



"I urge all those with influence over the situation to use it in the cause of peace... and return to the path of transition."

UN CHIEF Antonio Guterres on Sudan fighting



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P3
Traders trying to get back on their feet



P6
Bobby visits DB office to meet Harun



P7
G7 vows unified stance on Russia's war



B1
Fan sales soar amid heatwave

Outages intensify despite record power generation

Rural areas experience more load-shedding than cities

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Frequent power cuts outside the cities have been making people's lives miserable for a week amid the heatwave.

Keeping in mind the surge in demand during the hottest days of summer, the government planned to produce 16,000 megawatts of electricity during peak hours in April and June.

On Monday, Bangladesh Power development Board (PDB) produced a record-setting 15,604MW, but it still fell short of meeting the peak demand of 16,221MW.

At peak hours over the last one week, the country witnessed a shortage of 1,000MW to 1,500MW, according to PDB data released on its website.

Power distribution companies say the power cuts are happening mostly in the rural areas. This means that the people not only suffer from the sweltering heat, but also fail to properly irrigate their Boro paddy fields.

Hundreds of protesters in Feni and Mymensingh demanded uninterrupted electricity in the last few days.

Alarmed by the people's "discontent and anger", Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad, general manager at Mymensingh Palli Biddut Samity-3,



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

A thirsty grey pigeon takes a refreshing drink of water trickling from a leaky faucet at Sylhet Railway Station, as the city swelters in the scorching heat of a 36-degree Celsius temperature. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.



BANGABAZAR FIRE

PM gives Tk 9cr as Eid gift to victims

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has allocated Tk 9 crore as Eid gift for the shop employees, traders and owners at the capital's Bangabazar, who were affected by a massive fire on April 4.

The money has already been transferred through mobile phones, said Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah, reports UNB.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

GENERATION TARGET AND AVERAGE PRODUCTION SINCE APRIL 11		
Power generation target	Target 6,240MW (from gas), achieved 5,800MW	Target 2,865MW (from coal), achieved 2,100MW
Current production	Target 5,050MW (from diesel, furnace oil), production 5,000MW	Power import Target 1,785MW , received 1,000MW

yesterday wrote a letter to the superintendent of police in the district, requesting police to ensure the safety of his office, colleagues and their families.

"Intolerable load shedding during extremely hot weather is making consumers suffer, and irrigation is being hampered," he wrote.

Over 50 people in 23 districts told The Daily Star that they were experiencing 10-19 outages a day and the total time they spent without electricity ranged from three to six hours.

They are particularly frustrated because the outages are unpredictable. Last year, the companies published power outage schedules in advance.

Officials at Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS), which provides electricity to rural areas, said the electricity supply was 20-50 percent less than the demand.

For the first three weeks of Ramadan, the government had ensured uninterrupted electricity in Dhaka city and other urban areas. People in the capital have yet to suffer any serious power cuts. But as the days got hotter, people in the other cities also began to feel the pinch.

Yesterday, Nasrul Hamid, the state minister for power, expressed regret on his verified Facebook page.

"We had preparations to generate record levels of electricity. But temperature in the country broke 50 year records, and this has increased demand... beyond our imagination," reads the post.

He also apologised to the people, especially the children and elderly. "The Power Division is trying to overcome the situation," he wrote.

The PDB yesterday generated 15,626MW of electricity, setting yet another record.

The country's total power generation capacity is 22,566MW. But several plants remain shut most of the time due to maintenance work, technical glitches, and fuel shortage, said PDB spokesperson Shameem Hasan.

"Because of the weather, the demand is more than what we had predicted... If it rains for only half an hour, the demand will drastically

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

NEW SUPER MARKET FIRE

Short circuit might have caused it

Say investigators of fire service, DSCC; cops suspect sabotage

DIPAN NANDY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

An electric short circuit might have caused the fire at Dhaka New Super Market on Saturday, say investigators.

Investigators of Fire Service and Civil Defence and Dhaka South City Corporation disclosed the findings while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

Police, however, smell a deep conspiracy behind the recent fires in the capital. They said an investigation is going on to find who are the conspirators and what their intentions are. They added that militants might be linked to the blazes.

Marina Nazneen, executive officer at DSCC Zone-1, said, "We are suspecting short circuits behind the fire."

Two incidents of short circuits took place at Dhaka New Super Market within a month, said Marina, who is leading the nine-member probe committee of the city corporation.

The committee was formed to investigate the cause of the fire and estimate the loss, and asked to submit the report within seven working days.

The investigators of the fire service department echoed the views of the DSCC.

Wahidul Islam, director (admin and finance) of the fire service, said an electric short circuit might have caused the fire at Dhaka New Super Market.

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A BIWTC vessel ferries motorcycles to Majhikandhi, Shariatpur from Munshiganj's Shimulia. The BIWTC launched the Eid service yesterday as plying of motorcycles on the Padma Bridge remained suspended. However, the road transport minister said bikes will be allowed to temporarily use the bridge from 6:00am tomorrow.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PADMA BRIDGE

Motorbikes to be allowed to ply it from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Motorcycles will temporarily be allowed to use the Padma Bridge, the country's longest bridge, from 6:00am tomorrow.

The decision came following the instruction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a top official of Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) told The Daily Star yesterday.

BBA also issued a circular mentioning six conditions for bikers and said "the facility will be withdrawn if discipline is not maintained".

Bikers have to follow the speed limit of 60km per hour and use a specific lane and toll booth. They won't be allowed to overtake or change lanes, it said. Bikers and pillion passengers have to use all safety gear, including helmet.

They won't be able to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

ASHRAYAN PROJECT It’s helping Bangladesh eradicate poverty

Indian magazine lauds PM’s initiative

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s “Ashrayan” project has played a key role in achieving the goals of poverty and hunger eradication, gender equality and women’s empowerment, among others, wrote India Today.

Her innovative project, to transform Bangladesh into a developed and prosperous country by 2041, has been able to bring about positive changes in inclusive development by aiming to provide houses for landless, homeless, and marginalised people across the country, the leading English-language magazine of India wrote in its April 15 issue.

Whereas examples of low-interest loans for land purchase are found in several countries around the world, Bangladesh becomes the first country to offer free land ownership with houses to its marginalised citizens in order to bring its backward communities into the mainstream, read the report.

“Beneficiaries under this scheme are not only provided with accommodation, but they are also provided with various training, daily allowances during training, and loans after training to make them economically self-reliant.

“The scheme includes empowering women by giving them half ownership of land and houses, providing free electricity connection, providing clean water by installing one shallow tube well for every 10 families, and providing food assistance under three months of VGF to the resettled families initially,” the report added.

The magazine article also lauded Hasina’s development, known as the “Sheikh Hasina model”.

The “Ashrayan” project is a unique example of how a house can be a major tool for overall family welfare and social development.

The report highlighted the experience of two beneficiaries of the project.

For 30 long years, Moksedul, a brick kiln labourer, waited for a house that he could call his own.

His long-held desire has been granted, as he has been assigned a semi-furnished house in his own name.

Moksedul told India Today that he could live very well with his family now.

The “Ashrayan” project was taken up in 1997 under the leadership of Prime Minister Hasina. And since its inception, approximately 5,07,244 landless and homeless families have been rehabilitated at various stages under this shelter initiative.

Through this initiative, the society’s backward community has been given access to semi-finished housing and two decimals of land.



People gather outside a ransacked building following an Israeli military operation at the Jenin camp for Palestinian refugees in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Heavy gunfire quickly shatters Sudan truce deal pushed by US

REUTERS, Khartoum

Heavy gunfire shattered a 24-hour truce deal in Sudan yesterday shortly after it was due to take effect under US pressure on warring military factions to pause fighting that has touched off a humanitarian crisis.

Loud shooting reverberated in the background of live feeds by Arab television news channels in the Khartoum capital region minutes after the agreed 6:00pm (1600 GMT) onset of the ceasefire deal.

Warplanes were roaring in the skies above Khartoum and several witnesses reported a large army ground force entering the city from the east.

“We have not received any indications here that there’s been a halt in the fighting,” United Nations spokesman Stephane Dujarric told a news briefing in New York.

The conflict between Sudan’s military leader and his deputy on Sudan’s ruling council broke out four days ago, derailing an internationally backed plan for a transition to civilian democratic rule four years after the fall of Islamist autocrat Omar al-Bashir to a popular uprising and two years after a military coup.

The fighting has triggered what the United Nations has described as a humanitarian catastrophe, including the near collapse of the health system. At least 185 people have

been killed across the sprawling country.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, speaking in Japan, said yesterday that he had telephoned both army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and paramilitary leader General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), appealing for their rival forces to cease fire “to allow the Sudanese to be safely reunited with families” and to provide them with relief.

The ceasefire deal will not extend beyond the agreed 24 hours, Army General Shams El Din Kabbashi, a member of Sudan’s ruling military council, said earlier on Al Arabiya TV.

A Reuters reporter in Khartoum said he heard tanks firing shortly after the truce was due to take hold.

It was unclear in the chaotic din who was behind the various bouts of gunfire, though the RSF issued a Facebook statement shortly after the truce was to take effect blaming the army for violations.

One resident told Reuters they had heard an air strike being carried out in Omdurman, Khartoum’s sister city on the opposite bank of the Nile river.

Fighting had appeared to tail off close to the deadline for the ceasefire, which coincided with the evening breaking of the daily fast during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

4 get life term over attack on Hasina’s motorcade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including former BNP lawmaker Habibul Islam Habib, were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday in two cases filed over the 2002 attack on the motorcade of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was opposition leader at the time, in Satkhira.

Forty-four others were sentenced to seven years in jail in the cases filed under arms and explosive substances acts.

Satkhira Special Tribunal-3 Judge Biswanath Mondal pronounced the verdict around 10:15am, said Satkhira Judge’s Court lawyer Faizul Haque.

The three others sentenced to life imprisonment in the two cases are: Upazila Jubo Dal President Kader Bachchu, Kalaroa Municipal Jubo Dal President Arifur Rahman Ronju and former Chhatra Dal president Ripon, he said.

Thirty-seven of the 48 accused are in jail. Of them, 34, including Habib, were present in the court yesterday, the lawyer said, adding that three of the accused could not be produced before the court as they were ill.

Two children drown

UNB, Thakurgaon

Two children drowned in a pond at Nuntor village in Thakurgaon’s Ranisankail upazila early yesterday.

The dead are Mohammad Siam, 10, son of Makbul Hossain, and Al Amin, 12, son of Muktar Hossain.

According to their family members, one of them fell into the pond while trying to pick up his shoe, while the other fell while trying to save him.

On information, a unit of fire fighters rushed to spot and recovered the bodies, said Gulfamul Islam Mandal, officer-in-charge of Ranisankail Police Station.

Councillor killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A councillor of Domar municipality in Nilphamari was killed in a road accident on Monday night.

Rubel Islam, 33, councillor of ward-7, was hit by an overloaded truck on Domar-Jaldhaka road at Tinbot point in Jaldhaka upazila around 9:00pm, said locals.

He was heading towards Jaldhaka upazila on his motorcycle. Rubel, also the disaster management secretary of Domar upazila unit of Awami Shechachhasebak League, died on the spot.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Nilphamari General Hospital for autopsy, said Firoz Kabir, officer-in-charge of Jaldhaka Police Station.

Man killed in train accident

UNB, Dhaka

A man died after falling under the wheels of a running train while trying to get it off at Dhaka Airport railway station early yesterday.

When the 60-year-old unidentified man was trying to get off the moving train around 9:00am, he slipped and fell under the wheels, said Sanu Mong Marma, assistant sub-inspector of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.

Fox News on trial in \$1.6b defamation case

AFP, Wilmington

Opening arguments began yesterday in a major defamation trial against Fox News that tests the extent of free speech rights for media in America – even when broadcasting election falsehoods.

Dominion Voting Systems is suing Fox News for \$1.6 billion, alleging the conservative network promoted Donald Trump’s baseless claim that its machines were used to rig the 2020 presidential election that he lost to Joe Biden.

Dominion argues that Fox News aired the falsehoods while knowing they were untrue.

The highly anticipated trial, the start of which was postponed by a day amid reports the network is seeking a settlement, could become one of the most consequential libel cases ever heard in the United States.

Good step

FROM PAGE 1

without sanctioning any new workforce.

The Daily Star can estimate that the nine hospitals don’t have around 70 percent of the manpower required by proposed “standard set-up” of the DGHS.

The Manikganj District Hospital has been struggling to ensure quality service to the patients during the morning shift with 42 physicians. The facility needs around 150 physicians as per the DGHS standard.

“We do not even have an adequate number of physicians and other staffers to run even a 100-bed hospital. But it is now a 250-bed hospital. So, it is very difficult to serve outpatients in the afternoon,” Dr Mohammad Bahauddin, the hospital superintendent, told The Daily Star.

Zahid Nazrul Chowdhury, the superintendent of Naogan District Hospital, where afternoon service is available two days a week, shared a similar view.

“We have only one pathologist and one lab technician. It is not possible for anyone to work 8:00am to 6:00pm daily,” he said.

The Thakurgaon hospital authorities also provide the service only two days a week as they were already struggling to

operate the morning shift.

Despite this, The Daily Star received mostly positive feedback from the patients after visiting half a dozen district hospitals and two upazila health complexes recently.

Forty-three-year-old Mizanur Rahman from Moheshkhali was very happy after consulting an otolaryngologist during an afternoon service hour at Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital.

He had to pay Tk 300 for the consultation service. The same consultant charged Tk 800 at a private diagnostic centre where he had taken his son earlier.

“This is impressive. If the government strengthens the service, it will greatly help people,” said Mizanur Rahman.

On the other hand, a patient who came to show his diagnosis report had to go back as his physician was not present on the second day.

District hospitals in Rajbari, Feni and Jamalpur served 15-20 patients daily in the first week of the service.

Officials at the district hospitals in Khagrachhari, Bhola and Jhenaidah had almost a similar experience while the patient rush was low in Manikganj, Naogaon and Thakurgaon.

“The majority of people still don’t know about the new service. When

they know, the rush will increase,” Dr Monirul Islam, superintendent of the Bhola District Hospital, told The Daily Star.

In this hospital, a team of around 15 physicians comprising gynaecologists, cardiologists and medicine specialists have been assigned as per a weekly roster.

The pathological laboratories have also been kept operational from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, he said.

Dr Sheikh Daud Adnan, DGHS director (hospitals and clinics), told The Daily Star, “We have introduced the afternoon outpatient service on a pilot basis to find out the shortcomings. We will try to address all the issues.”

He said three components – human resources, equipment and infrastructure – are mandatory to strengthen the hospital services.

“Infrastructure development is almost complete while the health ministry is now working to ensure necessary equipment and deployment of human resources.”

He added that creating new posts require approval from the public administration ministry, and the process is underway.

Some experts, meanwhile, remained critical of the step.

“The government has undertaken

Gazipur Sadar upazila, they added.

“Zahangir has his own vote bank. He will have support from Hefajat e-Islam, and a section of BNP supporters if the opposition party boycotts the polls,” added the AL leader.

Azmat said, “This election is more important for the party than for any individual, and therefore, I want to run in the election taking all from the party with me since the party belongs to all.”

Asked whether he talked with Zahangir about the polls, he told this newspaper, “I have not contacted him as he has already declared through the media that he will contest the election. If necessary, I will contact him as per the instructions of the party.”

this programme to make people feel happy about them ahead of the election. No homework was done before introducing it,” said Prof Dr Rashid E-Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association.

Under the new initiative titled “Institutional Practice”, a patient has to pay Tk 500 to get a consultation with a professor, Tk 400 with an associate professor or senior consultant, Tk 300 with an assistant professor or junior consultant or postgraduate doctor, and Tk 200 with MBBS or BDS doctor.

A portion of the fees, Tk 25 to Tk 50, will be paid to the supporting staffers while an equal portion will be taken as service charge for hospitals.

In addition to the consultation services, patients will get diagnostics and laboratory, surgical, and procedures like endoscopy, colonoscopy, echocardiogram, etc.

The patient will pay Tk 1,000 for minor surgeries while Tk 1,500 for major ones.

While inaugurating the initiative, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the government service will be expanded to all public hospitals if “people like it”.

[Our correspondents from the respective districts have contributed to this report]

Outages intensify despite record power generation

FROM PAGE 1

fall,” he told The Daily Star.

In most neighbourhoods of Chattogram city, residents say they have been experiencing eight to 10 outages a day for a week.

Residents say they have not been able to sleep well at night because of the power cuts.

**MYMENSINGH RESIDENTS:
THE WORST SUFFERERS**

Power cuts have been recurrent since April 5 in Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Tangail districts.

On Monday, there was a shortage of 442MW in the Rural Electrification Board’s Mymensingh Zone.

Sirajul Islam, a farmer in Sakhipur, Tangail, relies on electricity to pump water to his paddy fields.

Short circuit

FROM PAGE 1

“We primarily reached the decision after analysing the evidence and talking to the firefighters. We didn’t yet get any other reasons,” said Wahidul, who is leading a five-member committee formed by the fire service department.

He, however, said they would visit the scene again and scrutinise evidence before submitting the probe report.

The fire broke out at Dhaka New Super Market around 5:40am on Saturday. It took firefighters almost 27 hours to put out the blaze. At least 250 shops were gutted.

Meanwhile, Harun or Rashid, chief of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said they stepped up surveillance in almost every market of the capital as they suspected that the recent fire incidents could be acts of sabotage.

The DB chief was talking to reporters after a meeting with leaders of traders at the DMP headquarters.

Harun said, “Two major fire incidents took place almost the same time. This can be a act of sabotage. That’s why surveillance has been stepped up.”

On April 4, a massive fire broke out at Bangabazar Shopping Complex and adjacent markets that burnt down 3,845 shops and caused an estimated loss of Tk 303 crore.

“The disruption in irrigation is worrying because the blast disease [caused by a fungus] can develop in paddy during such intense heat,” he said.

According to officials, Tangail has been getting 140-180MW against a daily peak demand of 280MW. **RAMPAL HAS YET TO
RESUME OPERATION**
Rampal Power Plant in Bagerhat used to produce 350-450MW before it stopped operation due to technical issues on April 15.

As a result, people in Jhenidah, Chuadanga, Jashore, Khulna and Satkhira are now suffering power cuts.

In Chuadanga, the hottest district, people endure five to six hours of outage every day, thanks to the

The DSCC probe body said the fire might have started from a cigarette butt or a mosquito coil repellent.

Md Asaduzzaman, chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of the DMP, said these incidents are happening one after another due to a lack of security at markets.

He also asked traders to stay alert to prevent possible militant attacks at markets.

Police said they found that fire at Sabura market of Tongi Bazar in Gazipur on April 12 was planned.

Just before the fire breaking out, an unidentified youth with a bag was seen on CCTV walking in front of Russell Store at the market. It was that man who set fire to the market, said investigators.

Ashraful Alam, officer-in-charge of Tongi East Police Station, said they were trying to identify the youth.

DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq told traders, “Police will always cooperate with you. You will also have your own security guards. You have to take care of your safety.”

Addressing traders, Mohammad Mohsin, OC of Mirpur Model Police Station, said if they suspect someone during sale, they should inform the police about it immediately.

supply of only 52-53MW against a demand of 75MW.

In Satkhira’s Kaliganj, people said they were unable to sleep and rest at night because of the outages.

Liakat Ali, a resident of Tala upazila, said his two children fell sick because of the gruelling heat.

Rangpur, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Kurigram districts are in the second most affected zone after Mymensingh.

The zone had a shortage of 182MW on April 17.

Abdul Malek, owner of a foundry in Bogura, said, “If it goes on like this, we will fail to deliver the goods on time.”

[Our correspondents in the districts mentioned above have contributed to the story.]

Killers inside Zia’s regime must be tried

Says PM after meeting victims

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government must hold trials of the mass killings of military officials during the regime of military dictator Ziaur Rahman, and of the arson-terrorism “sponsored by the BNP-Jamaat clique” from 2013 to 2015.

“I have no word to console you. I am one of you, as I heard one day that I have nothing [after assassination of her parents and brothers]... [Some] culprits had already got punishment, [some] are getting it. and [the remaining others] will face the music,” she said.

She was exchanging Eid greetings with families of military officers and soldiers killed during the regime of Ziaur Rahman, families of those killed and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Under the scorching sun, two workers persist in their task of transferring sand. Their sweat-drenched clothes and exhausted expressions is a glimpse into their daily struggle. This photo was taken in Gabtoli Landing Station yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CITY CORPORATION POLLS

Jatiya Party up for a good fight

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, is taking the upcoming election to five city corporations seriously, resolving to fight in the polls “properly and with full effort”.

The JP leaders said they will decide their strategy for the next national election after observing the city corporation polls.

“If the Election Commission cannot make the city corporation elections free, fair and neutral, if people’s right to vote is not guaranteed, then we will decide whether we will participate in next national election,” JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said at the JP chairman’s Banani office in the capital.

Elections to the five city corporations – Barishal, Gazipur, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet – will be held between May 23 and June 29, EC announced on March 15. The election schedules will be announced in mid-April, he said.

While talking to The Daily Star, JP chairman GM Quader said, “We are talking elections to the five city corporations seriously. We will actively participate.”

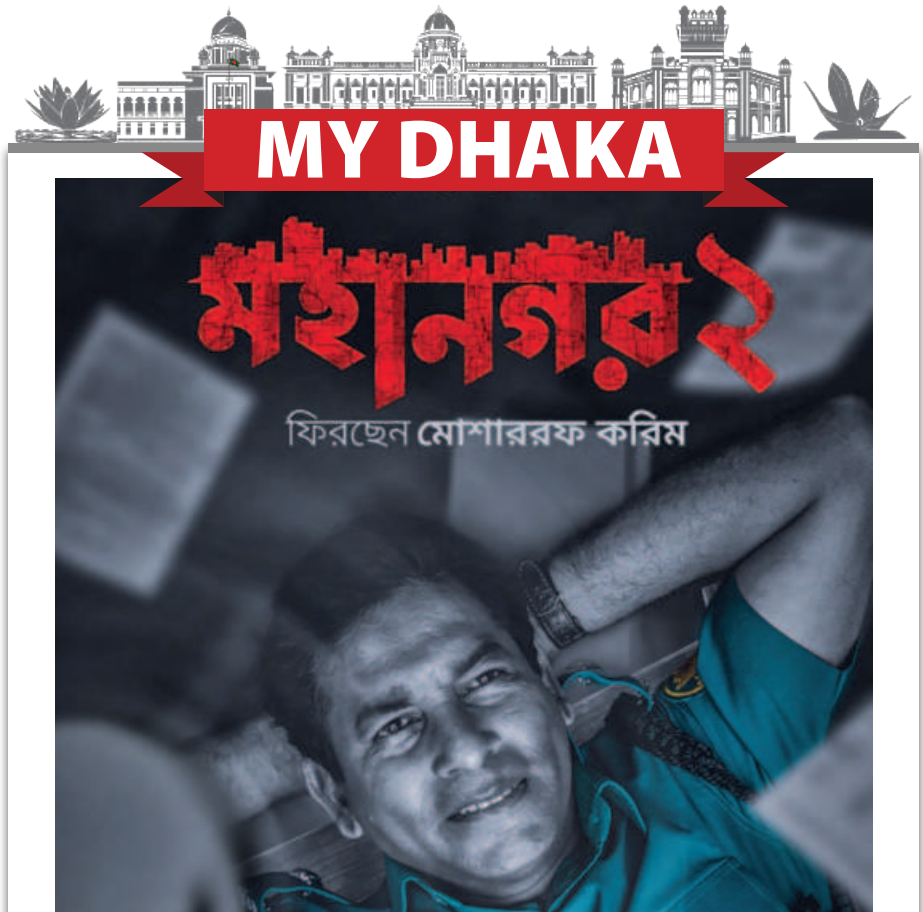
Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said, “As part of this initiative, we are looking for strong candidates to contest in the mayoral polls.”

“In Gazipur, Barishal, Sylhet and Rajshahi, we have given nominations to strong candidates,” the JP boss said.

“... We hope that the government will create a congenial atmosphere and will take proper measures to hold this election in a free, fair and neutral manner,” he said.

In the Gazipur city polls, JP has given nomination to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Mohanagar Tales

Dhaka through the eyes of director Ashfaq Nipun

MH HAIDER

If you have watched Mohanagar, and if you live in Dhaka, you would surely agree that this Mosharraf Karim starrer Hoichoi web-series is a story of our city told right. It was almost as if filmmaker Ashfaq Nipun decided to pay an ode to the city, but then, he paid that tribute in the coldest and most unapologetic way possible by presenting many harsh realities albeit in the most entertaining way!

That is just an opinion, though, as a Dhaka buff. What does Nipun have to say? With the second instalment of this immensely popular series scheduled to release tomorrow, we quizzed the man behind Mohanagar himself.

“Any ‘mohanagar [metropolis]’ is made up of people of all classes, of all walks of life. In Dhaka, there are luxurious high-rise buildings on one hand and slums on the other and a lot in between,” Nipun began.

“The entirety of the first season took place in one night, where we brought together people of all classes under one roof, the police station.”

A Dhakaite could connect with Mohanagar 1 easily – the roads, the parties, toughness, shrewdness, rich and powerful people feeling entitled as if the system should bow down to them, and how difficult this city can become if someone falls in the wrong side of things.

The audience feels that the storyteller must know Dhaka rather intimately.

Nipun was in fact born and brought up in Chattogram. “When I first moved to Dhaka, the pace of this city really struck me. It seemed like people were always in a rush,” he said. “Everyone is running. Outside Dhaka, folks are a bit more laidback. Now that I have lived



here for around 17 years, I’ve become a part of it as well. But whenever I visit Chattogram, I’m reminded of this pace Dhaka has.”

As a filmmaker, Nipun is fascinated by a number of aspects of the capital, which he desires to portray in his future works, if the opportunity arises.

One of them, he said, is Dhaka on Fridays – the sights, sounds and moods during this day-off and how it is different from the rest of the week.

He is also fascinated by stories and dynamics of the movement of the socio-economic focus and hub within the capital, shifting from Old Dhaka to Motijheel, Gulshan, and beyond.

For now, audiences are keenly awaiting the return of the Mohanagar magic.

“The first season was a story of one night. Mohanagar 2 will go broad; the narrative is much broader and deeper,” Nipun informed.

The wait is almost over. The shrewd police officer OC Harun – central character played by Mosharraf Karim that has already made a lasting impression among the audience from season one – is ready to guide us again through the tough and hardened system that is Dhaka.

As OCHarun says in a teaser: “Dhaka mohanagar. Where the streets, lanes and by-lanes have a million stories to tell. Stories about the oppressors, stories about the oppressed, stories about the rise to power, stories about losing against power, in this city, millions are crushed under the system every day...”

Every nook and cranny of Dhaka has stories waiting to be told. ‘My Dhaka’ gives interested writers the platform to share experiences of city life. Only selected stories will make it to our print edition and digital platform. Send your Dhaka story (within 450 words) to raffat@thedailystar.net

DHAKA NEW SUPER MARKET

Traders trying to get back on their feet

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Three days after a devastating fire that ravaged Dhaka New Super Market, traders started reopening their shops yesterday.

During a visit, traders were seen removing burnt clothes and debris, cleaning and sorting goods, and decorating their shops.

The shop owners had to depend on generators to use electric fans and lights, as there was no electricity connection in the market till filing this report at 7:30pm yesterday.

Many who did not have generator connections were seen using charger lights, candles, and cell-phone lights to illuminate their shops.

Around 250 shops on the ground floor, 200 on the second floor, and 50 on the third floor were reopened for business after permission was granted to do so, though most of them had little

The massive fire that broke out just a week prior to Eid-ul-Fitr, left the market, which was usually abuzz with buyers and sellers, in a devastated state.

Alamin Hossain, an employee of a shop on the third floor of the market, had decorated the shop with new jeans for the upcoming Eid.

But his joy turned into tears as he sat alone in front of his shop, watching everything get burnt to ashes.

“Everything changed for the worse in an instant,” said Alamin.

Many traders like Iliyas Akanda are struggling to get back to their previous stream of business.

Akanda, an employee of Bismillah Spice Shop on the ground floor, said that the shop was open for four hours and made only Tk 600 in sales, a tiny fraction of the average of Tk 8,000 of sales per day during Eid season.

Another trader, Kamal Hossain, owner of Himel Fashion on the second



PHOTO: STAR

or no customers.

Kazi Abul Khayer, member secretary of Dhaka New Super Market Bebohayee Samity (South), said 125 shops were totally destroyed and 100 were partially burnt out of the 1,050 shops in the market.

“Electricity connection is expected to be restored in the market soon,” he added.

floor, said the fire destroyed around 20 percent of their merchandise, including pants and t-shirts.

The road to recovery has been challenging, as Hossain said only two t-shirts were sold in two hours of re-opening the shop.

Some traders are busy with restoration work, while others eagerly waited for customers to come.

Doa mahfils held for Zafrullah Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doa mahfils were held nationwide yesterday for Zafrullah Chowdhury, freedom fighter and founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

After Asr prayers, special prayers were held at Dhanmondi Nagar Hospital and Gonoshasthaya Kendra in Savar, followed by an iftar mahfil.

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Professor Altafunnesa, Trustee Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Trustee Sandhya Roy, and Executive Head Monzur Kader, along with Zafrullah Chowdhury’s

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

‘Conduct fair probe into fire incidents’

Demand eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of 28 eminent citizens issued a joint statement yesterday, demanding a fair investigation into the recent fire incidents that occurred at Bangabazar and New Super Market in the capital.

They emphasised that such incidents could be prevented with the goodwill of the government. They called upon government agencies concerned and city corporations to play a responsible role in this regard.

The statement also urged the government to increase citizens’ awareness, ensure accountability, and increase the capacity of the relevant agencies to prevent such accidents.

Expressing their doubts on whether the incidents were accidents or the doings of several vested quarters, they called for a fair and impartial investigation to uncover the true causes behind the fires.

They said if there was any matter of negligence

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

TIPU MURDER CASE

3 accused get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to three accused in the murder case filed over the deaths of Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afran Jamal Prity in Dhaka on March 24 last year.

The accused are Md Maruf Khan, Mahbubur Rahman Titu, a former local Chhatra League leader, and Maruf Reza Sagor.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court passed the order after their lawyer submitted an appeal against the rejection orders of the lower court.

In the order, the judge said their bail will remain valid till May 3, said the Dhaka Metropolitan Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

During yesterday’s hearing, the defendants’ advocate Pran Nath told the court that their clients had been languishing in jail for over 13 months. The IO was asked to appear before it with the progress report on the investigation but they failed.

In the meantime, four of the accused got bail from the High Court on different dates.



As the weather has been particularly dry throughout last week, the city has become more dust prone than ever. To prevent this menace, city-corporation trucks were seen spraying water on the roads in a drive. This photo was taken in Paribagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Suraiya Hussain passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suraiya Hussain, wife of the late Justice Syed Muhammad Hussain, passed away in the capital's Gulshan on April 15.

She was 88. Suraiya was born in Dhaka on December 10, 1934. She belonged to the family of Gaibandha's Khan Bahadur house.

She graduated from Dhaka University in 1956. Her late husband Justice Syed Muhammad Hussain was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Suraiya is survived by her only daughter Justice Kashela Hussain, Judge of Bangladesh Supreme Court; son-in-law Salahuddin Ahmed; two grandsons Shayan Karan Ahmed and Zayan Rahbar Ahmed; granddaughter-in-law Samira Yasmin, and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers.



Curse of load

FROM PAGE 5
187.47 MW.

To cover the deficit, 37.68 percent load shedding is needed, which means at least eight hours of load shedding out of 24 hours a day, they said.

According to a BPDB official, the demand for electricity increased excessively due to the decoration and lighting at the shopping malls ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Moreover, the increased use of air-conditioner at

offices and mosques are also responsible, along with the uncontrolled use of lights.

Abdul Kadir, chief engineer of BPDB in Sylhet, said, "We are planning to publish regular load-shedding schedule. Ahead of Eid, we are not being able to restrict shopping malls or mosques. To avert the situation, everyone must be careful with the unnecessary use of electricity."

Killers inside Zia's

FROM PAGE 3
injured in the arson attacks from 2013 to 2015, and traders and shop owners affected in the recent Bangabazar Market fire, at Gono Bhaban.

"I will stay beside you with my ability," she said.

She blamed Ziaur Rahman behind the assassinations of Bangabandhu, four national leaders and many military officials during that time.

Regarding the arson

attacks, she said, "I don't know how humans can burn people alive."

She suspected the involvement of the same alliance behind the recent fires at Dhaka markets.

Family members of air-force officials who were killed during Zia's regime and victim's of arson attacks shared their memories with the PM during this time, which brought her in tears. She was seen consoling them at the meeting.

Conduct fair probe

FROM PAGE 3

on the part of any party, it should be brought to light through the investigation.

"From our past experiences, we have seen that inquiry committees were formed after such incidents, but the recommendations of the committees were not implemented," read the statement.

They attributed this to the lack of accountability of the relevant institutions and agencies, including Rajuk and Department of Explosives.

According to them, major accidents occur due to the lack of coordination between city corporations and fire service.

"We believe that proper coordination could have prevented the severity of the fire and the extent of damages," the statement

mentioned.

To prevent such accidents in the future, the eminent citizens came up with eight recommendations, including forming a high-power probe commission and taking strict actions against those involved in such incidents.

The signatories to the statement include rights activist Sultana Kamal, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder, former Jahangirnagar University Prof Anu Muhammad, rights activist Hameeda Hossain, Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, Supreme Court's senior lawyer Subrata Chowdhury, Ain o Salish Kendra Chairperson ZI Khan Panna, and Supreme Court's senior lawyer Tobarak Hossain.

Jatiya Party up for a good fight

FROM PAGE 3

MM Niaz Uddin, a former health secretary, to contest in the mayoral post.

GM Quader also said that Iqbal Hossain Taposh was given nomination for Barishal city polls.

The party has picked Nazrul Islam Babul and Saiful Islam Swapan to contest in the mayoral polls in Sylhet and Khulna, respectively.

For Khulna, JP is yet to finalise its candidate.

Asked, GM Quader said, "Several candidates have communicated with us to get the nomination for contesting in the mayoral polls of Khulna. But we are looking for stronger candidates."

Quader said they will prepare their next course of action on the basis of how the government handles the city elections.

JP central leaders were asked to visit the five city corporations for holding meetings and carrying out campaigns in favour of the party-nominated candidates, he mentioned.

Amid BNP boycotting the polls, a JP-nominated candidate won in the Rangpur city election and became mayor in December 2022. In the by-polls to six constituencies held in February, JP bagged one seat.

JP leaders hope that their candidates will do well in the city elections if

they are held in a free, fair and neutral manner.

"But otherwise [if they are not free and fair], we will wage a movement and decide whether to take part in the next national polls," said JP secretary general Chunnun.

After the co-chairman level meeting, Chunnun said, "We hope that the government will assist the Election Commission for the city elections, ahead of the upcoming national elections."

JP senior co-chairmans Anisul Islam Mahmud and ABM Ruhul Amin Howladar were present in the meeting presided over by GM Quader.

LAND FOR SALE
Sahajahanpur, Outer Circular Road, Motijheel. 2 story building. 5.80 Katha. Currently rented to: Islami Bank Hospital 80 feet road / South Facing.
Contact 01700526207

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 285 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Regent Power Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Regent Power Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 295 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Legacy Fashions Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Legacy Fashions Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 284 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Diamond Cement Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Diamond Cement Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 288 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
HG Aviation Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company HG Aviation Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 287 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Regent Textiles Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Regent Textiles Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 289 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Habib Steels Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Habib Steels Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 290 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
MTS Re-rolling Mills Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company MTS Re-rolling Mills Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Netrokona PWD Division, Netrokona.
Phone: 02-996651677, Fax: 02-996651956
৩৯৯৯ সাইট : www.pwd.netrokona.gov.bd
Memo No: 25.36.7200.130.17.001.21.2236
Date: 17/04/2023
Corrigendum/Amendment Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of:

Sl. No	Tender ID	Name of the work	Old Tender Opening & Closing Date	New Tender Opening & Closing Date
1	805683	Establishment of Two Agriculture Training Institute (ATI) at Jagonnathpur and Mohonganj Upazila. Sub-Head : Construction of 04-storied Academic Building with 04-storied foundation including Civil, Sanitary and Internal Electrification Works at Mohonganj Upazila in Netrokona District.	26/04/2023	30/04/2023

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. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches according to tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

GD- 718

SPECIAL EID OFFER
FRESH SWEETS OF RAJBARI & FARIDPUR WILL BE SOLD WITH THE SPECIAL PRICE OF Tk. 150/Kg. SWEETS WILL BE BROUGHT EVERY 2 HOURS IN A DAY FROM RAJBARI & DELIVERED ACCORDINGLY, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.
CONTACT: MR. KHONOKER 01711561691

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 286 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Siam's Superior Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Siam's Superior Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 296 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Anwar Paper Mills Ltd. and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Anwar Paper Mills Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of the Executive Engineer
District : Tangail.
e-mail : ee.tangail@dphe.gov.bd
Memo No:46.03.9300.061.07.000.20-1919
Date : 18/04/2023
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Sl No	Tender ID	Name of Works	Closing Date
01	803838, 803840, 803841	Construction of 10 nos RCC WASH Block having Attached isolated foundation for MT & Boys and FT & Girls including all associated construction, sanitary, plumbing & electrical works in Tangail District under PEDP-4.	03-05-2023 15:00:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mr. Md. Ibne Mayaz Pramanik
Executive Engineer
DPHE, Tangail Division, Tangail.

Size: 3"x4"
GD- 721

Bangladesh Handloom Board
Office of the Assistant Engineer
BTMC Bhaban(4th floor), 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
Reference No: 24.05.0000.533.07.010.22-
Date: 18.04.2023
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following Works.

TID No	Name of the Tender	Deadline of Submission
818778	Repairing and Renovation works of Boundary wall at Basic Centre Ullapara Under Bangladesh Handloom Board	03.05.2023
818975	Repairing and Renovation works of Office Building at Basic Centre Shahajadpur Under Bangladesh Handloom Board	10:00 am

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

To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 3.00 pm on dated 02.05.2023.

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

Sd/-
Engr. Mahfuzar Rahman
Assistant Engineer
Phone: 02-55012185
e-mail: xen@bhb.gov.bd

GD- 715

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 242 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Regent Airways and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Regent Airways. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 283 OF 2020
Wilmington Trust Company ----- Petitioner
-versus-
Regent Spinning Ltd and another ----- Respondents.
Notice is hereby given that an application under section 245 with Section 241 (v) of the Companies Act 1994 was moved on behalf of the Wilmington Trust Company before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court of Bangladesh for winding up of the Company Regent Spinning Ltd. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Division presided by His Lordship Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury was pleased to admit the same on 29-03-2023. This matter is fixed to file an affidavit in compliance on 27.06.2023. Anyone desirous of opposing this matter may appear before the hon'ble Court either personally or through an advocate. Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law) Advocate. Room No-1013 (Annex), Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka. Mobile 01772-444121 on payment of prescribed charges.
Mr. Md. Muktadir Rahman (Bar-at-Law)
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh & Senior Counsel, Doulah & Doulah.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of the Executive Engineer
District : Tangail.
e-mail : ee.tangail@dphe.gov.bd
Memo No:46.03.9300.061.07.000.20-1919
Date : 18/04/2023
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works:

Sl No	Tender ID	Name of Works	Closing Date
01	803838, 803840, 803841	Construction of 10 nos RCC WASH Block having Attached isolated foundation for MT & Boys and FT & Girls including all associated construction, sanitary, plumbing & electrical works in Tangail District under PEDP-4.	03-05-2023 15:00:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mr. Md. Ibne Mayaz Pramanik
Executive Engineer
DPHE, Tangail Division, Tangail.

Size: 3"x4"
GD- 721

A cause worth fighting for
Delhi-based social worker raises awareness on blood donation



MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Kiran Verma, a youth from Delhi, has walked 12,000 kilometres and reached Bangladesh to raise awareness about blood donation. He started from Kerala on December 28, 2021 and walked across 169 districts in 12 states in India and reached Bangladesh through the Benapole border on foot on March 11, 2023. He conducted sessions in Bangladesh at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital and in front of Jatiya Press Club. He also worked with local blood banks, voluntary organisations and blood donors to enhance their capacities and motivate people for blood donation. Kiran's dedication for this noble cause started with an extremely tragic incident. On December 26, 2016, he got a call in which he was informed that a poor family from Raipur, Chhattisgarh in India needs blood. Kiran went to the hospital to donate to that family. After donating, he went to meet the family and got to know that the person who called Kiran took Rs 1,500 for the blood which he donated for free. He got to know that the lady who paid for his blood got into prostitution to pay medical bills for her terminally ill husband. Kiran was shocked to his core. On the same day, he left his job and vowed to help people who need blood in case of emergencies. With this motto, Kiran founded a virtual platform to connect blood donors and seekers named "Simply Blood". The app works like Uber or Pathao, and connects the right donors with seekers without charging anything to anyone.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

DHAKA-4 PATUAKHALI UPAZILAS
Travellers suffer without direct bus service

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

As Eid approaches, several lakh travellers from four upazilas of Patuakhali are facing severe inconvenience, as direct bus service between these upazilas and Dhaka have been suspended. This disruption sticks out since Padma Bridge's inauguration last year was supposed to make transportation on these routes more efficient and convenient. However, since the bus owners' association of Patuakhali discontinued their service, citing issues with route permits, ordinary passengers and businesses alike have been left in the lurch. Deputy Commissioner Shariful Islam assured the public of resolving the issue, but with Eid fast approaching, no such steps have been taken yet. According to sources, bus service between Baulal, Galachipa, Dashmina, and Dumki upazilas in Patuakhali and Dhaka began in 2000. Although such a service had been operational for the past 23 years on this route, the bus association discontinued it in August last year, claiming that the owners do not have permits from authorities concerned to continue operation. However, the bus owners could not come up with satisfactory answers when asked how other upazilas of the same district have operational bus service. Apart from ordinary passengers, these buses were also used to transport various agricultural products and fish. In October 2021, the launch of Payra Bridge in Patuakhali and Padma Bridge inauguration in June last year have made transportation on these routes more efficient, resulting in a

significant increase in passenger and goods transport on these routes compared to ferry services. Locals said at least 2,000 passengers from the upazilas travel to Dhaka every day. Rashid, who works in Dhaka, said, "I can't get a direct bus to go home [Galachipa] during Eid. Last year, I went to my village directly from Dhaka by bus, but this year, I don't understand why buses are not operating." Echoing the same, another individual, Anwar, said, "We are being deprived of the

This disruption sticks out since Padma Bridge's inauguration last year was supposed to make transportation on these routes more efficient and convenient. However, since the bus owners' association of Patuakhali discontinued their service, citing issues with route permits, ordinary passengers and businesses alike have been left in

benefits of Padma Bridge." Redwan Islam Shakil, a fish trader from Kalaiya in Baulal, said, "We send fish to Dhaka every day. Sending fish by bus is convenient for us and takes less time. But now, we are forced to send it via water-routes. Often, the fish does not reach Dhaka's market on time, and gets rotten." Riaz Mridha, president of the bus owners' association, said, "We are being deprived of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Curse of load shedding grips Sylhet city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet residents are suffering due to excessive, unscheduled load shedding, only a couple of days after the country saw record electricity production in a day. Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), claimed that heatwaves and increased demand are responsible for the situation. It also claimed that electricity production drastically collapsed as Rampal 500-MW thermal power plant, Ashuganj 900-MW plant and Chattogram 210-MW plant are closed due to 'technical glitches'. Besides, Hathazari 132/33-KV grid substation's power transmitter recently exploded. Abdur Rahim, a resident of Sylhet city's Baluchar area, said, "We are facing an hour of load shedding every two hours, sometimes even less. And it happens even at night, making it difficult to sleep." Nahid Tarana, a resident of Madina Market area, said, "Since Friday, unscheduled load shedding is making our lives harder, as it occurred during sehri and iftar. This is unacceptable when they claimed to have produced record-high electricity only a couple of days ago." On April 12, BPDB claimed to have produced a record 14,932 MW of electricity in a day till 9:00pm (peak hour) while the production was 14,800 MW the previous day. According to BPDB and Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS), Sylhet division's electricity demand for April 16 was 497.47 MW, while the national power grid allotted a supply of 310 MW with a deficit of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

We send fish to Dhaka every day. Sending fish by bus is convenient for us and takes less time. But now, we are forced to send it via water-routes. Often, the fish does not reach Dhaka's market on time, and gets rotten.

REDWAN ISLAM SHAKIL
Fish trader

Three killed in road crashes in two dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three people were killed and one was injured in two road crashes in Mymensingh and Sherpur yesterday and on Monday. Day labourer Aman Ullah, 30, was killed in a road crash on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila yesterday. Citing locals, Md Kamal Hossain, OC of Bhaluka Police Station, said Aman, a father of two children, died on the spot when a truck ran him over while he had been waiting to return home around 4:00am. Soon after the accident, locals seized the truck driver Rubel Mia, 35, and handed him over to police. In Sherpur, two motorcyclists were killed and one was injured critically in a road crash on Nalitabari-Nakla road in Nalitabari upazila on Monday evening. The deceased are Saiful Islam, 36, and Abdur Rashid, 35, police said. Md Emdadul Haque, OC of Nalitabari Police Station, said the accident took place when the motorbike hit an electric pole at Gururhati area, injuring the three. Saiful and Rashid were taken to Nalitabari Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead. The injured person, Shahidul Islam, 28, was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

Dead whale spotted in Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

A large dead whale was seen floating in the sea near Himchari on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive yesterday. The whale was first seen one kilometre away from the sea beach yesterday morning, said Md Masum Billah, executive magistrate in charge of Cox's Bazar district administration's tourism cell. "The floating carcass is at least 50 feet long. It is believed to have died at least a week ago," Masum added. Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Maritime Research and Development Syed Mohammad Belal Haider said a team from the institute took pictures and videos of the whale with drones, which helped determine that it is a Bryde's whale. "There are injury marks on the whale's head. More can be told after post-mortem once it washes ashore," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Changes
SOCIAL FOREST DIVISION, RAJSHAI.

Phone No.-
E-mail-

e-Tender Notice

Memo No- 1271

Date: 18-04-2023

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

SL No.	ID, Reference No., Tender/Proposal Status	Name of Works	Type, Method	Publishing Date and Time	Last Selling Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1.	821582, WD-04/SFD/RAJ/2022-23	Works - Construction of RCC Observation Tower (Height 22.5 meter) and and Three Landing Stations	NCT, OTM	18-Apr-2023 17:30	07-May-2023 17:00	08-May-2023 11:00

This is online Tender; where e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP system Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System Portal(<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)/Contract Number (01762625528-31)

(Md. Rafiquzzaman Shah)
Divisional Forest Office
Social Forest Forest Division
Rajshahi.

GD- 722

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB)
IRESPPW-2nd PHASE
Palli Bhaban, 5 Kawranbazar, Dhaka-1215.

Memo No:47.62.0000.966.00.048.22-596 **Date: 18/04/2023**

e-Tender Notice
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

e-Tenders are invited in the e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of below mentioned works.

SL No	Tender ID	Name of Work	Online Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender last selling and closing Date and Time
1	Tender ID : 805191	Procurement of Computer & related accessories (Computer, Printer & Scanner)	18/04/2023; 15:20	10/05/2023; 16:00 11/05/2023; 14:30

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Reshedul Alam
Project Director

GD- 717

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona
Phone: 02-996651285, Fax: 02-996651479
E-mail: eenet@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.7200.455.00.000.23-561 **Dated: 17.04.2023**

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Date & time
01.	Tender ID: 821690' Package No.: e-GP/Rev/38/ NRD/2022-23 & APP ID 186306; Scheduled Tender/ Proposal Publication Date and Time: 18- Apr-2023 12:25	Construction of New Vehicle Shed in RHD Office Compound at Netrokona under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2022-2023 (Re-Tender).	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading date and time: 02-May-2023 16:00 Last date and time for Tender/Proposal Security: 03-May-2023 11:30 Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening date and time: 03-May-2023 12:00
02.	Tender ID: 821719' Package No.: e-GP/Rev/33/ NRD/2022-23 & APP ID 186306; Scheduled Tender/Proposal Publication date and Time: 18- Apr-2023 12:25	Repair of Vehicle Shed in RHD Office Compound at Netrokona under Netrokona Road Division during the year 2022-2023 (Re-Tender).	Tender/Proposal Document last selling/downloading date and time: 02-May-2023 16:00 Last date and time for Tender/ Proposal Security: 03-May-2023 11:30 Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening date and time: 03-May-2023 12:00

The interested persons/firms 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 copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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

GD-713

Will watch 'Leader Amie Bangladesh' with my parents

SHAKIB KHAN

ZAHID AKBAR

Despite all the controversies this year, Dhallywood star Shakib Khan is currently gearing up for the release of his new film **Leader Amie Bangladesh** for the coming Eid.

Directed by Topu Khan, Shakib will act opposite Shabnom Buby in this film. Recently, the film's teaser and songs received a positive response from the audience.

Ahead of Eid, in a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Shakib Khan talked about his film, controversies, and Eid.

What are your plans for Eid?

I am planning to watch **Leader Amie Bangladesh** with my parents in the theatre. I hope they will love the film. Also, I want to tell the audience that they can watch the film with their families. From storytelling to production, everything will impress them.

Will you be in the theatres promoting the film after its release?

I want to go to the theatres to watch the audience's reaction to the film. Not only in Dhaka, but I also want to visit the halls outside of the city. I want to enjoy the film with my fans and experience their real reactions. Let's see how much I can do.

The song 'Kotha Ache' from the film has received appreciation from the audience. Everyone is talking about the song. How does that make you feel?

The song has been trending since its release. Such an incident has not happened for a long time in our industry. I think the audience liked this song because it perfectly synchronised with the story of the film. If they watch **Leader Amie Bangladesh**, then they will be able to relate to the song even more. Apart from this, there are also a few romantic songs in the film. I hope the audience will enjoy them as well.

Why should people watch 'Leader Amie Bangladesh'?

The story of the film reflects the reality of our society. Those who will watch the film, will be able to relate with the story and think that it is their story too. When the film was screened at the Censor Board, they called me to express their appreciation for the film. Overall, this is a perfect movie for the occasion of Eid. That's why I think people should go and watch it in theatres.

You have been going to court recently. How has the experience been for you?

I came to the court as an artiste, because there are many false allegations against me. If I keep silent, they will think it's true. That's why I felt the urge to fight these false allegations. Apart from being an actor, I am also a human being, who has a family and children. Nobody understood my side of the story. It was a good thing for me to finally prove my innocence to my family and friends.

When will you be returning to shooting?

I hope to return to shooting in May. I have finalised everything about the new film and we will start shooting after Eid.

Many new films are being released for this upcoming Eid. Does that make you feel a bit pressured?

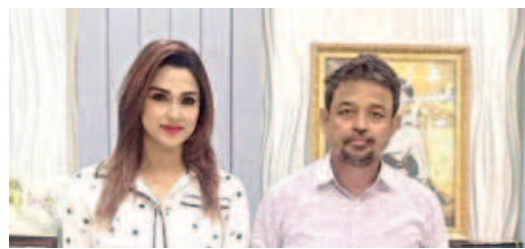
No, I am not feeling any pressure. People will watch the films where the storylines, casting, and production are good. Now, filmmakers are making good films worldwide. People have so many options. However, I just want healthy competition in our industry.

What dish do you enjoy the most during Eid?

I enjoy anything that is cooked by my mother. However, I love her *payesh* the most. Hopefully, I will be able to eat it during this Eid.



PHOTO: STAR & COLLECTED



Bobby visits DB office to meet old acquaintance

Recently, actor Bobby Haque visited the Chief of Detective Branch (DB), Harun Or Rashid. She posted pictures of their meeting on her Facebook page.

In an interview with the local media, Bobby stated that the DB Chief was an old acquaintance and that she hadn't seen him for quite some time. She had important work near his office and thus she thought of dropping by.

Bobby told the DB Chief all about her new role and how she is playing an honest police officer. She showed him the trailer and also asked him to promote her upcoming film.

The movie **Paap**, starring Ziaul Roshan and Bobby, will be released this Eid. Directed by Saikat Nasir and produced by Jaaz Multimedia, Bobby plays the role of a DB officer in the film.

Chris Cornell's widow settles legal dispute with Soundgarden

Grunge music pioneers Soundgarden and Vicky Cornell, the widow of lead singer Chris Cornell, have settled a legal dispute over the late singer's unreleased recordings, according to a joint post from their Instagram accounts on Monday.

The post noted that this "amicable", out of court settlement marked a new partnership between Soundgarden and Cornell's estate that will allow fans to "hear the final songs that the band and Chris were working on."

Vicky Cornell, who administers her late husband's estate, first sued Soundgarden in 2019. She claimed the band members withheld the estate's share of royalties to "strong arm" her into giving them unreleased recordings Chris Cornell made before his death in 2017.



COUNTRYWIDE



Sand carrying trucks have continued damaging this town protection embankment-cum-road in Tangail's Kalihati upazila for long. PHOTO: COLLECTED

SAND EXTRACTION FROM POULEE RIVER

Town protection embankment, riverside villages face erosion threat

MIRZA SHAKIL

Illegal sand lifting from the Poullee river, a branch of Jamuna, in Tangail's Kalihati upazila has been continued unabated. Moreover, the sand carrying trucks are using the embankment-cum-road to supply the sand in different areas, leaving many riverside villages and the embankment under erosion threat in the upcoming monsoon.

Locals alleged that an influential quarter has been lifting sand illegally from west side of the Poullee Bridge and the eastern part of the Poullee Railway Bridge on Dhaka-Tangail highway for long.

The ill practice was stopped from only a few days after the local administration launched mobile court drives against the perpetrators. But, recently they got back into the business once again.

The sand traders, however, claimed that they have been lifting sand from their own lands after taking permission from the authorities concerned.

They said alongside the riverside villages, the Tangail Town Protection Embankment, also known as Silimpur-Karatia Embankment, is facing serious erosion threat as the sand traders are using the embank as a road to transport

the lifted sand on large trucks.

Villagers said frequent movement of the trucks on the earth-filled embankment is also causing severe dust pollution, resulting respiratory problems among many residents of nearby villages.

They do not even dare to protest the illegal act as the syndicate men are quite powerful and many of them have political clout.

Several small and large cracks already developed at different places of the embankment, which was constructed under Compartmentalization Pilot Project (CPP), spending Tk 120 crore in 2000.

If the embankment breaks during the monsoon, vast areas in Tangail town, Gala and Gharinda unions in Sadar upazila, and adjacent Basail upazila could be flooded.

Mohammad Sazzad Hossain, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Tangail, said concerned upazila and district administrations have been informed of the matter.

It is important to take action and protect the embankment, he said. Kalihati Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nazmul Hossain said they were conducting drives to stop the illegal sand lifting and sale.

China took a 'good initiative'

FROM PAGE 12
from Xijun during his meeting in Dhaka. Momen said China has been working for many days on the Rohingya repatriation. Not only they, many others are also working towards that end, he added.

"I should say they [China] took a good initiative... China facilitates the discussion between Myanmar and Bangladesh [on Rohingya repatriation] and we are hopeful that it will go forward."

Asked exactly when the repatriation can start, Momen said, "I cannot say that unless it really starts. There were several attempts, but it did not happen. We want them to return with dignity."

Not a single Rohingya returned since the biggest influx of some 7.5 lakh Rohingyas in 2017. Meanwhile, the military takeover in February 2021 and subsequent civilian-

military conflicts in Myanmar put the Rohingya repatriation into further uncertainty.

A Rohingya genocide case is ongoing at the International Court of Justice, while the US declared the atrocities against Rohingyas as genocide. The US and other western countries say that the environment in Myanmar is not yet conducive for repatriation.

China, a close ally of Myanmar, meanwhile, has been brokering discussion between Bangladesh and Myanmar for the repatriation.

Xijun, also a former envoy to ASEAN, recently held three meetings with leaders of Federal Political Negotiation and Consultative Committee, a coalition of seven ethnic armed organisations based in northern Myanmar, according to Myanmar's news portal Irrawaddy on March 20.

March 20.

The FPNCC, which opted out of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with the Myanmar government and military, is seeking alternatives to build peace and solve political problems in Myanmar.

In a statement following the latest meeting with the Chinese special envoy on March 15-16, FPNCC said it welcomes and supports China's involvement to end the domestic conflicts in Myanmar.

It also said it would "continue working together with the Chinese government to improve the stability of border areas."

Mediaworld

FROM PAGE 12
journalism career in March 1972 in the now-defunct Bangladesh Observer and later, in 1974, became assistant editor of The Bangladesh Times.

Bangladesh 2nd most

FROM PAGE 12
the seven countries in the region, only Bhutan has a GTI score of zero, meaning that is has not recorded a terrorist attack in the past five years.

Although Afghanistan improved last year when it also remains the most terrorism-impacted country. Afghanistan recorded a 58 percent decline in deaths due to terrorism, from 1,499 to 633.

Attacks mirrored this trend, falling by 75 percent to 225 attacks in 2022. This significant decline in attacks and deaths was driven by the Taliban reclaiming control over Afghanistan, following the fall of Kabul in August 2021.

A cause worth fighting

FROM PAGE 5

Then Kiran started his journey of covering 21,000 kilometres on foot to raise awareness about the importance of blood donation all across India and beyond.

"I believe everyone, no matter their country or nationality, should be aware of the importance of blood donation. It's a selfless act that can save lives. There should be no

price tag on blood donation and related services," said Kiran.

"Bangladesh and several parts of India such as Tripura and West Bengal are culturally very similar. However, in Bangladesh, there is a culture of voluntary blood donation, particularly in the cities like Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet," said Kiran.

Kiran pointed out the fact that blood transfusion is

Motorbikes

FROM PAGE 1

stop on the bridge and take photos and not more than two people would be permitted on a bike, it added.

BBA banned motorcycles on the Padma Bridge on June 27 last year, a day after the 6.15km bridge was opened.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) yesterday started ferry services on Shimulia-Mangalmajhi route for motorcycles to cross the

Padma ahead of Eid.

Its Chairman SM Ferdous Alam visited Shimulia ferry terminal yesterday morning to inspect motorcyclists crossing on ferries "Kalmillata" and "Kunjalata".

BIWTC Director (commerce) SM Ashiquzzaman, General Manager (commerce) Sheikh Md Nasim and General Manager (marine) Md Hasimur Rahman Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

PM gives Tk 9cr

FROM PAGE 1

The blaze ripped through the Bangabazar Shopping Complex, burning down at least 2,931 shops full of clothes and ruining the livelihood of several thousand traders just weeks before Eid.

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

FROM PAGE 5

association in Patuakhali, said, "Long distance buses have permission to only enter Patuakhali town. From there, passengers are taken to different upazilas through local buses."

"If long-distance buses are permitted to enter upazilas, our local buses will suffer," he explained.

When asked why the same logic isn't applied for other places of the district including Kuakata, he said,

"Since Kuakata is a tourist area, we don't want to hamper movement of long-distance buses there."

Contacted, Patuakhali District Administrator Md Shariful Islam said a discussion will be held with

the association to find a solution.

MP SM Shahzada said, "People's suffering in the area must be reduced. The district administration should take steps to resolve the situation quickly."

How can abuse of privacy be legal?

Govt must address concerns about the draft data protection act

Data is knowledge and knowledge is power. This is why protecting data is so vital, but some of the provisions in the draft act that Bangladesh is considering in this regard are something that we can do without. The invasive nature of the bill is neither respectful of citizens' privacy nor democratic in spirit. It is certainly not in step with international data protection standards. A recent assessment by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) – that it will “put the entire society under surveillance” – shows that there is more at stake here. At a time when concerns are being raised over such attempts by the government, the length to which this bill, if passed into law as it is, could be potentially used is certainly worrisome.

One of the reasons behind this assessment is the bill's strict data localisation requirements. It makes it mandatory for every person or organisation dealing with data to enrol in a “data protection register”, where they must state what type of data they are collecting and processing and why. Not only is this logistically impractical, it also adds a layer of bureaucracy at odds with how the internet functions. Furthermore, according to the TIB, even though stakeholders have been demanding that an independent commission be formed to oversee the implementation of the law, the bill puts a government-controlled agency in charge, giving it “unlimited powers” to access data without citizens' permission or explicit knowledge, and even without any judicial oversight. Ideally, along with operational independence, any institution in charge should have in-built provisions to check abuse of authority. The bill ensures neither.

Although recent changes to the draft sought to allay some concerns about data localisation requirements – creating scope for transferring data in case of international trade and international relations – the Data Protection Act (DPA) is still too restrictive, invasive and vague, just like its ideological cousin Digital Security Act (DSA). For example, there is no clear, detailed definition of data, and no mention of the definition and standard of privacy. All this has led to legitimate fears that it will “allow deep government surveillance in the guise of data governance and interference with individuals' privacy rights, not to mention increase the space for abuse of power,” as one of our columnists put it. Thanks to the DSA, we now know that it is mostly political rivals and critical voices who will be subjected to such abuse, all in the name of state interests.

This is totally unacceptable. We urge the government to immediately revise the draft in light of the concerns raised by experts, human rights defenders and our international partners. Personal data shared on various online platforms must be protected at all costs from any kind of breach and abuse, particularly from government agencies and law enforcement forces. The law must clearly address all potential loopholes, and provide for an independent data oversight authority which can be trusted to check any breach of privacy. Otherwise, there will be no point at all for a data protection act.

Drop in life expectancy an ominous sign

It shows the overall quality of people's lives has deteriorated

It is disheartening to know that the average life expectancy of Bangladeshis went down by six months to 72.3 years in 2021. Even though it might not be a big drop statistically, it illustrates that people's living conditions have deteriorated in recent times. According to a former chairperson of Dhaka University's population sciences department, the impact of Covid-19 and its post-effects, including reduced access to healthcare facilities, poverty, reduced intake of notorious food, and lifestyle, could be the reasons for the decline in life expectancy and the simultaneous rise in crude death rate, which increased from 5.1 per thousand people to 5.7.

According to data, men's life expectancy declined more than women's. In 2021, men's life expectancy came down to 70.6 years from 71.2 years, and women's from 74.5 years to 74.1 years. The study also revealed an increase in the maternal mortality rate in 2021, with 168 maternal mortalities reported per lakh childbirths. Since the beginning of Covid until now, life has gotten harder for most people in the country due to numerous disruptions to essential services. Prices have continually kept on rising, with inflation hitting record highs at various times. This has forced many people to change their daily diets, including by cutting down on protein and other nutritious food.

The inability of people to afford the same quality of diet they once did is surely going to have a significant effect on their long-term health. Additionally, the mental stress that they are experiencing due to the rising cost of living and from various uncertainties, as well as increased unemployment post-Covid, could also be factors affecting their life expectancy. Another reason which is likely contributing to it is the quality of air that those living in places like Dhaka are having to breathe day in and day out. A few recent studies have also confirmed this.

High levels of depression, a sense of hopelessness and stress are all known reasons that lead to a decline in people's life expectancy. According to the 2022 Global Emotions Report, Bangladesh ranked seventh among the world's angriest, saddest and most stressed nations. In the World Happiness Report 2023, Bangladesh slipped 24 notches to rank 118th out of 137 countries, which shows Bangladeshis have become less happy in recent times. All of these are connected factors that are affecting people's life expectancy.

The increased uncertainty and a sense of overall injustice in the country, decreased security – including financial security amidst rising inflation and declining savings and sources of incomes – coupled with greater squalor and other poor environmental factors are all leading our citizens to become more miserable, stressed, unhealthy and likely to live shorter lives than a few years ago. All this shows that the country is, in large parts, heading in the wrong direction. We urge the authorities to address the underlying reasons behind it and rectify them for the sake of a happier and longer life for citizens.

Who will be AL's main challengers in the city polls?



THE STREET VIEW

Mohammad Al-Masum Molla
is chief reporter at The Daily Star.

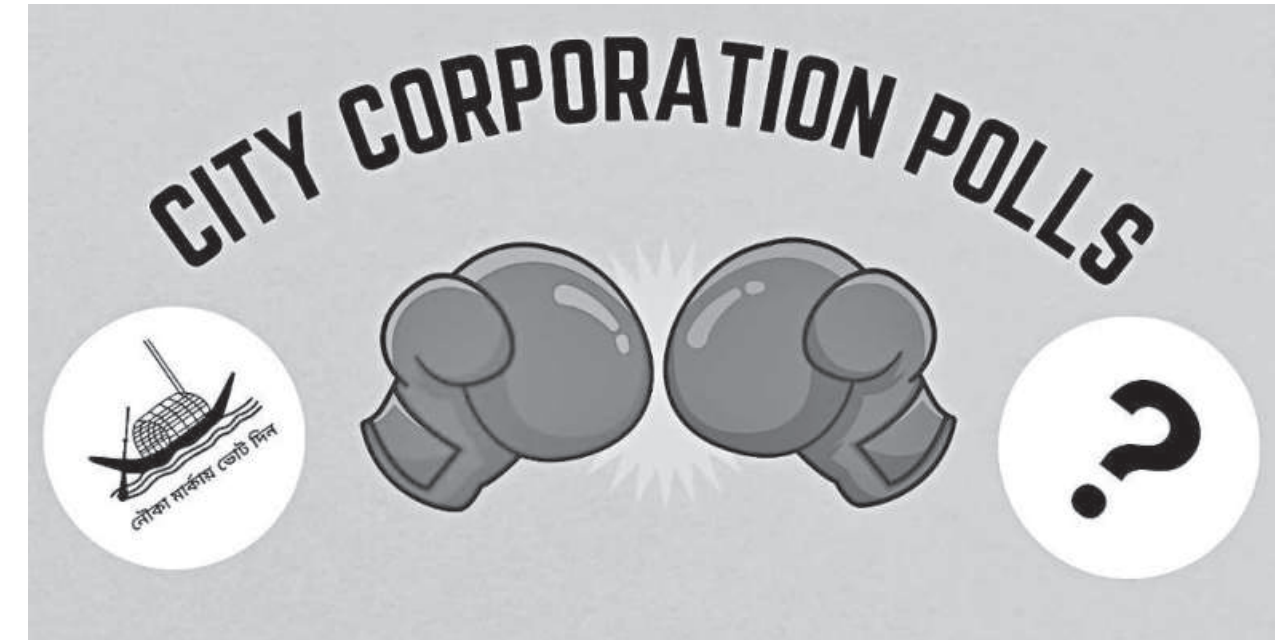
MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Amid the rising mercury that has brought hardship to many across the country, the heat has been slowly and surely rising in our political sphere as well, with the potential to bring about a different kind of turmoil. In this context, the upcoming elections to five city corporations, scheduled to be held between May 23 and June 29, will act as catalysts for the political heatwave. And political commentators believe that this wave may continue all the way to the parliamentary elections, which are slated to be held between December this year and January next year.

Although a month away from the city elections, the ruling Awami League has already nominated its candidates, two of whom are new faces while two others are experienced and tested leaders. The exception is Azmat Ullah Khan, who ran in the 2013 elections but lost, and was not given the party ticket in the 2018 city polls.

Judging by the nominations, the Awami League is telling its leaders and activists that those who were expelled from the party can return, but there is no guarantee of getting the party ticket. It is also sending out the message that if its leaders can demonstrate that they are still popular among the electorate, then party blessings will follow in the form of a nomination. But perhaps most importantly, those who tarnish the image of the party with controversial activities will not win the nomination, no matter who they are.

Analysts agree that the upcoming general elections are crucial for the ruling party as, this time, it might not be a repeat of 2014, when the BNP boycotted the polls and the ruling party contenders were elected uncontested in 153 constituencies, or of 2018, when



VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

the BNP joined the polls but ballot-stuffing allegedly took place the night before. The party may face a huge challenge from the opposition parties, although the BNP still maintains that it won't participate in the polls under the Awami League government.

It would be risky for the ruling party to bank on controversial leaders to form the next parliament. Thus, it is perhaps through this round of nominations that it is conveying to the aspirants that this policy is likely to remain for the general elections too. That means we might see a good number of new faces in the general elections as MP contenders with Awami League tickets.

The upcoming city elections are likely to be less challenging compared

As the BNP and its like-minded political parties are likely to boycott the city polls as part of their ongoing campaign demanding elections under a non-partisan interim government, who will be the main contender against the ruling party? Though it is not confirmed yet, it is assumed that the main opposition in parliament, Jatiya Party, and the right-wing Islami Andolan Bangladesh may participate in the city polls. Jatiya Party is yet to finalise its candidates, and it is still uncertain whether it will file nominations for all five city corporations. According to media reports, Jatiya Party leaders said their top leadership was not interested in city corporation elections for various reasons: first, the party does not have

results: in Rangpur city polls, the party's candidate managed to bag the second place with around 50,000 votes.

If any BNP leader contests the elections violating their party position, the current state of complacency within the ruling party will be severely disrupted. And if any ruling party candidate contests as an independent candidate, the situation may become all the more interesting.

But the question still remains: who will be the main challengers against the ruling party candidates in the city polls? We have to wait a few more days to find out. As the nation waits for a heavy downpour to cool down, it seems politically things are about to heat up.

More heatwaves are coming our way. Are we prepared?



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr Saleemul Huq
is director of the International Centre
for Climate Change and Development
(ICCCAD) at Independent University,
Bangladesh (IUB).

SALEEMUL HUQ

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently completed its sixth assessment report (AR6), with the Synthesis Report coming out in March. The Synthesis Report carries some key messages about the impacts of climate change and the actions needed to avert the worst of them.

The first new message in the AR6 report came from Working Group I, according to which the scientific community is now able to credibly attribute the impacts of human-induced climate change to the greenhouse (GHG) emissions happening since the industrial revolution began. That message was followed by Working Group II reporting that there are numerous examples of unprecedented weather events that are now causing losses and damages, thanks to human-induced climate change, and that these impacts will only get worse.

The other key message, regarding the possibility of keeping the global mean temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius, as decided in the Paris Agreement in 2015, is losing attention day by day. It is still theoretically possible to stay under the 1.5 degree limit if all the countries take emergency measures to reduce their emissions within this decade, but that seems unlikely. The likelihood of crossing the 1.5-degree threshold within this decade is real now; in fact, efforts have to be made so that the temperature rise does not exceed two degrees Celsius. This is quite bad news for us.

Another message coming out of AR6 is the enhanced likelihood of extreme heatwaves around the world, especially in South Asia. And, as if on cue, Bangladesh is now experiencing



Exhausted by the ongoing heatwave, a construction worker tries to cool down during a break at work in Khulna.

FILE PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

the hottest weather in over six decades, and this is likely to become the new normal going forward.

While Bangladesh has a lot of positive knowledge and experience in tackling cyclone and floods, we have not taken heat stress into consideration until now. In fact, we don't even maintain statistics of heat-related deaths.

Hence, we need to rapidly start to find ways to deal with heat stress, including providing training to doctors so they are able to diagnose

Among those who are most vulnerable – and hence need to be prioritised – are farmers working in the fields, as well as day labourers and rickshaw pullers. The protective measures can range from simply staying out of the sun to ensuring plenty of water intake and knowing where to get medical treatment for heat-related health issues if needed.

People also need to be made aware of how to keep themselves cool at home; this is particularly relevant for slum residents in major cities like Dhaka.

Bangladesh. Similar heat action plans need to be developed quickly for other cities and towns as well as for the rural parts of the country.

The scientific community has made it crystal clear that the whole world has entered the era of loss and damage from human-induced climate change, and that no country is prepared for what is to come. While this is certainly bad news, Bangladesh can lead the world in tackling the climate change impacts in coming years.



ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

It's impossible not to feel the heat these days. Even if you are riding this out in the comfort of privilege, you must surely know your country is in the throes of one of the worst heatwaves in decades. The nation has been sizzling as the mercury rises, breaking old records over the last few weeks. Even our memes – the internet's conduit for the latest cultural conversation – are hot on the heels of "THE BIG HEATWAVE OF 2023."

All conversations start with an acknowledgment of the overwhelming heat: “I wore my lightest outfit to survive this heat”; “I showered three times today, but then water has run out in our building”; “We have one AC in our house, but I worry about using it because I cannot cope with the bills, and I have recently started sharing the electricity bill with my parents”; “I came to work because there is at least AC here... in my house, the walls are hot, the floor is hot, and water is in short supply; there really is no way out.”

The pages of our newspapers and the hourly news on TVs and radios are all highlighting different angles of the heatwave. A photograph published in this daily captured rows of devotees lying around the floor of the national mosque, reluctant to leave the premises even after the afternoon prayers ended. Owing to the heatwave, the Bangladesh Railway authorities asked trains to lower their speed, nearly halving it from the usual. This is because the temperature of railway tracks is always higher than the general environment, and there is a possibility of accidents due to

melting or expansion of the tracks due to extreme temperature. Health experts have recommended that children and older people stay home, and have also requested people to stay safe from heat strokes. The jail authorities, too, have taken measures to ensure that inmates are protected from the heatwave.

But here is something else to consider: do we all feel this heatwave similarly? The answer is obviously no. It is no secret that if you are among the well-off in this not-so-well-off nation, you are better equipped to deal with this heatwave. There is a deep running inequality as to how the heat-

Extreme weather events have become the norm owing to climate change. And yet again, it is putting the disparities between the rich and poor under a magnifying glass. The city's well-off (the numbered few) have been riding out the heatwave blissfully hunkered down in their cool homes, offices, cars and shopping malls.

affects people. If you have a car fitted with a powerful air conditioner, if you work in a swanky office with central cooling, then it is likely that you also live in an accommodation fitted with an AC – in essence protecting you from the wrath of this wretched heat.



FILE PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**

Who could blame these devotees for their reluctance to go outside and face the heat when they could rest on the floor of the national mosque, finding respite in conditioned air?

FILE PHOTO: PALASH K

Imagine having to take the bus, or having to ply a rickshaw, or operating a roadside stall in this ominous, oppressive heat that you know “really feels” like 50 degrees.

This year, Dhaka has experienced its hottest day in 58 years. Extreme weather events have become the norm owing to climate change. And yet again, it is putting the disparities between the rich and poor under a magnifying glass. The city's well-off (the numbered few) have been riding out the heatwave blissfully hunkered down in their cool homes, offices, cars and shopping malls.

If you are a slave to statistics, then let me apprise you on some harrowing data. Human-induced climate change is exacerbating the likelihood of extreme events, one of which is heatwave. Climate

change also means hotter and longer heatwaves. And who is most affected by these intensified heatwaves? Poorer nations – nations that have had very little contribution towards climate change in the first place. A report published in the journal *Science Advances* last year confirmed this matter: periods of extreme heat cost the global economy about \$16 trillion between 1992 and 2013. But while the richest countries lost about 1.5 percent of their annual per capita GDPs dealing with heatwaves, poorer countries lost about 6.7 percent of their annual per capita GDPs. Another report published early last year said the lower-income population around the world faced a 40 percent higher exposure to heatwaves than people with higher incomes. Do

you see the tragedy? The cost of extreme heat from climate change is disproportionately borne by those least culpable.

There is more. Dhaka and other major cities in Bangladesh are especially ill-equipped to deal with this rising temperature. Rapid and unplanned urbanisation, coupled with extreme population density and the loss of water bodies and open natural spaces, compounds the effects of the heat. Where will a tired rickshaw puller take respite when there is no shade from the old ficus tree anymore? It's not likely the rich will allow them to walk into a shopping mall and let them breathe in the cool conditioned air, will they? A study published in the *PNAS* journal has found that Dhaka is among the worst-affected by urban

heat in the world.

Research has confirmed that many areas in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Khulna are turning into "urban heat islands." When cities replace natural land cover with dense concentrations of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat, they end up creating "urban heat islands." This in turn increases energy costs, air pollution levels (God knows Dhaka does not need any more of that), heat-related illnesses, and mortality. Do you see the vicious cycle we are stuck in?

To fight this, we need global action. Wealthy countries, the ones disproportionately responsible for the climate crisis, have a double responsibility: cut emissions at home, and support the developing nations with the costs of replanting crops, rebuilding homes after storms, and moving from dirty energy to cleaner, lower-carbon ones. We need national actions to combat the effects of climate change: implementation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as well as the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan (MCPPP), and increased investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, emissions mitigation, protection of the remaining water bodies, and decentralisation of our cities.

There are no two ways but to improve our cities to better fit the current weather patterns. In the interim, the authorities need to help people cope. Localised solutions for immediate relief have borne fruit in other countries. Why can't Dhaka try and implement some of those? The solutions include bringing back trees, allowing those remaining to flourish, reclaiming wetlands and water bodies, painting roofs white especially in cramped housing where heat gets trapped easily, placing water dispensers across the city, incentivising rooftop gardens, and lastly, for immediate relief, allowing more people to benefit from the cooling systems in the existing structures.

Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb
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Sanjana Rahman
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SYED SAAD ANDALEEB *and* SANJANA RAHMAN

Many academic institutions play up their ethical identity by overtly promoting honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability, confidentiality, objectivity, respectfulness, and obedience to the law. Unfortunately, these bastions of moral high ground seem to have been breached with serious moral decay, across the board.

Administrators are accused of nepotism, financial improprieties, being in cahoots with wayward and politically connected (student) leaders, and a mix of other indiscretions and misdeeds that are growing steadily. Historically, such accusations have been a rarity and the consequences dire.

A wayward student body is also depicted today in the media, reflecting how far and deep the rot has spread in academia: from lack of preparedness for higher education, irregular class attendance, and disrespectful demeanour, to indiscriminate violence, substance abuse, mugging, gambling, sexual predation and more.

This writing is about teachers. A casual survey reveals the many areas in which breakdown in ethics is widespread in our educational institutions;

* They are already smeared for unfairness, intemperate behaviour, plagiarism, cosy relationships with political muscle, and pecuniary interests that are incongruous with their academic character. Research and scholarship for many have simply gone with the wind!

* Their involvement with students (and staff) in ways other than a mentor-mentee relationship includes inappropriate and informal communications.

* Social intolerance and disrespect in academia is growing, especially concerning political or religious ideology.

* Course curricula are barely revised

in years. What is an academic institution without a vibrant curriculum tailored to stakeholder needs?

Teachers conducting research with students exploit the relationship without sharing the value of such research or the methods employed. Instead of preparing them to become potential researchers, teachers use them as data collectors to build their publication profiles. Thus, students fill out questionnaires at home, seriously muddling the study.

* Classrooms often become marketplaces where teachers peddle their own books, persuading students to purchase them.

* Inability to reach an instructor at their desk is a persistent problem, especially when students require extra care to overcome their

For teaching to be considered a noble profession, Bangladesh needs a strong and ethically driven education system today.

learning challenges. Teachers also miss classes without an acceptable excuse.

* Cases of sexual impropriety, domestic violence, assault episodes or embezzlement of funds are also not unheard of in academia.

At seminars, conferences or academic events, teachers chat among themselves, use their phones or pay little attention to the deliberations. If they are not effective learners at these academic events, can they expect such behaviour from their students?

When academic institutions elsewhere are striving to bring out the best scientists, economists,

educationists, etc who devote their lives pursuing, disseminating and using knowledge, how do our academics measure up? As numerous transgressions of ethical norms in academia go unheeded, it is imperative to revisit the question of ethical conduct and appropriate guidelines for our educators.

Such a concern stems primarily from the realisation that it is the teachers who will be in primary contact with the next generation. If their values and behaviours are compromised, what does the future portend? With the education system in peril – and with that the society itself – where are the guidelines? How are they enforced?

For teaching to be considered a noble profession, Bangladesh needs a strong and ethically driven education system today. If we have to educate our educators on ethical practices, we must collectively start working now to produce/prepare the next generation who will not need a programme on *ethics for teachers*. Until then, to shape appropriate academic behaviour, we must figure out essential ethical guidelines and the ramifications for any transgression. We know quite a bit about the transgressions, but very little about how they are confronted and addressed. Without consequences, as BF Skinner – the proponent of operant conditioning theory – would say, repetition of unethical behaviour will only recur.

To be fair, the question of ethics goes far beyond the borders of educators and the education system. Not a day goes by without being accosted by some ethical confrontation with the gatekeepers and power brokers who scorn ethical norms – in healthcare, law and justice, bureaucracy, banking, business transactions, etc. The waft of moral decay is already palpable; some sense that it is poised to worsen. When a nation's moral structure crumbles, society will also crumble with far-reaching consequences. Showcasing the economy with spectacular physical infrastructure development has its merits; combined with a steel frame of moral strength, the potential of advancement may be limitless.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Cumilla

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Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.2262

Date: 18-04-2023

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No.01

of

Contract No. e-GP/69/CRD/2022-2023, Tender ID No. 810745

Invited by this Office will be as follows

TDS ITT Clause No. & Field Name	Old Value				New Value			
TDS ITT Clause 15.1 (a) (b) Experience Criteria	(a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years [years counting backward from the date of publication of ITT]. (b) The tenderer must have the experience of Bridge Retrofitting works of value not less than Tk. 250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty) lac successfully completed within the last Six (6) years in a single contract of similar nature & technology [years counting backward from the date of publication of ITT].				(a) The minimum number of years of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works as Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years [years counting backward from the date of publication of ITT]. (b) The tenderer must have the experience of Retrofitting works include strengthening of pile cap or pier or girder by means of concrete jacketing/ steel plate jacketing/ CFRP application and replacement of expansion joints or bearing pads using special equipment and materials works of value not less than Tk. 250.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty) lac successfully completed within the last Six (6) years in a single contract of similar nature & technology [years counting backward from the date of publication of ITT].			
TDS ITT Clause 17.1 Personnel Capacity	No.	Position	Total works experience (years)	In similar works experience (years)	No.	Position	Total works experience (years)	In similar works experience (years)
	1.	Project Manager, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	10 (Ten) years	05 (Five) years	1	Project Manager, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) with certificate on bridge inspection and certificate of Retrofitting work as a Project Manager 01 (One) No.	10 (Ten) years	05 (Five) years
	2	Material Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	08 (Eight) years	03 (Three) years	2	Material Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01 (One) No.	08 (Eight) years	03 (Three) years
	3	Site Engineer, (Diploma in Civil Engineer) 02 (Two) Nos.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years	3	Site Engineer, B.Sc or Diploma in Civil Engineering having proven experience on bridge retrofitting as a site supervisor- 02 (Two) Nos.	05 (Six) years	03 (Three) years
	4	Quantity Survey Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01(One) No.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years	4	Quantity Survey Engineer, B.Sc Engineer (Civil) 01(One) No.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years
	5	Lab Technician, 01(One) No.	08 (Eight) years	05(Five) years	5	Lab Technician, 01(One) No.	08 (Eight) years	05(Five) years
	6	Work Supervisor 02 (Two) Nos	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years	6	Work Supervisor 02 (Two) Nos.	06 (Six) years	03 (Three) years
TDS ITT Clause 18.1 Equipment Capacity	No.	Equipment type and characteristics		Minimum number required	No.	Equipment type and characteristics		Minimum number required
	1	Dump Truck 15 Ton Capacity		04	1	Dump Truck 15 Ton Capacity		04
	2	Excavator		02	2	Excavator		02
	3	Soil Compactor		01	3	Soil Compactor		01
	4	Concrete Mixer Machine (7/5) with hopper		04	4	Concrete Mixer Machine (7/5) with hopper		04
	5	Concrete Vibrator with sufficient number of nozzle		04	5	Concrete Vibrator with sufficient number of nozzle		04
	6	Water Pump		02	6	Water Pump		02
	7	Concrete Poker Vibrator		04	7	Concrete Poker Vibrator		04
	8	Generator (10 KVA)		02	8	Generator (10 KVA)		02
	9	Pneumatic pressure Epoxy resin injection machine		01	9	Pneumatic pressure Epoxy resin injection machine		01
	10	Microconcrete Pump Machine		02	10	Microconcrete Pump Machine		02
					11	Anchor Drill Machine		02
					12	Demolition Hammers		01
					13	Concrete Cutting Saw Machine		01
					14	Core Drilling Machine		01
					15	Grout Pumps		01
					16	Synchronous Bridge Lifting Equipment		01

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the tender document. All other terms and conditions of the tender document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the tender document. For further information please visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sundt Chakma

ID No. 802147

Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Cumilla

GD-716



A murder of crows flies overhead as a worker sorts through garbage using a crane at Anandabazar dump yard. This photo was taken in the port city's Halishahar area recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

People seeking fresh notes ahead of Eid

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

With Eid-ul-Fitr knocking at the door, people of the port city have been demanding for fresh currency to make the occasion more special. Taking the advantage of a reported crisis of fresh notes in the banks, sellers have raised the "price" compared to the previous year.

Although currency trading is illegal, buyers and sellers were found trading notes in New Market, Agrabad, and Court Building areas displaying bundles of fresh notes of different denominations.

During a recent visit to New Market CDA Biponi Bitan area, this correspondent saw people of different professions gathering to trade old notes in exchange for fresh ones, where sellers bargained for extra.

Buyers claimed that when they went to get fresh notes from banks, they were told banks do not have them as many have already collected them beforehand considering Eid. As a result, they could not get their desired notes in the required



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

The curious case of non-existent water supply

CWasa billing residents in exchange for no service

“CWasa is defrauding residents by collecting bills without providing them with water. It is absolutely unethical.”

SM NAZAR HOSSAIN
Vice president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB)

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Rokeya Begum, a resident of Mokbul Ahmed Society in the port city's Patenga area, has been paying bills to Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWasa) for the last three years. However, she has not gotten any water since 2019.

"We got a connection from CWasa in 2019, but we are yet to get any water from them. And yet, I'm paying around Tk 600 every month," said Rokeya.

Following complaints from the city's residents, CWasa's revenue department listed the names of many such clients who have been paying bills in exchange for no service.

According to the list, more than 400 clients in different areas of Chattogram city are suffering from the same problem.

Iftekhar Ullah Mamun, executive engineer of CWasa, admitted that many clients in different areas, including Patenga, Katgor and Halishahar, are not getting water even though they are paying their bills regularly.

"Our supply lines remained ineffective, while the production also decreased due to the increasing salinity of the river water," said Iftekhar.

Speaking at a workshop recently, Kafil Uddin Khan, a councillor of Chattogram City Corporation and resident of port city's Muradpur area, said, "Even as a public representative, I'm not getting any water from CWasa despite paying bills every month. I only wonder – what are the common people going through?"

CWasa officials admitted that they have not developed an effective water-supply system in the port city in the last 59 years due to various complications.

According to CWasa documents, the organisation currently supplies water to around 80,000 households, while the rest get water from deep tube wells.

CWasa produces more than 45 crore litres of water per day and supplies water through a 1,000-kilometre supply pipeline to the port city dwellers.

However, it counts Tk 50 crore in losses annually, as 28 to 30 percent of the water produced does not generate any revenue, resulting in a "system loss".

SM Nazar Hossain, vice president of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said, "CWasa is defrauding residents by collecting bills without providing them with water. It is absolutely unethical."

"CWasa is a state organisation, and therefore, its officials need to be held accountable for such fraudulence," he added.

Meanwhile, the water scarcity has compelled port city residents to collect drinking water from unsafe and unhygienic sources, resulting in various health complications.

Shemanta Waddadar, a consultant of Chattogram Medical College Hospital, told The Daily Star that a community's lack of access to clean water is a major factor in the spread of waterborne diseases.

During a recent visit to Patenga, this correspondent found that residents, who have water connections in their houses, are forced

to buy water from vans for drinking.

Ali Akbar, a local, said, "CWasa provided us with a supply line on an emergency basis. However, despite repeated complaints to its authorities, we are yet to get any water from the line. It has been three years."

"We are now forced to buy water at exorbitant prices and drink contaminated water," he claimed.

Following an acute water shortage, a water-selling syndicate has also formed in the area.

Faruk Hossain, a resident of Mokbul Ahmed Society in Patenga, told The Daily Star that 10 families live in his building, who buy water at a rate of Tk 20 per drum.

Trader Mohammad Shakeel said, "We make a profit of Tk 5 for selling a drum of water."

"We're struggling to make ends meet due to this added cost, at a time when prices of all daily essentials are on the rise," said Tofazzal Hossain, a resident of Mills area in Patenga.

"Even CWasa's field staffers are not responding to our urgent calls amid such a crisis," he added.

Residents of the port city have been demanding a steady supply of water for quite some time now. They have demanded a waiver of line charges if that is not ensured.

Maksud Alam, chief engineer of CWasa, said, "We will waive the line charges for those who are paying the minimum bill without getting water. We have already asked them to contact us."

"We are working on the issue. Hopefully, we will solve the crisis soon," he added.

EID SALES ON CTG FOOTPATHS gaining momentum

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With Eid-ul-Fitr right around the corner, shopping at footpaths in Chatogram city is gaining momentum and small roadside vendors are passing a busy time now.

According to vendors, mostly people from low and lower-middle-income groups are the customers of the footpath shops.

While visiting different areas of the city, including Chawkbazar, Anderkilla, New Market, Sholashahar Gate 2, Agrabad, CEPZ, Jubilee Road, Station Road and Bahaddarhat areas, this correspondent witnessed huge crowds of people buying shirts, t-shirts, pants, panjabis and kids' attires from the makeshift shops and rickshaw vans along the pavement.

Abdul Hamid, hailing from Noakhali, was seen selling kids' attires in Chawkbazar area.

He said, "Vendors eagerly wait for the month of Ramadan as sales shoot up at this time of the year."

"My usual daily sale is about Tk 3,000 to Tk 5,000 per day. But during Ramadan, especially 10 days ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr, the sale increases up to Tk



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

20,000 to Tk 25,000."

In Hamid's shop, the price range of the kids' attire is between Tk 200

and Tk 400.

Similarly, other roadside vendors were seen passing busy times, selling and bargaining with customers flocking to the shops in the area.

Jahirul Islam, a resident of Bakalia area

who is a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver by profession, bought a dress for his three-year-old daughter at Tk 200 from Hamid's shop on Monday.

"As my income is very poor, I have no

alternative but to buy clothes from the footpath shops," he said.

Although people from the low-income groups are thronging to roadside shops in large numbers, middle-income groups are also buying clothes from these roadside makeshift shops.

Imran Hossain, a student, said he bought a shirt from a roadside shop at Jubilee Road at Tk 300.

"I frequently shop at the footpath shops," said Imran, who hails from Satkania upazila at Chattogram.

Md Khaled, a jeans pant seller in Jubilee Road area, expressed his satisfaction with the sales so far and hoped for some great escalation in sales a few days ahead of Eid as the number of customers is increasing day-by-day.

Contacted, Miran Hossain, president of Chattogram Sammilito Hawkers' Federation, said about 25,000 hawkers sell clothes on the footpath in Chattogram city.

"Eid sales in footpath shops usually gain momentum in the last 10 days of Ramadan," he said, adding, mainly people from low and lower-middle-income groups are the customers of footpath shops.

Some people from middle-income groups, including students, also come to shop in the footpath shops as they can buy clothes from footpath shops at a cheaper price, he said.

Super League to begin sans national stars

SPORTS REPORTER

The CCDM released the fixture list for the Super League phase of the Dhaka Premier League yesterday, with Abahani and Mohammedan set to face off on the first day of the fixtures on May 1.

In the 15 matches of the Super League, slated to be played from May 1 till 14th, each of the top six teams will meet each other once. Abahani finished the initial league stage with 20 points, as many as Sheikh Jamal, but lead the table courtesy of a superior net run-rate.

The Super League of the DPL will begin after the Eid-ul-Fitr vacation ends.

However, national-team players will be unavailable for the crucial stage, with the Tigers slated to start a short camp in Sylhet on April 26 or 27 ahead of their departure for England on May 1 to play an ODI series against Ireland, which is part of the ICC ODI Super League.

While most of national-team stars such as Shakib Al Hasan and Rony Taludkar of Mohammedan and Mushfiqur Rahim of Prime Bank will be away on national duty, Abahani can count on the experience of Afif Hossain, Mohammad Naim and Anamul Haque Bijoy for the Super League phase as they are out of the national set-up for the time being.

Liton Das and Mustafizur Rahman, engaged in the Indian Premier League, will join the team in England ahead of the series.

Middling finish for Pushpita, Ashikuzzaman

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Ashikuzzaman finished 41st among 86 archers in the qualification round of the compound men's event as the Archery World Cup Stage-1 got underway in Antalya yesterday.

Ashikuzzaman, the lone male compound archer from Bangladesh, scored 586, 13 behind top-placed Mathias Fullerton of Denmark.

Pushpita Zaman, the lone women's compound archer from Bangladesh, scored 570 to finish 48th among 65 competitors. India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam topped the table with 593 points.

The elimination round of both the men's and women's compound events will be held on Thursday while the qualification rounds of men's and women's recurve events are scheduled to take place today, with Hakim Ahmed Rubel, Sagor Islam, Ram Krishna Shaha and Abdur Rahman Alif taking part in the men's event and Diya Siddique featuring in the women's recurve event.



Are we destined only to watch the downfall?

BISHWAJIT ROY

Nowadays, hardly anybody shows interest in Bangladesh's declining football scene unless the women's or girls' teams deliver something special.

However, Bangladesh football took centre stage and dominated headlines for the last few weeks, but for all the wrong reasons.

It all started at the end of March, when the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), citing financial constraints, pulled its team from the 2024 AFC Women's Olympic Football Qualifying Tournament.

Following that, a FIFA-imposed suspension on BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag "for having used false and/or falsified documents to justify payments made by the BFF with FIFA funds" triggered intense criticism from every nook and cranny and lay bare the lack of proper governance under the leadership of federation president Kazi Salahuddin.

Yet, the Salahuddin-led committee appeared indifferent to any criticism and the way they washed their hands of the Shohag controversy after an executive meeting on Monday led many to question if they were destined to simply watch the downfall of the nation's once most popular sport.

During a 20-minute press meet, BFF senior vice-president and finance committee chairman Abdus Salam Murshedy was in an even more dismissive mood than his president regarding their responsibility.

He not only said that "if there is forgery, he [Shohag] did it individually" and that

"the finance committee would not take any blame". But he also reminded reporters about the difficulties of taking any decision against this elected body due to FIFA's strict supervision.

The BFF came to the conclusion that any wrongdoing happened on account of Shohag, as if the general secretary rather than the all-powerful BFF president was calling the shots. Still, they formed an inquiry committee with their own men to unearth, in their words, "what happened and why it happened".

Whispers about financial irregularities in the BFF have been prevalent for a while and this presented an opportunity for them to clear the air by inviting an independent inquiry committee.

An idea of what happened can be gleaned from FIFA's exhaustive 51-page findings, but for the greater interest of the game, there is a need to know why it happened and who was responsible.

The BFF, as a professional body, must have procedures in place to deal with any financial issue. One man cannot be solely responsible for everything.

Salahuddin also did not deny that there were faults in the system.

So how then can those involved in the system unearth the truth? If the BFF was sincere, they could have invited an independent inquiry committee to unearth the facts.

"I didn't even know that they bought a bus [for the women's football team] because it was purchased by the purchase committee. The cheque is signed by any two of three and I sign after Murshedy signs," Salahuddin told The Daily Star last Saturday when asked about the irregularities in repairing and installing water pipes at the BFF House.

"Everybody in the BFF knows everything hundred per cent," he added.

The statements clearly indicated that BFF followed a procedure when it came to handling such things and a professional like Murshedy, who is the managing director of a big corporate house, must know in detail how things happen in an organisation of such magnitude.

Whispers about financial irregularities in the BFF have been prevalent for a while and this presented an opportunity for them to clear the air by inviting an independent inquiry committee.

Instead, the BFF executive committee has decided that Shohag will not get any opportunities to work with the federation in the future. But should they have first allowed him to give his explanations to an independent inquiry committee?

There was a lot of hope when Salahuddin came to the helm of the BFF as many believed the champion striker would be able to restore the game to its previous stature. Now serving his fourth consecutive term since 2008, he brought more misery than glory to the game.

Now the question is whether he further damages his image by sweeping the issue under the rug or shows bravery and clears the air by taking responsibility for the mess in Bangladesh football.

MSC storm into semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Falling giants Mohammedan SC stormed into the semifinals of the Federation Cup with an emphatic 4-1 win over Chittagong Abahani in their quarterfinal clash at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday.

Souleymane Diabate, captain of the Black and Whites, struck twice after Nigerian Emanuel Sunday and Uzbek Muzaffarjon Muzaffarov netted one apiece in the scorching heat to set a semifinal clash against Bashundhara Kings.

Nigerian Candy Augustine netted the consolation strike from the spot for former Fed Cup runners-up Ctg Abahani, who made it to the semis of the competition once in the last four editions.

Shrugging off their disappointing 1-1 draw against Bangladesh Police FC in the previous encounter in the Bangladesh Premier League, 10-time Fed Cup champions Mohammedan bounced back strongly against Chittagong Abahani to take the lead in 20th minute through a nice strike from Emanuel inside the box, capitalising on a superb cut-back from Emon Shahriar.

The motijheel-based outfit kept creating chances before Muzaffarov doubled the margin from a corner kick which took a slight deflection off Ctg Abahani defender Imran Hossain Rimon before finding it's way back into the net.

After resumption, Mohammedan widened the margin three minutes into the second half with a nice build-up through the wings. Spaniard Daniel Ricardo whipped a cross from the left flank and right-back Mehedi Hasan squared it to unmarked Diabate, who did not make a mistake to tap it into the near post. He struck from outside the box in the 70th minute to kill the match.

‘Criticism helps us work more’

REUTERS

Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi said he had no qualms being a lightning rod for criticism after their Serie A form nosedived as long as his players are protected ahead of a Champions League quarterfinal that could define their season.

Inter have not won in their last five league games, suffering four defeats to fall out of the top four and sit two points behind fourth-placed AC Milan, leading to reports Inzaghi could be sacked.

However, they have done well in the Champions League, advancing from the group stage at the expense of LaLiga leaders Barcelona before eliminating Porto in the last 16.

Inter have a 2-0 lead over Benfica ahead of the second leg at the San Siro on Wednesday as they look to reach the semifinals for the first time since they were crowned European champions in 2010.

"Before Barcelona, as before Porto, it (the criticism) was the same, personally I am used to it. Better they criticise me than the players," Inzaghi told reporters on Tuesday.

"Criticism helps us to work more and more. In the league we have made insufficient progress. Like other teams we had problems.

"Now we have to focus on giving our fans an important night that would allow us to finish among the top four in Europe and that would be an important milestone."

Several Inter players have contracts that expire at the end of the season but Inzaghi played down the significance of that.

"We have several players' contracts expiring but I see them working daily and working well," he added.

"Being criticised is part of our job, we have to be good and strong and think about the next match."

On-fire Haaland shows what Bayern are missing

AFP, Berlin

When Erling Haaland takes the field for Manchester City on Wednesday in Munich, the Norwegian will face the club who tried to sell the farm to buy him but failed.

Bayern's late first-leg capitulation in Manchester means the six-time winners need to overcome a 3-0 deficit to make it through to the semis.

Not only must Bayern do so against Europe's in-form team, but they need to somehow find the goals that the toothless front-line have lacked in 2023.

Midway through the second half at the Etihad, Bayern, 1-0 down after a Rodri wonder goal, were dominating possession and had carved out several chances, but failed to put any away.

Then, in a six-minute period, the brutally efficient Haaland showed what Bayern were missing up front, setting up a goal and then scoring another to put City on course for the semifinals.

While Haaland's flurry likely sunk Bayern's Champions League hopes then and there, the seeds for their struggles were planted late last season, when the German champions tried and failed to sign the Norwegian. Bayern sporting director Hasan



Salihamidzic was not alone in his desire to sign Haaland, but his open courting of the Norwegian put noses out of joint, particularly that of star striker Robert Lewandowski.

In 2021, a clip emerged of Salihamidzic on the sidelines of a Bayern-Dortmund clash, speaking with an assistant coach after Haaland scored twice in seven minutes.

"How good is Haaland? He's a machine. I'll call his agent tomorrow."

In that match, Haaland had given Dortmund a 2-0 lead, Bayern fought back to win 4-2 -- thanks to a Lewandowski hat-trick.

Bayern were willing to tear up their carefully constructed salary structure

to sign the Norwegian in the summer of 2022.

Lewandowski's camp said the striker felt slighted by the German club's failure to offer him a longer-term deal, with Bayern seemingly distracted by their pursuit of Haaland.

Lewandowski had scored more than 40 goals for Bayern in seven straight seasons, scoring a remarkable 344 goals in 375 appearances.

Ultimately, Bayern's wandering eye cost them both Haaland and Lewandowski.

Despite a history of scoring against Bayern -- Haaland has six goals and two assists in eight games against the Bavarians -- Tuesday's 3-0 victory was the striker's first win against the German champions. He lost seven from seven with Dortmund.

Since moving to City, Haaland has been spectacular, smashing records on the way to scoring 47 goals in 40 appearances.

Coming into Wednesday's clash, the Norwegian has somehow managed to up his form, with a scarcely believable 14 goals in his past six games.

Bayern have eight across the same period, four of which came in one match against a wilting Dortmund.



PHOTO: MANCHESTER CITY

Even though goal-machine Erling Haaland scored one and set-up another for Bernardo Silva in Manchester City's Champions League quarterfinal first leg against Bayern Munich at the Etihad last week, it was the latter who drew more attention with his dribbling and overall flair. With City already 3-0 up in the tie, the Bavarians remain at the risk of an utter humiliation if the duo once again turn up with a similar performance at the Allianz Arena tonight.





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EID JOURNEY

Home-goers start leaving the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the public holiday beginning today, thousands of people have already started leaving the capital yesterday for their village homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

Bus terminals, railway stations and launch terminals started seeing hordes of homebound people in the afternoon as many service-holders left work early on the last working day before the five-day Eid holidays.

The rush, however, is expected to intensify today and is expected to reach its peak two days from Friday.

Eid is likely to be celebrated on April 22 or 23. Holidays will be extended by a day if there are 30 days of Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr is celebrated on April 23, making it a six-day break.

About 1.2 crore people will leave Dhaka ahead of Eid, according to an estimate by Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity.

Thousands of people left Dhaka yesterday through Kamalapur Railway Station, the largest railway in the country.

The station saw relatively less crowd this year as railway authorities allowed only the passengers with tickets at the platform and erected a strong bamboo fence to prevent illegal entry.

Until 7:30pm, a total of 38 including 28 intercity trains left Dhaka for different destinations. A total of 53 trains were supposed to leave Dhaka yesterday.

Chattogram-bound Mohanagar Pravati Express and Sonar Bangla Express left Dhaka an hour behind schedule, said a Bangladesh Railway official.

On the other hand, Chilahati-bound Nilsagar Express and Rajshahi-bound Dhumketu Express were delayed by 50 minutes and 40 minutes respectively, he said.

Similarly, bus terminals witnessed big crowds in the evening.

A huge number of passengers started gathering at Gabtoli Terminal in the afternoon, said Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan. The number was increasing when the correspondent spoke with him around 7:30pm.

Meanwhile, Sadarghat Launch Terminal also saw a good number of passengers in the evening, said Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Water Transport Authority.

Until 7:00pm, a total of 55 launches left Dhaka with passengers, he said, adding that the number of passengers will increase from today and will reach a peak when the garment factories break off for the Eid holidays.

Traffic pressure has increased on the Dhaka-Tangail highway. However, no traffic congestion was reported on the highway, reports our Tangail Correspondent.

According to the Bangabandhu Bridge Authority, a total of 22,485 small and big vehicles crossed the bridge in the 24 hours to 6:00 am yesterday, fetching Tk 2.9 crore.

Special arrangements have been made for the smooth passage of vehicles through the bridge on Eid, said Ahsanul Kabir Pavel, executive engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority.

Furthermore, two additional toll booths have been added for motorcycles, he added.

The government is determined to ensure the smooth return of people to their villages during Eid, said Jasim Uddin Haider, deputy commissioner in Tangail, adding that various measures have been taken to this end.

From April 16, ten mobile teams are working under the leadership of executive magistrates. Three control rooms have been set up on the highway.



Shopkeepers arranging their goods as parts of the New Super Market that were not damaged by Saturday's fire reopened yesterday. Power supply to the market has not been restored.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Mediaworld elects new chairperson

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, has been elected as the chairperson of the Mediaworld, the owning company of the daily, at a meeting of the Board of Directors yesterday.

He succeeds Rokia Afzal Rahman, who passed away on April 5. Rokia had held the post of chairperson for 21 years.

Anam, 74, has been the editor and publisher of the newspaper for the last 30 years. He co-founded the paper in January 1991, as the executive editor with SM Ali as its founding editor publisher.

Anam started his SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Dhaka airport to get better eyes in the skies

New radar to make airspace safer, stop unseen overflights

RASHIDUL HASAN

Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will have a new radar system that will cover the entire airspace of the country.

Sources at the airport said the country's airspace is now controlled with a 38-year-old radar system and sometimes it is difficult to detect planes flying over Bangladesh.

With the installation of the sophisticated radar system at a cost of Tk 730.13 crore, such problems will be over, said officials of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

The existing radar cannot detect all planes making overflights in Bangladesh's airspace, especially over the Bay of Bengal. The International Court of Arbitration awarded Bangladesh the rights to an area of about 19,000 square kilometres in the Bay.

As a result, Bangladesh cannot collect overflight fees properly, said CAAB officials. Bangladesh charges a minimum of \$500 in overflight fees.

"The country's airspace will be more secure, aviation will be safer, and revenues from our aviation sector will go up with the setting up of the new radar and ATC [air

traffic control] towers," said CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman.

He said 87 percent of the radar installation work has been completed. "We have a plan to open the radar system in October this

"The country's airspace will be more secure, aviation will be safer, and revenues from our aviation sector will go up with the setting up of the new radar and ATC [air traffic control] towers."
Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman
CAAB Chairman

year."

Mafidur, however, said it may take another year to make the system fully operational as software integration work will continue and the whole project will be done by the middle of 2024. The system is

being set up by Thales LAS, a French radar-manufacturing company.

When the radar system will be fully operational, Bangladesh will have full control over its airspace, the CAAB chief said.

Mafidur said, "The existing system is very old. There are many complaints about it."

The CAAB boss said officials were sent to France for training on the radar operations.

He added that the base has already been completed where the radar system will be set up. The tower construction work is going on and it will be finished on time.

State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali said the new sophisticated radar would bring the entire airspace of the country under surveillance.

On October, 2021, CAAB signed an agreement with Thales LAS.

Asked, aviation expert ATM Nazrul Islam said installation of the new radar will enhance the capacity of air traffic management system and smooth air space management within the coverage and expedite traffic movement.

He added that within territorial airspace, the new radar will help reduce traffic violations as well.

Coastal shellfish 'colonise' ocean plastic: study

AFP, Paris

Scientists have found coastal species of shellfish and anemones living and breeding on floating islands of garbage in the Pacific thousands of miles from home.

Environmentalists have for years been eyeing what they call the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" -- masses of plastic rubbish combining bottles, fishing nets and much more.

US researchers who sampled rubbish from the northeastern Pacific between California and Hawaii said they found 37 kinds of invertebrates that originated from coastal areas, mostly from countries such as Japan on the other side of the ocean.

"The high seas are colonized by a diverse array of coastal species, which survive and reproduce in the open ocean," they wrote in the study, published in Nature Ecology and Evolution on Monday.

"Coastal species persist now in the open ocean as a substantial component of a neoplagic (new, sea-dwelling) community sustained by the vast and expanding sea of plastic debris," the study said.

More than two-thirds of the items examined had coastal species on them, including crustaceans, sea anemones and moss-like creatures called bryozoans.



China took a 'good initiative'

Momen says Chinese special envoy met him, they talked way of quick Rohingya return

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Special Envoy Deng Xijun had a meeting with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Rohingya repatriation on April 6, two days before the latter flew to Washington to hold a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"I had a courtesy call with him and we discussed how to quickly repatriate the Rohingyas to Myanmar," Momen told journalists after attending an event marking the Foreign Service Day at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

There was, however, no public announcement of the Chinese special envoy's visit to Dhaka.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen flew to China on Monday and is likely to return today, said sources. They could not say details of his schedule while in China.

Foreign Minister Momen also did not respond to a question when asked about the purpose of the foreign secretary's China visit.

Asked if there was any suggestion SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



The navigability of the Sari river, a popular tourist attraction, has decreased significantly. Chars have appeared at different spots of the river. Illegal extraction of sand from the river has put its biodiversity at risk. The photo was taken in Sari bridge area of Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX

Bangladesh 2nd most improved country in S Asia

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh was the second most improved country in terms of terrorism impact in South Asia as it has jumped down two notches to the 43rd rank among 163 countries, according to the latest edition of the Global Terrorism Index.

Bangladesh received a score of 3.827 on the GTI index. The calculation of the score takes into account the deaths, incidents, hostages, and injuries caused by terrorism, weighted over a five-year period.

Afghanistan was on top of the list as the country with the highest impact of terrorism as it received a score of 8.822.

The GTI report is produced by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP) using data from Terrorism Tracker and other sources. Terrorism Tracker provides event records on terrorist attacks since January 1, 2007.

Among the South Asian countries, Pakistan received a score of 8.16, India 7.173 while Nepal received a score of 4.134.

"Bangladesh was the second most improved country in regards to the impact of terrorism, followed closely by Nepal, with both countries recording two attacks and no deaths in 2022," said the report.

The South Asia region is home to two of the 10 countries with the worst GTI scores -- Afghanistan and Pakistan. Of SEE PAGE 6 COL 3