



PRIME MINISTER
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

16 Falgun 1429
01 March 2023

Message

I am delighted that UCSI University, Malaysia, is opening a branch campus in Bangladesh on 1 March 2023. I extend my heartfelt best wishes to Insight Institute of Learning, Bangladesh & UCSI University, Malaysia, for this initiative.

In light of the educational philosophy of the Greatest Bengali of all time, the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Awami League government first promulgated the Cross Border Higher Education Rules 2014 under the Private University Act 2010, allowing to setting-up of branch campuses of foreign universities in Bangladesh. This would facilitate an equilibrium in education standards worldwide and give our youths, and students access to the global employment market.

Our government's prime focus is to transform the country into Smart Bangladesh by 2041, where our government system, economy, citizen, and society will be fully accustomed to modern technologies and artificial intelligence with a view to harnessing opportunities and potentials of the 4th Industrial Revolution. We have established and approved 23 public and 54 private universities since 2009 so far for creating skilled human resources. We also provide free education, stipends, grants, scholarships, and research funds to around 30 million students annually. We provide state-of-the-art education in our national institutes/universities, including modern science and social science research as per our national education policy. As a result rate of international students' enrolment is also gradually increasing. Eventually, our target is to make our country a prominent hotspot for investment, business, cultural exchange, and quality education in days to come. I hope this initiative will contribute to our national aspiration and play an important leadership role in academic pursuit and engagement with the industry and the people of our two countries.

I would like to convey heartfelt thanks to the Delegates of the Malaysian Government for attending this launching ceremony which would be a milestone of cooperation between Bangladesh and Malaysia in the education sector.

I wish every success to UCSI University Branch Campus in Bangladesh.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Sheikh Hasina

THANK YOU

Honourable Prime Minister

Heartiest gratitude to our Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission of Bangladesh for giving approval to UCSI University Bangladesh Campus as the first ever foreign university branch campus in Bangladesh.

Another step towards **SMART BANGLADESH**

UCSI University
BANGLADESH CAMPUS

APPROVED & GRANTED BY



শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়



বাংলাদেশ
বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন



KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI
(Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia)

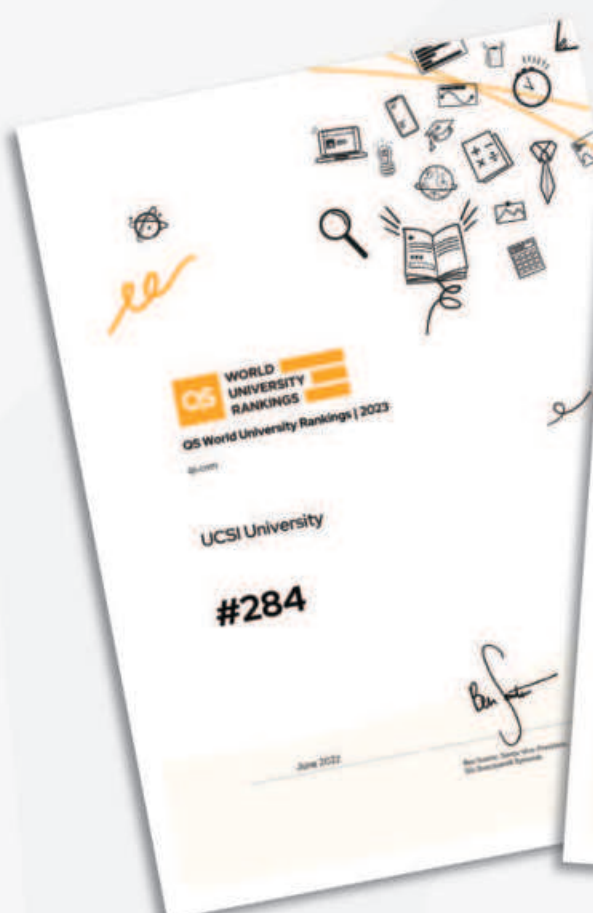


Agensi Kelayakan Malaysia
Malaysian Qualifications Agency

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
RANKED 284th
2023

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
ASIA RANKED 72nd
2023

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
SOUTH-EASTERN
ASIA RANKED 16th
2023



WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
BY SUBJECTS 2023

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
2023
PERFORMING ARTS (MUSIC)
21

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
2023
HOSPITALITY & LEISURE
MANAGEMENT
34

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
2023
ARTS & DESIGN
TOP 200

WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
2023
BUSINESS AND
MANAGEMENT STUDIES
TOP 200



Apply Online



UCSI University
BANGLADESH CAMPUS

Haq's Plaza, 26 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
Phone: 09610919999, 01619999697, 01327414199, 01949943444, 01844616516
E-mail: admission.ucsibd@ucsiuniversity.edu.my, Website: www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/bangladesh-campus



Admission going on
for Summer 2023
Undergraduate & Graduate Programs
Class Starts: 23rd May 2023

Scholarship

- ✓ 20% - 100% scholarship award
- ✓ Upto Tk. 5 crore scholarship awarded for Summer & Fall 2023 intake
- ✓ Open to new, full-time students at undergraduate & graduate level

Academic Programs for UCSI University Bangladesh Campus

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

- Bachelor of Financial Economics
- BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance
- BA (Hons) Branding & Advertising
- BA (Hons) Business Administration
- BA (Hons) Logistics Management
- BA (Hons) Marketing
- BA (Hons) Supply Chain Operations Management
- Bachelor of Hospitality Administration
- BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science
- BSc (Hons) Actuarial Science & Finance
- BSc (Hons) Finance & Investment
- Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons)
- BSc (Hons) Business Information Systems

- BA (Hons) Fashion Design with Marketing
- BA (Hons) Graphic Design
- BA (Hons) Multimedia Design
- BA (Hons) Mass Communication
- BA (Hons) in Interior Architecture
- BA (Hons) Psychology
- Bachelor of Computer Science (Hons) Mobile Computing & Networking
- Bachelor of Electronics Engineering (Communication) with Honors

GRADUATE PROGRAM

- MBA
- Master in Logistics & Supply Chain Management
- Master in International Hospitality Management

Why UCSI University Bangladesh Campus?

- Foreign faculty
- Credit transfer facility to Malaysian main campus
- Pathway to Canada, Australia, UK and New Zealand
- Save 50% foreign currency & contribute to your country
- Save 50% tuition fees by studying at Bangladesh campus
- Scholarship for undergraduate & graduate students
- Online classes by senior professor from Malaysian campus
- Online library & lab facility from Malaysian campus
- Encouraging job opportunity both at home & abroad
- Get your desired international degree seating at Bangladesh campus
- Global classroom, group assignment with Malaysian campus students

Bangladesh Campus Management



Datuk Ir Ts
Dr. Siti Hamisah Binti Tapsir
Vice-Chancellor
UCSI University



Prof. Datuk
Dr. Rohana Binti Yusof
Pro Vice-Chancellor
UCSI University Bangladesh Campus



Mr. Chan Joe Jim
Provost
UCSI University Bangladesh Campus

Distinguished Academic Advisors



Prof. Atiur Rahman, PhD
Honorary Professor
University of Dhaka



Prof. Syed Ferhat Anwar, PhD
President, Asia Marketing Federation
Former Director, IBA
University of Dhaka



Prof. Mijanur Rahman, PhD
Department of Marketing
Faculty of Business Studies
University of Dhaka

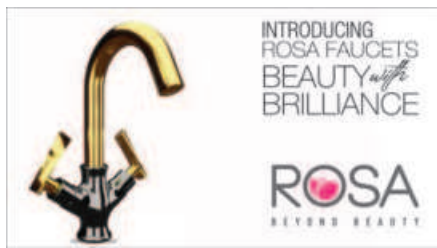


Prof. Fakrul Alam, PhD
Professor, University of Dhaka

Apply Online



Haq's Plaza, 26 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
Phone: 09610919999, 01619999697, 01327414199, 01949943444, 01844616516
E-mail: admission.ucsibd@ucsiuniversity.edu.my, Website: www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/bangladesh-campus



DHAKA MONDAY MAY 8, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 109

BAISHAKH 25, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHAWWAL 17, 1444 HJURI

20 PAGES : Tk 15.00



P6
23,000 flee violence in northeast India



P12
Why Sampadak Parishad opposes DSA



P13
Prantik a winner in defeat



B1
Export of IT to Japan surges

BUYING AIRBUS PLANES

Biman's move puzzling

Experts say purchase of freighters, operation of mixed fleet will hurt flag carrier

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman last year carried a little over 28,000 tonnes of freight in the cargo hold of planes making international flights when it had the capacity to transport over 4.98 lakh tonnes.

This is about 6 percent utilisation of the capacity, and yet Biman is planning to buy two new Airbus freighters.

An audit by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) also shows that in the same year, Biman carried 20.58 lakh passengers on international flights and had around 7 lakh seats vacant, which is just under 76 percent utilisation.

This happened after the national flag carrier bought 12 Boeing planes spending around Tk 19,000 crore between 2011 and 2019. The aircraft purchased include multiple huge Boeing 777-300ERs, efficient Boeing 787-8s and -9s, and workhorse Boeing 737-800s.

But the planes are not properly utilised largely due to shortages of pilots and cabin crew members, and poor planning and management, experts have said. Biman failed to launch adequate number of new routes for the planes' best use, they added.

They questioned why the Biman Board of Directors on May 3 approved in principle the purchase of 10 Airbus planes, including the two freighters.

Biman's top management believes the company will make money ferrying cargo in the freighters and the new Airbus planes will help Biman expand its reach.

An aviation expert, however, says buying the freighters will not be



An airline can bargain better with the manufacturer if it buys planes from both companies. In the case of carriers with large fleets, you can enjoy some advantages. But from the point of view of operations, if you have aircraft of both plane makers, the disadvantages are so many.

AVIATION EXPERT **ATM NAZRUL ISLAM**

economically viable at all.

"First of all, airfreight is a seasonal business in Bangladesh. For five or six months of the year, there is almost no demand," aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam told The Daily Star.

The season is dependent on garment products and vegetable exports.

Secondly, most outbound freight goes to the West, and the items Bangladesh imports largely come from China, Hong Kong and Japan. So, the inbound cargo flights from the West and the outbound flights to the East would be virtually empty, he said.

"Therefore, we can say that the cargo business here is mainly one-way. You can never survive doing one-way cargo business," said Alam, the editor of Bangladesh Monitor, an aviation and tourism magazine.

He said some foreign carriers operate cargo flights in Bangladesh but they operate flights only when there is demand in the peak season.

For example, since Dhaka has no inbound demand, Emirates SkyCargo planes usually fly first to Bangkok or Singapore carrying goods and then make a stopover in Dhaka during the return flight to Dubai to pick up freight that they deliver to the West, he said.

"The large carriers operate this way to be able to carry cargo both ways. But we won't be able to do that as we never made the strategic plan," he said.

A cargo division official of Biman said, "We couldn't even utilise the full capacity of our cargo hold in passenger flights. Then What is the point of buying brand new freighters without proper marketing and planning?"

Airlines do not often buy brand new freighters. They usually buy old and used freighters because new ones are rarely commercially viable, he said, requesting anonymity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

GAZIPUR CITY POLLS

Zahangir challenges cancellation of candidacy

Files petition with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspended Gazipur mayor Zahangir Alam yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the authorities' decision to cancel his candidacy in the city corporation election later this month.

In the petition, he sought the court's order to reinstate his candidacy, Zahangir told The Daily Star.

Hearing on the writ petition, submitted by his lawyer Naqib Shariful Islam, may take place today.

On Thursday, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Sabirul Islam rejected Zahangir's appeal for reinstatement of his candidacy.

A returning officer

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Patients of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, along with other pedestrians, struggle to enter the hospital as the pavement in front of the emergency gate is occupied by countless small shops set up by hawkers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A burning heap of discarded cables emitting toxic fumes into the heavily polluted Dhaka air. Once the insulation is burnt off, the copper from inside the cables are then sold. The photo was taken at the capital's Kamrangir Char yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Forex reserves, revenue measures lacking

Finds IMF staff mission on conclusion of 13-day tour

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund staff mission yesterday expressed reservations about the likelihood of Bangladesh meeting the minimum reserve requirements for the second tranche of the \$4.7 billion loan.

As per the terms agreed with the Washington-based multilateral lender for the loan programme, the country would maintain a minimum net international reserves (NIR) of \$22.95 billion at the end of March and \$24.46 billion at June's end.

So far, the government has failed to meet the floor set for March, which was meant to give an indication of how the authorities are faring with the programme objectives. The NIR was less than \$22 billion.

While March's target is not mandatory for the release of the second instalment of about \$476.27 million, June's target is. In fact, it is one of the three mandatory conditions.

Instead of building a buffer, the reserves continue to drain from the Bangladesh Bank's

coffers despite the strict import control measures taken, said the IMF staff mission, The Daily Star has learnt from officials involved with the proceedings.

The 13-day staff visit, led by Bangladesh Mission Chief Rahul Anand, to discuss recent macroeconomic developments and implementation of the IMF-supported programme wrapped up yesterday.

"However, persistent inflationary pressures, elevated volatility of global financial conditions and slowdown in major advanced trading partners continue to weigh on growth, foreign currency reserves and the Taka," Anand said in a statement.

When the 42-month loan programme was approved by the IMF executive board, the official gross reserves, as per BB's methodology, stood at \$32.2 billion. On May 2, it was \$30.99 billion.

After the \$1.12 billion payment to the Asian Clearing Union today for import for the months of March and April from the South Asia region,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

We too want fair polls like in the UK

PM tells British foreign minister; asks C'wealth secy gen for diverse group of polls observers

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the Awami League government wants the national polls to be free and fair like they are in the UK.

She made the comment when UK Foreign Minister James Cleverly along with his wife Susannah Sparks called on her at the Claridge's Hotel in London on Saturday (local time), reports BSS.

"We also want fair elections. My party always maintains democracy in the country. We have given the country's democracy a strong footing," Momen quoted her as saying while briefing reporters after the meeting.

Meanwhile, Hasina has requested the Commonwealth to send diverse election observers from member countries for the upcoming general election in Bangladesh during a meeting with the Commonwealth secretary general.

Momen said the UK foreign minister has talked about

PHOTOS ON PAGE 2, 3

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



NATIONAL ELECTION

EU monitoring team likely to visit in July

The development comes following EC's written invitation

PORIMOL PALMA

The European Union will send an exploratory election monitoring mission in July as the Bangladesh Election Commission has welcomed it in a written invitation.

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley confirmed the development to The Daily Star in an exclusive interview yesterday.

"I am very pleased to say that we now have a written invitation. They [the EC] have confirmed that the observers will be welcome."

He said he recently called on Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal and had a positive conversation.

"I welcome the Bangladesh government's stance of welcoming the international observers. It [the written invitation] has made it very clear."

Earlier in February, the EU mission in Dhaka had written to the foreign ministry, seeking written confirmation that Bangladesh would welcome EU election observers.

While meeting the government ministers and opposition leaders in the recent months, Whiteley said that while they would send observers, the election has to be participatory.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

LARGEST ONLINE BRANCH NETWORK

LARGEST PRIVATE COMMERCIAL BANK

FIRST BANGALEE BANK

Sharia'h based Islamic Banking
through 500 Branches & 151 Sub Branchesপূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITEDTake your remittance
Smile with your gift

ESTABLISHED IN 1959

64 YEARS IN BANKING

Excellence in Remittance Service

Killed by friends, for money

Say police on Tejgaon College student murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after recovering the body of Ikram Hossain Molla -- a first-year student of Tejgaon College -- in the capital's Khilkhet, police said he was murdered by his friends over money-related issues.

After killing Ikram, 22, his friends wanted to cover up the murder by dumping the body in a ditch and covering it with water hyacinth, said police.

Iftexharul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Cantonment Zone) of DMP's Gulshan Division, told The Daily Star that Ikram went missing on Thursday night. His family reported the matter to Khilkhet Police Station and filed a general diary on Friday afternoon.

On Saturday, locals found the body in a ditch adjacent to the Dumni's Baluchar area and informed police. Ikram's family later identified the body, the ADC said.

Kabir Hossain Molla, father of the deceased, then filed a murder case with Khilkhet Police Station.

After going through his mobile phone, police first arrested Ikram's friend Shanto from his house. During interrogation, he told the police about the involvement of another suspect, Abu Siddique, in the murder.

Ikram lived with his family in Khilkhet's Dumni area. Police said Ikram managed to secure Tk 2 lakh from his



Ikram Hossain



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Commonwealth Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland at the Claridge Hotel in London yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

Need more midwives to aid safe birth

Speakers tell event marking International Day of the Midwife

STAR REPORT

In order to raise awareness among different stakeholders and health partners to invest in skilled midwives, speakers called for action to improve working conditions for midwives to enhance health outcomes for women and families.

They made this demand at an event marking International Day of the Midwife in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

They aimed to recognise the contribution of midwives in saving lives and promoting the health and well-being of mothers and newborns.

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group in Cox's Bazar, led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and health sector

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Sold by youths, bought by youths

4 of drug syndicate held with 24kg crystal meth

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

Applying innovative techniques, narcotics dealers are smuggling crystal meth -- popularly known as ice -- into Bangladesh from Myanmar.

Along with the notorious drug dealers, a suspended policeman was found joining hands with the smugglers to smuggle the biggest haul of meth consignment in the country.

The syndicate first brought the meth from Myanmar through Ghumdhum border in Bandarban. The consignment was preserved at the border point first. Then the consignment was transferred to the Rohingya camps, divided into small portions and preserved in the remote hilly areas.



- 80 held just in Dhaka north in last 1.5 years
- They are aged between 18 and 35
- Ice seizure increased 3 times in last 2 years
- Dealers use code words, social media

This is the largest haul of crystal meth in the country, worth around Tk 120 crore, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

They were finally transferred to Dhaka and other districts of the country based on demands. For smuggling the drugs from the Rohingya camp to the capital, the dealers tied the meth with the body of the carriers or stuffed them inside tea bags to avoid any suspicion.

They even used code words like "tea leaves" to talk about the consignments on the online messenger app imo.

Rapid Action Battalion disclosed the findings yesterday after the arrest of four narcotics smuggling syndicate members, with 24.2 kilos of meth on Saturday night.

This is the largest haul of crystal meth in the country, worth around Tk 120 crore, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing.

The arrestees are -- Iran Majhi alias Mohammad Imran, 33, the kingpin of the syndicate, his brother Mohammad Rubel alias Dakat Rubel, 26, and associates Md Alauddin, 35, an expelled member of the police and Joynal Abedin, 37.

Led by Imran, the syndicate of 12 members was involved in ice smuggling for a long time.

They used to smuggle ice in 15 day intervals from Myanmar and preserve it under the mud by using construction materials as a cover, Moin told The Daily Star.

On information, a team of Rab-15 conducted a drive at an under-construction house in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila on Saturday night and arrested the four. Seven to eight other members of the syndicate managed to escape, he added.

Imran was wanted in at least seven cases,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

No foreign pressure for caretaker govt

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka



Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said there is no foreign pressure for restoring caretaker government system in Bangladesh.

"European Union, the US, the UK or no other friendly country put pressure on Bangladesh over caretaker government system. No country interfered in internal matters of Bangladesh," he said.

Quader said these while talking to journalists after a board meeting of Bridge Authority at Setu Bhaban in the capital's Banani.

He said BNP wants a caretaker government which can assure the party of getting elected in polls.

The AL general secretary said the last caretaker government stayed in power for two years but it was supposed to stay for three months.

"The caretaker government

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

EC doesn't have capacity to hold fair elections

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP General Secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) doesn't have the capability to conduct fair elections.

"They [the government] have made the EC a domestic entity," he made the remarks while addressing a session of Thakurgaon's Sadar Upazila BNP's conference as the chief guest.

Despite the government's effort to portray the EC positively, it was of no use, said the BNP leader.

Regarding the caretaker government, Fakhrul said that before the Awami League government came to power in 1996, they took to the streets for the caretaker government.

"They enforced 176 hartals. Many people were injured and killed and they paralysed the country. They were able to come to power because our leader accepted their demands and held

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Militants in CHT won't be spared

Warns home minister

UNB, Ctg

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday warned that armed criminals and militant groups in the hills of Chattogram will not be spared.

However, the minister said the government will take initiative if any criminal wants to return to normal life.

The minister was talking to reporters after attending the concluding ceremony of the training of 99th recruit batch of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at Baitul Izzat BGB Training Centre in Satkania upazila of Chattogram.

The BGB force has been strengthened through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Suspended DIG Mizanur denied bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied bail to suspended deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Md Mizanur Rahman in a corruption case.

The bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice Shahed Nuruddin rejected a petition on behalf of Mizanur seeking bail in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The HC passed the rejection order as the trial proceedings in this case will be finished soon, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan and Mizanur's lawyer Mahbub Shafique told The Daily Star.

The ACC filed the case with its Integrated District Office in Dhaka on June 24, 2019, against Mizan, his wife Sohelia Anar Ratna and nephew Mahmudul Hasan, a sub-inspector of police, on charges of amassing over Tk 3 crore beyond known source of income.

Trial begins in GCC engineer Delwar murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial of engineer Delwar Hossain murder case against three people, including Mohammad Selim, a former assistant engineer of Gazipur City Corporation, began at a Dhaka court yesterday with deposition of the complainant.

Dhaka's Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court Judge Mohammad Morshed Alam recorded the statement of the complainant Khodeja Akhter, also the wife of the victim.

Later, the defence for the fugitive accused Mohammad Selim cross-examined her, prosecution lawyer Kaoser Ahmed said.

The judge then fixed May 28 for next hearing of the case.

Delwar Hossain, the then executive engineer of Gazipur City Corporation, was killed following an altercation with his junior colleague Mohammad Selim on May 11, 2020.

Of the accused, Selim went into hiding after getting bail from the High Court on June 29 last year, while his accomplices -- Helal Howlader and Habibur Rahman Khan -- are now in custody.

Man dies after being hit by bus

UNB, Dhaka

A 40-year old unidentified man died after being hit by a bus at Kamalapur crossing yesterday.

Ujjal Miah, a sub-inspector of Motijheel police station, said the accident occurred around 10:00am when a speeding bus hit him.

An auto-rickshaw driver took him to DMCH where physicians declared him dead, the SI said.

PRAYER TIMING		MAY 8	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
4:15	12:45	5:00	6:34 8:00
JAMAAT 4:50	1:15	5:15	6:38 8:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			



Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed pays a courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PTD

Army chief meets the president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

The army chief briefed the president about the overall activities of Bangladesh Army, the president's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin told reporters after the meeting.

He highlighted the various steps taken for the development of the army and progress of implementation.

President Shahabuddin expressed his satisfaction over the activities of the army and said that the development activities of the army will continue in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Ensure workplace safety, compensation

Demand steel mills workers following N'ganj factory blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Demanding adequate compensation and workplace safety, workers formed a human chain in Narayanganj yesterday following a blast at a steel mill in the area on May 4.

At least seven workers were injured in an explosion that took place at the mill in Rupganj upazila when they were melting iron. Six workers have died of injuries and one is battling for life at a hospital.

The incident took place around 4:00pm at Rahima Industrial Complex Ltd Steel Mill in Gausia Saughat area.

Yesterday, the workers' leaders demanded arrest of the factory owner, stating that the casualty occurred due to negligence in strengthening the security system at the factory.

The human chain was formed under the banner of Re-rolling Steel Mills Workers Front in front of Narayanganj Press Club. The speakers said the steel mill workers work with high risk but they don't get minimum safety equipment.

Jamal Hossain, president of the organisation, presided over the programme. Its general secretary SM Kadir was also present among others.



PHOTO: STAR

Demanding workplace safety and adequate compensation, steel mill workers form a human chain in front of Narayanganj Press Club yesterday.

Meanwhile, four days have passed since the explosion in the iron smelting furnace of Rahima Industrial Complex Limited, but no case has been filed yet.

Golam Mostofa Russel, superintendent of police in Narayanganj, said victims usually filed such cases.

"We are in constant contact with the victim families. The owner has assured them of paying compensation. That's why, they don't want to file case. In such a situation, police can file a case. Since it is an accident, it is necessary to investigate first... Government inspection officials concerned are also looking into it," he said.

Mahabubul Haq no more

CITY DESK

Veteran banker ATM Mahabubul Haq passed away on Thursday at his residence in Dhaka. He was 95.

His first namaj-e-janaza was held in Mirpur followed by a second one in Chatkhil upazilla of Noakhali. He was buried at family graveyard in Shanukhali.

Mahabub started his career joining National Bank of Pakistan. He retired in 1986 as GM of Janata Bank.

He left behind his wife, four sons and three daughters. Mati-UI Hasan, AMD & CRO of Mercantile Bank Limited, is his eldest son-in-law.

Need more midwives

FROM PAGE 3
partners organised several events at the district and camp levels with the theme "From Evidence to Reality".

They also urged health partners to trust the evidence to reduce maternal and newborn deaths in the Rohingya and host communities via midwives.

According to data from the World Bank, maternal mortality has decreased from 269 per 100,000 live births in 2009 – before the introduction of midwifery in Bangladesh – to 173 per 100,000 live births in 2017.

Attending as the chief guest, Cox's Bazar Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Nasim Ahmed, said, "With the SDG targets set for 2030, we are working hard to

fill up the existing gaps in the midwifery profession in Bangladesh and ensure quality healthcare for all".

Highlighting the critical role of midwives in providing essential information on sexual and reproductive health, Roselidah Raphael, head of UNFPA Sub Office, Bangladesh, said, "If every pregnant woman had access to a well-trained, caring midwife, we would be much closer to a world where every pregnancy is wanted, and every childbirth is safe."

Sadia Afrin Sonia, a midwife supervisor from Cox's Bazar, described the roles of midwives in providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to women and families.

Sold by youths, bought

FROM PAGE 3
while Rubel was wanted in five, Alauddin in four, and Joyal in six cases.

Suspended policeman Alauddin was first arrested in 2017 while carrying narcotics. Afterwards, he was arrested on three separate occasions but managed to get out on bail and went back to dealing narcotics, according to Rab.

Alauddin's last posting was in Bandarban.

Earlier on April 26, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered 21.09 kilos of crystal meth from Ukhiya's Palangkhal area.

According to data, the seizure of crystal meth increased by three times from 2021 to 2022.

The Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh 2022 mentions that around 104 kilos of crystal meth were seized by all law enforcement agencies last year, while the figure was 36 kilos in 2021.

Tanvir Momtaz, director (operation & intelligence) of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), said the ice smuggling has increased as demand always

remains high for new drugs among substance abusers.

Sources in the DNC said there are at least over a hundred ice traders in the capital, and the majority of them are young.

Ice is mainly known as a "party drug" and the main target groups mostly live in the posh areas of the capital.

Md Mehedi Hasan, assistant director (north) of DNC, told The Daily Star that they held around 70 to 80 people with ice in their possession in the last one and a half years.

"All the arrestees are aged between 18 to 35 and belong to high strata of society," he said.

"The buyers mainly turn into dealers. For instance, a buyer living in a posh area first buys 50 grammes of ice for Tk 5,000 per gram and then carries it to a party. Once the drug enters the party, the buyer sells per gram of ice for Tk 12,000 to others," he said.

Mehedi said they are on high alert regarding the issue and are conducting drives to arrest the dealers and smugglers.

No foreign pressure

FROM PAGE 3
carried out attacks on our leaders and workers. People don't want such caretaker government," he said.

He said the elections will be held under the Election Commission as per the constitution.

About Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's arrest in 2007, Quader said the one-eleven government had arrested the then leader of the opposition and the AL president.

The then caretaker government had imposed an illegal ban on Bangabandhu's daughter to prevent her from entering Bangladesh after receiving treatments in the US.

During that period, the aviation authorities were asked not to issue ticket to Hasina on Bangladesh-bound flight, he added.

Hasina had returned to the country defying all obstacles and conspiracy with courage, he said.

Smooth sailing

FROM PAGE 5
BNP leaders in Rajshahi have termed Sayeed Hasan inactive in political activities and have urged supporters not to participate in the election.

"Those who love BNP and its ideals would not participate in the election," BNP chairperson's adviser Mizanur Rahman Minu

said.

Meanwhile, the main opposition Jatiya Party's city unit convener Mohammad Saiful Islam and Islami Andolan's Rajshahi city unit vice president Murshid Alam Faruqui have received party nomination, but they have not yet collected their nomination papers.

EC doesn't have

FROM PAGE 3
the elections under a non-partisan caretaker government. But later they forgot their policy and stopped the practice of neutral caretaker government. They know that the people of the country are not with them. That's why they are so afraid," he said.

"We demand that the government resign, and the national election held under the caretaker government. We have made it clear that there will be no election under this government," said Fakhrul.

He further said the party had presented 27-point outline calling for radical changes in the country.

ACC sues ex-cop

FROM PAGE 5
cases accusing Shahadat and his wife, said Nazmus Sadat, deputy director of ACC in Chattogram.

"Now the ACC will investigate the cases," he added.

According to the case, Shahadat submitted wealth statements to ACC where he concealed the information of Tk 18,32,522 in the statement. He owned wealth

worth Tk 68,18,287 which accumulated illegally.

In the wealth statement of Razia Sultana, she introduced herself as a businessperson but failed to show any trade licence or any document in support of it. She hid information about Tk 27,01,804. She also enjoyed wealth worth of Tk 75,26, 448 which she accumulated beyond her source of income.

Killed by friends, for money

FROM PAGE 3
family and gave it to Shanto to invest in the sand business. Ikram was supposed to receive dividends every month as per his deal with Shanto. As he was failing to pay back dividends, Ikram recently wanted the money back, which angered

Shanto.

On the other hand, Ikram also had an enmity brewing with Siddique. Shanto and Siddique then planned to murder Ikram.

Shanto called Ikram on Thursday night over the phone and told him to come near Baluchar area. After going there, they

had an argument. At one point, Shanto and Siddique started beating Ikram with a hammer. Later, they stabbed him to death.

Shanto gave a confessional statement before a Dhaka court yesterday, while Siddique was placed on a two-day remand.

Militants in CHT won't be spared

FROM PAGE 3
modern equipment to protect bordering area of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, he said.

"After assuming power, the current government has been working tirelessly to make the BGB a modern and international standard border guard and it has elevated to the three-dimensional force after

bringing change in its organisational structure," he said.

He said BGB is now capable of performing duties in water, land and air as the government has provided it modern surveillance equipment, active anti-tank guided weapons, ATV, APC, Riot control vehicle and air boats as part of smart border management.

Besides, the work to build a new training centre for them with modern facilities is underway in Chuadanga, he said.

Asaduzzaman also visited the parade of 539 soldiers under 99th recruiting batch.

Five hundred thirty-nine soldiers, including 37 women soldiers, took oath at the parade.

Tagore's legacy fading

FROM PAGE 5

At a grand reception, Promod presented the poet a "Golden Key" of Kacharibari, adjacent to the main palace on 21-acre of land to inaugurate it. The Kacharibari is being used as Atharabari Degree College.

Contacted, Md Mustafizar Rahman, deputy commissioner of

Mymensingh, said they have already contacted the Department of Archeology for proper preservation of Tagore's memory gripped places.

"We have a plan to hold cultural shows and discussion meetings at these places marking the birth and death anniversary of Tagore," said the DC.

Army chief

FROM PAGE 3
thelightofForcesGoal-2030. The president hoped that the army would continue its activities for socio-economic development alongside protecting the sovereignty of the country.

During the meeting, the army chief also briefed the president about various aspects of his recent visit to India.

GREEN DELTA INSURANCE				
GREEN DELTA INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. Green Delta AIMS Tower (6 th floor) 51-52 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212 Phone: 222263902(PABX), FAX: 222281124 Email: info@green-delta.com, web: www.green-delta.com				
Price Sensitive Information				
This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Green Delta Insurance Company Limited in its 388 th meeting held on Sunday, May 07, 2023 at 2:45 p.m., considered and approved the First Quarter (Q1) un-audited Financial Statements of the company for the period ended March 31, 2023 and taken the following decision at 4:30 p.m. The company also disclosed the following key financial indicators of the company in Compliance with the Guidelines of the respective Regulatory Authorities				
First Quarter (Q1) un-audited Financial Statements ended on March 31, 2023 (Figures in Taka, where applicable)				
Particulars	As on 31.03.2023		As on 31.03. 2022	
	Solo Position	Consolidated Position	Solo Position	Consolidated Position
Net Asset Value (NAV) in million	TK 6,870.34	TK 7,007.11	TK. 6,763.64 (as on 31 December 2022)	TK. 6,908.57 (as on 31 December 2022)
Net Asset Value per Share (NAVPS)	TK 68.57	TK. 69.94	TK. 67.51 (as on 31 December 2022)	TK. 68.96 (as on 31 December 2022)
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	Tk 0.09	Tk. 0.02	Tk. 0.25	Tk. 0.67
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	Tk 0.82	Tk. 0.74	Tk. 1.72	Tk. 1.78
** Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) decreased due to higher claims paid out in Q1, 2023 compared to Q1, 2022. *** Earnings Per Share (EPS) decreased due to higher claims accrued in Q1, 2023 compared to Q1, 2022.				
The details of First Quarter (Q1) un-audited Financial Statements of the company for the period ended on March 31, 2023 will also be available in the website of the company at www.green-delta.com				
By order of the Board of Directors Md Oliullah Khan FCS Company Secretary				
Dated: 7 th May, 2023				

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. RFP/BAN/2023/012: Request for Proposal (RFP) for concluding Carbon Footprint Assessment of the Healthcare Facility.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 22 May 2023 (Dhaka time)**..

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(I)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ এর কার্যালয়

চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, রহমতগঞ্জ, চট্টগ্রাম

ফোনঃ ০৩১-২৮৬৩২৩২

ই-মেইলঃ eechi@rhd.gov.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগাধীন ঢাকা (যাত্রাবাড়ী)-কুমিল্লা (ময়নামতি)-চট্টগ্রাম-কক্সবাজার-টেকনাফ জাতীয় মহাসড়কের (এন-১) ২০৯তম কিঃ মিঃ এ আর আর টেক্সটাইল নামক স্থানে স্টীল ফুটওভার ব্রীজ এর নির্মাণ কাজ চলমান রয়েছে। নির্মাণাধীন ফুটওভার ব্রীজের ডেকবীম স্থাপনের জন্য আগামী ১৩ মে/২০২৩ ভোর ৫:৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ভোর ৭:৩০ ঘটিকা (২ ঘন্টা) পর্যন্ত সকল প্রকার যানবাহন চলাচল বন্ধ থাকবে। জনসাধারণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য সড়ক ও জনপথ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

২০২৩.০৫.০৮

পিটু চাকমা

পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২১৯

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ

সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর

চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-৭৯৬

URGENT APPOINTMENT

DSM Commodities Ltd. is an internationally reputed fastest growing sales and marketing company, engaged with trading in Raw Cotton, Polyester Staple Fiber (PSF), Synthetic Yarn, Textile Machinery & Agro Commodities since 1991. The Company wishes to fill the following vacant posts with urgent appointment for Marketing & Trading of large volume of Synthetic Shares (Branded), Fabrics, Synthetic Yarns (FDY, DTY etc.) and Polyester Chips.

General Manager (Sales & Marketing) – Two Posts

The incumbent preferably should have 4/5 years experiences in selling and marketing of above products with academic qualification BBA/MBA/Graduate/Masters preferably in Textile with ability to write and talk fluently in English and must have computer literacy with ability to correspond independently. Academic qualification may be relaxed in case of experienced candidate.

Salary: Tk.50,000.00 PM Consolidated (Salary may be negotiable depending on experience) and other benefits admissible as per company policy.

Age : 25-35 years.

If you think you are fit for the above post, please send your resume along with academic certificates, NID and experience certificates with a recent photograph addressing to:

The Chairman & Managing Director

DSM COMMODITIES LTD., 42, Gulshan Avenue, Road-135, Jabbar Tower Level- 10(9th Floor), Gulshan Circle-01, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh or mail to tapas.baral@dsmcom.net by **25/05/2023**.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Chapainawabganj Road Division
Phone: 01730782711
Tel: 02588-893101
E-mail: eenaw@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.7000.454.16.001.23-1058(18) Date: 07/05/2023

Corrigendum for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

Work Name: Consultancy Service for Topographical Survey and Hydrology Morphological Study with Feasibility Study for New Alignment Road & Bridge of Baragaria-Gohalbari-Jadabpur Khैया Ghat (Nayagola)-Dariapur Road under Chapainawabganj Road Division during the year 2022-2023.

Eoi Sl No.	Subject	Previous Requirement	Corrected Requirement
10.	Eoi closing/submission date & time	With all supporting documents, the Eoi must be delivered at or before 4.00pm on 09/05/2023 in sealed envelopes.	With all supporting documents, the Eoi must be delivered at or before 4.00pm on 16/05/2023 in sealed envelopes.
13	Experience, resources and delivery capacity	1. Availability of the appropriate skilled staff (list of relevant professional staff including their qualification & experience in similar nature of works). 2. Trade license, VAT registration certificate, TIN certificate. Brochures should be submitted by the Applicants summarizing the firm(s) facilities and areas of expertise. 3. Brochures should be submitted by the Applicants summarizing the firm(s) facilities and areas of expertise.	4. Availability of the appropriate skilled staff (list of relevant professional staff including their qualification & experience in similar nature of works). 5. Trade license, VAT registration certificate, TIN certificate. Brochures should be submitted by the Applicants summarizing the firm(s) facilities and areas of expertise. 3. Brochures should be submitted by the Applicants summarizing the firm(s) facilities and areas of expertise. 4. Average Annual Turnover in the last 3 (three) years (Audited Financial Statement for the last 3 (three) years). 5. Experience in similar nature of service over the last 10 years (limited 5 pages).
15.	Association with other firms	Not applicable	Applicable

* Other terms/conditions of Eoi will remain unchanged.

৪৫৮৬১২৩
Sanjida Afrin Jhinuk
ID No. 602251
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Chapainawabganj

GD-791



TAGORE'S 162ND BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Tagore's legacy fading away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Around a century ago, Rabindranath Tagore visited Mymensingh. Despite such historical significance, his memories are yet to be preserved.

It's also astonishing that no programmes are held to commemorate the bard's legacy, said locals.

Tagore is a part of Mymensingh's history and culture. His memories should be preserved for the generations to come and for the sake of the country's history, said Mamunul Islam, ex-secretary of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Mymensingh.

"The government should take immediate steps in this regard," said Dr Monjurul Alam, current president of the same organisation.

The places of Tagore's visit include Alexander Castle, also popularly known as "Luhar Kuthir" or "Rang Mohol"; "Shashi Lodge"; Bidhyamoyee Girls School; Mohakali Girls School, City College School in Mymensingh city and Atharabari zaminder palace in Ishwarganj.

Tagore arrived in Mymensingh by train from Dhaka on February 15, 1926, on a four-day visit. The then zaminders of Muktagacha arranged special programmes under a banyan tree on the castle premises, now known as "Rabindra Batamul" to welcome the poet.

The poet was accorded several receptions during his stay by Mymensingh Municipality, Mymensingh Sarswato Samity, Mymensingh Nagorik Samaj, Bidhyamoyee Girls' School, City Collegiate School and Mahila Samity.

Archeological department officials contacted the college authorities with a proposal to renovate Alexander Castle a few years ago but there was no follow up.

On invitation of Promod Chandra Roy Chowdhury, the then zaminder of Atharabari and also a student of Shantiniketan, Tagore visited Roy's palace on February 19 in 1926.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Amidst the vibrant celebrations at Shahzadpur Kacharibari in Sirajganj, where joyous festivities illuminate the air, a sombre scene unfolds in Mymensingh's Kacharabari where Tagore had visited a century ago. While the region boasts a wealth of Rabindranath Tagore's historical significance, locals anxiously await the much-needed restoration of this cultural gem.

PHOTO: STAR

The bard's love for Shahzadpur Kacharibari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shahzadpur Kacharibari in Sirajganj is bustling with activity as the Rabindra festival, commemorating the fond memory of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, is set to kick off on May 8, marking his 162nd birth anniversary.

The three-day festival is being organised by the Sirajganj district administration and will be inaugurated by Deputy Speaker Advocate Samsul Haque Tuku, with national and local artists set to perform.

Tagore had a deep connection with Shahzadpur Kacharibari, making the Rabindra festival a traditional festivity in this region, says Abu Sayeed Enam Tanvirul, the custodian of Shahzadpur Rabindra Kacharibari.

Tagore's grandfather, Prince Dwarkanath, had purchased the estate in Shahzadpur from Zaminder Rani Bhabani of Natore in 1840, and the poet took on the responsibility of maintaining the estate, making frequent visits to the region between 1890 to 1897.

The natural beauty, purity, simplicity, and innocence of the people in this region had a profound impact on Tagore, which is widely reflected in his writings.

Prof Abdul Alim, a teacher of Bangla department at Pabna University of Science and Technology and Tagore researcher, said Tagore was particularly inspired by the natural beauty of the region and mentioned that in one of his books. The characters of many of his works, such as "Postmaster" and "Sonar Tori", were inspired by his experiences in Shahzadpur, he added.

Tagore's love for Shahzadpur is evident in his letters, where he states that he found more inspiration for his writing in Shahzadpur than in any other area.

Today, the historic Shahzadpur Kacharibari has been preserved as an archaeological site, and the museum on the premises holds 331 artefacts, including 148 items used by the poet, such as a couch, chairs, tables, a mirror, a piano, and a palanquin. The museum also houses 20 rare paintings of Tagore, including depictions of trees, nature, and women, and over 3,000 precious books.

RAJSHAHI CITY POLLS
Smooth sailing for Liton?

Collects nomination paper amid BNP boycotting polls; no rebel candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The upcoming mayoral election in Rajshahi City Corporation is likely to be a smooth sailing for the incumbent mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton. This is due to the fact that the opposition party BNP has announced a boycott of the polls and no rebel candidates of the ruling Awami League are expected to participate.

Liton collected nomination papers from the returning office yesterday as the lone candidate from the Awami League for the mayoral elections. He is also a presidium member of the party.

The election is scheduled to take place on June 21. Electioneering will begin from June 2. According to the election schedule, possible candidates would have to collect and submit the nomination documents within May 21.

The AL leaders of the city expressed their support for Liton by being present when the city AL acting president Mohammad Ali Kamal collected the nomination paper on behalf of the incumbent mayor.

Local voters believe that Liton's electoral race might be smooth, although a former joint secretary of Rajshahi city BNP, Sayeed Hasan, has expressed his intention to participate as an independent candidate.

"I am considering the possibilities, but I am yet to take any final decision (regarding contesting)," Sayeed Hasan, who currently doesn't have any party portfolio, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Tk 2.5cr bridge remains useless for 2 years

Locals suffer due to absence of approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A road without approach roads is like a book without pages – utterly useless. Yet, that's exactly what has happened with the bridge over Dwipasha Khal in Patuakhali's Bauphal, built at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore by the Local Government Engineering Department.

For two long years, the bridge has remained unused as the approach roads were never built, causing immense suffering to locals who risk their lives daily by using a wooden ladder to cross the canal.

It is a clear case of wastage of public money, and the authorities concerned must take immediate action to resolve the issue, demand locals.

The status quo has been causing great inconvenience to students and many others who have to cross the canal regularly.

Over 500 students of nearby educational institutions such as Sonamuddin Mridha Secondary School, Dwipasha Government Primary School, Konakdia SS School, and College are facing difficulties to cross the canal due to the absence of an approach road.

Kalam Khan, a local resident, said they had made wooden ladders on both ends of the bridge to help people get in and out of the bridge.



The absence of an approach road to the bridge over Dwipasha Khal in Patuakhali has forced locals to use makeshift bamboo ladders to cross the canal, risking their lives. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Another resident named Tahmina Begum said that they had to use the bridge every day to go to the other side of the canal to do agricultural work, and climbing up the bridge with ladders is risky.

Asma Akhter, a 10th-grader of Sonamuddin Mridha Secondary School, said she had faced several accidents during the process. A few people were also injured as they fell off the stairs while climbing down through the ladder.

Despite repeated complaints, officials concerned have not taken any action to resolve the issue, alleged locals.

Golam Mostafa, chairman of

Madanpura Union Parishad, said the issue of public suffering regarding the bridge was raised several times at meetings in the presence of officials concerned, but to no avail.

Contacted, Gias Uddin, the project's contractor, admitted that the delay in constructing the approach roads.

He said the road would be constructed very soon, and he hoped that they would be able to start the work within a day or two.

Upazila LGED Engineer Sultan Hossain said, "After discussing the issue with the contractor, arrangements would be made for the construction of an approach road."

ACC sues ex-cop, wife for corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued a former police official of Chattogram Metropolitan Police and his wife for accumulating huge amount of wealth illegally beyond his known source of income and concealing information in the wealth statement.

The accused – ABM Shahadat Hossain – was assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and also served as petrol inspector of CMP at the city's Alankar Police Traffic Box. He and his wife Razia Sultana Chowdhury live in the port city's Halishahar Chuna Factory area in their own building, according to the case.

Md Enamul Haque, assistant director of ACC integrated office-1, Chattogram filed two separate

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Dyeing factory depot gutted in Gazipur fire

UNB, Gazipur

A warehouse of a dyeing factory was gutted in a fire at Pagar in Tongi area of Gazipur district yesterday.

The fire broke out at the warehouse of Hossain Dyeing and Printing Mills Ltd around 1:30pm and spread soon, said senior officer of Tongi fire service Iqbal Hasan.

On information, five firefighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after one and a half hours of frantic effort.

However, reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.



International Education with an Australian Experience



Master of Business Administration (MBA)

- Graduate Diploma of Business Administration
- Graduate Certificate of Business Administration

Bachelor of Business (B.Bus)

- Diploma and Associate Degree in Business

Bachelor of Accounting (B.Acc)

- Diploma and Associate Degree in Accounting

FOR ENROLMENTS AND ENQUIRIES

Tel +61 2 9261 4161 F +61 2 9267 8498
E info@gca.edu.au www.gca.edu.au

UBSS is a registered, private higher education provider and its courses are accredited by the Australian Tertiary Education Quality & Standards Agency (TEQSA).

UBSS is a member of Group Colleges Australia Pty Ltd

TEQSA PRV12021 - CRICOS Provider Code 02571D ABN 11 085 429 732



A Palestinian protester kicks a tear gas canister during confrontations with Israeli troops as army bulldozers demolished a school that the Israeli authorities said was built without permission in the village of Jabbet al-Dhib, east of Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

8 killed by gunman at Texas mall

7 hurt; shooter killed by police

REUTERS

A gunman shot and killed eight people and wounded at least seven others at a busy mall north of Dallas on Saturday, police said.

The gunman, whom authorities said they think acted alone and whose motive was not yet known, was killed by a police officer after he began firing outside of the Allen Premium Outlets mall in Allen, Texas, the city's police chief Brian Harvey said at a press conference.

Allen fire department chief Jon Boyd told the same press conference that his department took at least nine victims with gunshot wounds to area hospitals.

Two of those people died at the hospital, Boyd said at a second press conference Saturday night. Three of the victims were in critical condition and four others were stable.

Medical City Healthcare, which runs 16 hospitals in the area, said in a statement that its trauma centers were treating eight of the wounded victims, who ranged in age from 5 to 61.

Collin County Judge Chris Hill, the top elected official in the county where Allen sits, praised police and other first responders at a press conference, but expressed deep anger with "those that would do evil in our community, in our backyard."

Separately, police in the nearby city of Frisco, Texas, said they had evacuated the Stonebriar mall late Saturday after receiving reports of shots fired there. It was not yet clear if a shooting had actually taken place.

TV aerial images showed hundreds of people calmly walking out of the mall after the violence unfolded.

23,000 flee violence in India's Manipur

Says army; no new 'major violence' reported, curfew lifted

AGENCIES

Some 23,000 people have fled ethnic violence in northeast India that has reportedly killed at least 54, the army said yesterday, although there was no new "major violence" overnight.

The unrest in Manipur state erupted after a protest march by a tribal group last week sparked clashes, with vehicles and houses set on fire and authorities firing tear gas.

The military has deployed thousands of troops to the state bordering Myanmar, issued "shoot-at-sight" orders in "extreme cases", imposed curfews and cut the internet.

The army said yesterday no major flare-ups were reported overnight and that a curfew was lifted between 7-10 am in Churachandpur district, one of the main flashpoint areas.

"Past 24 hrs also witnessed Army significantly enhancing surveillance efforts through aerial surveillance, movement of UAVs & redeployment of Army Helicopters within Imphal Valley," it said, referring to unmanned aerial vehicles or drones.

"Total 23000 civilians have been rescued till now & were moved to own operating bases/ military Garrisons," the statement said.

Authorities have not given an official death toll but hospital morgues in the state capital Imphal and Churachandpur had reported a combined total

of 54 dead, according to local media.

Tribal groups including the Kukis are unhappy about the prospect of the state's majority Meitei community being recognised under a "Scheduled Tribe" category.

This designation would give them a certain quota of government jobs and college admissions in a form of affirmative action aimed at



addressing structural inequality and discrimination.

L. Sanglun Simte, 29, a Kuki who has been camping outside the airport in state capital Imphal with 11 of his family members since Saturday, recounted the horror as violence broke out.

"We fled for safety. Things are not okay. They are just attacking us Kukis," he told AFP.

Simte said his 49-year-old cousin, Siemcha Gangte, was killed by a mob on Thursday and his house was set on fire.

"The attackers say we are outsiders and need to leave Imphal. When they attacked us, the local police didn't help."

Simte, who has booked a flight for Agartala, the capital of neighbouring Tripura state, said he would return only if security improved.

"We don't feel safe right now," he said.

Lalpu Suantak, 45, who works with a state-owned bank in Imphal and is also from the Kuki community, said he fled his house with 12 family members after some homes and a neighbourhood church were set on fire.

"My house hasn't been touched yet but there was fear when a mob burnt one house in our area," he told AFP.

India's northeast has seen decades of unrest among ethnic and separatist groups seeking more autonomy or even secession from India, with at least 50,000 people killed in Manipur since the 1950s.

These conflicts had waned over the years, with many groups striking deals with New Delhi for more powers.

Manipur Director General of Police P. Doungel said orders have been given to take strict action against anyone found involved in acts of violence, reports Reuters.

"We have asked army to stage flag marches in violence hit areas and instructed the forces to take stringent action against anyone involved in violence," Doungel told journalists.



A smoke column rises from wildfire EWF-035 near Shining Bank, Alberta, Canada on Saturday. Alberta announced a state of emergency as wildfires flared across the Canadian province, forcing 25,000 people to flee their homes in what a top official said was an "unprecedented" crisis. PHOTO: REUTERS

US BOUND MIGRANTS Mexican authorities rescue 113

AFP, Mexico City

Authorities in northwest Mexico rescued 113 kidnapped migrants of different nationalities from a building along the border with the United States, the state prosecutor's office said.

Thousands of migrants fleeing violence and poverty risk abduction and exploitation at the hands of criminal gangs while crossing Mexico on the way to the US border.

The latest discovery in San Luis Rio Colorado, which borders the US state of Arizona, arose from follow-up investigations by authorities who found on Friday 10 Colombian citizens presumed to have been kidnapped.

Download

The Daily Star

iPHONE & ANDROID APPS

The Daily Star Online

Fresh | Bold | Fast

 বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES <small>H.S. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH, PHONE-8901500-19, 8901640-54, www.biman-airlines.com</small>			
Invitation for Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)			
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.	
2	Agency	Autonomous Bodies & Other Institutions.	
3	Name of procuring entity	Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.	
4	Title of service	Develop of the existing internal Call Center into a Contact Center.	
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6	Expression of Interest for selection of	Individual Consultant	Lump-Sum
7	EOI Ref. No.	DACPL/RFP/CALL CENTER/2022-2023.	
8	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)	03/05/2023.	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement sub-method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget	Own Funds
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11	EOI closing date and time	18/05/2023	12pm
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
12	Brief description of the assignment	Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national carrier of Bangladesh, is carrying more than 2 million passengers every year and intends to develop a state-of-art Call Center which would be transformed into a Contact Centre to handle the issues of current and potential customers quickly and efficiently. The primary purpose of an airline's Call Center is to offer efficient and effective customer service and sales assistance. At present, Biman is maintaining a Call Center with limited features, which is not capable of meeting customer satisfaction in such an ultra-competitive airline market. Biman is planning to outsource Consultancy Services from experienced and qualified personnel or organization to develop an airline standard Call Center, which will provide necessary technical and documentation support to transform Biman's Call Centre into a Contact Center. The Contact Center will be developed and managed internally by Biman Bangladesh Airlines. Scope of Services and Deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gap Analysis in the Context of BimanNeed AssessmentOrganogram for Call CentreProcess StandardizationFinancial AnalysisTraining ModuleProject Profile	
13	Experience, resources & delivery capacity required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The firm/consultant should have a minimum of 02 (alternatively available whenever required) Call Center Technology experts with a minimum Bachelor's or Master's Degree in IT or Telecom related disciplines.The Call Center Technology experts should have more than 10 years of experience in the technology domain.The Call Center Technology experts should have at least 10 years of experience in setting up an International Customer Services Center.The Call Center Technology experts should have experience as a Consultant in setting up at least 03 International Call CentersPossesses an understanding of International Customer Service operations and modes of Operation.Ability to work on scrum project management systems.The consultant must not have any affiliation, be in service of, or be in collaboration with any commercial entity that is currently operating as a call center development or service provider organization. The consultant may will be needed to provide technical evaluation consultancy related to any procurement process (if any). It is important to note that if the consultant has any affiliation, current employment, or collaboration with an existing call center development or service provider, it will create a conflict of interest for this consultancy service and will disqualify his services.The consultant is prohibited from making any recommendations or developing any criteria in the deliverables that would result in a 'spec lock' for a particular commercial entity serving as a third-party service or solution provider. Additionally, the consultant should not recommend any specific brand names for hardware or software.	
14	Other details (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The consultant must not have any affiliation, be in service of, or be in collaboration with any commercial entity that is currently operating as a call center development or service provider organization. The consultant may will be needed to provide technical evaluation consultancy related to any procurement process (if any). It is important to note that if the consultant has any affiliation, current employment, or collaboration with an existing call center development or service provider, it will create a conflict of interest for this consultancy service and will disqualify his services.The consultant is prohibited from making any recommendations or developing any criteria in the deliverables that would result in a 'spec lock' for a particular commercial entity serving as a third-party service or solution provider. Additionally, the consultant should not recommend any specific brand names for hardware or software.	
15	Association with foreign firms is	Not encouraged.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
16	Name of the official inviting EOI	Mohammad Mohiuddin.	
17	Designation of the official	General Manager, Procurement & Logistic Support.	
18	Address of the official	Room No. 217, Biman Admin Building, HSIA, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.	
19	Contact details of the officials	Dir: +88-02-8901538/Pabx: 4234, Mob: +88 01777715575, Email: gmsp@bdbiman.com Or, Mohammad Shamsul Karim, General Manager Sales, Room No. 503, Dir: +88-02-41090859/Pabx: 2520, Mob: +88 01777715573 Email: gmsales@bdbiman.com .	
20	Your offer marked as "Request for Expressions of Interest" to be reached to Biman directly addressing to General Manager, Procurement & Logistic Support Directorate, HSIA, Dhaka or through e-mail: rtmprocurement@bdbiman.com within 12:00hrs (LT) on 18-May-2023.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all the REOI's.Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Rule 2008 have been followed in this REOI.RFP will be issued to the eligible consultants after shortlisting on the basis of REOI.			
GD-793			

Arab League readmits Syria

REUTERS, Cairo

Arab League foreign ministers adopted a decision to readmit Syria after more than a decade of suspension yesterday, a spokesperson for the League said, consolidating a regional push to normalise ties with President Bashar al-Assad.

The decision was taken at a closed meeting of Arab foreign ministers at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo, said Gamal Roshdy, spokesman for the Arab League's secretary general.

Syria's membership of the Arab League was suspended in 2011 after a bloody crackdown on street protests against Assad that led to a devastating civil war, and many Arab states pulled their envoys out of Damascus.

Recently, several Arab states including Saudi Arabia and Egypt, have re-engaged with Syria in high-level visits and meetings.



Children play with bubbles at a Big Lunch event to celebrate the coronation of Britain’s King Charles, at Gloucester Street in London, Britain yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Vietnam posts record-high temperature

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnam has reported a record-high temperature, with climate experts warning such extreme weather events would continue.

The country's scientists have warned that global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with the region sweltering under a heatwave in April -- when neighbouring countries also registered record temperatures.

A temperature of 44.1 degrees Celsius was measured in Vietnam Saturday, the National Centre for Hydro Meteorological Forecasting said, breaking the 2019 record of 43.4 degrees Celsius. Farmer Nguyen Thi Lan said that temperatures in the central city of Danang had been increasingly hot, forcing workers to start earlier than ever.

Moscow promised more ammo

Says Wagner chief after Bakhmut pull-out threat; Russian jet intercepts Polish plane over Black Sea

AFP, Moscow

Russian paramilitary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin said yesterday he had received "a promise" of more ammunition from the Russian army, after he threatened to pull his frontline Wagner troops out of Bakhmut.

"They promised to give us all the ammunition and armaments we need to continue the operations," said Prigozhin, following his blistering attack on military chiefs over the situation in Bakhmut, the epicentre of Ukraine's fight against Moscow's forces.

He said they had been assured "that everything necessary will be provided" to fighters around Bakhmut.

Prigozhin's Wagner group has spearheaded the grinding, months-long Russian assault on Bakhmut, almost capturing the city in the longest and bloodiest battle of the campaign.

Prigozhin however threatened to leave his positions in Bakhmut on May 10 due to a lack of weapons, which he blamed on Russian army chiefs.

He warned that he would "pull out Wagner units from Bakhmut because in the absence of ammunition they are facing a senseless death".

While Prigozhin had made similar threats to pull out in the past, the emotive language used



in Friday's video statement and the scathing personal criticism of the leaders of Russia's campaign in Ukraine were unprecedented.

The rivalry between his private military group and the conventional army have come to the surface during the battle for Bakhmut.

Meanwhile, a Russian fighter jet intercepted a Polish plane on patrol for the EU's border agency over the Black Sea, causing the pilots to temporarily lose control of the aircraft, Warsaw said yesterday.

According to Poland's border force, the Russian Sukhoi Su-35 plane did not make radio contact before carrying out "aggressive and dangerous manoeuvres, approaching

the border guard plane three times without keeping to the required safety distance".

The Polish plane, an L 410 Turbolet, experienced turbulence and the crew temporarily "lost control of the aircraft and lost altitude", the border force said.

It added the Russian plane flew just in front of the nose of the aircraft and crossed its path at a distance of "around five metres" (16 feet).

Government spokesman Piotr Muller told Polish television it was a "planned provocation by Russia".

Late Saturday, Romania's defence ministry, which first reported the move, condemned Moscow's "aggressive and dangerous" behaviour. Romania said the Polish plane was on a routine Frontex patrol with Romanian border police Friday when it was intercepted. The Polish aircraft landed safely in Romania afterwards.

Romanian and Spanish planes were put on "pre-alert" by Nato, the Romanian statement added.

It took place "in international airspace over the Black Sea," around 60 kilometres (37 miles) east of Romania's airspace, said the ministry. "This incident is further evidence of the provocative approach of the Russian Federation in the Black Sea," said Bucharest.

PTI RALLY IN PAKISTAN

Man lynched for 'blasphemy'

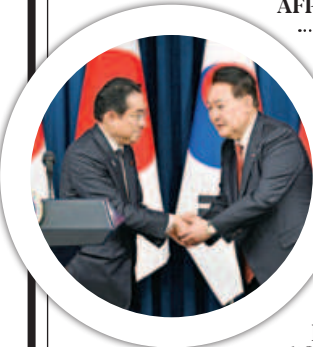
AFP, Peshawar

A man was beaten to death by a mob after being accused of blasphemy at a rally for former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party, officials said yesterday. Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where even unproven allegations can stir mobs and violence. Video of the lynching has been shared widely on social media, with police seen vainly trying to stop a frenzied mob from beating the alleged blasphemer. The incident took place on Saturday in the Sawal Dher area of Mardan city in the country's ultra-conservative northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan. Police said a man identified as Nigar Alam was asked to deliver the concluding prayer at a rally organised by Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party when the crowd took offence to his comments. He managed to flee the scene, police said, but a mob tracked him down to a relative's house. "A group of individuals climbed over the wall, barged inside, and beat him to death with sticks and batons," said district police chief Najeeb-ur-Rehman. "The mob was so agitated that it became extremely challenging for the police to even recover the body," he told AFP. Another local police official, Umair Khan, confirmed the incident. PTI leader Khan was not present at the rally and party officials had no immediate comment on the incident. Few issues in Pakistan are as galvanising as blasphemy, and even the slightest suggestion of an insult to Islam can supercharge protests and incite lynchings.

'My heart aches'

Says Japanese PM over South Korea's colonial-era suffering

AFP, Seoul



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said yesterday that his "heart aches" over South Korea's colonial-era suffering, as he hailed fresh efforts to mend Tokyo's long-strained ties with Seoul at a landmark summit.

"My heart aches as many people went through a very difficult and sad experience in the harsh environment at that time," Kishida said, speaking after a summit with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol. The East Asian neighbours, both crucial security allies of the United States, have long been at odds over historic issues linked to Japan's 1910 to 1945 colonial occupation of Korean peninsula, including sexual slavery. The two countries have been locked in a tit-for-tat economic dispute since 2018, when South Korea's Supreme Court ordered Japanese firms to compensate the wartime victims of forced labour, enraging Tokyo. But Yoon has sought to bury the historical hatchet, earlier announcing a plan to compensate victims.



A woman casts her ballot during advance voting at a polling station at Wat That Thong Buddhist temple in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday, a week ahead of the May 14 general election.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel repatriates gun running Jordanian MP

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel yesterday transferred a Jordanian member of parliament to Amman's authorities, weeks after arresting him for attempting to smuggle pistols, rifles and gold into the occupied West Bank, officials said.

Imad Adwan was detained at the Israel-administered Allenby (King Hussein) crossing between Jordan and the West Bank on April 22 with Israeli security forces finding 12 rifles and 194 pistols in his car, the Shin Bet internal security agency said.

The parliamentarian was not charged by Israel but was handed over to Jordanian authorities "for his continued investigation and legal proceedings," the Shin Bet said in a statement.

Jordan's official Petra news agency confirmed the

transfer, saying Adwan will appear before prosecutors at the country's State Security Court after "other defendants admitted to trading and smuggling weapons, gold and e-cigarettes in association" with him.

Ahmad Safadi, speaker of the Jordanian parliament's lower house, told local media that after Adwan's release by Israel, the legislature had voted to strip him of immunity from prosecution, following a court request.

Since February 2022, Adwan had used his diplomatic passport 12 times to smuggle various goods, the Shin Bet statement said. From the beginning of 2023, he began smuggling weapons across the border "out of greed, and received large sums of money", the statement added.

14m watched coronation of King Charles III: BBC

AFP, London

More than 14 million people tuned in to watch King Charles III's coronation on BBC television, the corporation said yesterday.

At its peak, 13.4 million watched on the main BBC One channel, with an average of 11.9 million watching Saturday's coverage of the ceremony.

A signed version on BBC Two peaked at 1.7 million, averaging at 1.4 million, a statement from the public broadcaster read.

Saturday's coronation -- the first to be held in Britain in 70 years -- was only the second to be televised, and the first to be shown in colour.

But the figures indicate that overall viewing figures were well down on previous major royal occasions.

Last year's state funeral of Charles's mother Queen Elizabeth II attracted one of the biggest television audiences in the UK in modern times.

An estimated average audience of 26.2 million watched on TV sets alone, peaking at 28 million, including 18.5 million on the BBC.

In 2011, more than 24 million viewers watched the wedding of Charles's son Prince William on BBC.

In 1997, more than 32 million viewers in the UK watched the funeral of Charles's first wife and William's mother, Princess Diana.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
খাদ্য অধিদপ্তর	
চলাচল, সংরক্ষণ ও সাইলো বিভাগ	
১৬, আব্দুল গণি সড়ক, ঢাকা-১০০০	
E-mail: dmss@dgfood.gov.bd	
Web: www.dgfood.gov.bd	
স্মারক নং-১৩.০১.০০০০.০৮১.৪৯.০০৮.২২-২৭	তারিখঃ ০৭.০৫.২০২৩খ্রিঃ
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরের অধীনে চুক্তির তারিখ হতে ২(দুই) বছরের জন্য ও/কিনাটি লটে/লটে শূণ্য পরিবহণ ঘাটতি সম্বলিত পদ্ধতিতে রেল ওয়াগনে খাদ্যশস্য/খাদ্যদ্রব্য এক গুদাম/কেন্দ্রে হতে অন্য গুদাম/কেন্দ্রে রেলপথে পরিবহনের জন্য রেলওয়ে পরিবহণ টিকাদার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ	
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ :
২	এজেন্সি :
৩	সমগ্রাহক সত্তা :
৪	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র :
৫	দরপত্রের সূত্র নং :
৬	সমগ্র পদ্ধতি :
৭	বাজেট ও তহবিল সূত্র :
৮	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ :
৯	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময় :
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান :
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় :
১২	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরনের স্থান :
১৩	গ্রাক-দরপত্র সভার তারিখ ও সময় :
১৪	গ্রাক-দরপত্র সভার স্থান :
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন :
১৬	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তর :
১৭	দরপত্রদাতার অভিজ্ঞতা :
১৮	দরপত্র দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী :
১৯	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য :
২০	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবি :
২১	কাজের সময়কাল :
২২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার :
২৩	এ দরপত্র পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে ক্রয়কারী এ নোটিশ বাতিল বা পরিবর্তন বা যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাখ্যান/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
জিডি-৭৯৫	
মোঃ জামাল হোসেন পরিচালক ফোনঃ ০২-৪১০৫০৬৯৬	

Loco crisis can cripple the railway

Govt should urgently find a way to address engine shortages

The way those in charge of the railway have been going about addressing its longstanding locomotive crisis is alarming. At a time when the railway is going through a severe shortage of engines threatening to derail its operation, the authorities have been moving at a snail's pace to fix it. That is, if they are moving at all. As per a new report, two projects – which, if executed as planned, would have added 70 new meter-gauge (MG) locomotives to its fleet and overhauled 21 old locomotives – are now at risk of being cancelled. Reason? Because of zero progress achieved in the projects despite years spent in preparation. It shows how, instead of fixing the engine crisis, the relevant authorities are allowing it to continue which can only mean public suffering down the road.

Getting into the details of these long-delayed projects serves up useful lessons. Bangladesh Railway (BR) took up the first project to procure 70 MG locomotives in August 2011. But despite three deadline extensions since then, punctuated by a major revision in 2018, when the project budget was increased from Tk 1,946 crore to Tk 2,659.33 crore, things are yet to pass the preliminary stage. The second project, taken up in July 2019, also suffered more or less the same fate. Reportedly, the project authority floated tender thrice over the last four years, but still failed to get it off the ground. The delay that has been witnessed in both cases is anything but usual, even by government standards. These projects have been evidently undone by the mismanagement, poor planning and incompetence of those involved. The question is, who will answer for that?

Even if these projects are now cancelled and replaced by fresh initiatives to procure and overhaul locomotives, it will be merely a bureaucratic formality with no guarantee that the same problems will not recur to haunt them. And the fact remains that we wouldn't have to deal with this situation had the higher authorities been remotely sincere about addressing the dire engine crisis. According to the latest estimate, the state-run BR has only 171 MG locomotives, of which a whopping 82 percent are old or "overaged", requiring urgent overhauling. Of the 92 broad-gauge (BG) locomotives under the BR fleet, 55 percent are also overaged. Clearly, the BR is headed toward a crisis point even if it may not publicly acknowledge it.

Unfortunately, the problems that derailed the locomotive projects have been the hallmarks of most railway projects over the last decade or so. We have frequently seen how, in the absence of any functional institutional accountability, expensive projects have been taken up and frequently revised to allow for inflated bills, only for them to add little to the railway service in the long run. How long will such mismanagement, irregularities and corruption be allowed? How long will taxpayers have to see their hard-earned money go down the drain like this? We urge the government to immediately address this issue. The locomotive crisis must not be allowed to continue any longer.

Clean up the canals before monsoon

And before waterlogging disrupts everyday life once again

Canals becoming blocked due to encroachment and pollution is hardly surprising news. But it never fails to leave us with a sense of helplessness anyway. It foreshadows the suffering of the residents when the roads stay flooded as a result. The state of four major canals in Dhaka as reported by Prothom Alo – being clogged with garbage, impeding their ability to drain out flood waters – is a case in point.

On paper, the Jirani Khal, for example, is almost 20 feet wide in some places and 50 feet in others. It goes through major points in the city such as Shantinagar, Motijheel, Naya Paltan, Kamalapur and Khilgaon, carrying rain water and eventually pouring into the Balu River. But the reality is, it remains clogged with garbage and vegetation as it has not been dredged since the last rainy season. Three other canals – Manda, Shyampur and Kalunagar – are in the same condition. With these four canals being blocked, major areas under the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) will fail to clear rain water during the upcoming monsoon season.

According to a city corporation official, dredging of these canals will begin within two months. This means, actual dredging will start during the rainy season. But how will that be carried out with the continuous downpour? In 2022, the government approved the project to revive the four canals – the total length of which is 19.78 km – to reduce the city's waterlogging problems. The main aim was to free them from encroachers and pollution. In addition, the project included boundary walls, 36 pedestrian bridges, 10 public toilets, walkways, plazas, bicycle lanes, and so on. It is supposed to be completed by 2024.

But as we know from past experience, many development projects are intended to make life easier for city-dwellers but end up getting unnecessarily delayed because of bureaucratic inertia. The result is continued misery of the people whose everyday lives are hampered, in this case by waterlogging. We have seen on many occasions how mayors have vowed to solve the waterlogging problem. But somehow, after each heavy rain, the roads of many parts of the city become flooded, with water stagnating for hours on end.

We, therefore, urge the government to take all necessary steps to make sure that the two city corporations of Dhaka prioritise dredging and cleaning of clogged canals as soon as possible. Although cleaning up the four canals in question is being prioritised, we hope such activities would be a routine function of the relevant authorities all year round. The government should also ensure that the city corporations have the capacity and resources to carry out such crucial work, and hold them responsible when they fail to do so on time. Awareness campaigns to dissuade people from throwing garbage in the canals also have to be conducted regularly. Keeping our drains, canals, and other water bodies clean and free-flowing is the responsibility of both the government and the city-dwellers.

NEW WORLD BANK PRESIDENT

Ajay Banga's plateful of challenges

MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun
is executive director at the Centre
for Policy Dialogue. Views expressed
are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN



The world is going through several challenges including the fallout from the Covid pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, soaring inflation, and climate emergencies. Despite decades of progress, we are now in a situation where growth and poverty reduction have slowed down. Climate change has exacerbated these problems as millions of lives face displacement, poverty, and hunger.

The new World Bank (WB) president pick, Ajay Banga (who is set to take over on June 2, 2023) will have to address these emerging issues and the existing ones, as expectations from the world's largest multilateral bank are high. Indeed, the Indian-American businessman and former CEO of Mastercard has a lot on his plate.

One of the first things Banga would have to tackle is reforming and modernising the institution, something that stakeholders have asked for across sectors. For a long time, member countries have been urging for designing the WB as a fit-for-purpose institution. The reason behind this is that the 20th century organisation cannot address 21st century issues as their nature, dimension, extent, and scale have changed a lot. So, solutions have to be changed radically from what they would have been 80 years ago.

The WB has recently published "Evolution of the World Bank Group: A Report to Governors," which aims to propose ways to enhance its mission and strengthen its operating model. While this is a welcome move, reforms have to go much deeper in order to deal with multidimensional problems that pose existential threats to our world.

Against current geo-economic and geopolitical realities, the World Bank's programmes should be much more comprehensive in order to capture the interconnectedness of developmental and other sectoral goals. The magnitude of problems requires not just the addition of new issues on the programme list, but the integration of these issues in the overall mission and operating model of the organisation. Take the example of climate



The new World Bank president pick, Ajay Banga, is set to take over on June 2.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

change. The World Bank's efforts in this case have been fraught with limitations. At the leadership level, the inertia in recognising the severity of the problem and guiding the climate action agenda holistically has been absent so far. This limitation is reflected in the country offices of the WB. There are some initiatives by the organisations on climate change at the country level. However, those are still "add-ons" to the overall programme. They are not designed as part of the overall development programme of each country office. Hence, these programmes are implemented on a piecemeal basis. The country-level programmes are often not aligned with national goals on climate change, either. There are, of course, the Country Climate and Development Reports of the World Bank, which aim to guide countries on how their national development priorities can be aligned with international climate goals. But the inclusiveness in consultation while designing programmes is limited to

people's lives and livelihood. The investment requirements for climate issues are massive and the WB must play the catalytic role to mobilise the incremental resources from various sources.

For climate change issues, Banga will have to make tough choices in order to create a radical shift in the way the World Bank Group (WBG) funds projects. Among the five WBG institutions – namely the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and International Centre for Settlement of Disputes (ICSID) – some have been accused of continuing to finance fossil fuel-based projects even after the Paris Agreement. Hence, the WBG has to be transparent and accountable in regards to direct and indirect energy financing, the emissions due to such investments, and their impact on the

community.

While focusing his attention on climate crises, there is no scope for the new World Bank president to shy away from other difficult issues such as fighting poverty, tackling inequality, and reducing the debt burden of low- and middle-income countries. New and additional resources should be generated to confront the existing and new challenges. The mounting debt crisis in several countries must be addressed, too. Debt as a percentage of countries' gross national income (GNI) has increased significantly during the last decade. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and North Africa have experienced a sharp increase of their debt-GNI ratio during 2010-2021. And though South Asia has seen only a two percent average increase of its debt-GNI during this period, countries such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka are facing difficulty due to high debt.

The G20's "Independent Review of MDBs' Capital Adequacy Frameworks" launched last year called for improving the balance sheets of multilateral development banks and making lending restrictions flexible and affordable for lower-income countries so that they can recover from the pandemic and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To match this, the WB needs to mobilise private-sector finance to meet both developmental and climate goals.

As part of its reform, the efficiency of the WB itself needs to be invigorated. The processing time for projects is lengthy as bureaucratic requirements are high and so are the transaction costs. This may discourage countries from borrowing from the WB to invest in infrastructure. The institution has to find ways to eliminate such limitations without compromising on the standards and quality of the bureaucratic process. Coordination with other multilateral institutions is critical for priority-setting so that resources are allocated and used efficiently, without duplication of programmes. Such collaboration has to be initiated from the top levels, which can help overcome institutional rivalry.

Therefore, the new president of the World Bank will be settling into the hot seat during a turbulent period in a new world. His task is not only to consolidate what has been achieved so far, but to also help the institution evolve into one that can face the ongoing crises. Member countries await to see how well Ajay Banga can live up to their expectations.

The complicated issue of paying 'living wages'

RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin
is the managing director of Denim
Expert Limited. He is also the
founder and CEO of Bangladesh
Denim Expo and Bangladesh
Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN



A report emerging from Australia recently claimed it will take up to 75 years for many leading fashion brands to start paying a living wage to any of the workers who make their products. This is despite progress in other areas of sustainability over the past decade. The "Ethical Fashion Report" was produced ahead of the 10th anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse. It claims progress towards paying workers a living wage has so far consisted of empty promises.

What are we to make of this? Are these criticisms unreasonable or do the authors make a decent point? Should fashion brands be under scrutiny for their failure to address this issue? I think it is right and proper that we should use the 10th anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse to pause and reflect on the progress made by our industry. Garment worker remuneration is clearly a part of this, and the challenges faced by workers has been in the spotlight in the run up to this anniversary.

While on one hand I would always want the best for garment workers and will continue to campaign on social issues, we all need to understand that

the subject of living wages is complex. Better wages cannot be introduced by any one actor alone. A leading fashion brand attempted to do this a few years ago and found that it was impossible without widespread industry collaboration.

It is perhaps worth asking, why are people paid the wage that they are? Why does a person making clothing in Bangladesh make, say, \$100 per month while one in China makes \$1,000 per month? In fact, workers in China's textile industry also do not receive "living wages" as their living standards are higher than that of their counterparts in Bangladesh.

For one, China's economy is more advanced and sophisticated than that of Bangladesh. Garment factories in Bangladesh are now competing with many other, higher paid industries which add more value. This has created an upward pressure on wages across the board and garment workers have been beneficiaries.

By contrast, in countries such as Bangladesh – and also India and Pakistan – the pace of economic development has been slower and

industrialisation is not as advanced. It is important to stress that there are broad macroeconomic issues at play here which are deep-seated and cannot be changed by any one factory or brand alone.

Another related factor is productivity rates. Economists calculate productivity as the gross domestic product generated per hour of working time. By this yardstick, Bangladesh's productivity is less than half of China's, is slightly below Vietnam's, and just above Cambodia's. We need to improve our productivity rates to increase wages. This means raising skills and implementing more technology to create greater added value.

Similarly, we need to look at the clothing being produced, its quality, and the relation to wages. If lots of low-value items are being produced, profit margins will be small and this will impact wages. By way of contrast, in the world's most sophisticated industries, where barriers to entry are significant due to the unique nature of the product being produced, skilled labour is in sharp demand and wages are high.

Despite all these structural challenges, I do believe it is possible to raise wages for workers, who are the most important aspect of the fashion supply chain. And we must continue to strive to do so.

In the broadest sense, the biggest factor is taking into consideration the price we pay for clothing. This is a challenge for retailers as they are

in a hugely competitive market. No retailer is going to reduce their prices in isolation. That would be commercial suicide.

But could we do more as an industry to educate end consumers about the lives of garment workers? Could we do more to help them understand that the price they pay for clothing ultimately has an impact on the wages paid to workers? Of course we can. Storytelling is a vital component of a modern, transparent fashion supply chain. Why not do more to tell the stories of the workers who produce our clothing?

There are a few more aspects of this issue that are worth exploring. Firstly, how does one calculate what a living wage is? I would argue that this is a nearly impossible task, with rents varying across locations, the number of dependents per person being different, and so on. To reiterate, living standards have risen in Bangladesh, with many garment workers now, for instance, having smartphones. We are not some third-world country, as occasionally portrayed by Western media.

There is also a concern that, if we ever do get anywhere near a fair wage, many brands and customers might simply decide to move production elsewhere.

A publicly listed company has to post increasingly good results, or investors will diversify their portfolio. How can a brand post both increasing margins and also pay fair prices to factories to enable fair living wages? Or is this the Holy Grail?



VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

What will it take for our next election to be credible and acceptable to all?



Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar is secretary of SHUJAN: Citizens for Good Governance.

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR

Under pressure from many directions, both national and international, the government has been promising that the 12th parliamentary election will be free and fair. Our constitutional scheme also mandates fair elections. International laws and covenants, such as The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, too, obligate us to hold such elections. Thus, if we are to abide by our Constitution as well as international laws, the government will have to ensure that the next election is free and fair.

It must be noted that free and fair election necessarily means competitive election, where not only will the major political parties participate, but each of them will also have an equal opportunity to win. Now the question is: what will it take for our next election to be credible and acceptable to all?

An important requirement of a free and fair election is that the electoral process is transparent, and credible. It must be recognised that the election is not a one-day phenomenon – it is a process involving multiple interrelated steps. They include the conditions that: (1) All eligible citizens can become voters; (2) All aspiring contestants can become candidates; (3) Voters have credible alternative candidates to choose from; (4) Scrutiny of the eligibility of candidates is fair; (5) Constituencies are delimited on the basis of a set of fair criteria; (6) Political parties and candidates can carry out their campaigns freely; (7) Antecedents of candidates are available for voters to make an informed choice in polling booths; (8) Candidates can field their agents in polling booths; (9) Voters are able to cast their vote without pressure or fear; (10) Influence of money and muscle on the election are effectively controlled; (11) Vote counting is transparent and accurate; (12) Election is monitored by credible election observers; and (13) Election disputes are settled speedily and impartially.

The above steps, it must be noted, are laid out in the body of election laws, such as the Representation of the People Order, 1972 and The National Voter Registration Act, 1993, which

govern elections as a means of fulfilling Article 119 of our Constitution. Proper and impartial execution of these steps is an important prerequisite for preventing rigged elections.

Another important requirement for free and fair elections is the neutrality of certain critical institutions responsible for carrying out the above steps. Most important of these institutions are: the Election Commission (EC), the bureaucracy, law enforcement agencies, and the higher judiciary. The EC plays the most pivotal role and is constitutionally mandated to ensure credible elections.

Considering its importance, Article 118 of our Constitution mandates the creation of an independent EC. The Constitution also gives its members necessary protection so that they can act independently and impartially. Thus, the formation of an independent EC with people of impeccable integrity and courage is an important prerequisite for a credible election. Unfortunately, there have been serious concerns raised about the manner in which the present Commission was constituted over a year ago, and a case is now pending in the High Court questioning the issue of its transparency. The credibility of the EC has also been under serious question because of all the actions and utterances of its members.

Although the Awami League-led Grand Alliance came to power in 2009 with a commitment to depoliticise the bureaucracy and law enforcement agencies, these institutions have been made subservient in many respects to the interest of the ruling party over the past decade. In fact, the partisan behaviour of these two institutions was instrumental in the questionable election of 2018. There are also allegations from the opposition of the court's undue interference in the scrutiny of candidates in the last election. Furthermore, not a single election petition filed after the 11th parliamentary election, to our knowledge, has so far reached its finality, creating the prospect of them ultimately becoming infructuous.

Another, and perhaps the most important, requirement of credible elections is the constitutional

framework, which must be conducive to free, fair, and competitive election.

Our original Constitution provided for holding elections under the party in power and none of the parliamentary elections held under that constitutional framework was fair and credible. To remedy that situation, the 13th amendment of the Constitution was enacted by the BNP in response to a vigorous movement by an AL-led alliance, to create a neutral caretaker government (NCG), representing a consensus among major political parties. The seventh, eighth, and ninth parliamentary elections, held under the NCG, were considered to be credible by all neutral observers. In fact, the NCG was a settled matter and the Special Parliament Committee (formed to amend the Constitution by the ninth parliament), on May 29, 2011, unanimously recommended to amend the Constitution retaining the NCG, which unfortunately was changed after they met the Prime Minister the next day.

Subsequently, the AL-led Grand Alliance, in a *majoritarian* manner, unilaterally passed the 15th amendment to abolish the NCG and hold future elections under the party in power. The amendment was passed by taking advantage of the Supreme Court's short order of May 10, 2011, and also, according to experts, an unconstitutional constitutional amendment ("The Constitutionality of 15th Amendment" *The Daily Star*, February 8, 2023).

The amendment essentially tilted the electoral field in favour of the ruling party, which will prevent the EC from meeting its constitutional mandate to hold credible elections. Thus, unless a new political settlement is reached to amend the Constitution to create a neutral election-time government, the hope for a free, fair, and competitive next election would clearly be a mere pipe dream.

For the 12th parliament election to be free, fair, and credible to meet the demands of all concerned, the electoral process not only needs to be fair but all relevant institutions must also act neutrally. More importantly, the prevailing constitutional scheme must create a level playing field and provide equal opportunity to all political parties. In fact, our Constitution, according to constitutional expert Mahmudul Islam, "does not envisage anything else than free and fair election and any law which stifles the hands of the Commission in ensuring free and fair election will not pass the test of constitutionality" (*Constitutional Law of Bangladesh*, 3rd Edition, p. 973).

Challenges in US-Bangladesh relations



Shafi Md Mostofa (PhD) is associate professor of World Religions and Culture at Dhaka University's Faculty of Arts and an adjunct lecturer at the University of New England, Australia.

SHAFI MD MOSTOFA

On March 26, 2023, US President Joe Biden greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of Bangladesh's Independence Day. Biden also reminded Hasina to hold free and fair elections in December 2023. "As Bangladesh approaches its next election, I am reminded of the deep value both of our nations' people place on democracy, equality, respect for human rights, and free and fair elections," he said.

The United States has placed a strong emphasis on human rights and democracy in its foreign relations. The promotion of these values has been a key part of US foreign policy, and has been pursued through a variety of means, including diplomatic efforts, economic incentives and sanctions, and military intervention in some cases – even though its relations with some authoritarian states put question marks on its declared policy of upholding democracy and human rights. The US under

and economic growth. The US and Bangladesh also work together to combat terrorism and promote regional stability through joint military exercises and training for Bangladesh's security forces.

The US-Bangladesh relationship has had some tensions due to human rights concerns. The US has criticised Bangladesh's government for cracking down on political opposition, and limiting freedom of speech and assembly. The US has imposed sanctions on the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for violating human rights. The US human rights reports of 2021 and 2022 have highlighted issues of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, political marginalisation, and election rigging. As a result, Bangladesh was not invited to the Biden Democracy Summit, signalling a shift in US policy towards Bangladesh.

US' push for democracy and human rights has definitely angered

Pacific Strategy). China responded by warning that Bangladesh's relations with China would be harmed if it joined the Quad, while also offering Bangladesh the chance to join its Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative. The US and Russia have also engaged in a war of words over Bangladesh, with the Russian Foreign Ministry accusing the US ambassador in Dhaka of trying to influence the domestic process of the country, and the Russian Embassy in Dhaka criticising countries with "hegemonic ambitions" that interfere in the internal affairs of others under the pretext of protecting democratic values.

The ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict has resulted in a surge of high-level visits from China and the United States to Bangladesh, highlighting Bangladesh's growing importance in the Indo-Pacific region. This geopolitical reality is crucial for Bangladesh's future trajectory. For the first time, Bangladesh has articulated its distinct objectives in the Indo-Pacific region, aligning with the conceptual framework advocated by India, the US, Japan, and Australia. While Bangladesh has traditionally pursued a non-aligned foreign policy, recent developments suggest a potential shift towards



COLLAGE: TEENI AND TUNI

While Bangladesh has traditionally pursued a non-aligned foreign policy, recent developments suggest a potential shift towards aligning more closely with the IPS promoted by the United States and its regional allies. However, it remains to be seen how China and Russia will react to this shift and how Bangladesh will navigate its relationships with them.

The Biden Presidency has also been focusing on these two values to deal with Bangladesh, which was partially absent during the Trump administration.

Since 2014, Bangladesh has been grappling with the challenges of upholding democratic values and human rights, which have been exacerbated in recent times. The two most recent elections, which were held under the Awami League government in 2014 and 2018, were heavily criticised by the international community, with widespread human rights violations occurring during this period. The regime has employed various means to suppress dissent, including the Digital Security Act (DSA).

The United States and Bangladesh have had diplomatic relations since 1972. The US has become one of Bangladesh's largest trading partners, with over \$8 billion in bilateral trade in 2021, and has provided development assistance in areas such as education, health,

aligning more closely with the IPS promoted by the United States and its regional allies. However, it remains to be seen how China and Russia will react to this shift and how Bangladesh will navigate its relationships with them.

It is unclear how successful Bangladesh's "pleasing all" strategy has been. An agreement has been reached between Bangladesh and Russia to use the Chinese yuan to pay for a nuclear power plant, but the United States has raised objections to this arrangement. Amid this situation, Bangladesh is attempting to manage the US through other Quad members like India and Japan. On April 26, 2023, under the agreement for the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports for the transportation of goods to and from India, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) released a standing order pertaining to the transshipment of Indian goods. During her visit to Japan in April 2023, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that, "We are happy that Bangladesh and Japan have successfully elevated the bilateral relations to a 'Strategic Partnership' from the existing 'Comprehensive Partnership'."

It appears that the relationship between the United States and Bangladesh is going through some strain. Bangladesh is endeavouring to handle its relations with the US in the lead-up to the next election. Navigating this dynamic geopolitical situation will require astute diplomatic strategies and judicious decision-making on Bangladesh's part. While attempting to maintain relationships with China, Russia, and the US, Bangladesh will also need to prioritise human rights and democratic principles, particularly in the context of potentially embracing the IPS.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Eastern monks

6 Showed interest

11 Overflowing

12 Forsaken

13 Court needs

15 Table scrap

16 "Very funny!" online

17 Young fox

18 Leftover stuff

20 Mamie's mate

21 Army bed

22 Keg contents

23 Low noble

26 Wizards' needs

27 Ready for business

28 Polite address

29 Phone download

30 Avenue in

34 Pot brew

35 Conclusion

36 Bullfight call

37 Costume events

40 "— Is Born" online

41 Anticipate

42 High homes

43 Trait carriers

DOWN

1 Toil away

2 In the know

3 Ship poles

4 Inquire

5 "The Big Bang Theory" role

6 Dark fur

7 Imitating

8 Gandalf's creator

9 Not popular

10 Annoys

14 Race tipster

19 File stand-in

22 Homer's son

23 Charon, for one

24 Placate

25 Meals

26 Talkative sort

28 Dispatch

30 Goes off course

31 Pitcher Ryan

32 Skateboarding jump

33 Takes ten

38 "Krazy —"

39 Really impress

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

RAGER RINDS
ALONE ODORS
CLOUDS DAVIT
EOS UTE EVA
STEAM ROLLER
KEY ALIT
SOARS SPANS
ERGO ACELER
PAINT ROLLER
ACT REFLORE
LLAMA FARETS
SETUP ELECT
SODS DENTS



First Quarter Financial Statements

As on 31 March 2023 (Un-audited)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position (Un-audited) As at 31 March 2023

Notes	Amount (BDT) In Million	
	As at 31 March 2023	December 2022
Property Plant & Equipment's (PPE) and Long Term Investment:		
Property plant & equipment's	3.01	2,186.41
Long term investments		2195.37
Cash & bank balances		784.70
Investment in Associates	5.00	588.41
		84.64
Total PPE and Long Term Investments		87.22
	3,055.74	2,871.00
Current Assets :		
Short term investments		2,799.82
Sundry debtors (Including receivable from re-insurer)		2,873.16
Cash & bank balances		7,117.00
Stock of stationery, Stamps		6,714.14
Total Current Assets		1,753.42
	3.48	2.04
	11,673.73	11,247.45
Current Liabilities :		
Sundry creditors		6,450.46
Unclaimed dividend account	8.00	6.98
Estimated liabilities on account of outstanding claims		228.99
Premium deposit & unexpired risk reserve		254.46
Total Current Liabilities		1,035.93
Net Working Capital		997.34
Net Assets		7,722.35
	3,951.37	7,209.88
	7,007.11	4,037.57
	6,908.57	
Shareholders' Equity :		
Share capital		1,001.88
Share premium		0.14
Investment fluctuation fund		1,078.36
Reserve & provisions		4,926.73
Total Shareholders' Equity		4,834.26
	7,007.11	6,908.57
NAV	7,007.11	6,908.57
NAVPS	17.00	69.94
Sd/- Chairman	Sd/- Director	Sd/- Managing Director & CEO
Sd/- Finance Controller		Sd/- Company Secretary

Statement of Consolidated Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income (Un-audited) For the Period ended 31 March 2023

Particulars	Notes	Amount (BDT) In Million	
		January - March 2023	January - March 2022
Gross premium		802.44	782.76
Re-insurance premium		(434.69)	(416.05)
Net Premium		367.75	366.71
Re-insurance commission		103.01	99.85
Management expenses		(146.99)	(139.15)
Agency commission		(93.03)	(79.76)
Net claim		(126.06)	(17.51)
Un-expired risk-2022		161.38	187.61
Un-expired risk-2023		(164.97)	(161.38)
A. Underwriting Profit		101.09	256.37
Investment income		102.24	72.48
Brokerage commission and others		29.83	61.08
B. Investment and Others Income		132.08	133.55
Total Income (A+B)		233.17	389.93
Non-operating management expenses		(128.67)	(116.20)
Net Profit Before Tax		104.49	273.72
Income tax expenses		(30.41)	(95.16)
Net Profit After Tax		74.08	178.57
Earning Per Share (EPS)	13.00	0.74	1.78
Sd/- Chairman	Sd/- Director	Sd/- Managing Director & CEO	Sd/- Finance Controller
Sd/- Finance Controller		Sd/- Company Secretary	

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement (Un-audited) For the Period ended 31 March 2023

	Amount (BDT) In Million	
	January - March 2023	January - March 2022
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Collection from premium & other income	1,111.02	2,710.71
Payments for management expenses, re-insurance & claims	(1,109.23)	(2,643.54)
Total cash flows from operating activities	1.78	67.17
Cash flows from Investing activities:		
Disposal/(acquisition) of fixed assets	5.87	(10.33)
Purchase/(sale) of short term investment	6.99	14.66
Disposal/(acquisition) of long term investment	(206.09)	(36.33)
Total cash flows from Investing activities	(193.23)	(32.00)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Interest paid	(37.13)	(39.98)
Bank overdraft	244.54	0.32
Loan to received	9.26	26.77
Total cash flows from financing activities	216.66	(12.89)
Net cash flows for the 1st quarter	25.21	22.28
Opening cash & bank balance	1,728.21	1,605.10
Closing cash & bank balance	1,753.42	1,627.39
NOCFPS	0.02	0.67
Sd/- Chairman	Sd/- Director	Sd/- Managing Director & CEO
Sd/- Finance Controller		Sd/- Company Secretary

Consolidated Statement of changes in shareholders' Equity (Un-audited)

For the Period ended 31 March 2023

Particulars	Amount (BDT) In Million								
	Share Capital	Share Premium	Reserve for Exceptional Losses	General Reserve	Dividend Equalisation Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Investment Fluctuation Fund	Retain Earnings	Total
Balance at 1st January' 2023	1,001.88	0.14	1,587.37	183.40	110.00	1,048.68	1,072.28	1,904.82	6,908.57
Profit after tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74.08	74.08
Appropriation to reserve	-	-	18.39	-	-	-	6.08	-	24.47
Balance as at 31 March 2023	1,001.88	0.14	1,605.76	183.40	110.00	1,048.68	1,078.36	1,978.90	7,007.11
Balance as at 31 March 2022	1,001.88	0.14	1,519.58	180.03	110.00	1,062.08	1,357.80	1,748.36	6,979.87

Sd/- Chairman Sd/- Director Sd/- Managing Director & CEO Sd/- Finance Controller Sd/- Company Secretary

Insurance at your FINGERTIPS now, with GREEN DELTA DIGITAL INSURANCE!

16457 green-delta.com



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা
ব্লক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।



তারিখ: ০৭-০৫-২০২৩খ্রি:।

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০১/২০২৩-২৪,

"দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬" ও "দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৬" এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী অনুযায়ী সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ সনের পুলিশ সদস্যদের রেশন সামগ্রী (ক) সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয় (খ) দেশী মত্তর ডাল ক্রয় (গ) পোলটর ডাল ক্রয় (ঘ) গম পেয়াই পূর্বক সরবরাহ (ঙ) রেশন সামগ্রীর পরিবহন সরবরাহ (চ) রেশন স্টোরের জন্য কুলি/লোবার সরবরাহ (ছ) খালি চট/প্রাচীর বজা বিক্রয় কাজের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের জন্য নিম্নে উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন দরদাতাদের নিম্নে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বতন্ত্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ/সংস্থা	পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা।
৪.	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	২০২৩-২৪ অর্থ সনের সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলার পুলিশ সদস্যদের রেশন সামগ্রী (ক) সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয় (খ) দেশী মত্তর ডাল (চিকন্দানা) ক্রয় (গ) পোলটর ডাল ক্রয় (ঘ) গম পেয়াই পূর্বক সরবরাহ (ঙ) রেশন সামগ্রীর পরিবহন সরবরাহ (চ) রেশন স্টোরের জন্য কুলি/লোবার সরবরাহ (ছ) খালি চট/প্রাচীর বজা বিক্রয় কাজের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ।
৫.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	০১/২০২৩-২৪, তারিখ: ০৭-০৫-২০২৩খ্রি:।
৬.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৭.	বাজেট ও অর্ডার উৎস	জিওবি(বাজেট)।
৮.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৮/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি: সময়-দুপুর- ১৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৯.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি: সময়-দুপুর-১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৫/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি: সময়-দুপুর-১৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১১.	দরপত্র মুদ্রায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৬/২০২৩ খ্রি: বেলা ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২.	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ব্লক-জি, রোড-৩, বাড়ি-৬৮, শাহজালাল উপশহর, সিলেট।
১৩.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১. আর্জিশনাল অফিস, রেলওয়ে পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয়। ২. কমিশনার, এসএমপি এর কার্যালয়। ৩. পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা এর কার্যালয়।
১৪.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিস	পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা এর কার্যালয়।
১৫.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা	জনাব শেখ শরীফুল ইসলাম, পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা, সিলেট।
১৬.	মাপদালা সরে অথবা কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	দরপত্র তফসীল মোতাবেক।
১৭.	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	দরপত্রের সাথে নিম্নবর্ণিত হাল ন্যাস ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থ সনের কাগজ পরাঙ্গ ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়ন পূর্বক দাখিল করতে হবে। (ক) ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (খ) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (গ) অরকার সনদপত্র (ঘ) নাসবিক্ত সনদপত্র (ঙ) অর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদসহ হালনাগাদ ৬ মাসের ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট (চ) স্ববিস্তার কার্যের মালিকানা হস্তান্তরকারী (ছ) সফলতা কার্যের ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ২(দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেট। সকল দলিল প্রমাণসহ ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে দরপত্র তফসিল (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় করা হবে। দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়ের সময় অবশ্যই ফর্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব সীল সসে আনতে হবে। বর্ণিত প্রত্যেকটি কাগজের মূলকপি ইনচার্জ, রেশন স্টোর, সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা এর নিকট প্রদর্শন পূর্বক নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
১৮.	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও মূল্যায়ন	"দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেগুলেশন-২০০৬" এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী মোতাবেক।
১৯.	কাজের বিবরণ	
	লট নং	দরপত্রের সিডিউলের মূল্য (অক্ষরং যোগ্য)
	০১.	সয়াবিন তেল ক্রয়
	০২.	দেশী মত্তর ডাল (চিকন্দানা) ক্রয়
	০৩.	পোলটর ডাল ক্রয়
	০৪.	গম পেয়াই পূর্বক সরবরাহ
	০৫.	রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন সরবরাহ
	০৬.	কুলি/লোবার সরবরাহ
	০৭.	খালি চট/প্রাচীর বজা বিক্রয়
	০৮.	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা
২০.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কাল দর্শনে বাতিলকৃত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। খ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী সিডিউলের শর্তাবলীতে উল্লেখ আছে। গ) প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে সিডিউল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। ঘ) প্রতিটি দরপত্র পূর্ণাঙ্গ খামে জমা দিতে হবে এবং খামের উপর আইসিএম ও লট নম্বর উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ঙ) কোন কারণ বশতঃ অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্য নিবন্ধে একই সময়ে ও নিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। চ) টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার পুলিশ সুপার, সিলেট রেলওয়ে জেলা, সিলেট ব্যাংকে দাখিল করতে হবে।

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh office of the Director -Cum-Professor National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

No. NICVD/ Administration /Diet & Washing/2023-2024/2220

Date- 06/05/2023.

"Invitation for Tender"

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and family welfare
2	Agency	National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases
3	Procuring entity Name	National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases
4	Invitation for	(1) Supply of Foods for Patients 2023-2024 (2) Linen Washing (with Iron) for 2023-2024
5	Invitation Ref. No	NICVD/ Administration /Diet & Washing/2023-2024/2220
6	Date	Date: 06 /05/2023.

KEY INFORMATION

7	procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.(OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue & Development Budget
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9	Tender Publication Date	After Invitation of Tender in Newspaper.
10	Tender last Selling Date & Time	06/06/2023, 10 AM to 2 PM
11	Tender Closing Date & time	07/06/2023 10.00 AM to 12.30 PM
12	Tender Opening Date & time	07/06/2023, 1.30 PM

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE

13	Selling tender document	Tender Document will be available only on following web site: - 1. NICVD Web site- www.nicvd.gov.bd
14	Receiving Tender Document	1) Office of the Director & Professor, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. 2) Deputy Police Commissioner (Tejgaon), 22/5, Khilzi road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.
15	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Director & Professor, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

16	Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide suppliers for Lot-01, Lot-2, Lot-3 & Lot-5, Manufacturer for Lot-4. The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 years experience in the supply of similar goods and related services.
17	Brief Description of Goods	ALL TYPES OF FOODS, GROCERIES & LINEN WASHING (WITH IRON)

18. Price of Tender Document (Tk.):

Lot No	Name of the Group	Price of tender documents (In Challan)	Tender security Amount (In Pay-Order/Bank draft)
01	Rice, Atta, Masala, Dairy products & others.	Tk. 2500/- (Two thousand five hundred) only.	Tk. 5,00,000/- (Five lac) only.
02	Fruits & vegetables	Tk. 2500/- (Two thousand five hundred) only.	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Four lac) only.
03	Fish, Mutton & Chicken meat & hens egg.	Tk. 2500/- (Two thousand five hundred) only.	Tk. 5,00,000/- (five lac) only.
04	Bread	Tk. 2500/- (Two thousand five hundred) only.	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Four lac) only.
05	Linen Washing (With Iron)	Tk. 2500/- (Two thousand five hundred) only.	Tk. 4,00,000/- (Four lac) only.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19	Code No. for deposit of tender challan documents.	The purchase price of above mentioned tender documents (Non-refundable) is to be deposited in the Bangladesh bank by Treasury challan in code No.- 1-2711-0000-2366 to director and professor, NICVD, Dhaka-1207.
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Mir Jamal Uddin.
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director & Professor
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Sher-e- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
23	Contract details of Official Inviting Tender	Procurement Section, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. Phone- 9123236, 9122560-78.
24	Authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender/rate. Authority may cancel the whole tender/part of the tender without assigning any reason.	
25	Terms and Conditions of the tender and other information will be available with the schedule.	

(Prof. Dr. Mir Jamal Uddin)
Director & Professor

I promise I won't go missing again: Balam

For those growing up in the 2000's, Balam was the name of an emotion. The former Warfaze frontman was thrust into superstardom with his first self-titled album. How is he doing now? The Daily Star catches up.

AAQIB HASIB

In recent times, your music has seen a resurgence. Now, more people than ever have been showering your songs with love. Have you noticed this?

I have not been active on social media for many years, particularly because I am a bit of an introvert. When I finally noticed how my fans would contact me, I thought maybe I should be more active in the music scene. That is when I started being more active on social media. Getting used to the new transformations in social media and music streaming, all of this was completely new to me.

After seeing the renewed love for my music from fans, I started sharing some of my old music. I put one of my old songs on YouTube, and saw how in just five days, it got over one million views. I felt goosebumps seeing this. I felt the love my fans have for me. Maybe I have been negligent to them, but now I want to remind them about my music. I am overjoyed, overwhelmed and emotional at their response.

After being associated with Bangla rock for years, your pop career elevated you to a different level of fame. What made you disappear from the scene for a while?

After we got married, my wife Sadeya fell sick. It was a very serious life-or-death situation. Within a few months, she was

diagnosed with a brain TB. Following this, there were a lot of after-effects. She was paralyzed on one side. It was a very tough time and this is why I was absent for three to four years. This is right after the time that *Balam 3* was released. As a result of this break, I was not able to



PHOTOS: SHAGUFTA FAROOQ SADEYA

concentrate on music, even after all of this settled down. I was confused about how to start again. In 2019, I even released a single called *Hothaat*. I launched an album *Bhubon* (Balam 4). However, none of these received a great commercial response, and I will be the first to admit it.

After this album I decided to take a break as an artiste. I decided to go with the flow temporarily. At the same time, I really wanted to make music which combined our own cultural touch. I was still making music and was still learning, but was not releasing music.

Now, however, I am once again hungry to make music.

From the new generation of musicians in Bangladesh, which bands or performers do you enjoy listening to?

I really enjoyed Muza's *Beni Khuley* with Habib. Armeen Musa is also very talented. From a vocalist standpoint, Oyshee is also incredibly gifted. She has something special in her voice. I saw that Arekta Rock Band is also doing very well. There are many that I cannot remember off the top of my head. However, this new generation of musicians needs the right platform and the proper opportunities to flourish.

When can we expect new music from you?

I have a lot of songs in the pipeline. I have worked with a new artiste called Tanim, that song will be coming out soon. My commitment is that I will release something each month, even if it is just a concept. And I promise I won't go missing again.



Audience will choose local films over 'Pathaan': Dipjol

Renowned actor and producer Monowar Hossain Dipjol has been steadfast against screening Indian films in Bangladesh. The actor has firmly protested against the decision to import films from India, as he previously stated that screening Indian movies in Bangladeshi cinema halls would destroy Bangladesh's cinema industry.

Now, as the Shah Rukh Khan starrer film *Pathaan* is set to have its theatrical release in Bangladesh this May 12, the *Dulayai Zindabad* actor is preparing to give *Pathaan* a run for its money.

According to media outlets, a film which is produced and starred by Dipjol himself will also be releasing around the same timeframe. The actor with all his heart believes that the audience of Bangladesh will prefer watching his film over *Pathaan*.

Masha has performed in King Charles' coronation choir



Bangladeshi musical sensation Masha Islam is a part of the King Charles III's coronation choir.

This is a huge achievement for the young singer, who has gained widespread fame for her recent song, *Teka Pakhi*.

Masha was a part of the choir virtually, as a part of various performances of the Commonwealth. The video of the performance was shown during the coronation today.

The news was confirmed by British Council Bangladesh, who in their post wrote, "We are delighted to let you all know that Masha Islam, the celebrated young music icon from Bangladesh has performed in the royal coronation choir held in the honour of His Majesty The King Charles III."

COUNTRYWIDE

Permanent structures on govt land

S DILIP ROY

Two local influential men have continued building separate permanent structures on leased out government khas land at Balarhat Bazar in Kurigram's Phulbari upazila, thanks to the negligence of the authorities concerned.

Local people alleged that Jahedul Islam and Bulbul Ahmed have been constructing separate concrete structures near the Naoganga Union Parishad for the last few weeks.

Although villagers informed the local land office about matter, they are yet to take any legal action in this regard due to unknown reason.

A number of villagers said they fears that if the authorities concerned fail to take legal action against the perpetrators immediately, many others would follow the culprits' footsteps in future.

Jahedul Islam, who is constructing a permanent shop on the government property, said he took lease of four decimals of khas land on a temporary basis recently.

Now he is enjoying the benefit of the government land by paying its annual DCR (duplicate copy of revenue) rent, he said, adding that he has no objection if

the authorities concerned demolish the establishment.

Another temporary lease Bulbul Ahmed said he is constructing the concrete structure on the leased land after having talks with the authorities concerned.

He is enjoying the four decimal government land by paying it annual rent through the DCR, Bulbul added.

Naodanga Union Sub Assistant Land Officer Masud Rana said he had repeatedly warned Jahedul and Bulbul not to construct the permanent structures on government property, but they did not pay any heed.

His office has already sent a report to the assistant commissioner (AC Land) in this regard, urging him to cancel the DCR lease of the government land in the name of Jahedul and Bulbul and demolish the under-construction illegal structures, he said.

He hopes that the upazila land office will take necessary action in this regard very soon, Masud added.

Phulbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), also AC Land, Suman Das said he was aware of the matter, but he take necessary action soon after receiving the relevant documents.

Zahangir challenges cancellation

FROM PAGE 1

earlier scrapped Zahangir's nomination papers, saying that he had defaulted on bank loans.

Zahangir was elected Gazipur mayor in 2018 on Awami League ticket. He was the general secretary of Gazipur city AL at the time.

His influence on party activities in the city consolidated after he became the mayor.

But he was expelled from the AL on November 25, 2022, for making derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and expressing doubts about the number of martyrs in the Liberation War.

Soon after his expulsion, the government suspended him as mayor. The ruling party, however, granted him amnesty on January 21 this year after he wrote a letter

to AL President Sheikh Hasina seeking pardon.

Only four months after he was pardoned, Zahangir became a "rebel" by trying to run for mayor as an independent in the election to be held on May 25. He collected nomination form on April 27, after the AL nominated Gazipur city unit AL President Azmat Ullah Khan for mayor.

His supporters submitted his and his mother Zaida Khatun's nomination papers on April 27 to run as independents.

Meanwhile, The Election Commission is satisfied with the explanation given by the AL nominee Azmat about allegations that he violated the electoral code of conduct.

"We have yet to make a decision... But we are satisfied with

his explanations," Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal told reporters at his office yesterday.

Azmat came to the EC office and gave his explanation earlier in the day.

The EC summoned Azmat to explain why his candidacy should not be cancelled following repeated violations of the electoral code of conduct.

The EC on May 4 said that State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Zahid Ahsan Russel at a rally asked people to vote for Azmat when the latter was present there.

It is a violation of the electoral code of conduct, the EC added.

On April 30, the EC summoned Azmat for violating the electoral code while submitting his nomination papers on April 27.

Forex reserves, revenue measures lacking

FROM PAGE 1

reserves will come down to less than \$30 billion.

This means NIR would be even less.

NIR is calculated as gross international reserves (GIR) minus short-term foreign currency drains. Short-term foreign currency drains include impending import bills and loan repayments.

The GIR as per the BB's methodology on March 30 were \$31.14 billion, while going by the IMF's methodology, it is in the neighbourhood of \$24 million.

As per the IMF's methodology, GIR calculation does not include the various funds that the Bangladesh Bank has formed from the reserves as well as the loan guarantees provided for Biman, the currency swap with Sri Lanka, the loan to Payra Port Authority, deposits with the Islamic Development Bank and the

below-investment-grade securities. At present, these account for about \$6.7 billion.

The BB team though expressed hope that come the end of June, the NIR would be within touching distance of the IMF set floor.

The forthcoming budget support of about \$2 billion along with the project aid mobilised will shore up reserves in the coming days.

The central bank also plans on slashing the existing \$5 billion Export Development Fund even more.

"We have some time in hand before June 30 – the initiatives we are taking now will get us close to the mark," Md Mezbaul Haque, BB spokesman, told The Daily Star.

When asked if the BB's failure to meet the reserves requirement could lead to a halt in the IMF programme mid-way, he said: "There

are 50 conditions. I don't think the programme will be stalled if we miss one condition."

Meanwhile, the IMF mission also expressed reservations about the National Board of Revenue's tax revenue measures yielding an additional 0.5 percent of GDP in the next fiscal year's budget.

This is one of the eight reform actions agreed along with six specific, measurable conditions for June.

The staff mission was unconvinced by the simulations presented by the NBR during their meeting.

Subsequently, after wrapping up their official engagements for the day, the IMF team went back to the NBR headquarters in the evening yesterday for a second crack at evaluating the NBR simulations.

In their meeting with the finance division, the IMF staff team raised the

topic of increased subsidy allocation in the revised budget and in the next budget too.

In the original budget for this fiscal year, Tk 81,000 crore was kept for subsidy expenditure; it was topped up by Tk 21,000 in the revised budget.

In fiscal 2023-24, subsidy expenses would take up Tk 100,134 crore.

In response, the finance ministry officials said the need for more subsidy arose this fiscal year as the government is clearing the arrears.

There would be another tariff hike of 5 percent by June, so there would not be any need for more electricity subsidy this fiscal year.

About the next fiscal year's higher allocation, they said that the amount was just earmarked and might not be spent eventually.

Besides, the government is planning on rolling

out a periodic formula-based price adjustment mechanism for petroleum products in the last quarter of 2023, as per the commitment made under the loan programme. So the need for subsidy would be less then, they added.

"We also took stock of the progress made toward meeting key commitments under the Fund-supported programme. This will be formally assessed in the first review of the Extended Credit Facility (ECF)/Extended Fund Facility (EFF)/Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) arrangements, which is expected to be undertaken later this year," Anand said.

The staff mission would next call in October for the first review of the programme that would decide whether the next instalment is authorised. The review would be based on the numbers on June 30.



Construction of this illegal establishment on government khas land at Balarhat Bazar in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram has been continuing due to alleged negligence of the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR

Why Sampadak Parishad opposes the Digital Security Act

Reprint of what we published on 29th September, 2018

After the enactment of the Digital Security Act (DSA) in 2018, the Sampadak Parishad published an elaborate Section by Section analysis of the objectionable parts and gave a detailed response as to how this law impinged on the operation of free and independent media and why DSA should be repealed or fundamentally amended.

The experience of the last four and half years proves the correctness of our initial concerns and strengthens our demand for repealing the Act.

Originally, we reproduced the Bangla versions of the Act along with our translation as the official English translation of the DSA was not available. In the present reprint below we have replaced the Bangla text (and translation) with the official English version of DSA. For the sake of brevity and improved readability, we have also made some modifications. (Please refer to the original article through this link: <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/news/why-sampadak-parishad-opposes-the-digital-security-act-1640269>)

1. The Act ends up policing media operations, censoring content and controlling media freedom and freedom of speech and expression as guaranteed by our constitution.

2. The Act gives unlimited power to the police to arrest without warrant, enter premises, search offices, bodily search persons, seize computers, computer networks, servers, and everything related to the digital platforms.

3. The Act suffers from vagueness and uses many terms that can be misinterpreted and used against the media. Laws must be clear, specific and meticulously defined. A vague law is a weapon of misuse and as such oppression of the media.

4. DSA will create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation which will make journalism and especially investigative journalism virtually impossible.

5. The law will not only create panic among media professionals, but also among all users of computers, computer networks, and related technologies.

6. The purpose of the law as mentioned in its preamble is “ensuring digital security and identification, prevention, suppression and trial of offences committed through digital device and for matters ancillary thereto”. However, its use over the last four and half years provide irrefutable proof that its purpose has been to curb freedom of the media, freedom of expression and all related freedoms.

7. The law goes against the very nature and practice of independent journalism that stands to protect people’s right to know and exposes abuse of power and corruption.

8. While other fields, like cyber security, may require “regulations” media needs “freedom”. The DSA is focused only on the “regulation” and totally neglects the “freedom” aspect that the media needs.

9. A frightening aspect of the DSA is the enormous arbitrary power given to the police who may arrest, without warrant, a journalist just on suspicion of a so-called crime that police think may be committed in the future. In practical terms, this will bring journalism under police control.

10. It is alarming that out of the 20 or so provisions of the law that deal with offences and punishments, 14 are NON-BAILABLE. Five are bailable and one can be negotiated. The lowest punishment is 1 year in prison and the highest life-term but mostly in the range of between 4 and 7 years. This will inevitably create an atmosphere of FEAR and INTIMIDATION under which normal functioning of journalism will become extremely risky if not impossible.

11. Another flaw of the DSA is the level of punishment meted out to “offenders”. Let’s take the case of the Road Safety Act which was passed along with the DSA. The former provides for a maximum punishment of 5 years for killing people in road accidents while a journalist can be punished up to life-term for violating the colonial era Official Secrets Act (1923).

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS AND OUR OBSERVATIONS

Below we present a detailed analysis as to why Sampadak Parishad (Editors’ Council) considers this law to be anti-free press, against freedom of speech and antithetical to democracy. To ensure the accuracy of our analysis, we have referred to the official English text of the Act, which was published on October 6, 2019.”

SECTION 8

Power to remove or block some data-information. (1) If any data-information related to any matter under the jurisdiction of the Director General, being published or propagated in digital media, creates threat to digital security, the Director General may request the Bangladesh Telecommunications and Regulatory Commission, hereinafter referred to as BTRC, to remove or, as the case may be, block the said data-information.

(2) If it appears to the law and order enforcing force that any data-information published or propagated in digital media hampers the solidarity, financial activities, security, defence, religious values or public discipline of the country or any part thereof, or incites racial hostility and hatred, the law and order enforcing force may request BTRC to remove or block the data-information through the Director General.

(3) If BTRC is requested under sub-sections

During the Constituent Assembly’s debate on constitution framing on February 3, 1956, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed the Speaker and stated:

ÔAvcbvivej v#KbtthevK^vaxbZv gv#bB msev^c#i^vaxbZv|

ÔAvcwbwKv#bhtc-e@e#mau^K#i tW#Kejvng,AvcbvivGuVQvcv#Z cv#tebbv;AvcbvivUvQvcv#Zcv#teb bv|m^vi,ZvuivmZ^K_vch@slwj#L Qvcv#Zcv#ibbvGesAvwgtmUvcgvY K#w#Zcvwjlwb#ôkUvhvqmwPevjq t_#K...| mIKv#i Zid t_#K GKRB Bbm#ctwMtgwb#ôkbf#bthAvcvb GKUwbbw^ôweh#qwl#Zcv#tebbv|..

ÔGuvcw#vif#ejwjcex_vK#Zn#eth msev^c#i^vaxbZv_vK#eZvuivZvu#i B^Qvg#Zve^e^wjwcexKi#Zcv#teb Ges RbgZ M#o Zj#Z cv#teb| Ô

OUR TRANSLATION

“You often say that freedom of speech means freedom of the press. Do you know that editors of East Bengal are summoned and told that you cannot print this or that. Sir, they cannot print the truth, and I can prove it.... The directive goes from the secretariat...An inspector goes on behalf of the government and says you cannot write on a specific subject....

“This must be clearly written [in the constitution] that freedom of the press will exist and they [editors] can write as they wish and they can create public opinion.”

(1) and (2), it shall, with intimation to the Government of the said matters, instantly remove or, as the case may be, block the data-information.

(4) For carrying out the purposes of this section, other necessary matters shall be prescribed by rules.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

There are two issues of concern here – the power of the Director General and the power of the law enforcement agencies. The power to block contents will hit the heart of publication either in print or online. Any report may be blocked or a photograph may be confiscated that may lead to disruption of any media outlet.

The justifications needed to remove or block content are too vague and subject to individual interpretation, leaving room for the abuse of the law. For example, if a journalist exposes corruption in a project, and this leads to the project’s financing being stopped by a donor or private investor, the journalist can be accused of “disrupting financial activities” under this law, which can then lead to the blocking or removal of their content.

SECTION 21

Punishment for making any kind of propaganda or campaign against liberation war, spirit of liberation war, father of the nation, national anthem or national flag. (1) If any person, by means of digital medium, makes or instigates to make any propaganda or campaign against the liberation war of Bangladesh, spirit of liberation war, father of the nation, national anthem or national flag, then such act of the person shall be an offence.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

We are fully committed to the preservation of the dignity and correct history of our Liberation War and given the past experience of attempts at its distortion we understand the need to do something in this regard. However, “Spirit of Liberation War” is a rather vague term. Without further defining the “crimes” under this section and clearly specifying what constitutes a “crime”, we run the risk of serious abuse of this law and harassment of journalists and the punishment is up to life-term or (and) Tk 3 crore in fine or both.

“Mukti Juddher Chetona” (Spirit of Liberation War) is a vague term and is very subjective and cases can be brought against journalists as interpretations can vary.

We reiterate that we are in favour of protecting the great legacy of our Liberation War for the future generations. However, when laws are being framed, we need to be very clear and specific. Given its present form, not only journalists but historians, researchers and even creative writers like novelists will also suffer. It may even result in people not writing or researching much on our Liberation War fearing misinterpretation and the possibility of punishment.

SECTION 25

Transmission, publication, etc. of offensive, false or threatening data-information. (1) If any person, through any website or any other digital medium, (a) intentionally or knowingly transmits, publishes or propagates any data-information which he knows to be offensive, false or threatening in order to annoy, insult, humiliate or malign a person; or (b) publishes or propagates or abets to publish or propagate

any information, as a whole or partly, which he knows to be propaganda or false, with an intention to affect the image or reputation of the country, or to spread confusion, then such act of the person shall be an offence.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

This will directly affect all investigative reporting in the media. Such reports are usually about some irregularities performed by institutions and individuals. Corrupt people will use this law to intimidate journalists and media organizations and try to prevent publication of such stories on the pretext that the reports have attacked or intimidated them. Actually, every such report can be said to fall under one or more of the above categories and can be used to harass the media.

Any investigative report that reveals corruption about a person or an institution is bound to “irritate”, “embarrass” or “humiliate” someone. This provision will make it impossible to publish any negative report about any corrupt person. This will reduce newspapers to PR outfits. Journalism of even the most rudimentary investigative nature will become impossible.

The second part of this provision talks about “spreading confusion”. Without specifying the meaning of “confusion”, it may become a weapon of media harassment. What is confusing to one may not be confusing to another. This will surely create a new avenue to intimidate the media.

Then again, what constitutes damaging the “image or reputation” of the State? Recently we have reported about the corruption in the banking sector by unscrupulous business groups. We have reported that the banks face grim crisis. Does it constitute damaging the “image or reputation”? We have reported corruption in the law enforcement agencies.



We have reported on “custodial deaths” “disappearances”, and “extra-judicial killings”. If someone interprets all these reports as damaging to the “image” of the State then this law legalises punishment of journalists and newspapers for making such reports, as all newspapers have websites.

SECTION 28

Publication, broadcast, etc. of information in website or in any electronic format that hurts the religious values or sentiment. (1) If any person or group willingly or knowingly publishes or broadcasts or causes to publish or broadcast anything in website or any electronic format which hurts religious sentiment or values, with an intention to hurt or provoke the religious values or sentiments, then such act of the person shall be an offence.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

The term “religious sentiment” is an undefined term. How can a reporter know how and when religious sentiment has been hurt? This term lends itself to diverse interpretations and no journalist will feel comfortable about reporting on such issues. This will prevent journalistic scrutiny over a large area of the society. The recent reporting on the sexual harassment by catholic priests would not have been possible if those countries had a law preventing reporting that “hurts” religious sentiments. Criticizing unlawful fatwa or women’s property rights may be interpreted by some as “hurting” their religious values. This section can lead to widespread harassment of journalists.

SECTION 29

Publication, transmission, etc. of defamatory information. (1) If any person publishes or transmits any defamatory information as described in section 499 of the Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) in website or in any other electronic format, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 (three) years, or with fine not exceeding Taka 5 (five) lac, or with both.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

A law already exists to deal with defamation and so a separate law for digital media is not needed. Furthermore, there is no justification for imposing harsher penalties for the same offense committed through

digital media than for print media.

SECTION 31

Offence and punishment for deteriorating law and order, etc. (1) If any person intentionally publishes or transmits anything in website or digital layout that creates enmity, hatred or hostility among different classes or communities of the society, or destroys communal harmony, or creates unrest or disorder, or deteriorates or advances to deteriorate the law and order situation, then such act of the person shall be an offence.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

A news concerning discrimination of Dalits, or ethnic groups and exploitation of disadvantaged groups may be interpreted as causing disaffection between different sections of the society. Any news highlighting plights of the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts may be interpreted as “creating unrest” among different communities. Similarly, news about possible labour unrest, impending hartal or demonstration can be construed as reports that are “creating law and order situation” and thus bring action under this law. There could be a story that a person has died in a demonstration which may later prove to be untrue. Will the media be “guilty of spreading rumour”? Such errors regularly occur in reporting which are corrected immediately. In Bangladesh death figures from floods, cyclones or even roads accidents vary. Government figures are always at variance with privately gathered figures. In such cases according to the DSA, media can be sued for “spreading rumour”. Sometimes reports may forecast certain developments which may not exactly happen later. That also can be considered as “spreading rumour”. Thus, we find this section as seriously jeopardizing freedom of journalism.

SECTION 32

Offence and punishment for breaching secrecy of the Government. (1) If any person commits or abets to commit an offence under the Official Secrets Act, 1923 (Act No. XIX of 1923) by means of computer, digital device, computer network, digital network or

Procedure;

(b) to seize the computer, computer system, computer network, data-information or other materials used in committing the offence or any document supportive to prove the offence; (c) to search the body of any person present in the place;

(d) to arrest any person present in the place if the person is suspected to have committed or be committing an offence under this Act.

(2) After concluding search under sub-section (1), the police officer shall submit a report on such search to the Tribunal.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

This is by far the most dangerous of the provisions of the law.

This empowers the police to enter any premises, search any computer system, seize any computer network and its servers, bodily search any body and also ARREST anybody on suspicion.

First, the threat of arrest without warrant will naturally prevent a journalist from doing their work. When police get the power to arrest without warrant, and on mere SUSPICION then media freedom will be buried under this law. Given the fact that 14 out of 20 provisions of punishment are NON-BAILABLE the threat of arrest becomes like the “Damocles’ Sword” constantly hanging over the head of every journalist, causing mental stress. This will prevent all forms of real journalism and make our media nothing more than public relations and propaganda outlets.

Even if the law is not implemented (and why not if the law exists?) the environment of fear will prevent journalists from doing their job. The fear of arrest will become a regular part of the “mental environment” and desist a journalist from taking legitimate risks that he or she regularly take to file their stories. The “emotional stress” that it will create should not be underestimated. It can easily be expected that people in power will abuse this law, provoke or “manage” law enforcers to threaten or even arrest journalists for any story that will reveal something that the rich and powerful will want to hide.

The most dangerous side of this law is that since every newspaper and TV station works on digital system, by giving the power to confiscate a computer, a network of computers including servers, the law enforcing agencies have been given, in effect, the power to shut down a newspaper or TV station or a news portal by confiscating its computers, computer system, computer network and other equipment. Thus, without closing down a media outlet, this clause opens up the possibility of stopping the publication of a newspaper or the operation of a TV station by the law enforcing agencies.

SECTION 53

Offences to be cognizable and bailable. –In this Act –

(a) the offences specified in sections 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 shall be cognizable and non-bailable;

(b) the offences specified in clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 18, sections 20, 25, 29 and sub-section (3) of section 47 shall be non-cognizable and bailable;

(c) the offences specified in clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 18 shall be non-cognizable, bailable and subject to the permission of the court, be compoundable; and

(d) the offences, if committed by a person for the second time or more, shall be cognizable and non-bailable.

SAMPADAK PARISHAD’S COMMENT

Under this law out of the 20 or so provisions dealing with crimes and punishment, 14 are cognizable and NON-BAILABLE. Given the fact that police have the power to arbitrarily arrest without warrant and on mere suspicion, this law presents a real threat to media freedom as so many offences have been made cognizable and non-bailable.

CONCLUSION

1. The Digital Security Act (DSA) clearly violates the citizens’ Constitutional Right to freedom of speech and expression and freedom of the press, guaranteed in our most sacred document, the Constitution, with reasonable restrictions.

2. This law violates the spirit of our Liberation War and the high ideals of freedom that our martyrs laid down their lives for.

3. This law is against the fundamentals of democracy, democratic governance and all the rights that our people fought for repeatedly during our struggle against the Pakistani rule and against all martial law regimes after 1971.

4. The Digital Security Act is against all the fundamental values of ethical and independent journalism.

5. The Digital Security Act is in contradiction with the Right to Information Act.

We have explained in detail and made a section-by-section analysis as to why the Digital Security Act is against our Constitution, against our fundamental fights, against freedom of speech and freedom of press and as such against democracy.

It is thus that the Sampadak Parishad is forced to reject this law.

The quotation from the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (published in the highlighted box), must guide us in the matter of protecting the freedom of the press.

Tigers dismiss favourites tag

SPORTS REPORTER

“I don’t want to use the word favourites a lot,” Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim told reporters at the Cambridge University’s Fenner’s ground yesterday.

It was clear that the Tigers were not keen to focus on their opponents but rather on how the team can improve in all departments, with a chance to furnish their skills in away conditions such as England’s.

“We came here to play good cricket and win games but in cricket, you can’t say anything beforehand in terms of what will happen. They are a good team in these conditions and they are quite familiar with the conditions. We hope that it will be a good and competitive series,” he said.

The Tigers will have one more practice session at Chelmsford, Essex, before the first ODI on May 9.

Bangladesh’s practice sessions at the Leys had gone according to plan but their warm-up match at Fenner’s had to be abandoned due to wet outfield. Tamim said that preparations have not quite gone according to plan.

“We couldn’t prepare to our potential as weather is not in our hands. We are trying to prepare as much as we can, and the rest will have to be mental preparation. The target is to play well and win. We will visit the ground tomorrow (Monday) where the game will be held and if weather allows, we will practice.

“We haven’t held all our sessions there (Chelmsford) but it was not availed entirely as the county championship is going on. I am certain that the more we can mentally prepare ourselves, the better it will be for us,” the skipper remarked.

The Tigers have the Afghanistan series coming up following the Ireland series, which is part of the ICC ODI Super League. The two series will give a better understanding of the combinations for the World Cup.

The skipper said that he can only think of the combination after looking at the Chelmsford wicket as they may play an extra pacer in England but remarked that youngsters’ performance has been a positive for his side recently.

“Young players have grabbed their opportunities with both hands. There are no particular spots that, I can guarantee, are already fixed. We will play this series and then the next one in different conditions and the best possible team will go [to World Cup]. For now, whoever has gotten the opportunity has done well, for instance Towhid Hridoy. It’s too early to comment but the one series he played in; he has done exceptionally well,” Tamim remarked on his team.



Having spent time with family in the United States, superstar Shakib Al Hasan, who joined the Bangladesh camp late, practiced with the team in Chelmsford yesterday. Meanwhile, Mushfiquur Rahim and skipper Tamim Iqbal were seen in a relaxed mood as the Tigers prepare for the three-match ODI series against hosts Ireland starting Tuesday.



PHOTO: BCB

Prantik a winner in defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Prantik Nawrose Nabil, member of Bangladesh’s U-19 World Cup-winning team, did something unprecedented for Prime Bank in their Dhaka Premier League’s Super League fixture against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club yesterday.

A steady partnership of 136 between Nabil and Shahadat Dipu had just ended in the 30th over and two deliveries later in the same over, Sheikh Jamal were vociferous in their appeal and Prantik walked with the umpire only raising his finger after the batter started walking.

His knock ended on 75, having taken his side to a strong position. In his mind, however, taking the higher ground had taken precedence over results as Prime Bank fell short by 13 runs in the end.

“It’s always been this way and after I nicked it, I didn’t look at what the umpire was doing. While I was walking back, I realised that he hadn’t given out and I knew that I was never going to walk back,” Prantik told reporters yesterday.

“It’s about your personal ethics and it feels fulfilling to myself if it comes this way in regards to the hard work I’ve done. Maybe if I had scored the century, it’d feel like I didn’t do this the proper way,” he added.

He was asked if he could have not walked thinking about the team.

“It’s a tricky question. If we think as a whole, then anything that is wrong should never be valid. It doesn’t apply to our team but to any sector. We must

“If we think as a whole, then anything that is wrong should never be valid. It doesn’t apply to our team but to any sector.”

Prantik Nawrose Nabil

always think what is right and what is wrong amidst the situation,” he said strongly.

Many of his teammates from that U-19 World Cup have made the national team or at least been in the limelight. Prantik though was keen on the process, not feeling any hurry to make the national setup.

“I was always focused on the process and that’s what I’m doing. Someone does it early and someone does it later. It’s not about how quickly I make it but about how long I can make it,” the 19-year-old youngster said.

Sheikh Jamal won important points that keep them in the race for the title, still ahead on head-to-head over Abahani

Limited, who relied on Mahmudul Hasan Joy’s 67 to win by four wickets against Legends of Rupganj at BKSP.

Sheikh Jamal play Abahani on May 13th in Mirpur in what could be a potential title decider.

Mohammedan, meanwhile, won against Gazi Group by 20 runs with Mahmudullah Riyad’s valuable 71 the highlight as they posted 240 for nine before bowlers thwarted Gazi’s chase.

The relegation league came to an end as Shinepukur Cricket Club defeated Agrani Bank by 140 runs after opener Amite Hasan’s ton set them up for a big total of 316. Dhaka Leopards and Agrani will go down as Shinepukur remain, having won both relegation league games.

Cabrera wants to be competitive in SAFF C’ship

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team’s head coach Javier Cabrera claimed his team are in very good shape and, given good preparation, can be competitive and make things difficult for other teams in next month’s SAFF Championship.

The regional apex football tournament will take place from June 21 to July 04 in Bengaluru and the men in red and green will play a FIFA friendly as part of the build-up in Cambodia on June 15.

Speaking to reporters at the BFF House yesterday, Cabrera said his team wants to achieve something important for the country.

“The team is excited, the players are excited and the coaching staff is excited. We believe we can achieve something important and give to the country,” the Spaniard said, while avoiding to set any specific target for the team.

“We will go game by game and be competitive and by being competitive, we know we can make things difficult for everyone,” the 39-year-old coach said, adding that teams like Kuwait entering the fray will add new challenge for the team.

BFF vice-president Kazi Nabil Ahmed informed that the team will have their training camp at the Bashundhara Kings Arena before flying to Cambodia, and will leave its capital Phnom Penh for Bengaluru on June 16.

Meanwhile, the BFF official, who is also the vice-president of Bangladesh Olympic Association, said they are trying to convince the BOA to include men’s football team in the upcoming Asian Games contingent.

BOA, in an executive committee meeting on Saturday, decided to not send the men’s team, citing ‘a lack of performance’ despite the fact that the men’s team made it to the knockout rounds of football competition for the first time in the last edition held in Indonesia in 2018.

“We are having talks with the BOA to have our men’s team in the Asian Games in Hangzhou,” Nabil said. “I spoke with the BOA president yesterday [Saturday] evening and told him that the men’s team, too, needs to be sent.”

‘Swiatek always pushes me to the limits’

REUTERS

Aryna Sabalenka beat world number one Iga Swiatek to win the Madrid Open in the pair’s second clash in a final this year, with the Belarusian saying she hopes their burgeoning rivalry will continue to enthrall tennis fans throughout the season.

Sabalenka had a 2-5 win-loss record against the Pole prior to Saturday’s 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 win, with four of those losses coming in 2022.

“She always pushes me to the limits. I’m really enjoying our battles. Hopefully we can play many more finals this season,” Sabalenka told reporters.

“I would say that this year’s matches are completely different. I improved a lot, and I really want to win against her, because she’s such a great player.

“To have this win, especially on clay, that’s something unbelievable.”



‘Celebrate a little bit, not too much’

Relieved Real keep feet on ground despite Copa title

AGENCIES

Brazilian Rodrygo struck twice and compatriot Vinicius Junior was “difficult to defend” as Real Madrid beat Osasuna 2-1 on Saturday to win their 20th Copa del Rey title, ending a nine-year wait to lift the trophy again.

Osasuna, who have never won a major trophy, fought well but ultimately fell short against the reigning Spanish and European champions, who face Manchester City on Tuesday in the Champions League semifinals.

Osasuna head coach Jagoba Arrasate fired a word of caution towards City after match.

“It’s very difficult to defend against (Vinicius) and on Tuesday I am sure City will suffer too,” said Arrasate.

Madrid had an uncharacteristically disappointing run so far in the La Liga as they have virtually conceded the league title to FC Barcelona with five games left, trailing by 13 points against their eternal rivals.

However, Los Blancos remain a whole different beast when it comes to cup competitions.

Madrid had beaten both Atletico Madrid and then rivals Barcelona to



“I dedicated it to Nacho, a kid I visited at Juegaterapia (in Madrid), which is a place that cares for children with cancer. I went over there to pay them a visit and give them a gift or two. He asked me to make the “I” for Ignacio if I scored, so the second goal was for him.” Rodrygo explained the touching reason behind the celebration after scoring Real Madrid’s second goal in the Copa del Rey final.

reach the final and Ancelotti said it was time to “celebrate a little bit, not too much” ahead of the clash with City, who have peaked at the right time in becoming the frontrunners to seal another Premier League silverware under Pep Guardiola.

Veteran midfielder Toni Kroos and defender Dani Carvajal reflected the predominant winning mentality in the Madrid camp that resulted in them winning the Champions League a record 14 times, seven more than AC Milan – the second on the list.

“At this stage, they [City] were

the toughest opponents we could have got but we’re confident. We’re Madrid and we will try our best to win, as ever,” said the German.

Carvajal said, “Our ambition remains intact, we can win another Champions League and we’re going to go all out to do so.”

Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was “delighted” to have won the only trophy that eluded him in all whites.

“Winning this final gives us positive energy for what’s to come... The Copa del Rey is important, even if the Champions League is the biggest competition a player can win.”



Even though Real Madrid have all but failed to defend the La Liga title, Los Blancos still have a lot of achievements to boast this season. The 2-1 win over Osasuna on Saturday saw Real end a nine-year wait for the Copa del Rey trophy, the third silverware for Carlo Ancelotti’s side this season alongside UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup. Real also have a chance to defend their Champions League title, but for that they must outdo an in-form Manchester City in the semifinal in the coming weeks.

PHOTO: REAL MADRID





FASTBUILD
PROVIDES RODS OF
ANY SHAPE AND
SIZE AS PER DESIGN



BSRM
building a safer nation



**THE MOST
LOVED BRAND**



BEST BRAND AWARD WINNER EVERY YEAR

Gazipur city a jinx for mayors?

None so far completed their terms

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

None of the Gazipur mayors, whether from the Awami League or the BNP, could serve the city corporation for the entirety of their five-year terms.

Since the city corporation was formed in 2013, it was run for a considerable period by acting mayors.

Civil society members of the city say the absence of an actual mayor was partly to blame for the poor amenities in the city.

Senior BNP leader Abdul Mannan, the first elected mayor of Gazipur, took charge on August 18, 2013. But in less than two years, councillor Asadur Rahman Kiron became the acting mayor on March 8, 2015, and continued to hold the position until June 18, 2017, when Mannan could resume his role as mayor.

During this period, he was either in jail or facing suspension. After his return, he continued to be the mayor until the end of his tenure on September 4, 2018.

When ruling Awami League leader Zahangir Alam



The city corporation run by an acting mayor is not normal. It hampers the overall development activities of the country's fourth-largest city corporation.

AMJAD HOSSAIN, PRESIDENT OF SHUJAN IN GAZIPUR

became the mayor in 2018, the city dwellers expected that he would be able to complete his tenure in office.

But the AL expelled him from the party November 19 last year after he was seen in a viral video footage making controversial comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Liberation War.

In less than a week, the local government ministry suspended him from the post of mayor.

Asadur Rahman Kiron, who was a panel mayor at the time, became the acting mayor again.

Jalal Uddin, president of Gazipur Nagorik Forum, said when elected mayors fail to properly discharge their duties, the people of the city suffer a lot.

"It is unfortunate that the city dwellers were deprived of the development they expected from the mayors," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Some 30 lakh people live in Gazipur city, an area of 329.90 square kilometres.

The city dwellers complain that even after almost 10 years of the formation of the city corporation, civic amenities have not improved.

Delwar Hossain, a resident of Joydebpur area, said there is a difference between an actual elected representative and someone who is filling in.

"It is natural that the citizens of that area are deprived of services," he said, adding, "However, if an individual is accused of something, action should be taken."

Amjad Hossain, president of Shujan in Gazipur, said, "The city corporation run by an acting mayor is not normal. It hampers the overall development activities of the country's fourth-largest city corporation."

"This practice should end. We don't want to see any more acting mayor discharging the duty of the mayor," he said.



Without shelter from the elements, vehicles seized by law enforcers fall apart at the Suhrawardy Udyan. As there is no dedicated impound, the vehicles have been left out in the open. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MORE ON PAGE 5

SUDAN CONFLICT

At least 135 Bangladeshis to be flown home today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

At least 135 of the about 700 Bangladeshis, who were evacuated to Port Sudan from conflict-stricken Khartoum on May 3, were flown to Jeddah by three special aircraft of Saudi Airforce yesterday.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia welcomed them at Jeddah Airport.

They will arrive in Dhaka on a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines today.

Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh said in the initial stage, women, children and sick Bangladeshis were flown in to Jeddah.

"Arrangements have been made for their rest, food and necessary treatment at Bangladesh International School," it said.

The Bangladeshis were supposed to be transported to Jeddah by Saudi ships through the Red Sea. However, in the absence of available ships, Saudi authorities yesterday arranged three aircrafts.

Check hoarding, harassment of farmers

Food minister directs field officers as Boro procurement begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder has directed field officers and local administrations to prevent hoarding and illegal rice businesses as the procurement for Boro began across the country yesterday.

The four-month-long procurement will continue till August 31.

Field officers were also directed not to harass the farmers who want to sell their rice to the government.

At a press briefing, he said the government carries out the procurement process to ensure that farmers get a fair price.

"It is seen that if the government doesn't buy the paddy, some businessmen take control of the market and exploit farmers... Whether we'll be able to fulfill the procurement target doesn't matter. When the

government buys from the farmers, the businessmen can't exploit them."

This year, the government has set a target to procure 4 lakh tonnes of Boro paddy – two lakh lower than last year as the target could not be met at that time.

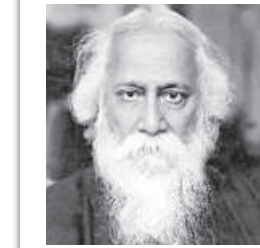
This year, the government has set a target to procure 4 lakh tonnes of Boro paddy – two lakh lower than last year as the target could not be met at that time.

"If farmers don't get fair prices after that, we'll extend our target to ensure that don't suffer," Sadhan said.

At a Food Planning and Monitoring Committee meeting last month, the government also set the target to procure 12.5 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice and one lakh tonnes of wheat.

However, the procurement prices of all were hiked by Tk 2 per kg

The food minister said that as the price of fertiliser increased, a farmer has to spend an extra Tk 665. "The price of paddy was increased to Tk 30 so that a farmer can get Tk 1,600 extra per 20 maunds of paddy on one-bigha land."



Tagore's 162nd birth anniv today

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the 162nd birth anniversary of Biswakabi Rabindranath Tagore, who reshaped Bangla literature and music as well as the arts of the Indian subcontinent with contextual modernism.

Kabiguru Rabindranath, was born at Jorasanko in Kolkata on 25 Baishakh, 1268 (May 7, 1861).

He became Asia's first Nobel laureate after winning the Nobel Prize in Literature for Gitanjali in 1913.

The government will celebrate the Rabindra Jayanti in a befitting manner.

Rare butterflies named after Sauron in Lord of the Rings

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A new group of butterflies with distinctive orange wings and dark eyespots has been named after Lord of the Rings villain Sauron.

The black rings on the vivid orange wings of the flying insects are reminiscent of the all-seeing eye described in JRR Tolkien's books, and depicted in the movie series.

Scientists, including Dr Blanca Huertas, senior curator of butterflies at the Natural History Museum, have given the new genus the name Saurona.

While there are currently only two members of this new group – Saurona triangula and Saurona aurigera – many more as-yet-undescribed species are thought to exist.

Saurona is one of several new butterfly groups described by an international team of researchers in a new paper, and one of two named by Dr Huertas.

Dr Huertas and a fellow researcher named the second genus Argenteria, which translates into English as silver mine, on account of the silver scales on the wings.

"Naming a genus is not something that happens very often, and it's even more rare to be able to name two at once," she added.

Heatwave likely to continue for next few days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mild heatwave that is sweeping over many places in the country may continue for few days, said meteorologists.

"The temperature may remain dry and increase slightly for the next few days," said Monowar Hossain, meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

"Mild heatwave is sweeping over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the districts of Dhaka, Madaripur, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Moulvibazar, Chandpur, Feni and Patuakhali and it may spread," said a weather bulletin of BMD.

There is a chance of rainfall at one or two places of Sylhet division, said the bulletin that was released 6:00pm last evening with 24-hour validity.

Yesterday's maximum temperature was recorded 37.7 degrees Celsius in Dhaka.



Air Conditioner mechanics busy mending and servicing units at a workshop in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday. Many city dwellers are relying heavily on ACs for comfort as a heatwave sweeps over the country.

PHOTO: STAR

STRIFE-TORN SUDAN

UN aid chief in KSA for talks as fighting flares

AFP, Khartoum

The UN's top humanitarian official arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday for ceasefire talks between Sudan's warring generals, as gun battles and air strikes flared in the Sudanese capital at the start of a fourth week of fighting.

Multiple truce deals have been declared and quickly violated since battles erupted between army and paramilitary forces on April 15 in the poverty-stricken country with a history of political instability.

Fierce combat since then has killed hundreds of people, most of them civilians, wounded thousands and sparked multiple warnings of a potential "catastrophic" humanitarian crisis.

More than 100,000 people have already fled the country. In embattled Khartoum, fighter jets have bombed positions as terrified residents stay barricaded indoors trying to cope with dire shortages of water, food, medicines and other staples.

Across the Red Sea in the Saudi city of Jeddah, talks were underway aiming for a ceasefire that could push efforts to bring humanitarian aid to the besieged population.

The generals leading the warring parties have said little about the talks being held in Jeddah since Saturday.

Army spokesman Brigadier General Nabil Abdalla said the talks were on how a truce "can be correctly implemented to serve the humanitarian side", while Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who heads the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), only said on Twitter that he welcomed the technical discussions.