



"The final military defeat can be delayed at the cost of the lives of thousands of additional reservists, but... inevitable."

Russia's jailed opposition politician Navalny on Moscow's invasion of Ukraine

The Daily Star

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION

"The frequency of using the Pacific as our firing range depends upon the US forces' action character."

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong



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PHOTO: PTI

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar as the clock struck 12:01 today to show respect to the memories of the language heroes.

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN THE NORTH

Left to die out

Lack of revival initiatives, practice to blame

KONGKON KARMAKER

Santhali, Kurukh, Sadri, Mundali -- these are just some of the many languages spoken by the indigenous communities of the flatlands in Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions.

However, despite their vast range, most of these languages are vanishing fast not only due to a lack of government initiatives to revive them -- but also for the reluctance among the communities themselves to speak their native tongues.

A part of the country's cultural heritage, these languages have their own alphabets and intonations. But most of the ethnic flatland communities now seem more comfortable speaking Bangla. Haimanti Sarkar, chief executive officer of the People's Union of the Marginalised Development Organisation (Pumdo), an NGO working for indigenous people, and a member of the Malo community, said, "Every ethnic community has the right to speak its own language for communication and also to increase the knowledge regarding its own cultures."



The Santhali alphabet

"But the ethnic people are gradually forgetting their languages, which means they are also forgetting their own culture and heritage."

According to the United Nations, at present, 96 percent of the world's approximately 6,700 languages are spoken by only three percent of the world's population. Although indigenous peoples make up less than six percent of the global population, they speak more than 4,000 of the world's languages.

Many of those languages are now marked as "endangered", with most of them having the possibility of becoming extinct by the year 2100.

According to a UN estimate, at least one language of the world dies out every two weeks.

The indigenous languages of Bangladesh are no less threatened, with most of them on the brink of extinction or well into endangerment.

According to a recent census by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, there are over 50 ethnic minority groups

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

GULSHAN FIRE

Why we need proper fire safety plan for each building

NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

Grenfel Tower in London was entrapped in the myth that a single staircase under mechanically-induced positive air pressure was safe for a 24-storey block of apartments. That single-track scientific theory ignored other scientific factors and inevitable human errors, resulting in 72 deaths when a burst fridge on the third floor caused a fire that devastatingly spread throughout the building, inside and out.

The Grenfel tragedy of June 2017 occurred in the UK, which has some of the stringent fire codes, in theory and in practice, cemented further by a public that is aware and proactively cooperative.

Ever since, my thoughts have been concerned with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Phulpori was abused physically, verbally

One of 2 accused BCL activists tells probe body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One of the two female Chhatra League activists, accused of torturing a female student in Kushtia's Islamic University, yesterday admitted that they abused the girl physically and verbally.

Sanjida Chowdhury, a vice-president of the university unit Chhatra League, made the admission while speaking to a probe committee formed by the university administration.

"She [Sanjida] said she slapped the girl, hurled abuse and threatened to kill her," said a member of the probe body, seeking anonymity.

Talking to journalists later, Sanjida, however, said they did not torture the girl, Phulpori Khatun. "Not at all ... Nothing like torture happened there."

Sanjida said she will get justice when the probe report comes out.

Another accused Tabassum Islam, a BCL activist, refused to talk to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

TORTURE OF IU STUDENT

Ensure security so students can pursue dreams

Phulpori to univ authorities

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

"The cruelty broke my heart but not my dreams," said Phulpori Khatun, the Islamic University student who was tortured allegedly by two BCL leaders on February 12.

In an interview with The Daily Star yesterday, she said she intends to attend every class and won't give up her education.

On February 14, Phulpori filed a complaint with the IU authorities accusing BCL leaders Sanjida and Tabassum of torturing and humiliating her for hours on the night of February 12 for staying at a student dormitory without informing them.

"I was scared and saddened, and I don't want it to happen to any other student," said the first-year student of the finance and banking department.

Fearing further torture, she returned to her village home in Shibpur under Pabna's Atgharia upazila after the incident. "That was the most shocking day of my life. I will never forget this," she said.

Around 12:30pm yesterday, Phulpori left for the university to appear before a committee, which was formed to investigate the complaint.

Her proud van-puller father Ataur Rahman, who was accompanying her to Kushtia, said, "I never imagined my daughter would face such inhuman torture. After the incident, we are worried about her safety."

Ataur said he devoted his life to educating his four children, adding that his first child completed



SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

DUA MAHFIL

In honor of our Founder and beloved Chairman, Mr. Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, a Dua Mahfil will take place today (21st February) at the Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Masjid) following the Asr prayers.

We cordially invite all friends, colleagues, well-wishers, and community members to attend this Dua Mahfil, seeking eternal peace for his departed soul.

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury
22 September, 1937 - 18 February, 2023

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Four Hundred Marginal Farmers get Krishi Loan via Smart Card from AB Bank at Gopalganj Stadium



AB Bank Limited disbursed Krishi (Agricultural) Loans under own supervision to small and marginal farmers through smart cards at Gopalganj.

The program was organized at Sheikh Fazlul Haque Mani outer Stadium, Gopalganj. Mr. Kazi Mahbul Alam,

Commissioner (DC), Gopalganj was present as chief guest. Mr. Mahabub Ali Khan, President of Gopalganj District Awami League and Mr. Abdul Kader

Sarder, Deputy Director, Department of Agricultural Extension, Gopalganj were present as special guests with Mr. Tarique Afzal, President and

Managing Director of AB Bank Limited presiding. Senior officials of AB Bank and local dignitaries also attended the program.

Advertisement

PM confers Ekushey Padak 2023 19 personalities, two organisations get the award

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday conferred the Ekushey Padak 2023 to 19 eminent personalities and two organisations in recognition of their contributions to various fields.

She handed over the Ekushey Padak, the country's second-highest civilian award, at a ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

The cultural affairs ministry organised the event on the occasion of International Mother Language Day.

Khaleda Manzoor-e-Khuda, freedom fighter AKM Shamsul Haque (posthumously), and Haji Mohammad Majibor Rahman received the award for their roles in the Language Movement.

Masud Ali Khan and Shimul Yusuf received the prestigious award for their contributions to acting, while Manoranjan Ghoshal, Gazi Abdul Hakim and Fazal-e-Khuda (posthumously) for music, Jayanto Chattopadhyay for recitation, Nawazish Ali Khan for shilpakala (arts), and Kanak Chanpa Chakma for painting.

Besides, Momtaz Uddin (posthumously) was given the award in the Liberation War category, Md Shah Alamgir (posthumously) in journalism, Md Abdul Majid in research, Professor Mazharul Islam (posthumously) in education, Saidul Haque in social service, Manjurul Islam (posthumously) and Akhter Uddin Mia (posthumously) in politics.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photo with the recipients of Ekushey Padak 2023 at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. Nineteen eminent personalities and two organisations received the award this year in recognition of their contributions in their respective fields.

PHOTO: PID

EC asks for Tk 3,954cr as polls expenses

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission has asked the government for Tk 3,954 crore to meet the expenses of the upcoming parliamentary and local government elections and repairing 1.1 lakh electronic voting machines.

Commission officials tabled a proposal in this regard at a meeting with the finance ministry and the planning commission yesterday, said officials.

The meeting was held at the Secretariat to discuss the EC's budget for 2023-24 fiscal year.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Additional Secretary of the EC Ashok Kumar Debnath said, "No final decision has been made in this regard. They [finance ministry] have advised the commission to make the proposal more specific."

Two meeting sources confirmed that the EC's proposal included Tk 1,260 crore

for having 1.1 lakh EVMs repaired by Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF).

According to the EC sources, the commission has asked for Tk 5,485 crore for the next fiscal year. Of the amount, Tk 3,954 crore would be needed for conducting the next general election, 6th upazila polls and several city corporation elections.

The next Jatiya Sangsad polls are likely to be held in late December this year or early January 2024.

The EC's budget for the 2022-23 fiscal is Tk 1,539 crore. Of the amount, Tk 229 crore is earmarked for conducting elections.

The commission since 2018 has bought 1.5 lakh EVMs in phases for Tk 2.35 lakh each, almost 11 times the price in India back then.

Now around five years later, 40,000 of those machines are beyond repair. The rest 1.1 lakh can be fixed for around Tk 1,260 crore, according to a BMTF proposal set

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ADANI'S COAL PRICE

Govt body starts with learning session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government committee to review coal pricing system with power plants at its maiden meeting yesterday sought information from companies concerned about how they buy the coal.

The government formed the nine-member committee, led by Power Secretary Habibur Rahman, on January 23 following reports of the power cell of the energy ministry that India's Adani Power Plant was buying coal at inflated prices.

"At the first meeting, we just

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Ex-UP member arrested for raping 8-yr-old girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police on Sunday night arrested a former member of Itail union parishad for allegedly raping an eight-year-old girl in Jamalpur Sadar upazila.

Shawkat Hossain Babul, 62, was sent to jail as per a court order yesterday.

On February 13, he lured his neighbour's daughter to his house and raped her there when his wife was not home, police said.

3 hurt in gas cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three restaurant staffers were critically injured after a cooking gas cylinder exploded at Fusion Café in the port city's Khulshi area around 11:00am last morning.

Md Kashem, 18, Nur Hossain, 20, and Mubinul Haque, 22, suffered severe damage to their respiratory tracts on top of the 15 percent burns on their bodies, said Dr S Khaled, assistant professor of CMCH's Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit.

Teacher dies in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A high school teacher was run over and killed by a brick-laden tractor in Panchagarh's Boda upazila last morning.

Jashoda Rani, 35, an assistant teacher at Futkibari High School, was going to work on a colleague's motorbike.

Afterwards, angry locals set the tractor on fire, demanding the driver's arrest.

A case was filed in this connection, said police.

Border killing: BSF returns body after 4 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The body of the Bangladeshi youth, who was shot dead inside Indian territory by the Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday night, was returned yesterday afternoon -- four days after the killing.

The deceased was Sahabul Hossain Babu, 33, son of Abul Hossain of Daranda (Fakirpara) in Dinajpur's Hakimpur upazila.

Why we need proper fire plans

FROM PAGE 1

apartment buildings in Bangladesh that are increasingly going higher, not that fire does not kill at low heights. We are further handicapped by our lack of awareness and cooperation; taking selfies and live streaming fire incidents by the nuisance-causing, crowding public, are serious threats to life.

The apartment building in Gulshan that caught fire on February 19 is typical of a new genre of residential buildings emanating from the 2008 Dhaka Metropolis Building Construction Rules, that allow single-stair 12-storey residential buildings with four apartments per floor.

Fire at the Gulshan building on Road 104 began in a small way from the 6th floor, initially bellowing smoke. It was so small that it was ignorable, but perilous because time is of the essence in any fire.

Where were the extinguishers? If available, did anyone know how to operate them? Uncontrolled for an hour or so, the fire characteristically flared up further and typically engulfed the upper floors, presumably via the external windows as well as the open staircase. Grenfel experienced the same route of spread.

Apartments are not prone to catching fire, given that the active cause of combustion is low. Two factors will increase the risk of fire, interior decoration with highly combustible materials which nowadays is the norm, and ageing as well as faulty and underrated electrical wiring and appliances.

Smoke prevented the residents from going down to the plaza level. When this happens, it means the stairs were inadequate in size and number, and not encased in fire rated material with rated doors.

There has to be detection and alarm systems in place to give earliest warning, providing people adequate time to escape.

Each floor should have been compartmented by design, meaning smoke and fire should have been restricted to the 6th floor, allowing residents to escape comfortably via the encased staircase/s.

Extinguishers and sprinklers are also required in such buildings, as are requisite water reservoir, hydrant and fire pump. The Fire Service had to borrow firefighting water from the lake and adjacent buildings, which is a major shortcoming in design as well as the abject failure of authorities

that granted the building permit; Rajuk and Fire Service.

The person who died from jumping off the building and others with him found it unbearable to stay in the building due to smoke and heat, and then panic set in, robbing them of basic human instincts and practical thinking.

The deaths were preventable had the architect and the owner ensured a plan that would enable the few dozen people to exit safely.

There are hundreds of similar and worse buildings. The electrical components are getting old. Stairs are open that will prevent people from getting down. There could be more fires in the near future. Let us revisit our buildings now along with our respective architects. Let us plug the leaks to first, stop a fire from starting, second, provide detection and alarm, third, design a means of escape, and fourth, find out how best to utilise our firefighting equipment and the fire service.

Owners spend a huge amount of money on a building. It will only take another a few takas per square metre to ensure safety through a fire plan.

[Nizamuddin Ahmed is an architect and writer]

Left to die out

FROM PAGE 1

across the country, with a 1.65 crore population -- around one percent of the entire population.

Of them, the flatland indigenous communities are found in Rangpur and Rajshahi regions. With around 35-38 groups, their population in Rajshahi is around 2.44 lakh, while the figure is just above 91,000 in Rangpur division, with a majority of them living in Dinajpur.

The Santals make up the biggest part of the ethnic minorities across the two divisions.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, said all the ethnic minorities have their own separate languages to communicate among themselves.

The Santals use the Santhali language, which has its own alphabet. The Oraon community speaks the Kurukh language, which is also spoken by the ethnic people of India's Jharkhand, while the Munda community have the Mundali language.

All of these languages are now hardly used by the people of these communities, especially members of the younger generations, who, according to indigenous rights' workers, have no space -- not home or school -- to practise them.

Eventually, the lesser a language is spoken, the faster it becomes extinct.

The most commonly used language among the flatland ethnic communities is Satri.

Manik Soren, information secretary of the Adivasi Parishad, said

Sadri is still largely spoken among many of the communities. "But it is a mixed language."

Rabindranath Soren claimed that most indigenous languages in the flatlands are endangered, with around seven to eight of them already having become extinct over the years for various reasons.

Pumdo recently conducted a survey in Bagjana and Atapur unions in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila and found similar scenarios.

Some of the ethnic communities there are the Oraon, Pahan, Malo and Mahato.

The survey, carried out among school children of the communities, found that most of them cannot speak their traditional languages, with many never having even heard of them.

This correspondent on Monday visited Damdama village in Panchbibi municipality and found the observations to be true after speaking to a good number of school and college students.

In Uchai Jarka SC High School, with around 70 students from different ethnic backgrounds, this correspondent found that most of them are unfamiliar with their own languages.

Puja Singh, a sixth grader of the school from the Singh community, said she has never even heard about the language of her community. "I never even heard my parents speak in any such language."

Like her, most students of the school said they use Bangla for their daily communications.

Anjali Mahato, a first-year HSC student, also expressed reluctance to speak her native language.

Sanjita Mahato, a homemaker in Damdama village, said neither her parents nor her in-laws speak their ethnic language.

According to the Adivasi Parishad president, the government needs to take the lead in saving the indigenous languages of these communities in order to uphold the country's multi-cultural heritage.

An option for indigenous students to learn about their cultures and heritage in their own languages in schools, colleges and universities can be a solution, he said.

"We are yet to see any apparent steps in this regard," he said, adding that the Parishad has been demanding that the government employ at least one teacher from an ethnic community in primary schools.

"But the demand was never paid any heed to."

Asked how this could be possible considering the vast number of indigenous languages, he said, the government must find a solution in this regard. "Otherwise, all these languages will become extinct. We can still save some of the endangered languages if we start the process right now."

The government in 2017 had taken an initiative to publish textbooks in the Sadri language. "It has been six years and no such book has been supplied to any school as yet."

He added, "The languages are dying out even faster in the urban areas compared to the rural ones."

Ensure security

FROM PAGE 1

her master's from Rajshahi University, and the second is a fourth-year student at Dhaka University.

"Phulpori is my third child while the fourth is a tenth grader," he said, adding that he spends the majority of his earning on their academic expenditure.

"Being an illiterate man, I know the pain of ignorance. So, I had the

dream to educate my children," said Ataur.

Both the father and daughter demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits so that nobody dares torture any student on the campus in the future.

"When I went to the university and started attending classes earlier this month, that was the first step to fulfilling my dream," said

Phulpori.

"Unfortunately, I was humiliated and brutally tortured by the seniors on the campus and I was never prepared for this," she added.

"Now I strongly urge the university administration to take steps to prevent such incidents in the future. I want safety and security for me and all of us like me so that we can fulfil our dream."

Phulpori was abused physically, verbally

FROM PAGE 1

the media after she gave a statement before the investigation body.

Phulpori, a first-year non-residential student, alleged that Sanjida and Tabassum tortured her on the night of February 12 for staying at Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall without their "permission".

They tortured her from 11:00pm till 3:30am.

On February 14, the victim lodged a complaint with the university proctor, student adviser and the hall provost, demanding punishment of those involved in the torture.

The probe committee interrogated Sanjida and Tabassum from noon to 5:00pm yesterday at the office of Prof Reba Mandol of law department, convener of the committee formed by the university administration.

Other committee members include member secretary Deputy Registrar Ali Buddin Khan, Provost Council President Prof Debashish Sharma and Assistant Proctor Prof Murshid Alam.

Prof Reba told reporters that information that they got during the investigation will not be disclosed.

"We have made good progress in

People urged not to fly kites

FROM PAGE 12

if they fall on the lines.

Moreover, the authorities have to pause operations to remove those, which causes the passengers to suffer, it said.

In this given situation, the DMTCL requested the residents, living around a one-km radius of the metro rail, to prevent their children from flying kites, sky lanterns and gas balloons or any kind of flying object for the safety

of the metro rail.

Yesterday morning, the metro rail service had to be stopped for half an hour after a kite got stuck in one of its overhead electricity lines.

The authorities suspended train operations around 9:45am, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, director (operation and maintenance) of DMTCL told The Daily Star.

Services resumed around 10:15am

Dainik Dinkal stops

FROM PAGE 12

declaration out of political vengeance and Bangladesh Press Council also rejected the appeal of the paper. This is a huge blow to the freedom of expression," said Fakhrul in a statement issued on Sunday night.

He claimed that the Dhaka DC office, following the directives of the government, cancelled the declaration of the daily on December 26 last year, but the paper resumed operation on December 29 after filing an appeal to the press council, seeking a stay on the cancellation order.

The BNP secretary general demanded immediate withdrawal of the cancellation order.

According to a report of the AFP that obtained the press council's order, the printing permit of the newspaper was cancelled after the newspaper violated the country's printing and publication laws.

The council said the paper's publisher, Tarique Rahman, the acting

chief of the BNP, was a convicted criminal and was living abroad without handing over his job to another person, said the AFP report.

The report quoted Shimul Biswas as saying that Tarique submitted his resignation and appointed a new publisher, but the authorities did not accept the changes.

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Shimul Biswas said they would take measures to resume publication of the newspaper that started its journey in 1991.

Meanwhile, factions of two journalist unions -- Dhaka Union of Journalists and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists -- staged demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, condemning the cancellation of the declaration for Dinkal.

They demanded that the paper be allowed to resume publication. The two unions will hold demonstrations across the country on February 25, according to a press release.

after the kite was removed.

Meanwhile, the rush of passengers increased manifold due to the delay.

A similar problem occurred on Sunday as well.

Earlier on January 1, just after the New Year celebrations, the authorities had to suspend operations for two hours "on safety grounds" as a huge number of extinguished sky lanterns fell on the overhead electricity lines.

Putin's war plans

FROM PAGE 12

anniversary of Russia's invasion, reports Reuters.

Biden left Kyiv, after the five-hour long surprise visit. The US president's visit to Ukraine came just ahead of his scheduled visit to Poland later yesterday.

"This visit of the US president to Ukraine, the first for 15 years, is the most important visit in the entire history of Ukraine-US relations," Zelensky said.

Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba called the visit a "victory of the Ukrainian people and president Zelensky" and a clear signal to "the swamp" - Russia - that "no one is afraid of you!"

It was clearly timed to upstage Russia's President Vladimir Putin, due to make a major address today setting out aims for the second year of what he now calls a proxy war against the armed might of Washington and Nato.

Bangabandhu’s contribution was erased: Hasina PM slams moves to ‘undermine’ his role in Language Movement

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday denounced attempts to “undermine” the contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Language Movement.

“Bangabandhu was jailed for waging the Language Movement. Why was he in jail, if he had no contribution?” she asked after conferring the Ekushey Padak to 19 eminent personalities and two organisations at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

Hasina said the “Joy Bangla” slogan, which inspired the freedom fighters to make the ultimate sacrifice, and the historic March 7 speech were banned after the assassination of Bangabandhu in 1975.

“Actually, his name was obliterated from history. Not only that, his contribution to the Language Movement was erased,” she said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Families that lost their loved ones in the Churihatta fire in February 2019 claim they barely got anything promised by the government. An association of the victim families pressed forward seven demands from an event near Hazi Wahed Mansion, inset, yesterday, where the fire first started from a chemical factory on the ground floor.

PHOTO: STAR

GULSHAN FIRE Anwar never got to see his child’s face

SHAHEEN MOLLAH with ABU BAKKAR SIDDIQUE

He was excited to see the face of his first baby and had planned to visit home to be with his wife in early March. But his wish could not come true.

Thirty year old Anwar Hossain, who was the caretaker of a flat of the 13-storey residential building that was engulfed in a fire on Sunday night, succumbed to his injuries.

While firefighters were desperately trying to douse the blaze at the capital’s Gulshan, Anwar jumped off the 11th floor to save himself around 8:30pm. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died at around 1:00am.

Anwar’s niece Rabeya Aktar said her uncle lived in Bhola’s Borhanuddin upazila and got married about three years ago.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

FOUR YEARS OF CHURIHATTA FIRE Victim families still await fair compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was like hell on earth for people living inside Hazi Wahed Mansion in Churihatta area of Old Dhaka. The fire started in a chemical warehouse on the ground floor of the five-story building and quickly spread to three other nearby buildings, including a community centre.

Seventy one people were burnt to ashes on that night on February 20, 2019, while dozens were injured. Even commuters and pedestrians were killed, demonstrating the magnitude of the incident and how dangerous chemical warehouses can be inside residential premises.

For a year, the walls of the building remained scorched black, a thin film of soot covered the burnt-out pillars and roofs and a smell of burnt remnants wafted through the air around it.

But, four years later, looking at the Wahed Mansion, it’s impossible to tell that 71 people were killed by a chemical-fed fire in this very building.

Visiting the place yesterday, this correspondent saw no burn marks on the entire building. The establishment looked somewhat new as there was a fresh layer on the building’s wall. Several private banks rented the second floor of the building to conduct their operations. The ground floor of the building was occupied by various businesses, while the third and fourth floors were being prepared for rent.

So while it’s business as usual

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

SSC exams to start April 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year’s Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams will start from April 30, about two months later than the usual time, due to the fallout of Covid-19 pandemic.

Usually, during the pre-Covid period, SSC exams began in the first week of February.

Chairman of Dhaka Education Board Tapan Kumar Sarkar yesterday said the exams will be held on all subjects with full 100 marks but on curtailed syllabuses.

The decision to shorten the syllabuses was

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

CASE AGAINST DR YUNUS No hearing till March 27: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday said the labour court cannot hold hearing on the charge framing in a case filed against Nobel laureate and Grameen Telecom Chairperson Dr Muhammad Yunus over violating labour law till March 27.

The apex court asked Khurshid Alam Khan, the lawyer for the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, not to place argument before the labour court concerned on the charge framing till that day.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

HC bars screening of ‘Faraaz’ on TV, online platform

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps immediately to stop screening and streaming of Indian movie “Faraaz” on online platforms and televisions.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have been asked to take steps in this connection.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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Licences fake, guns real!

FROM PAGE 5
In 2014, he arrived in Dhaka and started working as a security guard. While doing his job, he met Polash and established a good relationship.
Monowar then bought illegal firearms and a fake licence from Polash for Tk 2 lakh and started working

at a building of a financial institute as a guard. Later, he joined Polash's illegal nexus.
Monowar used to bring firearms from the border point. To dodge law enforcers, the gang used to smuggle firearms after dismantling them into small pieces, said Moin.

HC bars screening

FROM PAGE 3
The court also issued a rule asking authorities of the government to explain why their inaction to stop the screening and streaming of the movie on online platforms, televisions and cinema halls in Bangladesh should not be declared illegal.
The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton passed the order following a writ petition filed by Ruba Ahmed, mother of Abinta who was killed in the Holey Artisan attack on July 1, 2016, seeking necessary directives.
Earlier in the day, the judges watched relevant parts of the movie in connection with the

contents of the petition in their chamber room.
Writ petitioner's lawyer Ahsanul Karim and Nahid Sultana Juthi and Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar were also present there. Senior lawyer Rakanuddin Mahmud also appeared for the petitioner.
Advocate Ahsanul Karim told The Daily Star that the HC did not say anything about screening of the movie in cinema halls as the censor board's decision is needed to screen any movie in cinema halls.
"We will move a prayer before the High Court for further order if the movie Faraz is screened in cinema halls," he added.
Ruba Ahmed filed the petition on February 12.

Ensure basic facilities

FROM PAGE 5
He demanded the city corporation to those who are currently unemployed. A process in this regard has already started, he said, citing Taposh.
Rana however said they have visited the selected relocation site near the current Telugu colony, but found no electricity or sewerage facility.

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Rana however said they have visited the selected relocation site near the current Telugu colony, but found no electricity or sewerage facility.

Highlighting stories

FROM PAGE 5
Joyal Uddin, one of the authors of the book, said, "I have never come to the book fair. This is the first time I have set foot here."
Faruk Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Saikat, Omar Faruk and Mobarak Hossain were ghost writers of the stories.
Narayan, a rickshaw-puller, designed the cover of the book.
Salman Khan Yasin, head of public relations at Bidyanondo, said, "A copy of the book has been sent to the authors. He saw his own story in print. For those who have not learned to write on their own, this joyous experience cannot be described in words."
"Through this book, illiterate people, who have been deprived throughout

their lives due to our social system, get the chance to have their stories out. Not only that, they will also get the price of the story. The proceeds from this book will be handed over to them as royalties."
Bangabandhu
FROM PAGE 3
While he was in jail, student leaders used to meet him and received his instructions regarding the Language Movement, she said, adding that this can be learnt by reading the books "Oshomapto Attojiboni (Unfinished Memoirs)" and "Secret Documents Of Intelligence Branch on Father Of The Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman".

Neglected for years

FROM PAGE 5
spending Tk 17 lakh, in February 2020.
The former mayor also shifted the main altar of Shaheed Minar from the previous spot, much to the dismay of concerned citizens.
"We want restoration of the original design," Language Movement hero Abdul Quader Bhasani told The Daily Star.
Meanwhile, incumbent Mayor Rezaul Karim Swapan recently started renovating the Shahid Minar again, by demolishing some parts of the newly constructed altar.
Some trees also have been felled in the name of constructing the boundary wall, they alleged.
Sufi Mohammad Taherul Islam, founding director of

Lalmonirhat Sangskritik Kendra, said the heritage of the old Shaheed Minar has been destroyed through its demolition.
"I filed an appeal with the High Court on March 22, 2020, urging restoration of the Shaheed Minar keeping its original design," Taherul said.
HC lawyer Advocate Kazal Rashid said hearing on the appeal will be held soon.
Contacted, Mayor Rezaul Karim Swapan said parts of the altar of the Shaheed Minar have been demolished to make space.
Meanwhile, as there was no boundary wall, some trees were felled to build one to protect the Shaheed Minar compound, he added.

No hearing till March

FROM PAGE 3
A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman, passed the order during the hearing of a petition filed by Dr Yunus, seeking a stay on a High Court verdict that on

August 17 last year cleared the way for the labour court to run trial proceedings of the case.
The top court fixed March 27 for further hearing on the petition.
Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, who appeared for

Victim families still

FROM PAGE 3
again for the owners of Wahed Mansion, the same redemption arc was not seen in the cases of survivors and victim families.
As their loved ones passed the last moments of their life in agony, these fire survivors were left with a horrific memory that will haunt them forever.
What's worse is, the families of the victims barely got anything promised by the government, they claimed.
While some of them got jobs as cleaners, they said it was far from adequate compensation for them, who had lost the sole breadwinner of their families on that fateful February night.
Hosne Ara lost her son Rezaul Karim that night.
"I was given a job as a cleaner on a daily wage earner's contract. I didn't get anything else. How is that fair?" she asked with teary eyes.
Fatema Akhter, who lost her husband Faisal Sarwar in the fire, echoed the same.
"I have two teenage daughters. I got a job from Dhaka South City Corporation as a cleaner. It's tough to run a family with this income."


"We heard there was a Tk 30 crore fund for us. So where did the money go?" she asked.
Hazera Begum, who also lost her husband in this incident, said, "My daughter's age is now 26. I can't even provide for arrangements of her marriage as I don't have any money left."
Kallitir Rahman Miraz lost his two brothers – Mahbubur Rahman Raju and Mohammad Masud Rana in the Churihatta fire. He was told that DSCC allotted a shop for them in the Palasi area. But the hope was soon snatched away from him.
"We deposited Tk 3 lakh for the shop. But later, DSCC said the market doesn't exist. So, they returned our deposit. Now, I don't have anything."
An association of the victim families pressed forward seven demands from an event near the site.
Ashiq Uddin Soinik, general secretary of the association, said, some of their demands include exemplary punishment for all accused in the Churihatta fire case, fair compensation for the victim families, removal of chemical warehouses from residential areas and so on.

Ehsanul Haque's death anniversary

STAR REPORT

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Md Ehsanul Haque, a freedom fighter, scientist, former chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR).
Through his research work, he contributed a lot for the welfare of the country, said a press release.
Family members of Ehsanul Haque requested his friends, admirers, relatives and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.





বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা
আবশ্যিক
বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

শিক্ষক পদ
১। রসায়ন বিভাগ
(ক) অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-।
(খ) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-।
২। পুরকৌশল বিভাগ
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
৩। কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এবং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
৪। যন্ত্রকৌশল বিভাগ
(ক) সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ২টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
(খ) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি অস্থায়ী পদ (অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)।
বেতন স্কেল চ: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-।
৫। ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল এবং প্রোটোকল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ
(ক) সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
(খ) সহকারী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-।
৬। স্থাপত্য বিভাগ
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
৭। পানি ও বন্যা ব্যবস্থাপনা ইনস্টিটিউট
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি স্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
৮। মানবিক বিভাগ
সহযোগী অধ্যাপক-এর ১টি অস্থায়ী পদ (অধ্যাপক পদের বিপরীতে)।
বেতন স্কেল চ: ৫০০০০-৭১২০০/-।
৯। ন্যানোম্যাটেরিয়ালস্ এবং সিরামিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ
লেকচারার-এর ১টি অস্থায়ী পদ। বেতন স্কেল চ: ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-।
উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখঃ ১২/০৩/২০২৩
সকল পদের বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য বুয়েট ওয়েবসাইট (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-Vacancy-এর Job circular page-এ Search করা অথবা রেজিস্ট্রার অফিসের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখায় সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।
জিডি-৩১১

রেজিস্ট্রার

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of The Director
Chittagong Medical College Hospital
www.cmch.gov.bd

Memorandum
Memo No: CMCH/Re-Tender/Corrigendum/2022-2023/2144
Date: 20-02-2023

:e-GP Re-Tender Notice (Corrigendum):
The following corrections are hereby made on the tender Notice of Procurement of Electro-Medical Equipment & Non-MSR Goods Tender for Chittagong Medical College Hospital in the fiscal year 2022-2023 vide the office Reference No: CMCH/Re-Tender/2022-2023/1978 Date: 15-02-2023.

SL. No.	Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time		Tender/Proposal Closing Date & Time		Tender/Proposal Opening Date & Time	
			Previous Timeline	Correction Made	Previous Timeline	Correction Made	Previous Timeline	Correction Made
1	790797	Procurement of Cleaning Items for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	23-Feb-2023 16:00	23-Feb-2023 16:00	26-Feb-2023 12:00	27-Feb-2023 12:00	26-Feb-2023 12:00	27-Feb-2023 12:00
2	790798	Procurement of Anaesthesia Machine with Ventilator for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	23-Feb-2023 16:00	23-Feb-2023 16:00	26-Feb-2023 12:00	27-Feb-2023 12:00	26-Feb-2023 12:00	27-Feb-2023 12:00
3	790800	Procurement of Electro Surgical Unit (Diathermy Machine) 01 set for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	23-Feb-2023 16:00	23-Feb-2023 16:00	26-Feb-2023 12:00	27-Feb-2023 12:00	26-Feb-2023 12:00	27-Feb-2023 12:00
4	786691	Procurement of C C Camera & other materials for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	23-Feb-2023 16:00	01-Mar-2023 16:00	26-Feb-2023 13:00	02-Mar-2023 13:00	26-Feb-2023 13:00	02-Mar-2023 13:00

The other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.


(Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan)
Director
Chittagong Medical College Hospital
Telephone: +880233360179.
E-mail: cmch@hospr.dghs.gov.bd

GD-314



বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
website: www.ugc.gov.bd

স্মারক নম্বর: ৩৭.০১.০০০০.০৭৫.৩৯.০১০.২১.৫৭৭
তারিখ: ০৭ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৯
২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩

বসুন্ধরায় কর্ণার পুটে বাড়ী বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় রোড- ৫, বাড়ী নং- ৫৫৯, ব্রক-এইচ, ৮০কিট/ ২৫ফিট কর্ণার রাস্তা সংযোগ কোঠা জমির উপর নির্মিত একটি অভ্যুত্থানিক ইন্টেরিওর ডিজাইনসহ ৭তলা বিশিষ্ট ভূগর্ভস্থ নতুন বাড়ী বিক্রয় হইবে। যোগাযোগ: ০১৭১৫৪৬৬৮৭, ই-মেইল: mdfariduddin6687@gmail.com

LOST NOTIFICATION
I'm Salma Akter, Daughter of Late Md. Ishak, Mother's Name: Khadiza Begum, My Birth Certificate No. 2002153784005486, NID No. 1502278672, Covid-19 Vaccine Card, Old Passport No. B00794652 & New Passport No. A04072137, American Resident Permit Card No. USCIS# 066-876-544, American Health Card, American Social Card, Air Ticket (Ithad Airways Up & Down), Lost Date 01-12-2022, GD No. 278 (Kotwali Thana), Date: 04-12-2022 & GD No. 255 (Halishahar Thana), Date: 05-02-2023.
D-21




দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি)
ডিআর টাওয়ার (১৩ তলা)
৬৫/২/২, বীর প্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর সড়ক (বঙ্গ কালভার্ট রোড)
পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০
টেলিফোনঃ ৫৫১১২৮৫৭-৬০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
ইনস্টিটিউটের ব্যাংকিং ডিপ্লোমা পরীক্ষার ১.৫ (সেভ) লক্ষ উত্তরপত্র লিখোকোড সম্বলিত (OMR শীটসহ) ও ২.৫ লক্ষ লুজশীট মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের জন্য আগ্রহী মুদ্রণ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে তাদের প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক লেটারহেড প্যাড-এ একক দর ও মোট মূল্য উল্লেখসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের শিক্ষা বোর্ড/পাবলিক সার্ভিস কমিশন/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় OMR শীটসহ উত্তরপত্র সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে কাজজের নমুনা ও মোট উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫% আর্নেস্ট মানি ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার-এর মাধ্যমে অত্র ইনস্টিটিউটের অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের দিন হতে ০২/০৩/২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা)-এর মধ্যে উত্তরপত্র ও লুজশীটের নমুনা দেখা যাবে এবং টাঃ ৫০০/- মূল্যে টেন্ডার সিডিউল তৈরি করা যাবে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৫ মার্চ, ২০২৩ তারিখ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ইনস্টিটিউট কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাক্সে দাখিল করতে হবে। একই দিন দুপুর ২.৩০ মিনিটে দরপত্রাদাতাদের (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) সম্মুখে দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রমে যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

শেখ জাহাঙ্গীর হোসেন
সচিব, আইবিবি
জিডি-৩১২

Notification regarding issuance of summons by alternative method
Learned In the Court of 5th Joint District Judge, Dhaka.
Title Suit No. 276/2017
01) A. T. S. Apparels Limited, House # 105, Flat # A/2 (1st floor) Road # 4, Block #B Banani, Dhaka-1213. 02) A. T. S. Pearl Limited, House # 105, Flat # A/2 (1st floor), Road # 4, Block # B, Banani, Dhaka-1213. — Plaintiff.
VERSUS
5.) Y & X Home Limited, Reg. Office, Apt. 904, 5 Piccadilly Place, Manchester M1 3BP, United Kingdom, And its Unit 3, Bradstone Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester, M8 WA, UK. — Proforma-Defendant.
SUIT FOR DECLARATION, SUIT VALUED AT USD 2,238,742.88 EQUIVALENT TO TK. 18,11,14,298.992 ONLY.
Notice regarding issue of summons payable by alternative method under Rule 5 Order 20 of Civil Procedure Act.
It appears to this court that the defendants mentioned below are trying to avoid the summons of this title suit. WHEREAS notice of summons payable to appear in this Court at the address indicated next to the names of the defendants was issued in the alternative manner described below. The above defendants or their designated representatives are directed to appear in this Court on the next day of 28/02/2023 at 9:30 a.m. If the defendants fail to appear in this Court on the date and time fixed, he/she/they shall be deemed not willing to contest the said suit and the proceedings of the said suit shall proceed in his/her absence.
By order of
Sd/-
5th Joint District Judge, Dhaka.

NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUARY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 5 OF 2023
(An application under section 241 read with section 242 of the Companies Act, 1994)
Mostafizur Rahman and othersPetitioners
-Versus-
Ring ID BD Ltd. and Others Respondents
Notice is hereby given to all concerned that an application under section 241 read with section 242 of the Companies Act, 1994 for winding up of the Respondent No. 1 Company (Ring ID BD Ltd.) and for obtaining other necessary declarations from the Hon'ble High Court as specifically elaborated in the prayer portion of the Application has been filed and moved before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. The Hon'ble Company Bench comprising of his Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury, on 16.01.2023, upon hearing the learned Advocate and perusing the application along with documents annexed therewith, was pleased to admit the application and directed to issue notices to the Respondents.
Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on or before the date so fixed. Copy of the Application may be collected from the undersigned upon payment of necessary costs.
(Barrister Md. Yousuf Ali)
Advocate,
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
ATTORNEYS, House No. 487
(2nd Floor), Road No. 32, New DOHS
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206.



বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
website: www.ugc.gov.bd

স্মারক নম্বর: ৩৭.০১.০০০০.০৭৫.৩৯.০১০.২১.৫৭৭
তারিখ: ০৭ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৯
২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৩

উচ্চশিক্ষান্তরে মৌলিক ও অনুবাদ পুস্তক প্রকাশের জন্য পাড়ুলিপি আহ্বান
বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন উচ্চশিক্ষান্তরে মৌলিক ও অনুবাদ পুস্তক প্রকাশ করে আসছে। প্রতিবছরের ন্যায় এবছরও (২০২৩ সাল) বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক, অবসরপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষক, বিভিন্ন শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/সংস্থার শিক্ষক/গবেষক, কমিশন কর্তৃপক্ষ ও কর্মকর্তাগণের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে পাড়ুলিপি আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।
শর্তাবলি:
১. ইউজিসি পুস্তক প্রকাশনা নীতিমালা, ২০২০ অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত লেখককে প্রকাশিত পুস্তকের জন্য এককালীন ১,০০,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ) টাকা সম্মানী প্রদান করা হবে।
২. বাংলায় সর্বোচ্চ ১২ ফুট ও ইংরেজিতে সর্বোচ্চ ১০ ফুট কম্পিউটার কম্পোজ করে ০৪ (চার) কপি পাড়ুলিপি A4 সাইজের কাগজে স্পাইরেল অথবা খোলা বাঁধাইপূর্বক কমিশনে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৩. পাড়ুলিপি ১/১৬ ডবল ডিআই বা ১/৮ ডবল ডিআই/ক্রাউন সাইজে সিলেক্ট লাইন স্পেসে ফরমেটিং করে পেনড্রাইভ/সিডিতে কমিশনের রিসার্চ সাপোর্ট এন্ড পাবলিকেশন ডিভিশনে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৪. নির্বাচিত পাড়ুলিপি সাধারণভাবে ১/১৬ ডবল ডিআই সাইজে ৩০০ পৃষ্ঠা বা ১/৮ ডবল ডিআই/ক্রাউন সাইজের ক্ষেত্রে ২৫০ পৃষ্ঠার মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ থাকবে। তবে এ ক্ষেত্রে কমিশন কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
৫. লেখক কর্তৃক প্লেজিয়ারিজম (Plagiarism) সফটওয়্যারের রিপোর্টসহ পাড়ুলিপির মৌলিকত্বের ঘোষণাপত্র এবং প্রকাশিত বইয়ের কতটুকু অংশ স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের সিলেবাস সংশ্লিষ্ট (Cover of Syllabus) তা উল্লেখপূর্বক আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে জমা দিতে হবে।
৬. বাংলা ও ইংরেজি উভয় ভাষায় পাড়ুলিপি প্রণয়ন করা যাবে। পুস্তক প্রকাশনা নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী পাড়ুলিপি নির্বাচন করা হবে। অন্য কোনো প্রকাশক বা ব্যক্তি উদ্যোগে পূর্বে প্রকাশিত পুস্তক পুনঃমুদ্রণ বা পুনঃসংস্করণের জন্য গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
৭. অনুবাদ পুস্তক প্রকাশ করার ক্ষেত্রে উদ্যোগী ব্যক্তি হলে ব্যক্তি এবং প্রতিষ্ঠান হলে প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক লেখক ও প্রকাশকের (যিনি মূল কপি রাইটের অধিকারী তার নিকট হতে) অনুমতিপত্র সংগ্রহ করে তা আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযোজন করতে হবে।
৮. পাড়ুলিপির বানান রীতিতে প্রমিত নিয়ম অনুসরণ করতে হবে এবং বিশেষজ্ঞের মতামত নিয়ে পাড়ুলিপি মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশনা প্রক্রিয়া গ্রহণ করা হবে।
৯. পুস্তক প্রকাশনা কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচনের পর বিষয় বিশেষজ্ঞের মতামত অনুযায়ী যদি পাড়ুলিপির বিষয়গত ও ভাষাগত মামোন্নয়নের আবশ্যিকতা দেখা দেয়, সেক্ষেত্রে সংশ্লিষ্ট পাড়ুলিপি প্রণেতার সঙ্গে কমিশনের পক্ষ থেকে যোগাযোগ করা হবে।
১০. সাধারণভাবে নির্বাচিত পাড়ুলিপির প্রথম সংস্করণ ৫৫০ (পাঁচশত পঞ্চাশ) কপি প্রকাশ করা হবে। তবে চাহিদার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে কত কপি পুস্তক প্রকাশ করা যাবে তার সংখ্যা কমিশন কর্তৃক নির্ধারণ করা হবে।
১১. ইউজিসি পুস্তক প্রকাশনা কমিটি কর্তৃক প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত পাড়ুলিপি সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ের এক বা একাধিক বিশেষজ্ঞ দ্বারা সূচায়ন এবং আনুষঙ্গিক সম্পাদনার কাজ শেষ করে চূড়ান্ত পর্যায়ে পাড়ুলিপি পুস্তক আকারে প্রকাশের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
১২. চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত পাড়ুলিপি পুস্তক আকারে মুদ্রণ ও প্রকাশের জন্য লেখককে, কমিশনের সাথে নন-জুডিসিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পে পুস্তক মুদ্রণ এবং প্রকাশের জন্য সমঝোতা স্মারকে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হতে হবে।
পুস্তক প্রকাশে আগ্রহী লেখকগণকে আগামী ২০ এপ্রিল ২০২৩ তারিখের মধ্যে ৪ (চার) কপি পাড়ুলিপি কমিশনের রিসার্চ সাপোর্ট এন্ড পাবলিকেশন ডিভিশনের পরিচালক বরাবর জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মোঃ শাহীন সিরাজ
অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক
রিসার্চ সাপোর্ট এন্ড পাবলিকেশন ডিভিশন
ও
সদস্য-সচিব, ইউজিসি পুস্তক প্রকাশনা কমিটি
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GD-309

LALMONIRHAT SHAHEED MINAR Neglected for years on end

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Central Shaheed Minar of Lalmonirhat, located on Thana Road in the district town, has long been neglected by the authorities.

Despite repeated pleas from residents, no permanent steps have been taken to preserve the sanctity of the structure.

Activists of the Language Movement, freedom fighters, political and cultural activists together built the Shaheed Minar in 1972.

Since its establishment, the Central Shaheed Minar has been a meeting place for the cultural and political activists, teachers, students and progressive minded people of the district.

The authorities concerned only seem to care about the dignity and beautification of the place before February 21 every year, said locals.

Besides, locals expressed their dissatisfaction as the original design of the Shaheed Minar was changed during its renovation work in 2020.

A number of local cultural activists alleged that former mayor of Lalmonirhat Municipality Riazul Islam Rintu demolished the old Shaheed Minar and renovated it,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

AMAR EKUSHEY BOI MELA Highlighting stories of the overlooked

DIPAN NANDY

Becoming a writer was always a distant dream of theirs. But due to harsh realities of life and meagre income, they had to sustain themselves first. In the process, they had to bury that dream a long time ago.

Little did they know, that distant dream would become a reality.

In this year's Ekushey Boi Mela, Bidyanondo Prakashani has published a book titled "Nirokkhorer Golpoguchho" in translation "stories of the illiterate".

The writers of the 12 story compilation are -- Joyнал Uddin, Mainuddin Majhi, Ruhul Amin, Zakir Patwari, Sirajul Islam, Moslem Howlader, Asutosh Chakraborty, Naren Mondal, Momela Bibi, Shahidul Shikder, Bidhan Howlader, Zakir Hossain and Karim Ullah.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PRAYER
TIMING
FEB 21

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:20	12:45	4:30	6:03	7:30
Jamaat	5:55	1:15	4:45	6:07	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Anwar never

FROM PAGE 3
He went to his village about two months ago to see his wife, who was expecting on February 7. He sought leave from the flat owner but was asked to go later during the delivery period, said Rabeya.

"My grandma came to Dhaka a few days ago. She will leave for the village today [yesterday]. Uncle [Anwar] had told grandma to take some money for his wife before leaving for home," she said.

"Instead of taking the money home, now she'll return with her son's dead body," she said.

Like Anwar, Razib Peres, a cook of another flat in the apartment complex, jumped off the balcony on the 10th floor to save himself from the blaze.

A father of two siblings, Razib hailed from Paoran village in Nagori union of Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila.

After hearing the news of the fire, Sajib Peres, his younger brother, rushed to Gulshan.

"He was on the 10th floor. We were talking to him on the phone. He was telling me how he could save himself from the fire," said Sajib.

"He didn't tell me once about jumping off the balcony," he said, adding that he found his brother unconscious inside an ambulance.

"He was alive for about one hour," he said.

Rajib's daughter is a seventh grader and his son studies in second grade.

"We're a joint family. And now we've lost our breadwinner," he added.

SSC exams

FROM PAGE 3
made considering the fact that the candidates of these public exams have fewer in-person classes compared to the pre-Covid period.

Schools remained closed from March 17, 2020, to September 11, 2021, and from January 20 to February 21, this year because of Covid-19.

Death toll now 2, probe on

FROM PAGE 12
respond to fires with initial firefighting. "But the residents of this building had no training on it and they could not respond to the incident accordingly," he said.

Replying to a query, he said the two died as they jumped off the building. "We repeatedly told them not to jump. After some time, our firefighters with breathing gear entered the building and rescued trapped victims alive," he said.

One person who jumped off the building to avoid the blaze died yesterday, raising the death toll to two.

Mohammad Raju, 30, who was a cook in an apartment on the 12th floor, died around 3:30am yesterday at a hospital in Gulshan.

On Sunday night, Anwar Hossain, 32, died.

Three people are under treatment at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

The fire began around 7:00pm on the sixth floor and spread up to the 12th floor. It could be brought under control around 11:00pm with the efforts of firefighters who were joined at one point by the air force and army personnel.

Firefighters rescued 22 people, including 11 women and a child, from the building on Road-104 of Gulshan-2.

The fire could have originated from a short circuit inside the building's lift which then spread quickly due to the wooden décor inside the lift, Brig Gen Md Main Uddin, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star.

PM confers

FROM PAGE 2
and Maniruzzaman in language and literature.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh National Museum received the award in the category of education and the Bidyanondo Foundation in social service.

Each awardee received



Renovation work of the Central Shaheed Minar on Thana Road in Lalmonirhat town goes on in the month of February. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Ensure basic facilities before relocation

Demands Telugu community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 130 families of the Telugu community have agreed to be shifted to a new place, but they want a house each and some essential utility facilities before leaving their current location.

They made the demand when general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Boudha-Christian Oikya Parishad Rana Dasgupta informed them about the assurance of DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh that they will be shifted to buildings in future.

"As long as temporary houses on the new location are not built, authorities should not demolish our houses," said Maria Das, priest

of a church of the community.

Around 1,200 residents of the Telugu community living at No-14 Outfall Colony at Dhalpur, are currently in constant fear of getting ousted, after Dhaka South City Corporation's alleged directive to evict the colony.

On February 12, DSCC demolished around 1,000 structures -- which it identified as illegal -- to recover 15 acres of land in Dhalpur.

The colony, with its two churches, one temple and a school, is still intact.

While visiting Telugu colony residents yesterday, Rana stated that he and other leaders of rights organisations met with Mayor

Taposh on Sunday, who assured them of building temporary houses for all Telugu families on a five-acre plot of land.

While visiting the colony, Rana informed the victims that the mayor also assured them that they will be shifted to permanent buildings in future.

Two buildings have already been constructed where 120 Telugu families have been shifted and two more buildings will also be constructed where 130 others will be shifted, said Rana, quoting the mayor.

Rana also said the mayor assured the Telugu community to provide jobs gradually in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Licences fake, guns real! Rab arrests 6 of a firearm-smuggling gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

First, they buy each weapon for Tk 10,000 to 20,000 in India and smuggle it into Bangladesh through Dinajpur. The gang then sells the firearm for a hefty price of Tk 2 to 3 lakh.

To use guns, one needs a government-approved firearm licence. And the gang got that covered as well. Generally, it takes almost a year to get a licence, but one can get a fake one in just five days through the group.

In this way, a transnational gang has been involved in selling illegal firearms.

The more alarming part is that using these fake licences and firearms, at least two dozen people are now working at buildings of different financial institutes as security guards.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) disclosed this after claiming to have arrested the mastermind of the gang -- Polash Sheikh, 32 -- and his five associates from different areas of the capital on Sunday.

The other arrestees are Monowar Hossain, 32, Rashidul Islam, 40, Nazim Molla, 35, Marul Hossain, 24, and Naimul Islam, 22.

A team of Rab-2 also seized a foreign pistol, seven one-barrel guns, two magazines, over a hundred rounds of bullets of different weapons, and 19 seals of different government officials.

Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, gave this information while addressing a briefing at the capital's Rab media centre yesterday.

According to Rab officials, Polash passed his SSC exam in 2004 and arrived in Dhaka in 2013. He then started working as a guard under a security agency.

In 2015, he bought an illegal firearm with a fake licence and got appointed as a security guard for a private bank.

This eventually led to his path of crime, as he then started smuggling and selling firearms after forming a gang of four to five members, said Moin.

Using his experience, Polash used to offer security-guard jobs with a salary of Tk 30,000 to 32,000, and in the process, sell the illegal firearms, said Rab.

Arrestee Monowar did not continue his studies after eighth grade.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

EC asks for Tk 3,954cr

FROM PAGE 2
to EC on Thursday.

The EC in August last year started assessing the EVMs as it decided to use the machines in highest 150 constituencies. At that time, EC officials said they would be able to hold elections to 70-80 constituencies with the EVMs and that they would need to procure more machines if they were to use them in up to 150 seats.

Accordingly, the commission prepared a project involving Tk 8,711 crore to buy 2 lakh new EVMs. But the government in January shelved the

project, forcing the commission to reconsider its plan.

An internal EC workshop in September 2022 was told that there were 93,000 EVMs at the commission's field offices and schools in districts and upazilas across the country. About 30 percent of those machines were unusable.

EVM project officials said 75,404 EVMs are stored now at field offices, 73,810 at BMTF and the rest at the EVM customisation centre.

So far, the quality checking of EVMs in five out of 10 EC regions has

been completed.

A total of 43,624 more were checked and 27,223 or 62 percent of them apparently need repairs.

At least 25,000 EVMs in five other regions may require repairs.

EC sources said that they usually need more money in the national election year than other years. From July 2023 to June 2024, the commission will also need to hold upazila polls in several phases.

Besides, the EC will have to conduct Gazipur City Corporation polls between March 11 and

Govt body starts with learning

FROM PAGE 2
wanted to know the pricing system of the companies concerned," said a committee member, wishing anonymity.

The member said, "[imported] Coal is a new fuel for our country. We had no idea about its pricing when we signed the deals with different power producers. The first meeting was a kind of a learning session."

The official said top officials of two coal-based power companies operating in the country -- Payra and Rampal -- joined the meeting virtually.

A recent power cell analysis found that Adani was buying coal at higher prices than other local power plants were buying.

It estimated Adani plant's coal price at \$346 per tonne whereas Payra plant buys for \$245 a tonne.

According to a Power Development Board schedule, the country is likely to import 750MW of electricity from an Adani

Power Plant in Jharkhand of India from March.

Talking to this correspondent after yesterday's meeting, two members of the committee said they have recently asked for a revision of power purchase agreement with Adani owing to high coal price.

"But we need to know the pricing system in the international market to negotiate with them and that is why the committee was formed," said one of the members.

September 10, Khulna City Corporation and Rajshahi City Corporation elections between April 13 and October 10, Barishal City Corporation polls between May 14 and November 13, and Sylhet City Corporation elections between May 6 and November 5.

EC officials said Tk 700 crore was allocated for the last national polls held in December 2018. The figure was Tk 500 crore for the JS polls held in January 2014, but the commission needed to spend Tk 265 crore as 153 MPs were elected unopposed.

New 6.4-magnitude

FROM PAGE 12
A few metres away, a digger was clearing a road was covered with rubble after the new quake.

AFTERSHOCKS
"This one just fell," a rescuer said, referring to a collapsed building.

Hatay province is on the Mediterranean Sea and the disaster agency said the sea level could rise by 50 centimetres, warning people to stay away from the coast.

জেলা পরিষদ

পঞ্চগড়

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১/২০২২-২০২৩

স্মারক নং-৪৬.৪৭.৭৭০০.০০২.৩৩.০১৫.১৭.১৮৪

তারিখঃ ৮ ফাল্গুন, ১৪২৯
২০ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২৩

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পঞ্চগড় জেলা পরিষদের আগুতাবীন বোদা ডাকবাংলো প্রাপনে প্রস্তাবিত নতুন, দ্বি-তল, আধুনিক ডাকবাংলো ভবন নির্মাণ প্রকল্পে বর্তমানে মোট ২৩টি গাছ (৮টি আম ও ১৫টি কাঁটাল) রয়েছে। এ সকল গাছ জীবিত, মরা, পোকা খাওয়া ও বুকিপূর্ণ। এছাড়া জেলা পরিষদ চত্বরে আগের কেটে রাখা ২টি মহশুলি গাছের কাঠ রয়েছে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে, বোদা ডাকবাংলোর ভেতরের উক্ত ২৩টি গাছ এবং ২টি মহশুলি গাছের কাঠ প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে। সে উদ্দেশ্যে আগ্রহী ক্ষেত্রে আগের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১২ মার্চ ২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয় হতে দরপত্রের সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। জেলা পরিষদ অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবে আগামী ১৩ মার্চ ২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১.০০টা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১.৩০টা দরদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বাস্তব উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। যে কোন কারণ ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

শর্তাবলিঃ

- ১। দরপত্রদাতাকে দাখিলকৃত দরের ১০০% হারে বিডি/পে-অর্ডার প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, পঞ্চগড়, বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ২। দাখিলকৃত দরের সাথে ৫% আয়কর ও ১৫% ভ্যাট (মুসক) জমা দিতে হবে।
- ৩। দরদাতাকে অবশ্যই নাম ও ঠিকানা স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে খামের উপর লিখতে হবে।
- ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে দরদাতাকে গাছসমূহ সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। এ বিষয়ে পরবর্তীতে কোন প্রকার গুজর আপত্তি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

জিডি-৩১৫

মোঃ ফোরশেদ আলম
উপ-সহকারী প্রকৌশলী
জেলা পরিষদ, পঞ্চগড়

Special Supplement

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Message
08 Falgun 1429
21 February 2023

Today is 21 February, The great 'Shaheed Day (Martyrs Day)' and 'International Mother Language Day'. On this memorable day, I recall Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar, Shafiq and many anonymous language martyrs with deep homage who laid down their lives to establish the right of mother tongue Bangla. On the occasion of International Mother Language Day 2023, I extend my sincere greetings and congratulations to the people of various languages of the world including Bangla and other ethnic groups.

The great Language Movement is an unforgettable event in our national history. Today, I remember with profound respect, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led *Sarbojito Kshirohassa Sangram Parishad* (All Party State Language Action Committee), formed in 1948 and consequently was imprisoned. I recall all the language activists including the then Member of *Gonparishad* (Constituent Assembly) Dharendra Nath Dutta, whose foresightedness, boundless sacrifice, courage, organizational skills and instantaneous decision resulted in the final outcome of the language movement on February 21, 1952 and consequently, Bangladesh achieved their right of mother tongue.

In 1947, on the basis of Two Nation Theory, the British-ruled India was split into two countries- India and Pakistan. With thousand kilometers apart, East and West Pakistan had completely different languages and cultures. Therefore, when Urdu was declared as the only state language of Pakistan, the Bangalee Nation took to the streets in protest to protect the status of their mother tongue 'Bangla'. Basically the Language Movement was the movement to establish the right of our mother tongue as well as to protect our ethnicity, self-entirety and cultural distinction. The imperishable spirit of *Amar Ekushey* (Immortal Shaheed Day) gave us endless inspiration and immense courage in achieving our rights to self-determination, struggle for freedom and the War of Liberation. With the bloodshed passages of Language Movement of February, we achieved the recognition of Bangla as our mother tongue and consequently, we attained our long-cherished Independence in 1971 under the charismatic leadership of the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

February 21 has now been recognized by the United Nations as the 'International Mother Language Day' with the spontaneous willingness and sincere endeavour of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with the primary efforts of some Bangladeshi expatriates in 1999. As the Bangalee nation, it is one of the great achievements for us. It is a unique celebration in protecting mother tongue as well as own culture and heritage.

The spirit of *Amar Ekushey* is now the incessant source of inspiration for protecting own languages and culture of peoples of different languages in the world. But we have to be more diligent in proper practice and preservation of Bengali language and culture. With the blessings of information technology, we are now the inhabitants of a single global village. Therefore, to maintain pace of advancement with the developed world, our present generation has to attain necessary skills in different languages which are recognized as international communication media. I believe that observing the International Mother Language Day will play a positive role in the development and preservation of our own language as well as in building a sustainable future through multilingual education - this is our expectation.

Embracing the spirit of *Amar Ekushey*, let mutual respect be awakened among the people of different languages and cultures of the world, let a colorful world without discrimination be developed - it is my expectation on Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day.

Joi Bangla.
Khoda Hafez, May Bangladesh Live Forever.

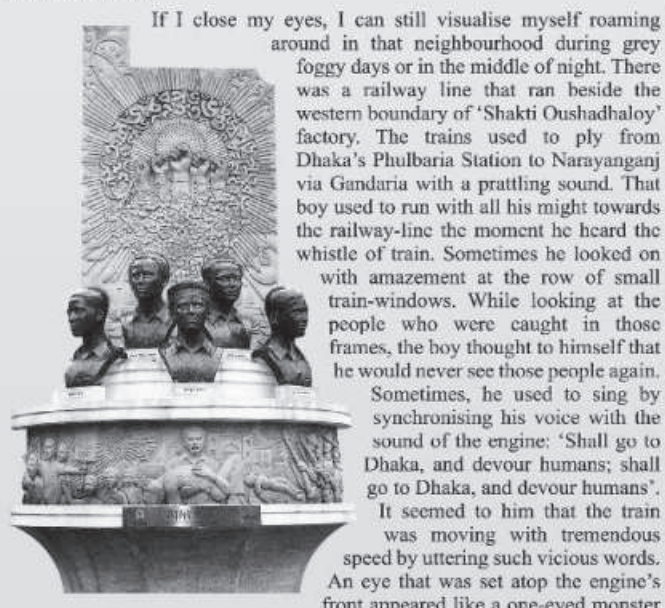
Md. Abdul Hamid

A Slice of Ekush in the Sky of Memory

Abed Khan

ONE

Let me start this write-up with a childhood memory. It was many years ago, at the beginning of 1950s. I was then a child of about six or seven years. While dwelling on the topic, I should mention that I may not be able to identify the house of Number-25 Basubazar Lane if I look at it now. The picture that was originally ingrained in my heart does not resemble the Basubazar Lane of today. I have witnessed my childhood, adolescence and the incomparable affluence of a wild, lively youth from that house of Basubazar Lane.



If I close my eyes, I can still visualise myself roaming around in that neighbourhood during grey foggy days or in the middle of night. There was a railway line that ran beside the western boundary of 'Shakti Oushadhalay' factory. The trains used to ply from Dhaka's Phulbaria Station to Narayanganj via Gandaria with a rattling sound. That boy used to run with all his might towards the railway-line the moment he heard the whistle of train. Sometimes he looked on with amazement at the row of small train-windows. While looking at the people who were caught in those frames, the boy thought to himself that he would never see those people again. Sometimes, he used to sing by synchronising his voice with the sound of the engine: 'Shall go to Dhaka, and devour humans; shall go to Dhaka, and devour humans'. It seemed to him that the train was moving with tremendous speed by uttering such vicious words. An eye that was set atop the engine's front appeared like a one-eyed monster mentioned in the tale of Sindbad. There was a chimney on its neck, and black smoke of coal gushed out of it and flew in the opposite direction; the smoke then faded by spreading in all directions. Following the departure of the train, that boy used to touch the rail-line to gauge its temperature generated by friction. He put his ear on the line to listen to the train's rattling sound for estimating its distance from the spot. He had so many games to play on the railway-line, such as, counting the number of lines he walked on; arranging pieces of rocks on the lines to test the accuracy of his hand in hitting; occasionally determining the train's speed by holding a finger before his eyes! I heard that dead people used to be thrown out of the train's doors during the riot of 1950s after they were cut to pieces. It was said that the skeletons of those people could be found in the jungles adjacent to the rail-lines. We had a 'Jyatha-moshai' (elder uncle) in our neighbourhood. The shop of Brajahari used to stand exactly opposite to our Number-25 Basubazar residence. I shall return to the subject of Brajahari later on. Let me now dwell on Jyatha-moshai.

He had spherical spectacles on his eyes. His eyes seemed to be popping out from the other side through the heavy glasses; he had white prickly beards, a bald head, and almost empty row of teeth. His skin appeared to be hanging from his body; there were clear signs of poverty on the facial marks; he had a burnt physique and his dress (dhoti or loin-cloth) was raised up to the knee. He used to make broom-sticks by cutting bamboo. Then those were tied with strings. I used to visit this Jyatha-moshai almost every noon. I used to go there by avoiding the mid-day naps and evading the eyes of elders in the house. He used to live in the outer room of the single-storey skeletal red house beside Brajahari's shop. Jyatha-moshai could tell stories accompanied by physical gestures. Sometimes the stories were of tigers, sometimes of ghosts, and sometimes of kings. How wonderfully he narrated the tales of Ramayana and Mahabharata! It seemed to me that I could see everything before my eyes: Rama was going for an exile of fourteen years, Dasharatha was becoming sick, Manthara was whispering into the ears of Kaikeyi. I could also visualise the game of Pasha played by Shokuni Mama, the chariot-ride of Arjuna, Sri Krishna Sarathi. This Jyatha-moshai also spoke about the rail-line: none should walk over this line alone at night! Those who died after being over-run by train, or those who died due to fatal accidents walked at night on those railway lines! I was quite thrilled when Jyatha-moshai narrated his tales.

When the times declined on the shoulder of evenings after crossing noon and afternoons, Jyatha-moshai appeared to me to be one of those who roamed at night on the railway line. My physique used to freeze out of fear, but I still



IMMORTAL EKUSHEY

Martyrs' Day & International Mother Language Day

went to him due to a strange attraction. Smilingly, he made me sit by his side whenever I went. There was arrangement for cooking on the back-side of that house. There were various types of boxes, bottles, tins, jars, and many other things at that place! Jyatha-moshai used to bring two 'Batasha' (sweets) for me from there. If there were no sweets, then he used to put at least some sugar on my palm. Then after talking about different things, he used to enter the kingdom of stories at some point. I shall return to the subject of Jyatha-moshai later on. Now it is the turn of Brajahari's shop.

Maybe Brajahari's shop did not have numerous commodities. But many goods were also available there. I was never concerned about all the items. My eyes used to focus only on the rows of jars in front. They contained lozenges, sweets, and a type of Sandesh (sweetmeat made from posset). They tasted wonderful. While opening his shop in the morning, Brajahari used to scatter a basket of puffed rice on the road and rooftop of the shop, and called in a melodious voice - Come, come... Then a flock of crows would come down. The more the gathering of crows, the more would there be customers on the day. Brajahari's shop was inaugurated daily with such a weird belief. My childhood and adolescent days began by witnessing such scenes routinely on a daily basis.

Our home was dreadfully silent one morning in February. We were reading our textbooks as in every other day. Mother and aunts were sitting on the compound to slice vegetables for cooking. The males had gone out of the house. Father went to office, the brothers to their work. I was playing with the wheels of a cycle. What was the time then? Hardly 11 or 11.30 a.m.! The elders in the house were discussing during the previous night that something terrible might happen on the following day. Therefore, none should travel to town. But nobody heeded that warning after father had gone to office. News came towards 11.30 a.m. Shots were fired at the students on the university campus. Everybody's face went pale. People were worried about those who had gone out. There was no way one could know. Nobody told me about the firing; I was also not of that age. I was only guessing by looking at others' faces. I did not know who had passed on that information. I only saw the shadows of anxiety and sorrow on those faces. Mother told me: Don't do anything naughty, and don't venture outside the house. I was also cautioned that the police might take me away if I went out. There were thousands of questions in my mind: Why would the police take me away, why should they fire? How did the police look like? I was earlier told about the appearances of the police - they wore khaki half-pant and half-shirt; they had round and red eyes below thick and dense eyebrows; they had caps on the head. Father used to say, the police would severely beat up those who were naughty. After that, I could easily be made to keep quiet by citing the peril of the police. But at that juncture, innumerable questions were being raised inside my head: Why did the police fire? Were the students doing anything naughty? All inhabitants of the house were conversing with a serious face, and I was trying to find answers to my questions by looking at their mouths.

Many people from the neighbourhood then arrived at our house in search of news. One of my maternal uncles (mama) suddenly came in. He was also carrying the news of firing. The vague words that were circulating around till then finally took a concrete shape. Getting tired, my mama sat down on the steps and sought a glass of water. There was excitement among the females in the household. Some brought water for him. Some brought sweets made of puffed rice on a plate. I was listening to them while driving a wheel on the compound. I could gather that the police were not allowing the students to come out on the roads. But the police opened fire when the students did not obey their order; some were even taken away. After this, the vehicles stopped plying on the roads; many people brought out processions. I was looking at the faces, and a strange pain was piling up inside me. Why should the police open fire? Won't the person shot get killed! Why should he die? While telling me a story a few days ago, one of my brothers told me that the students wanted to speak in Bangla, call their mothers 'ma'; the police were angry with them because of that. I asked myself: What should I do? I could not speak any other language; and could not call my mother in any other way. Without knowing the details, it seemed to me that the students were doing the right thing; but I was not old enough then to judge what was right, or what was wrong. When my father was speaking about the firing incidents at noon on that day, the seven year-old restless child inside me was craving to do something immediately. But some pairs of alert eyes were guarding me. I could not fathom what I should do.

A tremendous restlessness was crushing me from inside. Suddenly I rushed out of the house by evading all eyes, crossed the boundary, and hit the road. Then I ran through the alleyway of Basubazar and reached the road-crossing. There, the rickshaw driver Shukur Mia was sitting in front of the Pathshala (school) of Pandit Jaggeswar. He was waiting for a passenger while sitting on his seat - putting one foot over the other. Without allowing him any time, I immediately punctured the tyre of the rickshaw's right wheel. Shukur Mia gave out a cry. By that time, my mama, one of my cousins and a few other people arrived on the scene. They carried me home by lifting me up on their hands. There was a black rectangular paper on my mama's chest. On it was written, 'We want state language Bangla'. Before my very eyes, that black paper suddenly started to grow in size, became huge, and then covered the entire sky - the whole world. And those words on that paper began to dance before my eyes by becoming incredibly powerful. I then covered my eyes with my two hands. Remaining captive in mama's hands and oscillating on his lap, I was moving towards that small-sized prison of sorts at Number-25 Basubazar Lane.

TWO

I am divulging a small piece of information here. I got it from the repository of my affectionate junior Mujtaba Soud. I express my indebtedness to him for this. The incident was of 1971, when the Pakistani invading forces had swooped on the innocent Bangali Nation with ultra-modern lethal weapons in the darkness of night.

The shooting of a Hindi cinema was in progress at Mumbai then. A few thousand watts of light had illuminated the studio. Some photographers were sitting with their fingers on the shutters of the cameras. The sound-recorder, director, and producer were waiting anxiously. They were in fact waiting breathlessly - when would she arrive? The heroine entered the studio soon afterwards. But she wore no make-up, her face was saddened, and her looks exhibited sorrow, resentment, and vulnerability. She muttered vaguely - 'pack up'. She did not speak to anyone, but only searched for a journalist named Subrata Bandopadhyay. At that time, Mumbai boasted of top-class artistes from the Indian filmdom. The heroine was quite insistent. She informed everyone about the crackdown of the Pakistanis on the innocent-unarmed Bangalis. That heroine who was terribly upset by the news of that dark night, who called on the Indian artistes and technicians of film industry for halting the shooting of cinemas, who made a clarion call to stand by the disaster-struck Bangalis in the face of barbaric assault by the Pakistani forces coupled with most despicable brutality in history was none other than the legendary actress Waheeda Rehman. She was born in this month of February.

Not only Waheeda Rehman, none of the Indian artistes, writers, poets, litterateurs, drama artistes and painters were aloof from this. The whole of India roared out against the horrendous scorching of humanism on that night. The key linkage was their commitment to stand up against any kind of assault on languages and cultures.

Through the language movement of February, the whole of mankind was given a message: There is no alternative to resistance and unity for combating the evil force that acted against mother languages, cultural rights and heritages of humans, the ideals of a nation, and the flourishing of modern consciousness. It is not right to paint the language movement of 1952 as merely a day of protests. Deprivations, exploitations, repression, class conflicts over a long period push mankind to the threshold of eruption. The movement of 1952 was similarly an explosion that was consolidated bit by bit. If we look at the history of mankind, we can realize this truth - a system evolved over time, the empire and emperor arrived, humanity observed the bragging of the powerful. Many ups and downs, ascents and descents occurred over the canvas of time. But even then, the struggles of mankind have prevailed.

THREE

Just as the play 'Hamlet' cannot be staged without the Prince of Denmark, similarly the history of language movement, or the search for the ethos of the Bangali nation, the long struggles, and the history of the Bangali nation's honour cannot be retraced without mentioning the greatest Bangali of all time - Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as that narrative would amount to a denial of history. His life implied the history of Bangalis, the emergence of a nation-state and its annals of struggles, the birth and flourishing of a national ethos on this globe. Therefore, we salute with reverence that massiveness where the amazement of a budding teenager while viewing the sky and the holistic journey of our language movement gets fully dissolved. Joy Bangla.

(The writer is editor of Dainik Jagoran, and chief editor of Dainik Kalbela.)

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
08 Falgun 1429
21 February 2023
Message

On the occasion of the great Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day, I pay my homage to the people of all languages and cultures of the world, including Bengali. UNESCO and Bangladesh have been jointly celebrating this day with due dignity since 2000. This year's theme of the day- 'multilingual education- a necessity to transform education'- which I think is perfect.

The importance of the language movement in the history of the Bengali liberation struggle is immense. The foundation for a non-communal, democratic, language-based state system was laid through this movement. On this day in 1952, Abul Barkat, Abdul Jabbar, Abdus Salam, Rafiquddin Ahmad, Shafiqur Rahman, and many others sacrificed their lives to protect the dignity of our mother language Bengali. I pay my profound respects to the memory of the martyrs of all languages, including Bengali; I remember with deep tribute all the language movement activists, including the Greatest Bangali of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose supreme sacrifices and struggle elevated the esteem of our mother, land, and people.

The glorious history of the language movement of the Bengali from 1947 to 1952 is a source of inspiration in our national life from time and again. The Father of the Nation was repeatedly imprisoned for leading the language movement. At the Education Conference held in Karachi on 27 November 1947, Urdu was decided to be the state language of Pakistan. When the news reached Dhaka, the students of Dhaka University immediately protested in front of Khawaja Nazimuddin's residence. Shortly afterward, Sheikh Mujib, a law student at Dhaka University, used his organizational experience to play a vital role in establishing the Chhatra League in Dhaka on 4 January 1948. In the first session of the Constituent Assembly on 23 February, Dhirendranath Datta of Comilla moved an amendment proposal demanding the inclusion of Bengali as the language of the Assembly. Rejecting the proposal, Khawaja Nazimuddin declared in the Legislative Assembly that the people of East Bengal would accept Urdu as the state language. But to counter the reckless decision of Nazimuddin, an all-party Chhatra Sangram Parishad was formed on 2 March at Fazlul Haque Hall of Dhaka University comprising Chhatra League, Tamaddun Majlish, and other parties. Many language movement activists, including Sheikh Mujib, were arrested in front of the Secretariat for leading the strike on 11 March and were released on 15 March. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led a rally under the historic mango tree at Dhaka University. On 21 March, Jinnah spoke out boastfully in favor of Urdu at the Dhaka Racecourse Ground. While declaring Urdu as the state language of Pakistan at the students' convocation on 24 March at Curzon Hall, the students immediately protested.

To transform the language movement into a national campaign, Sheikh Mujib organized a nationwide tour plan and participated in an extensive campaign, and addressed in rallies. He was arrested from Faridpur on 11 September 1948 and released on 21 January 1949. He was arrested again on 19 April and released in July. He was detained again on 14 October 1949 and released on 27 February 1952. Sheikh Mujib had been in touch with language movement activists and Chhatra League leaders from 1 January 1950 while in Dhaka Central Jail and had given various suggestions to add momentum to the movement. He sent memos to the three messengers on 3 February 1952 to call for a nationwide strike on 21 February. The jail authorities shifted Sheikh Mujib from Dhaka to Faridpur Jail on 16 February while he went on a hunger strike.

The budgetary session of the East Bengal Executive Council was scheduled on 21 February 1952. Following the advice and instructions of Sheikh Mujib, a general strike was called all over the country on that day. Students violated Section-144, and the police started firing bullets indiscriminately; some lost their lives in the blink of an eye, many were injured, and many were arrested. A strike was observed on 22 February.

In 1956, the Awami League constituted the cabinet, declared Bengali the status of the state language, announced 21 February as Martyr's Day for the first time, declared it a public holiday and took project to construct the Martyr's Monument. Unfortunately, those aspirations were no longer fulfilled with the military takeover on 7 October 1958.

The Father of the Nation in independent Bangladesh directed Bengali in all official activities. He included Bengali as the state language in the constitution. He delivered a speech at the United Nation's 29th General Assembly in Bengali and upheld the dignity of our mother language in the world assembly. During Awami League Government's 1996-2001 term, Rafiq and Salam, two Bangladeshi expatriates from Canada, along with some members of the international community, formed the 'Mother Language Preservation Committee'. They sent a proposal to the United Nations to celebrate International Mother Language Day on 21 February. UNESCO recognized 21 February as 'International Mother Language Day' on 17 November 1999. We have established the International Mother Language Institute. We have taken initiatives to preserve the world's endangered languages and protect their dignity. We have ensured the use of the Bengali language in the ICT. Since 2017, we have been distributing Braille books for the visually impaired and textbooks in the mother tongues of the ethnic groups free of charge.

Bengali nationalism was established through the language movement. Following the ideals of Bengali nationalism and the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, we have made Bangladesh a role model for development in the world in the last 14 years. We will transform the country into Smart Bangladesh by 2041- building Smart Citizen, Smart Government, Smart Economy, and Smart Society. In addition, we are also implementing Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100. I firmly believe that we will be able to establish the developed, prosperous, and self-esteemed 'Golden Bangladesh' as the Father of the Nation dreamed.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

Wings of Ekushey

Asad Mannan

We remain in wait for a whole year with so much emotion
When shall Ekushey arrive - play that song for the nation?
The song in which motherly affection speaks with river's voice:

In deep embrace with the beauty, fragrance, elixir of heart
Inside the ethereal soul that exists in the depths of spirit
Clusters of sound shall coalesce, chain of words will be freed:
He who has no language is deaf and dumb,
His eyes don't differentiate between light and dark.

What magical mantra did the pledge of Ekushey have!
The Bangali a nation of heroes, humanity shines in his blood
Never bows down to the bragging of rogues and villains -
Treading the path of Fifty-two - a river of blood in Seventy-one -
Floated the boat of freedom like the vessel of Noah;
Just as Rabindranath had filled his boat of gold
With piles of golden rice, the words' ambrosia of dreams -
From state to state, from ages to this endless age -
It echoes even now; and shall echo till eternity!
The clouds thunder in sky, so many disasters ahead -
"Where are the youths? Move ahead - the future beckons,
This perilous storm must be crossed, the boat taken to shore!"
Bangali! You have no other course open except the boat.

Twenty-first is no more a mere date now -
It is our lamp of glory lit with the fire of blood;
Crossing the hurdles of evil on the luminous chariot of this lamp
The cuckoo is singing while flying with the wings of Ekushey:
Ekush is the jewel on my head, Ekush is my necklace,
Today I give this gift of Ekushey to the entire world.

Translation: Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed

EU imposes new Myanmar sanctions

AFP, Brussels

The EU yesterday imposed asset freezes and visa bans on Myanmar's energy minister, influential businessmen and high-ranking military officers, over an ongoing crackdown on opponents two years after a coup.

The new batch of European Union sanctions hit nine individuals and seven entities tied to the ruling regime.

The move by the 27-nation bloc followed similar sanctions from the US and Britain around the second anniversary of the military coup that launched a violent campaign against democracy activists.

PROTECTION OF SEAS UN to try anew to finish treaty

AFP, United Nations

UN member states yesterday opened two weeks of negotiations aimed at finally reaching a treaty meant to protect and preserve vast areas of the world's oceans.

After more than 15 years of formal and informal talks, this will be the third time in less than a year that negotiators converge on New York in what, yet again, is supposed to be a final and conclusive round.

But on the eve of the talks, set to run through March 3, cautious optimism appears to be taking hold, encouraged by a historic agreement reached in Montreal in December during the UN's COP15 conference on biodiversity.

Countries then committed themselves to protecting 30 percent of the world's lands and seas by 2030. "We're optimistic the COP15 biodiversity agreement will provide the shot in the arm needed for governments to get this important agreement over the line," Pepe Clarke, Oceans Practice Leader for WWF International, said.



Ukrainian honour guard walks past the Wall of Remembrance for the Deceased for Ukraine as US president visits Ukrainian president for a meeting in Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

REPORT OF GUNFIRE Main Afghan-Pak border crossing closed

REUTERS, Kabul

Taliban authorities have closed the main border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan, an Afghan official said yesterday, and residents in the area reported the sound of gunfire near the normally bustling border transit point.

A Taliban provincial information official said the Torkham border crossing was closed for all trade and travellers. Disputes linked to the 2,600 km border have been a bone of contention between the neighbours for decades.

Indian EC should be dissolved Says Shiv Sena President Uddhav Thackeray

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A key regional party of India yesterday demanded the Election Commission "should be dissolved" and said election commissioners should be elected by the people, two days after losing the name and symbol of the Shiv Sena, the party founded by his father Bal Thackeray. The remarks by Shiv Sena President and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray at a press conference in Mumbai came days after the Election Commission allotted the 'bow and arrow' symbol and Shiv Sena name to Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde's faction of the party saying the latter is the "real Shiv Sena." Uddhav alleged there a pre-planned conspiracy to steal Shiv Sena's name and symbol. "There is not a single instance where the party name and symbol were directly given to one faction," he said.

OCCUPIED WEST BANK Israel won't authorise new settlements

Netanyahu's office tells US; UNSC dismayed by Israel's settlement plan

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel will not authorise new settlements in the occupied West Bank in the coming months, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said yesterday.

Netanyahu's religious-nationalist coalition on February 12 granted retroactive authorisation to nine settler outposts that had been erected without government approval, angering the Palestinians, who want the West Bank for a future state.

The move also drew condemnation from Western powers and Israel's Arab partners, who deem all the settlements illegal.

But the United Arab Emirates told the UN Security Council it would not call a vote on a draft resolution against the settlements. Citing "positive talks between the partners", UAE said the council would instead issue a unanimous statement.

Meanwhile, The UN Security Council issued a formal statement yesterday expressing "deep concern and dismay" with Israel's February 12 announcement of further construction and expansion of settlements on occupied



Palestinian territory.

"The Security Council reiterates that continuing Israeli settlement activities are dangerously imperiling the viability of the two-State solution based on the 1967 lines," the 15-member council said in the presidential statement agreed by consensus.

Israel has sponsored some 140 settlements in the West Bank, which it sees as a historical birthright and a security bulwark, while dismantling or turning a blind eye to dozens of outposts.

"Israel informed the United States that, in the coming months, it will not authorise new settlements beyond the nine already approved," said the statement from Netanyahu's office.

On Saturday, Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Netanyahu and separately with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, reaffirming US support for a "two-state solution" in the region and asking the two to "restore calm."

Blinken spoke by telephone with both men to reaffirm US commitment to "a negotiated two-state solution and opposition to policies that endanger its viability," State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

অমর একুশে

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে
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It is the United States and not China that is endlessly shipping weapons to the battlefield.
China's foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin rejects US claim it may arm Russia

LANDSLIDES At least 36 killed in Brazil

AFP, Sao Paulo

Flooding and landslides triggered by torrential rain in Brazil claimed at least 36 lives on Carnival weekend in southeast Sao Paulo state, authorities said Sunday.

TV and social media footage from the town of Sao Sebastiao showed entire neighborhoods under water, debris from hillside houses swept away by oozing earth, flooded highways and cars destroyed by fallen trees, among other damage.

At least 35 people died in Sao Sebastiao, the state government said. A girl was also killed in the town of Ubatuba, news reports said.

"Unfortunately, we are going to have many more deaths," the state civil defense chief, Henguel Pereira, told the newspaper Folha de Sao Paulo.

Another 228 people were left homeless and 338 were evacuated in the coastal region north of the city of Sao Paulo, the state government said earlier, as rescue crews raced to help those hit by the storm.

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অদম্য শক্তিতে
আমর একুশে

মহান শহীদ দিবস ও
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে
সকল ভাষাসংগ্রামীকে
স্মরণ করছি সশ্রদ্ধায়।

আল-আরাফাহ্
ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিঃ

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আল-আরাফাহ্ ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Al-Arafah Islamic Bank Limited
সংগঠিত

ইসলামী ব্যাংক
বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড
ইসলামী শরী'আহ মোতাবেক পরিচালিত

আমর একুশে

মহান শহীদ দিবস ও
আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে
ভাষাসৈনিকদের জানাই বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা

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Govt high officials' routine disregard for court orders

It is a clear breach of our constitution, and should be punished

The High Court's frustration at government high officials for not complying with its orders, as well as its decision to refuse to hear a contempt of court petition against a secretary, is well-justified. An HC bench on Sunday said it was "fed up" with the fact that many of the court's orders remained unimplemented, despite the court passing them for the welfare of the country. The bench further stated that government high officials do not pay heed to the court's orders and, ultimately, without their proper implementation, these orders will end up in the trash. The HC bench also rightly observed that government officials display a degree of annoyance if they are summoned to appear before the court in connection with contempt of court petitions, despite being bound as per the constitution to comply with the court's orders – something that another HC bench had previously observed.

The HC bench made the remarks after the placing of a contempt of court petition against the secretary of environment, forest and climate change. In 2013, 23 individuals submitted an application to the environment ministry secretary to reinstate them to their jobs in a ministry project. As the secretary did not respond to their application, the Apex court in 2019 directed the secretary to dispose of the application within a month, following a writ petition. As the application was still not disposed of despite the court ruling, a contempt of court petition was filed with the HC last year.

This is the second time this month that the Hight Court has expressed its frustration with officials at the environment ministry. On February 5, an HC bench rebuked and expressed severe annoyance at the Department of Environment under the environment ministry for failing to take any effective steps to curb air pollution in Dhaka, despite repeated directives. And it observed that citizens were literally being "killed" by such inaction.

However, it is not just the environment ministry that is at fault here. Over the years, we have seen a tendency developing among government authorities to disobey orders of the Supreme Court, as no punishment was handed down for non-compliance with its orders.

The government and other authorities are bound to implement every directive of the Supreme Court, as it is binding on all, according to Article III of the Constitution. Article 112 of the Constitution also says that, "All authorities, executive and judicial, in the Republic shall act in aid of the Supreme Court."

A clear message should be sent to all government officials – particularly of the executive branch – that they are not above the law, as they seem to think they are. This idea that public servants are a "different class of people," as argued by the Attorney General back in November 2022, must be shunned for any substantive change to occur. Such display of clear disobedience to court orders needs to be followed up with severe punishment. The court could, perhaps, suo motu ask the relevant authorities to submit a report of how many court directives in total have been disregarded over the years, and opt for harsher measures.

Gulshan fire a wake-up call

How many hundreds of establishments are at risk?

We express our sorrow at the deaths of two persons who succumbed to the injuries they sustained during the Sunday night fire that broke out in a residential building in the capital's Gulshan area. We also hope for the speedy recovery of those who are still under treatment. The several fire service units and others working in the rescue mission during that night must be commended for being able to douse the fire by 11pm and averting a much bigger disaster. But this incident has brought to light the need for building developers, owners, and government authorities to review whether the increasing number of high-rises in the country are maintaining necessary measures against such fire incidents.

Fire safety for high-rise buildings is a two-pronged practice: internal and institutional. Internally, there should be fire safety measures in place such as fire extinguishers, separate fire exits, hose cabinet systems, etc. There are ample laws and rules – from the Fire Service and Civil Defence (FSCD) and from Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) – which direct how these fire safety measures must be put in place. However, according to a 2020 study by the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, 96 percent of the establishments under Rajuk's jurisdiction have been constructed deviating from the designs which had been approved by authorities. Rajuk, too, has been accused of not overseeing buildings before, during, and after their construction as it is supposed to do – to say nothing of the allegations against the organisation of taking bribes to approve buildings even when they have flouted the initial design plans. In 2019, Rajuk's own survey of 1,818 high-rises (over 10 storeys) in Dhaka city found that at least 63 percent lacked adequate or any fire safety measures.

Once a large-scale fire breaks out, all eyes are usually on the fire service units to demand that they douse the fire as soon as possible. But it must also be investigated whether the tens of thousands of establishments in our cities follow the outlined fire safety rules that apply to them. It is also crucial that building owners and buyers of flats themselves are aware of these fire safety rules and the specific design requirements. Additionally, residents themselves must be educated on what to do to not only prevent fires (such as turning off gas sources when not in use and checking for loose ends in electric connections), but also the steps to take to save themselves and others if a fire does break out.

In the case of Sunday's Gulshan incident, as of writing this editorial, fire service officials are primarily suspecting that a short circuit in the elevator sparked the fire, which then spread quickly due to the plywood floor of the elevator. We hope that further investigation will reveal how this fire could have been prevented. We also urge the relevant government authorities to take this incident as a wake-up call and be stricter when it comes to ensuring the implementation of fire safety measures in establishments. As we have seen too often, building owners'/developers' tendency to cut corners by not accommodating fire safety and certain authorities' willingness to allow this can spell tragedy for many innocent people.

Whatever happened to Bengali being our state language?



Anu Muhammad is a professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University.

ANU MUHAMMAD

In the month of February, there's a lot of discourse around the Bengali language and literature. We see people from across the country – from Dhaka to rural areas – paying their respects to the martyrs of the Language Movement in numerous Shaheed Minars. There's a renaissance of memories, and on February 21, we get to discuss our sense of consideration, our thoughts, the ins and outs of our fight in a new light. Ekushey means not bowing our heads – that is the prevailing motto of February 21.

In the intellectual world, asking questions is the norm. The Language Movement is intimately related to the language, thoughts, and society's anti-discriminatory politics, culture, and ideals. The fight was against the persecution of a nation, and the slogan was, "We want the state language to be Bengali." Over time, the spirit was cultivated, the fight against discrimination and for freedom was fought, and that culminated to the Mass Uprising. Since then, 50 years have passed, and now we must ask the question: what happened to Bengali becoming the state language?

According to the constitution, Bengali is the state language of Bangladesh. But looking at what the state has been doing – Bangladesh's five-year plan, the state fuel policy, its 100-year delta plan, its health policy, and policies related to water resources or communication – none of it is in Bangla. All of it is in English. All the research that is being conducted about Bangladesh's people and rivers, about the state of women in this country or the eradication of poverty, are in English. Decisions are being made and contracts are being signed on Bangladesh's resources with multinational companies and foreign countries – to take on foreign debt, for example – in English.

Even those who know English find it difficult to obtain these contracts and agreements, and they have to work really hard to understand these documents. These documents not being available in Bangla means that they are detached from the people of Bangladesh. And this leads to the people of Bangladesh not knowing what is being done with their lives, with their resources, or how their future is being decided. They don't know what the government is saying about them at international forums, what promises are being made, and what sort of contracts are being signed that affect their lives and resources.

It is being said that the state language is Bengali, but there is no



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

usage of Bengali by the state, and it is being pushed to the periphery. When it comes to the languages of indigenous peoples, the situation is even worse – they are being pushed even further to the periphery. What the state should have done right after independence was undertaking efforts to maintain communication with the knowledge creation and creative processes around the world. This communication can't be limited to those with the privilege, resources and international connections to do so; its access needs to be on a national scale, given to everyone.

To ensure these things, there should have been a massive push towards translating everything to the prominent language in the country: Bengali. Textbooks needed to be printed in Bengali on a massive scale. An institutional mechanism needed to be put in place where any practice of knowledge across the world is translated to Bengali as soon as it's created. Universal education should have been ensured in Bengali.

But at the same time, it has to be ensured that everyone knows and understands English because of its global acceptance. Other languages should also be taught and learnt. But one of the main objectives after the Liberation War should have been to

ensure the institutional processes were such that the practice of knowledge for all was available in their mother tongue, Bengali for Bengalis, and the same for people of indigenous communities. This was not done.

When February 21 became International Mother Language Day, the prominent mother tongue of this region, Bengali, was in a state of

spread, that it is controlled by a small number of people so that they can exert influence.

All the scholars that this country has ever seen, starting from Rabindranath Tagore to Dr Md Shahidullah, or even world-famous scientists such as Satyendra Nath Bose or Dr Qudrat-i-Khuda, have said that if the mother

extreme neglect. Bengali had no place in seminars, symposiums, education, healthcare, courthouses or government policy. There was no place for Bengali in the training of administration officers. The Bangla Academy needed to be a strong institution to lobby the state to do what was required. But their contribution and responsibilities have shrunk to such an extent that they have strayed far away from taking on these tasks. The directors of this institution are now engaged in a competition of servility, or wanting to please the government. This sort of competition has led to the Bangla Academy taking permission from police about displaying books at the book fair that may contain criticism of the government or may be provocative in some way.

So, in the month of February, we have to take a closer look at things. We have Shaheed Minars in this country; they are there so we can gather the strength to review things closely. Our young generation will see what their lives and futures are amounting to. They can examine what sort of state they have in front of them. A state that has detached everyone from its promise of a state language. There is such a gap in the levels of knowledge that like wealth, it too is being hoarded by a select few. There is an ongoing process to make sure knowledge is not

tongue is not the basis for a person, their breadth of knowledge cannot expand to its fullest. This is what is happening to our nation.

There is so much excitement about Bengali to be seen on television and at the Shaheed Minars in February, but other than poetry, literature, stories and novels, there is little to be said about philosophy, sociology or science being published in Bengali. The commercialisation and privatisation of education and culture and the neglect of Bengali – almost pushing it into a state where it has no space in our lives – are happening in tandem.

So, what needs to be done now is to pose these questions at the Shaheed Minars and other programmes that are being held in February.

The Bangla Academy is currently in a woeful state. That must change. The obstacles in the way of people's ownership of this country must be eradicated. When we are reminiscing the memories of 1952, we should look to the future and talk about the determination, the promise, and the plans to change this situation.

Transcribed and translated by Azmin Azran.

United in diversity

The United Nations country office congratulates Bangladesh on International Mother Language Day

Gwyn Lewis is UN resident coordinator in Bangladesh.
Dr Susan Vize is officer-in-charge of Unesco Dhaka office.

GWYN LEWIS and SUSAN VIZE

On February 21, we mark International Mother Language Day, a celebration of the world's linguistic and socio-cultural diversity. We are particularly honoured to mark this day here in Bangladesh as this day is also a worldwide tribute to the people of this country who have courageously fought for recognition of the Bangla language.

To commemorate the Bangladeshi martyrs who sacrificed their lives on this very day in 1952, the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) unanimously proclaimed February 21 as International Mother Language Day in 1999. This is a significant contribution of Bangladesh to the world. On this day, we mark our linguistic and cultural diversity, the core of our identity, and aim "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world."

Looking back at history, it is important to reflect on the significance of Mother Language Day to respect and protect all languages of the world. Unfortunately, about every

two weeks a language disappears, and when a language disappears, the entire world loses a part of its traditions, memories, and experiences that make our societies so culturally and intellectually diverse.

According to recent Unesco estimates, at least 43 percent of more than 6,000 languages spoken in the world are endangered. Due to globalisation processes, many languages, particularly indigenous ones, are on the verge of extinction. As fewer than a hundred of the world's languages are used in the digital world, and only a few hundred widely-spoken languages have been taught in schools, this trend is likely to increase in the future.

To tackle this, UN agencies encourage multilingual education to be based on the mother tongue or first language. This not only serves to keep languages alive, but has a range of additional benefits in terms of learning outcomes. To emphasise the importance of this, last year was the beginning of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032).

This decade highlights the revival and promotion of indigenous and mother-tongue languages. Preserving language is at the heart of preserving identity, culture and diversity, and hence the

Embracing and protecting our linguistic diversity must be reinforced by not allowing anyone to use language as a tool to provoke conflicts and any forms of discrimination. It is important to respect all languages: big and small, widely and less spoken, indigenous and foreign.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In Bangladesh, the Bangla language is flourishing. Events such as the annual Ekushey Book Fair promote writing and reading in Bangla. The development of educational resource materials for teaching at primary grades in Bangladesh's indigenous languages has started, initially with the five languages

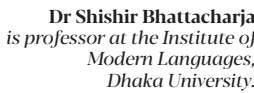
of Chakma, Garo, Marma, Sadri, and Tripura. Additional languages will be added each year to eventually cover all the languages of the country.

On February 21, we remember the Bangla Language Movement martyrs Abdus Salam, Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, Abul Barkat, Abdul Jabbar, and Ohiiullah for sacrificing their lives to speak their mother tongues. We should not forget the significance of this day.

Embracing and protecting our linguistic diversity must be reinforced by not allowing anyone to use language as a tool to provoke conflicts and any forms of discrimination. It is important to respect all languages: big and small, widely and less spoken, indigenous and foreign. The diversity of languages is vital in intercultural dialogue to build inclusive societies.

On behalf of the staff of the United Nations in Bangladesh, representing hundreds of foreign and indigenous languages of different states and parts of the country from Teknaf to Panchagarh, we wish the people of Bangladesh a happy International Mother Language Day. The day the country courageously fought for, and the legacy of which should not be forgotten.

Happy International Mother Language Day!



SHISHIR BHATTACHARJA

Bangladesh, a former British colony, inherited English as its official language. English nowadays is the most widely used lingua franca, and, therefore, we must put

Unfortunately, in Bangladesh, verdicts given in Bengali are still rare. Private universities claim with much pride that their medium of instruction is English. Even Dhaka University, which is known for having led the Language Movement in the 1950s, prefers English as its medium of instruction and communication.

Rather than using English as the medium of instruction, it can be taught and learnt as a language like French or Chinese. English needs to



We may teach English in schools, but we cannot expect Bangladesh to ever become an English-speaking nation. There are natural constraints to learning English in Bangladesh. Children who are born and brought

in Bangladesh, verdicts given in Bengali are still rare. Private universities claim with much pride that their medium of instruction is English. Even Dhaka University, which is known for having led the Language Movement in the 1950s,

The ultimate goal of the Language Movement (1947-1952) was to compel the authorities to recognise Bengali, the mother tongue of the majority, as one of the official languages of Pakistan. The reason behind the movement

As with most issues in Bangladesh, the question of language has never been handled with enough care and wisdom. Each year, during the month of February, a considerable amount of crocodile tears is shed for the Bengali language. But since the very first day of March, washing its hands (like Pontius Pilate after pronouncing the death sentence to Jesus), our beloved nation marches in a completely opposite direction.

Did the IU authorities take BCL assaulters' side?



GOLAM MORTOZA

"She clarified her position and sought security. She also refuted the

The most rudimentary question is this: if the authorities of a university, instead of taking actions against the misdeeds of the ruling party's student wing, lean on their side, would probe committees bring true results? When will BCL's torture of common students stop?

"They claim so. In any case, I don't know how Phulpori even moved into

Note that the torture of a newly admitted student coming from a poor family started on February 12 afternoon. The provost said he informed the proctorial body about this on February 13 afternoon, whereas the proctor claimed that he came to know about it on February 14 day's end. This anomaly in their statements is noticeable. Also, the

How likely is it that the truth will be revealed? We can't comment before the investigation is over. However, given our past experiences with such probe committees, not

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
www.police.gov.bd

International Tender Notice

Date: 20/02/2023

Memo No. 44.01.0000.024.02.011.2022.216

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Breeders/Principals/Suppliers/Local Agents in their official pad for supplying of Dogs as required by Bangladesh Police in fiscal year 2022-2023.

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2.	Agency	Police Headquarters, Dhaka.
3.	Head of procuring entity	Inspector General, Bangladesh Police.
4.	Invitation for	Purchasing of Dog.
5.	Invitation Ref. No.	44.01.0000.024.02.011.2022/01(2022-23).
6.	Date	20 February 2023.

KEY INFORMATION

7.	Procurement method	One stage two envelop.
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FUNDING INFORMATION

8.	Budget and source of fund	GOB Revenue.
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9.	Tender publication date	21 February 2023.
10.	Last selling date	05 April 2023.
11.	Closing date and time	06 April 2023 at 12.00hrs.
12.	Opening date and time	06 April 2023 at 12.30hrs.
13.	Name & address of the office	Addl. DIG (Transport), 3rd Floor, NCCOM Centre, Police Headquarters, Phoenix Road, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000.
	Place of selling/receiving/opening tender document	3rd Floor, NCCOM Centre, Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
14.	Date and time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	07/03/2023 at 15.00pm, Office Room, Addl. DIG (Transport), 3rd Floor, NCCOM Centre, PHQ, Dhaka.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

15.	Eligibility of tenderer	(i) Up-to-date trade license (ii) Up-to-date income tax certificate (iii) VAT registration certificate (iv) Other requirements described in the Standard Tender Document (PG-4).		
16.	Brief description of goods			
	Identification of Item	Tender security amount in BDT or equivalent	Price of tender document (BDT)	Completion time
	Dog	5,00,000.00	3,000.00	180 days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

17.	Name of official inviting tender	Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM.
18.	Designation and address of the official inviting tenderer	Addl. DIG (Transport), 3rd Floor, NCCOM Centre, Police Headquarters, Dhaka-1000.
19.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88 02 223384779, E-mail: addldigtrans@police.gov.bd
20.	Special instruction	
a.	No tender will be received after the deadline of submission.	
b.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all/any tenders or annul the tender proceeding without causing any reason.	
c.	The procuring entity also reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of tender items.	
d.	The bidders must abide by the decision of the HOPE.	
e.	The procurement process will be performed according to the Public Procurement Act-2006 & PPR-2008.	

[Signature]

Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM
BP 7401020793
Addl. DIG (Transport)
Bangladesh Police

For Inspector General, Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Phone: +88 02 223384779

GD-313



ILLUSTRATION: FAISAL BIN IQBAL

Why sports are fun but studies are not

SAMIN YASAR ANABIL

A few days ago, as I was struggling to concentrate while juggling tasks, I rummaged through articles and videos to find a fix. I then landed on the concept of flow – a euphoric state of mind

The idea of flow dates back thousands of years to ancient China. In Taoist philosophy, there is a concept known as “Wu Wei”, translated paradoxically as the action of non-action. Modern positive psychology also studies flow with great interest. Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihályi first coined the term flow and described the state as being completely involved in an activity for its own sake.

in which a person performing an activity becomes fully immersed in a feeling of energised focus. When we are in flow, our mind is entirely present in the moment, and hours seem to pass in minutes.

Learning about flow got

me thinking about the age-old questions we all wonder – why are some activities fun while others aren't? Why do some of us enjoy sports so much but not studies? And why do some of us even enjoy studying at all?

On the surface, the answer seemed obvious. We are all different beings and have our own preferences. However, on a deeper level, I suspected there was something more to that. Perhaps it boils down to how distinctly we enter the flow state.

The idea of flow dates back thousands of years to ancient China. In Taoist philosophy, there is a concept known as “Wu Wei”, translated paradoxically as the action of non-action. Modern positive psychology also studies flow with great interest. Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihályi first coined the term “flow” and described the state as being completely involved in an activity for its own sake. To get into the flow state, the psychologist suggested we stretch our body or mind to its

limits in a voluntary effort to accomplish something difficult and worthwhile. In other words, the activity has to be challenging, and at the same time, we need to have the skill set required to carry through the task.

Some of us can enter the flow state while writing, some while playing a musical instrument, and some while solving a complex problem. But a large group of people finds flow when playing sports.

I asked one of my most sports-enthusiast friends how he feels in the field. He replied, “I become so happy, I only think about the game forgetting all my problems and struggles.”

Interestingly, most of my friends, whom I consider sports enthusiasts, are top performers. They are ambitious and have the skills to back it up. As they meet both preconditions to enter the flow state, they can lose themselves in the field. For this very reason, those who ace academics are usually the ones who can absorb themselves in studying. A perfect combination of

challenges and ability is what we need to enter flow. When we are in flow, we can concentrate intensely, which translates into superior performance and we tend to like that activity more.

Knowing why we like the things we like might tell us something significant about how to make things we don't like a bit less boring. When we lament about studies, it's often because we can't focus as we don't find the topics purposeful or don't have a basic understanding of them. Because it's easier said than done, I have something to say in this regard. Perhaps if we learn to see tasks we can't escape as challenges and start upgrading our skills, we can experience flow more often and lead a more fulfilled life.

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The museum with nothing to show, but lots to see

ARNAB RAHMAN

A museum is a place to see things. This is a museum, paradoxically enough, you visit to not see.

My visit to the Dialog Museum in Frankfurt, Germany, a small establishment within a busy metro station, showed me things that we would never see in the light. In the lightless corridors of the museum, I experienced the vulnerabilities of blindness.

The museum's concept is fairly simple – a blind or visually impaired guide leads you through rooms with changing themes, all in the dark. You are put in the shoes of the blind. Absorbed into total darkness and immersed in blindness, you have no choice but to adapt and rely on your other senses.

The guide takes you through a dark corridor showing how to count money, cross the road, take the train, and much more, all without sight. Not seeing for 45 minutes has shown me the struggles of the person clutching onto a white stick, tapping

The experience humbles you. It reminds you of your blessings of sight and of your obligation to someone who lacks it.

it repeatedly against the asphalt trying to navigate.

The experience humbles you. It reminds you of your blessings of sight and of your obligation to someone who lacks it.

The museum I visited in Frankfurt is an initiative of Dialogue Social Enterprise (DSE). It is a social enterprise with a mission to promote inclusivity. Dialogue in the Dark (DiD) is an exhibition of theirs. DiD raises awareness for blind people by leaving a lasting impression on visitors.



It also creates jobs for the visually impaired and the blind.

Bangladesh, according to some sources, accounts for roughly 2.2 percent of global blindness and 2.53 percent of global visual impairment. Needless to say, the visually impaired are neglected in our society, mainly due to a lack of awareness and empathy.

Setting up something like this in Bangladesh can show others what the Dialog Museum has shown me. It can raise awareness for the eight million people in Bangladesh struggling to cross the street. It will, eventually, lead to better accessibility and infrastructure for the visually impaired, and we can be a truly inclusive society.

To voice your support, please visit sites.google.com/view/blindmuseum and simply select “Yes”.

Shamsin Ahmed is taking us all one step closer to a better tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamsin Ahmed is the CEO and Lead Consultant of Identity Inclusion and the winner of this month's “Stellar Women” award. Through Identity Inclusion's wide plethora of programmes, Identity Inclusion strives to do precisely what its name suggests – work towards creating a more inclusive society. Nonetheless, the mantra that fuels her vision is a challenge that most would deem insurmountable but through strategic planning, Shamsin works towards shattering the stigma around discussions of mental health as well as encouraging community-driven services that cater to the needs of disabled individuals.

The majority of society views disabled people through a lens of apprehension. They hold the belief that they are flawed and do not conform to the standards that warrant participation in society. Shamsin wants to break that mindset. She believes by giving the help these people need, we can build a world where they are accepted.

Shamsin and her team provide consultation services to some of the biggest NGOs. While her pursuit is noble, Shamsin started off with no institutional support and was even aware of the risks involved with working for the benefit of disabled people and mental health.

But where there's a will, there's a way. With multiple successful initiatives



PHOTOS: COURTESY

undertaken by Shamsin, her perseverance has been awe-inspiring.

One of her initiatives with Identity Inclusion involved working with BRAC and Underprivileged Children's Educational Programme (UCEP) Bangladesh. What Shamsin did was change policies, infrastructure, and roles of leadership to help quantify employment and inclusion for disabled

people. Furthermore, she conducted sensitisation training to over 200 Regional Managers of BRAC to raise awareness and spread that knowledge among 27,000 field-level employees who work for BRAC's Microfinance program. But her work was not done yet. To ensure that she left a mark in all areas of the organisation, Shamsin directed architects to develop infrastructure that was inclusive for the disabled. The goal was to build 36 regional

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She conducted multiple focus group discussions to address the need to develop a national strategy for menstrual hygiene management.

Another noteworthy project of hers involved organisation sessions at CARE and Oxfam Bangladesh. With the aid of these sessions, Identity Inclusion sought to raise awareness about mental health and self-harm prevention measures.

In a time where it often feels like the world is a gloomy place, people like her light it up with their beacon of hope. With Identity Inclusion, she has already worked towards breaking the taboo around discourses of mental health in the workplace.

But it has not only been contained within offices, as Shamsin conducts workshops through the aid of media content in schools as well. And while she spreads word about the need to be more accepting in all spheres of life, she follows it up with action as well. By establishing inclusive youth leadership opportunities through her own firm, as well as consulting for sustainable changes, Shamsin proves that she is willing to go above and beyond to fully realise her vision.

Due to her valiant efforts, Shamsin received a Special Mention from the late Dhaka North City Corporation mayor, Annisul Haque. Shamsin is an inspiration to many people. Not only does her work aid hundreds, if not thousands of people, but it takes us all one step closer to dismantling barriers that never should have existed in the first place. That is precisely what makes Shamsin Ahmed worthy of the “Stellar Woman” award.

‘I am keeping my feet on the ground’

After an impressive run of form in the just-concluded Bangladesh Premier League for Sylhet Strikers, Towhid Hridoy was rewarded for his performances by being included in the Bangladesh squad for the upcoming white-ball series against England. The 22-year-old opens up and spoke about his game, views and a few other topics during an exclusive interview with **The Daily Star’s Mazhar Uddin**. The excerpts are below:

DS: The Daily Star (DS): Congratulations. You must be over the moon after getting a national call-up.
Towhid Hridoy (TH): It is every cricketer’s dream to represent the country at the senior level to be honest. And yes, I am happy.
DS: Were you expecting a call-up after finishing as the third highest run-getter in the BPL?
TH: I was a bit more confident this time around because, as you mentioned, I scored runs in the BPL so I was hoping for a call from the national team. But my focus remained on my game while I was playing in the BPL. That was never in the back of my mind.



DS: Although you have been scoring runs consistently for the past couple of years, there was a notable change in your body language during the BPL. Did you specifically work on your batting recently?
TH: Many do not realise that I have been scoring runs consistently over the past couple of years across various levels. After the Under-19 World Cup triumph, I played in the High Performance squad alongside the A team and I scored runs. But maybe people didn’t notice that. But yes, I made some slight adjustments to my batting ahead of the BPL such as backlift and it worked well for me.
DS: There have been many instances of players that were rated very highly initially in their careers failing to live up to expectations due to various pressures. Are you aware of that?
TH: I am very much aware of that fact. But despite being young, I have seen both side of the coin so early on in my life. It is very obvious that if you don’t perform you have to make way for others. The same goes for me. I am prepared to give my best whenever I get an opportunity to play for my country. I am not thinking about outcomes; I’m focused on sticking to my process.

DS: Did you chalk out any plans for the England series?
TH: Look, I am the type of player who is prepared to play according to the situation. My strength is my adaptability and I am up for the challenge ahead of me. Obviously, our coach and captain will make their plans but I am personally also doing my homework on how to tackle the English bowlers on home soil.
DS: Did you have a chat over your game with any national players after being selected in the squad?
TH: I spoke to [Najmul Hossain] Shanto bhai and he shared his experiences of international cricket. Top-level cricket is tough and you need to prepare yourself accordingly. I am working on it.
Mushfiqur Rahim bhai also guides me a lot. He has been my idol since childhood. He gifted me his bat in 2017 and since then I have been using his bat because I don’t feel comfortable batting with any other bat now.



A young boy makes a return on the opening day of the Junior World Tennis Series Bangladesh Open Tennis Competition at the Sheikh Jamal National Tennis Complex in Ramna yesterday. (Inset) Mashfia Afrin, who became the first Bangladeshi female referee to conduct international tennis matches.



PHOTO: BTF

Expectations heightened for Hathurusingha’s return

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Khaled Mahmud had a great working relationship with Chandika Hathurusingha during the Sri Lankan’s previous stint as head coach of Bangladesh. Back then, Mahmud was the man who acted as a go-between for the head coach when it came to dealing with everyday dressing room issues and tactics.
The BCB brought in the Sri Lankan coach for a second stint despite his last tenure ending unceremoniously, but expectations may very well define his return, even before results on the pitch.
Those expectations, key areas of improvement that the BCB earmarked Hathurusingha for, are heavily built around World Cup ambitions, especially given how the team have performed, even away from home, in ODIs. While Mahmud yesterday informed that he would not be returning as team director for the England series, he punctuated the expectations that Chandika brings along with him.
“As far as I know him, my thinking is positive. May be he will take us further than where we are. The Hathurusingha that arrived before did not have an experienced side. But he made them a force and we started winning matches. The dressing room culture changed too. There were many changes. The team has matured and he has matured too so we can hope that we will do better under him and Bangladesh will achieve something



big,” Mahmud said while talking to reporters on Monday.
The question on expectations regarding the ODI World Cup soon followed, and Mahmud did not hold back.
“The ODI World Cup is in our main format. So we want to make it big. We want to do what we haven’t done before. We want to be champions...if I can say that. If I am talking practically, of course we want to make the quarterfinals. You always have a chance in the knockout stages and playing well on a given day can see you progress

to the semis or final. We are strong and playing well in this format, so our aim is to go higher,” Mahmud stated.
Bangladesh made the quarterfinals of the 2015 World Cup and the semifinals of the ICC Champions Trophy in 2017 and, when asked if those expectations could be surpassed, Mahmud said the expectations were not just from the board.
“We want him [Hathurusingha] to eclipse himself. The Shakib-Mahmudullah duo that won the match [in the Champions Trophy game against NZ] are more mature now, right? The youngsters are more defined, so we obviously want to [do better]. I don’t want him to feel like there is a burden on him. But I know that the kind of person he is, he will want to do that himself. Before arriving here, that is what he has been planning in regards to how he will organise Bangladesh,” Mahmud replied.
“It’s important to improve in Tests and T20s with him in charge. He has good idea of our culture and our players,” he added.
Hathurusingha is expected to begin working from Tuesday, according to Mahmud, and the head coach will also hold a co-ordination meeting at some point with Head of Programs David Moore, U-19 head coach Stuart Law and representatives of the HP and other game-development programmes in order to find a settled curriculum for the pipeline of cricketers.

Imrul urges attacking cricket against England

SPORTS REPORTER

Imrul Kayes, who has been out of the national set up for a few years, believes that Bangladesh need to play attacking cricket against England in their upcoming white-ball home series next month.
The Tigers will host England after over six years but Imrul, who scored a hundred during that previous three-match ODI series, added that it would be important for the hosts to play fearless cricket against defending champions.
“I think you can’t be complacent against a team like England, who are in great form. Obviously, they have a great pace-bowling attack and a few spinners in their side. But I think we are capable of beating them on our own soil. I can remember the last time they toured Bangladesh, I scored a hundred and I think my attacking mindset helped me play my natural game. I think our batters need to keep that in mind,” Imrul told The Daily Star during the multimedia show ‘Non Striker’s End’ yesterday.
Imrul, who led Comilla Victorians to a fourth Bangladesh Premier League title recently, also praised the re-appointment of Chandika Hathurusingha.
“I played under him during his first tenure and I must say Hathurusingha is one of the best tactical coaches I have ever worked with. He might have his own way of doing things, but he knows how to get the best out of players,” he added.



Red-hot Napoli take on Europa League winners

AFP, BERLIN

Two months after World Cup final heartbreak with France, Eintracht Frankfurt striker Randal Kolo Muani is driving his club’s shot at a second-successive European crown.
The Europa League winners qualified for the Champions League for the first time in their history and made the Round of 16, thanks in no small part to Kolo Muani’s form.
On Tuesday, Frankfurt host the continent’s form team in Italian side Napoli, who boast a 15-point lead atop the Serie A table.
Napoli are led by 24-year-old Nigerian striker Victor Osimhen, who has chalked up 19 goals in all competitions this season.
For his part, Kolo Muani has 15 goals in 30 games in total in 2022-23. The star striker arrived at Frankfurt on a free transfer from Nantes in summer, just after the German club’s stunning run to the Europa League title – Eintracht’s first European title in 40 years.
The France striker’s knack for important goals – he scored the winner in Frankfurt’s 2-1 group stage victories over Marseille and Sporting Lisbon – belies the criticism he received after France’s loss to Argentina in the World Cup final in December.

Klopp eyes Liverpool revival ahead of Real revenge mission

AFP, LONDON

Jurgen Klopp has urged Liverpool to turn their recent improvement into a season-saving revival as the Reds eye Champions League revenge against Real Madrid.
Klopp’s side are showing signs of finally emerging from a dismal spell that threatened to ruin their entire campaign.
Liverpool have reeled off successive victories over Everton and Newcastle to give them renewed hope of snatching a top four finish in the Premier League.
Saturday’s 2-0 win at Newcastle moved Liverpool to within six points of the fourth placed Magpies with a game in hand.
While it is too early to say Klopp has found remedies for everything that has ailed Liverpool throughout a traumatic



season, they welcome Real to Anfield for Tuesday’s last 16 first leg with morale no longer at rock bottom.
Klopp will take that as a foundation from which to kick-start Liverpool’s bid to win the Champions League for a second time under the German.
Liverpool, six-time winners of Europe’s elite club competition, would already have more Champions League triumphs in the Klopp era if not for pesky Real. The Spanish giants beat Liverpool in the 2018 final, eliminated them in the 2021 quarter-finals and won

last season’s final 1-0 in Paris thanks to Vinicius Junior’s goal.
Liverpool haven’t beaten Real since a Champions League last 16 victory in 2009.
Last year’s loss was especially painful at the end of their failed quadruple chase, a quest that brought just FA and League Cup success and left Klopp’s players struggling mentally and physically this season.
Even greater scars were worn by the Liverpool fans traumatised after police used unnecessary force in ugly scenes outside the Stade de France before kick-off in the Champions League final.
The repercussions from those incidents are still being felt and it would a cathartic moment for Liverpool if they could end Real’s reign as holders.
It hasn’t escaped the attention of Liverpool fans that this year’s

Champions League final is in Istanbul, the scene of their against-all-odds victory over AC Milan in the 2005 showpiece.
A return to the Ataturk Stadium would bring back sweet memories for the Reds, but first they have to get past Carlo Ancelotti’s men.
After a season marred by defensive problems, Klopp takes heart from Liverpool’s second consecutive clean-sheet against Newcastle, a feat they had not managed in the league since October. “Massive, 100 per cent. It explains a little bit the issues we have in the games where we can’t control it better. It’s so long ago we were in a situation like that,” Klopp said.
“It’s unfortunate that football is not like cycling, always exactly on the same level. It’s different. The only way you can get back on track is by winning.



GULSHAN BUILDING FIRE Death toll now 2, probe on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The modern apartment building in Gulshan that caught fire on Sunday lacked a “fire safety plan”, a fire service probe has found.

“This is a modern building but during our primary investigation, we found that it has different types of problems. We are not disclosing the details for the sake of investigation,” said Lt Col Mohammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury, head of a five-member probe committee, after visiting the fire-ravaged building.

The building authorities had a no-objection certificate from the fire service during construction, but they failed to get the fire safety plan which is required under the Fire Prevention and Extinction Act, he added.

Fire service-approved Fire Safety Plan indicates that a building has been inspected and working fire safety measures are in place as per the norms and regulations.

Lt Col Tajul said the residents of any building should

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ANWAR NEVER GOT TO SEE HIS CHILD'S FACE -- PAGE 3



US President Joe Biden walks next to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as he arrives for a visit in Kyiv, Ukraine yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Putin's war plans 'dead wrong'

Says Biden during surprise visit to Ukraine, pledges new military aid

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden made an unannounced visit to Kyiv yesterday, and said President Vladimir Putin was “dead wrong” in his plans for the offensive in Ukraine.

He also promised President Volodymyr Zelensky that Washington would stand with Ukraine as long as it takes.

Biden, in aviator sunglasses, strode side-by-side with Zelensky, in green battle fatigues, through central Kyiv to a gold-domed cathedral, on a bright winter

morning pierced by air raid sirens.

“When Putin launched his invasion nearly one year ago, he thought Ukraine was weak and the West was divided. He thought he could outlast us. But he was dead wrong,” Biden said.

“The cost that Ukraine has had to pay is extraordinarily high. Sacrifices have been far too great ... We know that there will be difficult days and weeks and years ahead.”

Outside the cathedral, burnt-out Russian tanks had been placed as a symbol of Moscow's failed assault on the capital at the outset of its invasion, when its forces swiftly

reached the city's ramparts only to be turned back by unexpectedly fierce resistance.

Since then, tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians and soldiers on both sides have died, cities have been reduced to rubble and millions of refugees have fled. Russia claims to have annexed nearly a fifth of Ukraine, while the West has committed tens of billions of dollars in military aid to Kyiv.

The US president promised a further \$500 million worth of weaponry plus tighter sanctions on Moscow ahead of the first

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METRO DISRUPTION People urged not to fly kites, sky lanterns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities yesterday urged people to avoid flying kites or sky lanterns within at least a one-kilometre radius of the metro rail line to prevent possible accidents during operations.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the operating agency of the metro rail, issued a circular hours after metro rail operations were halted for half an hour yesterday morning.

The metro rail is operating between Uttara and Agargaon using high-powered electric lines and kites, sky lanterns or gas balloons can pose huge risks of accidents

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Dainik Dinkal stops publication Press Council rejects its appeal against declaration cancellation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dainik Dinkal, a broadsheet Bangla daily, halted its publication yesterday, a day after Bangladesh Press Council rejected an appeal against the cancellation of the declaration of the pro-BNP newspaper by the Dhaka district administration.

“We have not published the daily today [yesterday] as the press council upheld the order of the district administration,” Dinkal Managing Editor Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas told The Daily Star last night.

Terming Dinkal the mouthpiece of the BNP, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir protested and condemned the cancellation of the declaration.

“The district administration cancelled the

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Med diet 'linked to improved cancer treatment response'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Patients who eat a Mediterranean diet, rich in whole grains, nuts, fish and vegetables, may have an improved response to treatment for melanoma, a serious form of skin cancer.

Adopting the diet which includes foods rich in fibre, unsaturated fat, antioxidants and polyphenols, was positively associated with the person's response to a treatment called immune checkpoint blockade (ICB), researchers say.

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New 6.4-magnitude quake hits southern Turkey

AFP, Antakya

A 6.4-magnitude earthquake was recorded yesterday in Turkey's southern province of Hatay, the hardest hit by a February 6 tremor which left more than 41,000 dead in the country, the disaster response agency AFAD said.

The quake hit the town of Defne at 8:04pm (1704 GMT) and was strongly felt by AFP teams in Antakya and Adana, 200km to the north.

AFP teams felt the tremor also in Lebanon and Syria.

The disaster management agency said on Twitter another 5.8-magnitude tremor followed three minutes later and its epicentre was Samandag district in Hatay.

An AFP journalist reported scenes of panic in Antakya, adding that the new tremors raised clouds of dust in the devastated city.

The walls of badly damaged buildings crumbled while several people, apparently injured, called



Turkish gendarmerie patrols the streets after a 6.4-magnitude quake hit the Hatay province in southern Turkey yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

for help.

On a street in Antakya, Ali Mazlum, 18, told AFP: “We were with AFAD who were looking for the bodies of our family when the quake hit.”

“You don't know what to do... we grabbed each other and right in front of us, the walls started to fall. It

felt like the earth was opening up to swallow us up.”

Mazlum, who has lived in Antakya for 12 years, was looking for the bodies of his sister and her family as well as his brother-in-law and his family.

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