

CONFLICT IN SUDAN Evacuation of Bangladeshis to start early next month

PORIMOL PALMA

Around 500 Bangladeshis, who have applied for their return to the country, will be evacuated early next month as it has become unsafe for them to stay in conflict-ridden Sudan.

Many other countries, including the US, the UK, China, France, Saudi Arabia, and international organisations have been evacuating their diplomats and citizens as the Sudanese military and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been fighting in the capital Khartoum and surrounding areas since mid-April.

A disagreement had been fomenting in recent months between the two groups over military security reforms.

The conflict has already left at least 459 people killed and 4,072 injured, according to the World Health Organization.

Charge De Affaires (CDA) of the Bangladesh Embassy in Sudan, Tareq Ahmed, and his family moved out of Khartoum on April 23 and are living some 240km away from the capital, as his residence along with the embassy building came under attacks.

On April 15, the CDA's residence, which close to Khartoum International Airport, had machine gun bullets hitting and piercing through the windows.

On April 22, the Bangladesh embassy building was hit by the bullets, damaging the third-floor wall.

However, no one was hurt in either incident.

The next day, the CDA, along with other officials and staffers, moved out of Khartoum and have been residing at the guest house in a cotton factory owned by a Bangladeshi expatriate there.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida shake hands at the latter's office yesterday.

'Japan has a special place in our hearts'

Ties now elevated to strategic partnership,
says Hasina at meeting with Japanese PM

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh and Japan successfully elevated their bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

"We are happy that Bangladesh and Japan have successfully elevated the bilateral relations to a 'Strategic Partnership' from the existing 'Comprehensive Partnership'," she said in a joint statement after a meeting with her Japanese counterpart Kishida Fumio in

Tokyo, reports UNB.

The two sides signed eight agreements and memorandums of cooperation on agriculture, metro rail, industrial upgrade, ship recycling, customs, intellectual properties, defence cooperation, and ICT and cyber security, reports BSS.

At the meeting with the Japanese prime minister, Hasina mentioned how the presence of a large number of Rohingyas in Bangladesh was affecting the lives and livelihoods of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

- ✓ Dhaka, Tokyo sign eight deals
- ✓ Japan to provide Tk 2,400 crore as budget support
- ✓ Agreement on ICT and cyber security signed
- ✓ Bangladesh to be turned into an industrial and connectivity hub

BNP goes for all-out boycott of five city polls

Warns party men not to
run even for councillor

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP will go tough on its leaders and activists who will run for councillor in the city polls and those who will patronise them.

Though the councillor election is non-partisan in nature, some grassroots leaders, especially the current councillors, want to contest the polls, causing discomfort for the party.

This is the first time that the party is taking a headline on joining councillor polls. It has already announced the

According to the Election Commission, the last date of nomination submission for Gazipur City Corporation polls is April 27 (today), Khulna and Barishal May 16 and Rajshahi and Sylhet May 23.

decision to boycott the upcoming mayoral elections to five city corporations.

"It's a decision. Nobody is allowed to contest the polls. We are in a movement. When the regime's legitimacy is in question, how can we join the polls? So none is allowed to run the polls," Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, standing committee member of the party, told The Daily Star.

Soon after the announcement of the election schedule, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told journalists that they would not walk into any trap this time by joining any polls.

But even after this stance of the party, some leaders showed interest in running the polls, "either under pressure or willingly", party sources say.

According to the Election Commission, the last date of nomination submission for Gazipur City Corporation polls is April 27 (today), Khulna and Barishal May 16 and Rajshahi and Sylhet May 23.

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As workers are still enjoying their Eid holidays, containers full of goods lie idle at the NCT Gate-1 of the Chittagong Port in Saltgola Crossing area as loading and unloading have not yet begun. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

GAZIPUR CITY POLLS Nomination forms bought for Zahangir, his mother

STAR CORRESPONDENT

Two nomination forms to run for mayor in the upcoming Gazipur city polls have been collected in the names of suspended Gazipur mayor Zahangir Alam and his mother.

Zahangir confirmed the matter to The Daily Star last night.

The city polls will be held on May 25. The deadline for collecting and submitting nomination forms expires today.

Over the phone, Zahangir said, "My followers and well-wishers have collected nomination forms for me and my mother. I work for

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Facebook ads no longer available for businesses

Dollar crunch compels Httpool to suspend
advertisement sales in Bangladesh

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Httpool, Meta's sales partner in Bangladesh, has suspended services after it failed to repatriate funds following curbs on dollar outflows, in what can be viewed as a crushing blow to local businesses.

The development, which follows similar complaints from foreign airlines and shipping companies, will be particularly damaging for women-owned businesses and SMEs, which are inextricably reliant on Meta's social media platforms Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to advertise their goods and services.

As of January, there are more than 43 million Facebook users in Bangladesh, making the country the ninth largest in terms of audience, according to global

data firm Statista.

In a letter to clients on April 25, Httpool said its services related to the Meta platform will be temporarily unavailable or reduced until further notice.

"This is due to the lack of USD currency available and difficulties with remittances abroad," said the letter signed by Sunny Nagpal, director of Httpool Bangladesh.

Subsequently, there will be limited availability of ad space on the platform offered by Httpool, which may affect the clients' upcoming campaigns and the possibility of rejection/blockages of the current and upcoming campaigns.

"This is a necessary measure that we must take in light of the current economic conditions, that are an

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

A Heartfelt Tribute

on

2nd Death Anniversary of a great Business personality and visionary



Deen Mohammad

(1938 - 2021)

Death : 27-04-2021

Founder : Phoenix Insurance Company Limited

You will always remain our inspiration
You were a great source of our strength
Your moral values always indicated us to move forward.

May Allah grant you eternal peace in Heaven

Phoenix Insurance Family

PHOENIX
INSURANCE
RISING FROM ASHES

President pays tribute to Bangabandhu at Tungipara

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Sahabuddin yesterday paid tribute to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj.

He placed a wreath at the mausoleum of the late leader at Tungipara and stood in solemn silence for some time.

A smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force presented the state salute while the bugles played the last post.

Members of Parliament Colonel (Retd) Faruk Khan, Sheikh Salahuddin Jewel, Sheikh Helal Uddin, and Sheikh Sarhan Naser Tanmoy, as well as senior officials of the local administration, received the president.

The president's motorcade started from Bangabhaban at 10:13am and it reached Tungipara via Padma Bridge at 12:45pm.

President Sahabuddin offered fatha and munajat, seeking eternal peace for the departed souls of Bangabandhu as well as other martyrs of the August 15 carnage.

The president signed the visitors' book kept on the mausoleum premises.

Subsequently, another wreath was placed at the mausoleum on behalf of the president's family members, led by the president's wife, Dr Rebecca Sultana.

Family members and close relatives, secretaries concerned with the president, and senior civil and military officials accompanied the president during the visit.

Sahabuddin took oath as the 22nd president of Bangladesh on Monday.

4 hurt as steel bridge collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Four passengers of a private car were injured after a steel bridge collapsed on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Chelergat in Trishal upazila, Mymensingh yesterday.

The injured were given treatment at Trishal Upazila Health Complex; their condition is not serious, said doctors.

Trishal Police Station OC Md Mainuddin said the accident took place when a Mymensingh-bound lorry carrying heavy electric transformers was crossing the bridge around 6:00pm.

The private car also on the bridge fell and turned turtle, injuring its four passengers, said the OC.

On information, police and fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot and conducted a rescue operation.

The vehicular movement on the highway was mostly unaffected, said the OC.



PHOTO: PTD

President Mohammed Shahabuddin places a wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara yesterday.

10 Indian police killed in Maoist attack

AFP, Raipur

Ten police and their driver were killed in India's central Chhattisgarh state yesterday when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device, an attack police blamed on Maoist rebels.

India's long-running Maoist insurgency began in the 1960s and has cost thousands of lives in the decades since, although violence has waned considerably in recent years.

Yesterday's deaths were the worst casualties for security forces in more than two years and claimed the lives of police reservists returning from a mission to investigate rebel movements in remote Dantewada district.

No rebel group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

"They were returning from an operation when the explosion took place targeting their vehicle," senior Chhattisgarh police official Vivekanand, who uses only one name, told AFP.

Footage aired on broadcaster NDTV showed a crater that stretched several feet into the earth, and security forces inspecting mangled vehicle parts strewn about by the blast.

"I pay my tributes to the brave personnel we lost in the attack," Prime Minister

Narendra Modi wrote on Twitter. "Their sacrifice will always be remembered."

Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel told reporters the attack was "very saddening" and pledged to redouble efforts to combat the state's Naxalites, as India's Maoist insurgents are known.

"This battle is in the last leg and we will not spare any Naxalites, and we will make a proper plan to wipe out Naxalism."

India has deployed tens of thousands of forces to battle the rebels across the insurgent-dominated region known as the "Red Corridor", which stretches across several central, southern and eastern states.

Naxal groups say they are fighting for rural people and the poor.

They are believed to be present in more than 10 states across India but are most active in remote parts of the country's interior.

Their strongholds are in areas where much of the population remains mired in poverty and lacks access to critical services.

Delhi has also pumped millions of dollars into infrastructure development in the remote areas dominated by tribal communities, and claims to have confined the armed insurgency to 53 districts in 2020, down from 96 in 2010.

Twenty-two police and paramilitaries were killed in a gun battle with the far-left guerrillas in 2021.

KILLING OF 2 AL MEN Families point finger at rival faction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lakshimpur

Family members yesterday blamed political opponents for the killing of two former ruling party leaders in Lakshimpur as police failed to arrest anyone involved with the incident.

Around 9:30pm on Tuesday, unidentified miscreants opened fire on Abdullah Al Noman, 36, former general secretary of the district unit Jubo League and Rakib Uddin Imam, former organising secretary of the district unit BCL, in the Nagarhat area under Bashikpur union.

They were rushed to Sadar Hospital in critical condition. Noman was declared dead by doctors there, said Sohel Rana, additional superintendent of police.

Rakib was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but died on the way around 11:30pm, Sohel added.

Tohidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chandraganj Police Station, said police are conducting drives, but couldn't arrest any suspect.

Asked, the OC refused to comment on the possible motives behind the killings, saying the matter is under investigation.

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1 killed in clash at Habiganj village

UNB, Habiganj

A man was killed and 25 others were injured in a clash between two groups over establishing dominance at Lashimpur village in Lakhai upazila of Habiganj yesterday morning.

Deceased Jahirul Islam, 30, was the son of Abu Siddique.

Nazim Uddin, a neighbour, said there was a long-standing dispute between former UP member Mojibur Rahman and incumbent UP member Hira Mia over establishing supremacy in the village.

The two groups attacked each other, leaving Jahirul and others injured, Lakhai Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Nunu Mia said.

Doctors at Madhabpur Upazila Health Complex declared Jahirul dead on arrival.

Uncle, nephew killed in bus-bike collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man and his nephew were killed in a head-on collision between their motorcycle and a bus in Dinajpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

Babul Hossain, 55, and Sohan Hossain, 24, were from Ramnagar under Dinajpur municipality. Babul was a land officer in Phulbari upazila's Aluari union.

Dinajpur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tanvirul Islam said the motorcycle was heading towards Phulbari from Sadar.

"When they arrived in Chuniapara village on the Dinajpur-Gobindaganj road around 10:00am, a speeding bus collided head-on with the bike as it was overtaking another bus, leaving them dead on the spot."

Police seized the bus, but the driver and his helper fled the scene, said the police officer.

Schoolgirl drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A child died by drowning in a pond in Sirajdikhan upazila, Munshiganj, yesterday.

The incident took place at Thoirgaon village under the Kola union of the upazila at around 11:00am.

The deceased was identified as Oishee Roy, 11, daughter of Gopal Roy, from Kamargaon village under Bhagyakul union of Sreenagar upazila in the district. She was a sixth grader at Bhagyakul Harendralal High School.

Last week, Oishee came to visit her uncle, Nayan Barai, in Thairgaon.

Yesterday around noon, she and some children went to bathe in a pond near her uncle's house and later drowned.

She was rescued by locals and taken to the Ishapura Health Complex, where doctors declared her dead.

Oishee did not know how to swim, said her uncle Nayan Baroi.

'Japan has a special place in our hearts'

FROM PAGE 1

local communities and requested Japan to use its channel of communication with Myanmar to find a durable solution.

Kishida said, "Bangladesh has sheltered over one million displaced persons from Myanmar, and we will continue to support its endeavour."

He added that both the countries will work to increase bilateral relations in different areas and expand cooperation in the international community.

The countries, as strategic partners, have expressed their commitment to uphold free and open international order based on the rule of law at a time when the international order stands at a historic turning point, he said.

"In the economic field, we agreed to make every progress through joint studies on the possibilities of Japan-Bangladesh Economic Partnership Agreement," he said.

Bangladesh's remarkable economic development makes it an attractive investment destination, and the establishment of economic zones and improvement of the investment environment will further strengthen economic relations between the two countries.

The prime ministers also

THE 8 DEALS

- Cooperation on agricultural research, development, capacity building
- Collaboration in ensuring customs laws application
- Defence cooperation on dialogue, visits, training, technology transfer
- Cooperation on cyber security and ICT
- Promotion of intellectual property rights system
- Collaboration in environmentally sound ship recycling
- Cooperation on metro rail policy, laws, and regulations
- A framework to jointly explore ways to upgrade Bangladesh's industries

discussed the Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative and the BIG-B Initiative, which aims to connect the Bay of Bengal and the neighbouring regions and to accelerate industrial agglomeration in Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar and beyond.

The prime ministers expect the initiative, which will make use of

Japan's advanced technologies and development experiences, to yield mutual benefits and prosperity for both the countries.

Hasina announced that the Dhaka-Narita direct flights would start operation by this year.

The excellent understanding, friendship and cooperation that exist between the people and governments of the two countries would grow stronger in the years ahead, she said as she thanked the Japanese government for being one of the largest development partners of Bangladesh.

Japan has a very special place in the hearts of Bangladeshis people. It is among the few countries that gave early recognition to Bangladesh after its liberation, she said.

"The historic visit of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Japan in October 1973 laid the foundation of our lasting friendship."

Kishida received Hasina at the entrance hall of the Japanese Prime Minister's Office. Japan rolled out the red carpet and gave her the guard of honour at the airport.

After the 3.5-hour meeting, both the prime ministers signed the joint statement.

Briefing reporters in Tokyo, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said the new strategic partnership will be a framework for the countries' diplomatic relations in the next 50 years.

Through the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt, Japan will help Bangladesh strengthen regional connectivity, infrastructure development, and improve the environment for investment, he said, adding that Japan will make more investment in Bangladesh.

Japan's PM Kishida announced Tk 2,400 crore for Bangladesh's budget support and he accepted PM Hasina's invitation to visit Bangladesh.

State Minister Shahriar Alam said with Japan's support, Matarbari is becoming a transport and energy hub. North-east India, Nepal and Bhutan can also be connected through Matarbari.

PM MEETS JAPAN EMPEROR

Hasina met Japan Emperor of Naruhito at the Imperial Palace at 3:00pm local time, her Deputy Press Secretary KM Shakhawat Hossain told BSS.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi among other dignitaries paid separate calls on the prime minister at Akasaka Palace.

BNP goes for all-out boycott of city polls

FROM PAGE 1

The election in Gazipur will be held on May 25, Khulna and Barishal on June 12, while Rajshahi and Sylhet on June 21.

Insiders say the BNP standing committee, the highest policy-making body of the party, decided to start counselling the potential candidates to keep them away from the electoral process.

The committee sat on Tuesday night to discuss the city polls when party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman joined virtually from London.

Meeting sources said the party reaffirmed that it wouldn't join the city polls and if anyone violates the

party decision, organisational steps will be taken against them.

The meeting discussed the names that surfaced in the media as aspirants though none of them communicated with the party about contesting the polls.

The standing committee believes former lawmaker Nazrul Islam Manjur of Khulna, ex-Barishal mayor Mujibur Rahman Sarwar and former Rajshahi mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul will not contest the polls, said meeting sources.

None from Gazipur communicated with the party to contest the polls but the central leaders are sceptical about Sylhet Mayor Ariful Huq Chowdhury.

The party will watch what move Arif makes in the coming days.

Arif at a recent programme in London said he would not join the polls but on return, he said he has a surprise for all. The mayor is yet to disclose that.

"If anyone wants to be a mayoral or councillor candidate, the top leadership will first try to make him understand that the party is in a movement. If the person stands in the polls, the movement will be hampered," said a standing committee member, wishing not to be named.

The top brass will also remind the aspirants of what happened to those who contested elections earlier

defying party orders.

"If anyone still contests the polls, disciplinary action will be taken. If party leaders holding any portfolio encourages the aspirants to contest the polls, action would be taken against them too."

Party sources said expulsion is the toughest action and the top leaders would try to avoid it as such a step may also adversely impact the ongoing movement.

The BNP and like-minded political parties have been on the streets since December 24 last year to realise their 10-point demand, including resignation of the government and election under a nonpartisan

caretaker government.

The party has not contested any election under the government since March 2021.

In 2022, going beyond the party decision, BNP leaders Taimur Alam Khandaker and Monirul Haque Saku contested the last polls to Narayanganj and Cumilla city corporations as independents and both lost. The party expelled them.

In 2018, the Awami League candidates won four of these mayoral posts while the BNP nominee bagged one.

The opposition party's candidates won all five mayoral polls in those cities in 2013.

Evacuation of Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 1

Since April 15, local staffers have not been able to go to the embassy premises.

Amid this situation, Bangladesh has decided to evacuate its citizens and instructed them to register online for the purpose.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, CDA Tareq Ahmed said, "Nearly 500 Bangladeshis have registered. We are expecting to start their evacuation in early May."

Initially, the Bangladeshis will be taken to Port Sudan [a city about 700km from Khartoum] by bus and from there they will be taken to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia by ship through the Red Sea.

From Jeddah, they will be flown to Bangladesh with assistance from the Bangladesh mission there, he said.

"Earlier, we had decided to start the evacuation process on April 30. However, as many other countries are also evacuating their nationals through the Port Sudan, there is a shortage of accommodation there. So, we may not be able to arrange proper accommodation if we try to take our citizens there immediately,"

the CDA said.

"Many [Bangladeshis] might not have proper documents. We will issue travel permits for them at Port Sudan before the ship starts for Jeddah."

He added that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has instructed the Bangladesh mission in Sudan to use the best available options for the evacuation process.

The Bangladeshis will be evacuated in batches, he further said.

Foreign ministry officials said some 1,500 Bangladeshis, who mostly work in the construction or domestic work sectors, are spread across Sudan.

It is not a labour-hiring country, but some Bangladeshis go there and move to other countries like Libya later.

With the scope of such migration now diminished, many who could not move to other countries now stay and work in Sudan, they added.

9 shops gutted in Narail fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Nine shops were gutted in a fire that broke out at a diesel shop at Shitalbati Sweet Gate Bazar in Kalia upazila, Narail yesterday around 10:30am.

Soon, the fire spread to the adjacent shops but locals managed to put out the blaze in one hour, said Yasin Ali, the duty officer of Kalia Fire Service and Civil Defence.

He said it took some time for firefighters to reach the area as they have to cross the Madhumati river to get there.

The fire originated from an electrical short circuit, Yasin Ali said.

Kamrul Mollah, one of the affected traders, said the fire caused damage worth a few crores of taka.

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Bangladesh falls short of hajj quota

HAAB, ATAB leaders fear Saudi govt may reduce quota next year

RASHIDUL HASAN

Even after offering a one-day "special opportunity" for hajj registration on Tuesday, this year's hajj quota of 1.27 lakh people is yet to be fulfilled.

The total number of people who have completed hajj registration stood at 1,20,491 meaning that around 6,500 of the hajj quota is still unfulfilled.

Due to poor response from the intended hajjis, the government earlier extended the deadline for hajj registration eight times since it started on February 8.

Following a request from Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), the Ministry of Religious Affairs gave the special offer to complete hajj registration under government and private management on Tuesday.

However, sources at the hajj office at the city's Ashkona Hajj Camp yesterday said only 39 intended hajjis completed registration under the government management, while 757 completed registrations under the private hajj management.

This is the last chance for hajj registration this year, a press release of the ministry said on Tuesday.

According to the agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, a total of 1.27 lakh Bangladeshis will get the opportunity to perform hajj this year.

Of the total, 15,000 people will perform hajj under the government hajj management while 1.12 lakh under the private hajj management.

While talking to The Daily Star, leaders of HAAB and Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) said the hajj quota will remain unfulfilled this year even if more chances for registration are given.

Failure to fulfil the hajj quota may result in the Saudi government reducing the quota next year, they feared.

Abdus Salam Aref, general secretary of ATAB, said this was the first time that the hajj quota was not fulfilled, and many intended pilgrims told them that they were finding it difficult to manage the huge amount of money to perform hajj this year.

A Bangladeshi will have to spend around Tk 7 lakh to perform hajj under private and government management this year, which is up by around Tk 1.61 lakh from the previous year.

Apart from this, each pilgrim will have to pay about Tk 22,000 for a Qurbani

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



In the scorching heat, a baby finds solace in her mother's arms. With her eyes full of curiosity, she gazes out at the world, secure in the knowledge that her mother will always be there to protect her. This touching moment of maternal love was captured at the gate of the National Museum in Shahbagh yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Death anniv of Sher-e-Bangla today

CITY DESK

The 61st death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla Abul Kalam Fazlul Huq will be observed today.

Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, popularly known as Sher-e-Bangla or Huq Saheb, was born on October 26, 1873, at his maternal uncle's house at Satura, a village in the southern part of Barishal district.

He passed away on April 27, 1962.

Huq was an eminent public leader who had held many high political posts, including the mayor of Calcutta (1935), chief minister of undivided Bengal (1937-1943) and East Bengal (1954), home minister of Pakistan (1955) and governor of East Pakistan (1956-58).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued a message paying rich tribute to the memory of Sher-e-Bangla.

In her message, the PM paid glowing tributes to the late leader and recalled his struggle for economic freedom of the peasants and toiling people of the country.

She also prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

Hasina mentioned AK Fazlul Huq's exceptional leadership, personality and political wisdom, for which he was dubbed Sher-e-Bangla or Banglar Bagh (Tiger of Bengal).

The ruling Awami League will also pay tribute to the great leader by placing wreaths at his grave at Suhrawardy Udyan at 8:00am today.

Besides, different political parties, alongside socio-cultural and professional bodies, have chalked out various programmes to observe the day.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 27

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 4:45 6:29 8:00
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:00 6:34 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BANGABANDHU TUNNEL

Delayed decision delays opening

Tunnel to likely open in September after completing vehicle scanner installation works

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The construction work of Bangabandhu Tunnel under the Karnaphuli River saw a 99.5 percent completion. However, the tunnel is unlikely to come into operation before September due to the delayed decision to install vehicle scanners there.

Installation of vehicle scanners was not part of the project but was included later for safety reasons. The scanners have to be brought from the UK, installed and also have to go through a test before the tunnel is open for operation, said officials.

In this given situation, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to open the tunnel by September this year.

He revealed the information at a views-exchange meeting with the officials of the Bridge Division at Setu Bhaban.

In January this year, Quader said the tunnel will open to traffic in April or May this year as 95.50 percent work of its construction had been completed by then.

The 9.1km tunnel, the first of its kind in South Asia, is being built to help develop a modern communication system between Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar. It will also be linked to the Asian Highway.

After revisions, the cost of the project rose to Tk 10,690 crore. The deadline for the project was set in December this year. The original cost of the Chinese-funded project was Tk 8,446.64 crore and its deadline was December 2021.

Asked about the delay to open the tunnel, Bridge Division Secretary Monjur Hossain said, "No other work is left except the installation of the vehicle scanners for security purposes. As of today [yesterday], 99.50 percent of its works are done."

He said as per the recommendation of security experts, the scanners have to be installed before opening the tunnel to traffic.

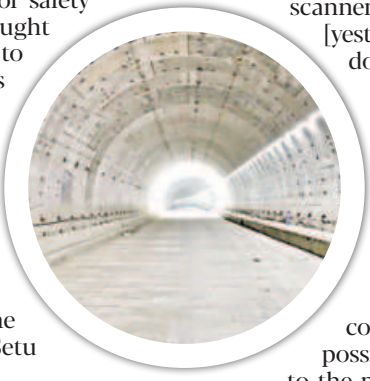
"The scanners have to be brought from the UK, the process of which got delayed due to the Russia-Ukraine war," added Monjur.

"We will try to bring, install and commission the scanners as soon as possible. If everything goes according to the plan, we will be able to open it even before September as told by the minister," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The cost of the project will not increase as it was included in the operation and maintenance bit, said Monjur, also the executive director of Bangladesh Bridge Authority, the implementing agency of the tunnel project.

Meanwhile, Quader said the authority has collected

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40PC RENEWABLE ENERGY CONVERSION BY 2040

Budget allocation not enough to meet the target

Says Inu; energy conference starts in capital today

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh will not achieve its target of converting 40 percent of its energy sources into renewable energy by 2040 if the budgetary allocation does not increase, said Hasanul Haq Inu, chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on information, during an online press conference yesterday.

"...the prime minister has announced to convert at least 40 percent to renewable energy within 2040. But the way we are going about it now, I think it will be difficult to achieve that goal," he said.

"But there is still time if we



Budgetary allocation is critical for transforming our renewable energy capacity into a fully sustainable energy system that is inclusively aligned with the national policies.

HASANUL HAQ INU
Chairperson of JS committee on info

plan properly now and allocate from this year's budget to that end," he added.

He said budgetary allocation

is critical for transforming our renewable energy capacity into a fully sustainable energy system that is inclusively aligned with the national policies.

Inu was addressing a webinar of the Bangladesh Energy Prosperity 2050 (BEP 2050) Conference, which is set to commence today at Bangabandhu Military Museum in Dhaka, reports our Khulna correspondent.

Inu also said now is the time to discuss how much money to allocate as part of the plan to ensure the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy, and whether it is possible to make a transition from the current situation to a 100 percent

alternative energy system.

A proposal can be crafted and placed before the finance ministry before June, he suggested.

"It is time to discuss whether Bangladesh's electricity production is at an overcapacity and whether any misallocation has occurred," said Inu.

Along with him, the event was co-chaired by lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and lawmaker Tanvir Shakil Joy, Chairperson of Climate Parliament Bangladesh.

Representatives of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Army chief off to India on 3-day visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Bangladesh Army General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed left Dhaka yesterday for India on a three-day official visit at the invitation of Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande.

During the visit, he will take the parade salute as the chief guest at the passing out parade of the commissioned officers at the Commissioned Officers Training Academy in Chennai, reads an ISPR press release.

General SM Shafiuddin will make courtesy calls on Indian chief of defence staff, chief of army staff, chief of naval staff, chief of air staff, chief of defence staff, defence secretary and foreign secretary and other top officials.

At the meeting, they will discuss the development of bilateral relations and assistance.

General Shafiuddin will also visit different important establishments of the Indian army.

He will return to Bangladesh on April 30.



AIRPORT ROAD

Traffic to be limited at 2 points for 7 hours from Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Balaka Bhaban and Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport points will be restricted for seven hours from Friday night due to the ongoing construction of flyover in front of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Vehicles will be restricted at the points from 11:00pm on Friday to 6:00am on Saturday, according to a circular of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

The Caab has also requested all heavy and goods-laden vehicles to use alternative road during that time.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Surrender to lower court in 4 weeks

HC orders journo Jahangir in DSA case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered Muhammad Jahangir Alam, special reporter of UNB, to surrender before a lower court concerned in four weeks in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

The HC also asked the law enforcers not to harass or arrest Jahangir during this period.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Mohammad Ali passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Jahangir seeking anticipatory bail, Jahangir's lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told The Daily Star.

He said police filed the case under the DSA with Hatirjheel Police Station on April 14 against Jahangir and several others on charge of anti-state activities following their group discussions in the Facebook messenger.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Swindling passengers at Dhaka airport 'Ringleader' arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Members of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) claimed to have arrested the ringleader of a fraud gang involved in swindling passengers at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Tuesday night.

The arrestee was identified as Md Javed, 47. He had long been involved in swindling passengers and visitors coming to the airport, said APBn Additional Superintendent Mohammad Ziaul Haque.

APBn also arrested Javed's aides and a process is on to take legal steps against them, he added.

Javed, along with his accomplices, used to trick passengers in the name of currency exchange and flee with their hard-earned money, passport, and luggage.

Delayed decision delays opening

FROM PAGE 3
Tk 660 crore as toll from Padma Bridge till April 25 since the biggest bridge in the country opened to traffic on June 26 last year. He also said a total of 77,529 motorcycles crossed in between 6:00am of April 20 and 6:00am yesterday and they earned Tk 77.52 lakh in toll from the bikes. The authorities removed the ban on the operation of bikes over the Padma Bridge on April 20. The move came in after over nine months of the ban imposed on June 27, a day after the bridge was opened, citing security concerns. The minister also directed the authorities concerned to start preparation for Eid-ul-Azha to make people's journey hassle free, keeping cattle market, cattle transportation and rain in mind.

Surrender to lower

FROM PAGE 3
Yesterday, Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) strongly condemned and protested the police action for filing the case against Jahanagir. DRU President Mursalin Noman and its acting secretary Moinul Ahasan in a statement also demanded immediate withdrawal of the case. In the statement, the DRU leaders quoted Jahangir saying that the case, which has been filed against him under the DSA, is fabricated, false and intentional. "I have no involvement with the allegation brought in the case. As a journalist, I always discharge my duties with responsibilities and professionalism. I think a vested quarter has implicated me in this case for gaining their personal interest," Jahangir said.

Bangladesh falls short of hajj

FROM PAGE 3
coupon from the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia. The amount is used for meeting the expenses for sacrificing animals on Eid-ul-Adha. "The airfare of Biman was Tk 1.40 lakh last year. But this year, it is around Tk 1.98 lakh which is very high," said HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim. Sources at the HAAB and ATAB said the airfare is around Tk 1.25 lakh in India and it is less than Tk 1 lakh in Pakistan. "In the past, people were busy looking for hajj agencies to complete their registration. But this year, we are not getting a due response from people," said Abdus Salam Aref, ATAB secretary general. This year, the hajj will be held on June 27 depending on the sighting of the moon and the hajj flight to carry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia will begin from May 21.

Chittagong Stock Exchange PLC

PROFESSION WITH CSE
Chittagong Stock Exchange PLC has a very strong team of professionals and been providing excellent working environment to its Human Resources. It is looking for dynamic and energetic candidate to work with the core management team for the position of ASSISTANT MANAGER. For details including Qualification, Experience, Application Procedures please visit CSE website www.cse.com.bd

Career Opportunity

The Embassy of Denmark in Dhaka invites qualified applications for the following positions:
Visa and Consular Officer (2 positions)
Deadline for application: Saturday, 06 May 2023
To apply, please find the details at the webpage: <http://bangladesh.um.dk/en/about-us/job-opportunities/job-vacancy>. The application should be sent electronically as a PDF file no later than Saturday, 06 May 2023. Receipt of applications will not be acknowledged. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. All applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

e-Zone
Servicing Change Managers
E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. E-Zone HRM Limited has a formal agreement with one of the United Nations agency to provide outsourcing services under a third party contract. E-Zone HRM Limited is now seeking applications for a UN Organization from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies under third party outsourcing contract modality. For detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.
Title: National Consultant (System Developer for BDRIS) (1) - NOB
Duty Station: Dhaka-Office of Registrar General for Birth and Death Registration and field mission to all over the country including at Cox's Bazar. Contract Duration: 12 Months. Number of Vacancies: 1 (One), Contract Type: Contract with E-Zone. Last Date of Application: 6th May, 2023
<https://hotjobs.bjjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un166.html>

Budget allocation

FROM PAGE 3
organisers and co-organisers of the BEP 2050 Conference, namely Bangladesh Working Group on External Debt (BWGED), Climate Parliament Bangladesh, The Earth Society, ActionAid Bangladesh, Bright Green Energy Foundation (BGEF), CLEAN (Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network), Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD), Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Change Initiative, Participatory Research and Action Network (PRAAN), Solis Power & Energy Limited (SPEL) and Waterkeepers Bangladesh, were also present at the press conference yesterday.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ।
☎ ০২৫৮৮-৮৯৩০১
E-mail - eenaw@rhd.gov.bd
তারিখ-২৬/০৪/২০২৩খ্রি।
সংশোধিত EoI বিজ্ঞপ্তি
অত্র দপ্তরের স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.৭০০০.৪৫৪.১৬.০০১.২৩.৯৯৫(১৬) তারিখ-২২/০৪/২০২৩খ্রি: মোতাবেক গত ২৩/০৪/২০২৩খ্রি: তারিখে দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিনিধি, দি ডেইলী স্টার ও দৈনিক পৌড় বাংলা পত্রিকা প্রকাশিত EoI বিজ্ঞপ্তি নিম্নোক্ত ছক মোতাবেক সংশোধন করা হলো। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য বিখয়াদি/শর্তাবলি অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

ক্র.নং	পূর্বে EoI দাখিলের নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও শেষ সময়	সংশোধিত EoI দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১।	তারিখ:- ০৫/০৪/২০২৩ শেষ সময়:- বিকেল ৪.০০	তারিখ:- ০৯/০৪/২০২৩ শেষ সময়:- বিকেল ৪.০০

স্বাক্ষরিত: ২৬/০৪/২৩
(সানজিবা আফরীন বিন্দুক)
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২৫১
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চঃ দাঃ), সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, নবাবগঞ্জ।
GD-742

Traffic to be limited

FROM PAGE 3
While talking to The Daily Star, a top official of the third terminal project said due to construction of the flyover, there will be a bottleneck in front of Biman's head office - Balaka Bhaban - and HSIA. "Instead of eight lanes of the road, four lanes will remain operational," the official said. The official, wishing anonymity, also said such restriction of vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway will remain effective every Friday for another three months. Around 70 percent construction work of third terminal has already been completed so far and there will be a soft opening in October, Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman told The Daily Star. After the soft opening, it will take another year for the terminal to be fully operational, he added. The construction work of the third terminal, at a cost of Tk 21,399 crore, was inaugurated in 2019. Seventy percent of the cost is coming from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) as loan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Munshiganj
www.lged.gov.bd
Memo.no.46.02.5900.000.07.001.22-985
Date: 25/04/2023

e-Tender Notice No: 30/2022-23 Procurement of Works (NCT)

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of Works	Tender ID No	Tender Document last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Procurement method
1.	GSID-2MUNJDW-34	Improvement of Bokultola Tin Shed James Mosque, Holoda Union (Latitude: 23.28388612, Longitude: 90.18229608) under Upazila: Louhajong District: Munshiganj	820277	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM
2.	GSID-2MUNJDW-35	Improvement of Jaulia Rotkole Mondir Louhajong Tealia Union (Latitude: 23.2844976, Longitude: 90.199678) under Upazila: Louhajong District: Munshiganj	820284	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM
3.	GSID-2MUNJDW-36	Improvement of Pala Poschim para Jame Mosque Bultali Union (Latitude: 23.2944538, Longitude: 90.21143388) under Upazila: Louhajong District: Munshiganj	820287	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM
4.	GSID-2MUNJDW-37	Improvement of Khora Dewan Kando Baktal Aksha Jame Mosque Kumanhog Union (Latitude: 23.2824818, Longitude: 90.18166248) under Upazila: Louhajong District: Munshiganj	820290	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM
5.	GSID-2MUNJDW-38	Improvement of Khandirpara Adorsharga Graveyard Merindondal Union (Latitude: 23.29285308, Longitude: 90.14572604) under Upazila: Louhajong District: Munshiganj	820318	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM
6.	IRIDP-3MUNJDW-32	Improvement of Kamarkhara Graveyard-Delupada Bari via Muzbari Madrasa Road From Ch. 00-760m under Upazila: Tongbari, District: Munshiganj (Road ID- 359945174) Salvage Material Cost: BDT: 307857.00	819495	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM
7.	IRIDP-3MUNJDW-33	Improvement of Aditi Dighirpar Lura Bazar-Bagja Bazar Road (Road Matbar Road) Road From Ch. 130-782m under Upazila: Tongbari, District: Munshiganj (Road ID- 359945091) Salvage Material Cost: BDT: 1339305.00	819515	Upto 12:00 14-May-2023	At 14:00 14-May-2023	LTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System 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 the e-GP help desk (Helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Monam Sarkar
Executive Engineer
LGED, Munshiganj
Phone: 02-7612038
e-mail: xen.munshiganj@lged.gov.bd
GD-734

সিলেট সিটি কর্পোরেশন

নগর ভবন, সিলেট
www.scc.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-৪৬.০৭.০০০০.০১৮.৯৯.০২৫.১৯.১৯২২ তারিখ: ২৬/০৪/২০২৩খ্রি:
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি ২১/২০২২-২৩
এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ত্রিকাদার/নববাহারকারীদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরের কর্পোরেশনের প্রকৌশল শাখায় e-GP এর OTM পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়েছে। যার টেন্ডার আইডি নিম্নে দেয়া হল। কাজের নাম, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখসহ অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী সম্বলিত বিস্তারিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি এসসিসি'র ওয়েবসাইট www.scc.gov.bd ও e-GP এর ওয়েবসাইট www.eprocure.gov.bd এ দেখা যাবে।
e-GP Tender Id No.
823793, 822588, 822595,
822597, 822607, 822610,
822612.
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী
সিলেট সিটি কর্পোরেশন
জিডি-৭৩৮

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
১ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন
উত্তরা, ঢাকা
স্মারক নং-এপিএন(১)/এসআর/০১৬০ তারিখ: ২৬-০৪-২০২৩খ্রি:
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)
পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার স্মারক নং-৪৬.০১.০০০০.০৪৬.৭৭.২০২২/সেমেডআইপিএন/০৩৮ তারিখ: ১৮/০৪/২০২৩খ্রি: The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Rules-2008 ও তদীয় সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক ২০২২-২০২৩ ও ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ সালে নির্ধারিত লটারি বিক্রির কাজের ত্রিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশ সরকার ত্রিকাদার/নববাহারকারীদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২০২২-২৩ অর্থবছরের কর্পোরেশনের প্রকৌশল শাখায় e-GP এর OTM পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহবান করা হয়েছে।
০১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
০২। সেক্টর
০৩। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি
০৪। দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি
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৪২৮। দরপত্র

One killed, four hurt in explosion at ice mill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An official was killed and four workers were injured in an explosion at an ice mill in Baulfal upazila of Patuakhali on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Rasel Khan, 37, an assistant director of the ice mill.

The incident took place around 11:30pm at Khan Barikal in Kalaiya Launchghat area, said Officer-in-Charge of Baulfal Police Station ATM Arichul Haque.

The injured workers – Premananda Das, 55, Krishna Rani, 40, Ibrahim, 29, Afzal, 50 – were first taken to Baulfal Upazila Health Complex from where they were shifted to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

The workers said they repaired an ice-making machine after a technical glitch was found. As soon as they turned on the machine after the repair, there was a loud explosion, they said.

As the gas spread to the entire machine room, all the staffers, except Rasel, managed to come out of the room, the workers said.

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot but their rescue operation was delayed due to the intensity of the gas.

About half an hour later, fire service personnel rescued all of them from the factory and sent them to the upazila health complex, where Rasel was declared dead.

Officials said they are investigating the incident.

Cases pile up in courts

42 lakh lawsuits await disposal

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Although the rate of case disposal has increased in recent years, a huge backlog of around 42 lakh cases is pending with the courts across the country, including the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court, causing immeasurable suffering to the litigants.

The number of such backlogs is growing higher since the number of filing of cases is increasing day by day due to the huge population in the country, said SC sources.

An SC study report said a total of 41,96,603 cases were pending with all the courts in the country after 15,71,617 were filed and 14,71,402 were disposed of till December 31 last year.

Of those, 19,928 cases were pending with the Appellate Division, 5,16,674 with the High Court Division and 36,50,001 with the lower courts till that day.

The numbers of civil cases, criminal cases, contempt petitions, and cases under inquiry and investigations were 16,88,195; 23,88,610; 1,19,798 and 1,51,978 respectively at that time.

The Appellate Division; High Court Division and subordinate courts have disposed of a total of 5,406; 87,474 and 13,78,522 cases respectively from January 1 to December 31 last year.

According to the SC report, a total of 7,89,179 cases (4,63,235 civil and 3,25,943

criminal cases) have been pending for more than five years with the courts in the districts.

The number of pending cases increased last year as those which were pending with the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal, Anti-Human Trafficking Offence Tribunal, and Cyber Tribunal in 2021 have been added to last year's, the SC study report said.

Legal experts have been saying the appointment of competent, experienced and honest judges at the courts and continuous monitoring of their activities can help reduce the backlog.

Sources said there are now eight judges for the Appellate Division, 90 judges for the High Court Division and around 1,800 judges for the lower courts across the country for dealing with and disposing of the cases.

Contacted, Appellate Division's Registrar Mohammad Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star that following a monitoring system initiated by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, the rate of case disposal has increased.

Around 100 percent disposal is taking place in 35 districts in proportionate to the filing of the cases, he said. If this trend continues, the backlog of cases will come to a tolerable level in the next few years.

Saifur Rahman also said the backlog of cases at the Appellate Division will come down as three benches of this division are now hearing and disposing of cases.

Mirza Abbas, wife get bail in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas upon their surrender in a case filed in July, 2019 over amassing illegal wealth of Tk 20.76 crore.

Judge Md Monjurul Imam of Dhaka's Special Judge's Court 6 passed the order after the couple, accompanied by their lawyer Mohi Uddin Chowdhury, appeared before the court.

The judge fixed May 21 for next hearing.

On December 27 last year, ACC Deputy Director Nurul Huda, also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet. According to it, Abbas was an MP, minister and mayor of Dhaka City Corporation from 1991 to 1995. He was the housing and public works minister from 2001 to 2006. He obtained the wealth in Afroza's name till August 16, 2007 through bribery and corruption.

On July 7, 2019, ACC filed the case.

By-polls to Ctg-8 today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Election Commission is all set to hold the by-election to Chattogram-8 (Boalkhali-Chandgaon part of Panchlaish) constituency today.

The deadline for electoral campaign ended on Tuesday midnight.

Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, returning officer (RO) of the by-polls, told The Daily Star that all-out preparations have been taken to hold the by-election peacefully.

"Law enforcement agencies would be deployed while mobile teams of the detective branch would also be there," said the RO.

Three platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh and three platoons of Rab will be on duty, he said. "The executive as well as the judicial magistrates would be present," he added.

A total of five candidates – Noman Al Mahmud from Awami League, Sehab Uddin Mohammad Abdus Samad from Bangladesh Islamic Front, Kamal Pasha from National People's Party, SM Farid Uddin from Islamic Front Bangladesh and independent candidate Ramzan Ali – will contest the by-polls.

BNP is not participating in the by-polls and no BNP leader is vying as an independent candidate.

A total of 517,652 voters are supposed to cast their votes through electronic voting machines at all 190 polling centres, said Hasanuzzaman.

The constituency remained vacant after the death of AL lawmaker Moslem Uddin Ahmed on February 5.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Manager-1 (EE), RHD
Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project
(BRT, Gazipur-Airport)
House No-04, Road No-21, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230
Phone: +88-02-48961062, Mobile: 01730-354221
E-mail: pm1rhd.gdsutp@gmail.com

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry	Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
2	Agency	Roads and Highways Department
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Manager-1 (EE), RHD, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport), House-04, Road-21, Sector No-04, Uttara, Dhaka
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	Supply of Staff Outsourcing (05 Drivers & 05 Office Support Staffs) for Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport)
7	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	Memo No-35.01.0000.562.07.004.23-180 Date: 26/04/2023
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
9	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB
10	Project Name	Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT Gazipur-Airport)
11	Tender Package No.	PM-1/GDSUTP/ OTM-02/2022-2023
12	Name of work	Supply of Staff Outsourcing (05 Drivers & 05 Office Support Staffs) for Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport)
13	Tender Publication Date	27/04/2023
14	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	14/05/2023, 4:00 PM
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	15/05/2023, 12:00 PM
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	15/05/2023, 1:00 PM
17	Tender Selling Price	Tk 2,000/-
18	Name & Address of the office(s)	
	-Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Project Manager-1, (EE), RHD, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport), House No-04, Road No-21, Sector No-04, Uttara, Dhaka.
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A
	- Receiving Tender Document	Project Manager-1(EE), RHD, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport), House No-04, Road No-21, Sector No-04, Uttara, Dhaka
	- Opening Tender Document	Project Manager-1(EE), RHD, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport), House No-04, Road No-21, Sector No-04, Uttara, Dhaka
19	Eligibility of Tenderer:	All Tenderers regardless of whether enlisted or not enlisted with the Employer may submit Tenders provided that they are otherwise qualified as per TDS.

20	Brief description of work.				
Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Completion Time in
	Staff Outsourcing (05 Drivers & 05 Office Support Staffs)	Uttara	1,00,000/-	2,000/-	19 months
21	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdur Rahman			
22	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Manager-1(EE), RHD, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport).			
23	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Project Manager-1(EE), RHD, Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport), House No-04, Road No-21, Sector No-04, Uttara, Dhaka.			
24	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Email Address: pm1rhd.gdsutp@gmail.com			
25	Special Instructions:				
	a) The tender Notice is brief and the details of the tender can be seen from the office of the undersigned during office hours.				
	b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				

(Md. Abdur Rahman)
ID No. 602309
Project Manager-1 (EE, CC), RHD

GD- 735

A total of 41,96,603 cases were pending with all the courts in the country after 15,71,617 were filed and 14,71,402 were disposed of till December 31 last year.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Netrokona

Memo No.: 37.07.7200.008.07.002(52).22-369
Date: 26/04/2023

e-Tender Notice No: 2022-2023/52

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Netrokona as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering Method	Tender ID	Last date and time of selling documents	Tender Closing date/time	Tender opening date/time
1	PG-50/SHED	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture at Jowonpur High School Under Mohanganj Upazila Netrokona District	OTM	823131	10/05/2023 15:00	11/05/2023 13:00	11/05/2023 13:00
2	PG-51/SHED	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture at Mowlana Muhamad Ali High School Under Kendua Upazila Netrokona District	OTM	823132	10/05/2023 15:00	11/05/2023 13:00	11/05/2023 13:00
3	PG-52/SHED	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture at Noapara High School under Kendua Upazila Netrokona District	OTM	823133	10/05/2023 15:00	11/05/2023 13:00	11/05/2023 13:00
4	PG-53/SHED	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture at Atpara College under Atpara Upazila Netrokona District	OTM	823134	10/05/2023 15:00	11/05/2023 13:00	11/05/2023 13:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP system 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)

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason what so ever.

sd/-
Monzurul Alam Sharif
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Netrokona
Email: ee_net@eedmoe.gov.bd

GD-740

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Directorate of Technical Education
F-4/B, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No-57.03.0000.027.07.020.22.200
Date: 26/04/2023

e-GP Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender Ref.	Tender ID No. (From e-GP Portal)	Tender Description	Publication Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1	57.03.0000.027.07.020.22.199, Date: 25/04/2023	823205	Supply of office Equipment	30-04-2023 09:00:AM	15-05-2023 02:00:PM

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. The fees for downloading the e-GP tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP system. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.

(Md. Salahuddin Ahmed)
Joint Secretary
Director (Vocational)
Directorate of Technical Education
Phone:02-41024597
E-mail: advocddo@gmail.com

GD- 739

TARIQ ANAM KHAN TAKES 'Peyarar Shubash' to MIFF

Noted actor Tariq Anam Khan is visiting the 45th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF) with his film, Peyarar Shubash, along with its director Nurul Alam Atique. The actor landed in Moscow on April 20. Speaking to The Daily Star, Tariq Anam Khan shared his experience of Moscow thus far.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

"It feels great to be here in Moscow for the first time. I am gaining a lot of new experiences through this festival. These memories of coming here as an actor will forever be imprinted in my heart," said the actor.

Peyarar Shubash (The Scent of Sin) had its International premiere at MIFF around 7 pm Bangladesh time, yesterday.

"It is a matter of pride that our Bangladeshi film will be screened at this festival. People of different countries and nationalities will see it for the first time and I am really glad that I am able to be a part of this," added the actor.

The film has been selected in the competition category at the MIFF. The festival will showcase other Bangladeshi films as well. When asked how he has been spending his time in Moscow, the actor replied, "I am really mesmerised by the beautiful culture and the humble nature of the people here. I also gave an interview for the festival. I am looking forward to returning to the country with lots of new experiences," shared the actor.

Peyarar Subash has been filmed in Sirajganj and Pabna. Apart from Tariq Anam Khan, the film also stars Jaya Ahsan in an integral role. The film comprises a talented assembly of actors including Ahmed Rubel, Sushama Sarker, and Noor Imran, among others. The movie is a joint production of Chorki and Alfa i.



Aryan debuts in commercial ad with SRK

Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan recently made his debut in his own brand's ad, alongside his superstar father. For Aryan's new clothing line D'Yavol, the father-son duo appeared as different versions of each other.

Aryan will soon be making his film debut. Simultaneously, he is working on his first feature film as a writer and director – which will be created under the banner of his parents' production company, Red Chillies Entertainment.

Aishwariya Rai dons two roles as 'Nandini'

After stunning the audience once again with her marvelous performance as Queen Nandini in the Tamil historic thriller film, *Ponniyin Selvan 1*, Aishwarya Rai is now set to appear in a dual role in the second part of the Moni Ratnum directorial film.

The actor recently attended a promotional event of *Ponniyin Selvan 2* last Tuesday in Mumbai, where she was asked to compare her role Queen Nandini with her character Nandini in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's iconic film, *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*.

She shared, "A beautiful coincidence, it's amazing to know that such a thing actually happened. In fact, yes, even Nandini in *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* was very, very memorable. She has lived in people's hearts and I am so, so thankful that I got to play Nandini then too and she has remained special for the audience and of course to me."



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COLLECTED

COUNTRYWIDE

Garbage dumping poses threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Indiscriminate dumping of garbage at different roadside spots in Netrakona town has been a serious nuisance for hundreds of townspeople for months.

Meanwhile, mindless waste dumping has turned Muktarpara area of the municipality into a landfill.

Residents of the area dump their household waste beside the main road due to lack of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned.

Netrakona municipality, covering around 21 square kilometre area, was established in 1887. Later it was upgraded to Class I municipality in 1996.

The century-old municipality has its special attraction as it is encircled by two rivers-Moghra and Dhalai.

Locals said there are several CNG-run auto-rickshaw stands in the town and hundreds of passengers cross the road in Muktarpara area every day.

Dumping of waste materials has been going on for several months, and they have to face serious difficulties while crossing Muktarpara area due to the bad odour spreading from the pile of garbage, said Moti Mia, a rickshaw puller of the town.

While talking to this correspondent, Netrakona Civil Surgeon Dr Md Selim Miah said dumping of garbage in open

space and the bad smell that spread from the waste could cause serious health hazards to people living in nearby areas.

The ill practice could cause different diseases like long-term respiratory problems, skin diseases, diarrhoea and malaria, the civil surgeon added.

Contacted, Johirul Haque Khan, conservation officer at Netrakona municipality, said four garbage carrying trucks are engaged in collecting and cleaning up garbage from different areas of the town every day.

It is very difficult to handle the ever-increasing pressure of garbage maintenance as the municipality alone produces around 20 tonnes of waste materials daily, he said, adding that there are some 120 cleaners working under the municipality.

Executive Engineer at Netrakona Municipality Jahangir Hossain Khan said the garbage carrying trucks of the municipality collect the garbage from different areas and dumped those at a designated place in Rajur Bazar area of the town for years.

Construction of a huge shed, under Urban Government Infrastructure Improvement Project-3, at Rajur Bazar dumping ground is already underway to avoid health hazards and public nuisance, he said.

Families point

FROM PAGE 2

However, family members of the victims claimed that the duo were killed due to political rivalry.

Mahfuzur Rahman, Noman's elder brother and chairman of Bashikpur Union Parishad, told The Daily Star that his political rivals, who were defeated in the last union parishad elections, were behind the murders.

He accused the former chairman and vice president of Awami League's Chandraganj unit Abul Kashem Jihadi and his associates of being involved in the killings.

In the last union parishad election, Mahfuzur contested as an independent candidate and defeated Awami League candidate Jihadi.

"After the defeat, Jihadi had been threatening me and my family," he said.

The Jihadi could not reach out to Abul Kashem Jihadi despite making several attempts.

No case was filed in connection with the double murder till this report was filed.

4 days gone

FROM PAGE 12

Two other named accused – Anwar Hossain of Matarbari area and Babul Majhi of Moheshkhali upazila – and 60 unnamed accused.

Earlier on Sunday, a trawler owned by Gura Mia pulled the boat with the bodies ashore after finding it sunken near Sonadia Island in the Bay of Bengal.

Six of the bodies have been handed over to their families, while the remaining four have been kept in the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue.

They will be handed over to their families after their identities are confirmed through DNA tests, police said.

Three cops

FROM PAGE 12

into a nearby village while trying to apprehend him," he told journalists.

There, some 40 to 50 people ambushed the police team with sharp and blunt weapons, leaving three cops injured.

The attackers also snatched a firearm from police, the SP added.

On information,

additional law enforcers rushed to the spot, conducted drives, and arrested 15 persons in this connection.

The firearm was also recovered during the drive.

Initially, the injured policemen were taken to the local upazila health complex. As their conditions were critical, they were shifted to CMCH,

Facebook ads no longer available

FROM PAGE 1

and disruptive situation outside of our control," the letter added.

Like Httpool, foreign airlines and shipping companies have been unable to repatriate proceeds, while businesses have been unable to open letters of credit as the government endeavours to safeguard its dwindling dollar stockpile.

As of April 17, gross foreign currency reserves, as per the Bangladesh Bank's methodology, stand at \$31.1 billion, down 29.4 percent year-on-year.

However, the usable reserves are less than \$22 billion, meaning an import cover of a little over three months, according to finance ministry officials involved with negotiating with the International Monetary Fund over the \$4.7 billion loan programme. They spoke of the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Keeping at least \$22.95 billion of usable reserves on March 30 was one of the stipulations of the Washington-based multilateral lender – and the government has failed to meet that requirement, they said.

Httpool acknowledged sending the letter to clients.

The company declined to comment further.

BB Spokesman Md. Mezbaul Haque denied imposing any curbs on dollar repatriation by Httpool.

"Maybe Httpool's bank has failed to supply the necessary amount of dollars," he said.

None is facing any difficulty in repatriating dollars, he added.

"It is a huge local problem," said Fahim Mashroor, chief executive officer of bdjobs.com, AikerDeal and Delivery Tiger, which posts ads on Facebook.

Businesses will face big losses and the whole digital business ecosystem would be impacted, said Mohammad Sahab Uddin, vice-president of the e-commerce Association of Bangladesh.

"The way Httpool provided services to the small Facebook-based entrepreneurs in recent times, they have become dependent on it. These companies will see a drop in sales."

All tech-based companies would be affected too as the digital ads mobilise a significant volume of sales for them, he added.

For compliant local companies, the cost of digital ads is already high

said the district police chief.

Contacted, Chakaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Chandan Kumar Chakraborty said police were conducting drives to identify and arrest the attackers.

"A case has been filed accusing 30 named and some 20 unnamed persons in this connection," he added.

due to value added tax and other duties, said Mashroor, a former president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

"Also, the level playing field is seriously distorted compared to foreign-owned platforms that pay Facebook from their parent companies' accounts. This will create unfair competition and there will be no level playing field in promoting business," he added.

Customers too will be affected by Httpool's suspension of services as they will not be able to find out about the best deals and offers, said Russell T Ahmed, president of BASIS. "So, it's important to facilitate these payments," he added.

"We greatly depended on Facebook ads and this will almost completely stop our marketing activities," said Salman Saad Karim Chowdhury, founder of the e-commerce platform Prishteshop.

The e-commerce firm spends \$7,500 to \$8,000 on ad space on Meta's platforms.

"We paid Tk 95 a dollar about a year and a half ago to purchase digital ads. Now, it has increased to Tk 122-123 including 15 percent VAT," he added.

Ex-SP Babul

FROM PAGE 12

Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on April 19.

The charge sheet mentioned that Elias is absconding. An appeal for an arrest warrant against him will be placed before the court today, said General Recording Officer Mahfuz Miah.

On June 5, 2016, Mitu was shot dead while she was walking her son to his school bus at Chattogram's GEC intersection.

Babul then filed a case accusing three unidentified men.

Later PBI took over the investigation of the case from the Detective Branch of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

On May 11 last year, PBI called Babul to its office for interrogation.

Officers later said PBI took him into custody after he failed to give satisfactory answers to certain questions.

The following day, Mitu's father filed a murder case accusing Babul of planning the murder over an affair. Seven others were also accused in the case.

Nomination

FROM PAGE 1

the people. That is why people have collected the nomination forms."

Zahangir was expelled from the Awami League in November 2021 after a video clip of him making derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and expressing doubts about the number of martyrs in the Liberation War went viral on social media.

He was also suspended from the post of GCC mayor by the local government ministry a few days later.

In January this year, the ruling party withdrew the expulsion order.

Before his expulsion, he was the general secretary of the party's Gazipur city unit.



Many roadside spots in Netrakona town have now turned into a dumping ground as the authorities concerned are yet to set up a designated spot for waste disposal. The photo was taken from Muktarpara area of the town. PHOTO: STAR

India hosts talks on Myanmar crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has hosted a closed-door dialogue on Myanmar where participants called for reduction of violence by all sides in the country.

The dialogue, hosted by state-backed Indian Council for World Affairs (ICWA) on Tuesday in New Delhi, was the second round of "Track 1.5". It was the follow-up of a similar exercise held in Bangkok last month.

Think-tank experts and representatives of Myanmar's military regime, ASEAN countries-Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam were among the participants. Indonesia was present as ASEAN's rotating chair. China and Bangladesh also attended it, according to reports.

Participants also underlined the need to create political space for dialogue in Myanmar.



Power Plant Employees lay flowers at a memorial to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster at the Chernobyl Power Plant yesterday amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. AFP PHOTO: STAR

Singapore hangs man over 1 kg of cannabis

AFP, Singapore

Singapore hanged a prisoner yesterday after he was convicted of conspiracy to smuggle one kilogram of cannabis, despite rights groups decrying "many flaws" in the case.

Tangaraju Suppiah was hanged in defiance of a plea by the United Nations Human Rights Office for Singapore to "urgently reconsider" and calls by British tycoon Richard Branson to halt it.

The Asian financial hub has some of the world's toughest anti-narcotics laws and insists the death penalty remains an effective deterrent against trafficking.

"Singaporean Tangaraju Suppiah, 46, had his capital sentence carried out today at Changi Prison Complex," a spokesman for the Singapore Prison Service said.

Joy, fear as India's population becomes world's biggest

AFP, Dehra

Exhausted, elated and cradling her newborn daughter in a rundown government hospital, young mother Manu Bala had just helped make India the world's most populous nation.

Tears of joy and relief streamed down Bala's cheeks as her yet unnamed child -- one of more than 67,000 born across India on Monday -- rested on her chest.

It was also the day the UN announced that India, already home to more than one in every six humans on the planet, would this week eclipse China with more people than any other country.

"I am very happy that my child was born on the day India left behind China -- it feels special to become a mother on this day," the 22-year-old housewife told AFP from her bed.

"I want my baby to study hard and become whatever she wants to become. I want to give her a good life."

Bala's husband Rohit, a state government employee, was relieved that the birth was without complications and ecstatic about becoming a father.

He already has his mind turned to the weeks ahead: the family will have a naming ceremony 11 days after the birth, with the assistance of a Hindu priest consulting astrological charts for an auspicious moniker.

But beyond that, Rohit was fretting over the future awaiting his daughter.

"There are many problems we have to face because of the growing population," the 30-year-old told AFP. "Even for seeing the doctor here we had to queue up for so long."

India faces huge challenges in providing electricity, food and housing for its growing population.

Many of its cities struggle with water shortages, air and water pollution, and packed slums.

Millions of young people are entering the workforce each year and struggling to find opportunities in an economy that does not have the capacity to provide them all with jobs.

"Already there is so much unemployment in the country. It will become all the more difficult to get a job," Rohit said.

"I think one baby is enough in today's times."

PAK ARMY CHIEF'S VISIT TO CHINA Regional stability, discussed

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir, who is in China on a four-day official visit, called on the commander of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) yesterday.

During the meeting, the two military commanders reaffirmed the need to maintain peace and stability in the region while promoting military-to-military cooperation, according to ISPR.

COAS Munir's four-day visit to China includes a series of meetings with military leaders aimed at strengthening relations between the two armed forces, ISPR said.

These inaugural meetings are expected to be followed by further discussions.

CLEVERLY SPEECH OVER TAIWAN UK 'clinging to the past': China

AFP, Beijing



China yesterday slammed a speech by Britain's foreign secretary that warned Beijing against any attack on Taiwan and raised human rights concerns, accusing London of "clinging to the past".

Asked about the set-piece foreign policy address delivered by James Cleverly on Tuesday, China's foreign ministry said Britain was "holding outdated scripts and reciting old lines".

Spokesperson Mao Ning said London should "stop making groundless accusations against China and interfering in China's internal affairs, and do more to contribute to the development of China-UK relations, as well as to world peace and stability".

"Eventually, it can only get further and further away from the progress of the times," she added.

"China urges the British side to be careful in words and deeds."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
১২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন
উত্তরা, ঢাকা
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
পারদিক প্রতিরক্ষা আইন, ২০০৬ ও পারদিক প্রতিরক্ষা বিধিমালা, ২০০৬ তম সংশোধনী মোতাবেক ১২ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, উত্তরা, ঢাকা ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ সালে নিম্নলিখিত বেসামরিক/সরকারি প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নে নিম্নের প্রকল্পের নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সিভিলিয়ান প্রকল্পের নির্বাচন হতে সিভিলিয়ান/সরকারি কর্মকর্তাদের উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

China pushes largest expansion of nuke arsenal

AFP, Hong Kong

China is pushing ahead with the largest-ever expansion of its nuclear arsenal, modernising the atomic deterrent with an eye on any future conflicts with the United States, experts say.

The SIPRI think tank estimates that China has a stockpile of around 350 nuclear warheads -- small fry when compared with the United States and Russia.

But it is growing fast, and could have 1,500 warheads by 2035, according to a Pentagon estimate published in November.

"China appears to no longer be satisfied with just a few hundred nuclear weapons to ensure its security," Matt Korda, of the Federation of American Scientists, told AFP.

"China is undertaking the most significant expansion and modernization of its nuclear forces in the country's history," David Logan, an assistant professor at the US Naval War College, told AFP.

This involves not only ramping up the production of warheads, but also upgrading the ability to deliver them with a nuclear triad: missiles, aircraft and submarines.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Pirojpur
www.eedmoe.gov.bd
Date: 26/04/2023
Tender No. XEN/EED/PIROJ/208
e-Tender Notice No- e-GP/09/EED/PIR/2022-23, Date: 26/04/2023
Tender is invited in the e-GP Web Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below:

Police must step up amid rising crime

Co-opting private CCTVs for surveillance can only be part of a greater effort

The latest antidote being mulled by police to rising crime in the capital is bringing private CCTV cameras under the central monitoring system of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP). According to a report, the DMP plans to incorporate around 50,000 such devices into its surveillance apparatus initially. Eventually, the goal is to bring the whole capital under the CCTV network. As part of that initiative, the DMP has started to reach out to area-based housing societies, apartment cooperatives, individual households and businesses, requesting them to upgrade their CCTV cameras so that those can supply live feed with II specialised features like face detection, vehicle number plate tracing, etc.

We commend this initiative amid concerns over rising crime in Dhaka. With the rate of crimes going up and patterns of criminal behaviour changing, thanks to technology, police too should change their tactics. Early results from the CCTV initiative are said to be encouraging, especially in terms of combating petty crimes. Currently, the DMP has about 680 CCTVs of its own. There are also 625 CCTVs under the Dhaka South City Corporation. Clearly, there is a need for more given the challenge posed by the massive number of people who live and work here. Police already can use CCTV footage from private establishments in case of investigations, but access to live feed from all available CCTVs in the city can help with preventing crimes. It can also generally boost their crime-fighting chances.

There are, however, a few concerns that should be addressed for this initiative to work. Firstly, its limited scope. Such an undertaking may not work in slums and poorer neighbourhoods where most households can ill-afford expensive technology. The DMP must ensure that it is not seen as discriminatory by any means. Also, why are the authorities not installing more CCTVs of their own to support the initiative? Public funding is vital for this to deliver expected results.

Secondly, its reliance on voluntary public support. In its effort to broaden the CCTV network, the DMP is relying heavily on private individuals, which comes with the challenge of earning their trust in the first place. The question is, have the police been able to do so? What chance does this initiative have of succeeding if the police authorities fail to use feed from private CCTVs properly or establish accountability for errant cops who continue to give the force a bad name? Can the DMP prevent any misuse of this initiative? These concerns are quite valid at this stage. Over the years, we have frequently seen how members of the police force got involved in various crimes including murder, extortion and so on – to which the response of the authorities has often been frustrating.

So while we think that the latest DMP initiative is a step in the right direction, its success will depend a lot on how sincere and proactive the police are in combatting crimes. We urge the police to step up their game under present circumstances. They must show their integrity, honesty, neutrality and professionalism at all times.

Protect Atrai River at all costs

Its pathetic state shows how catastrophically mismanaged rivers in Bangladesh are

Human greed has once again put a river on its deathbed. Back in the 80s, the Atrai river was the lifeblood for locals in at least three upazilas in Pabna. Not only was it a part of fond childhood memories for many, it also played a crucial role in linking Gaznar beel in Pabna's Sujanagar upazila with the Jamuna River. Its minimum width used to be 80 to 90 feet, and maximum width 190 to 200 feet. Over the years, however, that river has been reduced to what is essentially a canal now, lined on both sides by structures that are threatening to forever alter its topography. Currently, as per a report by this daily, it is just 30 feet wide owing to the unchecked encroachment all throughout its trajectory.

Some locals say it was the construction of a culvert a few decades back that limited the flow of the river, while the local chairman believes it was an irrigation project in the 80s that led to its present abysmal condition. Regardless of what started it, the degradation continues unabated. Everyone wants a chunk of the profit. From shops to industrial units to garbage disposal sites, the Atrai is under siege from all sides. If you ask them, owners of most of the structures will claim that they have legal documents signed by relevant government authorities. The question is, how could someone provide paperwork for a piece of land literally sliced off a river?

We understand that in a small country with a huge population, many of whom grapple with poverty, it is difficult to protect natural resources which can be a source of livelihood for many. And with more and more reports of dying rivers bombarding us, it may be hard to feel sympathy for one river regardless of how great or sacred it used to be. But this is also precisely why we must remain alert because, unless drastic measures are taken to reverse the current trend, soon we will have few rivers left, and our children may have no rivers to enrich their childhood memories. Against such a backdrop, we hope that the recent comments by a minister that our rivers are too wide are not taken to heart. Rivers are connected to the existence of Bangladesh. The nation's agriculture, livelihood, soil fertility, and biodiversity all depend on rivers. If they decay or die, Bangladesh as we know it will do too.

Bangladesh has enough laws, regulations and institutions to protect rivers. The problem is the lack of enforcement of those rules as well as the lack of sincerity and commitment on the part of those in charge of rivers. As a result, pollution and encroachment, often even by those public departments, are taking place unabated. We must stop this. The authorities must act now before it is too late.

GAS LEAKS IN DHAKA

On the verge of an explosion



THE OVERTON WINDOW

Eresh Omar Jamal is an assistant editor at The Daily Star. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

Panic spread among residents of Dhaka on Monday night as people from different parts of the city complained of gas leaks. The Fire Service and Civil Defence received over 100 phone calls about the leaks at various points, while some agitated residents also called 999 for help. The next day, Titas Gas, the country's biggest distributor of gas, released a statement saying people could smell the odorant that it mixes with natural gas due to high pressure in the gas pipelines. It added that gas supply in Dhaka had returned to normal, and people could resume lighting their gas stoves.

The Titas statement almost seems to have downplayed the legitimate concerns of citizens and experts alike regarding the possibility and danger of gas leaks. And taking it lightly is precisely what has led to a number of gas leak-related explosions in the past, which caused a significant loss of lives and hundreds of injuries.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited, and Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution System Limited are three of the largest gas providers in Bangladesh. A report by Prothom Alo on March 5, 2021 revealed that most of the gas pipelines of Titas, Karnaphuli and Jalalabad are at least 30 years old, and that more than 500 leakages are reported in Dhaka every month, with most of these leakages occurring in a single part of the gas distribution line – the risers.

In a report by New Age on April 26, 2023, the Titas Gas managing director was quoted as saying that many gas distribution lines are now 40 years old and expired 10 years ago. And although Titas has sent a development project plan to the planning ministry to replace those pipes under a megaproject, until the plan gets approved and is fully executed, people are left on the edge of potential disasters just waiting to happen.

Fire incidents originating from gas leaks clearly seem to be on the rise. According to the Prothom Alo report, in 2018-19, there were 204 such incidents, which rose to 306 in 2019-20. In a survey conducted on a 1,682km pipeline in Dhaka in FY2021-22, Titas detected 985 leaks at 449 points. And although Titas officials claimed to have repaired those, Titas has 7,000km of



The horrific explosion in Gulistan, Dhaka on March 7, 2023, which killed 22 people, happened because of accumulated gas and could've been easily prevented.

FILE PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

lines in Dhaka alone and 2.857 million domestic connections across the country. According to experts, had Titas conducted a survey on the rest of the network, they would have found a lot more leaks. That means there are potentially a number of unidentified leaks out there, which poses serious risk to people at different locations across the country.

Surprisingly, the Titas Gas MD was quoted by this daily as refuting these concerns expressed by experts. He said that no gas pipeline in Dhaka is risky and there is no chance of explosion. But recent events make that hard to believe.

For example, the explosions in Science Lab and Gulistan, which killed at least 22 people and injured more than 150 others, are believed to have originated from accumulated gas, according to different government agencies. And in February, an RMG worker died and her husband and others were injured due to an explosion from a gas leakage in their home in Narayanganj's Fatullah. The

some connections are permanently disconnected due to negligence, the gas supply is not always cut off. For example, police investigations into the June 2021 explosion at a building in Moghbazar, Dhaka revealed that the accident occurred due to gas accumulating from a disconnected Titas Gas pipeline.

Part of the problem, according to four high-ranking officials at Titas Gas, is that even if the company makes a profit, no technological upgrades are implemented to improve safety and service. Pipelines are not replaced even after they have expired, and renovations are done only after an accident takes place.

According to Section 5 of the Gas Sales Rule, 2014, Titas Gas must carry out inspections in the residential sector once every two years for clients without meters, and once every year for users with meters. But that is never done. And the same old excuse – lack of manpower – was given by two officials of Titas to justify the lack of inspection.

do not have such a system in place.

What Monday's events and its aftermath also prove is that our gas distribution system has plenty of deadly faults, which have developed due to years of negligence by the authorities. The downplaying of citizens' concerns illustrates that the authorities wish to continue with their business-as-usual attitude and show no urgency in fixing them.

Whereas such attitude by our gas distribution companies should ignite an outrage among government high officials, nothing of that sort has happened, despite one accident after another taking place. The officers and employees of these organisations cannot be allowed to simply leave people in such a danger. And to ensure justice, murder charges should be filed against those responsible at these companies for gas leak-related accidents. Otherwise, people will be exposed to more such terrifying incidents or, even worse, a much bigger disaster than the ones we have already witnessed in recent years.

No, it's not alright to dress up as an acid attack victim

Even worse is rewarding someone for doing so



Noora Shamsi Bahar is a writer, translator, and a senior lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages in North South University (NSU).

NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

Dressing up as a monster of some kind – zombie, witch or the stuff of nightmares – may be foreign, but the trend has been adopted by Bangladeshis, and not even particularly those who are necessarily affluent, or who have had more exposure to foreign cultures. I'm not necessarily referring to Halloween costumes, by the way. I have come across Bangladeshi SFX or special effects artists who have the ability to metamorphose into grotesque monsters that would even trump any Kafkaesque creature, or be a perfect candidate for a Tim Burton film. I have seen boys fascinated with the character of the mentally deranged super-villain The Joker, so much so that at any Comicon, you'll not just see one, but multiple Jokers – in gaudy purple suits, green hair and a chalky-white face that, through makeup, appears to have a "Glasgow smile" (a wound caused by making a cut from the corners of the mouth up to the ears, leaving a scar in the shape of a smile). I could give more examples, but you get the idea.

Unfortunately, certain non-fictitious groups of people in our

Bangladeshi society are perceived to have monstrous appearances and are thereby oothered by the masses. These include members of the hijra community and victims of acid attacks. While it would be belittling for one to dress up as a member of the hijra community, because no one wants to be mocked at for pretending to have a non-conforming gender identity of "half-ladies" (transphobia and/or intersex phobia are a topic for another day), never could I have imagined that a day would come when I would have to witness a youngster dressing up as an acid attack victim for a dress-as-you-like competition at an educational institution in Dhaka.

And yet, unfortunately, it happened, and the cosplayer, in her teens, was awarded first prize. The misguided teen was surely unable to comprehend that pretending to have the distorted face of a victim of a crime motivated by vengeance, aimed at disfiguring the face (and more often than not, blinding the victim) is wrong on many levels.

For starters, dressing up as someone who has undergone unimaginable

pain and suffers from lifelong mental, emotional, and physical scars is distasteful, to say the least. Moreover, posting very chirpy photos and selfies as a pretend acid attack survivor on social media is downright insensitive towards real-life survivors of acid attacks. Furthermore, using prosthetic makeup to turn someone's trauma into a "fun" project to participate in a competition with the aim to "win" is simply in bad taste. I'd like to call this tactlessness an act of "pain appropriation," i.e. using the victim's pain for one's own benefit, without the consent of the victim.

And last, but not the least, it is appalling to see that a college in Dhaka has awarded the unwise teen with the first prize; it is disturbing to see the participant receive any reward for this act, for that matter.

Teenagers may not have the maturity to understand political correctness, and perhaps in many cases, their parents lack the wisdom to guide them. But shouldn't educational institutions play any role in fostering sensitivity? What kind of a society do we live in, where an institution fails to reprimand a student for their lack of empathy towards victims of one of the most violent crimes, and in fact ends up rewarding them? If realistic special effects makeup is simply looked at for its artistic value, without judging the implications of such a form of "art," then perhaps that institution lacks basic values that should have otherwise been enough to disqualify

the ignorant and mindless cosplayer from the competition. If this had been done, the authorities concerned could have taught a valuable lesson to the participant in a strategic manner. If there is anyone to blame here, it is the educational institution that has failed to do its part.

This isolated incident may not mirror the state of every educational institution in the city or the country, but it is definitely one that is worrisome. Schools and colleges tend to focus on the academic syllabus, allow the scope for some extracurricular activities, and may organise a couple of annual events at most, but neglect something that's even more important – values education. The incorporation of secular moral education classes into the curriculum will enable children to develop capabilities as they grow up, such as suppressing selfish tendencies and channelling their energies towards the welfare of society. Without values education, they may not develop a strong moral compass.

It is high time for curriculum developers to consider this matter and design carefully planned lessons incorporating art, stories, service-oriented activities, music/songs, cooperative/non-competitive games, etc in order to instil ethics and virtues in children, and thus help in the upbringing of morally sound, upright human beings. It is up to the schools, then, to make sure they grow in the right direction, and in the process, "cast their beams like brilliant candles."

Bangladesh's persistent child abuse woes



A CLOSER LOOK
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TASNEEM TAYEB

In the first three months of 2023, 128 children were killed across Bangladesh, according to data published by legal aid group Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK). During the same period, 225 more children were subjected to various forms of abuse and repression. Among the repressed children, at least 75 were victims of rape, including boys. These deaths and repression have been attributed to a plethora of reasons, ranging from killing after rape, killing after abduction, and killing after torture (in domestic sphere), to torture of underaged domestic workers, torture by law enforcement members, and torture by teachers.

Unfortunately, for our country, this is not a new revelation. ASK, along with other human rights organisations, publish such reports every year, with news outlets reporting the bloody and harrowing details of the crimes against children.

Not every incident comes to light, however. Often, families of the victims choose to suppress these incidents, especially where physical abuse and torture is meted out by family members, extended family members and/or friends and neighbours, fearing social stigma and at times under family pressure. Often,

the victimised children refrain from sharing their experiences with even their immediate family members – including parents – fearing castigation and punishment. As a result, these incidents go unrecorded and unpunished, with the child victims living with the nightmare of these experiences for the rest of their lives. Often, these children grow up with emotional and psychological complications, including self-blaming, self-hatred, self-doubt, depression, anxiety, and a constant fear of people.

A 2019 study titled “The Devastating Clinical Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect: Increased Disease Vulnerability and Poor Treatment Response in Mood Disorders,” published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, revealed that 46 percent of people with depression and 57 percent of people with bipolar disorder reported being abused as children. The study found that childhood maltreatment “is also associated with a more pernicious disease course, including a greater number of lifetime depressive episodes and greater depression severity, with the majority of studies showing more recurrence and greater persistence of depressive episodes.”

While the point that child abuse leaves a lasting impact on the victims is obvious to most, in many social clusters – especially the fringes – children are continuously subjected to various forms of abuse and maltreatment, with no measure in place to protect them.

Taking a closer look at ASK data

128 in 2023 (January-March).

While these statistics are concerning, what is even more alarming is the number of cases that are filed each year. Analysing the ASK data, one can see that while cases were filed for 57 percent of incidents in 2020, it came down to 52 percent in 2022 and 41 percent

pursuing justice, but also the pitfalls in the law enforcement and justice systems that prevent families from seeking help.

According to a report published in the *Financial Express* in October 2022, titled “Upswing in women’s repression as cases pile up,” there were 43,114 cases related to women’s repression pending for over five years in 99 women and children repression prevention courts across Bangladesh as of June 30, 2022, and the total number of under-trial cases in these courts was 178,231. This means that more than 24 percent of these cases have been running for more than five years. This data needs to be interpreted in light of the fact that under the provisions of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, trials of cases should be completed within 180 days.

Unfortunately, in such cases, every layer of action towards justice is riddled with delays and red tape – from investigation to framing of charges to scheduling of hearings at courts. And the delays get more frustrating in case of rape cases due to the apparently complex process of obtaining medical certificates and DNA reports, since there is no stipulated time frame for obtaining DNA reports per the law.

On top of all this, there is another, more sinister reason why families shy away from filing cases: fear of reprisal from the criminals. Reports of victims and their families being suppressed by the criminals, at times in collusion with dishonest law enforcers, abound in different media, resulting in silence and social injustice.

Victims are also not always aware

of the support systems available for them. Case in point: there are nine projects by the women and children affairs ministry to ensure immediate action in cases of torture of women and children. But how many of these projects do we know of? One project that could be a useful tool to provide tangible support to victims is the National Helpline 109. Unfortunately, although the helpline is supposed to provide counselling and services to the victims, they are mostly only capable of providing information, due to a shortage of resources.

It is these limitations – man-made and avoidable – that hinder our ability to protect our children, that hold us back from seeking legal recourse. Also, our own inhibitions in discussing the reality of child abuse with our children leaves them unprepared to handle such a situation, make informed decisions, and speak up if/when they are victimised.

It is up to us as adults to talk to our children and empower them with knowledge and know-how on how best to avoid being in such situations, and what to do in case they are victimised. It is up to the parents and guardians to provide safe space so children can share their deepest and darkest thoughts, their fears and nightmares, so that the adults can help them heal. It is also up to the adults to stand up for the children to ensure that they get justice, despite the pressure and coercion.

And it is up to us as a nation to ensure that our children grow up empowered, healthy – physically, emotionally and mentally – and confident to realise their full potential.



It is up to the adults to stand up for the children and ensure safe space for them.

PHOTO: FARIDA ALAM

since 2020, one would notice that while cases of child abuse has come down year-on-year from 1,718 in 2020, 1,426 in 2021, 1,088 in 2022, to 225 in 2023 (January-March), child killing has hovered above the 500 range, with 589 killings reported in 2020, 596 in 2021, 516 in 2022, and

in 2023 (January-March), with the exception in 2021, when it went up to 59 percent. Cases filed for child killing have fluctuated from 44 percent in 2020, 39 percent in 2021, 42 percent in 2022 to 44 percent in 2023 (January-March). These data sets reveal not just our inhibitions in

Four ways to boost clean energy in Bangladesh



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SHAFIQU ALAM

As the finance minister of Bangladesh prepares the national budget for FY2023-24, to be proposed in June, the energy and power sectors should get some attention. Despite the success of the incumbent government over the last decade in accelerating the country’s power generation capacity, a reliance on imported fossil fuels has exposed its vulnerability to external energy price shocks. The Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) is also experiencing the uphill task of managing the burgeoning subsidy burden.

Against this backdrop, the upcoming budget could guide the vulnerable power and energy sectors towards economic sustainability and energy security. The national budget should aim to spur renewable energy expansion, particularly solar. Budgetary support for clean energy initiatives and directives to utilise expensive fossil-fuel-based power plants less could boost clean energy in the country.

Upscaling solar irrigation

Under the draft Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP), expected to be released this year, Bangladesh has set a clean energy target of 40 percent by 2041. To attain this goal, the country should replace diesel-run irrigation systems with solar power.

While the Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL) has been supporting this initiative with funding from donor agencies, spearheading transformation in a sector comprising some 1.07 million irrigation systems would require additional support.

IDCOL’s financing model includes a grant component with debt and equity for solar pumps. Following this tested model, the government could allocate grant funds, distributed over several years, towards solar irrigation for a more rapid sectoral transformation. An assessment of the full funding needed and the donor agencies’ contribution level would help the government determine the necessary budget allocation for the sector.

Notably, replacing diesel-fired irrigation pumps with solar-driven systems could help Bangladesh install 4,000MW of solar capacity and reduce annual fuel import bills worth \$917 million by avoiding diesel consumption and supplying additional electricity to the grid. It would also help avoid 3.7 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually, and contribute considerably to

achieving Bangladesh’s climate goals. Additionally, large-scale implementation of solar irrigation systems would create job opportunities.

Battery storage for flexible generation

With the growing share of renewable energy in its power mix, Bangladesh could enhance flexibility in the power system. Incorporating battery storage systems with the new grid-scale solar projects would provide flexibility and help reduce oil-based power generation when the sun is not shining. This could also reduce gas-based peaking power plant operations.

Although energy storage is expensive, it is getting cheaper and will likely be a more viable option in the future. Bangladesh could therefore start piloting new grid-scale solar projects backed by battery storage systems. The government

1,000MW of rooftop solar systems might cost Tk 7,000 crore (\$0.66 billion), of which the four accessories above would account for 25-30 percent (Tk 1,750-2,100 crore) of the total cost. Assuming the average burden of duties is 30 percent of the total cost of accessories, the one-off import duties would be less than Tk 650 crore (\$61 million). At the same time, 1,000MW of rooftop solar systems could generate 1,400 million kWh of electricity, assuming four hours of operation a day for 350 days a year.

Given that the BPDB purchased electricity at more than Tk 15/kWh (\$0.14) from a good number of power plants in FY2021-22, and large industries currently pay around Tk 9.78/kWh (\$0.092/kWh) for grid electricity after three rounds of price hikes, rooftop solar systems would reduce costs by Tk 5.25/kWh (\$0.05). Considering this per unit savings, the BPDB could save Tk 735 crore (\$69 million) per annum from the potential 1,400 million kWh of electricity generated from rooftop systems. Over a span of 25 years, the combined financial gain from 1,000MW of rooftop solar power would be Tk 18,375 crore (\$1.73 billion), which is around 30 times more than the one-off duties the government would collect over the

recommend that the Power Division design a pathway to reduce reliance on expensive oil-based electricity and increase the use of clean energy.

Over the last decade, Bangladesh has made significant efforts towards renewable energy development,

albeit with limited progress. However, interest in renewables is growing among private and public sector agencies amid rising power generation costs and subsidy burden. Utility-scale projects are coming online too. Building on

this momentum, the four points proposed here could be incorporated in the budget and would help Bangladesh transition more quickly to a clean and cheaper power generation system with enhanced energy security.

Over the last decade, Bangladesh has made significant efforts towards renewable energy development, albeit with limited progress. However, interest in renewables is growing among private and public sector agencies amid rising power generation costs and subsidy burden.

could keep this piloting provision under the energy and power sectors’ budgetary allocation to create an ecosystem for swift implementation of storage facilities at scale once they become financially viable.

The government could also earmark budget funds to identify suitable land for grid-scale solar projects, and assess both offshore and onshore wind potential.

Waiver or reimbursement of duties on rooftop solar accessories

Studies have shown that industrial rooftops in Bangladesh could accommodate some 5,000MW of solar energy. However, four accessories – namely fibre-reinforced polymer walkways, imported inverters, mounting structures, and direct current cable – are subject to import duties, ranging from 15.25 percent to 58.6percent, raising project costs.

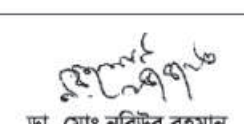
A ballpark analysis reveals that Bangladesh would be better off removing the duties than realising one-off import revenue. For instance, installing a combined capacity of

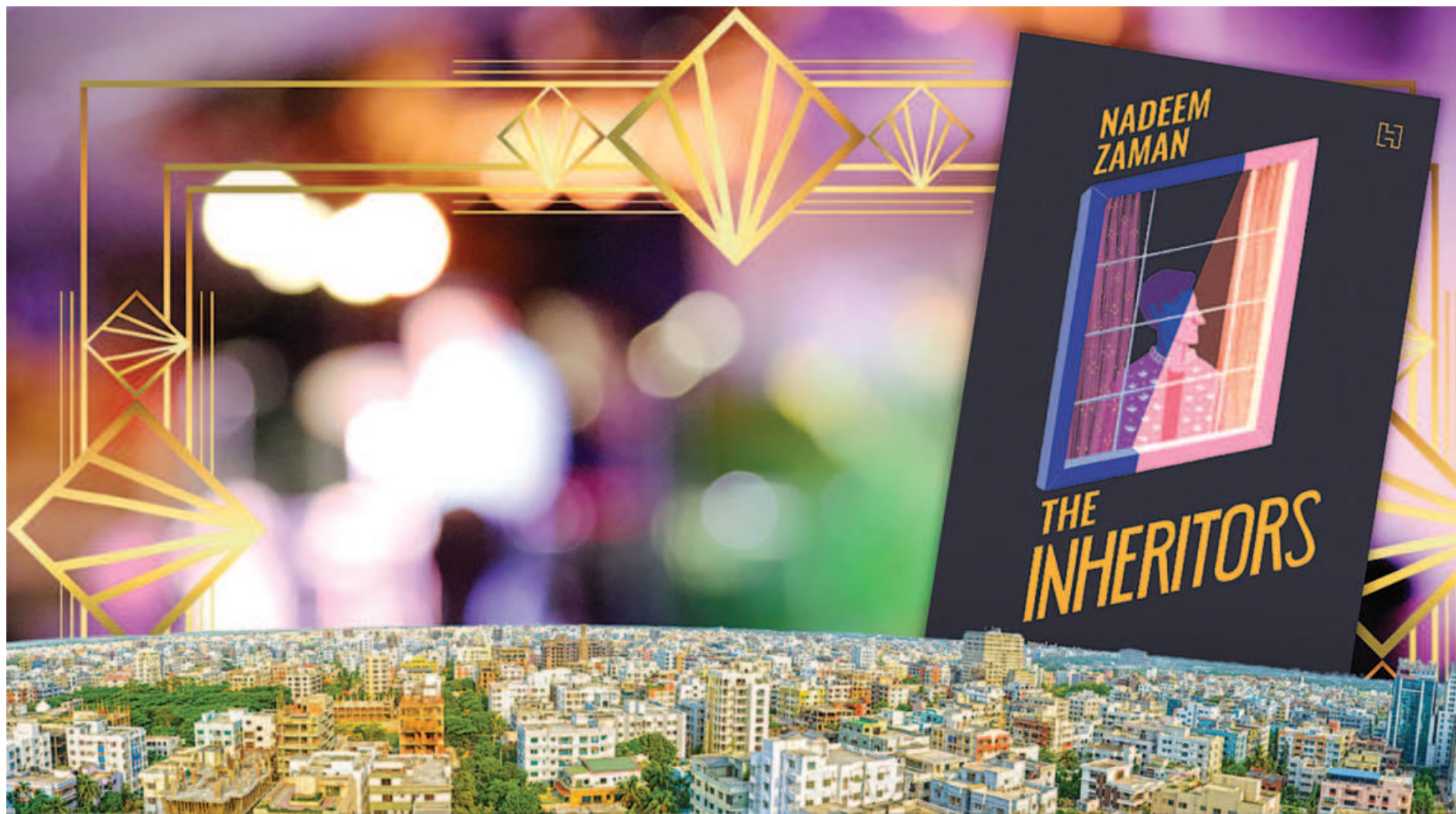
same period.

While Bangladesh’s low tax-GDP ratio is one reason for collecting these duties, the one-off revenue from import duties is meagre compared to the total revenue of Tk 332,473.4 crore (\$31.28 billion) collected in FY2021-22. In the upcoming budget, the government should consider including a directive to waive the existing duties on rooftop solar accessories or reimburse the amount later.

Reducing dependence on oil-based power generation

Energy curves analysis shows that Bangladesh uses expensive oil-based electricity generation throughout the year. A good number of oil-fired units cost the BPDB Tk 15-20/kWh (\$0.14-0.19/kWh) in FY2021-22, although in one case the cost was as high as Tk 30/kWh (\$0.28/kWh). However, rooftop and utility-scale solar can generate electricity at Tk 5.25/kWh and Tk 7.6/kWh, respectively. In light of the need for transitioning to a clean and cost-effective electricity system, the finance minister could

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়			
এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর।			
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স্মারক নং-পরিঃ/এমএআর/মেডিকেল/হিসাব/২০২৩/১২০৪			
তারিখঃ ২৫/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।			
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি			
২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ বৎসরের জন্য এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর-এর নিম্নবর্ণিত গ্রুপে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।			
১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।	
২।	সংস্থা	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর।	
৩।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	পরিচালক, এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর।	
৪।	সংগ্রহ সংস্থার নাম	এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর।	
৫।	দরপত্রের নাম/কাজের বিবরণ	গ্রুপ নং- (ঙ) আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহ।	
৬।	দরপত্রের আহবানের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল/দিনাজপুর (নোটিশ/২০২৩/১২০৪ তারিখঃ ২৫/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।	
৭।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)	
৮।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	জিওবি/আরপিএ/অন্যান্য	
৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/০৫/২০২৩ বেলা ১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১০।	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের তারিখ ও সময়	১৬/০৫/২০২৩ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
১১।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালক-এর কার্যালয়, এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর।	
১২।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ উল্লিখিত ধারকৃত টাকা সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ কর্পোরেট শাখা, দিনাজপুরে পরিচালক, এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর-এর অনুকূলে কোড নম্বর-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ খাতে ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা দিয়া চালানের মূল কপি সহ অনলাইন ডেরিকেশন করতঃ সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। দরপত্র সিডিউলসমূহ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি ও প্রতিকায় প্রকাশের পর আগামী ১৫/০৫/২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অত্র কার্যালয় হইতে সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (সাপ্তাহিক ও সরকারী ছুটি বাদে) সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে।	
১৩।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	ক) এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর। খ) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, দিনাজপুর। গ) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, দিনাজপুর।	
১৪।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	পরিচালক, এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, দিনাজপুর। (অফিস কক্ষ) তারিখঃ ১৬/০৫/২০২৩, সময়ঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা (উপস্থিত দরদাতা/প্রতিনিধিগণের সম্মুখে, যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)	
১৫।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	PPA-2006 এবং PPR-2008 সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সকল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদার/সাধারণ ব্যবসায়ী।	
১৬।	গ্রুপ নং	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত
	ঙ	আউট সোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহ	১,০০০/- ১০,০০,০০০/-
১৭।	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য :		
	ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।		
	খ) দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া বিবেচ্য হইবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে এই দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল/স্থগিত/সময়বৃদ্ধি/পরিবর্তন/পরিবর্তনসহ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলীতে ও নিয়মাবলীতে উল্লেখ নাই এমন কোন সমস্যা বা জটিলতা দেখা দিলে দরপত্র কমিটির বিধি মোতাবেক সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র বিক্রয়, গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে সম্পাদিত হইবে।		
	গ) পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর ২০০৮ এবং পিপিআর-এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত সকল বিধি বিধান উক্ত দরপত্রের জন্য অনুসরণ করা হইবে।		
 ডা. মোঃ নূরির রহমান পরিচালক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল দিনাজপুর। মোবাইল নং-০১৭৭২৯৭০৮৯৬			
জিডি-৭৩৬			



DESIGN: SARAH ANJUM BARI

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Boats against the current

Reconciling the Dhaka of old with the new in Nadeem Zaman's 'The Inheritors' (Hatchett, 2023)

MEHRUL BARI

Nadeem Zaman's *The Inheritors* retells and recontextualizes one of the most famous stories there ever was—F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925). In Zaman's novel, the Jazz Age is transmuted into modern day-Dhaka, the familiar idols of Gatsby, Daisy, and Nick Carraway, becoming Gazi, Disha, and Nisar Chowdhury. These obvious signposts can be less than welcome, but there is an evident care in the writer's adaption of his source material, even when *The Inheritors* strays further and further with subplots and subtexts of its own.

Zaman's greatest success moreover is his understanding of the most pivotal of elements in reading *Gatsby*: the mystery. In both novels, the truth is ever receding—just from arm's length—not revealed until chapters on end. Zaman's novel, too, is at its best when the reader is left wondering, even those well-versed in the Fitzgerald novel.

In *The Inheritors*, the narrator, Nisar, is thrust back into Dhaka from his home in America on matters of property dealings. The best offer on the table is from the elusive businessman Junaid Gazi, who strangely wishes to purchase all of the properties, namely that opposite to the home of Disha, Nisar's first cousin. Fans of *The Great Gatsby* will surely know why. Here, though, Gazi and Disha are not just ex-lovers but ex-spouses, and the dynamics of the much-analyzed love triangle isn't centered at the Gatsby of the story but Daisy—who Nisar very often admits to having a crush on. Wondering if the new

novel ends the same as the old is ostensibly *The Inheritors'* main hook.

Where the book may lose readers, however, is the narrator's conflicts pertaining to identity, home, wealth, and privilege—all of which are much more text than subtext in Zaman's writing. Despite starting strong, the novel makes the conscious choice to forego richer storytelling in favour of class and social commentary. This is unfortunately filtered through the eyes of expat Nisar, who routinely exhibits an above-it-all attitude to upper class lifestyle. He will also remind us he's one of the good ones, who hands CNG drivers and kids on the street 500 or 1000 taka notes.

The narrator's characterization, it feels, is that of a Mary Sue, a too-perfect man who routinely receives compliments like "You're damn smart" or "Always the funny guy" or "Good looking, smart. You know there are women here that would tear you apart like that." The only flaw ever mentioned of Nisar is his history of infidelity—a masculine ideal of a flaw.

His love interest, Jasmine (the stand-in for *Gatsby's* Jordan), almost immediately takes to Nisar, without any convincing flirtations or palpable spark. Jasmine is always seen with doe-eyes, pining for Nisar, who never truly returns her affections, preoccupied ever with something else. Substituting the homoeroticism of the 1925 novel with Nisar's incestuous feelings for his cousin is an interesting choice, but it doesn't jump off the pages.

The Inheritors, ultimately, is more

interested in exploring Dhaka history and life, at least as seen by a foreigner. Some of its outsider-looking-in description of the city sound delightfully alien (when was the last time you heard someone say "Kemal Ataturk Avenue" in full, or utter a phrase like "Bashundhara City, one of Dhaka's premier housing developments"?). But then the narrator will also make presumptuous generalizations, like assuming the 2016 Holey Artisan attack to be our 9/11, which simply doesn't translate. These musings start to grow tiresome, given the way in which the narrator speaks on the matters with what feels like authorial intent.

It is a testament to Nadeem Zaman's writing, of course, that each chapter and passage flows as well as it does. His prose has a calm and self-assuredness to it that keeps the reader hanging on every page. The Bangladesh-born author's ambition for *The Inheritors*, for its ups and downs, brings to mind Jorge Luis Borges' "Pierre Menard, Author of the *Quixote*" (1939), a metafictional short story which supposes that even if a writer were to re-create, word-for-word, a famous work of the past, the exact duplication would still be a rich text worthy of its own analysis. The same novel would be entirely unique—because the time and circumstances have changed since, and no two authors could be the same.

Mehrul Bari S Chowdhury is a writer, poet, and artist. He received his MA in Creative Writing with distinction at the University of Kent in Paris. He has previously worked for Daily Star Books, and is the editor of Small World City.

FEATURE

Literature showcases a different side to the Korean Wave

RAIAN ABEDIN

Also known as *Hallyu*, the Korean Wave has been in full swing for years, spreading the culture and art of South Korea as an economy through all imaginable means of entertainment. Be it pop culture, music, or cinema, it's clear that most consumers of any media are at the very least aware of Korean entertainment, if not actively participating in it.

While *Hallyu* has, in some shape, existed since 1999 (credited largely to the movie *Swiri*), it has taken an enormous precedent in the eyes of the Korean government only in the last decade. In 2019 alone, all media attributed to the *Hallyu* movement added a net total of 12.3 billion US dollars, and this has rather obviously prompted the government to invest further into all media released from South Korea to capture audiences' hearts. To the eyes of millions of fans worldwide, what really makes the K-wave so appealing is the many unique, and often uplifting, stories coming out of the country that challenge social conventions through their entertainment.

All of this brings us to one of the contributing factors of *Hallyu* that frequently gets swept under



the rug in conversations: literature. With massive contributions from the government, as well as the establishment of the Literature Translation Institute (LTI) of Korea, this is a field that has seen exponential growth in popularity over the last decade. They have, however, attracted a different sort of crowd. Where so much of Korean entertainment (both in music and drama) focuses on uplifting or escapist entertainment, the books coming out of Korea are brutal in how they push the audience right back into the bleakness of reality. They are often laced with commentary on the politics and social structure of their country, provided through lenses that are sometimes bizarre yet always gripping.

In hindsight, *The Vegetarian* was the oddest of books for me to use as a gateway into Korean literature, a novel by Han Kang translated from the Korean by Deborah Smith which won the International Booker Prize in 2016. It was—and still is—the most widely celebrated book to come out of South Korea in recent times, but the content of the book is laced with an emotional weight so profound it serves as a whiplash when juxtaposed against the more uplifting counterparts of *Hallyu*. The story follows Yeong-hye after she makes the sudden decision to stop eating meat, something which drives her husband and the rest of her family into confusion and disarray. Abstract in

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

There is always an other to be purged

'Uttar Khoari' edited by Shibu Kumer Shill, Agamee Prakashani, 2020

PRIYAM PRITIM PAUL

Akhteruzzaman Elias's (1943-1997) creative life was cut short with a premature death from cancer, but his works are enshrined among the classics of Bangla literature. His short story "Khoari" (1975), which in English translates to 'hangover', is a perfect specimen of his meticulous authorship of post-colonial conditions. Shibu Kumer Shill, who had first made a documentary titled *Eliaser Khoari* in 2014, eventually chose to edit a full-length book around this important landmark in Elias' literary journey. Shill edited the present volume as a rich collection that includes many memories and evaluations of Elias by his friends and relatives, some renowned literary figures of the Bangla language, as well as some occasional thoughts by Elias himself. This anthology also contains the text of "Khoari" itself, and talks about the background of the famous story.

"Khoari" revolves around a house of a local Hindu family in old Dhaka, which was looted and grabbed by the Biharis in the war of 1971. The illegal occupants vanished with the defeat of the Pakistan army. A new tension arose when the liberation force who led the war set their sights upon the same house, seeking to commandeer it from

the family in the name of overseeing the entire area in the 'right way'. At one point, Farukh, a close associate of their principal leader Manik, mentions that Manik bhai always says that purging is needed, purging! This is the punchline of "Khoari"—that there are always 'others' who must be purged. Samarjit, the central character of this story, has hangovers not only from



DESIGN: SARAH ANJUM BARI

liquor but from seeing his own friends and fellows pressuring his father to quit this house again.

The subcontinent has witnessed two partitions where majoritarianism played a significant role. Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Bengali, Bihari, and indigenous peoples have been purged in different situations in the name of religious or ethno-cultural

nationalism. Shibu Kumer Shill makes the apt observation that in plotting "Khoari", Elias dealt with two minorities—Hindus and Biharis—in the post-independence Bangladesh. Elias himself stated in 1987 that his times were shaped by the 1971 Liberation War that brought about a second independence, symbolised by a new flag, but it couldn't bring substantive liberation.

Elias was a keen observer of society, state and people as he mapped out his characters in terms of their particular tastes, classes, and social positions. In building his narratives, he always tried to be faithful to history, even if that pushed readers beyond their comfort zones. Thus his stories or novels do not follow any common underpinning that can be easily accessible.

Khoari first appeared in book form from Rajshahi in 1982, the short story published alongside three other stories in the collection. The publisher Ichke Duyande candidly states that Elias would look at both gold and trash with care; thus, his perspective has been considerably vast. His wife, Suraiya Elias, has said that he planned to write a novel on the war of independence in 1971, but the plan could not be realised due to his sudden death. Ahmed Sofa, meanwhile, has mentioned that Elias once expressed the desire to write a

novel on the miseries of Biharis. If Elias had the chance, his intended novels would have been undoubtedly an outstanding contribution along with his twin great novels.

His friend Abdul Mannan Syed explained the transformation of Elias as a writer in terms of a temporal sequence: while the young Elias was partly a romantic experimentalist and a sentimentalist, the late Elias was more committed to a particular ideology. Yet, this division was not watertight. The two phases of his literary itinerary overlapped.

Elias has been acclaimed for his keen, perspicacious realism. Still, reality has its limitations: the ultimate reality is almost impossible to depict. Syed Shamsul Haq mentions that Elias was highly dissatisfied with his novel *Chilekothar Sepai* and acknowledged that he couldn't correctly grasp the actual reality of the 1969 uprising in the text. Perhaps genuine writers cannot easily achieve a sense of fulfillment or closure from their works, and this very dissatisfaction drives them towards creating more.

The production, size, and presentation of the present volume are excellent, and many pertinent and rare images enhance its value for readers.

Priyam Pritim Paul is pursuing his PhD at South Asian University, New Delhi.

Where so much of Korean entertainment (both in music and drama) focuses on uplifting or escapist entertainment, the books coming out of Korea are brutal in how they push the audience right back into the bleakness of reality.

presentation, the novel delves deep into the way people react when decisions are made that go against culture. This book, and by extension all of Han Kang's work, strikes me less as a direct critique of the social structures we live under and more as an exploration of characters attempting to transcend these shackles.

Another notable work coming from South Korea is 2022's *Cursed Bunny* written by Bora Chung. This collection of short stories made it to the shortlist for last year's International Booker Prize and presents stories that are always dazzling and grotesque but rarely do they spell out the truth hidden underneath all the creepy tales. Then there's *Love In The Big City* by Park Sang-Young, a queer coming-of-age story also published in 2022, which went on to be part of the International Booker Prize's long list. All of these books, with their stylistic differences, offer an intimate look at life in Korea, and of the many ways characters struggle with their identity against patriarchy and abuse in a flashy world with an underbelly that's often overlooked.

Read the rest of this article on The Daily Star website and on Daily Star Books' Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.

Raian Abedin is taking book recommendations (in fact, he would love them) on IG: @raian_is_burning

U-17s net half-dozen to sink Turkmenistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh head coach revealed on Tuesday that his troops were raring to go ahead of their first foreign mission and the girls in red and green did not disappoint as they outclassed debutants Turkmenistan in their campaign opener of the AFC U-17 Women's Asia Cup Qualifiers at the Jalan Besar Stadium in Singapore yesterday.

Bangladesh struck five goals in the first hour and eventually won 6-0, courtesy of forward Thuinuye Marma's double, while Puja Das, Ruma Akter, Sauravi Akanda Prity, and Srimoti Trishna netted one each.

Bangladesh got off the blocks quickly as they found the lead in only the third minute, courtesy of midfielder Puja.

The debutants were rattled two minutes later when Thuinuye doubled the lead with her first but just when it seemed that Turkmenistan had managed to settle into the game, Bangladesh captain Ruma netted her side's third in the 39th minute to go into half-time with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

An already uphill task became a lot steeper for Turkmenistan when Thuinuye scored her second just seven minutes after the interval. Bangladesh were soon 5-0 up in the 60th minute when forward Sauravi converted from the spot.

From then on, damage control was on the agenda for Turkmenistan but Bangladesh were not done yet until substitute Srimoti scored a penalty to cap off the goal-fest.

Up next, Bangladesh will take on hosts Singapore at the same venue on Sunday.



Following the Eid break, the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur turned lively once again. On Wednesday, Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha held a meeting with national selectors Minhajul Abedin Nannu, Habibul Bashar and Abdur Razzak before heading to Sylhet for Bangladesh's three-day training camp ahead of their tour to the United Kingdom for a three-match ODI series against Ireland next month.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

School cricketers get exposure

SPORTS REPORTER

As part of their plan to provide a platform for youngsters to showcase their talents overseas, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged for the Prime Bank-BCB Combined School Under-16 team to go to Mumbai.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board formed the under-16 squad from the recently concluded school cricket tournament. The squad left for India yesterday and will be facing Mumbai under-16 team on the tour.

The visitors will play two three-day matches, starting on April 28 and May 3. The youngsters will then take part in three one-dayers, scheduled on May 8, 9 and 11, respectively. All the matches of the tour will take place at the Sachin Tendulkar Gymkhana ground in Mumbai.

Squad: Zawad Abrar, Azizul Hakim, Md Rifat, Debashish Sarker, Kalam Siddiki, Tawaf Mashrafi, Ahsan Al Mumin, Turjo Sarkar, Samiun Basir, Kayes Rahman, Yeasir Arafat, Sheikh Imtiaz, Md Sobuj, Samiul Islam, Shahria Al Amin, Sanjit Majumdar.



'Overall improvement' on Tigers' agenda

SPORTS REPORTER

Chandika Hathurusingha is adept at making specific plans designed for specific scenarios and with technical improvement being one of the biggest areas that still needs addressing, the Bangladesh head coach planned for a three-day training camp in Sylhet, hoping to test the adaptability of bowlers and batters to conditions there.

The team departed for Sylhet yesterday evening but Chandika had a meeting with the selectors and a few of the coaching staff in Mirpur ahead of their scheduled departure. Chandika had arrived in the country before the other coaching staffs and with the coaching staff now available following vacations, it was an opportunity to discuss plans going forward.

The Tigers are set to undergo skill practice sessions from April 27th till April 29 before they return to Dhaka. They will be heading to England next to play the ODI series against Ireland, part of the ICC ODI Super League. However, the 'Tigers' view will have extended past the Ireland assignment in preparation of challenges this year.

Where Sylhet's conditions come into the equation has to do with Test cricket, which challenges mental endurance the most, even though it is the Bangladesh ODI side that are going for the sessions. The conditions in Sylhet had allowed for swing with



the new ball while the challenge for the bowlers came in the shape of consistent bounce on wickets which allowed for effective stroke play.

Given that Dhaka has been hosting the Dhaka Premier League, Chandika wanted something which would allow the side to be tested outside of the challenges from tired pitches that have very little carry for pacers.

"When we play in Sylhet, some of the pitches over there are closest to what we might expect in England. It is also very hot here [in Dhaka]. There's a lot of matches being played here. We can't get the wicket that I want here," the head coach said while talking to the media yesterday.

The training sessions in Sylhet will be effective for overall growth and although Chandika did not say it was done particularly to replicate

conditions at England, it was in preparation for away challenges where there is swing and bounce on offer.

"It is not just about English conditions. It is about the overall development of our game. We are not worried about opposition or results. We want to improve our game overall wherever we play in the future. We have lots of Test cricket coming up next year. We play away from home as well.

"Just to improve our cricket," Chandika said about the special training camp's objective.

The majority of the players are available for the camp bar Shakib Al Hasan, who will be joining the side in England. Liton Das and Mustafizur Rahman, currently playing the Indian Premier League, are expected in England by May 5.

Big Bash ramps up pay to lure top talents

REUTERS, Melbourne

International players in Australia's Big Bash League (BBL) are set for a big pay-rise after a shake-up of the domestic T20 tournament's contracting system, amid a global battle for talent.

Overseas players who nominate for the draft will earn A\$420,000 (\$278,000) if selected as a "platinum" pick, the highest tier in the draft system, or a rise of 23.5% on the previous tournament.

"Gold" pick players, the second highest tier, will pocket 15% more per season (A\$300,000), and third-tier "silver" picks will earn 14% more (A\$200,000), organisers said on Wednesday.

The eight BBL clubs will now have a total player payments pool of A\$3 million, up from A\$1.9 million, to allow for the hikes.

Each club will be able to sign up to two local players with national contracts on a new "Marquee Supplementary List".

That will allow the clubs to pick Australia's high-profile players for odd games if they become available for selection during the country's international home summer.

"The new player contracting rules and uplift in total payment pools will allow both the ... BBL to remain internationally competitive in an increasingly dynamic market," Cricket Australia's BBL chief Alistair Dobson said on Wednesday in a statement.

Franchise-based Twenty20 leagues, offering fast-paced action and live music, have proliferated in recent years in the wake of the success of the trend-setting Indian Premier League.

Australia's domestic women's T20 tournament, the WBBL, has also tweaked its contracting system and will introduce a draft for international players, emulating the men's tournament, organisers said.

UEFA FB wants handball law revamped

AGENCIES

The UEFA Football Board held its inaugural meeting at the House of European Football in Nyon, Switzerland, reflecting on various topics, including the Laws of the Game and refereeing matters such as the line of intervention, VAR, the handball rule and player behaviour.

This week it issued recommendations after discussing the handball law, specifically the aspect which states that not every touch of the arm or hand with the ball is an offence.

"The Board recommends that UEFA should clarify that no handball offence should be called on a player if the ball is previously deflected from his own body and, in particular, when the ball does not go towards the goal," it said.

"On the same notice, the Board recommends that not every handball should automatically lead to a caution after every shot at goal, as anticipated by current guidelines."

The Board also suggested that a player should be sent off for denying a goal-scoring opportunity only if they "deliberately and intentionally" touch the ball with their hand or arm. "In case of other handball offences, the players should only be cautioned," it added.

Manchester United expect a 'mad' Tottenham

AFP, London

Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag expects to face a "mad" Tottenham on Thursday following Spurs' humiliating 6-1 defeat by Newcastle but has insisted no opponent can be "hungrier" than we are.

Spurs' embarrassing loss to the Magpies led to the sacking of acting head coach Christian Stellini, with the 48-year-old spending less than a month in charge after replacing Antonio Conte.

Tottenham have now appointed Ryan Mason as their caretaker boss.

Tottenham sit sixth in the Premier League, but have lost 10 of their last 22 games after a bright start to sink hopes of a return to the Champions League next season.

Stellini had only been in charge for four matches and his appointment was symptomatic of a club lacking in leadership on and off the field.

United are currently fourth in the Premier League, six points clear of Spurs and with two games in hand.

They travel to north London still eyeing a Cup double, after Sunday's FA Cup semi-final penalty shoot-out win over Brighton at Wembley, having already lifted the League Cup this season.

But United themselves have had to recover from some disappointing results this season, with Ten Hag telling a pre-match news



conference on Wednesday: "We had some, not so often, that we have to bounce back. "Definitely (more than I would like) but it happens with all the great teams, even Real Madrid, eh?"

"It's obvious they (Tottenham) had a really bad defeat. Of course, then they are mad. That can be fuel for bouncing back.

"But it's about us. An opponent can never be more hungry than we (are), so that is how we have to prepare the game."

Regardless of Spurs' problems, England captain Harry Kane remains a threat.

The 29-year-old striker has scored 26 goals in all competitions and faces one of the clubs

reportedly interested in signing him at the end of the campaign should he decide to leave Spurs in pursuit of his first major trophy.

Kane's goal to beat Manchester City in February and pass the legendary Jimmy Greaves as Spurs' all-time leading scorer in the process has been the highlight of a disappointing campaign.

Even surrounded by mediocrity, the England captain has scored 26 goals this season.

"It's quite clear his impact on the game for Spurs," said Ten Hag.

"We have a plan of course for that. The home game we did very well, so for tomorrow we need a very good plan as well.

"You have to defend him as a team."

Spurs cannot afford to lose Kane if they are to bounce back under a new manager next season.

Meanwhile, Ten Hag played down fears Bruno Fernandes had suffered a serious injury. The 28-year-old suffered a knock against Brighton before eventually being substituted in the 101st minute.

Fernandes' wife posted a photo on Monday of the United playmaker with his right foot elevated next to a protective boot and pair of crutches.

But the Portugal international was seen without that boot and crutches on Wednesday, with Ten Hag saying: "We have to see how Bruno Fernandes is. We don't know yet, he's a question mark."

Ancelotti apologises after Castellanos' night

AGENCIES

Girona striker Taty Castellanos, on loan from MLS side New York City FC, won't forget 25 April 2023 in a hurry. Meanwhile, it was a night to forget for Real Madrid and coach Carlo Ancelotti, who had to apologise to the fans for what had transpired in Girona.

Castellanos, the Argentinian striker, became the first player in 75 years to score four in a LaLiga game against Real Madrid as the Catalan side recorded a famous 4-2 victory over Champions League specialists Real Madrid.

The 24-year-old, who has scored 50 MLS goals, became just the 10th man to score four or more goals against Real Madrid. In fact, he became the first player to score four goals against Real Madrid since Robert Lewandowski netted four times for Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of the 2012-13 Champions League semifinals.

Castellanos also became the fifth player to score four home goals against Real Madrid with the others being Vantolra (Barcelona 5 - Real Madrid 0, 1934-35), Martinez (Espanyol 5 - Real Madrid 4, 1930-40), Emilin (Oviedo 4 - Real Madrid 0, 1944-45) and Echevarria (Oviedo 7 - Real Madrid 1, 1947-48).

Ancelotti's Madrid are 11 points behind Barcelona having played one extra match, with this defeat virtually killing any hope



they had remaining of defending the title.

"The team were nervous from the off and then we lost control. It looked as though half-time would help us but then we conceded again and it was an uphill battle. The fans are hurting and we apologise. We're hurting too but we know we will be in good shape for the Copa final and the Champions League semis," Ancelotti apologised to fans after the game.

Ancelotti was hampered by striker Karim Benzema taking a knock in the win over Celta Vigo at the weekend, while goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois did not travel because of a stomach problem among other absentees.

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VISITING IMF STAFF MISSION Banking division disappoints

Team extends visit by 5 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The IMF staff mission's meeting yesterday with the banking and financial institutions division appears to have not gone seamlessly.

The visiting delegation particularly wanted to know about the condition of the state banks, which the banking division was unable to do, as The Daily Star learned from officials informed about the proceedings.

The banking division gave a picture of the overall banking sector.

The staff mission was also not happy about the state banks' exploits concerning the annual performance agreement signed with the Bangladesh Bank.

The Washington-based multilateral lender has cited the state banks' high and increasing defaulted loans and low capital adequacy as one of the three domestic risks that could derail the economy in the short to medium term.

The likelihood of the problem spilling over into the wider economy ranges from medium (10 to 30 percent chance) to high (30 percent or more), said the IMF staff report.

The staff mission was also disappointed when the banking division declined to give the draft of the Bank Companies (Amendment) Act that was approved by the cabinet as it was now a classified document.

The visiting delegation particularly wanted to know about the condition of the state banks, which the banking division was unable to do, as The Daily Star learned from finance ministry officials.

As per the reform actions agreed with the IMF for the \$4.7 billion loan programme, the government is supposed to submit the draft to parliament by June.

The progress of forming an asset management company to dispose of distressed assets is nothing to write home about, either.

The staff mission was also not happy with the defaulted loan scenario.

At the end of 2022, the banking sector's defaulted loans amounted to Tk 120,656 crore, which is 8.16 percent of the outstanding loans.

The staff mission also held meetings with the National Board of Revenue and the finance ministry's debt management committee.

The government has committed to increasing tax revenue, and the mission wanted to know the measures being planned. The NBR, however, was unable to inform them.

The NBR was supposed to come up with a medium-term revenue strategy. So far, a committee has been formed to work on the paper. The draft will take 6-7 months to prepare, and the final version will not be ready before 2024.

Tariff reduction is another demand of the IMF, and the revenue authority has informed the staff mission that it will be done by as much as possible this year.

The staff mission, though, had more encouraging news from its meeting with the debt management committee.

Reforms to bring down the sales of national savings certificates are on track. Besides, sales of NSCs have dropped notably.

Meanwhile, the staff mission has extended its tour of Dhaka by five days.

The wrap-up meeting will now take place on April 7, as Rahul Anand, the IMF staff mission chief, the BB governor, the finance secretary, and the Economic Relations Division secretary will all be in Washington, DC, for the 50th-anniversary celebrations of the World Bank and Bangladesh's relations.



A monument is being built at the Mall Chattar to mark the centenary of Dhaka University. But many students and alumni have taken to the social media to express dissatisfaction as a rare patch of green is being destroyed to make way for the structure. They also reminisced about the good times they had there. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Xi, Zelensky hold 'meaningful' talks

Kyiv names China ambassador

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky by phone yesterday, the first known call between the two leaders since the start of Russia's invasion.

The nearly one-hour discussion, which reportedly included Xi advocating for peace negotiations, was met by Russian accusations that Ukraine was undermining efforts to end the fighting.

Beijing says it is neutral in the Ukraine conflict and Xi has never condemned the Russian invasion, but the Chinese leader has come under increased pressure from Western nations to step in and mediate.

A 12-point "position paper" published by China in February was seen by many Western governments as skewed towards Russia, and a friendly Moscow visit in March by Xi to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin led to widespread criticism.

"I had a long and meaningful phone call with President Xi Jinping," Zelensky said on Twitter.

"I believe that this call, as well as the appointment of Ukraine's ambassador to China, will give a powerful impetus to the development of our bilateral relations," he wrote.

Zelensky's spokesman Sergiy

Nykyforov said on Facebook that the two leaders had "an almost one-hour-long telephone conversation".

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported that during the call -- which was initiated by Kyiv -- Xi told Zelensky that "talks and negotiation" were the "only way out" of the war.

"On the issue of the Ukraine crisis, China has always stood on the side of peace and its core position is to promote peace talks," CCTV reported Xi as saying.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported that during the call -- which was initiated by Kyiv -- Xi told Zelensky that "talks and negotiation" were the "only way out" of the war.

According to a readout of the call, Xi said China "will neither watch the fire from the other side, nor add fuel to the fire, let alone take advantage of the crisis to profit".

"When dealing with the nuclear issue, all parties concerned should remain calm and restrained, truly focus on the future and destiny of themselves and all mankind, and jointly manage and control the crisis," Xi said.

21kg crystal meth seized in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Border Guard Bangladesh, in a drive yesterday, seized 21 kg of crystal meth, also commonly known as ice, from Cox's Bazar in the biggest bust of the contraband drug in the country.

Three suspected drug dealers -- Buzuruz Mia, 51, Md Ismail, 23, and Sayedul Bashar, 40, of the Balukhali area, were also arrested during the drive.

A team of BGB 34 carried out the drive at Balukhali in Ukhiya upazila around 4:30am yesterday and seized the meth. Lt Col Saiful Islam said at a press conference at the battalion headquarters.

He said the crystal meth was being stored in the Rohingya camp in Ukhiya, later to be smuggled to different parts of the country.

He claimed this consignment to be the biggest ever haul seized in the country with an estimated value of Tk 63 crore.

A case has been filed against the three arrested under the Narcotics Control Act with Ukhiya Police Station, he added.

Centuries-old teenage mummy unearthed in Peru

AFP, Lima



The mummy of a teenager who lived roughly 800-1,200 years ago, complete with skin fragments and tufts of hair, has been unearthed on the outskirts of the Peruvian capital Lima, the leader of the excavation team has said.

The well-preserved remains of the child, who would have been about 12 or 13, were found during a dig at the Cajamarquilla archaeological site in a grave some two meters (6.5 feet) deep and covered by a large rock, team leader Yomira Huaman told AFP on Tuesday.

Cajamarquilla was a city built of mud in about 200 BC, in the pre-Inca period, and occupied until about 1500. It is thought to have been home to 10,000 to 20,000 people.

Huaman said the high salt content of the sand in the area likely caused a natural mummification of the youngster, whose gender has not been determined.

Bits of skin remained on the arms and legs, while hair was found on the head, which was separated from the body.

There were also remains of teeth in the jaw.

Three cops stabbed by criminals

Firearm snatched, later recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three policemen sustained critical stab injuries in an attack carried out by a large group of miscreants in Chakaria upazila, Cox's Bazar in the early hours of yesterday.

The criminals also snatched a firearm from police during the attack, which was later recovered.

The injured are Chakaria Police Station Sub-Inspector Shamim Al Hasan, 35, and constables Tariqul Islam, 30, and Md Mamun, 28.

They are currently undergoing treatment at the Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police Md Mahfujul Islam.

During routine patrol, a police team saw a man carrying a sharp weapon and a firearm by the road in the Mohchoniakata area at around 1:00am.

"Police chased the man

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Works of the First Dhaka Elevated Expressway is going on in full swing as the Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader recently announced that construction of the stretch from Dhaka airport to Tejgaon rail gate is expected to be completed by November this year. The 47km expressway, with a 19.73km main line, will run from from HSI A till Kutubkhali. The photo was taken at Chairmanbari in the capital's Banani yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

10 BODIES IN TRAWLER

4 days gone, cops yet to find any clue to motive

STAR REPORT

Four days into the recovery of 10 bodies from a sunken boat in the Bay off Cox's Bazar, police have yet to know anything about the motive for the killings.

On the condition of anonymity, a top police official of the district yesterday told The Daily Star that Mohammad Kamal, one of the two arrestees in a case filed in this connection, masterminded the killings after a clash between his group and the victims.

He instructed his men to tie up the victims, lock them up in an ice chamber and then sink the boat.

There was a conflict between the victims and a group led by Kamal alias "Baitta Kamal", said the official involved in the investigation of the case.

He, however, said the victims' families claim that most of the deceased would never go to the sea for fishing, and the investigators could not yet confirm why they were there, and what led to the clash and their killing.

Kamal, a trawler owner from Matarbari area, and Karim Shikder, another arrestee, are currently under interrogation.

On Tuesday, police arrested Kamal, the prime accused, and Karim in the case filed by Rokeya Begum, wife of Shamsul Alam, one of the victims and owner of the boat the bodies were found in.

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday placed the two on a five-day remand each after they were produced before it, said Durjoy Biswas, sub-inspector of Cox's Bazar Model Police Station and also investigating officer of the case.

He said five police teams have been working to arrest

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3