

## EMBASSY REOPENING

## Iran delegation arrives in KSA

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian delegation arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday, Tehran said, to pave the way for reopening diplomatic missions as the Gulf rivals prepare to normalise relations, seven years after an acrimonious split.

The announcement came just days after a Saudi delegation made a similar visit to Iran's capital, following a historic meeting in China between the two governments' foreign ministers who vowed to bring stability to the turbulent region.

"In accordance with the implementation of the agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia on the resumption of diplomatic activities... the Iranian technical delegation arrived in Riyadh at midday Wednesday and was welcomed by Saudi officials," said Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani.

## KILLING OF DOZENS IN SAGAING

## Outrage as Myanmar confirms deadly air strike

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's ruling junta has confirmed that it carried out an air strike on a village in which dozens of people were reported killed, drawing condemnation from the United Nations and Western powers.

UN rights chief Volker Turk said he was "horrified" by the deadly air strike, whose victims he said included schoolchildren performing dances, with the global body calling for those responsible to be brought to justice.

The death toll from the Tuesday morning strike on the remote Kanbalu township in the central Sagaing region remains unclear, with at least 50 fatalities and dozens of injuries reported by BBC Burmese, The Irrawaddy and Radio Free Asia, as well as

by a witness contacted by AFP.

Myanmar's military has cracked down on dissent following a February 2021 coup that toppled Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government, with the ensuing unrest leaving more than 3,200 people dead, a monitoring group said.

Tuesday's strike saw military aircraft strafe Pazi Gyi village, where scores of locals had gathered to mark the opening of a local defence force office connected to junta opponents.

One fighter jet and a helicopter were involved in the attack. The junta confirmed yesterday it had "launched limited air strikes" after receiving a tip-off from locals about the event.

It did not say how many were killed but insisted the military had tried to minimise harm to civilians.



## BBC DOCU ON MODI

## Unaware why Twitter India pulled posts Says Elon Musk

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Elon Musk said yesterday he did not know "what exactly happened" when Twitter took down content related to a documentary critical of PM Narendra Modi earlier this year, adding that some rules related to social media content were "quite strict" in India.

In January, India ordered blocking of a BBC documentary which questioned Modi's leadership during 2002 Gujarat riots, saying that even sharing of any clips via social media was barred.

## Restore power-sharing

## Biden urges Northern Ireland's parties

AFP, Belfast

US President Joe Biden urged political compromise in Northern Ireland yesterday, using a brief visit to promote benefits of enduring peace and investment, but faced criticism from pro-UK hardliners. "I hope the (Northern Ireland) Executive and Assembly will soon be restored," Biden said in a speech at Ulster University, urging feuding political leaders to restore power-sharing government which has been suspended since February last year. Biden touted the "unlimited possibilities" for investment and growth offered in the UK-ruled territory, 25 years on from a historic peace deal brokered by the US government. But peace must always be guarded, he added, saying January 6, 2021, riot in Washington had proved that in every generation, "democracy needs champions".

## There will be conspiracies at home and abroad

FROM PAGE 1

through the recent construction of Padma Bridge, and earlier connected the northern region through construction of Bangabandhu Bridge over the Jamuna during its rule from 1996-2001.

The scope for connectivity through the entire country has been created. And so, Bangladesh is witnessing socio-economic development and will

continue to do so, she said.

She added her government has ensured electricity supply in 100 percent of the houses, and is ensuring healthcare services. It has raised the literacy rate, and reduced the child and maternal mortality rates.

Referring to the outcome of the recent Household Income and Expenditure Survey, the PM said the poverty rate declined to 18.7 percent from 41 percent in

2006, while the extreme poverty rate has come down to 5.6 percent from 25 percent in 2006.

"No person will remain 'an extreme poor' in the country," she said.

The PM further said her government proved that AL in power means an improvement of the fate of the people.

She said the BNP and Jatiya Party "were born from the pockets of military dictators".

"Parties like BNP and Jatiya Party did not emerge from the soil and the people ... Since the two parties came to power with guns, the people rejected them."

Criticising BNP leaders and like-minded people for not seeing the development of the country, she said, "They continue telling lies everyday using loudspeakers. I don't understand why they continue to do so even during Ramadan."

## A fighter till the end

FROM PAGE 1

I asked him whether he did this impulsively. He replied, "Tearing up the passport was a protest against the Pakistan army's genocide. I wanted to tell them 'You are killing us, so I am destroying your passport and rejecting Pakistani citizenship'."

In May 1971, Zafrullah and Dr Mobin decided to travel to Kolkata. The two had no passports and citizenship. They collected travel permits and started for Kolkata on a Syrian airlines flight. They had a stopover in Damascus, and trouble occurred there. The Pakistan government was keeping a watch on their movements and tried to arrest them with the help of the Syrian government.

All the passengers disembarked. The two friends, however, didn't get off the flight, sensing danger. They knew that police could not arrest anyone from an international flight.

A Pakistani colonel at the airport claimed, "Two of our citizens are on board. Hand them over to us." They continued negotiations for a long time. Finally, the Pakistani officer was informed that Zafrullah and Mobin were not carrying Pakistani passports. Rather, they were travelling with travel permits. This is how the two escaped arrest.

In late May, the two reached Agartala which was under sector-2 of the Liberation War. Zafrullah built a field hospital there. This hospital ultimately became Gonoshasthaya Kendra in the independent Bangladesh, which primarily took shape in Bismariganj village of Agartala.

Khaled Mosharraf, sector commander of sector-2, was running the war from that region. Injured freedom fighters were treated at that hospital named "Bangladesh Field Hospital". The hospital, made of bamboo and hay, had 480 beds and an operation theatre. Complicated surgeries were conducted there to save the lives of the badly injured freedom fighters.

The hospital was the brainchild of Zafrullah and Mobin, the only cardiac surgeon of Pakistan at the time. They trained a group of volunteers as paramedics who worked as nurses. Rights activist Sultana Kamal was one of

the nurses.

When the hospital was about to be set up in Bangladesh, objections were raised from the administration. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, then president of the newly independent Bangladesh, heard about it. Zafrullah met Bangabandhu at the Secretariat. He recalled what Bangabandhu had said to him that day.

Zafrullah said to Bangabandhu, "Mujib Bhai, no permission is being given for Bangladesh Field Hospital."

"Actually, when the word 'Bangladesh' is there, it gives the impression that it's a state-run hospital. Choose a better name for the hospital," said Bangabandhu.

After a lot of arguments, Bangabandhu said, "You choose three names and I will pick three more. Then we two will select the best name for the hospital."

Zafrullah then chose three names and got back to Bangabandhu.

Bangabandhu inquired, "What name did you choose?"

Zafrullah said, "The first one is Bangladesh Field Hospital and the second option is Gonoshasthaya Kendra."

B a n g a b a n d h u stopped him and said, "Gonoshasthaya is a beautiful name. This will be the name of your hospital. It will not only provide medical treatment, but also will contribute to building the nation. Gonoshasthaya Kendra will have to work in the education, agriculture and health sectors as well."

Zohra Begum, MA Rob, a joint secretary of the Pakistan government, and Dr Lutfor Rahman donated five acres of land from their family estate at Savar. Bangabandhu acquired 23 acres and donated it to the hospital. The Bangladesh Field Hospital, which served during the Liberation War, started its journey as Gonoshasthaya Kendra in independent Bangladesh in 1972.

It is an organisation of the people. Zafrullah challenged the stereotypes against women and initiated women empowerment in his organisation. He trained women as electricians, carpenters, welders – jobs traditionally done by men.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra employed female drivers who used to drive jeeps on

the Dhaka-Aricha highway in 1982. The total number of its staffers is around 2,500, and 40 percent of them are women.

Zafrullah managed to continue his work even though his kidneys were failing. He had to undergo dialysis thrice a week. It is an expensive treatment in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country. Gonoshasthaya Kendra now provides dialysis service to more patients than all government and non-government hospitals combined.

Zafrullah built a 100-bed modern kidney dialysis centre at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital. He used to say that this is the biggest dialysis centre in Asia and it's more developed than those in any other countries. It charges patients very little for this service.

Zafrullah's most remarkable contribution after the Liberation War was formulating the drug policy. The pharmaceutical market in independent Bangladesh was entirely controlled by the multinational companies. There were around 4,000 drugs in the market at that time, many of which were nonessential. Some of the medicines were produced locally and the most had to be imported.

Immediately after independence, Zafrullah dreamed of building a local pharmaceutical industry. He talked to Bangabandhu about this matter. Bangabandhu agreed with the proposal of importing medicines from socialist countries at discounted prices.

He also convinced former president Ziaur Rahman about the importance of developing the pharmaceutical industry. Zia wanted him to join his cabinet and work on a drug policy. But Zafrullah rejected the offer as Zia had anti-liberation persons with him. He clarified his position in a four-page letter written to Zia.

Zafrullah later convinced HM Ershad and ultimately formulated the drug policy. Out of the 4,500 drugs available in the market back then, 2,800 were banned.

Establishment and expansion of the local pharmaceutical industry are the outcomes of that historic policy. Now 95 percent of medicines

needed for more than 170 million people of the country are produced locally. Bangladesh also exports medicines now.

Zafrullah is criticised for keeping on good terms with the dictatorial governments of General Zia and Ershad. It is not untrue. Is Zafrullah the only person who maintained a good relationship with Zia and Ershad?

Through these relationships, Zafrullah did something for the country. Nobody can accuse him of using these relationships to serve his own interest.

Many people and some newspapers say that Gonoshasthaya Kendra is owned by Zafrullah. But the fact is, Zafrullah is the founder of the organisation, not the owner. He has no right in its property. No individual can claim its ownership either. The organisation is owned by the people of Bangladesh.

Zafrullah was awarded "Swadhinata Padak" – the country's highest state award. He is also a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay award.

His hospital doesn't look like a posh five-star hotel. It provides treatment to the poor at nominal cost.

Throughout his life, Zafrullah did what he thought to be right. He never thought about the consequences of his actions.

At the beginning, I gave some ideas about Zafrullah's lifestyle in London. After the Liberation War, he radically changed his lifestyle. He would wear clothes until they were absolutely worn-out.

One day I asked him about this habit. Pointing to the shirt he was wearing, he said, "This shirt is 30 years old. It is still in good shape. Why should I change it?"

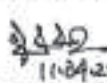
Zafrullah's Bangladesh Field Hospital served during the Liberation War. He is not physically present amongst us anymore. However, his organisation is with us and it will be here for a long time. The physician will remain alive lovingly in the hearts of the people. And, it is the people who will keep Gonoshasthaya Kendra alive forever.

[This article has been translated into English from Bengali by Md Shah Nawaz Khan Chandan.]

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Phone No-02589902705, E-mail- bograpaurashava@yahoo.com					
Web- www.bograpaurashavabd.org					
Memo No. Bog-Pou/Xen/2022-2023/799				Date: 11/04/2023	
Invitation for Tenders					
e-Tender (OTM) Notice No. 01/2022-2023					
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) for the procurement of the below schemes/Packages:					
Sl. No.	Tender ID No	Package No	Scheme Name	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1	2	3	4	5	6
01	810674	LGCRPP/Bogura/2022-23/W-01	1) Improvement of BC Road, Drain & X- Drain Councillor Ward Office to Lalvita mour to Koton Shop ward no-08 (ch-00-540) , Link-1- Jamilnagar Sarker house to Green Lund Hooging ward no-08 (ch-0-150 m) under Bogura Paurashava, Bogura. (2) i) Construction of BC road with RCC drain from Kazikhana mor to Shamol house via Mou Clinic, length= (Ch 0-300m) at ward no-10, Under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (ii) Construction of RCC drain from Mosto house to Cader madrasa, length= (Ch 0-300m) at ward no-10, Under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (iii) . Construction of BC road from Zabbar road to Rahman nagar road, Length= (Ch 0-750.0m) at ward no-10 under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (3) Construction of RCC road fromm Shopno super shop to Malotinagar mor via Pour bokshi bazar, Length= (Ch 0- 756m) at ward no-11, under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (4) i) Construction of RCC road fromm Gohail road (TVS showroom) to Sutrapur central Eidgah, Length= (Ch 0- 260m) at ward no-09, under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (ii) Construction of RCC drain with slab & side CC work fromm Carmichael road (Wonderland park) to Poura Existing drain, Length= (Ch 0- 250m) at ward no-09, under bogura pourashava, Bogura.		
02	810675	LGCRPP/Bogura/2022-23/W-02	1) Construction of new carpeting road at Manik Chalk Utom House to manik chalk Madina Mosque, Length= (Ch 0- 780.0m) in Ward No.19 under Bogura Paurashava, Bogura. (2) Construction of BC road from Upashor bazar road to 1st by-pass via councillor office & link Mr.Rofiq house, Length= (Ch 0-1100+ link 100.0m)= 1200.00m at ward no-16, under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (3) Improvement Carpeting Road at shotto kumira to Horo kumira Primary school (Ch-00.00-1188.00 m ) ward no: 15 Under Bogura Paurashava, Bogura.		
03	810677	LGCRPP/Bogura/2022-23/W-03	1) Construction of RCC drain from (Matidali road) to Aramola Jame mosque in Bridabon Para , Length= (Ch 0- 385.0m) at ward no-02 under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (2) i) Construction of BC road from Upashor main road (Royal Palace) to Mr.Mondol house in upashor housing road no-26, Length = (Ch 0-185.0m). (ii) Construction of BC road in upashor housing road no-27, Length = (Ch 0-180.0m). (iii) Construction of BC road in upashor housing road no-15 via road no-11& 12 Length = (Ch 0-350.0m). (iv) Construction of BC road in upashor housing road no-04, Length = (Ch 0- 420.0m) at ward no-04 Under Bogura Pourashava, Bogura. (3) Construction of RCC road with drain from Rail line to Chelopara madrasa , Length= (Ch 0-330.0m) at ward no-06 under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (4) Construction of CC road & drain with slab at sarali badsha nagar, Length= (Ch 0- 1195.0m) at ward no-20, under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (5) Construction of BC road from Baropor Moddho para (Mozid house) to Afriza house via Saiful house , Length=(Ch 0-520.0m) at ward no-17 under bogura pourashava, Bogura.	08-May-2023 16:00	09-May-2023 13:00
04	810678	LGCRPP/Bogura/2022-23/W-04	1) Construction of RCC Road with Drain. from Manik (Tea Stof) to Fultola Baitul Aman Jame Mosque at ward no-13 Under Bogura pourashava, Bogura. Length= (Ch 0-0- 200.0)M. (2) Construction of BC road from Keetona road (Ulka math) to farhad shop in chalk lokman, Length=(Ch 0- 360.0m) at ward no-21 under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (3) Construction of BC road from malgrum (Three star mor) to Mr. Khairul house, Length= (Ch 0-320.0m) at ward no-14 under bogura pourashava, Bogura. (4) Construction of RCC road (i) Binda mor to lighth house road, Length= (Ch 0- 285.0m) , (ii) Hafizar mor to Abul kalam house, Length= (Ch 0-180.0m) & (iii). Mr. Atik house road , length= (Ch 0- 60.0m) in Zahurul nagar at ward no-04 under bogura pourashava, Bogura.		

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 is required.

The fee for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 17.00 on 08-May-2023 Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

  
**(S. M Shafiqul Islam)**  
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