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Two familiar faces on collision course



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BB plans big for cashless society

US preaches democracy but does otherwise

PM says in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that the United States can overthrow government in any country and here it wants to install a government that will be anything but democratic in nature.

"For this, some of our intellectuals show allegiance to them [the US] only for a little money," she added.

The premier made the remarks while participating in a discussion on a motion she placed in the House, marking the Golden Jubilee of the Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad. It was also her winding-up speech for the 22nd session of parliament.

"Yes, they can unseat any government in any country. In particular, Muslim countries are going through tougher times [because of the US intervention]," Hasina said.

Everything was okay as long as it was happening only with the Muslim countries, but after the Russia-Ukraine war, the whole world fell into an economic recession and this is the reality, she observed.

The premier said the US frequently lectures on democracy and some people, including the opposition party, cheer and dance to that.

She said the US has been sheltering Bangabandhu's convicted killer Rashed Chowdhury, ignoring repeated requests from Bangladesh for his deportation.

"I have appealed to all the presidents [of the US]. Legally, we've made efforts. We've tried through diplomacy. I have appealed to them, 'You cannot grant asylum to this convicted murderer. You cannot give shelter to the killer of children, killer of women, killer of a president and killer of minister... Send him back.' But they are not returning him..."

She said, "On one hand, the US speaks against corruption, and on the other, it is advocating for those who have been convicted of corruption."

"They preach us about democracy. They talk about democracy and human rights. But what is the state of their country?"

A few days ago, she said, three Tennessee lawmakers demonstrated for gun control. Two of them were unseated. The third could escape as he was white.

"The crime of Justin John and Justin Pearson is that they are black. So, where are human rights there? We ask where their democracy is."

Hasina also said, "When I first visited America, I met the then US under secretary. There I said, 'I had seen a monument where it was inscribed with Government of the People, for the People, by the People. I've come from a country where it was 'Government of the Army, by the Army, for the General'."

"I told the meeting that America practises democracy all the way to the shores of the Atlantic. Does your definition of democracy change after it crosses the Atlantic?"

She added, "I also asked why they were supporting a military dictatorship."

ARTICLE 70

Hasina came down heavily on a few parliament members for advocating against article 70 in the constitution.

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Due to rampant sand filling by various quarters, the low-lying agricultural fields around Dhaka city are shrinking fast. These fields would generally have water accumulated for three months and would be used for growing crops for the rest of the year. Now, they are being used for urban development instead. The photo was taken in the capital's Gabtoli area yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JP to take part in next nat'l election

Raushan tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad has said the Jatiya Party will take part in the 12th national election as it is the only way to go to power or bring changes.

"The next national election will be held as per the constitutional provision and the Jatiya party will participate in that election," she told parliament yesterday.

Raushan, also the chief patron of the JP, hoped that the next Jatiya Sangsad election will be held in a free and fair manner through maintaining the continuity of the constitution.

The opposition leader made the comments while participating in the discussion on a proposal placed in the House by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday marking

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ROAD CRASH, CASUALTIES

Even BRTA, police figures don't tally

This kind of mismatch a barrier to drawing up effective road safety plans, say experts

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Road crash data from two government agencies does not match and this could lead to problems in making informed decisions on road safety.

Until January this year, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority used Bangladesh Police's data on road crashes. But the BRTA started publishing its own accident data in January.

According to the BRTA, 636 people were killed and 752 others injured in 630 road accidents in January and February.

Police say 542 people were killed and 420 others injured in 557 road crashes during the same period.

This mismatch raised questions about the accuracy of both.

However, the numbers are much lower than that provided by NGOs working on road safety.

This could become a problem for the government as it is implementing the National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan-2021-2024 to reduce 20 to 25 percent casualties by 2024, and to halve the casualty number by 2030.

Poor quality and unreliable data on crashes, deaths, and injuries impede proper road safety management.

THE WORLD BANK

This is a target of the Sustainable Development Goal.

Different international organisations have also raised questions about the accident data and data collection system.

"The current system of recording,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

'We want your observers'

Momen tells Blinken govt committed to hold free polls, says DSA not to curb freedom of the press

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh government is committed to hold a transparent and credible election, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington early today.

Momen also welcomed election observers from the US as he was holding a press briefing after the bilateral meeting with Blinken.

"The US wants to see a free and fair election [in Bangladesh]. I said of course, this is our objective too. We are committed for a free, fair, transparent, credible election..." he said.

Momen highlighted three measures taken by the government – introducing photo identity cards to check fake votes, transparent ballot box and formation of an independent Election Commission.

The minister mentioned that he has asked his US counterpart to send election observers. "We want your observers. We welcome your observers," he said, according to a video clip sent to the media by the foreign ministry.

He also pointed to the role of the opposition political parties and said, "All opposition parties must come

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

PM likely to fly to Japan April 25

To return home May 4 after visiting US, UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit Japan on April 25.

The visit was initially scheduled from November 29 to December 1 last year but was later postponed.

The trip is considered crucial for Japan and Bangladesh as both countries are important partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

According to sources, during her visit, Sheikh Hasina will meet with her Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

Japan, a major development partner of Bangladesh, is constructing some of the country's major infrastructures, including the MRT line in Dhaka, the deep-sea port at Matarbari,

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Sections of rail lines are being picked up by a crane for installation near the Bhanga Railway Station in Faridpur. The Dhaka-Bhanga rail line via the Padma Bridge is expected to be opened in September. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HOARDING FOOD ILLEGALLY Culprits to face sentence up to life term

Cabinet okays draft of law

STAR REPORT

The cabinet yesterday gave the final approval to the draft of "Production, Storage, Transfer, Transportation, Supply, Distribution and Marketing of Food Products (prevention of prejudicial activity) Act-2023", keeping a provision for a maximum punishment of life imprisonment for illegal hoarding of food.

The approval came in a cabinet meeting held at Parliament Complex, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports BSS.

According to the proposed law, if a person stores more than the amount of food fixed by the government, or breaches any government instructions regarding stocking, he or she will be sentenced to life imprisonment or a maximum of 14 years' rigorous imprisonment and be handed fines as well.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain briefed reporters about the outcome of the meeting at the Secretariat.

If an accused can prove that he or she hoarded food without any financial or other profit motive, he or she will be sentenced to jail for a maximum three months and also be fined, according to the bill.

The bill was approved in principle by the cabinet on

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Many BNP leaders want to contest nat’l polls

Quader claims they are secretly making preparations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader claimed yesterday that while the BNP said it would not participate in the elections, many of its leaders are secretly preparing for polls.

“Although Mirza Fakhrul said that the BNP would not take part in the elections, there are many leaders like Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan (expelled BNP leader) in their party,” said Quader while addressing a peace rally in front of AL central office in the capital’s Gulistan.

Obaidul Quader claimed that the BNP does not want to participate in the election as it knows it will lose.

“BNP has started hatching conspiracies centring the election as they know that Sheikh Hasina’s victory in the national polls is inevitable. They want to create controversy by not taking part in the election,” he said.

He further said, “There will be no result by hatching any conspiracies,” adding that all the local government elections, including the city elections, would be held on time.

Eid holidays extended by a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government decided yesterday that April 20 would be included in the Eid holidays, and thus extended this year’s holidays by a day via executive order.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain informed journalists about the development after the weekly cabinet meeting at the Secretariat.

Before the executive order, Eid holidays were supposed to be from April 21-23. There will be a holiday on the occasion of Shab-e-Qadr on April 19, and April 20 was supposed to be a working day.

To extend the holiday, the government declared April 20 a holiday too and so the five-day Eid holiday will begin on April 19.

Holidays will be extended by one more day to include April 24 if there are 30 days of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated on April 23.



Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken hold a meeting in Washington early today (Bangladesh time). Momen told reporters earlier that he was visiting the US to discuss ways to advance the Bangladesh-US ties on key fronts over the next five decades.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

BATTLE FOR BAKHMUT Russian forces using ‘scorched earth’ tactics Says Ukraine; Avdiivka also in Moscow’s sights

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russian forces are pressing attacks in Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region, focusing on two cities and pounding Ukrainian positions with air strikes and artillery barrages, Kyiv said yesterday.

The commander of Ukraine’s ground forces said the Russians were destroying buildings and positions in besieged Bakhmut in what he called “scorched earth” tactics.

Russia’s assault on Bakhmut, a small city in Donetsk at the edge of a chunk of Russian-controlled territory, has for months been the focus of the biggest battle of the war, now in its second year.

Ukraine’s Armed Forces General Staff said on Sunday fighting was heaviest along the western approaches to Bakhmut. The Russians were also targeting the city of Avdiivka, it said.

Yesterday, ground forces commander Colonel General Oleksandr Syrskiy said the defence of Bakhmut continued. “The situation is difficult but controllable,” he said in comments quoted by Ukraine’s Media Military Centre.

Moscow is sending in special forces and airborne assault units to help their attack as members of Russia’s private mercenary Wagner group are now exhausted, Syrskiy said. Wagner mercenaries have spearheaded the Russian assault on Bakhmut which has left it largely in ruins. “The enemy switched to the so-called scorched earth tactics from Syria. It is destroying buildings and positions with air strikes and artillery fire,” Syrskiy said.

Ukraine’s general staff said Russian forces had made unsuccessful advances on areas west of Bakhmut and at least 10 towns and villages had come under Russian shelling. The Russians had also made no headway in attacks on Avdiivka, it said.

As the battles ground on, US media outlet CNN reported that Ukraine had been forced to amend some military plans ahead of its long anticipated counter-offensive because of the leak of US documents.

US officials are trying to trace the source of the leak of dozens of secret documents. They detail an array of topics, including information on the Ukraine conflict.

CNN reported that Ukraine had been forced to amend some military plans because of the leak of US documents.

PM likely to fly

FROM PAGE 1

the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, and the special economic zone at Arahazar.

From Japan, Hasina is scheduled to travel to Washington DC to celebrate 50 years of partnership between Bangladesh and the World Bank.

The event will take place at the World Bank headquarters in Washington DC on May 1.

Bangladesh became the largest recipient of funding from the WB’s International Development Association (IDA), which provides concessional financing to poor nations, making the multilateral lender the country’s largest external funder with more than a quarter of the total foreign aid the country receives.

Bangladesh currently has the largest ongoing IDA programme, with a total of about \$16 billion in 56 projects.

From the USA, the PM will visit the UK and is scheduled to participate in some social gatherings.

She is scheduled to return to the country on May 4.

JP to take part

FROM PAGE 1

the golden jubilee of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad.

Raushan said the JP as the main opposition party was playing a constructive and effective role in and outside parliament.

Mentioning that Jatiya Sangsad is the centre of parliamentary democracy, she said the JP’s job is to act on behalf of the people, participate in discussions on public interest issues and play a role in formulating laws.

“As an opposition party, we are carrying out our duties properly.”

The JP leader said there might be differences of opinion in politics and ideological differences, but there cannot be any difference in making parliament the focal point of democracy and development.

“Therefore, the Jatiya Party as an opposition party is trying earnestly to make parliament effective,” she added.

US preaches democracy but does otherwise

FROM PAGE 1

“Article 70 has given protection to democracy alongside strengthening it to reach its benefit to the people. But a few of our [parliament] members are against the article as they are unable to play the game of seating and unseating a government,” she said.

A few parliament members are expressing concern over article 70 due to their inexperience, she said, referring to the unseating of the governments formed after 1946 and 1954 elections mainly due to floor-crossing.

Earlier, participating in the discussion on the proposal, Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader spoke about revoking article 70.

AL GOVT CHANGED FATE OF PEOPLE

The PM said she, like the people of

the country, believes that the AL government has been able to change the fate of the people as it has been in power for 14 years in a row.

“Now the difference between village and city has narrowed ... We are providing civic amenities to every village,” she said.

The premier raised a comparative picture regarding the socio-economic development in many indicators between 2006 (at the fag-end of BNP-Jamaat regime) and 2022.

She said the poverty rate declined to 20.5 percent in 2022 from 41.51 percent in 2006, the extreme poverty rate to 10 percent from 25.1 percent, the child mortality rate per thousand births to 21 persons from 84, and the mother mortality rate per 100 thousand births to 161 from 370.

Grameen Bank, got millions of dollars.

“He [Yunus] runs social businesses in a place like the US and makes investments at home and abroad. Have they [the US] ever questioned from where the MD, who used to draw salaries from the government, got millions of dollars? They didn’t,” she said.

“Now we have to hear their [US’s] words about corruption and the fight against corruption. We have to hear their words about human rights,” she said.

Hasina said those who laundered money sucked from the poor became owners of hundreds of crores of taka and got an international award. They tried to destroy democracy in this country and played ducks and drakes with the people’s fate, she added.

“They say that the Awami League government didn’t give anything [to people] after assuming power and that the country has been destroyed.”

WEST BANK RAID Palestinian teen killed by Israeli forces

AFP, Jericho

Israeli forces killed a Palestinian teenager and injured two other people in the West Bank yesterday, the Palestinian health ministry said, in what the army described as a raid to arrest a “terror suspect”.

It comes amid surging violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in recent days, coinciding with the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, Jewish Passover and Christian Easter.

Mohammed Fayez Balhan, 15, was killed after being shot “with live occupation (Israeli) bullets in the head, chest and abdomen”, the ministry said.

An earlier statement said two people were injured by “occupation (Israeli) bullets”.

The Israeli army confirmed its forces were operating in the Aqabat Jaber camp near Jericho, saying soldiers were working “to apprehend a terror suspect”.

According to the army, soldiers responded with live fire after “suspects opened fire toward (soldiers), hurled explosive devices and Molotov cocktails”.

A suspect was taken in by security forces, the army added.

‘We want your observers’

FROM PAGE 1

forward; they must commit to hold a free, fair election.”

Momen stated that there was a discussion on freedom of the press in Bangladesh. “We have said that the Digital Security Act is not to curb freedom of the press. Bangladesh Awami League believes in freedom of the press.”

The other issues which were discussed in the meeting include the rights of Ahmadiyya and other minority communities and Rohingya repatriation.

Starting at 12:30am (Bangladesh time), the meeting lasted for about 20 minutes, AZM Sajjad Hossain, minister (press) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, told The Daily Star.

Momen reached Washington on Sunday for the meeting and briefed journalists on the objectives of the meeting, reports UNB.

He said Bangladesh wants to improve its ties with the United States to strengthen trade relationship.

“We have been maintaining a very good relationship with the

USA,” he told reporters, adding that he was visiting the US to discuss ways to advance the Bangladesh-US ties on key fronts over the next five decades.

Responding to a question, the minister said he would raise the issue of Rashed Chowdhury, a convicted killer of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was moving freely in the United States.

“This is a country of the rule of law. We hope the US will not be a shelter for killers,” Momen said.

Even BRTA, police figures don’t tally

FROM PAGE 1

analysing, and reporting crashes in Bangladesh is cumbersome, error-prone, time-consuming, and unfit for analysis and benchmarking,” the World Bank observed in an appraisal report in 2021 prepared for financing a road safety project in Bangladesh.

“Poor quality and unreliable data on crashes, deaths, and injuries impede proper road safety management,” said the WB.

At least 24,954 people were killed in road crashes in the country in 2016, according to a World Health Organisation report published in December 2018.

According to the police, 2,463 people were killed in 2,566 road crashes in 2016.

The WB has already approved a loan for a Tk 4,988.14 crore project on road safety. Under the project, among other works, a road accident database will be developed.

THE DIFFERENCES

According to the BRTA data, 333 people died in 322 road crashes in January while 303 were killed in 308 road accidents in February this year.

But the police report says 279

people were killed in 280 crashes in January while 263 people died in 277 road accidents this February.

Jatri Kalyan Samity, a passenger welfare platform, said 585 people were killed in 593 road accidents in January and at least 467 people died in 447 road crashes in February.

The organisation’s data is based on newspaper reports. It said the number of crashes and deaths could be higher as many accidents go unreported while many die of injuries which too are not reported. Contacted, BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder said they collected their data through their offices across the country and verified those with police and district administration data.

Asked about the mismatch with police data, he said police data is based on the cases filed over the accidents, but many injured died in hospitals later.

“We include the hospital data and that’s why our number may be higher than that of police,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

“Definitely, we will use our data for official purposes and will evaluate our target on the basis of

our data.”

This correspondent tried to contact police officials concerned for comments but could not reach them.

Saidur Rahman, executive director of Road Safety Foundation, said the government agencies should make better efforts for accurate data.

“In absence of real data, the authorities will not be able to take proper preventive measures to reduce road crashes,” he said yesterday.

At least three road safety campaign platforms in January this year published their reports saying that the number of both road crashes and deaths went up last year compared to 2021.

Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary ABM Amin Ullah Nuri at a programme on January 15 blasted the road safety campaigners for publishing “fabricated” reports on crashes.

He said the reports were creating confusion among the people and tarnishing the country’s image abroad and announced that the BRTA will publish reports on road accidents from now on.

Man killed in his sleep by younger brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A man died after his throat was slit, allegedly by his younger brother, while he was asleep at home in Manikganj’s Singair upazila early yesterday.

Abu Raihan, 27, of Vakum Fakirpara village, was killed by his younger brother Roman, 24, who is now on the run, said Singair Police Station OC Syed Mizanur Islam.

Family members said Roman was in a feud with his family, including his two brothers. On Sunday night, the three brothers went to sleep in the room they shared around 9:00pm.

At one stage, Roman slit Raihan’s throat and fled, police and family members said.

Raihan was declared dead after he was taken to a local hospital, OC Mizanur said.

The body was sent to Manikganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Fishing in Kaptai Lake banned for 3 months

UNB, Rangamati

The local administration in Rangamati has imposed a three-month ban on netting, marketing, and transportation of fish from the Kaptai Lake starting April 20.

The decision was taken yesterday at the office of the Deputy Commissioner in the interest of proper natural reproduction and development of carp fish in the lake.

Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman issued the notice after a meeting at the DC conference room.

Some 20,000 people who depend on fishing in the district will get food assistance during the ban period through a special Vulnerable Group Feeding card.

Every year, the government imposes a three-month ban on fishing, marketing and transportation of fish from Kaptai Lake aiming to ensure the natural breeding of fish.

Schoolboy dies after crashing bike into parked lorry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A tenth-grade schoolboy died after he crashed his motorcycle into a parked lorry in the Charpara area on Mymensingh-Haluaghat road in Mymensingh’s Phulpur upazila around 9:00pm on Sunday night.

Shanto Mia, 17, son of Saidul Islam of the upazila’s Kaziakanda, was a student at Phulpur Pilot Model High School, said Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Phulpur Police Station.

Locals rushed him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the hospital’s morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with the police station in this connection.

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'Parliament just approves laws the govt wants to enact' Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday told parliament that in the existing system, the parliament is incapable of doing anything other than legislating laws the government wants to implement.

He holds Article 70 of the Constitution responsible for this situation, demanding its amendment.

According to Article 70, a person elected as a member of parliament through an election in which they were nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate their seat if -- they resign from that party, or vote in parliament against that party.

Quader, also the deputy leader of the opposition, made this observation while participating in a discussion on the special

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Amidst a sea of plastic, a lone worker meticulously sifts through a towering pile of discarded bottles. Each bottle represents a small victory in the battle against waste, as it will be transformed into pellets and given new life in recycling and manufacturing factories across the city and its outskirts. This photo was taken in Meradia area of Khilgaon recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TK 132CR EMBEZZLEMENT

End probe against Wasa MD, 8 others by May 30

Court asks ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit by May 30 the probe report on documents submitted earlier regarding the Tk 132 crore embezzlement allegation against Wasa managing director Taqsem A Khan and eight others.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the ACC failed to submit any probe report by yesterday, said Munjur Alam, a lawyer for the complainant.

The judge also directed the complainant to submit to the court a series of documents, which were earlier submitted to the ACC, on "corruption" of the accused.

On January 30, the same court directed the ACC to submit the probe report by yesterday.

Shahab Uddin Sarkar, secretary of Wasa Karmachari Bahumukhi Samabay Samity Ltd, a cooperative of Wasa employees, on November 10 last year filed the case against Taqsem and the others for their alleged involvement with corruption.

Shahab, in the complaint, alleged that Taqsem and the eight accused withdrew around Tk 132 crore from the cooperative's account with Janata Bank without any approval of the committee concerned.

PRAYER TIMING APRIL 11					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:24	12:45	4:45	6:22	7:45	
JAMAAT 4:34	1:15	5:00	6:32	8:15	

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
19	11		6:22
20	12	4:18	6:23
21	13	4:17	6:23

The grim picture of street children's lives

4 out of every 10 never enrolled in school, finds BBS survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around four out of every 10 street children have never been enrolled in school, according to a survey conducted by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The survey findings reveal that over 56.6 percent of street children who attend school are unable to complete grade five. Only a small fraction -- 8.8 percent -- can complete this grade.

"Survey on Street Children 2022" was conducted with support from Unicef Bangladesh and the Department of Social Services, Planning Minister MA Mannan unveiled the survey findings at the BBS Auditorium in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

The findings reveal that Chattogram, followed closely by Barishal and Dhaka, has the highest number of street children.

The survey findings are based on first-hand reports from a sample of 7,200 children aged five to 17 years in hotspots of the country's eight divisions. While the report does

AT A GLANCE

- » 56.6pc unable to complete fifth grade
- » 65.1pc come to the streets with parents
- » 64pc of girls use unhygienic cloth during menstruation
- » 13.7pc abuse drugs
- » 61.7pc physically abused at work
- » 72pc unwilling to rehabilitate

The survey's findings are shocking. They tell us not only of the urgent work ahead but also of the empathy and support that children living and working on the streets need from us.

Sheldon Yett
Unicef representative to Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

not contain exact figures, Unicef fears that the number of children living on the streets in Bangladesh could be in the millions.

"The survey's findings are shocking. They tell us not only of the urgent work ahead but also of the empathy and support that children living and working on the streets need from us," said Sheldon Yett, Unicef representative to Bangladesh.

The survey revealed that 28.3

percent of street children can read and write, while 30.8 percent can write, and 31.5 percent can only read.

Poverty or hunger, parents' migration to urban areas, and the need to explore work opportunities are the main driving factors for the children to leave their homes and end up on the streets, according to the findings. The survey report also mentioned that 65.1 percent

No threats centring Pahela Baishakh: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun yesterday said they were not aware of any threat centring the celebration of Pahela Baishakh.

"However, highest security measures will be taken during Mangal Shobhajatra," he said while inspecting security measures at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex in the city.

Top police officials including DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq accompanied him.

The IGP said police took security measures at all markets and shopping malls and people are shopping without any inhibition.

All units of police are working their level best to ensure security and ease of traffic jam on the streets, he added.

The police chief also said that citizens can avail police escort when carrying large sums of money.

Human trafficking syndicate busted

Gang, in guise of NGO, forged visas to send people abroad

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The promise of a better life in a foreign land has long been a lure for many. But for some, this dream turns into a nightmare when they become targets of human-trafficking syndicates.

The Cyber and Special Crime Division of the police's Detective Branch (DB) has revealed that a syndicate has been forging documents to obtain visas for countries like the USA and Europe, and then trafficking people into those countries as NGO workers.

The details of this elaborate scheme came to light after the detectives arrested three members of the syndicate. The three suspects, Abul Kashem Shaikh, Bokhtiar Hossain, and Nazrul Islam, were apprehended by DB yesterday. They were involved in the criminal activities for over a decade.

Kashem, who identified himself as the CEO of an NGO called Kathak Academy, has been involved in trafficking people since 2008, according to Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"We have seized 31 passports from Kashem's possession. He collected these passports through his agents with an aim of trafficking people to the USA, Germany, Japan, Italy, Dubai, and France," said Rashid.

Kashem's modus operandi involved sending a

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Announce April 10 as 'Republic Day'

Speakers demand at event on Proclamation of Independence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday demanded announcing April 10 as "Republic Day" since Bangladesh's Proclamation of Independence was adopted on this day in 1971.

"I believe that April 10 -- the day on which Bangladesh emerged as an independent country -- will be recognised as Republic Day," said Barrister M Amir-ul Islam, who drafted the proclamation, while presenting a keynote at the event held at Dhaka's Foreign Service Academy.

Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) organised the conference titled "The Proclamation of Independence: 10th April 1971 and Birth of a Sovereign Republic".

Amir-ul Islam said, "The Proclamation of Independence is the constitutional basis of the state named People's Republic of Bangladesh, which was born on April 10, 1971 in Mujibnagar. The proclamation is the birth

certificate of Bangladesh."

Speaking as chief guest, Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said, "Bangladesh's Proclamation of Independence is a result of a long-run movement for independence in which Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was at the epicentre."

He stressed on preserving the history of "Republic Day" using technology and spreading it to the young generation.

According to a press release issued by BILIA, former high commissioner of India to Bangladesh Veena Sikri said the March 7 speech of Bangabandhu and the Proclamation of Independence of April 10 are the "arts of events" in the history of Bangladesh.

Indian army officer who took part in the fight for Bangladesh's liberation and author of the book "From East Pakistan to Bangladesh" Brig (ret'd) RP Singh, former police superintendent Mahbub Uddin

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Eminent personalities, including those who contributed to Bangladesh's fight for liberation, spoke about the importance of giving due recognition to the country's Proclamation of Independence by observing April 10 as "Republic Day" at a conference held at Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Govt takes up

FROM PAGE 3
The DoE will also purchase 75 professional drones and 63 vehicles to monitor environment pollution across the country. The vehicles will cost Tk 39 crore. According to the project proposal, the cost to construct 35 buildings will be Tk 492 crore; each building will take Tk 14 crore. A multipurpose building will be constructed for the training and research centre. Its construction cost will be Tk 92 crore. Sanjay Kumar Bhowmik – additional secretary (development wing, additional charge) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – said it is an essential

project to establish permanent locations for the DoE, as it still conducts its activities by renting offices. “It is not possible to conduct research and monitoring work through floating places,” he said, adding that this project will surely strengthen the DoE’s overall activities. AKM Fazlul Haque – secretary to the agriculture, water resources and rural institutions division of the planning commission – said the project will help ensure sustainable environmental management. “From the planning commission, we have scrutinised the project and given observations about the consultation firms.”

Announce April 10

FROM PAGE 3
Ahmed, historian Syed Anwar Hossain, and Liberation War veteran Nasir Uddin Usuf spoke at the event. Meanwhile, Sohel Taj, son of Bangladesh’s first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, has also demanded announcing April 10 as ‘Republic Day’ in a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Gazi Hafizur Rahman, personal secretary-2 to the prime minister, received the memorandum at the entrance of Gono Bhaban yesterday, following a sit-in on Manik Mia Avenue in front of the parliament. Speakers in a separate event in Dhaka organised by Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee also demanded April 10 to be observed nationally.

The grim picture of street children

FROM PAGE 3
Of street children came to the street with their parents. Regarding the activities these children are engaged with, the survey revealed that 20.9 percent are involved in garbage collection, while 18.4 percent resort to begging as a means of survival. Another 16 percent are involved in transportation and construction, with 14.8 percent working in shops, restaurants, and tea stalls. A small proportion – 0.7 percent – are engaged in petty crimes and sex work, while 0.5 percent do sweeping and cleaning activities. The survey reveals that approximately 64 percent of girls living on the streets resort to using unhygienic cloth during their menstruation. Furthermore, a staggering 73 percent of these girls repeatedly use the same old cloth. According to the survey, nearly all street children have experienced some type of violence while working, with over 61.7 percent reporting physical abuse in their workplaces. It also revealed that

28.8 percent of boys are smokers, while 13.7 percent of them abuse drugs. Over 60 percent of street children do not wish to return to their families, with social or family problems being a significant factor in pushing them to the streets. However, more than 72 percent of them do not want to enrol in rehabilitation centres as well. Of them, 79.2 percent expressed their unwillingness due to the lack of freedom in such centres, while 24.4 percent said the environment in such centres is not according to their liking. Around 14.4 percent said they are unwilling to rehabilitate because they have to contribute to the family income. The survey recommends the implementation of further programmes to accurately determine the total number of street

children and district-level estimates, which will facilitate the allocation of resources based on the number of children living in street situations. The report suggests that an in-depth qualitative study would also be helpful in policymaking for this highly vulnerable group of children. Addressing the survey-unveiling event, Planning Minister MA Mannan said there were no previous government statistics on street children. “The findings of the survey will help to enact policy for the betterment of street children,” he said. Chaired by BBS Director General Md Matiar Rahman, the programme was addressed by State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam, and Shahnaz Arefin, secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division of the planning ministry.

Free surgical devices for poor children at NICVD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Authorities of National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease (NICVD) have launched a programme to support poor children who have cardiac issues by supplying surgical equipment for free. Under the programme, UCB Foundation has donated 50 paediatric oxygenators and 50 patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) devices to NICVD authorities. UCB Foundation and NICVD have also signed a MoU in this regard recently. An oxygenator is a medical device that is capable of exchanging oxygen and carbon dioxide in the blood of patients during surgical procedures, while a PDA device is used to conduct a minimally-invasive (non-surgical) procedure. Using the oxygenators and PDA devices, physicians already have treated 39 child patients. Prof Mir Jamal Uddin, director of NICVD, thanked UCB Foundation to come forward to help the child cardiac patients. He also urged the rich people to come forward to help poor patients. Attending the MoU signing ceremony, Arif Quadri, managing director and CEO of United Commercial Bank, pledged to continue such support.

Doa mahfil for Abdul Hannan on Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A doa mahfil for Abdul Hannan, former press counsellor of the Bangladesh mission to New York, will be held at his Dhanmondi residence in Dhaka on Friday, said a press release. Hannan passed away on the evening of April 5 at his residence. He was 89. In this long career, he served as a teacher, journalist and diplomat. He contributed columns to various newspapers, including The Daily Star and Prothom Alo, and also authored a book on public relations. Elder brother of noted writer Hasnat Abdul Hye, Hannan was buried at the family graveyard in his village home at Syedabad of Kosba in Brahmanbaria.

Parliament just

FROM PAGE 3
golden jubilee session of the parliament. He said, “The government acts as an initiator in formulating laws. Due to Article 70, the ruling party, who holds the majority seats in the parliament, can pass any government-proposed laws.” “Everything, accepting and refusing any amendment, depends on the government,” he said. “Arrangements can be made so that the members of the ruling party can vote with their own knowledge and judgment and reflect the opinion of their constituency, rather than voting in line to their party’s desire,” he added. The parliamentarians should be allowed to raise their voices independently in all proposals except three. Those three are formation of the government, no confidence motion against the government, and the

passage of budget, he added. GM Quader said that the main responsibility of the parliamentary committees is to ensure the accountability of the government and its ministries. “But we feel that the standing committees are failing to do these tasks. Because they can make recommendations to the ministries concerned, but ministries often don’t even look at these recommendations,” he claimed. “Many want to consider overall development [of the country] as an alternative to democracy. But development can never be a substitute,” he added. He said development does not only mean infrastructural development. Real development is the development of the overall quality of life of the country’s people.

Human trafficking syndicate

FROM PAGE 3
letter to the United Nations ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) to attend a programme, and then completing the registration for it with the UN Headquarters. He would then use the documents to apply for visas with the US embassy in Dhaka, identifying the individual or visa seeker as a high employee of the so-called NGO. “Once the approval letter is issued, Kashem uses the documents for visa application with the US embassy,” said Junaed Alam Sarker, additional deputy commissioner of DB. Junaed added that the embassy generally issues official or multiple three-month visas after taking an interview and fingerprint

of the applicants. However, after the visa tenure ends, many of these individuals stay in the country illegally and never return. Kashem, who charged Tk 10 to 12 lakh from each applicant, has sent at least 20 to 25 people to the USA. The police have come to know that Kashem and his syndicate have sent around 80 people to the USA and different countries in Europe so far. DB took action and arrested the three, including the ringleader, while investigating a case filed by the US embassy with Gulshan Police station on March 15. According to the FIR, secured by Michael Lee, security attaché of the regional security office at the US embassy, four Bangladesh citizens attended a visa interview

and processing at the embassy with fraudulent documents from a visa broker. The four citizens were attempting to deceive the embassy by saying that they were attending a conference at the United Nations in New York. The documents were several letters and emails from Kathak Academy. However, the suspects confessed that they paid money to obtain the fraudulent documents and that they had no association with the NGO. Kashem has embezzled several crores by arranging the fraudulent documents and trafficking people to the USA and Europe, said ADC Junaed. The police are now investigating whether any other individuals are involved in the syndicate.

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তারিখ: ১৯ চৈত্র ১৪২৯
২ এপ্রিল ২০২৩

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়: Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedure (sop) এর খসড়ার ওপর মতামত প্রদান।

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর ও সেভ দ্যা চিলড্রেন, বাংলাদেশ এর যৌথ উদ্যোগে প্রণীত ‘Child Protection Case Management Standard Operating Procedure (sop)’ এর খসড়ার ওপর সকলের মতামত গ্রহণের লক্ষ্যে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইটে (লিংক: shorturl.at/asG16) প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। উক্ত এসওপি’র খসড়া ওপর প্রয়োজনীয় মতামত আগামী ১৭ এপ্রিল ২০২৩ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত ই-মেইল ও ঠিকানায় প্রেরণের জন্য সর্বসাধারণকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।
ই-মেইল: mahamudullah2010@gmail.com
taslima.begum@savethechildren.org


ড. মোঃ মোকতার হোসেন
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Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited

(A State Owned Organization)

116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1205

www.bscl.gov.bd



Invitation for Tenders

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology
02	Agency	Posts and Telecommunications Division
03	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited
04	Procuring entity code	Not used at present
05	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
06	Invitation Ref No.	14.39.0000.012.07.004.22.155
07	Date	09/04/2023

KEY INFORMATION

08	Procurement method	Open Tender
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FUNDING INFORMATION

09	Budget and source of funds	Company's own fund
10	Tender Package No.	BSCL/2022-23/PG-10
11	Tender package name	Capacity enhancement of BSCL Head Office Monitoring Center
12	Tender publication date	11/04/2023
13	Tender last selling date	26/04/2023 Time: 04:00pm

14	Tender closing date and time	Date: 27/04/2023 Time: 12:05pm
15	Tender opening date and time	Date: 27/04/2023 Time: 12:20pm
16	Name & address of the office(s) - Selling tender document (principal) - Selling tender document (others) - Receiving tender document - Opening tender document	Address: Managing Director, Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited, SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

17	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	As stated in the tender document			
18	Brief description of service	Capacity enhancement of BSCL Head Office Monitoring Center			
19	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 1000 (one thousand Taka only)			
20	Lot	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days
	01	Lot-1: Supply & Installation of Smart TV	SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-08, 116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.	15,000/- (fifteen thousand only)	As per the 'Supply/Work Schedule (Section 6)' of tender document
	02	Lot-2: Prepare Glass room for server, Supporting Wall for TV installation & Electrical Activity and Supply & Installation of Air Conditioning System		15,000/- (fifteen thousand only)	
	03	Lot-3: Supply, Upgradation & Installation of Encoder		8,000/- (eight thousand only)	
	04	Lot-4: Supply & Installation of QAM Modulator and Set-top Box		8,000/- (eight thousand only)	

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

21	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Shafiqul Islam
22	Designation of official inviting tender	Managing Director
23	Address of official inviting tender	Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited, SEL Rose-N-Dale, Level-07, 116, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
24	Contact details of official inviting tender	0241030091-93 <Fax No.> procurement@bscl.com.bd


The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.

(Signed)

Md. Shafiqul Islam

Managing Director

Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited



বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ।

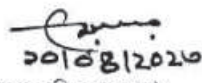
স্মারক নং- বশেবুবিবি/৪/নিয়োগ/২০২৩/১৬-২৯/৩৭৫


তারিখ: ১০ এপ্রিল ২০২৩

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর সিল্ডি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ইলেক্ট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেক্ট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, এ্যাপ্লাইড কেমিস্ট্রি এন্ড কেমিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, রসায়ন, গণিত, পরিসংখ্যান, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, ব্যবস্থাপনা শিক্ষা, একাডেমি এন্ড ইনফরমেশন সিস্টেমস, মার্কেটিং, অবনীতি, লোক প্রশাসন, বায়োকেমিস্ট্রি এন্ড মলিকুলার বায়োলজি, মনোবিজ্ঞান, বায়োটেকনোলজি এন্ড জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞান, ইতিহাস, ইংরেজি, বাংলা ও কৃষি বিভাগে সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, সহকারী অধ্যাপক/প্রভাষক ও প্রভাষক এবং সিনিয়র মেডিকেল অফিসার পদসমূহে বন্য পদের বিপরীতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

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রেজিস্ট্রার





বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর

শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০

অন্তর্জাল তথ্যতীর্থ: www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন ‘পল্লীকবি জসীম উদীন স্মরণশালা’ ফরিদপুর-এর জন্য রাজস্ব খাতে অস্থায়ী পদে (১) সংরক্ষণ সহকারী ১টি (২) অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক ১টি (৩) অফিস সহায়ক ১টিসহ মোট ৩টি শূন্য পদে জনবল নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আর্থহী উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীগণকে বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের ওয়েবসাইট www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd এবং টেলিটক  বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর ওয়েবসাইট <http://bnm.teletalk.com.bd> অথবা QR Code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd> এ সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। যে কোনো ব্যাখ্যার জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত ফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে : ০২৪১০৬০৩২৪/০২২৩৩৩৬৩৬৩।


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বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Patuakhali Road Division, Patuakhali

☎: 0441-62216

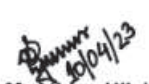
Fax: 0441-65108

E-mail: eeapat@rhd.gov.bd

(a) “Quotation Invitation for Lease of Toll Collection of RHD “Boga Ferry Ghat”

(b) “Quotation Invitation for Lease of Toll Collection of RHD “Golachipa Ferry Ghat”

01.	Lease Quotation No.	PRD (Lease Quotation)/02/BF/GF/2022-2023 (6 th Call).
02.	Name of work	(a) Lease for Toll Collection of Boga Ferry Ghat at 14 th km of Lebukhali-Bauphal-Golachipa-Amragachia Road (Z-8806) under Patuakhali Road Division. (b) Lease for Toll Collection of Golachipa Ferry Ghat at 70 th km of Lebukhali-Bauphal-Golachipa-Amragachia Road (Z-8806) Road under Patuakhali Road Division.
03.	Time limit for lease	For Boga & Golachipa Ferry Ghat: 03 (Three) years or 1096 days (From 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2026).
04.	Price of lease quotation schedule	Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka Five thousand only) per group.
05.	Earnest money	10% (Ten percent) of quoted price within Bank Draft/Pay Order.
06.	Last selling date & time of lease quotation	25.04.2023 up to 5.00pm.
07.	Date & time of receiving lease quotation in seal condition	26.04.2023 up to 12.30pm.
08.	Eligibility of lease quotation	Vat and Tax Certified Company/Person, All Contractor's of Government/Private/ Autonomous Body.
09.	Offices of selling lease quotation	(a) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barishal. (b) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali. (c) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali. (d) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Barguna. (e) Office of the Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Patuakhali/Kuakata Road Sub-Division/1 st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Patuakhali.
10.	Offices of receiving lease quotation in seal condition	(a) Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barishal Zone, Barishal. (b) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Barishal. (c) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Patuakhali. (d) Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali.
11.	Place, date & time of opening lease quotation	Place: Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Patuakhali. Date: 26.04.2023, Time: At 3:00pm.
12.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Quotation/Lease.	


A.M. Atique Ullah
ID No. 602311
Executive Engineer (CC), RHD
Road Division, Patuakhali

Villagers fleeing homes in fear

They worry of further violence after 8 killed in Bandarban 'shootout' between armed groups

MONG SING HAI MARMA

Over 400 indigenous people of six villages have been fleeing from their residences ever since eight people were killed during a "shootout" between two armed groups at Rowangchhari upazila in Bandarban on Thursday night.

The villages are -- Prang sa Khamtang para, Paying khyang khamtang para, Kha mong khyang khamtang para, Kya plang para, Pan khyang para, Zur va ram para and Ronin para.

Police said United People's Democratic Front and Kuki Chin National Army, the military wing of Kuki Chin National Front (KNF), were engaged in the gunfight on Thursday night over establishing supremacy in the hills of Khamtang Para and nearby areas.

The people fleeing belong to the Bawm and Kheyang communities of Rowangchhari and Ruma upazilas. They took shelter in schools and different organisations' offices at the upazila headquarters.

All eight deceased belong to the Bawm community, according to locals.

Sang Kung Bawam, 40, is one of the

villagers who took shelter at a primary school in Rowangchhari along with her four daughters and elderly parents-in-law. Her husband Zahim Bawm, 45, is one of the eight victims.

"My husband was a carpenter. He was not involved with any criminal gang. But the criminals killed my husband without any reason," she said.

"How will we survive? How will my daughters continue their education?" she grieved.

The people fleeing belong to the Bawm and Kheyang communities of Rowangchhari and Ruma upazilas.

Of her four daughters, the eldest studies at Bandarban Government Women's College and the youngest is three years old.

Many of the escapees, said they had to leave their cattle and household utilities behind.

Local administration and people's representatives have kept distributing food and clothes among the people, said Khorshed Alam, UNO of Rowangchhari.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

With no harnesses to protect them from a sudden fall, two workers cling precariously to a towering signboard to repair it. What's saving them from a dangerous drop is the trust in their skills and the strength of their grip. This photo was taken in Barishal city's Ruptali area recently.

ATTACK ON JOURNO Two accused held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

Rab-7 in a drive arrested two accused of a case filed over assaulting a journalist and throwing him off the roof of a two-storey building in Chattogram's Chandanish upazila for his report on hill cutting.

The arrestees are -- Md Alauddin, 35, and Md Faruk, 26. They were held from Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka.

Rab 7's Chandgaon Camp Commander Major Mehedi Hasan said, "After the attack, the criminals fled to Dhaka and were staying in Badda and other areas. They had their phones switched off. On Monday noon, they tried to leave Dhaka, but we traced down their location and held them from Kamalapur."

"During primary interrogation, they admitted to attacking the journalist. We will interrogate them further once they reach Chattogram," he said.

In the case statement, Shukkur, father of the attacked journalist Ayub Miraji, alleged that his son became the target of a vested group for his report on hill-cutting in Dohazari area and informed the local UNO and assistant commissioner (land) about the matter.

Ayub, who is Chandanaish correspondent of national daily Janobani and local daily Shangu, is currently undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Hill cutting continues despite legal action

Environmentalists, locals blame councillor who is accused in three cases filed by DoE

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Destroying parts of a hill, Zahurul Alam Jasim, a councillor of Chattogram City Corporation, has built a primary school in the city's Akbar Shah area.

He has also made some plots, cutting the hill, and sold them to low-income people. "I bought a plot from the councillor for Tk 3 lakh two years ago. Now, I'm building a house on this plot," said a land buyer, seeking anonymity.

As seen by our correspondent, right now, he is cutting three hills, which he claims to be his. However, without permission from relevant authorities, one cannot even cut their own hill. No such permission was issued for Zahurul.

This is not a one-off offence. The councillor has reportedly cut many other hills in the area and made large plots in the last seven years. Following all this, Department of Environment (DoE) filed three cases against Zahurul and his wife for destroying hills.

Zahurul is the joint convener of North Pahartali ward of Awami League.

In January, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), was attacked by the councillor's followers while she was trying to inspect a site to confirm hill cutting in Akbar Shah, according to eyewitnesses.

After the incident, Rizwana filed a case against Zahurul with Akbar Shah police station.

Meanwhile, locals complained against Zahurul to Chattogram deputy commissioner and DoE for cutting hills in December last year.

Shafiqul Islam Khan, a local environmentalist, said Zahurul started cutting hills in 2014, and this activity is mainly managed by his associates.

But Zahurul denied everything and said political opponents are trying to frame him.

"I was elected as an independent candidate in the last CCC election and won as a councillor. My opponent, who was the candidate nominated by Awami League, has falsely accused me of cutting hills after losing the election. I have complained against them to the party's high command," he claimed.

Earlier, Bela filed a petition in the High Court against the ongoing hill cutting in the area in 2015. In this petition, DoE, deputy commissioner and Zahurul were made defendants.

I was elected as an independent candidate in the last CCC election and won as a councillor. My opponent, who was the candidate nominated by Awami League, has falsely accused me of cutting hills after losing the election.

ZAHURUL ALAM JASIM
Chattogram city councillor

In the petition, it was alleged that 10 acres of hills have been cut in North Pahartali Mauza of Akbar Shah area.

"A coordinated investigation into hill cutting in Akbar Shah is underway. Based on the investigation report, we will take legal action against the culprits," said Mia Mahmudul Haque, deputy director of DoE, Chattogram.

There were 200 hills in Chattogram four decades ago. Of those, 120 have already disappeared, according to a research paper of Chittagong University's forest and environmental science department,

conducted by Dr Khaled Mesbahuzzaman, a teacher of the department.

CCC 'CUTTING HILL' TO MAKE ROAD

A hill in Beltalighona area of Akbar Shah has reportedly been razed under the direction of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) to make way for a road. A landslide occurred at the site on Friday, which killed one and injured three.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found authorities constructing the 1-kilometre road by cutting the hill that spans across Beltalighona to Baitul Aman Jame Masjid.

On Friday, a part of the hill adjacent to Agrani Housing collapsed onto the under-construction road.

In February, before the accident, a mobile court -- led by Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Kattali Circle Omar Faruk -- inspected the site, and a man was sent to jail for illegally cutting the hills. The court instructed others to stop cutting hills as project authorities of CCC did not have environmental clearance.

Besides, DoE sent a letter to CCC authorities to inquire into the construction. CCC, however, has not yet responded to that letter, said DoE's Mahmudul.

According to CCC data, the road-construction project has a budget of Tk 2.68 crore and is financed by Asian Development Bank.

CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury on Friday admitted that the road was being constructed on the slope of the hill.

"We didn't know that the road was being constructed by cutting hills. However, an accident has occurred, and the inquiry committee is probing the incident. We will issue further instructions based on the inquiry report," said Sheikh Mohammed Towhidul Islam, chief executive officer of CCC.

SCBA VANDALISM

24 pro-BNP lawyers get bail in case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 24 pro-BNP lawyers in a case filed over vandalism and attempted murder of lawyers at an iftar mahfil organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on April 6.

They have been granted bail for 12 weeks or till submission of the police report, whichever is earlier, in this case.

The High Court also asked the accused lawyers to surrender before the lower court concerned during this period in connection with the case.

The HC bench, led by Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan, passed the order following a bail petition filed by the 24 lawyers.

Earlier in the day, the accused petitioners, including AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, appeared before the HC bench seeking bail.


Senior lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali appeared for the petitioners during hearing of the petition, while Deputy Attorney General BM Abdur Rafell opposed the bail petition.

Md Robiul Hassan, administrative officer of SCBA, lodged the case on April 9 with Shahbagh Police Station in Dhaka against 50 to 60 persons, including 24 pro-BNP lawyers.


In the case, names of 24 lawyers, including Khokon and Kazal, who were the candidates for the posts of president and secretary in the Supreme Court Bar Association election held on March 15 and 16 from the pro-BNP lawyers' panel, have been mentioned.

In the case statement, it is mentioned that the accused, along with some outsiders, entered the two hall rooms of SCBA, where an iftar mahfil was organised, with a procession chanting slogans in the name of fugitive convict Tarique Rahman and Jamaat-e-Islami.

They also scratched the banners containing the name of the chief justice, vandalised the chairs and tables and created a chaotic situation, according to the statement.



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা
গাজীপুর।



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Memo no: 12.21.0000.073.01.618.22.6657 Date : 04 April 2023

e-GP: Tender Notice No.31(2022-2023)

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

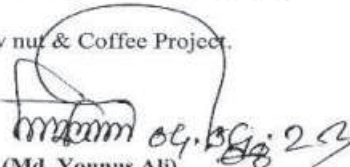
Sl No	Package no.	Tender ID & Ref No	Description of goods	Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing date & Time	Tender Opening date & Time
1.	PN : GD-04	813493 & IRN : 618	Laboratory Equipment 02 (Two) Items.	25.04.2023 12:00	25.04.2023 13:00	25.04.2023 13:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website 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 copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Name: Research, Development and Extension of Cashew nut & Coffee Project.


 (Md. Younus Ali)
 (BARI0663)
 Deputy Director (In-Charge)
 On behalf of Director General

GD-658



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
ভূমি ও ইমারত শাখা
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
Gazipur-1701



কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি
Tel: 49270077
E-mail : se.building@bari.gov.bd
Web: www.bari.gov.bd

Memo No. 12.21.0000.010.41.468.20.1291 Date: 09.04.2023

e-Tender Notice

Tender is invited through National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Tendering method	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
1.	812159	OTM	Land development work under Development of Canona type Rapeseed Variety for Cultivation between T.Aman and Boro Rice at RARS, BARI, Jamalpur	04-Apr-2023 11:00	18-Apr-2023 12:00

This is online tender, only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Registration is essential to submit e-Tender. Fees have to be deposited for downloading the tender documents from e-GP Portal through any registered bank. For further information please contact e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Name: Development of Canona type Rapeseed Variety for Cultivation between T.Aman and Boro Rice

Engr. Md. Ferozur Rahman
 Superintending Engineer (In-charge)

GD-663

An Eid without

MEHAZABIEN

“I will be at home this Eid. At other times, I had to spend a very hectic time during Eid, because I had so many projects coming up. However, this time is different as I will just sit in front of the TV and review my colleagues’ projects, which I guess will be fun. I am very excited to watch what my co-artistes are doing this Eid.”

ANTARA RAISA

In the last couple of years, Eid has meant watching television dramas starring Mehzabien on all major television channels. This time, Eid will be different for all of us, as there will be no new Eid projects from Mehzabien Chowdhury this year.

Recently, the actress created a strong position on OTT platforms with brilliant projects like *The Silence*, *Redrum*, and *Kajoler Dinratri*.

“Right now, I am focusing more on OTT platforms. That is why I didn’t shoot any dramas this Eid.”

Apart from this, two of her web-projects, *Ami Ki Tumi* directed by Vicky Zahed, and *Nil Joler Kabbo*, directed by Shihab Shaheen, will be released on the newly launched OTT platform iScreen.

“Vicky Zahed’s *Ami Ki Tumi* will be of mixed genre. The audience will get the flavour of every element in the series. Apart from this, *Nil Joler Kabbo* was initially shot as a drama. However, then, iScreen offered us a deal that we liked. Now, the shooting of the project is underway.”

This Eid will be different for Mehzabien too, as she will just relax and watch the projects of her co-artistes.

“I will be at home this Eid. At other times, I had to spend a very hectic time during Eid, because I had so many projects coming up. However, this time is different as I will just sit in front of the TV and review my colleagues’ projects, which I guess will be fun. I am very excited to watch what my co-artistes are doing



PHOTOS: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK



this Eid.”

When asked to share one of her favorite memories of Eid, she recalled the day when she first wore a salwar kameez.

“As I grew up in Saudi Arabia, salwar kameez was not a very common attire for girls. So, when I turned 8 that year, my mother stitched a matching kameez for me on the occasion

of Eid. I was so excited to wear that dress. On Eid, I wore my kameez and enjoyed my morning with my parents. In the afternoon, I took a nap wearing the kameez, and it got wrinkled. So, I woke up when my parents were asleep and tried to iron my kameez. However, unfortunately, I burned the dress while ironing it. My mother still has that salwar kameez, but I don’t. It’s a memory that I will never forget.”



Mosharraf Karim is a born actor: Chanchal Chowdhury

Noted actor Chanchal Chowdhury recently praised his fellow actor Mosharraf Karim and the entire team of *Mohanagar 2*, with a heartwarming post on Facebook, that is being appreciated by fans.

“In terms of acting, there is nothing new to say about Mosharraf Karim, as he is a born actor. Instead, I will talk about *Mohanagar 2* and how Ashfaq Nipun has blown away the audience with its outstanding trailer,” said the actor.

The *Hawa* actor stated that he is overwhelmed by the numerous surprises and twists shown in the trailer and is super excited to see some of the new faces joining the series.



‘I keep Rajya away from smartphones’

Dhallywood stars Pori Moni and Sariful Razz became parents to a beautiful baby boy, Rajya, last year in August. Since then, their life has drastically changed, and the couple have dedicated much of their time to their little world.

In a recent post, Pori has said that she tries her best to keep Rajya away from smartphones, which consume most of today’s younger generation. “My boy is growing up, and I have noticed that naturally, he is quite curious about phones. I try my best to not use them when I am with him”, she wrote. “I hope you will understand my issue and message me if I don’t receive your call. I will try my best to get back to you”.

NEWS

New wage board

FROM PAGE 12
salary, up 51 percent from Tk 5,300 fixed in 2013.

The wage board also comprise representatives from factory owners, garment workers and the Bangladesh Employers’ Federation, an independent member and a senior government official.

Md. Siddiqur Rahman, a former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), is representing the factory owners in the new board, according to Faruque Hassan, the current president of the sector’s apex trade body.

Sirajul Islam Rony, president of the Bangladesh National Garment Workers Employees League, is representing the workers on the new board. He was also the workers’ representative on the minimum wage board in 2013.

The new board will hold the first meeting soon, Rony said, without disclosing the exact date.

Culprits

FROM PAGE 1
April 19 last year.
The crimes related to the production, storage, transfer, transportation, supply, marketing, distribution of food grains such as paddy, rice, wheat, flour and corn have been brought under the purview of this proposed law. Punishments have been suggested as per the magnitude of the crimes, the cabinet secretary said.

The proposed law, which has 20 sections, has been drafted combining the Food (Special Court) Act-1956 and the Food Grains Supply (Prevention of Prejudicial Activity) Ordinance-1979, he added.

Under the proposed law, the offence of supplying unsafe or adulterated food products to the market carries imprisonment ranging from two to five years and fine of up to Tk 10 lakh for.

The cabinet also approved the draft of Bangladesh Dairy Board Bill-2023.

The bill proposed to constitute a new body named “Bangladesh Dairy Development Board” to oversee the dairy related matters. The minister of fisheries and livestock has been proposed to be the ex-officio head of this board, consisting of total 19 members.

All those who are producing milk commercially or producing dairy food should come under the purview of this board.

Boro destroyed as saline

FROM PAGE 12
“But then some influential people removed the dam to let saline water enter their shrimp enclosures.”

However, Rampal Upazila Nirbahi Officer Najibul Alam said no permission was taken by the farmers to erect dams or cultivate paddy, adding that the local chairmen have been given the responsibility to resolve the dispute between Boro farmers and shrimp enclosures owners.

Not only in Kalekharber, Boro farmers of other villages – Singurbunia, Ranjyopur and Aruadonga, in the same union – have also been suffering.

Farmers in these areas have alleged that shrimp farmers, led by Zulu Hazi, an influential shrimp cultivator of Rajnagar union, have removed the embankments to allow saline water into their enclosures.

Contacted, Zulu said, “We had taken the paddy farmers’ consent in this regard. However, we will take necessary steps so that the water cannot enter the paddy fields.”

Those in Dema union as well are fearing losses as influential locals have opened up the sluice gates over Chabaki river in Chabaki and Bashbaria areas.

These two were done to let saline water enter shrimp farms.

Md Suján Sheikh, a farmer of Dema union, said he invested around Tk 70,000 to cultivate Boro on four bighas of land in Kashimpur village.

“My cropland was within the block set up by the Agricultural Extension Department. I have also irrigated the field through the irrigation line established by the agricultural office. Now, due to entry of saline water in the adjacent river, my Boro was affected. It looks like a burnt field.”

Several other growers of the union have all had their Boro paddies destroyed by salinity.

Farmers in this coastal district have been showing increased interests in growing Boro over the past several years to ensure their food security ever since the cultivation of Aman, once the only large crop grown there, has been falling gradually.

According to data by the

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the acreage of Boro paddy in Bagerhat rose by 28 percent – from 2009-10’s 45,459 hectares to 2021-22’s 58,315 hectares. Meanwhile, Boro production jumped 62 percent to 2.68 lakh tonnes in last 12 years.

Farmers said they could have had a good yield if the dams hadn’t been taken down.

Locals of Dema union alleged that the sluice gates are controlled by the union Awami League President Jahangir Hossain and he was responsible for letting the saline water into the polder area to farm black tiger shrimps, generally grown in brackish water.

Contacted, Jahangir Hossain denied the allegation.

He said the saline water was brought in through sluice gates during Maghi Purnima, a Buddhist festival, with the consent of the farmers.

“The water was fresh at that time and no more water was added later,” he said. He also blamed an “unknown disease” for the damage of the paddies.

“Farmers are wrongly blaming saline water.”

Md Masum Billah, executive engineer of Bagerhat BWDB, said they had kept the sluice gates closed to make sure saline water could not enter.

“But we don’t know who opened the gate and let the water in during the night. I heard a duplicate key was made for this. We are looking into the matter seriously.”

Sadia Sultana, agriculture officer of Bagerhat Sadar, on March 24 said some rice plants have died due to high salinity.

“We have tested the soil on the farmers’ lands. The salinity in the soil was found to be quite high. As there has been less rainfall, the salinity did not decrease.”

She, however, claimed she had not heard about the saline water being released into the fields by influential people.

Bagerhat Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rubaiya Tasnim said they would inspect the entire area and report the amount of damage.

Indian EC

FROM PAGE 12
the TMC, NCP and CPI, asking them to reply why their national party status should not be revoked after their performance in the previous Lok Sabha elections that year.

Under paragraph 6B of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, a party is eligible for the national party status if it is a recognised state party in four or more states and if its candidates get at least six percent of the total valid votes polled in four or more states in the last Lok Sabha or assembly election.

Moreover, a national party must have at least four MPs elected in the last Lok Sabha election or it must win at least two percent of the total Lok Sabha seats in at least three states.

At present, the TMC has 23 Lok Sabha members and five members in Meghalaya assembly. But the party failed to win a single seat in Tripura and Goa.

The party failed to meet the other criteria for being a national party, according to the Indian EC.

The EC decision would be a blow to the TMC aspirations to go national and weaken Mamata’s position as a prime ministerial candidate.

Earlier, there were seven national parties in India – Trinamool, Bahujan Samaj Party, BJP, CPI, CPI (Marxist), Congress and NCP.

Zafrullah

FROM PAGE 12
After Zafrullah fell seriously ill on April 5, he was taken to Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in the capital’s Dhanmondi.

On April 8 Mohib Ullah Khondoker, vice principal of Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vittik Medical College told The Daily Star, “Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury has been suffering from various problems. His immune system is not functioning. Because of this, many infections have occurred in his body.”

He said, “Zafrullah Chowdhury’s treatment is going on under the leadership of Dr Mamun Mostafi with advice from renowned experts. On April 7, a medical board was formed with the renowned doctors of the country.”

Zafrullah has been suffering from kidney complications for a long time. Since being infected with Covid-19, he has been suffering from liver problems along with kidney problems. Zafrullah is also suffering from Septicemia.

Interviewee in DW

FROM PAGE 12
After this, Sub-inspector Riad Ahmed lodged a case against Nafiz under the Narcotics Control Act with Bhatara Police Station yesterday. His laptop and phone were also seized, according to the case statement.

Nafiz was produced before a Dhaka court in connection with the narcotics case. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mainul Islam rejected his bail prayer and sent him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

Meanwhile, DC Ahad said the raid was conducted as an arrest warrant had earlier been issued against him in a pornography case.

An application was filed with a Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court to show him arrested in the case filed with the same police station under the Pornography Control Act in 2021.

On November 4, 2021, Nafiz was arrested in a drive conducted by Rab. At that time, Rab informed media about the recovery of foreign liquor and drugs, including crystal meth, from his house.

Talking to reporters, Nafiz claimed that he has permission to consume alcohol, but said he did not have crystal meth.

Rab then stated that Nafiz was running an alcohol business under the name “Syndicate International” on social media. Rab further said private photos of women were found in his phone and hard disk that they suspect were taken using spy

cameras.

At that time, three cases were filed against him under the narcotics control, pornography control, and telecommunications control acts with Bhatara Police Station.

In 2017, Nafiz was arrested in connection with the murder of 14-year-old Adnan Kabir in Uttara over establishing supremacy in teen gangs in the area.

DW ran an article on its website on April 3 titled ‘Death squad’: Inside Bangladesh’s Rapid Action Battalion, where DW also credited Netra News for taking part in the investigation.

The same day it published a video on YouTube, titled “How the elite police force Rab terrorises the people of Bangladesh | DW Documentary”.

In the documentary, Nafiz was seen recounting his experience of being brutally tortured in custody at the Rab-1 office.

The police raid came a week after the DW documentary was published.

Meanwhile, in a DW report published on its website yesterday, Naomi Conrad and Birgitta Schülke, who were part of the DW investigative team, expressed concern over Nafiz’s immediate safety.

“He was well aware that something like this might happen and had taken some precautions – but sadly, the security forces seem bent on silencing our interview partners. We are very worried for his safety,” Schülke said.

Thai shooting death toll rises to six: police

AFP, Bangkok

Two more people have been found dead following a weekend shootout in southern Thailand, police said yesterday, taking the death toll to six.

Police are hunting two gunmen over the bloodshed in the southern province of Surat Thani, while local media reported that a third was among the dead.

Authorities found the body of a man in his 20s in a car on Sunday evening, and a woman’s body was found yesterday, police officer Ampai Meemassu told AFP. Four people had been confirmed dead on

Saturday.

The two newly confirmed victims were identified as the son and wife of one of the suspects, Ampai said.

Thai media reported that the victims and suspects were all part of the same extended family.

Thailand has high rates of gun ownership and there has been a steady trickle of violent incidents in the past 12 months, including one of the deadliest attacks in recent history.

The kingdom was stunned in October after a former police sergeant murdered 36 people, 24 of them children, in the northeastern Nong Bua Lam Phu province.

China ends Taiwan drills

REUTERS, Taipei

China ended three days of military drills around Taiwan yesterday saying they had tested integrated military capabilities under actual combat conditions, having practised precision strikes and blockading the island that Beijing views as its own.

Taiwan responded to Beijing's announcement by saying it would "never relax" its efforts to strengthen combat readiness and would closely monitor China's missile forces and movements of the Shandong aircraft carrier.

The European Union expressed concern yesterday, saying Taiwan's status should not be changed by force as any escalation, accident or use of force there would have huge global implications.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring the democratically-governed island under Beijing's control. Taiwan's government strongly disputes China's claims.



Villagers pick up humanitarian aid during heavy fighting at the frontline of Bakhmut and Chasiv Yar, in Chasiv Yar, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BOAT SINKING

Two migrants dead, 20 missing in the Med

AFP, Rome

At least two migrants have died and around 20 others are missing after their vessel sank in the Mediterranean between Tunisia and Italy, German aid group ResQship told AFP.

The group's ship, the Nadir, rescued another 22 people and took them to the Italian island of Lampedusa, said Stefan Seyfert of ResQship. Their boat sank overnight Saturday to Sunday.

Among those rescued were men, women and children from Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Mali, Ingo Werth, captain of the Nadir, said. A pregnant woman was among those saved, while the boat's crew also recovered the bodies of two men.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

China criticises Indian minister's visit

AGENCIES

China firmly opposes a visit by India's home minister to Arunachal Pradesh and views his activities in the area as violating Beijing's territorial sovereignty, a foreign ministry spokesperson told a news briefing yesterday.

China has renamed some places in what India regards as its eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, which China claims as part of its territory. "Zangnan is China's territory," spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question on the visit by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah.

"The Indian official's visit to Zangnan violates China's territorial sovereignty, and is not conducive to the peace and tranquillity of the border situation."

China and India have had several skirmishes over the disputed border and clashes in mountainous regions in recent years have seriously strained ties, reports Reuters.



India's Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Arunachal Pradesh on April 10 and 11 where he will launch the 'Vibrant Villages Programme' in Kibithoo, a village along the India-China border.

India has always maintained that Arunachal Pradesh is an inalienable part of the country, and China giving its own inventive names will not change the ground reality.

"This is not the first time that China is making such attempts, and we have criticised such attempts. Arunachal Pradesh is an inalienable part of India. China giving its own inventive names will not change the ground reality. I would like to re-emphasise that," Ministry

of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said last week.

The US also strongly opposed China's attempts to advance a claim over Arunachal Pradesh by renaming localities, reports NDTV.

"This is another attempt by the Chinese claim on US, Indian territory. So the United States, as you know, has recognized that territory for a long time and we strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to advance a territory claim by renaming localities. And so, again, this is something that we have long stood by a few things," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said.

Shah, talking about the Kibithoo village, said, "This is the area where the light of sunshine reaches first in the country. Earlier, people used to call this the last village of the country but now we call it the first village of India, that is the conceptual change PM Modi has brought."

5 killed, 6 hurt in Kentucky bank shooting

AFP, Washington

Five people were killed and at least six others hospitalised following a shooting targeting a bank yesterday in downtown Louisville, in the US state of Kentucky, according to police who said the assailant had been neutralised.

Police tweeted that calls had come in around 8:30 am (1230 GMT) for an "active aggressor" at the Old National Bank in Louisville, the largest city in the southern state, and that officers were on the scene in "minutes."

"Five people have been confirmed to have been killed inside. At least six were transported to University of Louisville hospital, including one officer with various injuries," a police spokesman told a press conference.

PAKISTAN'S QUETTA

Four killed in blast targeting police vehicle

REUTERS, Quetta

Four people were killed and fifteen injured in a bombing targeting a police vehicle in a marketplace in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta yesterday, a hospital official said. "The injured numbers reached fifteen, and four dead," Wasim Baig, a spokesperson for the Quetta hospital, told Reuters. He added that the dead included one woman, while two women were injured. Senior police official Shafqat Cheema told Reuters that the target was the vehicle of the acting superintendent of police investigations, which was parked in Kandahari Bazar. He said initial reports showed an improvised explosive device was planted in a motorcycle parked behind the vehicle. Two police officers who were sitting in the vehicle were among the dead, SSP operations Zohaib Mohsin Baloch said. The initial investigation revealed that 4 to 5 kg of explosive was used in the motorcycle, which was detonated by remote control, he added. This is the second attack on police in less than 24 hours. On Sunday evening armed men targeted personnel of the Police Eagle Squad in Quetta, killing two police officers and injuring another. One of the attackers was killed by police.

গণিতের জন্য বিজ্ঞান

“শেখ হাসিনার দর্শন, সব মানুষের উন্নয়ন”

বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণাগার, চট্টগ্রাম।

পোঃ চট্টগ্রাম সেনানিবাস, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২২০।

“উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি” (OTM)

দরপত্র দাখিলে বর্ণিত শর্ত এবং যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত কাজের জন্য সীলপালাকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	সমূহ	ঃ বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
৩.	ক্রম/সমূহের স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	ঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
৪.	আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরণ	ঃ জরুরী সংস্কার কাজ।
৫.	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র নং	ঃ ৩৯.০২.১৫০৬.০৬৮.১৭.০০২.২২ তারিখ ১০/০৪/২০২৩ ইং
৬.	ক্রম/সমূহের পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
৭.	বরাদ্দের উৎস	ঃ রাজস্ব খাত।
৮.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির শেষ তারিখ	ঃ ২৬/০৪/২০২৩ ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৭/০৪/২০২৩ ইং বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২৭/০৪/২০২৩ ইং বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
	দরপত্র বিক্রয় অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঃ ক্যান্টিনার, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার, বাসুন্ডা, ডাক: সেনানিবাস, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২২০।
১১.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	ঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার, এর কার্যালয়। ঃ প্রকৌশলী/সহকারী/সিনিয়র সার্ভিসমণ্ডে নির্ধারিত সময়ে মধ্য দরপত্র প্রেরণ করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পরে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার এর কার্যালয়।
১২.	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নির্ধারিত ঠিকাদার। অনুরূপ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে, কাজ সমাপ্তির সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে। এ্যানুয়েল টার্ম ওজারের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত নিবন্ধন, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি, আয়কর ও জ্যাট নিবন্ধনের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৩.	দরপত্র জামানত	ঃ স্বর্ণা অনুযায়ী।
১৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	ঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	ঃ প্রকৌশল বিভাগ, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।
১৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ঃ টেলিফোন নং: ০২ ৩৩৪৪ ৮২৯০৪ (অফিস), ই-মেইল: engrazim@bcsir.gov.bd
১৭.	নির্ধারিত হারে বারনার টাকা তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে পেমেন্ট/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি আকারে পরিশোধ, বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার-এর নামে দাখিল করতে হবে।	
	প্যাকেজ নং	কাজের নাম
W-11	বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগারের আবাসিক এলাকার ডি আই পি গেট হাউজের রান্নাঘর সহ আনুষঙ্গিক জরুরী সংস্কার কাজ।	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময় সীমা ৩০ দিন বারনার টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) ৩০,০০০/- তফসিলের মূল্য, টাকা (অফস্টেরযোগ্য) ১,০০০/-

দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় কার্যক্রম প্রসিআর-২০০৮ এবং তদানন্তর জারীকৃত সংশোধনী/প্রজ্ঞাপন অনুসারে হবে। উক্ত দর বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রজ্ঞাপনের ১০% ওপের্/নিম্নে হলে সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। জরুরী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারন দর্শানো ব্যতীতকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মোহাম্মদ আলীক)

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী

বিসিএসআইআর চট্টগ্রাম গবেষণাগার।

GD-661

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

District Primary Education Office

Habiganj.

website: dpe.habiganj.gov.bd

Memo No. dpeo/hobi/gps/760

Date : 10/04/2023

e-Tender Notice No.2/2023-24

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works:

Sl. NO.	Name o Scheme	Tender ID NO	Package No	Tender/Proposal Document Last selling/downloading Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing Date & Time	Remarks
1	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Baniachong Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	798999	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0309	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
2	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Baniachong Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799002	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0310	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
3	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Azmington and Bahubal Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799003	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0307	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
4	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Bahubal and Baniachong Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799004	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0308	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
5	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Baniachong and Chunarughat Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799005	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0311	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
6	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Chunarughat, Habiganj, Sadar and Shaistaganj Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799007	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0312	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
7	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799009	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0313	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
8	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Madhabpur Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799010	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0314	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM
9	Supply of Various Types Furniture at different Government Primary Schools of Madhabpur and Nabiganj Upazilla in Habiganj District under NBIDGPS-1.	799012	NBIDGPS-1/G1.0315	25-April-2023 16:00	26-April-2023 14:00	OTM

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 Tender/Proposal document to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Golam Molla)

District Primary Education Officer

Habiganj.

Phone : 02996605294

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GD-657

Make the most of young population

Authorities must not let this great opportunity go to waste

As per the latest census, Bangladesh's youth population has increased by 15.81 percent to 4.59 crore over the last decade. This has provided the country with a great opportunity to make the most of what is known as "demographic dividend", an economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working age population (15 to 64) is larger than that of the non-working age population (14 and younger, and 65 and older). What is unfortunate, however, is that till now Bangladesh has largely failed to utilise this once-in-a-lifetime window of demographic dividend due to its inability to create jobs and other opportunities for them to flourish.

One may recall that in 2018, the International Labour Organization (ILO) ranked Bangladesh second out of 28 countries in the Asia-Pacific region for having the highest rate of educated unemployment. The ILO also estimated that between 2010 to 2017 – close to the same period when Bangladesh's youth population increased – the rate of youth unemployment had doubled. Before releasing the most recent Labour Force Survey 2022 (where, unbelievably, Bangladesh was shown as having the lowest unemployment rate in South Asia), the government's last survey on the labour force came out in 2016-17, which also showed a lack of seriousness on part of the authorities to address issues related to unemployment. In that survey, it was also seen that the youth unemployment rate stood at more than double the national unemployment rate, with the rate being higher among the more educated youth. For example, unemployment rate was 13.4 percent among youths having a tertiary-level education and 29.8 percent among youths having secondary-level education.

There has been little change in this scenario since then, with recent reports highlighting their continued struggle.

Experts have pointed out that the "economic miracles" experienced by Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan between the early 1960s and 1990s, and the economic boom witnessed by Ireland in the 1990s, were all down to the utilisation of their respective demographic dividends. For Bangladesh, this window is expected to close within the next decade or two. If we are to take advantage of it to propel the nation forward, then the government has to do much more in terms of creating jobs and overall opportunities for young people.

At the same time, it is important to keep in mind that having such a large group of young people could prove to be a double-edged sword. Along our current trajectory, where the youth are basically being starved off opportunities, they might become increasingly frustrated and disillusioned. In the absence of opportunities to contribute to the nation and society, or to improve their own lives, where are these young people supposed to channel their energy? It might well be towards criminal activities that may exert tremendous pressure on the country, which will worsen our economic and societal outcomes. Therefore, it is high time the government formulated a holistic strategy to provide the best opportunities for our young citizens.

The poor deserve a fighting chance

Mess residents' struggle highlights vulnerability to high food prices

The fallout of Covid-19 coupled with the Russia-Ukraine war continues to haunt Bangladesh. Far from ushering in an era of economic recovery as predicted, the end of the pandemic has been anything but transformative for us, with the war, now in its second year, further exacerbating the situation for ordinary citizens. In particular, the poor and those with fixed income continue to struggle with the ever-increasing prices of nearly every essential. As a result, many have been forced to compromise on their standard of living.

One section of those grossly affected, as per a report by this daily, live in arrangements generally known as "mess" located in urban households. These people, mostly comprising students and people in low-income jobs who share flats among themselves for cheaper rent, are struggling to cope with the exorbitant prices. Many have had to modify their diet by, for example, bringing down their fish or chicken intake from every alternate day to just two days a week. Even a year ago, the cost of one meal averaged around Tk 40-45. That has now gone up to Tk 60-65, while prices of housing and utilities have also gone up simultaneously. Experts say that dietary modifications of the kind that these people are being forced to undergo may lead to protein deficiency, and even result in chronic diseases. Unfortunately, this is a reality that most ordinary people today can relate to.

The government has time and again blamed the global pricing trends and supply-chain disruptions for the rising cost of essentials at home. In March, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, food inflation was 9.09 percent while non-food inflation was 9.72 percent. While the influence of external factors like the war-induced disruptions cannot be denied, it is also true that our price hike problem is, to a large extent, of our own making. Poor policy, lax market monitoring and lack of accountability for price manipulators have allowed businesses, including large firms and importers, to continue raising prices of essentials.

The extent of the crisis can be understood from a recent review by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), which said that the monthly food expense for a family of four is now about Tk 22,664, which was Tk 18,115 a year ago. It also suggested that the government should increase the salary in the private sector by 5 percent. Income stagnation or lack of decent income has been flagged as another major hurdle for those struggling with high food prices. This is another area that needs urgent intervention from the policymakers.

We urge the authorities to take the issue of price hikes, especially the affordability of ordinary citizens, with the seriousness that it deserves. The government cannot shirk responsibility for domestic factors contributing to people's vulnerability to high prices. It must take stern action against market manipulators regardless of how influential they are.

Is unemployment actually declining?



Dr Rizwanul Islam
is an economist and former special
adviser to the Employment Sector,
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'Unnayaner Arthaniti.'

RIZWANUL ISLAM

Some results from the 2022 Labour Force Survey (LFS) conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) have been released recently. The survey was long-awaited as it was conducted after a gap of more than five years. But what has been released now is a preliminary report that contains data on a small number of variables. Some observations may, however, be made on the basis of this report.

One important finding of LFS 2022 is a decline in the rate of open unemployment, which the government has claimed to be a positive development. But one cannot come to such a conclusion simply because of the definition of unemployment used and the manner in which the unemployed have been identified in the survey. Although the measure is in line with what is recommended by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and is globally used, it cannot provide the true picture of the labour market in Bangladesh. One was regarded as unemployed only when they did not work even for an hour during the reference week of the survey, was willing to work, and was actively looking for work.

In countries like Bangladesh, where there is no provision for unemployment allowance, poor people cannot afford to remain without work. Hence, it is not surprising that the number of people who didn't work even one hour in a week is so small. In fact, most of the previous labour force surveys in the country showed the unemployment rate to be around four percent. If this is indicative of the real situation of the labour market, that could be the cause of envy for many countries, including the developed ones.

The real situation is that many who don't have access to a good job and are in desperate need of an income try to eke out a living by engaging in some work – whatever its nature is. While the standard measure of unemployment is not able to capture them, many of them are working but poor. What happens to their number and condition is extremely important.

Given the limitations of measured unemployment, alternative indicators of the labour market situation are necessary. Examples include: i)



ILLUSTRATION: REHNUMA PROSHOON

rate of growth of employment in manufacturing, modern services like trade, banks, insurance, and professions like education, health, law, etc; ii) share of the formal sector in total employment (because around 85 percent of employment is in the informal sector); iii) share of regular paid jobs in total employment; and iv) productivity and income in self-employment. What is important is to see if workers are able to move from low productivity sectors to those with higher productivity and income.

However, open unemployment can be a good indicator for the youth, because many of them may have support from family and be able to remain unemployed while searching for jobs. Moreover, they often encounter special difficulties in entering the labour market. As a result, the rate of youth unemployment is usually much higher than the overall average. And Bangladesh is no exception in this regard. The results of the 2010 and 2016-17 LFS show that youth unemployment had increased during that period. Although the preliminary report of the 2022 survey does not provide this figure, recent studies on the topic, especially

from the manufacturing sector and reverse migration to rural areas.

The number engaged in agriculture is reported to have risen from 24.7 million in 2016-17 to 32.2 million in 2022. How an additional 7.5 million additional people joined agriculture within this period and what its impact has been on per capita income of those engaged in the sector should now become the subject of serious research.

In a country like Bangladesh, where agriculture is still characterised by surplus labour and economic growth is expected to be associated with a transfer of that surplus to modern sectors including manufacturing, a rise in the number and share of people employed in agriculture has to be regarded as a reversal of the process of structural transformation. This reversal is not only an indicator of a difficult economic situation, but also of policy failure.

An apparently positive finding of LFS 2022 is a rise in women's labour force participation rate. But is that indicative of positive development in the labour market or some other development? While a full analysis of such issues has to wait for the detailed

be important to see whether the jump in the rural rate has been helped by rising opportunities or simply due to other reasons, like girls who were out of school during the pandemic doing unpaid family work. Needless to say, research is needed to understand the diverging trends in the participation rates for women in rural and urban areas.

Another riddle that comes out from LFS 2022 is the sharp rise in labour growth between 2016-17 and 2022. Compared to 2002-03 to 2010, there was a decline between 2010 and 2016-17. Likewise, the absolute number joining the labour force every year was also declining. There has been a sharp rise in that number as well after 2016-17. Given the continued decline in population growth, it would have been natural for the earlier declining trend in labour force growth to continue. But the sharp rise after 2016-17 defies rational explanation.

While reliable data are essential for making good policies, it is also important to look at data carefully and examine their causal relationships before conclusions are drawn from them.

If only breathing were optional



Debra Efroymson
is the executive director of the
Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh,
and author of 'Beyond Apologies:
Defining and Achieving an
Economics of Wellbeing.'

DEBRA EFROYMSON

After suffering an intense "change of season" cough for several days and trying herbal remedies (hot water with ginger, lime and salt; bitter teaspoons of *kalijira* oil) without success, I finally went to the doctor. When I asked him if I should get a Covid test done, he laughed, as if to say, "You live in Dhaka and are surprised that you have a cough?"

In an online meeting, when an Indian colleague asked how I was, I replied, "I'd be fine if breathing were optional."

Upon reflection, I added, "Which our governments seem to think it is, given how relaxed they are about air pollution."

"True," he succinctly replied.

The coughing is now better, but persistent. When I lie down, I promptly start coughing again – those deep, rip-up-your-insides kinds of hacking coughs.

I would love to believe that I'm just having a severe reaction to dust, or that it's all normal seasonal illness, but the evidence suggests otherwise. While Dhaka did not (surprisingly) make it to the list of the five most polluted cities in the world in 2022, Bangladesh is one of the top five most polluted countries, and Dhaka's air is notoriously filthy. We all know this, and mostly we choose to ignore it and

hope for the best. What's a little lung damage among friends?

But breathing in a cocktail of pollutants and dust does not only affect our lungs. Cigarettes destroy not just smokers' lungs but other organs as well, as the toxic chemicals in tobacco travel throughout the body. The same thing happens with air pollution, which also causes strokes, heart disease, and other non-communicable diseases in addition to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer. Beyond making us sick, air pollution – indoor and outdoor – reportedly causes 6.7 million premature deaths in the world every year.

As if that weren't bad enough, small particles of pollutants can pass the blood-brain barrier and contribute to dementia. Think about this the next time you struggle to remember someone's name or where you left your glasses (on your head, dummy!).

So here's the thing about ambient air pollution: it's not a problem that can be solved through individual action. Sure, those who can afford it can live in less polluted environments, but given that 90 percent of the world's population now breathes dirty air, it's not entirely clear where one should migrate to. And even if the wealthy could escape, are we

okay with subjecting everyone else to toxic air? Obviously, a problem of this magnitude requires some serious solutions. Where does one start?

One very simple measure would be a massive campaign educating people about how wrong it is to set up fires in the city. The burning of rubbish is a nightmare for those with particular

Breathing in a cocktail of pollutants and dust does not only affect our lungs. Cigarettes destroy not just smokers' lungs but other organs as well, as the toxic chemicals in tobacco travel throughout the body. The same thing happens with air pollution, which also causes strokes, heart disease, and other non-communicable diseases in addition to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer.

susceptibility to polluted air. Many years ago, I fell dangerously ill due to hours of inhaling smoke, thanks to a fire someone had deliberately lit near our office. Such a campaign, of course, should be accompanied with strong enforcement and fines for non-compliance.

But that's only the beginning. A major source of air pollution

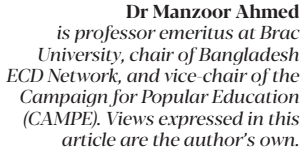
is motorised vehicles. Various international organisations suggest reducing or removing motorised traffic in areas with high levels of air pollution, reducing or banning heavy vehicles in the city centre, and restricting the speed to 30 km/hour for all vehicles. They also suggest requiring the delivery of goods to shops by smaller vehicles (which, in Dhaka, could mean rickshaws vans). They suggest that cities could promote bicycle use and increase the number of "calm areas" such as parks and courtyards. Fortuitously, such measures, while aimed at air pollution, would also reduce noise pollution.

Many European cities institute car-free days when air pollution spikes. These car-free days are popular, with 62 percent of people in five major European cities supporting the idea of one car-free day a week, and replacing cars with walking, cycling, and clean air. According to Barbara Stoll, director of the Clean Cities Campaign, car-free days can "deliver a quick drop in toxic air pollution... Besides, they are a great way to demonstrate to the public what life can be like in cities when the roads are not dominated by cars."

A report from Barcelona's Public Health Agency (ASPB) found that the city's "superblocks" scheme – which transforms intersections in the most polluted urban areas into attractive plazas (thereby keeping motorised transport away from homes) – has resulted in a 25 percent decline in NO2 levels in some areas. Overall pollution and noise have declined significantly.

In other words, there are effective measures that government officials can take. But first of all, we must convince them that breathing isn't optional.

The disturbing trend of selective abortion




Dr Md Nuruzzaman Khan
is a public health expert and assistant
professor of population science at Jatiya
Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University.

MD NURUZZAMAN KHAN

To address this, the government first needs to ensure that healthcare and associated personnel do not disclose the sex of an unborn child by any means. Investing more in increasing women's education and empowerment, as well as awareness campaigns to promote the value and importance of girls and women and gender equality, are also important. We need to ensure that no female foetus is aborted in Bangladesh, and that a female foetus has an equal right to be born as a male foetus.





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১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা বিভাগ।
২।	বাস্তবায়নকারী সংস্থা	:	বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল।
৩।	প্রতিনিধি	:	সচিব, বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল।
৪।	বাজেট প্রাপ্তির উৎস	:	বিএসএল অনুদান তহবিল।
৫।	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	:	৩৭.২৮.০০০০.১০৩.৪৩.০০১.২০- ৯৭১ তারিখ-১০/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রি.
৬।	সরঞ্জামাদির বিবরণ	:	অফিস সরঞ্জাম সরবরাহ।
		:	মালাশালের নাম সংখ্যা
		:	ফ্রেস্ট সেক্টর ০১ (এক) টি
		:	ফাইল ক্যাবিনেট/সেক্টর ০৪ (চার)টি
		:	scanner ০১ (এক) টি
		:	LED TV ০৪ (চার)টি
		:	সিদ্ধিক ০২ (দুই) টি
৭।	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	:	টাকা = ১৬,০০০/- (ষোল হাজার) মাত্র।
৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় মূল্য	:	টাকা = ১০০০/- (টাকা এক হাজার) মাত্র (অক্রেয়নযোগ্য)।
৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	:	বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল(বিএস), বিএসএল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স-২(৩য় তলা) ১ মিল্টো রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের সময়	:	২৪/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রি. অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান ও সময়	:	বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল(বিএস) অফিস, বিএসএল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স-২(৩য় তলা) ১ মিল্টো রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০। তারিখ ও সময় :- ২৪/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রি. তারিখ বেলা- ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার সময় ও স্থান	:	২৪/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রি. তারিখ বিকাল ২.০০ ঘটিকা, বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল (বিএস) অফিস, বিএসএল অফিস কমপ্লেক্স-২(৩য় তলা) ১ মিল্টো রোড, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।
১৩।	কার্য সমাপ্তির সময় সীমা	:	ক্রয় আদেশ থেকে ৩০(ত্রিশ) দিন পর্যন্ত (প্রয়োজনে ক্রেতা/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে)।
১৪।	বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য	:	১) দরপত্রের শর্তাবলি টেন্ডার সিডিউলে পাওয়া যাবে। ২) কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে,



(প্রফেসর এ.কে.এম. মুনিরুল ইসলাম)

সচিব

বাংলাদেশ অ্যাক্রেডিটেশন কাউন্সিল



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

What it takes to get into DU B unit

It is important to know the order in which a student wants to approach each section of the question paper. If a student wants to get into the Department of English, they have to achieve a certain amount of marks in the English section of the question, so they should focus on that portion more.

AFSANA BISWAS

My Dhaka University (DU) journey started on my first day at college when I learned about the qualifications of many of my teachers at Govt. Michael Madhusudan College, Jashore. Most of them had graduated from DU, and they told us all about the excellence of the country's premier university, which inspired me a lot to start taking preparation for the admission test for B unit.

During my preparation period for the admission test, I got the opportunity to communicate with seniors who got admitted to DU in previous years. This helped me design my study plan for the admission tests.

Students from the Arts background are eligible for participating in DU's B unit admission test. Success in this admission test grants them the opportunity to admit themselves into subjects like Law, English, International Relations, Economics and so on. The B unit admission test comprises three topics – Bangla, English, and General knowledge. The Bangla and English section are derived from the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) English and Bangla books. The General Knowledge section is derived from recent events, as well as other subjects that are part of the HSC syllabus for the Arts section, and some questions may appear from ICT as well. The questions focus on testing the students on their basic knowledge of Bangla and English. General Knowledge, on the other hand, is all about finding out whether students keep up with current affairs and testing their powers of memorisation. Therefore, to obtain good marks in the General Knowledge section, students must dedicate their time to continue going over the same

topics over and over again, as this section plays a salient role in ensuring qualification to study certain subjects if a student does pass the exam.

Time management

Students get 60 minutes to answer around 60 multiple-choice questions (MCQs) followed by 30 minutes of descriptive writing. This leaves them with one minute for each question.

It is important to know the order in which a student wants to approach each section of the question paper. If a student wants to get into the Department of English, they have to achieve a certain amount of marks in the English section of the question, so they should focus on that portion more.

Like with any exam, one should start with the subject they feel most comfortable with and then get into the more difficult ones, and stay calm if they face any difficulties. During my exam, I allocated three separate time slots for the three sections. It's important to make sure that a student passes all the sections separately because only then will their descriptive writing section be examined.

Be aware of negative marking

For every wrong answer, 0.25 marks are deducted from the total. Thus, it's a wise decision to avoid answering a question unless one is sure about it. But if anyone is a good guesser, or has good instincts, they can try making some educated guesses because sometimes we suffer from the regret of not answering a question that we thought would be correct if we went with our gut feeling. As I am personally not good at it, I tried to avoid this.

Practice helps with this by increasing speed and accuracy. I used to solve questions from previous years over and over again and

evaluate myself every day. It also helped me recognise my mistakes and allowed me to learn how to minimise errors. Besides, it gave me self-confidence and a sense of time management. I practised the written part with special care because a large section of students drop out of the race because they don't get the required number in the written part despite getting good marks in the MCQ section.

The mental aspect

Many students get disoriented at a point during their preparation when they experience the vastness of the admission test syllabus. This is a problem only if a student finds it difficult to be regular. I tried to finish the day's work on the day which gave me the confidence to gain ground over time and cover the whole syllabus.

If at any time it feels like the mental pressure is getting too much, that information should be shared with parents, teachers, or someone trustworthy with the ability to help. Mental strength may just be the supreme tool to conquer the exam field of admission.

Staying true

Other than these obvious tricks of the trade, one important thing to remember would be to ignore the negativity that is prevalent among admission seekers during this time. Staying positive and executing the plans one sets down on the path to success is vital. Instead of working too hard and getting nowhere, it's important to devise smart plans that work for the individual.

Once that is done, all that is left is to give our best during the exam and hope that luck favours us.

The writer is a student at the Department of English at Dhaka University.

Working out a productive study schedule for Ramadan

AHNAF TAHMEED PURNA

For students, Ramadan can be a challenging time to keep up with academic responsibilities while also observing the holy month's religious obligations. With long hours of fasting and late-night prayers, it is understandable if studying takes a backseat.

But worry not, for you can do a few things to make the most of the holy month and attain both spiritual and academic excellence.

Experiment with what works for you

Adjust your usual study timetable a bit. When we fast, it is typical to get groggy and lose our attention span while studying. So, the wise thing to do is to study when we are most energised.

You can study at night up to *sehri* time and sleep during the day. However, some prefer to study after *fajr*, and some prefer sticking to a usual schedule consistent with daylight hours. There is no right way or wrong way of doing it. Every person has their own preference, so it is your job to figure out which timetable works best for you.

Plan ahead

Without a well-thought-out study plan, it is easy to become overwhelmed by the sheer volume of material to be covered, especially during Ramadan. By taking the time to plan ahead, you can ensure that you cover all necessary material and get them done within time by reducing the likelihood of procrastination or last-minute cramming.

Break down studying into manageable chunks

Dividing your task into manageable chunks and taking frequent breaks can help you avoid burnout and keep going. The Pomodoro technique is a very popular approach used by students, but it is better to adjust it to what suits you the best. Chunking is not limited to studying and can also be used for your prayers and Quran recitation.

Take breaks

Studying for long periods of hours can be draining especially during Ramadan. You will have times when you will be struggling to concentrate, so consider taking a break because your brain needs one. It can range from taking a shower to napping or going for a walk. Remember that it is completely fine to get some rest. Just make sure you use your energy efficiently when it returns.

Get yourself a study buddy

Getting a friend on board to study with you will not only make studying less stressful, but it will also improve focus and retention for both of you. If you don't have any friends (like me), worry not. "Study With Me" YouTube videos or live streams can be just as helpful as having a study buddy.

Have nutritious food for *sehri* and *iftar*

After a long day of fasting, it can be tempting to eat fried or fast foods. However, remember that what you eat will affect your productivity, making you feel lethargic and less energetic faster. So, try incorporating more brain foods and more slow-energy foods into your diet.

Ramadan is more about recharging our souls and coming together to celebrate what we believe in than the academic challenges we face. Thus, we are not expected to overlook the spiritual significance of the holy month in our attempts to be productive.

Purna has a lot of free time these days but has no idea what to do with it. Send her ideas for pursuits at purna2692@gmail.com



DESIGN: FAISAL BIN IQBAL

A beginner's guide to preparing for the SAT

BIPRA PRASUN DAS

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) is a standardised test widely used for college and university admissions in the United States. The test comprises four sections – reading, writing and language, math without calculator, and math with calculator.

When it comes to preparing for the SAT, everyone has their own personalised approach. In this article, I discuss everything I did to prepare for the test.

For starters, consider taking a free online practice test on Khan Academy to know your current score and how much preparation you need to improve that score.

Reading

The reading section consists of 52 questions that are to be completed in 65 minutes. This section typically consists of four long single passages and one set of shorter paired passages.

Many test-takers struggle with this section because of the sheer volume of reading that needs to be done and the time crunch. You may have heard phrases like "skim through the passage", "read the questions first", and whatnot. While these strategies may have worked for someone else, figuring out what works for you best is essential.

While reading comprehension is a skill that is acquired over time, you can improve on the reading section by practising SAT standard passages under a time constraint. Many practice passages are available on Khan Academy and other websites.

Keep track of the different types of questions and which ones you are more prone to get wrong. *The Complete Guide to SAT Reading* by Erica L. Meltzer is also an excellent resource for practising SAT reading.

Writing

The SAT writing section consists of 44 multiple-choice questions that are to be completed in 35 minutes. Knowing grammar and



DESIGN: FAISAL BIN IQBAL

its application is of utmost importance in this section. Specific grammar rules are always tested in this section.

The *Princeton Review SAT* guide has the most comprehensive explanation of all the grammar rules you will need. For practising SAT writing, Khan Academy is a reliable option.

Once you have taken the practice test, identify your mistakes in the writing section and head to the topic-wise practice section to hone your skills. Write down your mistakes and see if you're repeating them. If you are, learn the specific rule you're facing trouble with and do some targeted practice on Khan Academy.

Math without calculator

You won't need to use a calculator for most of the problems in this section. However, what makes this part difficult for many is the time constraint. The math section requires you to complete 20 sums in 25 minutes.

The College Panda's SAT Math by Nielson Phu served me really well. In addition, Khan Academy's practice problems are also helpful for identifying your weaknesses in specific math problems and working on them. You must pay attention to time management for this section.

Math with calculator

This section consists of 38 math problems that get gradually more challenging. Test takers have 55 minutes to complete this section.

If you are not very confident in your math abilities, the best way to go about this section is by first understanding all the key concepts that are usually tested and then practising from Khan Academy's topic-wise modules or any other credible source you feel comfortable with.

Contact Bipra Prasun Das at bipraprasun22@gmail.com





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BANGABAZAR FIRE

Traders to resume business tomorrow

DSCC clearing the site of debris to help them set up makeshift shops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shop owners of Bangabazar Shopping Complex, which was burnt to the ground last week, can start their business in makeshift shops from tomorrow, said the authorities.

Dhaka South City Corporation has been removing the debris and burnt goods from the scene since Friday.

Mizanur Rahman, chief executive officer at the DSCC, told The Daily Star that they are trying their best to clear the debris before Wednesday.

Zahirul Islam, general secretary of Bangabazar Shop Owners' Association, said they have requested DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh to reopen the makeshift market.

He said they would sit with all traders on Wednesday noon to discuss how the market will run.

Zahirul added that everyone will get a shop irrespective of the number of shops owned by an affected trader.

Traders primarily said the fire destroyed around 3,000 shops and readymade garments stored in them. Shop owners' leaders claimed that goods worth around

Tk 1,000 crore were lost.

Meanwhile, the partially affected Anexco Tower, adjacent to Bangabazar Shopping Complex, was reopened yesterday.

Electricity supply to the market is yet to resume, said Nazmul Alam, owner of Abir Fashions of the tower. "We are running our business with rechargeable lights".

Meanwhile, the DSCC probe committee could not file its report yesterday.

The body, led by Marina Nazneen, executive officer at Dhaka South City Corporation Zone-I, said they have almost completed the work. "But we are yet to get the list of the affected traders. We will submit the report tomorrow [Tuesday]."

Marina added that during the investigation, they took an electrical engineer with them to find the cause of the fire.

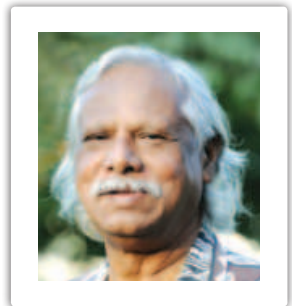
DSCC spokesperson Abu Naser said they estimated that the number of affected traders would be nearly 4,200. The affected ones of the Anexco Tower were not included as they have insurance.

In another development, two women donated Tk 91,000 to the affected traders. Apan Jewellers also donated Tk 20 lakh.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Road rollers of Dhaka South City Corporation levelling the debris at Bangabazar Shopping Complex so that makeshift shops could be set up there. Traders of the market, which was burnt to the ground on April 4, will resume business here tomorrow. The photo was taken yesterday.



Zafrullah on life support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonosasthaya Kendra founder and freedom fighter Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury was put on life support yesterday.

Professor Brigadier General (Retd) Mamun Mostafi, who is leading a medical board formed for Zafrullah's treatment, said, "At 10:30am today [Monday], Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury was put on life support after his condition deteriorated. Now, he is under close observation at Gonosasthaya Nagar Hospital."

Zafrullah's condition is critical but doctors are still hopeful of his recovery, he said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

BAGERHAT COASTAL UNIONS Boro destroyed as saline water let into fields

Farmers allege influential locals cut dams, opened sluices for shrimp farms

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY, Bagerhat

Boro paddies grown by a large number of farmers in Bagerhat have been ruined after some politically influential locals released saline water into the fields for the sake of shrimp farming.

The water was released by removing dams and by opening sluice gates.

Many farmers said they had planted the Boro this season after getting support from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), and were expecting to harvest the staple grain in around a month and half.

However, the saline water has completely damaged their standing crops, that too at a time when the government seeks to use every inch of farmland to produce food and cut dependence on the international market amid the Russia-Ukraine war.

Shrimp is grown in the southwest coastal region for export purposes. As black tiger

shrimps, which account for the majority of the shrimp exports, grow well in saline water, many owners use their influence to ensure that enough brackish water is coming to their shrimp enclosures – resulting in a conflict between them and other food producers in the region.

With local administrations taking no steps to protect the crop and the growers, this has been going on unabated particularly in Dema, Rajnagar and Perikhal unions of Bagerhat's Sadar and Rampal upazilas.

With local administrations taking no steps, farmers particularly in Dema, Rajnagar and Perikhal unions of Bagerhat's Sadar and Rampal upazilas have suffered badly.

Sabita Howladar, of Kalekharber

village in Rampal upazila's Rajnagar union, said, "We had requested them repeatedly to wait for a few days before bringing the saline water in from the nearby canal. But they didn't pay heed."

Sabita's family cultivated Boro paddy, a dry season crop harvested in April-May, on six bighas of land after taking a loan from an NGO and selling their cows to get the capital.

"After 15-20 days, we could have taken the paddy home. As they [local influentials] removed the dam, saline water entered our field and our plants started dying," she told this correspondent when he visited the village earlier this month.

Humayun, another farmer of the same village, said the farmers cultivated the paddy as the DAE provided them with seeds and fertiliser free of cost.

The farmers also took the consent of all before building the dam on the Kalekharber canal to prevent saline water from intruding the fields.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

New wage board formed for garment workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a new minimum wage board to review and recommend the monthly salary for more than 4 million garment workers.

The new board was formed on Sunday, Md. Towfiqul Arif, additional secretary to the labour ministry, told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

The chief of the six-member board is Liaquat Ali Molla, a senior district judge, who is also the chief of the permanent minimum wage board of the government.

"We told the board for holding the first meeting as soon as possible," said Arif, who is acting as the coordinator of the wage board on behalf of the ministry. A gazette may be published soon, he added.

The last minimum wage for garment workers came into effect in December 2018. It fixed Tk 8,000 as the minimum monthly

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

'Coherent' radio signal detected from alien planet

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A "coherent" radio signal has been detected from an alien planet, suggesting it could be more likely to be habitable.

The signal suggests that the planet has its own magnetic field, which is thought to be central to sustaining life on a particular world.

On Earth, our magnetic field helps protect us from the high energy particles and plasma that are blasted from the Sun. As such, any alien life is likely to depend on being protected by a similar field.

But until now researchers have struggled to confirm whether distant rocky planets have magnetic fields of their own, and therefore have found it difficult to say how likely a planet might be able to support life.

Now the new candidate – YZ Ceti b, a rocky planet that orbits a star about 12 light years away – has sent a repeating radio signal that comes from the star and seems to be affected by the planet.

The radio waves the researchers detected from the planet appear to be generated when the star interacts with its planets' magnetic field. Because the two of them are so close together, the new candidate is an ideal pair to test theories about whether those magnetic fields could be detectable at such a distance.

NARCOTICS CASE Interviewee in DW docu arrested, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nafiz Mohammad Alam, who recently appeared in a documentary of German news organisation Deutsche Welle, was arrested in a narcotics case in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area.

Bhatara police held Nafiz, 23, from his home around 7:30pm on Sunday, Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of the Gulshan Division, told The Daily Star.

Police said they seized 26 bottles of foreign liquor, 32 cans of cocktails and a motorbike that had police stickers.

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A Palestinian man confronts Israeli soldiers during a protest in the village of Beita, south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, yesterday, against a march by settlers to the nearby Israeli outpost of Eviatar.

PHOTO: AFP

Indian EC revokes TMC's national party status

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a setback for West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress, India's Election Commission yesterday revoked its status as a national party.

Meanwhile, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was elevated to a national party.

The EC also withdrew the national party status of Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Communist Party of India (CPI), reported our New Delhi correspondent.

Last week, the Karnataka High Court directed the ECI to pass appropriate orders regarding the national party status of AAP by April 13.

The EC said AAP has been named a national party based on its performance in assembly elections in Delhi, Punjab, Goa and Gujarat. The party is in power in Delhi and Punjab. The AAP got 6.77 percent of the total vote share in the assembly poll held in Goa in March last year. The party won five seats in the Gujarat assembly elections held last year.

The ECI, in July 2019, issued show-cause notices to

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