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VEHICLE FITNESS

A mockery at the cost of life and limb

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Most vehicles involved in recent major and sensational road crashes did not have the required documents, including valid fitness certificates, or their drivers were without a valid licence.

Experts and road safety campaigners say that for years such vehicles and drivers have been on the roads because the system of monitoring, enforcement, and issuance of papers is not working.

Vehicles without documents and drivers without licences stay on the road bribing a section of crooked law enforcers, BRTA officials, and politically connected people, they said, adding that this creates anarchy on the roads and results in increasing numbers of crashes.

They said many transport owners and workers find valid documents from the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to be unnecessary as they can easily run their vehicles paying bribes.

New vehicle registration is rising every year but vehicles getting fitness clearance has dropped to a seven-year low in the last fiscal year.

About 5.64 lakh vehicles got their fitness clearance in the last fiscal year, the lowest number since 2014-15 fiscal year, according to the BRTA.

DON'T BLAME THE ROAD --PAGE 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The wreckage of the Barguna-bound Ema Paribahan bus that fell into a ditch, killing at least one and injuring many others, in Pirojpur's Mathbaria upazila early yesterday. Just the day before, a similar accident in Madaripur killed at least 19 people.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

17 more lives lost on roads

2 trucks fall into gorge in Bandarban; bus plunges into ditch in Pirojpur

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 11 others injured when a truck carrying people rear-ended another truck and the two vehicles fell into a gorge in Bandarban's Ruma yesterday.

The crash happened around 1:30pm when the two trucks were descending a steep incline in Boga Lake area, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ruma Police Station.

Locals and police said the trucks were coming from Thakkyong Para area of Remakri Prangsa union.

Four of the passengers died on spot. The injured were taken to a local hospital where two others died, said OC Alamgir.

The deceased are Lin Moy Bawm, her sister Var Kim Bawm, Zin Hum Bawm, Lal Shiam Bawm, Nun Thar Moy Bawm, of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

A glorious chapter begins

Says PM while commissioning country's first submarine base



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a glorious chapter opened in the country's history with the commissioning of its first ever submarine base.

The premier was addressing the commissioning ceremony of the country's first submarine base "BNS Sheikh Hasina" of Bangladesh Navy in Cox's Bazar's Pekua. She joined the event virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said her government established the Bangladesh Navy as a full-fledged three-dimensional force by adding two submarines

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

2018 polls neither free nor fair

Says US state department's report citing observers; DSA widely used against dissent

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The December 2018 elections were neither free nor fair because they were marred by serious irregularities, including ballot-box stuffing and intimidation of opposition polling agents and voters, said a US state department report, citing polls observers.

The 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices was released last night.

Washington has recently been making repeated calls for free and fair elections. The polls are supposed to be held late this year or early next year.

The annual country reports document the status of respect for human rights and worker rights in 198 countries and territories.

US Ambassador Peter Haas, in a statement on the release of the report, said, "Promoting respect for individual rights helps create a more secure, stable, and prosperous world."

"Defending fundamental freedoms is at the core of who we are as a country. The United States regularly raises human rights issues with the government of Bangladesh in the spirit of respect and partnership. We will continue to do so."

The report said with more than 80 percent of the votes in 2018, the Awami League and its electoral allies won 288 of 300 seats, while the main opposition BNP and its allies won only seven.

During the campaign leading up to the election, there were many credible reports of harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and violence that made it difficult for many opposition candidates and their supporters to meet, hold rallies, or campaign freely.

Only seven of the 22 Election Working Group NGOs were approved by the home ministry, NGO

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Over 1500 marginal farmers get 'AB Bank Smart Agri Loan' at Kushtia

"In our path towards farmers development, Padma Bridge is testament to our abilities"

-Tarique Afzal, President and Managing Director, AB Bank Limited



AB Bank Limited disbursed agricultural loans to over 1500 small and marginal farmers under own supervision through smart cards at Kushtia.

The program was organized at the

auditorium of Zilla Shilpakala Academy, Kushtia. Mr. Md. Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Honorable MP, Kushtia-3, Joint General Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League was present as

chief guest. Barrister Selim Altaf Gorge, Honorable MP, Kushtia-4, Mohammad Saidul Islam, Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Kushtia and valiant

freedom fighter Alhaz Md. Sadar Uddin Khan, Chairman, Zilla Parishad and President, Zilla Awami League, Kushtia were present as special guests with Mr. Tarique Afzal, President and Managing Director

of AB Bank Limited presiding. Local senior leaders of Bangladesh Awami League along with other officials of the bank also attended the program.

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Pro-BNP lawyers stage demo for fresh SCBA polls

AL-backed lawyers hold ‘peace meeting’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP lawyers staged demonstrations on the Supreme Court premises yesterday demanding a date be set for holding fresh elections to the Supreme Court Bar Association under an acceptable election conducting sub-committee.

Around 300 lawyers under the banner of Bangladesh Jatiyotabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAF) gathered at the SCBA office around 12:30pm and brought out a procession. They chanted slogans against the police attack on lawyers during the SCBA election on March 15, said witnesses.

The procession, led by BJAF President AJ Mohammad Ali and Secretary General Kayser Kamal, marched towards the Kadam Foara near the Jatiya Press Club. The lawyers staged a sit-in there for around 15 minutes.

SCBA president candidate AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and secretary candidate Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, BJAF leaders Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal and Masud Ahmed Talukder, among others, joined the protest.

They also demanded resignation of Law Minister Anisul Huq and Attorney General AM Amin Uddin alleging that the minister and attorney general instructed the law enforcers to assault the lawyers.

The pro-BNP lawyers said their movement would continue until their demands are met. A number of pro-BNP lawyers from Dhaka Bar Association took part in the demonstration.

Meanwhile, in an apparent counter move, some Awami League-backed lawyers held a “peace meeting” in front of the SCBA president’s office room yesterday protesting “snatching of ballots and vandalising of furniture by pro-BNP lawyers” on the SCBA premises during the March 15 election.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim takes off his helmet and thanks the heavens after scoring a 60-ball century – the fastest by a Bangladeshi in ODIs – during the second match of the three-match series against Ireland at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Mushfiqur’s unbeaten 100 helped the hosts to their highest ODI score – 349 for six, but heavy rain washed out Ireland’s innings, leading to a no-result in the match.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Humanity on ‘thin ice’

Says Guterres as UN climate report gives stark warning

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres yesterday called on wealthy countries to move up their goals of achieving carbon neutrality as close as possible to 2040, mostly from 2050 now, in order to “defuse the climate time bomb.”

Introducing a capstone report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the impacts and trajectory of global warming, Guterres delivered a blunt assessment of the challenge to prevent climate catastrophe.

“Humanity is on thin ice – and that ice is melting fast,” the United Nations chief said in a video message as the IPCC experts group issued its latest report, which he

likened to “a survival guide for humanity.”

Guterres said the world still has time to limit average temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times but this requires “a quantum leap in climate action” by all countries in all sectors.

“It starts with parties immediately hitting the fast-forward button on their net zero deadlines,” Guterres said, but he acknowledged countries have different levels of responsibility and ability to change course.

Rich countries should commit to achieving carbon neutrality as close as possible to 2040, he said, “the limit they should all aim to respect.”

As things stand now most rich

countries have set their goal at 2050 but some are more ambitious, like Finland (2035), or Germany and Sweden (2045).

Leaders in emerging economies must commit to reaching net zero as close as possible to 2050, he said without naming any specific nation. Major countries in this category have set more distant goals like China (2060) and India (2070).

Guterres, who will hold a climate action summit in September, again stressed the role of the Group of 20 – the world’s largest economies and Europe – which together are responsible for 80 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

“This is the moment for all G20 members to come together in a joint effort, pooling their resources and scientific capacities as well as their proven and affordable technologies through the public and private sectors to make carbon neutrality a reality by 2050,” Guterres said.



A mockery at the cost of life and limb

FROM PAGE 1

A record 5.42 lakh registered vehicles, which should have renewed their fitness certificates, did not do so as of October 15 last year.

Almost every year this number increases and the number of road crashes also goes up.

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, Nirapad Sarak Chai, and Road Safety Foundation, like previous years, published their annual accident reports early this year and said the numbers of road crashes and deaths have increased last year compared to 2021.

According to Jatri Kalyan Samity, 9,951 people were killed in 6,749 road crashes last year. The numbers of crashes and deaths are the highest since 2015 and 19.89 and 27.43 percent higher than those of 2021.

The issue of road safety came to the fore again after a bus, which had no fitness clearance, veered off from the Dhaka-Bhanga expressway and crashed, killing 19 people on Sunday.

The bus should have been taken off the roads four months ago when the authorities suspended its permits following a fatal crash in Gopalganj in November last year.

The Daily Star revisited eight major crashes between Sunday’s crash and a crash in July 2018.

In every incident, either the vehicles involved did not have valid documents or their drivers did not have licences.

For example, the two buses that collided head-on in Rangpur on September 5 last year had no route permits. The crash left at least eight people dead and over 50 hurt.

One of the buses, owned by Abu Raihan, general secretary of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association, last renewed its annual fitness clearance over a decade ago.

On March 19, 2019, Abrar Ahmed Chowdhury, a student of Bangladesh University of Professionals, was run over and killed by a bus of Suprobbat

Paribahan.

Police later found that the bus was actually being driven by its conductor, who had no licence.

Moreover, a BRTA probe later that month found only 18 out of 163 buses of the company had all required documents.

Saidur Rahman, chief executive of Road Safety Foundation, claimed that thousands of unfit vehicles can run paying “monthly money” to a section of highway police members, BRTA officials, and politically connected people.

“They [owners and drivers] do not feel the necessity to update their documents as they can operate without those,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

And corruption runs deep in the sector.

For example, police on March 15 last year seized a truck which was used in an attempted robbery.

The vehicle with the plate Chattogram Metro-NA-II-2608 has been in the Cumilla Sadar South Police Station since the seizure, but it received a fitness certificate in November last year from Barishal circle of BRTA office without an inspection. The BRTA in February suspended the official responsible.

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said there is no monitoring and if there is any monitoring, it is also “manageable”. He said monitoring is only done after major incidents.

He told The Daily Star yesterday that there is no visible chain of command to make the responsible officials or staffers accountable and that is making the total system almost dysfunctional.

Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, said the highway police and BRTA officials are not doing their jobs, resulting in unfit vehicles staying on the roads.

Asked why drivers without valid

licences were on the roads, he said “This is not an important issue to discuss. The important issue is the BRTA is failing to do its job.”

Khandaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners’ Association, said vehicles without valid papers cannot run if the authorities concerned, especially the highway police, do their jobs properly.

On owners running buses without papers, he said the association does not support this. It is not possible for the association to monitor over 5.5 lakh buses and trucks, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

A top BRTA official, wishing anonymity, said if an owner or a driver can run the vehicles paying (law enforcers) money, then why will they go to the BRTA for the papers?

Contacted, BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said only seven magistrates run BRTA mobile courts in Dhaka and Chattogram cities. “Is it possible for them to check all vehicles?”

“If all stakeholders do not respect the law, then it becomes very difficult to enforce and bring discipline,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said they take action when specific allegations are brought against the BRTA officials.

Highway police Additional Inspector General Md Shahabuddin Khan told this newspaper that they prosecute errant vehicles and drivers, and have fined 1.41 lakh vehicles and drivers Tk 40 crore last year.

He said they also take other measures and hold meetings with stakeholders to increase awareness. “What we observed is that the owners and workers are not serious enough about road safety.”

On law enforcers taking money from errant vehicle owners and drivers, he said they probe each and every specific allegation brought against their members.

It is not only building ships for Bangladesh, but also constructing various water vessels and exporting those to different countries.

Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M Shaheen Iqbal delivered the welcome speech from the venue.

On PM’s permission, the chief of naval staff handed the commissioning order to Commodore M Atiqur Rahman, commanding officer of the submarine base.

The newly constructed submarine base can accommodate six submarines and eight warships at a time.

2 human traffickers arrested in Teknaf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Police yesterday arrested two human traffickers during a drive conducted to rescue an abducted person in Teknaf upazila of Cox’s Bazar.

Mahbubul Alam, 40, and Helal Uddin, 29, arrested from the upazila’s Natun Pallanpara, were accused in several cases including ones for human trafficking, said Nasir Uddin Majumdar, inspector of Teknaf Police Station.

Mahbubul is one of the leaders of the trafficking ring, he added.

However, police did not find the abducted person during the drive.

Md Alam, of the upazila’s Shahporirdwip, was abducted Sunday evening.

Robber held after impersonating cop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A man was arrested for trying to commit a robbery while impersonating a policeman in Patuakhali’s Dumki upazila.

Sumon, 35, is a notorious criminal and has robbery, arms, and rape cases filed against him with several police stations, police said.

He was part of a group of five robbers that broke into a home in Satani Calvert area of the upazila on Sunday night.

Hearing screams for help, locals arrived at the scene and gave chase of the robbers, apprehending Sumon in the process.

Dumki Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdus Salam said they were trying to arrest the other robbers.

A case was being prepared to be filed over the incident, the OC added.

Elderly man dies after being hit by train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An octogenarian man was killed after he was hit by a train in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Sunday night.

The deceased Mostak Ahmed, 80, was a tailor by profession.

Panchbibi Police Station OC Jahidul Haq, said the intercity Simanto Express, that runs on the Chilahati-Khulna route, hit him when he was crossing the rail tracks at the rail gate area of Panchbibi municipality area on Sunday night, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police later handed over the body to the family members without autopsy upon their request.

17 more lives lost on roads

FROM PAGE 1

Ruma upazila, and Hla Gya Prue Kiang, of Bandarban Sadar upazila. They are aged between 16 and 50.

Shai Bang Marma, chairman of Ruma Sadar Union Parishad, and Jira Bom, chairman of Remakri Prangsa Union Parishad, confirmed the deceased’s identities.

Hla Gya was a helper of one of the trucks, they said.

An injured was undergoing treatment at Bandarban Sadar Hospital, while 10 others were taking treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, OC Alamgir added.

Meanwhile, 11 more people died and 21 others were wounded in road crashes in seven other districts since Sunday night.

In Dinajpur’s Sadar upazila, three people were killed in a head-on collision between a bus and a pickup yesterday evening.

The victims were Foyzar Ali, 35, Mostakim Hossain, 27, and Sohanur Sohan, 26. They were residents of different villages in Chirirbandar upazila and were in the pickup. Foyez was the pickup driver, said police.

Police seized the bus, said Saiful Islam, OC of Doshmile Highway Police Station.

In another accident, two people died and another one was wounded when a truck ran over a battery-run rickshaw at Borasur in Gopalganj’s Kashiani in the afternoon.

The deceased were Ikram Sheikh, 55, of Porkorfa village, and Ahad Sardar, 45, of Sankarpasha village of the upazila.

Ikram was the battery-run rickshaw-puller, said Anwar Hossain, an official of fire service and civil defence in Kashiani.

In Kishoreganj, a seven-year old madrasa student was killed in a road accident on Kishoreganj-Pakundia road in Jamail area yesterday morning. Victim Saad was the son of Murad Mia of Jamail village.

Police said he was run over by a battery-run auto-rickshaw when crossing a road around 9:00am. Doctors declared him dead after he was taken to Hossainpur Upazila Health Complex, said Md Asaduzzaman, OC of Hossainpur Police Station.

In another crash, a man was killed and 20 others suffered injuries after a bus fell into a ditch in Piroipur’s Mathbaria early yesterday.

The deceased, Abinash Mitra, 55, of Mathbaria’s Angulkata village, was a lawyer, said Kamruzzaman Talukder, OC of Mathbaria Police Station.

In Dhaka, a bus helper, who was injured in a road accident in the capital’s Azimpur in the morning, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The victim was Sanwar Hossain, 26, said Md Masud, assistant in-charge of DMCH police outpost.

Two motorcyclists were killed after the motorbike collided head-on with a bus at Balipara in Mymensingh’s Trishal upazila on Sunday night.

The victims were Arif Hossain, 25, and Oliullah Oli, 22, of the upazila’s Dhanikhola village.

In Patuakhali, a college student, who was wounded in a motorbike accident in Baulal upazila on Sunday, died yesterday.

Rashedul Islam Howladar, 22, was a resident of Anarsia village of the upazila.

[Our correspondents in Bandarban, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Mymensingh and Patuakhali contributed to this report.]

Businesses

FROM PAGE 12

window to expedite tax payment and the release of goods.

Modernisation and amendment of the customs act, value-added tax (VAT) law and income tax ordinance are needed along the lines of the World Trade Organisation’s agreement on trade facilitation.

The decision should be taken in consultation with the stakeholders concerned to make those laws to the global standards, Jashim Uddin added.

The businesses also requested the government to impose duty and tax on the release of exported and imported goods following the best standards of the WTO and World Customs Organisation.

The businesses demanded the government for supplying tax-free subsidised electricity, water and gas to facilitate productivity and export of goods.

The FBCCI demanded equalising the facility in payment of duty and taxes for both domestic and international investment.

The income tax net needs to be expanded and the establishment of income tax offices at the upazila level is needed for increasing the revenue collection, Jashim Uddin added.

Mohammad Hatem, executive president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, demanded the government brings down the tax on cash subsidy received on export earnings to 5 percent from 10 percent in fiscal 2023-24.

He also demanded simplification of the procedures for tax refund and subsidy payment as the current process is time-consuming and leads to harassment.

All kinds of taxes should be withdrawn from the earnings of sub-contractors as such businesses get lesser profits and take on more risks, Hatem said.

MARCH 19, 2023

A bus goes off the Dhaka-Bhanga expressway and crashes killing 19 people in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur. The BRTA in November suspended its route permit following another fatal crash. Its fitness certificate expired in January.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2022

The two buses collided head-on in Rangpur leaving at least eight dead and over 50 injured. None of the buses had route permits. One had a fitness certificate that expired 11 years ago.

JULY 16, 2022

A truck in Mymensingh’s Trishal upazila mowed down three people, including a pregnant woman who gave birth on the spot. The truck had no fitness clearance, and tax token. Driver had no valid licence. The truck got its fitness clearance while in police impound.

JUNE 5, 2022

A bus went across the central reservation of Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar and hit an oncoming staff bus that left six people, including four scientific officers of BAEC, dead. The annual fitness certificate of the bus was last renewed in 2014 and the annual taxes were last paid in 2015.

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

A pick-up ran over and killed six brothers on Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar highway. Its fitness clearance, route permit and tax token expired three years ago.

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

A bus runs over and kills SSC examinee Mainuddin Islam in Rampura. It had no valid route permit or tax token.

NOVEMBER 24, 2021

A DSCC garbage truck runs over and kills Notre Dame College student Nayeem. A former cleaner of DSCC with no licence was behind the steering wheel.

MARCH 19, 2019

A bus runs over and kills BUP student Abrar triggering a student movement. The conductor with no licence was at the steering wheel.

JULY 29, 2018

Two buses ruling ploughs into people waiting for buses. Two students of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College were run over and killed while nine others were injured. Drivers of both buses did not have the licence to drive heavy vehicles.

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HAJJ REGISTRATION

Quota not met after 4 deadline extensions

RASHIDUL HASAN

Even after extending the registration deadline four times, the quota for sending 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis for hajj is still to be met, prompting hajj agencies to fear losses. The “final deadline” for registration ends today.

The agency leaders have pointed to the high cost to perform hajj this year as the reason behind fewer registrations.

According to officials at the capital's Ashkona Hajj Camp, as of yesterday, around 1.12 lakh people have registered. Of the total, 9,749 did so under the government's hajj management and 1,02,759 under private management.

According to an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh, 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis will be able to perform hajj this year.

Due to the inadequate response, the government on February 22 first extended the deadline till February 28 and then till March 7.

Even after that, authorities did not hit the quota, and so, on March 7, the religious affairs ministry extended the deadline till March 16.

Even after that deadline, 1,08,909 registered. Without finding any alternative, on March 16, the government extended the deadline for the “last time” till March 21.

Contacted, Abdus Salam Aref, general secretary of Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB), said although the government is saying that 1.12 lakh have registered, around 5 percent of registered hajjis will not go.

Leaders of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) and ATAB fear that this year's quota will not be met, due to the high cost of hajj packages.

Several officials at Ashkona Hajj Camp said that the quota may be unmet by several thousands.

A Bangladeshi will have to spend around Tk 7 lakh to perform hajj under private and government management this year, Tk 1.61 lakh more than the previous year's amount.

“Our business will be seriously affected if we cannot fulfil the quota. Besides, failure to fulfil it will also negatively impact our country,” said the ATAB general secretary.

HAAB and ATAB leaders said despite the huge interest of people to perform hajj, fewer people have registered due to the high cost of hajj packages.

A Bangladeshi will have to spend around Tk 7 lakh to perform hajj under

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



The queues in front of OMS trucks are getting longer by the day, amid soaring prices of daily essentials. With Ramadan just a few days away, along with buying regular items, people were seen purchasing pulses, grams and dates -- some of the must have items for the month of fasting and abstinence. This photo was taken in Shyamoli.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ensure access to water, sanitation to achieve SDG

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assuring everyone has access to water and sanitation is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), participants in a session said yesterday.

NGO Forum for Public Health, Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN) and the Daily Bhorer Kagoj jointly organised the national seminar titled “Accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis” at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The seminar was held ahead of World Water Day 2023, and it highlighted the critical importance of ensuring access to water and sanitation for all.

Speakers discussed the issue of water and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PRAYER
TIMING

MARCH 21

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:45	6:16	7:45
JAMAA 5:30	1:15	5:00	6:20	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

No eyes on the poster boards

DNCC's initiative to install the structures failing to bear fruit



Banglamotor



Karwan Bazar

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Despite spending Tk 1.91 crore for installing designated poster boards to keep the metro-rail pillars free of posters, the efforts of Dhaka North City Corporation seem to be falling short.

Even though many of the proposed boards were installed two months ago, they have failed to attract people's attention, according to DNCC officials.

Furthermore, the structures are reportedly not strong, so they might break apart during storms, raising the risk of accidents.

Residents and experts have raised concerns about DNCC's haphazard initiative to resolve this problem. They said DNCC is installing boards without proper planning, policy and awareness campaigns.



Farmgate

Besides, the officials have not yet decided whether they will charge money for putting up posters on these boards or for how long

can one keep their advertisements there.

According to DNCC officials, the corporation has planned to set up 100 boards around the metro-rail area and already installed 22 of them. It has already spent Tk 1.91 crore for this.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found that near the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover, next to Eskaton Road, tea stalls have been set up covering half the board, which had no posters on it.

Near a Farmgate foot-bridge, the newly-installed board only has two posters of ruling-party leaders and two for a house rental. Below it is a garbage dump and food stall occupying half the footpath.

In Karwan Bazar area, the authorities used a tin fence to set up a board, but the structure is quite weak.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DNCC reclaims occupied land in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday reclaimed an acre of land in Mirpur's Kalyanpur area which had been illegally occupied for over one and half years.

The eviction drive started around 10:00am and went on for almost five hours.

The DNCC plans to implement the Kalyanpur Regulating Pond Project by excavation on the reclaimed land as a part of solution to the waterlogging problem in Mirpur, said Mohammad Mahay Alam, chief estate officer of DNCC.

This eviction drive is part of an ongoing effort to reclaim illegally occupied areas under the city corporation, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



The 15th convocation of Brac University was held at Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center in Dhaka yesterday. Attending as the chief guest, Education Minister Dipu Moni conferred degrees on 4,889 students.

PHOTO: STAR

Private univs can play vital role in dev

Dipu Moni tells BracU convocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private universities can play a special role in developing skilled people, which is necessary for the development of the country, Education Minister Dipu Moni said.

She made the comment while attending as the chief guest at Brac University's 15th convocation ceremony at Bangabandhu Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition centre in Dhaka.

Dipu Moni conferred degrees on 4,889 students while 31 students received gold medals in various categories.

Convocation speaker

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Don't blame the road

Says Obaidul Quader on Madaripur bus crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the accident in Madaripur's Shibchar upazila did not occur because the road had faults.

“Every death is painful. We don't want a single death on the road. We are conveying our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and relatives,” he said in a statement issued yesterday.

Quader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working relentlessly to restore order in the road and transport sector and prevent accidents.

“The much awaited ‘Road Transport Act 2018’ has already been implemented. National highways across the country are being upgraded to six lanes with service lanes in a phased manner,” added the statement.

Quader said, “Initiatives have been taken to identify accident-prone road bends. Necessary signs are being installed. Four rest houses are being constructed for goods-carrying transport drivers to rest.”

Quader, also Awami League general secretary, alleged that BNP is now using road accidents to do politics after its movements failed.

“... Even if anyone dies in a lightning strike, BNP tries to put the blame on the government. The road communication sector was the most neglected during BNP's regime,” he added.

“Besides, initiatives have been taken to increase awareness among drivers, transport workers and pedestrians. BNP is criticising the government just for the sake of criticism to achieve their political objectives,” said Quader.



GULISTAN BLAST

Dog awarded for heroic service



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, a member of the Rab Dog Squad has been awarded the “Rab Director General Award” for his heroic service during the search and rescue efforts after the Gulistan blast earlier this month.

The dog named Cheetah played a critical role in recovering bodies from the damaged Gulistan building where an explosion took place on March 7, killing 24 people and leaving over a 100 injured.

The dog recovered three bodies from the spot, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

The award was given at a programme marking the 19th founding anniversary of Rab and Rab Memorial Day-2023.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Awareness session on PCOS held at Star

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to raise consciousness on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), Renata Limited took the initiative to arrange a physical awareness session at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday afternoon.

Prof Dr Laila Arjumand Banu, chief consultant of Obs and Gynae department at Labaid Specialised Hospital, was the key speaker at the session.

The session went on for an hour, participated by the staffers of The Daily Star.

Country gets two new river ports

CITY DESK

The government has announced the opening of two new river ports in the country. The ports – Najirganj of Pabna's Sujanagar and Dhawapara in Rajbari – have been designated as the 42nd and 43rd river ports, respectively.

The shipping ministry issued a notification in this regard yesterday.

According to the ministry, the new river ports will help facilitate transport and trade.

Ensure access to water

FROM PAGE 3
sanitation services in the country and highlighted the need for sustainable development and innovative solutions to overcome future challenges.

"We are committed to achieving SDGs by 2030. But we also have a specific goal for Bangladesh. We want to make a Smart Bangladesh by 2041. With the combination of these two goals, we are setting our plans and moving forward accordingly," said Md Tajul Islam, local government,

rural development and co-operatives minister.

Dr Tanvir Ahmed, a professor of civil engineering at Buet, called for a flexible regulatory environment to encourage innovation in mitigating these challenges.

SMA Rashid, executive director of NGO Forum for Public Health, and Anwar Zahid, director of Ground Water Hydrology and BWDB, also spoke.

Daily Bhorer Kagoj's Editor Shyamal Dutta moderated the event.

Dog awarded for heroic

FROM PAGE 3
Director General of Rab M Khurshid Hossain awarded 50 members of the force with special awards (Gallantry and Service) in recognition to their courageous job

and services. He also paid his respect to Rab members who died during operations. The Rab DG also exchanged greetings with the family members of the martyred Rab members.

Quota not met after

FROM PAGE 3
private and government management this year, Tk 1.61 lakh more than the previous year's amount.

HAAB and ATAB leaders said a pilgrim will have to spend around Tk 8 to 9 lakh on average to complete all hajj formalities, for which many are finding it difficult to manage the money.

Both ATAB and HAAB leaders said this year's airfare is very high, for which the cost of hajj

packages have increased significantly.

"The airfare of Biman was Tk 1.40 lakh last year. But this year, it is around Tk 1.98 lakh," said HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim.

Sources at HAAB and ATAB said in India, the airfare is around Tk 1.25 lakh, and in Pakistan it is less than Tk 1 lakh.

This year, hajj will be held on June 27 depending on the moon's sighting.

No eyes on the poster boards

FROM PAGE 3
While visiting the three areas, this correspondent waited for over an hour and only saw dozens of pedestrians out of hundreds looking at the boards.

Meanwhile, residents have criticised the location choice for the boards, with many saying that they are not placed strategically enough to attract people's attention.

"Banglamotor area's poster boards are not placed at the right locations, or enough visibility has not been ensured to make a difference," said Altaf Hossain, a local.

"It's a waste of public funds if people don't even notice these boards," he added.

Shagor Hossain, a pedestrian, said, "If residents don't understand the initiative or what the rules are for posting on the boards, they're not likely to comply."

According to DNCC's 19th board meeting, the ward councillor will choose locations for the boards and the committee will work accordingly. However, councillors have also criticised DNCC's approach, with one saying that the boards have been set up disregarding their suggestions.

Muktar Sardar, councillor of ward-35 under DNCC, said, "The

poster board has been set up ignoring my suggestion. I was only informed after the work was done."

"I have not seen the board yet," he said.

Meanwhile, the corporation has formed a committee, led by ward-14 councillor Humayun Rashid, to form a policy for the boards. However, he seems to be unaware of when the policy will be ready.

Humayun said, "I don't know when the guidelines will be completed."

Asked about the location choice, he said, "We will visit the spot again and fix the issues."

Humayun did not give a satisfactory answer about ignoring the councillors' suggestions.

"There are doubts about whether these [boards] will work or not. That's why this work is not being done in all wards," he said.

Adil Mohammed Khan, professor of urban and regional planning at Jahangirnagar University, questioned the need for these boards. He said if the location is not appropriate, the whole plan will be futile.

"There are many walls in the city, so it would have been better to specify them [to put up posters]. There was no need to spend unnecessarily," he said.

He is concerned that if these boards are not standing firm, they can fall during storms and cause accidents.

DNCC reclaims

FROM PAGE 3
The drive was led by the chief estate officer of DNCC, along with Mohammad Mahbub Hasan, regional executive officer, and Mahmudul Hasan executive magistrates of zone-4.

At least 30 illegal shops, 20 houses, and two rickshaw garages, along with various illegal structures, were removed from the land during the drive.

Locals initially tried to resist the eviction, but police intervention brought the situation under control, said the chief estate officer.

"Despite giving them notices at different times, they did not comply. We have removed all illegal establishments on this land. Drive against illegal encroachment will continue," he added.

Private univs can

essential in a constantly evolving world.

Prof Syed Mahfuzul Aziz, pro-Vice Chancellor and acting VC, Brac University, and Tamara Hasan Abed, chairperson, Board of Trustees of the university, also spoke at the event.



Invitation to Bid (ITB)

(UNDP-BGD-00100)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN agencies in Bangladesh are inviting potential **Cleaning, Housekeeping, and Messenger Service** providers to participate in an open tender for a three-year long-term agreement.

This specific tender will be managed via "Quantum", a new ERP portal of UNDP. Interested Service Providers must register in the system to access the bidding document (ITB).

Applicants can register a profile and apply using the registration link shared via the procurement notice: https://procurement-notice.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=3504 and by following the instructions in the guides available on the UNDP website: <https://www.undp.org/procurement/business/resources-for-bidders>.


Do not create a new profile if you already have one. Use the forgotten password feature in case you do not remember the password or the username from the previous registration.

The Pre-bid meeting is to be held on:

- Date & Time: 27 March 2023, 11:30 a.m. (Local Time)
- Address: UNDP Bangladesh (19th Floor), IDB Bhaban, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Agargaon, Dhaka

For any queries please write through E-mail: bd.procurement@undp.org

The **deadline** for submission of the proposal is **Monday, April 10, 2023, at 4:30 PM (BD TIME Zone)**.




Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Jute Research Institute

Manik Mia Avenue, Dhaka-1207

www.bjri.gov.bd

Phone: 58151241, E-mail: dg@bjri.gov.bd



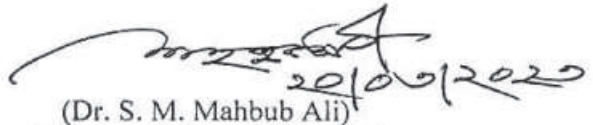
Ref. no. 12.23.2680.006.07.121.19.2937C Date: 20.3.2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below:


SL No.	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender last selling Date & Time
1	797559	OTM	Repairing and Maintenance of BJRI Machines/equipment	19-Mar-2023 16:00	02-Apr-2023 16:00
2	803216	OTM	Procurement of Laboratory equipment	19-Mar-2023 16:00	05-Apr-2023 16:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested Persons/Firms can see details in the website: <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>



(Dr. S. M. Mahbub Ali)
Director (Admin & Finance)
BJRI, Dhaka

GD-514




বাংলাদেশ মহাকাশ গবেষণা ও দূর অনুধাবন প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্পারসো)

প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়

আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.sparrso.gov.bd



নম্বর: ২৩.০৪.০০০০.০০৮.৯৯.০৫৪.২১.৪৬৫ তারিখ: ০৬ চৈত্র ১৪২৯ ২০ মার্চ ২০২৩


স্পারসো রিসার্চ ফেলোশিপ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৩-২৪ অর্থবছরে বাংলাদেশ মহাকাশ গবেষণা ও দূর অনুধাবন প্রতিষ্ঠান (স্পারসো)-তে ফেলোশিপের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিচ থেকে নিম্নলিখিত ছবের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে-

ক্রম	ফেলোশিপ ক্যাটাগরি	সূন্যতম যোগ্যতা	আবেদনকারীর সূন্যতম বয়স (১০ এপ্রিল ২০২৩)	ফেলোশিপের মেয়াদকাল
০১	জুনিয়র রিসার্চ ফেলো (JRF)	স্নাতক পর্যায়ে অধ্যয়নরত	১৮ বছর	সর্বোচ্চ ১২ মাস
০২	রিসার্চ এসোসিয়েট (RA)	স্নাতক ডিগ্রিধারী এবং ২ বছর গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা	২৪ বছর (পুরুষ) ২৩ বছর (নারী)	সর্বোচ্চ ১২ মাস

আবেদনের নিয়ম ও শর্তাবলী

- স্পারসো রিসার্চ ফেলোশিপ শীর্ষমাল্যে বর্ণিত শর্ত, যোগ্যতা এবং অন্যান্য বিধিমালা অনুসরণপূর্বক চেয়ারম্যান, স্পারসো বরাবর অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- এ সকলক অনলাইনে আবেদনের Google Form Link এবং শীর্ষমাল্য www.sparrso.gov.bd এর নোটিশ বোর্ডে পাওয়া যাবে।
- Google Form Link-এ তথ্য প্রদানের পাশাপাশি আবেদনপত্র, বায়োডাটা, গবেষণা বিবৃতি ও আনুষঙ্গিক ডকুমেন্ট পিডিএফ আকারে বর্ণিত ফরমেটে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে- "[Fellowship Category-RA/JRF] [Name] [Doc Type] [Research Field]"
- আবেদনকারীর দক্ষতা সম্পর্কে তথ্য দিতে পারে এমন কোন শিক্ষক/গবেষণা বাকি হতে Recommendation Letter সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- রিসার্চ এসোসিয়েট ক্যাটাগরিতে আবেদনকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- আবেদন, বাছাই প্রক্রিয়া ইত্যাদি কারণে আবেদনকারীকে কোন ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না।
- আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ১০ এপ্রিল ২০২৩, দুপুর ১২:৩০টা।
- যে কোন পরিস্থিতিতে স্পারসো কর্তৃপক্ষ ফেলোশিপ স্থগিতকরণ/বাতিলের পূর্ণ অধিকার রাখে।
- গবেষণার আনুষঙ্গিকরাজ্য ক্ষেত্রসমূহ:
 - Disaster Science & Management (Landslide Vulnerability Model, Ground Deformation/ Land Subsidence Monitoring, Flood, Drought, Thunderstorm, etc.)
 - Blue Economy (Coastal & Marine Resources, Potential Fishing Zone, etc.)
 - Water Resources (River Monitoring, Inland Water Monitoring, Water Quality Assessment, etc.)
 - Food Security (Rice Crop Yield Modeling, Precision Agriculture, etc.)
 - Environmental Studies (Land Surface Temperature Assessment, Mapping Industrial Water Pollution, Aerosol Monitoring, Air Quality Monitoring, Atmospheric Research, etc.)
 - Forestry (Protected Area Information System, Forest Type Mapping, Forest Biomass Assessment, Tree Cover Mapping, etc.)
 - Space Science, Technology & Policy (Small Satellite, Spacecraft, Satellite Communication, Ground Station, Robotics, IoT, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, Signal Processing, Sensor, Space Economy, Space Law, etc.)



মোহাম্মদ মাসুদুর রহমান মল্লিক
পরিচালক
(উপসচিব)
ফোন: ০২-৪৮১১৮৮৮১
ই-মেইল: admin@sparrso.gov.bd

GD-511

‘Missing’ Ilias Ali in Sylhet BNP committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

The Sylhet district unit of BNP has announced its full-fledged committee a year after the biennial conference has been held.

BNP leader M Ilias Ali, who went “missing” from the capital Banani area on April 17, 2012, has been named the first member of the committee.

Ilias was the organising secretary of BNP and a former lawmaker for the Sylhet-2 constituency.

The committee, approved by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir on Sunday night, has 151 persons in different posts while another 91 were made advisors.

In the committee, there are 20 vice presidents, 12 joint secretaries, 5 organising secretaries and 31 secretaries.

Ilias Ali's wife Tahsina Rusdir Luna, advisor to the BNP chairperson, has been named second member and their son Abrar Ilias the 11th member.

The biennial conference was held on March 29 last year where 1,726 councillors elected the president, general secretary and organising secretary.

Abdul Quyum Chowdhury, president of the BNP district unit, said, “Due to the flood situation last year, followed by BNP's nationwide programmes, formation of committee got delayed.”

“We believe Ilias Ali is alive... he is a victim of enforced disappearance... Considering this, we placed him in the committee.”

TANGAIL PARK BAZAR

Town's main kitchen market in a shabby state



Entrance of Park Market, the main kitchen market in Tangail town, left, and a busy lane of the vegetable market remain in such muddy condition for almost all year round as the decades-old market has hardly seen any development work for a long time.

PHOTO: STAR

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Park Bazar, the main kitchen market in Tangail town, has been in a sorry state due to lack of renovation work for long, causing huge sufferings to the buyers and sellers.

In order to get rid of the problem, townspeople and traders of the market have been urging the authorities concerned to renovate the market, which was set up over three decades ago, but to no effect. Many traders at the market alleged that though the municipality authority gets revenue from the leased shops, they are reluctant to conduct any development work.

The market was first set up on the premises of a park in the town on a temporary basis in 1977.

It was supposed to be shifted to Chhoy Ani Bazar, another old kitchen market in the town, but that never happened, locals said.

Finally, the kitchen market, locally called Park Bazar, was set up permanently at the park in 1989.

Since then, the market, established on three acres of land, has been the main kitchen market of the district town.

There are around 700 permanent and 300 temporary shops at the market, which is also known as the biggest wholesale vegetable market of the district.

Surprisingly, no drainage facilities were developed for such a large kitchen market, even though there is no alternative to drain out the stagnant water from the market premises, traders said.

As a result, the entire market area remains covered with thick mud and stagnant water for most of the rainy season.

It becomes almost impossible for the customers to enter the market even after a little rain.

Moreover, there is no shed for people to take shelter during rain or excessive heat, traders said.

Several meat traders said there is no designated slaughter house at the market.

During a recent visit to the market area this correspondent saw more shops are constructed at the Eidgah-end of the market in the last several years and allocated to traders.

Joaher Ali, general secretary of Park Market traders' association, said as there is no street light,

darkness covers the entire market area soon after sunset.

Although they have urged the municipality authority on several occasions to develop the kitchen market, nothing has been done so far, he added.

The traders' association President Abdul Barez said though the municipality authority regularly collects revenue from the vendors and vehicles, during loading and unloading goods, no development work has been done to ease the troubles of the buyers and sellers.

Mahbubur Rahman, a resident of Collegepara area in the town, said the kitchen markets in the adjacent districts have been constructed using modern infrastructures to ensue various facilities for both the buyers and sellers.

But the kitchen market in Tangail town looks like a waste dumping place, he said.

Contacted, Tangail Municipality Mayor SM Sirajul Haque Khan Alamgir said they have a plan to construct a four-storey building at the existing market place where vendors of different items can sit separately.

Although the municipality authority regularly collects revenue from the vendors and vehicles, during loading and unloading goods, no development work has been done to ease the troubles of the buyers and sellers.

ABDUL BAREK
Traders' Association
President

Uniform admission test for all public universities: UGC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A uniform admission test will be held for all public universities to enrol undergraduate students from the 2023-2024 academic session.

“The Ministry of Education took the decision and asked the University Grants Commission to take necessary initiatives in this regard,” said Prof Muhammad Alamgir, convener of the uniform admission test committee and UGC member.

He said the commission already notified vice chancellors about this development during a meeting with UGC held yesterday.

Right now, 22 general, science and other public universities hold a “central admission test” under a cluster. Besides, seven agriculture, and three engineering and technology universities hold tests in two different clusters.

Nine universities -- including Dhaka University, Buet, Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University -- are still out of the cluster system.

Asked whether leading universities would take part in the uniform test, Alamgir said resolutions of the meeting have already been sent to them.

Speaking at the meeting, UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah said, “Some problems have arisen owing to the new system, but there is no scope to backtrack.”

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Azimpur PWD Division, Newmarket, Dhaka
Phone No: 02-223360276
E-mail: ee_ajmpr@pwd.gov.bd
Invitation for Tender

Memo No. 25.36.2600.142.07.009.23-749

Date: 06/12/2023

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, Azimpur PWD Division, Newmarket, Dhaka.

Tender ID	Brief description	Tender documents publication date & time	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender proposal closing date & time
804645	Construction of Multi-storied residential flat for Government officers in Azimpur Govt. Colony (Zone-A), Dhaka. Sub-head: Rainwater harvesting for 15 Buildings. FY: 2022-2023	21-Mar-2023 12.00	18-April-2023 16.00	20-April-2023 13.00
804646	Construction of Multi-storied residential flat (Zone-A) for Government officials inside Azimpur Govt. Colony (Zone-A). Sub-head: Sinking and Installation of 200mm x 400mm dia G.I. Pipe Deep Tubewell including 38mm dia test & observation well with supply and installation of 60 HP Submersible Pump motor set and external water supply. FY: 2022-2023	21-Mar-2023 12.00	11-April-2023 16.00	12-April-2023 13.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Ilias Ahmed

Executive Engineer

Azimpur PWD Division

Newmarket, Dhaka

GD-513

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
IDG Sub-Project: Rajshahi College, Rajshahi
E-mail: rajshahicollegebd@gmail.com, website: www.rc.gov.bd
Online news portal: rcbarta.com, Fax: 0721-771511

Memo No. 37.02.0000.CEDP/IDG/Rajshahi College/OTM/Networking/G-14/10 Date: 20/03/2023

e-Tender Notice-03/2022-2023

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
01	804833	Establishment of Campus Networking for Rajshahi College (OTM Package No. G-14)	06/04/2023 01:00pm	06/04/2023 02:00pm

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

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to **05-Apr-2023 03:00pm**. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Principal
Rajshahi College, Rajshahi

GD-512

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স্মারক নম্বরঃ ০৫.৩০.৮৬০০.০০৯.০২.০০১.২৩-১২৮ তারিখঃ ২৮ ফাল্গুন ১৪২৯
১৩ মার্চ ২০২৩

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির আংশিক সংশোধন

জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের উদ্বৃত্ত কর্মচারী শাখা স্মারক নম্বরঃ ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৬৬.১১.০০৮.১৭-২৬ তারিখঃ ০৭ মার্চ ২০২৩ এর ছাড়পত্রের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, শরীয়তপুর এবং অধীনস্থ উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়সমূহে নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে ইতোপূর্বে জারিকৃত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির ০৫ নম্বর ক্রমিকের ‘ঘ’ অনুচ্ছেদে প্রার্থীকে আবেদনের সাথে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ (অফেরতযোগ্য) জেলা প্রশাসক, শরীয়তপুর এর অনুকূলে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর যে কোনো শাখায় ১-০৭৪২-০০০০-২০০১ নম্বর কোডে ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা সরকারি ট্রেজারি চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হয়। অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রজ্ঞাপন নম্বরঃ ০৭.০০.০০০০.১৭২.৩৭.০০৩.১৪-২৬২, তারিখঃ ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২ এর নির্দেশনার আলোকে উক্ত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির ০৫ নম্বর ক্রমিকের ‘ঘ’ অনুচ্ছেদ আংশিক সংশোধনপূর্বক পরীক্ষার ফি ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকার স্থলে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা নির্ধারণ করা হলো।

০২. নির্ধারিত ফি অনুযায়ী শরীয়তপুর জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক প্রবর্তিত নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন দাখিলের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

মোঃ পারভেজ হাসান
জেলা প্রশাসক
শরীয়তপুর
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৭৮৮১৫১৪১
Email: dcshariatpur@mopa.gov.bd

জিডি-৫১৬

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD
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Telephone: 0981-65087
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Memo No. 35.01.3936.180.07.003.23.1580 Date: 20/03/2023

e-GP Corrigendum Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Jamalpur Road Circle, Jamalpur for the procurement of below mentioned works:

Sl. No.	Name of works	Last selling time	Tender closing time
01.	Periodic Maintenance Program by Providing DBS Wearing Course from Ch. 20+670 Km to Ch. 28+500 Km (Milon Bazar to Gabergram Bazar) and Widening of intersection of Jamalpur-Madarganj Road (R-461) under Jamalpur Road Division during the year 2022-2023. Invitation Reference No. 08/e-GP/JRC-Jam/PMP-Road/2022-2023 (ID-790693)	27/03/2023, 17:00	28/03/2023, 12:00
02.	Periodic Maintenance Work by DBS Wearing Course at 27th(p) to 44th(p) km (Ch. 26+500km to 43+625km) of Jamalpur-Islampur-Dewanganj-Bahadurabad Ghat (R-465) Road under Jamalpur Road Division during the year 2022-2023 (ID-791053) Invitation Reference No. 09/e-GP/JRC-Jam/PMP-Road/2022-2023 (791053)	27/03/2023, 17:00	28/03/2023, 12:40

These are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Zahangir Alam
ID No. 601915
Superintending Engineer (C.C), RHD
Jamalpur Road Circle

GD-515

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ আবহাওয়া অধিদপ্তর
আবহাওয়া ও ভূ-প্রাকৃতিক কেন্দ্র
সরকারী কার্য ভবন-১, আশাবাদ, চট্টগ্রাম
www.bmd.chittagong.gov.bd

নম্বরঃ ২৩.০৯.১৫২৮.৫৫৭.২৬.০০১.২০.৪২৪ (১) তারিখঃ ২০ মার্চ ২০২৩

অকেজো ঘোষিত রকি জীপ নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আবহাওয়া ও ভূ-প্রাকৃতিক কেন্দ্র, চট্টগ্রামের একটি পুরনো ও অকেজো ঘোষিত রকি জীপ (রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং ঢাকা মেট্রো-ঘ-০২-০৩৭১, ডায়হাটস কোম্পানী লিঃ, তৈরির সন-১৯৯৩ খ্রিঃ, ২২৩৭ সিসি) যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত ক্রয় ইচ্ছুক প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তির নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে (Sealed Quotation) নির্ধারিত সিডিউল দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল আগামী ২১/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ থেকে ৩০/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নগদ টাঃ ১,০০০/- (টাকা এক হাজার মাত্র) এর বিনিময়ে (অফেরতযোগ্য) অত্র কেন্দ্র থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ৩০/০৩/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা এবং একই দিন সকাল ১০.০৫ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। কোন রকম দায়-দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ অথবা কারণ প্রদর্শন ছাড়াই টেন্ডার কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ড. মোঃ ছাদেকুল আলম
উপপরিচালক (চলতি দায়িত্ব)
ফোনঃ ০২-৩৩৩৩১১২৫২ (অফিস)
E-mail: ctgmbmd@gmail.com

জিডি-৫০৮

(রাজস্বের প্রবর্তী, টেকসই সমৃদ্ধি)

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ
গোড়াচাঁদ দাস রোড, বরিশাল
ই-মেইলঃ barisalatvd@yahoo.com

নথি নং- ৩৫/০৩/ব্যাংক/ হিসাব/ঘায়াং চার্জ/বরিশাল/২০২২-২৩/ ৪১৮ তারিখ : ২০/০৩/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।

মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়ার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল- এর অফিসকর্তৃক এলাকার রাজস্ব আদায় তত্ত্বাবধান ও রাজস্ব ঐক্য নিয়োগ, কর্মকর্তাগণের যাতায়ত এবং সৈনিক নাগরিক কার্গো এর মাধ্যমে রাজস্ব আদায় বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে কার্যক্ষেত্রে উল্লিখিত তারিখ হতে ৩০.০৬.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত মাসিক ভিত্তিতে ০১(একটি) মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়াদাতা প্রকৃত মালিক/প্রতিষ্ঠান-এর নিকট থেকে নিজস্ব প্যাকেজিং সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্র.সং.	সাজাহাদ সত্তার নাম	কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল।
০১.	কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল।	
০২.	কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল।	
০৩.	বায়ের উপস	সরকারি অনুমোদিত ব্যাংক।
০৪.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
০৫.	দরপত্রাদানের যোগ্যতা	নিজের বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নামে গাড়ির মালিকানা সম্পর্কিত মূল দলিলাদি অবশ্যই থাকতে হবে। হোলদার নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হোলদার আয়কর সনদ (টি.আই.এন), ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, সরকারিভাবে গাড়ির হোলদার লাইসেন্স, ট্যাক্স টোকেন, ইন্সুরেন্স, ইন্সুরেন্স এবং গাড়ি চালকের মূল ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সের অন্যান্য কাগজপত্র বা দলিলাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
০৬.	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ,	২৯/০৩/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (জিডিএন), কাস্টমস ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল।)
০৭.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৯/০৩/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল, এর সন্মেলন কক্ষ।

দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী

- দরপত্রে অন্তর্ভুক্তকারী অগ্রহীণি বাস্তব/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তা, কাস্টমস এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট বিভাগ, বরিশাল করাবেন সিলমোহরকৃত খামে তাদের নিজস্ব প্যাকেজিং সিস্টেমের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনের সাথে উপরে দরপত্রাদানের যোগ্যতা এর বিপরীতে উল্লিখিত সকল কাগজপত্র/দলিলাদির ফটোকপি (১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত) অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে।
- সিলমোহরকৃত খামের উপর দরপত্রাদানের নাম ও ঠিকানা, টেলিফোন নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- মাইক্রোবাসের জন্য প্রস্তাবিত দর হিসেবে সৈনিক ভাড়ার হার এবং মাসিক ভাড়ার হার সুস্পষ্টভাবে (অফ্রে এবং কথায়) উল্লেখ করতে হবে (জালানী ও সকল প্রকার খরচসহ)।
- দরপত্রে কোন প্রকার ঘষা-মাছা এবং ওভার রাইটিং করা সুস্পষ্ট নির্দিষ্ট এবং কোনরূপ শর্ত আরোপ করা যাবে না।
- সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আগামী ২৯/০৩/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে এ দপ্তরে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে ফেলা যাবে, যা একই দিন ১২.০০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্রাদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। উক্ত দিন তাদের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ গাড়ি এ দপ্তরে পরীক্ষা/ভ্যাটের জন্য উপস্থিত রাখতে হবে।
- মাইক্রোবাসটি ভাড়ার মেয়াদ কার্যক্ষেত্রে উল্লিখিত তারিখ হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত মেয়াদ বলবৎ থাকবে।
- মাইক্রোবাসটি মূলত বরিশাল বিভাগে ব্যবহৃত হবে। তবে প্রয়োজনে পাশ্চাত্যী অন্য কোন জেলায়ও ব্যবহৃত হতে পারে। মাইক্রোবাসটি প্রতিদিন সকাল হতে রাত ১০.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত প্রয়োজনে চালাতে হতে পারে।
- সাপ্তাহিক বছের দিন এবং সরকারি ছুটির দিন প্রয়োজনে মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহ করতে হবে। এ জন্য মাসিক ভাড়ার অতিরিক্ত ভাড়া দাবি করা যাবে না অর্থাৎ এ দিনের ভাড়া মাসিক ভাড়ার মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত থাকবে।
- মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহকারী সময়ে যাহিক ক্রুটির কারণে গাড়ি চালাতে বিঘ্ন ঘটলে কিংবা গাড়ি চালক অনসুস্থ থাকলে, গাড়ি চালক/বিকল্প গাড়ি চালকসহ বিকল্প গাড়ির ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- মাইক্রোবাসের মালিকানা, চালকের ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স ও কোন প্রকার দুর্ঘটনা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন প্রকার আইনগত জটিলতার দায়ভার মাইক্রোবাস ভাড়া প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকেই বহন করতে হবে। টেন্ডার গৃহণের টিমের নিকট যে নম্বর গ্রেট বিশিষ্ট গাড়ি প্রদর্শন করবেন উক্ত গাড়ির নম্বর উল্লেখ করে কার্যক্ষেত্রে সনো হবে। সরকারি খরচ অনুরোধী প্রযোজ্য মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট), অগ্রীম আয়কর (এ আই টি) ও প্রযোজ্য অন্যান্য করাদি প্রাপ্য বিল হতে কর্তন করা হবে।
- জালানী ব্যয় সাধারণের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস চালিত গাড়ি সংগ্রহের ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীগণ কর্তৃক গাড়ি ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য সরকারি বিধি-বিধান ও আনুষ্ঠানিক পালন করতে হবে।
- জিডিএন মেয়াদ শেষ হওয়ার পূর্বে ভাড়া বৃদ্ধি করা যাবে না; এবং
- দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত সকল কার্যাদি The public Procurement Act 2006 and The public Procurement Rules 2008 অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে।
- কোন কারণে নথীনাথি ব্যক্তিগতকৈ যে কোন দরপত্র আবেদন বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিদ্যালয় হোসেন
ডেপুটি কমিশনার ও বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তা
ফোন-০২৪৭৮৮-৬১২৬২

GD- 509

Nahubo: When social media is judge, jury, executioner

"I know many of you are having a hard time understanding the song easily, due to linguistic reasons. For that, I am sorry. However, I can say that I did not compose this song with any negative words, which would bring shame to my Hajong community. So, I would request everyone, please don't speak ill about my mother tongue. I am not such an ill-willed person,"

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

They say that life is a great leveller – and that sentiment is doubly true for the entertainment industry. Coke Studio Bangla, a cultural phenomenon fuelled by endless debates about meritocracy and even capitalism in music, started season 2 with the highly appreciated "Murir Tin", blending dialects of Chattogram, Khulna and Sylhet to make an incredible musical mishmash.

Then followed "Bonbib", and while it was overall appreciated for its presentation, tone and an in-form Meghdol's consistent brilliance, talks of not understanding and perhaps appropriating the social and geopolitical nuances also ran amuck on social media.

By all means, the third collaboration between Animes Roy and a relatively unknown artist named Daughter of Coastal should have been unanimously the best – that was the conclusion that I came to after listening to a few of the latter's songs.

While I'm not well versed in rap, D.O.C's



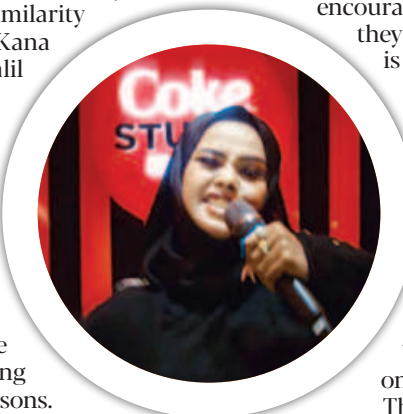
PHOTOS: COLLECTED

are groovy as ever and while Sayonton Mangsang's composition arguably has a few consistency issues, his work on the saxophone, flute and synth are immaculate.

However, the song did not go down well with netizens on the internet, owing not only to its aforementioned visual similarity with the aforementioned "Kana Yari", featuring Kalfi Khalil and Eva B.

Unfortunately, any of the comments also went as far as to ridicule Animes himself and worse, insult his Hajong language, which in no way is acceptable.

"I know many of you are having a hard time understanding the song easily, due to linguistic reasons. For that, I am sorry. However, I can say that I did not compose this song with any negative words, which would bring shame to my Hajong community. So, I would request everyone, please don't speak ill about my mother tongue. I am not such an ill-willed person," shared the singer on a social media post, which he later deleted.



Animes, a proud member of the Hajong community, claimed that he cannot remember the last time that he spoke in anything but Bangla. The sheer emotions of disappointment that emanated from the post was enough to remind us once again that while artistes are encouraged to have a 'thick skin', they too are human beings and it is not always possible to ignore the sentiments of the public.

Many countered that their problem was not with Hajong itself, as evident by the overwhelming popularity of "Nasek Nasek", but the execution of the song itself. But as I write this, I can see dozens of unsavoury comments being made about the song, on my own news feed.

There is no real way out of the conundrum for the Coke Studio team but to ignore social media for a while, and focus on their next songs awaiting release. An artist like Animes Roy should never have to apologise for his work, regardless of what people think of it. And I cannot believe I have to spell this out – no human being should ever have to apologise for his mother tongue.

Billie Eilish makes acting debut in 'Swarm'



After casting a spell on the music industry, Billie Eilish has now made her acting debut in an episode of a new thriller-series, *Swarm*, which has been directed by Donald Glover.

The singer plays Eva, a character Rolling Stone has described as a 'mysterious' cult leader.

The seven-part television series, which debuted on Prime Video on Friday, stars Dominique Fishback as Dre—a troubled adolescent whose intense obsession with pop artist Ni'Jah turns violent. The show, which delves into the darker side of 'stan' culture, stars Chloe Bailey, Damson Idris, and Rickey Thompson.

Celebration of FFSB's Golden Jubilee kicks-off

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

On the rainy evening of March 19, The Federation of Film Societies of Bangladesh (FFSB) hosted the inauguration programme of the year-long celebrations for the competition of 50 years of their journey and 60 years of the Film Society Movement in Bangladesh.

The programme started around 6 pm at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's Jatiya Natyashala Theatre. The programme consisted of an award ceremony honouring the 'Best Film of Bangladesh's 50 Years', a performance by Joler Gaan, and a screening of the film, *Lal Moroger Jhuti*.

The programme's chief guest was the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Dr Hasan Mahmud, while eminent filmmaker, Syed Salahuddin Zaki was present as the special guest.

The FFSB will also organise workshops on film education in 10 districts of the country—namely Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rangpur, Khulna, Kustia and Rangamati. The year-long celebrations will end on October 28.



NEWS

Interpol's red

FROM PAGE 12

the charge sheet in a case filed for the murder of a Bangladesh police official.

"I received news that Interpol has accepted it. Now they will do the rest of the work."

About the alleged relationship between a former police official and Arav, the IGP said, "We are looking into it ... We'll let you know at an appropriate time."

On April 11, 2019, the Detective Branch of police pressed charges against Rabiul and nine others in the murder case of Mamun Emran Khan, the then inspector of Special Branch of police.

Regarding some celebrities' participation at the inauguration of Arav Jewellers, he said, "They [the celebrities] can tell you better about why they went there ... It is not necessary to presume that they will stand in the dock for attending the programme. We are looking into their motive as well."

About the Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps, he said, "The law and order situation is fully under control. Police, Rab, APBN, intelligence agencies, the RRRC and others are working together. After every incident, law enforcers have taken legal action."

When asked about the arrest of film actor Mahiya Mahi, the IGP said, "A case was filed. No injustice will be done to anyone."

Not a single

FROM PAGE 12

They last talked to Tonu's father and his younger son Anwar Hossain Rubel when they visited the spot in 2020.

"The hope of justice for my innocent daughter is fading. We don't know whether we will get justice before our death as both of us [parents of Tonu] are becoming sick."

Contacted, PBI Inspector Mujibur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, said he won't make any comment on the probe. "Senior officials will brief the media about it, if necessary."

PBI chief Banaj Kumar Majumder told The Daily Star, "We are trying our best and the probe is on. We hope one day we will be able to crack the murder mystery."

Pro-BNP lawyers stage demo

FROM PAGE 2

They also brought out a procession and formed a human chain there protesting "the anarchy created by pro-BNP lawyers and outsiders".

Newly elected SCBA Secretary Abdun Nur Dulal, Vice President Jasmine Sultana, Assistant Secretary Noor-A-Alam Uzzal and Dhaka City AL Law Affairs Secretary Mohammad Zaglul Kabir spoke on the occasion.

In the election, pro-AL lawyers won all 14 SCBA posts, including president and secretary.

PRO-BNP LAWYERS SECURE BAIL Yesterday, the High Court granted anticipatory bail to 13 pro-BNP lawyers, including Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Ruhul Quddus Kazal, in three cases.

They were granted anticipatory bail for eight weeks, or until

submission of police reports in the cases, whichever is earlier.

The HC bench of Justice Md Salim and Justice Md Bazlur Rahman passed the orders following three petitions filed by the accused seeking anticipatory bail.

The petitioners appeared before the HC bench during the hearing.

The cases were filed on charges of snatching ballots of SCBA election, preventing police from discharging duties, and carrying out vandalism during the March 15-16 polls.

SCBA election conducting sub-committee, its administration and police lodged the cases with Shahabghat Police Station on the same dates.

Senior lawyers AJ Mohammad Ali and Zainul Abedin argued for the accused.

Govt won't repeal DSA

FROM PAGE 12

of enforced disappearance victims, stating that certain civil society organisations have been identifying themselves as "rights bodies" to hide their political agenda.

"We repeatedly asked Odhikar to give us the details of the victims but they did not comply."

"Can someone give me a list of the victims?" he added, stating that they have a list of 78 victims given by the UN.

The state minister further said that from that list, they are working with the cases of 28 victims of enforced disappearance.

He added, "Ten of the families refused to cooperate with police, while 10 people on the UN's list were later found."

Nur Khan Liton, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, said that instead of rejecting these allegations, the government should investigate them.

HFRB's report presented yesterday said that between September 2018 and February 2023, at least 56 persons have been victims of enforced disappearance.

During previous UPRs, Bangladesh had been recommended by UN

member states to ratify the UN convention for the protection of persons from enforced disappearance, but Bangladesh had rejected the recommendation.

"I don't want to make any commitment about [accepting the] recommendations that were noted [official term used by the UPR for rejecting]."

The draft report recommended that the government create a level-playing field for all political parties prior to the upcoming national election, to which Alam said that Bangladesh will not return to a caretaker government.

"If we need to change the constitution to bring about a caretaker government, we will not. Everyone must participate in the elections under the existing law."

"The perceived main opposition does not want to ... So, we cannot force them."

Huma Khan, senior human rights adviser of UN Resident Coordinator's Office, and Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, were also present at the seminar.

Tamanna Hoq Riti, coordinator of HFRB, presented the draft report.

Child abducted

FROM PAGE 12

The father of the victim filed a case with Shahzadpur police station on Sunday accusing three people.

Inspector (investigation) of Shahzadpur Police Station Sazzadur Rahman said receiving the complaint, police on the same day arrested Md Shakhawat Hossain, 21, and Naim Hossain, 22, from the locality.

Receiving information from the arrestees, Md Sagar Ali, 21, was arrested early Monday from Dhaka's Savar area.

All the accused are from Rotonkandi village.

Based on the arrestees' statements, police recovered the body of the victim from Dohobel area of Potazia union in Shahzadpur yesterday, the inspector said.

Police said the accused kidnapped the boy on Friday and killed him and dumped his body the same day.

The arrestees were sent to jail. An investigation is ongoing, the inspector added.

The body has been sent to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

54 BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 12

Kamruzzaman alleged that police framed the BNP men in Dhaka like they are doing elsewhere in the country.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in a press statement condemned the arrests saying that the party leaders and activists were taking part in a social programme.

He said that efforts are being made continuously to establish "one-party rule" by imprisoning BNP men.

Contacted, SI Ikramul said they conducted the drive and made the arrests as they had information that the opposition men were planning "sabotage".

Asked whether police have any proof of the plan, the complainant said planning is not a visible thing.

He also admitted that police didn't recover anything from the arrestees.

Remains of ancient

FROM PAGE 12

volcanic material in the region. When mixtures of volcanic ash, lava and volcanic glass called pumice react with water, a hard, crusty salt layer can form.

2018 polls neither

FROM PAGE 1

Affairs Bureau, and the Election Commission to observe the election, the report added.

Low voter turnout, intimidation, irregularities, and violence during campaigns and voting marked several local government elections during 2022. Ain O Salish Kendra noted that 479 incidents of political violence occurred, with 70 deaths.

On the human rights situation, the report said the government mobilised law enforcement resources to level civil and criminal charges against opposition party leaders.

The BNP claimed that police implicated thousands of BNP members in criminal charges related to political demonstrations during the year and detained many of the accused. Human rights observers claimed that many of these charges were politically motivated.

It said AL-affiliated organisations, such as Bangladesh Chhatra League, reportedly carried out violence and intimidation around the country with impunity, including against individuals affiliated with opposition groups.

The report also highlighted issues, including press freedom, labour rights, freedom of assembly,

migrants, and refugee rights.

It said there were significant limitations on freedom of expression both online and offline. Members of the media and bloggers self-censored their criticisms of the government due to harassment and fear of reprisal.

Throughout last year, the government widely used the Digital Security Act against persons criticising the government, including questioning the government's handling of the pandemic.

Increasingly, the law was used against speech found on social media, websites, and other digital platforms, including for commentators living outside of the country.

In April, the Centre for Governance Studies of Bangladesh released a report that stated at least 2,244 individuals were accused in 890 DSA cases between January 2020 and February 2022. Politicians made up the plurality of the accused, followed by journalists.

The report claimed an average of 32 arrests per month under the DSA, with arrest rates increasing in 2021.

It added that in 2022, extrajudicial killings dramatically decreased from the previous year.

'Dear friends' Xi, Putin

FROM PAGE 12

also "slightly envious" of China's rapid development in recent decades.

"China has created a very effective system for developing the economy and strengthening the state. It is much more effective than in many other countries," he said.

"We are always open to negotiations," Putin told Xi. "We will certainly discuss all these issues, including your initiatives which we treat with respect, of course," he added.

For Xi, the visit is a diplomatic tightrope.

China has released a broad 12-point proposal to solve the Ukraine crisis, while strengthening relations with Moscow.

Beijing has repeatedly dismissed Western accusations that it is planning to arm Russia but says it wants a closer energy partnership after boosting imports of Russian coal, gas and oil.

"Both sides are continuously

strengthening political mutual trust, creating a new paradigm of relations between major powers," Xi wrote in an article published in Russia ahead of his trip.

Western sanctions made Russian energy cheaper, saving China billions of dollars, but its top trade partners remain the United States and European Union.

Ukraine said China should press Russia to stop its invasion.

"We expect Beijing to use its influence on Moscow to make it put an end to the aggressive war against Ukraine," Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesperson Oleg Nikolenko said.

Xi said China's Ukraine peace proposal, an unspecified document released last month, reflects global views.

"Complex problems do not have simple solutions," he wrote in Rossiiskaya Gazeta, a daily published by the Russian government, according to a Reuters translation from Russian.

AFP, Bangkok

REUTERS, Lahore/Islamabad

AFP, Moscow



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Highway accident or murder?

A crash that exposes all the problems with our road transport system

The horrific crash that killed 19 people on the Dhaka-Bhanga expressway on Sunday highlights nearly all the problems with our road transport system. Firstly, the bus which smashed through a highway fence and plunged into a ditch should never have been on the road in the first place. Having been involved in another serious accident only four months ago – which killed three people and injured 15 others – the bus had its registration and route permit suspended by the authorities. Its fitness permit also expired on January 18. Yet, the owner of the vehicle kept it running. All this exposes the serious lack of enforcement of rules by the relevant government agencies, including the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and the highway police.

BRTA authorities have reportedly said that they do not have the manpower to check whether all vehicles plying on the roads have proper documentations. Such excuses to escape responsibility for tragic consequences seem to have become the norm among government officials and agencies, but at what cost? The number of lives that continue to be lost as a result of unfit vehicles or drivers keeps piling up. Who will answer for them? As one expert has said, the highway police should be well aware of the fact that early mornings are risky hours and, therefore, should strengthen monitoring at that time. But such steps should be taken before accidents happen although, in our case, they are usually not taken even after so many tragic deaths.

Even though the cause of the latest crash has not been confirmed yet, witnesses alleged that the bus was speeding. Other suspected reasons include a punctured tyre – which could have been avoided had the vehicle gone through proper fitness testing – or the driver falling asleep at the wheel. Given the inhumane working hours that drivers of passenger vehicles in our country are forced to endure, despite the Road Transport Act 2018 clearly stating that drivers cannot drive for more than five straight hours or a total of eight hours a day, such accidents are, in fact, just waiting to happen.

At the heart of it all is the problem of lack of enforcement of relevant rules and regulations by the authorities. For any improvement to take place, road safety campaigners and experts have repeatedly stressed the importance of a shift in the attitude of those in charge of the transport sector, including the top brass at the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges. Yet, nothing seems to change.

Such apathy and dereliction can only be considered criminal. This must be fixed before anything else. Responsible agencies and officers must be held accountable for their repeated failure to do their job. As for the Dhaka-Bhanga expressway tragedy, the authorities must punish the vehicle owner for flouting suspensions and keeping the bus running. We don't need exemplary punishment; we need regularly meted out punishment in light of the law so that transport owners/drivers know better than to breach it. There is no alternative to enforcing the law properly, evenly and regularly.

Take stern action to stop RMG theft

Such incidents are becoming a serious problem for apparel exporters

The suspicious handling of a suspected mastermind behind a series of highway robberies involving export-bound RMG products has once again highlighted how highway safety, particularly that of cargo trucks, is still ignored by the authorities. The mastermind in question is Md Shahed alias Sayeed, who was arrested in 2021 for his involvement in the theft of RMG products on their way to the Chattogram port. According to a police statement then, Shahed led highway gangs that stole apparel products from at least 5,000 lorries for around two decades. Yet, in a recently submitted charge sheet in one of the cases filed in this connection, he was downgraded to “accused no. 7” among a group of eight.

The question is, why would police go against their own statement? Why would they submit a charge sheet without naming a mastermind? On the face of it, this seems to be an example of weaknesses in the investigative process. A criminal lawyer told *The Daily Star* that recovery of the stolen goods and confessional statements from other accused robbers would have been sufficient to prove whether Shahed was the mastermind. But as we know from experience, flawed investigations are often down to underhand dealings, where investigators show leniency in exchange for bribe, etc. But there is a bigger issue at play here: the threat that unchecked cargo theft poses to our RMG industry, which must ship products on time and in full.

Last month, the BGMEA president also highlighted the problem at a press conference, saying about 20-22 cases of theft occurred on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in 2022 alone. This, according to him, is posing a serious threat to the RMG sector. “There are gangs who are committing the same crime over and over again and getting away with them without any punishment,” he said, adding that often they are abetted by dishonest employees of the industry, buying houses, shipping lines and C&F agents. He also called for severe penalties for organised cargo thieves, amending the law if necessary.

The recommendation for amending the law deserves consideration. According to sources, there are about 10-12 gangs involved in stealing “30-40 percent” of the apparel products, mainly from major consignments, carried to the Chattogram port for shipment. As well as RMG products, cargos of other kinds and passenger buses are also vulnerable on the highways. This is clearly an organised crime, yet miscreants behind cargo theft are charged with “regular theft”, which is a bailable offence with a maximum punishment of three years in jail. They usually secure bail within days of their arrest, and get back to the crime.

We must put an end to this cycle. We urge the authorities to take this issue seriously and improve highway security. They must especially take action against RMG robbers and put to rest the concerns of the industry, so that it can prosper further.

Import dependence is the root cause of our energy crisis



Moshahida Sultana Ritu is associate professor of Economics at the Department of Accounting and Information Systems, University of Dhaka.

MOSHAHIDA SULTANA RITU

Recently, our State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid has said that Bangladesh does not have much unexplored gas and that this is why we need to import liquefied natural gas (LNG). But this statement contradicts reality.

First, his comment contradicts the findings of surveys done by different foreign organisations in the past. According to the last report by Gustavson Associates published in 2010, Bangladesh has at least 38 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of undiscovered gas. Even the government's own gas sector master plan of 2017 (published in 2018), prepared by Denmark-based engineering consulting company Ramboll, acknowledged the 2010 findings to recommend investment in gas discovery.

Second, the government has not invested sufficient effort into discovering potential reserves over the last 15 years. Without conducting surveys and drilling, refusing to recognise past findings is akin to evading accountability.



Third, different news reports and research findings have informed us of the huge amounts of unexplored gas in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and in Sylhet, Bhola, and Shariatpur districts. The government has already taken initiatives to explore some of these areas. As such, does the state minister's comment on our gas reserves not contradict the government's own gas exploration initiatives?

In the gas sector master plan of 2017, it was recommended that the government should not spend money to import costly LNG and should explore indigenous gas instead. The plan estimated that Bangladesh would have to spend \$3 billion by 2030 to import LNG, while exploration of indigenous gas resources will be much more cost-effective.

However, we haven't seen much initiative from the government to do so. After the gas crisis hit the country last year, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) urgently started exploring new gas fields. The



COLLAGE: STAR

government's proactive role instantly made it obvious how neglected our gas exploration activities have been in the past. After the crisis began, Bapex drilled nine wells and saved at least Tk 1 lakh crore on LNG import by spending only Tk 812 crore. This means that Bapex can extract gas at a much lower cost, whereas buying LNG from the spot market requires huge amounts of forex reserves.

The increasing import dependency over the last decade is at the root of our current energy crisis. This dependence will only increase if we continue to become dependent on imported coal and LNG. The Rooppur nuclear power plant itself involves massive import of technology and fuel.

This year, the Rampal power plant has already started to supply electricity to the grid. Although the government had informed us that the per unit cost of electricity would be Tk 8, recently we found out that the cost is Tk 14-15. Electricity from Adani's Godda coal power plant is also being supplied to our grid at high costs. So, we are still implementing the plans we made in 2010.

The master plan seems to have been developed more to serve the interests of producers and technology suppliers than to ensure energy security. As a response to external shocks, our energy security is now at peril because when the dollar crisis

prices. Their concerns have valid grounds, too.

The government's new projects are facing a crisis due to our declining forex reserves. We recently saw that it delayed paying to import coal for Payra. There was also a delay in producing electricity at the Rampal power plant due to coal import payment having to be in US dollars. Under these circumstances, businesses are losing faith in the government's ability to pay for imported LNG from the spot market. Recently, the LNG price has come down to \$14 and the government is planning to import it from the spot market.

Even if the government can import LNG from the spot market at a relatively lower price than what it is during times of peak demand, there is no guarantee that the price would not increase in the future. Therefore, it is not sustainable to rely on LNG imports for ensuring energy security. What we need to do instead is explore our own gas resources. There is no alternative to discovering new gas fields and starting gas exploration. It is in no way believable or acceptable that we do not have any gas left.

Moreover, offshore exploration has bright prospects in the country, but we are yet to explore our offshore blocks. While Myanmar has already discovered some offshore gas blocks, we have not conducted any proper

offer around \$10. Bangladesh's share of profit gas might also go down from between 55 percent to 80 percent down to 40 percent to 70 percent. No matter what, we can guess that signing a PSC with any foreign companies will only allow them to take control of our indigenous resources.

To say that we do not have the capacity to explore offshore blocks is illogical. No country in the world starts exploration after developing their capacity, they build it through their efforts and a slow process of technology transfer. A company like India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) itself outsources its tasks to other companies abroad. Bangladesh can develop its capacity by outsourcing some tasks, retaining overall control over management, developing its regulatory institutions and human resources, and closely engaging in the technology transfer process.

We have previously seen how the government expressed doubts about Bapex's capacity to explore new gas fields and how it hired foreign companies like Gazprom to spend three times more money. This approach proved to be unsustainable. Instead of being dependent on foreign companies for gas exploration, we should establish our own control over the sector in order to ensure true energy security.

What Ukraine needs to learn from Afghanistan



Jeffrey D Sachs is a world-renowned economist, academic, and public policy analyst who serves as the director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University.

JEFFREY D SACHS

The greatest enemy of economic development is war. If the world slips further into global conflict, our economic hopes and our very survival could go up in flames. The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists recently moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock to a mere 90 seconds to midnight.

The world's biggest economic loser in 2022 was Ukraine, whose economy collapsed by 35 percent, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The war in Ukraine could end soon, and economic recovery could begin, but this depends on Ukraine understanding its predicament as the victim of a US-Russia proxy war that broke out in 2014.

Unless the proxy war ends soon, Ukraine faces a dire future. Ukraine needs to learn from the horrible experience of Afghanistan to avoid becoming a long-term disaster. It could also look to the US proxy wars in Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Iraq,

Syria, and Libya.

Starting in 1979, the US armed the Mujahideen (Islamist fighters) to harass the Soviet-backed government in Afghanistan. As President Jimmy Carter's national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski later explained, the US objective was to provoke the Soviet Union to intervene, in order to trap it in a costly war. The fact that Afghanistan would be collateral damage was of no concern to US leaders.

The Soviet military entered Afghanistan in 1979 (as the US had hoped), and fought through the 1980s. Meanwhile, the US-backed fighters established al-Qaeda in the 1980s, and the Taliban in the early 1990s. In 2001, the US invaded Afghanistan to fight al-Qaeda and the Taliban. This war continued for another 20 years, until the US finally left in 2021.

Afghanistan today lies in ruins. While the US wasted more than \$2 trillion

of its military outlays, Afghanistan is impoverished. Its 2021 GDP was below \$400 per person.

The proxy war in Ukraine began nine years ago when the US government backed the overthrow of Ukraine's then President Viktor Yanukovich. Yanukovich's sin, from the US viewpoint, was his attempt to maintain Ukraine's neutrality despite the US' desire to expand Nato to include Ukraine (and Georgia). The US' objective was for Nato countries to encircle Russia in the Black Sea region. The US has been massively arming and funding Ukraine since 2014.

But two harsh political realities of Ukraine were overlooked by the US. The first is that Ukraine is deeply divided ethnically and politically between Russia-hating nationalists in Western Ukraine and ethnic Russians in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. The second is that Nato expansion to Ukraine crosses a Russian redline. Russia will fight to the end, and escalate as necessary, to prevent the US from incorporating Ukraine into Nato.

At the end of 2021, Russian President Vladimir Putin put forward three demands to the US: Ukraine should remain neutral and out of Nato; Crimea should remain part of Russia; and the Donbas should become autonomous in accord with the Minsk II Agreement.

The Biden-Sullivan-Nuland team

rejected negotiations over Nato enlargement, eight years after the same group backed Yanukovich's overthrow.

In March 2022, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky seemed to understand his country's dire predicament as a victim of a US Russia proxy war. He declared publicly that Ukraine would become a neutral country, and asked for security guarantees. He also publicly recognised that Crimea and Donbas would need some kind of special treatment. Yet, the US blocked the peace process.

The basis for peace today is clear. Ukraine would be a neutral non-Nato country. Crimea would remain home to Russia's Black Sea naval fleet, as it has been since 1783. A practical solution would be found for the Donbas (such as a territorial division, autonomy, or an armistice line). Most importantly, the fighting would stop, Russian troops would leave Ukraine, and Ukraine's sovereignty would be guaranteed by the UN Security Council and other nations.

Above all, the government and people of Ukraine would tell Russia and the US that Ukraine refuses any longer to be the battleground of a proxy war. In the face of deep internal divisions, Ukrainians on both sides of the ethnic divide would strive for peace, rather than believing that an outside power will spare them the need to compromise.



A social forestry participant during harvest time overseeing the felling.

PHOTO: PHILIP GAIN

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

How forestry projects destroy forests



Philip Gain is a researcher and director at the Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD). The author would like to acknowledge the contributions of SEHD researcher Fahmida Afroze Nadia and Madhupur's Probin Chisim, who assisted him in gathering information on social forestry.

PHILIP GAIN

A huge tractor was roaring on a large plot in Dokhola Beat in Dokhola Range in Madhupur sal forest on January 17. It was ploughing the forest land right after harvest of exotic acacia, under the social forestry scheme. The vast area had stands of acacia even a month or two ago. Then, all of it was auctioned and felled. Attached to this plot lies a huge newly planted pineapple orchard on plots harvested just six months ago and plots that have just been felled. No “social forestry” tree has yet been planted in these plots!

In addition to 45 percent of the sale proceeds after harvest, social forestry participants are allowed to cultivate crops on the condition that they not plough the land, as per the social forestry agreement.

Social forestry is a controversial scheme to grow fuelwood, initiated in Madhupur sal forest and other forest areas back in 1989–1990 with funding support from Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Thana Afforestation and Nursery Development Project (TANDP). Patches of natural sal had been cleared to make way for social forestry. In the first rotation, exotic eucalyptus was a major species. The second ADB-funded plantation scheme, Forestry Sector Project (FSP), was implemented amid severe criticism that such plantation projects promote monoculture and require clear-felling at the end of a 10-year rotation, which has led to massive damage to the natural ecosystems.

Though eucalyptus was eradicated from the public forest land starting on the second rotation, social forestry continues at a very high cost to natural ecosystems.

The natural sal forest patches have been replaced by monoculture plantation of acacia on around 5,000 acres in Madhupur. According to the forest department, from 1981 to 2022, it has established block or woodlot plantations on 105,283.03 hectares of land. These plantations, under a number of projects, have had increasingly severe effects on the local environment for years. Madhupur sal forest (still gazetted forest land) has now become pineapple, banana, papaya, lemon, and turmeric orchards.

On public forest land social forestry is a plantation practice in which the local poor people are to be selected as participants to get plots – one ha each. Under such a public forest plantation model, from the fourth rotation, a plot is reduced to one acre to accommodate more participants. This is called co-management, a controversial arrangement that has caused massive destruction of the natural vegetation in the sal forest areas and other public forest patches.

ADB provided funds for two rotations in Madhupur and elsewhere. Then, in 2005, it ceased funding any forestry projects in Bangladesh and other Asian countries. A top official of the bank confessed to me that they had realised the harm the plantations have caused.

The co-management model of social forestry comes with certain conditions. A

participant must be a poor ethnic person or forest villager, member of disadvantaged or backward communities, destitute woman, insolvent freedom fighter or their descendant, landless or someone owning less than 50 decimals of land. A key qualification for a participant to get priority selection is if s/he resides within one kilometre radius of the plantation plot.

But has the forest department, the implementing agency of social forestry, ensured that these conditions in selecting participants have been fulfilled? “Largely not,” is the common response of the locals. “Many social forestry participants are not genuinely poor, disadvantaged, and landless. They are well-off,” says Eugin Nokrek, president of Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad (JAUP).

Social forestry indeed has a positive impact, particularly in greening rural areas. But it had a tragic start in Madhupur and other forest patches in 1989–1990. It was supposed to be introduced in degraded and denuded areas. But, to the great disappointment of locals, patches of natural forests were cleared to accommodate plantations of exotic eucalyptus and acacia.

Moreover, the first rotation of the social forestry plantation was a disaster. Most of the planted trees disappeared before reaching the harvest period seven to 10 years later. A forest that had existed for thousands of years was thus replaced by a short rotation plantation of exotics.

Meanwhile, a local businessman, who is a participant in the Madhupur Range and is certainly not poor, defended himself: “The trees of the first rotation were plundered because the poor participants could not protect them from forest thieves. From the second rotation, ‘strong’ men like us were selected and we are protecting the plantation plots.”

Allegations of corruption in the selection of participants for social forestry are widespread. The forest department officials, however, deny the allegations against them.

One facet of social forestry is financial gains. One widow participant of a one-hectare social forestry plot in Madhupur Range was very happy during harvest time this year. Her plot has been auctioned for Tk 1,122,000 (\$11,220), of which she will get 45 percent, the forest department 45 percent, and 10 percent will go into a fund for future planting.

In the initial years of a rotation, businessmen rent social forestry plots from the participants to grow pineapple and spices. While the participants earn an income from this deal, the businessmen pocket handsome profits.

The saddest part of social forestry in Madhupur is that, what used to be natural forest patches even in the 1980s are now covered by high-value agricultural crop fields, which politically connected and influential people benefit from the most. Social forestry in Madhupur and elsewhere has led to the wholesale destruction of forest ecosystems.

Not that the forest department and dominant finance providers (ADB and World

Bank) do not know of the damage that plantations have caused to forest ecosystems. And they do have a mitigation plan. As I have mentioned above, ADB has completely withdrawn from the forestry sector in Bangladesh and Asia.

But the World Bank (WB), which had cut down financing the forestry projects, has returned with possibly the largest ever forestry project in Bangladesh, the Sustainable Forest and Livelihood (SUFAL), for the restoration of 78,930 ha of forest through collaborative management with around 40,000 beneficiaries in 28 districts who traditionally depended on forests but were seen to be a threat to the forests.

The idea of Collaborative Forest Management (CFM) is to restore lost forest species and help forest-dependent people.

“We are becoming successful in restoring and regenerating forests on 78,930 hectares of forest land by dint of the Site Specific Plan (SSP),” claims a high-level official of the forest department team overseeing SUFAL.

But Madhupur locals have a different assessment.

“The forest floor was unnecessarily cleared of natural vegetation to plant trees. This has further threatened the surviving wildlife and insects,” says Ajoy Mree, a Garo elder from Gachhabari village. “The trees under the shade of standing trees have little chance to survive. The remaining natural forest should be left untouched.”

One can see colourful signboards under the project describing the site, specific plantation, and names of species planted in Madhupur national park and other protected parts. But there is little sign of improvement in the vegetation. Pineapple plantation has made its way onto some of the plots.

Soon after a plot is cut, the stumps are hastily uprooted and huge tractors roll in to quickly prepare the land for pineapple plantation. Who is doing this? “Politically powerful gangs who rent the land from participants in social forestry,” say the locals. What can SUFAL and its beneficiaries do to contain this? “Very little or nothing,” they say.

“Strong political support for high-value agricultural crops such as pineapple, banana, papaya, and spices are the biggest problem,” says a former chief conservator of forests. “Political gangs are destroying the forest.”

“We will be successful in protecting our forest only with the right political decisions,” whispers a forest official working with SUFAL.

However, a top WB official, though happy about SUFAL, is not ecstatic about forest department officials. “The forest department should pay greater attention to us,” he says.

The blame game over factors that led to all the devastation we see in the sal forests of Madhupur and elsewhere does not help. The government, international donors, and other parties with decision-making power must recognise their failures, prevent the situation from getting worse, and contribute to improving the climatic environment.

The forest department and our political heavyweights undoubtedly benefit from forestry projects and assist the WB to justify its comeback in the forestry sector in a big way. What they should not forget is how the forest extraction and forestry projects from British colonial times – which promoted plantations and co-management – have had devastating effects on our forest ecosystems. We would like to see what is missing: passionate and careful attention being paid to ground realities.

Without support from bureaucracy, EC can’t hold fair elections



Meer Ahsan Habib is a Hubert Humphrey Fellow at Arizona State University. His Twitter handle is @meeriyadh

MEER AHSAN HABIB

The phenomenon of high-ranking bureaucrats joining political parties after retirement is a matter of concern for many citizens. This is because it raises questions about their true loyalty and the integrity of the bureaucracy. When individuals are appointed to serve in government positions, they take an oath to serve the people and uphold the law. However, if they join a political party immediately after retirement, it sends a message that their loyalty may have been divided all along, and that, while serving in the bureaucracy, they may have worked in favour of a certain section of people in power or from within the power structure. And not only that, their subordinates may have also done the same.

To better understand the phenomenon, let us look at the Gaibandha-5 by-election.

The events surrounding the Gaibandha-5 by-election have raised concerns about the integrity of the country’s institutions – particularly the Election Commission (EC). The Chief Election Commissioner expressed his frustration with the widespread irregularities that occurred during the by-election, stating that “elections

“out of control” to “fair, disciplined and peaceful manner”, proved that people’s participation no longer matters. The ruling party candidate won the by-election.

There was a time when nothing could stop people from exercising their voting rights. Blaming the cold for the lower turnout is perhaps nothing but covering up the weaknesses of the constitutional institutions.

All citizens have a responsibility to vote. Even if the outcome seems predetermined, it is essential to exercise the right to vote and make one’s voice heard. It is only by participating in the democratic process that citizens can ensure that their elected officials are held accountable and that institutions remain independent and free from political pressure.

The EC is a constitutional body in Bangladesh. Our constitution has awarded the EC with absolute power to control and direct the civil administration during elections. But this is rendered meaningless if the civil administration does not cooperate with the EC, but ends up doing the opposite.

The events surrounding a few recent parliamentary by-elections and local

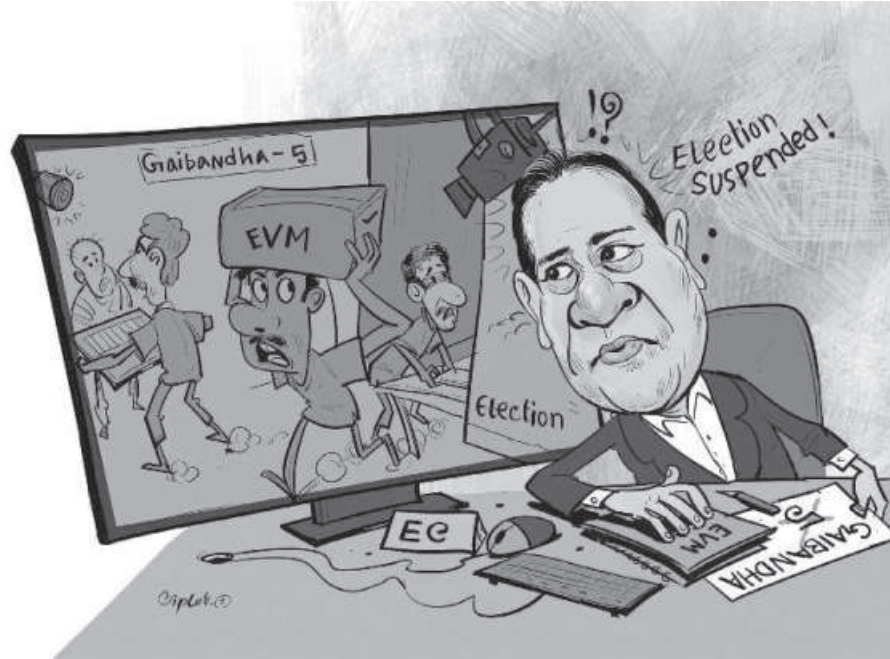


ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

[were] now out of control.” The EC suspended the election and announced that it would take legal action against 134 public officials, including a returning officer, one additional deputy commissioner, one executive magistrate, 126 presiding officers, and five sub-inspectors for their involvement in the irregularities.

The reason behind taking such an action is simple: these officials did not act as they were supposed to under oath.

During an election, the civil administration, including the bureaucracy and police, are mandated by law to serve under the direct control of the EC. The EC relies on their integrity to successfully hold a free and fair election. However, during the Gaibandha-5 by-election, the opposite occurred. Officials acted as if they were not under oath and did not provide their allegiance to the Commission, resulting in widespread irregularities.

The fact that public officials acted against their oath raises concerns about who they were serving; the people they were supposed to serve under oath, or the party they are associated with? The aftermath of the by-election sends a negative message to the people, creating doubts about the integrity of these officials and the institutions they serve.

It is not surprising that the EC has not yet taken visible actions against the public officials. The EC is reliant on the civil administration’s cooperation, and without it, the Commission cannot act. Unfortunately, this situation is not unique to Bangladesh, and it is not uncommon for public officials to act against their oath, especially when there is political pressure.

The erosion of institutional integrity is a significant issue. It is leading to a loss of faith in the democratic process of the country. When we lose confidence in the integrity of institutions, we become disillusioned with the democratic process. The second round of the Gaibandha-5 constituency election, held on January 3 with only 35 percent voter turnout, and the EC’s shift from

government elections serve as a warning about the erosion of our institutional integrity. What happened after the local government elections was even worse – several elected representatives, including a freedom fighter, were sacked from their positions on questionable grounds.

Their termination was imminent as they had gone against the candidates nominated by their party, won the election, and faced non-cooperation from the civil administration at the local level. Compared to others, the freedom fighter was fortunate enough to get his position back – thanks to a court ruling declaring his termination illegal.

So, can the EC hold a free and fair national election? Under the prevailing conditions, it is nearly impossible. Why? With only nine months left before the national election, the law ministry is still sitting on the EC’s proposal to amend the Representation of the People Order, 1972, the regulating law of the national election. It is mentioned under Article 126 of the constitution that it shall be the duty of all executive authorities to assist the EC in the discharging of its functions.

Can the EC do anything if the executive authorities feel that these are just words written on a piece of paper? It cannot.

These precedents will continue to have serious implications for the integrity of the bureaucracy and the legitimacy of the government’s actions. Bureaucracy, civil administration, and law enforcement agencies need to remain impartial and serve the public interest, rather than aligning themselves with political parties.

Much of Bangladesh’s recent economic slump is due to public funds being used to benefit mid- and high-ranking executive officials, further exacerbating inequality. But it has worked well in terms of winning their loyalty and confidence for the ruling party, with overall negative consequences for the people and the economy.



What it takes to get into BUET

It took me a few months to realise that I need to put in more time than some of my contemporaries to extract the same amount of output. I had to put in at least eight hours a day behind my studies for getting the same result as others. However, to follow any routine religiously day in and day out, it takes the right sort of motivation.

HASIB UR RASHID IFTI

My BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) journey started right after I failed to get a Golden A+ on my SSC exams. I let this fake standard of academic excellence, the mythical “Golden A+”, get into my head and was completely devastated. While my friends celebrated their success, I thought that the only way I could regain my self-confidence was by getting into the most reputed institution in the country.

As wrong as my motivation was behind aspiring for BUET, it shaped the next two years of my life.

After HSC, a student gets roughly three months before the BUET admission tests. Previously just a 600-mark written exam, the BUET admission test has now been divided into two parts – preliminary MCQs and a written part. However, the preparation strategy remains roughly the same.

For me, the preparation started right from the first day of college, which made things easier in the three months before the entrance exam where I could just focus on revisions, solve previous years’ questions, and polish my problem-solving capabilities. During my two years of college, right after I finished any chapter, I

spent a particular amount of time solving problems from previous years’ admission test questions from that chapter. This helped me not get overwhelmed during the admission season. Sure, we’ve all heard legends of someone cracking the exam by working hard in the three months after HSC, but for commoners like the rest of us, consistency is more important than the last-hour grind.

However, the preparation procedure certainly varies from individual to individual. I had friends who were much quicker than me when it came to solving problems and didn’t have to invest half the time I had to. While that might seem demotivating, what’s crucial to comprehend is that it all comes down to accuracy and delivering the best as per one’s capabilities. In the admission test, it’s almost impossible that someone would be able to even attempt all 60 questions, let alone get them right. So, the ones you attempt must be attempted correctly.

The months before the entrance exam should be put into getting better at what you already know and not imposing any new burden upon yourself. While some of my contemporaries followed the higher mathematics book written by Ketab Uddin which contains more difficult problems

than other books, I solely completed my preparation based on the book I followed during my college years along with previous years’ questions. At the end of the day, things worked out for both me and my contemporaries. You must analyse the previous years’ questions yourself and base your preparations on your own analytics rather than following others blindly.

It took me a few months to realise that I needed to put in more time than some of my contemporaries to extract the same amount of output. I had to put in at least eight hours a day behind my studies for getting the same result as others. However, to follow any routine religiously day in and day out, it takes the right sort of motivation.

It is crucial that you get the motivation right. The admission period is undoubtedly one of the most difficult times in a student’s life and to grind that hard, day after day despite all the failures and the competition, takes a lot of mental spirit. The right sort of motivation is crucial to get you through these days and into an institution of your choice.

But it’s important to not let that motivation turn into an unhealthy fixation. When the motivation for getting into BUET turns solely into getting the label of the institution rather than

pursuing engineering, it ends up causing harm in the future. At the end of the day, BUET or any other prestigious institution is merely a platform and a stepping stone for your career. The toxic institutional pride that’s so prevalent around us goes back to the false narrative preached among aspirants that getting into a particular institution is going to set you up for life. By the time university students realise the lie behind the statement, it’s often too late.

In the pilot episode of Kota Factory, Jeetu Bhaiya, played by Jeetendra Kumar, tells his student, “Children leave Kota in two years but Kota doesn’t leave the children for years.” Making the aspiration for BUET the sole element in your college life can never be healthy. Your mental health deteriorates, and anxiety and panic attacks become a part of your daily routine. Sure, it should be a key driving factor in building up your routine, and practising discipline and punctuality, that’s so very important during the admission period. But when you raise the stakes this high in your head, the recovery from failure takes years and one can’t help but fall into a constant state of depression.

Ifti is a student of BUET and a contributor at SHOUT. Reach him at hasiburrashidifti@gmail.com

The scars of childhood bullying that never go away

MD. NAYEEM HAIDER

In 2011, I was unanimously chosen as a sacrificial lamb for the entertainment of our class. It is difficult to recall the finer details of what happened, nor can I put my finger on the exact length of time it went on for. But there is one thing I’m certain of – the trauma of those weeks or months, coupled with that of many that followed throughout the years, has fundamentally shaped who I am today.

Everything was my fault. Every bad word, every act of violence, just about every sort of misbehaviour and misdemeanour, all began to originate with me. For all crimes conceivable by a small child, I was punished especially if I didn’t do them. Thus, many times a week, or perhaps every day, I would be forced to play the defendant in that classroom-turned courtroom, with the verdict being the same at the end of each trial. I was always guilty.

Even amongst small children inside a classroom, politics has a way of becoming the dominant force once introduced. The orchestrator of my bullying was universally adored by our teachers, thanks to him being the best student in class, and he, even at that tender age, would weaponise their blatant favouritism to make himself feared and obeyed. The others, being his loyal subjects, could only follow.



Thus, I became acquainted with a feeling I had never known before, which I wouldn’t be able to describe until years later. It was a crippling, all-consuming loneliness – a sensation that no child should ever have to experience.

The day came when the children finally grew bored of their favourite sport and I breathed a sigh of relief, thinking it was all over, not knowing that what had just concluded was merely the prologue. From jeering and name-calling to outright social ostracisation, the bullying would continue intermittently, spanning over half a decade. Childish fearing that everywhere would be the same, I endured, never asking my parents to change my school or section. And once it ended for good, I could only stare at the emptiness of what lay behind me and that which lay within.

It has been many years since I was last tormented in that way. Yet, even now, the trauma from those times still rears its ugly head occasionally. Whenever anybody does anything wrong, my first impulse is always to double-check whether it wasn’t me instead. There’s also the small, irrational part of me that still lives in cynical anticipation of the day I’ll once more be isolated, cornered, and punished for things I never did.

Today, my former bully is a close friend of mine, and I can no longer hate him for the nightmares he put me through when we were both kids. Yet, no matter how hard I try, I can’t forget the horrific helplessness of being a marionette in another person’s puppet show. That has become one of my worst fears, a terror I wish to never know again.

Even now, this story of mine feels awfully anticlimactic. For me, there was no triumph, no justice, and no closure. But it is poetic in a sense, given that it ended just as it began – suddenly and without any reason. Afterwards, all I had left was to pick up the pieces and silently move on.

Naycem’s life is full of regrets and stupid mistakes. Help him reminisce at nayeemhaider90@gmail.com

How getting rid of D unit in Dhaka University is affecting admission candidates

NOYOLEE MUNIM

This year Dhaka University (DU) has made some significant changes to its admission process, including removing the D unit.

Previously, the D unit was the exchange unit where students from different backgrounds could change their academic tracks. If a student from a Science background wanted to study in the Business faculty at DU, they would sit for the D unit exam. Similarly, commerce students wishing to switch to Science or Humanities majors, D unit also was the gateway into the Social Science departments.

Overall, the D unit would allow you to access a variety of faculties by sitting for only one exam.

From 2023, this gateway has been abolished. The new system requires students to sit for exams of the respective faculties. That means, regardless of your background if you want to access a Business Studies department, you have to sit for the Business Studies unit (C unit). The same applies to Science (A unit) and Humanities, Law, and Social Science (B unit).

Admission candidates have enough on their plate as it is. Adding multiple exams, all with their own set of syllabuses to study makes their lives unnecessarily harder. Students do not simply prepare for one



university’s admission test. They tend to branch out and attempt entrance exams for several universities. Similarly, students tend to attempt more than one unit to increase their chances of getting in. Aggregating the different requirements, syllabuses, and

ways of preparation for each school and unit becomes overwhelming for students. Moreover, since this is the first time exams are being held without a transfer unit, many admission coaching centres may not be prepared with adequate resources.

They often rely on past papers to formulate their mock questions, which they can’t do this time around. It will also become more complicated to teach because the exam questions and options vary according to the background of the student (i.e., science,

commerce, or humanities background). Students who do not attend coaching and instead prefer to take advice from known seniors may face trouble too, as there are no past experiences to hear from.

Overall, the new structure has created a lot of confusion among students and tutors alike.

However, there is a silver lining here. Having independent exams for each unit means there are more opportunities for students to do well. For example, if someone suddenly falls sick the day before the A unit exam and cannot give their best, it will only affect the result of that particular unit. They will still have the chance to ace the other units they registered for. Merit positions will also be distinct. A person might be on the waiting list in one unit but high up on the merit list of another. In this way, the chances of succeeding are actually higher.

There is no doubt that admission tests are life-altering. The current candidates are the guinea pigs of this new system. Despite the burden of the seemingly endless syllabuses to cram, the students who strategically make the most out of this opportunity will come out on top.

Noyolee is either sleeping or procrastinating or both. Tell her to stop overthinking at munimns13@gmail.com





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‘Dear friends’ Xi, Putin meet in Moscow

Russia ready to discuss China’s Ukraine plan; EU to supply ammo to Kyiv

AGENCIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping met his “dear friend” Vladimir Putin in Moscow yesterday, seeking both to deepen economic ties with an ally he sees as a useful counterweight to the West and to promote Beijing’s role as a potential peacemaker in Ukraine.

Xi was the first leader to meet the Russian president since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for him on Friday over the deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia during its year-old invasion of Ukraine.

Moscow said the charge was one of several “clearly hostile displays” and opened a criminal case against the ICC prosecutor and judges. Beijing said the warrant reflected double standards.

Russia is presenting Xi’s trip, his first since securing an unprecedented third term this month, as evidence that it has a powerful friend in its standoff with a hostile West.

The two men greeted one another as “dear friend” when they met in the Kremlin yesterday afternoon before a dinner, to be followed by formal talks today.

Putin told Xi he viewed China’s proposals for a resolution of the Ukraine conflict with respect and was

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping attend a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Interpol’s red notice against Arav Khan in the offing

Cops probing links between him and ex-senior official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

Interpol has accepted Bangladesh police’s request to issue a red notice against fugitive accused Rabiul Islam alias Arav Khan, owner of Arav Jewellers in Dubai.

Meanwhile, police have also been investigating the relationship between one of its former senior officials and the accused, said Inspector General of Police Abdullah Al Mamun.

He made the remarks while responding to a reporter’s query after inaugurating the Enayet Bazar Police Outpost under Kotwali Police Station of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

“A letter was sent to Interpol, requesting it to issue a red notice against the name mentioned in

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

TONU MURDER

Not a single arrest made in 7 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Seven years have passed since the killing of Sohagi Jahan Tonu, but the law enforcers are yet to make any headway in the murder probe.

Not a single arrest has been made in this connection till date.

Tonu, a student of Cumilla Victoria Government College and also a theatre activist, was raped and murdered inside the Cumilla Cantonment on March 20, 2016.

The incident sparked protests across the country.

The “cause of her death” also could not be determined even after two autopsies at Cumilla Medical College.

Officials of the Criminal Investigation Department only could confirm, through DNA tests in May that year, that Tonu was raped before being murdered.

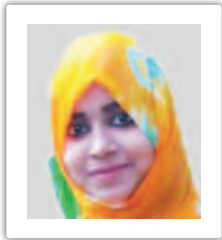
Spermatozoa of three unidentified persons were found in Tonu’s clothes. It didn’t match with the samples of any suspect, investigators say.

The CID also claimed to have interrogated more than 200 people, including some army men. But there was no breakthrough.

Since September 2020, the Police Bureau of Investigation of Dhaka has been probing the murder as per the decision of the Police Headquarters.

Tonu’s mother Anwara Begum on Sunday said, “We have not been contacted by the PBI for a long time.

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‘ANTI-STATE ACTIVITIES’

54 BNP leaders, activists held at Banani Club

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives picked up 54 leaders and activists of Munshiganj BNP from the capital’s Banani Club early yesterday over allegations of planning “anti-state” activities including “sabotage”.

However, the BNP said the party men were attending a social programme there followed by dinner, and alleged that police implicated them in a false case to harass them.

Preferring anonymity, a Banani Club staffer told The Daily Star that the arrestees were holding a “social programme” followed by dinner there. He, however, declined to say anything further.

Mustafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, said that a team of the Detective Branch of police along with members of the local police station raided the club around 11:30pm on Sunday on information that BNP men were planning “anti-state” and “subversive activities”.

Following the raid, a case was filed against the BNP men with Banani Police Station under the Anti-Terrorism Act, said Ikramul Haque Halder, a sub-inspector of DB (Gulshan Division) and also the complainant of the case.

According to the case statement, the arrestees along with some others were preparing to sabotage government establishments and vehicles to unseat the government, which is punishable under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Fifty-six BNP men were accused in the case. Two of them are on the run.

Yesterday, a Dhaka court granted two-day remand for each of the 52 arrestees.

The arrestees are mostly BNP leaders and activists from Munshiganj’s Sirajdikhan and Sreenagar upazilas. Among them is Momin Ali, former Sreenagar upazila chairman and also a BNP lawmaker candidate in the 2018 general election.

Kamruzzaman Ratan, member secretary of Munshiganj BNP, said Momin Ali hosted the dinner for the party men ahead of his scheduled trip to Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah.

“If the government smells conspiracy or sabotage in every political activity and even in social programmes, then it can impose ban on all political activities of the opposition parties.

“Banani Club is an important establishment. It is not a secret place. Can sabotage be planned by 54 persons in an open place?” he said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Preferring anonymity, a Banani Club staffer told The Daily Star that the arrestees were holding a “social programme” followed by dinner there. He, however, declined to say anything further.

FY24 BUDGET

Businesses call for gradual retraction of tax exemption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businesses yesterday urged the government not to withdraw the tax exemption facility from all sectors in one go in the upcoming budget as it would be too big a knock for them to steer.

The request came at Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal’s pre-budget meeting with the leaders of different business chambers and trade bodies.

Bringing down the tax exemption facility, which includes complete relief from taxes, reduced rates or tax on only a portion of items, is one of the conditions agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund for the \$4.7 billion loan.

Before deciding to withdraw tax exemptions, the government should consider the economic importance and impacts of the exemption on the sectors that have been enjoying the facility, said Md. Jashim Uddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, at the virtual discussion.

Rather, it is possible to increase the revenue collection manifold without withdrawing the facility if the National Board of Revenue (NBR) applies its existing rules and modernises its management, he said.

He also suggested the government expand the tax net rather than increase the tax rate for increasing the revenue collection in the next budget.

The FBCCI also demanded the government brings down the source tax on export receipts to 0.25 percent from the existing 1 percent.

The government should also expand the online services of a national single

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Remains of ancient glacier spotted on Mars

CNN ONLINE

The remains of a glacier have been found near the Martian equator, suggesting that some form of water could still exist in a region on the red planet where humans may one day land.

The ice mass is no longer there, but scientists spotted telltale remains among other mineral deposits near Mars’ equatorial region. The deposits there usually contain light-colored sulfate salts.

When scientists took a closer look, they recognised the features of a glacier, including ridges called moraines -- debris deposited or pushed by a moving glacier. The research team also spotted crevasse fields, or deep wedge-shaped openings that form inside glaciers.

The findings were shared at the 54th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in The Woodlands, Texas, last week.

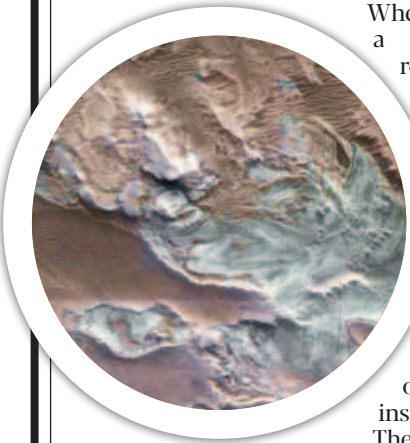
“What we’ve found is not ice, but a salt deposit with the detailed morphologic features of a glacier,” lead study author Dr Pascal Lee, a senior planetary scientist with the SETI Institute and the Mars Institute, said in a statement.

“What we think happened here is that salt formed on top of a glacier while preserving the shape of the ice below, down to details like crevasse fields and moraine bands.”

The researchers believe the glacier was 3.7 miles (6 kilometres) long and 2.5 miles (about 4 kilometres) wide, with an elevation between 0.8 to 1.1 miles (1.3 to 1.7 kilometres).

Scientists have an idea of how the imprint of the glacier came to be, based on evidence of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Govt won’t repeal DSA

Says Shahriar Alam; ‘28 cases of enforced disappearances being looked into’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not repeal the Digital Security Act, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam said yesterday.

The law is not meant for targeting journalists; rather, it is a tool for the government to tackle the radical forces that destroy religious harmony, he added.

He was speaking at a stakeholder consultation meeting organised by Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) at the CIRDP auditorium in the capital.

The government will soon be rolling out a nationwide programme to make sure the DSA is not misused, he said. “We are counselling the law enforcement agencies [to that end].”

HRFB, a platform of 20 organisations, at the meeting shared a draft of a report it will submit to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the member states to review during a process called the universal periodic review (UPR).

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, responded by saying the law should be repealed and that it will be impossible to amend it.

Alam also slammed the figures reported to the UN on the number

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Child abducted, murdered for Tk 50k ransom

Police arrest three

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An 11-year-old boy has been murdered after abduction in Sirajganj as his family failed to pay Tk 50,000 ransom.

Police yesterday arrested three people in this connection.

According to police Md Ridwan, son of Monirul Islam of Rotonkandi in Shahzadpur upazila, went missing on Friday.

A day later, a man claiming to be his abductor called his family demanding a ransom of Tk 50,000.

Police, quoting family members, said that the abductors called the family several times. The family eventually paid Tk 10,000.

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BANGLADESH-INDIA FRIENDSHIP POWER COMPANY (PVT.) LIMITED
(A JOINT VENTURE OF BPDB, BANGLADESH AND NTPC LIMITED, INDIA)
UNIQUE HEIGHTS (BORAK), LEVEL-17, 117 KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM AVENUE, ESKATON GARDEN, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH.

**INVITATION FOR BID
OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY (Domestic Competitive Bidding)**

Date: 21/03/2023

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Ltd. (BIFPCL) invites bids from eligible bidders in Single Stage Two Envelopes (**Envelope-1:** Technical Proposal and **Envelope-2:** Financial Proposal) for the following package and details:

IFB No.	BIFPCL/OTM/Site C&M/2023/266
Name of Package	Procurement of Cooling water treatment Chemicals (Scale Inhibitor, Polymeric Dispersant, Bio-dispersant & non-oxidizing Biocide) for 2 X 660MW MSTPP, Rampal, Bagerhat’.
Tender Fee	BDT 1000/- (BDT One Thousand only)
Tender Security	BDT 7,93,675.00 (Taka Seven Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Six Hundred And Seventy Five) only
Tender document Sale Period:	From 21.03.2023 (Tuesday) (10:00 Hrs. (BST) to 03.04.2023 (Monday) (17:00 Hrs. (BST)
Tender Fee	BDT 1000/- (BDT One Thousand only)
Last Date for submission of pre-bid Query	On 05.04.2023 (Wednesday) at 17:00 Hrs. (BST)
Bid Opening Date & Time (Technical Bid only)	On 17.04.2023 (Monday) at 11:30 Hrs.(BST)

If the tender opening day is declared as holiday by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bid will be opened in the next working day.

For Qualifying Requirements, Scope of Work, availability of Bidding Documents and other details, please refer to detailed “Invitation for Bid” available at {HYPERLINK “http://www.bifpcl.com”} or may contact the office of the undersigned. For all other details, may please visit the website: {HYPERLINK “http://www.bifpcl.com”}

(Md. Ziaur Rahman)
Chief Procurement Officer (CPO), BIFPCL
Unique Heights (Borak), Level-17, 117 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.
Tel. No.:+8802-58314264; E-mail: {HYPERLINK “mailto:cpo@bifpcl.com”};; {HYPERLINK “mailto:krprajan@bifpcl.com”}