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Local firms show manufacturing capabilities



Bangladesh face Iran in must-win game



Key Xi ally Li Qiang named Chinese premier



I've fed my family through rap: Black Zang

Bangladesh always ready to welcome you'

PM tells foreign investors at Bangladesh Business Summit

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Business Summit 2023 began yesterday to showcase the country's potentials to global investors.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the three-day event, urging the international business community to invest in Bangladesh as the country will be a developed, prosperous, and smart one by 2041,

"Bangladesh is always ready to welcome you. Invest in Bangladesh thinking that it is your country," she said.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the event at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital, marking its 50th founding

The ministries of foreign affairs, commerce, and the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) have partnered with the FBCCI for the event.

Bangladesh's textiles

and garments export

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to 150 countries and

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leather industry is

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organisers highlighting that Bangladesh's economy has been growing annually by around 6 percent for two decades. The country is set to graduate to a developing country by 2026. And it is expected to become the ninth largest consumer market by

A documentary screened at the event showed how Bangladesh aims to be an upper middle-income country by 2031 and a developed one by 2041.

Bangladesh's textiles and garments export will hit the \$100 billion by 2030. The country is also one of the most reliable sources for drugs of international standard. Local drugmakers export to 150 countries and meet 98 percent of the demand at home while

Bangladesh

not heading

towards

Chinese

debt trap

STORY ON B1

the leather industry is the second largest export earner.

The country is the world's largest exporter of jute and jute products. To make economic advancement pick up pace and to become a developed nation, the government's target is to establish 100 economic

The prime minister said improving the investment environment was the government's priority, according to a FBCCI statement.

She said the BIDA is implementing the Bangladesh Investment Climate Improvement Programme mainly to put an end to red tape.

People around the globe have been suffering amid rising prices of essentials and high inflation rates due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia Ukraine war, and economic sanctions and counter-sanctions, she said.

"Bangladesh, like many other developing countries, is now facing serious trouble due to the global economic recession. Even the developed SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BUSINESS

Local

firms show

capabilities

STORY ON B3

manufacturing

Biz

Summit

attracting

STORY ON B1

investments

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and dignitaries at the Bangladesh Business Summit 2023 organised yesterday at the

Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Federation of Bangladesh **Chambers of Commerce and Industry.**

PHOTO: PID

KSA agrees to joint venture fertiliser plant in kingdom

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has agreed to Bangladesh's proposal for setting up a fertiliser factory under a joint initiative in the kingdom, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen after a meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister Majid bin Abdullah Al-kassabi.

"We want to invest in a fertiliser factory [in Saudi Arabia]. The production cost will be low and we can benefit from that. They have agreed [to the proposal]," he told reporters after a bilateral meeting with the

Saudi Commerce Minister Al-kassabi is in Dhaka to attend Bangladesh Summit 2023 Business inaugurated yesterday

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

RU students, locals clash; over 220 hurt

University suspends classes, exams for 2 days; police outpost, 50 shops set on fire; fight broke out over argument on a bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 220 people were injured after students of Rajshahi University fought running battles with locals and police in Binodpur area near the campus yesterday evening over

At least 20 students suffered shotgun pellet injuries as police fired teargas and rubber bullets to control the situation.

Witnesses and law enforcers said the students vandalised and set ablaze some 50 shops in the area.

A police outpost was also set on fire and officials could not tell who set it ablaze.

university suspended all classes and exams for two days. The clashes were still going on

when this report was filed around 1:15am today. At least seven platoons of BGB were deployed in the area, said Lt Col

Shabbir Ahmed of BGB Battalion-1. According to law enforcers and locals, a student of the university was travelling to Rajshahi from Bogura by bus when he had an argument with the bus driver and his assistant

over taking a seat in the bus. When the bus stopped at the Binodpur gate of the university around 6:00pm, their argument reignited.

At that time, a local shopkeeper



intervened, taking the side of the bus driver and helper.

There was pushing and shoving between the shopkeeper and the student. The situation soon escalated as more students and locals engaged in the fight and chased each other.

Several motorcycles vandalised during the clash.

Prof Sultan-ul-Islam, pro vicechancellor of the university, told The Daily Star around 10:00pm that 150-200 students were injured in the

incident.

They were treated at the university medical centre and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

At least 86 people were admitted to the RMCH, officials said.

Most of the injuries were caused by police charging truncheons and locals and students throwing brick chunks and stones at each other.

Rayhan Islam, RU correspondent of Bangladesh Protidin, Mir Kadir and Jaber Ahmed, RU SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Adani's power to get costlier

Transmitting

Project is one of six seeking revision today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The overall cost for transmitting electricity from the Adani power plant in Godda, Jharkhand is set to increase further as two projects meant for that end are eyeing cost and time revisions.

In today's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, one of the 12 proposals that would be placed for approval involves the revision of a project on setting up the transmission network for the electricity generated at the Adani power plant.

"If the project is implemented, the power imported from India (Adani) can be fed into the national grid through the northern region," said the revised proposal from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, the implementing agency.

PGCB is now seeking an additional Tk 1,048.5 crore and another year for completion of the project called the Southwest Transmission Grid Expansion Project.

The revision is to accommodate route expansion and build new substations. according to the proposal.

Some transmission lines related to bringing in power from India have been added and some need to be reconducted such as the east-west interconnector along with transmission lines from Gaibandha's Palashbari to Bagura's Mahashangar and from Pabna's Ishwardi SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Two men pouring kerosene in a barrel by the side of a street in the capital's Tejgaon, oblivious to the serious risks of a fire. Besides, they were doing this next to a plant of Linde, which makes gasses for industrial and medical use. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয় সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্ত্রয় কর্তৃপক্ষ ডিটিসিএ ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা ১২০৮



স্মারক নং – ৩৫.০২.০০০০.০১৭.১৪.০১৩.২২-৫৬

তারিখ: ০৫/০৩/২০২৩

খানা জরিপ (Household Interview Survey) বিজ্ঞপ্তি ২০২৩

ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ) এর উদ্যোগে কৌশলগত পরিবহন পরিকল্পনা (Strategic Transport Plan, STP) হালনাগাদ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে।

এ প্রেক্ষাপটে, ডিটিসিএ- এর অধিক্ষেত্রে (ঢাকা, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, গাজীপুর, নরসিংদী, মুন্সীগঞ্জ ও মানিকগঞ্জ জেলা) কৌশলগত পরিবহন পরিকল্পনা হালনাগাদের জন্য খানা জরিপ কার্যক্রম মার্চ থেকে ডিসেম্বর ২০২৩ পর্যন্ত চলবে। জরিপ কর্মীগণ দৈবচয়নের ভিত্তিতে বাড়ি-বাড়ি গিয়ে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করবেন। এ জরিপ কার্যক্রমে সঠিক তথ্য ও মতামত প্রদান করে একটি উপযোগী পরিবহন পরিকল্পনা তৈরিতে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা

মোহাম্মদ রবিউল আলম

অতিরিক্ত নির্বাহী পরিচালক (টিএমপিটিআই), ডিটিসিএ

প্রকল্প পরিচালক, MTR-RSTP Project

SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA Moscow to stand by Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

wants to continue its cooperation with Bangladesh, particularly in trade, economy, and implementation of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant despite sanctions imposed against Russia by the US and the "collective West".

Ambassador Russian Bangladesh, Alexander Mantytskiy, said this in a meeting with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday.

Disruptions in supply chains and financial transactions caused by the sanctions imposed amid the Russia-Ukraine war have affected the progress of the Rooppur project.

Bangladesh banned 69 USsanctioned Russian ships from entering its territory. And a sanctioned ship that brought equipment for the power plant in recent months was not allowed to anchor in Bangladesh.

In yesterday's meeting, Speaker Shirin and Mantytskiy spoke of mutual commitment to strengthen friendly relations between parliaments of Russia and Bangladesh, said a statement from the Russian embassy.

Biden scraps Trump's paint scheme for Air Force One

AFP, Washington

The US Air Force on Friday unveiled a new color scheme for Air Force One, discarding the palette chosen by Donald Trump for the presidential aircraft.

President Joe Biden is sticking with a classic blue-and-white color scheme for the jets, which are under construction, retaining a design that dates to John F. Kennedy's administration six decades ago.

Former president Trump, who left office in January 2021, wanted a bolder red, white and blue design, and kept a scale model bearing those colors on a coffee table in the Oval Office.



Ahmadiyyas still homeless in Panchagarh

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

Several hundred people of the Ahmadiyya community, who came under attacks by fundamentalists in Panchagarh, are still homeless nine days after the violence.

Many of them are passing days amid untold sufferings at a local education institution, Jameya Ahmadiyya Bangladesh, and local mosques.

Some others have taken shelters to their relatives' houses in neighbouring districts.

Most of the victims said they were not solvent enough to rebuilt their houses within a very short span of time.

Those, who have financial abilities, are not repairing their houses fearing further

Visiting the spot yesterday, this correspondent found arson-ravaged

houses to be lying vacant.

'The attackers have damaged our home so badly that it is not possible to repair. We will have to rebuilt it. But we don't have enough money," said Tajmahal Begum, 65, of Phultola village.

She and her freedom fighter husband Mohammad Hanif were now staying at Jameya Ahmadiyya Bangladesh in Ahmadnagar village with other family members.

"We live from hand to mouth. How can we repair our house?" question Md. Osman, of Ahmadnagar Dangapara village, whose house was burnt to ashes.

Osman and his family members were staying at their relative's house in Dinajpur.

Nasrin Begum, 25, of Shalsheri village, said her family members pass daytime

by roaming around the village and go to Jameya Ahmadiyya Bangladesh premises after evening to stay at night.

"We neither have money nor any assistance from the government to repair our house. We don't know how long we will have to endure such untold sufferings,"

Tanveer Ahmad Tarun, 34, of Phultola village, is one of the solvent persons in the Ahmadiyya community.

"I can repair my house. But who will guarantee us that no such attack will be carried out again? Now, we don't have the courage to rebuild our house," he said.

Contacted, Jahurul Islam, deputy commissioner of Panchagarh, said, "As per our assessment, a total of 195 houses were affected during the violence. We have

Transmitting Adani's power

Beggar's body recovered from home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police recovered the body of a female street beggar from her residence in Bikakhali village of Patuakhali's Mirzaganj upazila yesterday.

Khokran Bibi, 52, was found lying on the floor in her tin-roofed house around 9:00am. Her door was locked from the inside.

When Khokran's husband died a few years ago, she used to earn her living by begging and working at other people's houses. She lived alone

Mirzaganj Police Station OC Anwar Hossain said the woman had a bloody wound on the left

Her body was sent to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital morgue for postmortem.

1.2 million metres of illegal fishing nets seized, destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Around 1.2 million metres of illegal fishing nets were seized from various areas of Patuakhali's Karapara upazila yesterday by the Bangladesh

"Later, they were destroyed by fire," confirmed Coast Guard's Nizampur Contingent Commander M Arif Mahmood.

He also said a five-member team led by him from Nizampur CG Station Contingent under Bangladesh Coast Guard South Zone conducted a special drive from 6:00am to 12:00 noon to seize the fishing nets from Khajura, Kuakata, Gangamati, and Char Vijay areas of Kalapara

Later, the seized illegal nets were burnt and destroyed.

Man run over, killed by train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

bazaar with his headphones on.

A man died after a train ran him over near the Sundarpur Railway Station in Jhenaidah's Kaliganj upazila yesterday.

Manik Mia, 45, from Jagdari village in Bogura Sadar upazila, was visiting his in-laws in Jhenaidah. Witnesses said the incident occurred when Manik was sitting on the rail tracks near Ektarpur

A Dhaka-bound Chitra Express ran him over around 11:00am, confirmed Kaliganj Police Station SI Prokash Kumar.

'Bangladesh always ready to welcome you'

countries have been rattled," BSS reports quoting Hasina as saying. Despite the challenges, Bangladesh

is marching towards prosperity and

development, she said. towards "We're advancing prosperity overcoming all the hurdles, and we have to make the current

efforts more vibrant to continue the journey of progress. "Once upon a time, Bangladesh was considered as the country of natural calamity and poverty. But the situation has changed now. Bangladesh has now become the world's 35th largest economy and a

correspondents of two online portals,

said, "We have been trying to control

the situation. Law enforcers are also

Khairuzzaman Liton went to the

scene and tried to talk to the students

and locals, but he had to leave as the

RU Proctor Prof Ashabul Haque

Mayor

AHM

'role model' for development."

were among the injured.

FBCCI President Md Jashim Uddin the summit. invited global business leaders to join Bangladesh's mega initiatives and to take advantage of South Asia's Majid bin Abdullah Alkassabi; Bhutan fastest-growing economy with a Commerce Minister Karma Dorji; regional manufacturing hub.

business event on a global scale to Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi; and focus on the vast opportunities the global leaders have in Bangladesh to expand their business and relocate Rahman spoke at the event. their industries, he added.

Ministers from seven countries including the UK, Saudi Arabia, China, Bhutan, the UAE, CEOs of 12 multinational companies, over 200 foreign investors, and business leaders from 17 countries are participating in of International Trade.

students threw chunks of brick at

situation by talking to the warring

groups, but failed to convince them.

Around 10:30pm, police fired teargas

and started hurling brick chunks and

stones at the law enforcers, forcing

But more students soon gathered

shells and fired rubber bullets.

Police also tried to calm the

RU students, locals clash; over 220 hurt

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen; Saudi Arabia Commerce Minister Dr Deputy Director General of the World Sheikh Hasina's Private Industries and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur

> Three memorandums understanding signed between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh to expand trade and commerce. The FBCCI signed a MoU with China Council for the Promotion

The students then torched around

As the law enforcers regrouped

20 shops in the area, said Rajshahi

Metropolitan Police Commissioner

and used firearms to chase the

students away, around 20 students

remained closed to traffic from

The Dhaka-Rajshahi highway

got shot, RMCH officials said.

Anisur Rahman.

to get costlier

transmission line will be set up in vear. Bhola's Charfassion, said Project Director Alamgir Hossain.

"The project has no connection to consuming the Adani power plant's generated capacity. We have done 104km 400 kV transmission line from Chapainawabganj border to Bogura district, which is enough for transmit the whole capacity of Adani Power as per demand," he told The Daily Star.

Transmission lines under this project can be used for power evacuation in southern regions including Payra power according to the proposal.

"In addition, if the project is implemented, the capacity of the power transmission system in the southern and western regions of the country will increase and it will be possible to provide reliable and quality electricity to meet the increasing electricity demand of these areas," it added.

If the revised proposal gets approved today, the project will cost Tk 4,322.3 crore and be complete in December 2024.

Similarly, the planning commission is sitting on the revision September 2013.

proposal for another project to make Another 41 kilometres of already increased by 22 percent last extended to December 2022.

> The project, named Barapukuria-Bogura-Kaliakoir Transmission Line Project, is aimed at setting up high voltage transmission infrastructure for importing power from India, Nepal and Bhutan.

> It was taken up in January 2019 at a cost of Tk 3,322 crore for completion by June 2022. Later, the cost was revised upwards by 22 percent and the deadline was extended to June

> PGCB is now soliciting a second revision: a 153 percent hike in cost, which would take the project outlay to upwards of Tk 10,000 crore. The revision is yet to be approved by the planning commission.

> Meanwhile, of the 12 proposals that would be placed in today's meeting, six would be for revisions.

> Two of the projects are seeking their fifth revision. One of them is the project to construct the third unit of the state-owned Essential Drugs Company's manufacturing facility in Gopalganj.

> Taken up in January 2011 at a cost of Tk 315 crore, the third unit was supposed to be completed by

The project has gone through to Natore, according to project the best use of the power from the four revisions, with its cost increased Adani plant. That project's cost was to Tk 597.3 crore and the deadline Now, it is seeking an extension in

both cost and time.

If it gets the nod today, the project's cost would swell to Tk 798.8 crore and the new deadline is December 2023. In a similar vein, the project to

construct the rail line to link the Mongla Sea Port with the country's railway network is eyeing its fifth revision.

The project was taken up in December 2010 at a cost of Tk 1,721.4 crore for completion by December 2013. Over the decade, its cost was revised upwards to Tk 3,801.6 crore and the deadline was extended to December 2022.

Bangladesh Railway is now seeking until July 2024 to complete the project and another Tk 459.3 crore.

However, the planning division's urban resilience project is seeking to get its cost revised downwards.

Taken up in July 2015 to improve the infrastructure of Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at a cost of Tk 80 crore. the project failed to make much headway. Subsequently, its allocation was hacked down.

Now, it is aiming for completion by October this year at a cost of Tk 32.9

Iran says deal reached to buy Russian fighter jets

AFP, Tehran

working.

Rajshahi

Iran has finalised a deal to buy Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia, state media reported, as defence cooperation between the two countries deepens.

The air force of sanctions-hit Iran has an ageing fleet of aircraft and has struggled to acquire spare parts to keep its warplanes in the air.

In a statement to the United Nations, Tehran said it began approaching "countries to buy fighter jets" to replenish its fleet in the wake of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

"Russia announced it was ready to sell them" after the expiry in October 2020 of restrictions on Iran purchasing conventional weapons under UN Resolution 2231, said the statement carried late Friday by the official IRNA news agency.

technically acceptable for Iran," it

Tehran has forged strong ties with Moscow in various sectors including the military in the past year.

Kyiv has accused Tehran of supplying Moscow with Shahed-136 "kamikaze" drones used in attacks on civilian targets since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February last year -- an allegation the Islamic republic denies.

The United States has expressed alarm over the growing military cooperation between Iran and Russia, with Pentagon spokesman John Kirby warning in December that Russia looked likely to sell Iran its fighter jets.

pilots had reportedly been learning relief from international sanctions to fly the Sukhoi warplanes in Russia, and that Tehran may receive the nuclear programme.

"The Sukhoi 35 fighter jets were aircraft within the next year, which would "significantly strengthen Iran's air force relative to its regional neighbours".

Iran currently has mostly Russian MiG and Sukhoi fighter jets that date back to the Soviet era, as well as some Chinese aircraft, including the F-7.

Some American F-4 and F-5 fighter jets dating back to before the 1979 Islamic Revolution are also part of its fleet.

The United States began reimposing sanctions on Iran in 2019, a year after its unilateral withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal under then-president Donald Trump.

The 2015 deal formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan Kirby maintained that Iranian of Action, or JCPOA, gave Iran in return for curbs on its suspect

KSA agrees to joint venture fertiliser plant

at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) in the city. The development comes when

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh is seeking ensured supplies of fertiliser, energy, and food commodities, taking lessons from the supply chain disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and previously the Covid-19 pandemic.

On February 15 last year, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation and Hanwha Saudi Contracting Company signed a memorandum for a feasibility study on setting up a diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser plant in

This is the first Bangladeshi government initiative to set up an industrial plant on foreign soil.

The plant, to be co-owned by the two countries, will help meet Investment Development Authority fertiliser demand in Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Economic Zone

which needs 1.6 million tonnes of DAP a year.

Bangladesh is also in talks with Saudi Arabia on setting up a urea fertiliser factory as the kingdom has a huge supply of raw materials and funds to invest.

The issue was discussed when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman held a meeting with Saudi Commerce Minister Dr Majid bin Abdullah Alkassabi and Saudi Basic Industries Corporation CEO Yousef Abdullah Al-Benyan in early March this year.

Talking to journalists vesterday, Momen said Bangladesh has now stability and is focusing on foreign investments and creating jobs for the people.

The government has created institutions like Bangladesh

Authority, he added.

investors to invest in Bangladesh. This is a 170 million people's market. The production cost is low here as we have an affordable, hardworking and skilled workforce." Momen further said foreigners are

"We are also asking the foreign

also showing interest in Bangladesh. During his visit to Bangladesh last month, South Korean Special Presidential Envoy for "Future Strategy" Jang Sung Min said they wanted to invest \$100 billion in Bangladesh.

Some projects by Saudi authorities are already underway including one in Patenga, Chattogram, as Bangladesh provided land to them.

"We wanted them to invest in a major project. We offered a special economic zone in Chattogram. They will start working soon," Momen said

Saudi Arabia wants to invest in energy, ports and airports, he said.

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in Jatrabari road accident

locally known as leguna, at Nayanagar More in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday.

deceased The identified as Priti Rani Das of Brahmanbaria. She used to live with her family at Kazla in Jatrabari.

Witnesses said accident occurred around 12:30 pm when the Jatrabari-bound human haulier from Matuail hit her while she and her daughter were waiting for a vehicle.

They were returning home after she took her daughter to a physician, said family members

Priti was rushed to Dhaka Medical College where Hospital succumbed to her injuries around 2:30pm, said Md Bachchu Miah, in-charge of the DMCH police outpost.

> The body has been kept SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BANKING IN YOUR HAND

Woman killed STAR REPORT A 45-year-old was killed after being hit by a human haulier,



Without proper safety measures, this shop in the capital's Tejgaon area is storing gas cylinders stacking them on top of each other. Experts continue to urge the authorities concerned to ensure proper storage and handling of such cylinders as the risk of explosion is high. Over the years, the country witnessed many such fatal accidents due to negligence. The photos were taken yesterday.

MAKING ANTI-MOSQUITO DRIVES EFFICIENT

DNCC to conduct research work

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka North City Corporation at the field level. We are taking (DNCC) is planning to conduct action without any research work, research from April to May to which is a systematic error. So, we make anti-mosquito drives more do not understand which types of

"In the US, they do research work before going for action

We are planning to take help either from the lab of Jahangirnagar University or the one under **Communicable Disease Control** of Directorate General of Health Services. We have already held two meetings in this regard.



ATIQUL ISLAM, DNCC Mayor

effective. DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam took the decision after a recent visit to the US.

DNCC also decided to take help from a third party for laboratory facilities, which is essential for such research.

corporations in Dhaka have Jahangirnagar University or the research facilities, for which they conduct their anti-mosquito drives haphazardly, said experts.

pesticides are required in which area," said the mayor.

He said the US experts suggested building a lab along with necessary experts and technicians to make antimosquito activities more effective.

"We are planning to take Currently, none of the city help either from the lab of one under Communicable Disease Control of Directorate General of

Please call me baba one last time'

Says father of the latest victim in Gulistan blast, death toll reaches 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The air inside the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery was heavy with grief. Shah Jahan, the grieving father of Mirza Azam, could not hold back his tears as he longed to hear his son's voice one last time.

"Please call me baba once... my dear son, talk to me," he cried out in anguish.

Mirza Azam, only 35 years old, had been working as a dedicated employee at a sanitary shop located on the ground floor of a building in Siddikbazar for six long years. However, his life was cut short due to the tragic explosion that occurred there.

Despite the valiant efforts of the firefighters who rescued him from the wreckage, Mirza suffered from 80 percent burns and was rushed to the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. He

passed away yesterday morning

around 9:30am, leaving behind a trail of shattered dreams and broken hearts. Mirza's uncle, Nannu Mia,

shared that Azam's six-yearold daughter is still unaware of the tragic news. Everyone is struggling to muster the courage to break it to her. The deceased was the eldest of two brothers and two sisters, and he used to reside with his parents, wife, daughter, and siblings in a rented house in Moghbazar's Madhubag area. Their ancestral home is in Patuakhali's Bauful village.

The devastating blast in Gulistan on Tuesday has claimed the lives of 23 people so far and wounded over 100. Just like Azam's family, the tragic demise of the victims has left a deep void in the hearts of their loved ones, who will forever miss their presence, smile, and love.

'Govt needs to press India to sign Teesta treaty' **Prof Asif Nazrul in** conversation with \$\frac{1}{2}\tar

STAR REPORT

The government needs to press India for signing the Teesta water-sharing treaty immediately to deter the latter from taking projects that will deprive Bangladesh of getting a fair share of the water, said Asif Nazrul, professor and chairman of the Department of Law at Dhaka University.

The West Bengal government in India has recently taken up projects to dig two canals to channel water from the Teesta Barrage Project for irrigation. If the proposed canals are built, it will worsen the availability of water downstream in the lean period. "A project cannot be implemented overnight. It's possible [to press West Bengal] to bring changes in their projects if the Teesta watersharing treaty is signed immediately. They will look for alternatives," he said in an interview with The Daily Star.

Bangladesh has been waiting for the signing of the deal with India for more than a decade to solve water scarcity in Bangladesh's northern parts. New Delhi and Dhaka could not clinch a pact to share Teesta water because of objections raised by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2011.



signing the agreement because the government is dependent on India to remain in power... I don't believe the government will take a hard stance to force India to sign since it depends on India rather than on the people.

There is less

possibility of

Asked about the delay in signing and prospects of the treaty, Nazrul said, "First of all, there is less possibility of signing the agreement because the government is dependent on India to remain in power... I don't believe the government will take a hard stance to force India to sign since it depends on India rather than on the people."

"Even if the deal is signed, its implementation will be critical. You can put pressure for implementation when there is an agreement," he observed.

Nazrul, an expert on international river law, said the initiative of constructing two canals and expanding the Teesta barrage by West Bengal is certainly concerning for Bangladesh. "Getting water in the dry season will become uncertain for Bangladesh.'

"It must not be seen as an issue between Bangladesh and West Bengal. Concerns should be raised before the Indian government... Bangladesh must not be bothered by the state government's stance," he said.

During an interview with the Indian newspaper The Telegraph last month, Bangladesh's National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) Chairman Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury said, "[West] Bengal will not be able to divert water to Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Women's math Olympiad held at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ten female students from different universities won prizes at the Women's Math Olympiad that was held yesterday at Dhaka University, marking International Women's Day.

The competition was arranged Bangladesh Women's Olympiad Mathematics Committee, AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation of Math and DU Applied Math Department.

At least 120 female participants took part in it. SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING MARCH 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 5-05 12-45 4-30 6-12 7-30 JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-45 6-15 8-00

RCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Brac, Meta digitally empowering women in Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



STAR REPORT

Facebook-parent Meta and Brac recently hosted an event titled "Empowering Women and Youth in Digital Spaces" to celebrate International Women's Day and share the results of their partnership on a digital awareness programme launched last year.

Facebook-parent Meta has been working with partners in Bangladesh to support programmes to empower women through economic and digital awareness.

So far, more than half a million Brac programme participants have learned about online safety, privacy tools and how to tackle misinformation; around 75 percent of the trainees are women, said organisers.

Moreover, around 10 million youth and women became acquainted with the safe and effective use of social media through a social media campaign, they

The impact measurement showed that 98 percent of participants say they now know how to maintain a positive digital footprint compared to 62 percent before they started the training programme.



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir speaks at a human chain programme in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office yesterday. BNP held similar programmes in the capital and 77 organisational districts to press home its 10-point demand, which include resignation of the government and holding the next general election under a non-partisan one. The party also announced to hold rallies in all metropolitan cities on March 18 to realise their demands. Among others, the party standing committee member Mirza Abbas was also present.

passes away CITY DESK

P r o f Ashraful Islam, retired viceprincipal of Tejgaon

College,

passed away on March 10 due to cardiac failure. He was 77.

He is the elder brother of Prof Atiqul Islam, vice chancellor of North South University, said a press release.

Prof Ashraf held several key leadership positions in reputed educational institutions, including principal former Kumilla Victoria College and the former principal of Brahmanbaria Government College.

He obtained both Honours and Masters's in economics from Dhaka University.

He left behind his wife, three sons, and a daughter. His namaz-e-janaza was held at Uttara sector-13 Jame Mosque yesterday. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

Death anniv of Subhash Chandra Dhar CITY DESK

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Subhash Chandra Dhar.



October25, 1947 in Cumilla, he was a government service holder under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

He left one daughter and two sons.

He is the father of Prashanta Kumar Dhar, owner of GANGCHIL Media Communication Agency.

On the occasion, the members will arrange annual rituals in Ramakrishna Ashrama at Hossain told reporters

Atiqul said they need

as it will take time to build a

In the US, authorities

send them to the lab.

Entomologists then analyse

pesticide will be applicable

catch mosquitoes and breeding.

new lab for DNCC.

YEARS WITH YEARS

said.

Ashraful Islam | Women's math

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Farida received certificates, crests and prize money from Islam spoke, among others. chief guest Mustafa Jabbar. minister for posts and pro-VC of DU.

president Yasmin, trustee Akhtaruzzaman of AF Mujibur Rahman inaugurated the day long- Foundation Khushi Kabir, programme. The winners Mathematics department chairman Prof Shahidul

The programme was conducted by Dr Tania telecommunications, and Sharmin Khaleque, general Prof Muhammad Samad, secretary of the Olympiad committee, presided Science Faculty dean over by its president Prof Prof Abdus Samad, Jatiya Chandra Nath Podder.

Govt needs to press

FROM PAGE 3

during the lean season, as drinking water..."

"From the political point of view, the Trinamul Congress is weak in in be ready to share any water at the cost of their political capital," Manjur said.

He also said Bangladesh infrastructure on the river position," he added.

with financial support from India to conserve monsoon it has diverted almost all water. When Nazrul's water through Mahananda attention was drawn to link channel at Gajoldoba the NRCC chief's remark, to support agriculture he said, "It's hard for me and fulfil the demand for to believe that an NRCC chairman of a sovereign country could talk like that."

"People who are different positions northern districts [in West within the government Bengal] and hence, will not do not see the interest of Bangladesh, but rather the Indian government's. That's the problem. I find his statement seditious. should, instead, construct He does not have any a reservoir or storage moral right to stay in the

Another fire

FROM PAGE 5

"The fire broke out at a big cotton warehouse rented by a company named Unitex Spinning Mills -- a yarn manufacturing company. are stacked inside, so it's the fire out."

"This cotton warehouse is close to a private container depot called Nemsun Container Depot. the fire from spreading," Abdul Hamid Mia added.

The depot had 2,700 tonnes of cotton stored.

The warehouse is situated on 1.94 acres of land, as per a signboard there. As there was no three separate entry points. Visiting the spot, Agrabad fire service." Sitakunda UNO Shahadat

DNCC to conduct research work

Health Services (DGHS). publishing cartoons as part experts gave the idea of

of awareness campaigns

use fogger machines to kill

mosquitoes, as they mainly

emphasise on keeping all

After the 2019 dengue

waterbodies clean.

on controlling

They

meetings in this regard," he for kindergartens and high

the help from a third party authorities don't usually

and decide which kind of WHAT EXPERTS SAY

for the area, said the mayor. outbreak, when the

বসুন্ধরায় প্লট বিক্রয়

বসুদ্ধরা বারিধারা আবাসিক এলাকায় সি-ব্লকে ৭.৫কাঠা, এফ-ব্লকে ৮কাঠা, জিব্লকে ১৬ ও ১২কাঠা, আই-ব্লকে ৬, ১২, ১৩কাঠা, আই-এল্পটেনশনে ৫কাঠা, জেব্লকে ১০কাঠা, কে-ব্লকে ৩০কাঠা, এল-ব্লকে ১০কাঠা, এম-ব্লকে ৭.৫কাঠা, এন-ব্লকে ১৬কাঠা এই সকল প্লুট এককালীন মূল্যে বিক্রয় করা হইবে সকল প্লুট রেজিক্ট্রেশন এবং মিউটেশন সম্পন্ন করা আছে। যোগাযোগ:

০১৭১১৫৪৬৬৮৭, ই-মেইল: realproperties0@gmail.com

LankaBangla Finance Celebrates

International Women's Day 2023

On 6th March, 2023 LankaBangla Finance Limited's Corporate Head

Office celebrated "International Women's Day 2023" by organizing an

event at Hotel Sarina, adjacent to Banani, Dhaka. Khwaja Shahriar,

Managing Director and CEO of LankaBangla Finance along with all

other senior officials of the Company were present in the celebration.

Another step the US country witnessed over

focus

government takes is one lakh dengue patients,

He also said the US the light of day.

welding work that was going on at the warehouse. Unitex Group Director Md Mostafizur Rahman was also present at the spot.

The cause of the fire Huge amounts of cotton and the extent of damage could not be ascertained taking some time to put immediately. A probe committee has been formed in this regard.

HAMSTRUNG BY WATER SHORTAGE

Firefighters are struggling We're working to prevent to bring the fire under control due to water scarcity, said Abdul Malek, director of assistant Chattogram fire service.

"We are fetching water from three nearby ponds. There's no other reservoir here. Hence, we are emergency entry or exit, struggling to douse the firefighters had to make blaze. We have brought a special water reserve from

On March 4, seven people were killed in a Thakurpara, Cumilla today. | they primarily think the explosion at the Sheema fire originated from the Oxygen Plant in Sitakunda.

integrated

(IVMP), but it has not seen

separate institute is needed

to conduct research and

regularly share updates

with agencies engaged

in eradicating Aedes

development, entomologist

of Jahangirnagar University

Prof Kabirul Bashar said,

"The authorities are finally

thinking of modernising

the anti-mosquito drives.

We hope DNCC will

implement this, and the

idea will not only remain

GM Saifur Rahman,

National

insecticides.

are

entomologist

University, echoed the

Saifur said first of all,

have to identify

mosquito-control workers

breeding spots before

Authorities will also have

to monitor and evaluate

insecticides they

Appreciating the recent

According to the IVMP, a

management

mosquitoes.

on paper."

Bangladesh

will

applying.

vector-

policy

7 lives lost

FROM PAGE 5 Bhaduria road on Friday evening.

In Jhenidah, a woman was killed in a road crash at Nagarbathan bazar under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim is Baharun Nessa, 55.

Jhenidah Highway Police Station OC Mizanur Rahman said Baharun was going to Jhenidah town with a relative. At Nagarbathan bazar, a truck hit their motorbike from behind. She died on the

In Natore, a 28-yearold pickup van driver was killed in Baraigram upazila on Friday.

The deceased Alamgir Hossain was from Sirajganj, reports UNB.

OC Habibur Rahman of Bonpara Highway Police Station said the accident occurred around 10:00am when the Dhaka-bound pickup van hit a bus in the Thana More area.

In Cox's Bazar, an unidentified woman and five persons were injured after a covered van and auto-rickshaw collided in Teknaf early yesterday.

9 hurt in attack

FROM PAGE 5

saying that we were making loud noises. Some nine artistes were also assaulted. Due to the sudden attack, we had to stop the cultural programme for the night."

"We are holding frequent programmes in Sirajganj maintaining rules. But this kind of incident never happened. As it is a cultural programme, we did not seek security from the police," said Sanjib.

They, however, were able to hold the programme yesterday amid police security. Officer-in-Charge of Sirajganj Police Station said this was not a planned attack. Blaming loud noise, a group of people got out of the mosque and vandalised the venue. "We are looking into the matter," he added.

No case was filed in this connection till the filing of this report in the evening.

Bhashani univ

FROM PAGE 5

and in front of the university main gate, construction of a speed breaker and zebra crossing in front of the university, installation of footpath for walking from main gate to second gate and removal of shops adjacent to the university pond.

Expressing solidarity with the demands of the students, Prof Farhad Hossain, vice-chancellor of the university, said steps will be taken to resolve the issue after discussing with the higher authorities of the university administration.

Besides, legal measures will be taken to bring the auto-rickshaw driver involved in the accident to book, he added.

Woman killed

FROM PAGE 3 at the hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.

Locals seized the vehicle city corporations but its driver managed to flee. Meanwhile, Marium Begum, 60, died at DMCH yesterday after she was hit by an auto-rickshaw Friday evening in the effectiveness of the Shanir Akhra area, said SI Abdullah Al-Hasib of Jatrabari Police Station.

2022-23/W-075

GD-446

No country for bauls

FROM PAGE 5

13 that year by his brother Mohammad Kibria saw no progress since then.

Police said the case did not advance much as three of the accused died in a "gunfight" with police, two of heart attack, while the other is bed-ridden with sickness.

At midnight on July 16, 2016, miscreants attacked a baul akhra at Ektarpur of Jibannagar upazila of the district. Baul Shahidul Islam filed a case with Jibannagar Police Station against unknown attackers.

Three Jamaat activists

Ariful Islam, 22, Shahed Ali, 30, and Jamaat Ali, -- were arrested over the attack. Later, the complainant withdrew the case following pressure from local influential

people. On July 29 of the same year, miscreants attacked baul Zulmat Shah at midnight at his home in Chuadanga's Damurhuda upazila. The attackers set two houses on fire, injuring

Zulmat filed a case with Damurhuda Model Police us," he said. Station on July 30. On

10 people.

people -- Alauddin, 25, and by local influentials and Nasir Uddin alias Kalu, 27.

However, the case had to be settled due to pressure from some quarters.

Muslim Uddin Shah, general secretary of Chuadanga District Baul Kalyan Sanstha, said these have now become a common phenomenon.

Religious fundamentalists are sometimes behind these attacks. Other times, they instigate mobs to attack

Muslim Uddin said the August 1, police arrested two perpetrators were backed

politicians, who compel them to settle the cases.

"The vested groups behind these attacks are the evil forces who aim to remove the non-communal spirit from society," said Mohammad Ali Sain, a attacks and intimidations khadem at Kushtia's Lalon akhra.

Superintendent Chuadanga District Police refused to comment on the matter.

"As long as I'm in Kushtia, I commit myself to protect our bauls," said Kushtia Superintendent of Police Khairul Alam.

Bandarban Hill District Council Bandarban, Bangladesh

Phone: Chairman's Office: 0361-62367 (Office), 0361-62543 (Res) Chief Executive Officer's Office: 0361-62487 (Office), 0361-62564 (Res) Fax: 0361-62391, Website: www.bhdc.gov.bd, E-mail: bhdcbd@gmail.com

Memo No. 29.35.0300.004.38.141.2022-28

Date: 09/03/2023

e-Gp: Tender Notice No. 04/2022-2023 e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following works. Details are given below:

	Tender Method: (OTM)							
SI. No.	Package No.	Tender ID	Description of works	Tender documents last selling	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time		

No.	ID	last selling date & time	closing date & time	& time
	Chittagong Hill Tracts Local Government	ent Development Fund (Code No: 22100	0900 (5010))	
		And		

				date & time		
	Chittag	ong Hill Tra	cts Local Government Development Fund And	(Code No: 22100	0900 (5010))	
	Chittag	ong Hill Tra	cts Local Government Development Fund	(Code No: 22100	1000 (7020))	
01.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799503	Point to Point Radio link installation &	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-082		Commissioning to Provide internet service wirelessly at BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
02.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799501	Supply of cows, different types of	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-081		agricultural fruits and bamboo saplings for social and economical development of women for every union of Bandarban Hill District Council.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
03.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 2022-23/W-077	799494	Construction of Box culvert at Kamdong Para to Moshaboinna Road of Rajbila Union under BHDC.	03 Apr 2023 16.00pm	04 Apr 2023 15.00pm	04 Apr 202 15.00pm
04.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799481	Construction of Shadhona Center for	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
04.	2022-23/W-074	733401	Crama religion at Meuapar at Thanchi Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
05.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799480	Construction of Church for Hostel of	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-073		Jihaba Jiri at Thanchi Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
06.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799479	Construction of Shima Ghar for Buddhist	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-072		Bihar at Boro Modok Pureshaong Para and Ushamong Para at Thanchi Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
07.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799477	Construction of RCC Stair for Kamlong	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-071		Loknath Mandir at Bandarban Sadar Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
08.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799476	Construction of Buddhist Bihar of 8 No.	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-070		Rubber Bagan Para at Rajbila Union under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
09.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799475	Construction of Boundary wall and semi	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
200)	2022-23/W-069		pacca Kitchen for Kuhalong Dharmangkur Buddhist Bihar at Bandarban Sadar Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
10.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799474	Construction of Forkania Madrasa at	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-068		Chemi Mukh Para at 7 No. ward of Kuhalong Union at Sadar Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
11.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799473	Construction of Church at Hebron Para	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-067		at Bandarban Sadar Union under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
12.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799472	Completion of incomplete works of	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-066		Rajputra Nomungpure Para Buddhist Bihar at Sadar upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
13.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 2022-23/W-065	799471	Construction of RCC Retaining wall near embankment of BHDC area at Sadar	03 Apr 2023 16.00pm	04 Apr 2023 15.00pm	04 Apr 202 15.00pm
14.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799470	Upazila under BHDC. Repair of 3 Nos. passenger shed in front	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-064	133.114	of BHDC Gate, Meghla Foara and Raicha Bazar and Construction of railing and gate for Raicha Bazar Shahid Minnar at Bandarban Sadar Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
15.	eGP/BHDC/ADP/	799469	Construction of Drain for drainage of	03 Apr 2023	04 Apr 2023	04 Apr 202
	2022-23/W-063		water and Repair of Kitchen Room in front of Bandarban Shishu Paribar at Bandarban Sadar Upazila under BHDC.	16.00pm	15.00pm	15.00pm
			Tender Method: (LTM)			
SI.	Package No.	Tender	Description of works	Tender	Tender	Tender
No.		ID	,	documents last selling date & time	closing date & time	opening dat & time
	Chittag	ong Hill Tra	cts Local Government Development Fund		1000 (7020))	

eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 799499 Completion of incomplete works of 27 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 2022-23/W-080 Thanchi Kabiraj Kayllan Samity Ghar at 16.00pm 15.00pm 15.00pm Thanchi Upazila under BHDC. eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 799498 27 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 Construction of Cherang Ghar for 2022-23/W-079 Gungguruaga Para Shashan of 16.00pm 15.00pm Kuhalong union under BHDC. eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 799496 Repair of Ashram for Orphan Student of 27 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 Dhunkhiong Para Buddhist Bihar at 2022-23/W-078 16.00pm 15.00pm 15.00pm Bandarban Sadar Union under BHDC. eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 799493 27 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 19. Completion of incomplete works for 4 No. Rubber Bagan Maingdongshe Para 2022-23/W-076 16.00pm 15.00pm 15.00pm Buadhist Bihar at Kuhalong Ubion under 20. eGP/BHDC/ADP/ 799487 27 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 28 Mar 2023 Rehabilitation of Cherang Ghar for

Bandarban Sadar Union under BHDC. *** For LTM Tender Method only enlisted tenderers of Bandarban Hill District Council are eligible for the tender & Tender Security

16.00pm

must be in favors of Chairman, Bandarban Hill District Council, Bandarban. The interested persons/firm may visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the

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

Camlong Para Buddhist Community at

Md. Ziaur Rahman **Executive Engineer** Bandarban Hill District Council E-mail: exen@bhdcbd.org Tel: 023330216

15.00pm

15.00pm

COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE FOR RENTAL

Warehousing facility to offer for long term rental basis. Exclusively for multinational & commercial groups. Compliant facilities with full international building code standards, fire safety, security, CCTV, power & water etc. Gated boundary on 4 acres of high land, easy road communication through pacca road 50,000 sq ft of warehousing space can be built on required specification.

Location: Bhaluka Industrial Zone, Mymensingh District.

Interested company owners may contact: Cell/WhatsApp: 8801713047878

CAREER OPPORTUNITY In a Leading National NGO

One of our clients, a leading Bangladeshi NGO having 1400+ employees all over the country, is looking for knowledgeable, experienced, smart, energetic, self-motivated, and hardworking candidates for the following permanent role

Job Role: Head of Human Resources & Administration

Minimum Educational Qualification: MBA (major in HRM) or Master of Management/Public Administration/any other related subject with PGD in HRM. Required experience: At least 10 years; 2 years at director/head

of the department level.

Age limit: Not more than 50 years Attractive compensation & benefits will be provided to the deserving candidate. To submit CV along with cover letter and to learn more about this vacancy, please visit the below link

https://ezjobsbd.com/job/7 Last Date of Application: 20th March, 2023

9 hurt in attack on Sirajganj baul event

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least nine artistes were assaulted when a mob attacked a cultural programme featuring baul songs in Sirajganj on Friday night. Musical instruments, chairs and other valuables were also vandalised at the

Sirajganj Baul Shilpi Goshthi organised the twoday event on the premises of Abdur Rouf town hall Sirajganj Bazar

Talking to The Daily Star, Sanjib Kumar, president of the organisation, said they inaugurated the programme with songs and a discussion on Friday afternoon.

After the discussion, they resumed the cultural programme around 8:15pm, he said.

group of people suddenly got out from a local mosque and vandalised the venue, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

to book as of now.

80s, was injured in the attack.

The following day, a case was



Left, the vandalised venue in Sirajganj on Friday. Baul Ronesh Thakur standing in the middle of his torched music room in Sylhet in 2020. In the last seven years, fanatics mounted several attacks on the bauls' dens (akhra). Not a single attacker has been brought to book as of now.

mounted at least five attacks on 18 were granted bail after they

No country for bauls

They pass days in fear as attackers go unpunished

PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED

the bauls' dens (akhra). Not a surrendered to the court. single attacker has been brought Out of the five, Chuadanga saw four attacks on bauls, which On November 5 last year, involved hair cutting, setting attackers led by an imam of a akhras on fire, and even murder. local mosque swooped on a Baul

The latest incident took place akhra in Kushtia's Laubaria. on February 7, when miscreants Fazal Fakir, a baul who's in his attacked and set fire to a baul akhra in Belgachi Shewratala in Chuadanga's Sadar upazila.

filed with Daulatpur police Abdur Razzak Fakir, leader station, accusing 19. Of them, of the akhra, filed a case against Abdur Razzak Fakir, leader

unknown people with Sadar Police Station on February 9. Police have not arrested anyone

Zakaria Hossain, a baul organiser of Akundabaria village of Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that a baul was hacked to death on his way to take part in an event around 11:30pm on December 10, 2015.

A case filed on December

Another fire in Sitakunda

Flames at cotton depot could not be doused even after eleven hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire broke out in a cotton warehouse in Chhoto Kumira area of Chattogram's Sitakunda around 10:30am vesterday

As of filing this report at 9:30pm yesterday, eight units of firefighters from Sitakunda, Kumira and Agrabad fire stations have yet not managed to douse the flames, said Abdul Hamid Mia, deputy assistant director of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defense.

Around 9:00pm yesterday, a team of army reached the spot to help firefighters douse the blaze, upon request from the Chattogram district administration.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



7 lives lost on roads

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Bauls in the western part of

the country continue to live in

constant threat of attacks and

humiliation as the attackers

victims had to settle with their

attackers on multiple occasions.

Even in their stronghold in

Kushtia, they no longer feel safe.

In the last seven years, fanatics

To protect themselves, the

enjoy complete impunity.



Two persons were killed and 15 injured after this passenger bus overturned in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAR REPORT

At least seven people died and 21 were injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents and a news agency.

In Rangpur, two persons were killed and 15 were injured after a speeding passenger bus overturned in Gangachara upazila yesterday, said police.

The deceased are Jahangir and Md Sumon Mia of Gaibandha

OCDulalHossainofGangachara

Police Station said locals with the helper of firefighters rescued the injured and sent them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The driver and its helper fled after the accident, he added.

Meanwhile in Phulbari upazila, Mongli Kisku, 50, of Hakimpur upazila was killed after a speeding bus hit the van carrying her yesterday noon. Van puller Akher Ali was injured in the accident.

In Nawabganj upazila, Rashida Alam, 35, of Gangachara upazila Begum, 70, was killed after a speeding bus ran her over at of Daudpur

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Bhashani univ students demand safe roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) in Tangail blocked the road in front of their university in Santosh demanding road safety yesterday. They also formed a human chain to press home their five-point demand.



On Wednesday, Md Emon, a student of the university, was seriously injured after being hit by a CNG-run threewheeler in front of the university. Emon is currently undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The demands include setting up of police boxes at the Kagmari intersection of Tangail-Nagarbur road SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Let's Build A Beautiful Tomorrow

Owners of land plots are invited to discuss their proposals

Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani, Old DOHS, Uttara, Banasree, Kalabagan, Pallabi, Mirpur DOHS, Shyamoli, Monipuripara, Green Road, Wari, Bashundhara, Shantinagar, Moghbazar, Eskaton, Segunbagicha, Paribagh, Indira Road, Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Khilgaon, Malibagh, Bashabo & Siddheswari.



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Pabna University of Science & Technology

Office of the PUST Treasurer Office, PUST, PABNA.

Memo No: PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/446/2023

Date: 11/03/2023

e-Tender Notice (FY/2022-23)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following goods under "Pabna University of Science & Technology Revenue Budget", PUST, Pabna.

SI No	e- Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
01.	799426	190557	24448 & Memo No: PUST/PDW/e- GP/OTM/446/20 23; Date: 11/03/2023	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing & Training Wi-Fi Access Point for Pabna University of Science and Technology, Pabna.	12 Mar, 2023 14:00 pm	28 Mar, 2023 12.00 pm	ОТМ

This is an online Tender where only e-tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Md. Rafiqul Islam **Deputy Director** Planning, Development & Works Pabna University of Science & Technology, Pabna. Phone No: 025-888 444 51

THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH

Tea workers from different areas, belonging to different ethnic groups with their own language and culture, gathered to celebrate Fagua, a festival of colours. The event showcased at least 30 mesmerising performances from different cultures, including Patrasaora, Nrityayogi, Charaiya Nritya, and more. This photo was taken from Moulvibazar yesterday.

Finding joy, unity amid struggle

Tea workers come together to celebrate Fagua festival

MINTU DESHWARA

tea garden, the air was filled with a riot of colours and joy as thousands of tea workers gathered to celebrate the Fagua festival yesterday. It was a rare moment of respite from their otherwise arduous and monotonous

For tea workers in Bangladesh, life is riddled with struggles. They toil hard in the tea gardens, earning meagre wages to support their families. The work is back-breaking, and the hours are long. But once a year, all the tea garden workers come together to celebrate Fagua, a festival of colours.

to behold. People from different In the heart of the green Fulchhara areas, belonging to different ethnic groups with their own language and culture, took part in the festival.

As the bright colours of the abir powder filled the air, people of all ages, children, teenagers and elderlies, danced and sang all day, forgetting their sorrow.

The festival was organised by the "Fagua Utshab Udjapon Parishad" to preserve the heritage of the tea workers. Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar Mir Nahid Ahsan inaugurated the programme, while Assistant High Commissioner of India Shri Niraj Kumar Jaiswal

This year's celebration was a sight attended the event as a guest of

For Bidhan Roy, a tea worker at Phulchhara tea garden, the festival was a time to forget about the difficulties of life. "Our lives are difficult... But during this time of the year, we forget about everything and celebrate the diversity in different tea gardens, celebrate different cultures."

As the day drew to a close, the tea workers returned to their homes, their hearts filled with joy and their minds at peace. The festival of colours may be over, but the memories of this day will live on, reminding them of the power of community, culture,

& ENTERTAINMEN

I've fed my family through rap

BLACK ZANG

I have faced nepotism on a different scale in the media industry. This is just a small screenshot, nothing to get mad about. Been facing this for the last 15 years. I am not bothered or surprised at all.

AAQIB HASIB

On February 24, Black Zang dropped his latest single, Ferrari Folk on streaming platforms, along with the music video-which was posted to YouTube. The song has already been making the rounds on everyone's playlists, as it is undoubtedly a banger. The song has already been appreciated by the audience after

The artiste was outspoken about nepotism in a recent conversation with The Daily Star.

"I have faced nepotism on a different scale in the media industry. This is just a small screenshot, nothing to get mad about. Been facing this for the last 15 years. I am not bothered or surprised at all. Would to request the community



to chill down and mind your own business. Happy Friday guys. Life is collaborations. On March 15, he good. Alhamdullilah."

The Daily Star reached out to Black Zang directly to learn about what was going on and what screenshots he was referencing.

"Some people in the community

recently trying to cancel me saying that I am 'fake'," he said. "It's nothing new. I have been doing this for 15 years and have done it full time. Through my rap career, I have fed my family and looked after them. Let's not feed the negative energy. I stay in my lane, it's less traffic here. I don't like drama and am focused on my music."

Over the years, the artiste participated in various shows at home and abroad. He even hosted a programme for a renowned radio channel, which was immensely popular amongst the hip hop community. In 2015, the US Department of State organised a cultural exchange tour, where artistes from six different countries were invited. Zang represented Bangladesh during that event. Later in 2017, he attended a festival upon invitation to UK. He served as one of the judges along with two others, for a domestic reality show. "Hip hop changed the course of my life," says the rapper, who is one of the artistes credited with the first Bangla song on an international Netflix film, "Extraction".

When asked about what's coming next, Black Zang told us that he was working on a few singles and couple of will be releasing "Agony", which is a collaboration between him and fellow rapper Janowar -U.N.Y. The artiste will also be doing another collaboration with Zed Sizzy soon.





Ferdous, Shimla reunite for new film

Bangladeshi actress Samsun Nahar Shimla came into the limelight with her debut film Madam Fuli in 1999, which received a lot of love from the audiences in the coming era. The actress had also won the National Film Award for her role in the

Later on, she had starred with fellow National Award winning actor Ferdous in three different films in the last decade and the duo are set to reunite on a Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond directorial film called Dokhin Duar.

The filming has already begun and will continue till March 16, in the Shibchar upazila. Similar to his other films, Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond has chosen to highlight the plight of the people who live near the Padma river bank and their lives in

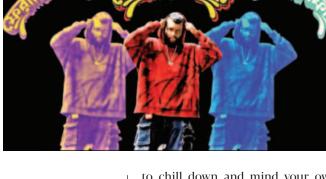
Both of Shyam Benegal's kidneys fail, undergoes dialysis

> Eminent director Shyam Benegal's health has deteriorated as both his kidneys have failed; he is undergoing dialysis at home. According to reports, his health has worsened so much that he is unable to visit the hospital for proper treatment.

Last year, the noted filmmaker faced critique by Bangladeshi people on social media when Mujib: The Making of a Nation trailer was released. Currently, no updates has been

announced and the filmmaker's condition has created uncertainty regarding its release.

The 88-year-old filmmaker has been unable to visit the office in recent times. Doctors have advised Shyam Benegal, who has won numerous national awards, to rest at home.



NEWS

Tigers eye

happy hunting ground for the Tigers FROM PAGE 12

Bangladesh managing to restrict England to 156 for six in the first T20I courtesy of some exceptional death-over bowling from pacer Hasan Mahmud before clinching a six-wicket win, the hosts will still want to bowl better in the first part of the innings.

On the other hand, England will be under added pressure owing to injury concerns. The visitors have to choose their 11 from just 12 fit cricketers. However, the visitors' bowling line-up

featuring pacers Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran alongside leggies Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali -- will pose a great threat.

BNP to hold

FROM PAGE 12 also held protesting the hike in prices of power and daily essentials.

party's other demands include the dissolution of the current parliament, the next general election under a non-party neutral government, and the unconditional release of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

BNP and like-minded parties have been holding simultaneous programmes since December 24 to press home for their demands.

Ahmadiyyas FROM PAGE 2

already demanded budgetary allocation to our higher authorities for repairing the houses."

Meanwhile, police arrested eight people between Friday night and early yesterday, raising the total number of arrestees to 181 in connection with the attacks.

On March 3, two people were killed and at least 30 others, including seven policemen, injured in a clash between law enforcers and supporters of Islamist organisations demonstrating against the Ahmadiyya community demanding cancellation of the threeday-long Jalsa Salana, an annual gathering of the members of the Ahmadiyyas.

The agitators set fire to many houses and four shops belonging to Ahmadiyyas in three villages Ahmadnagar, Phultola and

Shalshiri-- in Panchagarh Sadar. They also attacked a local police station, vehicles of law enforcers and a traffic police office.

Rajuk to move to raze

obtain soft loans from the World Bank through the Urban Resilience Project to carry out the necessary renovations.

Regarding the buildings in Dhaka that were built in violation of Rajuk's plans, Wasi said that they won't take action against them now as Ramadan was just around the corner and instead decided to raise awareness among building owners first.

"The buildings that are used for both residential and commercial purposes are more prone to serious accidents," he said.

Rajuk Chairman Anisur Rahman Miah told The Daily Star that they would take the necessary steps after receiving the findings of the Rajuk committees formed to find illegal buildings and buildings with irregularities.

He said they would raise public awareness first since there were many who didn't even know that they were at huge risk of accidents.

"We will publish advertisements and will serve notices in many cases as part of the awareness campaign,"

Anisur also said that they decided to require building owners to electrical and plumbing layouts) to

Rajuk in order to obtain permission and that they would be able to for a building plan, so none could buildings construct

> Rajuk's Town Planner Ashraful Islam told The Daily Star that the meeting also decided to require government and autonomous bodies like Dhaka University and Buet to obtain permission from Rajuk before building any structure, as they currently do not.

Fazle Reza Sumon, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said the meeting decided to identify all vulnerable buildings as part of a long-term plan.

Rajuk will involve a third party for a detailed engineer assessment of Dhaka's buildings to assess their vulnerability, he said.

"As Rajuk lacks capacity, BIP has suggested enlisting the assistance of third parties to vet the designs that a building owner will submit in order to obtain permission to construct the building," he said.

Sumon said the meeting also agreed to take the necessary steps to protect the waterbodies identified in the Detailed Area Plan in order to create open spaces.

"A project will also have to be undertaken so that the waterbodies submit all designs (i.e., floor plans, that are under private ownership can be preserved by acquiring them," he said.

residents from remote Australia floods

AFP, Sydney

Rescuers flew residents out of a remote Australian town by helicopter vesterday as record-high floods rose rapidly and authorities issued a "final alert" to evacuate.

Police said helicopters and other aircraft had already flown out 53 vulnerable people over the past few days from the small community of Burketown in northeastern Australia.

Murky water lapped at the sides of buildings in the town, which lies 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) northwest of the Queensland capital Brisbane and is usually home to about 200 people.

The swollen Albert River had transformed wide areas of land around the town into lakes, with only the tops of trees visible, aerial images provided by emergency services showed.

Neighbourhoods in Ctg FROM PAGE 12 Fazlullah, the managing director of

Water is frozen in the outermost

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Earth's water

were unable to detect it.

part of this disc so the instruments

However, an outburst of energy

from the star heated the inner disc

to a temperature where water is

gaseous – so astronomers were able

allowed astronomers to determine

the composition of water as well

as map its distribution within the

disc contains at least 1,200 times

the amount of water in all Earth's

presence of heavy water - where

water molecules are made with

heavy isotopes of hydrogen known

content can only form under specific

conditions where there is enough

energy to power the reaction that

binds hydrogen, deuterium and

Earth but in smaller quantities – at a

proportion of about one heavy water

molecule in 3,200 normal water

Rescuers airlift

Heavy water occurs naturally on

Water with high deuterium

They said the V883 Orionis

The team also detected the

Data from the telescopes

to identify its chemical signatures.

FROM PAGE 12

oceans.

as deuterium.

oxygen.

molecules.

does not remove salt but minimises it Chattogram Wasa. from water.

According to Wasa sources, the city's daily water demand ranges from 46 to 48 crore litres. Presently, Wasa is supplying almost 46 crore litres of water from its four water treatment projects, with Unit-1 and Unit-2 of Rangunia Water Treatment providing 28.6 crore litres of water daily. The Madunaghat and Mohra Water Treatment Projects

supplying nine crore litres each. However, because of a rise in salinity in the Halda river, the Wasa authorities had to reduce the collection of water from the Mohra Water Treatment Project. Currently, only 7.5 to 8 crore litres of water are being supplied from this source.

According to Maksud Alam, the salinity at the point where the Halda river meets the Mohra Water Treatment Project is 1,700 mg per litre, which is higher than the usual amount of 100 to 300 mg per litre.

The water supplied from the treatment after blading has a salinity level of 350 to 400 mg per litre.

Alam has expressed concerns that the water crisis may worsen if the dry season is prolonged.

Development Power Authority's decision to reduce water release from Kaptai Lake has caused a

He explained that as a result of the reduced upstream water, tidal water from the Karnaphuli river is entering Halda, which, in turn, is affecting the purification process at the Mohra Water Treatment Project.

"Despite the purification process, some salinity remains in the water, and this has been a recurring problem for the past 15 days. The city dwellers have been informed about the issue through a media notice," he said.

To address the situation, Wasa is obtaining water from other treatment project and supplying it after the necessary treatment, he informed.

Additionally, the authorities are currently constructing another water treatment project to mitigate the

Rezaul Karim, chief engineer of the Power Development Board, South zone (Chattogram), said the water level in Kaptai Lake has decreased due to the dry season, which resulted in a decrease in electricity generation.

He emphasised that they have no control over this situation and have to rely entirely on nature.

"As a result of the receding water levels, only one unit at the hydropower plant is currently operational. If the dry season continues for an extended period, power generation could be problem, according to Engineer AKM further disrupted," he added.

Tunisia's Saied to restore diplomatic ties with Syria

AFP, Tunis

Tunisian President Kais Saied has said he plans to restore diplomatic relations with Syria, more than a decade after they were broken off in protest of Damascus's repression of political opponents.

"Nothing can justify the absence of a Tunisian ambassador in Damascus and an ambassador from Syria in Tunis," Saied said during a sit-down with Tunisian foreign minister Nabil Ammar, according to a video released by the presidential office Friday

He went on to say that the opposition at the time.

"question of the regime in Syria concerns only the Syrians", rejecting any interference in the affairs and "choices" of others.

Saied had mentioned his intention "reinforce the diplomatic representation" of Tunisia in Syria back in February.

expelled Tunisia ambassador in 2012 over the bloody repression of opponents of President Bashar al-Assad at the outset of the country's civil war.

diplomatic

undertaken when former president Moncef Marzouki was still in office, was strongly criticised

Opposition out to undermine She said her government raised the urban benefits."

the country's electricity generation capacity to 24,000 megawatts and reached power to every houses.

Since the AL government increased electricity generation and built the country as Digital Bangladesh, the BNP leaders can speak so much using microphone, the PM added.

The AL chief said Bangladesh has attained the status of a developing country. "We must maintain this achievement. We have to move forward retaining this success."

Explaining the features of smart Bangladesh, the PM said the people, economy, agriculture and health system of the country would be smart.

"Every people of Bangladesh will get a better life even staying at the Mymensingh.

grassroots level. Every villager will get

She pledged to set up a medical and an engineering university and other required institutions in Mymensingh division to give it a complete shape. AL General Secretary Obaidul

Qauder, presidium members Matia Chowdhury and Abdur Rahman, and joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif, AFM Bahauddin Nasim and Dipu Moni, among others, also spoke at the rally, organised by the Mymensingh district and city units of

At the outset of the programme, Hasina inaugurated 73 newly completed development works and laid the foundation stones of 30 other development works in

INTERNATIONAL Bomb attack

kills guard in

Afghan city

Eight injured

REUTERS, Kabul

A blast hit a cultural centre during an event for journalists in northern Afghanistan yesterday, killing at least one security guard and wounding eight, according to authorities and journalists, a few days after the province's governor died in an explosion claimed Islamic State.

"Today, at 11:30 am an explosion occurred at the Tabyan Cultural Centre, in the second police district of Mazar-i-Sharif in Balkh province ... the explosion happened due to a mine," said Abdul Nafi Takor, spokesperson for the Taliban administration's Ministry of Interior.

Takor added that five journalists and three children were among the injured and a security guard was killed. It was not immediately clear who was behind the explosion.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida offers flowers at the memorial ceremony to mark the 12th anniversary of 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, in Fukushima, Japan yesterday. A minute's silence was observed nationwide at 2:46 pm, the precise moment when a 9.0-magnitude quake devastated northeastern Japan 12 years ago.

China appoints Li Qiang as premier

Li Qiang, one of Chinese President Xi Jinping's most trusted allies, was confirmed as premier yesterday, as Xi cements his influence on the country's top leadership. Li, the former Shanghai party chief who oversaw the city's gruelling two-month

the successor of outgoing premier Li Keqiang at a meeting of the country's rubber-stamp

lockdown last spring, was named

The 63-year-old received nearly every vote from the more than 2,900 delegates at the National People's Congress, a day after Xi was unanimously selected by deputies for a norm-breaking third term as president.

Xi's motion nominating Li Qiang as premier was read out to the chamber yesterday morning.

Journalists were asked to leave the chamber as deputies, mostly dressed in dark suits, marked their ballots in a tightly choreographed process.

Delegates later applauded as Xi ceremoniously deposited his votes in the ballot box while cheerful traditional music played from speakers.

An electronic screen in the hall displayed 2,936 votes for Li, with only three delegates voting against his appointment and eight abstaining.

Li later took an oath, swearing to be loyal to China's constitution and to "work hard to build a prosperous, strong, democratic, civilized, harmonious and great modern socialist country".

Bakhmut now a 'killing zone'

Says UK as Russians face Ukrainian counter-offensive

Bakhmut has become a "killing zone" that is probably highly challenging for Russia's Wagner mercenary forces trying to continue their assault westward, the UK Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

Its latest intelligence update said that over the past four days, Wagner Group forces had taken control of most of eastern Bakhmut, while Ukrainian forces held its west and had demolished key bridges over the Bakhmutka River, "which now marks the front line".

The ministry said: "With Ukrainian units able to fire from fortified buildings to the west, this area has become a killing zone, likely making it highly challenging for Wagner forces attempting to continue their frontal assault westwards.

Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, meanwhile, said his Wagner private army had opened recruitment centres in 42 cities as he seeks to replenish its ranks after heavy losses in fighting for Bakhmut, reports Reuters.

In an upbeat audio message on Friday, Prigozhin said new fighters were coming forward but gave no indication of the numbers involved. He also said ammunition supplies had improved, but remained a concern.

armed forces, we will go forward," he said.

"Despite the sticks in the wheels that are thrown at us at every step, we will overcome this together."

Wagner has led some of the fiercest fighting in Russia's attempt to take Bakhmut, where the Ukrainian army is still holding out after more than seven months of attritional warfare - a bloody campaign that Prigozhin calls "the meat grinder".

In a separate post on social media on Friday Prigozhin said Ukraine was preparing a counteroffensive near Bakhmut, adding: "Of course we are doing everything we can to prevent this from happening."

In another audio message on Friday, Prigozhin said he had thanked the government for a "heroic" increase in production of ammunition but said he was still worried about shortages for his fighters and the Russian army as a whole. He said ammunition was now being produced "in huge quantities, which cover all the necessary needs".

China role in Saudi, Iran deal a tricky test for US

REUTERS, Washington

The surprise deal between Iran and Saudi Arabia to restore diplomatic ties offers much for the United States to be intrigued about, including a possible path to rein in Tehran's nuclear program and a chance to cement a ceasefire in

It also contains an element sure to make officials in Washington deeply uneasy - the role of China as peace broker in a region where the US has long wielded influence.

The deal was announced after four days of previously undisclosed talks in Beijing between the Middle East rivals. White House spokesperson John Kirby said on Friday that while Washington was not directly involved, Saudi Arabia kept US officials informed of the talks with Iran.

Relations between the US and China have become highly contentious over issues rangin from trade to espionage and the two powers increasingly compete for influence in parts of the world far from their own borders.

Kirby appeared to downplay China's involvement in Friday's development, saying the White House believes internal and external pressure, including effective Saudi deterrence against attacks from Iran or its proxies, ultimately brought Tehran to the table.

But former senior US and UN official Jeffrey Feltman said China's role, rather than the re-opening of embassies after six years, was the most significant aspect of the

"This will be interpreted probably accurately - as a slap at the Biden administration and as evidence that China is the rising power," said Feltman, a fellow at the Brookings Institution.

The agreement comes as Iran accelerates its nuclear program after two years of failed US attempts to revive a 2015 deal that aimed to stop Tehran producing a nuclear bomb.

Brian Katulis, of the Middle East Institute, said that for the US and Israel the agreement offers a "new possible pathway" for reviving stalled talks on the Iran nuclear issue, with a potential partner in Riyadh.



It also offers hope for more durable peace in Yemen, where a conflict sparked in 2014 has widely been seen as a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

China's involvement in brokering the deal could have "significant implications" for Washington, said Daniel Russel, the top US diplomat for East Asia under former President Barack Obama.

Russel said it was unusual for China to act on its own to help broker a diplomatic deal in a dispute to which it was not a party.

"The question is, whether this is the shape of things to come?" he

said. "Could it be a precursor to a Chinese mediation effort between Russia and Ukraine when Xi visits Moscow?

When it comes to Iran, it is not clear that the results will be good for the US, said Naysan Rafati, senior Iran analyst at International

"The drawback is that at a time when Washington and Western partners are increasing pressure against the Islamic Republic ... Tehran will believe it can break its isolation and, given the Chinese role, draw on major-power cover,"

China's involvement has already drawn skepticism in Washington about Beijing's motives.

Republican Representative Michael McCaul, chairman of the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, rejected China's portrayal of itself as peace-

Kirby said the US was closely monitoring Beijing's behavior in the Middle East and elsewhere.

"As for Chinese influence there or in Africa or Latin America, it's not like we have blinders on," he said. "We certainly continue to watch China as they try to gain influence and footholds elsewhere around the world in their own selfish interests."

Still, Beijing's involvement adds to a perception of growing Chinese power and influence that contributes to a narrative of a shrinking US global presence, said Jon Alterman, of Washington's Center for Strategic International Studies.

MIGRANTS ON BOATS 1,000 brought to safety at Italy ports

AFP, Rome

More than 1,000 migrants were brought to safety at two Italian ports after the overcrowded boats they were on encountered problems in the Mediterranean, the coastguard said yesterday. The rescues came the same day as a body was discovered of the 74th victim of the deadly shipwreck nearly two weeks ago -- that of a female child between five and six years of age, according to news agency AGI. Coastguard videos showed a large fishing boat pitching violently back and forth in nightime rough seas with dozens of people visible on the deck. Other images showed inflatable rescue boats approaching another fishing vessel packed with people.

Man killed in Bihar for possessing beef

REUTERS, New Delhi

Police in India have arrested three men in eastern Bihar state in connection with the death of a Muslim man who was attacked because he was suspected of carrying beef, a police official said yesterday. The victim, Naseem Qureshi, 56, died earlier this week after being attacked by a mob on suspicion of carrying beef, the sale and consumption of which is restricted in some parts of the country by local governments. Hardline Hindu groups have been demanding a complete ban on cow slaughter across India. Bihar is currently ruled by a regional party, and Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party sits in the opposition. In the latest incident in the state, the victim was allegedly surrounded by over twenty people and attacked, according to a police statement in court. Police intervened but Qureshi died on the way to the hospital, according to the statement. Ramchandra Tiwari, head of Rasulpur police station in Bihar, where the crime took place, said by phone that three people were arrested.



Police investigators inspect a shell crater left by a Russian military strike in a supermarket car park, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kherson, Ukraine yesterday.



"There is no doubt that the law on the registration of non-governmental organisations was used as an excuse to start, generally speaking, an attempt to change the government by force."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denounces Georgia protests as coup attempt



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer Barguna

www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.0400.000.14.001.23.504

Date: 09.03.2023

Corrigendum-2 for Tender Notice No. 28/2022-23

This is to notify for all concern that the Tender Notice No. 28/2022-23 invited vide Memo No. 46.02.0400.000.14.001.2023.364 Date: 16.02.2023 (Tender ID: 788556). Tender document last selling date & time will be 19.03.2023 & 16:00pm instead of 06.03.2023 & 16:00pm. This Notice will be stated as a part of the tender document. More information will be available at concern office. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

> Suprio Mukherjee **Executive Engineer** LGED, Barguna

GD-447

EDITORIAL

The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Don't normalise risky living

Dhaka's unsafe buildings pose too great a risk to be left unaddressed

Given how vulnerable the majority of buildings in Dhaka are to fires, explosions or collapses because of their questionable construction and maintenance practices, it seems almost natural that residents would go on reeling from one disaster to another. The question is not whether a tragedy will strike again, but how soon. Only the other day, we drew attention to the fact that three accidents took place in rapid succession first in Gulshan, then near Science Lab intersection, and then in Gulistan, the latter killing 23 people so far. And now there is news of yet another tragedy, in Savar this time, where almost the entire roof of a 10-storey government building collapsed, injuring at least 16 workers. While the cause of the incident is yet to be determined, there is no doubt that questionable construction practices had some role to play in it.

Unfortunately, it's not just residential/commercial buildings that are at risk of accidents. As per a report by this daily, many of the city's kitchen markets are also in danger. Over the last two decades, a total of 19 kitchen market buildings were identified as risky, yet those continue to be in operation. Of them, nine are under the DNCC, and 10 under the DSCC. Despite promising to phase them out and relocate shops to new buildings, the city corporations have done little so far beyond putting up signboards. Millions continue to visit these establishments at great personal risk. Whose fault will it be if any of those buildings collapse or meet any other tragedy? Why do city authorities continue to ignore the red flags? Such reckless negligence is totally incomprehensible.

Risky living, risky shopping, risky breathing, risky commuting – there seems to be no end to the plight of residents, just as there is no end to the mismanagement perpetuating these risks. Just imagine: There hasn't been a single conviction in any of the cases related to major fire incidents over the past decade. Owners of factories or establishments who should have been held responsible for criminal negligence are dodging justice, with their businesses operating as before. More alarmingly, institutions whose corruption and negligence are allowing dangerous construction and maintenance practices are never held accountable either, although doing so is key to reverse the situation. Reportedly, there are 54 agencies under 11 ministries to ensure governance in the capital. And if they were held accountable for every fire or blast or collapse, along with the unscrupulous owners of buildings, the risk factor could have been largely neutralised.

All this points to the significance of enforcing existing building, construction and safety regulations, and of establishing accountability for any violation regardless of the individuals and institutions culpable. Some urgent reforms are in order. We urge the government to immediately demolish the dilapidated kitchen markets of Dhaka and other at-risk residential and commercial establishments. Those at risk of fires, explosions or collapses as a result of weak foundations or earthquakes should also be fortified. Recent events have shown the urgency of decisive actions to improve building safety. The authorities must not fail us again.

Rhetoric cannot save our rivers

State minister's words must be followed by proper action

The state minister for shipping has made a dire prediction saying that Bangladesh will not survive if our rivers stop flowing. He said this at a time when most of our rivers are facing an existential threat – while many have already died or are on the verge of death, those that still have some life left in them are also facing rampant pollution and encroachment. He further said that the government will rescue the rivers from encroachers, claiming they have made a list of river grabbers. While we appreciate the state minister's assurance, we think actions speak louder than words, and the government's performance in this regard so far leaves a lot to be desired.

Over the years, despite such promises and assurances, there has been little fruitful action to protect our rivers from pollution, encroachment and undue interventions leading to their loss of navigability. This is despite a High Court directive in 2019 awarding our rivers the legal status of "living entities". In it, the court gave the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) the responsibility to protect the rights of not only rivers but also canals, beels and other waterbodies. The HC also issued 17 specific directives to save the country's rivers and waterbodies from pollution and encroachment, including directing the authorities concerned to make a list of river grabbers and publish it in the media, declaring that river grabbers cannot run in any elections or get bank loans, etc.

Four years have passed since that landmark judgment. Has any of those directives been properly followed by the authorities concerned? Evidently not. We know that a list of 63,000 river grabbers was prepared by the NRCC in 2021. What happened to that list? The state minister has said that the list is being verified. The question is, why is it taking so long to verify it or take action based on it?

Meanwhile, the four rivers surrounding Dhaka – Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakkhya - have become so polluted by chemical, industrial, and household waste that their water is almost unusable now. The condition of the Buriganga is so bad that hardly any aquatic life can survive there. Back in 2009, the Department of Environment declared these four rivers Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs), requiring urgent action to save them. Fourteen years later, these rivers are facing the same threats as before. The condition of other rivers across the country are pretty much the same, with many of them - Brahmaputra in Mymensingh, Dhaleshwari in Savar, Ichhamati in Pabna, Old Khowai in Habiganj, etc. - facing a slow death due to pollution, grabbing, sand lifting as well as mismanagement by the authorities.

This situation must change. We want to see action rather than promises that never really materialise. The authorities must take decisive actions to improve the condition of our rivers so that Bangladesh has a chance of surviving in the distant future.

How can Bangladesh avoid a middle-income trap?



In a recent visit to Bangladesh, the

World Bank's leadership urged the

country to take concrete steps to avoid

falling into the so-called "middle-

income trap". Similar concerns have

been raised by economists in local

think tanks such as the Centre for

Policy Dialogue (CPD). No doubt, this

matter is increasingly coming to the

forefront as Bangladesh is now all set

to graduate from the Least Developed

trap" is usually credited to Indermit

Gill, now chief economist at the World

Bank, and Homi Kharas from the

Brookings Institution. They argued

that rapid transition from low-income

to middle-income country status

which is often driven by cheap labour

and export-driven economic models, is

likely to be followed by prolonged low

growth rates. Their intuition is simple.

As wages rise, these "newly minted"

middle-income nations suffer from

reduced competitiveness in producing

labour-intensive goods (e.g., garments)

because their wages are now too high

relative to other low-income countries,

nor can they compete with high-

income nations that have far greater

levels of technology and innovation. As

a result, these economies experience

sustained growth slowdowns and

rising informal economies. The

economic struggles of countries in

Latin America are often cited as proof

As economists, we attempt to

understand empirical patterns such

as those observed in Latin America

through formal economic theory.

However, we continue to disagree on a

convincing growth theory that would

help policymakers better understand

the transition from a middle to a high-

income country. Perhaps this has led

to different and somewhat arbitrarily

defined approaches to measuring

the existence of the middle-income

trap for a given country while leaving

some questions unanswered. For

example, is a country caught in a

middle-income trap if the factors

higher wages global recessions) are

slow growth (e.g., corruption, poor

macroeconomic policies)? Does the

inflating growth figures, so staving

of the middle-income trap.

The concept of a "middle-income

Country status.

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SHARJIL HAQUE

high-quality education, and careful macroeconomic management that is free of political intervention.

This is a lot easier said than done. Bangladesh's tax-GDP ratio is among the lowest in the world, which naturally constrains private investment. The less said about the education sector, the better. Several industries such as information and technology, finance,

creation, technological progress, and skill acquisition. Herein lies the need for a more outward-looking trade policy that goes beyond thinking about ways to just protect inefficient domestic producers. Finally, we all know the domestic financial sector is severely underdeveloped while the banking system has suffered from numerous scams that exacerbated the



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKRABORTY

out of a trap should not be too difficult from a purely mechanical sense.

The middle-income trap meaningful if we think about it in terms of the structural factors preventing steady progress instead of just the number of years a (middleincome) country experiences slow growth. It reflects a fundamental inability to shift towards sustained levels of high growth rates because domestic productivity and technology relative to advanced countries are too low. Make no mistake: this is the defining feature. Even though global economic shocks can slow down progress, if an economy has high levels of productivity, it will always revert to its expected long-run trend. The absence of innovative capabilities that allow an economy to shift towards higher value-added activities is the key reason why many countries have failed to transition towards a highincome economy. As such, creative destruction is the way forward for that cause a slowdown in growth (e.g., Bangladesh as well.

So where does Bangladesh stand in different from the factors that sustain charting a technology-driven journey towards high middle-income status in 2031 and developed country status middle-income trap even matter if a by 2041? The short answer is we have country's GDP growth is just enough a tough road ahead. If the economic to "technically" stay out of the trap, transformation of South Korea is any but the economy suffers from rampant guide, a true journey to higher income inequality? After all, Bangladesh's brackets must be characterised statistical bodies are notorious for by far greater domestic resource mobilisation, rapid industrialisation,

real estate, and even garments suffer from lack of skilled human capital. As a result, foreign workers are hired to fill the void. A report by this daily suggests that these foreign workers remit approximately USD 6 billion back to their home country every year, which is about one-fifth of our foreign exchange reserves. It is astonishing considering how many workers Bangladesh sends abroad every year because they could not find jobs at home. This is nothing short of a market failure stemming from below-par education that fails to equip the domestic labour force with the appropriate skill set. Effective education will require a complete rethinking of the way we train our students, in addition to higher budgetary allocations.

But the story does not end there. Macroeconomic management, while overall prudent, still needs to be far more progressive to transform Bangladesh into a productivity-driven economy. Several years ago, I had flows. written on the rising global trend of exporting intermediate goods ("Trade" must be willing to adopt a vision for policy: World racing ahead, Bangladesh standing still", The Daily Star, 2015). Fuelled by the fragmentation of production processes across different countries, many developing economies have substantially increased their exposure to global value chains (GVC). Participating in GVCs accelerates productivity, foreign investment, job

misallocation of resources.

One encouraging pattern I observed recently is the rising trend of venture capital (VC) investments in Bangladesh. VC investments typically come from seasoned global investment managers who spot promising opportunities in early-stage firms typically in sectors such as information and technology, consumer services, and health care. Moreover, VC investors typically bring institutional knowledge of best practices to grow a young business. Because young firms typically do not have the type of collateral needed to secure bank debt (e.g., machines, real estate), many promising startup ideas can never see the light of day. One must wonder if regulation can become more open to allow credit to flow to these sectors that carry tremendous long-term potential. For example, in the United States, banks can make direct private equity investments in startup tech firms, subject to careful credit appraisal of expected cash

At the heart of it all, regulators Bangladesh that is more technology and productivity based. Not only do these challenges require new policies, but stronger institutions. Unless we accept that what worked before will not work in the future, achieving a sustainable growth path with shared prosperity will become a very daunting

Student evaluation is necessary to improve our public universities

ASMAT ISLAM

It is surprisingly depriving for our students that public universities in Bangladesh do not provide the scope of student evaluation. The relationship between student evaluation and protecting the autonomy of students is something that needs to be explored. In other words, it needs to be identified how the failure to provide a policy that supports student evaluation leads to institutional domination in public universities.

The global standard is for higher educational institutions to provide opportunities for students to assess their learning experience and outcomes through student evaluation. Student evaluations are necessary to ensure student-centred learning rather than teacher-centred learning. Nevertheless, there is a substantial lack of fostering studentcentred learning in public universities in Bangladesh.

In general, student evaluation is important for a few reasons. First, student evaluation can help promote accountability and continuous improvement within the university.

Asmat Islam Universities illustrate a commitment is lecturer, Department of Philosophy, to meet the needs and expectations to meet the needs and expectations of their students by consistently pursuing and considering student feedback. This strategy is evidently proven to work continuously to improve the quality of their educational contributions.

> Second, student often provides significant insights and feedback to instructors and administrators about the efficacy of a course or programme. It helps in identifying areas of strength and areas for improvement. Consequently, this scheme can inform decision-making and the development of innovative pedagogical approaches.

> Third, student evaluation can provide a means for students to voice their opinions and concerns about their educational experiences – which protects their autonomy. In turn, such evaluation can help instructors and administrators understand how to better meet the needs of their students and also what they want. Unfortunately, public universities in Bangladesh do not execute a policy supporting student evaluation.

What is the relationship between depriving students in such a way institutional oppression? Institutional oppression in public universities in Bangladesh refers "systemic discrimination and disadvantage" faced by certain groups. discrimination, and the very nature This systematic bias may occur due to societal structures and practices that favour certain groups over others. To be more explicit, institutional oppression involves favouring a policy for teacher-centred learning instead of student-centred learning.

The policy for an exclusive teachercentred learning can be characterised by a distinct kind of institutional oppression. Institutional domination in the context of public universities due to the lack of a policy for student evaluation is different from economic and social discrimination.

In its simplest form, many students from marginalised groups, such as minorities, and the poor, face significant barriers to access to education and success in higher education leading to economic discrimination. Moreover, social discrimination is another form of institutional oppression that affects certain groups in public universities in Bangladesh. For example, students from minority groups may face stigma and discrimination in their daily lives. They may even be excluded from certain social activities or opportunities.

On the other hand, promoting a policy for teacher-centred learning only involves institutional coercion. Accordingly, students face systematic of this domination is, clearly, distinct from social or economic discrimination in public universities.

However, the dominant policy of teacher-centred learning in public universities in Bangladesh indicates that institutional oppression in public universities is a complex issue. The lack of a policy for student evaluation affects students substantially. A just higher education system should incorporate a broader outlook that includes insights from students.

Public universities are autonomous and may have more flexibility in terms of their shared decision-making and functions. However, this autonomy also carries with it a responsibility to ensure that they are meeting the needs and expectations of their stakeholders, including students.

Therefore, executing a policy for student evaluation requires a rigorous effort to demolish the systems and practices that perpetuate discrimination and disadvantage in public universities. Any reasonable academic would recommend, thus, implementing a student-friendly policy immediately within public universities to foster student-centred learning. This will enable not only strengthening the voices of students, but also promoting equality and justice for all in our higher education.

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Behind the pre-eminence of bureaucrats

STRAIGHT LINE

Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former IGP of Banaladesh Police.

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

On January 27, the Editor of this to rise;" with concomitant decline of ruefully observed in an article titled, "Who runs the country?", ominous future for our democracy". that: "Today, more and more of powerful bureaucrats who have rely more on the bureaucrats than in our annual budget and megaof our bureaucrats has reached unimaginable levels, making for a lethal combination of political society".

newspaper, Mr Mahfuz Anam, the stature, prestige, and power of our politicians thus "making for an

From the above narration, an decision-making rests in the hands impression may form to the effect that the power-obsessed bureaucrats greater access to the centre of power of Bangladesh, in cahoots with in the person of the PM who, over conniving politicians, are the real the last several years, has come to roadblocks to the country's desirable socio-economic development. The on her political colleagues." He also reality on the ground perhaps commented that, "with the huge indicates otherwise, because in amount of resources allocated developing countries bureaucracy has to be a prominent participant in projects that are completely under the exercise of power. This is natural bureaucratic control, the power because the "bureaucracy has been called an instrument engaged in meeting the systemic goals of the

The cynics may say that in third world countries politics has assumed the dimension of a vicious circle wherein persons of integrity and talent will not enter public life because of the filth and stench. But the irony is that public life cannot be cleansed unless persons of talent and integrity enter it. The nation has to come out of this quagmire.

influence and control over allocation of funds." He sarcastically observed

One has to admit that in public administration the role of that, "the government is on its toes bureaucracy emerges as the executor to take every step that will win them of public policy that are formulated over to its side". Concluding by saying by the political executive with inputs that: "Unless we restore elections from several sectors, including to their free and fair status, the the bureaucracy. The policies are and recommendations of the bureaucracy's power will continue then implemented through public bureaucrats. As such, bureaucrats organs and the proliferation of



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKRABORTY

plays an indispensable role as organised and rational means of performing essential functions for the government.

There is no denying that in Bangladesh, the bureaucracy has been recognised as the dominant group that is effective in the shaping, formulation, implementation and even revision and termination of all policies and programmes of the government. It assumes importance in the eyes of political executives, legislators and the general public and also the groups and individuals impacted by the decisions

organisations. The bureaucracy make themselves invaluable to the ruling group which seeks to use the bureaucracy for the advancement of their own interests.

> The question is one of making the bureaucracy more responsible and responsive. Some experts argue "that only a substantial development of bureaucracy can lead to constitutionalism and provide checks on those who exercise power". We may have to admit that extra-bureaucratic political institutions in Bangladesh are markedly weak in comparison concentration of powers and to their bureaucratic counterparts. We also have to unfortunately agree making it responsive to the needs that the expansion of administrative and aspirations of the people and

their functions have outpaced the development and strengthening of parliamentary bodies and other political institutions.

Under such circumstances, we need to have the growth and nurturing of mature political institutions and other checks on the arbitrary actions of the bureaucracy.

The greatest need for development administration remains strengthening of parallel political institutions and authorities for balancing the undesirable functions in the bureaucracy and

There used to be a considered view during the pre-1971 times and the same perhaps still persists that the political calibre cannot match the service calibre and, consequently, there is undesirable concentration of power in the bureaucracy. If that be so, then the question is why politics fail to attract the ethically correct competent people. And this is very important as every democracy must have an aristocracy of talent, of knowledge and of character to effectively assert its authority. Have our political parties failed to enlist honest and knowledgeable citizens in the democratic process that affect public life? Surely, we cannot have the sordid amalgam of lack of intellect with lack of character and lack of knowledge in our politicians.

The cynics may say that in third world countries politics has assumed the dimension of a vicious circle wherein persons of integrity and talent will not enter public life because of the filth and stench. But the irony is that public life cannot be cleansed unless persons of talent and integrity enter it. The nation has to come out of this quagmire.

Since politics is neither an occupation nor a profession and since politicians blessed by credible popular support can perhaps justifiably claim to be more patriotic, $it\,should\,be\,their\,responsibility\,to\,rein$ in the errant and arrogant elements of bureaucracy, and put them in their proper place. They should be able to effectively demonstrate that personal enrichment shall not be the objective of holding public office and that a rule-based society is the sine *qua non* of a democratic polity.

The anxiety in the portrayal of bureaucracy as the principal villain in our governance parlance can be understood in our conditions. Perhaps it is a natural weakness to revile that which we cannot do



সংস্থা

জিডি-৪৪৮

৩. দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

'দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরম্যান্ট বিধিমালা/০৮ "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরম্যান্ট (সংশোধন) আইন-২০১০" মোতাবেক চলতি ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরে নেত্রকোণা জেলার পুলিশ বিভাগের বিভিন্ন ইউনিটের মেরামত প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/নির্মাণ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত শর্তানুযায়ী সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচেছ।

ঃ স্বরষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/বাংলাদেশ গ

ঃ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ। ঃ পুলিশ সুপার, নেত্রকোণা।

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8.	দরপত্র	সম্পাদনকারী জেলা/সংস্থা	8	নত্ৰকোণা জেলা পুলি শ ।							
¢.	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ			পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের স্মারক নং-৪৪. রেঞ্জ/৫৯০, তারিখঃ ০২/০৩/২০২৩খিঃ।	80,0000,40	৩.০৮-২০২২/মের	∥মত/ময়মনসিংঃ				
b .	দরপত্র	নম্বর ও পদ্ধতি	8	০১/২০২২-২০২৩ এবং উন্মুক্ত পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)	11						
۹.	বাজেট	ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	00	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হইতে রাজস্ব বাজেটের ১২২০২০১১০৫৯৫৪-সদর দপ্তর-৩২৫৮১০৮ ত সাপেক্ষে।							
ъ.	দরপত্র	প্রকাশের তারিখ	8	১৩/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।							
۵.	দরপত্র	সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	8	২৭/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সম	য়ে পর্যন্ত।						
30.	দরপত্র	জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	00	২৮/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ, তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত	1						
33.	দরপত্র	খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	90	২৮/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২,৩০ ঘটিকার পুৰি মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উ			া দরপত্রদাতা ব				
١٤.	দরপত্র	সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	00	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।							
30.	দরপত্র	প্রান্তির স্থান	9	রেঞ্জ ডিআইজির কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ/পুলিশ সৃগ	শারের কার্যালয়	, নেত্ৰকোণা/ময়মন	সিংহ।				
١8٤	দরপত	দাখিল/খোলার স্থান	8	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।							
\$0.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে			ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিঞ্চিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিষ্ট্রেশন সার্টিঞ্চিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভো সার্টিফিকেট ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র।							
১৬.	দরপত্র	আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	00	মোঃ ফয়েজ আহমেদ, পুলিশ সুপার, নেত্রকোণা	i i						
۵٩.	কাঞ্জের	বিবরণ/কাজের নাম	90								
	न्छे नर्	মে	রাম্ব	চ কাজের নাম	সিভিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়				
	0)1	নেত্রকোণা জেলার পুলিশ লাইন্স ০২ ত	960,00	900,00	8৫ मिन						
	०२।	নেত্রকোণা জেলার পুলিশ লাইন্স ৬০০ কোয়ার্টার মেরামত কাজ।	960.00	20000.00	৪৫ দিন						
	०७।	নেত্রকোণা জেলার পুলিশ লাইন্স রেশন	960.00	600.00	80 मिन						
	08	নেত্রকোণা জেলার কেন্দুয়া থানার ০২ স	90,00	\$6000.00	৪৫ দিন						
	001	নেত্রকোণা জেলার পূর্বধলা থানার ০২ স	960.00	\$5000.00	৪৫ দিন						
	०५।	নেত্রকোণা জেলার দূর্গাপুর থানার ০২ স	960.00	\$\$000.00	৪৫ দিন						
	091	নেত্রকোণা জেলার সিধরী পুলিশ তদন্ত ফুট ওয়াল সম্পূর্ণ অংশে ইটের গাঁথনী কাজ।	90,00	\$0000,00	৪৫ দিন						
	ob I	নেত্রকোণা জেলার পূর্বধলা থানার অফি	90,00	9960.00	8৫ मिन						
	160	নেত্রকোণা জেলার দূর্গাপুর থানার অফি	90,00	8000,00	8৫ मिन						
	301	নেত্রকোণা জেলার কেন্দুয়া থানার অফি	960,00	\$500.00	8৫ मिन						
۵ ۲.		বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ									
	21	নেত্রকোণা/পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।									
	21										
	91	। দরপত্র কার্যাদেশ প্রান্তির তারিখ সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কাজ শুরু করে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে অবশ্যই কাজ সমাপ্ত করতে ঠিকাদার বাধ্য থাকবেন।									
		থাকবেন।									

দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখেন।

পুলিশ সুপার

ফোনঃ ০২৯৯৬৬৫১৫২০, ফ্যাব্রঃ ০২৯৯৬৬৫১৫৯৯ E-mail: spnetrokona@police.gov.bd



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

বঙ্গবন্ধুর আদর্শ ও মৃক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বাস্তবায়ন প্রকল্প

জাতীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কাউন্সিল, মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্ৰণালয়

জাতীয় স্কাউট ভবন (১৩ তম তলা), ৬০ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০ www.jamuka.gov.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং - ৪৮.০২.০০০০.০১৪.৩১.০১১.২২.৩৯

২৪ ফাব্লুন ১৪২৯ ০৯ মার্চ ২০২৩

"১৯৭১ সালে স্বাধীনতা যুক্ককালীন শরণার্থী" বিষয়ক গবেষণা সম্পাদনের জন্য গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণের অনুরোধ (REOI) সম্বলিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(5)	মন্ত্রণালয় / বিভাগ	:	মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্ৰণালয়
(২)	সংস্থা		জাতীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কাউপিল (জামুকা)
(৩)	আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আহ্বানকারী কর্তপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, বঙ্গাবন্ধুর আদর্শ ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বাস্তবায়ন প্রকল্প, কক্ষ নং- ১৩০৭, জাতীয় স্কাউট ভবন (১৩ তম তলা), ৬০ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন: ০২২২৬৬৬৪৪৩৮, ইমেইল: nurlaminnahid@gmail.com
(8)	ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	পূণগত মান ও ব্যয়ভিত্তিক নিৰ্বাচন পদ্ধতি (QCBS)
(0)	বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস	:	উন্নয়ন খাত (সরকারি)
(৬)	কাজের নাম	:	"১৯৭১ সালে স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধকালীন শরণার্থী" বিষয়ক গবেষণা সম্পাদন।
(٩)	আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৮/০৩/২০২২ দুপুর ১২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত
(b)	গবেষণা কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	১৯৭১ সালের ২৫ মার্চ রাতের অন্ধকারে নিরীহ নিরস্ত্র বাঙালির উপর ঝাঁপিয়ে পড়ে পাকিস্তানি সেনারা; শুরু করে অপারেশন সার্চ লাইট নামে ইতিহাসের জঘন্যতম হত্যাকান্ড। পাকিস্তানি বাহিনী এবং তাদের দোসররা মুক্তিকামী মানুষের উপর জঘন্য এবং পৈশাচিক অত্যাচার ও হত্যাকান্ত চালায়। পাকিস্তানি বাহিনীর বর্বরচিত অক্তমণ ও নির্যাতনের শিকার হয়ে বিপুল সংখ্যক বাংলাদেশী ভারতে আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করেন। সেই সময় ভারতের বিভিন্ন শরণার্থী শিবিরে প্রায় এক কোটি বাংলাদেশী শরণার্থী আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করেন। ১৯৭১ সালে স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধের সময় শরণার্থীর অবস্থা, ব্যান্তি, চ্যালেঞ্জ এবং তা মোকাবিলায় গৃহীত কার্যক্রমসহ স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধকালীন ভারতে শরণার্থী ব্যবস্থাপনার পূর্ণাক্ষা ইতিহাস তুলে ধরা এই গবেষণার অন্যতম উদ্দেশ্য।
(\$)	গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	3	কে) প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্তা: (১) আগ্রহী গবেষণা/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান বা গবেষণা দলের মৃখ্য সদস্যদের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ/শান্তি ও যুদ্ধ/ইতিহাস বিষয়ে সফলতাবে কমপক্ষে তিনটি গবেষণাকার্য সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা; (২) গবেষণা দলের দলনেতা ও উপনেতার মানবিক/কলা/মানবসম্পদ/ইতিহাস/সাহিত্য ও সম্পুক্ত বিষয়ে ন্যুনতম পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েশান ভিগ্রি এবং সাত বছরের গবেষণা করার অভিজ্ঞতা; (৩) গবেষণাদলের দলনেতা ও উপনেতার বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিতে গবেষণাকার্য পরিচালনা ও বাস্তবায়নের অভিজ্ঞতা; এবং (৪) গবেষণা দলের মুখ্য সদস্যদের বাংলা ও ইংরেজী ভাষায়্ম মানসম্মত গবেষণা প্রতিবেদন লেখার অভিজ্ঞতা। (শ) অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা: (৫) গবেষণা দলের দলনেতা ও উপনেতার মানবিক/কলা/মানবসম্পদ/ইতিহাস/সাহিত্য ও সম্পুক্ত বিষয়ে পিএইচডি ডিগ্রি; এবং (৬) আগ্রহী গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান বা গবেষণা দলের মুখ্য সদস্যদের উয়য়ন সহযোগী বা সরকারি অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত গবেষণাকার্য সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা।
(20)	গবেষণা কাজ শুরু ও সমাপ্তির সম্ভাব্য তারিখ	3	শুরু: ০১/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি., শেষ: ৩০/১১/২০২৩ খ্রি.
(22)	অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)		আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন একটি বন্ধ খামে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে দাখিল করতে হবে। খামের উপর স্পষ্টভাবে লিখেতে হবে "১৯৭১ সালে স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধকালীন শরণার্থী বিষয়ক গবেষণা সম্পাদনের জন্য আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন"।

প্রকল্প পরিচালক (উপসচিব) বঞ্চাবন্ধুর আদর্শ ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বাস্তবায়ন প্রকল্প

GD-449



More omega-3 fatty acids from seafood are associated with lower incidence of chronic renal disease

Dietary omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (ω-3 PUFAs) might help prevent chronic kidney disease (CKD) through potentially favorable vascular effects. But studies of this question, based mostly on cross-sectional analyses and self-reported ω -3 PUFA intake, have been inconclusive.

Researchers combined data from 19 prospective cohort studies (with 25,000 participants) in which baseline ω-3 PUFA biomarkers were measured in

blood fractions or adipose Participants tissue. were divided in quintiles based on their levels seafoodderived ω-3 PUFAs (i.e., DPA, and DHA) and plant-derived α-linolenic acid (ALA). During median follow-up of 11 years, patients in the highest quintile of total seafood ω -3 PUFAs

had a significant 13% lower risk for incident CKD (defined as first estimated glomerular filtration rate (60 mL/minute/1.73 m²) than did participants in the lowest quintile. Each individual seafood-derived ω-3 PUFA had a protective effect, but plant-derived ALA did not. The results were consistent across various subgroups.

Measuring biomarkers permitted individual analysis of the various ω-3 PUFAs and presumably reflected bioavailable ω-3 PUFAs more accurately than self-reported dietary intake. Although the correlations reported here do not establish causation, they are consistent with consensus dietary guidelines that include regular intake of seafood

A woman dies every two minutes due to pregnancy or childbirth

STAR HEALTH REPORT

Every two minutes, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth, according to the latest estimates released in a recent report by United Nations agencies. This report, Trends in maternal mortality, reveals alarming setbacks for women's health over recent years, as maternal deaths either increased or stagnated in nearly all regions of the world.

The report, which tracks maternal deaths nationally, regionally and globally from 2000 to 2020, shows there were an estimated 287,000 maternal deaths worldwide in 2020. This marks only a slight decrease from 309,000 in 2016 when the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) came into effect. While the report presents some significant progress in reducing maternal deaths between 2000 and 2015, gains largely stalled, or in some cases even reversed, after this point.

In total numbers, maternal deaths continue to be largely concentrated in the poorest parts of the world and in countries affected by conflict. In 2020, about 70% of all maternal deaths were in sub-Saharan Africa. In nine countries facing severe humanitarian crises, maternal mortality rates were more than double the world average (551 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to 223 globally).

Severe bleeding, high blood pregnancy-related infections, complications from unsafe abortion, and underlying conditions that can be aggravated by pregnancy (such as HIV/AIDS and malaria) are the leading causes of maternal deaths. These are all largely preventable and treatable with access to high-quality and respectful healthcare.

Community-centered primary health care can meet the needs of women, children and adolescents and enable equitable access to critical services such as assisted births and 280,000 fatalities in a single year pre- and postnatal care, childhood is unconscionable," said UNFPA



Ayesha Begum gave birth to her baby at Hope Hospital.

vaccinations, nutrition and family planning. However, underfunding of primary health care systems, a lack of trained health care workers, and weak supply chains for medical products are threatening progress.

Roughly a third of women do not have even four of a recommended eight antenatal checks or receive essential postnatal care, while some 270 million women lack access to modern family planning methods. Exercising control over their reproductive health - particularly decisions about if and when to have children – is critical to ensure that women can plan and space childbearing and protect their health. Inequities related to income, education, race or ethnicity further increase risks for marginalized pregnant women, who have the least access to essential maternity care but are most likely to experience underlying health problems in pregnancy.

"It is unacceptable that so many women continue to die needlessly in pregnancy and childbirth. Over Executive Director Dr Natalia Kanem. "We can and must do better by urgently investing in family planning and filling the global shortage of 900,000 midwives so that every woman can get the lifesaving care she needs. We have the tools, knowledge and resources to end preventable maternal deaths; what we need now is the political will."

The COVID-19 pandemic may have further held back progress on maternal health. Noting the current data series ends in 2020, more data will be needed to show the true impacts of the pandemic on maternal deaths. However, COVID-19 infections can increase risks during pregnancy, so countries should take action to ensure pregnant women and those planning pregnancies have access to COVID-19 vaccines and effective antenatal care.

The report reveals that the world must significantly accelerate progress to meet global targets for reducing maternal deaths, or else risk the lives of over 1 million more women by 2030.

Source: World Health Organisation

HAVE A NICE DAY

The importance of EQ is changing fast

DR RUBAIUL MURSHED

"Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else: you are the one who gets burned' — this famous quotation came to my mind when I read psychologist Daniel Goleman's book "Emotional Intelligence Why it can matter more than IQ".

Emotional intelligence or known as emotional quotient (EQ) is the ability to identify and regulate one's anger, and emotions and understand the emotions of others. A high EQ helps to build relationships, reduce tension and resolve conflicts. Goleman believes, "What matters for success, character, happiness, and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills - your EQ - not just purely cognitive abilities measured by conventional IQ tests."

IQ stands for 'intelligence quotient'. IQ tests are tools to measure intellectual abilities and potential. EQ is a skill too.

It is the ability to understand and manage our emotions better to relieve stress and anxiety, communicate affectionately, empathise with others, and overcome the social complexities we face in everyday life. Today researchers are arguing, 'IO

testing is now an industry in itself, but is it fair to the creatively minded?' According to one recent study, IQ tests are misleading because a minimum of three different exams are needed to measure someone's brainpower.

However, studies found that there are more factors to achieve the feeling of happiness and fulfillment as Goleman indicated that lifetime success depends 20% on a person's Intelligence Quotient (IQ), 40% on their Emotional Quotient (EQ), and the last 40% on their Adversity Quotient (AQ).

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Does masking prevent community-acquired respiratory viral infections?

A new meta-analysis raises the two forms of protection, in questions about efficacy of respirators and masks despite known poor adherence and other limitations highlighted by a secondary analysis.

challenged the concept that N95 respirators and surgical masks can lower risk for respiratory virus infections (RVIs). A new Cochrane review on this topic has reported that masking is not beneficial despite the authors' cautions about study interpretation and limitations. In an update of four Cochrane Library meta-analyses on differing physical interventions to limit RVIs, Jefferson and colleagues analysed 78 randomised controlled trials

(RCTs; 6 of which were conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic). Study settings included suburban schools, inpatient hospital wards, and innervenues; adherence interventions was

often low.

Analysis of 19 trials of hand hygiene (71,210 participants) found a relative reduction of 11% in respiratory illness. Similar assessment of 12 trials (10 in a community setting) of surgical masks found no apparent benefit in preventing influenza-like illness (ILI) or laboratory-confirmed RVI. Analysis of 5 studies (all before the COVID-19 pandemic) comparing N95 respirators with surgical masks found a nonstatistically significant benefit of N95 respirators in preventing ILI but not laboratory-confirmed illness. The authors note that, while the results showed no benefit of N95 respirators or masks, high risk for bias and low adherence to the interventions interpreted as showing that limited the conclusions.

Although the initial study when they are not worn. found no efficacy difference for Source: Journal Watch

this analysis, the researchers sought to determine if household exposure to preschool children could have affected risk for RVIs in the study population. In 4476 The COVID-19 pandemic has HCW-seasons, while household exposure to preschool children had no effect on incidence of influenza infections, overall incidence of RVIs in HCWs progressively rose with exposure to 1 or ≥2 preschool children.

The RCT is often considered the gold standard of clinical trials, but as the study by Most et al. shows, unrecognised factors can still affect the results particularly for studies of RVIs, where individuals can be exposed to infection during other parts of their day and not simply in the controlled setting of a clinical

trial. The conclusions of the Cochrane review by Jefferson et al. are further limited in that it only assessed benefit respiratory protection for the wearer, and not for preventing viral

transmission to others. Also, the review's design led to the exclusion of laboratory studies on mask efficacy and well-executed non-RCTs, including a test-negative casecontrol study of respiratory protection and a differencein-differences analysis of the impact on COVID-19 incidence of discontinuing universal masking in public schools. Both studies found notable benefits of mask or respirator use for protection against COVID-19.

The body of evidence overwhelmingly supports the benefits of wearing masks; the Cochrane review might be best masks don't provide protection



Intermittent fasting for insulintreated patients with type 2 diabetes?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Intermittent fasting — and one of its variants, "time-restricted are increasingly popular approaches to weight management. But are these methods feasible and safe for people with diabetes, especially those who take insulin? To address this question, Austrian researchers conducted a study that involved 46 carefully selected insulin-treated patients with longstanding type 2 diabetes; at baseline, mean glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) was 8.3%, mean weight was 100 kg, and mean daily insulin dose was 56

Patients were randomised to either 3 nonconsecutive days of intermittent fasting weekly or to usual care. In the intervention group, patients ingested only 25% of their recommended caloric intake on fasting days; that intake was limited to a single meal (either breakfast or lunch). Compared with the control group at 12 weeks, the intermittent fasting group had significantly greater weight reduction (mean, 5 kg), HbA1c reduction (mean, 0.7%), and insulin-dose reduction (mean, 11 units). Notably, patients in the fasting group were given detailed insulin adjustment protocols for fasting days, and no severe hypoglycemia occurred.

This study suggests that intermittent fasting is feasible in selected insulin-treated patients with type 2 diabetes — provided that the patient is capable of following protocols to adjust insulin doses carefully on days when calories are restricted. But we still need longer-term data to assess safety over many months or years and to determine whether improvement in glycemic control and weight is sustained.



T Sports and GTV Bangladesh vs England 2nd T20I Live from 3:00 nm India vs Australia

Live from 10:00 am Star Sports Select HD1 **English Premier League** Manchester United vs Southampton Live from 8:00 pm Newcastle United

vs Wolverhampton Wanderers Live from 10:30 pm Star Sports Select HD2 **English Premier League** Fulham vs Arsenal Live from 8:00 pm

T Sports Pakistan Super League Islamabad vs Peshawar Live from 3:00 nm Lahore vs Karachi Live from 8:00 pm

After registering their maiden **T20I** win against England in Chattogram last week,

Bangladesh players had every reason to be in a jovial mood on Saturday ahead of the

three-match series decider in Mirpur today. But so were

the visitors as they too had a lively training session

yesterday, indicating that the

reigning world champions are

not to be bogged down at the possibility of suffering a first-

ever series loss to Bangladesh

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

in the format.

Momentum in Hasan and Tigers' favour

SPORTS REPORTER

It was a young bunch that usurped England in the first T20I against England and the win in the very first game of the three-match sees Bangladesh go into the final two matches with momentum and hopes of a series win against the world champions. Hasan Mahmud, part of that young crop, had been key in wresting back control in the death overs and that momentum then helped batters assail the England score.

Hasan has been gaining momentum for a while now. Injuries had plagued his early career while playing the 2018 U-19 World Cup in New Zealand. Following return against Zimbabwe in 2020, the tour of New Zealand in 2021 saw him suffer another serious injury which saw him sidelined for another year.

His performances in the Dhaka Premier League saw him return to the side for the tour of Zimbabwe last year. Three wickets against India in the World Cup may have flown under the radar, but his skills in the BPL, where he became the joint-highest wicket-taker, and his final two overs against England at Chattogram could not be ignored.

Having conceded 21 runs in his first two overs in that game, the Tigers counted on him and he returned to concede just five in his last two overs at the death, picking up two wickets. He was enjoying the challenge of putting in a defensive spell.

"I try to bowl ball by ball and all I think of is bowling a dot ball. Even if I am hit for a boundary, I try to stick to my strengths. I like to show my character during that stage. I



want to take that challenge," the pacer said during a press conference yesterday.

Jos Buttler had ruined his first spell with back-toback sixes in the last two deliveries of his second over. He wanted to keep his process. "He hit two successive sixes but I didn't look at it and I was just focusing on what I

Younger players were allowed to express themselves this series; a cultivation of a different culture growing without baggage of fear of failure. Hasan was hopeful.

"The team we have at the moment has one of the best bunch of players," he said of the T20I outfit that had rejigged after the BPL. "They are all very energetic and give a lot of effort. If we can stick with this batch, then we can go forward in any format," he said.

Hasan's impact has been felt from the team management's side as well. Skipper Shakib Al Hasan had praised his cricketing brain before the World Cup and allowed him to take on that pressure against England.

As Hasan put it yesterday, his plans vary 'according to the batters and the shots they like to play'. He read the England batters' intent of going for big shots and produced dot deliveries using that instinct. His impact will be needed once again as Tigers look to thwart the world champions today.

It will be a big game, but Hasan says the fear factor had already been overcome. "After the game against India, the fear factor went away,' he said. "It became easier for me,"

"I am feeling good because I am providing the momentum that allows the team to win. It's a big responsibility for me and I am enjoying it," he said, perhaps aware that his death-bowling will once again be key as Tigers face England in Mirpur today in the second

Time to step out of the Mirpur bubble?

MAZHAR UDDIN

Following a memorable six-wicket win over England in the first T20I on a sporting wicket in Chattogram last week, there remains a lot of focus on the nature of the Mirpur's surface on which the second T20I is set to be played today.

It will be interesting to see whether it will be a typical Mirpur surface – a low and slow one – or similar to the one used at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in the port city.

This is set to be the first-ever T20I at the Sher-

e-Bangla National Stadium for England, the reigning T20I and ODI champions. If history is anything to go by, a typical Mirpur pitch could well be Bangladesh's best bet today as it was the slow and low nature of the Mirpur surfaces that had played the crucial role in the Tigers registering their maiden series victories over Australia and New Zealand in 2021.

With the Tigers aiming the - a first-ever T20I series victory over England -- is walking down the same line the preferred way to go?

However, it must still be fresh in the memory of the Bangladesh

players how gaining a false sense of achievement by beating the Kiwis and the Aussies had panned out for them in the 2021 T20 World Cup -- the Tigers exited that tournament with no wins.

The Chattogram win was courtesy of a collective approach from a rejuvenated T20 side, and the momentum gained from that can only truly be utilised if the Tigers play on a sporting wicket at their favourite hunting ground today.

Earlier in the series, the first of the three-match ODI series on a sluggish Mirpur surface almost went in favour of the Tigers when Bangladesh managed to post a small total of 209 before forcing England to play till the penultimate over to eek out a three-wicket victory. In T20Is, the average first-innings total in Mirpur

is 144. However, in the last five T20Is, the average total has been 126 while the last five Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) games produced 164 in the first innings a fact reflecting how uncertain the venue can be.

However, skipper Shakib had previously talked about how they aim to emerge as a better T20 unit, and if that ideology is to be followed, the Bangladesh think tank could as well take the challenge of playing on a sporting Mirpur wicket.

"I think, as the game will be played in Mirpur, it will be a good wicket. Till now we have played well, having beaten England in Chattogram. We will try to beat them here," pacer Hasan Mahmud, who bowled brilliantly in the death overs in the first T20İ, told the reporters ahead

> of the second game yesterday. It is not like that Mirpur did not produce better surfaces in the past. Even in the recently concluded BPL, sporting Mirpur surfaces brought out the best in the players as it allowed the local cricketers to express themselves

both with bat and ball. "It was challenging for me and it was difficult to defend during the BPL. But we can learn playing on such wickets because it helps us to learn how to bowl well against good teams. We have a good pace unit and we can defend here as well," Hasan

Slow and low Mirpur surfaces had always been the Tigers' prime weapon to take down visitors -- especially the ones from outside the subcontinent. While there is nothing wrong in taking full advantage of home conditions, as coach Chandika Hathurusingha had also mentioned before the England series, it may be the perfect time for the Tigers to finally step out of the Mirpur bubble if they truly seek to be a transformed





Bournemouth shock Liverpool

Mohamed Salah missed a penalty as Liverpool came back down to earth with a bump in their shock 1-0 defeat at struggling Bournemouth on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side travelled to Dean Court in high spirits after their historic 7-0 thrashing of arch rivals

But Liverpool's hopes of using that remarkable result as a springboard to push for a top four finish in the Premier League were given a brutal reality check on the

Philip Billing punished woeful Liverpool defending to put the struggling hosts ahead early on and Salah blew the chance to equalise when he fired wide from a second

League era when he netted twice against United.

Fifth-placed Liverpool appeared to use up all their goals in the United demolition and their toothless display left them three points behind Tottenham ahead of the north Londoners' game against Nottingham Forest later on Saturday. Apart from the damage done to Liverpool's top four bid, it was hardly ideal preparation for Wednesday's Champions League last 16 second leg at Real Madrid, where the Reds need a miracle in the Spanish capital to overturn a 5-2 deficit.

AFP, Bournemouth

Manchester United last weekend.

half spot-kick. Salah became Liverpool's record scorer in the Premier

But the Egypt star's failure to add to his total of 130

condemned Liverpool to a first defeat in their last six

U-20s meet Iran in 'must-win' game

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh know they cannot afford anything but a victory when they face favourites Iran in the last match of the AFC U-20 Women's Asia Cup today.

A draw in the group-deciding match, which will kick off at 5:00 pm at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur, will see both Bangladesh and Iran end with six points each but the Iranians will, in that case, grab the direct qualifying spot as Group E champions.

The girls in red and green kicked off their campaign with a 4-0 win against Turkmenistan on Friday, but since Iran beat the same opposition 7-1 in the group opener, Bangladesh will be looking for a victory to seal a maiden appearance in the final round of the competition.

Bangladesh coach Golam Rabbani Choton was less than satisfied with the team's performance in the first match as he felt they could have got more goals. Now trailing Iran due to goal-difference, Choton sees no alternative but to go for a victory.

"We don't have any option but to win this match because the group champions go through. There will be two best runners-up going through but that is a very difficult proposition," Choton

told The Daily Star yesterday. Neither team had any practice session yesterday as Bangladesh were busy recovering with light gym session. There was bad news for the hosts though as regular skipper Shamsunnahar is likely

out on the first game due to a ligament injury. "Shamsunnahar is unlikely to feature. It is our bad luck that we are not getting her services, but we can't do anything about it. Irene Khatun, who played in her position in the first match, will likely play again," Choton informed.

to sit out the second game as well after missing

'Wonderful day' for Siddikur

SPORTS REPORTER

Siddikur Rahman described yesterday as a 'wonderful day' after shooting one of the lowest rounds of his 18-year professional career, an eightunder-par 64 in the International Series Thailand at the Black Mountain Golf Club in Hua Hin.

The two-time Asian Tour winner took a share of the lead in the two-million-dollar event with an aggregate score of 15-under-par alongside India's S Chikkarangappa, Zach Murray from Australia and Thailand's Jazz Janewattananond.

With 28 players within three shots of the lead, the tournament is wide open and the stage set for a gripping final day, in what is the third International Series event of the season.

Siddikur looked like he was going to shoot an even lower round as six birdies on the front saw him turn in six-under-par 30 and when birdies followed on 12, 13 and 15 the course record of 62, set by American Sihwan Kim last year, looked

within reach. However, the 38-year-old made his only bogey of the day on 17.

"It was a wonderful day, I was so sound," Siddikur said. "My hitting was excellent and at the same time my putting was too good. So, all over it was a wonderful round for me, nine birdies and one bogey, the last two holes a little bit unlucky, but, again, I'm happy for today.'

Siddikur is one of the shortest hitters on Tour, not suited to Black Mountain, which favours the long ball players, but the Bangladeshi countered that with a brilliant short stick display.

He said: "I especially enjoyed my putting today because the first two days I couldn't putt that good. The first day my hitting was excellent, but I couldn't putt honestly. But today, yeah, no complaints on the putting and my hitting was excellent too."



Captains of all the 12 teams participating in the upcoming edition of the Dhaka Premier Division Cricket League, set to begin from March 15, pose for a picture during the trophy unveiling ceremony at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.



FASTBUILD PROVIDES RODS OF **ANY SHAPE AND** SIZE AS PER DESIGN





Tigers eye landmark win today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will be eying a maiden bilateral T20I series win over England when they meet for the second of the three-match T20I series at the Shere-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The match is scheduled to start at 3:00pm local time.

Shakib Al Hasan and Co. surprised the world champions in Chattogram, coming out with an aggressive mindset and registering a first-ever win against England in the shortest format. The hosts will hope to bring that momentum to Dhaka and seal the series.

The Tigers ticked almost all the boxes in the first T20I, displaying a collective approach in all three departments and that will once again be needed. It is expected that the hosts will not tinker with their winning combination today.

The change in venue could also be on the back of the minds of the visitors since they will be featuring in their first-ever T20I in Mirpur -- a SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Firefighters trying to douse the flames at a cotton warehouse in Chhoto Kumira area of Sitakunda, Chattogram, yesterday. The fire raged on for hours and the firefighters could not extinguish it. The authorities eventually asked for the army's help. Story on page 5.

Rajuk to move to raze 42 risky buildings

HELEMUL ALAM

The Rajdhani Unnyan Katripakkha (Rajuk) will take steps to demolish 42 buildings in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj within a short time, as these structures are in precarious conditions and are at risk of collapsing and causing casualties.

As part of the plan, Rajuk will ask the building authorities to vacate the structures within the next seven days and tear them down within the following three

It will notify the owners of 187 additional risky buildings that fall under its jurisdiction to take the necessary renovation (retrofitting) measures to reinforce their structures.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Nagar Unnayan Committee, a high-powered committee of the Housing and Public Works Ministry, held at Osmani Smriti Milonayoton yesterday.

The 42 buildings belong to eight government and autonomous bodies, namely -- the Education Engineering Department, the Department of Health Education, the Local Government Engineering Department, Jagannath University, Dhaka University, the Bangladesh Madrasah Education Board, the Institute of Leather Technology, and the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

These buildings were identified during a survey of 3,252 structures conducted as part of Rajuk's Urban Resilience Project, Abdul Latif Helaly, the project director, told The Daily Star.

He said they also identified 187 other buildings with structural weaknesses that required renovation (retrofitting) work.

Among the 3,252 buildings, 2,705 are educational institutes, 207 are hospitals, 36 are police stations, and 304 are other structures.

'As educational institutes and hospitals play a vital role after earthquakes, we brought them under the survey with priority," said Helaly.

"We have decided to ask its owners to vacate the buildings within seven days and demolish them within three months. We will also take steps to address the issues of other risky buildings," Kazi Wasi Uddin, secretary of the housing and public works ministry, told The Daily Star.

He said that the owners of the 187 other risky buildings would be informed about where retrofitting was required SEE PAGE 6 COL 2 **HIGH SALINITY**

Neighbourhoods in Ctg can't use supply water

MD NAZRUL ISLAM, Ctg

The Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority is in trouble as tidal saline water has entered the Halda river, water of which Chattogram Wasa uses to supply the city.

Due to the salinity, the water has become unusable, which is being supplied to different areas of the port city, as claimed by city dwellers.

water for more than 15 days. "Despite lodging a complaint, the problem is yet to be solved."

Maksud Alam, chief engineer of Wasa, claimed the use of saline water will not have any harmful effects on human health.

He also said the water supplied to the city from Wasa is 100 percent sterile as per the WHO guidelines. Asked, Idris Ali, former prof of



Residents in Kattali, City Gate, Chittagong Government College's Halishahar, and Patenga areas of the city have complained about the high salinity levels in the water supplied by Wasa for more than 15 days.

Rajib Raihan, of City Gate area, alleged that the water supplied by Wasa is not drinkable at all. "We are left with no other option but to collect tube well water from a nearby house."

Abdus Sabur, of Halishahar area, said they could not use the Wasa chemistry department, said, "350 to 400 mg per litre of salinity is definitely harmful to the human body, especially for children and older people.'

Idris, who is also a water researcher of the Karnaphuli river, said the salt water can harm those with weak immune systems and cause digestive problems.

He also mentioned that the Wasa

BNP to hold rallies in all cities on March 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will hold rallies in all metropolitan cities on March 18 to press home its 10-point demand, including that government steps down.

Party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Alamgir yesterday made the announcement at a programme in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office in Dhaka.

The party held a onehuman chain hour programme in capital from Jatrabari to Abdullahpur Bridge that ended around noon.

Apart from Dhaka, the human chain was also held in all the districts and cities.

In the capital, BNP standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain took part in the event in the North Badda area.

Dhaka city BNP (north) organised the programme from Abdullahpur to Airport-Jamuna Future Park-Badda-Rampura Malibagh Rail gate. At the same time, the Dhaka city unit BNP (south) formed the human chain from Malibagh rail gate to Jatrabari via Mouchak-Shantinagar-Kakrail-Nayapaltan-Fakirapul-Arambagh-Motijheel's Shapla Chattar-Ittefaq-Tikatuli.

The human chain was SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Opposition out to undermine nation's success PM tells Mymensingh rally

UNB, Mymensingh

Making an obvious reference to the BNP, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said a so-called opposition party wants to undermine the nation's success by spreading falsehoods, but they won't succeed.

"Unfortunately, we have a so-called opposition party which wants to spoil the success of our independence by spreading falsehoods. But they won't succeed, Insha'Allah," she said.

The premier was addressing a mammoth rally at the Circuit House ground in Mymensingh city. Hasina, also the Awami League president, said Bangladesh is marching forward and it will

continue to do so. "We will build a developed and

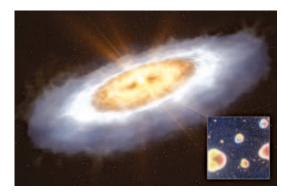
smart Bangladesh by 2041." The PM said a BNP leader sits before a microphone the whole day and says that the AL has destroyed Bangladesh.

Noting that she inaugurated 103 projects yesterday, Hasina asked the people of Mymensingh if those were examples of destruction.

In an oblique reference to BNP leader Tarique Rahman, Hasina said anyone can now speak, and do politics staying far away from home due to the transformation of the country into Digital Bangladesh.

PHOTO ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Earth's water may be older than the sun: study



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists believe they have uncovered more evidence that water on Earth may be older than

An international team of researchers used data from ground-based telescopes to ascertain the chemical composition of a young star, known as V883 Orionis, in the Orion constellation.

They detected chemical signatures of heavy water - which is around 10 percent denser than ordinary water – in the star's rotating disc of gas and dust.

The researcher said their work, published in the journal Nature, suggests V883 Orionis may be the "missing link" scientists have been waiting for to understand more about how the solar system and Earth – got its water.

John J Tobin, an astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in the US and lead author of the study, said: "We can now trace the origins of water in our solar system to before the formation of the Sun."

He added: "The composition of the water in the disc is very similar to that of comets in our own solar system."

The researchers used the Atacama Large Millimeter/Submillimeter Array (Alma) – made up of 66 radio telescopes in the Atacama Desert of northern Chile - to observe V883 Orionis, which

is 1,300 light-years away from Earth. V883 Orionis is a protostar, which means it is still gathering mass in the form of rotating discs

of gas and dust from its parent molecular cloud.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4







সিমেন্ট রপ্তানিতে ২০ বছর শীর্ষে থাকার মাইলফলক অর্জন করলো ক্রাউন সিমেন্ট। বাংলাদেশে একমাত্র ক্রাউন সিমেন্টেরই আছে পরপর ২ বার স্বর্ণপদকসহ মোট ৩ বার জাতীয় রপ্তানি পদক অর্জনের গৌরব। সিমেন্ট রপ্তানির মাধ্যমে বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা অর্জন করে জাতীয় উনুয়নে বিশেষ অবদান রাখছে ক্রাউন সিমেন্ট।

এ গর্ব বাংলাদেশের।