



# The Daily Star

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TO KNOW

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## Escape from Khartoum horrors

JAMIL MAHMUD

Ali Sheikh had to leave home with his family after being confined there for around two weeks amidst a civil war in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

After staying at a hotel for a few days, they got a chance to escape the city on May 2, as a bus would transport them to Port Sudan.

From there, they and many other stranded Bangladeshis were taken to Jeddah and then brought back home yesterday on a Biman flight.

However, the journey was not as easy as it reads.

While boarding the bus that would take them to Port Sudan, another city in the Northeast African country, the to-be-evacuated Bangladeshis found themselves smack-dab in the middle of firing between the clashing rival factions of the Sudan military government.

The violence has been going on since April 15.

**The 136 returnees -- making up the first batch of 700 stranded Bangladeshis to be repatriated from Port Sudan via Jeddah -- were provided with immediate cash and food support at HSIA by the government and the International Organisation for Migration.**

Ali and his family, who had been living in Khartoum for 18 years, had to run back into the hotel and could only come out again when the gunfight eased and another bus came to take them to Port Sudan.

"The bombings destroyed everything in Khartoum. There were airstrikes that hit buildings adjacent to my home. We could not sleep at night amid the sounds of heavy bombing and gunfire. I don't even know if my house is still standing," Ali, who worked at a private company in Khartoum, told The Daily Star at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

They came back home on Sunday -- almost empty-handed, carrying only one small luggage, leaving most of their belongings back in Sudan.

With them, 132 other Bangladeshis were flown to Jeddah from Port Sudan in three Saudi Air Force planes.

They were supposed to be transported by ships through the Red Sea, but as those were unavailable, the Saudi authorities arranged several aircraft.

The 136 returnees -- making up the first batch of 700 stranded Bangladeshis to be repatriated from Port Sudan via Jeddah -- were provided with immediate cash and food support at HSIA by the government and the International Organisation for Migration.

According to the Bangladesh government, there were around 1,500 Bangladeshis living in Sudan. All of them will be gradually evacuated and brought home, officials said.

Abdul Kashem, 48, was in the first batch.

Empty-handed, he left his home in Khartoum over two weeks ago and had been wearing the same set of clothes and was able to shower only twice since then.

"There were incidents of looting by men in uniform. They took away [almost all] my belongings," said Kashem, who had been living in Sudan for 12 years.

Meanwhile, Moni Rahman had to come back to Bangladesh leaving her husband behind at Port Sudan, as the family has three clothing shops in Khartoum that need to be run.

"He stayed back hoping the situation will improve. These shops are all we have."

She said though she had to spend a night under the open sky during the evacuation process, the Bangladeshi community in Khartoum had done everything they could to ease her journey back home.

Meanwhile, Shaki Akhter, a Bangladeshi mother of three, doubted whether she would make it out alive, with her electricity and water supply

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A passenger shed at a bus stop near the Golf Club Gate being used as a nursery for plants, barring people from using the seats. Such sheds were built across the DNCC areas at late Mayor Annisul Huq's directives. Now, years after his passing, most of them are either on the verge of ruin or are being used for the wrong purposes. The photo was taken on Sunday.

## SPORT

### AFA, bKash join hands

The Argentine Football Association and bKash Limited, the largest mobile financial services provider in Bangladesh, yesterday announced a partnership to promote further financial inclusion through sports. With this brand endorsement initiative, bKash becomes the first and only Bangladeshi brand partner of the reigning FIFA World Cup champions Argentina. The Bangladeshis wholeheartedly supported Argentina, and the world champions now endorse bKash which embodies the spirit of human aspiration.

STORY ON PAGE 11

## OFFSHORE GAS EXPLORATION Petrobangla drafts new negotiation guidelines

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Petrobangla has prepared a draft of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for offshore gas exploration that improves the state-owned company's bargaining position when it sits down for negotiation with global oil companies.

The new PSC replaces the profit share model of the earlier version: it is based on the revenue share model.

In the 2019 PSC, profit was shared only after the recovery of the foreign company's exploration costs, with the Petrobangla's share of profit being 55 percent for shallow sea blocks and 50 percent for deep sea blocks.

In the new draft, profit will be shared based on total income from a gas field, according to Petrobangla officials involved with the proceedings. In other words, it is a revenue-sharing contract.

The contractors will now get a revenue share of up to 65 percent

from the offshore gas field including the shallow and deep-sea blocks.

A revenue sharing contract model would be better for Bangladesh, said Badrul Imam, honorary professor at the University of Dhaka's geology department.

**The new PSC replaces the profit share model of the earlier version: it is based on the revenue share model.**

"It is because under the profit-sharing contract model, as we know from past experience, the provision of cost recovery always makes Bangladesh a loser."

International oil companies (IOCs) show inflated exploration costs and recover excess money, according to Imam.

"And we have no mechanism or

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Biman 787 suffers glitch on return flight from Tokyo

ZYMA ISLAM and RASHIDUL HASAN

The weather radar system on the Biman aircraft that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina used to fly to Tokyo broke down on the return flight to Dhaka.

The aircraft, a Boeing 787 that joined Biman's fleet in 2018, dropped off the PM at Tokyo International Airport (Haneda) on the morning of April 25, refuelled, and departed for Dhaka an hour and 45 minutes later.

During the return leg, the pilot noticed that neither of the two weather radar systems were working.

Deprived of a functioning weather radar, the pilot had to navigate the plane through the pitch-black darkness of the evening sky before safely touching down at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 11:17pm.

The pilot-in-command, Captain Ishtiaque Hossain, after landing in Dhaka filed a technical log, which The Daily Star obtained a copy of.

The technical log states that "Both WXR [weather radar] systems return

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## EROSION HITS EMBANKMENT

Bangladesh Water Development Board is dumping sand-filled geo bags in the Dhaki river to protect an embankment from erosion in Khona Kheyaght area of Khulna's Dakope upazila. Locals say some villages are at risk of erosion as about 200 feet of land has already been eroded by the river over the last few years. They demanded that the WDB resolve the problem permanently. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



An MoU was signed between Asian-Entech Power Corporation (A concern of Doreen Group) & Marubeni Corporation on 27th April at the Trading and Investment Summit in Japan in the presence of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for joint investment & development of 600 MW solar power projects in various locations in Bangladesh.

Advertisement



### 3 bullet-riddled bodies recovered in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police yesterday recovered the bullet-riddled bodies of three people from Rowangchhari upazila in Bandarban.

The deceased are Lal Lian Bawm, 32, son of Lian Thon Bawm, Simlian Thang Bawm, 30, son of Non Dao Bawm, and Nemthang Bawm, 43, son of Doukhar Bawm, of Ronin Para area of Rowangchhari upazila, said Bandarban's Superintendent of Police Tariqul Islam.

Saiful Islam, sub-inspector at Rowangchhari Police Station, said the bullet hit bodies were recovered from the Paikhongpara area around 12:00pm.

The SP said infighting among hill terrorists might have killed the three. All three deceased were from the Bawm community.

Police beefed up security in the area, he said, adding they are trying to identify the culprits behind the incident. A probe has been launched to know the motive behind the killings, he added.

A case will be filed by the police if the victims' families fail to file one, he said.

On April 7, police recovered the bullet-riddled bodies of eight individuals from Khamtangpara of the same upazila.

The bodies were sent to Bandarban Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

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### RIOT-HIT NORTHEAST Indians return home from camps

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian security personnel are escorting back to their homes thousands of people who fled to temporary camps after rioting and ethnic clashes in the northeast that killed about 70 people last week, officials said yesterday.

Fierce fighting broke out in the state of Manipur bordering Myanmar when members of about 30 tribal groups clashed with a non-tribal group, the ethnic majority Meitei, over the economic benefits and reservation status extended to some tribes.

"We are trying to ensure villagers return to their homes as leaders from opposing sides have started holding peace talks today," said Lorho S. Ploze, a member of parliament from the state.

"The situation is extremely tense and victims are scared to return to their villages as they fear clashes could erupt again."



An elderly woman stands outside a burning house after shelling in the town of Chasiv Yar, Donetsk region, on Sunday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

PHOTO: AFP

## Tiger numbers expected to rise

### Camera traps in Sundarbans find big cats in places not seen before

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The number of tigers in the Sundarbans is expected to rise due to successful conservation efforts in the world's largest mangrove forest, said officials concerned.

The forest department officials involved in the ongoing tiger census said they have found evidence of tigers using camera traps in areas where a previous survey failed to find any.

According to the preliminary data obtained from the cameras installed inside the forest, the number of tigers in the Khulna and Satkhira ranges has increased, they said.

However, they could not provide specific numbers.

The result of the census is expected to be published in 2024.

Surveys conducted in 2015 and 2018 did not find any tigers in parts of the Khulna range. But the camera traps this time captured adult tigers with cubs. Locals and forest rangers also reported frequent tiger sightings. There has also been a flurry of incidents in which tourists saw tigers in the Sundarbans.

On March 12, four tigers were spotted in a tourist area in the Mongla end of the

Sundarbans.

Besides, tiger attacks on fishermen have also increased, according to officials.

Under the current tiger census, camera traps had been set up in Khulna and Satkhira ranges between January 1 and



April 30.

The traps will be installed in the Chandpai and Sharankhola ranges between November 1 and February 29, 2024.

In total, 665 cameras will be installed.

Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain, divisional forest officer of Khulna, told The Daily Star that the information obtained from the traps has not been verified yet.

"It is not possible to say how many tigers are present in the two ranges. After

collecting and analysing all the data from all ranges surveyed, the tiger census result will be published in 2024," said the DFO, also the director of Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project.

Like the fingerprints of humans, the stripes on tigers are unique, said the forest official. The number of tigers will be determined by analysing their stripes, he added.

He said the expected increase in the number of tigers might be attributed to the forest department's increased vigilance against poachers and locals' change of attitude towards the big cat.

"Besides, deer and wild boar numbers have also increased in the forest, providing enough food for tigers," he said.

He said the government's decision to compensate families of tiger victims has also helped change locals' attitudes towards the tigers.

The government's "Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project" is expected to be completed by March 2025. However, the tiger census programme will end in 2024.

In the first tiger census conducted in 1982, at least 453 tigers were found in the Sundarbans. Only 106 tigers were found in 2013 and 114 in 2018.

### Mahout killed in elephant attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 40-year-old mahout died after being attacked by an elephant in the Chungabari area of Juri upazila of Moulvibazar on Sunday evening.

The deceased was identified as Russell Mia, 40, of Karmadha union under the Kulaura upazila.

His body was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for post-mortem yesterday.

Chinu Mia, another mahout who was with Russell at the time, said they were working in the Chungabari area on Sunday evening.

Meanwhile, Russell, who had come to catch the elephant from Kulaura, went in front of the elephant and it attacked him.

Later he was rescued from there and taken to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex where the doctor declared him dead.

Dr Zakir Hossain, resident medical officer of Kulaura Upazila Health Complex said, the body was handed over to the Juri Police Station early yesterday.

Juri Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain said, "The body was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for post-mortem yesterday. We have registered an unnatural death case over this incident."

### Illegal structures evicted from Shimulia ghat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday conducted an eviction drive and removed some illegal structures built at Shimulia ghat in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila.

The drive began 10:00am and continued till 2:00pm. At this time, 58 illegal structures, such as restaurants, the boundary walls of residential houses, including the boundary wall of Haldia Union Parishad Chairman Mozammel Haque's house, and other business establishments were removed from the ghat area.

BIWTA Joint Director (Land and Estate) Golam Mostafa said, "The illegal structures were built on BIWTA's land. They were demolished as the establishments were not removed even after multiple notices."

### 2 men held with firearm, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two people with an illegal firearm and ammunition in their possession in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon early yesterday.

They are Rana Mister, 35, and his cousin Rakib Hasan, 26, of Ratandighi village in the upazila.

Inspector of DB police Anwarul Islam said, "A Sub-Inspector of DB police Nabilul Islam was interrogating one Sabur Hasan, 26, of Jiabari village under the same upazila who was arrested with 130 bottles of phensidyl on Saturday.

"Based on the information provided by Sabur, a police team led by Nabilul arrested Rakib and then Rana while recovering the firearm (one-shooter gun) along with one bullet around 2:00am on Monday [yesterday]."

A Thakurgaon court sent the duo to jail in the afternoon following an arms case filed earlier in the same day with Baliadangi Police Station, Inspector Anwarul added.

## Escape from Khartoum

FROM PAGE 1

cut off amid heavy bombing near her building, and Kamal Hossain was a victim of robbing and mugging that took place amid the conflict.

Fortunately, they too were able to come back home on Sunday.

Welcoming the returnees at the HSIA, Asad Alam Siam, additional secretary of the foreign ministry, said those who are still in Sudan will hopefully be evacuated and repatriated home safely soon.

Different ministries, the IOM, Biman, and Bangladesh missions in Saudi Arabia and Sudan have been doing their best to this end, he added.

Speaking to journalists at the airport, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said his ministry, through the Wage Earners' Welfare Board, has

readied \$200,000 for the repatriation of the Bangladeshis from Sudan.

Besides, it will provide reintegration support, he said, urging the returnees to register themselves in this regard with the ministry to avail the facilities.

He added that the flight carrying the next batch of evacuees may reach Dhaka today or tomorrow.

Fathima Nusrath Ghazzali, officer-in-charge of IOM Bangladesh, said the UN migration agency will continue to provide its support for the safe return of the Bangladeshi nationals stranded in Sudan.

Siddiquir Rahman, acting managing director of Biman, said the national flag carrier will operate flights gradually to carry home all 1,500 Bangladeshis back home.

## Petrobangla drafts new negotiation guidelines

FROM PAGE 1

capacity to find out the true cost," he said, citing the case of Australian oil and gas exploration company Santos.

Santos was operating the Sangu-II well in the Bay of Bengal.

In October 2013, the company ended production from the shallow water field and left Bangladesh.

"Santos/Shell which operated the offshore Sangu gas field left the country after getting 80 percent of the total revenue generated thanks to the provision of cost recovery," Imam said, adding that there are much fewer bureaucratic tangles under the revenue-sharing model.

He went on to seek a higher share of revenue for Petrobangla in the PSC.

In the new PSC, Petrobangla's income will initially be lower but it will gradually pick up, said one of the Petrobangla officials.

The move to draft a new PSC comes as the government is gearing up to resume offshore gas exploration after a pause of ten years.

Petrobangla was supposed to float a tender based on the 2019 PSC in 2020 but the global coronavirus version disrupted the plan.

Then in December 2020, the government-owned national gas company decided to review the PSC. The exercise took more than two years to complete.

The draft PSC is now sitting on the Prime Minister's Office for approval along with a proposal from the American oil and gas giant ExxonMobil for offshore gas exploration. Exxon's proposal came without any tender.

"Tender is required to get a better company with a lower cost. But ExxonMobil is one of the best companies in the world with huge experience and technology in deep-sea exploration," Imam said.

The new PSC based on the revenue-sharing contract must be used for all negotiations with Exxon.

"We need to negotiate with the company based on the new PSC and our national interest and not on their required clauses," he added.

In the new PSC, foreign companies will get three months to submit proposals after a tender is floated.

Another major deviation from the 2019 PSC is the gas price. Earlier, the price per thousand cubic feet was fixed at \$7.25 for deep sea and \$5.50 for

### Taiwan in talks for \$500m weapons package from US

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan is expecting a fast-tracked \$500 million weapons package from Washington this year to make up for delays in arms procurements, the island's defence minister said yesterday.

The self-ruled, democratic island lives under constant threat of an invasion by China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory to be seized one day -- by force if necessary.

With Beijing increasing its sabre-rattling towards the island, Taiwan's key ally the United States in September approved the Taiwan Policy Act -- which would see new legislation provide billions in military aid to Taipei.

## Biman 787 suffers glitch on return flight

FROM PAGE 1

unreliable, both WXR systems test shows "WXR fail drv [drive]" with "WXR SYS [system]" advisory message and unusual sound from WXR antenna".

The log also includes notes about what rectification measures had to be taken after landing.

"Antenna drive unit replaced," it said.

The thorough security check that all VVIP flights are subject to prior to flying did not pick up the impending motor failure.

The checks, which is conducted by Biman engineers in the presence of every single intelligence agency, and the Special Security Force, can last up to three days.

The radar system detects weather up to 50 nautical miles ahead of the aircraft, based on which pilots can make directional decisions.

"An aircraft can operate without a weather radar system. The pilot can communicate with the ground and get weather updates. There was a time when planes did not have weather radars," said Air Commodore Md Moazzem Hossain, director of engineering and material management at Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

However, over the last 50 years at

least, all commercial aircraft come equipped with weather radar systems because ground radar systems can only give weather updates within their range, not for the whole flight, said Biman insiders.

An aircraft being forced to fly without a functioning weather radar system is said to be flying on a "minimum equipment list".

On April 19, a Riyadh-bound Biman flight was forced to return to Dhaka airport as the aircraft's weather radar system was not working. The plane was in the air for two and a half hours on a "minimum equipment list".

However, a VVIP flight cannot operate on a "minimum equipment list", according to the "red book", a rulebook on the security protocol for the prime minister.

Air Commodore Hossain called it a "small problem" that did not "pose a safety hazard".

According to the VVIP flight handling manual by CAAB, the aircraft selected for flying the PM must be grounded for checks and inspections for at least 22 hours before departure, in the case of models like the Boeing 787.

The manual states that the engineers used for checking the aircraft must be pre-selected by the head of the engineering department

and handed over to the government's security agencies 48 hours before the departure.

The engineers' names, the specific duties of each, and which part of the plane they will be looking into are listed.

"All equipment taken in/out of the cordoned-off area must be checked at piece level. Any part needed to be replaced must be endorsed in the register mentioning the name of the part with proper specification/part number, the individual carrying the part along with his or her signature," says the manual.

A 10-member committee, led by the general manager of central control, oversees the planning and execution of the flight.

"The plane is inspected by our engineers and taken for two ground runs before taking to the air," said Air Commodore Hossain.

He denied the prospect of any negligence. "Even if this problem had happened while the prime minister was in the air, this would not have been negligence. This is an equipment, and anything can happen anytime."

Captain Siddiquir Rahman, Biman's director of flight operations, also denied any possibility of negligence.

## People will vote for AL in next polls

FROM PAGE 1

The event was held at the London Marriott Hotel on Sunday (local time).

Hasina said her party will win the next parliamentary polls as it always stands by the people.

She hoped that the people will not depend on the BNP Jamaat.

"They [BNP] laundered money abroad and thus destroyed the country. How will the people depend on them?"

The people have already known that the BNP and Jamaat are "thieves, corrupts, killers, grenade attackers,

looters and patrons of killers", the PM added.

Hasina said that Tarique Rahman, acting chairman of the BNP, has been sentenced for corruption and the government has been able to bring back about Tk 40 crore that was siphoned off by Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Coco.

The premier, also the AL president, said the country will be a Smart Bangladesh by 2041 "We have formulated Delta Plan 2100. We have to take the country forward."

She said that there will be no homeless and landless people in the

country.

Hasina said the AL didn't come to power through vote-rigging like the BNP Jamaat did.

"Awami League always fights for the rights of the people. It comes to power after being elected by the people. It never grabbed power."

The premier said people are aware enough of their right to vote. "We have made the people aware of it."

The PM also briefly mentioned about various development programmes implemented by her successive governments in the last 14 years.



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## SAAT MASJID ROAD

# Destruction of nature must stop

### 37 eminent citizens submit memorandum to DSCC mayor to stop tree felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorandum, signed by 37 notable individuals was delivered yesterday to the mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), condemning the felling of trees along Saat Masjid Road.

They demanded that the tree felling be stopped and local trees be planted on the streets again. The memorandum was received by APS to Mayor Nasirul Hasan Shojib, who assured that it will be submitted to the mayor.

Chief Executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Syeda Rizwana Hasan, social activist Shireen Huq, activist and researcher Pavel Partha, Coordinator of Saat Masjid Road Tree Protection Movement Amirul Rajiv and others submitted the memorandum to the mayor's office.

Earlier, activists and environmentalists held a press

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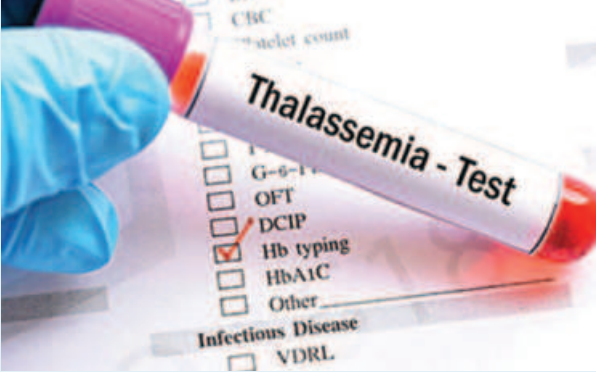


Eminent citizens handed over a memorandum to the APS of DSCC mayor yesterday, condemning the felling of trees along Saat Masjid Road. The memorandum was signed by 37 notable figures.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Over 5,000 born with thalassaemia every year

### Says DGHS; widespread testing can help reduce spread



Thalassaemia is an inherited disorder that is passed down through parents to offspring and results in inappropriate structure or fewer amounts of red blood cell (RBC) in the body.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Screening for carrier status before starting family
- Checking for thalassaemia during first trimester
- Raising awareness regarding the issue

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Despite being a preventable disease, thalassaemia continues to spread in Bangladesh, with an average of around 15 children born with this blood disorder every day.

Thalassaemia is passed from parents to children and people with the disorder produce either no or too little haemoglobin. This could result in anaemia and leave patients tired, short of breath, and pale, as well as expose them to a lot of other ailments.

If both parents carry the gene for the disease, there is a risk that it can be passed on to the children, Prof Belayet Hossain, head of the haematology department at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute (BSHI), told The Daily Star.

On the eve of World Thalassaemia Day being observed today, Prof Belayet urged for a nationwide awareness campaign and mandatory screening for everyone before they get married.

The blood disorder cannot be cured through treatment, and its management is complex and costly as it requires lifelong blood transfusions and treatment. The only cure is through a bone marrow transfusion

(BMT), according to the Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation, which also says that the required matched sibling donor for the procedure is available in only 1-2 percent of families.

Besides, there are significant mortality and rejection risks associated with the procedure, which is so expensive that most families cannot afford it.

According to the DGHS bulletin, over 5,000 affected children are born every year.

In order to survive, these children require regular monthly blood transfusions and chelation therapy to remove the excess iron from their bodies.

A large amount of money is required for each child's treatment.

"A health check-up for thalassaemia carrier status before starting a family can check the spread of the blood disorder. So, showing a screening certificate before marriage registration should be made mandatory," Prof Belayet Hossain said.

If two thalassaemia carriers do get married, they should think carefully about the impacts of starting a family. Knowing each other's status will help them make an informed decision, he added.

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## ‘Left alliance to strengthen organisation’

### Reza Kibria on reasons for leaving Ganatantra Mancha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Odhikar Parishad Convener Reza Kibria yesterday said the party left Ganatantra Mancha to increase its organisational strength.

Ganatantra Mancha, the new political alliance, was floated comprising seven political parties in August with the specific objective of an anti-government movement in view of the country's present political situation.

The seven parties were -- Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Nagarik Oikya, Biplabi Workers Party, Ganasanghati Andolon, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Bhasani Anushari Parishad and Rashtra Sangskar Andolon.



We need to increase our organisational strength... We did not think we could grow from this alliance.

The alliance also set specific reform proposals on state, constitution, constitutional bodies and form of government.

Gono Odhikar Parishad on May 6 left the platform amid internal conflicts and mutual doubts within the alliance.

The party, however, decided to continue its simultaneous movement separately from now on.

It also decided to separately participate in the movements in coordination with other like-minded parties.

Of the seven parties, only Jatiya Samajtantrik

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Amid the scorching heat, a crow quenches its thirst by drinking from the water accumulated on the road. During such extreme weather, it is important for humans to be mindful of the animals. Providing water and food, as well as creating shaded areas for them to rest, can help ensure their survival. This photo was taken from Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## LABOUR LAW VIOLATION

### Trial against Yunus to continue: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that cleared the way for the labour court to run the trial of a case filed against Nobel Laureate and Grameen Telecom Chairman Muhammad Yunus, and three others on charge of violating labour law.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order after dismissing a leave to appeal petition filed by Yunus challenging the HC verdict.

Details of the Appellate Division order could not be known as its full text was not released yet.

The Department of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## WIZZ AIR ABU DHABI

# Foreign competitor worries local airlines

### Aviation insiders, officials express frustration citing unfair competition

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is likely to approve Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, a low-cost air operator, to operate flights between Dhaka and Abu Dhabi.

Wizz Air is originally a Hungarian multinational ultra-low-cost carrier with its head office in Budapest.

While Wizz Air Abu Dhabi was founded in 2019 as Wizz Air's UAE subsidiary, the airline is a joint venture with state-owned Abu Dhabi Development Holding, ADDH, which owns 51 percent of the company's share.

Flights are operated from Abu Dhabi International Airport to destinations in Europe, Asia and Africa.

According to sources, CAAB and a delegation of the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), an autonomous body to oversee and regulate all aviation-related activities in the UAE, are set to finalise the expansion of the aviation agreement between the two countries during the two-day visit of GCAA in Dhaka on May 15.

However, aviation insiders said CAAB should have discussed with different stakeholders, including Biman and US-Bangla Airlines, who are operating flights

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**The Daily Star**

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Some parts  
of Dhaka  
north to see  
gas supply  
disruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Households and businesses in Khilkhet, Joarshahara, Namapara, Baridhara, Gulshan and Basundhara residential area will face low pressure in gas supply tomorrow for 16 hours starting from 8:00am today due to emergency works in a pipeline.

During that time, the gas supply will remain suspended in areas on both sides of the Kuril Bishwa Road.

According to Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, there will be no gas supply in two of the CNG refuelling stations there, North-South University, the US embassy, catering services of Pan Pacific Sonargaon, and Evercare Hospital.



Workers under the banner of “Sommilito Garments Sramik Federation” form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment of those responsible for the Rana Plaza tragedy and proper compensation for the victims. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court yesterday extended till July 10 its chamber judge's order that stayed the High Court verdict granting bail to Sohel Rana, owner of Rana Plaza, which collapsed in April 2013 and left at least 1,136 dead.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Over 5,000 born

FROM PAGE 3

Even if they plan to give birth to a baby, they can know whether the baby will have thalassaemia through a test at the end of the first trimester, Prof Belayet said.

It is estimated that six out of every 100 Bangladeshis carry the gene responsible for the disorder, according to a health bulletin of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A recent survey in 20 districts by the BSHI revealed that 10 percent of high school and college students are carriers of the thalassaemia gene.

According to Prof Belayet, there is a 25 percent chance that a newborn will suffer from lifelong thalassaemia if both parents have the gene.

In 50 percent of cases, the newborn will be a carrier of the gene like the parents, but will not suffer from thalassaemia, and in 25 percent of cases, the newborn will neither be a carrier nor suffer from the disorder.

“So, there is an urgent

need to screen all young people,” Prof Belayet said. “It is urgent to make people, particularly youths, aware of the dangers of thalassaemia.”

Currently, a majority of the patients in Bangladesh do not get adequate treatment and the transfusion of safe blood has been a big problem. The majority of people suffering from thalassaemia are positive for infections such as hepatitis B, C, and HIV, according to the DGHS bulletin.

Considering the gravity of the issue, the health directorate undertook the “Thalassaemia Control Programme” in 2017.

Currently, free medicine and other tests are available at medical college hospitals in all eight divisional cities under the programme. “Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the thalassaemia control programme stalled. Now, we are trying to move forward with it,” Sheikh Daud Adnan, director (hospitals and clinics) at the DGHS, told The Daily Star.

Ex-VC sent

FROM PAGE 5

Prevention Tribunal-3 against Shahedur for allegedly raping her and registrar Mazharul for assisting the former VC.

The next day, the case was recorded with Sondanga Police Station as per the court order.

Quoting the case statement, Advocate Farid said Shahedur used to

live on the fifth floor of the university building in the city when he was VC at the university as his family members were in Mymensingh.

The victim used to supply cooked food to the VC's residence every day since he joined the university.

On December 16, 2021, he raped the victim with

the cooperation of the registrar, the victim alleged in the case statement.

Both the VC and the registrar threatened her for dire consequences, saying that she will be fired from the university job if she disclosed the matter.

Shahidur's term as vice-chancellor ended on September 10 last year.

Foreign competitor

FROM PAGE 3

in the UAE, before permitting other UAE airlines.

Five airlines of the UAE, including Emirates, Ethihad Airways, FlyDubai, Air Arabia, and Air Arabia Abu Dhabi are operating 133 flights weekly from Dhaka at present.

Besides, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national flag carrier of Bangladesh, and private operator US-Bangla is also operating flights to UAE.

Aviation insiders said CAAB has already given temporary operating permission (TOP) to Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to operate seven weekly flights from Chattogram.

Local airlines said Wizz Air Abu Dhabi usually offers predatory flight prices to customers to grab the market, which may drive the local airlines from the market.

To cite an example, they said Wizz Air Abu Dhabi has already announced that it will soon be entering Pakistan, India and other countries in the region,

aiming to tap into the high demand for air travel between South Asia and the UAE.

The entry of Wizz Air Abu Dhabi into the market is expected to pose a tough challenge to the existing airlines operating on the Dhaka-UAE route.

Last year, Wizz Air transported over 1.2 million passengers on over 6,000 flights.

Officials of local airlines have expressed frustration over the proposed introduction of Wizz Air, saying CAAB is working against the interests of the country.

Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiu Azim, who is currently in London, said, “This (deal with Wizz Air) is unprofessional in terms of aviation manners. CAAB should consult with Biman before taking such a decision, as it may conflict with the country's interests.”

Kamrul Islam, general manager of public relations, US-Bangla Airlines, said the government should

allocate frequency to the UAE-based airlines based on the capacity of the local airlines.

“Otherwise, we will not be able to compete,” he added.

Aviation Expert Kazi Wahidul Alam told The Daily Star that the introduction of Wizz Air Abu Dhabi will create uneven competition.

“Air service agreements between the two countries should be made reciprocally. Wizz Air's network frequency is high, so the airline may shake up the country's aviation market, driving domestic airlines towards a loss,” he added.

An inter-ministerial meeting on the matter will be held this week and CAAB may invite domestic air stakeholders for consultancy, said a CAAB official, requesting anonymity.

Despite repeated attempts, CAAB Chairman Mafidur Rhaman could not be reached over the phone for his comments on the matter.

AL activists

FROM PAGE 5

surrounded the venue with sticks and local weapons, making it impossible for the BNP to hold its event.

According to Mujibur, AL members later held a separate event next to the BNP's planned location.

Golam Rasul Koli, organising secretary of the Kanchan municipal

unit AL, claimed that approximately 500 AL members took to the streets to prevent any anarchy from the BNP.

Narayanngani's senior assistant superintendent of police Abir Hossain said police did not prohibit anyone from holding the event and were instead vigilant to prevent any violence.

Trial against

FROM PAGE 3

Inspection for Factories and Establishments filed the case against Yunus and three others of Grameen Telecom on September 9, 2021, the department's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

He said there is no legal bar for the labour court to

resume the trial of the case following the SC order.

Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun, who appeared for Prof Yunus, told this correspondent that he would argue before the trial court concerned that his client was not involved in any irregularities alleged in the case.

The lawyer said Grameen Telecom is a nonprofit and charitable organisation, of which Yunus is a chairman. He is not actively involved with the organisation, he added. A labour court in Dhaka on October 12, 2021 granted bail to the Nobel laureate in the case.

They barred

FROM PAGE 5

not take any action when the ruling AL's candidate held their mass reception with loudspeakers.

Addressing the programme, Faizul Karim said he would work for the development of Barishal by

joining hands with all.

He also urged the Election Commission to work for holding a free and fair election.

This is the first time he came to Barishal from Dhaka after getting the party's nomination as the

mayoral candidate.

Contacted, the city poll's returning officer Md Humayun Kabir declined to comment on the matter.

The Barishal City Corporation Election is scheduled to be held on June 12.



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Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

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Destruction

FROM PAGE 3

conference at Jatiya Press Club in this regard.

Sultana Kamal, president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan, pointed out that since the 1960s, the greenery in Dhaka has decreased significantly due to rapid urbanisation, which has led to adverse effects such as loud noise, air pollution and unbearable temperature.

Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, emphasised the need for development plans to reflect the opinion of the people. She said the destruction of nature in the name of development must be resisted.

Syeda Rizwana emphasised the importance of trees in protecting the capital. She also criticised the city administration for ignoring the opinions of residents and not adopting Singapore's environmental conservation model.

Cultural personality Mamunur Rashid

highlighted the dire consequences of environmental disasters if trees are uprooted and expressed concern regarding the narrow cultural outlook of political fronts, which leads to deforestation and the filling up of wetlands.

The signatories include – Sultana Kamal; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Rasheda K Choudhury; Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh; Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD); Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagorik Uddayog; Shireen Huq; Prof Gitara Nasreen of Dhaka University's journalism and mass communication department; Syeda Rizwana Hasan; Mamunur Rashid; Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive officer of Brottee; Sharif Jamil, general secretary of Bapa; and urban planner Adil Mohammed Khan.

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**e-Tender Notice No. 831-30/2022-2023 Date: 08/05/2023**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED, Narail District as mentioned below.

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Identification of package	Procurement method	Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time
01	826618	NARAIL/ENGG. COLLEGE/ 2022-23/WD-06	Construction of 10-storied Administrative Building with 10-storied foundation In/C. sanitary, water supply, electrification works, fire protection, rain water preservation & installation of deep tube-well at Engineer Halem Ali Khan Engineering College under Sadar upazila of Narail District.	OTM	06/06/2023 (16:00)	07/06/2023 (13:00)

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be acceptable in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender A1 renewed up to FY 2021-22 enlistment Category Contractor of Education Engineering Department under All District who are registered in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) will be eligible. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 16:00 on 06/06/2023. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.



**Arunava Roy**  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Narail  
E-mail: [ee\\_nara@eedmoe.gov.bd](mailto:ee_nara@eedmoe.gov.bd)

GD-799



# 4 killed in road accidents

**STAR REPORT**

At least 4 people were killed in road accidents in Chattogram and Panchagarh yesterday and Sunday.

In Chattogram, two motorcyclists were killed as a passenger bus collided head-on with the motorbike in Dantmara area of Fatikchhari upazila.

The deceased were Sahab Uddin, 20, and Daulat Khan, 24, hailing from Dantmara union of the upazila, said police.

The accident took place around 10:00am.

Contacted, Helal Uddin, officer in charge of Bhuijpur Police Station, said on information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the motorcyclists. They succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital.

The bodies were sent to CMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Meanwhile in Panchagarh's Tentulia upazila, a bicyclist was killed in as a microbus hit him from behind on Sunday night on the Banglabandha-Panchagarh highway.

The deceased is Shafiqul Islam, 45, from Aziznagar village.

OC Zakir Hossain Mollah of Tentulia Highway Police Station said the accident occurred around 9:15pm when a Panchagarh-bound micro-bus hit the bicyclist from behind leaving him dead on the spot.

Meanwhile, a five-year-old girl was killed and another girl of around same age was injured in a road accident on Panchagarh-Tunirhat road at Chospara village in Panchagarh sadar upazila on Sunday afternoon.

The deceased was Eshi Moni, 5, daughter of Yusuf Ali.

Her cousin Eli Moni, 7, took treatment at a local hospital.

Two separate cases were filed with the respective police stations, said police.



With a radiant smile, two girls carry a bunch of “shoti” flowers and walk towards their home. These vibrant blooms, found abundantly near the shimmering waters, mirror the innocence and beauty of their spirit. This photo was taken in Barishal Sadar's Lakutia area yesterday.

## KHULNA AGRI UNIV Ex-VC sent to jail over rape charge

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A Khulna court yesterday sent Shahedur Rahman Khan, former vice-chancellor of Khulna Agricultural University, to jail in a case filed for allegedly raping a female officer of the university in 2021.

Abdus Salam, judge of Khulna Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-3 passed the order after rejecting his bail prayer, said Special Public Prosecutor Farid Ahmed.

Khandkar Mazharul Anwar, the current registrar of the university, got permanent bail in the same case on Sunday.

Both the accused were on bail till Sunday in an earlier order by the High Court.

On March 13, 2023, a female officer of the university filed a complaint with Khulna Women and Children Repression

## AL activists, police foil BNP rally in N'ganj

Claim BNP leaders

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj**

Law enforcement officials and ruling Awami League members allegedly foiled a BNP meeting in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila yesterday.

According to BNP members, a 101-member executive committee of the Kanchan municipal unit had recently been formed, and an introductory rally was scheduled to take place at 10:00am in the Charpara area.

However, around 50 law enforcement officials arrived at the venue at 2:00am and instructed BNP members not to hold the event, said Kanchan municipal unit BNP President Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan.

Later in the morning, AL, Jubo League, and Chhatra League members

# The menace of slow roadworks continues



**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

Residents of Mymensingh city are complaining about the slow progress of roadwork on the Kali Shankar Guha Road (Panditbari), which is a vital link between Horikishore Roy road and Shyamacharon Roy road. The road is used by hundreds of people, including office workers, students, and visitors to the many institutions located along its route.

The road construction has caused untold suffering for commuters, who have to navigate around the construction area. Locals have complained to the city officials, who have promised swift action. However, little progress has been made in the three months since the work started.

Students are the worst sufferers,

who are struggling to get to their classes on time. “The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinees have also been facing serious troubles to reach exam centres smoothly,” said Asma Amin, an SSC candidate.

“It has created an immense problem for hundreds of service seekers at government offices,” said Hazrat Ali, an employee at the deputy commissioner's office.

Workers at the site told The Daily Star that now they are working to set up the ring culverts, which will take several months.

“We need more than a month to complete the entire roadwork,” said workers' supervisor Abdul Jalil, a representative of the contracted firm Faridpur Jannat Construction.

Locals have accused them of working at a slow pace, with no

proper monitoring by the concerned authorities. The road is currently occupied by ring culverts, which is causing serious problems for pedestrians, they added.

Contacted, Md Rafiqul Islam Miah, MCC's executive engineer, said the construction work was suspended during Ramadan considering the sufferings of the city's residents. The work was also suspended for a few days due to the financial crisis of the assigned company, informed the engineer.

“The work will be completed as soon as possible,” he assured.

Mohammad Azaharul Haque, an assistant engineer of Mymensingh City Corporation (MCC), denied the allegations of lax monitoring.

“We have been monitoring the work regularly,” he claimed.

## BCC POLLS ‘They barred us but allowed AL to use loudspeakers’ Allege Islami Andolon members

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal**

Islami Andolon Bangladesh could not use loudspeakers during its mass reception programme that was accorded to the party's mayoral candidate Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim in Barishal yesterday.

They were compelled to conclude the event as election officials informed them that the use of loudspeakers is a violation of the electoral code.

Flanked by several thousands of party members, Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim entered Barishal around 5:00pm yesterday.

He was scheduled to join a mass reception programme that was supposed to be held at the Zila School intersection.

However, the party members later changed the programme venue and held it in Amtola Mor area without using any loudspeakers, said several leaders and activists of the party.

They also alleged that the election officials did

## ‘CONSERVATION AWARD’ Two persons, one org nominated

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura**

Two individuals and a voluntary environmental organisation have been nominated for the Bangabandhu Award for Wildlife Conservation-22 for their contribution to nature and wildlife conservation.

Of the two individuals, Md Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer (DFO) of wildlife management and nature conservation division of Sylhet, has been nominated in the forest conservation category.

Aminuzzaman Md Saleh Reza, professor of the department of Zoology, Rajshahi University, was nominated in the category of wildlife research and education. Bangladesh Biodiversity Conservation Federation (BBCF), has been nominated in the category of organisation dedicated for wildlife conservation.

A notice undersigned by Munira Sultana, joint secretary of the Ministry of Forest and Climate Change, has been issued in this regard.

“The notice was issued on May 3 and I received it yesterday [Sunday] evening through email,” said SM Iqbal, president of BBCF.

## 34 hospitalised with dengue

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

At least 34 patients were hospitalised with dengue in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new ones, the total number of dengue cases rose to 1,123, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Some 83 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment while the total number of deaths this year is 11. A total of 1,029 dengue patients have been released from hospitals so far.

PRAYER  
TIMING

MAY 9

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4-15

12-45

5-00

6-34

8-00

JAMAAT 4-50

1-15

5-15

6-38

8-30

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e-GP Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Additional Chief Engineer, Establishment & Engineering Division, Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Last selling/ downloading date and time	Tender closing/ opening date & time
1.	817632	Fenestration work (Civil & Electrical) at the Front side (East Side) of the Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office Building, Dhaka.	10-May-2023 11:00	06-Jun-2023 15:00	07-Jun-2023 15:00
2.	817737	Fenestration work (Civil) at the North & South Side of the Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office Building, Dhaka.	10-May-2023 11:00	23-May-2023 15:05	24-May-2023 15:05
3.	817744	Plaster & Painting Works of exterior surfaces of the Sonali Bank Limited, Head Office Building, Dhaka.	10-May-2023 11:00	23-May-2023 15:00	24-May-2023 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/HelpDesk.jsp>).

GD-800

Additional Chief Engineer

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD,

Cumilla Road Division, Cumilla.

Phone: 081-64725

e-mail: eecom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. : 35.01.1933.410.07.001.23-2490

Date : 07/05/2023

e-Tender Notice

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

SL No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of Works	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
01	826131, e-GP/CRD/ADP/ 4 Nos District Highway/WD-03	Construction of 38 nos (92.00 m) RCC Box Culvert with other ancillary works for Road Pavement into appropriate standard & width from ch. 0+000 k.m to ch. 35+000 k.m of Cumilla (Balutupa) -Koneshtola- Suagazi-Bijoypur-Adinamara-Amratgali (Z-1024) Road under Road Division Cumilla, during the year 2022-2023 (for WD-03 of the DPP).	04-Jun-2023 16:00	05-Jun-2023 12:15	05-Jun-2023 12:15

(Suniti Chakma)

ID No. 602147

Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Cumilla.

☎: 01730-782641

GD- 797



# An inadvertent encounter with Buddha

Visiting “From Suffering to Liberation: Buddha of Bengal” at AFD

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

The Ukraine-Russia war, the earthquakes in Turkey, and the unrest in Sudan – the world seems descending into chaos. They affect not just the aforementioned countries, but the mind of every single netizen in the world. Amidst the chaos, the calming influence of Buddha and his teachings were much appreciated at Alliance Française de Dhaka (AFD) in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Treasuring the tranquility, philosophy, and beliefs of Buddha, the exhibition titled *From Suffering to Liberation: Buddha of Bengal* radiated a



Md Muslim Mia's 'Young Buddha 1'



Bappy Paul's 'Buddha and Avatar'



Prasanta Maharana's 'Buddha', India

**Created as a project by Amit Nandi in collaboration with five other promising artists, this piece is a monochrome treat for the eyes.**

Academy, marking Buddha Purnima.

Staying true to oriental roots, the artworks on display, crafted on various eco-friendly mediums like ceramics, palm leaves, *shital pati*, copper, iron ore, stone, straw, acrylic, watercolour on paper, and

fabric, communicate the journey and preaching of Siddhartha Gautama through their vivid intricate patterns.

Nikhil Pal's "Life Sketches of Buddha", a Patachitra narrating the different experiences in the philosopher's (Buddha) life puts forward a vibrant display while Prasanta Maharana's piece on palm leaves, preserving the calmness in Buddha with light shades, is a delight to relish.

Sanjoy Chakraborty's "Theragatha" (acrylic on canvas) also stood out amongst the crowd with its crimson patterns

complimenting its apple-white hand-woven canvas while Abdus Satter's "Spiritual Buddha" (acrylic on brown paper) stopped many curious eyes to take a better look at it while walking past the artwork.

Dipak Rajan Sarker's "Free Bird" (metal), Nargis Poly's "Buddha" (green tea and coffee on canvas), and Namirah Farzana's "Auspicious Symbols of Buddha" (copper metal repousse) also demanded appreciation as they presented a unique understanding of Buddha's ideology and perception, vouching in favour of conserving nature while advocating for animal rights.

However, the showstopper for me was the centre piece – hand sketches voicing Buddha's life, starting from his birth to his coronation and quest to find peace to finally becoming the 'enlightened one'.

Created as a project by Amit Nandi in collaboration with five other promising artists, this piece is a monochrome treat to the eyes.

The event, organised by Oriental Painting Study Group, is open for all from 3 pm to 9 pm till May 15.



Amit Nandi's centre piece on display at the exhibition.



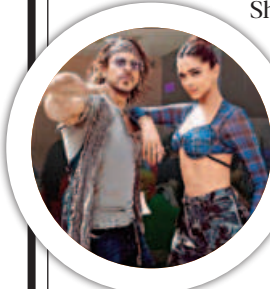
## Dads in the Park set for first ever international tour

Recently, Dads in the Park made headlines across the country after performing at Hammersonic Festival—one of the biggest music festivals in Asia—in Indonesia. Tiny Moving Parts, a popular American rock band, noticed Dads in the Park and their ability to connect with the audience.

Now, as Tiny Moving Parts return for a tour of Asia, they have decided to invite Dads in the Park as a supporting act for a few of their dates. The overall tour, which has been titled *Tiny Moving Parts: Asia Round Two* will take place across six countries, namely Japan, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and Bangladesh.

The tour is set to kick-off with its first show on May 27 in Tokyo, Japan. However, Dads in the Park will be joining Tiny Moving Parts from June 7, when the tour goes to Bangkok, Thailand.

## Advance tickets of 'Pathaan' sold out



Shah Rukh-starrer superhit *Pathaan* is releasing in Bangladesh on May 12. Advanced ticket sales have started in various cinema halls nationwide. The import of Hindi movies has been a long standing demand of cinema hall owners. That demand is being fulfilled with the release of the Bollywood film, *Pathaan*.

In front of many theaters across the country, including the Star Cineplex in Dhaka, Madhumita, Nabin in Manikganj, and Madhuban cinema hall in Bogra, posters of *Pathaan* have already been hung.

Chief guests inaugurating the exhibition with Amit Nandi's project.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AFD AND ORIENTAL PAINTING STUDY GROUP

# COUNTRYWIDE

## BORO HARVEST Good yield delights coastal farmers

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Boro cultivation has brought smiles to a good number of farmers at many coastal villages in Barguna, with a bumper yield of the paddy this season.

Farmer Masud Howladar of Charakgachhia village of Barguna Sadar upazila said he has cultivated BRRI 74, a new variety of Boro paddy, on his 80 decimals land this year, spending Tk 31,000 including irrigation and fertilizer cost.

He got 100 maunds of paddy from his land and sold those for Tk 1,000 per maund.

Masud said due to high salinity of the land it was quite difficult to grow any other crop except Aman.

But this year he got a good yield by cultivating Boro on the advice of the local agriculture office.

Shahjahan Fakir, another farmer of the village, said he cultivated Boro on 90 decimals of land this year and got 135 maunds of paddy.

After bearing all the cultivation expenses he made a profit of Tk 1 lakh, Shahjahan said.

Another grower Masud Chowdhury said earlier their lands used to remain uncultivated for at least seven to eight months of the year due to high salinity.

Masud said he will bring more of his land under Boro cultivation next year.

Mizanur Rahman, deputy assistant agricultural officer at Barguna Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), said the salinity level of the agricultural land in the coastal area is too high.

So a few salt tolerant varieties of Boro paddy have been cultivated for the first time in the area and achieved a record yield, he said, adding that under the initiative farmer have been provided 10kg of seeds and 20ks fertiliser free of cost.

Barguna DAE Additional Deputy Director Badrul Alam said Boro paddy has been cultivated on 9,078 hectares of land, including 3,015 hectares in Sadar upazila, 3,000 hectares in Taltali, 1,900 hectares in Amtali, 460 hectares in Bamna, 353 hectares in Betagi and 350 hectares in Patharghata upazila, this year.

Last year Boro was cultivated on 8,270 hectares of land.



PHOTO: STAR

## Chronicler of 'the dark times' dies

FROM PAGE 12

who had a long history of lung problems and breathing difficulties, died at around 6:00pm at the Apollo Hospital on EM Bypass Road in the eastern part of the city. He was admitted to the hospital on April 25 with complaints of brain haemorrhaging and thereafter developed breathing trouble.

The Apollo Hospital spokesperson said, Samaresh Majumdar had long been suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and was recently admitted to the hospital with breathing problems.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called the death of Samaresh Majumdar "An irreparable loss to Bengali literature."

A prolific writer, Samaresh was best known for the series of novels featuring Animesh and Madhabilata as the lead characters in novels "Kalbela", "Uttaradhikar", and

"Kalpurush" in the backdrop of the Naxalite movement in 1960s and 70s. Kalbela was brought on the big screen by acclaimed director Gautam Ghosh in 2009 with Parambrata Chattopadhyay and Paoli Dam in the lead roles.

**Author of novels, short stories, and travelogues, Samaresh received the Indian government's coveted Sahitya Akademi award for the second book of the Animesh series, "Kalbela".**

Author of novels, short stories, and travelogues, Samaresh received the Indian government's coveted Sahitya Akademi award for the second book of the Animesh series, "Kalbela".

He is also credited with creating

the character of detective Arjun. The Bangla film "Buno Haansh" is based on the novel written by Samaresh Majumdar of the same name.

Samaresh took the Bangla literary world by storm with his first novel "Dour" which was serialised in "Desh" magazine of Kolkata. It immediately earned him huge popularity. It was also made into a film in 1979.

Born on March 10, 1944, in Jalpaiguri in the northern part of West Bengal, Samaresh spent the first six years of his life in the terraced lush green tea gardens of the region. North Bengal forms a distinct and large part of his works.

After having primary education in Jalpaiguri high school, Samaresh shifted to Kolkata in the 1960s and obtained his BA honours degree from Scottish Church College and completed his post-graduation from Calcutta University.

Among the other novels by

Samaresh are "Saatkahon", "Swapner Bazar", "Ujaan", "Ganga", "Victorian Bagan", "Aat Kuthuri Noy Dorja", "Anurag", "Tero Parban", and "Garbhadharini". "Saatkahon" was adapted into a Bangla TV show.

In 1982, Samaresh was conferred Ananda Puraskar and declared an outstanding Bangali by ABP Ananda for his contribution to literature.

Samaresh's death plunged the Bangla literary world into the gloom.

Veteran writer Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay recalled his memories with Samaresh saying he had known Samaresh before he became an author. "I used to stay at a boarding house in Kolkata and Samaresh used to come there. He was such a lively youth with diversified interests."

Sirshendu said he had a special affinity with Samaresh because both were from north Bengal – the former from Siliguri and the latter from Jalpaiguri.

## EU plans to invest big in Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

looking at the transport sector, for example, metro rail, he added.

The Global Gateway Initiative is not like some other big players who provide funding for infrastructure where there's a certain tendency towards making sure that their own companies get the contracts and their own workers implement the projects, he said, adding that EU's move would be a lot more values-based.

Bangladesh exports goods worth \$24 billion to the EU and enjoys the GSP facility, which will expire by 2029. Then, there will be a new scheme called GSP Plus with tougher conditions.

Whiteley said GSP Plus gives the same benefits as Bangladesh enjoys now, but with a few more conditions, including the requirement for ratifying and implementing 32 international conventions on social, environmental, human rights, and labour rights.

Bangladesh has ratified the conventions and now the work should begin in earnest to be ready



**Whiteley said Bangladeshi is one of the leaders in terms of green factory, especially the garment industry. However, other industries need the same kind of approach, for example, brick kilns and construction business.**

by 2029.

"If Bangladesh makes progress on this front, then the duty-free and free access will remain."

Also, the export basket needs diversification. It is happening but needs extra push through deregulation in terms of attracting foreign direct investment and making the atmosphere more

business-friendly.

He said the new areas of exports can be logistics or services, including ICT services, bicycles, pharmaceuticals, plastics, jute and jute products.

Whiteley said Bangladeshi is one of the leaders in terms of green factory, especially the garment industry. However, other industries need the same kind of approach, for example, brick kilns and the construction business.

On labour reforms, the envoy said there is a need for continued implementation regarding reforms to the labour laws and trade unions. There is still the need for making changes and time is ticking.

Some of the deadlines for implementing changes have now passed, he added, lauding the progress already made.

The EU last year launched Talent Partnership for creating legal pathways for migration. Asked about it, Whiteley said it will allow educated Bangladeshis to go to Europe and live and work, learn more and then come back to Bangladesh.

At the moment, the EU is identifying sectors that need workers from Bangladesh, but the exact time of its operations has not been decided yet, said the EU ambassador.

He lauded Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific Outlook, saying a lot of what Bangladesh put in, chimes very well with how the EU sees this issue.

"Talking about the freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, and respect for the law of the sea, I mean, grounding your strategy and outlook in international law is always a good starting point. And let's be frank. Not everybody bases their foreign policy on international law."

On Rohingya repatriation, Whiteley said the Rohingyas can only go back when it is safe for them to return in a voluntary manner.

He said the UNHCR is not involved in the latest move, and it needs to be monitored very carefully as the Rohingyas who visited the model villages in Rakhine said they won't go back unless they get citizenship in Myanmar.



## 8 dead after car runs into crowd in Texas

AFP, Brownsville

At least eight people were killed and several others injured on Sunday when an SUV ran a red light and plowed into a group waiting at a bus stop outside a migrant aid centre in the US state of Texas.

Law enforcement said they were treating the incident as an accident for now, although a witness told AFP the driver had yelled insults at the group before accelerating.

The gray sport utility vehicle “went through a red light and ran over several people” at around 8:30 am in Brownsville, police spokesman Martin Sandoval said.

Witness Luis Herrera, whose arm was hurt, said, “The killer came (through) in the car, gesturing at us, insulting us,” the 36-year-old Venezuelan said. Herrera then described the driver as accelerating the car with full force. The motorist was detained by witnesses until police arrived.



French President Emmanuel Macron lights the flame on the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe on Place de l'Etoile during the ceremonies marking the 78th anniversary of the victory against the Nazis and the end of the World War II in Europe, in Paris yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## China seeks ‘new fields’ of co-op with Pak military

REUTERS, Beijing

China's defence minister yesterday told Pakistan's navy chief that their militaries including their navies should “expand into new fields of cooperation” to bolster the capability of the two neighbours in safeguarding security in the region.

Ties between the two militaries stretch back years, with their navies and air forces holding bilateral exercises in each other's territory.

For China, Pakistan and its access to the Arabian Sea is key in the event of a maritime blockade in the Strait of Malacca.

But Chinese interest in the region has stirred concern, especially in neighbouring India after China opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti on the northwestern fringe of the Indian Ocean in 2017.

China's Defence Minister Li Shangfu told Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff Amjad Khan Niazi, who was visiting Beijing, that the two countries' military relationship was a key part of bilateral ties.

“The two militaries should expand into new areas of exchanges, create new high points of cooperation to continuously enhance their ability to deal with all sorts of risks and challenges, and jointly maintain the security interests of the two countries and of the region,” said Li, according to a statement on China's Ministry of National Defense website.

Niazi's visit comes after Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, said in late April that the Chinese military was willing to deepen and expand cooperation with Pakistan's military.

So far, China has not disclosed if it had sought military access to Pakistan's Chinese-funded, deepwater port of Gwadar.

The Pentagon previously identified Pakistan as a possible location for a future Chinese military base, with Gwadar seen as the likely location.

In 2022, New Delhi expressed concern over a Chinese survey ship's visit to a strategic port in Sri Lanka. In 2014, Sri Lanka angered India when a Chinese submarine and a warship were allowed to dock in Colombo.

## Russia rains missiles across Ukraine

### Air defences shot down all 35 drones; Kyiv says Moscow effectively stopped Black Sea grain deal

AGENCIES

Russia carried out drone, missile and air strikes on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities through Sunday night, escalating attacks in the run-up to its cherished Victory Day holiday that celebrates the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Ukraine said its air defences destroyed all 35 Iranian-made Shahed drones Russia had launched. Kyiv's mayor said at least five people were wounded in the capital amid damage to a fuel depot, cars, buildings and infrastructure. A food warehouse was set ablaze by a missile in the Black Sea city of Odesa, where officials reported three people wounded.

It was one of the biggest volleys of missiles and drones yet in a renewed Russian air campaign unleashed 10 days ago after a lull since early March.

Kyiv said Moscow was also making a final push to try to capture the ruined eastern city of Bakhmut, to deliver President Vladimir Putin what would be his only prize for a costly Russian winter offensive, in time for the holiday.

The military said 16 rockets had hit the Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa regions in the last 24 hours, in addition to 61 strikes and 52 rocket salvos on Ukrainian positions and populated areas.

“Unfortunately, there are dead

and wounded civilians, high-rise buildings, private homes and other civilian infrastructure were damaged,” the military said.

Ukraine's reconstruction ministry said yesterday that Russia has effectively stopped the Black Sea grain deal by refusing to register incoming vessels.

“The Russian Federation once again effectively stopped the Grain Initiative by refusing to register incoming vessels and carry out



their inspections. This approach contradicts the terms of the current agreement,” the ministry said in a statement.

It said that 90 ships, including 62 vessels for loading, were waiting in Turkey's territorial waters for approval to go to Ukrainian ports.

The deal expires on May 18. Moscow has threatened to quit the agreement intended to help ease a global food crisis. Turkey and the United Nations are working to extend the deal.

Meanwhile, Moscow is preparing

for today's Victory Day parade, the most important day in the calendar for Russia under Putin, who uses the 1945 Soviet triumph over Nazi Germany to justify his invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine, which as part of the then-Soviet Union endured higher per capita casualties than Russia in battling the Nazis, and as ground zero of the Holocaust, proclaimed May 8 to be Victory Day, rather than May 9 - a clear bid to separate its observance of the day from that of Russia.

“Recalling the heroism of millions of Ukrainians in that war against Nazism, we see the same heroism in the actions of our soldiers today,” President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a statement.

In Brussels, the EU has proposed to member states an 11th round of sanctions over Russia's war on Ukraine aimed at cutting down on evasion, a spokesman said yesterday.

“This package will be focusing on the implementation of sanctions, their effectiveness and how we avoid the evasion of sanctions,” European Commission spokesman Eric Mamer said.

As part of the package the EU's executive has recommended halting exports of sensitive technologies to eight Chinese companies over suspicions they were selling them on to Russia.

## STRIFE-TORN SUDAN

# Truce talks yield no progress

AFP, Khartoum

Air strikes again shook Sudan's capital yesterday while the latest truce talks in Jeddah have yielded no progress, with a Saudi diplomat saying both sides consider themselves “capable of winning the battle”.

Sudan was thrown into deadly chaos when fighting broke out on April 15 between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his deputy turned rival Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who heads the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

The battles have since killed hundreds, wounded thousands and left millions barricaded inside their homes amid dire shortages of water, food and basic supplies.

The feuding generals have sent representatives to Saudi Arabia for talks on establishing a humanitarian truce in an effort also backed by the United States, but to no avail so far.

By yesterday, the talks had yielded “no major progress”, a Saudi diplomat told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. “A permanent ceasefire isn't on the table... Every side believes it is capable of winning the battle,” the diplomat added.

In Khartoum, terrified residents reported more combat, now in its fourth week, as they hid out in their homes amid power outages and sweltering heat. A southern Khartoum resident told AFP the family could hear “the sound of airstrikes which appeared to come from near a market in central Khartoum”.

The fighting has sparked a mass exodus of foreigners and of Sudanese, in both air and sea evacuations and arduous overland journeys to Egypt, Chad, South Sudan and other neighbouring countries.

## POST-COUP MYANMAR

# Convoy carrying Asean diplomats ‘attacked’

AFP, Yangon

A convoy of diplomats travelling in Myanmar came under fire from an unknown armed group, a military official and a diplomat said yesterday. Myanmar has been in turmoil since a military coup deposed Aung San Suu Kyi's administration in February 2021. On Sunday a convoy of several vehicles travelling in Taunggyi township in Shan State was attacked by an unknown armed group, a foreign diplomat based in Yangon told AFP. “A convoy with some diplomats was attacked yesterday morning,” the source said.

## 22 dead after India boat capsizes

AFP, Malappuram



At least 22 people died when a tourist boat capsized in India, officials said yesterday, with many of those on board thought to be children. It was not clear why the double-decker boat carrying at least 30 people tipped over in the southern state of Kerala's Malappuram district late Sunday. Dozens of people searched for survivors

in and around the stricken vessel all night, which was partially submerged, and the search continued into yesterday. Some used ropes to stabilise the boat while others were in the water, desperately looking inside the vessel's windows for any survivors.



People wait with their luggage at a bus stop in southern Khartoum yesterday as fighting continues between Sudan's army and the paramilitary forces. *Inset*, smoke billows in Khartoum amid ongoing fighting between the forces of two rival generals. The United Nations has warned of a widening humanitarian crisis after fighting has already displaced 335,000 people and created 117,000 refugees.

PHOTO: AFP

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer				
Mymensingh Forest Division, Kanchijuli, Mymensingh				
Invitation for Tenders				
01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.		
02	Agency	Forest Department, Bangladesh, Dhaka.		
03	Procuring entity name	Divisional Forest Officer, Mymensingh Forest Division.		
04	Invitation for	Supply of Manpower through outsourcing		
05	Invitation Ref. No.	MFD/Revenue-01 of 2022-2023		
06	Date	08/05/2023		
KEY INFORMATION				
07	Procurement method	Opening Tender Method (OTM) : National Competitive Tender (NCT)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
08	Budget and source of funds	GoB Budget, Government of Bangladesh		
09	Development partners	Not applicable		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10	Project/programme name	Divisional Forest Officer, Mymensingh Forest Division.		
11	Tender Package No.	MFD/Revenue-01 of 2022-2023		
12	Tender package name	Supply of manpower through outsourcing		
13	Tender publication date	08/05/2023		
14	Tender last selling date	22/05/2023 up to 4.00pm		
		Date	Time	
15	Tender closing date and time	23/05/2023	2.00pm	
16	Tender opening date and time	23/05/2023	3.00pm	
	Name & address of the office(s)	Address		
17	Selling, receiving & opening tender document	Address: Divisional Forest Officer, Mymensingh Forest Division Kanchijuli, Mymensingh.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
18	Eligibility of tenderer	a. Tenderers will be the firms having required experience of manpower supply through outsourcing. b. Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the Contract under the Applicable Law. c. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh d. Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of rules and regulations of Bangladesh. e. Others eligibility are mentioned in Tender document.		
19	Brief description of services	Supply of manpower for the (a) Category-04 (Watcher-02), (b) Category-05 (Mail-03 & Cleaning Staff-1) Total = 6 Nos.		
20	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tk. 1000 (one thousand) only (non-refundable).		
21	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	1	Supply of manpower through outsourcing	Mymensingh Forest Division	Tk. 30,000.00
22	Name of official inviting tender	A.N.M. Abdul Wadud		
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Divisional Forest Officer.		
24	Address of official inviting tender	Divisional Forest Officer, Mymensingh Forest Division, Kanchijuli, Mymensingh.		
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 029966-64380, E-mail: dfoymymn@gmail.com		
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.			
27	Work Order is subject to be issued upon releasing of fund.			
GD-801				
A.N.M. Abdul Wadud Divisional Forest Officer Mymensingh Forest Division				



## Biman’s Airbus plan set to backfire

### Why expand cargo-carrying capacity without first utilising existing planes?

We fail to understand the logic behind Biman’s decision – not for the first time – to approve in principle the purchase of 10 Airbus planes, including two freighters. Last year, Biman managed to carry just 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, meaning that 94 percent of its freight-carrying capacity remained unutilised. Moreover, as an audit by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) shows, Biman carried 20.58 lakh passengers on international flights with around 7 lakh seats left vacant.

Between 2011 and 2019, Biman bought 12 Boeing planes spending around Tk 19,000 crore. But evidently, those haven’t been properly utilised, largely due to shortages of pilots and cabin crew members as well as its poor planning and management. This newspaper has also published multiple reports showing the disastrous state of pilot recruitment and training at Biman. Its incompetence has already put passengers’ lives at risk on more than one occasion, and embarrassed the nation as a whole. Why is it, then, that instead of fixing these problems and ensuring proper utilisation of existing planes, Biman is focusing on purchasing more of them? Has Biman carried out any research to see whether the decision to ferry cargo in additional freighters will increase profits, and not result in greater losses the burden of which will eventually be shifted onto taxpayers?

Experts have suggested that the decision is not an economically viable one. Airfreight is a seasonal business in Bangladesh, which means that for five to six months, there is very little demand. That is why even foreign carriers operate in Bangladesh only when demand is high during the peak season. On top of that, 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. As there is little or no inbound demand for cargo to Dhaka from the West, foreign carriers first fly to Bangkok or Singapore carrying goods and then make a stopover in Dhaka during the return flight to pick up freight that they deliver to the West. But Biman has made no such strategic plan.

Another thing Biman needs to do should it purchase the Airbus planes is train its cockpit, cabin crew members and engineers afresh to deal with the new aircraft. Again, we wonder how well Biman is positioned to do so with the existing problems it has.

We believe Biman’s decision is a rash and overambitious one. There are plenty of things it needs to focus on first – starting with addressing systemic problems including corruption, nepotism and mismanagement – before it can expand to the height it seems to be aspiring to. Of course, we definitely want our national flag carrier to elevate itself to such a position. But that has to begin by addressing Biman’s internal issues, so that its efficiency can reach a level that justifies such an expansion.

## Gold smugglers must be stopped

### Innovative methods being used to carry gold deserve appropriate response from officials

It is concerning to know how crime, especially transnational organised crime, is getting harder to tackle because of technology, legal and systemic loopholes as well as innovative methods. As per a new report, transnational gangs are bringing gold bars into Bangladesh through legal means before smuggling those to India. These racketeers apparently approach people travelling to Bangladesh from the Middle East and Singapore, and give them gold bars weighing about 234 grams, the maximum that a traveller can carry under the Baggage Rules, 2016. Once the carriers arrive, syndicate members in Bangladesh receive the bars and smuggle them to India. In return, the carriers are compensated monetarily and/or have their flight fare paid. Some people that our correspondent spoke to actually view this as a profession, as they can get up to Tk 30,000 from each trip.

This is just one example of how transnational crimes are being committed using innovative methods. Gold smuggling, in particular, has been the subject of many such experiments. It’s also one of the most reported instances of smuggling. We have almost regularly come across reports of people being caught with gold bars and bullions at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka or other airports in the country. Worryingly, sometimes such crimes happen with the help of responsible officials. One may recall that earlier last year, a Dhaka court sentenced two employees of Biman to 12 years in jail for their involvement in smuggling over 9kg of gold. The role played by the relevant authorities in handling smuggling cases also leaves a lot to be desired. In 2022, for example, after analysing 17 cases of gold smuggling spanning 2016-2020, the CID found evidence of police negligence in collecting necessary information from the accused. This is one of the reasons why often only the carriers are arrested, while those behind the smuggling rings remain unidentified and comfortably outside the law.

It is more or less known by now that Bangladesh is being used as a transit hub by many transnational smuggling and trafficking gangs because of its lax enforcement of the law and the oft-flexible nature of those in charge, the Dhaka airport being a case in point. Unfortunately, while these criminals are using ingenious methods and loopholes in the system to their advantage, our law enforcers seem to be failing to catch up to them. It is, therefore, vital that state officials remain cautious and proactive at all times if we are to reduce such crimes.

Since smuggling of gold involves a few other countries besides Bangladesh, coordination among local and regional authorities is also crucial to stop the flow of gold. For that, we urge the government to regularly engage with our regional partners. They all must coordinate and collaborate with each other because such crimes, the consequences of which are far-reaching, affect them all.

# Is a policy directive enough to stop school bullying?



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network, and vice-chair of the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in this article are the author’s own.

MANZOOR AHMED

The Ministry of Education has issued the “Policy for the Prevention of Bullying and Ragging in Educational Institutions, 2023” to prevent bullying in educational institutions and punish the perpetrators around Bangladesh. But how far can a central directive go in achieving the results? What else should be done?

Bullying among peers is a common antisocial behaviour among children and adolescents in most cultures. When this happens in a school setting, supposedly a safe and stimulating environment where children would learn, thrive and flourish, this is unacceptable. Yet, this is far too common a situation.

School bullying of a student takes many forms: corporal punishment as a disciplinary measure; physical violence; verbal humiliation; gender-based violence; and abuse prompted by personal attributes such as disabilities, and any other distinguishing features such as physical appearance, ethnicity, language or socioeconomic background. The perpetrators are not just the peers, but sometimes teachers, administrators, and school staff.

A Unicef survey in Bangladesh in 2019 indicated that a quarter of the children of 10-17 years of age have been victims of bullying. This is likely to be a large underestimate. The prevalence and impact of bullying are difficult to quantify because of its interpersonal nature, the diverse ways in which it is manifested, not often overt, and the immediate and longer-term effects that are not easy to detect.

The problem is not new; it has been the subject of public debate, received media attention, and even attracted judicial interventions. There have also been regulations and directives issued by the education authorities regarding physical violence and verbal abuse of students by teachers. In a way, it is surprising that a policy now has been issued regarding this long-standing and pervasive phenomenon. The question is if and how the new directive can make a difference.

Over two decades ago, the Education Policy, 2010 recognised the problem and provided some guidelines as solutions. For example, it suggested initiating student welfare and counselling services at all educational levels, with designated teachers to be trained to deliver counselling (Chapter 22). A working committee would also be formed with teachers, guardians, students and



ILLUSTRATION: REHNUMA PROSHOON

community representatives to improve the (learning and physical) environment in each school at primary and secondary levels. For higher education institutions, action plans will be prepared to take effective measures (Chapter 22). It also suggested that codes of conduct be adopted for teachers and learners at all levels of education, a purpose of which would be to ensure that students “do not face any physical or mental tortures” (Chapter 28).

The authorities have not taken the necessary steps to implement these policy recommendations. The most egregious incidents that drew public and media attention prompted judicial intervention. On October 7, 2019, Abrar Fahad, a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), was beaten to death by the activists of the student wing of the ruling party (BCL) for allegedly making a post on Facebook that was critical of the government. The High Court then directed the government to form within three months anti-bullying committees at all educational institutions, especially universities and colleges. No systematic action followed this court ruling.

On August 21, 2021, the High Court bench issued a ruling asking the authorities concerned to explain

their inaction in stopping bullying at educational institutions. Then, on February 16 this year, the High Court sounded alarm about the physical torture of a female student of the Islamic University in Kushtia allegedly by a group of BCL members. The current policy directive appears to be a belated and hesitant response to the judicial observations and public concern.

young people to antisocial behaviour and picking on those who seem to be different or weak. This situation is commonly evident at the primary and secondary school levels. The educational experience of students in the classroom and outside, and the extracurricular activities need to recognise this reality. Teachers, parents, and school administrators have to be alert to the

Looking at the pattern of bullying and transgressions of student safety and rights at different levels of education, a pattern can be observed. At the tertiary level, it is the ruling regime-supported student organisations that are involved in various illegal activities and in exercising control over the general student bodies. Bullying and violence in these circumstances can be restrained only by a political decision to cut loose the ties of political protection and patronage to the student wings and make them subject to the normal academic code of conduct.

There is a gender and sexual dimension to bullying, ragging and intimidation, which cuts across the types and levels of institutions. Girl students are especially vulnerable in the prevailing patriarchal norms and values in society. Mindset, customs and habits of teachers, institutional managers, students – both boys and girls – and families of students are complicit, directly or indirectly, in creating and maintaining the environment that makes girls vulnerable.

There is the common behaviour pattern and psychology of children and adolescents, often characterised by jealousy, rivalry, selfishness, insecurity and a lack of self-esteem, that lead

situation and need to examine their own attitudes and values in this respect. The school experience should also nurture among learners empathy, appreciation of diversity, and respect for differences.

It is in the sphere of children and teenage behaviour patterns and the need for guidance, counselling, support, and learning the norms of social interaction as children grow up that the policy guidance and various measures proposed are likely to be particularly relevant. In respect of the politics-generated misconduct at the tertiary institutions, and the gender-related vulnerability of girl students, the policy directives can be of help only to the extent that these are supported by policy shift and mindset change beyond the school premises, particularly at the higher tiers of political decision-making.

The social and cultural conditions that have fostered the environment for bullying and the values that allow tolerance of such behaviour are alive and well. So is the political culture that has prevented the efforts to change the conditions. The key actors have to recognise these obstacles and find ways to work around them to implement the policy.

## EUROPE DAY

# Building Europe as a strong global partner



HE Charles Whiteley is ambassador/head of delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh.

CHARLES WHITELEY

Every May 9, Europe Day is celebrated around the world. With 27 member states and 450 million EU citizens, Europe Day is a moment to reflect on how far the bloc has advanced both its own internal integration and its collective engagement with the wider world.

The EU is in essence a peace project. It was born in the aftermath of the Second World War and was designed from its inception to make a repeat of that disaster not only unthinkable, but also impossible.

The genesis of today’s EU was the Schuman Declaration, presented by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman on May 9, 1950. It proposed the creation of a European Coal and Steel Community, whose members would pool coal and steel production – the drivers of war.

In the ensuing decades, the six-member European Coal and Steel Community morphed into the European Economic Community, succeeded by the European Community and finally by today’s European Union in 1993.

The construction of the European

project has witnessed the progressive expansion of membership. Any European state is eligible to join the EU and must fulfil a range of political and economic conditions to become a member. There are now eight “candidate” countries engaged in the accession process, with Ukraine joining that group in June 2022.

The progressive integration of EU member states has many facets: from the launch of the EU Single Market with free movement of goods, services, people and capital in January 1993 and the advent of the euro in 1999, to the expansion of collaboration on security and defence issues and the creation of a European diplomatic service.

Isolationism and protectionism have never been a part of the EU’s agenda. The EU recognises its responsibilities to the wider world, exemplified by the fact that it is the largest global provider of development and humanitarian assistance. In the space of 20 years, the EU has deployed 37 civilian-military missions overseas, with a diverse range of tasks, including support to the Palestinian police force to rescuing

migrants in the Mediterranean Sea. Over 140 EU representations abroad – including the EU Delegation here in Bangladesh – pursue trade, political, development, and humanitarian ties with host countries.

The EU has trade agreements with over 70 countries and has the most generous trade regime in the world, including duty-free and quota-free access to its market for all Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The EU is committed to working with Bangladesh to ensure a smooth transition to GSP+, which entails the implementation of 32 international conventions on environmental, social and human rights concerns in order to retain optimal access to the EU market.

The EU is using its political and economic weight to shape its response to global challenges.

The existential threat posed by climate change has galvanised EU action. The European Climate Law writes into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal for Europe’s economy and society to become climate-neutral by 2050. The law also sets the intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 percent by 2030, compared to the 1990 levels. As the largest provider of climate finance – 23 billion euros in 2021 – the EU recognises its responsibilities to countries that need international support in tackling the consequences of climate change.

A major new worldwide EU initiative – Global Gateway – has been launched to provide, in the words of European

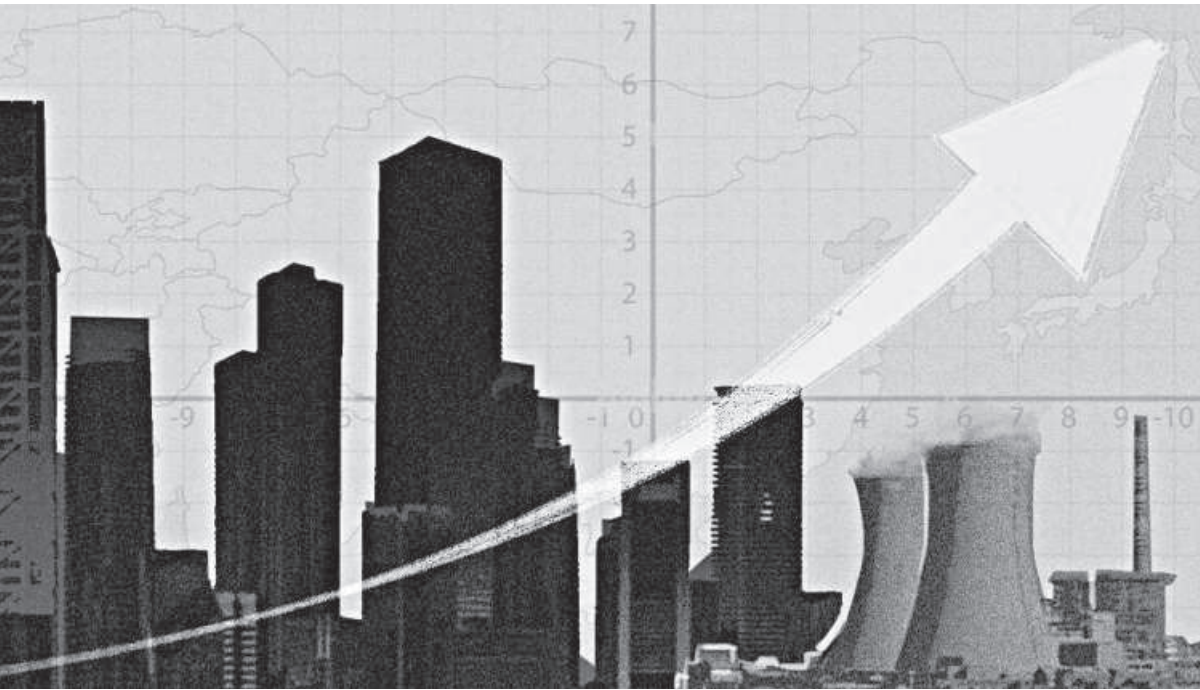
Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, “a new strategic approach to investment.” Global Gateway is mobilising billions in values-driven support to infrastructure around the world. Here in Bangladesh, substantial funding is in the pipeline to assist the development of renewable energy.

The EU is a bloc that is rooted in the shared values of human rights and democracy. The European Court of Justice and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency help to ensure that the rights of EU citizens are protected by their national governments. All the EU’s bilateral agreements with partner countries include a joint commitment to these values. The EU also supports human rights actors around the world, including civil society.

The spectre of war on the European continent is now a reality again in the form of the Russian aggression in Ukraine that has killed thousands and displaced millions. This is a threat not only to peace in Europe but also to world peace and prosperity. It is also a violation of the UN Charter and Ukraine’s territorial integrity. As a direct neighbour of Ukraine, the EU and its member states are supporting the Ukrainian people in this darkest hour.

As we mark Europe Day here in Dhaka – as well as the half-century anniversary of Bangladesh-EU relations – it is a moment to reflect on the progress that the European Union has made in the 73 years since the Schuman Declaration, as well as the challenges that undoubtedly remain.





VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

# Can Bangladesh become a regional industrial hub with Japan’s help?



**Dr Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir**  
*is professor and chairman of the Department of Development Studies at Dhaka University, and chairperson of Unnayan Onneshan.*

RASHED AL MAHMUD TITUMIR

The prime minister’s recent visit to Japan has sparked quite a lot of discussions, particularly on the geo-strategic front for the “commitment to realising a free and open Indo-Pacific,” following the release of Bangladesh’s Indo-Pacific Outlook immediately before the summit. Yet, the “newly launched concept of Industrial Value Chain connecting the Bay of Bengal and neighbouring regions,” as mentioned in the Bangladesh-Japan Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership, also deserves attention. The former reflects the elevation of the bilateral relationship to a “Strategic Partnership” from the “Comprehensive Partnership” established in 2014, while the latter is connected to the overall stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

The statement does not specify the elements of the “newly launched concept of Industrial Value Chain,” nor is it available in the public domain – apart from the communique welcoming “the significant progress in the projects in Southern Chattogram region, including Matarbari deep sea port” under the Bay of Bengal Industrial Growth Belt (BIG-B) initiative. Nevertheless, the two sides “affirmed their continuous and accelerated cooperation so that (the) Matarbari Port can become a hub of energy, logistics and industry in Bangladesh by using Japanese expertise and technology and can enhance connectivity between Bangladesh and its neighbouring countries.” The statement mentions cooperation in developing the Southern Chattogram region, including Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar Highway and the establishment of the Moheshkhali-Matarbari Integrated Infrastructure Development Initiative (MIDI) Authority. Perhaps the elements will be specified in the “MIDI Master Plan,” which “both Prime Ministers shared their intention to develop.”

The significance lies in the fact that Bangladesh’s economy needs a huge flow of investment, infrastructure construction, technological upgradation, productive expansion, and large-scale employment generation through a fundamental transformation towards industrialisation. In this connection, Bangladesh needs to divert increasing attention to effectively reap opportunities from strengthening economic ties.

It is more apparent that the private sector investment (gross fixed capital formation) has remained stagnant over the decade, hovering around 24 percent of GDP. Unfortunately, gross domestic savings has continued to decrease in recent years, dropping to 21.56 percent of GDP in FY2021-22 from 25.34 percent in the preceding fiscal year.

Thus, the country’s growth is not due to an increase in savings nor an increase in investment, rather it has largely been led by consumption, which is not a sustainable path for development. According to the latest estimate, consumption increased to 78.44 percent of GDP in FY2021-22 from 74.66 in the previous year. The consumption-driven developing countries have been hit hard during the pandemic and Ukraine conflict,

with import demands putting pressure on their balance of payment. Moreover, investment needs to generate employment in the formal sector, particularly in manufacturing, as poverty reduction has slowed down over the decades. Furthermore, export has remained concentrated to one sector, placing the economy at risk of high vulnerability and shocks.

Since the 1990s, Japan has been the only foreign country actively engaged in India’s eight north-eastern states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim – in view of their strategic location, bordering with

**While Japan has largely remained Bangladesh’s top development partner, Japan’s share of private investment in Bangladesh is much lower than its share of global outflows in different countries. It is yet to be seen if the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) inaugurated in December 2022 in Araihaaz for Japanese and international companies will further increase Japanese investment in Bangladesh.**

Nepal, Bhutan, China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, besides being endowed with natural resources. The landlocked region of mountainous terrain is plagued by militancy and separatism, allegedly incited by different bordering countries.

While India has not signed onto China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Sino-Japan rivalry is a historical fact, Japan is financing the Guwahati Sewage Project, Guwahati Water Supply Project, Tripura’s Sustainable Catchment Forest Management Project, the Stage III Hydroelectric Power Station project in Meghalaya, among others, amounting to around \$1.9 billion as of 2021.

India has almost succeeded in re-establishing its pre-1965 infrastructure connectivity with Bangladesh and has been transcending beyond these links. In northeast India, there are four ongoing major projects – Ashuganj Port, Ashuganj-Akhaura Road, Belonia-Belonia Rail Link, and Akhaura-Agartala Rail link – besides the permanent access of land, riverine and sea ports. The Bangladesh government has been raising the issue of “reciprocity” with the Indian authorities for connecting with other neighbours such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

Japan has critical interest in the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and Bangladesh, given that around 80 percent of its total trade volume passes through the ocean. The same strategic line of communication applies for China. In the South Asian context, India is a regional power

with global ambition, while the US considers China’s strong presence in the Indian Ocean as a counter to its continued influence. Hence, undeniably, there are challenges.

While Japan has largely remained Bangladesh’s top development partner, Japan’s share of private investment in Bangladesh is much lower than its share of global outflows in different countries. It is yet to be seen if the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) inaugurated in December 2022 in Araihaaz for Japanese and international companies will further increase Japanese investment in Bangladesh. The standing of Japan cannot be predicted in comparative terms, as other countries were also awarded SEZs.

Between FY2011 and FY2021, Bangladesh received the total foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$22.82 billion, of which Japan’s FDI share was \$598 million, as per the Bangladesh Bank, accounting for 2.62 percent of the total FDI that Bangladesh received. During the same period, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Japan invested \$1,564 billion globally, while the global FDI flow was \$15,224 billion, meaning Japan’s share of global FDI flow was 10.27 percent. Japan’s share of total FDI inflow to Bangladesh was 4.51 percent in FY2011, reaching a peak of 5.73 percent in FY2013.

Japan’s share of private investment in the total FDI inflow to Bangladesh has gradually declined. Therefore, Bangladesh needs to carve out its strategy of engagements, at least contingent upon three necessary conditions, as a measuring rod. These are: a) engagements must create production network and expand the real economy; b) private capital is invested, rather than investment taking the form of sovereign liability; and c) visible transfer of technology instead of import of technology.

As opposed to the conditions outlined above, there are examples of “dis-stability” and “dis-growth.” For example, they include: a) extractive trade with excessive net import and limited participation in production network; b) growth in debt burden due to injection of credit; and c) lagging behind in the transfer of technology.

For these necessary conditions to materialise, there needs to be sufficient and persistent political stability, which does not follow a path of reversal if there is normative legitimacy. This also creates a virtuous circular flow through better outcome, leading to higher ideational and structural support coming from politics and people, which then leads to higher outcome in a dynamic setting through their endogeneity.

Finally, if there is political contestation within a country, if there is no convergence at different levels of distribution of power, if there is a lack of legitimacy, and if there is no regional alignment among participant countries, it creates conditions for dis-stability and dis-growth. It also creates a vicious cycle if the credit is taken without the required sufficient legitimacy and sustainability conditions.

When agency and structure come to a synergic position, there is political consensus and social recognition over the distribution of power and resources. This results in an enabling set of institutions and policies for a productive class to be engrossed in entrepreneurial activities.

# How to curb thalassemia in Bangladesh



**Prof Dr MA Khan**  
*is adviser to the Thalassaemia Samity Hospital and former head and founder of the Department of Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).*

MA KHAN

While Bangladesh has been successful in controlling infectious diseases and reducing child mortality rates over the past decade, its non-communicable disease control (NCDC) programme is yet to effectively take off. Genetic diseases like thalassemia is like the tip of the iceberg, not yet receiving proper attention under the NCDC programme. Few organisations like Bangladesh Thalassemia Samiti, Bangladesh Thalassemia Foundation, and Bangladesh Thalassemia Protirodh Andolon are working on raising awareness and gathering help for the patients within a very limited scope. This year, International Thalassemia Day was observed on May 8 with the theme “Be Aware. Share. Care: Strengthening Education to Bridge the Thalassemia Care Gap.”

Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder and is one of the most widespread diseases worldwide. There are different types of thalassemia, but in Southeast Asia, Hb-E and Hb-Beta-Thalassemia are the most prevalent. According to the recent data of the World Health Organization (WHO), about 10-12 percent of Bangladesh’s population are thalassemia carriers (Hb-E and Hb-Beta-Thalassemia). It is presumed that every year, approximately 6,000-8,000 of the children born in Bangladesh are thalassemic. The number of patients suffering from thalassemia diseases with different levels of severity is estimated to be approximately 70,000-80,000. This high prevalence of thalassemia diseases is due to consanguineous marriage and marriage between two carriers.

Thalassemia carriers are asymptomatic and unaware of the genetic problem. They need no treatment or dietary restrictions, but their importance lies in the prevention of disease by not marrying another carrier. When both are carriers, there is a 25 percent probability (one in four live births) of their child being thalassemic, and a 50 percent probability (one in two live births) of the child being a carrier. In the worst case scenario, all their children could be thalassemic.

Many thalassemia patients are transfusion-dependent for life, starting from the age of six months. They are of short stature with facial deformities (thalassemic facies), with delayed or absent puberty. Some variants of thalassemia (like Haemoglobin Bart’s hydrops foetalis) are often fatal, but fortunately they are rare in Bangladesh. Thalassemia patients need medical treatment such

as regular blood transfusion to keep the haemoglobin up to the target level, screening for blood-borne infections, chelation method to minimise iron overload and endocrine complications related to iron overload, control of osteoporosis and sometimes splenectomy due to hypersplenism.

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) is the only curative treatment of thalassemia at present. HSCT outcomes (more than 80 percent) are best for younger individuals who have undergone rigorous medical therapy with transfusion and iron chelation to minimise the risk of organ damage from iron toxicities. HSCT for thalassemia was pioneered in the early 1980 and results have continued to improve over time. According to a

Unfortunately, this issue is not being addressed with the appropriate attention in our public health domain. Moreover, many thalassemia patients in the country have not been diagnosed and/or appropriately treated, which clearly indicates a need to improve our community education programme as well as opportunities for genetic and prenatal counselling.

Effective diagnostic and screening programmes are essential for thalassemia prevention. Carrier detection, test for thalassemia before marriage, prenatal diagnosis of thalassemic foetus before 13 weeks of pregnancy, genetic counselling and awareness are utmost important to this end. For thalassemia prevention, Bangladesh can look into Cyprus’ experience. In Cyprus, thalassemia was a serious problem, which led to the initiation of strategies for prevention and management of thalassemia in 1976. In 1979, high-risk families started to get screened for thalassemia. In 1980, premarital screening was made compulsory by law. After prenatal diagnosis started in 1984, affected birth rates saw a sharp decrease. Between 1991 and




FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

2012 analysis, allogeneic HSCT is cost-effective compared to the standard medical treatment.

According to the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF), less than 10 percent of global thalassemia patients in developing countries can access the optimal standard of care. In 2017, it was estimated that the direct cost for treating an individual with transfusion-dependent thalassemia in Italy and Turkey would be approximately \$30,000 and \$15,000 annually, respectively. In Bangladesh, about \$2,500 (around Tk250,000) is spent annually, much less than the developed countries, but it is mostly out-of-pocket expenditure. Thus, the management of thalassemia patients requires a significant use of public health resources (approximately Tk 12,000 crore annually).

2001, only five thalassemic babies were born.

There’s no doubt that at present, thalassemia is a serious health problem in Bangladesh. The government should formulate a policy for the prevention and treatment of thalassemia immediately. The existing thalassemia patients’ standard of care (medical and curative) should be arranged in every public hospital. Planning should be done in such a way that no thalassemia baby can be born in the next five years. The main approach for thalassemia prevention is screening. A policy will have to be in place for the screening of the high-risk group. Premarital screening should be mandated by law as well. Scope for prenatal diagnosis should be increased in all medical college hospitals.



**North-West Power Generation Company Ltd**  
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

**Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)**  
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)  
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

**Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.141**


**Date: 08/05/2023**

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	825714	Procurement of spares for LV switchgear & auxiliary system.	03-May-2023	23-May-2023 15:30 PM	24-May-2023

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal ([www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).



**Engr. Md. Asad Halim**  
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)  
Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)  
NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD-798





# Don't you want to stay relevant?

## Rethinking education and future skills

Having studied at the University of Sydney for my master's, I know that experience, networks, and affiliation can open many opportunities. Currently, foreign degrees are plentiful online as well. However, there is a stark difference between studying online and having the experience of a full-blown campus and academic environment.

**SADHIL ROOMY**

The world is undergoing a loop of innovation and invention. Artificial intelligence, blockchain, NFTs, the ever-present diffusion of digital cultures, Internet of Things (IoT), and mixed reality-enabled communication are just the tip of the iceberg – knowledge essential for staying relevant. Whether in IT, business, science, economics, or art, knowledge gives one an advantage in the game of society and success.

But where does one gain knowledge in these areas?

From online tutorials and courses to formal higher education ecosystems, learning opportunities to stay relevant are no longer scarce. People fresh out of high school in Bangladesh are no longer limited to higher education in the proverbial sense, as higher education is no longer limited to national borders today.

Want to learn a new skill? Search it up on YouTube. Trying to get certified? Check out platforms like Udemy and Coursera. Besides, many global universities also offer bachelor's and master's programs online. Regardless of these options, nothing beats the experience of a university campus.

Of course, there are pros and cons to each of these approaches. Staying relevant translates to positive outcomes for people – most commonly in a job, business, or expanded opportunities. Otherwise, there wouldn't be a lot of meaning behind it.

Employers always look for the cream of the crop, and that does not necessarily go in favour of graduates from educational institutions that have long held the spot of being societal elites. An employer looks for well-built foundations



in their hires – good communication capacity, foundational technical skills, ability to critically think and solve problems, being a doer, and of course having unique traits that they can utilise or find interesting.

For instance, a job advertisement from a renowned company would receive hundreds of thousands of applications. A recent graduate interested in the role may apply with a great resume, cover letter, and portfolio of work. However, if a thousand people get those right, they are still knee-deep in competition. So, apart from a good dossier, an added advantage is needed that can come in many forms.

Perhaps, an entry-level web developer primarily needs programming skills in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, Laravel, Python, and MySQL. These are skills that nearly every apt web developer has. But, experimentation experience in developing Smart Contracts and knowing the Solidity language accounts for that edge, making them graduate to the top one to five percent of the applicants. These future skills can be easily accessed online for free or at convenient prices.

Advantages can also take much simpler forms, like being a graduate from a perceivably top-tier institution in Bangladesh or studying abroad. Not to disregard university-level education in Bangladesh, but many employers in our country are attracted to foreign degrees.

Foreign degrees can also open doors to the global workplace. Having studied at the University of Sydney for my master's, I know that experience, networks, and affiliation can open many opportunities. Currently, foreign degrees are plentiful online as well. However, there is a stark difference between studying online and having the experience of a full-blown campus and academic environment.

Campus life incubates peer-to-peer learning. It expands on extracurricular experiences as well and activates a student's

social circle, enabling them to mix with others from diverse backgrounds and different skill levels. This is amplified further if the campus is a global education institution.

However, it is difficult to get into foreign institutions because of competition and financial bottlenecks. Satellite or branch campuses of global universities are a great countermeasure to bring these international education institutions closer to international students as opposed to them going abroad. NYU Shanghai, Monash Malaysia, and Carnegie Mellon in Qatar are just a few examples of globally stationed branch campuses.

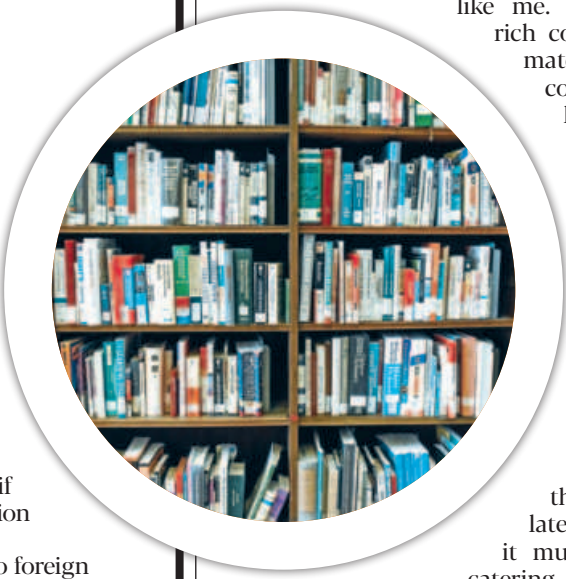
Thankfully, one such institution opened up in Bangladesh as well – Universal College Bangladesh, a place which gives out Monash University's foundation year courses and is accredited by the University Grants Commission, enabling easy access to Monash Malaysia or Monash Australia which is ranked 57th in the world by QS as of 2022.

It is inspiring to see growth in prospective Bangladeshi students' access to these institutions as the international curriculum guarantees the adoption of future skills and the networks to make it big in one's career and life.

Options such as complete digital education, skill-based short courses, onsite education, hybrid deliveries and easy pathways to enrol in top-tier institutions are now available. Bangladeshi students and graduates are making considerable headway both locally and globally. The quality of students in Bangladesh has always been great. We just did not have the connectivity and opportunities to go global at scale.

Now, we do.

The author is the COO and Co-founder of Acme AI Ltd.



## Public libraries could solve our public space problem

**USRAAT FAHMIDAH**

Imagine it's noon and you're wandering around Dhaka under the scorching heat in search of a quiet place to work or study. You're hoping to find a quiet environment where you can focus on completing your homework for the day and maybe get some reading done as well. The noise from the nearby construction site is inhibiting the peace at home, making it impossible for you to concentrate there. Your only other option is to go to a cafe, but you don't want to spend the last of your weekly allowance on overpriced coffee just to get a seat.

In times like this, you desperately wished that there was a well-equipped public library in Dhaka that you could frequent. And that is me. Growing up in Dhaka, I have always felt the need for a public library for various reasons.

In the increasingly privatised and neoliberal societies that we live in, public spaces are becoming scarce. The existing libraries in Dhaka fail to ensure the availability of diverse reading materials essential to engage readers of all ages, backgrounds, and interests like me. I have always found the existing ones to cater to only specific groups of people, mostly individuals preparing for the BCS or other public exams.

Although this is a great example of how resourceful public libraries are, it also reveals the issue with the existing ones – it's not catering to the demands of young people like me. The absence of a rich collection of reading materials and research content renders a library meaningless, which is why most libraries in Dhaka are in a sorry state.

Thus, there needs to be a push for a strong public library culture in Dhaka.

Firstly, the existing public libraries must stock the shelves with the latest books. Secondly, it must ensure that it's catering to people of all socio-economic classes.

One of my favourite accounts on Instagram is the Milwaukee Public Library account. Its key feature is that it's marketing a strong public library culture to its audience through funny and relatable content, mostly memes and reels. This sends a message across to the audience that public libraries can be a fun place too.

A similar marketing approach can be introduced here as it's a creative way to get more people to use libraries.

Let's break down the myth that young people don't read these days. Online bookstores are witnessing a surge in book sales indicating that young people want to read but want to do it on their terms. It reveals a trend that young people like accessibility and convenience when it comes to reading. By making public libraries more accessible and user-friendly, we can encourage more young readers to use them.

Public libraries can be a great equaliser, offering access to knowledge and resources that might be out of reach for many. Therefore, libraries must be easily accessible and welcoming to everyone.

With public spaces becoming increasingly scarce and the overall community well-being threatened, public libraries could play a crucial role in fostering a strong sense of community. It's high time that the public library culture in Dhaka gets a boost and becomes an integral part of the community.

Usraat Fahmidah loves philosophy. Her favourite philosophers include Simone de Beauvoir and Agust D. Send her book recommendations at [usraatfahmidah@gmail.com](mailto:usraatfahmidah@gmail.com)

# How credible are your research sources?

**ZIBA MAHDI**

It might come as an unpleasant shock to some, but you actually need to research the research you want to cite. While "trust the science" has become an unofficial motto in a post-pandemic world, like the humans that produced them, they're not infallible.

Research usually falls into two categories – qualitative (non-numerical data collection) and quantitative (numerical data collection). The quality criteria for qualitative research are credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability. Quality criteria used in quantitative investigations are internal validity, external validity, reliability, and objectivity. While the factors determining their legitimacy differ, the core principles are the same.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the study itself will influence its methodology, and its result by extension. This is even more applicable to qualitative research, where there's more room for human interference.

**Author**

It's necessary to determine whether the people who conducted the research had the relevant expertise for it. Checking the



source of funding is a good option in this case.

Industry-sponsored studies tend to be biased towards providing favourable results of the sponsor's products. A famous example is Coca-Cola's history of funding scientists who downplay the risks of sugary beverages on obesity.

**Bias**

Selection bias is a common phenomenon that occurs when the researcher includes or

excludes relevant groups or data while conducting the study. People volunteering (self-selecting) for the study will also lead to highly skewed results, for instance, online surveys. Interpreting information in a way that fits a preconceived hypothesis, known as confirmation bias, has been observed in political, financial, and organisational contexts and research is no different.

This is why it's important to observe who is conducting the research, as their

interests might influence their conclusions. Design bias happens when the structure of the study is flawed. You can usually see this type of bias in flawed research questions.

**Sample size**

A small sample size likely won't be representative of the larger population. This is why large sample sizes are heavily preferred in quantitative experiments.

On the other hand, qualitative investigations can get away with relatively smaller samples, since each respondent will likely yield a lot of information to be analysed.

**Methodology**

For qualitative experiments, you should check whether multiple data sources and

methods were used or not and whether the participants had enough time to answer the questions.

For quantitative studies, internal validity needs to be scrutinised. Internal validity refers to how accurately results reflect the studied group. This means having control groups and a sufficient sample size.

Peer-reviewed articles are generally considered trustworthy since it adds another layer of quality control.

**Transferability**

When the study passes all other checkpoints, it's time to ponder the most important question – does the conclusion apply to your context? For example, the results of a study measuring stress levels of high school students in Germany cannot necessarily apply to students in Bangladesh.

It's important to note that using unreliable sources can make your work less credible by association. Aside from ethics, blindly following research without fact-checking can also influence your personal life, especially considering how quickly misinformation goes viral on social media. Healthy scepticism is celebrated even in the scientific world, so why not practise it?

Industry-sponsored studies tend to be biased towards providing favourable results of the sponsor's products. A famous example is Coca-Cola's history of funding scientists who downplay the risks of sugary beverages on obesity.

Ziba Mahdi is your resident pessimist. Cheer her up at [mahdi.ziba@yahoo.com](mailto:mahdi.ziba@yahoo.com)





## bKash partners with AFA

SPORTS REPORTER

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) and bKash Limited (bKash), the largest mobile financial services provider in Bangladesh, announced their partnership to promote further financial inclusion through sports yesterday.

With this initiative, bKash became the first and only Bangladeshi brand partner of the reigning world champions.

After years of support for La Albiceleste from countries like Bangladesh, India, and China, the AFA has devised diverse brand expansion programmes. This partnership is the expression of that trajectory and greater scope.

Claudio Fabian Tapia, president of AFA, said: "The Argentina national football team felt the strong and passionate support of the Bangladeshi community throughout the World Cup. We are delighted to have bKash as the first regional brand partner of the Argentine Football Association. A true milestone of financial inclusion has been achieved in Bangladesh through bKash. This collaboration will take us closer to new regions where our football team has millions of fans. We welcome bKash as the first regional brand partner of Argentine Football Association in Bangladesh."

Kamal Quadir, founder and CEO of bKash, said: "This partnership will explore new opportunities of solidarity through sports and entertainment while helping to tell the inspiring story of Bangladesh to the world in an immersive and emotional way."

# Towards even stronger ties

SPORTS REPORTER

That Bangladesh is a football-loving nation, with massive fanbases of two of the most entertaining and decorated national teams, namely Brazil and Argentina, was common knowledge inside Bangladesh prior to the 2022 World Cup.

From time to time, international media would highlight how the whole country splits into two distinct groups -- hoisting massive flags and painting houses in the colours of their favourite teams and often going as far as engaging in skirmishes over results.

However, the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar brought a paradigm shift in terms of the global media's depiction of that craze in Bangladesh.



Despite being aeons away from making it to Qatar, Bangladesh drew constant attention throughout the month, with FIFA's social media handles and leading news outlets around the world relaying stories and videos of the nation's football craze, especially for the two South American giants.

Photos of thousands of students dressed in Albiceleste colours and revelling at the Dhaka University in front of giant screens in the dead of night or people lining the streets of mufassil towns holding massive sky blue-white flags were splashed across sports pages in leading newspapers across boundaries.

The enthusiasm reached a crescendo when Argentina claimed a third world

title, beating France in a thrilling final at the end of a rollercoaster tournament.

When Lionel Messi lifted the coveted trophy in Qatar's Lusail Stadium on December 18 last year, millions cheered across Bangladesh as if the prize belonged to them as much as it did to the Argentines.

The love and admiration that Bangladesh showed the Albiceleste did not go unnoticed in Buenos Aires, with the South American nation quickly moving to reopen its embassy 45 years after closing it due to a lack of economic and cultural exchange between the two countries.

The bond that Bengali poet laureate Rabindranath Tagore and Argentine

writer Victoria Ocampo forged more than a century ago was reinforced, albeit from one side, by the love and admiration of the Bangladeshis for Diego Maradona in the '80s and '90s, eventually making global headlines and being institutionalised following Messi's World Cup triumph.

The Argentine foreign minister has since visited Bangladesh with an entourage that included economic, political and sporting representatives as the two countries, more than 16,000 kilometres apart, look to get closer. It is hoped that the ties will get stronger, not only on the footballing front but also on the political, educational, cultural and, of course, financial front.

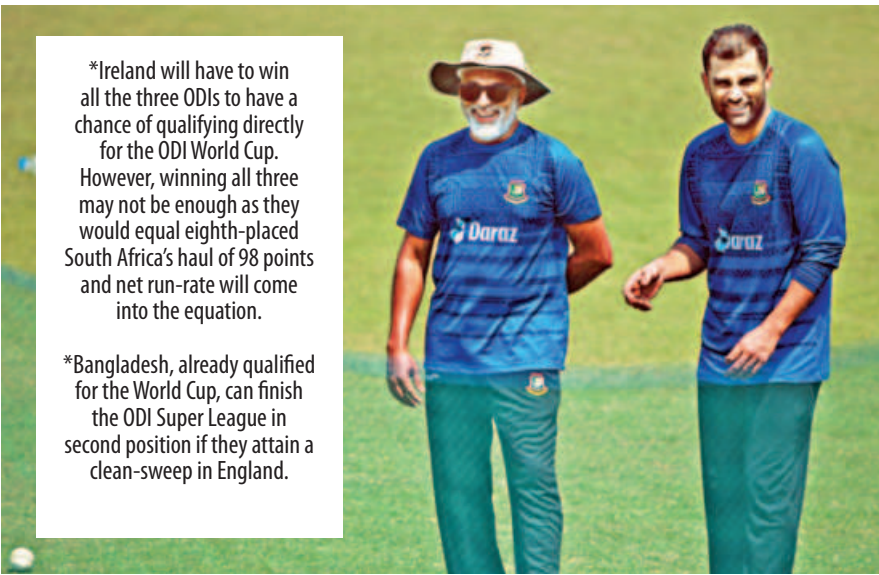
# Approach important but CONDITIONS HOLD KEY

SPORTS REPORTER

The weather and conditions in England appears to be the trickiest aspect Bangladesh faced ahead of their three-match ODI series against Ireland in Chelmsford, starting today.

The Tigers ODI captain Tamim Iqbal mentioned on Sunday that their preparations in England have not gone as planned. Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha echoed those sentiments yesterday.

"Very unique situation since we are playing Ireland in England and normally that doesn't happen. We can't blame anyone and it's the first time," Hathurusingha told the travelling journalists yesterday when asked whether Bangladesh have been unlucky



\*Ireland will have to win all the three ODIs to have a chance of qualifying directly for the ODI World Cup. However, winning all three may not be enough as they would equal eighth-placed South Africa's haul of 98 points and net run-rate will come into the equation.

\*Bangladesh, already qualified for the World Cup, can finish the ODI Super League in second position if they attain a clean-sweep in England.

will have their work cut out.

As the team have shown the urgency to play a more aggressive brand of cricket, especially against Ireland recently at home, the head coach was asked if they want to keep the same approach.

"Yes, we play the same way to our potential, skill-set and competence. The only thing we will take into account are the conditions which will dictate tactically how we play. Other than that,

we are looking to play same brand of cricket," he said.

It gives the impression that the team know the challenges of away conditions where runs are available but a good start may prove pivotal. The likes of Towhid Hridoy and Rony Talukdar have recently come in to the side but both have shown fluency in white-ball formats at home conditions. Hathurusingha was hoping the duo would find their feet in different conditions like England.

"Yes for sure [good opportunity for both]. For international cricket, they need to play in all kinds of conditions. This is the first opportunity they get, I hope they prove to themselves that they can do the same thing," he remarked.

With ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan back with the squad and Mehedi Hasan Miraz already there, the Tigers have the flexibility of playing an extra batter or a bowler. Hathurusingha backed Mehedi for the number seven slot but the idea was not to set up the squad thinking of the ODI World Cup.

"We are not playing in similar conditions to India. We will contemplate on winning the series in these conditions," he said with the wicket having some tinge of green as Bangladesh went about their session yesterday.



## Murray earns first title since 2019

REUTERS

Andy Murray bounced back to beat number 17 American Tommy Paul 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday in the Aix-en-Provence Challenger Tour final, earning his first title at any level since 2019.

The three-time major winner converted four of nine breakpoints to claim his first clay title since 2016, a boost for the 35-year-old who said he hoped to play the French Open later this month despite suffering early exits from Madrid and Monaco.

It was Murray's third victory over a top-20 player this year and the twice Olympic gold medallist is expected to climb from 52nd to 42nd in the rankings after Sunday's win.

"This last year, 18 months, has been a bit of struggle with my game. But (my team) have been there supporting me and working with me to try and get better," Murray said in remarks provided by the ATP. "We keep going from here."

Paul, who lost to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open semi-finals in January, stumbled into a trio of double faults and was unable to set up a single breakpoint opportunity in the final two sets.

The Challenger Tour said Murray's win marked the longest gap ever between titles on the secondary circuit, with Murray having last won more than 17 years ago in Binghampton.

# Can Haaland make the difference?

AFP, MANCHESTER

As Manchester City plot a revenge mission against Real Madrid in the Champions League semi-finals they can draw confidence from the presence of Erling Haaland as the major difference from when the sides met 12 months ago. City seemed set for a second consecutive final when they led 5-3 on aggregate heading into stoppage time of the second leg at the Santiago Bernabeu last season.

But they were stunned by two goals in two minutes by Rodrygo before Karim Benzema's penalty completed the comeback in extra-time as Madrid went on to lift the European Cup for a 14th time.

A late defensive collapse was only part of the story. City also paid for not taking a series of chances to kill the tie off over both legs without a natural goalscorer.

Less than a week later, City announced they had won the race to arguably the greatest guarantee of goals in the world right now by beating off Madrid to sign Haaland.



**Manchester City hitman Erling Haaland will be looking to add to his 12 Champions League goals this season when the Citizens meet Real Madrid in rematch of last year's semifinals tonight. But the Spanish giants will be hoping their wily midfield will have enough in the locker to keep Pep Guardiola's men at bay at the Santiago Bernabeu.**

PHOTO: REUTERS/REAL MADRID

The Norwegian has more than justified the hype with 51 goals in all competitions during his first season in England.

"With Erling we knew he scored everywhere," said City boss Pep Guardiola after Haaland set a new Premier League record of 35 goals in a season last week.

Real Madrid are also aware of that

key threat, as evidenced by Los Blancos winger Rodrygo's words. "Haaland scores a lot of goals. Nobody knows how to stop him but I hope he doesn't score any against us."

Despite rewriting the record books, Haaland has made clear his desire is for trophies to remember the season by rather than personal milestones.

But most see Madrid as the biggest

hurdle left for Guardiola's men to scale with either AC Milan or Inter Milan awaiting the winners in the Champions League final.

Madrid maintain their aura under the lights of the Bernabeu on a Champions League night, while City are still waiting for Guardiola to conquer Europe seven years into his reign.

But City are the form side not just in England but all of Europe. The Premier League leaders are unbeaten in 20 games in all competitions and will also relish having home advantage for the second leg having won all 14 games at the Etihad in 2023.

"We are in exactly the same position as last year in Europe. Real Madrid again. Three games away from winning the Champions League," City winger Jack Grealish told the Daily Mail. "All I can say is that I have never had so much confidence and belief in my teammates and myself before a game as I have before going there next week."

A confidence that comes from having the most prolific striker in the world on their side.



**After issuing an apology on Friday, Lionel Messi was allowed by Paris Saint Germain to rejoin training yesterday while the rest of the team enjoyed a rest day following their 3-1 league win against Troyes. Messi was out of training since an unsanctioned trip to Saudi Arabia led to a two-week suspension. Reportedly, the club has decided to commute that suspension, with the Argentine now heading towards a return to first-team action and an interesting reception at the Parc des Princes on Saturday against Ajaccio.**





## GAZIPUR CITY POLLS AL faction may rally behind Zahangir's mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League mayor candidate in the May 25 Gazipur city polls, Azamat Ullah Khan, will not have to face any party rebels as the lone dissident runner withdrew yesterday.

"Abdullah Al Mamun is the only mayor aspirant who has withdrawn his candidature. Besides, 36 councillor hopefuls have also withdrawn," Assistant Returning Officer AHM Kamrul Hasan told reporters on the last day for withdrawing candidature.

Mamun is a former member of the AL's forest and environment affairs sub-committee.

However, suspended Gazipur mayor Zahangir Alam's mother Zaida Khatun is taking part in the mayoral polls as an independent. Zahangir has already started contacting voters seeking their blessings for his mother.

Zaida will have support from a faction of the AL which may make it difficult for Azamat Ullah to win, said some local leaders of the ruling party.

The EC is scheduled to allot the electoral symbols to the candidates today.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday upheld the Election Commission's decision to cancel the nomination of Zahangir.

A total of eight candidates, including a pro-BNP man and three independents, are running.

Besides, 239 candidates will vie for the posts of 57 councillors in as many wards of Gazipur City Corporation. A total of 77 candidates will run for councillor posts reserved for women, the assistant returning officer said yesterday.

At least 136 councillor aspirants are from the AL and 29 leaders of the BNP and its associate bodies are also running ignoring the party's decision of boycotting the polls.

Instead of backing a single candidate in a particular ward, the Gazipur AL has decided to keep the councillor races open for all, Asadur Rahman Kiran, acting mayor of Gazipur and also a former vice president of Gazipur city AL, told The Daily Star.

Sarkar Shahnur Islam, a nephew of BNP central executive committee member Hasan Uddin Sarkar, has already started seeking blessings from city dwellers as an independent mayor candidate.

The BNP, however, decided to go tough against its leaders and activists who are taking part in the city polls violating the party's decision.

Asked about his nephew's participation in the election, Hasan Uddin said, "No one can go against the party's decision."

Speaking to The Daily Star last night, Abdullah Al Mamun said he withdrew considering the interest of the party and the future of his political career.

**HC REJECTS ZAHAGIR'S PETITION**

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Muhammad Mahbub UI Islam summarily rejected a writ petition filed by Zahangir challenging the legality of the EC's decision.

Zahangir later told journalists that he would appeal to the Appellate Division.

The HC in the order said Zahangir was a loan defaulter at the time of the submission of his nomination paper.

During the hearing on the writ petition, the HC bench said the aspirant candidates should clear possible issues that may create problems in becoming valid candidates at least three months before the elections.

All candidates know very well what can cause problems, the bench said.

The court made the comments after Zahangir's principal lawyer Fida M Kamal argued that his client was not a loan defaulter as he has paid off his loans.

*Our Gazipur correspondent contributed to this report.*



Delimbed trees on a road divider in front of Abahani Club in the capital's Dhanmondi. For around a week, the DSCC authorities have been felling trees or cutting off their limbs in areas across Dhaka South for "beautification purposes", despite the environmentalists repeatedly warning of adverse impacts. Earlier in January, the authorities had done the same but stopped after protests ensued. The photo was taken yesterday. Story on page 3.



SAMARESH MAJUMDAR  
1944-2023

## Chronicler of 'the dark times' dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
New Delhi

Eminent Bangla litterateur Samaresh Majumdar, whose popularity transcended the borders of Bangladesh and West Bengal, passed away yesterday at a private hospital in Kolkata in the evening, losing a protracted battle to a severe infection in the lungs and respiratory system.

The 79-year-old author,

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

### BUSINESS

## Forex reserves now \$29.7b

The foreign exchange reserves have fallen to \$29.77 billion as Bangladesh Bank cleared import bills to the tune of \$1.8 billion through the Asian Clearing Union.

The reserves had stood at \$42.20 billion in May last year, meaning it dropped by 29.45 percent over the past year. "We should increase our remittances and exports at any cost to contain the erosion of the reserves," said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

STORY ON B1

### 50 YEARS OF BANGLADESH-EU TIES

## EU plans to invest big in Bangladesh

EU ambassador tells The Daily Star

PORIMOL PALMA

The European Union plans to make large investments in infrastructure development and green technology to help Bangladesh's smooth transition from the LDC status.

Traditionally, the EU has been focused on development projects in education, health, food security, and governance. Now, as Bangladesh has grown economically and Bangladesh's position in the world is improving rapidly, EU's relation with Bangladesh is also changing.

"We are becoming a lot more focused on political issues, regional issues, and issues of mutual interests. We are also deepening cooperation in practical terms on the issues like ocean governance, climate change and renewable energy," EU Ambassador Charles Whiteley said in an interview with The Daily Star on Sunday, ahead of the 50 years of diplomatic relations being celebrated today.

Under the Global Gateway Initiative, EU's new approach of international corporation, Bangladesh is one of only a handful of countries that will have flagship projects on renewable energy.

Through this, the EU will be able to blend its development assistance with large loans from the European Investment Bank. "We hope to leverage in terms of grants and loans -- around 400 million euros -- to support the development of wind and solar energy in Bangladesh. We expect the signing to happen very soon," said the diplomat.

This will also support Bangladesh's goal of having 40 percent renewable energy by 2041 from only six percent now. The EU is also

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Charles Whiteley

## Artemis II mission to stream hi-res videos from Moon

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa is planning to use lasers to develop a new high-quality communication system for its Artemis II crewed mission around the Moon.

The new Optical Communications System (O2O) is expected to help send high-resolution images and video to Earth from the Moon as part of the Artemis II mission, the American space agency noted in a video last month.



This new laser technology will enable an unprecedented access to high-quality images and video from the Moon in real time, Space.com first reported.

Nasa has traditionally used radio frequency systems to communicate with astronauts and spacecraft. However, as space missions generate and collect tonnes of data, the need for enhanced communications capabilities has increased.

In contrast to radio wave systems, scientists said laser communication provides missions with increased data rates, meaning they can send and receive more information in a single transmission.

## BARISHAL CITY AL candidate's supporters get 'death threats' from BCL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Some Chhatra League activists allegedly threatened supporters of Awami League mayor candidate in Barishal city polls Abul Khair Abdullah with life.

On Saturday, Md Sohag, a supporter of Abdullah, filed a general diary with Kaunia Police Station seeking security, said Abdur Rahman Mukur, OC of the station.

According to the complaint, Rois Ahmed alias Manna, convener of the Barishal city unit BCL, and his associates threatened to kill some supporters of the mayor candidate around 1:00am on Saturday.

The complainant named 17 people, including Manna and his brother Risad Ahmed, and 20-25 unidentified ones.

In the GD, Sohag, also a BCL activist, said he along with Sajibur Rahman Sajib and Sohel Hawlader were returning home after campaigning for Abdullah. When they reached near Bhuiyan house in Januking Singh Road area, Rois and his associates intercepted them.

Pointing a sharp weapon and a firearm at them, Rois and his associates threatened to kill them, Sohag said in the GD.

Contacted yesterday, Rois denied the allegation.



Traders have set up illegal makeshift shops along the rail lines in the capital's Malibagh bazar level crossing area. This exposes people, vehicles and trains to risks. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Cyclone Mocha likely to hit Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Cyclonic storm Mocha is likely to change its course and make landfall on the Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts on May 15, the Indian Meteorological Department said yesterday.

IMD Director General Mrutunjay Mohapatra told the media that the cyclonic circulation turned into a low-pressure area over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and the adjoining South Andaman Sea at around 8:30am.

The low pressure will rapidly intensify into a depression this evening and consolidate into a cyclonic storm tomorrow with the peak intensification indicated as a very severe cyclonic storm, according to the IMD's latest update on the trajectory of the system.

The cyclone is likely to move initially north-northwestward till May 11, and gradually change its course and recurve north-northeastwards towards Bangladesh-Myanmar coasts with the land crossing indicated on May 15, the update said.

The met office in its forecast said squally winds over the southeast Bay of Bengal and the south Andaman Sea may reach 50-60km per hour with wind gusts reaching up to 70km/h.