



"This was a war of choice. Putin chose to fight it... And he can choose even now to end it, to go home."

White House NSA Jake Sullivan on Russia-Ukraine war



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16 PAGES : Tk 15.00



P3

Mustard farmers pleased with prices



P11

Taijul relishing return in ODIs



P7

Thai election to be held in May: PM



P3

The plague of illegal parking

BCL stays off the leash

Its members increasingly getting involved in crimes, dragging the organisation further down

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Bangladesh Chhatra League will regain its past glory. This was what Sheikh Wali Asif Enan pledged once he became the general secretary of the pro-Awami League student organisation in December last year.

"We will work to make the organisation free from all controversies ...," he said in his first interview with a national daily a few days after the new central committee was unveiled.

Two months later, his promises now ring hollow as the organisation constantly hogs the headlines for all the wrong reasons.

From extortion and mugging to assaulting students and even teachers -- they continue what they had been doing for years. Internal feud and oppressing the activists of other student organisations went on as before.

After formation of the new committee, many hoped that the student organisation may gradually be able to shed the unenviable tag -- a student organisation infested with rogue elements.

The new leadership did initiate some steps to this end, taking disciplinary actions against 23 leaders and activists involved in misdeeds across the country.

For example, it relieved Imdadul Hasan Sohag, general

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A group of wayward BCL activists are responsible

BCL president about unpleasant incidents at edn institutions

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Chhatra League President Saddam Hossain has held a section of activists of the student body responsible for the recent incidents of violence and scandals at educational institutions.

"Many Chhatra League activists who do not adhere to the ideology of the organisation properly are behind those unruly activities," Saddam told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview on Sunday.

He said that conducting a rectification campaign within the organisation has

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

BUSINESS

Impact of Ukraine war on Bangladesh

The economy of Bangladesh and its people have been paying heavy prices due to the Russia's war in Ukraine, which began on February 24 last year, as the conflict is impacting business and trade in a multitude of ways. From small and medium enterprises to conglomerates, the war took a toll on all segments, while sales and profits of manufacturers shrank bringing down investment in industries and hampering job creation.

STORY ON B1

Research crucial to preserving mother tongue

Says PM at inauguration of programme marking Int'l Mother Language Day

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for research to preserve, revitalise and develop the mother languages of the world as many of those were being lost.

"I always put emphasis on research. The reason is that enrichment of anything is not possible without research," she said.

The PM was addressing an event marking the inauguration of a four-day programme of the International Mother Language Institute in the capital's Segunbagicha.

Hasina said the government will take steps to provide fellowship for language research at the institute.

"I think this institute has a responsibility to preserve all languages of the world, conduct research on those and know the history of languages. I think this can be done."

Hasina said she, if needed, will arrange funds to provide fellowship for language researchers.

She said Bangladesh has attained food self-sufficiency,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Putin suspends last nuke treaty with US

Accuses West of stoking global war to destroy Russia; Biden says Moscow will never defeat Ukraine

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden yesterday said Ukraine would "never be a victory for Russia", hours after President Vladimir Putin suspended Moscow's participation in a nuclear arms treaty with Washington accusing the West of trying to destroy Russia.

"A dictator bent on rebuilding an empire will never be able to ease the people's love of liberty, brutality will never grind down the will of the free," Biden said as he delivered a speech in Poland ahead of the first anniversary of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

"Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia -- never," Biden told the crowd of several thousand people gathered outside the Royal Castle.

Speaking a day after his surprise trip to the Ukrainian capital, Biden said: "Kyiv stands strong, Kyiv stands proud, it stands tall and most importantly it stands free."

"Western elites are not hiding their goal -- to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia. It means to be done with us once and for all."

Russian President Vladimir Putin



"The West is not plotting to attack Russia as Putin said today... Ukraine will never be a victory for Russia -- never."

US President Joe Biden

Earlier, in his scathing state of the nation address, Putin also vowed that Russia would keep fighting in Ukraine and "systematically" achieve its aims.

Speaking nearly a year to the day since ordering an invasion that has triggered the biggest confrontation with the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile crisis, Putin accused the West of trying to destroy Russia.

"The elites of the West do not

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

SANCTIONED SHIPS Russia summons Bangladesh ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Russian foreign ministry yesterday summoned Bangladesh Ambassador Kamrul Ahsan over not allowing 69 Russian ships, on which the US has slapped sanctions, from calling at Bangladeshi ports.

"We drew attention of the head of the diplomatic mission to the reports about the decision of his country's authorities to ban Russian ships carrying cargoes for Bangladesh from calling at Bangladeshi ports," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement, reports Russian state news agency TASS.

This step runs counter to the traditionally friendly character of bilateral relations and can have a negative effect on the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Members of the Rover Scouts and Bangladesh National Cadet Corps yesterday decorated the altar of the Central Shaheed Minar with various kinds of flowers. The flowers they used were brought by visitors, who had come to pay their respects to the language martyrs and observe International Mother Language Day.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

REVISED BUILDING CODE

No dedicated body yet to enforce it

HELEMUL ALAM

The government is yet to form an authority dedicated to enforce the revised Bangladesh National Building Code, the gazette of which was issued two years ago.

The revised code mentions that Bangladesh Building Regulatory Authority (BBRA) must be formed to enforce the code.

Urban planning expert M Abu Sadeque, who was in the team that formulated the revised Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC), said the revised code is a complete set of rules to ensure the safe construction of buildings, use of quality materials, accountability of professionals, and conservation of the environment.

Urban expert Adil Mohammad Khan said loss of lives and properties continue to happen in building disasters in the absence of a national regulatory authority.

Meanwhile, fire safety measures are largely neglected in building constructions, he added.

"Negligence in complying to fire safety measures make high-rise buildings particularly vulnerable to fires," Adil told The Daily Star recently.

As per the revised code, the BBRA is the authority to monitor all safety issues.

In large cities like Dhaka and Chattogram, fire safety regulations mentioned in Building Construction Rules are often flouted.

Developers often do not ensure fire safety measures, and to increase the space for flats, they do not install fire escape stairs.

Following a devastating fire at the FR Tower in the capital's Banani in 2019, the Rajuk in April carried out a field survey on buildings with over 10 storeys and found 475 were constructed without its approval and 1,343 had more floors or floor space than approved by Rajuk.

Fire escape, alarm, fire suppression system, and fire safety drills are almost non-existent in high-rise buildings in Dhaka and other urban areas in the country, Adil said.

Citing last Sunday's fire at a 12 storey apartment building in Gulshan-2 that left two people dead and many injured, former Buet professor Maksud Helali said the fact that some people jumped off the building in order to escape the flames is an indication that fire drills were not conducted there.

"Fire safety training must be done at every high-rise building at least once a year," he said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 8

Homage to language martyrs



STAR REPORT

Bare-footed, wearing black and white and holding flowers, thousands of people from all walks of life thronged the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital and elsewhere of the country to pay homage to the Language Movement heroes yesterday.

Humming the tune "Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February", people remembered the supreme sacrifice of the martyrs.

The environment reverberated with the Ekushey anthem as the hallowed monuments got slowly covered with flowers. Areas around the monuments wore a festive look with murals, graffiti, and street paintings comprising Bangla alphabets and verses on mother languages.

The day is observed worldwide as International Mother Language Day. In 1999, the Unesco had declared February 21 as the International Mother Language Day.

On February 21, 1952, students and people from all walks of life took to the streets in Dhaka to protest the then Pakistan government's refusal to recognise Bangla as one of the state languages and imposition of Urdu as

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



The Shaheed Minar stands as a representation of the right to expression and resistance against all injustice. Imbued with the spirit of Ekushey, people from all walks of life paid their tributes to the fallen heroes who earned them the right to speak their mother tongue. The photos were taken in Sylhet, Chattogram and Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR, RAJIB RAIHAN, TITU DAS

Dua Mahfil held for Rouf Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dua Mahfil for eminent businessman A Rouf Chowdhury was held at the Gulshan Central Masjid in the capital after Asr prayers yesterday.

Eminent personalities, businessmen, bankers, friends and hundreds of well-wishers joined the event and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rouf Chowdhury, founding chairman of Rangs Group and Sea Resources Group, passed away at his residence in the capital on Saturday.

He was 86 years old. Chowdhury had a dynamic foothold in the print media; he was one of the directors of Mediaworld Ltd, the parent company of The Daily Star.

The noted entrepreneur is survived by his son Romo Rouf Chowdhury, and daughters Romana Rouf Chowdhury and Sohana Rouf Chowdhury.

The dynamic businessman, who was blessed with extraordinary farsightedness, was laid to eternal rest at his ancestral village in Malkhanagar area of Munshiganj beside the graves of his parents.

Attending the Dua Mahfil programme, Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury lauded Rouf Chowdhury's contribution in employment generation in banking and other sectors.

Romo Rouf Chowdhury sought blessing from the attending guests for the eternal peace of his father's departed soul.

Graduated in business management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US, A Rouf Chowdhury founded over 50 firms over the last four decades.

He invested in automobiles, petroleum, pharmaceuticals, real estate, IT, deep-sea fishing, telecommunications, electronics, food processing, banking, and insurance firms.

He started his career at a pharmaceutical company and began his own business in 1979.

His thoughts opened doors to economic development and introduced new dimensions to the country's trade and industry.

Chowdhury spearheaded the formation of Bank Asia in 1999 by acquiring the Bangladesh operations of the Canadian Bank of Nova Scotia.

He received numerous awards, including the lifetime achievement award from the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce & Industry.



MAYOR ANNISUL HUQ ROAD

The curse of illegal parking



SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Mayor Annisul Huq Road, a major thoroughfare in Dhaka, is severely plagued with illegal parking.

Despite efforts by the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) to prevent vehicles from parking illegally, the road has become increasingly narrow due to the two additional rickshaw lanes. This has led to increased traffic congestion, with trucks, pickups, and covered vans continuing to park on the road, said locals.

Experts said the situation has become dire for the capital's residents, who are struggling to navigate the city due to the illegal parking on this major road. DNCC has been criticised for its inability to enforce parking laws and provide alternative parking options.

The road connects Tejgaon, Farmgate and Karwan Bazar with Mohakhali, and Banani-Gulshan-Niketon. Many people use this road, including students from at least 10 educational institutions, and employees of government and private offices.

In December 2015, late DNCC mayor Annisul Huq cleared the road of these vehicles, overcoming strong opposition from transport workers. It has thus become an embodiment of the late mayor's tireless efforts to bring down traffic congestion.

However, the road, which was named Annisul Huq Road following

road safety," he added.

Another rickshaw-puller Didar Mollah said, "I have to face verbal abuse from passengers who are getting late due to the traffic congestion."

Meanwhile, school students, who regularly use the road, have also expressed the difficulties caused by the traffic congestion.

In December 2015, late DNCC mayor Annisul Huq cleared the road of these vehicles, overcoming strong opposition from transport workers. It has thus become an embodiment of the late mayor's tireless efforts to bring down traffic congestion. However, the road, which was named Annisul Huq Road following his death in 2017, has continued to suffer from the same problem.

his death in 2017, has continued to suffer from the same problem.

"As a rickshaw-puller, navigating this road has become a daily struggle for me," said Alauddin Hossain. "Not only does this affect my income but it also increases my struggle to navigate through the

Tariq Hossain, a student of Rajdhani High School, said, "I often arrive late to school due to the increased traffic congestion caused by parked vehicles."

Pedestrian Jannat Mirza, a private university student, said,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Conning people inside the secretariat 7 of gang that 'stole crores' by promising jobs held

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

As per the plan, the gang first arranged for entrance passes to get into the secretariat.

The members then welcomed at least 20 applicants for a fake recruitment test inside the establishment.

Finally, they gave fake appointment letters with a barcode to selected candidates. For "recruitment", the gang took around Tk 12 lakh from each candidate through cheques.

This is just one of the episodes of how these criminals defrauded job seekers.

This whole strategy centres around a recruitment advert the Public Works Department published on April 6, 2022 to appoint 449 officials.

Although actual appointments have been completed, the gang has reportedly embezzled crores from at least a hundred people by making them believe that recruitment is still open.

Police's detective branch (DB) disclosed this information following the arrest of seven gang members from different areas of Dhaka and Rajbari recently.

DB (Lalbagh division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police seized several hundred applications, certificates of hundreds of people, test questions, fake appointment letters, bank cheques, phones, and laptops from their possession.

The arrestees are Alamgir Hossain, Rezaul Hoque Titu, Humayun Kabir, Polash Chandra Sarker, Md Asadul Haque, Jahid Hasan, and Asaduzzaman alias Babu.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

The arrestees even used names of noted ruling-party leaders in Noakhali and ministers to assure job seekers that a special written and viva test will be held under a quota system.

MASHIUR RAHMAN
Deputy Commissioner of DB
(Lalbagh)

SCBA election likely on March 15, 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The annual election of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) is likely to be held on March 15 and 16.

SCBA Secretary Md Abdun Nur Dulal told The Daily Star that the current body of the country's prime bar association will officially announce the schedule on February 23.

More than 8,000 lawyers have registered their names

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Back from the procession at Shaheed Minar, many walked right into Boi Mela yesterday. A large number of children were also seen browsing through the stalls and pavilions with their parents, dressed in clothes that reflected the spirit of the day. This photo was taken in Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Aglow with Ekushey spirit

DIPAN NANDY

As scores of people placed floral wreaths on the pedestal of Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, they also thronged the nearby Ekushey book fair, which commemorates the sacrifice made in 1952 through literature.

Many tagged along with their family and friends, adorned in black and white clothes with Bangla alphabets printed on top. Faces of little ones were seen covered in the alphabets too.

The spirit of Ekushey was emphasised further by the music playing on speakers and speeches from the stage.

Yesterday was the fair's longest day, opening from 8:00am and continuing all till 9:00pm. Throughout

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Bring the officer to book immediately'

Rights, journalist orgs condemn police assault on Kaler Kantho reporter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manabdhikar Sanskriti Foundation (MSF) decried the police assault and harassment faced by a journalist of daily Kaler Kantho, which happened while covering the recent Gulshan fire.

In a statement sent to the media, signed by its founder Sultana Kamal, the organisation expressed deep concern about how an officer of Gulshan Police Station assaulted Jahirul Islam, staff reporter of the newspaper, while the latter was carrying out his professional duties.

"He was beaten up and injured, harassed, verbally abused, and his phone was snatched away," alleged the statement. During the assault, Jahirul was live broadcasting the fire at a residential building in Gulshan-2.

"MSF believes that the way police treated the journalist is extremely unjust and unexpected. When the government states that it believes in the freedom of press, incidents like this prove the impediments to independent journalism," said the statement.

The organisation demanded that the police officer be identified and brought to justice.

A separate statement issued by Dhaka Reporters' Unity said it is unacceptable that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 22

Fajr	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

Must embrace all indigenous languages
Urges UN special rapporteur on minority issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Fernand de Varennes, has called for the states to be more inclusive in the treatment and use of minority and indigenous languages.



In a statement marking International Mother Language Day yesterday, he said languages are essential tools to communicate and share knowledge, memory, and history, but they are also key to full and equal participation.

"One of the most effective ways of empowering minorities and indigenous peoples is to guarantee the use of their language in education -- particularly as medium of instruction -- as long as it is practical, and to provide public services and employment opportunities in these languages."

Fernand de Varennes said language rights are also important human rights matters for both minorities and indigenous peoples.

"Special Rapporteurs, including my own mandate, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

A new hope for Manipuri script

Language centres in Moulvibazar working to preserve history of Manipuri language



PHOTO: STAR

Children taking lessons in Manipuri script and alphabets at a language centre in Moulvibazar.

MINTU DESHWARA

Moulvibazar district has one of the largest Manipuri communities in the country. While everyone in the community can speak Manipuri, the language's script and alphabets were at risk of extinction.

However, that has changed in the last eight years after the non-governmental organisation Ethnic Community Development Organization (ECDO) established the first Manipuri Language Center (MLC) in 2015 at Bhanubil Majhergaon village -- where there is a large Manipuri community -- in Kamalganj upazila of the district.

Thounaojam Lakshmikanta Singh, executive director of ECDO, said under the project funded by a donor agency in Norway, activities are currently going on at three MLCs in the Manipuri-dominated areas of Alinagar and Adampur

union in Kamalganj.

At these centres, Manipuri students from classes 1 to 5 receive education on the Manipuri alphabet and language six days a week.

The response among the community has been immense. Each centre was supposed to accommodate 25 students at a time but sometimes there are 35 to 40 students in each batch.

According to the Integrated Manipuri Association and ECDO, around 10,000 Manipuri-speaking people live in 14 villages in Kamalganj upazila. They communicate mainly in Manipuri.

While almost all of them can read and write in Bangla, many cannot read and write the Manipuri alphabet.

Since its inception, nearly 500 students have received training on the Manipuri alphabet and

language at these centres.

One such example is 15-year-old Laboni Sinha, a former student of Bhanubil Majhergaon Manipuri Language Centre (MLC) who can now read and write fluently in Manipuri. Her younger sister Aparna Sinha also knows Manipuri script.

Bidyadhan Singha, Laboni's father, said his daughter always did very well at the language centre. He also expressed his pride at his daughter's excellent grasp of the Manipuri alphabet and overall language.

ECDO has developed three different textbooks with the help of experts -- Manipuri Lomam Lyric Chapter-One, Manipuri Lomam Lyric Chapter-Two, and Manipuri Lomam Lyric Chapter-Three for training at the centres and is used as textbooks for the first year, second-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Slow construction work obstructs traffic movement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Durgabari Road is the biggest medicine market in the Mymensingh region where both retail and wholesale buyers throng every day.

However, this important road is currently unusable due to the slow pace of drain construction work there. The construction firm who's been delegated the job is taking their sweet time to complete the work, ignoring the public nuisance caused, said some medicine traders while talking to this correspondent.

Jahid Hossain, a medicine trader on Durgabari Road, told this correspondent that the construction company needs to hire more workers because only a few are seen working on the site.

Besides, the construction work goes on during the busy hours in the daylight, creating serious inconvenience for the customers and commuters here.

It is also uncertain how many days will require to complete the total of the drain, lamented Sujit Barman, a medicine shopper in the area.

The road also leads to the city's biggest kitchen and grocery markets and again, commuters and customers are the worst sufferers since it is difficult to walk alongside the road.



During a recent visit to the site, this correspondent found a few workers working at the site. Denying the "slow pace" of work, Firoz Mia, a labourer representative at the site, said they engaged around 20 more workers to speed up the work.

Firoz claimed it would take a few days to finish the total drain work. But no representative of the firm was available at the site.

Contacted, MCC Executive Engineer Md Rafiqul Islam said, "Masud High-tech Engineering Limited, a construction firm from Dhaka, is responsible for constructing the drain as part of the city's package construction programme."

The engineer also agreed that the firm cannot keep its materials on the road causing sufferings for the people.

Contacted, Syed Mahbubur Rahman, traffic inspector in Mymensingh, said although the SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Shaheed Minar vandalised in Narsingdi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Unidentified miscreants vandalised a bamboo and wooden made Shaheed Minar at KSA Public Academy in Narsingdi yesterday.

The incident took place between 12:00am and 6:30am, locals said.

As they have no permanent Shaheed Minar at the school, in a combined effort, students and teachers of the school built it on its premises using wood, banana trees, bamboo and paper on Monday evening, said Rakibul Islam, 12, one of the students.

After completing their task, they returned home about 12:00am, he said, adding that they found it broken when they went there to pay respect to the language martyrs in the early morning.

As no CCTV camera was installed at the spot, no one was identified, said campus sources.

Aklima Akter, headteacher of KSA Public Academy, said, "I went to the school with flowers about 7:00am and SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

12 hurt in BCL factional clash at CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

At least 12 people were injured when two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed over occupying a room of Aloo Hall at Chittagong University yesterday.

Police and witnesses said two factions of "Bijoy Group" chased each other over the issue on the campus, triggering the clash.

Around 12:00am, one group attacked another in front of Suhrawardy Hall, when the latter went to Shaheed Minar to pay tributes to the language martyrs, they said.

Shubashis Chowdhury, a doctor at the CU medical centre, said they treated the 12 injured and sent one of them to Chattogram Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Al Amin, leader of a faction, said, "We were going to Shaheed Minar, but suddenly the other SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Hatekhori' for 106 children



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A total of 106 children received their first lesson on Bangla letters during "Hatekhori" at Central Shaheed Minar in Pabna yesterday, on the occasion of Shaheed Day and International Mother Language Day.

Pabna Gonoshilpi Sangstha, a cultural organisation in the district, organised the traditional Hatekhori (initiation to writing) programme.

Children aged between three and five from different areas of Pabna participated, said Simanto Azad, secretary of Pabna Gonoshilpi Sangstha. Four-year-old Mariam Azad,

daughter of Saiful Islam, wrote Bangla letters on a slate for the first time in her life. She was mentored by eminent educationists of the district.

"My daughter will be admitted to pre-primary school next year. This is a different experience for her to receive lessons on writing Bangla letters on the Shaheed Minar premises," said Saiful Islam, father of Mariam Azad.

Urmi Afroz, mother of a three-year-old, said such initiative will encourage the children to learn Bangla.

Gonoshilpi has been organising Hatekhori marking International Mother Language Day for the last few decades.

Official notice from Bangladesh Police regarding procurement of uniforms and accessories. Includes details of items, quantities, and contact information for the procurement office.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh e-Tender Notice 02(Re)/2022-2023. Details the procurement of furniture and fixtures for smart class rooms at Bhola Govt. College, Bhola. Includes tender ID, dates, and contact information for Professor Md. Golam Zakaria.

My artistic life feels worthwhile, when I sing for our language martyrs: Rafiqul Alam

The feeling of singing for our language movement can't be compared to anything else in my life. It feels surreal. My cousin, Abul Hossain, was also a freedom fighter. He was a great leader as well. My whole family is in support of the liberation war. He took me to the Bangabandhu's first speech at the madrasa ground in Rajshahi. Whenever someone asks me to sing for our language day, I never say no.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rafiqul Alam, a celebrated musician and acclaimed Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste, is a legend in the Bangladeshi music industry for his decades of playback and *adhunik* songs. Rafiqul Alam not only inspired the freedom fighters during our liberation war with his songs, but also sang many songs to pay tribute to the language movement in 1952.

In a candid conversation with the Daily Star, Rafiqul Alam shared his thoughts on International Mother Language Day, and more.

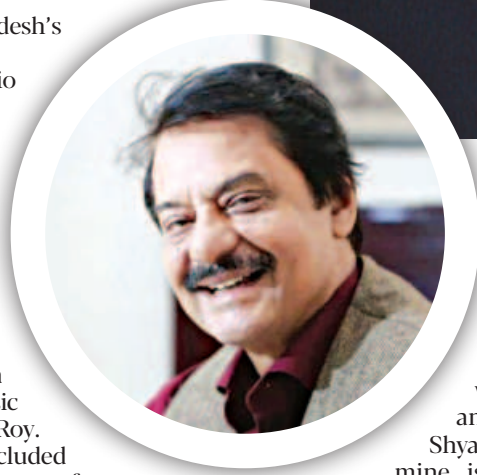
You sang many classics throughout your career. Tell us about the songs that you voiced for our great language movement.

Following Bangladesh's independence, I performed on radio and television in various languages in honor of International Mother Language Day. I voiced a song named *Opomane Tumi Shedin Jole Uthechile Bornomala*, written by Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal, with the music composed by Ajit Roy. The song was also included in one of my albums for Ekushey. This song instantly caught the attention of the audience, and became very popular that time.

How much response did you get outside the country for the song "Opomane Tumi Sedid Jole Uthechile Bornomala"?

I have to perform this song every time I am abroad. Expatriates always want to listen to this song. I also enjoy the experience whenever I can sing this song on stage. This is where my artistic life feels worthwhile, when the song sung for International Mother Language Day receives love from the people.

The music video of the song was made after a long time after the song was released. The video was broadcasted from BTV.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Which song did you sing first for International Mother Language Day?

In 1973, I sang the song *Amra Jenechi Jibon Mrittu Eki Shoman*, written by Rafiquzzaman and composed by Sutejo Shyam. Another favourite of mine is *Angikarer Songi Joto Manush*, released in 1976. The song was also written by Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal and composed by Satya Saha.

You have sung so many songs for our language movement. Still, you haven't received the Ekushey Padak yet. What's your take on that?

I expect the Ekushey Padak award for my contribution to this country, starting from Swadhin Bangla Betar until today. Now, the pro liberation government is in power. Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is doing an excellent job of running the country.

After independence, I worked as a researcher for 3 years at the Bangla Academy

on a project about the liberation war in Bangladesh. The reports of the war in different countries for nine months, all the written information, the records written by the world leaders, and the Bangladesh document book (the book was edited by India's Muchkande), were translated by the four of us. It is one of the best works of my life.

How does it feel to have such a contribution to the music of International Mother Language Day?

The feeling of singing for our language movement can't be compared to anything else in my life. It feels surreal. My cousin, Abul Hossain, was also a freedom fighter. He was a great leader as well. My whole family is in support of the liberation war. He took me to the Bangabandhu's first speech at the madrasa ground in Rajshahi. Whenever someone asks me to sing for our language day, I never say no.

Do you have any memories of the 'Prabhat Pheri'?

I have been going to the Prabhat Feri, since childhood. I used to feel very moved at that time. I still go there every year, to pay homage to the language martyrs.



Chirkutt to celebrate 20 years with concert

Popular Bangla fusion band Chirkutt has created waves with its music on both local and international platforms. The band has given the audiences popular tracks including *Doyal*, *Bondhu*, among others. Chirkutt has come a long way and to thank their fans they will be arranging their 20th anniversary concert at TSC.

The 'TSC to Madison Square Garden' concert will be held tomorrow at 6 pm at Dhaka University's gymnasium field (Central Field).

Popular bands including Cryptic Fate, Ashes, Bangla Five, Kaaktaal, Bangu Bibi, will also perform alongside Chirkutt.

Band music legend Maksoodul Haque (Maqsood O' dHAKA), Foad Nasser Babu (Feedback), Naquib Khan (Renaissance), and Miles along with renowned celebrity Jaya Ahsan will be present as special guests.

'Saturday Afternoon' to be released in US, Canada



After much debate, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's *Saturday Afternoon* will be released across North America on March 10. The global distribution rights of the film had been acquired by Continental Entertainment Pte. Ltd. (CEPL) and is being released via Reliance Entertainment (RE).

CEPL is a Singapore based film marketing and distribution firm and RE is one of India's leading film and entertainment companies engaged in creation and distribution of content across Film, TV, Animation, Gaming and Digital platforms.

On January 24, the film had finally received a verbal clearance from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board, after being stuck in limbo for four long years. However, the film has yet to receive the official clearance letter, which will let Farooki go about planning the theatrical release of the movie in Bangladesh.

NEWS

21 injured

FROM PAGE 12
maintaining the queue...But, suddenly a group of Chhatra League activists cut in and headed towards the Shaheed Minar," he said.

"As our activists protested, they attacked us," he said.

Five Chhatra Union activists were injured, he claimed.

Panic spread among people who went there to pay tributes to the language martyrs.

Zakaria Dastagir, general secretary of Chattogram City Chhatra League, said no one from the organisation was involved in the incident.

In Manikganj town, leaders and activists of Awami League's front organisations – Sramik League, Jubo League and Swachhhabek League – clashed after placing wreaths at a Shaheed Minar yesterday.

At least 10 were injured, party sources claimed.

Witnesses said the clash sparked between the followers of Sramik League leaders Abdul Jalil and Babul Sarkar around 9:30am. Later, the Jubo League and the Swachhhabek League men also got involved.

District AL's General Secretary Abdus Salam said disciplinary action would be taken against those involved.

In Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila, six people were hurt after Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal men clashed after they placed wreaths at a Shaheed Minar.

According to police and witnesses, Chhatra League men started pelting Chhatra Dal men with brick chunks when the two groups came face to face at the Government Mahtab Uddin College around 7:30am.

Chhatra Dal activists also retaliated by hurling brick chunks at Chhatra League men.

(Staff correspondent from Chattogram and our correspondent from Manikganj and Jhenidah contributed to this report)

'Please go home'

FROM PAGE 12
working hours on the health and relationships of employees across the world. The World Health Organisation, for example, warned in 2021 that working 55 or more hours a week can lead to a 35 percent higher risk of stroke, and a 17 percent higher risk of dying from heart disease.

Probe bodies record

FROM PAGE 2
11:00am, after visiting the provost's office room at the Deshratna Sheikh Hasina Hall, where the incident had taken place.

However, none was made head of the committee.

The Daily Star spoke to at least three students who were approached by the probe body yesterday.

However, all of them refused to share what they had told the committee, with one of them claiming they were asked not to say anything to the media.

"They [probe body members] wanted to know whether I had any knowledge of any chaos or torture on that night at the dormitory. Then, I gave my deposition," she said, seeking anonymity.

However, she refused to disclose anything further to The Daily Star regarding her statement.

Another student said prime accused Sanjida Chowdhury, vice-president of the hall's Chhatra League unit, was arrogant and tried to "control everything in the hall".

"But I don't know what actually happened that night," she told The

BNP smells a rat

FROM PAGE 12
However, senior Awami League leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim told the Jatiya Sangsad on January 26 that before Khaleda was released from prison, a pledge was made that she would not get involved in politics.

At the BNP Standing Committee meeting held on Monday, a senior member said the law minister's comment was nothing but an attempt to dilute the movement.

"The government will come up with such comments in the future. We all have to be very careful while reacting to such comments," the senior leader told the meeting, a source said.

The BNP might announce a march programme in all wards of the city corporations to test the strength of the city units.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was sentenced to 10 years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case and seven years in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case.

Daily Star.

Another probe body, formed by the university authorities, also recorded statements of some people, including Sanjida and another accused Tabassum Islam, a BCL activist.

"Our work is progressing significantly. We are working to submit a report in this regard on time," said Prof Reba Mandol, a teacher of the law department and head of the probe committee.

Meanwhile, a four-member body, formed by the hall administration and headed by Prof Dr Ahsanul Haq, a teacher of Information and Communication Technology of the university, is also continuing its work.

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

They allegedly 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.

Indian FM

FROM PAGE 12
decided to put out 20 years later. Do you think the timing is accidental? Don't know if election season has started in India, but for sure it has started in London and New York", Jaishankar said.

The government has dismissed the documentary, which chronicles the events transpiring during the 2002 Gujarat riots when Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat, as propaganda and blocked its streaming and sharing on social media.

The broadcaster has stood by its reporting for the documentary, "India: The Modi Question".

When asked if the rise of PM Modi and India was not accepted by certain sections in the West and in India, Jaishankar said, "Do you doubt it? It's like drip, drip, drip on a stone...How do you shape a very extremist image of India, the government, of the BJP, of the prime minister? It has been going on for a decade. Let's not have illusions about it".

There's no stopping the thieves!

FROM PAGE 12
at the plant. So, we are investigating whether any group with vested interest had any link with the machine's theft," said a police officer investigating a case filed in this regard.

Md Aliullah, the manager (security and administration) of section concerned of the power plant, filed the case on January 16 with Rampal Police Station.

Police managed to recover the machine from Konabari in the capital's Demra on February 2 and have so far arrested six people, including three staffers of the plant.

Mohammad Shamsuddin, officer-in-charge of Rampal Police Station, said corrupt officials and employees of the plant are involved in theft of the machine.

"We have already arrested some of them and are investigating the matter thoroughly. We will hopefully be able to arrest the others involved," he told The Daily Star.

The arrestees are Badsha Sheikh, 23; Rabbi Islam, 24; Kartik Sheel, 25; Abul Karim, 27; Abu Taher, 46, and Howladar Sohel, 27.

Badsha, Rabbi and Abul are office

attendants at the power plant and Taher is a driver working for the plant under a private company. He drove the pick-up in which the machine was taken away from the plant. Sohel is Taher's assistant, while Karthik once worked as a labourer at the plant.

Apart from the machine, Ansar members recovered stolen goods worth Tk 58 lakh and detained 38 thieves over the last one year, while Rab arrested 24 others in 14 raids and seized various stolen goods in just the past eight months.

OC Shamsuddin claimed that due to their relentless efforts, arrests and recovery of the stolen goods, the incidents of theft have decreased.

Officials at the thermal power plant said 293 people – 18 policemen, 150 armed Ansar members and the rest private security guards – are now responsible for ensuring the security of the plant, which is under construction on 915 acres of land.

Of the total area, there is a boundary wall surrounding 450 acres, while the remaining area is guarded by barbed wire fencing, on which weeds have begun growing.

"Anyone can easily sneak into

the centre of the plant through the unwallled area and leave with different goods," said an official wishing anonymity.

Sometimes, labourers working at the plant every day get away with stealing small pieces of materials through eight different entrances, which is tough to stop, he added.

Chandan Debnath, commander of Ansar Battalion 3, suggested increasing security personnel, installing security cameras and building the entire border wall as soon as possible.

Anwarul Azim, deputy general manager of Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Limited, the company in charge of setting up the plant, said they were mulling the increase of manpower and taking other security measures to stop the frequent incidents of theft. He said it would be discussed at the meeting over the declaration of the power plant as a KPI (key point installation).

If the power plant is declared a KPI, then its security will have to be stepped up significantly, he added.

The 1320-MW thermal power plant is a joint venture of Bangladesh and India.

Research crucial

FROM PAGE 1
thanks to research. "Extensive research is needed now in different sectors, including science and health."

The government, the PM said, provides fellowship and stipends to 24 million students in Bangladesh and free textbooks to school students.

Hasina said English has become a dominant medium for international communication now. The country's children should learn one or two foreign languages alongside learning own language, she added.

The premier said she laid the foundation stone of the International Mother Language Institute during the visit of the then UN general secretary Kofi Annan in 2001, but the subsequent BNP Jamaat government stopped its work.

She thanked the then BNP government for stopping the work, saying that otherwise her government wouldn't have got the scope to develop this institute as per her design.

Hasina recalled the contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the Language Movement.

The PM, also the chief patron of the institute, at the event handed the international mother language national medals and the international mother language international medals to four recipients.

Habibur Rahman and Ranjit Sinha were awarded the national medals, while Mahendra Kumar Mitra and Mother Language Lovers of the World Society, Vancouver, Canada, were conferred with the international medals in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the preservation, revitalisation and development of mother languages.

Md Aminul Islam, president of the Mother Language Lovers of the World Society, received the medal on behalf of the society.

Education Minister Dipu Moni, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury and Unesco representative to Bangladesh Susan Maree Vize spoke on the occasion.

A video documentary titled "Bangabandhu and Language

Movement" was screened at the event.

Children from different countries, including Bangladesh, India, Australia, Algeria, Japan, China, Russia and France, greeted the prime minister in their own mother languages on the occasion of the International Mother Language Day.

Govt hikes admission

FROM PAGE 12
be deprived of medical education despite being meritorious. This is also disadvantageous for the nation," Mozaharul Haque, former senior adviser of the World Federation for Medical Education, told The Daily Star.

The scope for medical education for the financially weak students is slim in Bangladesh as the majority of the medical colleges are non-government, he said.

There are 7,355 spots in 87 non-government medical and dental colleges while 4,350 seats are in 43 government medical colleges (including six colleges run by the Bangladesh Army).

Taiwan 'to bolster' military ties with US

President Tsai tells visiting US lawmakers

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan will boost military exchanges with the United States to curb "authoritarian expansionism", President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday after meeting with visiting US lawmakers.

The five-day US congressional visit comes after a top US defence official reportedly made a rare stopover to the self-ruled island while Washington-Beijing tensions flared over alleged Chinese spy balloons.

"Taiwan and the United States continue to bolster military exchanges," Tsai said after convening with the US delegation at her office in Taipei.

"Going forward, Taiwan will cooperate even more actively with the United States and other democratic partners to confront such global challenges as authoritarian expansionism and climate change."

Tsai did not provide further details on what the future exchanges might entail.

Washington diplomatically recognises Beijing over Taipei, but is also the self-governing island's most important international benefactor and supports Taipei's right to decide its future.

Beijing, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to seize it one day, opposes any official exchanges with the democracy and has reacted with anger to a flurry of trips to the island by US politicians in recent years.



Thai election to be held in May: PM

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand will hold a general election in May, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-cha said yesterday, with unofficial campaigning already under way.

The embattled premier, who came to power as army chief in a 2014 coup before taking over as PM after a controversial 2019 election, told reporters he would dissolve parliament in March. Under Thai constitutional rules, this would mean an election some time in May, with May 7 seen by many observers as the most likely date.

"I will dissolve (parliament). I said March so it will be March, so this would fit with May," he told reporters after a regular cabinet meeting. With the economy struggling and the vital tourism sector hit hard by the pandemic, the 68-year-old's popularity has been in the doldrums, but last month he announced a re-election bid at a rally.

Prayut will run under the banner of the newly created Ruam Thai Sang Chart party, with current ruling party Palan Pracharath Party (PPRP) last month naming Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan as its candidate for PM in the next election. Campaign billboards are already popping up around the country and the main opposition party Pheu Thai has been campaigning in its traditional strongholds in the northeast.

Pheu Thai is polling well but the current Thai constitution, drafted under junta rule, gives army-linked parties a strong advantage.



PHOTO: REUTERS

People help to clean up debris at a bus station damaged after a shelling, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kherson, Ukraine yesterday.

We back Beijing against the West

Top Putin ally tells top China diplomat; Beijing warns against 'fuelling the fire' in Ukraine conflict

AGENCIES

The secretary of Russia's powerful Security Council told China's top diplomat Wang Yi yesterday that Beijing was a top priority for Russian foreign policy and that the two countries must stick together against the West, Russian state news agencies reported.

Nikolai Patrushev, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, also told Wang that Moscow backed China's position over Taiwan, Hong Kong and Xinjiang, according to a statement cited by the RIA Novosti news agency.

The two were meeting in Moscow as China appears to be ramping up its diplomatic efforts to push for a peace settlement in Ukraine, and just hours after Putin announced Russia was suspending its participation in a landmark nuclear arms treaty with the United States.

"In the context of a campaign that is being waged by the collective West to contain both Russia and China, further deepening of Russian-Chinese cooperation and interaction in the international area is of particular importance," RIA cited Patrushev as saying during the meeting on Tuesday evening.

"I want to confirm our continued support for Beijing over the issues of Taiwan, Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong," Patrushev added.

In his turn, Wang Yi said the relationship between the countries is "rock solid".

"Chinese-Russian relations are mature in character: they are rock solid and will withstand any test in a changing international situation," Wang told "Comrade" Patrushev through a Russian

interpreter in remarks aired on state television.

Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping signed a "no limits" strategic partnership just days before Russia invaded Ukraine last February, and Moscow has talked up its close ties with Beijing, which it sees as a partner in a powerful anti-Western tandem.

But Putin was forced last year to publicly acknowledge Xi had concerns over Russia's actions in Ukraine. While Putin used a major speech on Tuesday to outline his commitment to securing a Russian victory in Ukraine, Xi is expected to make a "peace speech" in China on Friday to mark the one-year anniversary of Russia's invasion.

Wang was also due to meet Russian FM Sergei Lavrov today as part of the visit to Moscow - the latest stop in a European tour - and the Kremlin has not ruled out a possible meeting with Putin.

Earlier yesterday China's foreign minister Qin Gang said his country is "deeply worried" that the Ukraine conflict could spiral out of control and called on certain countries to stop "fuelling the fire" in an apparent dig at the United States.

"China is deeply worried that the Ukraine conflict will continue to escalate

or even spiral out of control" Qin said in a speech at a forum held at the foreign ministry.

"We urge certain countries to immediately stop fuelling the fire," he said in comments that appeared to be directed at the United States, adding that they must "stop hyping up today Ukraine, tomorrow Taiwan".

Also yesterday, China released a paper on the Global Security Initiative (GSI), Xi's flagship security proposal which aims to uphold the principle of "indivisible security", a concept endorsed by Moscow. Russia has insisted that Western governments respect a 1999 agreement based on the principle of "indivisible security" that no country can strengthen its own security at the expense of others.

Beijing has refrained from condemning Moscow's operation against Ukraine or calling it an "invasion" in line with the Kremlin, which describes the war as a "special military operation" designed to protect Russia's own security.

The United States casts China and Russia as the two biggest nation-state threats to its security. Xi has stood by Russian President Vladimir Putin, resisting Western pressure to isolate Moscow.



CLIMATE PROTECTION Children challenge Austria's law

AFP, Vienna

Twelve minors yesterday filed a legal challenge with Austria's top court accusing the government of failing to revise an "inadequate" climate protection law, saying it was not sufficiently protecting their constitutional rights. A growing number of organisations and individuals around the world have turned to the courts to challenge what they see as government inaction on preventing climate change. The Austrian lawsuit, the first of its kind in the nation, claims a law dating from 2011 is not ensuring that children are shielded from the consequences of global warming. The challenge is being supported by Fridays for Future, the youth activist movement inspired by Sweden's Greta Thunberg, a spokeswoman said.

Sri Lanka set to postpone local polls

AFP, Colombo

Bankrupt Sri Lanka is set to postpone local elections due next month, according to a top official, prompting opposition protests yesterday that forced parliament to be adjourned. The March 9 vote was meant to be a key test of support for President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who took office in July after months of protests over a dire economic crisis. According to a court submission by the Election Commission, the treasury has refused to fund the printing of ballot papers, fuel or police protection for polling booths. "I had given an undertaking to the Supreme Court recently that the poll will be held on time," Election Commission chief Nimal Punihiwewa told AFP. "But, I am now informing court that we won't be able to do it because the government is not releasing the necessary funds." The president previously said elections were impossible as state revenue was insufficient to pay salaries, pensions and maintain essential services. Wickremesinghe has implemented swingeing tax hikes and price rises in an effort to secure a bailout from the International Monetary Fund. Parliament was adjourned yesterday after opposition MPs carried placards to protest against what they said was a government attempt to avoid voter scrutiny.

Cops disrupt

FROM PAGE 2

was murdered in this city and the trial for that murder remains stalled while the accused walk around in public.

"In the afternoon, a police team led by officer-in-charge Anisur Rahman Mollah of Sadar Model Police Station came and ordered us to remove the banner. The officer informed us that there was an objection from the 'higher level' about our slogan. We then held our event by covering it with a piece of black cloth. This is also a form of protest. Our protest against misrule is a black cloth."

Bhavani Shankar Roy, president of the Jote, said what police did was an interference in freedom of expression.

Rafiqur Rabbi, an adviser of the Jote, said, "I strongly condemn what police did."

Contacted last night, Sadar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman Mollah said, "We asked them to remove the banner on information that it could deteriorate law and order."

Putin suspends last nuke treaty with US

FROM PAGE 1

hide their purpose -- to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia. It means to be done with us once and for all," he said.

"But they also cannot fail to realise that it is impossible to defeat Russia on the battlefield," a defiant Putin told his country's political and military elite.

Cautioning the United States that it was stoking the war into a global conflict, Putin said that Russia was suspending participation in the New START Treaty, the last major arms control treaty between Moscow and Washington.

Signed by then-US President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, in 2010, the treaty caps the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads that the United States and Russia can

deploy. It was due to expire in 2026.

"I am forced to announce today that Russia is suspending its participation in the

Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty," said Putin.

The Russian leader said, without citing evidence, that some people in Washington were thinking about resuming nuclear testing. Russia's defence ministry and nuclear corporation should therefore be ready to test Russian nuclear weapons if necessary, he said.

"Of course, we will not do this first. But if the United States conducts tests, then we will. No one should have dangerous illusions that global strategic parity can be destroyed," Putin said.

"A week ago, I signed a decree on putting new ground-based strategic systems on combat duty. Are they going to stick their nose in there too, or what?"

Russia and the United States have vast arsenals of nuclear weapons left over from the Cold War and remain, by far, the biggest nuclear powers. Between them, they hold 90 percent of the world's nuclear warheads.

The New START Treaty limited both sides to 1,500

warheads on deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine ballistic missiles and heavy bombers. Both sides met the central limits by 2018.

In Warsaw, Biden also responded to an anti-West speech made by Putin.

"The West is not plotting to attack Russia as Putin said today," Biden said. "Millions of Russian citizens who only want to live in peace with their neighbours are not the enemy."

Biden stressed the West's continued support for Ukraine.

Putin "thought autocrats like himself were tough and leaders of democracy were soft and then he met the iron will of America and nations everywhere that refused to accept a world governed by fear," he said.

"There should be no doubt: our support for Ukraine will not waver, NATO will not be divided and we will not tire."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Russia's decision was "deeply unfortunate and

irresponsible" but that Washington was still willing to talk about the issue.

Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the move meant that "the whole arms control architecture has been dismantled".

Biden is due to meet today with the leaders of nine eastern Nato members which have been staunch supporters of Ukraine and where there are fears of the conflict spilling over.

In his speech, Putin accused the US-led Nato alliance of fanning the flames of the conflict in the mistaken belief that it could defeat Moscow in a global confrontation.

"They intend to transform a local conflict into a phase of global confrontation. This is exactly how we understand it all and we will react accordingly, because in this case we are talking about the existence of our country," Putin said.

When the Kremlin launched the offensive in Ukraine, its so-called "special military

operation" was planned to be a rapid conquest leading to capitulation and the installation of a pro-Russian regime.

Since then, Russia has been forced to give up ground in Ukraine but has kept up a barrage of drone and missile attacks and the military and civilian toll has spiralled.

According to the latest estimates from Norway, the conflict has wounded or killed 180,000 Russian soldiers and 100,000 Ukrainian troops.

Other Western sources estimate the conflict has caused 150,000 casualties on each side.

In Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday blasted Russia for "mercilessly killing" civilians in the southern city of Kherson as local officials reported at least five deaths following strikes there.

Kherson is the capital of one of the four regions -- along with Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia -- that Russia claims to have annexed but has never

fully controlled.

China, whose top diplomat Wang Yi arrived in Moscow yesterday, has cautioned against any nuclear escalation to the Ukraine war.

No dedicated body yet to enforce it

FROM PAGE 1

M Abu Sadeque, also a former director of the Housing and Building Research Institute, said, "Complying to the building code will ensure a life-saving system with enough fire-safety measures and earthquake resilience in buildings."

If buildings are constructed in accordance with the BNBC, there will be fewer fire incidents and casualties, he added.

"Most of the fire incidents in our country are caused by electric short circuits that happen due to lack of proper electrical design," he said.

Contacted, Kazi Wasi Uddin, secretary of ministry of housing and public works, said the ministry is working to form the BBRA, but it will take time.

"Currently, we are working on forming the Building Construction Committees by this month," he said.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Don't let these mother tongues die out

Govt must take steps to preserve near-extinct languages

Every February 21, we pay our respects to the language martyrs who had made the ultimate sacrifice so that, 71 years later, speakers of Bangla could use their mother tongue freely in all spheres of life. However, this day also brings to our attention the thousands of languages around the world whose existence is under constant threat. And we fear for the status of the languages which are dying out in Bangladesh itself, with next to no efforts being expended to preserve them. The number of living languages in the country currently stands at 42. Of these, 36 languages are spoken by Indigenous peoples.

According to a linguistic survey conducted by the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI), there are 14 languages in the country which are considered to be endangered. Of these, for instance, only two speakers of the Kharia language exist anymore. Neither of them has been able to convince their younger kin to practise the language, nor can they themselves write in it. With the passing of these two Kharia speakers – sisters over the age of 70 who reside in Sreemangal upazila of Sylhet's Moulvibazar district – the language and the culture associated with it will all but die, too. And this is the unfortunate fate facing several other Indigenous languages, including Kondo, Koda, Soura, Mundari, Kole, Malto, Khumi, Pangkhua, Rengmitcha, Chak, Khyang, Lusai, and Laleng (Patro). And even the more widely spoken ethnic languages, such as Sadri in the northern flatlands, are becoming more and more diluted with Bangla.

It is an understandable but unfortunate tragedy that the youth of many Indigenous communities themselves do not feel keen on using their own languages, with Bangla being the dominant language in all arenas. Couple that with the relevant government authorities' own lack of efforts, and it is no wonder that these languages are on their way out of existence. We must ask, what has the IMLI been doing to ensure that the country's Indigenous and ethnic languages can be promoted and preserved? The aforementioned linguistic survey has been its only notable achievement since its establishment in 2010. But even that is supposedly coming out in volumes, with the first and only one being published way back in 2019. The government's initiative to print textbooks in Indigenous languages (till a limited number of classes) also falls short as it has failed to ensure that there are teachers appointed in schools who are properly trained and can actually conduct lessons in these languages, too.

The UN has declared the period between 2022 to 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. We hope that our language authorities will heed this initiative and not only take active steps to preserve the dying Indigenous languages of the country, but also fulfil some of their earlier promises in this regard as well as the demands of Indigenous and ethnic communities themselves. We cannot just sit back and watch the demise of so many rich languages and the cultures attached to them. Lest we forget, the state is constitutionally mandated to "take steps to protect and develop the unique local culture and tradition of the tribes, minor races, ethnic sects and communities."

Can all Phulporis be saved?

BCL's reign of terror at public universities must stop

The recent incident of brutal torture inflicted on Phulpori, a first year student of Islamic University in Kushtia, by two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and their cohorts at a residential hall of the university has once again exposed the terror tactics that BCL leaders and activists generally use to establish their supremacy on our public university campuses. By now, we all know the details of how Phulpori was tortured for hours and threatened by the female leaders of the IU BCL unit for staying at a residential hall without taking their permission.

Unfortunately, after Phulpori filed a written complaint with the university authorities, it took them a while to take any action in the incident. They only ordered Sanjida and Tabassum, the two accused in the incident, to leave the hall following a High Court directive. But is this enough of a punishment for committing such a heinous crime? While we understand that the university authorities cannot take any action against the accused before their probe committee submits its report, given our past experiences, we cannot be assured that such a committee would form its reports independently and on time – particularly when none other than the BCL is involved.

The IU episode has reminded us of the many past incidents where ordinary students were tortured, harassed or even had to die at the hands of BCL cadres at our public universities. The brutal murder of Buet student Abrar Fahad by BCL goons is still fresh in our minds. And, only the other day, we came to know of another incident at Rajshahi University where a male student was mentally and physically tortured by BCL men. Around the same time, we also learned how BCL leaders and activists at Dhaka University are mugging commuters and general students on campus, creating an atmosphere of fear. The ruling party's student wing has literally turned the gono rooms of public universities into torture cells, under the very noses of hall authorities.

However, the news that the university's BCL unit has suspended the two accused members has given us some hope that change is possible, if we all fight together. The courage that young Phulpori showed in the face of opposition from all, including the university administration, should encourage all students to stand united against such atrocious activities of the ill-intentioned groups in all university campuses.

We urge the IU authorities to conduct an impartial probe into the incident and give exemplary punishment to those involved in torturing Phulpori. Until then, they must take responsibility for ensuring her safety and security, and that of her family members, so that they are not harmed in any way by the BCL and their followers.

Can the new monetary policy solve our problems?



Dr MM Akash is professor at the Department of Economics of Dhaka University.

MM AKASH

Behind the Bangladesh Bank's announcement of this year's monetary policy was a certain pressure applied by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF said it wasn't right to adopt yearly monetary policies. Our economists, too, have suggested that there is no harm in adopting quarterly monetary policies instead of yearly, as we would get access to more information. This condition isn't necessarily in opposition to the government's interests, so the government has accepted it. This will lead to increased re-evaluation of the monetary policy, which is good.

The IMF had other conditions too, one of which was to reduce all manners of subsidies. The main agenda, though, was subsidies in the energy and power sectors. If fuel prices are not subsidised, then the power sector is also not subsidised, and that leads to an increase in electricity prices.

Depreciating the taka against foreign currencies was another IMF condition. The taka's exchange rate against the US dollar is artificially high in the market, and reducing that may also be beneficial. But an after-effect of this change is a rise in import expenses. This would lead to a dual effect as 30 percent of our economy is now dependent on foreign trade. Exports should become cheaper, leading to more exports and, consequently, more export earnings. But that doesn't always happen in our country. We have made ready-made garment (RMG) products cheaper, but buyers still want even cheaper prices. They are making delayed payments. The increase in shipping prices is wiping out any increased profits.

The statistics, however, show that there has been a recent uptick in exports. One of the hypotheses of the government's monetary policy is that exports will increase in the future and that will lead to a resolution of the forex reserve crisis we are in. But there are doubts that are posed by a potential increase in fuel prices, which depends on how the Russia-Ukraine war progresses. Even though fuel prices are going down now, it could increase at any time because of the war. So, this monetary policy is being devised in a period of uncertainty. The Bangladesh Bank governor has announced this monetary policy while being stuck in a wedge between this uncertainty and pressure from the World Bank.

The governor has some positive



VISUAL: STAR

expectations here: fuel prices will go down; remittance will increase; export incomes will go up; and forex reserves will be replenished. This will all lead to a decrease in the necessity for currency depreciation. But the IMF has imposed the condition that the exchange rate needs to be brought to the market level as soon as possible. To do that, the taka's value needs to be depreciated gradually and cautiously in terms of the US dollar. That work has begun already.

The IMF loan is not large. It may be able to finance three months' import costs. This loan will not help us survive, but the prestige of getting an IMF loan will lead to us being able to acquire more US dollars from other sources. This may help in mitigating the dollar crisis that looms if our exports don't go up and if we can't substitute our imports properly.

The monetary policy this time around is a cautious one in the face of two distinct pressures. They have assumed some positive preconditions to tell the tale of an expected sunny picture. The first question here is, how much will this be reflected in reality? The second question is, if it is indeed the reality, does it have any other negative effects? The answer to the first question is that it can be real if the war in Ukraine doesn't intensify

and lead to an increase in fuel prices. It can also be real if our export market diversifies and expands, which will depend on whether the worldwide recession and the downturn of demand for foreign goods get fixed.

The expected growth rate has been reduced from seven percent to six percent, which also seems appropriate. The printing of money is by and large

necessary. If part of the money from the monetary expansion and the credit expansion cannot be diverted to these programmes, then it might lead to a political crisis.

The method of this social expenditure is missing in this monetary policy – so are the details of how the capital is going to reach SMEs. The process with which the

government might ensure that it won't reach large scale non-performing loan takers is also absent.

There is nothing to complain about in terms of the steps the government is taking on the supply side, but on the demand side, they have not ensured that the capital will reach the sectors that are crucial and urgent. There is no gap in the policies that have been announced, but the gap is in their implementation.

We're living in a system of crony capitalism, where those close to the government, relatives of the ministers, privileged contractors of government megaprojects start their work with government money, and midway through, they hold the government hostage by saying they can't finish the project without more money. The government is then forced to pay up.

Monetary expansion, money printing, and interest rate cap can benefit the section of society that has already exploited the government for money, and they can also benefit SMEs, small peasants, remittance earners, and garment workers. Which section will be benefited depends on the implementation.

Transcribed and translated by Azmin Azran.

The three eras of loss and damage



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

SALEEMUL HUQ

The world has entered the third era of loss and damage from human-induced climate change. In the first era, the experts were focused on completely avoiding the potential losses and damages from climate change by stopping – or at least drastically reducing – greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which caused the global temperature to rise. This understanding came from the scientific community through the first and second assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). At the global policymaking level, it led to the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and subsequent Kyoto Protocol in 1997, in which developed countries agreed to reduce their emissions, with developing countries to follow later.

One other aspect of this first era was the emphasis on mitigation measures to reduce emissions, which was treated largely as an environmental issue.

However, when the third assessment

report (AR3) of the IPCC was published in 2001, it became apparent that the promises of reducing emissions were not taken seriously, and emissions were continuing to rise.

The main message from AR3 was that the world had failed to avoid climate change impacts through mitigation, and that there would now be inevitable impacts that the world now needed to prepare for through adaptation measures. This started the second era of minimising losses and damages. The second important message in AR3 was that, while all countries would be adversely impacted over time, the poorest countries and the poorest communities in richer countries would be affected first and the hardest.

This, in turn, led to adaptation being adopted as a new strategy at COP7 in Morocco in 2001. This era of adaptation actions also meant that the development actors both at national and global levels began to get involved in climate actions along with the environmental actors.

Unfortunately, the world failed to

make use of the adaptation measures too. Hence, as of last year, we entered the third era of addressing loss and damage from human-induced climate change. The turning point was the publication of the sixth assessment report (AR6) of the IPCC where the climate scientists, for the very first time, stated that there

As we enter this third era of loss and damage, for which no country is really prepared, the whole world will need to find better ways of cooperation within and across national boundaries. Bangladesh has the opportunity of being a global leader in this mission.

was unequivocal scientific evidence that there were adverse impacts that could be attributed to the fact that the global temperature had already gone above one degree Celsius since the First Industrial Revolution due to GHG emissions.

This game-changing scientific report was accompanied by the visible evidence of unprecedented extreme weather events such as floods,

cyclones, heatwaves and wildfires around the world.

At the UNFCCC level, this reality was also recognised by the historic achievement of establishing a funding mechanism to address loss and damage, agreed upon by all countries at COP27 in Egypt last year.

One of the most significant outcomes of this realisation is that climate change and development can no longer be treated separately. Indeed, the main lesson of the Covid-19 global crisis also points to the need to tackle all the different crises facing the globe in a multisectoral as well as multinational manner, which is not easy.

As we enter this third era of loss and damage, for which no country is really prepared, the whole world will need to find better ways of cooperation within and across national boundaries. Bangladesh has the opportunity of being a global leader in this mission. The first step would be to acknowledge the reality of losses and damages from human-induced climate change in different parts of the country, and then involve all stakeholders in developing a national strategy to tackle loss and damage through a whole-of-society approach.

This new initiative on loss and damage can then build considerable knowledge and capabilities for the government as well as civil society to adapt to climate change.



Slashing the food assistance will make the lives of the Rohingyas who have been surviving on the bare minimum in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar even worse.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Rohingyas feel pangs of hunger too



A CLOSER LOOK

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb

TASNEEM TAYEB

They have endured pain, torture, loss and trauma. They took on the perilous journey from Myanmar's Rakhine state – where the military junta unleashed inexplicable brutality on the Rohingyas men, women and children with genocidal intent – to Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar, where they were given a safe shelter by the government and people.

Initially, the Rohingyas were afforded empathy, sympathy and compassion by both Bangladesh and the international community, but the interest of the latter – especially on the repatriation or sustenance of the unfortunate Rohingyas – has been waning over time. With other issues of more relevance – and of increasing geopolitical interest – riding high on the humanitarian agenda (i.e. victims of the Russia-Ukraine war), the donors are able to spare only a little of their funds – or thoughts, for that matter – for the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh, in the aftermath of the double economic shocks of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, is struggling to provide for the Rohingyas, especially because of the ever dwindling funds from the international community. Last year, less than half of the appealed USD 881 million under the Joint Response Plan (JRP) was disbursed.

As a result, the Rohingyas are helplessly drowning in their own misery. While some of the refugees seem to have accepted their ill fate with a stoic outlook, others – especially the younger ones – are desperate to change their fate. This is making them vulnerable to the lures and traps of criminals – from drug dealers to prostitution rings to human traffickers. Given there is little to no economic activity within the camps, and no certainty about repatriation, the Rohingyas face a bleak future.

And now the United Nations' decision to slash food aid for the Rohingyas – that, too, ahead of the month of Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr – has come as a shock, not just for the refugees, but also for the host nation. Stretched donor budget has been cited as one of the primary reasons for the decision. But the host nation and subsequently the Rohingya refugees are battling the same challenges, too. So, how does the international community propose the Rohingya refugees survive on a monthly allowance of USD 10, down from USD 12, which was already a little too stretched for them?

The World Food Programme (WFP) is appealing for an urgent fund of USD 125 million to avert the planned food aid slash, which, if not received, will lead to further and deeper cuts. If this comes to pass, it would lead to disastrous consequences for the refugees and

the region.

Already in the grip of abject poverty, the Rohingya refugees are trying to find ways to escape the confines of the fenced refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhashan Char. In 2022 alone, more than 3,500 Rohingyas have tried to undertake desperate journeys through the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, in 39 boats, according to data from the UNHCR. This is a 360 percent increase from the previous year, when about 700 Rohingyas tried to make similar attempts. While some of them have managed to land in various countries including Malaysia and Indonesia, many others have fallen prey to debt bondage, slavery and forced prostitution, while the rest were lost to the unforgiving seas. The looming prospects of increased misery will only add to the desperation of these refugees.

What is even more alarming is that sex trade is already highly prevalent among the female refugees, who are being forced by the never-ending economic

The United Nations' decision to slash food aid for the Rohingyas – that, too, ahead of the month of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr – has come as a shock, not just for the refugees, but also for the host nation. Stretched donor budget has been cited as one of the primary reasons for the decision. But the host nation and subsequently the Rohingya refugees are battling the same challenges, too.

wretchedness to choose sex trade to earn a living. Kutupalong is a sex trade hotspot where more than 500 Rohingya girls and women reside and serve clients. These women and girls are lured into sex trade by fixers with the promise of a better future, but they hardly make between USD 2 and USD 6 per client. Often, these women are also taken by the fixers – who collude with the local law enforcers – outside the camps to serve clients in hotels across Cox's Bazar. These women are dozed with steroids by the fixers and often subjected to battery, including by the clients.

"The food handout is not enough; when my kids cry for rice, where will I get it from?" a sex worker asked

Tania Rashid from PBS News Hour in 2018. Now that food aid is going to be cut further, more and more girls and women will be at the risk of exploitation and forced sex labour.

Moreover, according to WFP, about 40 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding Rohingya women are anaemic, while almost one in eight Rohingya children is acutely malnourished. More than 95 children are born in the Rohingya camps every day, and the Rohingya population is expected to grow to 1.2-1.3 million by 2025, according to a defence ministry report. How is Bangladesh expected to support this growing population in the face of shrinking donor aid?

Another major risk for the Rohingyas is the possibility of increased crime rate as a result of the dwindling aid. As assistance will become more and more elusive, livelihood and life choices for the Rohingyas would become difficult and reckless.

We have already seen a sharp rise in violent crimes inside – and at times outside – the Rohingya refugee camps in the last couple of years. With the economic hardships creating added burden on the refugees, criminal gangs would find it easier to recruit Rohingya youth to serve their criminal intentions.

It is common knowledge that ARSA is already active inside the camps along with nine other armed gangs and they are trying to establish their superiority – with control of the drug trafficking business among its major goals – resulting in bloodshed. And all these gangs will need more muscle for cheap. There is a significant risk that it is these criminal groups that will plug in the financial vacuum left by the donors.

Bangladesh is going out of its way to provide for the Rohingya refugees. The Rohingya crisis is the responsibility of the international community, who has not only failed to broker a safe and dignified repatriation for the refugees, even when a so-called democratic government was in power in Myanmar, but has also shamelessly invested in the military-controlled businesses and development activities in Myanmar, including in Rakhine state, from where the Rohingyas have been mercilessly uprooted.

The aggravation of the Rohingya crisis will have a significant impact on the region, including in East Asia. While it is understandable that repatriation has become difficult due to the apparent non-cooperation of Myanmar's ruling military regime, the least the donors can do is provide for the Rohingya refugees to meet their basic sustenance needs.

USD 125 million – or, for that matter, the JRP appeal of USD 883 million for 2023 – to sustain lives is only a drop in the ocean for the international community, who generously give out billions of dollars in military aid to various countries, and even rogue states, to support military escalation that claims hundreds and thousands of lives. The Rohingyas deserve more than just mere words of "concern," and the world must remember that.

PROJECT SYNDICATE

India's Thin-Skinned Leaders



Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and minister of state, is an MP for the Indian National Congress.

SHASHI THAROOR

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has long been overly sensitive to world opinion, partly because Modi himself craves outside approval. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) likes to claim that India receives more international accolades now that Modi is in charge than it did under his predecessors. But in three recent instances, the attention was less than flattering – and the BJP government responded like prickly adolescents.

The most recent incident began when the BBC aired a documentary titled *India: The Modi Question*, which explored the prime minister's culpability for the anti-Muslim riots in Gujarat in 2002, when over a thousand people were killed. The government's response has shown it at its most belligerent, as well as its most defensive.

Anxious to shield Modi from the damning charges, government ministers and officials attempted to discredit the BBC, suggesting that the documentary was a politically motivated attempt to tarnish India's image just when it had assumed the G20's rotating presidency. The spokesman for the Ministry of External Affairs, Arindam Bagchi, derided the film as a "propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative."

The government also sought to prevent the documentary from being seen widely in India, including by ordering Twitter to remove links to it and getting YouTube to remove uploads. Nor has Modi's government been above petty retaliation. The

militants. Lapid, heading the jury at the International Film Festival of India, expressed his embarrassment at such a "vulgar" work of "propaganda" being screened at a prestigious festival and argued that it did not match the "cinematic richness, the diversity, and complexity" of the other films in the competition category.

It was an artistic and aesthetic judgement that Lapid was perfectly entitled to make. Yet, the Modi government and its defenders fired back, falsely accusing Lapid of demeaning the suffering of the Kashmiri Pandit community (Hindus displaced and killed by Islamist terrorists). They also pressed the Israeli ambassador to denounce Lapid, and transferred out of the Film Festival Directorate the hapless official who had invited the filmmaker to head the jury. Needless to say, Lapid is unlikely to receive another visa, let alone invitation, to visit India as long as the BJP remains in power.

Yet, another petulant overreaction from Modi's government came last May, when experts at the World Health Organization (WHO) reported, based on an analysis of excess deaths, that Covid-19 fatalities in India could be up to 10 times higher than officially reported. Whereas the Indian government claimed that half a million people had died as a result of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the WHO estimated the true figure could be some three to five million.

Here, too, the Indian government launched a full scale counterattack, with officials challenging the

immature individuals who lack a strong sense of self, not with official institutions. To see government officials behave this way – particularly in a democracy where criticism routinely flies in all directions – is bizarre, to put it mildly.

Modi's government has conflated its aversion to criticism with its obligation to protect India's national honour, to the detriment of the latter. National honour is a precious asset, but not every negative statement about anything Indian damages it. In fact, to respond so belligerently to every perceived slight implies that India's national honour is fragile and insubstantial, rather than deeply rooted and durable. Attempts to sustain a flattering narrative by suppressing facts and figures – a habit that extends to everything: from India's official poverty statistics to details of Chinese incursions into India – can even undermine policy.

India's current government is especially touchy about the perceptions of outsiders. This seems to reflect an awareness that foreigners' criticism is particularly likely to be well-founded, rather than politically motivated, and thus not easily dismissed or discredited. Desperate to prevent its carefully cultivated global image from being tarnished, Modi's government reacts to foreign slights that most other governments would simply ignore.

India's government should not only be able to withstand criticism; it should encourage a culture of dissent, based on an unshakeable belief in people's right to take opposing views and challenge orthodoxies. It should be able to accept criticism in stride and, when appropriate, seek to engage constructively with critics. In the aforementioned incidents, for example, Indian officials should have affirmed that its critics are entitled to their views, with which the government does not agree. In some cases, they might even acknowledge



People watch the BBC documentary 'India: The Modi Question' on a screen in the city of Kochi, in defiance of government attempts to ban its viewing or sharing in India, on January 24, 2023.

PHOTO: AFP

authorities conducted a tax raid on the BBC offices in New Delhi and Mumbai, confiscating phones and laptops in an episode widely viewed as yet another effort to stifle press freedom.

A similarly extreme overreaction came last November, after the Israeli filmmaker Nadav Lapid disparaged the controversial BJP-supported film *The Kashmir Files*, which tells the fictional story of a young man who learns that his Kashmiri Hindu parents died at the hands of Islamist

integrity, bona fides, and even statistical methodology of the WHO, a United Nations body whose intergovernmental executive committee had been headed by India's own health minister during the pandemic. The government's numbers, its representatives insisted, were perfectly accurate; any other deaths during the pandemic were the result of unrelated causes.

The BJP government's extraordinary hypersensitivity is a trait that one would associate with

that we can learn from our critics.

Acting as if all criticism is illegitimate is the hallmark of a banana republic, not a mature democracy. The Modi government's behaviour thus amounts to a betrayal of India's traditions. And to what end? By overreacting, questioning the good faith of foreign critics, and even seeking to suppress unflattering stories, the Modi government has succeeded only in drawing more attention to the criticism and exposing its own vulnerability.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Mixologist
7 Relaxing places
11 Sigh, say
12 Sledding site
13 Crystal-filled stones
14 Spot
15 Blackmail
17 Baby's call
20 Unrefined
23 Stretch of years

34 Incite
37 Catcher's place
39 Approaching
43 Verdi piece
44 Aviator
Earhart
45 Diner buy
46 Common greetings

DOWN
1 Entreat
2 Forest tool
3 Letter after pi
4 Tyler Perry persona
5 Trebek of "Jeopardy!"
6 High home
7 After-dinner wine
8 Popular nut
9 The

Matterhorn, e.g.
10 Cunning
16 Take place
17 Paris subway
18 "The Tempest" sprite
19 Popular nut
21 Suspended
22 Looks for
24 Fashionably dated
25 Moody music
30 Breakfast choice
33 Setting filler
35 Provo's state
36 One or more
37 Sandwich meat
38 Bauxite, e.g.
40 Completely
41 Carnival city
42 German articles



MONDAY'S ANSWERS

D	E	L	T	A	S	A	B	L	E				
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Destroying hills for a dumping station

According to Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995, (amended in 2000), cutting a hill without the approval of the Department of Environment (DoE) is illegal.

SIFAYET ULLAH

When a garbage dumping station is comes at the expense of destroying hills and jeopardising the environment, the act becomes highly contentious.

Apparently, Banskhali municipality authorities have done just that, by cutting huge portions of two hills in Banskhali upazila of Chattogram.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found over 10,000 square feet of the two hills have been cut. Two excavators were seen razing the hills and three dump trucks were seen transporting the soil.

Seeking anonymity, a worker said they have been cutting hills for the past three months.

Jamal Uddin, a local, said, "The dump station is being built by cutting the hills for about six months now."

Arif Mainuddin, a Banskhali municipality councillor, claimed that despite having alternative sites for disposing household garbage, the mayor has chosen hilly areas to raze hillocks under the guise of building a dumping station, and then sell the soil of the



razed hill.

"Each truck of soil is being sold for Tk 2,000," he added.

Contacted, SM Tofail bin Hossain, mayor of the municipality, admitted to razing hills, claiming that the municipality owns those.

He did not elaborate further and evaded questions from this correspondent.

Contacted, Banskhali UNO Saiduzzaman Chowdhury said, "We have already talked

about the matter with the mayor. We will take legal action against those involved as it is illegal to cut hills without permission."

Mohammad Kamal Hossain, former professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chittagong University, said after the dumping facility is built here, the local ecosystem will suffer.

According to Bangladesh Environment Preservation Act 1995, (amended in 2000), cutting a hill without the approval of the Department of Environment (DoE) is illegal.

The punishment for breaking the law is up to two years' imprisonment or Tk 2 lakh fine, or both for the first time. The second time, it is up to 10 years imprisonment or Tk 10 lakh fine or both.

According to Bangladesh Environment Forum data, a total of 120 hills disappeared from Chattogram city within just four decades. In 1976, there was 32.37 square km of hills in the port city and it decreased to 14.02 square kilometers in 2008.

The data showed that there were 200 hills in the port city 40 years ago and 60 percent of those have disappeared now.

Occupying forestland by building a wall

Construction goes on despite HC stay order



SIFAYET ULLAH

RF Builders, a real-estate firm appointed by a group called Prabartak Sangha, is constructing a boundary wall in a disputed land in Prabartak area under Panchalaish of Chattogram, despite a stay order issued by the High Court.

According to forest officials, the area is a protected forestland.

The High Court on September 1, 2022, stayed construction of any establishment on the disputed land for six months, said Abdul Malek, ranger of the Chattogram North Forest Division's city range.



Abdul Malek, ranger of the Chattogram North Forest Division's city range, said the land is a protected forest. But Prabartak Sangha grabbed the land illegally many years ago. Authorities of the Chattogram North Forest Division filed a case against Prabartak Sangha in 2016 and also applied to the court for a stay order on this land.

During a visit to the place on February 10, this correspondent saw that around 15 workers were building a boundary wall in the disputed area. However, none of the workers agreed to speak to this reporter.

Juwel Dey, a security guard next to the land, told The Daily Star that officials of the RF builders and Prabartak Sangha often come here to supervise the construction works.

Abdul Malek told The Daily Star that the land is a protected forest. But Prabartak Sangha grabbed the land illegally many years ago. Authorities of the Chattogram North Forest Division filed a case against Prabartak Sangha in 2016 and also applied to the court for a stay order on this land.

Soon after, a Chattogram court gave a stay order on this land that year, he said.

However, another court of Chattogram revoked the status quo in 2019, following an appeal by Prabartak Sangha. The Forest Department then appealed to the High Court against the withdrawal order. After a long hearing, the High Court ordered a stay order on the disputed land last year.

"But Prabartak Sangha didn't obey the order and they have illegally occupied the government property," said Mozammel Hoque Shah Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of the Chattogram North Forest Division.

We have already informed the police station in writing about the construction of the wall in violation of the stay order of the court, he added.

Contacted, Indu Nandan Dutta, president of the Prabartak Sangha, claimed that they had nothing to do with the construction works.

However, Kamrul Hasan Bacchu, managing director of the RF builders, said, "We are building a boundary wall in that land as we have many valuable resources there."

Advocate Rabi Shankar Chowdhury, a retainer of the forest division of Chattogram, said, "Disobeying the stay order is a contempt of court. We have already advised the forest department to bring the matter to the attention of the court."

According to data from the forest department, the Calcutta gazette issued in 1934 by the Forest department recorded the land as forestland.

But later, the 8.33 acres land was mistakenly recorded in the name of Prabartak Sangha in Bangladesh Survey (BS), claimed Mozammel Hoque Shah Chowdhury.

A case is going on in the court regarding the disputed land. The court will decide who owns this land and we are waiting for the court's verdict, said Indu Nandan Dutta, president of the Prabartak Sangha.

Teribazar, all things clothing

The business hub has a tradition of selling whole cloths for around 80 years.

Abdul Mannan, former general secretary of Teribazar Merchants Association

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Chattogram's Teribazar is the most sought after destination for people from all walks of life for reasonably priced full-sized cloth.

Located at the heart of the port city just around a hundred yards off Anderkill, the business hub stands with around 2,500 shops and 82 shopping malls. Not only retail customers but also the traders from different upazilas in the district come here to shop wholesale cloths.

According to traders and businesspersons, its the second largest hub for wholesale full-sized cloths in the country after Islampur in

Dhaka.

Although Teribazar was once famous for selling whole cloths at a reasonable price, in the transition of the last few years a number of shopping malls that offered ready-made attires mushroomed, said traders and locals.

The business hub has a tradition of selling whole cloths for around 80 years, said Abdul Mannan, former general secretary of Teribazar Merchants Association. "I've grown up in Ghat Forhadbegh area adjacent to Teribazar and since my childhood, I saw people from remote areas coming here to shop."

"The traders from different upazilas also



used to come here to purchase cloths at a wholesale price and this trend have still been continuing," said Mannan.

According to sources, some one-stop malls, where clothes for all ages and genders are found under the same roof, have been appearing one after another in this hub since 2000.

Megamart is one of those malls. It is located on the second, third and fourth floors of Ibrahim Mansion at Teribazar. During a visit in last week, it was seen that the mall was abuzz with customers.

Tamanna Binte Rashed came to the mall with her son and daughter for shopping.

"The advantage of shopping at a one-stop mall is that there are attires for all ages and genders here," she said. "I don't have to go from one shop to the other for buying attires and the price here is also reasonable."

Apart from one-stop shopping malls, around 2,000 shops are selling cloths here.

Traders said keeping buyers' demands in mind on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, all kinds of cloths including katan, linen, jamdani, cotton, net, georgette, chiffon and digital print fabrics have been imported.

Besides, the demand for local cloth has also increased by leaps and bounds.

Gautam Chowdhury, proprietor of Adrika Fashion, said the demand for imported cloths overwhelms that of local cloths. "Indian and Chinese fabrics are on top of the demand of customers at my shop."

Aminul Haque, president of Teribazar Merchants Association, said they are taking steps to enhance the modern facilities so that the hub can attract more customers.



Neon signboards of shops offering various products hang amid a narrow alley in Teribazar, the largest hub for retail and wholesale clothes in Chattogram.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Chandika absorbs proceedings on first day back

SPORTS REPORTER

Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha, who returned for his second stint with the Bangladesh national side, appeared to have great rapport with old and many new faces on his first day at his old stomping ground at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

He met the players as he walked out onto the Mirpur turf, sharing a few light moments as players did their rounds during the optional practice session before coming in to form a circle around arguably Bangladesh's most successful coach. The Sri Lankan also met the coaching panel, including the likes of Allan Donald, Rangana Herath and Jamie Siddons.

Having caught up with ODI captain Tamim Iqbal, Chandika soon was spotted in discussion with compatriot Gamini de Silva near the pitch area, perhaps getting an idea of the conditions at play for the upcoming series against England.

While most of the players have started work at Mirpur, some seniors such as Shakib Al Hasan, Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad are yet to join the side, as are Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz. The handling of such dressing room seniors will be key to success with the World Cup looming in the distance. In the past, such relationships had often been tricky, but for now the initial rapport with those available yesterday was positive.

There were many changes to the team while Hathurusingha was gone but a salute to Ebadot Hossain showed that the Sri Lankan was aware of proceedings and had done a bit of homework.

"It has been a positive vibe, he has just come so it was about meeting with the players and coaches here," a BCB source informed.

Nurul Hasan Sohan said of his experience meeting the coach: "I think technically he is very good with plans and I feel that he did his homework before arriving."

"It was nothing specific. Since we met after a long time, it was mostly greetings. He talked to us on the field, not the dressing room. He told us that he has a plan and that's how things will move forward," he added.

Beneath the meet-and-greet on the field, plans were being transmitted. The coach held a meeting with former team director Khaled Mahmud and ODI captain Tamim inside the dressing room as Hathurusingha looks to exceed his past achievements.



On his first day back at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Chandika Hathurusingha was welcomed in a hearty manner by Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal and others present during the Tigers' training session yesterday. It was a sort of a happy reunion for the Sri Lankan, who had accepted the role of the national team's head coach for the second time after having left the post back in 2017.

PHOTO: STAR

'Important to adapt and adjust'

Despite picking up a hat-trick on ODI debut, Taijul Islam is yet to establish himself in the white-ball formats for Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh's second-leading wicket-taker will be looking to make an impact when he makes a comeback to the ODI side in the upcoming series against England. The 31-year-old opened up about his comeback, his plans for the England series and a few other topics during an exclusive interview with **The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin**. The excerpts are below:

DS: You have been in-and-out of the ODI side despite decent performances. After missing the last home series against India in December, you are making a comeback for the series against England. How do you feel about that?

TI: Regardless of what happened in the past, I think this is a very big opportunity for me since we have the ODI World Cup this year in the subcontinent. At the same time, I want to do well for my country in all the formats.

DS: Did you receive any instructions from the team management about your role in the 50-over format?

TI: No, not really. I have not received such instructions from the team management. But at the end of the day, performance is everything. So, I am looking forward to doing well for my team.

DS: Since you will be playing against the World Champions at home, what are the areas you want to exploit as a bowler?

TI: Some English players like Moeen Ali have just played in the BPL here and there are few others who are well aware of Bangladeshi pitches and conditions these days. I think they will make their preparations and it will be a big challenge for us. It won't be easy at all.

DS: Knowing that England play attacking cricket in white-ball formats, what should



your strategy as a left-arm spinner be?
TI: Since there are three formats, you also need to adapt and adjust as a bowler. Not just with the white-ball, England play attacking cricket even in Tests nowadays. It will be important to observe their batters and plan according to the situation.

DS: Since spinners are expected to play vital roles against England, tell us about your bowling partnership with Shakib Al Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz.

TI: Despite the fact that we will be playing at home, it is not a certainty that pitches will favour spinners. But regardless of the

pitch, bowling partnerships are crucial to gaining the momentum. At times, my role in to contain runs and bowl dot balls while there are other times when I have the wicket-taking role. It all depends on the situation.

DS: Do you think your experience in the Test format will help you adapt to the shorter formats?

TI: Experience will certainly be a factor. But to be honest, I have played just 12 ODIs and picked up twenty wickets at a fairly good economy. There is no shortage of confidence. I am hopeful of performing for my country.

DS: How is it working with spin-bowling coach Rangana Herath?

TI: He was a champion left-arm spinner in world cricket and shares his vast knowledge and experiences with us all the time. Herath allows you to think about the game and helps you improve whichever area you are willing to work on with him. It's great to have someone like him around and it certainly motivates me a lot.

DS: How was the first day of the training camp under Chandika Hathurusingha?

TI: We had a meet and greet today (Tuesday), but we did not have a long discussion yet. Since we met after a while, we spoke about our families and other things.

Laporta hits back at "obsessed" Tebas

AFP, Madrid

Barcelona president Joan Laporta hit back at La Liga chief Javier Tebas on Tuesday amid the controversy over his club's payments to a refereeing executive.

Tebas claimed Monday Laporta should resign if he could not explain Barcelona's reported seven million euros (\$7.46 million) in outgoings between 2001 and 2018 to a company belonging to former refereeing technical committee (CTA) vice-president Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira.

Barcelona initially said Negreira was being paid for reports and advice on referees, which are now compiled internally.

Laporta confirmed that before criticising Tebas. "Some had already warned us that it seemed Tebas was pushing a reputational campaign against Barça and against me," Laporta told reporters at Camp Nou.

"The mask has come off, he continues with his obsession with Barca, with his fear of our club."

Laporta recalled Tebas, when legal adviser to Alaves in 2005, tried to report former Barcelona forward Lionel Messi for playing without the correct documentation.

The Barcelona president also said his club's unwillingness to sign La Liga's deal with CVC and determination to found a European Super League also played a role in his "obsession" with the Catalan club.

Djokovic lauded with yet another record in sight

REUTERS

Novak Djokovic has shown that age is not a barrier and the 35-year-old will continue to break records, his younger rivals on the ATP tour said as the Serbian star looks to overtake Steffi Graf as the player with the most weeks at world number one.

Djokovic won a record-extending 10th Australian Open title last month to draw level with his great rival Rafa Nadal on 22 Grand Slam victories and leapfrog Carlos Alcaraz into top spot in the ATP rankings.

He already holds the record for the most weeks as the men's number one after surpassing Roger Federer's mark of 310 weeks in March 2021 and began his 377th week at the top on Monday to go level with 22-times major champion Graf.

Russian world number five Andrey Rublev said Djokovic had shown that anything is possible.

"And at the age of 35, he still can be the best player in the world and break records," Rublev, 25, who lost to Djokovic in the Australian Open quarterfinals, told reporters in Doha.

"If you do the things right, you can perform at the highest level... age doesn't matter. That's what it means to me."

Former world number two Alexander Zverev said Djokovic had shown how consistent he can be by dominating his rivals in the last decade.

However, Zverev said that watching Graf being overtaken would be bittersweet for him.

"He's surpassing Steffi, so as a German, obviously I always loved her having that record. But credit to Novak, I think that shows how great he is," the 25-year-old Zverev said.

Djokovic returns to action in Dubai later this month.

Inter hoping to turn the tide

AFP, Milan

Simone Inzaghi said Tuesday that he wants Inter Milan to end Italian teams' dreadful record against Porto as he prepares to host the Portuguese outfit in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie.

Inter are aiming to reach the quarterfinals of the Champions League for the first time since 2011 but will have to beat a bogey team for Serie A clubs guided by Inzaghi's former Lazio teammate Sergio Conceicao.

Porto have knocked out six Italian clubs in European competition over the last two decades, most recently finishing a point above AC Milan in the Champions League group stage last season and taking the Europa League spot. Inzaghi and Conceicao won the league and cup double in 2000 with Lazio, as well as the 1999 European Super Cup, and since retiring as players both are enjoying successful managerial careers.

"He's (Conceicao) doing really well right now, his team plays a physical and technical game," Inzaghi told reporters.

"Porto are a really good team, they've won 10 games in a row, conceding only two goals.

"In recent years they have done really well against Italian teams, against Milan last season, Roma, Lazio and Juventus. Let's hope we can turn the tide."

Inter are in the knockout stages after qualifying from a group which contained the current leaders of La Liga and the Bundesliga.

They took four points from Barcelona to make it through in second place behind Bayern Munich who won all of their Group C matches.

"We are coming into this game with a lot of belief because we got here in an incredible way; on paper Barcelona and Bayern Munich were the teams everyone wanted to avoid," said Inzaghi.

"You can see what Barca are doing now against Real Madrid who have just been crowned world champions and we know what Bayern are about. Now we're here, we wanted it so badly and we're going to give it a go."



Manchester City forward Erling Haaland will be hoping to build on his stellar record against RB Leipzig when they travel to the German city for their Champions League Round of 16 first-leg clash on Wednesday. With six goals in four games, the Norwegian forward scored more goals against Leipzig during his time in Germany than he did against any other opponent.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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SHAHEED MINARS 21 injured in clashes over placing wreaths

STAR REPORT

The solemnity of International Mother Language Day programmes was marred by the attacks and clashes involving ruling party men in three districts yesterday.

At least 21 people were injured in the incidents in Chattogram, Manikganj, and Jhenidah.

In Chattogram, five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Union were injured in an attack allegedly carried out by Bangladesh Chhatra League men over placing wreaths at the Shaheed Minar of Municipal Model High School yesterday morning.

An altercation between activists of the two student bodies erupted around 9:30am as Chhatra League men tried to pay tribute, cutting the queue, witnesses and Chhatra Union men said.

Imran Chowdhury, president of Chattogram district unit Chhatra Union, said people were paying tribute maintaining discipline and the queue.

"We were also going to place flowers

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Boats have been lying idle near the banks of the Piya river in Sylhet's Jaflong for days. The river has lost much of its navigability as its water, which flows in from India's Meghalaya, brings in a lot of sand and stones along with it – all of which has been collecting in the riverbed. As a result, boatmen and other locals, who rely on the river to make a living, have been heavily affected. The photo was taken at the Jaflong bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Shab-e-Barat on March 7

BSS, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, will be observed throughout the country on the night of March 7 as the new moon of the holy month of Shaban of Hijri 1444 was sighted last evening.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation conference room of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday evening with State Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Faridul Haque Khan in the chair, read a press release of the Islamic Foundation.

As the new crescent was sighted in the country yesterday, the holy month of Shaban will begin from today, the release added.

The Muslims consider Shab-e-Barat as one of the three most sacred nights and believe that on this night Almighty Allah decides the fate of all human beings fixing their 'rizq' (livelihood) for the next year.

Devotees will offer special prayers, recite from the Holy Quran, hold milad, zikr and other religious rituals.

BNP smells a rat in law minister's remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law minister's recent comment that there is no restriction on Khaleda Zia getting involved in politics is an attempt to dilute BNP's movement, leaders of the party believe.

However, BNP Standing Committee members at a meeting decided that they would not issue a formal reaction to the matter.

"They [ruling AL leaders] made different comments on occasions. Let them make comments," BNP Standing Committee member Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku told The Daily Star yesterday.

Law Minister Anisul Huq at a programme on Sunday said, "She [Khaleda] was released from jail under section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure... as she was sick. We did not write that she cannot do politics."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

RAMPAL POWER PLANT

There's no stopping the thieves!

Machines, equipment, materials are being stolen frequently for 1.5yrs

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY and SHARIFUL ISLAM

It seems nothing can stop organised criminal gangs from stealing machines, materials and different kinds of equipment from Bagerhat's Rampal coal-based thermal power plant.

Over the past year and a half, 62 people were arrested on charges of stealing equipment and materials worth Tk 1 crore, including a coal quality testing machine, 5,000kg of copper wire and huge amounts of GI pipes, iron pipes, cutter blades, plain tin sheets, and more.

Meanwhile, at least 34 cases had been filed with Rampal Police Station over incidents of theft.

Police officials, who investigated the cases

and interrogated the arrestees, said some corrupt officials and staffers of the plant are in league with the thieves, which is why stopping the thefts will not be easy.

Law enforcers and power plant officials have also blamed the poor security arrangements, an insufficient number of people to guard the areas where important materials are kept, and the absence of CCTV monitoring systems.

The biggest theft took place on January 14 when the "Bomb Calorimeter", a coal quality testing machine worth Tk 47 lakh, was stolen from a locked laboratory.

"The US-manufactured Bomb Calorimeter is the lone machine to test the quality of coal

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



BBC DOCU ON MODI Indian FM questions its timing

AGENCIES

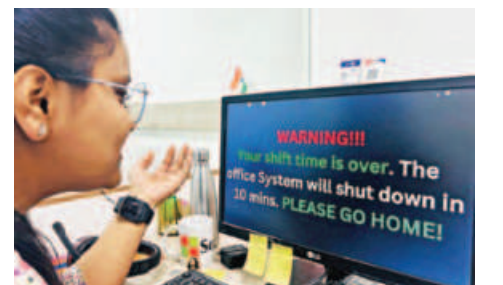
India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj yesterday said the timing of the controversial BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not accidental.

Speaking to ANI, the minister said, "We are not debating a documentary or a speech someone gave in a European city. We are debating politics which is being conducted ostensibly. There is a phrase called 'war by other means'. This is politics by other means."

"You do a hatchet job and say this is just a quest for truth which we

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

'Please go home' Indian firm deploys software for work-life balance



REUTERS

A small IT company in Indore has come up with an unusual way to ensure its employees maintain a healthy work-life balance – by creating software to remind them when their shift is up and it is time to head home.

Softgrid Computers' software is equipped with a notification system that kicks in the moment an employee's shift is over, warning them that "the office system will shut down in 10 mins" and asking them to "please go home".

The measure comes amid an increased focus on and research into the adverse effect of long

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Md Nazrul Khan sorting out tomatoes in Gopalbari village of Rajbari Sadar upazila. Below, he is packing the tomatoes to send them to Dhaka city. Nazrul sells them for Tk 14-15 a kg. The 42-year-old farmer, who cultivated tomatoes on an acre this year spending Tk 2 lakh, said he got good yield but was not making much profits due to low price in the market. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: SUZIT KUMAR DAS

PVT MEDICAL EDN Govt hikes admission fees by over 3 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has increased the admission fees for medical students in private medical and dental colleges by 17 percent.

Now, a student will have to pay Tk 19.44 lakh, around Tk 3.24 lakh more than the previous fees.

Since 2018, the fees were Tk 16.20 lakh.

The new fees will be effective from the next academic session (2022-23), according to a circular on the website of the health ministry's medical education wing yesterday.

The decision was made as per the proposal of the private medical colleges at a meeting in the ministry on February 9. Health Minister Zahid Maleque presided over the meeting, read the circular.

The internship fees, however, remains unchanged at Tk 1.80 lakh and the monthly tuition fees at Tk 10,000.

An expert denounced the decision of rising the admission fees.

"Majority of the families in our country are not capable of bearing this cost. As a result, students from rural areas will

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সচিব বাংলাদেশ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বন সংরক্ষকের কার্যালয়
বন্যপ্রাণী ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ অঞ্চল
বন ভবন, আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

Bangabandhu Award for Wildlife Conservation-2023

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণ কার্যক্রমে নিয়োজিত বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণবাদী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানকে জাতীয়ভাবে উৎসাহিত করার লক্ষ্যে সরকার "Bangabandhu Award for Wildlife Conservation" প্রবর্তন করেছেন। ২০১২ মালে জারিকৃত নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী বিগত বছরের ন্যায় এ বছরও নিম্নোক্ত ০৩ (তিনটি) ক্যাটাগরিতে পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে:

শ্রেণী	পুরস্কারের ক্যাটাগরি	বিবেচ্য বিষয়
ক	বন ও বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণ কাজে নিয়োজিত কর্মকর্তা, খ্যাতিমান গবেষক, বিজ্ঞানী, বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণবাদী ব্যক্তি ও গণমাধ্যম কর্মী/ব্যক্তিক্ত।	বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণ বিষয়ক শিক্ষা, গবেষণা ও নিবন্ধন প্রকাশ এবং মাঠ পর্যায়ে অবদান।
খ	বন্যপ্রাণী বিষয়ক শিক্ষা ও গবেষণা।	বন্যপ্রাণীর আবাসস্থল উন্নয়ন ও সংরক্ষণে অবদান।
গ	বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণে নিবেদিত প্রতিষ্ঠান।	বন্যপ্রাণী সংক্রান্ত অপরাধ দমন এবং মানুষ-বন্যপ্রাণী দ্বন্দ্ব নিরসনে অবদান। বিরল ও বিলুপ্তপ্রায় বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণ ও ক্যাটাগরি ব্রিডিং কর্মসূচিতে অবদান। বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণে গণসচেতনতা সৃষ্টিতে অবদান।

পুরস্কারঃ প্রত্যেক ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ২ ডরি ওজনের স্বর্ণপদক, ০১টি সনদপত্র ও ৫০,০০০/- টাকা প্রদান করা হবে।

আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করার পদ্ধতিঃ বাংলাদেশের যে কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান উপরে বর্ণিত ক্যাটাগরিতে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। প্রতিটি আবেদনে ০৩ (তিন) কপি জীবন বৃত্তান্তসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত তথ্য সংযুক্তি হিসেবে দাখিল করতে হবে।

১। ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও পূর্ণ ঠিকানা, ২। কাজের অধিক্ষেত্র, ৩। ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত উল্লেখযোগ্য কাজের বিবরণ (প্রমাণকসহ) এবং ৪। বাস্তবায়িত কার্যক্রমের প্রেক্ষিতে বন্যপ্রাণী ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণে প্রাপ্ত বা স্কিলিত ফলাফলের বিবরণ।

আবেদনকারীকে আগামী ২৩/০৩/২০২৩তারিখের মধ্যে ক্যাটাগরি উল্লেখপূর্বক সংযুক্তিসহ স্বাক্ষরিত আবেদনপত্র বন সংরক্ষক, বন্যপ্রাণী ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ অঞ্চল, বন ভবন, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ বরাবরে দাখিল করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(Signature)
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