.

The aid effort has been hampered by the conflict and many people in the northwest feel abandoned as supplies almost invariably head to other parts of the sprawling disaster zone.

Momen likely to visit US

FROM PAGE 1

lecture on climate change.

On February 23, he will attend several meetings at the UN headquarters in New York, added Seheli.

Meanwhile, the foreign minister yesterday said the US wants to have good relations with Bangladesh and clear up all misunderstandings.

“Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a discussion with the US State Department counsellor in this regard,” he added.

Momen made the comment while replying to journalists’ queries after attending an orientation programme at the Sylhet Agricultural University as the chief guest in the morning, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

“The United States wants to work

with Bangladesh. Bangladesh has a multi-dimensional relationship with the US and the issue of sanctions on the Rab is very minor. The US delegation discussed the matters with the prime minister,” Momen said.

He added, “China also wants to develop an intense relationship with Bangladesh and explore all possibilities.”

The minister further said Washington will help Dhaka with the Rohingya crisis, and many countries, including the US, have responded positively to the request to take in the displaced refugees.

Several foreign diplomats, including India’s foreign secretary, have pledged to work together with Bangladesh, he told the journalists.

Child killed in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A three-month-old child was killed in a clash between two neighbours in Mymensingh’s Dhobaura upazila yesterday.

The victim is Ishaq Mia, son of Rahmat Ali Bhuiyan and Shilpi Akhter of the upazila’s Sanandakhila village.

The child accidentally received a serious blow to his head during the clash, said police.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital declared him dead around 9:30pm.

A case was filed against a couple in this connection, said Tipu Sultan, officer-in-charge of Dhobaura Police Station.

Rozina, a neighbour of the victim, was arrested and sent to jail via court whereas her husband Rony was on the run, he added.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy, he further said.

HC orders demolishing 27 brick kilns in Bandarban

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to immediately demolish 27 illegal brick kilns in Bandarban.

The court delivered the verdict after lifting its earlier order that in 2014 gave two years’ time for relocating the brick kilns.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Ahmed Sohel came up with the judgment following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) for withdrawing its 2014 order.

In the verdict, the HC also rejected a writ petition filed by the owners of 27 brick kilns in 2014 seeking time from the court for relocating those, said Deputy Attorney General Samarendranath Biswas.

Rohingya woman shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

A Rohingya woman was shot dead and two men sustained bullet injuries in separate gun attacks at two refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar’s Ukhia upazila yesterday.

The dead is Noor Kayes, 25, of Balukhali Rohingya refugee camp.

Some unidentified criminals opened fire at the room of Noor Kayes at Block- B-57 of Balukhali camp-8 around 10:00am and escaped, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhia Police Station.

The incident left Kayes and his fellow camp inhabitant Arafat Hossain injured. Kayes was declared dead at Kutupalong MSF Hospital where doctors were still treating Arafat, the OC said.

In another shooting incident, Md Abdur Rahim, 38, of Block G-1 at Moynarghona camp-12, and also the chief community leader (head Majhi) of the camp, received bullet injuries to his head.

He was receiving treatment at Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Four Iraqi soldiers killed in raid on suspected IS fighters

AFP, Baghdad

Four Iraqi soldiers were killed yesterday during a counter-terrorism operation north of Baghdad, security forces said, as the majority-Shia country marks a key religious rite.

Clashes broke out in Tarmiya, an agricultural area about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the capital where Islamic State group fighters operate.

The raid came as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims descended on the Kadhimiya shrine in north Baghdad of Mussa Kadhim, seventh of the 12 imams revered by Shias.

An army unit launched a “raid on a hideout of IS terrorists”, the Iraqi government’s security media cell said, adding that “three terrorists were killed, one of whom was wearing an explosive belt”.

“Two officers and two soldiers” were also killed when the device was detonated, the statement said.

An interior ministry official speaking on condition of anonymity said seven other soldiers had been

wounded during the raid.

There was no immediate statement from IS claiming the deaths on the group’s usual Telegram channels.

Iraq declared in late 2017 that the militant group had been defeated but members and sleeper cells continue to operate in various parts of the country.

On December 19, the group launched an attack on the village of Albu Bali north of Baghdad, killing eight civilians.

Days earlier, a roadside bomb hit a military vehicle and killed three soldiers in farmland north of Baghdad.

The United Nations has said that despite setbacks, the group has “maintained its ability to launch attacks at a steady pace”.

It estimates the jihadist group maintains between 6,000 and 10,000 fighters inside Iraq and Syria, exploiting the porous border between the two countries and concentrating mainly in rural areas.

We want peace, but ready to repel external attacks: PM

UNB, Chattogram

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the armed forces are being developed appropriately to give a fitting reply if the country comes under attack by external forces.

“If external forces attack, we have to face that. For that we have to build up appropriate armed forces and accordingly we have taken various steps,” she said while addressing the 10th Tigers’ Reunion of the East Bengal Regiment at Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA).

She said Bangladesh does not want to engage in war with anyone.

“We believe in the policy of friendship to all and malice to none. This policy was formulated by the Father of the Nation,” she said.

Briefly describing various development activities of the government to modernise Bangladesh Army, she said Sheikh Russell cantonment has recently been established in Mawa-Jazira while construction of new cantonments is under way in Mithamin, Rajbari and Trishal.

“Construction of Army Aviation Forward Bases at Chattogram and Cox’s Bazar and Aviation School at Lalmonirhat is also in progress,” she said.

She mentioned that the government has added new composite brigade and para commando brigade in the army.”Sophisticated and up-to-date weapons are being procured for each force,” she said.

She said the government wants to transform Bangladesh as a country of peace.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



The carpeting of the road stretching from Jatrabari Police Station to Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Shanirakhra area got damaged a while back. As the road hasn’t been fixed since then, due to the ongoing dry season, a thick cloak of dust now covers the entire area, making it difficult for residents to breathe and travel. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

‘Whatever you need, let us know’ Momen tells Turkish counterpart

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen had a telephone conversation yesterday with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu to express solidarity with the government and people of Turkey, and to give assurance of additional support.

Momen conveyed to the Turkish foreign minister that Bangladesh is sending 10,000 tents in addition to the 2,000 already sent, for earthquake victims, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He also requested his Turkish counterpart to let Bangladesh know if they need anything else, adding that Bangladesh wants to send construction workers for reconstruction efforts in the affected areas.

“We are truly devastated by the scale of destruction and deaths. We express our wholehearted condolence

Can’t force students to disclose marital status for admission

Says High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday in a verdict ruled that educational institutions cannot compel any admission seeker to disclose their marital status for admissions.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Md Khairul Alam delivered the verdict after hearing on a rule that in December 2017 questioned the legality of educational institutions seeking information on marital status of admission seekers.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Das Gupta, who represented the state, told The Daily Star that following the HC judgement, no student can be forced to disclose their marital status for his or her admission in any institution across the country.

The HC also declared illegal the Rajshahi Government Nursing College’s action of asking a rape victim to write that she was abandoned by her husband in the admission form, he said.

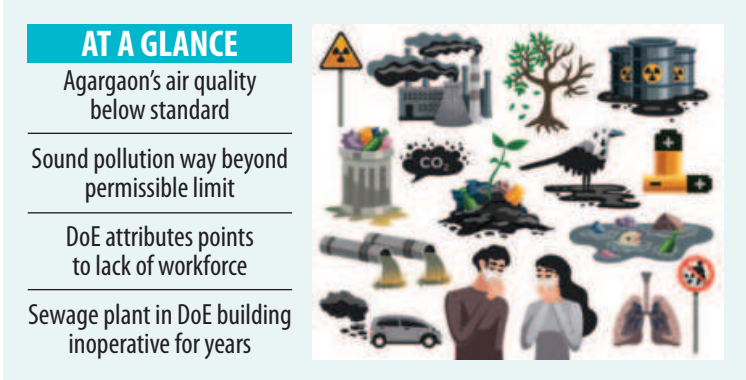
The deputy attorney general said details based on which the HC delivered the judgement can be known when the full text is released.

Following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Fahriya Ferdous, the HC on December 11, 2017

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

DoE fails to keep its own environment safe

Study finds air quality in Agargaon heavily toxic



MOSTAFA YOUSUF

The Department of Environment (DoE) has failed to keep the environmental indices at a permissible level even in Agargaon, its headquarters in Dhaka.

The air quality in Agargaon was found heavily toxic, as unfit vehicles and construction sites are constantly contributing to this end, while noise pollution is also a common problem.

In a recent study done by the Centre for Atmospheric Pollution Studies (CAPS) under Stamford University’s Department of Environmental Science, which was published in January this year, both the levels of air and sound pollution were found to be hazardous in the area.

The study assessed the air during pre-monsoon, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter. It found an average of 74 microgrammes of particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5) per cubic metre annually. According to the national standards set by DoE, the amount should be 15 microgrammes per cubic metre of air.

The average of PM 10 accounted for 200 microgrammes per cubic metre whereas the appropriate amount should be 65.

While PM 10 is three times its permissible limit, PM 2.5 is five times higher than its permissible limit.

The study came across heavy noise pollution in Agargaon as well. It measured 91.3 decibels of sound, while

the permissible limit for a mixed area such as Agargaon is 60.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found the STP (sewage treatment plant) – built under Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) in 2015 on the DoE office compound – non-functional. The plant was supposed to treat waste generated by the DoE.

This correspondent tried contacting Abdul Hamid, director general of DoE, via phone and texts but could not despite repeated attempts.

Kazi Abu Taher, DoE additional director general, refused to comment on the matter when contacted.

However, requesting anonymity, an upper-tier official from DoE told this newspaper that the department requires eight executive magistrates to run its operations, but it only has three.

“We carry on with the drives twice a week in Agargaon. There are some challenges in this regard. In every mobile court, police forces are needed, which are not readily available,” said the official.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), told The Daily Star that as the agency responsible for protecting the environment is not even responsible for its own actions, it cannot hold others accountable.

“DoE has to step up as Bangladesh’s environmental performance is shamefully low,” she added.

NEONATAL DANGER SIGNS Are new mothers aware enough?

AFROJA AFRIN

Although new motherhood is a time of joy and excitement, it can be overwhelming too, especially for mothers who are not equipped with the knowledge needed to identify the signs of life-threatening diseases in their neonates.

From the very first day of their life till 28 days, a neonate goes through many phases of adaptation in the outer world. The changes occur to their bodies so fast that a little bit of ignorance or carelessness can put them at risk, said neonatal health experts.

According to the World Health Organization, mothers should be aware of several danger signs in newborns, such as a decrease in food consumption, seizures or convulsions since birth, rapid breathing (more than 60 breaths in one minute), chest retractions, high fever (37.5°C or higher), low fever (35.4°C or lower), feet soles turning yellow, a lack of movement unless stimulated or no movement even when stimulated, and signs of infection such as redness or drainage from the umbilicus, skin boils, or pus drainage from the eyes.

The Daily Star interviewed 20 new mothers and none of them was aware of the danger signs that could turn fatal. Some of them came to know such signs for the first time.

Take the example of 25-year-old Mitu Akter, mother of three, who came to Azimpur Maternity Hospital around two weeks ago, with her 19-day-old baby suffering from a cold and cough.

When asked about the matter, Mitu said, “I don’t know, because nobody told me about this.”

Rokeya Begum (not her real name), a mother of three, came with her newborn who vomits after being fed. She too could not answer any of the neonatal danger signs mentioned by the WHO.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Both patients and doctors have a responsibility to educate themselves. The shortage of healthcare providers compared to a large number of patients is a major issue and makes it difficult for doctors to allocate enough time to each patient.

PROF FERDOUSI BEGUM
President of Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh

Development futile without harmony Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development will not be sustainable, if there is no communal harmony in the country. Divisive politics, religious intolerance and ethnic division are harming the peaceful co-existence of the country’s people, speakers told a seminar.

The Hunger Project and Freedom of Religion or Belief Leadership Network jointly organised the seminar at Cirdap in the capital yesterday.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, country director of The Hunger Project, said development is synonymous with harmony.

“A development devoid of harmony will not be sustainable. Three factors – divisive politics, religious intolerance and ethnic division – are harming the harmony that the country has been cherishing for years,” he said.

“During the Liberation War, we protected each other. But it seems we are now standing on the edge when it comes to communal harmony.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

CUSTODY OF JAPANESE CHILDREN ‘Go for out-of-court settlement’ Dhaka court asks parents

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the parents of two Japanese children to settle the issue of custody out of court, taking the children’s future welfare into account.

Judge AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan of Dhaka’s District and Sessions Judge’s Court made the comment during the hearing on an appeal filed by Bangladesh-born US citizen Imran Sharif over custody.

Before this, the judge accepted the appeal filed on February 2 by Imran, challenging the trial court verdict, which granted custody to the children’s mother Eriko Nakano.

Judge Habibur fixed the final hearing’s date on March 15.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Workers seek overtime, festival bonus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Shop Employee Federation yesterday demanded an allowance for working overtime along with two festival bonuses, which is mentioned in Bangladesh labour law, to ensure that workers receive the benefits to which they are legally entitled to.

Shop employees work for 12 hours in Ramadan and the night before Eid

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: RAJIB RAHAN

LIVING ON THE EDGE ... In what looks like an almost dystopian setting, a schoolchild, along with a guardian, is seen near the edge of a half-broken flat in the port city’s Bakalia area yesterday. The building, built on the Rajakhali canal, was partially demolished around six months ago during the canal’s renovation under the “Chattogram City Water Reclamation, Extension, Renovation and Development Project” by the Chattogram Development Authority. However, residents of the building continue to live there even at the risk of their own lives.

Rabindranath ‘disappears’

DU authority removes sculpture of poet, terming it ‘bad culture’

DU CORRESPONDENT

Rabindranath Tagore’s sculpture, placed by some Dhaka University students beside the Raju Memorial Sculpture protesting the “recent incidents of censorship and repression” in Bangladesh, was removed by the DU authorities yesterday.

The authorities say they demolished the sculpture as it represented a “degraded culture”.

Soon after, the students placed a banner at the site of the removed sculpture which read, “Gum Hoye Gelen Rabindranath” (Rabindranath has disappeared).

DU Chhatra Union leader Shimul Kumbhakar told The Daily Star, “We placed the sculpture along with some students of fine arts at the university. However, the proctorial team of the university removed it.”

“When we called DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani over the phone and asked him about how the sculpture of a Nobel laureate was ‘offensive’ to them, he disconnected the call,” he added.

Contacted, Proctor Rabbani said, “It was built without our permission. They placed a distorted sculpture of the poet. We could not tolerate it.”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER
TIMING

FEBRUARY 17

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:25	12:30	4:30	5:57	7:15
JAMAAAT 6:00	1:15	4:45	6:01	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Workers seek Spilled oil spreads across 1.5-km

FROM PAGE 3
but don't get any bonus in return, they added.

The federation made 14 other demands, including formation of a wage board and a minimum wage of Tk 20,000 per month.

They were speaking at a press conference held at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity, in response to the announcement of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association to extend trading hours during the month of Ramadan.

The federation demanded not more than eight working hours a day during Ramadan and to get at least half a day of holiday per week in that time.

Furthermore, the shop employees demanded for official job documentation including appointment letters and identity cards.

Can't force

FROM PAGE 3
issued the rule questioning the legality of the institutions seeking information on marital status of admission seekers.

The court in the rule asked authorities concerned of the government to explain why this should not be declared unconstitutional. The HC also asked authorities to admit a female student, who gave birth to a baby after being raped, to Rajshahi Government Nursing College.

A lot of

FROM PAGE 5
door garbage collection programme is now in a shambles. Contacted, Mayor Rezaul, however, said, "There has been a significant development in waste management. Besides, we are working to cover the city streets with a digital-lighting system."



FROM PAGE 5
household utensils for their own benefit.

"I have collected 80 litres of diesel since yesterday [Wednesday] night and sold it at Tk 50 per litre," said Ramjan Ali Bappi, a local.

Mohammed Yeasin, officer-in-charge of Railway Nirapatta Bahini (RNB) CGPY outpost, told The Daily Star that 20 hours after the incident,

the derailed wagons were recovered by the railway rescue team.

"It will take some days to assess the extent of damage caused by the derailment," said Abdul Malek, master of CGPY.

The train carrying diesel was running with outdated engines, he added.

Meanwhile, BR formed a three-members committee, headed by Tarek Bin Imran,

divisional traffic officer of Bangladesh Railway (Chattogram Division), to investigate the incident.

"We already started our work and visited the scene," Tarek told The Daily Star.

"We will promptly investigate the cause of the accident and submit a report to the higher authorities of the railways," he added.

Development

FROM PAGE 3
Our unified effort should focus on expanding the harmony. Otherwise, our future is bleak," he added.

Advocate Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikkya Parishad, said during the Pakistan era, the state was communal but its people were non-communal.

"But when we achieved freedom, the scenario got upside down. Our politicians are responsible for this. The state treats citizens differently based on their religion whereas the criterion should have been a common citizenry," he said.

Shamim Haidar Patwary, lawmaker from Gaibanda-1, also spoke at the seminar.

Whatever you

FROM PAGE 3
and also, as your brother, we will try to assist you as much as we can. This is a great shock to all of us in Bangladesh," he told Cavusoglu during the call.

"We can send the construction workers. And whatever you need, let us know and we will try our best," Momen said.

"If we need anything else, we will reach out without hesitation," the Turkish foreign minister responded, as quoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cavusoglu thanked the Bangladesh government for sending search and rescue, and medical teams and said this is what the country needed urgently at this moment.

Momen wanted to know about the situation, to which his Turkish counterpart said it is not stable yet and is in fact far worse than what people are seeing on TV.

Cavusoglu expressed concerns about the Bangladeshi citizens who were wounded and wished them quick recovery.

Manager, 9 others sued

FROM PAGE 5
manager of the garden, and the others have been accused under the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012. However, the garden authority denied that wildlife and habitat were harmed. It will challenge the case in court.

According to the case statement, the Forest Department was informed through different media reports on January 23 and 26 that Hatimara Tea Garden in Rashidpur area of Habiganj's Chunarughat upazila destroyed wildlife habitat and killed many animals by igniting a fire

during its extension work. After citizens and environmental activists expressed grave concern, the complainant of the case along with other officials inspected the spot on January 26 and found proof of felling old trees and igniting fire, the statement read.

The statement mentioned that the offence was carried out after the garden authority's direct instruction.

Contacted, manager Golam said he is on leave and cannot comment in this regard. He, however, suggested contacting the

garden's higher authorities. Farid Ahmed Shaheen, general manager of the Daragaon Division of The Consolidate Tea and Lands Company (Bangladesh) Limited, which owns the garden, said, "The media reports, which claimed that we ignited the fire in Rema-Kalenga Wildlife Sanctuary, are false. The sanctuary is around 20 kilometres away from the garden area, where we were working on the extension."

"We are not sure when and how the Forest Department inspected and found us responsible," he said.

Go for out-of-court settlement

FROM PAGE 3
During yesterday's hearing, Imran and Eriko Nakano, with the children, were present at the court.

The lawyer for the appellant filed another petition, seeking a stay on

the lower court verdict.

Judge Habibur said enactment of the trial court verdict will remain stayed by default for the time being, as the lower court record has not been submitted yet.

On January 29, Judge Durdana Rahman of Dhaka's Second Assistant Judge and Family Court gave custody of the children to Eriko, who is a Japanese citizen.

RU teacher holds hunger strike

FROM PAGE 5
to protest against it and stand by the students," he added.

Parents of these students are also in fear, as the authorities failed to ensure congenial environment for their study, he said.

Prof Farid further said it was the responsibility of respective authorities to take action against the BCL leaders responsible for these incidents, but they failed. He urged the administration to take immediate steps to punish those responsible.

The teacher went on the strike two days after a student filed a complaint with the Islamic University in Kushtia accusing two female BCL members of torturing her for staying in a dormitory without informing them.

Are new mothers aware enough?

FROM PAGE 3
While some hospitals have posters displaying early warning signs of danger in newborns on their walls, many mothers were found to not pay attention to them, which can contribute to the rise in neonatal mortality rates in the country, which is currently around 22 per 1,000 live births, according to United Nations World Population Prospects.

Contacted, Prof Ferdousi Begum, president of the Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh, blamed the country's health service and educational system.

"Both patients and doctors have a responsibility to educate themselves. The shortage of healthcare providers compared to a large number of patients is a major issue and makes it difficult for doctors to allocate enough time to each patient," she said.

She also expressed concerns over the absence of counselling services within the healthcare system, unlike the developed countries.

Dr Md Mahmudur Rahman, director of the Maternal Child Health Services Unit, Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), said the population

in Bangladesh is growing rapidly, leading to a doctor-to-patient ratio of 1:10,000, instead of the expected 1:3,000.

"Despite recent recruitment of medical professionals during the Covid-19 crisis, over 150,000 more doctors are needed to prevent future crises. Recruiting health sector counsellors is seen as a long-term process, given the current shortage of doctors," he said.

"Therefore, it is crucial for everyone, including mothers, to become educated and conscious about protecting future generations," he concluded.

ফ্র্যাটি ভাড়া
বারিধারা বসুন্ধরা ডি-ব্লকে,
৫ নম্বর রোডে, ৪ বেড, ৫ বাথ,
কম বেশি ২৮০০ স্কয়ার ফিটের
দক্ষিণমুখী ফ্র্যাটি ভাড়া হইবে।
যোগাযোগঃ
০১৭১৩০০৮৯০৩

HOUSE TO-LET
9000 Sft Independent House
2 Storied Building at Banani
Office/ School/ Restaurant
15 Car Parking
01915718450
01753022984

GROUND FLOOR TO-LET
5400 Sft Ground Floor
Bank/Airlines/Foreign Restaurant,
5000 Sft Commercial Space
Per Sft 100/-, Gulshan-2
01753022984
01915718450

বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ
প্রধান কার্যালয়ঃ দুগ্ধ ভবন
১৩৯-১৪০, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮
www.milkvita.org.bd

মৌখিক পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি
বাংলাদেশ দুগ্ধ উৎপাদনকারী সমবায় ইউনিয়ন লিঃ (মিল্কভিটা) এর বিভিন্ন ক্যাটাগরির সহকারী ব্যবস্থাপক পদে গত ১৩/০২/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ও ২০/০২/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। উক্ত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষা আগামী ২৫/০২/২০২৩ হতে ০৭/৩/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সম্মেলন কক্ষ, দুগ্ধ ভবন, ১৩৯-১৪০ তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৮ এ গ্রহণ করা হবে।
মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি পরী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় বিভাগের ওয়েবসাইট www.rdc.gov.bd ও মিল্ক ইউনিয়নের ওয়েবসাইট www.milkvita.org.bd এ প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড হতে SMS এর মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীদের জানানো হবে।
স্বাক্ষরিত/-
দীপকর মন্ডল
ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (যুগ্ম সচিব)
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, কর্মকর্তা নিয়োগ কমিটি

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Noakhali
Phone No. 02334491092
E-mail: senoa@rhd.gov.bd

Corrigendum Notice No. 01
Due to unavoidable circumstances some corrections are made in the following tender documents. Also some corrections are made in TDS. Bidders are requested to pay careful attention to TDS clauses in the e-GP website prior to submission of the tender.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender last selling (Date & time)	Tender closing (Date & time)	Tender opening (Date & time)	Tender security submission (Date & time)
789753	SE/Noakhali/LRD/PMP-Road/2022-2023/02	Periodic Maintenance Work (PMP) by DBS Wearing Course including Strengthening by Base Type-1, Protective Work, Earth work, Construction Rigid Pavement & Installation of Sign-Signal at Ch. 00+000m (Ramdayal Bazar) to Ch. 06+500m (Bibirhat Bazar) of Char-Alexander (Ramdayal) - Ramgoti Road (Z-1413) under Lakshmipur Road Division during the year 2022-2023.	13/03/2023 at 17:00	14/03/2023 at 13:00	14/03/2023 at 13:00	14/03/2023 at 12:30

All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged. This Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part and parcel of the Tender Document.
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd).

sd/-
Ranapriya Barua
ID No. 005155
Superintending Engineer, RHD
Road Circle, Noakhali

GD-290

প্রট ক্রয়
রাজউকের পূর্বাচল উপশহরে ও উত্তরায় এবং বসুন্ধরাতে যেকোন সাইজের প্রট ক্রয় করতে ইচ্ছুক। সম্মানিত প্রট বিক্রেতাসগ কমা বন্ধন।
01711118131

Teacher Wanted
Experienced teacher (Male/Female) needed for all subjects of O-Level and A-Level Exam. Salary negotiable. Address: Health Care Center, Plot: 2544 Madani Avenue (100 feet Road), Vattara, Dhaka.
Phone. Contact:
01755684681/ 01552418022
E-mail: shemirni@yahoo.com ০-2০

বসুন্ধরায় কর্ণার প্রুটে বাড়ী বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় রোড- ৫, বাড়ী নং- ৫৫৯, ব্লক-এইচ, ৮০ফিট/ ২৫ফিট কর্ণার রাস্তা সংযোজ একতলা জমির উপর নির্মিত একটি অত্যাধুনিক ইন্টোরিউর ডিজাইন সহ ৭তলা বিশিষ্ট ডুপ্লেক্স নতুন বাড়ী বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগঃ ০১৭১১৫৪৬৮৮৭, ই-মেইলঃ mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

Death Anniversary Professor Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman
Tomorrow, 18th February 2023 Saturday, is the 12th death anniversary of **Professor Dr. Md. Habibur Rahman**. He passed away at the age of 50 years. At the time of his death, he was the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka and also the Chairman of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, University of Dhaka. He was the former Director of Drugs Administration from 2004 to 2007. Students, friends, colleagues, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.
-Prof. Habibur Rahman Smirity Sangsad

Population Council, Bangladesh office invites sealed tenders for the following disposal items: (1) Air-conditioners, Refrigerator, Cellphone and Projector; (2) Toyota Voxy SZ, 2000cc, Year of Model: 2009; (3) Toyota Allion A15, 1500cc, Year of Model: 2014 on as is where is basis.
Tender schedule can be collected from 19 February 2023, 10:00 AM up to 23 February 2023, 4:00 PM at below address. Sealed tenders can be dropped on or before 28 February, 4:00 PM by depositing a refundable (if bidders are unsuccessful) pay order amounting 5% of the quoted price as earnest money only favoring **The Population Council**.
Population Council reserves the rights to accept or reject the tenders in full or in part without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Population Council
Flat-7A & 7B, House 49, Road 28
Gulshan, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh www.popcouncil.org

TWO YEARS OF CCC MAYOR
A lot of promises, a lot of disappointment
Most election pledges remain unfulfilled

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Most of the major pledges Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury had made in his election manifesto have not been fulfilled even two years after he took office.

In 2021, Rezaul, an Awami League candidate, took charge and was supposed to fulfil 37 pledges.


He assured of addressing issues like waterlogging; traffic congestion; mosquito menace; evicting illegal occupants from canals, drains and footpaths; improving garbage management and health services; and ensuring adequate LED lights along city streets.

But no significant progress has been made in improving the situation, said locals.

Rezaul had said the canals and drains would be cleaned regularly and effective mosquito repellent would be used.

However, in the last two years, the city dwellers have not gotten relief from the mosquito menace. Residents from different areas said that the unclean canals and drains have become suitable places for mosquito breeding.

“Mosquitoes bite us throughout the year, as the city corporation workers do not clean Chawkbazar’s Chaktai canal regularly,” said Ripan Barua from Chawkbazar Phooltola area.



Rezaul had said the canals and drains would be cleaned regularly and effective mosquito repellent would be used. However, in the last two years, the city dwellers have not gotten relief from the mosquito menace. Residents from different areas said that the unclean canals and drains have become suitable places for mosquito breeding.

Amid all the complaints, Anti-Corruption Commission conducted a raid in the city on February 9 on allegations of irregularities in the purchase of mosquito repellent, confirmed ACC Chattogram assistant director Emran Hossain.

The allegations were primarily found to be true, said Emran.

Rezaul had also said he would keep holding tax at an acceptable level so that neither landlords nor tenants would be in hardship.

However, after being elected mayor, he followed his predecessor AJM Nasir Uddin by realising holding tax as per the house rent, not the area of the land, which has raised the total amount of tax.

In this regard, Chattogram Kordata Surakkha Parishad has been waging a movement to stop the initiative.

Contacted, Amir Uddin, general secretary of the parishad, said home-owners have to pay double tax -- on house rent and income -- in the new system.

Many also said the incumbent mayor has failed to fulfil any of his election pledges.

Once the city was clean, but now, it has become a city of dust and garbage, they said, adding that the door-to-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



For quite some time now, the plants that were meant to beautify the foot-bridge near Willes Little Flower School in the capital’s Kakrail have died and turned to dried twigs. Due to the indifference of authorities concerned, these plants have not been replaced for months, and now, serve the role of an eyesore. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



‘For what crimes are we being punished?’

Telegu community living in fear of eviction from Dhalpur colony; rights organisations place 7-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

“We have no other demands. We just want to stay here permanently with our community and our culture,” said Vikky Raaj, who is of Telegu origin and a resident of the 14 number Outfall colony in Jatrabari’s Dhalpur.

During a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Vikky, who could not hold his tears while talking in front of journalists, said this colony is their sole identity.

“Even our NIDs have been made with the colony’s address,” he said.

Eight rights organisations, along with the Telegu Community in Dhalpur currently living amidst the fear of eviction by Dhaka South City Corporation, organised the press conference.

The organisations are --



Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad, Nijera Kori, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), Ain O Salish Kendra, Manobadhikar Shongskriti Foundation and Association for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

HATIMARA TEA GARDEN
Manager, 9 others sued for harming wildlife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Forest Department has sued the manager of Hatimara Tea Garden and nine others for reportedly igniting a fire, killing wildlife and destroying habitat.

Md Abdullah Al Amin, range officer of Satchari Wildlife Range, filed the case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate of Forest Court in Habiganj on February 1. The court accepted the case on Sunday.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of Forest Department’s Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sylhet, confirmed the development.

In the case, Golam Mahiuddin Ahmed,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

‘BCL TORTURE ON STUDENTS’
RU teacher holds hunger strike



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi University teacher observed a seven-hour hunger strike yesterday morning, protesting ongoing “torture of students by Chhatra League leaders and activists” across the country.

Prof Farid Uddin Khan of economics department started the strike around 10:00am in front Zoha Chatter on the campus.

Prof Farid Uddin said, “We saw a rise in such incidents across the country. BCL leaders have been repeatedly torturing students, ousting them from dormitories and extorting money from them. It is clearly a violation of human rights. It can’t be accepted.”

“As a teacher, I feel it is my moral responsibility

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



The leaked oil, which spilled from three wagons, eventually fell into a canal, which locals have been trying to retrieve and sell. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Spilled oil spreads across 1.5-km area
Three canals get contaminated; officials investigating incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A huge quantity of oil that spilled from three wagons of a derailed train on Wednesday, has spread across areas covering 1.5 kilometres, threatening the local ecosystem.

The oil, which spilled at Chittagong Goods Port Yard (CGPY) in the port city’s Halishahar area, has already spilled into three waterbodies -- CGPY, Gupta and Mahesh canals -- said Monir Hossain, an inspector of Department of Environment (DoE), who visited the spots yesterday.

These canals connect to each other and fall into Karnaphuli river.

“We collected water samples from the river to determine if the oil has also spilled into the river,” he said.

The wagons, each carrying 15,000 litres of diesel for Bangladesh Railway, derailed and leaked huge quantities of the fuel, most of which spilled into a canal near the yard.

During a visit to the area yesterday, this correspondent found that the canal water had turned black.

Environmentalists warned that the incident will create a massive and prolonged impact on the ecology in the connected waterbodies.

Mohammad Kamal Hossain, former professor of the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chittagong University, told The Daily Star, “Oil contamination will destroy the food of aquatic animals... Many of these animals will die as the oil will deplete oxygen in the water.”

“We will take legal action against those involved in environmental damage after investigation,” said Mia Mahmudul Hoque, deputy director of DoE’s Chattogram city office.

Meanwhile, locals continued scooping up spilled oil using

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

4.3 magnitude earthquake jolts Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A 4.3-magnitude quake took place 11 kilometres northeast of Chhatak in Sylhet at 9:56am yesterday.

The earthquake hit at a depth of 64.8km, according to the United States Geological Survey.

Farzana Sultana, assistant meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, said, “The earthquake happened at 9:56am and registered at 4.3 on the Richter scale. The epicentre was India’s Meghalaya region.

“It’s impact in Sylhet was light, and it was not felt severely in the region.”

SEWERAGE BLAST
Eight hurt as boundary wall collapses in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least eight people suffered minor injuries after the boundary wall of a house collapsed following a sewerage line explosion in Chattogram city early yesterday.

The explosion took place from accumulated gas in the sewerage line at Bakulia Bolirhat around 3:00pm, said Md Bahar, Kalurghat fire station officer.

The injured received first aid, he said.

13th YEAR

Bangladesh’s Largest Fair on Indian Education is back

Study in India EXPO

17 FRI 18 SAT FEB. ‘23

Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) Agargaon, Dhaka. (Fri - Sat. 10am - 6pm)

Meet 30+ India’s Top Boarding Schools & Universities offering Admissions and Scholarships.

Participating Institutions are from Kolkata, Darjeeling, Dehradun, Mussoorie, Bangalore, Pune, Manipal, Mangalore, Bhubaneswar, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Delhi NCR and other cities of India

Participating Schools

Participating Universities

প্রোগ্রামে অংশগ্রহণ করতে ফ্রি রেজিস্ট্রেশন করুনঃ studyinindiaexpo.com

For more info Call: 01885935453 / 01885935449

ORGANISED BY AFARIS Asia's Leading Education Fair Organizer G22 study

Happy to have received this honour while still alive

JAYANTA CHATTOPADHYAY

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Prominent artiste Jayanta Chattopadhyay has been honoured with the Ekushey Padak this year, for his contributions in the cultural arena as an elocutionist. The actor has proven himself as a complete artiste with his powerful and extraordinary performances in every role he played.

Some of his remarkable projects include *Kittonkhela*, *Nodir Naam Modhumoti*, *Matir Moyna* and *Adhiyar*. He has earned both accolades and critical acclaim from these projects. Apart from establishing his name as an actor, he is also an elocutionist.

In conversation with The Daily Star, the actor shared his emotion on achieving the second highest civilian award of the country.

How does it feel to be awarded one of the highest recognitions in the country?

I am happy, at least for the reason that I have received this honour while I am still alive. As an artiste, to have received this recognition for my work is very satisfactory.

Exactly when did you learn that you would be receiving the Ekushey Padak?

When it was announced, I was getting one call after another from several people. At the time, I was on a rickshaw and my phone was in my pocket. When I finally received the calls, everyone was congratulating me. However, I did not even know the reason for their best wishes. After that, an official call came from the ministry and I finally learned that I was going to be awarded with the Ekushey Padak. People from various sectors, including artistes, journalists and elocutionists gave me their best wishes, for which I am

really thankful to them.

You are a renowned actor, but the award was given for your work as an elocutionist. Did this upset you at any point?

Not at all. I am sure that the authorities have taken the decision wisely. This July, I will turn 77. I am grateful to have gotten this award while I am alive, because many receive it posthumously.

Perhaps, the fact that we cannot value artistes in our lifetime, is our failure.

You have had multiple collaborations with Humayun Ahmed during your career. How was the relationship between the two of you?

He was very close to me and we were like friends. We would meet at least once a week and always shared a great time together. His demise is irrecoverable, not just for us, but for Bangladeshi literature as well.



PHOTOS: STAR

CHANCHAL CHOWDHURY’S latest transformation for ‘Padatik’



Actor Nasir Uddin Khan had recently unveiled Chanchal Chowdhury’s newest look for his film *Padatik*, based on Mrinal Sen’s life. The actor posted Chanchal’s photo on his Facebook account.

The *Hawa* actor looks unrecognisable in facial prosthetics and a wig, clad in a white kurta with a cigarette in hand. With the legendary director’s signature glasses on, Chanchal looks like Mrinal Sen in every way. Directed by Srijit Mukherji, the film is based on the life and legacy of the late eminent director Mrinal Sen.

Rihanna accused of being a ‘devil worshipper’



Pop icon Rihanna shocked the audience after her marveling 13-minute performance at the Super Bowl on February 12, dishing out her hit songs, one after another including, *Only Girl (In the World)*, *Rude Boy*, *Work* and *Wild Thoughts*, amongst others.

While the celebrity was much appreciated by the fans during her 2023 Super Bowl halftime show, she was also accused of being a ‘devil worshipper’ by some.

American author Brigitte Gabriel tweeted, “Why do all the major live performances by woke artists have a demonic feeling? Sam Smith, now Rihanna, ‘Hollyweird’ has gone insane.”

Previously, Sam Smith and Kim Petras were also accused of being ‘devil worshippers’ after they performed their song *Unholy* at the 2023 edition of the Grammy Awards ceremony.

NEWS

Kumar Bishwajit’s

FROM PAGE 16
Shahriar’s father Sharif Khan yesterday told The Daily Star, “The procedure of preparing necessary documents to bring the bodies back to the country is almost complete. Their bodies are likely to reach here on a Biman flight next Sunday.”
Bangladeshi expatriate journalist Shaogat Ali Sagar told The Daily Star yesterday that Angela Barai’s father is going to Canada to receive his daughter’s body. Local police have already given the clearance in this regard.
The accident took place on Monday night, local media CP24 reported, citing the Highway Safety Division of Canada’s Ontario Provincial Police.

Trinamool

FROM PAGE 2
political parties since 2008 in line with the Representation of the People Order, 1972.
With Trinamool BNP, the number of registered political parties is now 40.
Since 2008, a total of 45 political parties have got registration and five political parties’ registrations were cancelled.
Oikyabaddho Nagarik Andolan, Pragatashil Ganatantrik Party and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party lost their registration as they failed to comply with conditions for getting registration.
Besides, registration of Freedom Party was cancelled in 2009 as it failed to provide a party charter.
Jamaat’s registration as a political party was announced illegal by the High Court in 2013.
Following the verdict, the EC cancelled Jamaat’s registration in October 2018.

German airport websites hit by cyberattacks

AFP, Berlin
Several German airports said yesterday their websites were down due to suspected cyberattacks, the latest instance of online sabotage in the country.
Airports in Duesseldorf, Nuremberg and Dortmund said they were affected, while at least two others were reported to have been hit.

Comilla win fourth BPL

FROM PAGE 16
in-form batter Towhid Hridoy and skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza — who again promoted himself to No. 3 — were dismissed to leave them struggling on 26 for two in three overs.
Mushfiquir and Shanto then steadied the ship by adding 79 runs for the third wicket before the latter departed for a 45-ball 64 featuring nine fours and a six.
The left-hander, who registered his fourth fifty of the tournament, was the highest run getter of the BPL with 516 runs at a strike rate of 116.74. Shanto also became the first

Washington wants Dhaka

FROM PAGE 16
They say the BURMA Act provides additional tools to the US government for increasing humanitarian aid, support for the democracy movement, and sanctions against those funding the Myanmar junta, which took control of the country in early 2021.
Inclusion of the Act in the NDAA-2023 also means Washington has put priority on the Myanmar issue and is ready to expand its funding of various actions against the junta. It will allow the defence department to be engaged in the implementation of actions taken under the law, analysts said.
Foreign ministry officials said the US appeared more positive now than before about the Rohingya repatriation. However, the US emphasises that repatriation is not possible unless the conditions in Myanmar are conducive, which can only be achieved through restoration of democracy.
Former foreign secretary Shahidul Haque said the BURMA Act has provisions to support the civilian groups fighting for democracy. The National Unity Government (NUG) is a major one among the groups. Besides, there are many other ethnic groups fighting for autonomy.

“I believe that the US delegation here tried to understand whether Bangladesh will support the civilian NUG government,” he told The Daily Star.
Chollet told journalists in Dhaka that when he flies back home, he would need to sort out some ideas in addressing the causes of the Rohingya crisis.

Bangladeshi to score more than 500 runs in a BPL season.
At the other end, Mushfiquir took on responsibility as Sylhet kept losing wickets at regular intervals, with only three batters able to reach double figures.
Mushfiquir ultimately remained unbeaten on 74 off 48 balls with the help of five fours and three sixes as Sylhet added 41 runs in the last four overs of the innings.
Left-arm seamer Mustafizur Rahman picked up two wickets while Andre Russell, Tanvir Islam, Sunil Narine and Moeen Ali took a wicket each for Comilla.

Foreign policy analysts say if Washington provides support for the NUG and other civilian groups in Myanmar, there is a risk that China and Russia will bolster their support for the junta, with which both the countries have strong ties.
In that case, armed conflicts in Myanmar will flare up, affecting the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and India.
Foreign ministry officials say Bangladesh does not want anything that may escalate conflicts near the borders as the country has already been a victim of the refugee influx.

Bangladesh currently shelters over a million Rohingyas, most of whom arrived amid a brutal military crackdown on them in 2017.
A foreign ministry official said, “What we want is the repatriation of Rohingyas and a permanent solution to the crisis. We want democracy everywhere, not only in Myanmar, but it is difficult for us to directly support the NUG.”
Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University said it would be tricky for Bangladesh to handle the situation if Washington wanted Bangladesh to support the NUG.
Bangladesh’s major allies China and India have good terms with the Myanmar junta.
Bangladesh will need to make a difficult choice if it decides to work against the Myanmar military, said the professor of international relations.
“We need to tell the US to find innovative ways of helping Myanmar restore its democracy, instead of doing anything that fuels conflicts.”

It’s coming under watch, finally

FROM PAGE 16
According to the additional DIG, the 4K cameras will allow them to identify and recognise vehicles and suspects’ faces.
The AI will detect if anyone is driving a motorbike without wearing a helmet, Barkatullah said, adding the CCTV surveillance will also help them reduce road accidents.
The overall progress of the project, which began in June 2021, was around 53 percent until last week, said project officials.
In the first phase, some 260 cameras will be made operational on the stretch between Signboard of Narayanganj and Daudkandi of Cumilla by March. These cameras have already been installed in 88 locations.
The rest of the cameras will be operating by June.
Barkatullah said that they are now in talks with the Power Development Board for ensuring uninterrupted power to the cameras.
“Once it is ensured, we will start the operation of CCTV cameras,” he said.

AL, BNP take to city streets today

FROM PAGE 16
University College in Mohammadpur at 3:00pm.
Around the same time, the Jubo League’s Dhaka (south) unit will organise a protest rally which will be followed by a procession in front of the AL’s central office on Bangabandhu Avenue.
Dhaka (north) unit will hold a

similar programme at 4:00pm in front of Ananda Cinema Hall in Farmgate.
According to the AL insiders, the party leaders think the BNP and like-minded parties may occupy the streets of the capital with a large number of people at some stage of their ongoing anti government movement.
“The monthly rent of the fiber-optic cable will be around Tk 1 crore. But we are hopeful that we will be able have a concession on the rent and the government will support us regarding the rent as the highway is important for the country’s businesses,” said Barkatullah.
He said once the project is implemented, no vehicle will be able to getaway far after causing an accident or committing an offense. Apart from preventing theft of RMG

products, the CCTV cameras will play an effective role in reducing the drug menace and other criminal activities, he added.

Law enforcement officials said theft of RMG products has increased significantly over the last few years. They, however, failed to give the exact number of cases.
According to investigators, at least 30 cases of RMG product theft took place last year against 22 in 2021 and nine in 2020.
On December 23 last year, Rapid Action Battalion-4 raided an abandoned factory in Dhaka’s Demra and arrested seven members of a gang. They recovered stolen RMG products worth about Tk 6 crore and also seized a lorry.
Rab on September 8 last year picked up four members of another gang in Cumilla, recovered stolen garment products worth about Tk 4 crore and seized another lorry.
“We have recovered stolen garment products worth about Tk 30 crore in seven such drives and arrested around 50 gang members,” Jahidul Islam, additional SP of Rab-4, told this newspaper recently.

If they succeed to do so, the party will launch a continuous programme demanding the resignation of the government, they added.
Fearing this, the AL took the decision to hold counter programmes during every BNP programme until the next national election, a member of the AL’s central committee told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

Give security to complainant

FROM PAGE 16
a complaint with the IU authorities accusing Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders Sanjida and Tabassum of torturing her for hours on the night of February 12 for staying at a student dormitory without informing them.
Sanjida is a student of statistics and Tabassum of finance and

banking.
Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading rights organisation, expressed concerns and condemned the acts of physical and mental torture of university students reportedly carried out by BCL leaders and activists.
Such grave allegations had been brought against BCL members in the

past as well and such heinous acts of continuous harassment, attack, and threatening students are damaging the learning atmosphere, it said in a statement yesterday.
ASK further urged the authorities concerned to stop the repetition of such incidents, and to take political and institutional action against those responsible.



ROHINGYA CRISIS RESPONSE IN BANGLADESH

Is a strategic shift from the current approach needed?



Aerial view of Rohingya camps

PHOTO: BRAC

Approximately one million people from the Rohingya community escaping violence in Myanmar arrived in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh in August 2017. Five years have passed and the crisis has now evolved from an emergency to a protracted mode. The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and international humanitarian agencies are working together towards a "strategic shift". Having passed the initial emergency response phase (2017-2019) and pandemic response phase (2020 – 2021), this response plan has now entered into the protracted phase, which is characterised by uncertainty due to delays in repatriation and fund crunch. BRAC and the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka organised a policy dialogue on 30 November 2022, bringing together government officials, diplomats, researchers, and development professionals to discuss accountable ways of delivering services to the Rohingyas while making the best use of the shrinking funds. A summary of the discussion is presented in this special supplement.

INAUGURAL SESSION



SM Monjur Rashid, head of programme, Advocacy for Social Change, BRAC

The goal of today's policy dialogue is to influence policymakers, implementers, and development partners to create a framework for managing the Rohingya crisis in a cost-effective way, taking into account the changing needs and priorities of the Rohingyas and the availability of necessary resources.

This dialogue has brought together a variety of actors and agencies who share our goals and interventions that will contribute to a comprehensive Rohingya response mechanism to meet the basic needs and priorities of the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals. In the last five years, we have achieved impressive results together in responding to this humanitarian crisis in one of the world's largest refugee settlements.



Prof Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, chairman, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka

The persecuted Rohingyas in Bangladesh camps are in protracted crisis, following much exodus since genocide in Myanmar. In the camps, there are four main actors: the government, the Rohingya community, the host community, and international humanitarian agencies. Rohingyas live a sub-human life since the four actors operate within constraints of 'bounded response' as the durable solution of safe, dignified voluntary repatriation remains a far cry, with no walking the talk by the international community.

Our research suggests that the response strategy to the crisis is particularly concerning, as there is a significant mismatch between the basic requirements and the services provided in camps in view of changes in the population pyramid. In view of the high birth rate and shifts in age-structure in the camped population, the response strategy has to be re-designed to reflect the evidence and to address the needs, amongst others, in provisioning of basic services, education and training in skills for employability. The role of responding agencies – local, national, and international NGOs – requires changes in efficiency and capacities to address the changing nature of services while being mindful of reduction in overlapping. The changing nature of milieu and the contingent shift requires a re-think in host-Rohingya relationships.

During this phase, there has been a reduction in the flow of support, which is causing significant problems in addressing the needs associated with demographic patterns, with contingent consequences for education, health, basic services, skills, and employability. The downside is hopelessness.

During the Emergency Response Phase of 2017-2019, about 75% of the assistance requirement was met, declined to 65% during Pandemic Response Phase of 2020-2021. Currently – in the Protracted Phase, beginning in 2022, the level of assistance is only 44%, which is below the 50% mark. The international community needs to decide on an urgent basis how it will respond to this crisis in light of the Sustainable Development Goal; Leave No One Behind; since the crisis is in the emergency room while the government of Bangladesh with its limited capacities continue to bear the brunt.

According to our provisional estimates, the fund requirements for the Rohingya crisis

response are USD 1315.2 million in 2023, USD 1578.24 million in 2024, USD 1893.88 million in 2025, USD 2272.66 million in 2026, and USD 2727.19 million in 2027. If the durable solutions are put on limbo, the funds requirement almost doubles in 2027 due to population growth. It is alarming that there has been a trend of gradual decline in the amount of funds received compared to the actual fund requirement. There has been no calculation of loss and damage in terms of the environment, which would require a significant amount of additional funding.



Vivek Prakash, head of cooperation, Rohingya Refugee Response, High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh

Canada's second strategy for the Myanmar and Rohingya crisis recognises this protracted situation. The first element of Canada's strategy is to continue advocating for and bringing attention to the Rohingya crisis, including to pressure the government of Myanmar to create conditions for the safe and dignified return of the Rohingya.

Secondly, Canada continues to provide essential services, such as healthcare and food as well as LPG, which has helped to address environmental degradation caused by deforestation. The camps today are much more lush than in 2019, because people use a lot less firewood. LPG and reforestation is a success story in this ecologically sensitive

agency to live a dignified life.



Soo Jin Rhee, UNHCR Deputy Country Representative in Bangladesh

For the one million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, conditions in Cox's Bazar – one of the country's poorest districts and home to the world's largest refugee camp – remain overcrowded with most of the refugees remaining fully reliant on humanitarian assistance for their survival. Most refugees continue to be entirely dependent on food distributions, primary and specialist health care, support for access to water, sanitation and hygiene, cooking fuel through LPG distribution, and a multitude of critical protection interventions. These critical life-sustaining activities require continuous assistance and support from the Government and the humanitarian community.

While the ultimate solution to the crisis lies in creating conditions conducive for the voluntary, safe and dignified return to Myanmar, Rohingya refugees are likely to be staying in Bangladesh for the foreseeable future. In order to help Rohingya refugees live a dignified life in the refugee camps and become more productive members of society, bolstering resilience and self-reliance through investment of education, skill development and livelihoods is all the more important. This will require providing them with the necessary resources and support to develop

It is essential to consider the role of security and stabilisation as we look towards a longer-term approach.

It is essential to change the current response to the Rohingya crisis to sustain it in the present and future as long as this community remains in Bangladesh. Therefore, it is essential to reflect on the response's scope, governance, resourcing, and participation aspects and consider how they can be improved.

Robust education skills development opportunities are required for a sustainable approach. As resources and aid are decreasing, a more efficient and integrated mechanism of delivery services should be explored.



Kathryn Davis Stevens, mission director, USAID Bangladesh

Providing education and equipping Rohingya with skills and livelihood opportunities is essential not only for the refugees themselves, but also for the host communities. This will contribute to security, stability, and economic opportunity in those regions. It is also important to move beyond a focus on humanitarian assistance and adopt a multi-year approach that addresses the long-term needs of the Rohingya refugees. It is important to recognize that significant progress has been made in the Rohingya response effort, including the recent enactment of a skills

Rohingya vulnerable, particularly women and children. It is essential to address the issue of nighttime security to ensure the protection of all members of the community.

Given the decline in funding, it may be necessary for Bangladesh to tie the funding for humanitarian assistance in Cox's Bazar to a multi annual framework to ensure that it is not redirected to other priorities. This will help to provide a more stable and long-term approach to addressing the needs of the Rohingya and supporting their self-reliance.



MA Manman, minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Initially, the prioritised needs of the Rohingya, such as shelter, food, medical care, education, and skill development, were addressed in a scattered manner. However, with the help of NGOs and UN bodies, humanitarian assistance has gradually been structured into a more organised framework. However, this is not enough; we need more financial support and a deeper understanding of the Rohingya crisis.

The lack of security, particularly at night, in the camps is a major concern. The Ministry of Home Affairs, the RRRRC, and other relevant authorities must work together to address this issue and find possible solutions. The lack of security is not only alarming for the Rohingya population but also for NGO professionals, both local and international, who are unable to properly perform their roles without proper security measures in place.

The Government of Bangladesh believes in engaging with the Myanmar regime in an effort to find a solution to the Rohingya crisis. While past attempts at dialogue have not been successful, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to pursue this approach in the future. It is hoped that by working with the international community, a stable regime in Myanmar can be engaged in dialogue and discussion to find a way for the Rohingyas to return to their homeland.



Prof Dr Maksud Kamal, pro-vice chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka

The funding deficit for Rohingya humanitarian assistance is increasing every year, and it will be difficult for Bangladesh to provide the necessary assistance without continuous financial support from the international community. As the host country, Bangladesh should adopt an interim strategy with a short-term approach, given the current situation. It is not realistic to pursue a long-term strategy to support the needs of the Rohingyas, including education and livelihood support, until the crisis is resolved. It is essential that the international community continue to provide the necessary financial support to help Bangladesh address the needs of the Rohingyas in a sustainable manner.

The Rohingya crisis has had significant environmental impacts in the camp area, including a decline in groundwater levels, landslides, and soil erosion. For example, landslides have occurred almost every year, with one in 2022 resulting in the deaths of eight individuals, the displacement of 13,000 people, and more than 500 injuries. Soil erosion has also increased as a side effect of efforts to protect against landslides, rising from 59 pounds per hectare in 2015 to 80 pounds per hectare in 2020. It is essential to comprehensively address these environmental issues in order to protect the health and well-being of the Rohingya and the surrounding community.



PHOTO: BRAC

skills and access to livelihood opportunities in a sustainable manner.

Following the signing of the MoU in October 2021, UN operations have been engaged and scaled up its humanitarian assistance and services for the 30,000 refugees which to date have been relocated. To ensure the success of the Bhasan Char project, it is key to provide refugees with viable livelihood opportunities and facilitate market linkages. Without such longer-term interventions, it will be difficult to sustain the humanitarian operation on the island.



Asif Saleh, executive director, BRAC

There is no denying that our utmost priority is to advocate for the safe return of Rohingya refugees to their homeland. However, there is growing recognition that the current efforts to support the Rohingya community should shift from a short-term, crisis-focused approach to a more developmental approach that takes a mid-term view of the situation. This shift is essential not only from a humanitarian standpoint but also from a security perspective.

When young people are confined to a densely populated area with nothing to do, there is a genuine risk of instability and conflict.

development framework and volunteer engagement guidelines. Since 2017, the United States has contributed \$1.9 billion to the response, with \$1.5 billion going towards supporting the Rohingya in the camps and the host communities.



H.E. Mustafa Osman Turan, ambassador of Turkey to Bangladesh

As a country hosting the largest refugee population, Turkey is well positioned to understand the situation in Bangladesh. We understand that the Government of Bangladesh is committed to starting repatriation as soon as possible, and we are supporting Bangladesh in international platforms and at the International Court of Justice to put pressure on Myanmar to accept the Rohingyas.

The increasing density of the Rohingya population is raising concerns about security, the provision of services, and the relationship between the host community and the Rohingya. If a longer-term policy is not adopted, this could be a recipe for disaster. The lack of employment and hope among the Rohingya can create a breeding ground for radicalization and other illegal activities. Law enforcement agencies often leave the camps at night, which leaves the

TECHNICAL SESSION 1: BASIC SERVICES, FOOD SECURITY AND SKILLS OF THE FDMNS



Prof Salma Akhter,
Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka

One issue facing the Rohingya population in Bangladesh is determining the ethnic identity of those born in the country. This can be difficult for this young generation to understand their role and status in Bangladesh, especially if they have dual identities.

Another issue is the social cohesion between the host community and the Rohingya population. Both communities often feel vulnerable, insecure, and deprived, and may view each other as competitors.

Women from both communities also face gender-based violence, with some Rohingya women informed that their husbands pressurise them and want to have more children when women do not want to. Host community women mentioned their husbands abandoning them by marrying Rohingya women as Rohingya women get support from the development partners and host community women do not have income generating activities. It is important to address these issues in order to promote understanding and harmony

between the host community and the Rohingya population.

One of the challenges in addressing the education and employment needs of the Rohingya population in Bangladesh is determining the appropriate education system for them. It may also be difficult to prepare them for the job market and integrate them into Bangladesh's educational system. A sustainable approach may be taken to provide livelihood and skill development training to both the host community and the Rohingya community in order to make them employable.

While some development partners may be willing to allow refugees to move to their countries, it may be more prestigious for the Rohingya to become self-sufficient through employment rather than continuing to move from one country to another as refugees.



Mohammed Mizanur Rahman,
Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

The scarcity of qualified teachers from the community is a significant issue, even we

don't find a suitable number of competent teachers for the Burmese language. For the last few years NGOs have been recruiting one teacher from the host community to teach English and Science, and another from the Rohingya community to teach the Burmese language in every learning centre. However, the stipend offered to teachers from the host community is not bare minimum to engage them to work in the camps. As a result, the quality of teaching has been compromised—leading to a higher drop-out rate in the camps. While the Myanmar curriculum has been introduced, there has been a challenge of having a proper assessment system or certifications of education. Additionally, there is a need for more space and classrooms for learning centers, but because of the land scarcity and given the context of nature of the land we cannot go for further construction of the infrastructures.

In regards to law and order, all the Camp in Charges (CiCs) cannot stay in the camp premises at night, as there are no such arrangements yet. However, there are some police camps in the area. Plans are underway to expand the number of police camps.

The demographic status of the Rohingya is somehow ignored when we talk about

gender based violence or polygamy as the ratio of female is higher than the male and among the males, there are fewer eligible men because many of them were killed and imprisoned in Myanmar and many live abroad - in Malaysia or Saudi Arabia. Some unscrupulous individuals are taking advantage of this situation by taking multiple wives, which contributes to the increase in violence in the camp.



Prof Taiabur Rahman,
dean, School of Social Science and Humanities, IUB

The Rohingya crisis is a global issue. We cannot look at it from only the points of view of the host or camp dwellers. We have to look at it from a comprehensive holistic perspective. We can call it a meta governance issue as there are so many actors involved – international, national, regional, host, local, non-government organisations, and private organisations. One major issue is the engagement of Myanmar. We can take care of systems that will create basic service provisions in the camp but the government needs to work with relevant stakeholders to send these people back to their home country.

TECHNICAL SESSION 2: CHANGING RESOURCE NEEDS AND ROLES OF RELEVANT ACTORS IN RESPONDING ROHINGYA CRISIS



Dr Bokhtiar Ahmed,
professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi

I personally witnessed the influx of Rohingya in the 1990s as a young member of the host community. At that time, there were few NGO professionals and hardly any local people working in crisis management operations. However, now there is an unprecedented number of people from the host community working for many NGOs.

Fortunately, Bangladesh had the necessary development sector expertise, with professionals experienced in emergency response and humanitarian efforts, to effectively handle the large influx of Rohingya in September 2017. As a result, Bangladesh was able to respond well to the situation despite facing other limitations.



Dr Helal Mohiuddin,
professor, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University

In this discussion, the RRRC mentioned that the upcoming strategic plan for the Rohingya response is being designed based on the demographic shift of the Rohingya population. However, I believe it would be wise to base the strategic plan on the long-term management of the emerging protection situation, considering government policies, diplomatic relations, and other factors. The plan should address issues such as localization, overlapping, repetition, inconsistency, and duplicity

in policy direction.

Our research has revealed that adolescent Rohingya boys in the camps are the most neglected group in terms of development interventions. This lack of support increases their risk of involvement in radical activities, which is harmful not only to the Rohingya community but also to the host community.

Therefore, it is important to develop leadership within the Rohingya community so that their voices can be heard and their perspectives considered. Currently, their voices are largely missing from discussions and decision-making processes.



Dr ASM Amanullah,
professor, Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka

There is a lack of coordination in the health services in the Rohingya camps, as demonstrated by various studies of these camps. It is important to disseminate important research findings to donors and development partner communities for a better understanding and future planning.

Bangladesh has not ratified the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol, and there is a question of how to mobilize resources in the camps to generate employment and take local resource mobilization initiatives if the Rohingyas are not considered refugees and international donors use the term "refugee." Bangladesh should accede to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

It is also important to consider the

increase in noncommunicable diseases in the Rohingya camps. Our dietary study in the camps found that there is nutrition and food security, but there is a lack of dietary diversity. Additionally, there is an unmet need for family planning services, mental health services, and trauma services, in addition to basic needs such as education.



Mia Mohammad Mainul Kabir,
director general (Myanmar), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NGOs and donor agencies, at times, acknowledge the lack of coordination among themselves in terms of their humanitarian operations in the camps. To address this, there needs to be effective coordination among all actors involved in the Rohingya response. This can be achieved by combining the government's direction and donor mechanisms to ensure transparency and proper coordination.

It is clear that all Rohingyas are interested in returning home, and the situation in Rakhine needs to improve. Therefore, donors and UN agencies should boost their engagement there to ensure that the Rohingyas can return safely and sustainably to their homeland.

Bangladesh and UN agencies have agreed on a couple of new initiatives, including skill development programs, volunteer engagement for the Rohingyas. The skill development framework will enhance the skills of the Rohingyas in sectors that they were engaged in Rakhine before their forced displacement, such as agricultural work. In addition, Rohingya children are learning inside the camps

following the Myanmar curriculum.



Dr Imtiaz Ahmed,
professor of International Relations, University of Dhaka

It is important to include the Rohingyas in discussions about strategies that affect them. The Center for Genocide Studies has collected extensive data on violence over the past decade and has also mapped violence in Rohingya camps. Contrary to what some may believe, these camps are actually safer than cities like New York or Chicago. In fact, the rate of gun violence in the United States is around 40,000 per year, while violence in Rohingya camps is significantly lower. This is due in part to the strong social resilience of the Rohingyas in these camps.

This year, there is a 300 million US Dollar deficit. As long as refugees and stateless people are here, UN agencies have responsibilities. The United States alone funded arms for the Ukraine war worth 20 billion dollars in one year, yet we are worrying about a deficit of 300 million. The annual transaction of Yaba drugs is between 30 and 60 billion US dollars, and the Myanmar military has a business interest in the Yaba trade. However, the rest of the world remains silent on this issue.

We must be realistic and consider whether we can implement a Marshall plan, in which the Myanmar state sees it as advantageous to address the needs of the Rohingyas, who they view as Arakani Muslims.

CLOSING SESSION



SK Md Moniruzzaman,
director general (Additional Secretary), NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office

We have established earning opportunities for the Rohingyas in Bhasan Char, such as farming. However, we need to create even more opportunities for them. The government plans to relocate more Rohingyas to Bhasan Char to ease the overcrowding in the Cox's Bazar area.

Despite limited resources, our representatives continually assess the needs of the Rohingyas and prioritize support accordingly to ensure that relief efforts are not wasted. It is important to carefully consider the potential impact and sustainability of any new projects for the Rohingyas.



Gwyn Lewis,
UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh

The ultimate solution to the Rohingya crisis lies with the government of Myanmar. The political efforts of the UN to create a conducive environment for addressing the political issues at hand continues to be of utmost importance. The Security Council and General Assembly have increased their engagement in this issue since 2017, but action continues to be needed.

The repatriation of the Rohingyas to Myanmar must be voluntary, safe, and sustainable. The Rohingyas have faced persecution for decades, and when they do return home, they will need a safe place to live and necessary services must be in place. In the meantime, education and skill development is essential for the Rohingya community to have the knowledge and experience to be self-reliant when they return home.

The international community's support to the response has been critical in ensuring that Bangladesh does not bear the burden of supporting the Rohingyas alone. This support needs to continue, but to be effective



PHOTO: BRAC

and efficient in addressing this crisis, we also need to think long-term. Together we should consider how we can continue to provide essential services such as health and education. It will be important to engage with international financial institutions or different donors to secure long-term funding and multi-year programming.

Providing the Rohingya with livelihood opportunities is also another avenue to be explored that will also mean less reliance on assistance. Giving people choices and allowing them to able to support themselves will mean



Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury,
secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Over the past five years, we have exhausted our diplomatic efforts to address this crisis. We have engaged bilaterally with many countries around the world, but the only viable solution is the safe

manage the crisis in a cost-effective manner.
» Tie the funding for humanitarian assistance to a multi-annual framework.
» Promote understanding and harmony between the host community and the Rohingya population.
» Effective coordination among all actors involved in the Rohingya response is needed.
» Bangladesh should accede to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

» A comprehensive strategy is needed to facilitate the safe, dignified repatriation of the Rohingyas.
» The evolving nature of the Rohingya crisis necessitates a strategic shift in the way that some innovative interventions on livelihoods, food security, education, and skill development should be taken.
» Address environmental issues comprehensively in the response to the Rohingya crisis.

DISCUSSANTS

(In order of appearance)

S. M. Monjur Rashid
Programme Head, Advocacy for Social Change, BRAC

Prof. Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir
Chairman, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka

Vivek Prakash,
Head of Cooperation, Rohingya Refugee Response, High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh

Soo-Jin Rhee
UNHCR Deputy Country Representative in Bangladesh

Asif Saleh
Executive Director, BRAC

Kathryn Davis Stevens
Mission Director, USAID Bangladesh

H.E. Mr Mustafa Osman Turan
Ambassador of Turkey to Bangladesh

M. A. Mannan M.P.
Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Professor Dr Maksud Kamal
Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Dhaka

Dr Salma Akhter
Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka

Mohammed Mizanur Rahman
Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR)

Professor Taiabur Rahman
Dean, School of Social Science and Humanities, IUB

Dr. Bokhtiar Ahmed
Professor of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi

Dr. Helal Mohiuddin
Professor of Political Science and Sociology, North South University

Dr ASM Amanullah
Professor of Sociology, University of Dhaka

Miah Md. Mainul Kabir
Director General (Myanmar), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr Imtiaz Ahmed
Professor of International Relations, Dhaka University

Sk. Md. Moniruzzaman
Director General (Additional Secretary), NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office

Gwyn Lewis
UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh

Shabbir Ahmad Chowdhury
Secretary (West), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

KAM Morshed,
Senior Director, BRAC



KAM Morshed,
senior director, BRAC

I am not summarising but repeating some of the most common messages we heard all day. The crisis started in Myanmar, and the ultimate solution lies in the sustainable and dignified repatriation to Myanmar. Meanwhile, we must minimize Bangladesh's economic and security burden and remain committed to compensating the host community's "loss and damage".

First, we must improve the effectiveness, accountability and economy of the current response requiring more than \$3,000/ Rohingya Household. Adopting an integrated delivery model, perfected by BRAC and other local NGOs, and increased use of local experts can help.

Second, we must create conditions so FDMNs can earn part of their keep. Meaningful engagement of Rohingya youths in skills development and income-generating activities would reduce the need for external support and deter frustrated youth from going astray.

Studies presented today raised more questions than they answered—which was the intention. I hope these studies will form the foundation for future debates and policy responses.

SUSPECTED SURVEILLANCE BALLOON

US will preserve dialogue with China despite rift

Says top diplomat Wendy Sherman

AFP, Washington

The United States will work to maintain lines of communication with China despite a rift over an alleged surveillance balloon, a top US diplomat said Wednesday.

The United States and China have “never stopped communicating and trying to understand each other” despite the cancellation this month of a visit by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, said his deputy, Wendy Sherman.

“We have, we are and we will maintain open lines of communication with the PRC so we can responsibly manage the competition between our countries,” Sherman said, using the acronym of the People’s Republic of China.

“We do not see conflict with the PRC. We believe in the power of diplomacy to prevent miscalculations that can lead to conflict,” she said in a speech at the Brookings Institution.

Referring to talk among US hawks to extract the United States from China’s economy, Sherman said, “We’re not talking about decoupling anywhere. De-risking where it makes sense -- absolutely.”



She said, however, that the United States would remain firm on concerns with China including human rights in Hong Kong, Tibet and Xinjiang, its use of “economic coercion” and its “threatening behavior” against Taiwan.

Sherman, in response to a question, declined to say if Blinken would meet China’s foreign policy supremo Wang Yi later this week when both attend the Munich Security Conference.

But she indicated that Blinken’s trip to China was postponed rather than canceled, saying, “We hope to put it back on the schedule.”

President Joe Biden ordered the shootdown of the balloon after it crossed US territory, including over areas with sensitive military sites. US officials said it was a surveillance balloon but that it provided limited intelligence.

Beijing insisted that the balloon was for weather surveillance and had gone astray and has accused the United States of sending its own balloons over China, charges denied by Washington.

Tensions spiked last year after a visit by then House speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan.



A demonstrator gestures near a bank, set on fire, during a protest organized by Depositors’ Outcry, a group campaigning for angry depositors, against informal restrictions on cash withdrawals and deteriorating economic conditions in Beirut, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Time is now’

Nato chief tells Turkey to ratify Sweden, Finland membership bids

AFP, Ankara

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg told Turkey yesterday it was time to finally ratify Sweden and Finland’s bids to join the Western defence alliance.

Stoltenberg arrived in Ankara 10 days after Turkey was hit by a massive earthquake that has claimed nearly 40,000 lives across the country’s southeast and parts of Syria.

“In your time of need, Nato stands with Turkey,” Stoltenberg said.

But he also stressed the urgency of Ankara dropping its resistance to the Nordic neighbours’ bids to join the Western defence alliance.

“I continue to believe that the time is now to ratify both Finland and Sweden,” Stoltenberg said after talks with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Finland and Sweden dropped decades of military non-alignment and applied to join the US led defence alliance in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

Turkey and Hungary remain the only members of the 30 nation alliance that have failed to ratify the two bids by votes in parliament.

All 30 states must approve a new country’s membership. The Hungarian legislature is expected to approve both bids by March.

Turkey has signalled it is ready to receive Finland into the alliance -- but not Sweden.

“We could evaluate Finland’s Nato membership process separately from Sweden,” Cavusoglu said yesterday.

“Turkey’s position on the membership of the two countries has been clear and unambiguous from the beginning.”

Turkish President Recept Tayyip Erdogan’s main complaint has been with Sweden’s refusal to extradite dozens of suspects that Ankara links to outlawed Kurdish groups and a 2016 coup attempt.

“Both can be ratified now,” Stoltenberg said. “But the main issue is not that they are ratified together. The main issue is that they are ratified as soon as possible.”



Russia batters Ukraine with missile strikes

Kyiv says it shoots down 16 of 32 missiles; Nato to keep ramping up military aid for Kyiv

REUTERS, KYIV

Russia battered Ukraine with multiple missile strikes yesterday as its troops sought to advance in the east, Kyiv said, while Western allies pledged to keep military aid flowing for an intended Ukrainian spring counter-offensive.

Following a pattern of heavy bombardments at times of Ukrainian battlefield or diplomatic advances, Russia launched 32 missiles in the early hours, Ukraine’s Air Force said.

Half were shot down, it added, a lower rate than normal.

Among them, air defences in the south downed eight Kalibr missiles fired from a ship in the Black Sea, Ukrainian officials said. Other missiles struck northern and western Ukraine as well as the central regions of Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovohrad.

Russia has usually carried out its heaviest strikes in daylight, targeting energy facilities. But Ukrainian officials said the overnight bombardment had no major impact on power.

They believe Moscow is adapting strategy, including using air balloons for reconnaissance.

“The Russians have changed their tactics somewhat. They conduct active reconnaissance, use false targets,” Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian presidential staff, wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Ukraine did not say why fewer missiles had been knocked out than

usual but it has previously reported lower success rates when Russia fired Soviet-era Kh-22 missiles.

Bolstered by tens of thousands of reservists, Russia has intensified ground attacks across southern and eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, and a major new offensive appears to be shaping as the first anniversary of its February 24 invasion nears.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, pulverised

Wednesday it was touting Ukrainian retreats in parts of the eastern province of Luhansk.

As Ukraine burns through munitions fast and clamours for heavier firepower, including tanks and fighter jets, Nato alliance nations are ramping up production and promising more.

President Volodymyr Zelensky’s army has received vast amounts of aid, particularly from the United States which has committed more than \$27.4 billion since the conflict began.

Senior U.S. officials have advised Ukraine to hold off with a major counter-offensive until the latest supply of U.S. weaponry is in place and training has been provided.

“We have to ensure that this spring it is truly felt that Ukraine is moving towards victory,” Zelensky said.

He thanked Norway for pledging \$7 billion over five years, its largest aid programme ever for a single recipient nation.

Russia calls the invasion a “special military operation” against security threats and has cast deliveries of heavy weapons to Ukraine as proof that the West is escalating the war.

Kyiv and its allies call Russia’s actions a land grab.

In the latest of a stream of foreign dignitaries to visit Ukraine, Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen was set to meet Zelensky. It was the first such visit from a senior Israeli official since the war began.



People hold smoke flares during a demonstration on the fifth day of nationwide rallies organised since the start of the year, against a deeply unpopular pensions overhaul, in Nice, southeastern France, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Racist US shooter jailed for life

AFP, New York

A white supremacist who murdered 10 Black people during a live-streamed supermarket rampage in New York state last year was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday during an emotional hearing that saw a man lunge for the shooter.

Payton Gendron, 19, had pleaded guilty to a state charge of domestic terrorism motivated by hate over the massacre in Buffalo in May, which carries a mandatory penalty of life without parole.

The convicted teen, who told the court he was “very sorry” for his actions, still faces dozens of federal hate crime charges that could see him receive the death penalty.

“There can be no mercy for you, no understanding, no second chances. The damage you have caused is too great,” Erie County Court judge Susan Egan told Gendron, handing down the life term. Gendron, wearing an orange jumpsuit and glasses, had to be escorted out of the courtroom when an audience member rushed at him during emotional statements by relatives of victims.

The unidentified man was restrained by security and the hearing resumed several minutes later.

BABY FORMULA

Most health claims not backed by science: study

AFP, Paris

The vast majority of health claims used to advertise baby formula worldwide are not supported by rigorous scientific evidence, a study said yesterday, leading researchers to urge the breast milk substitutes be sold in plain packaging. The study comes a week after a group of doctors and scientists called for a regulatory crackdown on the \$55-billion formula industry for “predatory” marketing which they said exploits the fears of new parents to convince them not to breastfeed. Breastfeeding is widely recognised to have huge health benefits for babies. The World Health Organization and the US CDC recommend breastfeeding exclusively during the first six months of a newborn’s life. However that recommendation is followed for less than half of infants globally, according to the WHO. Daniel Munblit, an honorary senior lecturer at Imperial College London and an author of the new study, said researchers were not on a “crusade” against infant formula, which should remain an option for mothers who cannot or choose not to breastfeed.

Mpox still a global health crisis: WHO

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization said Wednesday that despite a drop-off in cases, it still considers mpox, previously known as monkeypox, an international health emergency. WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus reached that conclusion following the recommendations of the UN health agency’s emergency committee, which met last Friday. “The committee has advised me that in its view, mpox remains a global health emergency, and I have accepted that advice,” Tedros told reporters. Officials noticed a surge in what was then called monkeypox infections last May among men.

EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

\$826m pledged to UN fund

AFP, Geneva

During the first-ever pledging conference for education in emergencies and protracted crises, countries and other donors vowed yesterday to fund \$826 million for Education Cannot Wait’s work for the next four years. The UN fund estimates that 222 million children around the world have had their education disrupted by conflict or climate-related disasters, including nearly 80 million who never set foot in school. Since 2016, Education Cannot Wait has raised more than \$1 billion to build schools and buy educational materials as well as provide daily meals and offer psychological services. The aid helps nearly seven million children in 32 countries. ECW had said it needs to mobilise an additional \$1.5 billion for its work between 2023 and 2026, with the goal of reaching an additional 20 million children. The lack of education has real and immediate consequences. Children sometimes end up on the streets, facing threats of violence, human trafficking, recruitment by armed groups or, for girls, forced marriage. “We’ve seen around the world that hope dies when a convoy carrying refugees gets lost at sea. Hope dies when goods trying to get the refugees in besieged cities doesn’t get through,” Gordon Brown, chair of ECW and the UN special envoy for education, told the conference.

Lanka hikes power prices by 66pc

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's electricity board hiked consumer rates by up to 275 percent, officials said yesterday, the second steep increase in months as the bankrupt island nation works to secure an IMF bailout.

An unprecedented financial crisis last year saw Sri Lanka's 22 million people suffer through months of food and fuel shortages, along with lengthy power cuts.

The government defaulted on its \$46 billion foreign debt and is finalising a rescue package with the International Monetary Fund to restore its ruined finances.

"We had to raise electricity charges to be in line with IMF conditions that we cannot get handouts from the treasury," energy minister Kanchana Wijesekera told reporters.

"We need to generate revenues to cover our costs."

Households will now pay at least 30 rupees (eight cents) per kilowatt-hour for electricity, a figure in line with average tariffs in neighbouring India.

The 275 percent increase in the lowest tariff follows a 264 percent hike that came into effect six months ago.

Wijesekera said the rate hikes would allow Sri Lanka's state electricity monopoly to end the 140-minute daily blackouts currently in force around the island.



About 50 Rohingya, adults and children are stranded on Lampanah beach, in Aceh Besar, Indonesia yesterday. Miftah Cut Ade, a senior member of the area's traditional fishing community, said the group had arrived from Bangladesh, many in a state of exhaustion. Local residents had offered them food, he said.

PHOTO: AFP

6.1 magnitude quake rocks Philippines

AFP, Manila

A 6.1 magnitude earthquake rocked the central Philippines yesterday, the US Geological Survey said, though there were no reports of casualties or significant damage.

The strong and shallow quake struck just off the coast of Masbate province in the centre of the archipelago nation shortly after 2 am (1800 GMT).

The epicentre was 11 kilometres (seven miles) from the coastal village of Miaga in Masbate's Usan municipality, USGS said.

The Philippine seismological agency said it had recorded more than 80 aftershocks.

"It was a bit strong," Masbate provincial police chief Rolly Albana told AFP.

"I was sleeping when we were shaken and woken up."

The province has a population of nearly one million people spread across three islands.

Masbate provincial disaster officer Adonis Dilao told local media some buildings in the capital Masbate City had cracks in their walls, including the provincial hospital.

Mali junta cracks down on hookahs

AFP, Dakar

The authorities in Mali have begun a crackdown on hookah smoking after giving a grace period to shisha bars to adjust to a ban.


The country's anti-drug agency says it has carried out dozens of arrests in the capital Bamako and seized water pipes after the six-month moratorium expired.

Bars where small groups of smokers -- primarily young men -- hang out to chat and puff on hookahs have flourished in Bamako in recent years.


But their days became numbered when the junta-dominated government on August 15 announced a surprise ban.

It warned that shisha smokers would be liable to a prison term of one to 10 days and a fine of 300 to 10,000 CFA francs (\$0.45 to \$15).

The Central Narcotics Office (OCS) in a Facebook posting said there had been "vigorous" raids by its agents in Bamako on Tuesday night, culminating in "about 50 individuals in prison and a large amount of seized material."



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
Barguna
www.lged.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
আম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.0400.000.14.001.2023.364

Date: 16.02.2023

e-Tender Notice No. 28/2022-2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below:
Procurement Method: **[OTM]**

Sl.	Tender ID	Name of works	Last selling date & time
01	788554	1. Major Maintenance of 30.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Amtali-Kakchira RHD (Dowatala)-Chandukhali GC Via Ayla GC Road at Ch: 50m [Road ID: 504282001] 2. Major Maintenance of 16.20m long RCC Girder Bridge on Potkakhali R&H- Nali GC Road at Ch: 5480m [Road ID: 504282002] 3. Major Maintenance of 72.00m long RCC Girder Bridge on Barguna UZ HQ- Kakchira Via Fuljhuri GC Road at Chainage: 58m [Road ID: 504282003] 4. Major Maintenance of 23.80m long RCC Girder Bridge on Amtali-Kakchira RHD (Dowatala)- Chandukhali GC Via Ayla GC Road at Ch: 7510m [Road ID: 504282001] 5. Major Maintenance of 27.50m long RCC Girder Bridge on Barguna UZ HQ- Kakchira Via Fuljhuri GC Road at Chainage: 9030m [Road ID: 504282003] under Barguna Sadar Upazila Dist: Barguna.	06.03.2023 16:00
02	78855	1. Major Maintenance of 9.00m RCC Box Culvert on Munshigonj Hat (RHD)- Nali (Shaplaia GC) Via Charduan GC Road at Ch: 5850m [Road ID: 504852001] under Patharghata Upazila Dist: Barguna, 2. Major Maintenance of 9.00m RCC Box Culvert on Munshigonj Hat (RHD)- Nali (Shaplaia GC) Via Charduan GC Road at Ch: 6536m [Road ID: 504852001] under Patharghata Upazila Dist: Barguna, 3. Major Maintenance of 63.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Bamna GC-Khopatua GC-Ramna Launch Ghat RHD Road at Ch: 6628m [Road ID: 504192001] under Bamna Upazila Dist: Barguna.	06.03.2023 16:00
03	788556	1. Minor Maintenance of 22.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Patharghata GC (Macherkhal)- Charduan GC via Khalifar Hat- Macherkhal Road at Ch: 6535m [Road ID: 504852006], 2. Minor Maintenance of 8.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Patharghata GC (Macherkhal)- Charduan GC via Khalifar Hat- Macherkhal Road at Ch: 1712m [Road ID: 504852006], 3. Minor Maintenance of 45.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Nachnapara UP (RHD) -Taluker Charduan Hat via Napitter Kheyaghat Road at Ch: 8440m [Road ID: 504853013] under Patharghata Upazila Dist: Barguna.	06.03.2023 16:00
04	788557	1. Minor Maintenance of 50.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Amtali Mahishhkata R&H-Kalagacia Kaserhat GC via Gulishakhali Bazar Road at Ch: 3000m [Road ID: 504092010], 2. Minor Maintenance of 45.00m RCC Girder Bridge on Amtali Mahishhkata R&H- Kalagacia Kaserhat GC via Gulishakhali Bazar Road at Ch: 14800m [Road ID: 504092010] under Amtali Upazila Dist: Barguna.	06.03.2023 16:00

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

Suprio Mukherjee
Executive Engineer
LGED, Barguna

GD-292

ANTARCTICA'S 'DOOMSDAY GLACIER' Warm water melts weak spots, say scientists

REUTERS, Mexico City

Scientists studying Antarctica's vast Thwaites Glacier - nicknamed the Doomsday Glacier - say warm water is seeping into its weak spots, worsening melting caused by rising temperatures, two papers published in Nature journal showed on Wednesday.

Thwaites, which is roughly the size of Florida, represents more than half a meter (1.6 feet) of global sea level rise potential, and could destabilise neighbouring glaciers that have the potential to cause a further three-meter (9.8 foot) rise.

As part of the International Thwaites Glacier collaboration - the biggest field campaign ever attempted in Antarctica - a team of 13 US and British scientists spent about six weeks on the glacier in late 2019 and early 2020.

Iran jails influential academic for 8 yrs

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian court has sentenced influential sociology professor Saeed Madani Ghahfarokhi to eight years in prison, his lawyer told AFP yesterday.

Madani, 62, who has published books on topics including prostitution, violence against women, child abuse and drug addiction in Iran, has been in detention since May last year.

"My client was sentenced to eight years in prison for forming a hostile group and one year for propaganda against the system," said his lawyer, Mahmoud Behzadrad, adding the verdict was final.

Madani, a professor at Tehran's Allameh Tabataba'i University, had previously been arrested several times and served a six-year prison sentence from 2011.

Iran has been rocked by a wave of protests since mid-September, sparked by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, 22. "Since my client has been in prison, he has been consulted by some officials to find ways to deal with the violence" that broke out at the protests, said Behzadrad.

TUNISIA PROTEST Journalists accuse state of intimidation

AFP, Tunis

Dozens of journalists and rights activists protested in the Tunisian capital yesterday, accusing the state of "repression" and attempts to intimidate the media.

The protest, organised by the SNJT journalists' union, came three days after police arrested Nouredine Boutar, the director of popular private radio station Mosaïque FM.

The station has often been critical of President Kais Saïed, who in 2021 sacked the government, froze parliament and seized almost total power in moves rivals have called a coup.

The demonstrators gathered outside government headquarters in Tunis, some wearing red tape across their mouths while others shouted "No to repression of journalists".



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক
বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়
কৃষি ব্যাংক ভবন
জিন্দাবাজার, সিলেট

গণমানুষের ব্যাংক

ফোনঃ ০২-৯৯৬৬৩৩০৬২
০২-৯৯৬৬৩৯০৯০
ইমেইলঃ gmsylhel@krishibank.org.bd

তারিখঃ ১৫-০২-২০২৩ইং

e-Tender Notice (OTM)


This is to notify all concern that, the following tenders have been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl No.	Tender ID	Tender name	Tender publishing date and time	Tender closing and opening date and time	Tender method
01	ID: 786287 Ref No: BKB/Admin42/part-03(Money Counting)/2022-23/2149	Supply and Installation of 72 Nos. Money Counting Machines for Several Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division.	13 Feb 2023, 11:15am	7 March 2023 12:15pm	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Nazmul Hussain
General Manager

GD-294



CONFIDENCE CEMENT LIMITED

Registered office :Confidence Heights,Plot-1, Lane -1,Road-2, Block-L, Halishahar H/E, Agrabad Access Road, Chittagong, Tel:023333-11471-3
Liaison Office : Ispahani Building (3rd floor), 14-15 Motijheel C/A., Dhaka, Tel:02-223382431

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

It is notified for information to all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its Meeting held on 16/02/2023 commenced at 03.00 PM among other has taken the following decisions:

1. In order to meet ongoing financial requirements and equity injection to the associate companies, the Board considered and approved the proposal for issuance of Convertible Preference Shares up to BDT 150 (Taka One Hundred and Fifty) Crore only as may be modified further pursuant to the instructions of the BSEC or the requirement of law, subject to approval of Shareholders in the ensuing 5th EGM, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) Exchanges and complying with the requirements embodied in relevant laws and regulatory authorities concerned.

2. In order to enable the Company to raise of capital through issuance of convertible preference shares of up to BDT 150 Crore, the Board proposed to increase the Authorized Capital of the Company from the existing TK 100 Crore to TK 350 Crore along with the inclusion of Preference Share as the capital item to be divided into 200,000,000 (twenty crore) ordinary shares of Tk. 10/- (Taka ten) each amounting to BDT 200,00,00,000 (Taka Two Hundred Crore) and 150,000,000 (Fifteen crore) preference shares of Taka 10.00 (Taka ten) each amounting to BDT 150,00,00,000 (Taka One Hundred and Fifty Crore) subject approval of the shareholders at the ensuing 5th EGM.

3. Subject to approval from the shareholders in ensuing 5th Extra Ordinary General Meeting, the existing Clause - V [Share Capital] of the Memorandum of Association of the Company and Article 5 [Share Capital] of the Articles of Association and existing Article No. 63 of the Articles of Association of the Company, shall be altered.

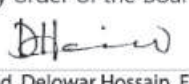
4. The Board then fixed the Date, Venue and Record Date for the 5th Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) as follows :


i. Date and time of the 5th EGM : **Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 11 AM.**

ii. Venue of the 5th EGM : **Digital Platform (Meeting Link will be provided later)**

iii. Record Date for 5th EGM : **March 13, 2023**

Dated : 16 February 2023

By order of the Board

Md. Delowar Hossain, FCS
Company Secretary



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Govt. Sundarban Adarsha Kula
231, Khan Jahan Ali Road, Khulna
Website: www.gsac.edu.bd

Memo No. GSAC/Goods/CEDP/G-15/2022-2023/04/184

Date : 16/02/2023

e-Tender Notice 2022-2023/01

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	790914	Procurement of Campus Networking for Government Sundarban Adarsha College, Khulna	06-March-2023 2:00 pm	06-March-2023 2:30 pm

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches up to **05-March-2023 4.00pm**

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

Md. Masuda Sultana
(Professor Masuda Sultana)
Principal
Govt. Sundarban Adarsha College
Phone:02477721915
e-Mail: govt.sundarban.ac@gmail.com

GD- 287

Can govt meet rising demand for power?

Overdependence on gas imports is putting our energy future at risk

Bangladesh is about enter a period of massive demand for power as it approaches the summer. Between February and June, according to an estimate by the Power Development Board (PDB), the demand is set to increase by more than 50 percent because of summer heat, Boro irrigation and the holy month of Ramadan, when uninterrupted electricity supply is expected. And at least USD 4.45 billion will be needed to cover fuel costs for this period. The amount, we're told, could exceed USD 5 billion if the import bill from the Adani plant and the payment to Chevron, which operates the biggest gas field in the country, are factored in. Naturally, the authorities will be hopeful of securing necessary funds and ensuring adequate power supplies, but it is already apparent that it will not be smooth sailing.

Recent developments call for caution. As per a report by *Prothom Alo*, the Rampal power plant had to be kept shut for a month due to non-import of coal because of dollar shortage; the Payra power plant is struggling with unpaid coal bills; owners of oil-based power plants in the private sector are struggling to import oil due to outstanding bills of five months; Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) is failing to open letters of credit (LC) regularly; Petrobangla is failing to increase LNG import; all the relevant organisations are asking for dollar provisions from the ministry, etc.

What all this means for the general public is that even after all the hikes in prices of gas and electricity, power outage will increase rather than decrease going forward. Whether or not it will match or surpass the acute level of loadshedding witnessed between August and November last year – due to the crisis of foreign currency reserves – remains to be seen. As of February 8, the reserves stood at USD 32.6 billion. The continued dollar crisis makes it essential that the authorities revise PDB cost estimations and reduce import bills. Apart from making funds available, another challenge is the increasing cost of production by power plants. There is no denying that the cost has increased due to our poor energy policy – which relies heavily on fuel imports and allows for collusive deals – as well as unplanned development in the country. It will increase further in the future. The trouble is, any fiscal burden on the government eventually falls on the citizens.

We, therefore, would like to urge our policymakers to revisit the current energy policy. While challenges like dollar crisis and high import bills require urgent attention, we will continue to be vulnerable to such external factors if we cannot fashion today's responses with an eye on tomorrow. Which is why we must reduce our dependence on gas imports. At the same time, we should focus on increasing gas supply from local sources, as well as boosting the drive for green and renewable energy. This will ensure our energy security in the long run. The government must plan for the future, and heed calls for exploring our gas reserves.

Worrying report from defence ministry

Neutralise security threats at the Rohingya camps through proper measures

We are quite worried about the findings of a report by the defence ministry concerning the security situation in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar. Reportedly, 10 terrorist and dacoit gangs are active in the camps and getting engaged in all kinds of criminal activities there. While the militant outfit Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa) controls most of the camps, other groups – such as RSO, Master Munna gang, Islami Mahaj, Nabi Hussain dacoit gang, etc. – also operate there. These groups often engage in clashes to establish their dominance over the camps. The defence ministry report mentioned 32 incidents of murder that took place in 2022 alone, some of which were caused by these clashes. Needless to say, the findings are quite alarming. Assessing the causes behind the situation and ensuring security in the area are crucial.

While the ministry's report mentioned lack of surveillance and regular patrolling as one of the reasons for Arsa getting stronger in the camps, we wonder what could possibly be the reason for the rise of other militant groups. Which brings us to the issue of the overall treatment of Rohingyas in the camps. Reportedly, they are being forced to live in cramped conditions without the freedom to move freely, which is also impacting their livelihood opportunities. Then, there is a serious lack of educational opportunities for the Rohingya children and youth. There have also been concerns raised by the Human Rights Watch earlier this year about the abuse of power by Bangladesh's Armed Police Battalion (APBn). Reportedly, many involved with APBn committed extortion, arbitrary arrests, and harassment of Rohingya refugees, which is alarming.

The result of all this is growing frustration among the Rohingya people, particularly the youth, who neither can go back to their home country nor have proper opportunities to lead a dignified life here. Their frustration about and desperation for a better life often results in internal disputes. Sadly, many also get engaged in various criminal activities.

While the government has been taking care of this large group of refugees despite the challenging economic situation, it seems to be not enough, particularly because of decreased funding from the foreign donors. Reportedly, UN humanitarian agencies and the government sought USD 881 million from various donors across the world in 2022, but the latter only disbursed a total of USD 431 million to the Joint Response Plan (JRP) fund. There is also uncertainty over how much funds the government will get this year for supporting the Rohingyas.

Under these circumstances, the criminal groups mentioned by the defence ministry must be neutralised through proper measures, and the overall security in and around the camp areas must be beefed up. Lastly, the living conditions of the refugees must be improved so that they are not tempted to join any terrorist activity or create anarchy in the area.

Our half-life of choking on polluted air

Dr Farzana Misha
is assistant professor at the James P Grant
School of Public Health, Brac University.

FARZANA MISHA

Did you know that, according to the global air quality watchdog IQAir, Bangladesh ranked as the most polluted country in the world between 2018 to 2021? Dhaka has topped the air pollution index for several weeks in a row this year. It appears to be doing everything it can to cling to that top seat. And, as we all know, “success” comes at a cost, and this is no exception. But who is going to pay for it?

Allow me to take you down memory lane for a moment. According to a recent report from the World Health Organization (WHO), the air quality of Dhaka is 11 times worse than the standard set by the organisation. This is a startling statistic that should be taken seriously. Another peer-reviewed study published in a well-reputed international journal found that long-term exposure to air pollution in Dhaka is linked to an increase in respiratory diseases among adults and children, as well as an increase in the number of deaths due to air pollution-

When was the last time you heard a public service announcement warning us about how dangerous the air quality is and what you can do to protect yourself? Do I not have the right as a citizen to make an informed decision about whether I want to leave my house when the air is worse than usual?

related illnesses. Moreover, a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) found that air pollution has been linked to an increase in the number of days that people have to take off from work due to illness, as well as a rise in hospital visits due to respiratory illnesses.

Since this year started, Dhaka's position in the Air Quality Index (AQI) has been consistently teetering above the “severe” or “hazardous” conditions. The worst part is that the pollutants here are dominated by forms most detrimental to health: fine particulate

matter 2.5 (PM2.5).

PM2.5 particles are small enough that they can bore through our lungs, enter the bloodstream, and damage most of our larger internal organs. Irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs, as well as coughing, sneezing, a

air action plan (CAAP) in 2019 to reduce air pollution in Dhaka and other major cities. Included in this plan are implementation of traffic management plans, improvement of energy efficiency, investment in renewable energy, introduction of

with high levels of dust and PM2.5, closing down polluting industries and institutes, restricting the use of diesel generators, etc.

Why do we not have a similar emergency response plan addressing the current air pollution issue for



VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

runny nose, and shortness of breath are just some of the short-term health impacts associated with exposure to fine particles.

According to the recent study by the World Bank in Bangladesh on air pollution, the average exposure of PM2.5 in major construction sites in Dhaka is 150 percent above the limit standardised by WHO – equivalent to smoking 1.7 cigarettes per day. Consider the irony of this if you are a conscientious non-smoker or an ex-smoker. The same study found that feeling blue was already increasing from the PM2.5 exposure.

Ironically, this topic has been discussed many times before. Since Bangladesh first made its debut on the list of worst offenders with air pollution, many of us ranted, raved, and complained about the poor quality of our air, as well as the underlying causes of air pollution. Slowly, but surely, the government started to take action to address some of the problems.

However, a closer look will tell you that even with meticulous planning and execution, the dividends to be reaped from these actions are likely only in the long-term, leaving us choking in the present.

These include traffic management plans, introduction of cleaner fuels, investment in renewable energy, and the promotion of rapid mass public transit. On the policy front, the government introduced a clean

Euro IV fuel in Dhaka, expansion of access and utilisation of public transportation, establishment of an air quality monitoring network, and establishment of a vehicle emission testing system. But how many of these have been implemented?

While these actions start to have positive effects at some point in the future, do we simply wait, holding our breath? What plans do we have to address the growing public health risks posed by air pollution? Given the government's serious approach towards this issue, what are their plans to bring about immediate relief? How much worse does the air have to get to trigger some corrective action?

Both China and India, like Bangladesh, have a strategy to decrease pollution levels over time. But unlike Bangladesh, for when air pollution levels exceed acceptable thresholds, cities in China and India have a set of emergency response plans in place.

In Beijing, the city may issue a “red alert,” which requires factories to suspend operations and schools to close. If necessary, the city may also implement a “blue alert,” which requires additional factories to close and further restricts the use of private cars. Likewise, New Delhi has the Graded Response Action Plan, which mandates swift action on days when air pollution is severe, including shutting down all construction activities and brick kilns, spraying water in areas

Dhaka? Air quality in Bangladesh is constantly monitored by a network of stations. Cities including Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet all have air quality monitoring stations set up by the Department of Environment (DoE). These stations keep tabs on a wide range of toxins, including PM2.5. The air quality in various regions of the country is evaluated using the data provided by these stations.

But when was the last time you heard a public service announcement warning us about how dangerous the air quality is and what you can do to protect yourself? Do I not have the right as a citizen to make an informed decision about whether I want to leave my house when the air is worse than usual? Should I take my asthmatic mother for a walk in the park as prescribed by the doctor? Should I send my child, who is severely allergic to dust, to school?

You, at this point, may be thinking, “I know it's horrible, but this is hardly a shocking revelation.” That, if anything, is our biggest issue.

People become so acclimated to an issue that they no longer recognise it as a problem and, as a result, cease trying to solve it. This phenomenon is known as the normalisation of deviance. But if this piece elicited any thoughts, before you think it over, take a deep breath... or maybe don't?

Educate lawyers to uphold the court's dignity



Dr Mohammad Zulfikar Ali
is associate lecturer at Curtin Law
School, Curtin University in Australia.

MOHAMMAD ZULFIKAR ALI

While the government looks to improve the quality of subordinate judiciary by providing its judges with domestic and foreign training, it is surprising that no such initiatives have been taken to educate lawyers on ethical issues. As a result, they generally lack the understanding of the dignity of the court and the legal profession. District Judge Mohammad Faruk, who was subjected to verbal abuse by lawyers led by the president and general secretary of Brahmanbaria District Bar Association in January this year, sheds fresh light on this issue.

The goal, apparently, was to teach the judge a lesson for not following a resolution of court boycott declared by the lawyers, and make the local court subservient to their one-sided decision.

In a Facebook post, many users saw a group of lawyers forcing the learned judge to leave his bench. Following the incident, the judge alleged before the Supreme Court that he had faced serious harassment by the lawyers for questioning their court boycott and other illegal activities, including the filing of cases after hours. However,

members of the Brahmanbaria District Bar Association also alleged that the judges behaved rudely with them, which eventually fuelled the flames against the district judiciary in Brahmanbaria.

The very nature of the allegation in which the district judges of Brahmanbaria are implicated – for corruption and misbehaviour with the lawyers – is not linked to the incident. In the hearing of a ruling recorded suo motu by the Supreme Court, the attorney general was expected to appeal to the court on behalf of the judiciary to take action against the lawyers involved in the incident, and also demand that they be punished for contempt of court.

One side effect of this incident is that an important issue like the necessity of ongoing training for lawyers has been pushed to the background. This could rather be a point of reference for why professional training is important for such a noble career. This could also be an example of how lawyers' out-of-pocket expenses are rising in the competitive profession, while their ethical standards are declining

dramatically – despite promises made by the government to increase the capacity of the subordinate judiciary. Instead, the legal profession has become mired in power abuse and intimidation, where lawyers are using their professional capacity to control the judiciary.

The fact is, despite significant efforts made by the government

Lawyers must understand that their duty to the court is paramount, and when there is conflict between their duty to the client or other lawyers and to the court, the court should get priority – which is the only way they can claim that they are serving the administration of justice.

and the higher judiciary to paint a picture of accountability within the subordinate judiciary, lawyers (who are an important part of it) remain largely unaccountable – especially when it comes to violations of ethical standards, including the basic duty to follow a court's instruction.

Lawyers must understand that their

duty to the court is paramount, and when there is conflict between their duty to the client or other lawyers and to the court, the court should get priority – which is the only way they can claim that they are serving the administration of justice. While one may use the excuse that the dispute between the lawyers and the court is an internal one, and it is between the bench and bar to minimise tension between the parties, the truth is, lawyers in Bangladesh don't fully understand their basic duty to the administration of justice and, notably, the government has done very little to educate them.

It goes without saying that when illegitimate claims are not addressed properly, it only leads to further violence on court premises. It leads to further frustration among judicial officers.

While lawyers are expected to uphold professionalism on their own, a training module run by prominent figures who have served the judiciary with dignity would definitely improve the situation. Hence, the authorities concerned should take quick steps to provide said training to lawyers. It is also important to prioritise addressing a court issue that could lead to such violence.

The authorities must ensure that no such misconduct occurs in handling the matters of courts, especially when Bangladesh is trying to improve its global image in addressing the lack of capacity of democratic institutions.



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

Well done, BCL sisters!

They are fast ‘catching up’ with their male counterparts



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

People are now finally noticing how good our young women are in cricket – especially after their consistent wins in international tournaments which made them more impressive than their male counterparts. Not that they were treated with the same pampering and reverence that our male cricketers get from the state or society. At least their prowess and skills are being acknowledged.

But now we must recognise a different arena where some women are “excelling,” with the apparent support of the powers that be. These are the female student cadres of the ruling party who are following the playbook of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to the T.

Remember last year in Eden College, when two factions of BCL’s women members got into violent clashes? A student leader was accused of torturing two female students (also members of the BCL) for six hours. There was a video of the ancient act of *chula chuli* (tearing each other’s hair out), associated with long-haired banshees, as well as reports of universal torture tactics like punching, kicking, and even a case of asphyxiation using a scarf.

The latest news of female thuggery comes from the Islamic University in Kushtia, where a woman Chhatra League leader and several of her cohorts allegedly took a female student to a common room and tortured her for four hours, because she had stayed in the dorm without informing them. According to the student’s formal complaint, the attackers clamped her mouth and continued to beat her up while verbally abusing her and threatening to kill her. They used the common language of political thuggery, “Do you have any idea who we are, how bad we can get?”

In typical gangster style, they allegedly kicked her, gagged her, choked her with a scarf while spewing creative expletives at her. At one point, these female Attilas

stripped their victim, took videos and threatened to release them on social media if she dared to disclose what had happened to her. The victim, despite being terrified enough to escape to her village home, still displayed the courage to file a complaint.

Not surprisingly, the leader of the gang completely denied the allegations, saying she had always helped other female students and looked out for their interests. She told the media that she had also submitted a written complaint to the university administration against the student who was allegedly tortured, and had filed a separate complaint against her, signed by many of the resident students.

If you think this was a one-off incident, think again.

According to a *Prothom Alo* report, other students who were approached but who would like to remain anonymous (and perhaps alive), said the student leader and her gang tortured another student last year.

Interestingly, the Chhatra League brothers have also been active again despite all the negative publicity from the Abrar Fahad murder in Buet in 2019, when the level of terror wielded by the university mafia was on full display by the media, leading to public outrage and a befitting court sentence.

This time, the “show of strength” came from BCL’s Chattogram Medical College chapter. Four students were beaten to a pulp as they were suspected to be members of Islami Chhatra Shibir. Of course, that seemed like enough reason to attack, torture, and send individuals to the ICU, as was the case with two of the victims. The “aggrieved” cadres even went inside the ICU and threatened the two again. The two were shifted to a cabin and had to have security outside the door, lest the angry men came back for more blood.

Like the war cry of the Sentinelese (one of the most aggressive tribes of the world), the instructions to attack and annihilate “the enemy” – however far-fetched the perceived threat may be – are reaching educational institutions in other districts, too. In Rajshahi University, BCL leaders allegedly confined a student and tortured him, accusing him of belonging to Islami Chhatra Shibir and threatening to kill him. When the victim said that he was Hindu, which made him an unlikely member, the attackers allegedly said, “Then nobody can do anything if we kill you.”

These examples of “showing brawn” may not just be the regular practice of controlling the university residential halls that have survived and prospered over the decades, leaving the university administrations – especially the authority of the hall supervisors and proctors – quite redundant. Such practices may be part of a well-thought-out election-year strategy to re-establish the BCL’s “supremacy” in the form of terror, and justify violence through labelling individuals who show the slightest signs of nonconformity as belonging to Shibir. If this is the case, we will be hearing or reading about regular incidents of students being tortured or thrown out of halls for being “Shibir members,” although the real reason is as simple as not showing enough “respect” to the *Boro Bhais* or *Apas*.

For ordinary citizens, attacking a person, confining them in a room, torturing them or taking compromising videos, threatening to expose the victims on social media or threatening to kill them would be crimes that would lead to arrest, cases filed, being charged, put on trials and imprisoned. But when it comes to the BCL, ordinary laws do not apply as they are not “ordinary” people.

The image of women as nurturers and champions of peace and non-violence is taking a heavy hit in the wake of these bellicose female cadres. Their wrestling and fighting skills would have been better utilised in Wrestle Mania matches or for commando operations in the armed forces. But one thing is for sure: when it comes to complete disregard for academic environment, the law, or basic humanity, they are fast catching up with their “bros.”

The raids in BBC’s India offices should worry us all



Kamal Ahmed
is an independent journalist.
His Twitter handle is @ahmedkal

KAMAL AHMED

The Indian income tax department’s sudden raids at the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai have drawn widespread condemnation against the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They have shocked journalists, activists, and opposition politicians alike. Such a high-handed action against one of the oldest and most trusted global broadcasting networks will understandably be a cause for concern and discomfort in Western capitals, as well as those in every democratic country.

The raids, which the income tax officials have described as “surveys,” follow the recent controversy over the BBC’s two-part investigative documentary, titled *India: The Modi Question*, which for the first time revealed a confidential investigation by the British government into the 2002 Gujarat riots that left more than a thousand Muslims dead. The investigation report concluded that the violence had “all the hallmarks of genocide” and found Modi “directly responsible” for not stopping the killings of Muslims.

The BBC didn’t air the documentary in India or anywhere else except the UK and did not explain

who described the BBC as the “most corrupt organisation in the world.” He said, “India is a country which gives an opportunity to every organisation, as long as you don’t spew venom.” His explanation that the searches were lawful and the timing had nothing to do with the government failed to mask his party’s plan of vengeance against a news organisation that they now characterise as “anti-Indian.”

Opposition leaders were quick to protest the raids. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, “Here we are asking for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the Adani-Hindenburg row, and there the government is hounding the BBC.” Leaders of Samajwadi Party, Trinamool Congress, and other regional parties have condemned the raids and called them an act of desperation.

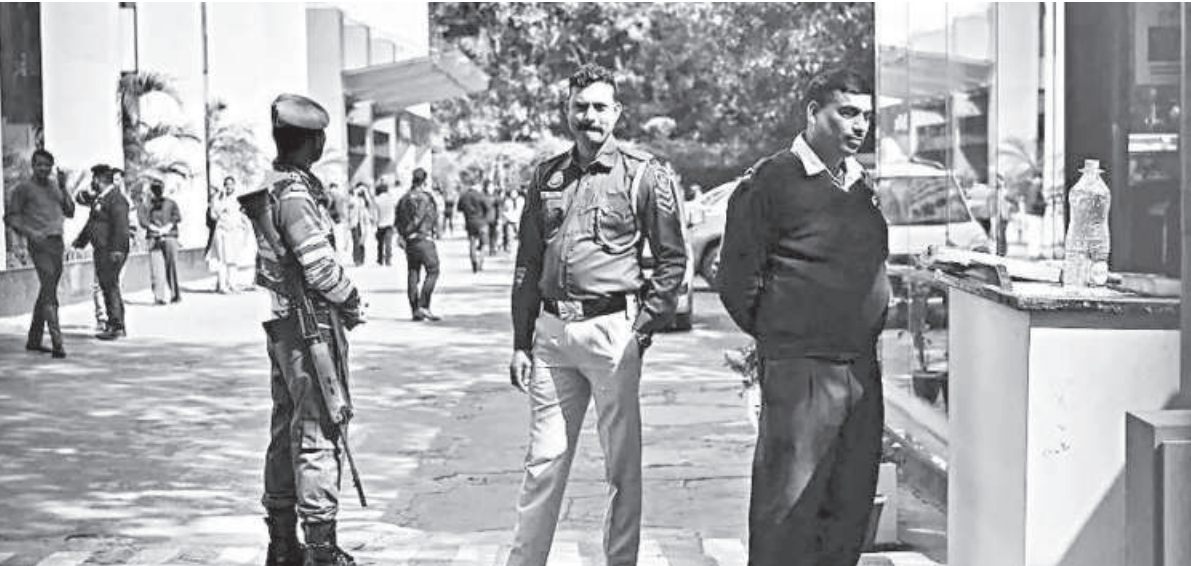
Rights group Amnesty International, which was forced to stop its operation in India following its accounts being frozen by another government agency, said, “Overbroad powers of the Income Tax Department are repeatedly being weaponised to silence dissent.” Tax raids have been carried out on

to be a clear-cut case of vendetta. And that such actions against an international broadcasting network will damage the reputation and image of India as the largest democracy in the world.

What is even more disturbing is the seizure of laptops and mobile phones of journalists working there. As the raids continue for the third day on February 16, people have been expressing their concerns and anger in real time on social media platforms. MK Venu, founding editor of The Wire, asked in a tweet whether due process was followed in seizing phones, reminding that the Supreme Court of India in a separate case made some observations about searching phones. Karishma Mehrotra, a correspondent of *The Washington Post*, termed seizing journalists’ phones “stunning and apparently retaliatory.”

Some leading Indian newspapers including the *Indian Express* and *Hindustan Times* ran special explainers outlining the differences between tax raids and surveys. Quoting the Income Tax Act, they said tax officials cannot seize any books of accounts, cash, and documents during the course of the surveys, but in searches such actions are permitted. Whatever official narrative is given, there’s no doubt that this latest episode will be seen as a dangerous attack on press freedom and a slide into authoritarianism.

The global advocacy group on media freedom, Reporters Without Borders (RSF), said that press freedom in India had deteriorated since Modi



The raids at BBC’s offices in New Delhi and Mumbai in India, which began on February 14, 2023, have drawn severe criticism.

PHOTO: AFP

the reasons behind such restricted dissemination. But that didn’t help the agency to shield itself from the wrath of the government of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Indian government used its emergency powers under the Information Technology Rules to block YouTube videos and social media posts sharing links to the documentary, and slammed the documentary as “hostile propaganda and anti-India garbage.” Besides the government’s invoking of emergency law to stop the documentary’s showing in India, some right-wing groups associated with Hindutva politics petitioned the Supreme Court, seeking a complete ban on the BBC in India over the documentary, which the court has declined, calling the petition “entirely misconceived.”

All these official and unofficial acts were a warning signal for what would ultimately follow. The tax officials’ attempt to disguise the raids as surveys wasn’t helped either by the comment of BJP spokesman Gaurav Bhatia, Oxfam and several think tanks, too, for carrying out their critical roles against some government policies.

The top professional body that guides journalism in India, the Editors Guild of India (EGI), expressed its concerns, saying it was “distressed by the continuing trend of government agencies being used to intimidate and harass news organisations that are critical of (the) ruling establishment.” It listed similar surveys by tax officials at the offices of NewsClick and NewsLaundry in September 2021, at *Dainik Bhaskar* and *Bharat Samachar* in June 2021, and raids conducted by another agency, the Directorate of Enforcement, at the office of NewsClick in February 2021. The EGI noted that, in each case, the raids were against the backdrop of critical coverage of government agencies by the news organisations.

The Press Club of India described the “surveys” as part of a series of attacks on the media by the Indian government in recent times. It said that this latest instance appeared

came to power. India now ranks 150th out of 180 countries in its World Press Freedom Index, which is a historical low for a nation that regularly takes pride as the world’s largest democracy. India’s worsening media environment is a matter of concern in other countries too, particularly in its neighbourhood, as other leaders frequently emulate experiences of an aspiring superpower. As India holds the presidency of the G20 nations and promises to set an alternative course to the current world order, its slide into authoritarianism and dictatorship should worry us all.

However, many observers express their frustrations over the international community’s inaction due to geostrategic and economic considerations. The Western powers’ need for a powerful ally to counter China’s increasing global influence means there is little appetite in Western countries to confront India’s current Hindu nationalists on the crucial issues of human rights, freedom of press, and weakening of democracy.

Love solving our crossword puzzles?
WE SEE YOU!
Email us a photo of your solved crossword puzzle at dsopinion@gmail.com and we will post it on our Facebook page. Let's grow our community of crossword solvers!

www.facebook.com/dsopinion

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Bigwig
6 Uneasy state
11 Skateboarding jump
12 Sorceress of myth
13 Quake locale
14 Indian, e.g.
15 Employ
16 Chatty folks
18 Runner on snow
19 "Hooray!"
20 Originally called
21 Rational
23 Hearty dishes
25 Hamilton's bill
27 Bulldog backer
28 Lover of Daphnis

30 Sirius, for one
33 "Golly!"
34 Diner sandwich
36 Shade
37 Hay crop
39 Scrollwork shape
40 Past its best
41 Ship of 1492
43 Print units
44 Smithy sight
45 Perfume
46 "Funny Girl" composer

DOWN

1 Simple to prepare, in ads
2 Denali setting
3 Exasperated
4 Engine need
5 Gerald's wife

6 Church aide
7 Shaving mishap
8 Jealous
9 Alarms
10 Keyed up
17 – in "apple"
22 Snaky swimmer
24 Golfer Ernie
26 Most honorable
28 Boston cager
29 Pole worker
31 Lone Star capital
32 Lot deal
33 Surprised sounds
35 Spanish snacks
38 Country music's Jackson
42 QB's mistake

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46

5-6

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

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

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

LAW OPINION

On law, language and gender

A gendered interpretation of any legal norm will not only help inquire into the inherited masculine bias and ideas of law but also identify how such bias, if any, could lead to the silencing and alienation of gender diversity.

ARIFUR RAHMAN

The interrelationship between law and language is manifestly powerful. Once it touches the sacrosanct body of law, even an ordinary word used by a lay person may have the potential of offering varied legal interpretations, and at times, legal dictations. Being a powerful tool, the language of law is expected to give voice to the oppressed and marginalised. Along with empowerment, the language of law, is, therefore, also a matter of universality, neutrality and objectivity. However, law – both as a discipline and as a device regulating societal relations – has been subject to the question of bias and prejudice for the expressions it uses to communicate with its subjects. Claiming to be neutral, law has, in fact, been accused of a discourse infused with expressions that are full of masculine bias and partiality.

The dominance of male perceptions in the language of law can be observed, for instance, in the most famous “reasonable man” concept. An imaginary person employed for setting a standard of care mostly in negligence law, “reasonable man”, as it suggests, actually necessitates the male standards and measures for the assessment. The concept that clearly possesses a gender identity determines what amounts to the ordinary or reasonable act of a person through the way a “man” would act. Masculine views and ideas are consequently the yardsticks to examine if the act in question would possibly pass the “reasonableness test”.

In *Commonwealth v Welosky*, the court, in this regard, affirmed the masculine nature of “reasonable man” by deciding that the

meaning of the concept is only limited to men. Although in *United States v Ciammitti*, “reasonable woman” emerged as a plausible concept in the dissenting opinion, the majority marked “reasonable woman” as “an unnatural construction of legal writing” (Mary Ellen, 1988). As a consequence, what women experience and how women perceive has not had a place in the construction of “reasonable man” standard which tends to uphold what is stereotypically masculine.

Equally, the pronoun of law is masculine, despite its gender-neutral appearance. Resorting to masculine pronouns, that is, *he*, to refer to women in any legal instrument is a complacent practice. Generally, it is accepted that the pronoun *he* is inclusive of both men and women. A good example of the propensity of generic *he* in the language of law might be the Constitution of Bangladesh. The Constitution, while refraining itself from the use of feminine pronouns such as *she*, makes *he* a salient semantic feature that should be utilised as an accessory to include women.

In the same vein, the Penal Code 1860 (section 8) asks for a non-specific gender use of *he* to interpret the provisions of the Code. Another particular aspect of law is that it uses lexical items that are conspicuously gendered specially in the area of rape and sexual harassment. This involves inhabiting legal language with stereotypes and often patriarchal psyche. For example, section 354 of the Penal Code while proscribing sexual assault strikingly focuses on the modesty of a woman instead of the nature of the crime itself. The provision criminalises sexual assault as long as the perpetrator does such

an act with the intention (or knowledge) to outrage the modesty of a woman. As elusive as phrases like “outraging modesty” are, embodying such within a law specially to define a gender-based crime reveals the ulterior motive of a law in relying on stereotypes and upholding the patriarchal belief that the modesty of a woman matters more than her bodily autonomy or security.

Also, what the wording of the law suggests is that to get legal redress for the violation of her bodily integrity, it is pertinent that the victim must have a lifestyle that would not make her a “bad victim” in the eyes of law so as to construe that she is a modest woman, and therefore, deserves legal protection. As a result, to prove the “modesty”, the law can go on questioning, say, for instance, the dress sense of the victim; and whether or not it is too provocative. Conversely, making “modesty” the epicenter of proving an act of sexual assault in a way also implies that the victims who are “immodest” would be deprived of a legal remedy, even if they suffer harm.

The world of law is complex and so is the language it nurtures. Engendering legal norms might appear as somewhat of an addition to the complexity that the language already possesses. But a gendered interpretation of any legal norm will not only help inquire into the inherited masculine bias and ideas of law but also identify how such bias, if any, could lead to the silencing and alienation of gender diversity.

The Writer is an Official Contributor at Law Desk, The Daily Star.



PHOTO COURTESY: asem.org

LEGAL EDUCATION

How is ‘Attorney-Client Privilege’ governed in Bangladesh

ASIF HASAN

In general terms, attorney-client privilege refers to a form of privilege that protects confidential communications between an attorney and a client that are made for the purpose of obtaining or providing legal advice from disclosure to third parties. In Bangladesh, rules for privileged communication are mostly encapsulated in Evidence Act, 1872. To be precise, sections 126-129 of the Evidence Act, 1872 deal with professional communications between the legal adviser and the client, which are protected from disclosure. Neither legal adviser or attorney nor his interpreter, clerk or even servant could be permitted to disclose any communications made to him in the course and for the purpose of professional employment of such legal adviser or to state the contents or condition of any documents with which any such person has become conversant in the course and for the purpose of such employment.

The aforementioned section 126 is not restricted to oral communications only but extends to facts observed by the pleader in the course of and for the purpose of his employment and that he is not bound to disclose them without the consent of the client. However, the privilege mandated by the Evidence Act, 1872 is not absolute. There are two specific restrictions when the client would not be covered by the attorney-client privilege. The first is when any such communication made in furtherance of any illegal purpose and the second is when any fact observed by the advocate in the course of his employment shows that a crime or fraud has been committed since the commencement of his employment. In these cases, the advocate would not need to obtain consent from the client prior to making any disclosure.

The privileges mentioned in the Evidence Act, 1872 are designed to secure the clients’ confidence in the secrecy of their communication, in absence of which, providing legal services would become unfeasible. Legal provisions in most of the jurisdictions around the world typically provide for strict protection to clients in terms of confidentiality. In Bangladesh, section 126 uses strong language in imposing the prohibition, ‘No Advocate shall... unless with the client’s express consent’. Hence, the burden to keep information confidential is on the advocate, and there is no need for the client to expressly or impliedly claim the privilege.

A common follow up question in this discussion is whether attorney-client privilege may be extended to in-house counsel. Apparently, the above provisions of law are applicable on the advocates of Bangladesh. An advocate means an advocate entered in the roll under the provisions of the Bangladesh Legal Practitioner’s and Bar Council Order, 1972. Pertinently, the Canons of Professional Conduct and Etiquette for lawyers in Bangladesh does not permit any advocate to engage in any other profession or business. Theoretically, if an advocate joins in the capacity of in-house counsel, he/she then must give up his/her enrolment with Bar Council and thus, the aforesaid provisions will no longer be applicable on him/her.

The Writer is a Barrister-at-Law, working as an Associate at Tanjib Alam and Associates.

LAW IN-DEPTH

Legal challenges of ADR in India and Bangladesh: A Comparison

AKASH GUPTA AND TARAZI MOHAMMED SHEIKH

As an alternative to traditional judicial processes, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is quickly rising in popularity in both Bangladesh and India. The two South Asian nations have been working to enhance their ADR frameworks and facilitate citizens’ access to justice. This is the result of several factors, including the demand for more efficient and cost-effective methods of resolving disputes as well as recognising the limitations of traditional litigation.

ADR has been accepted as a valid method of settling conflicts in India for more than two decades after the passing of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Commercial Courts Act of 2015, which allows for the formation of commercial courts and business divisions of high courts for the swift resolution of commercial disputes, was one of many actions the Indian government took to facilitate ADR. Additionally, to resolve conflicts quickly and affordably, the Indian judiciary has been advocating the use of ADR processes including

arbitration and conciliation.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, has a relatively young ADR system. The nation has, nevertheless, made major recent efforts to encourage ADR. The Bangladeshi government has passed several laws that regulate ADR procedures, including the 2013 Mediation Act and the 2001 Arbitration Act. These laws enable the creation of arbitration centres and the appointment of mediators to settle disputes. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh has encouraged the use of arbitration to settle disputes, and other courts in Bangladesh have also supported the use of ADR processes at different times.

Despite these improvements, there are still many issues with the ADR systems in Bangladesh and India. The write-up contrasts the ADR systems in the two countries, highlighting their pros and cons.

Legal framework

The legislative foundation for ADR in India is still developing and is frequently criticised for being slow and ineffective. Concerns have also been raised concerning the ADR system’s lack of accountability and



transparency. Although Bangladesh’s legal system for ADR is still developing, the government has taken attempts to regulate it by passing legislation like the 2001 Arbitration Act and the 2013 Mediation Act.

Categories of issues eligible for ADR

ADR may be used in India to settle a variety of issues, including ones involving business, family, and employment. But in Bangladesh, the

major emphasis has been on using ADR to settle business conflicts. This has been ascribed to the fact that resolving commercial issues through the regular judicial system is frequently more difficult and time-consuming.

Degree of judicial support

The courts in India have aggressively recognised and promoted the use of ADR as a method of conflict resolution. For instance, the Indian

Supreme Court has handed down several significant rulings that have contributed to the legitimacy of ADR in India. The judiciary in Bangladesh has not yet shown the same degree of support for ADR as the courts in India.

Functions of arbitrators and mediators

In India, mediators and arbitrators are chosen by the disputing parties, and their duties include assisting in negotiations and rendering legally obligatory rulings. The practice of mediators and arbitrators is still in its youth in Bangladesh. There are not enough skilled and certified mediators and arbitrators, and the selection procedure for these people is still developing.

Governmental and institutional promotion

The presence of reputable institutions that promote ADR is one of the benefits of the ADR system in India. To promote and impose rules on ADR, the Indian government established many organisations, including the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration and the Indian Council of Arbitration. These

organisations assist in developing effective ADR procedures by offering support and training to mediators and arbitrators. Further investment is required to increase the capability of the ADR system in Bangladesh, where the establishment of comparable institutions is still in its early stages.

In conclusion, the ADR systems in India and Bangladesh have both strengths and weaknesses. India has a more established ADR system, with a well-developed legal framework and supportive judiciary. However, the system faces challenges such as inefficiency and lack of transparency. Bangladesh has a relatively new ADR system, but the country has taken steps to enhance its legal framework and develop the capability of its ADR system. Both countries have the opportunity to share their experiences and collaborate to further the use of ADR as a method of dispute resolution in South Asia.

The Writers are Assistant Professor at Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University (India), and Official Contributor, Law Desk, The Daily Star, respectively.



Comilla Victorians players rush to embrace Johnson Charles, whose unbeaten 79 off 52 helped Comilla defend the Bangladesh Premier League title with a seven-wicket win over Mashrafe Bin Mortaza-led Sylhet Strikers in the final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. [Bottom] It was yet another impressive performance from Sylhet's Najmul Hossain Shanto, who struck his fourth fifty of the tournament in the final. Shanto ended as the top run getter of BPL, with 516 runs in 15 matches at 39.69 average, and was also named the player of the tournament for his efforts.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Vision and brand value work in Comilla’s favour

SPORTS REPORTER

Comilla Victorians had the firepower while Sylhet Sixers had the exuberance of local players, but in the end the T20 mettle that Comilla possessed had overpowered Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Sylhet as Comilla became Bangladesh Premier League champions for the fourth time – the most by a BPL franchise -- with a seven-wicket win in Mirpur yesterday.

Imrul Kayes, who captained the side in what was his third BPL title, was ecstatic after the win.

"It has been a fantastic journey for us throughout the tournament. We are champions four times and as captain, I won for the third time," Imrul said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

With a little bit more time to reflect on their fourth title, the Comilla skipper later came to the press conference and relayed that his side, unlike the other franchises, have been able to build themselves up as a brand that allows them to have a different kind of vision when heading into the tournament.

"Comilla is a brand. Many franchises come and play well or badly but then they don't come next year. But Comilla had a different vision," said Imrul, echoing his coach Mohammad Salahuddin's sentiments.

Salahuddin, who is a highly-regarded coach in Bangladesh's cricket fraternity, won his fourth BPL with Comilla. The franchise have appeared in every BPL since 2015.

In yesterday's final, Comilla dropped as



many as four catches with a few misfields, leading to a healthier score by Sylhet.

"The way we fielded today, it appeared that the day did not belong to us. But I felt they didn't score enough runs in the end and should have gotten 200. The wicket was good but since their score was 180, we felt we might win since they have less bowling options. Our vision was different, and when we take the field we go to become champions," the Comilla coach said.

Johnson Charles was the hero of the match with an unbeaten 52-ball 79, picking up 23 runs in the 17th over bowled by Rubel Hossain. Initially Charles had found going difficult but that Rubel over essentially turned the game in Comilla's favour. His 70-run stand with Liton Das, who struck 55, effectively laid the platform for strong finishers such as Moeen Ali and Charles, and the likes of Andre Russell, Jaker Ai and

Mosaddek Hossain were not required in the end.

"I enjoyed it. Honestly, I thought it was a good pitch. It was a 200 pitch but they only got 175, so I thought if we take it to the last over, we will win. Once you stick to your plans, you do well. I am glad that I could take my team over the line and win it for Comilla Victorians," Charles said at post-match presentations.

"Liton has been superb, he is such a joy to watch, he is a classic player with touch and skill," the West Indian commented on Liton's contribution in the final.

Sylhet skipper Mashrafe led a team, built on a budget, to the finals and was happy with what the young side had achieved.

Rubel had picked up two wickets before that 17th over but him conceding 23 runs saw the game slip away.

"We are pretty much happy, we are a good team. It was a bad day today, maybe in patches we didn't do well but we batted well. We lost two-three wickets in those patches, we were 10-15 runs short," Mashrafe said.

"Rubel had gotten us back in the game today but in one or two overs, things didn't go our way. They needed 52 in four overs and it was important to execute our plan.

"We are built on a budget and we used local players at the top-order, who played with freedom. They took responsibility so we can't ask for anything more than that," Mashrafe concluded.

ROLL OF HONOUR

YEAR	CHAMPIONS
2012	Dhaka Gladiators
2013	Dhaka Gladiators
2015	Comilla Victorians
2016	Dhaka Dynamites
2017	Rangpur Riders
2018	Comilla Victorians
2019	Rajshahi Royals
2022	Comilla Victorians
2023	Comilla Victorians

WHO WON WHAT

Champions: Comilla Victorians (Tk 2 crore)

Runners-up: Sylhet Strikers (Tk 1 crore)

Player of the Tournament: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Tk10 lakh)

Player of the Final: Johnson Charles (5 lakh)

Most runs: Najmul Hossain Shanto (5 lakh)

Most wickets: Tanvir Islam and Hasan Mahmud (Tk 5 lakh each)

Best fielder of the Tournament: Mushfiquir Rahim (Tk 3 lakh)

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sylhet Strikers: 175-7 in 20 overs (Shanto 64, Mushfiquir 74 not out, Burl 13; Russell 1-31, Tanvir 1-21, Narine 1-33, Mustafizur 2-31, Moeen 1-31)

Comilla Victorians: 176-3 in 19.2 overs (Liton 55, Charles 79 not out, Moeen 25 not out; Rubel 2-39, Linde 1-14)

Result: Comilla Victorians won by 7 wickets.

Can Tigresses buck the trend against NZ?

SPORTS REPORTER

After defeats in their first two games, Bangladesh will be desperate to register their first win in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup when they take on New Zealand in their third Group 1 encounter in Cape Town today.

Nigar Sultana Joty and Co. have not registered a win in the flagship event since the 2014 edition and were sloppy as they crashed to comprehensive defeats against Sri Lanka and Australia this time around.

Batting was the biggest area of concern for Bangladesh, with the Tigresses posting 126 for eight against Sri Lanka in a seven-wicket defeat in their opening game.

Things remained unchanged for their second assignment, against Australia, as Bangladesh put up a small total of 107 for seven, going on to lose by eight wickets. New Zealand also lost their first two group games -- against Australia and South Africa -- so Bangladesh will be eyeing to capitalise on that momentum.

Uncapped Hridoy called up for Eng ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Towhud Hridoy got the reward of his brilliant performance in the Bangladesh Premier League as the uncapped cricketer earned his maiden call-up to the national team on Thursday when the selectors announced a 14-member squad for the first two ODIs of the three-match home series against England.

The 22-year-old right hander showed great consistency throughout the BPL for Sylhet Strikers, scoring 403 runs in 13 games at a healthy strike rate of 140.41. He also struck three fifties in the tournament.

Meanwhile, skipper Tamim Iqbal also makes a comeback to the side after missing out the last home series against India in December last year due to a groin injury. Another experienced left-arm spinner Taijul Islam also returns to the ODI team after missing out in the last India series.

Wicketkeeper-batters Anamul Haque and Nurul Hasan Sohan, alongside batter Yasir Ali, and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed were dropped due to poor performances.

England are scheduled to arrive in Bangladesh on February 24 to take part in the three-match ODI series, part of the ODI Super League, and three-match T20I series.

Squad : Tamim Iqbal (Captain), Liton Das, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiquir Rahim, Afif Hossain, Mahmudullah Riyad, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Ebadot Hossain Chowdhury, Taijul Islam, Towhid Hridoy.

Abahani meet Kings in season-defining clash

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Bashundhara Kings will be looking to consolidate their lead at the top of the Bangladesh Premier League when the visitors take on Abahani in a crucial encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendhranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla today.

Three-time champions Kings are on top of the 11-team table with 27 points from nine matches, nine points ahead of closet rivals Abahani, who however have a game in hand.

Kings have been in fantastic rhythm this season, staying undefeated while winning 17 of their 18 games in all competitions. A win today would put a fourth successive BPL title squarely in focus.

Abahani, on the other hand, have struggled at times, drawing three of their eight league games. Although they are also undefeated, anything short of a win would see their title hopes in disarray.

However, it is going to be a tough task for the six-time champions, who have never beaten Kings in the professional football league, drawing twice and losing on four occasions.

Abahani only recorded two wins against Kings, first in the Federation Cup final in 2018 and then in the Independence Cup final in December, 2021.

"I have confidence but I also respect Bashundhara. They have been perfect this season -- eight matches, 8 wins [actually nine wins from nine matches] -- so we have to be perfect tomorrow [Friday]," Abahani coach Mario Lemos told The Daily Star.

Despite being in superb form and ahead in the head-to-head battle, Bashun dhara Kings coach Oscar Bruzon afforded Abahani the same respect.

"Abahani are always title contenders. They have been performing well and finding stability in their ideas. They reach this game in top form, so we will have to be at our best," Oscar told The Daily Star.

City back in business

AGENCIES

Written off at times during an unusually erratic season, resurgent Manchester City delivered a resounding statement as they moved to the top of the Premier League with a 3-1 victory at title rivals Arsenal on Wednesday.

As City's players celebrated in front of their travelling fans in one corner of the Emirates Stadium at the final whistle, Pep Guardiola's face was wreathed in smiles, and perhaps tinged with a little relief.

Kevin De Bruyne had given City the lead and even Bukayo Saka's controversial penalty equaliser wasn't enough to shake the champions' equilibrium once they rode Arsenal's first half storm on a rainy night in north London.

Having trailed Arsenal by eight points just a month ago, City are now firmly in contention to retain the title.

Arsenal might have a game in hand but it was City who finished a frenetic encounter with all the momentum in the title race.

Defeats at Liverpool, Manchester United and Tottenham, as well as a home loss to Brentford and a surprise League Cup exit at Southampton, had given the impression that all was not well in the City camp.

Even Erling Haaland's barrage of goals came with the caveat that the Norway



striker's style of play might not be best suited to Guardiola's philosophy.

But as the critics sharpened their knives, Guardiola saw signs in training ahead of their seismic showdown at Arsenal that his squad were about to make their point to the doubters.

Guardiola admitted his tactics against Arsenal -- which included starting midfielder Bernardo Silva at left-back -- had to be altered at half-time but it was an attitude change among his players that was just as important.

"In the first half, they were much better than us. My tactics were horrible. Second half, we were much, much better,"

Guardiola added.

To rub salt on the wounds of Arsenal, who seem to have lost the momentum that could extend their 19-year wait for the title further, Grealish said: "If I'm being honest I thought Arsenal were the better team, but to win titles you've got to come to places like this and win even when you are not at your best."

Haaland urged City to now go all the way and win the title.

"I'm so happy," Haaland told Amazon Prime. "We needed this one and now we need to start going on a run because that's what Man City do."

Even though they are sitting pretty at

the top, Guardiola refused to label City as title favourites.

"We won against Arsenal at the Emirates. They have one game in hand so I consider they are still top of the league. There are still so many games to play, the Champions League is coming as well," he said.

"If we had come here eight or nine points behind and lost it would have been almost over. But we had a chance to be close and we took it.

"If you want the crown, fight for it. We still want it."

Meanwhile, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta was left ruing the mistakes that he believed decided the fate of the crucial tie.

De Bruyne's opener came from an awful Takehiro Tomiyasu back-pass, while Gabriel Magalhaes was robbed of possession high up the pitch before City broke to restore their lead through Grealish in the second half after Bukayo Saka had equalised from the penalty spot.

"It's exceptionally difficult to play at the level they require you to play to have a chance to win. I thought in many moments we did and we had them, but if you give three goals the way we did and don't put away the big chances we had, then the margin for error is almost zero. It's a shame because we really had them," Arteta said.



CANADA ROAD CRASH Kumar Bishwajit's son still not out of danger

Bodies of three students to be brought home

STAR REPORT

Kumar Nibir, son of singer Kumar Bishwajit, is still in critical condition, while the families of the other three deceased Bangladeshi students in the fatal Toronto road crash have started the process of bringing the bodies back home.

Singer Kumar Bishwajit, along with his wife Naima Sultana, rushed to Canada after receiving the news of the accident, in which their son was critically injured.

They reached Toronto around 11:30pm (Bangladesh time) on Wednesday, according to the family.

About the updates from doctors, Bishwajit said, "Nibir still has to undergo two stages of intensive treatment. By the grace of God, if we can cross these two stages perfectly, then I will be able to say that things have been 100 percent successful."

Meanwhile, the process of bringing back the bodies of the other three Bangladeshi students, who died in the road accident in Toronto on Monday night, has begun.

The deceased are Shahriar Khan, Angela Barai and Aryan Dipta.

All four, including Nibir, are students of Humber College.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR Washington wants Dhaka on its side

Say experts; US ready to help address Rohingya crisis

PORIMOL PALMA

A major focus of US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet's recent visit to Dhaka was the Rohingya crisis, and the US believes that addressing the problem involves restoration of Myanmar's democracy.

US Ambassador at Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar before joining Chollet in Dhaka in meetings with the country's top leadership and international organisations.

Chollet said part of the reason why they visited Bangladesh was to send the message that the US will continue to stand by Bangladesh in addressing the Rohingya crisis despite so many other challenges around the world.

In early January this year, US National Security Council's Senior Director for South Asia Rear Admiral Eileen Laubacher visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

The State Department in a statement ahead of Chollet's visit said the delegation would meet senior Bangladeshi officials to discuss coordination and response to the Rohingya refugee crisis and "strengthening cooperation in international forums, and advancing the security partnership between the United States and Bangladesh".

Foreign policy analysts say Washington is increasingly engaged with Dhaka after the US Senate on December 15, 2022, passed the Burma Unified through Rigorous Military Accountability (BURMA) Act, which was also included in the National Defense Authorisation Act (NDAA) 2023.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

TORTURE OF IU STUDENT Give security to complainant, conduct probe

HC orders authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered authorities to ensure the security of a female student, who was tortured allegedly by two BCL leaders at the Islamic University in Kushtia.

In response to a writ petition, the HC directed Kushtia's deputy commissioner to form a three-member committee in three days and submit a probe report within seven days of its formation.

Meanwhile, the IU authorities have been ordered to restrict BCL leaders Sanjida Chowdhury and Tabassum Islam, who allegedly led the torture, from entering the campus until further notice.

The HC also directed the IU vice chancellor to submit the probe reports prepared by the committee formed by the university authorities through Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al Jalil issued the order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Gazi Md Mohsin seeking necessary directives.

On February 14, the victim filed

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Comilla Victorians skipper Imrul Kayes lifts the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) trophy after his side's seven-wicket win over Sylhet Strikers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was Comilla's fourth BPL title and second on trot under Imrul's leadership.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

DHAKA-CHATTOGRAM HIGHWAY It's coming under watch, finally

1,427 CCTV cameras to be set up by June to check theft of RMG shipments, robbery

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The police are going to resort to artificial intelligence to stop the frequent theft of export-oriented readymade garment products from lorries and other crimes on Dhaka-Chattogram highway.

To make this happen, a total 1,427 closed-circuit television cameras are being installed at 490 locations under a Tk 152 crore project.

The monitoring of the highway will, however, partially start in March.

Barkatullah Khan, additional deputy inspector general (DIG) of Highway Police, told The Daily Star on Monday that they have set up a data centre at the Meghna Ghat in Daudkandi with a storage capacity of five petabytes (one petabyte is 1,024 terabyte). It will be able to store six months' footage from all cameras.

Footage from the cameras will be monitored from five other centres – the Gazipur regional superintendent of police (SP) office, Cumilla regional SP office, the Highway Police headquarters in the capital's Uttara and its two offices in Daudkandi and Chattogram.

Barkatullah, also the project director, said the data centre will be equipped with artificial intelligence (AI) to detect criminals, crimes, and speeding. With the help of AI, a vehicle can be identified with minor details and its number plate may not be needed, he added.

For instance, if someone is looking for a white microbus that used the highway on a specific date, the authorities will just need to input the date, possible time and nearby area names to the server and the AI will show the results, he said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

EU for an all-inclusive nat'l election

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the European Union wants the next parliamentary election in Bangladesh to be participatory.

"I have talked to the representatives of seven EU countries. Ahead of the next general election, as the ruling party, we held a meeting with the EU today [yesterday]. They want all parties, including the BNP, to join the next polls," he said while talking to reporters after the meeting in the capital's Gulshan.

Quader, also the ruling Awami League general secretary, further said, "We said one thing clearly – Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated in her Wednesday's speech that the next election will be credible, free and fair."

In addition, the Election Commission will play an important role and the government will provide the commission with all

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

India wraps up 'survey' at BBC offices after 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian income tax authorities wrapped up their three-day-long "survey" at BBC's offices in Delhi and Mumbai last night.

They collected digital and print documents and prepared an inventory of financial data from some select staffers, said tax department sources.

The survey operation that started around 11:30am on Tuesday lasted for nearly 60 hours.

Earlier, the tax officials examined mobile phones and laptops used by some BBC editorial and administrative employees, reported Reuters.

Tax officials had remained at the BBC's offices, some sleeping there, since the surprise inspection was launched, according to witnesses.

Others said some employees were questioned on financial transactions late into the night.

The action by the income tax authorities came soon after the BBC aired a documentary on the 2002 riots in Gujarat when Narendra Modi was the state's chief minister.

The income tax survey has kicked off a political standoff between the opposition parties which denounced it as an "attempt" to intimidate the media and the ruling BJP hit back at the BBC accusing it of being "anti-India".

Tax officials said the survey was carried out following the BBC's "deliberate non-compliance" with the transfer pricing rules and "diversion of profits" despite repeated reminders.



BEARS OF THE BOUGHS ... A binturong, or *baash bhalluk* in Bangla, taking a nap on the bough of a tree in Sylhet's Lawachhara. A binturong may look like a bear-cat hybrid. They even have long tails which they use as an extra arm to climb trees. However, binturongs are neither bears nor cats, and are rather related to civets and fossas. They occur mainly throughout South Asian and Southeast Asian countries. Primarily arboreal creatures, binturongs prefer being confined to forested areas. While they often feed on birds, rodents and insects, they also make sure to involve fruits and vegetables in their diet. Binturongs have a very distinctive smell -- like buttered popcorn! As pleasing as that might sound, it is actually to let other binturongs know they are trespassing or to discourage potential predators. Unfortunately, this fascinating mammal has been categorised by the IUCN as "vulnerable", and also "endangered" in some parts of their range, as they are often at risk of habitat destruction, poaching and is considered a delicacy in some areas, for which they are hunted.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

AL, BNP take to city streets today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League and its associate bodies will hold programmes across the capital today, countering the BNP's pre-scheduled road march.

Dhaka's north and south units of the BNP will bring out processions around 2:30pm to press home its 10 demands that include the next national election under a non-partisan caretaker government.

On the other hand, the ruling AL will hold programmes at 3:00pm and 4:00pm protesting "terror and anarchy of the BNP".

According to the BNP's Dhaka (north) unit, they will bring out their procession from Uttara's Jasim Uddin Intersection and march through Gausul Azam Avenue, Shah Makhdum Avenue and Sonargaon Janapath before ending at Abdullahpur Bus Stand.

The BNP's Dhaka (south) unit said they would bring out their procession from Gopibagh's Brothers Union Club Ground and march through Tikatuli, Dayaganj, and Dholaikhal before finishing it at Nayabazar.

Meanwhile, the AL's Dhaka (north) unit will hold a rally protesting the "terror and anarchy of the BNP" in front of Alhaj Mockbul Hossain

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4