



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

# Star

SECOND EDITION

## THE DAILY

## ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY MAY 5, 2023

"It's vitally important that China and other countries that have been seeking to advance peace hear from the victim, not just the aggressor."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on resolving Ukraine war



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 106

BAISHAKH 22, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHAWWAL 14, 1444 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE: Tk 15.00



### Govt plans smaller rise in next ADP



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### South Korea to support mega projects: Envoy



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### Sudan truce efforts in tatters



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### Has Messi played his last game for PSG?

## No let-up in price hike



	PRICE A WEEK AGO	CURRENT PRICE
Bottled soybean oil/litre	Tk 187	Tk 199
Sugar (loose) a kg	Tk 120-Tk 130	Tk 130-Tk 140
Potatoes a kg	Tk 30-Tk 35	Tk 35-Tk 40
Onions a kg	Tk 50-Tk 55	Tk 55-Tk 60
Eggs a dozen	Tk 130-Tk 140	Tk 140-Tk 150

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When people are already struggling to cope with high prices of daily essentials, a fresh hike in the prices of soybean oil, sugar, onions, and potatoes has dealt them a further blow.

This will only force them to dig deeper into their pockets at a time when inflation is close to double digits.

Crude soybean oil refiners on Wednesday raised the price of one litre bottled soybean oil by Tk 12 to Tk 199 while the price of loose soybean oil was increased by Tk 9 to Tk 176 a litre. A consumer has to pay Tk 960 for a five-litre jerrycan, which was Tk 906.

Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners' and Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association hiked the prices after consulting with the

commerce ministry and the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission.

A commerce ministry official said the VAT on edible oil was reduced to 5 percent from 15 last year in the face of soaring prices of the cooking oil. The benefit expired on April 30 and the VAT is back to 15 percent.

As the prices of edible oil are dropping in the international market, the government did not extend the facility, he said.

On the other hand, retail price of sugar rose in the capital over a week. A kg of loose sugar is currently being sold for Tk 130-Tk 140, which was Tk 120-Tk 130.

On April 8, the government set the price of loose sugar to Tk 104 and Tk 109 for a kg of packaged sugar.

Prices of potatoes and onions have

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Relatives of patients at the DMCH sleep inside mosquito nets they have put up in the garden of the hospital. Many patients from outside the capital arrive with multiple attendants and there are restrictions on the number of people staying with patients inside the hospital. The photo was taken early Tuesday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## \$3b from Korea on easy terms over next 5 years

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is set to get \$3 billion in concessional loans from South Korea over the next five years, becoming the second largest recipient of the East Asian nation's official development aid.

The loan is being given under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) for 2023-2027. Korea provided \$700 million under the EDCF for 2021-2025.

With the substantial increase of the concessional loan to Bangladesh, it is expected that Korea will be able to support mega projects in Bangladesh, thus contributing to the continuous socioeconomic development of Bangladesh, said Lee Jang-keun, the Korean ambassador, in a press release after the framework agreement for EDCF was signed yesterday.

Kisun Bang, the first vice-minister for Economy and Finance of Korea, and Sharifa Khan, secretary of the Economic Relations Division, signed the framework arrangement on the sidelines of the 56th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank taking place in Incheon, South Korea.

"I hope this \$3 billion support serves as a catalyst for

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### THE THIRD VIEW

## DSA was legislated ignoring journalists

### And it is being amended in the same way

MAHFUZ ANAM

In September 2018, the most draconian, most criticised, and most objected to anti-media law was passed in Bangladesh, ignoring journalists. Today, its amendment process is on - according to the law minister - and once again the media professionals are nowhere in the consultation process.

On Wednesday, at a meeting organised by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Anisul Huq, our law minister, said the DSA would be amended by September this year. Is he buying time till then, when he may say it is

too close to the elections and there are many urgent things to do? This doubt is not based on unfair cynicism, but on the fact that he said the same thing so many times and on so many different occasions, including to the international community. For his credibility's sake, we hope he means it this time.

But the process appears to be the same - ignoring journalists and letting bureaucrats run the show. And we can guess what they will produce, as they are trained to be against freedom of expression, freedom of thought, and freedom of the media.

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## 1 killed as steel mill furnace explodes

### Six suffer life-threatening burn injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A worker was killed and at least six others suffered life-threatening burns after the furnace of a steel mill exploded in Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Shankar, 40, said police.

The blast happened around 4:00pm at Rahima Industrial Complex Limited Steel Mill in Gausia Saughat area.

Around 15 workers

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## Biman eyeing 10 Airbus planes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman directors have accepted in principle a proposal to buy 10 Airbus planes.

The planes include two freighters, the purchase of them will be first for the national flag carrier.

The Biman Board of Directors made the decision at a meeting on Wednesday in the hope that Biman will operate on more international routes than the current 20.

M Mahub Ali, state minister for civil aviation, said the Biman directors accepted an offer from Airbus for two freighters.

"Airbus has given us an approximate price. Now our technical committee members will sit together and discuss," he told The Daily Star.

"We have expressed [to Airbus] our intention to buy 10 planes in phases," he said, adding that Airbus is likely to deliver the first two planes in 2026 or 2027.

Contacted, a Biman director said, "Our main target is to get two freighters from Airbus as we have a huge demand for shipping cargo."

Large amounts of garment products, pharmaceutical

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GCC MAYORAL POLLS

## Zahangir's bid dealt a serious blow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The authorities yesterday rejected suspended Gazipur mayor Mohammad Zahangir's appeal to reinstate his candidature in the Gazipur city polls.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Sabirul Islam rejected the appeal and reinstated the decision of the returning officer, who earlier cancelled Zahangir's nomination on grounds of loan default.

Sabirul, who acted as the appellate authority, came up with the verdict after a hearing at his office in the afternoon, said Manjur Hossain Khan, assistant returning officer of Gazipur city polls.

Zahangir, his two lawyers, and representatives of Bangladesh Bank were also present at the hearing.

On April 27, Zahangir's supporters submitted his and his mother Zaida Khatun's nomination papers to contest the mayoral post as independent candidates.

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A farmer quickly harvests his ripe Boro to avoid any risk as accumulated rainwater may ruin the standing crops in the face of prolonged submersion. This year, Boro was cultivated on 63,790 hectares in Khulna, with 77 percent of the crop already harvested as of Wednesday. The photo was taken in Khulna's Dumuria upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## BCC POLLS 'CAMPAIGN' AL nominee all on his own

SUSHANTA GHOSH

The Awami League mayoral candidate in the Barishal city polls, Abul Khair Abdullah, is meeting city dwellers ahead of the polls but without any support from the party leaders who are loyal to incumbent Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah and his father Abul Hasanat Abdullah.

During his interaction with the people on Tuesday, no key leaders of the city and district AL units, except for city unit Senior Vice President Afzalul Karim, accompanied the mayor hopeful, said party sources.

The previous day, Khair's supporters and the leaders and activities of the other AL faction held two separate rallies in the city to mark May Day.

Some central AL leaders, including presidium members Abdur Rahman and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, recently visited Barishal, but they could not involve the supporters of the mayor and his father in Khair's "campaign", said sources in the ruling party.

The polls to Barishal City Corporation are scheduled for June 12.

Leaders and activists of the Barishal city and district AL virtually became divided into two after the party picked Khair over Sadiq on April 15.

Party leaders loyal to Sadiq said that the "differences" in the organisation would be resolved through a joint meeting of the district and city AL committees. Hasanat, president of Barishal district AL, will call the meeting soon, they added.

"As the city Awami League General Secretary Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah has been away from Barishal since the first week of April, the city unit leaders and activists could not join the polls campaign of Khair," a city AL leader told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

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## POLLS TO 5 CITIES JP names mayoral candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party, the main opposition in parliament, has nominated its mayoral candidates for city corporation polls in Gazipur, Sylhet, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barishal.

They are MM Niaz Uddin in Gazipur, Saiful Islam Swapan in Rajshahi, Shafiqul Islam Madhu in Khulna, Engineer Iqbal Hossain Taposh in Barishal and Nazrul Islam Babul in Sylhet.

The announcement came during a views-exchange meeting between party high-ups and divisional leaders at its Banani office yesterday, Khandaker Delwar Jalali, press secretary of JP Chairman GM Quader, told The Daily Star.

The elections will be held in Gazipur on May 25, Rajshahi and Sylhet on June 2, and Khulna and Barishal on June 12.

## MUKTA RANI MURDER

### Rights bodies demand justice; suspect lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Several rights bodies and other organisations yesterday held separate protests, demanding exemplary punishment of the man who killed a school girl in Netrakona recently.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organised a rally, chaired by Taheja Begun Anny, general secretary of the body's district unit, in Netrakona town's Chhoto Bazar area yesterday afternoon.

Presidents of the district Udichi Shilpi Goshhi, district Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, local AL leader Md Shahidullah, among others, spoke at the event.

Meanwhile, another group, under the banner of "Sarbastorer Janota, Mymensingh", held a rally at the Shashi Lodge area in Mymensingh city yesterday noon.

Mukta Rani Barman, 16, of Netrakona's Barhatta upazila, was hacked to death by Kawser Mia, 18, on her way home from school on Tuesday afternoon.

He was arrested a day later, after the victim's father filed a case with Barhatta Police Station.

According to the case, Kawser used to harass the girl to get into a relationship with him. As she refused, he attacked her indiscriminately with a sharp weapon. Mukta died on her way to hospital.

Khokon Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of the station, said Kawser was produced before a court yesterday. After his statement was recorded under Section 164, he was sent to jail.



The images show the current state of BK Das Road



PHOTO: URBAN STUDY GROUP



## POTENTIAL OF OLD DHAKA as a tourist destination

RBR

History and culture are what make a city come alive and our beloved Dhaka has all these attributes.

Tourism develops on the five vital components which are attraction, accessibility, accommodation, amenities, and activities. Dhaka has a rich historical past which serves as a major attraction, traffic congestion might cause some accessibility issues but accommodation and amenities are plenty. The metropolis is now a city of activities, plays, exhibitions, concerts, and museums with a plethora of dining options offering global cuisines.

Then why Dhaka — Old Dhaka in particular — is still not a popular tourist destination?

Taimur Islam is the CEO and Chairman, Urban Study Group (USG). For almost two decades USG has been working as a non-profit organisation, campaigning for the conservation of the architectural heritage of Old Dhaka.

He feels, "Tourism in Dhaka should not be confined to a few iconic buildings in the old town and handful of monuments under the tourism department. It should be the mandate of the city corporation to clean and restore the past with the help of the archaeological department."

There is an unknown pull, a unique charm that brings you to Old Dhaka. There are popular guided tours; tour operators and USG volunteers show you the things in and around Old Dhaka. But is it enough to draw the attention of local and foreign tourists on a large scale?

Taimur points out a few hard facts.



A possible future with proper conservation and restoration.

"We failed to appreciate the huge bank of treasures from the Buriganga to Ramna that has 400 years of history."

The city flourished as an urban space a few centuries ago and the old neighbourhoods are marked with historical sites. From the likes of Shankhari Bazaar, which is one of the oldest areas in Dhaka, they stretch along narrow lanes lined with richly decorated brick buildings and temples built during the late Mughal or Colonial period. Sutrapur's grandeur with Hrishikesh Das Road's English-styled old heritage buildings can add historical nostalgia to old-town tourism.

"The rivers around Dhaka are an asset that can be turned into tourist destinations. For example, the Buckland Dam is a significant architectural feat located on the banks of the Buriganga. In the 19th century (and early part of the 20th century) this was a popular tourist destination

of the city. Now the entire area is in a mess," Taimur adds.

"Take Ruplal House, a 19th-century mansion in Farashganj area, for example. This grand structure is now occupied by local spice and vegetable merchants and a colony of unauthorised squatters. With proper intervention, we could save the structure and also have spice souks around for visitors. We should keep the new and reclaim and restore the old. It is an issue of urban planning and parallelly disaster management," he opines.

"We are killing Old Dhaka because we cannot appreciate it."

"The old town is a 24 square kilometres place that should be declared as a heritage zone. We are losing the battle against time and unless we find a way to stop the destruction of heritage property, Dhaka's historic environment will be lost," Taimur concluded.

## Elderly woman found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police yesterday recovered the body of an unidentified elderly woman in a roadside ditch at Dhanua village in Jamalpur's Bakshiganj.

The dead is aged around 65. Locals found the body and informed police. Later, the law enforcers recovered the body, said Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Bakshiganj Police Station.

The body was sent to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue, he said, adding that police were trying to identify the victim.

## BGB seized 5kg heroin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of the Border Guard Bangladesh have recovered 5kg heroin near Sonamasjid in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila.

A special patrol team of BGB went to Tahakhana area. Sensing their presence, two men fled the scene, leaving a motorcycle and a sack, said Lt Col Golam Kibria, commanding officer of BGB 59th battalion in Rohonpur.

After searching, BGB members found 5kg heroin in the sack and seized the motorcycle. None was arrested in this connection, he added.

## 2 killed as train hits motorcycle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two men were killed after a train hit their motorcycle on an unmanned level crossing in Dinajpur's Parbatipur upazila yesterday.

The dead are Hamidul Islam, 40, of Kurigram's Ulipur, and Susanta Roy, 42, of Nilphamari's Jaldhaka, said police.

The duo was heading towards Phulbari from Parbatipur. Their motorcycle got stuck on the level crossing around 10:30am. Before they could move to a safe place, Khulna-bound Rocket Mail hit them, said Nurul Islam, officer-in-charge of Parbatipur Government Railway Police.

They died on the spot. The bodies were handed over to the victims' family members, he added.

## Missing madrasa student found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A minor madrasa student, who had been missing since Wednesday, was found dead in a maize field in Thakurgaon Sadar yesterday.

The victim is Murad Hossain, 11, resident student of Madarganj Hafezia Madrasa in the upazila.

Locals found his body in a maize field near Madarganj MB High School. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Javed Ali, sub-inspector of Thakurgaon Police Station.

Police primarily suspect that he was murdered, the SI added.

## AFGHAN BORDER

### Militants in Pakistan kill six soldiers

REUTERS, Peshawar

Islamist militants killed six Pakistani soldiers in an exchange of fire with the military in a northwestern tribal district bordering Afghanistan, the army said yesterday.

The Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), an umbrella group of several Sunni Muslim militant groups, claimed responsibility.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed condolences to the grieved families. "No matter how long the battle, our valiant armed forces, with the support of the nation, will root out terrorism in its entirety," he said in a statement.

The bloodshed came after Pakistan declared a new offensive against militants following a resurgence of attacks, including a mosque bombing that killed more than 100 people in February.

Islamabad says the militants, who want to establish a hardline version of sharia (Islamic law) in Pakistan, enjoy safe haven in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan to plan and execute the attacks, a charge Kabul denies.

Amir Khan Muttaqi, foreign minister of Afghanistan's Taliban administration, was due to arrive in Islamabad yesterday for meetings with his Pakistani and Chinese counterparts.

"A fire exchange took place between terrorists and our own troops," the army said in a statement describing yesterday's incident in North Waziristan, which has long been a hotbed of militants operating on both sides of the border.

It said three militants were also killed when the army engaged them, adding that it was searching the area to determine if any more attackers were in hiding.

## No let-up in price hike

FROM PAGE 1

gone up by Tk 5 a kg over a week, putting consumers, especially those of limited income, in further difficulty.

A kg of potatoes is now being sold at Tk 30 to Tk 35 while onions cost Tk 55 to Tk 60 a kg.

The retail price of eggs also rose by Tk 10 a dozen. A dozen is now Tk 140-Tk 150.

"The prices of almost all essential commodities have been increasing, but not our income. How could we survive in this situation?" Sukkur Ali of West Tejauribazar told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said he is left with no other option but to cut consumption as the fresh hike will only spell more trouble for his family.

"I'm thinking of not providing my children and elderly mother with eggs every day as I cannot afford it after paying the rent and other fixed expenses."

Anamul Haque, who works at a private bank in Chattogram, said they have already cut consumption of desserts like payesh and shemai because of the high prices of sugar.

"Now I may have to consume these desserts once a month instead of

once a week," he said, adding that he was expecting a relief from price hike after Eid, but that did not happen.

Visiting different kitchen markets in the capital yesterday, this correspondent saw traders selling a kg of loose sugar for Tk 130-Tk 140. Last week, its price was Tk 120 to Tk 130, according to the traders.

Tofail Ahmed, proprietor of Al-Amin Store in Karwan Bazar, said he usually stores sugar after buying it from Moulvibazar wholesale market in Old Dhaka.

He said suppliers at the wholesale market told him that there has been a shortage in supply for about a month. Tofail said last week he bought packaged sugar for Tk 125 a kg although the retail price mentioned in the packets is Tk 109. He added that he sold a one-kilogram packet of sugar for Tk 130.

According to the National Board of Revenue, sugar imports dropped by about 25 percent, or 2.29 lakh tonnes, in the first four months of the year compared to the same period of 2022.

The country's annual demand for sugar is 25 lakh tonnes. But domestic production can supply only 1 lakh tonnes.

## UK's Sunak warns of 'hard' test in first date with voters

AFP, London

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Conservatives yesterday braced for heavy losses in their first major electoral test since he became the UK's third leader in the space of a few chaotic weeks last year.

In the depths of the worst cost-of-living crisis in decades, the local council elections across England will shed light on the main parties' standing ahead of a UK-wide general election expected next year.

Sunak conceded that his Tory party faced a "hard" trial with voters, after it ditched Boris Johnson and then Liz Truss in quick succession last year.

"Good councillors will lose their seats because of all that has happened over the past year," he said at a think-tank event late Wednesday, according to the Daily Telegraph.

"I've only been prime minister for six months but I do believe we're making good progress," Sunak added. Voting stations opened at 7:00

am (0600 GMT) for more than 8,000 council seats across 230 English districts, and will close at 10:00 pm (2100 GMT).

Most results should be clear by late today — just as Britain gears up for Saturday's coronation of King Charles III.

In national polls, the opposition Labour party has built a double-digit lead over the Conservatives, and is portraying the municipal elections as a referendum on "13 years of Tory failure".

## AL nominee all on his own

FROM PAGE 1

City AL President AKM Jahangar said, "We will participate in the polls campaign according to the directives to be given by our guardian Abul Hasanat Abdullah in a joint meeting of the district and metropolitan committees of the party."

However, supporters of Khair said this is a ploy of wasting time by the followers of the mayor.

AL leader Torun Chanda alleged that such a situation has arisen because Hasanat and his son Sadiq only gave priority to their supporters in the party for a long time.

Mayor Sadiq has absolute control over the Barisal city AL while his father Hasanat, also a lawmaker from Barishal-1, has total influence over the district unit of the party. The two did not take part in any party activities since the AL's nomination board picked Khair as its mayoral candidate.

After Khair was picked, a section of AL leaders who were "politically cornered" by the followers of the mayor became active. Among them are supporters of State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque, also a lawmaker from Barishal-5.

When the mayoral nominee came to Barisal from Dhaka with some central AL leaders on April 20, the anti-Sadiq faction welcomed Khair and held a reception at the city AL office.

Five central AL leaders, including Abdur Rahman and Nanak, were present at the event, but almost all city, district and ward unit leaders of the party and the supporters of Sadiq and Hasanat did not show up.

Only the Barishal city AL president, AKM Jahangir, and district AL general secretary, Talukder Md Younus, addressed that event. The two, however, are now not accompanying the party mayoral candidate during his "campaign".

AL leaders said as the opposition BNP, which is boycotting the polls, has a huge vote bank in Barishal city, a united polls campaign for the ruling party nominee is a must to

ensure his win.

Speaking at an event marking the inauguration of Khair's campaign office on Sadar Road in Barishal city on April 28, AL presidium member Nanak said, "Those who are in the party have no scope to oppose the candidate nominated by Sheikh Hasina."

Many, however, said that the outcome of the next city polls may be similar to that of the 2013 Barishal city polls.

In that election, AL nominee Shawkat Hossain Hiran lost to BNP candidate Ahsan Habib Kamal by a margin of about 15,000 votes as the party faction loyal to Hasanat either refrained from voting or did not vote for "boat", said party leaders.

Late mayor Ahsan's son Kamrul Ahsan Rupan has announced that he would take part in the mayoral polls as an independent.

The last date for filing nomination papers is May 16 and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is May 25.

Khair earlier this week said if anyone doesn't take part in polls campaign, the party high-ups will look into it.

This newspaper could not reach Sadiq for comments as he did not pick up calls.

## Suspect arrested in deadly Atlanta hospital shooting

AFP, Washington

Police have arrested a man suspected of shooting five people — one of whom died — at an Atlanta hospital on Wednesday, authorities in the southern US city said.

One person was killed and four were injured when Deion Patterson allegedly opened fire in a hospital waiting room just after midday (1700 GMT). Patterson then allegedly stole a truck that had been left running at a nearby gas station and fled.



With a call to invest more in renewable energy, a group of activists held a human chain in front of the National Museum yesterday. They also held a mime show to portray the devastating effects of plastic pollution. At the event, the activists launched "Don't gas Asia Campaign" to press home their demand.

PHOTO: STAR

## Low-grade electrical equipment a major threat

Speakers tell dialogue on fire incidents, prevention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Electrical hitch, cigarettes, and electric or gas stoves were the major causes of fire incidents in Bangladesh, said speakers at a dialogue yesterday.

Referring to the fire service data of 2022, General Secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) Shaikh Muhammad Mehedi Ahsan said, "Around 38.48 percent of fire incidents occurred from the electrical hitch, 16.08 percent from cigarettes, 13.98 percent from stoves (electric and gas), 3.30 percent from gas distribution pipelines, 2.02 percent from heat ashes or fuel, and 9.17 percent for other reasons."

Mehedi, who presented the keynote paper in the dialogue, said the causes of 16.97 percent of fire incidents remained unidentified in the fire service statistics.

The dialogue, titled "Cases of Repeated Fire Incidents: Preventive Activities", was organised by Urban Development Journalists Forum, Bangladesh (UDJFB). BIP has given a six-point proposal for reducing fire incidents and their aftermath, which includes a detailed survey of all Dhaka buildings and creating a digital database of those, protecting overall natural balance in Dhaka, professional certification for technicians, proper implementation of building construction

and land use codes, ensuring occupancy certificate after constructing buildings and increasing organisational capacity.

Prof Md Raju Ahmed of Dhaka University's Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering said, "Although most of the electric equipment available in Bangladesh maintained good quality, many people bought low-quality products

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Detailed survey of all Dhaka buildings
- Protecting natural balance
- Professional certification for technicians
- Proper implementation of construction, land use codes

for saving money. Substandard equipment cannot take the load properly. Eventually, it leads to fire incidents."

Lt Col Mohammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury, director (operations and maintenance) of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said it is a common phenomenon that people in Bangladesh always hanker after buying cheap products.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Korea to support Bangladesh's mega projects

Says Ambassador Lee Jan-keun in conversation with Star

PORIMOL PALMA

South Korea, like Bangladesh, was a poverty-afflicted country in the 1960s. Through its democratic governance, innovation and hard work of the people, it has now become a highly developed nation and supports other countries.

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Major electronic companies, like Samsung or LG, are locally assembling their products under partnerships with local companies. This brings about many benefits to the Bangladeshi economy – job creation and knowledge transfer. I think there will be a time when Korean IT companies will invest here.

Bangladesh is one of them. This year, the two countries are celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations. Ambassador Lee Jan-keun shared the details of the journey together with The Daily Star.

DS: You came to Bangladesh at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in July 2020, when South Korea made global headlines in providing healthcare. There were talks of a vaccine institute being established in Bangladesh. Where did it lose its way?

Lee: Any crisis creates opportunities. It was true for us too. I was happy that South Korea provided \$150 million in soft loans to Bangladesh to help address the pandemic. I remember the discussion on setting up a vaccine institute and Bangladesh accessing International Vaccine Institute (IVI), headquartered in Korea. Later, Bangladesh accessed the IVI, which helped developing countries secure vaccines and conduct research and development. I'm sure, IVI can help Bangladesh in vaccine-related initiatives.

DS: Bangladesh and Korea's bilateral

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## AL must not come to power again: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government has been working against independence and it should not be allowed to come to power again in any way.

He said this while speaking at a programme at Dhaka Reporters' Program, Bhashani Onusari Parishad organised the event marking former minister Sunil Kumar Gupto's death anniversary.

Fakhru came up with the remarks a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said arson terrorist BNP-Jamaat alliance, the killers, the anti-liberation forces and war criminals must not come to power again in this land (Bangladesh).

The PM said this on Tuesday while speaking at a civic reception accorded to her at Ritz Carlton hotel in Washington.

The BNP leader also criticised the government for its stance not to repeal the Digital Security Act. "When all are demanding cancellation of the law you are boasting that it would not be cancelled."

"Why it should not be cancelled? You are using this (Digital Security Act) as an weapon which you don't want to lose," he added.

He said the country will have no existence if the anti-liberation, anti-democracy force comes to power again. "For this reason we have started a simultaneous movement with all the political parties who love the country."

## Narrow-minded people shouldn't do politics: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said those who are narrow-minded should not do politics.

The minister said this while inaugurating the peace procession (Shanti Shova Jatra) and harmony festival (Sampriti Uthshab) organised in front of the National Museum marking Buddha Purnima.

Noting that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is currently out of the country, the AL general secretary said her foreign visit is not to complain, but to help the country reach a unique height.

"Those who are narrow minded say that Sheikh Hasina's foreign tour has not achieved anything," he reiterated.

Quader also called for the building of a bridge of harmony rather than creating a dissension of politics.

Pointing to BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Quader said he has lost his honour through such politics.

Quader said during the current global crisis, Japan has given 30 billion yen or Tk 25 thousand crore, only for budget support.

"Isn't that an achievement? Whereas, the World Bank walked away from constructing the Padma Bridge after slandering us," he said.

The World Bank today admitted their mistake, Quader said, adding that by inviting Hasina, the World Bank also gave about Tk 25 thousand crore in budgetary support for Bangladesh.

"Is it not an achievement?" he asked.

## Khaleda back home after 5-day hospital stay

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia returned to her residence yesterday after a five-day stay in hospital.

AZM Zahid Hossain, Khaleda's personal physician, said the medical board of the former premier scrutinised all the test results and decided to continue her treatment at home.

The BNP chief was taken to Evercare Hospital on Apr 29 for medical tests and was later admitted.

The 77-year-old former prime minister has been suffering from various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and kidney, lung, heart, and eye problems.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Since her conditional release in 2020, the BNP chief has been receiving treatment at the hospital under a medical board headed by cardiologist Prof Shahabuddin Talukder.

She visited the same hospital for health check-ups on February 27. Khaleda received treatment at the hospital six times since she was infected with coronavirus in April 2021. In November 2021, Khaleda Zia was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis.

On June 10 last year, the BNP chief suffered a heart attack due to a 95 percent block in her left artery and a stent was placed there by removing the blockage at the same hospital the following day.

Doctors also found two more blocks in her blood vessels, but they could not remove those due to her health complications.

## DU Arts, Law, Social Sciences unit entry test tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test of Dhaka University for undergraduate programmes under the arts, law and social sciences unit for the 2022-23 academic session will be held tomorrow.

According to the DU authorities, 42 aspirants will vie for a seat as already 1,22,848 candidates have applied for the 2,934 seats. The exam will begin at 11:00am and end at 12:30pm.

Admission seekers will be allowed to enter their respective centres till 10:30am.

The entrance test will be held in Dhaka and seven divisional cities. In the 100-mark question, examinees will have to face a set of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) for 60 marks and a written part worth 40 marks.

The examinees cannot use any electronic device, including calculators, during the test, as per instructions.

In a press release yesterday, the DU authorities urged the guardians of the examinees to use only the Mohsin Hall field, Suhrawardy Udyan and Central Library of the University for parking cars on the test day.

The next entrance test for the science unit is on May 12 and the business studies unit on May 13.

The admission test started with the examination of the Faculty of Fine Arts on April 29.

The admission test was held at the university's Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Social Sciences buildings. A total of 7,097 students vied for 130 seats.



Members of the Buddhist community bring out a procession yesterday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the largest religious festival of the Buddhist community. Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha organised the event. The photo was taken in Basabo area. PHOTO: STAR

## Buddha Purnima celebrated

STAR REPORT

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, was celebrated in the country yesterday.

Buddha Purnima marks Gautama Buddha's birth, enlightenment and his death.

On this day in 563 BC, Buddha was born as Siddhartha Gautama in Kapilabastu at the foothill of the Himalayas.

He attained supreme enlightenment at the age of 35 and finally departed into "nirvana" at the age of 80 in 483 BC.

The day was a public holiday.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages greeting the Buddhist community on the occasion.

The prime minister urged all to work to further strengthen the practice and bond of harmony in Bangladesh in future.

# Korea to support Bangladesh's mega projects

FROM PAGE 3  
trade is over \$3 billion but heavily tilted towards South Korea. What can help Bangladesh increase its exports to Korea?

**Lee:** Since 2012, Korea has been providing duty-free and quota-free access to more than 95 percent of products from Bangladesh, whereas Korean products face high tariffs here. Our bilateral trade has almost doubled after remaining stagnant at \$1.6 billion for about a decade from 2011 to 2020. Now it has crossed the \$3 billion mark.

Moreover, the government of Bangladesh provides four percent cash incentives to the exporters of non-traditional markets. South Korea is non-traditional and so businesses can be incentivised by exporting to Korea. So, there is a huge potential and Bangladesh should best utilise its privileges.

**DS:** Korea's foreign direct investment (FDI) now is \$1.43 billion but mostly in the RMG sector. It is a country with expertise in ICT. Why is Korea's investment in Bangladesh's ICT sector not increasing?

**Lee:** Korea used to be the

fourth and fifth largest FDI source. It is now the sixth largest. So, diversification is a big task for Korea as well, for which we are trying. ICT is an area where there is a high expectation from Bangladesh. We don't know of any significant plan, but I can say there are increasing discussions among our tech companies on investing here. Major electronic companies, like Samsung or LG, are locally assembling their products under partnerships with local companies. This brings about many benefits to the Bangladeshi economy -- job creation and knowledge transfer. I think there will be a time when Korean IT companies will invest here.

**DS:** Korea has increased its overseas development assistance (ODA) from \$700 million in the five-year period to \$3 billion now. It is a huge jump. What is your plan on this front?

**Lee:** Bangladesh has been a core development partner of South Korea. It is the third-largest recipient of Korean ODA. This \$3 billion is a soft loan that we provide for the development of large-size infrastructures. Our

condition is very good. Its interest rate is only 0.04 percent and the repayment period is 40 years with 15 years of grace period. There was a big demand for such loans from Bangladesh, but we could not increase it. Now that we are doing it is a big development in our relationship. We can now go for a more substantial development programme.

**DS:** South Korea is an important market for Bangladeshi migrants. What skills should job-seekers develop or procedures the government should follow to attract more Korean companies to recruit from here?

**Lee:** Before the pandemic, we used to recruit only 1,500 Bangladeshis, which was also halted during the pandemic. After the pandemic slowed down, we recruited 6,000 workers from Bangladesh. In 2023, we planned to take at least 10,000 workers. The key to increased recruitment in Korea is proficiency in the Korean language. Potential workers need to pass the Korean language proficiency test.

Bangladeshi migrants are now better in terms of

freedom and empowerment of people. This allows talent and creativity to flourish. The development in the ICT sector ensured them a platform for sharing their creativity with the world.

**DS:** Three years are about to be over, and you are ready to leave Bangladesh for a new posting. What was your most memorable experience during your tenure?

**Lee:** I'm somewhat lucky and blessed to come to Bangladesh. If I did not come, I would not have learned about the warm-hearted people, vibrant society, and the eagerness of the government and the people to have a bright future. Earlier, I was not so positive but now I know that Bangladesh has a bright future.

# Low-grade electrical

FROM PAGE 3  
"People spend money on interior design instead of fire safety, putting their lives at risk. It does not require so much money for ensuring fire safety in residential and commercial buildings. In fact, it requires less than five percent of the entire construction cost," said the fire service director, adding that they were suffering from a lack of water bodies for controlling fire.

"There were 100 ponds in Dhaka. Now there are only 29. Most canals and lakes are either occupied or without any water flow," he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Md Tazul Islam said coordination among the agencies concerned and people's awareness is required to prevent fire incidents.

"There is no alternative to following all building construction rules for preventing fire incidents. This is why areas require adequate water bodies, roads and open space. We have to

ensure facilities in terms of population. Inadequate civic facilities are making this city gradually unlivable," said Tazul.

Md Anisur Rahman Miah, chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, said one will have to submit five plans to get approval for their construction proposals -- the architectural plan, structural plan, fire safety plan, electrical plan and plumbing plan -- from June 1, following Bangladesh National Building Code.

"Earlier, we used to ask for the architectural plan only," he informed. UDJFB Amitosh Pal chaired the dialogue, moderated by its General Secretary Sohail Mamun.

Prof Akter Mahmud of Jahangirnagar University's urban planning department; Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) Chief Engineer Kamrul Hasan; and Dhaka South City Corporation Chief Executive Officer Md Mizanur Rahman spoke at the event among others.

# They laundered

FROM PAGE 5  
The case statement said the accused Abdullah Al Noman reported a lower price for his imported steel sheets in the LC compared to the price at which he sells them in the local market.

Meanwhile, accused Shimul Uddin laundered

money to China through the distribution company to pay for the memory cards he used to import to the country illegally. Similar accusations were brought against the other accused businessmen as well.

Contacted, Shamsuddin Haider Dalim, head of corporate communication at bKash, said Al Quader and Company is no longer a bKash distributor since the agreement with the company was cancelled during the middle of last year.

# Three of a family among six killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and three others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Jhenidah, five people -- including three of a family -- were killed and three others injured as a battery-run auto-rickshaw and a pickup collided head-on in front of Kashipur Pura College in Kotchandpur.

The deceased are Solaiman Hossain, 65, the auto-rickshaw driver; Shiuly Khatun, 50, and one-year-old Rafan Hossain and his cousin Khukumoni, 7, said police.

They were travelling in the auto-rickshaw. Another passenger, aged 45, succumbed to injuries on the way to Jashore Sadar Hospital.

The injured -- Rima Khatun, 25, Alamin Hossain, 50, and Antor Hossain -- were referred to the hospital. Eyewitnesses and police said Rima and her mother Shiuly along with Rafan and Khukumoni were returning to their village Elangi after seeing a doctor in Kotchandpur by the auto-rickshaw.

In Faridpur, a physically-challenged man was killed as a motorbike hit him and later a truck ran him over at the town's Goalchamot.

The accident happened when Palash Sheikh, 42, was crossing a road, said police.

# Shamsuddin Ahmed passes away

STAR REPORT

Shamsuddin Ahmed, president of Mohakhali Central Jame Mosque, passed away on May 2. He was 96, said a press release.

He left behind his three sons, six daughters, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

# Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Meteorological Department yesterday predicted rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind in different parts of the country over 24 hours.

"It's likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal, Chattogram and Sylhet.



**Ananda Group**  
House- 20, Road: 9/B, Nikunja-1, Khilkhet, Dhaka  
PABX: +880241040093-4  
E-mail: ananda@anandagroup.biz

## Invitation for Tender (Car Sales)

SL No	Description	Last Date of Schedule Sale	Last Date of Tender Submission
1.	Ananda Group Wants to sell one BMW Car, 5 Series, Model- 2012, Registration - 04-06-2015, Havana Brown Color, 83,150 Mileage in "as is and where it is" condition.	11-May-2023 Time: 5pm	14-May-2023 Time: 5pm

- Bid forms may be Submitted in Tender box, House-20, Road- 9/B, Nikunja-1, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229.
- Schedule price is TK. 500.
- Tender opening date and time: 15-May-2023, Time: 12 Noon
- The bid form along with Terms & Conditions may also be obtained from the above address. Phone: 01730-739016.

**Mahbubur Rahman**  
Manager  
Admin & Transport

**Engineering Division**  
Khulna University, Khulna.  
www.ku.ac.bd

Tender No: KU/ENGG/567/2022 Date: 03/05/2023

### e-Tender Notice Tender No. 14/2022-23

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

Tender ID No.	Name of the works	Tender Closing and Opening date & time
826433	Construction of road works at West and North side of Kobi Jibanananda Das Academic Building (AB-3) (Remaining Works) of Khulna University, Khulna	18-May-2023 3:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to Banking hours on e-GP system. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Engr. S. M. Moniruzzaman)  
Chief Engineer  
Khulna University, Khulna  
E-mail: chief@enr.ku.ac.bd  
Tel: 02-47734157

GD-780

**Dhaka South City Corporation**  
Engineering Department  
Electrical Circle  
Corrigendum

Memo No. 46.207.007.09.22.017.2023 Date: 03/05/2023

Tender Notice was invited for the Procurement of "Design, Drawing, Implementation of Facade Lighting on Nagar Bhaban under DSCC" through Memo No. 46.207.007.09.22.013.2023 Date: 23/03/2023 by Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle, Dhaka South City Corporation. That Notice & Tenders Corrigendum as below. Related Tenderers are requested to follow the new Time Schedule for the said Procurement.

Corrigendum			
Old Time Schedule		New Time Schedule	
Last selling date	09-May-2023	Last selling date	12-Jun-2023
Opening date & time	10-Jun-2023 & 01.00pm	Opening date & time	13-Jun-2023 & 01.00pm

- This is offline Tender (PG5B).
- Document available up to 12-Jun-2023 Office Time.
- Document Price: 3,000/- BDT.
- Document Purchase Address: Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle, Room-226, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka South City Corporation, PE's Support Desk (02-223386009).

**Nur Mohammad**  
Executive Engineer  
Electrical Circle  
Dhaka South City Corporation  
Phone: 02-223386009

DSCC/PRD/277/2022-2023  
GD-783

**LAND SALE AT PURBACHAL**  
3 Kathas Corner Plot (South and East open), 6'-0" Boundary Wall. Only genuine buyer (no media)  
Tel: 01711536285

**WE ARE HIRING**

At Maersk we have a vision that's larger than the ocean: to be a true integrator of container logistics connecting and simplifying our customers' supply chain through global end-to-end solutions. We count on our people to make it happen.

**Role: Country Manager Bangladesh**  
Reporting to: Area Managing Director, IBS Area.  
Location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Key Responsibilities**

- Direct P&L responsibility for Maersk business activities in Bangladesh and as a Commercial Leader, execute & deliver business plans for the country.
- Build corporate strategic priorities, define country vision & strategy, business planning & budgeting.
- Ensure Local product development, address local needs and corporate strategy.
- Develop strategic relationships with government authorities to ensure business growth specifically in government projects.
- Drive strategic investments in partnership with various stakeholders to support the continued growth, profitability, and sustainability of the business.
- Represent and promote Maersk with all necessary local trade associations, government, and regulatory bodies.
- Continue driving a performance management culture in the country.
- Ensure appropriate operational, commercial and financial KPIs are employed across the business to provide timely and effective reporting to support day-to-day management of the business.
- Continue development of a world class workforce by conceptualizing and implementing specific policies and processes for people management ensuring an attractive local employee value proposition.
- Ensure financial practices and compliance are in line with all statutory regulations and legislations.
- Represent the organization with major customers, shareholders, Governmental regulatory authorities, and be the face of the local business in the eyes of the public.
- Ensure suitable contingency plans and risk management steps are in place to ensure minimal / zero disruption to Maersk business / employees in a crisis.
- Performs other position related duties as specified by management.

**Educational Background:**

- Master's degree is required from a reputable university
- Science background will be appreciated

**Experience**

- Minimum 16 years Logistics & Services Industry experience with knowledge of logistics infrastructure and competition

**Personal Characteristics**

- Enigmatic, fair and decisive personality
- Ability to communicate effectively & drive necessary changes within the organization
- Innovative, visionary and driven to generate long term solutions.

**Leadership Capabilities:**

- Align objectives with business strategy
- Delegate, follow up & coach the leaders
- Assess & hold direct reports accountable for both leadership & functional roles

If your profile match with the role requirement please apply with the current resume in the email address: [hrdeskb@maersk.com](mailto:hrdeskb@maersk.com). Please mention the role in the subject of your mail for your application. The deadline of submission is 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**BFC**  
Biman Flight Catering Centre বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার

সূত্র: ৩০.৩৪.০০০০.০৩০.২৪.০০০.২০২৩ তারিখ: ০৩/০৫/২০২৩

## ইন্টার্ন ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টারের অপারেশন শাখায় পেট্রোলিয়াম পদে সম্মানী প্রদানপূর্বক ০৩ মাসের জন্য ইন্টার্ন ভর্তির লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত পূরণকারী উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাবে।

- বিএফসিসি'র অপারেশন শাখায় পেট্রোলিয়াম পদে শুধুমাত্র ০৩ মাসের জন্য ইন্টার্ন হিসাবে ভর্তি করা হবে।
- প্রত্যেক নির্বাচিত ইন্টার্নকে সৈনিক হাজিরা সাপেক্ষে ৬০০/- (ছয়শত) টাকা হারে সম্মানী প্রদান করা হবে। নির্ধারিত সম্মানী ব্যতীত অন্য কোন ভাতাদি প্রাপ্য হবেন না।
- রেষ্টার মোতাবেক সৈনিক ০৮ ঘণ্টা ডিউটি সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।
- প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীকে কমপক্ষে এইচএসসি অথবা সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে। ১১/০৫/২০২৩ তারিখে বয়স সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর (মুক্তিবাহাদার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর) হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই নিম্নবর্ণিত শারীরিক যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে:
  - ক) উচ্চতা: পুরুষ- কমপক্ষে ৫ ফুট ৬ ইঞ্চি
  - মহিলা- কমপক্ষে ৫ ফুট ৩ ইঞ্চি
  - খ) সুঠাম দেহের অবিকারী হতে হবে।
- চূড়ান্তভাবে নির্বাচিত ইন্টার্নকে ভর্তির সময় পুলিশ ট্রায়ালেস রিপোর্ট বাধ্যতামূলক সংগে আনতে হবে।
- প্রত্যেক নির্বাচিত ইন্টার্নকে ভর্তির পূর্বে বিমান মেডিকেল হতে শারীরিক ফিটনেস সার্ভে করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের নাম, পিতার নাম, মাতার নাম, জন্ম তারিখ, ১১/০৫/২০২৩ তারিখে বয়স, বর্তমান ঠিকানা, স্থানীয় ঠিকানা, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, ধর্ম, জাতীয়তা, মোবাইল নাম্বার, ই-মেইল নাম্বার, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র নাম্বার, জন্মসদ্য নাম্বার, বৈবাহিক অবস্থা, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পোষ্য/কিনা তা' উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সহিত ০৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ও ০২ কপি স্ট্যাম্প সাইজ ছবি, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র ও ট্রান্সক্রিপ্টের ফটোকপি নিজ জেলায় সমর্থনে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি কর্পোরেশন/ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার প্রদত্ত সনদ, NID কার্ড/জন্মসনদ, মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সনদ (মুক্তিযোদ্ধা পোষাদের ক্ষেত্রে) এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- দাবিযুক্ত কাগজপত্র, ছবি ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ/ভুল তথ্য সংকলিত/ক্রটিপূর্ণ এবং ইন্টার্ন ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে প্রকাশিত নূনতম যোগ্যতা মেম-বয়স, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, জেলা ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ইত্যাদি যে কোন বিষয়ে অসামঞ্জস্যপূর্ণ তথ্য দ্বারা পূরণকৃত আবেদন ভর্তির যে কোন পর্যায়ে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- আগামী ১১/০৫/২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ১৬০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আবেদনপত্র ব্যবস্থাপক প্রশাসন, বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার, হযরত শাহজালাল আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দর, কুমিল্লা, ঢাকা বারবার নির্ধারিত ব্যাল্ডে জমা করতে হবে।
- এ ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত কার্যক্রম যে কোন সময় কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিক্রমে বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিমান ফ্লাইট ক্যাটারিং সেন্টার এর পক্ষে-  
সৈয়দ মাকসুদ আলম  
ব্যবস্থাপক প্রশাসন (ভারপ্রাপ্ত), বিএফসিসি

জিডি-৭৮২

**Office of the Project Director**  
"Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET"  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh Date: 03/05/2023

Ref. No. KUET/EIAA/2022-23/DG-2207

## Invitation for International Tender (Open Tendering Method)

Sealed Tender are hereby invited from the eligible suppliers for the following goods as per terms & conditions stated below.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education, Secondary and Higher Education Division			
2	Organization	Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET)			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET			
4	Procuring entity district	Khulna			
5	Invitation for	Supply of Scientific Equipment			
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>					
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (International)			
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>					
7	Budget and source of fund	Development Budget (Gov)			
8	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A			
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>					
9	Project/program code (if applicable)	224270900			
10	Project/program name	"Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology"			
11	Tender package name	Supply of Scientific Equipment			
12	Tender publication date	03-05-2023			
13	Tender last selling date	14-06-2023, 11:00am			
14	Tender last submission date & time	14-06-2023, 1:00pm			
15	Tender opening date & time	14-06-2023, 3:00pm			
16	Name & address of the office of selling/receiving/opening of the tender document	Office of the Project Director, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology, Planning and Engineering Building, 2nd Floor, KUET-9203, Khulna.			
17	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	None			
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>					
18	Eligibility of tenderer	As Per Tender Schedule (TDS & PCC)			
19	Brief description of related service	Supply of Scientific Equipment			
20	Tender document price	4000/= (Four Thousand Taka only) Pay Order in favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET" (For each package)			
Invitation Ref No. and date Package No. DG-2207/2023 Ref No. KUET/EIAA/2022-23/DG-2207, Date: 03/05/2023 Package Name: Supply of Scientific Equipment					
21	SN	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security (Tk)	Completion time
	(i)	Lot 1: Metal Tester, Optical Emission Spectrometer, Stationary Spectrometer	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	2,50,000/= (Two Lac only) Pay Order in favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 months
	(ii)	Lot 2: Geotechnical Lab Equipment	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	13,00,000/= (Thirteen Lac only) Pay Order in favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 months
	(iii)	Lot 3: Ultrasonic Testing Machine (Ultrasonic Flow Detector), Eddy Current Tester, Impact Tester	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	3,50,000/= (Three Lac and Fifty Thousand only) Pay Order in favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 months
(iv)	Lot 4: Ball Mills With Ceramic Grindor, Hot Isostatic Press Molding Machine	Office of the Project Director, EIAA, KUET, Khulna	3,00,000/= (Three Lac only) Pay Order in favor of "JAMANAT EIAA, KUET"	3 months	
25	Name of official inviting tender	Dr Md Jufikar Hossain			
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, EIAA			
27	Address of official inviting tender	Planning and Engineering Building, 2nd Floor, KUET-9203, Khulna			
28	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: (PABX)+88041-769468-75 Ext. 8249, Fax +88041-774403, Mob +8801948941800, 01918523131 Email: <a href="mailto:pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd">pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd</a>			
29	Bidder should be submitted copy of Tender schedule for each lot if bidder attend more than single lot and main copy should be submitted as attached.				
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceeding. The tender notice is also available at website: <a href="http://www.kuet.ac.bd">www.kuet.ac.bd</a>				

Dr. Md. Jufikar Hossain  
Project Director (EIAA)  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna-9203

GD-781

# 'They laundered Tk 46cr thru MFS'

CID files case against 10 businessmen, Saudi expat

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Ten businessmen and shop owners, and a Saudi expatriate laundered over Tk 46.02 crore abroad through a Chattogram-based bKash distribution house, mostly to pay for various goods they imported illegally, finds a CID investigation.

The accused businessmen used to import different goods and paid for them by laundering money through a bKash distribution house - Al Quader and Company, as mentioned in a case filed with Kotwali Police Station in Chattogram by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Wednesday.

CID Inspector KM Rakibul Huda of the Financial Crime Unit filed the case against the businessmen, the Saudi expatriate, the proprietor of the distribution house and a staffer after he found evidence of money laundering during the primary investigation.

The accused are - Khandaker Ashfaq Hossain Qaderi, proprietor of the bKash distributor house; his employee Sushanta Nath; Jalal Hossain; Abdullah Al Noman, steal sheet importer; Shimul Uddin, memory card trader; Atiqur Rahman and Rashedul Haque alias Russel, both owners of two mobile phone stores at Bashundhara

City Shopping Complex in Dhaka; Md Sajib, mobile phone, iPad and MacBook trader; businessmen Shikder Bani Amin; Merajul Islam; Kamrul Hasan Majumder; Abu Khayer Nayan, hardware and tools importer from Dhaka's Nababganj; Harun, a Saudi expatriate; and distribution house Al Quader and Company.

The CID inspector also found evidence of money laundering against Ibrahim, owner of Ibrahim Trading. However, he was not made accused in the case as he already passed away.

In the case statement, the IO said analysing the transactions of Al Quader and Company's seven accounts with scheduled banks, it was found that between February 10, 2019, and September 14 last year, Tk 1,083 crore was deposited and withdrawn.

"The money was supposed to be deposited through an e-money transaction between the bKash distribution company and its agents. Al Quader and Company's jurisdiction area was Chattogram's Chawkbazar and Kotwali police station areas. However, it was found that the money was deposited by different individuals and institutions from different parts of the country," read the case statement.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The three-day "Mujib's Bangladesh Food Festival: Taste of Bangladesh" kicked off on Banani playground at Kemal Ataturk Avenue yesterday. At the event, restaurants from all over the country are showcasing their specialties. Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury inaugurated the festival.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Three killed by lightning strikes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Lightning strikes killed three people in Raipur, Shibpur, and Belabo upazilas of Narsingdi yesterday.

In Raipura, Afran Ahad, 17, son of Jalal Uddin, and Rana Ahmed, 20, son of Bachhed Mia, were killed after being struck by lightning.

Shimon Ahmed, 17, son of Nashu Mia, of the same area was injured in the incident.

Locals said three friends were returning home after picking up mangoes from a neighbour's trees when the lightning struck them.

In Belabo upazila, Rehana Begum, 45, of Char Lakshampur village was killed by lightning strike.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
MAY 5

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-15	12-30	5-00	6-34	8-00
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-38	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# 'Selling fake notes on social media'

Member of note forgery syndicate held

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With advertisements on social media, fake note forgery syndicates are selling fake currency, assuring their clients that the notes cannot be detected by a blank eye.

The syndicates claimed that the notes were printed on best quality Indian papers with watermarks. Upon placing demands, the syndicates made arrangements for home delivery and a cash-on-delivery method of payment.

For 1 lakh fake notes of Tk 1,000, the syndicate charged Tk 12,000. Meanwhile, for the same number of Tk 500 notes it's Tk 14,000, for Tk 100 notes, the charge is Tk 16,000 and for Tk 50 notes, the charge is Tk 18,000.

The syndicate's social media page was named "Jal Taka".

The Daily Star got the details after analysing social media pages, text messages of fake note sellers, and talking with police officials investigating cases of forgery.

Recently, the police's detective branch (DB) claimed to have arrested Sifat Shaikh, a member



Sifat Shaikh

of the note forgery syndicate, involved in selling notes through a social media page.

On information, police conducted a drive in the capital's Jatrabari and arrested Sifat on Monday, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh Division) of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday. This newspaper has managed to get hold of a text conversation between Sifat, 21, and a fake note buyer.

During that conversation, Sifat

managed to earn over Tk 1 lakh by selling fake notes through advertisements on social media, said DC Mashiur Rahman.

"We are monitoring the page activities and trying to know how they are collecting the notes and where their factories are," he said.

While visiting the Facebook page of the fake note seller, this correspondent found several videos posted there. In the videos, a syndicate member was seen showcasing the fake currency and describing its authentic features.

In that video, the syndicate member asked potential clients to reach them on Facebook Messenger first and then provide their mobile numbers. They were also open to getting paid via mobile financial services.

Police said sometimes, the syndicate stopped all communication or switched off phones after receiving payment for some particular assignments.

From arrestee Sifat, police recovered around Tk 2 lakh worth of fake currency and the cell phone used for selling fake notes.

## REPORT ON EXTRA FARE AL leader threatens to demolish local press club in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Local Awami League leader Azharul Islam Azhar yesterday threatened to resist journalists and demolish Bhanpur Press Club in Tangail for publishing news about increase in CNG-run auto-rickshaw fare in the area.

After the threat made by Azharul, former joint convener of Bhanpur upazila unit of AL and president of the upazila CNG-run Auto-rickshaw Workers Union, transport workers attacked journalists and the press club.

Contacted, Azhar said no such incident took place.

On May 1, Azhar announced to increase the number of auto-rickshaws on various roads. Since then, drivers have been charging extra, said locals.

Yesterday, the workers rallied at Bhanpur Upazila Parishad square under the leadership of Azhar and the union's general secretary.

Azhar said, "Some journalists of the illegal press club published news about the extra fare. They are the workers' enemies. If the press club is not removed within the next 24 hours... it will be demolished."

At that time, Arifuzzaman Topu, Bhanpur correspondent of the daily Somoy Alo, was chased by workers after he took pictures of the rally. Later, they attacked him at the press club. The video of the incident went viral on Facebook.

Press club president Shah Alam Pramanik lodged a complaint. Bhanpur Police Station OC Faridul Islam said necessary steps will be taken after investigation.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Divisional Electrical Engineer  
Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chattogram

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

Memo No. 54.01.1500.569.05.014.20-21 Dated: 02/05/2023

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
01.	826555	54.01.1500.569.05.1.05.2022-23	AT Diesel Shop-PHT: Rewiring of Mechanical Recondition Section, Electrical Recondition Section & Rewiring Section with related Stores and other related works under the jurisdiction of SSAE/WS/PHT.	07-May-2023 12:30:00	21-May-2023 12:30:00
02.	826560	54.01.1500.569.05.2.03.2022-23	Supply of LED Light of Different watt and Electrical Materials under jurisdiction of SSAE/E/WS/PHT.	07-May-2023 12:30:00	21-May-2023 12:30:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to one hour before tender last selling time.

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

**Shaker Ahmed**  
Divisional Electrical Engineer (A.C.)  
Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chattogram

এস(২৩) (১৪০)  
GD-784

## UNSC 'mute witness' to deterioration of Rohingya situation Says Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN

UNB, Dhaka

Referring to the growing "mistrust" between people and the global institutions, Bangladesh has urged the UN Security Council to demonstrate unity and decisiveness in addressing visible threats to peace and protecting the most vulnerable, such as the Rohingya minorities.

"Almost six years have passed since the Rohingya minorities were expelled from their ancestral land in Myanmar. No effective action was taken by the Security Council to remedy the situation; rather, the council has remained a mute witness to its continued deterioration," said Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York.

He was speaking at the Security Council open debate on "Futureproofing Trust for Sustaining Peace" held at the UN Headquarters on Wednesday.

## KHULNA CITY POLLS 5 mayoral candidates collect nominations

UNB, Khulna

Five mayoral candidates have collected nomination papers to compete in Khulna City Corporation election - to be held on June 12.

Among those who collected nomination papers so far are Aguan-71 candidate Md Abdullah Chowdhury, Awami League backed mayoral candidate and current mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Islami Andolan Bangladesh candidate Maulana Abdul Awal, independent candidates Abdul Gaffar Biswas and SM Shafiqur Rahman.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
সিনিয়র জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়  
বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার  
[barisalcentraljail@gmail.com](mailto:barisalcentraljail@gmail.com)  
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পত্র নং-৫৮-০৪,০৬০০,১৪৮-০৪,০০১,২০২৩-২২০০/৫ তারিখঃ ১৯ বৈশাখ ১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ  
০২ মে ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

১	দরপত্র আহানকারীর নাম	ঃ	সিনিয়র জেলা সুপার, বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার।
২	এজেন্সী/সংস্থা	ঃ	কারা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
৩	দরপত্রের নাম	ঃ	বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগারের ০১/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ হতে ০৩/১২/২০২৩খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যসেবা সরবরাহের দরপত্রের জন্য ১ম শ্রেণীর কারা ঠিকাদার/সাধারণ ব্যবসায়ী নিয়োগের দরপত্র।
৪	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বরাত ও তারিখ	ঃ	বিভাগীয় সদর দপ্তর, বরিশাল এর পত্র নং- ৫৮-০৪.০৬০০.০৬৭.০৩.০১.২৩-৯৩৭ তারিখঃ ২৭/০৪/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।
৫	দরপত্রদাতাদের শুল্কমত যোগ্যতা	ঃ	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত PG-3 এর শর্তানুযায়ী।
৬	বাজেট ফান্ড আন্ডার উৎস	ঃ	জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
৭	দরপত্র আহান	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) পদ্ধতি।
৮	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	১) কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা (২) কারা উপ-মহাপরিদর্শকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল বিভাগ, বরিশাল (৩) সিনিয়র জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার। (৪) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল (৫) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
৯	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১৭/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ২:৩০টা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	ঃ	(১) প্রধান ফটক, বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার (২) কোতোয়ালী মতলেশ থানা, বরিশাল (৩) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার সময়	ঃ	সিনিয়র জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার, বরিশাল।
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য	ঃ	প্রতি সেট- খাদ্যসেবা ১০০০/- টাকা।
১৩	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	ঃ	লট বাই লট, প্যাকেজ-A-১৫,০০০/-, ১২,৫০০/-, ৮,৫০০/-, ৬,৫০০/-, প্যাকেজ-B-৫৬,৫০০/-, ১৬,০০০/-, প্যাকেজ-C-৯,০০০/-, প্যাকেজ-D-৯,৫০০/-, ১৩,০০০/-, ৩৮,০০০/-, ১৬,০০০/-, প্যাকেজ-E-৬,৫০০/-, ২৩,০০০/-, ৫৬,০০০/-, প্যাকেজ-F-000, প্যাকেজ-G-৩০০০/-, প্যাকেজ-H-৮,৫০০/-, প্যাকেজ-I-৭২,০০০/-
১৪	কার্যক্রমের সময়সীমা	ঃ	০১/০৭/২০২৩ হতে ০৩/১২/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত।
১৫	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে	ঃ	দরপত্রের সিডিউলে শর্তানুযায়ী।
১৬	ক্রি-টেন্ডার সভার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	০৭/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:০০টা।
১৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়	ঃ	১৮/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯:০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২:০০টা পর্যন্ত।
১৮	দরপত্র বাস্তব উন্মুক্তকরণের সময়	ঃ	১৮/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০টা।
১৯	মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভা অনুষ্ঠানের সময়	ঃ	২২/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:০০টা।
২০	দরপত্র সিডিউলের অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী জানার জন্য কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	ঃ	
২১	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে অর্ধশুল্ক বা সকল টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল/প্রত্যাহারের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।	ঃ	
২২	কোন দরদাতা কৃত্য কাগজপত্র দাখিল করলে আমানত ব্যতিতসহ তার বিক্রয়ে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।	ঃ	

স্বাঃ  
সিনিয়র জেলা সুপার  
বরিশাল কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগার  
ফোনঃ ০২৪ ৭৮৮৩০৪২

জিডি-৭৮৫

# Industry warming up to 'Pathaan' in our halls?

**"The film will be released in 32 theatres. We have talked to the Film Artistes Association and they all agree with the decision"**  
— Anonno Mamun

ANTARA RAISA

After much speculation and controversy, Shah Rukh Khan's blockbuster comeback *Pathaan* will finally release in Bangladesh on May 12. The film received clearance from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board yesterday.

After the Information and Broadcasting Ministry green-lighted the import of 10 Hindi films this year under certain conditions, artistes and distributors weighed in with their opinions.

While hall owners and distributors are happy with the release of *Pathaan*, some artistes are still opposed to the idea of releasing Hindi films in our theatres.

*Pathaan* is being imported to Bangladesh by Action-Cut Entertainment. Speaking on behalf of the company, Anonno Mamun informed The Daily Star, "The film will be released in 32 theatres. We have



Finally, the release of Hindi films will save the dying single screens of our country, because now they will have enough films to run during the off-seasons," said Nawshad.

Not everyone is pleased with this decision. Among many who raised concerns about the impact on local releases, *Jaago* famed director Khijir Hayat Khan was the most outspoken. He told the media that bringing Hindi cinema to the country would actually damage the Bangladeshi film industry.

Prior to the release of his film, Khijir Hayat Khan posted a video on his YouTube channel addressing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, about how the release of Hindi cinema in our country could damage the business of Bangladeshi cinema in theaters.

Will the near 2-month delay from the release date hamper the second coming of Shah Rukh Khan in Bangladesh? Or will die-hard fans laud SRK, Deepika and John Abraham all the same and storm halls to experience the worldwide



talked to the Film Artistes Association, and they all agree with the decision."

"Those who are opposing the idea, I want to tell them to be patient and see what impact it will bring to our film industry. Releasing Hindi films will make the audience come back to the theaters again, and it would also make

a good impact on Bengali films too," he added.

Star Cineplex is one of the leading multiplexes in Bangladesh. Since 2004, the multiplex has entertained audiences by releasing Hollywood and Bengali films.

"We are quite elated about the release of *Pathaan* on May 12. We have 20 screens across the country. So, we always look forward to good content that can bring the audience to the halls. In our country, we have huge demand for Bollywood films, especially Shah Rukh Khan films. So, I think this is a great initiative," said Mesbah Uddin, Manager, Media & Marketing at Star Cineplex.

While talking about what impact it would have on our film industry, he said, "This will be a good thing for our film industry. It will create competition, which will increase the quality of Bangla films. Moreover, it will build a practice of going to cinema halls with friends and family

among the audience. Our halls will be rejuvenated."

During this Eid ul Fitr, a total of 8 films were released in theaters. Among them, Shakib Khan starrer *Leader Amie Bangladesh*, Puja Chery starrer *Jinn*, Bubby-Ador Azad starrer *Local* and Bobby-Roshan starrer *Paap* are still going strong at the box office.

The Daily Star asked Bobby, Roshan, and Ador Azad if the release of *Pathaan* could hamper the business of their films.

Bobby thinks if Bollywood films are released in Bangladesh, then it would increase the cinema halls in our country.

"I think the quality of our Bengali films will increase if there is healthy competition in the industry. As the whole world is now in the palm of our hands, then why can't the Hindi films be released here?" she asked.

However, Bobby also requested the distributors not release Hindi films on any special occasions when our Bengali

films are released.

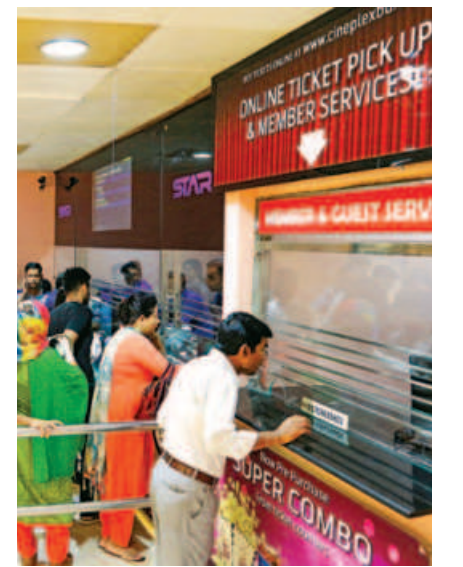
"There is no problem if any foreign films are released in our theaters," said Roshan. "This Eid, the audience watched Bengali movies, overlooking Hollywood films. This proves that if Hindi movies are released, we will be fine."

Echoing the same sentiment, actor Ador Azad is also not that worried. He thinks the government has taken a good initiative to create healthy competition in our industry.

Due to the release of eight films this Eid, more than 100 halls, that were previously closed, were reopened this year—outside the existing 60 halls in the country.

Iftexhar Uddin Nawshad, owner of Madhumita Cinema Hall, thinks that it's a very good initiative to save the single screens in our country.

"We were telling the government to let us import Hindi films for a long time because, except for special occasions, it gets difficult for us to run empty halls.



juggernaut that is *Pathaan*? While only time will reveal the actual impact of a Bollywood film in Bangladeshi halls, exciting times lie ahead.

## COUNTRYWIDE



Amid the ongoing adverse weather, a farmer takes harvested Boro paddy to home. The photo was taken from Chandkathi village in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila.

### BAD WEATHER hampering Boro harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Boro paddy yield in likely to fall to some extent in different upazilas of the district this year due to bad weather during the ongoing harvest period.

Meanwhile, crisis of farm labourers has added to the woes of the local farmers.

Farmers in different areas said they are facing serious trouble in harvesting their already ripe paddy in the field due to light storms accompanied by incessant rainfall for the last few days.

Growers in the region started harvesting Boro paddy around two weeks ago and expected to complete the yield within three weeks, but now it seems quite impossible to complete the process in time, they said.

"The weather was favourable at the beginning, but water kept entering his Boro field since the rain started couple of days ago," said Animesh Halder of Chandkathi village in Nazirpur upazila.

Farmers said if ripe paddy is not harvested timely, storms lash most of the paddy sheaves to the ground.

"We do not have any other alternative option to harvest the ripe paddy as their entire area is facing serious labour crisis during the ongoing harvesting period," another farmer Manotosh Halder said.

Due to acute crisis of labourers now one has to pay around Tk 1,000 to hire a farm worker, he said.

Meanwhile, farmers living in the low-lying areas of Nazirpur and Pirojpur Sadar upazila are the worst sufferers as paddy there ripens a bit late due to the wetland.

Pirojpur Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director Nazrul Islam Sikder said Boro harvest is being badly hampered due to the adverse weather for the last couple of days.

Only about 30 percent harvest has been completed so far.

Availability of harvester machines would have eased the trouble of the paddy growers as farmers in the area now have to depend on day labourers, he added. According to Pirojpur DAE, Boro has been cultivated on 32,396 hectares of land this year, compared to 26,070 hectares last year.

### Biman eyeing 10 Airbus planes

FROM PAGE 1  
items and perishable goods are shipped to different destinations every day, the official said.

"Fourteen foreign airlines operating cargo services have grabbed the market. But Biman has not been able to earn money because it does not have a cargo plane."

Besides, the airlines offering the service are draining the country's foreign exchange, aviation insiders say.

Biman currently relies on cargo holds of passenger planes.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) in a statistics in February said that global

air cargo demand rose above pre-pandemic levels.

About the purchase of the eight passenger planes, the official said, "We have given the approval in principle as the first step. We recommended negotiating with the aircraft manufacturer in this regard. The technical review, signing of agreement and other procedures will follow."

Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiul Azim said the plan is to expand Biman's route to Tokyo, Rome, Male, Colombo, Chennai, Sydney, and New York.

State Minister Mahbub Ali said using Boeing and Airbus planes will not be a

problem for Biman as other large carriers use aircraft from both brands.

After becoming a public limited company in 2007, Biman spent around Tk 19,020 crore on new planes.

In 2008, Biman had inked a deal with Boeing for purchasing 10 new planes, including four 787-8s. Two more 787-9s were purchased from Boeing later.

Biman currently has four Boeing 777-300ERs, four Boeing 787-8s, two Boeing 787-9s, six Boeing 737-800s, and five De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Q400s.

Of the 21 planes, Biman owns 18 and five are leased.

### Zahangir's bid

FROM PAGE 1  
After scrutiny on April 30, Returning Officer Faridul Islam cancelled Zahangir's nomination but validated Zaida's.

Later, Zahangir filed an appeal with the divisional commissioner challenging the decision.

The GCC election will be held on May 25. The

deadline for withdrawing candidacy is May 8.

On November 25, 2021, Zahangir was expelled from the Awami League for making derogatory comments about the martyrs of the Liberation War.

He was suspended from the post of GCC mayor on the same day.

### Locals attack, injure UNO of Madhukhali

FROM PAGE 12  
scuffle ensued when Ansar members tried to snatch banners from the women.

Locals alleged that Ansar members hit some women with rifle butts, leaving one injured.

Incensed, locals attacked the administration team, leaving the UNO and some Ansar members injured.

Sumon Kar, additional superintendent (Madhukhali circle) of police in Faridpur, said a police team rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

The UNO was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital in Faridpur, while the other injured were sent to Madhukhali Upazila Health Complex, said Kamrul Ahsan Talukder, deputy commissioner of Faridpur.

The UNO's car was also vandalised during the incident, Sumon Kar added. Madhukhali Upazila Assistant Commissioner (land) Shamim Ara said the Ashrayan project was being implemented using khas land.

### \$3b from Korea on easy terms

FROM PAGE 1  
improving the daily lives of Bangladesh people,

such as in the areas of transportation, health and education, and for enhancing friendship between the people of Bangladesh and Korea," Jang keun added.

The repayment period of the EDCF loans will be 40 years, including a 15-year grace period. The interest rate would range from 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent, said the press release from the Korean embassy in Dhaka.

The terms appear to have become more favourable for Bangladesh at the time of putting pen to paper to the financing agreement.

In the letter of understanding signed in March, the interest rate was mentioned as 1 percent and the repayment period 30 years with a grace period of seven years, said a press release from the ERD then.

There was also a 0.4 percent management fee.

So far, two transport sector projects have been selected for funding from the latest EDCF: procurement of CNG buses and modernisation of railway signalling system.

Some 340 air-conditioned buses will be procured for the state-owned Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation under the project, said its chairman Tazul Islam.

The other project will modernise the signalling system at 20 stations on the Ishwardi to Parbatipur route at a cost of Tk 648.08 crore. Of the total project cost, Tk 475.78 crore is expected in project aid.

Both the development project proposals have been sent to the planning commission for approval. A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed on the cooperation for Dhaka MRT Line 4.

Korea has expressed interest to finance the feasibility study as well as the construction of the line, said Mohammad Abdur Rouf, company secretary of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited.

"This MOU would be furthering that interest," he said.

According to the arrangement, candidate projects will be identified in the future in close consultation between the two governments.

The Korean government has been providing soft loans through the EDCF for the development of socioeconomic, infrastructure and ICT sectors in Bangladesh since 1993.

Already 16 projects involving \$619.78 million have been completed with assistance from the EDCF and another seven projects involving \$616.28 million are ongoing.

### 1 killed as steel mill furnace explodes

FROM PAGE 1  
were working when the furnace exploded, spilling molten iron on the bodies of at least seven workers, said Shafiqul Islam, a supervisor of the factory.

They were rushed to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery where Shankar was declared dead, he said.

The injured are Jewel, 25, Golam Rabbi, 35, Ibrahim, 35, Elias alias Yeasin, 35, Niyon, 20 and Alamgir, 33.

Jewel and Elias

sustained 97 percent burns on their bodies, Rabbi and Niyon 95 percent, Alamgir 90 percent, while Ibrahim suffered 28 percent burns on his body, hospital sources said.

The condition of all the injured workers is critical.

Inspector Mustafizur Rahman, in charge of Bhulta Police Outpost, said the factory is still under construction and they suspected that the explosion took place as the factory authorities were melting iron on a trial basis.

## 8 teachers killed in Pak school shootings

REUTERS, Dera Ismail Khan

At least seven teachers were killed in a shooting at a school in northwestern Pakistan yesterday in what appeared to be retaliation for an attack shortly before in which another teacher was shot dead, officials said.

Both incidents took place yesterday in the Parachinar area of Kurram tribal district near the border with Afghanistan.

It said the motive behind the killings remained unclear, and that the teachers killed in both incidents belong to the country's Shia Muslim minority.

The tribal district contains a majority Shia population who are often attacked by Sunni militant groups as part of the local Taliban movement.

Local police said they were gathering more information and investigating the incident.



A medic carries an injured man to safety during clashes between Israeli forces and Palestinians following an Israeli army raid in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus yesterday. Israeli troops killed three people during the raid, the Palestinian health ministry said. PHOTO: AFP

## MANIPUR STATE Indian army steps in to quell violence

REUTERS, Guwahati

Soldiers of the Indian Army held flag marches and evacuated thousands of civilians amid a dawn-to-dusk curfew to quell violence between tribal and non-tribal groups in the remote northeastern state of Manipur, officials said yesterday.

Violence initially broke out during a protest march yesterday by thousands of tribal people opposing a demand by a non-tribal group for the constitutionally defined status of a scheduled tribe.

Indian army sources said troops and the paramilitary Assam Rifles evacuated more than 7,500 people of different communities through Wednesday night and yesterday, sheltering them in the troops' camps and government premises.

"We are working on a war footing with army and paramilitary troops deployed in strength to defuse any kind of communal clashes..." a senior police officer told Reuters from the state capital of Imphal.

Mobile internet services have been suspended for five days statewide, amid incidents of fighting among young men and volunteers of different communities.

In a social media post, N. Biren Singh, the chief minister of Manipur, pleaded with joined hands for people to maintain peace and harmony.

# Putin must face justice

### Zelensky, in The Hague, insists on creation of special court over Russian aggression; US denies any involvement in Kremlin drone attack

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin must be brought to justice for his war in Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday in The Hague, calling for the creation of a war crimes tribunal separate to the International Criminal Court.

"The aggressor must feel the full power of justice. This is our historical responsibility," Zelensky said in a speech.

"Only one institution is capable of responding to the original crime, the crime of aggression: a tribunal. Not some compromise that will allow politicians to say that the case is allegedly done, but a true, really true, full-fledged tribunal."

An act of aggression is defined by the United Nations as the "invasion or attack by the armed forces of a state (on) the territory of another state, or any military occupation".

The ICC, which is based in The Hague and which Zelensky visited earlier in the day, issued an arrest warrant for Putin for suspected deportation of children from Ukraine, reports Reuters.

But it does not have jurisdiction over alleged crimes of aggression, and the European Commission, among others, has already brought its support for the creation of a separate international centre for the prosecution of the crime of aggression in Ukraine, that would be set up in The Hague.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday accused the US of masterminding a drone attack on the Kremlin and said sabotage attacks by Ukraine behind Russian lines had reached "unprecedented momentum".

The Kremlin has said Ukraine carried out the attack with two drones aiming to kill President Vladimir Putin — a charge which Kyiv has denied, reports AFP.

"Decisions on such attacks are not made in Kyiv, but in Washington," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "Kyiv only does what it is told to do."

"Washington should understand clearly that we know this," he said.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Russia's claims that the United States is behind a drone attack on the Kremlin are false.

"I can assure you that there was no involvement by the United States in this. Whatever it was did not involve us," Kirby told MSNBC in an interview. "We had nothing to do with this."

Peskov said Putin was working in his office in the Kremlin as normal yesterday but added that security measures in Moscow would be beefed up following the attack, which the Kremlin said occurred in the night between Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Of course, everything will be strengthened. Everything has already been strengthened in preparation for the Victory Day parade" on May 9, he said.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned Moscow to not use an alleged drone attack that it said targeted the Kremlin to escalate its war in Ukraine.

"We call on Russia not to use this alleged attack as an excuse to continue the escalation of the war," Borrell told journalists as he went in to attend an EU ministers meeting in Brussels yesterday.



## Sudan truce efforts in tatters

### Gunfire, explosions grip Khartoum; Biden threatens sanctions

AFP, Khartoum

Gunfire and explosions gripped Khartoum for a 20th straight day yesterday leaving the latest ceasefire effort in tatters, as UN chief Antonio Guterres acknowledged the international community had "failed" Sudan and US President Joe Biden threatened sanctions.

Biden yesterday said the weeks-long fighting in Sudan "must end" and authorised potential new sanctions against those responsible for the bloodshed.

"The violence taking place in Sudan is a tragedy — and it is a betrayal of the Sudanese people's clear demand for civilian government and a transition to democracy," he said in a statement. "It must end."

As the latest ceasefire expired at midnight Wednesday, the regular army said it was ready to abide by a new seven-day truce agreed with South Sudanese mediators, but there was no word from its foes in the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

In Khartoum, witnesses reported loud explosions and exchanges of fire on the streets around dawn.

Deadly urban combat broke out on April 15 between Sudan's de facto leader Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who commands the regular army, and his deputy turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who heads the RSF.

At least 550 people have been killed and 4,926 wounded, according to the latest health ministry figures.

"The UN was taken by surprise" by the conflict, because the world body and others were hopeful that negotiations towards a civilian transition would be successful, the UN chief told reporters in Nairobi Wednesday.

## Relief for Amartya Sen

### Calcutta HC stays Visva Bharati's eviction notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Calcutta High Court yesterday gave an interim stay against a move by Visva Bharati University to evict Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen from a part of land allegedly illegally occupied by him at his house in Santiniketan.

The ruling was given by Justice Bibhas Ranjan De. Economist Amartya Sen moved the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday seeking the interim relief as the university had passed an order directing him to vacate 0.13 acres (5,500 sq ft) of land at his ancestral Santiniketan residence by May 6.

Amartya Sen had earlier moved a court in Suri near Santiniketan against the eviction notice but the court set May 15 as the date of hearing, well after the university's deadline to vacate the land.

The Visva Bharati claimed that the land is under the "illegal occupation" of the economist and had said it would evict him if he failed to vacate it within the deadline.

In his petition, the economist argued that in October 1943, the then Visva Bharati general secretary Rathindranath Tagore had given 1.38 acre of land for a lease of 99 years to Amartya's father Ashutosh Sen who later built the house 'Pratichi' in Santiniketan.

Sen has been the holder of the land after the death of his parents. Currently in the US, he is expected to return to Santiniketan in June.



## SCO MEETING

### Pak FM Bilawal arrives in Goa

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived in the Indian city of Goa yesterday to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers meeting. In a video message on Twitter, Bilawal — the first foreign minister to head to India in over a decade — confirmed that he had reached Goa. Bilawal said that he would first hold meetings with his counterparts from Russia and Uzbekistan, which will be followed by a formal dinner for all the foreign ministers at the SCO. "I will give one or two interviews and that is the programme for today," he added. The SCO's Council of Foreign Ministers in Goa was scheduled to be held yesterday and today. Indian news agency ANI shared photos of Bilawal and Chinese counterpart Qin Gang in Goa.

## Laos political activist survived shooting

AFP, Bangkok

A Laotian political activist who was reported to have died after being shot twice at close range in fact survived the attack, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

Anousa "Jack" Luangsuphom was shot in the face and side in a Vientiane cafe on Saturday and was reported dead by HRW, Amnesty International, a Laos newspaper and the dissident Facebook page he helped to run.

Yesterday, however, HRW said it had received confirmation from family and other sources that Anousa was still alive and being treated in hospital. "Reports received from multiple sources that Anousa 'Jack' Luangsuphom died on the way to the hospital on April 29, 2023, proved to be false," HRW said in a statement. The statement came after a post on a Facebook page late on Wednesday, saying he had survived the attack.



## China-based networks sowing disinfo in West

### Says Facebook owner Meta

AFP, Hong Kong, China

A China-based online network tried to recruit protesters in Europe and set up a media firm in Britain as part of a disinformation campaign, Facebook owner Meta said.

The network's social media accounts — which ranged from Facebook to YouTube, Telegram and Twitter — pushed content focusing on incendiary political issues in Europe and the United States, according to Meta.

Meta said it had removed more than 100 Facebook pages, profiles and Instagram accounts linked to the network, accusing them of violating its policies against coordinated inauthentic behaviour.

Another 50 accounts linked to another China-based network had also been taken down. "These latest networks experimented with a range of tactics we haven't seen in China-based operations before," Meta said in its quarterly Adversarial Threat Report, published on Wednesday.

"The latest behaviours included creating a front media company in the West, hiring freelance writers around the world, offering to recruit protesters..."

While Meta had taken down some of the accounts, much of the networks' content remains online.



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## The rot in our job market

### Why hasn't recent economic growth led to better employment opportunities?

The rise in the number of unemployed people by 2.70 lakh within a span of one quarter is alarming. In December 2022, the number of total unemployed people stood at 23.2 lakh, according to the quarterly data from the Labour Force Survey of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). That has now gone up to 25.9 lakh – increasing the unemployment rate to 3.51 percent from 3.2 percent back in December, according to official data which, many economists argue is a deflated number, compared to the real rate of unemployment in Bangladesh to begin with.

The total number of people employed in the country now stands at 7.11 crore. Among them, 3.19 crore are employed in the agriculture sector, 1.22 crore in the industrial sector, and 2.69 crore in the service sector. According to the state minister for planning, much of the decline in the number of employed in the last quarter came down to seasonal factors. The period between January-March is usually a lean one for the agriculture sector, which is what has driven the rise in the number of unemployed people. Thus, the state minister said that the increase should not cause an alarm. While that may be true in one sense, if seen from a broader perspective, it should still be a cause for concern.

As evident from the numbers, agriculture continues to be our chief source of employment. In 2016-17, the sector accounted for 40.6 percent of employment, which increased to 45.33 percent in 2022. During this period, the share of manufacturing jobs declined from 20.4 percent to 17.02 percent. As an economy develops, traditionally, more people move from agriculture to the manufacturing sector. In the next stage of transformation, workers move out of manufacturing to join the service sector. The fact that such transitions are not happening in Bangladesh is puzzling – and not a good sign.

In 2022, the total number of people employed in the manufacturing sector stood at 1.21 crore, down from 1.24 crore in 2016-17. During that same period, industry and manufacturing in particular was the fastest growing sector in the country. The fact that production in the sector grew at nearly double-digits, while the number of employed decreased does not make any sense – especially since automation has not happened to an extent that could fully explain the decline.

When there are no other employment opportunities, people tend to go back to doing agricultural work such as farming. And while there is no doubt that we need people to work in this sector, the fact that employment in other sectors of the economy is stagnating brings into question the quality of our economic growth.

This once again brings to fore the issue of whether Bangladesh is experiencing jobless growth, and why that might be. Without creating more quality and sustainable jobs for our people, what is the point of economic growth? The government needs to rethink its economic and developmental models so that they align with the aspirations of our people and provide them with better opportunities.

## A promising anti-bullying policy

### But a policy is only as good as its implementation

We applaud the government for issuing an anti-bullying policy for educational institutions, which provides a clear definition of verbal, physical and cyber-bullying and contains provisions for punishment of students, teachers and members of the governing body who engage in such aggressive behaviour. Depending on the severity of the violence, criminal cases can also be filed against perpetrators. Given how pervasive bullying is across educational institutions in Bangladesh, and the debilitating impact such normalised violence has on children and young adults, there is no doubt that the policy, if implemented, can help create a safe environment in which students can learn and thrive, without fear of harassment, humiliation and violence.

The High Court directed the concerned authorities to formulate such a policy following the suicide of a ninth grader at Vigarunnisa Noon School and College – who reportedly took her life, unable to bear the humiliation of her parents by a teacher. Although it has taken the authorities concerned four and a half years to comply with the directive, we are glad that steps have finally been taken to address the issue in a holistic manner. The policy, for instance, proposes that CCTV cameras be set up, complaint boxes be installed, anti-bullying and anti-ragging days be observed, and bullying and ragging prevention committees be formed in all institutions. Moreover, it mandates hall authorities to inform the higher authorities about any incident of ragging and bullying.

Undoubtedly, the policy is a promising one on paper. The question moving forward, however, is: will it be implemented? More than a decade has passed since the High Court mandated that sexual harassment prevention committees be formed in educational institutions, but only a handful of schools and universities have thus far formed and operationalised such committees, in the absence of any initiative or monitoring from relevant authorities to ensure compliance with the HC directive. How can we be confident that the anti-bullying policy will not meet the same fate? It is essential that the authorities concerned take adequate steps to create awareness about the policy, monitor its effective implementation across the country and take action against administrations which fail to act accordingly.

The other pressing concern when it comes to bullying and ragging is the identity of the perpetrators: what happens if they are found to be students or teachers affiliated with the ruling party? We have witnessed the widespread impunity enjoyed by ruling party cadres across campuses in the country, with the administration, in an over-whelming majority of cases, turning a blind eye towards their "rule of terror." Who exactly will ensure compliance with the policy if the authorities themselves condone such condemnable practices? Policies alone, no matter how progressive they are, cannot make our campuses safer.

We have no doubt that the new policy proposes meaningful interventions. We hope that the education ministry will play an equally commendable role in ensuring its implementation, beginning with raising awareness among students, teachers, parents and administration about what exactly constitutes bullying and why it's wrong.

# DSA was legislated ignoring journalists

## And it is being amended in the same way



THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

FROM PAGE 1

The law minister said that "we have nearly completed reviewing the technical recommendations on the law made by the UN Human rights wing," which were communicated by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk in March. The minister further revealed that a committee – comprising members from the legal and parliamentary divisions, from home and foreign ministries, from the ICT, law and justice divisions – is working on amending the law and have met "two or three times."

We are delighted to hear it. But where are we – the journalists – in this process?

The group that has suffered many jail terms, innumerable arrests and most harassment, and the profession that has been devastatingly crippled, and which has most virulently objected to this law, have not been involved in this process. No representatives of journalist unions or editors' bodies have so far been invited to be a part of this discussion. Why this shutting out of journalists and editors? From the very start, amending the DSA has been one of the strongest and most persistent demands of the Sampadak Parishad.

The last time some of us were brought into the scene at the Parliamentary Standing Committee discussion stage was in 2018. All the objections we raised and amendments we pleaded for were totally ignored. Later, we realised the ritual was staged to enable the law framers to say that journalists were consulted.

But that was four and a half years ago. After our experience of oppression of journalists since the law was passed, the doublespeak that we saw the ministers indulge in, the numerous false promises that were made about processes to be followed before arresting a journalist and examining those who were victimised over the last four and a half years under the DSA, we have been forced to come to the conclusion that the DSA is such an oppressive law, such an anti-free press law, and it is so structured that it would be better to make a new law focused on fighting cybercrimes than to amend this one.

And here's why. The DSA has 20

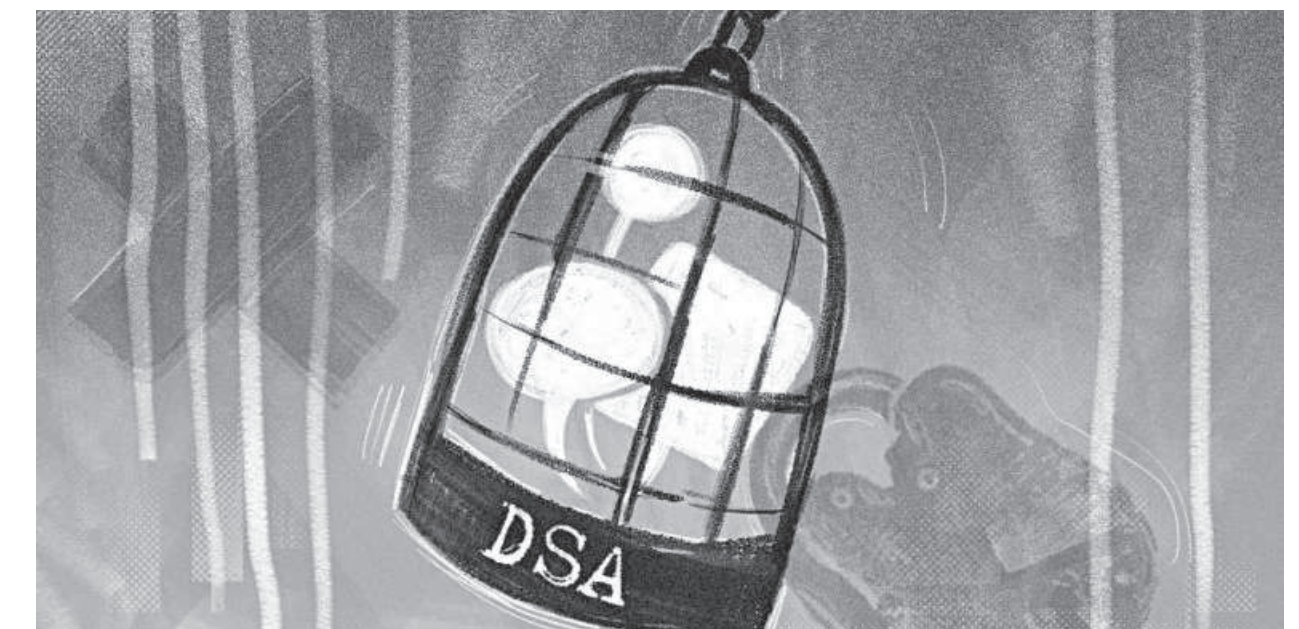


ILLUSTRATION: REHNUMA PROSHOON

provisions for punishment, of which 14 are non-bailable. Can a law start by punishing an accused without due trial? Denying bail means the accused has to suffer imprisonment from the moment he or she is taken into custody, even if he or she is found completely innocent by the court. Bail is denied only to habitual and hardened criminals whose staying out of prison poses a real and immediate threat to society. Are journalists considered to belong to this category? The sentences are on average four to seven years long, with the lowest being one year and the highest being life-term. Making 14 out of 20 sections non-bailable makes the purpose of the law abundantly clear – it is to punish and create fear, not dispense justice. And journalists are to bear the brunt of it.

At present, there are nine laws that directly or indirectly affect media freedom. Three more are in the advanced draft form. The draft of the amendment of the Press Council Act, which has not been shared with the media even after repeated attempts, brings the total to 13. In addition, there are initiatives by the Department of Film and Publications (DFP), an arm

of the information ministry, to further jeopardise the prospect of print media's survival by attempting to restrict the online presence – especially of multimedia – of existing newspapers.

Speaking about the DSA, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said on Wednesday that "misuse of the law must be stopped." We welcome this statement and would like to know from

Japan and South Korea provide interesting examples in Asia where democracy and free media played a crucial role in building their modern-day societies.

Japan adopted democracy and free media immediately after its defeat in World War II, and stunned the world with its rejuvenating capacity, sustaining success in the 60s, 70s, all

the way till the present day. South Korea adopted democracy after several bouts of military and quasi-military dictatorship, and proved that a rights-based society that enshrined all freedoms, including freedom of the media, was the best guarantee for sustained development. Being such a small country, it has proved what democracy and freedoms can do even though it has such an aggressive neighbour. Both these countries allude their brilliant economic success to institutionalising democracy – not only making the appropriate laws but, more importantly, implementing them every day to every aspect of their societies.

We conclude with the two above examples because as we aspire to graduate from the lower-middle-income country status to the upper one, and advance to become a developed country later on. This cannot be achieved with physical infrastructure only. We need, and most crucially so, the infrastructure of the mind, of consciousness, of values, of the spirit – which only freedom can give, with media freedom being its inseparable component.

## PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# Crime and Punishment in Uttar Pradesh



Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former state minister, is an MP for the Indian National Congress.

SHASHI THAROOR

Last month's murder, on live television, of Atiq Ahmed, the notorious gangster and former member of India's parliament, has triggered anguished debates about how such an event could happen in a modern democracy. Along with the killers, who were apprehended on the spot, India's entire criminal justice system is now being put on trial.

On the fateful day, the police took Ahmed from the high security prison where he was serving a life sentence for kidnapping – and awaiting trial for 100 more pending cases, with charges ranging from extortion to murder – for a medical examination. Exiting the police van at the hospital gates, the handcuffed Ahmed was besieged by television cameras and journalists shouting questions at him. Three of those "media personnel" pulled out guns and shot him dead, along with his brother, at point-blank range. Cameras whirred as the victims hit the ground.

The murder left most citizens shocked. But many applauded, particularly in the state of Uttar Pradesh, where it occurred.

The blogger Avay Shukla was horrified by the celebrations. "No sane democracy," he wrote, "would have demonstrated the putrid reaction Indian society did to these murders: Ministers hailing the deliverance of

someone's property), corruption and intimidation of government officials, and murder had all become part of the state's landscape.

Such lawless conduct was facilitated by local political powers. The state's leading parties granted gangsters "tickets" to contest – and usually win – elections, and a slow and inefficient justice system, marked by the apparent inability of police and prosecutors to mount credible cases against wrongdoers, allowed criminality to fester.

It was against this backdrop that Uttar Pradesh's ruthless chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, rose to power in 2017. A representative of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Adityanath has made it his mission to crush the mafia by any means necessary. And, as his admirers point out, he has delivered. But while crime rates are down, India is paying a high price for the Adityanath administration's contempt for the rule of law. Since Adityanath took power in Uttar Pradesh, the police there have killed 183 alleged criminals.

After Ahmed's gruesome public murder, Adityanath vowed to grind "all mafias into dust." Coming from a leader known for dispensing "bulldozer justice" – including literally bulldozing the homes of dissenters and protesters with no due process – it is an ominous pledge. But for citizens living in thrall to gangsters, it appears also to be a comforting one.

The shortcomings of India's criminal justice system extend far beyond Uttar Pradesh. Just last month, the 69 defendants accused of perpetrating the 2002 Naroda Gam massacre in Ahmedabad were all acquitted. In March, the four people

charged in the Jaipur bombings that killed 71 and injured 185 in May 2008 were also acquitted. Both cases represent a double failure: the victims have been denied justice, and the acquitted have spent years in jail.

Cases collapse not because a liberal judiciary is itching to set wrongdoers free, but because the evidence does not meet the legal standards needed to convict. This partly reflects police shortcomings. In northern states like Uttar Pradesh, police are known for conducting shoddy investigations, fabricating evidence, and displaying a general lack of professionalism.

Moreover, witnesses are often poorly prepared to testify and, unable to count on effective police protection, become vulnerable to bribes or intimidation. And because cases can drag on for years or even decades, witnesses may forget key details or even die before trial.

There are structural reasons for these failures. Many police, especially at lower levels, have received no additional training since their induction and rely on outdated investigation techniques and evidence collection protocols. The judiciary follows archaic colonial-era procedures, which no one wants to take responsibility for revamping. And, in states like Uttar Pradesh, politicians and the accused are often associates – or the same people.

Every time a high-profile criminal case collapses, there is renewed clamour for vigilante justice. But what is really needed is deep reform – of police forces, the judiciary, and the political system. In Uttar Pradesh and beyond, Indians face a simple and stark choice: the rule of law or the law of the jungle.



FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

The existing safety monitoring entities in Bangladesh are still not effective enough in ensuring industrial safety in our RMG industry.

## SAFETY IN RMG INDUSTRY

# How are local monitoring agencies faring?

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem is research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).  
Tamim Ahmed is senior research associate at CPD.

**KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM and TAMIM AHMED**

April 24, 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the Rana Plaza disaster. The progress that has since been made to improve safety in Bangladesh's RMG industry is praiseworthy, thanks to initiatives such as the sustainability compact, National Tripartite Plan of Action of Fire Safety and Structural Integrity (NTPA), formation of Accord and Alliance, Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC), etc.

However, much of this success fades away when one considers that the country still lacks strong governing institutions that could effectively monitor safety issues in the RMG industry. On top of that, the emergence of new concerns due to the recent rise in workplace deaths and accidents has revived the age-old question: is the existing functionality and capacity of safety monitoring entities effective enough in ensuring industrial safety in our RMG industry?

### Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE)

Over the years, particularly after the Rana Plaza collapse, the DIFE has expanded its technical and institutional capacity. Although still insufficient, the DIFE now has a bigger workforce and more skilled inspectors than before – the number of DIFE inspectors, for example, increased from 196 in the 2015-16 fiscal year (FY16) to 285 in the 2020-21 fiscal year (FY21). As such, the DIFE has been able to conduct more inspections in recent years than in the past.

However, the number of DIFE inspections in the RMG sector decreased by almost 43 percent in FY22, compared to FY21. It is unclear what caused the fall in the number of inspections, particularly when the scope for them remains higher with a larger workforce as well as the recent introduction of the Labour Inspection Management Application, a digital inspection application of the DIFE.

But more than the number of inspections, the quality of safety inspection remains a major concern: the inspectors allegedly do not perform their inspections as per their mandate. On top of that, the extent of disclosure of information from the DIFE appears to be shrinking. Besides, the common concern for DIFE still persists – underreporting of accidents, injuries, and deaths of workers in the RMG industry, which mismatches with the data reported by other public and private agencies. DIFE does not have an M&E department either, which results in no internal evaluation of its performance and weak management of safety-related data.

### Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC)

A specialised temporary unit of DIFE, the RCC was initiated in May 2017 to oversee the remediation of 1,549 identified National

Initiative (NI) factories. The number of active NI factories reduced to 659 – some factories had to stop their operation due to safety non-compliances, others due to pandemic-induced bankruptcy. While the closure of unsafe factories has been a good sign, the slow remediation progress (at 54 percent) for the remaining active NI factories is still a concern.

A number of factors are responsible for this slow progress of remediation, including: a) NI factories operating in rented buildings; b) comparatively weaker financial capacity; c) limited eligibility for availing credit support for remediation; d) the financial emergency induced by the pandemic; e) lack of self-interest for NI factories and pressure from the government, business associations, and their buyers (mostly non-European and non-North-American).

Moreover, the remediation progress of NI factories is based on the original non-compliances identified during the initial inspection in 2013-2017. Understandably, new non-compliances have emerged in these NI factories, which are not considered for remediation progress. Moreover, the 54 percent progress does not necessarily mean remediation of the most hazardous safety compliances. This means that an NI factory can achieve higher progress in remediation while not addressing the most hazardous non-compliances. The data shows that the progress of remediation remained the least for non-compliances related to fire.

### Industrial Safety Unit (ISU)

The responsibility of overseeing the remediation of NI factories has been shifted to the ISU, a newly formed unit of DIFE, transitioned from the RCC. Unlike the RCC, the ISU is a permanent unit, and its role is not limited to monitoring factory remediation of NI factories alone. Rather, the ISU is also dedicated to conducting safety inspections in non-RMG factories. However, till date, no distinct information and data could be availed from the DIFE regarding the current status of ISU. It is also unclear as to how the ISU will solve the many concerns that the DIFE and RCC had. For example, how the ISU will ensure that its inspector performs proper inspection, how its approach would differ from DIFE's inspectors, and how it will address the barriers mentioned above for the NI factory remediation are still not clear. Overall, sluggish progress can be observed in enabling the ISU to full functionality.

### RMG Sustainability Council (RSC)

Although the RSC was expected to play a similar role as played by Accord, in reality, its functionality remains below par in many cases. As of January 2023, the RSC covered a total of 1,828 factories, for which the progress rate for the correction of initial findings was 91 percent. However, only 500 RSC-covered factories have completed full initial remediation. On top of that, the progress rate appears to be comparatively lower for a few common fire-related items.

It is alleged that there has been a lack of coordination between the RSC and other government agencies, resulting in slowed functionality. In addition, there is an allegation of indirect pressure (from employers and government agencies) on the RSC staff that prevents them from conducting independent assessments and resolving complaints actively, as they used to do during the Accord period. It is claimed that this is discouraging workers from reporting complaints through the RSC.

Although one of the key mandated jobs of the RSC is public reporting, a downgrade could be observed in terms of the disclosure of information by the RSC. There was no continuous information update on its progress after May 2022 until recently; in March, the RSC updated all the information together up to January 2023. It is unclear what caused this delay in updating the information.

In addition, an inconsistency is observed in the regular reporting format of RSC data on its website. These include the disappearance of data for certain indicators, inconsistency in the reporting period (some monthly, some yearly), absence of a detailed breakdown, etc. It should also be noted that there is no reporting on remediation progress in boiler safety. Moreover, as per the licence of the RSC, it must report its update every three months to DIFE. But given the irregular data reporting of RSC on its website, to what extent it is maintaining this responsibility remains uncertain.

### What needs to be done?

The government's drive to increase the capacity of DIFE, including the ISU, must be continued. In parallel, the best utilisation of the existing resources needs to be ensured. In this regard, on the one hand, the accountability of its inspectors as individuals and the DIFE as an institution needs to be enhanced by increasing disclosure of information and taking action in case of violations of responsibilities. On the other hand, newly developed tools such as digital inspection, helpline service, priority inspections, etc need to be made fully functional. The current accident reporting mechanism of DIFE also needs major reform to capture real progress in terms of industrial safety.

In order to hold the RSC accountable, regular disclosure of its information needs to be ensured. The allegations of pressure from government agencies and businessmen need to be investigated. In this connection, initiatives need to be undertaken to increase the technical capacity and involvement of the workers' representatives on the RSC board. The collaboration between DIFE, RSC and MoC needs to be enhanced. Also, in order to hasten the remediation progress, timely implementation of the escalation protocol must be ensured.

*This op-ed is based on the CPD RMG monitoring brief on "Emerging Concerns of Occupational Safety and Health of the RMG Industry: Role of Public and Private Monitoring Agencies," published on April 13, 2023.*

# Combatting the Rohingya refugee crisis with nature-based solutions

Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research systems.



HASEEB MD IRFANULLAH

In the first quarter of the past five years, humanitarian agencies and the Bangladesh government together have been launching the annual Joint Response Plan (JRP) to address the on-going Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh. As a "Nature-based Solutions" (NbS) enthusiast myself, I am in a dilemma seeing NbS in 2023's JRP, like last year – should I be happy, or worried?

Environment and ecosystem rehabilitation have always been a cross-cutting issue in the JRPs. It is indeed exciting for environmentalists to see NbS finding its place in the world's largest refugee camp sheltering about a million of Myanmar's Muslim minority. NbS basically means protecting, restoring, creating, or managing terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems to tackle different challenges of our society. Over the last few years, NbS has been widely discussed in addressing ecological degradation, water and

Haor over the last almost 25 years, in Tanguar Haor since 2006, and in the Teknaf Wildlife Sanctuary, just outside the refugee camps, and other protected forests over the past two decades.

But things are different in Rohingya refugee camps. Six years on, the Bangladesh government still officially identifies these people as the "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs)," not as refugees. Nevertheless, the Rohingya can be a part of the workforce to implement NbS interventions inside the camps and earn a wage while doing so – as they have been extensively doing it under numerous activities since 2018. But they cannot be a true part of the governance system, although the NbS standards strongly expect stakeholders to own the decisions they make and hold the system accountable for executing those decisions. Also, a core principle of NbS envisages that NbS



This 2017 photo shows a Rohingya refugee cutting into a hill to build makeshift homes.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

food insecurity, natural calamities, and the climate crisis, for example. To me, the most unique aspect of NbS is, from one NbS action, we get two types of benefits, simultaneously – human well-being and improved biodiversity.

On August 25, 2020, I wrote a piece in this column showing how different interventions implemented in the Rohingya refugee camps could be branded as NbS – be it restoring hilly stream banks to ensure easy passing of floodwater, creating water reservoir to reduce devastation from flooding, stabilising hilly slopes with terraces covered in grass and trees to stop landslides and, of course, expanding the green cover within and outside the camps to improve the landscape.

Like the JRP 2022, the new JRP 2023 aims to promote NbS as the agencies continue developing the camp infrastructure, including slope stabilisation and drainage systems. It also envisages climate-sensitive food production by practising climate-smart agriculture, opportunities for resilient income, land and water restoration activities, and sustainable water resource management as a means of adapting to climate change. Since 2018, as much as 3,200 hectares of degraded land have been reforested, and reforestation remains an integral part of the JRP 2023.

Despite these positive developments and future plans, my main concern is if we will see a full adoption of NbS principles and standards in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula. If we want to implement a true NbS, first we need to understand the local problems and design a suitable NbS intervention accordingly. Once an NbS is implemented, we need to periodically measure if it is increasing the local biodiversity, while giving benefits to humans. We also need to calculate the economic feasibility of the NbS action.

Both of these are doable, if we can allocate sufficient resources to bring in necessary expertise. But two other important features of NbS are: a) engaging local communities in NbS planning and execution; and b) negotiating and agreeing with them on the temporary losses and the long-term gains from an NbS. In other parts of Bangladesh, although challenging, such community participation is possible. We saw that in Hakaluki

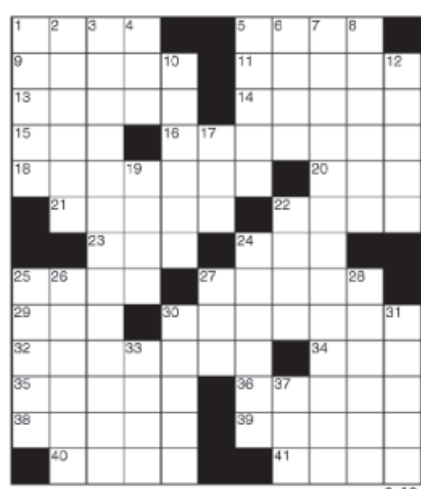
interventions should be implemented with "the full engagement and consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in a way that respects their cultural and ecological rights", which is not possible with the Rohingya in the absence of such rights. Another challenge in the camps is installing an adaptive management of NbS as these interventions are long-term ventures. Such a system needs regular collection of evidence to guide NbS management, which is not quite possible in the refugee camps, since we are not supposed to think of anything long-term for this settlement.

I believe contextualisation is the word we should be focussing on to address the above challenges. First, humanitarian and government agencies working in the refugee camps, especially in the environment space, should discuss how to contextualise NbS principles and standards in this refugee crisis, which is already burdened with uncertainties and is far away from any resolution. The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Secretariat should facilitate this process as it has been superbly doing so for the environment and energy sector. Second, there should be a "Community of Practice" to bring together agencies of Rohingya refugee camps, experts with knowledge on Bangladesh's NbS, and experts already working in the conservation-refugee crisis space around the globe. This will help to exchange ideas and expertise, and give the humanitarian leadership in Bangladesh to make NbS effective in Cox's Bazar, especially on how to bring refugees into the NbS process, without jeopardising the host government's stand on the crisis and vision towards a resolution.

Finally, a small working group is needed within the ISCG to oversee NbS interventions inside and outside the camps. This group can be a subset of the individuals already within the above-mentioned Community of Practice. This group is crucial to avoid misuse of the NbS concept, which may lead to "greenwashing" – where we brand something as NbS or pro-nature, but in reality, these are damaging nature in shorter and longer terms. By adopting the above actions to mainstream NbS into responding to a grave refugee crisis like the ongoing one, Bangladesh could be a pioneer in the world.

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS  
1 Accord  
5 Flag creator  
9 Spoken  
11 Military info  
13 Play place  
14 Like snakes  
15 Owns  
16 Small loudspeaker  
18 Craft show's cousin  
20 Slippery stuff  
21 "Now you \_\_, now you don't"  
22 Goes bad  
23 Operated  
24 Mafia head  
25 Red-ink amount  
27 Idiots
- 29 Go astray  
30 Old newspaper district of New York  
32 Cargo workers  
34 Yale student  
35 Preferences  
36 Tequila source  
38 Perfume  
39 Fishing spots  
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1 Turkish bigwig  
2 Church sights  
3 Bike stoppers  
4 Harbor craft  
5 Stair part
- 6 In the past  
7 Show interruptions  
8 Choose  
10 Hold up  
12 Harp's ancestors  
17 Funny fellow  
19 Accomplish-ment  
22 Corner piece  
24 Kind of fin  
25 Valleys  
26 Beethoven work  
27 Butter unit  
28 Cracks  
30 Green sauce  
31 Dianne of "Parenthood"  
33 Car scar  
37 Opening



## SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

SHEA OSCAR  
EAGLE ALONE  
TIRES HANNA  
PUKE SPUTTER  
PUTTER ATM  
ANON ITS  
CROC AONE  
JOE EATS  
ALF BUTTER  
CLUTTER ILE  
KATIE AGAVE  
AGENT LURID  
LEDGE MASS



Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York, handed over the Instrument of Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury from the Government of Bangladesh to the UN.

PHOTO: UNB

LAW REVIEW

# Bangladesh's ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

**Bangladesh's ratification of the convention is no surprise. According to the Government of Bangladesh, by joining the Convention, Bangladesh has reaffirmed its strong commitment to global efforts in reducing mercury pollution.**

ARAFAT IBNUK BASHAR

On 18 April 2023, Bangladesh ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which will enter into force for Bangladesh on 17 July 2023. The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international treaty which has been adopted to protect human health and environment from exposure to mercury.

We might know mercury from the red line that indicates our temperature in the old-styled thermometers. But the use of mercury is not limited to thermometers. Mercury is also used in barometers, manometers, sphygmomanometers, firearms, mercury switches, makeup items, fluorescent lamps, dental amalgams, etc. However, the element mercury is extremely toxic, which has led to its use being decreased in thermometers and sphygmomanometers.

Mercury poisoning and mercury pollution over the years have become a real threat to human health and the environment. Due to the dumping of mercury waste compounds into Minamata Bay in Japan between 1932 and 1968, over 3000 people suffered from deformities, mercury poisoning, and even death. World Health Organization (WHO) treats exposure to mercury as an occupational hazard and mercury is among the top 10 chemicals causing major public health concerns.

The incident in Minamata Bay brought the issue of mercury poisoning and mercury pollution to prominence. In 2003, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through a global assessment found sufficient evidence of significant global adverse impacts

from mercury and its compounds, which made it essential to take international action to reduce its risks to human health and the environment. Finally, through years of discussions and negotiations, the Minamata convention on Mercury was adopted and opened for signature on 10 October 2013.

Bangladesh's ratification of the convention is no surprise. According to the Government of Bangladesh, by joining the Convention, Bangladesh has reaffirmed its strong commitment to global efforts in reducing mercury pollution. In 2019, the Department of Environment, after a year-long study found dangerous levels of mercury in both our air and water. In addition, due to the absence of a proper disposal mechanism, mercury even ends up in food items.

As a result of this ratification, Bangladesh is under an international obligation to not allow the mining of mercury in its territory after the Convention enters into force. Bangladesh will also have to disallow the export of mercury, except for the circumstances permitted in the Convention. In addition, Bangladesh must stop the manufacture, import, or export of mercury-added products listed in Part I of Annex A of the treaty after the phase-out date specified for those products, barring some exceptions. This also extends to the manufacturing process of products that includes mercury or mercury compounds. As a result, such products must be processed excluding mercury from the procedure.

Further, article 8(3) of the Convention obliges Bangladesh to take measures to control emissions and if required, prepare a national plan setting out the measures to be

taken to control emissions and its expected targets, goals, and outcomes. Besides, article 9 requires that the release of mercury and mercury compounds be controlled. In matters regarding managing and disposing of mercury wastes, in addition to the treaty, Bangladesh must also abide by the requirements of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

To abide by the provisions of the Convention, Bangladesh, as a developing country, will have access to mechanisms such as the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and a specific international programme to support capacity-building and technical assistance. The Trust Fund is set to provide new, predictable, adequate, and timely financial resources to meet costs in support of the implementation of the Convention. A Committee, working as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, will review Bangladesh's compliance with the provisions of the Convention. Bangladesh will have to report to the Conference of the Parties, through the Secretariat, on the measures it has taken to implement the provisions of this Convention and whether such measures have been effective.

Bangladesh has been a party to a significant number of international agreements and treaties related to the environment. However, not all the obligations under these instruments have been discharged. Bangladesh needs to abide by the requirements of the Minamata Convention to safeguard itself from the threat of mercury poisoning and mercury pollution.

The Writer is a Lecturer of Law, Port City International University.

LAW LETTER

# Reviewing the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012

JUWEL KOBIR AND TAHEFA SAMIN

The offence of money laundering in Bangladesh has amplified drastically over the years due to a lack of regulatory mechanisms, legal complications, and organisational dysfunction. However, our legislative framework has several legal tools designed to regulate and minimise the threat of money laundering. The Money Laundering Prevention Act of 2012 is the most notable addition. The Act aims to combat money laundering and prohibit criminals from disguising illegally obtained money as lawful income.

The definition of money laundering is found in section 2(v) of the Act, which contains two main elements: purpose and a detailed explanation of the commission of this crime. This Act defines any attempt as "money laundering" when someone tries to do financial transactions in a way that avoids the Act's reporting requirements.

Section 4(2) states that money laundering is punishable by imprisonment for a term of four to twelve years and a fine equal to twice



the value of the asset, or BDT two million. In addition to this, section 4(3) allows the court to order the forfeiture of any assets associated with money laundering in favour of the state. However, sometimes the amount of the imposed fine is relatively low compared to the laundered money's current value when the judgment is given after a long time. Hence, applying fines equal to the total property's current value gained by using the laundered money may be a good solution.

Section 6 of the Act specifies punishment against the leakage of any information relating to the investigation with ill-intent, which can be up to two years imprisonment and/or a fine up to BDT fifty thousand, or both. Section 8 addresses the penalties for deliberately supplying false information about the sources, which is a maximum of three years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to BDT fifty thousand.

As per Section 12 of the Act, no court may take cognizance of any offence without the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit's (BFIU) approval. This section affects the court's ability to handle money laundering offences. The subsection of the said section is also debated, as it states that any investigation report about a violation of this Act must be presented to the BFIU for prior approval. This gives the BFIU very broad authority.

Section 14 deals with the freezing of laundered assets. As said, this Act has granted enormous authority to the investigative agency; if a formal request is made to the court, the court may order the freezing of any property associated with a money laundering charge. However, there is scope for misuse of this provision by the investigative agency.

As per section 24, the BFIU is established to exercise the power vested under section 23. The government has granted the BFIU operational independence, so that it may independently investigate financial offences. However, it is indeed true that the BFIU's exclusive power poses a threat to fairness due to the possibility of misuse by its own personnel.

Section 23 grants the BFIU the authority and obligation to prevent money laundering. Under section 23(1)(c), if the BFIU considers that a transaction involves money laundering, it can issue an order to stop or freeze the transaction. Section 23(4) says that if any organisation gives false information, the BFIU can fine the organisation up to a maximum of BDT five lakh. This vast power given to the BFIU can hinder the process of getting actual justice. It has created a dependence on the BFIU, which bars the natural justice process. Sometimes many honest officers may fall into trap, whereby the actual criminals are not brought to justice. Therefore, this section needs to be reviewed.

To sum up, we can say that the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012 was necessitated in view of the scenario in Bangladesh; however, it is not exhaustive. The BFIU's jurisdictional overlap poses a threat of abuse of power. Furthermore, the Act has a substantial number of legal loopholes caused by the misuse of legal provisions. Therefore, the Act should re-address the provisions that do not provide appropriate, precise, and reliable direction. It is time for our legislators to modify the Act and develop an efficient anti-money laundering law that focuses mainly on implementation to reduce money laundering to the bare minimum.

The Writers are Law Graduates from Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).

RIGHTS WATCH

# Concerns over the recognition of pavement dwellers

ISRAT JALIL MIM

Pavements are generally part of public property; but in Bangladesh a huge portion of them are used by homeless people for shelter and livelihood. Due to the pavements being occupied, pedestrians are compelled to walk on the streets, which often makes them vulnerable to the risk of traffic accidents.

The pavement dwellers in our country, specially in Dhaka, lead very inhumane lives. As a developing country with an overburdening population, it is arduous to provide shelter and employment to all of its citizens; but cutting them out of their required basic needs by not ensuring their bare minimum means of shelter is brutally inhumane. They have the right to live with dignity. In *Mohammad Tayeb and Others v The Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh*, the dignity of the citizens was given the utmost priority saying, "The dignity of a citizen is no less important than his life or limb. Article 11 casts a duty upon the state to protect the dignity of its citizens."

The pavement dwellers also have a right to life and personal liberty under article 32 of the Constitution, and that right cannot be understood separately. The Indian higher court recognised the right to livelihood and to shelter as a



part of the constitutional right to life in the pioneering case of *Olga Tellis v Bombay Municipal Corporation* (1986 AIR 180). The Supreme Court of India enlarged the meaning of the right to life by bringing the right to shelter and the right to livelihood under the umbrella of the right to life. It reasoned that "if the right to livelihood is not treated as a part of the constitutional right to life, the easiest way of depriving a person of his right to life would be to deprive him of his means of livelihood to the point of abrogation." It rightly recognised

that the right to life is ineffectual without the means by which that right can be meaningfully exercised.

In this case, it was argued that right to life without the right to protection (by the state) of the means by which such a life could be enjoyed is illusory. The same view was upheld in *BLAST and Another v Bangladesh and Others* (Jhilpara Slum Eviction case), where the Supreme Court of Bangladesh decided that keeping the pavement dwellers homeless and to an insecure life amounts to being

contrary to the spirit and principle of articles 15(a)(b) and 32 of the Constitution. It amounts to the deprivation of their right to shelter as well as their right to life. The process is held to be unconstitutional and the same was found in *The Chairman, National Board of Revenue (NBR) v Advocate Zulhas Uddin Ahmed and Others* 12 ADC (2015) 302. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights pointed out that the rights to adequate housing should not be intersected narrowly. Rather, it should be seen as the right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity mentioned in the Committee's general comment No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing.

Bangladesh is undoubtedly one of the most densely populated countries in the world and it is in dire need of balanced population distribution, specifically in Dhaka Metropolitan region. The planning standards in Dhaka Metropolitan City need to be maintained. The pavement dwellers do not have access to the basic amenities, such as drainage, water, and sanitation, that must be ensured. The deficiency of resources cannot be exercised as a defense by a state to defeat the fundamental rights of its citizens.

The Writer is a Research Intern, A.S & Associates.

## Haaland closing in on another 'special moment'



The Premier League had to wait 28 years for a player to surpass the all-time single-season scoring record, held jointly by Alan Shearer and Andrew Cole, but Erling Haaland got the job done on his debut season and received a memorable guard of honour. Although he had fewer games to contend with than the 42 matches-a-season his predecessors got, Haaland delivered his record-breaking 35th goal of the season against West Ham United yesterday in just his 33rd match. Having broken the record, the Norwegian phenomenon has five games to raise the bar even further.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER



### AGENCIES

Manchester City's Erling Haaland was filled with pride, elation and jubilation after his goal in their 3-0 victory over West Ham saw him claim the record for the most goals in a single Premier League season.

The Norwegian chipped in his 35th goal of the league season to surpass the previous record in the competition, held by Alan Shearer and Andrew Cole. Haaland, who now has 51 goals across all competitions and received a guard of honour from his teammates and coaching staff, was overjoyed after his landmark goal.

"Special night. Special moment. I'm really happy and proud. What more is there to say?" he said. "It was a nice feeling [guard of honour]. As it is with every single goal I score."

The goal-hungry striker now needs another three strikes to equal the Club record set by Johnson some 94 years ago. Johnson scored his 38th goal of the 1928-29 First Division (then top flight) campaign in a 1-1 draw with Liverpool at Anfield, establishing a City record that has stood for almost a century.

Johnson played for City from 1919 until 1930, amassing 158 league goals during those 11 years, which is equal to Eric Brook and bettered only by Sergio Aguero (184).

After 3-0 win against West Ham, City have now scored 1000 goals under Pep Guardiola in just 404 matches.

## Hatfield Heath offers Tigers quiet serenity

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh have chosen to reside in the quiet village setting of Hatfield Heath in Essex County, away from the hustle and bustle that usually accompanies the team on away tours.

Yesterday, the Tigers underwent the second day of practice at The Lays before their warm-up match against Ireland Wolves today at Fenner's.

The Lays is a quiet setting in a private school with indoor facilities, centre wickets and side nets. On Wednesday, it was windy and cloudy but on Thursday a warmer weather welcomed the team during the session. The team hotel too is a secluded farmhouse setting which is a 50-minute

**There is uncertainty over whether the series will be broadcast on any television channels in Bangladesh as BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said that Cricket Ireland had not yet been able to confirm whether the series would be televised in this region.**

drive from The Lays.

The need for privacy at the locations also means that the team management was instructed to not take photos or videos at the hotel or the practice facility, only being allowed some snapshots near the nets.

Liton Das, who reached England the day before, was enjoying cherry blossoms at a picturesque site while Mustafizur Rahman was also on his way to join the Tigers. Nic Pothas, who has come in as assistant coach, joined the team for the first time on Wednesday, starting his tenure in England.

Following the warm-up match today, the Tigers will enjoy a rest day before practice sessions at Fenner's and Chemsford respectively on May 7 and 8, as per the itinerary from Cricket Ireland.

The Tigers will play the first of the three-match ODI series against Ireland on May 9 at Chemsford. There is uncertainty over whether the series will be broadcast on any television channels in Bangladesh as BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said that Cricket Ireland had not yet been able to confirm whether the series would be televised in this region.

## Up-and-coming archers to vie for bronze

### SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's up-and-coming archers showed their character in the Asia Cup Archery Stage-II as they set the stage to contend for two bronze medals in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, yesterday.

Six promising archers from BKSP were sent to the world ranking tournament as the nation's senior archers only recently returned from the Archery World Cup in Turkey.

Although the archers failed to shine in recurve events, two groups competing in compound events only fell short in the semifinals.

The men's compound team, comprising Tapu Roy, Radin Bin Taleb and Abdullah Al Kafi, beat Iraq 226-223 in the quarterfinals before losing 220-228 to Hong Kong in the semifinals. They will play for the bronze medal against Saudi Arabia.

The mixed compound team, featuring Tapu Roy and Pushpita Zaman, received a bye in the quarterfinals, before fighting hard in a 147-154 defeat to Kazakhstan in the semis. They will face Iraq for the bronze.

## Has Messi played his last game in a PSG shirt?

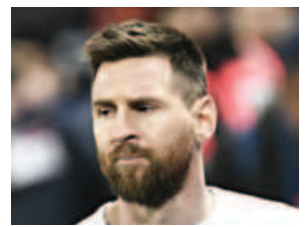
### AGENCIES

The relationship between Lionel Messi and Paris Saint-Germain has soured in the past few days, with reports in France suggesting that the World Cup-winning Argentine is all set to leave the Parisians.

PSG, who are out of the Champions League and the French League Cup, have five games in Ligue 1 left this season but it seems Messi may have already played his last game for the Parisians when he featured in their 3-1 defeat to Lorient at home last Sunday.

Following the damning defeat, Messi hopped on a plane to fulfil his ambassadorial duties in Saudi Arabia. However, it has since been revealed that the trip was unauthorised by PSG's higher-ups including coach Christophe Galtier and PSG's football advisor Luis Campos.

PSG cancelled their pencilled-in day off on Monday following their defeat, as it is the norm in



the club to cancel a day off the day after a match if it is not won.

Although the Ligue 1 leaders have not made any statement, reports in France claimed that Messi was suspended for two weeks for his actions. It has also been reported that he has been banished from training and will have his wages for the period docked.

PSG were also forced to order extra security at the club's training ground and at the homes of Lionel Messi and Neymar after protests by fans angry over recent results.

Messi, who is out of contract with PSG at the end of the season, has now been linked to several clubs, including a return to Barcelona.

It was also reported that Messi has received a huge offer of more than £350m a year from the Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal, which would exceed even the £165 million that his long-time nemesis Cristiano Ronaldo is being paid annually.

## 'Afif can score big when given the opportunity'

### SPORTS REPORTER

Selector Habibul Bashar was surprised to learn that Afif Hossain's unbeaten 111 at Fatullah yesterday was the batter's first-ever List A ton, ending a six-year wait since making his List A debut in 2017.

Afif came into bat in the 16th at number four, in a position that the left-hander favours. With overs in hand, Afif notched a 101-ball 111 with six fours and five sixes.

Out of the national team, he had been told to return to runs this DPL and the 446 runs scored at an average of 55.75 and a strike-rate of 114.95 certainly improves his chances of returning to the national fold and Bashar felt that batting up the order had made the difference.

"Given the player that he is, he should have more centuries. But I feel that he is batting where he wanted to. The lack of centuries was because he was batting at six or seven. He batted at four today and I have seen him bat for a long time and it was a very mature knock. He played one bad shot but otherwise it was all good and knew what areas to target against which bowlers," Bashar told The Daily Star yesterday.

National team head coach Chandika Hathurusingha said that performances had factored into Afif being dropped.

"He had talked to the coach, maybe regarding technical issues too. From what I see this DPL, things look good in terms of facing pace and spin and the strike-rate he is scoring at. He is doing a fair job. When he came to bat before, there were not many overs left and the requirement was to go and hit from the off. People used to think of him as a power-hitter and even in age-level cricket he had to bat down the order. He is someone who, when given an opportunity, can score big runs. And he has a big ton in first-class too," he said.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

"There is a wrong assumption that Afif did not want to bat lower down the order. But numbers six and seven is not for genuine batters, they are for all-rounders. He has the ability to be a power-hitter. Batters want to bat further up the order and it's not like he didn't want to bat lower," he added.

Most importantly, Afif is still not out of sight in terms of World Cup plans. Will he bat lower if he returns to the national set-up?

"First things first, the most important is whether he can return to the team. I don't feel it's a big factor where he bats if he returns. It's about team requirements. The expectations were that he scores runs and selects himself. I

can't say whether he returns but he is scoring runs which is important," Bashar concluded.

Courtesy of Afif's ton, Abahani reached 285 for five before Khushdil Shah restricted Prime Bank to 243 all out with a six-wicket haul to hand his side a 42-run win.

Elsewhere, Chirag Jani was once again the hero for Legends of Rugganj in a four-wicket win against Gazi Group with a 73-ball 81 in chase of Gazi's 265 for nine. Sheikh Jamal remained top with an 85-run win over Mohammedan at BKSP while Shinepukur Cricket Club won their relegation league match against Dhaka Leopards by five wickets at BKSP as well.



The victorious Cambrian School and College players celebrate after beating Wiles Little Flower School and College by five wickets in the Dhaka Metro final of the Prime Bank National Cricket Tournament at the City Club ground yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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## US stresses on fair polls again

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Washington reiterated the importance of free and fair elections in Bangladesh as Dhaka informed a bilateral dialogue about various measures taken by the Election Commission to this end.

The US was critical of the last two national elections for alleged irregularities, and top US officials again called for the next polls to be held late this year or early next year.

The US also appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to free and fair elections as well as her openness to engaging international election monitors.

The matter was discussed during the US-Bangladesh 9th Partnership Dialogue, co-chaired by US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at the State Department in Washington, DC, on Wednesday.

The dialogue took place when Hasina is in the US to celebrate 50 years of partnership with the World Bank.

A State Department statement said, "Nuland reiterated US commitment to promoting human rights, labour rights, and freedom of expression in Bangladesh. And both sides reiterated their commitment to a growing partnership across a range of political, economic, environmental, and security issues."

Masud Bin Momen shared some developments in Bangladesh's recent human rights performance and called for lifting the sanctions on Rab and extraditing Rashed Chowdhury, the self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu.

Washington has also been critical of the Digital Security Act, and Nuland acknowledged Dhaka's announcement of reviewing the DSA by this year.

Dhaka demanded reinstatement of GSP facility, while Washington expressed concerns over the freedom of trade unions and the living wage in Bangladesh.

Nuland also assured continued humanitarian support for the Rohingyas.

Both sides agreed to further scale up the resettlement programme for some of the most vulnerable Rohingyas.

## ROHINGYAS' MAUNGDAW TRIP

### They are to see their homeland after 6 years

STAR REPORT

All preparations have been completed for a 20-member Rohingya delegation's visit to the Rakhine state in Myanmar today. This is for the first time in nearly six years the refugees will see their homeland.

Upon the return of the Rohingya delegation from Myanmar's Maungdaw, the first batch of Rohingya repatriation could start at the end of the month.

"Delegations of 20-member Rohingya and government officials will visit the Maungdaw township in Myanmar," said Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Mohammed Mizanur Rahman.

The delegation will see the resettlement and security arrangements done by Myanmar, he added.

"We will start for Myanmar from the Teknaf jetty around 9:00am and it will be a one-day trip. We came back in the evening," he said.

Six officials, led by the RRRRC, will accompany the Rohingyas.

A Majhi (community leader), a teacher, an imam, and four women are in the Rohingya team.

"They were selected from a group of Rohingyas willing to return to Myanmar. They will share their experiences with others and hopefully this trip will encourage others to return," said a top official wishing not to be named.

Sources said Rohingyas and the officials will go to Maungdaw on boat, which has been hired. Myanmar authorities will arrange everything on their side.

Rohingyas will be first taken to a transit centre and then to villages where construction work is going on for their resettlement.

"... Their visit is significant. If they feel assured after witnessing the situation in Rakhine, it will be conducive to repatriation," said RRRRC Mizanur.



Illegal sand lifting from the Dhaleswari river at Charabari in Tangail Sadar upazila threatens a nearby bridge. People of five unions use this bridge to get to the district town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## BRT-3 may stretch beyond Dhaka airport

Road Transport and Highways Division to hold meeting soon

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

An extension of the Bus Rapid Transit Line-3 beyond Dhaka airport is being considered to further facilitate operations and serve city-bound passengers.

The Road Transport and Highways Division is scheduled to hold a meeting over the issue on May 18; officials from the authorities concerned, including the city corporation and other experts, are expected to join, sources said.

ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of the Division, however, won't use the word "extension". He said it is actually about finding a place beyond the area to turn away buses operated on the Airport-Gazipur corridor.

The sources, however, said the Division was considering "an extension" of the line after a study, conducted by a financier, suggested that the route be expanded till Mohakhali or another suitable nearby area.

"The meeting [on May 18] will decide whether the route would be extended or not, and, if extended, how far it would be. Our maximum limit is Mohakhali," said an official, preferring anonymity.

The development came more than around three years after the government dropped its previous

plan to extend the line up to Mohakhali with World Bank funding.

After several deadline revisions, the authority now wants to start BRT operations on the 20.50km corridor by this August.

Visiting the project site yesterday, this correspondent found that the work remained incomplete at around 10 points on roads and 25 stations.

**"People will face problems while heading further into the city after BRT buses leave them at the airport area. So it would help them if buses can go beyond that area."**

Asked, Shafiqul Islam, managing director of Dhaka BRT Company Ltd, said, "We hoped the infrastructure would be ready within two/three months and we would start operation by August."

"However, since the company will not be able to hire an operator before mid 2024, it will engage Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation to operate the buses."

Besides, all stations are unlikely to be ready to provide automated ticket sales at the beginning and 137 buses

would not be operational then.

**EXPANSION MOVE**

The project was originally planned to be completed by December 2016 at a cost of Tk 2,037.9 crore.

The delay was caused by issues relating to land acquisition, relocation of utility services, design changes, contractors running out of money, and the pandemic.

The project cost rose to Tk 4,268.3 crore and the deadline is December 2024.

The 20km line from the airport to Gazipur was actually an extension of the original plan, which was to build the BRT from the airport to Keraniganj's Jhilmil project. Experts often said the partly functional BRT will not give expected outcome.

A study by the French Development Agency, which will give a loan for the BRT operation including procurement of buses, also suggested extending the line.

"People will face problems while heading further into the city after BRT buses leave them at the airport area. So it would help them if buses can go beyond that area," said an official preferring anonymity.

He added that no new road would have to be constructed for the extension, according to a study in this regard, unlike the Airport-Gazipur section.

## Power line to link 4 countries

Dhaka, Delhi agree to build it thru' Dinajpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India have primarily agreed to construct a cross-border power transmission line which would benefit four neighbouring countries -- Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh.

The proposed transmission line through Dinajpur of Bangladesh will be used by India to supply electricity between Bihar and Assam. It will also be connected to transmission lines from Nepal and Bhutan, said Power Division officials after a joint steering committee meeting between the two countries in Khulna yesterday.

"The high voltage transmission line will also be used by Bangladesh to import electricity from Nepal and Bhutan," said an official, who attended the meeting, wishing anonymity.

He said Indian previously proposed using Bangladesh only as a corridor to connect two of its states.

"A decision on importing hydropower from Nepal and Bhutan through India had been pending for a long time. Today [yesterday], we have agreed that we will build the transmission line and use it for cross-border power trade between the neighbouring countries," the official added.

The 765KV transmission line will be connected to Bihar's Katihar and Assam's Boranagar through Dinajpur's Parbatipur.

Also, a trilateral agreement between India, Bangladesh and Nepal will be signed soon to import 500MW from Nepal.

"The date will be fixed in an inter-ministerial meeting," the official said.

Indian firm GMR Karnali Hydropower Company Limited is implementing a 900MW power project in Nepal.

A press release issued by the power, energy and mineral resources ministry after the meeting said that the meeting discussed power trade between the countries and the possibility to set up solar power plants in India by the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Ltd, which is implementing the Rampal Power Plant project in Bagerhat.

The committee will hold its next meeting in November.

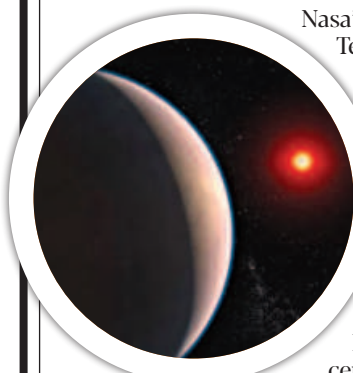
## A 'FISH FIGHT'

One Little Tern flies off with a fish freshly caught from the Padma, while another tries to chase it on a riverbank in Rajshahi. These migratory water birds breed on the coasts and inland waters of temperate and tropical Europe and Asia, and spend their winters in subtropical and tropical oceans as far south as South Africa and Australia. Like most white terns, they feed by plunge-diving for small fish. Sometimes, the males offer their catches to their female counterparts as part of courtship rituals. However, that does not seem to be the case between these two! Little Terns depend largely on water systems for their survival. Despite being categorised as "Least Concern" in IUCN's red list, a decline in their population in our country is inevitable if the current state of our dying rivers does not improve drastically.

PHOTO: MOSABBER HOSSAIN RIBON

## Webb telescope spots exoplanet with water vapour

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope has helped astronomers find a strange faraway rocky planet that shows hints of a water vapour-rich atmosphere despite its proximity to its star.

Researchers, including those from Nasa's Goddard space center, say the exoplanet known as GJ 486 b is too close

to its star to be within the habitable zone, with a surface temperature of about 800 degrees Fahrenheit.

The planet, located about 26 light-years away in the constellation Virgo, is about 30 percent larger than Earth and nearly three times as massive, meaning it is a rocky world with stronger gravity than Earth.

