



"Let us be clear that our door remains open. We will welcome further allies...and we continue to push for Sweden's swift accession."

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly on Finland's accession to Nato

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 5, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 81

CHAITRA 22, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RAMADAN 13, 1444 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00



Goods go up in flames at Bangabazar Shopping Complex in the capital yesterday after a massive fire razed the market which houses around 3,000 shops. Fifty fire engines worked for about six and a half hours to bring the blaze under control.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Bangabazar burnt to the ground

Electric wires might have caused it

SAJJAD HOSSAIN, DIPAN NANDY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A massive fire ripped through the capital's Bangabazar Shopping Complex yesterday, burning down at least 2,931 shops full of clothes and ruining the livelihood of several thousand traders just weeks before Eid.

The fire, reported at 6:10am, spread rapidly in the crammed market while plumes of dark smoke blanketed the nearby neighbourhoods.

Goods stored in the adjacent Annexo Tower, Banga Islamia Market, and Banga Homeo Market were also gutted and a police barrack next to the Police Headquarters was damaged, firefighters said.

The cause of the fire remains unclear, but firefighters said faulty electric wires could be a reason.

Six firefighters were among the 16 injured from the fire and smoke.

The flames were under control by afternoon, but piles of clothes were still smouldering around 8:30pm, said Dino Moni Sharma, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Owned by Dhaka South City Corporation, the 21,250 square feet Bangabazar Shopping Complex consists of Bangabazar Market, Gulistan Market, Mohanagar Market, and Adarsha Market. The three storey markets are built with corrugated iron sheets and wood.



The disaster struck four years after the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence declared the shopping complex risky because of its lack of fire safety and asked people to be cautious.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## It was a long time coming

Fire service's repeated warnings went unheeded

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Four years ago, the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence declared that the Bangabazar Shopping Complex, one of the biggest clothing markets in the country, was at risk of fire.

Yesterday, the market was burnt to the ground.

"We put up a banner on April 2, 2019, after declaring the market highly risky. We gave them [building authorities] notices on 10 occasions," Brigadier General Md Main Uddin, director general of the fire service department, told reporters in front of the market.

The fire service's banner warned all concerned to be cautious as the market was at high risk of fire.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Dreams, hopes go up in smoke

Around 3,000 RMG traders who invested heavily ahead of Eid lose everything to fire

DIPAN NANDY, SAJJAD HOSSAIN, EMRUL HASAN BAPPI, and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They invested the money they had and the money they could borrow in the hope of good business ahead of Eid but within a few hours yesterday, they lost everything.

Around 3,000 traders in Bangabazar area have been ruined as their shops were reduced to a pile of ash just over two weeks before Eid.

Safayet Hossain, owner of Hassan Garments in Bangabazar, said he had bought and stored readymade garments worth Tk 7 lakh just on Monday.

"I was supposed to make an inventory today [yesterday]. But I could only watch my stock worth around Tk 2 crore burn. I have lost everything. I don't know how I will survive," Safayet told The Daily Star at the scene.

Arman Hossain, another trader, said the three shops his brother and he own have been destroyed. "We were hoping to have a good business ahead of Eid, but now there's nothing left," said Arman.

The fire broke out around 6:10am and gutted nearly every shop in the market that is loved by many for its multitude of affordable readymade clothing.

Firemen brought the fire under control around 12:36pm. Moments later, shop owners and employees were seen going through the smouldering ruins desperately to salvage whatever they could.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়  
মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-গব/পক/০১-২০২৩ তারিখ ০৫-০৪-২০২৩

#### অফিসের জন্য ফ্লোর স্পেস ভাড়া দেয়া হবে

মিরপুর-১ হতে মিরপুর-১০নং পোলচক্করের মাঝামাঝি মূল সড়ক সংলগ্ন মিরপুর-২, ঢাকা-১২১৬-তে অবস্থিত গ্রামীণ ব্যাংক প্রধান কার্যালয়ের ৫ তলা ভবন এবং ২১ তলা সুউচ্চ ভবনের কিছু ফ্লোর স্পেস (অফিসের জন্য ভাড়া দেয়া হবে)। সরকারী/আধাসরকারী, স্বায়ত্বশাসিত, বেসরকারী, বিদেশী মিলনসমূহ, ব্যাংক, বীমা ও অন্যান্য বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে প্রাধান্য দেয়া হবে।

প্রশাসনিক ভবন-২(৫ তলা) এর বৈশিষ্ট্যসমূহঃ	প্রশাসনিক ভবন-১(২১ তলা) এর বৈশিষ্ট্যসমূহঃ
✦ সুপ্রসঙ্গ সিঁড়ি।	✦ ০৬টি হাই-স্পিড পেসেঞ্জার লিফট।
✦ সম্পূর্ণ মোজাইককৃত প্রতিটি ফ্লোরের আয়তন প্রায় ৯৫০০ বর্গফুট।	✦ ০২টি গ্রস সিঁড়ি।
✦ প্রতিটি ফ্লোরে ০২টি ভিআইপি রুমসহ ১০টি করে বড় রুম রয়েছে।	✦ আধুনিক অগ্নি নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা।
✦ প্রতিটি ভিআইপি রুমের সাথে এ্যাটাক উয়েল্টে এবং ০২টি আলদা রুম উয়েল্টে জোন আছে।	✦ সম্পূর্ণ মোজাইককৃত প্রতিটি ফ্লোর স্পেস ১১০০০ বর্গফুট(৯,১৮,১৯ ও ২০ তলা সম্পূর্ণ এবং ১২,১৩,১৪ ও ১৫তম তলা আংশিক স্পেস ভাড়া দেয়া হবে)।
✦ বিশাল অডিটোরিয়াম এবং ক্যাফেটেরিয়া আছে।	✦ প্রতিটি ফ্লোরে ০২টি ভিআইপি রুমের সাথে এ্যাটাক উয়েল্টে এবং ০২টি আলদা উয়েল্টে জোন রয়েছে।
✦ পৃথক গ্রবেশ গেইট আছে।	✦ ২১তলায় ০২টি ভিআইপি উয়েল্টে, ০২টি উয়েল্টে জোন ও সম্পূর্ণ এসি সুবিধা, সু-বিশাল স্টেজ এবং বসার ব্যবস্থাসহ সম্পূর্ণ উন্মুক্ত ফ্লোরে প্রদর্শনী, যে কোন সভা সেমিনার করার সুব্যবস্থা রয়েছে।

এছাড়া আধুনিক ফিটিংরুম মোজাইক/টাইলস্ সজ্জিত উয়েল্টে, জানালার উপরে ও নীচে বিল্টইন ফাইল কেবিনেট এবং উভয় ভবনের ব্রাইডিং গ্রাস সুবিধা, নিজস্ব ট্রান্সফরমারসহ অটো স্ট্যান্ডবাই জেনারেটর, আধুনিক নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা, ইন্টারনেট ও ইন্টারকম/পিএবিএক্স সুবিধা, পার্কিংসহ গাড়ি ধোয়ার সুব্যবস্থা রয়েছে। ভবনের চতুর্দিকে সবুজ গাছ-পালা বেষ্টিত এবং মাঝে একটি বড় ফুটবল মাঠ রয়েছে। উভয় ভবনের চতুর্দিকে পর্যাপ্ত আলো বাতাস চোকার জন্য বোনা জায়গা রয়েছে। অফিস ভবনসহ ক্যাম্পাস সিসি ক্যামেরা বেষ্টিত এবং নিরাপত্তার জন্য একটি সিকিউরিটি কোম্পানির প্রশিক্ষিত গার্ড দ্বারা ২৪ ঘণ্টা নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আছে। এছাড়াও প্রশিক্ষিত পরিচ্ছন্নতা কর্মীর সুব্যবস্থা রয়েছে।

ভাড়া নিতে আগ্রহীদের সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

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## DW airs docu on Rab’s ‘inner workings’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A documentary aired by German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) claimed the Rapid Action Battalion is committing extrajudicial killings by staging operations. Published on Monday, it was based on the ground investigation by DW’s investigative unit and Sweden-based Netra News, accounts of victims and testimony of two Rab insiders-turned-whistleblowers.



The documentary seeks to give some insights into the operations of the force, long accused of kidnap, torture and murder.

According to the two insiders, when a decision is taken to execute a target, a series of carefully prepared steps are put into action.

For conducting an extrajudicial killing, Rab uses civilian black van with tinted windows. Official Rab vans are not used when people are forcefully disappeared, said one of the insiders.

Then the target is shot and left to bleed to death. The scene is set, evidence is planted on the body, depending on the cover story, reports DW.

The investigation team contacted the authorities concerned for comments on the allegations brought in this documentary.

A spokesman for Rab referred to the home ministry, which, in turn, said it had “diligently assessed and scrutinised the issues and found that the issues are overstated, exaggerated, baseless and untrue.”

On Monday, asked by journalists about the documentary, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said it was “a source of fun”.

## Regional highways to be tolled roads

UNB, DHAKA

The government has decided to impose toll on regional highways to promote a culture of paying taxes among the people.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to the end.

“The government is developing infrastructures at the cost of thousands of crores. So, arrangements must be made to collect tolls from regional highways at least at a minimum rate,” she explained.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



With the Dhanmondi Road-27 in the capital clogged with traffic, rickshaws get on the footpath. The photo was taken around 1:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## FINLAND’S NATO MEMBERSHIP Russia warns of ‘countermeasures’

AGENCIES

The Kremlin yesterday branded Finland’s Nato membership an “assault on our security” and said it would take countermeasures.

“The Kremlin believes that this is the latest aggravation of the situation,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. “The expansion of Nato is an assault on our security and Russia’s national interests,” he added.

“And this forces us to take countermeasures... in tactical and strategic terms.” He did not provide further details.

Finland became the 31st member of Nato yesterday, in a historic strategic shift provoked by Moscow’s assault on Ukraine, which doubles the US-led alliance’s border with Russia.

Finland’s Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto formally wrapped up the process by handing Helsinki’s accession papers to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the formal keeper of Nato’s founding treaty.

“With receipt of this instrument of accession, we can now declare that Finland is the 31st member of the North Atlantic Treaty,” Blinken said, at a ceremony in Nato’s

Brussels headquarters.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg said that Russian President Vladimir Putin had “wanted to slam Nato’s door shut. Today we show the world that he failed, that aggression and intimidation do not work.”

“Finland now has the strongest friends and allies in the world,” he said.

Joining Nato places Finland under the alliance’s Article Five, the collective defence pledge that an attack on one member “shall be considered an attack against them all”.

This was the guarantee Finnish leaders decided they needed as they watched Putin’s devastating assault on Ukraine. Finnish President Sauli Niinisto said: “It is a great day for Finland and I want to say that it is an important day for Nato.”

US President Joe Biden said he is “proud” to welcome Finland into Nato, reports AFP.

On the battlefield, Ukrainian defence forces destroyed 14 out of 17 Iranian-made Shahed drones Russia launched overnight, Ukraine’s military said yesterday, with 13 drones destroyed over the Odesa region in the country’s southwest.

## BNP leader arrested in DSA case

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

ABNP leader of Chandpur’s Haimchar was arrested on Monday under the Digital Security Act on charge of making derogatory comments about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Facebook.

Mazharul Islam, general secretary of Haimchar Upazila BNP, was detained from his house in the Algi area on Monday evening.

Hours later, a local Jubo League activist named Khademul Islam filed a case against him under the DSA around 10:00pm, said Ashraf Uddin, officer-in-charge of Haimchar Police Station.

Mazharul has been spreading propaganda to undermine the prime minister and the Awami League, said Noor Hossain, general secretary of Haimchar Upazila AL.

Sudipto Roy, additional superintendent of police in Chandpur, said Mazharul’s Facebook posts had also harmed the image of police.

## Man found dead in Teknaf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Police recovered the body of a man in Teknaf upazila of Cox’s Bazar on Monday night.

The victim is Masud Rana alias Idris Patwari, 30, of Kalyanpur area in Rajbari’s Alipur union, said Abdul Halim, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

He was found dead in a rented house in Ruhullardeba area of Sabrang union in the upazila, he added.

“We have found evidence that indicates Masud might have died from a yaba overdose. The body was found bleeding from the nose and mouth, and fuel papers and banana leaves used to consume and smuggle yaba pills were also found on the spot. However, the exact cause of death can only be determined after the autopsy,” he added.

Police detained Sumon Deb, son of the house owner, for quizzing while the body was sent to Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An elderly woman has been killed at her home at Pakshey union in Pabna’s Ishwardi upazila.

The victim is Hajera Khatun, 76, wife of late Prof Md Habibullah and elder sister of Pakshey union unit AL President and valiant freedom fighter Hobbul Islam Hobbul, said police.

According to Hobbul, his sister was living alone at her home in Baghoil area as her children live in Dhaka and abroad.

On Monday evening, Hobbul went to Hajera’s home as her children could not reach her over the phone. There, he found her body in a pool of blood.

Biplob Kumar Gouswami, additional superintendent of police (Ishwardi circle), said the victim might be hit with something hard and heavy in her head.

Police recovered the body on Monday and sent it to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday.

## OC, SI among 5 sued for ‘torturing trader’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Five persons, including an inspector and a sub-inspector of police, were sued yesterday for torturing a trader in Natore’s Bagatipara upazila.

Nizam Uddin, a trader in the upazila, filed the case with a Natore court.

Taking the allegations into cognisance, the court directed the Police Bureau of Investigation to probe the matter and submit a report on May 18, the court’s bench assistant Raju Ahmed confirmed.

Two policemen who were accused in the case are Bagatipara Police Station’s OC Inspector Sirajul Islam, and Sub-inspector Rabiul Islam.

Rest of the accused are Shakil Ahmed, assistant sub-inspector Abdul Karim’s wife Anjana Begum and her house caretaker Abul Bashar.

On February 22, the OC and other police officials called Nizam to the police station and held him hostage, demanding extortion, and at one stage beat him up, read the statement.

## Dreams, hopes go up in smoke

FROM PAGE 1

BM Habib, office secretary of Bangabazar Shopping Complex Shop Owners Association, said the loss due to the fire could be around Tk 5,000 crore. He also alleged that a vested group might have resorted to arson to occupy the land.

Mohammad Abu Naser, the spokesperson for the Dhaka South City Corporation, which owns the complex, said there were 2,931 shops that mostly sold RMG products. The complex housed Adarsha Market, Mahanagar Complex, Gulistan Market and Bangabazar Market.

LOST EVERYTHING

The Daily Star talked to over a dozen shop owners who said they had invested between Tk 1 crore and Tk 5 crore.

Belayet Hossain and his four brothers had taken out a loan to invest Tk 50 lakh ahead of Eid.

“Starting with one shop, we expanded to five over the last 10 years. We had a business worth Tk 5 crore. Now we have nothing,” Belayet told The Daily Star.

Just two years ago, Md Ibrahim spent Tk 40 lakh to open a shop in Bangabazar in the hopes of having a thriving business in the capital’s iconic clothing market.

For Eid, he stocked up clothes worth more than Tk 20 lakh. “All is lost now,” a sobbing Ibrahim told The Daily Star.

Another shop owner said, “I have been turned into a beggar ... How will I maintain my family?”

Shopkeeper Sirajul Islam rushed to the market hearing the news of the fire.

“I had clothes worth Tk 20 lakh in my shop. I could manage to get almost half of it out but even those got ruined by the water used for

dousing the flames,” he said.

Another trader Rakib said he could not get a single piece of clothing out.

One of the affected businessmen, Didar Hossain, said, “I had a shop with clothes worth Tk 10 lakh. Everything has turned to ashes.”

Trader Awlad Hossain, said, “We have nothing left. The fire has shattered all our hopes.”

The fire has also gutted shops in neighbouring markets.

Roni Hosen, a trader in Bangla Islamic Market, said, “I had goods worth Tk 25 lakh in the shop for Eid and I brought in fresh stock just yesterday.”

“Everything turned into ashes in front of my eyes. I couldn’t retrieve even a single piece of clothing. I still have a debt of Tk 10 lakh, and I don’t know how to repay,” he said in tears.

Shop owners of other markets nearby were seen taking their goods out of the area.

## It was a long time coming

FROM PAGE 1

According to fire service’s 2018-19 annual report, several major fire incidents, including those at Churihatta, FR Tower, Gulshan DNCC kitchen market and Khilgaon kitchen market, took place between February and April of 2019.

The fire service department in the same year carried out a survey on 3,786 institutions and establishments across the country and found 541 shopping complexes and markets at high risk of fire.

The department later put up banners in front of those markets and the Bangabazar Shopping Complex was the first.

“We did everything possible on our part. But businesses continued [at the complex] even after that,” he said.

In 1996, the market was burnt to ashes in another fire. Some other major and minor fire incidents were reported at the market in the following years.

Contacted, Chief Estate Officer of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Russel Sabrin said the market became dilapidated and that’s why the corporation took an initiative to

construct a modern building complex demolishing the existing structure.

“We appointed a contractor for the construction work. But we couldn’t begin the construction as there is a stay order issued by the High Court in this regard following a writ petition filed by businesspeople.

He said the businesspeople wanted to run their businesses as they are doing now.

The DSCC planned a rehabilitation programme for the businesses for the interim period, said Russel.

Visiting the spot yesterday, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said, “It’s [fire] unexpected. We request people not to use the establishments which have been declared risky.”

“Those who are using risky establishments are responsible. They should keep the risk factors in mind while using such establishments,” the mayor said.

He said using risky buildings forcefully can turn out to be fatal.

Helal Uddin, president of Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, said, “There are risks. But what do we do? Should we stop running our businesses? No one came up with

alternatives.”

Asked about the DSCC’s claim of a rehabilitation programme, he said he was not aware of any such rehabilitation plan.

## Padma Bridge rail line to open by September

FROM PAGE 12

was Tk 34,702.74 and the deadline was June 2022.

The revised deadline of the entire project was then set for June 2024 but BR wants to open the 82km section from Dhaka to Bhanga in the first phase.

Bhanga is already a part of the country’s railway network.

The overall physical progress of the fast-track project is currently at 74 percent. The Dhaka-Mawa section made 72.50 percent progress while the Mawa-Bhanga section 91 percent and the Bhanga-Jashore section 68 percent, according to project document.

Once the entire line, which will have 20 stations, is opened, the distance from Dhaka to Jashore would decrease by 200km and the travel time would be halved – from 10 hours to five.

The double-decker Padma Bridge – roadway on the top and railway at the

## Bangabazar burnt

FROM PAGE 1

Devastating fires gutted the shopping complex in 1995 and 2004.

Yesterday, the first team of firefighters reached the scene at 6:12am. As a morning breeze kept spreading the flames, more fire engines joined the efforts. Luckily, the fire service headquarters is close to the market.

After six and a half hours, the fire was brought under control by 48 fire engines, firefighting units of the army, navy, air force, and BGB.

As their water tanks ran empty, the firefighters pumped water from a pond at Shahidullah hall of Dhaka University while an air force helicopter sprayed water from above.

Fire service Deputy Director Dino Moni Sharma said a five-member probe committee was formed to find out what caused the fire. The committee was asked to submit a report in seven working days.

The city corporation also formed a committee to find the cause and report it in three days.

There were risky electric wires, a transformer on the second floor, and a very large amount of flammable materials, Sharma said, adding that the narrow alleys made the first responders’ jobs harder.

Brig Gen Main Uddin, director

general of fire service, said the crowd of onlookers and thick smoke at the site were an impediment to the firefighting efforts.

Hundreds of people thronged the area after the fire broke out. Many were seen going live on Facebook while others were taking selfies. The nearby streets and Mayor Hanif Floyer from Gulistan to Chankharpool were closed to traffic.

The fire brought down the 999 national emergency service, which has an office in the area, around 10:15am. Officials resumed the service after 7:30pm.

With Eid only two weeks away, Shahadat Hossain, the owner of a shop, said he borrowed Tk 4 lakh and just spent a total of Tk 10 lakh to stock up.

“It all went up in smoke. I have nothing left,” said Shahadat, struggling to hold back his tears.

Only a handful of store owners could partially save their goods. A vast majority of them lost everything.

In the afternoon, Renu Begum, a middle-age woman was seen crying near what used to be the three shops owned by her sons.

She said her family would surely slide into poverty because nothing could be saved from the shops.

[Mohammad Jamil Khan and Refayet Ullah Mirdha contributed to this report.]

with the railways minister; Chief Whip of parliament Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury Lito; and several lawmakers from Madaripur, Shariatpur, Munshiganj and Faridpur, political leaders and journalists on board.

As it moved towards the Padma Bridged, patriotic songs were being played inside the newly imported coaches from China, which also provided loans for the project.

When the train passed the Padma Station at Janjira at 2:35pm, the project workers greeted the passengers by waving small flags of Bangladesh and China.

It entered the lower deck of the bridge at low speed at 2:48pm and took 16 minutes to cross the 6.15km bridge.

The train then reached the Mawa Station at 3:18pm. A BR official said the highest speed that the train was operated at was 25kmph.

The train left the station at 1:22pm



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BANGABAZAR  
AT A GLANCE

TOTAL SHOPS  
2,931

TOTAL AREA  
21,250 sq ft

1965

Shops set up near then Fulbaria railway station, yet to be clothing hub

1975

Municipal admin proposes building market, but railway refuses to transfer ownership. Shopkeepers take yearly lease to run business

1985

Area's ownership transfers to city corporation

1989

City corporation builds it as "planned shopping hub"

1990

Developed as "garment market", incorporating Gulistan, Mahanagari and Adarsha Hawkers Market

1995

Around 2,220 shops gutted in fire

2017

Fire service committee finds Bangabazar's fire-extinguishing system "extremely risky"

2018

Another fire erupts, burning several shops

PLACES  
THAT SAW  
BLAZES THIS  
YEAR

JAN 19: Kamrangirchar shoe factory

FEB 19: Gulshan building

MAR 1: Gopibagh rickshaw garage

MAR 5: Building in Science Lab area

MAR 7: Siddikbazar building;  
Sitakunda oxygen plant

MAR 11: Sitakunda cotton depot

MAR 13: Kunipara slum

MAR 18: Narayanganj building

MAR 27: Mohakhali Sattola slum

APR 3: Wari colony

APR 4: Bangabazar

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON,  
ANISUR RAHMAN





Breaking fast  
amid the fire's  
aftermath

MD ABBAS, ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

During today's iftar, Bangabazar traders and firefighters were seen breaking fast amid chaos and ruins caused by the devastating fire.

Sagor Hasan, who had two shops at Bangabazar market and three shops in the adjacent Anexco Tower, recounted his overwhelming experience to The Daily Star.

"Thinking about the losses after witnessing the blaze, even I forgot to break my fast. One of my employees handed me a bottle of water and some dates and reminded me that it was iftar time," Sagor said.

Robiul Islam, another shop owner, was seen breaking his fast while loading the remaining products of his shop onto a van.

"Fearing that the fire might spread further, we have been shifting the remaining products. I, along with the staffers of my shop, broke fast while moving products," said Robiul.

Amid the chaos and urgency of the situation, almost all the staffers and shop owners were seen breaking their fast hurriedly as they worked to put out the fire and salvage whatever remained.

Several firefighters were also seen breaking their fast. Firefighter Akash and three of his colleagues were spotted taking a break from their duties to break the fast on a firefighting vehicle.

Akash said it was his second time breaking fast while on duty and said, "As I took an oath to serve the people

“

Thinking about the losses after witnessing the blaze, even I forgot to break my fast. One of my employees handed me a bottle of water and some dates and reminded me that it was iftar time.

”

SAGOR HASAN

Shop owner

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BANGABAZAR FIRE

Crowd of onlookers  
the main obstruction

Says fire service DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crowd of onlookers was the biggest hindrance to firefighting efforts and caused a delay in bringing the devastating fire at the Bangabazar Shopping Complex under control, said Brig Gen Md Main Uddin, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

He was briefing reporters on the spot after 48 firefighting units brought the blaze under control around 12:36pm. The fire had started at 6:10am.

Apart from fire service officials, members of army, navy, air force, Border Guard Bangladesh and police took part in the rescue and firefighting operations.

Several thousand people thronged the spot soon after the fire originated around 6:10am.

Many people were seen going on Facebook Live. Many were taking selfies at the fire ravaged site. The rescue teams were not able to bring in equipment and vehicles due to the overwhelming crowd, eye-witnesses said.

Police were struggling to manage the situation.

The director general said it was sad that people attacked the fire service headquarters and injured four firefighters even as they were trying to save lives and properties.

"I am very disappointed. We work for the people. We sacrifice our lives

for the people... but they attacked us," he said while talking to reporters on the spot.

An unruly mob vandalised fire service vehicles, the building, and injured four firefighters as the fire raged at Bangabazar Shopping Complex, he said.

Two of the four firefighters – Rabiul Islam and Atikur Rahman – were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Rashed-Bin-Khaled, duty officer of fire service.

Many people were seen going on Facebook Live. Many were taking selfies at the fire-ravaged site. The rescue teams were not able to bring in equipment and vehicles due to the overwhelming crowd. Police were struggling to manage the situation.

"Fire service officials give their lives for the people of the country. In the last one year, 13 officials sacrificed their lives," said Main Uddin. "I don't understand why they decided to attack fire service officials."

In the last one year, a total of 29 fire service officials were also injured in the line of duty.

The fire service DG also said they will form a five-member committee to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

No alternative to  
free, fair election

Say eminent citizens at webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday said a participatory, free and fair national election is needed to come out of the current political crisis.

While speaking at a webinar organised by Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), they also said a discussion among political parties is needed to have a political settlement for free, fair and competitive elections.

Shujan held the webinar, titled "Competitive Elections, Constitutional Framework and the Future of Democracy in Bangladesh".

Former Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Sakhawat Hussain said if any of the two major political parties do not participate in the election, it will not be participatory.

"So, such a situation should be created that both parties participate in it. And for this, the government has to take initiative," he added.

Shujan President Hafizuddin Khan said in the last 50 years, there was no fair election under a partisan government.

"It seems to be the same this time. That's why we want a non-party election-time government," he added.

Justice MA Matin said the current crisis the country is faced with is both constitutional and political.

"However, the centre of the crisis is politics and it should be resolved by reforming the constitution," he added.

Ridwanul Hoque, a professorial fellow at Charles Darwin University in Australia, said, "Representative, fair and free elections are the way out of the current crisis."

He too called for a non-party caretaker government to oversee the election.

Ali Riaz, a distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University said, "The crisis is not a constitutional crisis, it is a crisis of whether there will be a participatory multi-party democracy or not."

Dhaka University Professor Asif Nazrul said the future of not only democracy but also of the existence of the nation is depending on the next election.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

DELIMITATION OF  
CONSTITUENCIES

EC to start  
hearing  
complaints  
from May 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will start hearing complaints over the country's draft delimitation of constituencies from May 3.

The hearing will be held in four phases until May 14, EC Secretary Jahangir Alam said yesterday.

EC on February 26, published the draft of delimitation of 300 parliamentary seats ahead of the 12th parliamentary elections. It said that if anyone had any objection to the draft published by the EC, they can file it by March 19.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER  
TIMING

APRIL 5

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:29

12:45

4:45

6:20

7:45

JAMAAT 4:39

1:15

5:00

6:30

8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN

APRIL

SEHRI

IFTAR

13

05

6:20

14

06

4:24

6:20

15

07

4:23

6:21



## Tax official detained No objection

FROM PAGE 5

against the tax official after the Dhaka office informed us about it on March 29. We will send Mohibul to a court after filing a case,” said Moniruzzaman.

Contacted, Rajshahi Tax Commissioner Shah Ali said there was an allegation of tax evasion against the doctor. But he could not give any details about yesterday’s raid.

“We already informed the matter to the National Board of Revenue,” he added.

While the ACC team was taking away Mohibul from the tax office, Mohibul

shouted to the journalists present there that he is innocent.

“The physician and ACC members staged a drama. They did not recover the money from my possession. The physician evaded Tk 26 crore in five years,” Mohibul said.

Asked, the ACC deputy director said they too noticed bank transactions worth Tk 26 crore by the physician.

“Tax evasion is not our affair to look into, but corruption by government officials is. Instead of acting against tax evasion, the tax official received bribes,” said Moniruzzaman.

FROM PAGE 3

of the country, I have no objection to break fast in such circumstances.”

Another firefighter, Sohel Rana Sheikh, mentioned that it was his first time breaking fast while dealing with a fire incident.

He added, “We were trained to cope with every situation. So, breaking the fast during extinguishing a fire is normal.”

Meanwhile, several voluntary organisations including Bidyandando Foundation were seen distributing iftars to the victim traders and firefighters.

## ACC sues

FROM PAGE 5

According to the case statement, Dolly Construction took Tk 751.99 crore loan from Rupali Bank’s Motijheel corporate branch at different times from September 9, 2015. But it repaid only Tk 308.53 crore.

To get the loan, Dolly Construction kept different government work orders as collateral. He first applied for loan of Tk 104 crore and the bank’s board of directors sanctioned Tk 55 crore loan.

The loan was renewed and topped up at different times, and finally, about Tk 475-crore loan was disbursed in 2018.

The total loan including interest stood at Tk 751.99 crore.

The ACC found that Rupali Bank’s corporate branch suggested to keep 50 percent margin against the work order while disbursing loan, but the accused bank officials did not follow it.

Besides, Dolly Construction kept some land in Narayanganj as collateral. In the investigation, it is found that the price of lands was overvalued by 15-16 times. The Geograph Survey helped to exaggerate the land price.

The bank officials also did not follow the condition of the bank’s board of directors.

All of them are responsible for embezzling the money, reads the FIR.

## Crowd

FROM PAGE 3

investigate the fire incident, and that the cause of the fire and the extent of damage could be known after investigation.

Witnesses said a group of people including some shopkeepers, being frustrated that the fire was not put out, attacked the fire service headquarters around 9:30am.

No alternative

FROM PAGE 3

The home, information and public administration ministries should be given under technocrat ministers, he proposed.

Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said to make the next polls competitive and acceptable, it is necessary to create a new political settlement through dialogue among the political parties.

“New political settlement may include consensus on election-time government, constitutional and administrative reforms,” he said.

Local governance expert Prof Tofail Ahmed, and economist Ahsan H Mansur also spoke at the webinar.

## Death anniv of Abdul Mannan observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The 18th death anniversary of Abdul Mannan, an Awami League leader and organiser of the Liberation War, was observed in Tangail yesterday.

To mark the day, teachers, students and officials of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University led by Vice Chancellor Prof Farhad Hossain placed a wreath at the mural of Abdul Mannan at the university.

At this time, they offered prayers for the eternal peace of Mannan’s soul.

Besides, a doa and milad mahfil was organised at the hall after the Esha prayers.

## BCL leader beaten

FROM PAGE 5

extortion, locals beat them up. Sabuj’s associates, however, launched a counterattack, in which Advocate Ariful Hasan (38), Rakibul Islam (18) and Shahed Abdullah Arif (25) were injured.

Locals rescued Sabuj and took him to the hospital right after the incident. The other injured were given first aid at the health complex.

Sabuj denied the allegation of extortion and said, “I spend time sitting in the Awami League office in Haldia Bazar with some of my party men. At that time, Advocate Arif’s people attacked me due to a previous quarrel.”

However, Ariful, who is a former member of the Zilla Parishad, said Sabuj extorts money from watermelon farmers of Haldia union. “At the time of the incident, when I stopped on my way hearing the noises, Sabuj and his men also attacked me.”

Watermelon farmer Basudeb Sheel of Haldia village said Sabuj demanded Tk 2 lakh from him and told him to leave his house if he does not pay.

Khalek Molla, another watermelon farmer from Haldia village, said Sabuj demanded Tk 50,000 and told him to not sell watermelons if he fails to pay up.

Mahbubul Alam, president of Amtali upazila BCL, declined to comment on the matter.

Contacted, AKM Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Amtali police station, said police went to the spot after receiving information about the mob. The situation has been brought under control.

“I have not received any written complaint in this regard. Legal action will be taken subject to investigation if complaints are received,” he said.

There are several cases against Sabuj with Amtali police station, including those over extortion and robbery, he added.

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

**Pubali Bank Limited**, the largest private commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any of the following tender, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

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- Civil, Electrical & Networking works at present premises of our **Fokirapool Bazar Branch, Dhaka.**
- Civil, Electrical & Networking works at proposed premises of our **Gobindagonj Branch, Sunamgonj.**
- Civil and Electrical works against renovation at toilet and wash area of **8th floor, Head Office, Dhaka.**

Please visit our web site, <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested Parties may purchase the Tender document by **13 April, 2023**, duly filled up all requirements & submit their offer in the tender box by **16 April, 2023 before 11.00 A.M which will be opened at 11.30 A.M on same day .**

**Dilip Kumar Paul**  
General Manager & Division Head

**পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**PUBALI BANK LIMITED**

Establishment & General Services Division  
Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

## Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona  
Phone: 02-996651285, Fax: 02-996651479  
E-mail: [eeneti@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eeneti@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.7200.455.00.000.23-481

Dated: 04.04.2023



### e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Date & time
01.	Tender ID: 809971 Package No. e-GP/Rev/48/NRD/2022-23 & APP ID 186306; Scheduled Tender/Proposal Publication Date and Time: 03-Apr-2023 12:20	Repairing & Paining Work at Division Office Building under Netrakona Road Division during the year 2022-2023	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading Date and Time: 17-Apr-2023 15:00 Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security: 18-Apr-2023 11:30 Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date and Time: 18-Apr-2023 12:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.

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

**Shahriar Sharif Khan**  
ID No. 602247  
Executive Engineer (CC), RHD  
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona

GD-619

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Narayanganj Road Division.  
Phone & Fax No-02-7693468  
Email: [cenaryanganj@gmail.com](mailto:cenaryanganj@gmail.com)

Memo No: 35.01.6700.451.07.000.23-1303

Dated: 04.04.2023

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Narayanganj Road Division, Narayanganj, for the procurement of below mentioned works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of publishing	Name of work	Last Selling & Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID:809906, PackageNo: 68/e-GP/EE/NRD/2022-2023. Publishing: 04-Apr-2023.	Providing & Installation of Electrical Wire at 11th km(p) & 12th km (p) of Bhulta Flyover at Dhaka(Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jagadishpur-Shaistaganj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Road (N-2) under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2022-2023.	19-Apr-2023, 15:00 20-Apr-2023, 11:20
02.	Tender ID:813702, Package No: 69/e-GP/EE/NRD/2022-2023. Publishing: 04-Apr-2023.	Supplying best quality Auto Machine Made brick & Sand for departmental routine maintenance work at different roads of Vitikandi Road Sub-Division under Narayanganj Road Division during the year 2022-2023.	19-Apr-2023, 15:00 20-Apr-2023, 11:25
03.	Tender ID:809846, Package No: 70/e-GP/EE/NRD/2022-2023. Publishing: 04-Apr-2023.	Supplying of Excavator & Dump Truck including Driver & Fuel by hire charge basis for Cleaning & Disposal of Garbage in safe distance at different km of Dhaka(Jatrabari) - Cumilla(Mainamati) - Chattagram - Teknaf Road (N-1) under Nararanganj Road Division during the year 2022-2023.	19-Apr-2023, 15:00 20-Apr-2023, 11:30

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>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Signed.  
(Shahana Ferdous)  
ID No: 602161  
Executive Engineer, RHD

GD-627

FROM PAGE 3

According to EC sources, it received a total of 186 applications from 38 parliamentary seats in the stipulated time. Of those, 60 petitions were filed in favour of maintaining the existing boundary and 126 petitions for changes.

Jahangir said complaints from Cumilla region will be heard on May 3.

The hearing on the petition regarding the seats of Rajshahi region will be held on May 7. The petitions from Dhaka, Mymensingh and Faridpur regions will be heard on May 11, and those from Barishal, Khulna and Chattogram regions on May 14.

The boundaries of the 300 parliamentary seats will be finalised by June after the hearings.

## Four Jamaat men

FROM PAGE 5

bringing out a procession in front of the Nesco office in the area without prior permission, police intercepted, he said.

Sensing police presence, the Jamaat men exploded a crude bomb and tried to flee. Later, police detained four people, including Rajshahi city unit chief Keramat Ali, Alam said.

Legal actions are underway against them,

Rafiqul said.

Keramat Ali of Chapainawabganj stays in Rajshahi to run the party.

However, Majedur Rahman, Jamaat’s divisional secretary for relief and rehabilitation affairs, told journalists that Jamaat was supposed to hold a pre-scheduled motivational programme in the area, and no incident of blasting crude bombs occurred there as described by police.

## Highway robbery

FROM PAGE 5

received medical attention.

Among them were Tara Mia from Mesta village of Jamalpur Sadar upazila and Kakali Begum from Satpoa village of Sarishabari upazila. They were later transferred to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for further treatment.

Rabiul Islam, one of the passengers of the bus, said the bus with 30-40 passengers left from Dhaka’s Mohakhali bus terminal around 10:00pm

on Monday. The robbers boarded the bus in the guise of passengers on the way and then took control of the bus around 1:30am, he added.

The robbers made off with goods worth approximately Tk 5 lakh, said Madhupur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mazharul Amin.

“The police have launched an investigation into the incident and are working to bring the perpetrators to justice,” he added.

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## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Cumilla  
Telephone No. 081-64725  
E-mail: [eeecom@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eeecom@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.1984

Date: 04/04/2023

### e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Package No. & Tender ID	Description of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
1.	e-GP/69/CRD/2022-2023 (Tender ID: 810745)	Retrofitting of 28.50m length Yousufpur Bridge at 31st Km. (Ch. 30+593) of Cumilla (Mainamati)-Brahmanbaria (Sarail) (N-102) Road under Road Division, Cumilla during the year 2022-2023	02-May-2023 16:00	03-May-2023 12:00	03-May-2023 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank's branches up to 16.00pm at dated 02-May-2023 (Tender ID: 810745). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Executive Engineer, RHD**  
Road Division, Cumilla

GD-618



## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

### বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

### পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ

### সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা।

### উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সি. নং	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
২.	সংস্থা	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৩.	চাকরী সূচনা নাম	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৪.	দরপত্র অব্যবহৃত বিষয়	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৫.	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৬.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৭.	বাজেট ও অব্যবহৃত টকা	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৮.	দরপত্র সিডিটা গ্রাউন্ড/বিতরণের স্থান	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিটা বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
১০.	আবেদনকার ও দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
১১.	দরপত্র সিডিটা উন্মুক্ত করার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২
১২.	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২

১৩. ক্র. নং. কাকের নাম. দরপত্র প্রদানের সময় (সেলেকশন). দরপত্র মূল্যের মূল্য (অফার/বাইড).

১. পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ এর ফোর্স সে ও ব্যারাকের ভাড়া অফিসের চিহ্ন ইজিইউএল শীট দ্বারা পরিবর্তন স্বাক্ষর ব্যারাক ১ ও ২ এর বাকসহ ও ওয়াশ রুমের টাইলস এবং স্যানিটোরীর রেনোভেশন কাজ.

১৪. নিম্নের নির্দেশনা:

(ক) দরপত্র সরাসরি যাবতীয় নির্দেশনা/শর্তাবলী টেন্ডার সিডিটায় উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে।

(খ) দরপত্র প্রদান/পে-অর্ডার প্রদানকার (প্রকল্প ও উন্নয়ন) পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ এর অনুমোদন বা প্রদান করে দেবে।

(গ) দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত সকল কার্যাবলী PPA-২০০৬ ও PPR-২০০৮ এর তথ্য সংশোধন অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে।

(ঘ) বাজি বা প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতার যুক্তিকর্তার স্বাক্ষরিত পাত্রে অফিসের পূর্বে নিম্নলিখিত তারিখে অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিটায় সন্ধ্যা করে দেবে।

(ঙ) দরপত্র প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতার যুক্তিকর্তার দ্বারা পূর্বে ০০০/- (হিন্দু) টাকার দল ভূমিহীন স্ট্যান্ডে সূচি করতে হবে।

(চ) সীলনাল যুক্ত করে উপর কাজের নাম উল্লেখ পূর্বক আলাদাভাবে দরপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(ছ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন অবস্থা সনদ দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের পূর্বসংকেত স্বাক্ষর করে দেবে।



## Jubo Dal leader ‘tortured to death’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

An Awami Swechchhasebak League leader allegedly tortured a Jubo Dal leader to death in Narayanganj’s Araihaazar upazila over a land-related dispute.

The deceased is Mahbubul Alam, 33, organising secretary of Jubo Dal’s Duptara union unit under the upazila.

The victim’s family said there was a longstanding land-related dispute between Mahbubul and Hasmat Ali, president of Swechchhasebak League’s ward-6 unit under Duptara union.

Hasmat and his followers picked up Mahbubul from the union’s Kalibari area yesterday morning around 9:30am, took him to Hasmat’s house and tortured him to death, alleged victim’s brother Habibur Rahman.

Police detained Hasmat’s two brothers but Hasmat is on the run, said Syful Islam Shohag, inspector of Araihaazar Police Station.

The filing of a case was under process till the filing of this report around 7:00pm last evening.

In a separate incident in Narayanganj city’s Bandar area, a man was hacked to death reportedly by his rival, following a feud over establishing supremacy in the area on Monday night.

## Tax official detained with Tk 10 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A team of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) detained an official of Rajshahi income tax office yesterday.

ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman said the commission decided to conduct a raid at the office upon receiving information that Deputy Tax Commissioner Mohibul Islam had been demanding Tk 50 lakh in bribes from physician Fatema Siddika, bringing allegations of tax evasion against her.

When the doctor left Mohibul’s office after paying Tk 10 lakh in bribe yesterday, a nine-member team of ACC led by its divisional director Kamrul Ahsan entered the office around 11:30am and found the money with him following a scuffle, he mentioned.

Hearing his screams, tax office staffers rushed to the scene, broke open the door and swooped on the ACC officials, Moniruzzaman said.

The ACC team then called police, which later brought the situation under control, he said. ACC officials detained Mohibul after the incident.

“We started investigating the allegations of bribery

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A five-day cultural fair began in Rangamati yesterday ahead of Biju, Sangrai, Baisuk, Vishu, Bihu, Sangkran -- the main social festivals of the indigenous communities living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. As part of the festivities, many events will be held through the duration of the fair, ahead of Biju, which will be celebrated from April 13 for three days.

PHOTO: STAR

## TK 443.45CR CORRUPTION ACC sues 8 including ex-Rupali Bank employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against two businessmen, five former and incumbent employees of state-run Rupali Bank and another for misappropriating about Tk 443.45 crore from the bank.

ACC’s assistant director Muhammad Jafar Sadek Shibli filed the case against managing director of Dolly Construction Mohammad Nasir Uddin and his wife and chairman of Dolly Construction Dolly Aktar.

Other accused are Rupali Bank’s former deputy general manager Khaled Hossain Mollik, former assistant general manager Md Solaiman, senior principal officer Golam Sarwar, deputy general manager ASM Morshed Ali, assistant general manager Mohammad Kamruzzaman and proprietor of Geograph Survey Corporation Parvez Bin Kamal.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

According to the case statement, Dolly Construction took Tk 751.99 crore loan from Rupali Bank’s Motijheel corporate branch at different times from September 9, 2015. But it repaid only Tk 308.53 crore.

## BCL leader beaten up as he ‘extorted’ farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Chhatra League leader was beaten up while he was allegedly trying to extort farmers in Haldia bazar of Barguna’s Amtali upazila around 10:00pm on Monday.

Sabuj Malakar (30), vice president of Bangladesh Chhatra League’s (BCL) Amtali upazila unit, was first admitted to Amtali Upazila Health Complex and later to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, three more people were injured in a counterattack.

Locals said Sabuj along with others had occupied the Haldia ward Awami League office and extorted money from watermelon farmers and traders in Haldia Gurdal, North Taktabunia and nearby areas.

Fed up with the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Four get life sentence for abducting, killing man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday sentenced four people to life imprisonment for abducting and killing a man in the district’s Bera upazila.

The court also fined Sabuj alias Dada Vai alias Bokul, Abul Kalam, Azad Hossain and Khalil Hossain Tk 25,000 each, in default of which they will have to suffer one more year in jail, court sources said.

Of the convicts, Azad and Abul Kalam appeared before the court, said Dewan Mojnul Haque, public prosecutor of Special Judge Court, Pabna.

According to the case statement, Sabuj went to Bera in 2009 and started working as a day labourer at the house of one Rashid Sikdar.

Sabuj managed to take Rashid from home with the promise to send him aboard on July 14, 2009. Later, he along with his associates

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Highway robbery leaves 7 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The night had settled on the Tangail-Mymensingh highway, and the passengers of a bus headed towards Jamalpur were settling in for their journey. Little did they know that they were about to become the victims of a dangerous robbery.

As the bus passed through Ashulia, a gang of 8-10 robbers boarded the vehicle and blended in with the other passengers. For several hours, they bided their time until the bus reached Deolabari in Madhupur, where they sprang into action.

The robbers took control of the bus, holding the passengers at gunpoint and forcing them to surrender their cash, mobile phones, and gold ornaments. However, they did not stop there. They beat and stabbed seven passengers, leaving them injured and terrified.

Finally, the robbers disembarked at Narkona in Madhupur, leaving behind a bus full of traumatised passengers and a trail of violence and theft.

The injured passengers were rushed to the Madhupur Upazila Health Complex, where they

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Four Jamaat men including city leader arrested


STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police claimed to have arrested four Jamaat-e-Islami men, including its Rajshahi city unit chief, from the city’s Hetomkhan area yesterday.

They were arrested for unlawful assembly, obstructing police’s work through attacks, and engaging in subversive activities, said Rafiqul Alam, ADC of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

At 12:30pm, when a group of Jamaat men were

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police

Police Headquarters, Dhaka

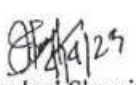
www.police.gov.bd

Memo No.4401.0000.024.02.011.2022.448

Date: 04/04/2023

Tender Cancellation Notice

This is to inform all concerned that the invitation of tender for “Purchasing of Dog” vide tender invitation memo no.44.01.0000.024.02.011.2022.216, dated 20 February 2023 published on the Daily Star and the Daily Ittefaq dated 21 February 2023 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.



(Sarwar Murshed Shamim, BPM)

BP 7401020793


Addl. DIG (Transport)

For Inspector General, Bangladesh Police

Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

Phone: +88 02 223384779

GD-628



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার


প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে

সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০

ই-জিপি টেন্ডার/রি-টেন্ডার নোটিশ

ফোনঃ +৮৮০৩২১২৮৩৩১৬২, ই-মেইলঃ [cee@railway.gov.bd](mailto:cee@railway.gov.bd)



নং-৫৪.০১.১৫০০.১০৯.০৭.০৭১.২২

তারিখঃ ০৪.০৪.২০২৩খ্রিঃ

প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) এ নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের দরপত্র/পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েচ্ছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার/রি-টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	আইডি নং	ক্রয়ের ধরণ ও কাজ/সরবরাহ কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র পুনঃ দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	CE/E/Deposit/TS/06/e-Tender/2022-23	808238	<b>Works:</b> At Ghorashal: Construction of new Dual Gauge siding line inside the battery limit in connection with construction of new Railway Link from Ghorashal Railway Station of Polash Fertilizer Factory.	OTM, NCT	01-June-2023 at 12:00hrs.
২.	CE/E/Rev/TS/57/e-Tender/2022-23	806302	<b>Goods:</b> Manufacturing & Supplying of 1 in 8.5 and 1 in 12 MG point & crossing of 75 lbs 'A' Rail with supply of Rail, all necessary accessories for regular maintenance of Railway Track under DEN-1/CTG and DEN-2/DA Jurisdictions.	OTM, NCT	27-April-2023 at 12:00hrs.
৩.	CE/E/Rev/TS/58/e-Tender/2022-23	806328	<b>Goods:</b> Supply of Fish bolts & Joggle fish plates (75 lbs 'A' & 90 lbs 'A') for regular maintenance of Railway Track under CE/East Jurisdictions.	OTM, NCT	27-April-2023 at 12:00hrs
৪.	CE/E/Rev/TS/59 (Re-Tender)/e-Tender/2022-23	798342	<b>Goods:</b> Supply of different sizes Hook Bolts with nut and washer for Bridge sleeper for regular maintenance of Railway Track under DEN-1 & 2/DA Jurisdictions	OTM, NCT	27-April-2023 at 12:15hrs.

বিশেষ নোটঃ

১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নিবন্ধিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

২. দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ প্রাপ্য অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

মোঃ আরিফুল ইসলাম


ট্র্যাক সাপ্লাই অফিসার (পূর্ব)

পক্ষে-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

এস(২৩) (১০২)


জিডি-৬২৩



বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নগর ভবন, বরিশাল।

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং- বিসি/সি/ডি/৬৪১/২৩ তারিখ : ০৩/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

২। সংস্থার নাম

৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী

৪। সমগ্র প্রকল্প

৫। তথ্য ও খাত

৬। দরপত্র আহ্বান নং ও তারিখ

৭। দরপত্র যোগ্যতা

৮। দরপত্র তফসিল প্রদানের স্থান

৯। দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ

১০। দরপত্র বিক্রয় আরম্ভের তারিখ ও সময়

১১। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান

১২। দরপত্র ঘোষণার স্থান

১৩। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়

১৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়

১৫। দরপত্র ঘোষণার তারিখ ও সময়

১৬। কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ

১। স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।

২। বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।

৩। সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।

৪। উক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (এটিএম)।

৫। বিপ্ ব্যাংক সয়ারগার্পট “এলসিআরআরপি” শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের (সিআরপি) এর আওতায় ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বছরের ২য় ফেজ বাস্তবায়ন কর্তৃক।

৬। বিসি/সি/ডি/৬৪১/২৩ তারিখ : ০৩/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ

৭। পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও তদবীন প্রণীত বিধিমালা ২০০৮ অনুসারে স্ট্রিক্ট কোডের জন্য প্রণীত দলিলের বর্নন ও শর্তাবলী, মালমাল সরকারের ক্ষেত্রে প্রকৃত সরকারহকরা।

৮। সহকারী প্রকৌশলী, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী-এলসিআরপি, বরিশাল এবং বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল এর দপ্তর।

৯। ০৩/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।

১০। দরপত্র বিক্রয় আরম্ভের তারিখ ও সময় : ০৩/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।

১১। সহকারী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।

১২। সহকারী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরিশাল।

১৩। তারিখ : ২৪/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সময় : অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।

১৪। তারিখ : ২৫/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সময় : ২-০০ টা

১৫। তারিখ : ২৫/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সময় : ৩-০০ টা

১৬। কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ : ১।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	দরপত্রের তফসিলের মূল্য (টাকা)	দরপত্র নির্মাণ জামানত (টাকা)	কার্য সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা (দিন)
০১।	০২ নং ওয়ার্ডের (ক) আমিন বাড়ি মাস্তোলা সড়ক বিসি ঘারা উন্নয়ন এবং বাইলেনে ক্রস ক্রসিং রাস্তা দিলি দ্বারা নির্মাণ কাজ। খ) ব্রিডাল বাড়ি সড়ক বিসি দ্বারা নির্মাণ কাজ।	টায় ১,০০০/=	টায় ১,০০,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০২।	২০ নং ওয়ার্ডের অনিবার্য ক্যাডেট কোর্সে পেনে আরসিসি ব্রেনার সিলি রাস্তা নির্মাণ কাজ।	টায় ১,০০০/=	টায় ১,০৫,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৩।	২১ নং ওয়ার্ডের খোপাবাড়ি বাইলেনে আরসিসি ব্রেন নির্মাণের সড়ক বিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন কাজ।	টায় ১,০০০/=	টায় ৯৫,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৪।	২১ নং ওয়ার্ডের নকশা প্রকল্পে প্রকল্পের ৫ নং গলিের ব্রেন প্রকল্পের নির্মাণের রাস্তা নির্মাণ কাজ।	টায় ১,০০০/=	টায় ১,২০,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৫।	২২ নং ওয়ার্ডের নকশা প্রকল্পে প্রকল্পের ৫ নং গলিের ব্রেন প্রকল্পের নির্মাণের রাস্তা নির্মাণ কাজ।	টায় ২,০০০/=	টায় ২,০৫,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৬।	২৫ নং ওয়ার্ডের আবুল হাসানাত আবদুল্লাহ রাস টার্মিনালে পানি সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থা, পাবলিক টয়লেট ও হাড্ড ওয়াশিং ফ্যাসিলিটিস পাবলিক ট্রেস স্থাপন সহ টল নির্মাণ কাজ।	টায় ৪,০০০/=	টায় ৬,৮০,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৭।	২৫ নং ওয়ার্ডের মাওলানা ভাওয়ান সড়কের রাস্তা বাড়ির মর্গালিন মোড় থেকে ফকির বাড়ি স্থল পর্যন্ত সড়ক বিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন কাজ।	টায় ২,০০০/=	টায় ২,৩৫,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৮।	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন এর আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন ওয়ার্ডে ২০টি গলির নকশা, ওয়ার্ড হেড ট্যাক ও পানি সরবরাহ লাইন স্থাপন কাজ।	টায় ২,০০০/=	টায় ১,৬০,০০০/=	৯০ দিন
০৯।	বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন ওয়ার্ডে সুবিধাবঞ্চিত এবং দরিদ্র-দুস্থ মা ও শিশুদের জন্য নার্সারি কেন্দ্র স্থাপন কাজ।	টায় ১,০০০/=	টায় ৬০,০০০/=	৯০ দিন

১৭। শর্তাবলী :

ক) পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও তদবীন প্রণীত বিধিমালা ২০০৮ অনুসারে করা হবে। উল্লেখ্য, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের ১৬/০৬/২০১৬খ্রিঃ তারিখের ৪৬.০৫৯.০১৮.০০.০০.০১৫.২০১৬-১৪০৩নং আদেশের পরে নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ সনের ২৪নং অধিদপ্তর দ্বারা ৩১ এর সংশোধিত/সংশোধিত উপ-ধারা (৩) ও (৪) অনুসরণে “(৩) উক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির অধীন অর্জনকারী কার্য ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কোন দরদাতা কর্তৃক দরপত্রে দাপ্তরিক প্রাপ্যতা বাধ্য ১০% (শতকরা দশভাগ) এর অধিক কম বা অধিক বেশি নর উক্ত করা হইলে উক্ত দরপত্র বাতিল ঘণ্টা ৭৭৭ হইবে, (৪) উপধারা (৩) এ উল্লিখিত দরপত্র মূল্য সমস্তর ক্ষেত্রে বিধি দ্বারা নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে মূল্যায়ন ও কৃতকার্য নমাজা নির্ধারিত ক্রমতে হইবে কিন্তু দাপ্তরিক মূল্যায়ন দরদাতা নির্বাচন করা যাবে না।”

খ) দরপত্রের তফসিলের নির্ধারিত মূল্য সিডি/বিডি/পিও যেকোন, বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশনের অনুসূচক জন্য দিলে নির্ধারিত অফিস থেকে ক্রয় করতে হবে।

গ) টেন্ডার সমস্তর যাবতীয় তথ্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নাঙ্ককরকারীর দপ্তর থেকে সমগ্র করা যাবে।


ঘ) দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত অতিরিক্ত শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্যভাবে অনুসরণ করতে হবে।

ঙ) দরপত্র ঘোষণার সময় দরদাতা/ প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।

চ) নির্ধারিত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে চুক্তিবদ্ধ হওয়ার পূর্বেই যে কোন তফসিলী ব্যাংক থেকে উক্ত দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী (পীস) জগা যাবে যে-অর্থ/ব্যয়কে গ্যারান্টি কার্য- সম্পাদন জামানত (Performance Guarantee) হিসেবে (প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা কার্য সমস্ত না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অর্থ/ব্যয়কে বোধ্য) নিম্নাঙ্ককরকারীর দপ্তরে জমা দিতে হবে।

ছ) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বিতরণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জ) তথ্যসি গ্রহণ সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিষদ করা হবে।



০৩.০৪.২৩

(মোঃ আরিফুল ইসলাম)

সহকারী প্রকৌশলী

বরিশাল সিটি কর্পোরেশন

বরিশাল।

GD-625



# ‘Blessed to have led a simple life’

## Dr Sanjida Khatun celebrates 90th birthday

**The Ekushey Padak winning singer is a lighthouse of the cultural arena, who does not merely make music, but also enlightens people with music.**

SHARMIN JOYA

“90 years of my life have passed and at this age, today, I am thinking about what I wanted to achieve in my life and how it actually went.” The voice of eminent musicologist, Dr Sanjida Khatun echoed at the houseful auditorium of Chhayanaut yesterday.

A event was organised at Chhayanaut cultural auditorium, celebrating the 90th birth anniversary of Dr Sanjida Khatun.

The Ekushey Padak winning singer is a lighthouse of the cultural arena, who does not merely make music, but also enlightens people with music. She was also honoured with the Padma Shri, in 2021, considered as the fourth highest civilian award in India.

Rabindra sangeet exponent Dr Sanjida Khatun, the president of Chhayanaut, was born on April 4, in 1933. Her endless contributions, in upholding the spirit of liberal thinking, is vividly reflected in her work and her lifelong philosophy.



Dr Sanjida Khatun speaking at the event.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

sangeet, performed by Avijit Kundu. The event progressed with a group dance, presented by Monipuri troupe—led by distinguished dancer Sharmila Banerjee, her daughter Sudeshna Swayamprabha Tathoi, and the team.

Singers including the likes of Fahmida Khatun, Ifat Ara Dewan, Jahirul Ara Dewan, Zahirul Haque Khan, Laisha Ahmed Lisa, Khairul Anam Shakil, Farhana Akter Shirley, Sumon Majumdar, Sharmin Shathi Islam Moyna, and Chandana Majumdar all performed at the event. The function also had a group dance performance from the Bharatanatyam troupe.

Dr Sarwar Ali, Vice President, Chhayanaut, presented a welcome speech, wishing the luminary artiste a happy and prosperous life ahead. Dr Sanjida Khatun is often called Minu, by her close ones. “We are lucky indeed, even at this age, our Minu *apa* is capable of persevering the spirit of liberal thinking, and undoubtedly she is a source of strength for the society to fight any restrictive ideologies,” he shared.

At one point, sharing her thoughts on her life, Sanjida Khatun expressed her concerns on how she worked on enlightening people through her music and established a school for children, Nalonda, which she believes is a movement to preserve the communal harmony. “I gradually learned music and sang on radio and later on television, and after a while I realised the lack of musicians in the country while making Chhayanaut’s Srotar Ashor.”

She noted that, in order to get out of that situation, she started Chhayanaut Sangeet Vidayatan. By giving all of her efforts, she worked with the entire team in pursuit and promotion of music education. “The joy of this movement exceeded all the demands of life,” she expressed. “I am blessed and content with this simple life.”

The legendary singer concluded her speech by singing a few lines from her most favourite song, *Trishnaro Jol Esho Esho He*.

Dr Sanjida Khatun was one of the founders of Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha during the Liberation War in 1971 and Chhayanaut in the early 1960s.



## Apurba and Tarin together after 7 years

Ziaul Faruq Apurba and Tarin are coming together after seven years for Eid tele-fiction *Priyo Poribar*. Directed by Rubel Hasan and written by Mezbah Uddin Sumon, the story revolves around two elderly parents portrayed by the on-screen duo. Earlier on, Tarin and Apurba had worked together in the TV series *Sunflower*.

Apurba was super excited about acting with Tarin again on this special project.

“Tarin *apu* is one of the most talented co-artistes I have ever worked with. I have learned a lot from her in terms of acting. Even now, I always ask for her approval whether my shot was perfect or not. I am really fortunate that I got to work with such a wonderful artiste after a long time,” said the actor.

## Mithun Chakraborty in Tagore’s timeless classic ‘Kabuliwala’



Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty is all set to play the role of the iconic character, Kabuliwala, from Rabindranath Tagore’s all-time classic *Kabuliwala*.

The story centers around a middle-aged Afghan man’s affection and paternal love for the small girl of a middle-class Bengali family, whose house he would occasionally visit.

Suman Ghosh, who previously collaborated with Mithun on the film, *Nobel Chor*, will be directing *Kabuliwala*.

# NEWS

## The champion girls deserve better

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coach Golam Sarwar Tipu was not ready to accept BFF’s explanation and he came hard on the incumbent officials for wasting the opportunity.

“It is prime duty for the federation to arrange funds. They should beg if needed. It is not a joke. You got an opportunity to play in the Olympic Qualifiers but alas, the BFF deprived our women’s team,” said Tipu.

“They should resign if they are not capable of arranging funds for such an important event for our women’s team. Now, when we talk about country’s football, we actually talk about our women’s football,” he continued.

Striker Sajeda Khatun also rued the missed opportunity to test themselves against strong opponents like Iran and Myanmar after the SAFF triumph.

“It’s very sad that Bangladesh missed an opportunity to play against strong opponents,” she opined.

It is worth mentioning here that women’s footballers hardly get opportunities to play competitive international matches. Instead, they play mostly in the sub-standard Bangladesh Women’s Football League.

Many were surprised by the BFF’s reasoning since the federation hosted three international women’s age-group tournaments and two FIFA friendlies for the senior men’s team on the back of an expensive training

camp abroad.

The BFF claimed that they were forced to pull out of the qualifiers after failing to get financial assistance from the Bangladesh Olympic Association and the Youth and Sports ministry.

But interestingly, the announcement came just two days after they outlined their requirements.

“They (BFF) applied for funding on March 27 and we haven’t informed them anything officially yet. You know it is not possible to suddenly get government funds because the ministry has to adjust its own fund or ask for funds from the finance ministry,” said a ministry official, requesting anonymity.

It was learned that the BFF had sent a letter seeking financial assistance of Tk 92 lakh on March 25 (Saturday). The ministry was closed the day after (Sunday) on the occasion of Independence Day and the announcement that the women’s team would pull out came the following Wednesday.

The National Sports Council (NSC) secretary Parimal Singh explained the procedure.

“Federations apply to the sports ministry for additional funds through the NSC, with whom they are affiliated. We usually forward the applications to the ministry after taking approval from the NSC chairman. Then, the ministry

processes the letter before seeking permission from the finance ministry. After getting approval from the finance ministry, the sports ministry issues a government order for the fund and it takes a few days,” he said, adding that the BFF had applied directly to the ministry, which is also in practice.

The FIFA and the AFC together provide more than US dollar 1.5 million per year to the BFF under the Financial Assistance Programme, while the BFF also gets additional funds from the FIFA and the AFC for the men’s and women’s national football teams and the local coaching staff.

In addition, Dhaka Bank and Bashundhara Group provide the BFF Tk 2.8 crore per year exclusively as sponsors of women’s football.

There have been whispers in the football fraternity that the BFF is trying to capitalise on this issue, attempting to make the government understand its deep financial crisis, in the aftermath of the finance ministry’s denial to accept BFF’s five-year football development proposal, worth Tk 450 crores.

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag, however, completely denied the notion, saying they were indeed in a financial crisis.

Despite the denial, one may still ask the question: Why has the BFF decided to bring the issue to the public domain at the eleventh hour?

the Awami League for making derogatory comments about the martyrs of the Liberation War on November 25, 2021. He was suspended from the post of GCC mayor on the same day.

Senior lawyers M Yusuf Hossain Humayun and MK Rahman, and lawyer Belayet Hossain appeared for Zahangir while lawyer Sanjida Khanam argued for GCC and DAG Nawroz.MR Chowdhury and Assistant Attorney General Golam Sarwar Payel represented the state.

Zahangir and several hundreds of his supporters were present on the court premises.

## GDP growth not over 5.3pc this fiscal year

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The WB projects regional growth to be an average of 5.6 percent in 2023, a slight downward revision from the October 2022 forecast. All countries in the region except Bhutan have downgraded their forecasts.

In India, South Asia’s largest economy, growth would be 6.3 percent, while Pakistan’s GDP growth is projected to drop to 0.4 percent this year. In Sri Lanka, GDP is expected to contract by 4.3 percent this year. The Maldives would grow at 6.6 percent and Nepal at 4.1 percent.

“The situation in Bangladesh is not similar to Pakistan and Sri Lanka in that there is no imminent crisis, especially not after an agreement was reached with the IMF,” said Hans Timmer, the WB’s chief economist for South Asia, at a virtual press conference yesterday.

But there are challenges that need to be addressed.

“The challenges are very much concentrated on the balance of payments and the financial sector,” he said, while calling for reducing the distortions in the economy and putting the fiscal situation on a sustainable path.

A widening BoP deficit from the second half of fiscal 2021-22 led to a sharp decline in foreign exchange reserves, said the WB’s Bangladesh Development Update, which was unveiled yesterday.

The declining reserves were further exacerbated by a multiple exchange rate regime that has disincentivised export and remittance inflows.

The BoP deficit surged in the first half of the fiscal year, but resilient export growth and slowing imports narrowed the current account deficit, the WB said.

“Downside risks to the outlook are rising and external risks remain elevated.”

A further rise in commodity prices could increase imports and worsening global economic conditions would limit export growth.

“Continued import controls and energy rationing would disrupt industrial production. Unresolved financial sector vulnerabilities may disrupt financial sector

intermediation,” it added.

Bangladesh’s post-pandemic recovery has been disrupted by elevated commodity prices, rising interest rates and slowing global growth, said Abdoulaye Seck, the WB’s country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, at the event to unveil the report yesterday.

“The dollar became dearer, commodity prices rose, but peoples’ wages did not rise in every sector at the same pace. So, real wages declined and people’s purchasing power dropped.”

He went on to call for three policy reforms: removal of the lending rate cap, international standard legislation for banks and market-determined exchange rate.

Bangladesh must also reform its trade policy by removing trade barriers, he added.

The latest edition of ADB’s Asian Development Outlook, also released yesterday, made similar observations.

Inflation is forecast to accelerate from 6.2 percent last fiscal year to 8.7 percent as price pressures increase due to the upward adjustment of domestic-administered prices for fuel oil, gas, and electricity, and higher global commodity prices.

The current account deficit is anticipated to narrow from 4.1 percent of GDP in fiscal 2021-22 to 1.6 percent of GDP as imports loosen and remittances grow.

“The main risk to this growth projection is a greater economic slowdown in Bangladesh’s major export destinations driven by global uncertainty over the prolonged political tensions.”

The Asian Development Outlook April 2023 states that private investment growth will be lower because of energy shortages and higher production costs. With a shortfall in revenue collection, austerity measures, and depleting foreign exchange reserves, public investment growth will also be slower.

“The ongoing geopolitical crisis is an opportunity to increase economic resilience of Bangladesh by carrying out key reforms,” said ADB Country Director Edimon Ginting at the launch of the report.

Expected graduation from least-developed country status in 2026 and aspiration to become an upper middle-income country by 2031 and a high income-country by 2041 have also created an urgent need for carrying out key reforms, he added.

## Regional highways

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The premier said this while chairing a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council held at the NEC Conference Room in the capital’s Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Hasina also expressed shock at the tragic fire incident at the Bangabazar in the capital.

Planning Minister MA Mannan and State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam briefed the reporters after the meeting.

## Repeal DSA

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name of ‘hurting religious sentiment’ should be brought to book and the cases filed against Prothom Alo editor and other journalists must be withdrawn.”

Quoting Voltaire on the freedom of expression, Robaet Ferdous, professor of mass communication and journalism at Dhaka University, said the beauty of democracy lies in the fact that it accommodates opinions and counter-opinions. “In any democracy, this practice must be welcomed.”

Urging the government to revoke the law, he said the DSA is being used to silence the dissenting voices of journalists, human rights activists and critics.

Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said that DSA has triggered a sense of insecurity instead of ensuring security.

“The law stands against the spirit of the Liberation War and has become a tool to oppress people.”

Senior lawyer Tabarak Hossain, Kazol Debnath, member of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikkyo Parishad, also spoke at the programme.

## No bar for Zahangir

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following the HC order.

Deputy Attorney General Nawroz MR Chowdhury agreed but said if there were any other reasons, such as defaulting on loans, may become an obstacle to his submission of nomination papers.

Earlier in the day, the HC bench deferred till May 2 the judgment on the petition filed by Zahangir.

The court was scheduled to deliver the verdict yesterday.

The bench deferred verdict delivery for a further hearing on sections 12 and 13 of the Local Government (City Corporation) Act-2009 regarding the

suspension and dismissal of a city corporation mayor.

It asked the defence and state lawyers to submit by April 30 relevant documents regarding the sections before the court.

The court said it will hear the issues and start delivering verdict on May 2 and may continue delivering the judgement on May 3.

On August 23 last year, the HC issued a rule asking officials concerned of the government to explain why the decision of suspending Zahangir from the office of GCC mayor should not be declared illegal.

Zahangir was expelled from



## Don't meet Taiwan president China warns US House Speaker

REUTERS, Beijing/Taipei

China yesterday warned US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy not to “repeat disastrous past mistakes” by meeting Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, saying it would not help regional peace and stability, only unite the Chinese people against a common enemy.

The Republican McCarthy, the third-most senior US leader after the president and vice president, will host a meeting in California today with Tsai, during a sensitive stopover in the United States that has prompted Chinese threats of retaliation.

China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, staged war games around the island last August after then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, visited the capital, Taipei.

Tsai will make what is formally called a “transit” in Los Angeles on her way back to Taipei after a trip to Central America. The United States says such stopovers are common practice and there is no need for China to overreact.



A supporter of former US president Donald Trump argues with opponents outside the Manhattan District Attorney's office in New York City, US yesterday. Trump was set to make an unprecedented appearance before a New York judge yesterday to answer criminal charges that threaten to throw the 2024 White House race into turmoil.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pakistan SC orders provincial votes

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday ordered that elections in two provinces should go ahead by May 15 despite government reluctance to hold the votes now as it struggles with an economic crisis and a political challenge from the opposition.

Ousted prime minister Imran Khan has been pushing for assembly elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces as part of a campaign to force an early general election that he has waged since being forced from office a year ago after losing a vote of confidence.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif rejected Khan's call for an early election and his government had backed an election commission delay in the votes in the two provinces to October 8. Khan's party hailed the top court ruling.

## Arunachal will 'always be' an integral part

Says India over China's renaming of places along disputed border

REUTERS, New Delhi

India yesterday rejected the renaming of places in what India regards as its eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of its territory.

China and India fought a war along parts of their poorly demarcated 3,800-km (2,360-mile) frontier in 1962 and clashes in mountainous regions in recent years have seriously strained relations between the nuclear-armed

neighbours.

The latest angry exchange of words was triggered on Sunday when China's Ministry of Civil Affairs issued a statement in which it said it had “standardised” the names of 11 places, including five mountains, in what China calls its southern Tibet region.

The statement included a map that showed the 11 places renamed by China as being within “Zangnan”, or southern Tibet in Chinese, with Arunachal Pradesh included in southern Tibet and China's border with India demarcated as just north of Brahmaputra river. India rejected that. “Arunachal Pradesh is, has been and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India,” Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

But a spokesperson at the Chinese foreign ministry said the name changes were “completely within the scope of China's sovereignty”.

## POISON ATTACK 20 Iranian schoolgirls hospitalised

AFP, Tehran

Twenty Iranian schoolgirls were hospitalised yesterday after the latest in a mysterious wave of poisoning attacks that have sickened thousands of pupils, state media reported.

The girls were treated after suffering shortness of breath, in Tabriz, capital of the northwestern province of East Azerbaijan.

The “vital signs... of all students is good”, Asghar Jafari, head of the city's emergency service, said.

## Sikkim avalanche kills 7 tourists

Several more feared trapped

REUTERS, Guwahati

An avalanche killed at least seven tourists in India's Himalayan state of Sikkim near a mountain pass to the Chinese region of Tibet, with several more people feared trapped, the Indian army said. The army said five to six vehicles carrying up to 30 tourists to the strategically located Nathu La pass between Sikkim and Tibet were feared to have been stuck under the snow when the avalanche hit. “We are yet to ascertain how many people are still trapped. 17 people have been rescued, out of which 8 are very critical and have been moved to a hospital,” senior police official Tenzing Loden Lepcha told Reuters on phone. The incident took place at 11:30 am, the army statement said. Rescue officials earlier said they feared at least 70 people were under the snow at the site, some 40 km from the state capital Gangtok. Rescue operations were ongoing, Loden Lepcha said, adding that when the avalanche hit, people were taking photographs near a stream. Rescue workers dug with shovels near a waterfall, images released by India's ministry of defence showed.



## Infertility affects 1 in 6 globally: WHO

AFP, Geneva

Around one in every six adults experiences infertility, the World Health Organization estimated yesterday as it called for an urgent increase in access to fertility care. The WHO determined that around 17.5 percent of adults worldwide are affected by infertility at some point, and found little variation between regions and wealthy and poorer countries. “Globally, an estimated one out of every six people are affected by the inability to have a child at some point in their life,” WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in the foreword to a fresh report on the issue. “This is regardless of where they live and what resources they have.” Across their lifetime, 17.8 percent of adults in high-income countries and 16.5 percent in low- and middle income countries were affected by infertility, it found. Tedros said the report – the first of its kind in a decade – revealed “an important truth: infertility does not discriminate.”

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিঃ ২০২২-২০২৩

১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ

২। সংস্থা

৩। সংগ্রহকারী স্বতার নাম

৪। সংগ্রহকারীর স্বতার জেলা

৫। যে জন্য দরপত্র আহবান

৬। আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ

৭। সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি

৮। বাজেট এবং বরাদ্দের ধরণ

৯। দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ

১০। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ

১১। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়

১২। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

১৩। দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নের স্থান

১৪। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণের অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা

১৫। দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা

১৬। দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা

১৭। কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা

পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়

বন অধিদপ্তর।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা, বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

চট্টগ্রাম।

২০২৩-২০২৪ আর্থিক সাল পরিচালনায় ব্যয় খাতের আওতায় বন্যপ্রাণী শেখ মুজিব সাফারী পার্ক, কক্সবাজারে রক্ষিত বন্যপ্রাণীর খাদ্য সরবরাহ।

জিআর-১১/ওরিন্ডিএমএনসিডি চট্টগ্রাম অব ২০২২-২৩ তারিখ-০৪/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।

২০২৩-২০২৪ আর্থিক সালে পরিচালনায় ব্যয় খাত।

০৪/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।

০৬/০৪/২০২৩ হতে ২৫/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত এবং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)।

২৬/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা।

২৬/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১-০০ ঘটিকা।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম এবং জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সকল ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।

ক্রঃ নং	কাজের বিবরণ	কাজের স্থান	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
১।	২০২৩-২০২৪ আর্থিক সালে পরিচালনায় ব্যয় খাতের আওতায় বন্যপ্রাণী শেখ মুজিব সাফারী পার্ক, কক্সবাজারে রক্ষিত, আবহাওয়া ও উন্মুক্ত বন্যপ্রাণীর খাদ্য সরবরাহ।	বন্যপ্রাণী শেখ মুজিব সাফারী পার্ক, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার।	৮,৫০,০০০/- (আট লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা) মাত্র।	৩০ জুন ২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত।

১৮। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য

১৯। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম

২০। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী

২১। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা

২২। কোন কারণ না দর্শিয়ে যেকোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল/স্থগিত করার ক্ষমতা অত্র দপ্তরের সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।

২৩।

(ক) দরপত্র দলিলান কমানিটির সুপারিশ ও যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রশাসনিক অনুমোদন ও বাজেট বরাদ্দ পাওয়ার পর নোটিশ অব এওয়ার্ড প্রদান করা হবে।  
(খ) কোন কারণে যদি দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রি ও গ্রহণের দিন সরকার কর্তৃক ভুটি ঘোষিত হয় সেক্ষেত্রে পরবর্তী অফিস খোলার দিনে দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রি ও গ্রহণ করা হবে।  
(গ) উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক দরপত্র অনুমোদন হওয়ার পর বন্যপ্রাণীর খাদ্য সরবরাহ কাজের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় বাজেট বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি থাকে পর্যন্ত প্রদান করা হবে।  
(ঘ) দরপত্র শর্তাবলী ও দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য যেকোন বিষয় অত্র দপ্তর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণের পূর্বদিন পর্যন্ত দেখতে ও জানতে পারা যাবে।  
(ঙ) দরপত্র দাখিলের পর কোন ওজর আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

(রফিকুল ইসলাম চৌধুরী)

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা

বন্যপ্রাণী ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রকৃতি সংরক্ষণ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।

GD-626

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

বন্যপ্রাণী আদর্শ ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বাস্তবায়ন প্রকল্প

জাতীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কাউন্সিল, মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

জাতীয় স্মার্ট ভবন (১৩ তম তলা), ৬০ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং - ৪৮/০২.০০০০.০১৪.৩১.০১০.২২.৭০

তারিখ: ২১ চৈত্র ১৪২৯  
০৪ এপ্রিল ২০২৩

“১৯৭১ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সংঘটিত গণহত্যা বিষয়ক গবেষণা” সম্পাদনের জন্য গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণের অনুরোধ (REOI) সম্বলিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(১)	মন্ত্রণালয় / বিভাগ	:	মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
(২)	সংস্থা	:	জাতীয় মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কাউন্সিল (জামুকা)
(৩)	আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদনকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	প্রকল্প পরিচালক, বন্যপ্রাণী আদর্শ ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বাস্তবায়ন প্রকল্প, কক্ষ নং- ১৩০৭, জাতীয় স্মার্ট ভবন (১৩ তম তলা), ৬০ কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন: ০২২৬৬৬৪৪৩৮, ইমেইল: nurlaminahid@gmail.com।
(৪)	ক্রয়/সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	পুলগত মান ও ব্যক্তিগতিক নির্বাচন পদ্ধতি (QCBS)
(৫)	বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস	:	উন্নয়ন খাত (সরকারি)
(৬)	কাজের নাম	:	“১৯৭১ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সংঘটিত গণহত্যা বিষয়ক গবেষণা” সম্পাদন।
(৭)	আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৬/০৪/২০২৩ দুপুর ০২:০০ টা পর্যন্ত
(৮)	গবেষণা কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	:	১৯৭০ সালের ৭ ডিসেম্বর সাধারণ নির্বাচনে বন্যপ্রাণী নেতৃত্বে আওয়ামী লীগ প্রাদেশিক আইনসভায় নিরঙ্কুশ সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠতা অর্জন করে। আওয়ামী লীগ এর সরকার গঠন ঠেকাতে প্রেসিডেন্ট ইয়াহিয়া খান সংসদের অধিবেশন ডাকা নিয়ে টালবাহানা শুরু করেন। ১৯৭০ সালের ৭ মার্চ রেসকোর্স ময়দানে এক ঐতিহাসিক ভাষণে বন্যপ্রাণী শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান স্বাধীনতার ডাক দেন। এরপর আসে ২৫ মার্চ ১৯৭১ সাল। রাতের অন্ধকারে নিরীহ নিরস্ত্র বাঙালির উপর শত্রুদের মতো কীয়ে পড়ে পাকিস্তানি সেনারা; শত্রু করে অপারেশন ‘সার্চ লাইট’ নামে ইতিহাসের জঘন্যতম হত্যাকাণ্ড। এরপর দেশকে শত্রুত্ব করার লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ সরকার সশস্ত্র যুদ্ধে জড়িয়ে পড়ে। পাকিস্তানি বাহিনী এবং তাদের দোসররা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা মানুষের উপর জঘন্য এবং পৈশাচিক অত্যাচার ও হত্যাকাণ্ড চালায়। এই নির্মম হত্যাকাণ্ডে ৩০ লক্ষ নিরীহ-নিরপরাধ মানুষ নিহত হয়। সন্ত্রাস হারায় ২ লক্ষ এর অধিক বাঙালি নারী। প্রতাবিত গবেষণার মাধ্যমে ১৯৭১ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সংঘটিত গণহত্যা বিশেষত গণহত্যার সরকারি পরিকল্পনা ও প্রতুতি এবং পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়ন; গণহত্যার ধরণ ও প্রকৃতি এবং এর ব্যাপ্তি; বন্যপ্রাণী শাসনামলে গণহত্যার বিচার প্রক্রিয়া; এবং মুক্তিযুদ্ধকালে ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধ পরবর্তীকালে গণহত্যার প্রভাব এবং আন্তর্জাতিক প্রতিক্রিয়া ইত্যাদি বিষয় তুলে ধরা হবে।
(৯)	গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	:	(ক) প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা: (১) আগ্রহী গবেষণা/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান বা গবেষণা দলের মুখ্য সদস্যদের মুক্তিযুদ্ধ/শান্তি ও যুদ্ধ/ইতিহাস বিষয়ে সফলভাবে কমপক্ষে তিনটি গবেষণাকর্ম সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা; (২) গবেষণা দলের দলনেতা ও উপনেতার মানবিক/কলা/মানবসম্পদ/ইতিহাস/সাহিত্য ও সম্পৃক্ত বিষয়ে ন্যূনতম পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েশন ডিগ্রি এবং সাত বছরের গবেষণা করার অভিজ্ঞতা; (৩) গবেষণাদলের দলনেতা ও উপনেতার বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিতে গবেষণাকর্ম পরিচালনা ও বাস্তবায়নের অভিজ্ঞতা; এবং (৪) গবেষণা দলের মুখ্য সদস্যদের বাংলা ও ইংরেজী ভাষায় মানসম্মত গবেষণা প্রতিবেদন লেখার অভিজ্ঞতা। (খ) অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা: (১) গবেষণা দলের দলনেতা ও উপনেতার মানবিক/কলা/মানবসম্পদ/ইতিহাস/সাহিত্য ও সম্পৃক্ত বিষয়ে পিএইচডি ডিগ্রি; এবং (২) আগ্রহী গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান/পরামর্শক প্রতিষ্ঠান বা গবেষণা দলের মুখ্য সদস্যদের উন্নয়ন সংযোগী বা সরকারি অর্থায়নে পরিচালিত গবেষণাকর্ম সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা।
(১০)	গবেষণা কাজ শুরুর ও সমাপ্তির সম্ভাব্য তারিখ	:	শুরু: ০১/০৭/২০২৩ খ্রি., শেষ: ৩১/১২/২০২৩ খ্রি.
(১১)	অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)	:	আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন একটি বন্ধ খামে নিম্নলিখিতকর্তারি বরাবরে দাখিল করতে হবে। খামের উপর স্পষ্টভাবে লিখেতে হবে “১৯৭১ সালে মুক্তিযুদ্ধে সংঘটিত গণহত্যা বিষয়ক গবেষণা সম্পাদনের জন্য আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন”।

বি.দ্র.: কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ আবেদন বা সকল আবেদন গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(৪৮/০২.০০০০.০১৪.৩১.০১০.২২.৭০)

ড. মোঃ নূরুল আমিন

প্রকল্প পরিচালক (উপসচিব)

বন্যপ্রাণী আদর্শ ও মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বাস্তবায়ন প্রকল্প

GD-624



## Another avoidable disaster

### Will we ever see any accountability?

We are deeply troubled by another major fire incident that originated in a shop at the Adarsha market in the Bangabazar Shopping Complex and spread to the nearby markets, according to witnesses. There were around 2,500 shops at the complex, most of which have been burnt to ashes. It took around 50 firefighters' units around six and a half hours to bring the fire, which started at around 6:10am, somewhat under control. And although no lives have been lost, at least 12 people, among whom eight are firefighters, have reportedly fallen sick because of the smoke from the fire.

The fire caused enormous losses for shop owners and businessmen, most of whom had stored up huge amounts of goods prior to Eid. Many of them claimed to have borrowed heavily to invest in clothes and other items, expecting to repay their loans after profiting from the biggest shopping festival ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. According to the president of the Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, it is estimated that the fire may have burnt more than Tk 1,000 crore worth of investment into ashes. Some shop owners have even alleged that there was foul play involved, as certain quarters have been looking to evict the shop owners in a bid to occupy the area. Clearly, this needs to be properly investigated.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that as with most markets in Dhaka – and other major cities – the Bangabazar Shopping Complex barely had any proper fire safety measures in place. The fact that, despite numerous fire incidents in recent times, the authorities have hardly taken any measures to rectify this overall situation is simply shocking. Over the last few months, we have seen major fire outbreaks all over the country – from high-rise buildings to industrial buildings, from container depots to commercial buildings. And these have only shown how badly building construction codes and fire safety measures are implemented across the country.

On the same day that the Bangabazar Shopping Complex was burnt down, this newspaper reported that the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) had found 683 buildings in eight zones of Dhaka using their basements to store flammable items, violating building construction rules. However, this situation has only come about because of Rajuk's own failure to properly monitor and enforce the said rules.

After every major fire outbreak, we see the authorities scrambling to form probe committees, which give various recommendations that are never properly implemented. Until and unless this changes, fire outbreaks will continue to devastate and destroy property and, as we have seen in many previous cases, lead to unnecessary deaths. It is high time the authorities stopped treating human lives and their properties with such disrespect.

## A farewell to EVMs

### One down, many more to go

We may all breathe a sigh of relief that the brouhaha over the EVMs is finally over, with the Election Commission deciding to forego the use of the electronic machines in the upcoming parliamentary election citing a lack of funds. Since it was first introduced in 2018, there have been widespread fear about its fool-proofness to electoral tampering; in particular, concerns were raised about the audit cards via which election results are collected, which are vulnerable to manipulation in the absence of a voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT). Despite strong reservations from many political parties, including the BNP, and civil society actors, the EC, till now, seemed hell-bent on going ahead with its decision to use EVMs, finalising a massive Tk 8,711 crore project for EVM procurement and management last year.

We are glad that the EC has finally seen reason, if only in consideration of the enormous expenses that the project would entail. Back when the proposal was first made, we had warned the EC against such an expensive undertaking in the midst of the worst economic and cost-of living crisis in over a decade, particularly given that Bangladesh was buying the EVMs at inflated costs. Now that the EC has retracted its position, we wonder what will happen to the 150,000 EVMs already bought in phases since 2018, at 11 times the price of the machines in India. EVMs worth Tk 642 crore have already become unusable for a lack of proper storage facility and maintenance, according to EC documents. We urge the EC to make sure that our remaining stock – paid with taxpayers' money – are stored properly so that they may be used in the future, if and when it is decided, through political consensus, to switch to EVMs.

While the decision to scrap the EVMs is a step in the right direction, the EC must not lose sight of the fact that there are many other pressing issues that it must address before the public, and other political parties can be confident that the upcoming elections will be free, fair and participatory. Foremost among them is ensuring full independence of the EC, and guaranteeing the ever-illusive "level playing field" for all political parties. Unfortunately, the performance of the EC in the by-elections, except for one notable exception, has not inspired confidence in its ability to rise above and rein in party politics. As it tries to engage with other political parties and to ensure them of its neutrality, the commission needs to remember that it is only through its commitment to the electoral process – rather than the party in power – that it can inspire faith about its ability to guide the nation to a democratic future.

The EC must also prove its ability to ensure compliance of the administration and law enforcement in playing their part in defending the democratic process. It must not be seen as reflecting the increasingly intolerant stance of the government towards critics, human rights defenders and the media.

The BNP, on its end, must forego its propensity to reject any and all proposal and initiatives of the EC, without due consideration or discussion. Such wholesale rejection will not produce constructive results, and risks jeopardising not just future prospects for the party, but the country at large.

# Of mortality and unlearnt lessons: A follow-up

Araf Momen Aka  
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### ARAF MOMEN AKA

Four years and almost a month ago, I wrote about a fire in Dhaka's Chawkbazar area that broke out and claimed 80 lives on February 20, 2019. After all these years, today, it seems that nothing has changed.

There have been a number of incidents of fires and explosions in March alone, within Dhaka. One happened in a commercial building in the city's Science Lab area because of an air-conditioning unit exploding (claiming six lives), one was a fire incident in Tejgaon Kunipara slum (no lives lost, but hundreds of shanties destroyed), and one was the blast in Siddikbazar, Gulistan, which has claimed at least 23 lives so far, etc, as per several news sources.

As of writing this article on April 4 morning (Bangladesh time), another major fire broke out at Bangabazar Shopping Complex in Tejgaon, Dhaka. Several local and international news sources, including *The Guardian*, have cited that about 600 firefighters and an air force helicopter were dispatched to exhaust the massive blaze, which came under control at around 12:36pm after more than six hours. The fire gutted nearly every shop in the beloved shopping complex among Dhaka residents for the multitude of thrift clothing shops. So far, no casualties have been reported, but hundreds of shopkeepers have suffered a loss of goods and assets collectively worth more than Tk 1,000 crore, according to sources. As of 2pm on April 4, the cause of the fire is unknown.

Despite all the madness and losses that ensue from Dhaka's poor urban planning, it is rather heartbreaking to see hardly any progress being made when it comes to maintaining any safety precautions in the city. Greedy businesses and superficial supervision from authority bodies like Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) have cost us innumerable lives, as well as crores of taka in terms of property loss and damage of assets.

Amongst the poor upkeep of safety codes of buildings, there have been reports of the firefighting teams being greatly overwhelmed, thanks to a lack of equipment, understaffed teams, roads too narrow for fire trucks to get through, and congested traffic with no emergency lanes for vehicles like

ambulances and fire trucks. Some areas such as Gulshan and Banani do not even have fire stations!

I am no expert in urban planning. But it does not take an expert to identify the glaring issues that are laid out in the open for anyone to notice when it comes to Dhaka's urban planning. There is a reason why Dhaka is identified as the seventh least liveable city in the world in the Global Liveability Index 2022. Of course, poor urban planning is only one of the issues among road accidents, traffic congestion, rising costs of living, etc. But that is beside the point.

has seen an exact reported number of 24,102 fire incidents in the year 2022 alone – incidents that claimed 98 lives, 13 of whom were firefighters, according to this daily. Officials state that the number of lives lost might be higher, as the deaths of victims in hospitals were not counted. The number of fire incidents was 24,074 in 2019, according to the same source.

I remember asking why it is that we only tend to learn our lesson after lives are lost. But at this point, even after the loss of hundreds of lives, thousands of livelihoods, and hundreds of crores of taka in damage of assets and

Fires, industrial machinery malfunctioning horribly, whole buildings collapsing, little or no possibility of emergency services being able to reach areas thanks to our bad infrastructure, poor or non-existent safety procedures and equipment, shaky and unsafe buildings, poorly planned utilisation of floor plans in commercial buildings, usage of industrial machinery in buildings that were not meant to withstand them, and so on. The list of hazards does not seem to end. It seems that living, commuting or working in Dhaka is a hazard itself.

Condolences and promises to pay



The fire that razed the shops in Bangabazar Shopping Complex to the ground on April 4, 2023 caused a loss of more than Tk 1,000 crore.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

It is even worse when we think of the living conditions of slum residents. Living in squalor with barely any income to live by, along with the rising prices of necessary commodities, they have become an everyday statistic of people being displaced or killed in uncontrollable slum fires. A single spark is often enough to set an entire slum of hundreds of shanties up in flames.

A lot has happened since the article I wrote back in 2019, yet none of the changes I had hoped to see have taken place. The entirety of Bangladesh

properties, we still seem to have learnt nothing at all.

I feel no optimism anymore when it comes to writing about the state we are in right now. While searching for the number of fires Bangladesh has had, I learnt that nearly 14 percent of the 24,102 fire incidents in 2022 started from something as trivial as a cigarette butt being thrown in the wrong place. It really begs the question: is it really that difficult to fool-proof fire breakouts? And how neglectful are we ourselves when it comes to our own safety?

for the lost lives will not bring the deceased back. Their lives were already tragically cut short due to shameless neglect. We clearly are not learning from the death tolls, nor from the loss of livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people. So what will it take for us to wake up? What could be worse than the deaths of fellow humans that will finally make us say "enough is enough" – enough to bring drastic changes in our urban planning and safety codes that can lead to saving all our lives? I guess "time will tell" is all we can really say.

## Closer to making polluters pay



### POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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### SALEEMUL HUQ

Last week, at the general assembly of the United Nations in New York, a resolution was adopted by consensus to ask the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for an advisory opinion on whether impacts of human-induced climate change are a violation of international human rights.

This resolution was put forward by the government of Vanuatu with the support of the Pacific Island countries and other vulnerable developing countries (including Bangladesh). It would have needed only a majority of the countries to have voted in its favour for it to be adopted. In the end, when it became clear that the majority of countries had already declared their intention to support the adoption of the resolution, no country opposed it. The resolution was thus adopted by consensus.

This was a very big victory for the vulnerable developing countries which are suffering the impacts of human-induced climate change, which is caused by the emissions of greenhouse gases by rich people, mostly living in rich countries. This is a manifest example of climate injustice, as the problem is caused by the rich and suffered by the poor.

There's a backstory as to how and why this resolution came about, and what to expect next.

In the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) arena, vulnerable developing countries have been arguing for



PHOTO: REUTERS

With the newest UNGA resolution, Vanuatu's bid for the international court of justice to rule on the climate crisis is close to becoming a reality.

compensation for the adverse impacts of climate change from developed countries under the principle of "polluter pays". However, the problem with the decision-making process at the UNFCCC is that every decision, including words, commas, and punctuation of every sentence must be unanimously adopted. This means that if a small group of governments, or even one powerful government, does not agree to a decision then it will not be adopted.

Hence, when vulnerable countries asked for compensation from the polluting countries, the polluters refused to agree and there was never any decision to make them pay.

There was, however, a compromise adopted some years ago to agree to discuss loss and damage, without referring to liability and compensation.

responsibility for their emissions and will provide funds based on solidarity rather than compensation.

But this does not mean that there are no other avenues for pursuing the polluters under international law, and that is what the government of Vanuatu did by tabling the aforementioned resolution at the UNGA. Here, resolutions can be adopted by a simple majority vote and do not require consensus from all countries.

The action will now shift to the ICJ in The Hague in The Netherlands where the court will initially seek advice from all countries and parties who wish to make submissions. Once they receive all the submissions, they will then examine all the arguments and provide their ruling.

This will take some time, but at least the process has now started.

The origin of this idea (of going to the UN General Assembly, where resolutions can be adopted by a simple majority) was first developed by a group of young law students from universities in the Pacific. They then pitched it to the governments of the Pacific Islands and the government of Vanuatu picked it up and ran with it – against some formidable opposition at the beginning. Nevertheless, Vanuatu was able to gain more and more allies through effective diplomacy both with governments and civil society, eventually winning a major victory. This is an excellent example of young people transforming advocacy to effective action.

Finally, it is important to note that this is just one step, although a very important one, on the way to getting justice for the victims of climate change from polluters who are causing the problem. Nevertheless, it opens a new avenue to apply the "polluter pays" principle under international humanitarian law.



# An attempt to impede free journalism



Golam Mortoza  
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GOLAM MORTOZA

In today's Bangladesh, issues come, issues go. Arav Khan stole the spotlight with a lot of noise, but his issue got buried soon. Then came Sultana Jasmine. She died in the custody of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Naogaon. She was picked up even though there was no case or allegation against her. A case was filed against her under the Digital Security Act (DSA) more than a day after she was picked up.

The current trending issue is about *Prothom Alo* journalist Samsuzzaman Shams. Five days after being picked up and then shown arrested under the DSA, Shams was released on bail on April 3. *Prothom Alo* Editor Matiur Rahman, who was also sued under the DSA, received six week's anticipatory bail.

What kind of a crime did Shams engage in that warranted three microbuses full of law enforcement members to show up at his doorstep at four in the morning?

While picking him up, some of the law enforcement members, who identified themselves as officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), told Shams' landlord, "The state has an objection about a report prepared by Shams, and hence he is being taken for questioning."

Shams prepared the report by talking to children, day labourers and others around the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar. He wanted to know how the low-income groups were faring amid the rising costs of essentials. He

asked the questions just a day before our Independence Day.

In his report, day labourer Zakir Hossain was quoted as saying, "I want (the) freedom (right) of (enjoying) fish, meat and rice." Nine-year-old boy Sabuj Miah, who sells flowers around the Martyrs' Memorial, was quoted as saying, "I cannot enter the memorial now. Tomorrow I will be able to enter and sell a lot of flowers."

On *Prothom Alo*'s Facebook page, Zakir's quote was published along with Sabuj's photograph in a post. *Prothom Alo* promptly addressed the issue, and within 17 minutes, the post was removed and the online report's title was updated.

*Prothom Alo* issued a disclaimer saying it was a mismatch, and made corrections accordingly. In journalistic terms, should we accept this as a "mismatch," or should we term it a "mistake" or a "crime"? If it was a crime, how severe was it?

It is evident that the government considered the post as a major crime. "Picking up" the reporter proves this.

On the other hand, the foreign ministry issued a statement on this issue, saying, "The said journalist was arrested because of child abuse and child exploitation, as he offered ten taka to a 9-year-old boy and then expressed his own views in the name of that child."

"Secondly, he tried to undermine the independence of Bangladesh on the great Independence Day," the statement



Police walking Prothom Alo reporter Samsuzzaman Shams to a courtroom from a prison cell on the premises of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

adds.

As per the statement, the main allegation against Shams is "child abuse" and "child exploitation." The second complaint is he tried to undermine our "independence" on Independence Day. Notably, as per the statement, "he tried to undermine," instead of "he undermined."

Here are some observations about how the event(s) unfolded:

1. When Shams was "picked up," the reason was "the state has objections regarding his report."
2. This allegation contradicts with the statement issued by the foreign ministry.
3. An accused of child abuse should have been brought under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, which didn't happen.
4. In the early hours of March 29, the first DSA case against Shams was lodged by Jubo League leader Syed Md Golam Kibria with Teigaon police station at around 2am. The rapid pace of the proceedings to pick Shams up

raises a lot of questions. Later on, another DSA case was filed under the DSA against Shams, Matiur Rahman, and others with Ramna police station.

5. How could Shams be accused of child abuse? Firstly, the child's face is not fully visible in the photo. Secondly, he gave him Tk 10 as a token gesture. How can this paltry donation be compared with exploitation?

6. Allegedly, Shams "used" the child for his own purpose. The social media post in question was removed within 17 minutes of its upload. How can it "serve" someone's "purpose" in such a short window of time?

7. The foreign ministry said that as a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the government would not tolerate any act of child abuse. How realistic is this statement?

Private organisation Drik published a report on the DSA (based on media reports), which says a total of 4,657 cases were filed under the DSA within three

years of its inception. Among them, 20 children aged 13 to 17 years old from 12 districts were accused in 18 cases. *Prothom Alo* spoke to people connected with the 18 cases and found out that most of these cases were filed by the police, local Awami League leaders and activists.

8. Bangladesh achieved independence through a lot of sacrifice, resilience, blood and sweat. This independence is not so shallow that a simple act of publishing a photo or mentioning that someone demands the right to enjoy rice, fish and meat can demean it. In spite of a lot of challenges, Bangladesh has moved ahead, but some of its citizens are still suffering. Shams' objective in his report was to highlight that. From this perspective, the

allegation of our independence being demeaned on Independence Day is totally irrelevant. The country belongs to the poor, too.

9. After being picked up, Shams' whereabouts were unknown for almost 20 hours. This is clearly a case of enforced disappearance. Some members of the law enforcement force and at least two ministers said they did not know anything. Then who picked Shams up? What mystery lies behind the midnight call from Shams' mobile phone?

Evidently, a negative propaganda is in circulation against *Prothom Alo*. Participants in this propaganda are trying to prove *Prothom Alo* and the report as "anti-independence" elements. They are portraying a mismatched photo and a very simple error as a "major crime." Though the foreign ministry clarified that Shams had been detained for child abuse, they continued to slam the report and *Prothom Alo* on the basis of some imaginary anti-independence allegations. Their stance regarding "picking up" a journalist and his 20-hour-long "enforced disappearance" is not transparent.

Even if the state has an objection against a citizen's activity, can they legally pick up that person? Almost every lawyer in the country has mentioned that there's no scope for that. Why did the government indulge in such an unlawful act, then? Such acts are creating a culture of fear, which is adversely affecting freedom of speech, as well as the scope of free journalism – and yet, none of this is being covered in those discussions.

It is said that when one can't win a competition fair and square, then an all-out effort to bring it down ensues. We are seeing this trend with *Prothom Alo*.

Translated by Mohammed Ishtiaque Khan.

## THE ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE PROJECT

# Pessimism, indecisiveness: A worrisome state of university students

Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb  
is distinguished professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University in the US,  
former faculty member of the IBA, Dhaka University, and former vice-chancellor  
of Brac University.  
Fatima Nafsia Taslim  
completed her MBA from the IBA, Dhaka University.

SYED SAAD ANDALEEB and FATIMA NAFSIA TASLIM

Two of the characteristics of successful individuals are optimism and decisiveness. How does our youth population – the university students – fare on these two attributes?

A constant fear that there will be a negative outcome for any decision is pessimism, which, in turn, induces indecisiveness and leads to feelings of worthlessness and despair. No matter what the decision may be, fear of a negative outcome hinders the decision-making process.

Experts see pessimism and

students said either they don't expect things to work out for them, or they feel that their future is hopeless. Success requires confidence and positivity – two traits that need to be strengthened in our student body.

The tendency of indecisiveness among the present generation of university students is also very high. According to our study, 61.3 percent of students are suffering somewhat from indecisiveness, 12 percent said that they have much greater difficulties in making decisions than they used to, and

academic environment, where the teacher is the "all-knowing" and "all-powerful" supremo in an authoritarian role, they control many aspects of a student's life. Unethical and illicit behaviour is also not unheard of as teachers take advantage of their positions.

One can imagine what all this does to a student's enthusiasm and spirit of learning. And where rote learning still reigns supreme in determining one's success or failure, it ignores many other promising dimensions of an individual's potential.

Besides, lack of recognition and support of the institution leave the students grasping for straws in an ocean of neglect. Especially unfortunate is the educational institutions' failure to recognise the diverse talents of their students; instead of letting them flourish, students are kept leashed

Families also generally discourage young students from pursuing their preferred academic subjects or professions. Oppressive pressure is felt when the family decides not only "what" their progeny will study, but also the "grades" they are expected to deliver. Overbearing parents are often extremely negligent about the mental health of their children.

Oftentimes, students feel that they simply don't fit in their educational institutions or even in society. They hardly find anyone who might listen to them and guide them. What does all this negativity portend for the next generation when they hold the reins of decision-making?

Fear of failure and negative thoughts affect a student's life, academics, and career prospects immensely. It damages one's confidence, imagination, and determination to achieve life's goals when thoughts creep in that s/he will not succeed. Thousands of students drop out or leave the country every year to escape this cynical cycle. Even a student of high calibre can fall into the trap of cynicism, eventually feeling worthless.

It is time for our educational institutions to change. With proper and enlightened thinking and decisive action, change is possible. A first step is to deal with those (administrators, teachers, and students) who have held academia hostage for far too long.

People's perspectives on what success means must also change. Obsession with conventional career paths (e.g. civil service or medicine) is not what success is about for many students, draining their positive energy and determination silently and resolutely. They should be able to follow their heart instead of having someone else's decision imposed on them – a terrible burden to carry for a lifetime.

A generation full of pessimism and indecisiveness will not be a nation. It is time to focus thinking in our educational institutions on how to create a generation of confident, positive, and equipped youth ready to take on the emerging world.

This op-ed, the third of a four-part series, is the result of faculty-student collaboration designed to impact higher education in Bangladesh.



Pessimism and indecisiveness are highly prevalent among the present generation of university students in Bangladesh.

FILE PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

indecisiveness as part of a larger set of indicators that signify mental illness such as anxiety, stress, and depression. Our recent study of a sample of 586 university students revealed a rate of pessimism and indecisiveness in them that is alarming.

In Bangladesh's conventional and impaired educational system, mental illness continues to be disregarded and ignored by those at the helm of affairs. Our research found that 54.6 percent of students are somewhat pessimistic, if not entirely negative. What's more disturbing is that 28.7 percent of

19.5 percent said they struggle to make any kind of decisions, reflecting a form of psychological vulnerability.

Where does all this negativity come from? Poor academic experiences, failure in exams, and the inability to build relationships with peers play a large role. Faculty members also earn the dubious distinction of impairing students' mental health: they display an appalling spirit of marginalisation and discouragement of students through offensive and humiliating behaviour while heaping vitriol. In the traditional

to a bookish environment, bereft of the joy of discovery.

Peer pressure can also misguide the students, prodding them into the realms of the unconventional, including drugs. Then there are accommodation and boarding difficulties, intimidation by peers in politics, and financial woes.

Being constantly surrounded by negativity elicits violence, human rights abuses, abysmal treatment of women, political strife, and dwindling job opportunities among other consequences. It needs a strong spirit for an aspiring student to stay positive.


Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare  
Health Service Division  
Directorate General of Health Services  
Office of the Director MIS and Line Director HIS & e-Health  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.  
[www.dghs.gov.bd](http://www.dghs.gov.bd)

Memo No.: DGHS-MIS/e-GP/2022-23/2302    Date: 03/04/2023

Corrigendum / Amendment Notice

Sl. No.	Tender ID no./Ref. no.	Name of Tender
01	786424, DGHS-MIS/e-GP/2022-23/OP-GD-07/05/1	Procurement of Laptop Computer
02	785198, DGHS-MIS/e-GP/2022-23/OP-GD-06/04/1	Procurement of All-in-One Desktop Computer

Corrigendum/Amendment Given for above mentioned Tenders. Please Visit National e-GP portal for details. (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk.

  
(Prof. Dr. Md. Shahadat Hossain)  
Director, Management Information System (MIS) &  
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GD-621

**ISLAMIC ARABIC UNIVERSITY, DHAKA**  
House no: 124/90/3, Block-B, Road No: 02, West Dhanmondi, Bostia, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1231  
[www.iau.edu.bd](http://www.iau.edu.bd)

Invitation for Tender

01	Ministry	Ministry of Education		
02	Agency	Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka		
03	Procuring Entity Name	Deputy-Registrar, Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka		
04	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable		
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
06	Invitation for	Procurement of Stationary Items.		
07	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	IAU/Reg/Purchase/Stationary/2022-2023/ 400    Date :30/03/2023		
Key Information				
08	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method		
Funding Information				
09	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Source of Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka		
Particular Information				
10	Tender Publication Date	04-04-2023		
11	Tender Last Selling Date	02-05-2023		
12	Tender Closing Date & Time	03-05-2023 Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka: 12:00 pm		
13	Tender Opening Date & Time	03-05-2023 Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka: 12:30 pm		
14	Selling Tender Documents	Director Office (Finance & Accounts), Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka & Registrar Office, Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka.		
15	Receiving Tender Documents	Office of the Registrar, Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka		
16	Place of Opening Tender Documents	Conference Room, Bhaban 03, Islamic Arabic University, Bostia, Dhaka.		
Information for Tenderer				
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. The Tenderer will have a minimum of 03 (Three) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. 2. The Tenderer will have a minimum of 01 (One) Year of specific experience in the supply of related goods.		
18	Brief Description of Work	Procurement of Stationary Items.		
19	Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable		
20	Price of Tender Documents (Non Refundable)	Tk. 500/= on-refundable, only payable in the form of Cash/DD/Pay order amount In favor of Registrar, Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka from any Branch of Agrani Bank Limited .		
21	Lot No Identification of	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk.)	Duration of Contract time
22	Procurement of Stationary Items	Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka	34,000/- (Thirty four thousand) Only In favor of Registrar, Islamic Arabic University, Dhaka	120 (One hundred and twenty days) days
23	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Md. Abu Hanifa		
24	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy-Registrar		
25	Address of Official Inviting Tender	House no: 124/90/3, Block-B, Road No: 02, West Dhanmondi, Bostia, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1231		
26	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Mobile: 01705408004, 01705408005, 01676505008 E-mail: <a href="mailto:purchase@iau.edu.bd">purchase@iau.edu.bd</a>		
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders			

By order of the Vice-Chancellor (In-charge)  
Dr. Md. Abu Hanifa  
Deputy-Registrar  
Islamic Arabic University

GD-620



# TWO DYING RIVERS and the miseries they bring



Farmers saw a change of fortune once they started cultivating potatoes, chillies and other crops on the banks of both Changi and Mainee. Earlier, they used water from the rivers for cultivation. Due to the rivers drying up during summer, they now have to look for artificial sources for irrigation.

SIFAYET ULLAH

Abul Kalam, a fisher from Khagrachhari's Panchhari upazila, has been earning his livelihood by fishing in Changi river for the past 20 years. The 52-year-old's entire childhood was spent on the river's bank.

"Once, there were a lot of fish in Changi. But now, only a small number

of fish are available during monsoon," said Abul. "The river dries up during summer and no fish can be caught. We struggle to make ends meet during the season."

There were 23 species of fish in Changi, according to a research titled "Water quality and fish diversity of Changi river in Khagrachhari district". It was home to various aquatic animals

and a source of livelihood for fishers. According to data from District Fisheries Office in Khagrachhari, there are 2,776 registered fishers in Mahalchhari and Dighinala upazilas of the district.

Another river -- Mainee -- is suffering the same fate.

Not only fishers but also farmers, businesspeople, boat owners and people of other professions in the region, whose livelihoods depend on rivers, have suffered at different points due to the Changi and Mainee rivers in Khagrachhari turning into narrow canals, thanks to the emergence of several shoals (chars).

Farmers saw a change of fortune once they started cultivating potatoes, chillies and other crops on the banks of both Changi and Mainee. Earlier, they used water from the rivers for cultivation. Due to the rivers drying up during summer, they now have to look for artificial sources for irrigation.

"Irrigation by using pumping machines has increased our production cost, and thus, brought down our profits," said Ahmed Hossain, a farmer in Panchhari upazila.

While summer heat causes the river to dry up, with the onset of monsoon, floods cause the destruction of crops on the riverbank.

"Our real woes begin during monsoon," said Ahmed.

People who depend on the rivers live in fear during monsoon, as no

reduced to 15 feet, said an official of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), seeking anonymity.

Nahiduzzaman Khan, executive engineer of BWDB, told The Daily Star that both rivers have been filled up. Moreover, they have been the source of immense misery for people whose lives and livelihoods depend on them, as the waterbodies have never been dredged.

The government has taken up a project at an estimated cost of Tk 586 crore to dredge both rivers, and the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the project in July 2022.

Under this project, 10.81 km of embankments will be constructed on the banks to protect the population living there from floods and erosion. Moreover, 59.3 lakh cubic metres of Changi and 76.34 lakh cubic metres of Mainee will be dredged.

If the project is implemented, important structures, settlements, cropland and forest resources will be protected in seven upazilas in Khagrachhari, said a project official, wishing anonymity.

"We have undertaken a project to restore both rivers to their former appearance by surveying them. There will be no more suffering for the locals, as dam construction and dredging of both riverbanks will be done under the project," claimed Nahiduzzaman.

The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2025.



# Soaring prices, unhygienic production

Availability of quality vermicelli compromised ahead of Eid

According to local sources, some of the factories are using unrefined palm oil and animal fat to produce "lachchha" vermicelli. Hazardous chemicals and toxic colours are also being used.

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Vermicelli, locally known as "shemai", is a must-have item during Eid. But due to the soaring prices of ingredients essential to making vermicelli, especially flour, the price of this beloved desert has also gone up in the market.

Ahead of Eid, vermicelli workers of the port city are passing a busy time. Meanwhile, a section of corrupt traders are busy manufacturing sub-standard vermicelli in an unhygienic environment.

According to local sources, some

of the factories are using unrefined palm oil and animal fat to produce "lachchha" vermicelli. Hazardous chemicals and toxic colours are also being used.

Chaktai and Rajakhali of Khatunganj are well-known hubs for locally produced vermicelli. There are two types of vermicelli -- lachchha and Bangla. Bangla vermicelli is produced using flour and water, while lachchha is produced with oil or ghee, flour, sugar and water.

Traders said this year ahead of Eid, more than 5,000 baskets of vermicelli will be produced for customers in the

port city and its surrounding areas.

During a recent visit to a factory named "Two Mangos" in Rajakhali, this correspondent talked to the workers, who said that vermicelli prices are going up due to the higher prices of flour and other ingredients.

Worker Md Tarek said, "Earlier, we had to sell a bucket of vermicelli, weighing around 35 kilos, for Tk 1,200 to 1,500."

Md Nazim Uddin, a wholesale trader in Khatunganj, echoed him and said each basket of vermicelli used to be sold at Tk 1,300 to 1,500, depending on the quality.

"We started taking preparations before Ramadan, and the factory operation will go on in full swing 10 to 12 days before Eid," said Tarek.

According to Chaktai Silpo and Traders Association, there are around 10 to 15 vermicelli factories located in Chaktai-Rajakhali Khatunganj vicinity, where around 4,000 to 5,000 baskets of vermicelli are produced during every Ramadan.

Traders said most of the factories are seasonal, while a group of five to six workers work at each factory with only one vermicelli machine throughout Ramadan.

This correspondent visited several other such factories and saw vermicelli being made in a grimy, dark environment. Vermicelli was being dried in unhygienic conditions on the rooftops of the factories. Hanging on bamboo sticks, piles of vermicelli were being moved by workers, all of whom did not wear gloves or any other hygienic coverings.

Contacted, Md Towhidul Alam, assistant commissioner of Chattogram District Administration, said, "We will conduct a mobile court in the area soon against the reported unhygienic environment."



## Tigers gauge best of both worlds with team combination

SPORTS REPORTER

There were a few things floating around the horizon of the one-off Test between Bangladesh and Ireland and once the toss took place, the team's set-up had a clearer definition, approaching Test cricket with more adventure despite an injury to Taskin Ahmed. There was the curious case of skipper Shakib Al Hasan's body language in the face of IPL exodus. The end of the day shed light on a few matters.

In the past, the absence of in-form pacer Taskin would propagate a change in plans, but not this time around.

Although the greenish pitch two days before the Test did not have as much grass in the end, the Tigers have historically never prioritised pace. The inclusion of Shoriful Islam in a three-pronged pace attack was perhaps one of the most aggressive selection calls in a home Tests in a while. Over the years, the pace attack has only been really been depended on away from home.

The last time that Bangladesh played three pacers in a home Test was back in 2014 against Sri Lanka. Ebadot Hossain and Shoriful made early inroads and it was apparent that the first hour had help for the trio.

Ireland had seven Test debutants in the side and the team management took the opportunity towards a brave new world, putting in six batters with Mehedi Miraz at number seven capable with the bat.

Bangladesh had made a habit of putting in more batters and depending on their spin trio. This time, they managed



to play three spinners – Shakib, Mehedi and Taijul – but did not include Mahmudul Hasan or Shadman Islam to lengthen the batting order. It was the best of both worlds with spin and pace.

"We have a good ODI side but if we are to do well in Tests, I feel playing against a team like this on this kind of surface is perfect. Then we will be able to improve in the future. Maybe when a bigger team comes, it's natural to take advantages [in terms of conditions] that we get here," Taijul Islam, who bagged a fiver, said on the team combination at the press conference.

If the idea was to be more aggressive in Tests following a change in approach in ODIs and T20Is, the combination of the team justified the tenability of the idea. It was a refreshing change from always preferring a packed batting order and playing on low-spinning turfs.

Meanwhile, Shakib seemed in another zone completely. The build-up to the game had seen news surface that he was opting out of playing the IPL as the BCB had him earmarked for international assignments.

Despite Taijul bagging a fiver and threatening throughout the day, Shakib only came to the attack in the 66th over of the innings with Ireland seven down. He proceeded to bowl three overs, appearing to do the bare minimum, mostly observing from the slip cordon. At one point, Tamim Iqbal was seen giving instructions on the field.

Asked regarding Shakib not bringing himself on, Taijul said: "He didn't give any reason. Maybe his idea was to keep bowling us and if we were in trouble maybe he would have bowled."

Whether Shakib's demeanour was natural or whether there is a pebble in his shoes cannot be ascertained easily, but going forward, there is something the BCB and the team has to figure out to keep the skipper activated.



Bangladesh left-arm spinner Taijul Islam celebrates his 11th five-wicket haul in Tests after dismissing Mark Adair during the opening day of the one-off Test against Ireland at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Pace variations help Taijul find a way through

SPORTS REPORTER

Although it seemed that the pitch was designed to assist the three seamers in Bangladesh's line-up, it was left-arm spinner Taijul Islam who had the most telling impact for the hosts, bagging a five-wicket haul as Ireland were bundled out for 214 in their first innings on the first day of the one-off Test.

Taijul picked up his 11th five-wicket haul in the longest format and one that did not come easy. The 31-year-old had to adapt and adjust to the surface, which offered hardly any spin on the opening day.

He seemed to realised the importance of pace variations immediately and maintained a tight line and length which saw him trap three batsmen leg before.

While Bangladeshi spinners tend to struggle on sporting tracks away from home, Taijul hoped having similar pitches at home would help them do better abroad.

"If we continue playing on such pitches at home, where it's important to bowl a good line and length, it will urge you to adjust. If we can adjust to such pitches at home, it will help us to do well when we go abroad too," Taijul told the media after the day's play.

"Obviously pace variation was important since there wasn't much turn on offer and bounce was also good. So you need to gauge the batters' strengths and weaknesses

"If we continue playing on such pitches at home, where it's important to bowl a good line and length, it will urge you to adjust. If we can adjust to such pitches at home, it will help us to do well when we go abroad too."

Taijul Islam

and exploit accordingly."

With a knack of consistently picking up wickets, Taijul, who is Bangladesh's second-highest wicket-taker in Tests, was asked where he wanted to see himself at the end of his career and the soft-spoken cricketer did not shy away from expressing his desire to have more than 500 scalps to his name.

Meanwhile, Ireland were playing just their fourth Test match overall and their first after nearly four years, with seven of their playing XI making their debut. But despite

the lack of experience, the visitors showed a fighting approach after losing a few wickets early after electing to bat.

Harry Tector smashed his maiden Test half-century on debut alongside Curtis Campher's 34 as the pair added 74 runs for the fourth wicket and showed a glimpse of their ability in adjusting to such difficult conditions.

Even after the partnership was broken, at one point Ireland were tottering on 124 for six. But the visitors hung in and eventually went past the 200-run mark courtesy of gritty thirties from Lorcan Tucker and Mark Adair lower down the order.

The visitors also gained momentum by the end of the opening days' play.

Pacer Adair removed Najmul Hossain Shanto for a duck off the very first over of Bangladesh's innings. The hosts then suffered a late blow when experienced Tamim Iqbal was dismissed off the last ball of the day before stumps were drawn.

According to Taijul, that put the hosts on the backfoot. "The timing of the two wickets that fell actually puts us on the backfoot. Well I won't say we are on the backfoot since that can happen. But it is also important for us to make a comeback. If we want to put up a big total on the board, we need a big partnership," he said.



## Dorielton inspires Kings again

SPORTS REPORTER

Dorielton Gomes stole the show on the day football season resumed following a four-week break as the Brazilian forward powered Bashundhara Kings to a come-from-behind 3-1 win over spirited Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the first quarterfinal of the Federation Cup at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Flight Lt Matiur Rahman Stadium in Munshiganj yesterday.

The victory meant Kings moved into the semifinals after a season gap as the country's modern powerhouse had withdrawn from the Federation Cup in the 2021-22 season in protest of sub-standard pitch conditions at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

Interestingly, Dorielton, who was the main architect behind Abahani's triumph of the Federation Cup in the 2021-22 season, scored a double and contributed to other goals in the match, including the one which Muktiyoddha scored.

Kings, as expected, staged a strong fightback to eventually down Muktiyoddha, who had earlier given Kings a good run for their money during the group match that ended 4-3 in Kings' favour.

Muktiyoddha threatened initially and took the lead in 34th minute.

But on the back of 19 goals in 18 matches, Dorielton was unstoppable like he was in the last season and he combined with Robson da Silva to take the game away from their opponents.

## Anamul on a roll

SPORTS REPORTER

Wicketkeeper-batter Anamul Haque Bijoy continued his prolific run of form in the ongoing Dhaka Premier League (DPL) as table-toppers Abahani Limited crushed Prime Bank Cricket Club by 141 runs at the BKSp-3 ground in Savar yesterday.

The 30-year-old, who made a comeback to the Tigers side after a record-breaking DPL performance last season, struck his second consecutive DPL ton and the third of the season.

Sent in to bat, Abahani amassed 336 for six in 50 overs, riding on a 183-run opening stand between Anamul (153 off 127) and Naim Sheikh (94 off 102) and a quick-fire fifty from Afif Hossain.

Prime Bank, in reply, could not tackle pacer Tanjim Hasan Sakib who bagged four wickets and only delayed the inevitable, courtesy of Yasir Ali's 45.

At BKSp-4 ground Parvez Hossain Emon's century went in vain as Rupganj Tigers rode on a hundred from Imtiaz Hossain Mukidul Islam's filer to seal a 25-run win over Legends of Rupganj, who were bundled out for 262 in 48.2 overs while chasing down 287.

At Khan Shaheb Osman Ali stadium in Fatullah, Parvez Rasool starred for Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi club with team-high 48 runs and four-fer as they beat Gazi Group Cricketers by 31 runs after posting 251 for eight.



AFP

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez warned his team that their Copa del Rey semi-final opponents Real Madrid would be coming to wage a "footballing war" at Camp Nou, while Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said his charges will try to keep cool heads as they bid to overturn a 1-0 deficit in the Copa del Rey Clasico semi-final second leg.

The Spanish champions lock horns with arch-rivals Barcelona at 1:00 am on Thursday (Bangladesh Standard Time) as they bid to avoid a fourth consecutive defeat in the derby.

"It doesn't mean anything that we have won the last three Clasicos, tomorrow is another footballing war," Xavi told reporters.

"They will be out for revenge ... they will come here wounded, I'm sure," added the Catalan coach.

Barcelona will be without four injured key players in Pedri, Ousmane Dembele, Frenkie de Jong and Andreas Christensen.

"They have a lot of experience, they are used to mounting comebacks. They are still favourites

for me," said Xavi.

Despite Eder Militao's own goal handing Barcelona a narrow victory after the Santiago Bernabeu, Ancelotti's side dominated the Catalans.

"The idea is not to go crazy to try and score a goal," said Madrid coach Ancelotti.

"We won't go mad, because you can score a goal in the fifth minute and then let in two."

Real Madrid have lost three consecutive Clasicos, defeated by Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final in January, the cup first leg and most recently 2-1 in La Liga at Camp Nou.

The Italian coach thought his team played well in the latter two games and confirmed defender Antonio Rudiger is fit, meaning Madrid have their full squad available aside from Ferland Mendy.

Ancelotti admitted it was difficult to choose between his midfielders, with Toni Kroos, Luka Modric, Aurelien Tchouameni and Eduardo Camavinga all vying to start.

"It's very hard to choose a side, because obviously there are more than 11 who deserve to play, there are 14 or 15," said Ancelotti.









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### Inflation jumps to 9.33pc

Inflation jumped to a seven-month high of 9.33 percent in March as food prices rose and the adjustment of oil, gas and electricity prices took hold, highlighting the pains low-income households are going through. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 55 basis points from the 8.78 percent reported in February. This means the spike in the CPI was just behind the 10-year high of 9.52 percent seen in August last year.

STORY, INFOGRAPHIC ON B1



Former US President Donald Trump is accompanied by members of his legal team, Susan Necheles and Joe Tacopina, as he appears in court yesterday for an arraignment on charges stemming from his indictment by a Manhattan grand jury following a probe into hush money paid to porn star Stormy Daniels.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## GDP growth not over 5.3pc this fiscal year

Project WB, ADB

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Should the Bangladesh economy grow at 6.5 percent this fiscal year as per the government's projection, it would be defying the forecasts of multilateral lenders like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Yesterday, the Manila-based lender downgraded the growth projection of 6.6 percent made in September last year to 5.3 percent, while the World Bank maintained its downgraded growth projection of 5.2 percent made in January.

The ADB's slower growth forecast reflects subdued domestic demand in an inflationary environment, lower investment caused by austerity measures and weaker export expansion due to slow global growth following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The World Bank cited the elevated inflation, tighter financial conditions, disruptive import restrictions and modest export growth for the lower growth forecast.

Inflation, it appears, is the bane of the Bangladesh economy. In the first nine months, inflation averaged 8.81 percent, way above the budgetary target of 5.6 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. In March, inflation stood at 9.33 percent, the highest in seven months.

And yet, Bangladesh would register the third-highest GDP growth in South Asia, the WB said in the latest edition of 'South Asia Economic Focus, Expanding Opportunities: Toward Inclusive Growth'.

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### GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

## No bar for Zahangir to contest

Rules HC

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday ruled that Mohammad Zahangir Alam, suspended mayor of Gazipur City Corporation, can file nomination papers with the Election Commission in accordance with law for contesting the GCC mayoral election slated for May 25.

The bench of Justice Zafar Ahmed and Justice Md Bashir Ullah said Zahangir's writ challenging the legality of his suspension from the GCC mayoral office and the deferral of the verdict delivery will not bar him from submitting nomination papers.

The court passed the order following a prayer moved by Zahangir's lawyers.

Belayet Hossain, a lawyer for Zahangir, told The Daily Star that his client can contest the next GCC polls

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## Trump pleads not guilty to 34 felony counts

### Becomes the first US president to face criminal charges

**REUTERS, New York**

Donald Trump, the former president and front-runner for the 2024 Republican nomination, pleaded not guilty in a history-making moment for the United States yesterday to 34 felony counts of falsifying business records after an investigation into hush money paid to a porn star.

Wearing a dark blue suit and red tie, Trump, the first sitting or former US president to face criminal charges, sat with his hands folded at the defense table as he entered his plea flanked by his lawyers.

"Not guilty," Trump, 76, said when asked how he pleaded.

He said nothing as he entered the courtroom or when he left roughly an hour later. Trump previously called the charges politically motivated.

He was due to return to Florida and deliver remarks from his Mar-a-Lago resort at 8:15 p.m. on Tuesday (0015 GMT on Wednesday), his office said.

Taken together, the charges carry a maximum sentence of more than 100 years in prison under New York law but an actual prison sentence if he is convicted at a trial would almost certainly be far less than that.

While falsifying business records in New York on its own is a misdemeanor punishable by no more than one year in prison, it is elevated to a felony punishable by up to four years in prison when done to advance or conceal another crime.

The Manhattan grand jury convened by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg that indicted Trump heard evidence about a \$130,000 payment made to

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## The champions deserve better



**ANISUR RAHMAN**

The Bangladesh women's football team have been injecting fresh air for years amidst all the doldrums.

Last year in September, the women in red and green lived up to their reputation of being one of the powerhouses in the sub-continent as they clinched their maiden SAFF Championship title after beating hosts Nepal.

The whole country was on cloud nine with immense joy and pride following such a success, which the men's national team achieved as far back as 2003.

In the backdrop of such a glowing story, it came as a big surprise when the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president Kazi Salahuddin revealed just six days before the 2024 AFC Women's Olympic Football Qualifying

Tournament that it would pull out of the competition in Myanmar, citing financial constraints.

Undoubtedly, the BFF has played a big part to give women's football shape in the country but the question has been raised, in this regard, whether the game's governing body was sincere enough to give the golden girls a fitting treatment as well whether they have any mission or vision to take country's women's football to another level.

Salahuddin had said last week that the national team players had boycotted a training session due to their wages being unpaid. It is undoubtedly a sorry situation for a president to accept as it underlines how he, as a leader, has failed miserably to cash in on the glory that the women have brought to the country.

Former national footballer-turned-

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## 'Flattest' explosion ever seen in space surprises scientists

**INDEPENDENT.CO.UK**

An explosion the size of our solar system has baffled scientists, as its shape – similar to that of an extremely flat disc – challenges everything they know about explosions in space.

Astronomers observed the explosion 180 million light years away, and they say it is much flatter than ever thought possible.

Explosions are usually expected to be spherical just like the stars themselves, but this one is the flattest ever seen.

The study reports that the explosion was an extremely rare Fast Blue Optical Transient (FBOT) – known colloquially amongst astronomers as "the cow".

Only four others have ever been seen, and while scientists do not know how they occur, researchers suggest the new discovery has helped solve part of the puzzle.

According to the study, a potential explanation for how this explosion occurred is that the star itself may have been surrounded by a dense disk, or it may have been a failed supernova (the massive explosion at the end of the life of some stars).

How FBOT explosions occur is still a mystery, but it is hoped the observations, published in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society will help answer some of the questions.



## DHAKA TO BHANGA

# Padma Bridge rail line to open by September

### Says minister after first trial train crosses the bridge

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Dhaka to Bhangra rail line via the Padma Bridge will be ready for train operation by August and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate it the following month.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon revealed this after Bangladesh Railway operated the first train on the newly constructed Bhangra-Mawa track through the bridge yesterday.

"This is a historic day for Bangladesh because we have reached the Mawa station after crossing Padma Bridge from Bhangra in a train," he told reporters at the station.

Sujon said he has inspected the work progress from Dhaka to Bhangra and was briefed by the project officials, who told him that the work in this section will be done by August.

The PM will then inaugurate the rail line at a convenient time in September, he added.

BR is implementing the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project to build a 169km rail line from Dhaka to Jashore via the Padma Bridge at the cost of Tk 39,247 crore.

When BR undertook the project in May 2016, the cost

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The special train standing ready to be operated for the first time on the newly constructed Bhangra-Mawa rail line through the Padma Bridge yesterday afternoon. It began its journey at 1:22pm and entered the lower deck of bridge at 2:48pm.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Repeal DSA, compensate the victims

### Eminent citizens urge govt

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Demanding the immediate scrapping of the Digital Security Act, eminent citizens yesterday urged the government to compensate those who were victimised through its use.

They made the demands at a seminar held in the capital's National Press Club.

Khushi Kabir, chairperson of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and coordinator of Nijera Kori, moderated the seminar. She said the law was used mostly against the members of minority groups and journalists.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD, said the law should be repealed immediately.

"Those who filed cases against minorities by using this law in the

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