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US visa curbs on those who will bar fair polls

Blinken announces new policy for Bangladesh to 'promote' free polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US will impose visa restrictions on individuals and their immediate family members "if they are responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh".

In a statement yesterday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "This includes current and former Bangladeshi officials, members of pro-government and opposition political parties, and members of law enforcement, the judiciary, and security services."

The US notified the Bangladesh government of this decision on May 3. "The holding of free and fair elections is the responsibility of everyone — voters, political parties, the government, the security forces, civil society, and the media. I am announcing this policy to lend our support to all those seeking to advance democracy in Bangladesh," he said.

Blinken further said actions that undermine the democratic election process include vote rigging, voter intimidation, the use of violence to prevent people from exercising their right to freedoms of association and peaceful assembly, and the use of measures designed to prevent political parties, voters, civil society, or the media from disseminating their views.

The US State Department said these visa restrictions are not directed against the government or the Awami League.

"The United States does not support any particular political party."

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TAPOSH ON EX-CJ Amir-Ul-Islam brings it to SC's notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist M Amir-Ul-Islam yesterday placed before the Appellate Division a comment made by Dhaka South Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh.

Before the court, Amir-Ul-Islam read out a portion of a report published on May 23 by Manab Zamin in which Taposh was quoted as saying, "We had even taken down a chief justice."

The daily ran the report, titled "Ekjon Chief Justice keo Namiye Diyechhilam", based on a speech Taposh delivered on May 21 at a programme of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) auditorium.

Yesterday, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, who was leading the Supreme Court bench, did not give any decision but said, "We

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Nothing but AL's pride at stake

Zahangir's mother may mount a serious challenge to Azmat if polling is fair

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

In a crucial battle of egos for the ruling Awami League, Gazipur city goes to polls to pick its mayor and councillors today, just a few months ahead of the general election.

Although the BNP boycotted the election, people are still paying close attention to the city as they want to see what the election day unfolds.

Everyone running for mayor, except AL nominee Azmat Ullah Khan, has expressed concerns over the voting atmosphere.

After Gazipur, city corporation elections will be held in four other cities. The national election is scheduled to be held either in December this year or January next year.

These local government elections hold major significance for political parties, the Election Commission (EC), and the government.

"With major opposition BNP absent in the election, the race will not be competitive at all," he said.

Although the government and the EC have made promises of a free and fair election, the constituents lack enthusiasm due to what many say is the BNP's absence.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal recently said the Gazipur city election was of paramount importance for the EC mostly because the national election was right around the corner.

The international communities are also keeping an eye on the election, he said, adding that Gazipur election should be a model.

But as soon as the aspirants hit their campaign trails on May 9, AL's dominance became all too obvious. The independents and the

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COUNCILLOR POST EC scraps candidature of AL-backed contender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a rare move just a day before the Gazipur city election, the Election Commission yesterday cancelled the candidature of Azizur Rahman, the ruling Awami League-backed councillor candidate in ward-40.

Addressing a rally at Pubail's Kaler Bazar on Monday, Azizur said no one expect the supporters of 'boat' (electoral symbol of the AL mayor candidate) would be allowed to enter the polling centres.

The EC later received an allegation in this regard.

EC Secretary Md Jahangir Alam said the allegation against Azizur was found to be true and his candidature was cancelled "for the sake of a fair election".

Azizur's statement created an atmosphere of fear. Reports on the statement were published in the media, said Jahangir.

The EC had asked the returning officer to investigate the allegation and submit a report. During the probe, the allegation was found to be true and the candidate

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

RACE FOR COUNCILLOR BNP struggling to rein in grassroots

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

Ignoring the BNP's decision of boycotting the five city polls, some 25 grassroots party leaders, including six incumbent councillors, have filed nomination forms to run for councillor in the June 21 Sylhet city polls.

Although the councillor elections are not held along party lines, the BNP is taking tough actions against its leaders for participating in the city polls.

The opposition party has already expelled 29 leaders for life for taking part in today's Gazipur city polls.

Sylhet BNP is struggling to refrain some grassroots leaders from participating in the councillor polls despite holding several meetings with them.

The party now hopes that its leaders will withdraw by June 1, the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

The last date for filing nomination papers was May 23. The BNP was mostly worried about whether Sylhet Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury, also a member of the party central committee, would run in the election as an independent.

Ariful on May 20 declared that he would not take part in the city polls.

A day before Ariful's announcement, former joint convener of Sylhet city BNP Rezaul Hasan Koyes Ludhi, also an incumbent councillor, said he decided not to participate in the election.

Six incumbent councillors who have filed nomination forms are Farhad Chowdhury Shamim, former joint convener of Sylhet city BNP and also the councillor of ward 6, Syed Tawfiqul Hadi, former organising secretary of Sylhet city BNP and also the councillor of ward-1, Abdur Rakib Tuhin, councillor of ward-21, Nazrul Islam Munim, councillor of ward-14, and ABM Zillur Rahman, councillor of ward-18.

Roksana Begum Shahnaz, president of Sylhet city Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal and also a councillor for the reserved seat for women in ward-9, has submitted her nomination paper to vie for councillor in ward-25.

Besides, Sylhet District Mohila Dal President Shaleha Kobir Shepi and Sylhet District Chhatra Dal President Altaf Hussain Sumon have filed their nomination forms to participate in the councillor polls.

Abdul Quyum Chowdhury, president of Sylhet district BNP,



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Doha promises Dhaka larger supply of LNG

Amir holds talks with Hasina; she says next polls under AL govt

UNB, Doha

Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has assured Bangladesh of providing all sorts of facilities regarding a larger supply of LNG from his country.

He gave the assurance to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a meeting with her at the Amiri Diwan in Doha yesterday.

The two leaders discussed different issues of bilateral cooperation on energy, business, investment, manpower and development of Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen briefed the media after the meeting.

The amir said the negotiation on signing of a new contract on larger supply of energy from Qatar to Bangladesh remains pending for a few months.

The contract may be signed anytime soon, said Momen. Amir Sheikh Tamim praised Hasina's leadership.

The premier said she has the only goal to turn Bangladesh into a developed country as dreamt by her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We have progressed to some extent. But my work has not finished yet. I want to work more. But I alone can't do it. I seek your assistance. I need more investment.... You can come with investment for mutual benefits," the PM told the amir.

Hasina invited Sheikh Tamim to visit Bangladesh this year, if possible.

The amir said he would definitely visit Bangladesh.

About the fear of losing jobs among Bangladeshi workers in Qatar, the amir said 370,000 Bangladeshis are currently staying in the Gulf country and they are

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Around 600 BNP men sued over Dhaka clash

Many unnamed people also made accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have sued scores of BNP leaders and activists in three separate cases filed over Tuesday's clash in the capital's Science Lab area.

Officers filed two cases with Dhanmondi Police Station under the explosives act and the Special Powers Act, accusing 52 named and "many" other unnamed BNP activists, said Ekram Ali Mia, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Twenty-seven people detained during the clash were accused in the cases, he said, adding that a Dhaka court yesterday placed 12 of them on a one-day remand each.

At New Market Police Station, a sub-inspector accused 46 named and around 500 unnamed BNP activists.

BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Publicity Affairs Secretary Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie, BNP Chairperson's Adviser Abul Khair Bhuiyan and Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President Sultan Salahuddin Tuku are among the accused in the case.

Police arrested 10 BNP activists yesterday and included their names in the list of accused.

All three complaints mentioned attempted murder of police personnel, arson, vandalism, unlawful gathering, obstruction law enforcers, and explosion of crude bombs.

At least 100 BNP activists and 10 police personnel were injured when police and marching activists clashed in the capital's Science Lab area on Tuesday afternoon.

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PM to visit India in September

She'll join G20 Summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit New Delhi to join the G20 Summit in September, Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister, said yesterday.

Besides, an Awami League delegation will also visit India in July this year to attend an invitation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he added.

The minister made the comments while attending a programme of an India-funded project in the capital's Tejgaon.

Quader, also general secretary of the Awami League, mentioned the visits as he emphasised on further improvements of Indo-Bangla ties.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma was present at the programme.

A 17-member delegation of the AL, led by the party's Presidium Member Faruk Khan, are now visiting China to attend an invitation of China Communist Party.

BCL leader stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A leader of the Brahmanbaria district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League was stabbed to death in the town yesterday.

Ikram Ahmed, 30, was the joint general secretary of the unit, said police.

The incident took place around 6:30pm at the Munsefpara home of one Ridwan Ansari Rimu, a former leader of BCL and Dhaka (North) BCL unit.

Rimu's cousin Raihan stabbed Ikram on the left side of his chest with a knife, said Md Shakhawat Hossain, superintendent of police in Brahmanbaria.

According to police, Ikram died of his wound on the way to Brahmanbaria General Hospital.



Officials, police and ansar members taking electronic voting machines and other election materials to polling centres from Kazi Azimuddin College in Gazipur yesterday. EVMs will be used in all polling centres in Gazipur City Corporation polls today.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Xi offers Russia 'firm support' in 'core interests'

Moscow, Beijing seal economic pacts despite Western disapproval

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping offered Beijing's support on Moscow's "core interests" at a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin yesterday.

China and Russia have in recent years ramped up economic and diplomatic cooperation, growing even closer since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine despite Beijing's insistence that it is neutral in that conflict.

Mishustin's trip this week is the highest-level visit by a Russian official to China since last year's invasion of Ukraine.

Xi told Mishustin China and Russia would continue to offer each other "firm support on issues concerning each other's core interests and strengthen collaboration in multilateral arenas", according to a readout by the official Xinhua news agency.

China and Russia should "push cooperation in various fields to a higher level", he said, and "raise the level of economic, trade and investment cooperation".

Mishustin also met with Premier Li Qiang yesterday, saying that "relations between Russia and China are at an unprecedented high level" following a grand welcoming ceremony outside Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

"They are characterised by mutual respect of each other's interests, the desire to jointly respond to challenges, which is associated with increased turbulence in the international arena and the pressure of illegitimate sanctions from the collective West," he said.

Li, in turn, hailed the "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Russia in the new era".

Ministers from the two countries signed a series of agreements



after the talks on service trade cooperation and sports, as well as on patents and Russian millet exports to China.

Mishustin is accompanied this week by top officials including Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, who handles energy policy.

China last year became Russia's top energy customer as Moscow's gas exports otherwise plummeted due to a flurry of Western sanctions over the invasion of Ukraine.

And Novak told a Russia-China business forum in Shanghai on Tuesday that Russian energy supplies to China would increase by 40 percent year-on-year in 2023, Moscow's state media reported.

Analysts say China holds the upper hand in the relationship with Russia, and that its sway is growing as Moscow's international isolation deepens.

The leaders of both countries are "brought together more by shared grievances and insecurities than by shared goals", Ryan Hass, a senior fellow at Washington's Brookings Institution and a former White House official, told AFP.

"They both resent and feel threatened by Western leadership in the international system and believe their countries should be given greater deference on issues implicating their own interests."

In February, Beijing released a paper calling for a "political settlement" to the Ukraine conflict, but Western countries said it could enable Russia to hold much of the territory it has seized.

Meanwhile, Russia's defence minister warned yesterday that Moscow will respond to attacks on Russian soil "extremely harshly", after Russian jets and artillery fought off an armed group that crossed from Ukraine.

US visa curbs on those who will bar fair polls

FROM PAGE 1

Restrictions under this new policy target individuals engaging in behavior that undermines the democratic election process, regardless of affiliation.

In an immediate reaction, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam said the Bangladesh government "does not bother" about the US government's new visa policy, as the authorities are "committed" to holding a free and fair election.

"It's not a sanction. The BNP should be worried as violence before or during the election is another criterion that will trigger visa restrictions," he told UNB.

He said they will issue an official reaction today once they know the details of the new policy.

The US policy under Section 212(a)(3)(C) ("3C") of the Immigration and Nationality Act comes 18 months after Washington imposed sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former officials for human rights violations.

The US has been critical of the last two national elections. In 2021, it did not invite Bangladesh to the democracy summit to promote the

Biden administration's foreign policy priorities, democracy and human rights.

In recent months, Peter Haas, the American ambassador to Bangladesh, has been calling for free and fair elections. On different occasions, he said his country does not support any particular political party, and what would be the make-up of the polls time government is the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

Blinken said the US is committed to building a strong partnership with the Bangladesh government. "We welcome the prime minister's expressed commitment to holding free and fair elections."

Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of the department of politics and government at the Illinois State University, said the US move seems to have much greater implications than the targeted sanctions.

"Any individual in or outside the government, including the bureaucracy, judiciary, media, Election Commission, law enforcement can come under this policy and face punishment," he said over the phone early today.

"It is a message to everybody that they need to get their acts right."

Riaz said it is also a message that the US would not hesitate to impose sanctions against individuals or groups and it means that the US is watching the situation in Bangladesh closely.

Riaz said that in the last one year or so, eight top-level US officials visited Bangladesh and passed the same message to the government that they want free and fair elections. It could have avoided such an action from the US.

"The new policy is not applicable only for the election day. The election process has already started and the behaviours of everybody is being watched," he said.

US-Bangladesh ties are very important and over the decades the US has been extending significant support to Bangladesh. That's why the US wants Bangladesh to be on the right track. One needs to understand clearly that this policy is not against anyone but for Bangladesh and its people.

Asked if there is any geopolitics behind such an action, Riaz said, "In today's world, there is nothing beyond global politics."

Nothing but AL's pride at stake

FROM PAGE 1

ones from opposition parties made repeated allegations of facing obstructions created by the ruling party. They also slammed the EC for what they said was its failure in ensuring a congenial atmosphere that would encourage constituents to cast their votes.

AL mayor nominee Azmat Ullah Khan and independent Zaida Khatun, who is the mother of former mayor Zahangir Alam, are the most talked-about candidates.

In 2013, Azmat ran for mayor and was defeated by BNP's MA Mannan. In 2018, Zahangir Alam got AL's blessings and became mayor of the country's largest city corporation.

But he was expelled from the party in 2021 and suspended as mayor. AL gave Zahangir amnesty this year but he was expelled again after he tried to run as an independent against the party pick.

His mother Zaida is now the main

challenge facing Azmat.

Speaking at a press conference at his home yesterday, Zahangir said he would make complaints to government high-ups and "foreign friends" if the election turned out to be unfair.

"I will provide documents so that they [administration] do not cause any trouble," he said.

Mohammad Jalal Uddin, president of Gazipur Zila Nagorik Forum, said, "If Azmat fails this time, his career in the city corporation politics will come to an end. That's why he is so desperate. The matter is different for Zahangir. He has already lost his political identity. Now he is trying to regain it through his popularity."

Noted local government expert Tofail Ahmed has said since the irregularities in the local government elections will be patronised by law enforcers and administration officials, these elections will not give any indication of the national election's

outcome.

Gazipur City Corporation election is a continuation of the irregularities that started dominating Bangladesh politics in 2014, he added.

Azmat is confident that he will win because Gazipur is an AL stronghold. But Zahangir too is from AL and he has a large following among young voters.

Nearly half of the 12 lakh voters are garment factory workers. Their votes will be a deciding factor in the polls.

Returning Officer Faridul Islam yesterday said, "Senior officials of the commission and journalists will watch the voting on a big screen at the Election Commission building in Agargaon. If irregularities are seen, the Election Commission will take immediate steps."

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) Ahsan Habib Khan said, "We are keeping an eye on the election. All steps have been taken to make it free, fair and acceptable."

BNP struggling

FROM PAGE 1

said they tried for several weeks to convince the party leaders of the negative impact of their decision on the party's movement for a free and fair national election.

"Party high-ups have already announced that those who would go against its decision will be handed the highest punishment. We will wait till June 1. We believe that the party leaders will withdraw by then," he told The Daily Star.

Speaking to this correspondent wishing anonymity, a Sylhet BNP leader said the local party leaders managed to

refrain around 14 councillor hopefuls from taking part in the polls after holding several meetings with them. Among the 14 are former councillors Syed Misbah Uddin and Dinar Khan Hasu.

Syed Tawfiqul Hadi, a councillor hopeful, said, "People of my ward [ward-1] requested me to take part in the election. To respect their will, I have submitted my nomination form."

Roksana Begum Shahzad said she was elected councillor thrice for a reserved seat for women, but she couldn't do anything for the people of her ward.

"This time around, I have decided to run for general councillor to do some good work for the people," she added.

Abdur Rakib Tuhin, councillor of ward-21, said he believed a candidate's personal image is more important than the party's image in the elections to local bodies. "I am not a leader but a supporter of the BNP. I believe my decision of taking part in the polls will not have any impact on the party."

Farhad Chowdhury Shamim, councillor of ward-6, said he would soon hold a press conference to explain his stance on taking part in the election.

Amir-Ul-Islam brings it to SC's notice

FROM PAGE 1

will look into the matter later on."

Amir-Ul-Islam, one of the framers of the constitution, read out the report that quoted Taposh as saying, "I wish I could resign and come back here [at the SCBA]. I know where to use the hammer. We had even taken down a chief justice."

Taposh then said, "The civil society members, who want to preach to us, we will bundle them in a sack and throw them into the dark water of the Buriganga."

He also said that when the Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad was formed, it included non-prominent lawyers like himself while learned, renowned, and prominent lawyer leaders were excluded.

The chief justice then interrupted Amir-Ul, saying, "Let us see. Let us run the court proceedings."

Amir-Ul then asked whether the matter would be dealt with by the court.

"Let us read it. Will we not make a decision on what should be done?" the CJ replied.

A number of pro-BNP lawyers, including former SCBA presidents Zainul Abedin and AJ Mohammad Ali, former SCBA secretary and current BNP Joint Secretary General AM Mahub Uddin Khokon, BNP Law Secretary Kayser Kamal, former SCBA secretaries Bodruddoza Badal and Ruhul Quddus Kazal were with Amir-

U-Islam.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and SCBA President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir were also present in the courtroom.

Amir-Ul later told reporters, "It is unfortunate. We are aggrieved. Not only the judiciary, the people of the whole country have been hurt by the comment [of Taposh]."

He said Mayor Taposh also slammed the civil society and senior lawyers and undermined the judiciary.

"From where did he get this right? His comments are very arrogant and tantamount to contempt of court."

Also at the May 21 event, Taposh said AY Masihuzzaman, convener of the election subcommittee for the SCBA polls last year, was a hypocrite.

"We considered Masihuzzaman a giant ... a man like an angel. Whatever he says happens. We had fair and lawful demands. Our [SCBA] secretary post candidate Abdun Nur Dulal had caught them stealing red-handed. Ballot papers disappeared. At least 3,100 votes had been cast. They said 2,600 votes had been cast, as 500 ballots disappeared. When we caught this and became firm and vocal, the cat came out of the bag. We had said the ballots cast will have to be recounted in public and then we will accept the election results..."

"They stopped vote counting and staged a drama for 41 days. Mashiuzzaman went away at the gesture

of the opposition secretary candidate. An election commissioner cannot leave [the polling centre] without completing the election activities. But he had done it in connivance with them..."

"A candidate for the SCBA president post got involved in the snatching of ballot papers, which is scandalous."

"He wears a cap on his head but he is a hypocrite, a ballot thief. The political party which they support stole democracy, constitution and votes. They had looted for nine years. We will not allow a repeat. These thieves will have no place on the Supreme Court premises..."

"There is no need [for them] to teach me. There is no need [for them] to teach Jononetri Sheikh Hasina. We have learned much since the Pakistan regime and [we have] brought independence for the Bangalee nation. Who will teach us? If anybody becomes 'civil', they will be considered our enemy."

Law Minister Anisul Huq, Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahub Ali, and Attorney General AM Amin Uddin were among those who spoke at that event.

Asked, former law minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star that people of that stature who make such comments about others should be careful as many look up to them.

Taposh could not be reached for his comments despite repeated attempts.

Arrest warrant issued against BNP leader Chand

UNB, Dhaka

A Magura court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Rajshahi BNP Convener Abu Sayeed Chand in a case filed over threatening to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Magura Jubo League Convener Fazlur Rahman filed the case with the court of a magistrate under the Digital Security Act.

The court then issued the arrest warrant and directed police to record the complaint as first information report.

On Friday, Chand reportedly threatened the prime minister at a public rally. A footage of his statement went viral on social media, triggering protests by the Awami League.

Two farmers killed, 13 hurt by lightning strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least two farmers were killed and 13 others injured in a lightning strike in Pabna's Bhangura upazila on Tuesday evening.

The dead are Romij Ali, 35, and Shakil Ahmed, 34, of Chatmohar upazila.

According to locals, some farmers were working at a paddy field. They were hit by a lightning strike when they took shelter at a nearby house.

The duo succumbed to their injuries on the way to Bhangura Upazila Health Complex.

Rashidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bhangura Police Station, said the bodies were handed over to the victims' family members.

The injured were receiving treatment at Bhangura Upazila Health Complex.

Teacher killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A teacher was killed in a road crash in Bogura Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The dead is Hafizur Rahman, 55, lecturer of Department of Sociology at Ghoraghat Govt College in Dinajpur, said police.

The victim is waiting for a bus on Bogura-Rangpur highway in Jhoggari area. A Bogura-bound bus run over him while overtaking another bus, said Afzal Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Bogura Upashahor Police Outpost.

Hafizur died on the spot around 10:00am, he added.

The body was recovered and sent to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital for autopsy, said Abdur Rauf, inspector (investigation) of Bogura Sadar Police Station.

Police seized the bus but its driver managed to flee the scene, he added.

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We're confident about repaying IMF loan: PM

REUTERS, Dubai

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she was confident that the country would be able to meet its commitments to the International Monetary Fund.

"The IMF only assists countries that can repay the loans they are taking. Bangladesh is in a position that yes, we took the loan as long as we need it, and yes I am very much sure that definitely we are able to use the loan for our progress and side by side we are able to pay it

In January, the IMF approved loans of \$4.7 billion to Bangladesh for immediate disbursement.

back," Hasina said at the Qatar Economic Forum, organised by Bloomberg.

In January, the IMF approved loans of \$4.7 billion to Bangladesh for immediate disbursement, considered a boost for Sheikh Hasina ahead of a general election early next year.

Amid a worsening economic crisis, Bangladesh has seen a sharp widening of its current account deficit, depreciation of the taka currency and a decline in its foreign exchange reserves.

Hasina also said Bangladesh would buy oil from Russia if the price was appealing.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani in Doha yesterday. Issues such as bilateral cooperation on energy, business and investment were discussed at the meeting.

PHOTO: PID

Govt approves MRT police unit for metro rail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has given its approval to form a dedicated Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) police unit to ensure comprehensive security measures for the metro rail system.

The development came 24 days after a stone-like object damaged a glass window of a running train.

On Sunday, the Public Security Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification, which was published on the ministry's website yesterday.

The specialised unit, led by a deputy inspector general (DIG), will consist of 231 personnel responsible for overseeing the safe operation and management.

According to the notification, the unit will comprise three cadre posts and 228 non-cadre posts. Additionally, the Table of Organisation and Equipment includes a provision for 15 vehicles to support the MRT police in their duties.

The administrative posts are: one DIG, one superintendent of police, two inspectors, one unarmed inspector, one armed inspector, two unarmed sub-inspectors (SIs), two armed SIs, three unarmed assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs), four armed ASIs, five naiks, 10 constables, one computer operator, one accountant, one senior assistant and two office assistants/computer numismatists.

4 DU students accuse BCL men of torture

DU CORRESPONDENT

Four students of Dhaka University's Masterda Surja Sen Hall alleged that they were tortured by some Chhatra League leaders on Tuesday at the dorm.

A complaint letter was submitted yesterday to the hall provost in this regard.

The complaint was filed by Alam Badsha and Lutfur Rahman, both Islamic Studies majors, Arabic major Ashikur Rahman and psychology major Al Amin.

The authorities formed a three-member committee to investigate the matter, said Surja Sen Hall Provost Prof Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan.

The accused are -- General Secretary of BCL's Surja Sen Hall Siam Rahman, Vice President Hamid Karzai,

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PRAYER TIMING
MAY 25

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:40	8:00
JAMAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:45	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Thyroid, as serious as diabetes'

Say experts, urge govt for mandatory screening countrywide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thyroid issues are as serious as diabetes because around five crore Bangladeshis have this easily treatable ailment, said doctors at a press conference yesterday.

Half of the people with this endocrine disorder, however, suffer unknowingly due to the lack of knowledge on the disease, they said at the event organised by Association of Clinical Endocrinologist and Diabetologist of Bangladesh (ACEEDB) in Dhaka, marking World Thyroid Day 2023.

They also urged the government to introduce mandatory thyroid screening countrywide for every newborn within the first seven days of birth to end the disease.

It is urgent to test thyroid hormone status before pregnancy. Because, a healthy mother means a healthy baby, and hence, a healthy nation.

PROF MD FARID UDDIN
Founder chairman of Endocrinology Dept, BSMMU

Thyroid disorder occurs when the human thyroid gland produces either excessive (hypothyroidism) or insufficient amounts (hyperthyroidism) of vital hormones. These conditions can affect individuals of all ages. Thyroid disorders can be present at birth or develop later in life, often emerging after menopause in women.

Thyroid diseases occur when the human thyroid gland produces either excessive (hypothyroidism) or insufficient amounts (hyperthyroidism) of vital hormones. These conditions can affect individuals of all ages, including men, women, infants, teenagers, and the elderly. Thyroid disorders can be present at birth or develop later in life, often emerging after menopause in women.

Thyroid disorders impact several aspects of health, including fatigue, weight fluctuations,

mood swings, sleep disturbances, affect heart rate, mood, energy levels, metabolism, bone health, pregnancy and brain function.

"We have to give importance to thyroid problem as its impact is almost as concerning as diabetes. It reduces human workability," said Prof Dr Md Ruhul Amin, endocrinologist and secretary general of ACEEDB.

At the event, Dr AKM Aminul Islam, associate professor endocrinology department at Salimullah Medical College Hospital, presented a keynote on the disease.

He said the disease is 4-5 times more prevalent among women in Bangladesh and a mother's thyroid problem affects the newborn's physical and mental growth.

"Testing thyroid hormone status before pregnancy is a must. Everyone should also incorporate adequate iodine in their diet for the proper functioning of the thyroid gland," said Prof Dr Md Farid Uddin, founder-chairman of Endocrinology (Diabetes and Hormone) Department at BSMMU.

Prof Dr Indrajit Prasad of DMCH, said one of the main reasons behind infertility is thyroid disorders.

Now Mustafizur gets one-year extension

Earlier, IGP and Rab DG got similar contract

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tenure of Mustafizur Rahman, who was promoted to the post of senior secretary of the home ministry's Public Security Division just a day before his retirement, has been extended for a year on contract.

Ministry of Public Administration, undersigned by its Deputy Secretary Rafiqul Islam, issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

Senior secretary to Public Security Division and chiefs of Rab and Police, which fall under the jurisdiction of the division, are now appointed on contract. On May 23, the government extended M Khurshid Hossain's tenure as Rab director general for one year. On January 9, the tenure of IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was extended for one and a half years.

Senior secretary to Public Security Division and chiefs of Rab and Police, which fall under the jurisdiction of the division, are now appointed on contract. On May 23, the government extended M Khurshid Hossain's tenure as Rab director general for one year. On January 9, the tenure of IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was extended for one and a half years.

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Railway to sell advance Eid tickets online in two slots

FROM DHAKA	Travel Date	Ticket Selling Date
	June 24	June 14
	June 25	June 15
	June 26	June 16
	June 27	June 17
	June 28	June 18

RETURN TO DHAKA	Travel Date	Ticket Selling Date
	June 22	June 2
	June 23	June 3
	June 24	June 4
	June 25	June 5
	June 26	June 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will sell all advance tickets for intercity trains online ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha to reduce public suffering. BR will start selling tickets from June 14 at two different time slots to reduce the load on its server.

The West Zone will start selling tickets online at 8:00am while the East Zone will start at noon.

BR will introduce a new train on Dhaka-Chilahati route before the Eid and will operate total eight special trains during the Eid rush.

The decisions were taken at a preparatory meeting at Rail Bhaban in the capital ahead of Eid-ul-Azha with Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon in the chair. The minister is expected to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Substandard materials supplied for 3rd plant

MD of Essential Drugs tells JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

The goods and pieces of machinery supplied to construct the third plant of Essential Drugs Company Limited at Gopalganj were not up to standard, the managing director and CEO of EDCL told a parliamentary body yesterday.

Dr Ehsanul Kabir, managing director of EDCL, a state-owned pharmaceuticals company, in his report submitted before the meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on health ministry, said Fabtech Technology Ltd, the contractor of the project supplied the substandard materials.

The EDCL chief in the report said the ongoing project work was not completed even after five years. He highlighted the reasons behind the delay.

Dr Ehsanul Kabir said, for that reason, the implementation period has been extended up to December 2023 by Ecnc, where there will be no increase in cost.

According to the work order, the contractor has supplied a machine with

less production capacity than required. This issue was also discussed in the JS body's previous meeting.

According to the minutes of the previous meeting, Committee Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim said confusion has been created in the public mind as Fabtech did not supply the proper machine.

"It is not appropriate to accept the goods supplied outside the specification as mentioned in the work order and make payment," he added.

He is also in favour of sending the matter to Buet for examination, if necessary.

The committee chief also advised not to pay 40 percent of the dues with a bank guarantee until Fabtech Technology supplies a machine with a production capacity of 600 blisters.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque who is also a member of the committee directed to follow the advice.

The proposed EDCL third plant in Gopalganj will consist of a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST LIGHTNING STRIKES

The government has issued some precautionary measures to avoid deaths and injuries by lightning strikes. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, lightning strikes kill 250 people on an average every year in the country.

MEASURES

- Stay indoors during thunderstorms, which typically last 30-35 minutes
- Wear rubber shoes if necessary for emergencies
- If caught in an open paddy field, sit on your toes, put fingers in your ears
- Seek shelter under concrete sheds or buildings, avoid rooftops or high places
- Keep children indoors; discourage outdoor play during thunderstorms
- Avoid areas with tall trees, electric poles, mobile towers
- Cease fishing in the sea or river during thunderstorms
- If inside a vehicle, avoid touching metal part
- Treat lightning strike victims like those injured by electric shock, provide CPR if necessary.
- Take lightning strike victims to hospital promptly

PHOTO: COLLECTED, TEXT: UNB

Special Biman flights for RU admission seekers

STAR REPORT

Apart from Dhaka Rajshahi regular flights, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate three special flights on the route from May 29 to May 31 to facilitate journeys of Rajshahi University admission seekers.

The RU admission tests will take in four shifts starting from 9:00am and ending at 4:30pm on May 29, 30 and 31. The flights will leave Dhaka at 3:30pm and reach Rajshahi at 4:20pm. On the return leg, the flights will depart Rajshahi at 4:45pm and arrive in Dhaka 5:35pm, according to a Biman press release.

Ex-DCCI president Shahjahan no more

STAR REPORT

Mohammad Shahjahan Khan, a former president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), breathed his last on May 22 in Bangkok, Thailand. He was 73.



Khan served DCCI as its president in 2014. He had also served the leading trade body as senior vice president twice in 2007 and 2010, according to a press release.

Khan was also the managing director of SS Shipping and Trading Ltd and SS Shipping and Chartering Ltd. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Juma prayers tomorrow and will be buried thereafter at Banani graveyard.



PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

Children of tea workers playing a game with discarded plastic bottles at Malnichhara tea garden. Despite challenging circumstances, they find joy in simplest of things. This photo was taken recently.

Substandard

FROM PAGE 3

new manufacturing unit for Oral Contraceptive Pills and Injectable products, a manufacturing unit for IV fluid and a manufacturing unit for Penicillin Production. The committee yesterday formed a three-member sub-committee to bring necessary changes to the Drugs and Cosmetics Bill, 2023.

The bill proposed life-term imprisonment and a Tk 10 lakh fine as the maximum punishment for manufacturing medicines without registration or for producing fake medicines among others.

AFM Ruhul Haque was made the convener of the sub-committee. The two other members are Md Abdul Aziz and Syeda Zakia Noor.

Expansion

FROM PAGE 5

packages 1 and 2 for civil/physical works and package 3 for tree plantation, he said.

RHD, on April 4, hired Indian company Ashoka Buildcon Limited for packages 1 and 2. The company is scheduled to complete the work within two years at a cost of Tk 683.72 crore.

Apart from expanding the 38km road, they will either build or expand nine bridges and 23 culverts, according to the project document.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma was also present at the programme.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
e-Zone
Servicing Change Managers
E-Zone HRM Limited is a management consulting group providing one-stop HR solutions. We have a formal agreement with World Health Organization to provide outsourcing services under a third-party contract for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Coordination Centre (MOHFW CC), Cox's Bazar, and Dhaka. We are now seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals for the following vacancies. For a detailed Job Description, please visit the following website link to apply for the post.
Duty Station: Cox's Bazar
Title: Data Management Executive
Contract Duration: 06 Months (May be extended). Number of Vacancies: 01(One). Contract Type: Special Agreement with E-Zone.
Last Date of Application: May 31, 2023
<https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/ezone/un170.html>

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We are looking for individuals with highly motivated, dynamic, experienced and able to work in his own initiatives.
TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT (MARINE)
Having class 1 Marine Engineer Officer COC with sailing experience as Chief Engineer on sea going vessels in any reputed company. Maximum age 50 years.
The candidates must be mentally & physically prepared to sail onboard (Short voyage) to carry out the technical inspection, voyage repair (etc.), to supervise ship overall maintenance, survey & drydock repairing etc, at Chattogram and/or at abroad.
Candidate residing at Chattogram will get preference.
Interested candidates are requested to send their CV along with one recent passport size color photograph to the following email or by post on/before 6th June, 2023.
Address: Head of Human Resource KSRM, Kabir Manzil, SK Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong
E-mail: career@ksrm.com.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Central Police Hospital
Rajarbag, Dhaka
Invitation for Tender
Sealed tender are hereby invited from the suppliers/local agents in their official pad for the purchase of Pathology Re-agent & Company Medicine of Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka for the financial year 2023-2024.

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. Agency	Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
3. Procuring entity name	Director (DIG), Bangladesh Police, Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
4. Invitation for	Purchase of Pathology Re-agent & Company Medicine.
5. Invitation Ref No.	CPH/Tender/2023-2024/2728
6. Date	23/05/2023

KEY INFORMATION
7. Procurement method: Open Tendering Method (OTM).

FUNDING INFORMATION
8. Budget and source of funds: Revenue Budget (GOB).

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
9. Tender publication date: 24/05/2023 & 25/05/2023.
10. Tender last selling date: 21/06/2023.
11. Tender closing date and time: At 12.00 Noon on 22/06/2023.
12. Tender opening date and time: 12.30pm on 22/06/2023.

13. Name & address of the office(s)
Selling tender document: Office of the Director (DIG), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
Receiving tender document: Office of the Director (DIG), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
Opening tender document: Office of the Director (DIG), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER
14. Eligibility of tenderer
1. Photocopy of up-to-date trade license.
2. Up-to-date bank solvency certificate.
3. Photocopy of up-to-date income tax certificate.
4. Photocopy of VAT certificate.
5. Photocopy of up-to-date bank statement certificate.
6. Other documents (as per schedule)

Sl. No.	Name	Price of tender document	Tender security in Taka	Completion time in days
1.	Pathology Re-agent	Tk. 1000.00	15,00,000.00	15 (Fifteen) days from the date of work order
2.	Company Medicine	Tk. 1000.00	15,00,000.00	15 (Fifteen) days from the date of work order

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
16. Name of official inviting tender: Dr. Md. Emdadul Haque.
17. Designation of official inviting tender: Superintendent of Police.
18. Address of official inviting tender: Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.
19. Contact details of official inviting tender: Tel: 88-02-8312075, Fax: 88-02-9342297.
20. Special instructions
(a) No tender will be received after the deadline for submission.
(b) The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding.
(c) Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods.

Dr. Md. Emdadul Haque
Superintendent of Police
For-Director (DIG)
Central Police Hospital
Bangladesh Police, Rajarbag, Dhaka
Phone: 8312075 Fax: 9342297

4 DU students accuse

FROM PAGE 3

Joint Secretaries Tauhid Zaman Ovi and Abdul Ahad, Deputy Law Affairs Secretary Muhammad Talha and Hospital Affairs Secretary Mazharul Islam Nirob.

In the letter, the complainants claimed that they were allotted a room with a former student Sumon Ahmed, who misbehaved with them on multiple occasions.

During one such conflict, the four complainants asked Sumon to leave the room. When he did not comply, they took his belongings out of the room.

Contacted, Sumon alleged that the four made it difficult for him to live

with them in a shared room and so he left it willingly. "On Monday, they threw my clothes and certificates when I was preparing for my BCS exam," he said.

Sumon then informed BCL leader Siam about the matter, who called the four complainants to his room to "interrogate" them. He and his cohorts beat and verbally abused the four, and later, compelled them to leave the dorm, according to the complaint letter.

However, Siam denied the allegations. "I called the four to ask them about their behaviour. They admitted that they were wrong and apologised. No one tortured them," he said.

Railway to sell advance

FROM PAGE 3

brief the media on the meeting's decisions on May 30, according to meeting sources. The sources also mentioned that the tickets for trains on June 24 will be sold on June 14 and tickets for June 25, 26, 27 and 28 will be sold on June 15, 16, 17 and 18. The Eid-ul-Azha is expected to be observed on June 29.

BR will start selling advance return tickets from June 22. On the first day, they will sell tickets for July 2. Return tickets for July 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be sold on

June 23, 24, 25 and 26. Meanwhile, BR decided to launch a new intercity train before Eid.

Currently, BR operates Nilsagar Express on the Dhaka-Chilahati route. As the train leaves Dhaka in the morning, the new train will leave Dhaka at night, according to sources.

Four shortlisted names for the train have already been sent to the prime minister for her selection of one. The train is expected to be launched at the beginning of the next month, said sources.

এ্যাডভোকেট আলহাজ্ব মোঃ নূরুল ইসলাম মনজুর-এর
৩য় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে বিনয় শ্রদ্ধা

আজ ২৫ মে, বরিশালের শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তান, মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে দক্ষিণাঞ্চলের প্রধান সংগঠক, বরিশাল সদর গার্লস স্কুলে স্বাধীন বাংলাদেশের প্রথম সচিবালয়ের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা ও ৯নং সেক্টরের বে-সামরিক প্রধান, ভাষাসৈনিক, গণতন্ত্রের অগ্রসেনা, বর্ষায়ান রাজনীতিবিদ, প্রাক্তন সংসদ সদস্য ও প্রতিমন্ত্রী, বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি ও সমাজসেবক, সর্বজনের হৃদয়ের মানুষ, এ্যাডভোকেট আলহাজ্ব মোঃ নূরুল ইসলাম মনজুর-এর আজ ৩য় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে পরিবারের পক্ষ হতে তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি। আল্লাহ সাব্বানাতায়াল্লা তাঁকে জম্মাতুল ফেরদৌস নসিব করুন। -আমিন

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর
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অকেজো মাইক্রোবাস ও বিভিন্ন ধরনের ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী/ অকেজো মালামাল/কম্পিউটার ব্যক্তি) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তরের অকেজো ০২(এক)টি মাইক্রোবাস যে অবস্থায় আছে, রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ট্যাক্স টোকেন ও বিটনেস সনদ যে পর্যন্ত আছে এবং বিভিন্ন ধরনের ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী/ অকেজো মালামাল/কম্পিউটার ব্যক্তি) যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে কম/ বেশি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত প্রকৃতিস/টিকাদার/ ব্যক্তির নিকট হতে নিম্ন লেটার হেড প্যাডে/সাদা কাগজে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিলাম দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে:

ক্র. নং.	নিলামের নাম	আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর - (ক) লট-১: ০১টি অকেজো/ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী মাইক্রোবাস। (খ) লট-২: বিভিন্ন ধরনের ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী/অকেজো মালামাল/কম্পিউটার ব্যক্তি)
১.	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিলা প্রার্থির স্থান	জাতীয় গ্রন্থাগার ভবন, আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা
২.	দরপত্র করা শেষের স্থান	জাতীয় গ্রন্থাগার ভবন, কক্ষ নং-১০২, আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা
৩.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৭/০৬/২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৪.০০ টা পর্যন্ত
৪.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৬/২০২৩ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ টা
৫.	দরপত্র বোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৬/০৬/২০২৩ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ টা (উপস্থিত দরদারকার সন্মুখে খোলা হবে, যদি কেউ থাকে)
৬.	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিলা-এর মূল্য	প্রতি লট নম্বর ৫০০/- টাকা (অফারযোগ্য)। অর্থাৎ মোট ১০২, ০১৫ টাকার গ্রন্থাগার ভবন, আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা হতে দরপত্র সিদ্ধিলা অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (হুটের দিন ব্যতীত) সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। ফটোকপি সিদ্ধিলা প্রণয়নযোগ্য নয়
৭.	দরপত্রের জামানত	দরপত্রের জামানতের টাকাসেত (বিত্তিক) উক্ত দরপত্র ১০% টাকাসেত/অফিস পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বাৎসরিকের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে মগাফেরাতক, আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তর, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা এর অনুপুলে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
৮.	পাড়ির ধরণ, রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর ও প্রকৃতি	মাইক্রোবাস, ঢাকা-মেট্রো-৫-৪২-২৪৯৮, ২০০০।
৯.	ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী/অকেজো পাড়ি ও অন্যান্য মালামাল ও সেবার সময়	অকেজো/ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী ০১টি মাইক্রোবাস এবং বিভিন্ন ধরনের মালামাল/কম্পিউটার ব্যক্তি) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সেকারী/সাহায্যিক হুটের দিন ব্যতীত) সকাল ১০.০০ হতে বিকাল ৩.০০ টা পর্যন্ত পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।
১০.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের মেয়াদ	১২০ দিন।
১১.	নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি	আরকাইভস ও গ্রন্থাগার অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.nanl.gov.bd) এ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি দেখা যাবে। ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী/ অকেজো মাইক্রোবাস ও মালামালের বিজ্ঞপ্তি বর্ণনা ও অন্যান্য নিয়মাবলী/পর্তাবলী দরপত্র তফসিল মোতাবেক।
১২.	কোন রকম কারল দর্শনো ছাড়াই যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃক কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।	

GD- 919

BANGLADESHI UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY, DIIAKA

No: R-8388 Date: 24/05/2023

Admission into Postgraduate Programs Semester: April 2023

Applications are invited for admission into the following postgraduate programs for April 2023 Semester. An applicant must complete the online Application Form and upload the supporting documents (as described below) using the postgraduate admission section of the BUET website (<http://pgadmission.buet.ac.bd>) within the period from 28.05.2023 to 07.06.2023 (Until 11:59 p.m.).

A) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:
Ph.D. in Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Physics, Urban and Regional Planning, Water Resources Engineering, Nanomaterials and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Institute of Water and Flood Management.

B) Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Degree offered by the Departments:
M.Phil. in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics.

C) Master's Degree Offered by the Departments/ Institutes:
(i) M.Sc. Engg./M.Engg. in Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering (Environmental), Civil Engineering (Geotechnical), Civil Engineering (Structural), Civil Engineering (Transportation), Environmental Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Industrial and Production Engineering, Advanced Engineering Management, Mechanical Engineering, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering, Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Petroleum and Mineral Resources Engineering, Water Resources Engineering, Glass and Ceramic Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Humanitarian Engineering, Nuclear Power Engineering, Information and Communication Technology, Disaster Risk Reduction Engineering.
(ii) M. Arch., MS. Arch. in Architecture.
(iii) M.Sc. in Biochemical Technology, Occupational Process Safety, Energy Technology and Management, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics, Materials Science, Glass and Ceramic Science, Humanitarian Engineering, Climate Modeling and Risk Management, Disaster Risk Reduction Engineering, Disaster Risk Reduction Science.
(iv) MURP in Urban and Regional Planning by Course and Thesis
(v) M.Sc. in Water Resources Development
(vi) M.Sc. in Management of Technology

D) Post Graduate Diploma Offered by the Institutes:
PG. Diploma in Information and Communication Technology.

Important Information

- During the submission of the online application through the postgraduate admission section of the website of BUET, the following supporting documents must be uploaded within the period 28.05.2023 to 07.06.2023 (Until 11:59 p.m.).
 - Attached copies of certificates of all public examinations.
 - Attached copies of transcripts/grade-sheets/mark-sheets of all public examinations.
 - Attached copies of testimonial/character certificate from the institution last attended.
 - Letter of consent, in prescribed form, from the employer for applicants in employment.
- After submission application, Pay 505/- (Five Hundred Five only) taka online as Application Fee.
- Prospectus containing detailed qualification requirements for admission into different programs and information regarding the submission of application is available at the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.
- Applicants in employment whether part-time or full-time must apply through their employers for both part-time and full-time enrollments.
- Selection of candidates for admission into a postgraduate program is performed by respective department/ institute. The selection procedure may vary from one department to another. Candidates are advised to contact the respective department/ institute for information regarding the selection procedure.
- A few Teaching Assistantships/ Fellowships may be awarded to suitable full-time students.
- Degrees obtained from institutions other than BUET will be subjected to equivalence by appropriate authority of BUET before a candidate is finally selected for admission to a degree/diploma program.
- Last date for submission of the application is 07.06.2023 (Until 11:59 p.m.) and classes will commence from 03.07.2023.
- The schedule regarding postgraduate admission may change due to any situation. Updated information will be available on the postgraduate admission section of BUET website.

Registrar

INDO-BANGLA CONNECTING ROAD Expansion work starts three years after approval

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The physical work to expand the 38km road that connects the Bangladesh-India border with the Dhaka-Chattogram highway has finally started, after around three years of the project's approval.

The Baraiyerhat-Heanko-Ramgarh road would be expanded from 5.5 metres to 11.30 metres under the Indian Line of Credit aiming to broaden the bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday joined the ceremony of the road-widening works as chief guest virtually from Dhaka.

The project would contribute to improving the road network between the Chattogram port and the Ramgarh land port and open the door for bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India through the Sabram/Ramgarh land port, according to the project documents. It will also help to expand business and tourism in Khagrachhari district.

AT A GLANCE

Project to improve road network between Ctg, Ramgarh ports

Ecnc approved it in Aug 2020

Deadline: June 2022; cost Tk 848.3cr

After revision, cost Tk 1,107.12cr

New deadline: Dec 2024

Ecnc approved the project in August 2020, to complete it within June 2022 at a cost of Tk 848.3 crore.

However, the physical works of the project even could not be started within the deadline mainly due to a lengthy tendering process, forcing the authorities to extend both the deadline and the project cost, said RHD officials.

After the revision, the project cost rose to Tk 1,107.12 crore, while the deadline has been set for December next year, according to the documents. Of the total cost, India will provide Tk 594.07 crore while the Bangladesh government will provide Tk 513.05 crore.

Project Director Mohammad Jahed Hossain, also the superintendent engineer of RHD Chattogram Circle, the implementing agency of the project, said the price of the contract was higher than what was mentioned in the original Development Project Proposal. Following the instruction of the Cabinet Committee for Government Purchase, they had to revise the project before getting approval for the contract.

The project will be implemented under three packages

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Violation, conflict of interest wrapped in one

Some BCC employees campaigning for ruling party candidate

SUSHANTA GHOSH and MD ABBAS

In clear violation of the electoral code of conduct, several staff members of Barishal City Corporation have been actively engaging with voters, going door-to-door to secure support and votes for the Awami League mayoral candidate Abul Khair Abdullah.

This act directly disregards an order issued on May 11 by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, signed by Mohammad Shamsul Islam, deputy secretary of the local government division, instructing BCC officials not to participate in campaigns.

Deepak Lal Mridha, currently an officer in the waste department of BCC, was spotted on May 3 interacting with voters alongside AL mayoral candidate Khair, despite his role in the BCC.

It has been revealed that several other employees, who have faced disciplinary actions by the incumbent Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah in the past, were also actively seeking votes for Khair.

Sources have disclosed that over 100 BCC officers have been in constant communication with the AL mayoral candidate, indicating their involvement in his electoral campaign.

Previously, Mayor Sadiq had removed Mridha from his duties as the conservancy officer of BCC and reassigned him to the office



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Many staffers of Barishal City Corporation were seen campaigning for Awami League mayoral candidate Abul Khair Abdullah, violating the electoral code of conduct. This photo was taken recently.

of a well-known councillor. This action was seen as insulting by many, leading Mridha to become an opponent of Mayor Sadiq, according to sources.

Numerous BCC officials have expressed discontent with Sadiq's interference in various matters, including working at night, which has prompted their support for the AL mayoral candidate.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mridha proudly admitted that he sought votes for the AL nominated candidate and defended his actions, saying, "I am also the secretary of Bangabandhu Peshajibi Parishad at BCC. I cannot hold rallies, but why can I not ask people to vote for the

AL-nominated candidate?"

BCC Administrative Officer Swapan Kumar Das emphasised that any form of participation in the BCC election by officials, the use of BCC vehicles, or support for any political party is strictly prohibited.

"This is a violation of the city corporation code of conduct. There are also instructions from the local government division in this regard," he added.

Humayun Kabir, returning officer for the Barishal regional election office, highlighted that the involvement of city corporation staffers in any electoral process, including campaigns, clearly

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

AL's instigation behind attacks on BNP rallies: Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that BNP leaders and activists are being attacked and implicated in cases afresh due to the instigation by the ruling party.

Speaking at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan central office, he claimed that their party's 650 leaders and activists were arrested just in the last six days while several hundred were injured in attacks on the party's programmes in different parts of the country.

"Addressing a rally in front of the central office of the Awami League yesterday, its General Secretary Obaidul Quader threatened to eliminate BNP forever... following his threat, the police, Rab, and SWAT forces have launched a drive against BNP men and started attacking, and arresting them in new cases," he said.

We will counter if anyone obstructs next polls: Quader

STAR REPORT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said they would counter anyone who tried to obstruct the next general elections.

"We will continue our peaceful programme till the election but if anyone tries to obstruct us or the polls, we will counter it," Quader said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was talking to reporters after joining a programme at Roads and Highways Department headquarters in capital's Tejgaon.

Referring to Tuesday's clash between police and BNP men in the capital and vandalising of two BRTC buses, he said the incident exposed BNP's real face.

He said police would take action against them.



**I am also the secretary of
Bangabandhu Peshajibi
Parishad at BCC. I
cannot hold rallies,
but why can I not ask
people to vote for the AL-
nominated candidate?**

DEEPAK LAL MRIDHA, officer in BCC waste department, campaigning for AL candidate Khair

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited
(A JOINT VENTURE COMPANY OF BPDB AND NTPC LTD.)
WWW.BIFPCL.COM
Ref: BIFPCL/HRD/RECTT/2023/144
Date: 25.05.2023

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited (BIFPCL), a Joint Venture Company of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Bangladesh and NTPC Limited, India, is looking for energetic and promising candidates for immediate appointment on contract basis to the following posts and inviting online applications from Bangladeshi nationals only.

Sl. No.	Name of Post, Basic Salary and Maximum Age Limit	No. of Vacancy	Job Location	Qualifications and Experience
01	Assistant Manager (HR/Admin) Basic Salary: 52,000/- Maximum Age: 30 years	03 (Three)	Rampal Project Site, Bagerhat	a) At least Honours with Master Degree in HR / Management / Public Administration or any other relevant subject with MBA (HR) from any recognized university. b) No third division / class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a GPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 & CGPA 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. c) Must have strong communication skill in Bengali and English (Written & Oral) including computer literacy. d) Prior relevant experience will be an advantage.
02	Assistant Manager (Law) Basic Salary: 52,000/- Maximum Age: 30 years	01 (One)	Rampal Project Site, Bagerhat	a) Graduation in Law. Post-Graduation in law will be preferred. b) No third division / class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a GPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 & CGPA 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. c) Must demonstrate strong participatory leadership ability. d) Must have strong communication skill in Bengali and English (Written & Oral) including computer literacy. e) Prior relevant experience will be an advantage.
03	Imam (Staff Level-3) Basic Salary: 26,000/- Maximum Age: 45 years	01 (One)	Rampal Project Site, Bagerhat	a) Minimum Fazil or equivalent from any recognized Madrasah/ institution. Kamil from any Altiya Madrasah or Dawra Hadith from Quaimi Madrasah or Masters in Al-Fiqh & Legal Studies from any recognized University will be preferred. b) No third division / class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a GPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 & CGPA 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. c) Must have good communication skill in Bengali and English (Written & Oral) including basic working knowledge in computer application software. d) Minimum 5 years of working experience in any large-scale organization/Mosque as Imam/Mufti. e) Candidates must be the followers of sunnah in practical life. f) Candidates with certificates on Hafez-e-Quran and Ilme Qiraat from recognized institution will get advantage.
04	Purahit (Staff Level-3) Basic Salary: 26,000/- Maximum Age: 45 years	01 (One)	Rampal Project Site, Bagerhat	a) Minimum Graduation or equivalent from any recognized institution and 5 years of working experience in any large-scale organization/ temple as Purahit/Pandit. b) No third division / class at any stage of the academic career shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a GPA 3.5 on a scale of 5.0 & CGPA 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. c) Must have good communication skill in Bengali and English (Written & Oral) including basic working knowledge in computer application software. d) Candidates must be well versed in Sanskrit in order to recite chants & mantras and perform rites of passage for their congregation. e) Candidates with Kabbo Tirtho or any other relevant certificate will get preference.
05	Security Supervisor (Staff Level-4) Basic Salary: 23,000/- Maximum Age: 45 years	06 (Six)	Rampal Project Site, Bagerhat	a) Minimum HSC or equivalent from any recognized institution and 5 years of relevant working experience in any large-scale organization. b) No third Division/Class at any stages of the academic life shall be acceptable. Candidates passed in the grading system must possess at least a GPA 2.0 on a scale of 5.0 & CGPA 2.25 on a scale of 4.0 at all stage of the academic career. c) Must have good communication skill in Bengali and English (Written & Oral) including basic working knowledge in computer application software. d) Retired defense personnel (Army/Navy/Air force/BGIB) will get preference.

Compensation Package :
a) Basic Salary, House Rent allowance, Medical Benefits, Bonus, CPF, Gratuity and other Fringe Benefits will be given as per the policy of BIFPCL.
b) Income Tax has to be paid by the employee.

Nature of the Service :
The service is purely contractual. The initial contract period of the service shall be for 03 (Three) years and is renewable for further period(s) upto the limit of 60 (sixty) years of age subject to satisfactory performance.

- General Conditions :**
- Interested candidates shall have to apply through the Online Application Form wherein a scanned photograph and signature of the candidate has to be inserted into due place. The online Application Form will be available at <http://bifpcl.teletalk.com.bd> during application period from 25.05.2023 (09:00 A.M) to 08.06.2023 (4:00 P.M).
 - All eligible qualifications and experiences should be from a recognized institution or university.
 - Candidates passed from foreign university(s)/institute(s) should have equivalent result and certificate from the competent authority.
 - All computations of Age shall be as on last date of submission of application i.e., 08.06.2023.
 - Candidates shall have to pay BDT 1,000/- (BDT One Thousand only) each for the posts mentioned in Sl. No. 1-2 and BDT 500/- (BDT Five Hundred only) each for the posts mentioned in Sl. No. 3-5 as application fee on non-refundable basis through SMS from any Teletalk mobile connection following the instructions mentioned in <http://bifpcl.teletalk.com.bd> or www.bifpcl.com.
 - Persons employed in Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous organization(s) or Govt. Power Sector utilities should apply through proper channel.
 - The applicant (if selected) must have to sign 03 (Three) years' Service Bond at the time of joining for the post mentioned in Sl. No. 1-2.
 - In case of departmental candidates, age limit is maximum 35 years for the posts mentioned in Sl. No. 1-2.
 - No TA/DA shall be paid for appearing/participating in the recruitment process.
 - BIFPCL reserves the right to shortlist candidates for Written Test/ Interview. Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of minimum eligibility criteria may not ensure consideration for shortlisting for Written Test/Interview. BIFPCL will not entertain any correspondence on this subject and decision of BIFPCL will be final in all matters.
 - Age limit for sons/grand-sons and daughters/grand-daughters of freedom fighters and martyred freedom fighters shall be 32 years in place of 30 years (wherever applicable). Only at the time of joining (if selected) these candidates have to submit attested copies of certificates issued to Freedom Fighters/Martyred Freedom Fighters by the appropriate authority. Also, these candidates have to submit certificate (In Original) issued from the respective Union Parishad Chairman/ Ward Commissioner of City Corporation/ Pourashava Mayor/ Counselor; mentioning their relationship with the Freedom Fighters/Martyred Freedom Fighters.
 - BIFPCL reserves the right to cancel the candidature of the applicant if any fake or wrong information is found at any stage of recruitment process.
 - BIFPCL reserves the right to cancel/restrict/enlarge/modify/alter the recruitment/selection process or/and no. of posts, if need so arises.
 - Last date of receipt of online application is: 08.06.2023 (4:00 P.M).

H.M. Ziauddin
Chief Human Resources Officer
Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company (Pvt.) Limited

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi
Phone: 0247-812276; Fax: 772279

e-Tender Notice

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

e-Tender ID No.	Name of the work	Last time for tender security submission	Tender/proposal closing date and time
834064	Establishment of Cancer Unit at Medical College Hospital of Eight Divisional Head Quarters One at Rajshahi (Sub-Head: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 4 Lifts: 2 Nos. 2500 Kg 17 Stop Bed Lift, 1 No. 2500 Kg 17 Stop Cargo/Food Lift & 1 No. 1250 Kg 15 Stop Bed Lift)	25-June-2023, 11:00	25-June-2023, 12:00
835224	Extension of Lift of New Building including Change of Useless Parts of Other Lifts at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital	04-June-2023, 11:00	04-June-2023, 12:00
838150	Installation of Air Cooler Including Other Electrical Works at Ward No. 18-20-28-32 (Cardiology) and Processors-Doctors-Tutorial Class Room Adjacent to Ward No. 31-44-52 of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.	04-June-2023, 11:00	04-June-2023, 12:00

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered banks' branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

A.B.M Humayun Kabir
Executive Engineer
Rajshahi PWD Division-2, Rajshahi
Email: ee_raj2@pwd.gov.bd

GD-921

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Rangpur
Tel: 02589962357
E-mail: ee_mgpr@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 1997 Date: 22/05/2023

Invitation for e-GP Tender

SL No.	e-GP Tender ID & Reference No.	Name of work	Tender proposal closing date and time
1	833592, PWDRNGPR/BITAC/22-23/W-PWD/OB-23	Establishment of 6 (Six) Centers of BITAC in Gopalganj, Sumanganj, Barisal, Rangpur, Jamalpur and Jessore Districts (One at Rangpur) Sub-head: Construction of Residential Building, A. Construction of 10 (Ten) Storied Boy's Hosted with 10 (Ten) Storied Foundation, B. Construction of 10 (Ten) Storied Girl's Hostel with 10 (Ten) Storied Foundation & C. Construction of 3 (Three) Storied Guard's Accommodation with 3 (Three) Storied Foundation (civil, sanitary and internal electrical works)	22-Jun-2023 12:30

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Md. Arifuzzaman Khandakar
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Rangpur

GD-918

Nazrul in film: Lesser-known facts about our National Poet

Kazi Nazrul Islam's 124th birth anniversary today

In 1938, a film was made based on his creation "Bidyapoti". Nazrul also served as the music director of several movies of his time.

SHARMIN JOYA

An indomitable voice that was raised in every crisis, against oppressive authority, he never feared expressing his inner thoughts. Today marks the 124th birth anniversary of our National Poet, Kazi Nazrul Islam. His philosophy of life vastly reflects upon his works.

His contribution in music and literature is well-defined, however, a major portion of his ideology is yet to be researched.

Not only did he lend his voice to films, he directed music, wrote lyrics and even wrote screenplays for films. He even acted in a few films himself.

In 1934, he made his directorial debut. He jointly directed the film *Dhrubo*, with Satyandranath.



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA



A snippet from "Dhrubo", released in 1934. Nazrul acted in and wrote the screenplay for this film.

He also played another role in the project, as the movie's music director. The film contained 18 tracks out of which 17 songs were penned by him. Nazrul also lent his voice to three of the compositions in the production. He also performed in a comic role in the film, *Haal Bangla*.

In 1938, a film was made based on his creation *Bidyapoti*. Nazrul also served as the

music director of several movies of his time.

Some of the titles of the projects are *Patalpuri* (1935), *Groher Pher* (1937), *Gora* based on Rabindranath Tagore's novel of the same name (1938) – interestingly he also did a rendition of Tagore's song.

The projects for which he wrote the screenplays include *Shapure* (1938), which was later filmed in Hindi as *Sapore*. The poet was also associated with that production.

In 1942, he composed 8 tracks, written by himself, for the film *Chowrongi*. From Zahir Raihan's *Jibon Theke Neya* (*Karar Oi Louho Kopat*) to Humayun Ahmed's *Chandrokotha* (*Poitho Hara Pakhi*), there are numerous films which feature the maestro's compositions.

BTV produced a series based on Nazrul's novel *Mrityu Khudha*. A film was also made on the same novel.

Over the years, occasionally, several adaptations of Nazrul's works have been produced for television, however they were somewhat poor presentations.

Moreover, silver screen projects based on Nazrul's works are a handful.

In 1971, Khan Ataur Rahman directed the film *Shukh Dukkho* inspired from Nazrul's *Padma Gokhra*. Filmmaker Mustafiz also took the same story and directed *Mayar Badhon* in 1976.

Nazrul's *Jiner Badshah* was adapted for the silver screen, which featured Bappa Raj.

After about three decades, three of Nazrul's

works were adapted as the films *Meher Negar* (2005), jointly directed by Mushfiqur Rahman Gulzar and Moushumi, featuring Ferdous and Moushumi, *Rakkhushi* (2006) by Matin Rahman, starring Rozina, Ferdous and Purnima and *Priya Tumi Shukhi How* (2014) by Gitali Hasan. These films were produced by Impres telefilm.

Two children's films were also produced by Bangladesh Shishu Academy, from his poems, *Lichu Chor* and *Khuki O Kathbirali*.

Quite a number of documentaries were also made on Kazi Nazrul Islam, from several organisations from Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan. International media BBC and Canadian filmmaker Philip Sparrel also worked on his documentary.

An interesting fact about the poet is that in 1941, under the patronage of Sher E Bangla A K Fazlul Haque, Kazi Nazrul Islam formed the film production house, Bengal Tigers Pictures. He was accompanied by Abbasuddin Ahmed, Ustad Mohammad Hossain Khosru, Humayun Kabir, S Wazed Ali, Mohammad Modabber, Azizul Islam, Sarwar Hossain and Azizul Haq, among others.

The genius that was Kazi Nazrul Islam, despite being lauded for his work, is not nearly as represented in popular media, as his legacy and caliber dictates. To keep the great man's name alive in the forthcoming generations, we have to make sure that not only his music and poetry, but all other works are showcased properly.



Shah Rukh Khan fulfills cancer patient's 'final wish'

Recently, Shah Rukh Khan's sweet gesture towards a cancer patient has left fans on social media quite emotional. The actor video called a 60-year-old fan, who has been fighting with cancer, as her last wish was to meet the superstar.

Shivani's wish was quickly granted, after a Tweet from the patient's daughter went viral on social media, as SRK chatted with her over video call. When King Khan learned about Shivani's dream, he immediately video-called her and spoke with her for nearly 40 minutes. Toward the end of their conversation, SRK even vowed to financially assist her in her battle against the cancer.

Oni Hasan and Mizan together, 11 years after 'Purnota'



Oni Hasan might have left the country but that is not stopping him from collaborating with his fellow Bangladeshi musicians.

Yesterday, the guitarist confirmed that he will be collaborating with his former Warfaze colleague, Mizan Rahman after 11 years.

"After the album, *Shotto*, Mizan bhai and I are collaborating after 11 years for a new song. The song will be released soon. I told you I would make it up to you," read his post. He shared the post with a screen grab of their video conversation on Facebook.

COUNTRYWIDE

RIVER EROSION

Flood control dyke on verge of collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Erosion by the Ramnabad river has taken a serious turn, devouring a large portion of the flood control embankment at Tetultala village in Galachipa upazila.

Moreover, several cracks have developed at many points of the paved on the flood control dyke, threatening collapse of the embankment any moment.

Locals said if the erosion continues, at least three villages—Akhali, Dakua and Hoyalbania—will be flooded by the tidal water.

During a visit to the area this correspondent saw, labourers engaged by the Water Development Board (WDB) were trying to protect the embankment by dumping sand-filled geo bags at the vulnerable points.

According to Patuakhali WDB, the 46-kilometre-long flood control embankment along the Lohalia, Kalagachia and Ramnabad rivers was constructed in 1976-77 fiscal year to protect the life and property of people living along the river banks.

Later, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) built a 21-kilometre-long paved road on the embankment in 1995-96 fiscal year.

The paved road connects five unions—Dakua, Kalagachia, Chiknikandi, Gazalia

and Bakulbaria—with Galachipa upazila headquarters and the district town.

Deepak Narayan, former assistant headmaster of Atkhali Secondary School, said this part of the dam was broken twice earlier due to huge current in the river water.

If the embankment collapse, road communication with Galachipa and five unions of the upazila will be completely snapped, he said.

Dakua Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Bishwajit Roy said if the erosion continues like that the grave of journalist leader Altaf Mahmud, a 200-year-old Zamindar house, mosque, temple many other important establishment will be eroded by the river.

Besides, around one and a half lakhs people of different villages under five unions will suffer a lot, he said.

Galachipa Upazila LGED Engineer Jahangir Alam said a project has been taken up to construct a cupping road on the dam.

But, the road construction work cannot be started before the dyke repair work is completed, he said.

Contacted, Patuakhali WDB Executive Engineer Arif Hossain said primarily about 1,500 sand-filled geo bags have been dumped at different breaching points to prevent erosion.



Erosion by the Ramnabad river has devoured a large portion of this flood control dyke at Tetultala village in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila, threatening collapse of the dyke any moment.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh keen on China's dev initiative

FROM PAGE 12
Global Security Initiative last year.

The GDI presented by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly in September 2021 aims to support the timely achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

"There are various aspects of the GDI, including concessional loans for health, education, poverty alleviation and development of infrastructure as many countries are still lagging behind the SDGs, mostly because of the coronavirus pandemic," said a foreign ministry official.

A draft memorandum of understanding forwarded by the Chinese government was reviewed by the foreign ministry and then sent to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the finance ministry.

The ERD is looking into the technical aspects of it before the final decision.

More than 100 countries have expressed support for the GDI and over 50 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI.

RELUCTANCE OVER GSI

Chinese President Xi Jinping launched the GSI in April last year, demonstrating China's commitment as a major

country to uphold world peace and stability and arguing that competition among great powers is deeply affecting the whole world and China needs to play its role.

The GSI came amid Russia-Ukraine war and global competition among powers over the Indo-Pacific region. The major powers like the US, Canada, Japan, France, European Union, ASEAN and even Bangladesh have launched their visions and strategies on the Indo-Pacific.

The US, Japan, India and Australia have a group called QUAD for security dialogue, while

Australia, the UK and US signed in 2021 a security pact called AUKUS under which the US and the UK will assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.

The US wants Bangladesh, which is located at the centre of Indo-Pacific, to be on its side in its Indo-Pacific Strategy. Bangladesh is also reluctant on the IPS, saying that it has defence elements.

Foreign ministry officials said Bangladesh is not interested in joining any regional or global alliances with defence elements, though it has bilateral security agreements with a

number of countries. China is Bangladesh's biggest source of defence equipment.

"We will surely need to buy defence equipment for securing our territories, including the maritime boundary, but we are not for joining any military alliance," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen earlier said.

A foreign ministry official said at the FOC, Dhaka and Beijing will also discuss the latest initiative of Rohingya repatriation and assess the development projects being implemented with Chinese funds.

HC orders probe into allegations against AB Bank

FROM PAGE 12
Contacted, Tarique Afzal, managing director of the bank, said the bank had not disbursed any funds to Brandshare.

"We have followed all instructions given by the BFIU and there has been no transaction with the account. In addition, the account has been frozen by the bank."

Brandshare on January 10 sought the loan from the Gulshan branch of AB Bank and the officials concerned completed a visit to the office of the entity that day, according to a BFIU letter sent to

the Anti-Corruption Commission on May 18.

The officials prepared a report on the business profile of Brandshare and mentioned that it imported an adequate amount of fuel, construction materials, chemicals, and food products from abroad.

But the company did not have any experience as it was a newly registered entity, the BFIU said.

Under such a situation, the BFIU requested the ACC to take legal action against the people involved in sanctioning the loans.

Brandshare completed its registration process

with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) on June 9 last year. It said it was an exporter, importer, and supplier.

It had managed a trade licence from Dhaka South City Corporation on September 4 last year. It opened an account with the bank by depositing Tk 10,000 on November 7.

The bank gave approval for the Tk 350 crore loan on February 9.

Around 90 percent shares of Brandshare are owned by Mohammad Ataur Rahman, and the rest by Mamunur Rashid.

Ali Haider Ratan is the managing director of Infratech Construction Company Ltd which shares its address with Brandshare.

Ratan gave collateral securities and personal and corporate guarantees for the loan.

Of the loan, Tk 16.13 crore was sanctioned as a performance guarantee to Infratech, breaching the banking rules.

The BFIU in the report said offering such a guarantee is suspicious and that "the actual beneficiary of the loans is Ratan".

Sources in the banking sector said Ratan withdrew funds of Tk 22.5 crore from three branches of the National Bank after 8:00pm on December 28 last year, but banks are only allowed to release funds between 10:00am and 3:30pm on working day.

The incident became a much-discussed issue in the banking sector.

He also took loans Tk 525 crore from different banks.

Despite repeated attempts, Ratan could not be reached for comments over phone.

Nazrul's 124th birth anniversary today

FROM PAGE 12
President Mohammed Shahbuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages paying rich tributes to the memory of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

This year's theme of the day is "Agnibinar S h a t a b a r s h a :

Bangabandhur Chetanai Shanitarup".

The birth anniversary of the national poet will be celebrated in Trishal in Mymensingh, Doulatpur in Cumilla, Tewta in Manikganj and Karpasdanga in Chuadanga and Chattogram.

The main programme of

the birth anniversary will be held at Darirampur of Trishal in Mymensingh.

The three-day programme will jointly be organised by the cultural affairs ministry and the local district administration.

Deputy leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Begum

Matia Chowdhury will inaugurate the programme.

Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar and private television channels will live telecast the inaugural ceremony and air special programmes and print media will bring out special supplements highlighting the birth

anniversary of the national poet.

Bangla Academy will pay respect to the national poet by placing wreaths at his grave near the Dhaka University mosque and Nazrul's portrait at Nazrul Mancha on the academy premises at 8:00am today.



PHOTO: REUTERS

The world's largest aircraft carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford, sails into Oslo, Norway yesterday, a first for such a US ship, in a show of Nato force at a time of heightened tension between Nato and Russia over the war in Ukraine.

Asia water, energy supplies at risk

Researchers say climate change impacts are already posing 'grave threats' to 10 major rivers

REUTERS, Singapore

Climate-related disruptions to the crucial Hindu Kush-Himalayan water system are posing risks to economic development and energy security in 16 Asian countries, and concerted action is needed to protect regional water flows, researchers said yesterday.

The basins of the 10 major rivers that flow from the Hindu Kush-Himalayan water towers are home to 1.9 billion people and generate \$4.3 trillion in annual GDP, and climate change impacts like glacial melt and extreme weather are already posing "grave threats", the China Water Risk think tank said.

The researchers warned that all rivers would face "escalating and compounding water risks ... if we are unable to rein in emissions," and that the further construction of water-intensive energy infrastructure was aggravating the problems.

The 10 rivers include the Ganges and

the Brahmaputra running into India and Bangladesh, China's Yangtze and Yellow rivers as well as transboundary waterways like the Mekong and the Salween.

They support almost three quarters of hydropower and 44 percent of coal-fired power in the 16 countries, which also include Afghanistan, Nepal and Southeast Asia.

As much as 865 gigawatts (GW) of power capacity along the 10 rivers is considered vulnerable to climate risk, with most of it reliant on water. More than 300 GW - enough to power Japan - is situated in regions facing "high" or "extremely high" water risks, the researchers added.

China's Yangtze river basin, which supports around a third of the country's population and around 15 percent of its power capacity, experienced a record-long drought last year, with plummeting hydroelectric output disrupting global supply chains.

Modi strikes migration deal with Australia

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese signed a new agreement on migration yesterday.

Modi is on a visit to Australia, his first trip there since 2014. Albanese traveled to India two months ago, reports Deutsche Welle.

A migration agreement "will further strengthen our living bridge," Modi said, as the agreement promotes two-way mobility of students, academic researchers and business people. Modi warned that "separatist elements" should not be allowed to hurt India-Australia relations, reports AFP. He hit out at recent "attacks" on Hindu temples in Australia.

SPECIAL NDTV SURVEY

Rahul's popularity grows but Modi remains dominant

NDTV ONLINE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remains India's most popular leader and the leading choice for the country's top job, reveals "Public Opinion", a special NDTV survey in partnership with Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS).

The survey sought to assess the public mood as PM Modi completes nine years in power this month and preps for a series of elections including the Lok Sabha polls next year. It was conducted across 19 states between May 10 and 19, just after the Karnataka election in which the ruling BJP lost to the Congress.

Despite the loss in Karnataka, the good news for the BJP is that PM Modi's popularity remains strong and the party's vote share remains steady. Around

43 percent of the respondents say the BJP-led NDA (National Democratic Alliance) should win a third straight term, while 38 percent disagree. Nearly 40 percent say they would vote the BJP if elections were held today. The Congress gets 29 percent of the votes.

The BJP's vote share has increased from 2019 (37%) to 2023 (39%). So has the Congress's - 19% in 2019 to 29% in 2023. As many as 43 percent of the respondents have said if elections are held today, Narendra Modi is their top choice for PM. His nearest rival is Rahul Gandhi - 27 percent of those surveyed favoured him as Prime Minister.



BLOCKING TARIFF RISE

Sri Lanka sacks head of utilities regulator

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's parliament yesterday removed the head of the country's utilities regulator after he blocked a huge electricity tariff increase that was in line with demands from the IMF. The legislature voted 123 to 77 to drop Janaka Ratnayake as the boss of the Public Utilities Commission with immediate effect. Ratnayake had resisted a second tariff increase of up to 275 percent in February on top of a 264 percent hike six months earlier at the height of an economic crisis.

DeSantis set to enter White House race

AFP, Washington

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis was set to launch his 2024 presidential campaign yesterday, signalling 18 months of acrimony ahead as he and Donald Trump lock horns in what is expected to be an attritional contest for the Republican nomination. DeSantis was considered a rising Republican star, but has been caught flat-footed by months of relentless attacks from the former president. The 44-year-old governor will make his announcement in a livestreamed chat with billionaire Twitter owner Elon Musk on the network's audio platform.

'Queen of rock 'n' roll' no more

FROM PAGE 12

the age of 83.

She died peacefully after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, her representative said.

Turner began her career in the 1950s during the early years of rock and roll and evolved into an MTV phenomenon.

In the video for her chart-topping song "What's Love Got to Do with It," in which she called love a "second-hand emotion," Turner epitomised 1980s style as she strutted through New York City streets with her spiky blond hair, wearing a cropped jean jacket, mini skirt, and stiletto heels.

With her taste for musical experimentation and bluntly-worded ballads, Turner gelled perfectly with a 1980s pop landscape in which music fans valued electronically-produced sounds and scorned hippie-era idealism.

Sometimes nicknamed the "Queen

of Rock 'n' Roll," Turner won six of her eight Grammy Awards in the 1980s. The decade saw her land a dozen songs on the Top 40, including "Typical Male," "The Best," "Private Dancer" and "Better Be Good to Me." Her 1988 show in Rio de Janeiro drew 180,000 people, which remains one of the largest concert audiences for any single performer.

By then, Turner had been free from her marriage to guitarist Ike Turner for a decade.

The superstar was forthcoming about the abuse she suffered from her former husband during their marital and musical partnership in the 1960s and 1970s. She described bruised eyes, busted lips, a broken jaw and other injuries that repeatedly sent her to the emergency room.

"Tina's story is not one of victimhood but one of incredible triumph," singer Janet Jackson wrote about Turner, in a Rolling Stone issue that placed Turner at No. 63 on a list

of the top 100 artists of all time.

"She's transformed herself into an international sensation - an elegant powerhouse," Jackson said.

In 1985, Turner gave a fictional turn to her reputation as a survivor. She played the ruthless leader of an outpost in a nuclear wasteland, acting opposite Mel Gibson in the third instalment in the Mad Max franchise, "Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome."

Most of Turner's hit songs were written by others, but she enlivened them with a voice that New York Times music critic Jon Pareles called "one of the more peculiar instruments in pop."

She battled a number of health problems after retiring and in 2018 she faced a family tragedy, when her oldest son, Craig, took his life at age 59 in Los Angeles. Her younger son Ronnie died in December 2022.

She is survived by Bach and two sons of Ike's that she adopted.

Doha promises Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

blessings for Qatar.

He said Qatar is going to take up new projects and the Bangladeshis will stay here.

'POLLS UNDER AL GOVT'

Yesterday, the prime minister made it clear that the next general election will be held under the Awami League government and it will be free and fair.

Hasina was speaking at a session titled "In conversation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina" of the Qatar Economic Forum at the Raffles Doha hotel in Qatar.

Haslinda Amin, editor at-large of Qatar Economic Forum, anchored the session.

The PM's comments came at a time when the opposition BNP and its allies are staging street protests demanding the government step down to pave the way for holding the next general election under a neutral caretaker administration.

The next parliamentary polls is scheduled to be held in December this year or in the first week of January next year.

Responding to a question, Hasina said military dictators jeopardised the entire election process after the assassination of Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "The election was just a game [then]."

The premier said the AL elected her as the party president back in 1981 in her absence.

"Since then, we started the fight to restore democracy and the people's right to vote. We continued the fight to ensure free and fair polls. And we did it in each election during our rule," she added.

Hasina said she is in power to ensure people's voting right and the people will decide who will run the country.

Replying to another question, the PM said that some political parties have said they will not participate in the next general election.

"How will they participate? Because the country suffered a lot during their rule. The people also suffered. Terrorist activities increased during their tenures in power.... They never bothered about the people. It was very difficult for our people to get a meal every day. The situation was like that."

The PM said the AL ensured everything for the people after it came to power.

EC scraps

FROM PAGE 1

also admitted making the statement.

The commission asked Azizur to come to Dhaka at 3:00pm yesterday to explain why he made such a statement. Azizur attended the hearing.

During the hearing in presence of Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and the four election commissioners, Azizur apologised for making the statement and also gave an explanation, but it was not accepted, the EC secretary said.

Azizur, also Pubail Thana AL president, is the immediate past councillor of ward-40 of the Gazipur City Corporation.

Int'l Booker Prize

FROM PAGE 12

fiction from around the world that have been translated into English and the £50,000 (\$62,000) prize is split equally between the author and the translator.

The winning novel focuses on a "clinic for the past" that offers experimental Alzheimer's treatment. To trigger patients' memories, it recreates the atmosphere of past decades down to the smallest detail.

But with time healthy people start coming to the clinic, seeking an escape from the horrors of modern life.

Relationship Officer (RO) to Senior Relationship Manager (SRM)

Grade: Officer to SAVP
Cash Management, Transaction Banking, Corporate Banking.

Prime Responsibilities

- > Contribute to bank's overall deposit growth by building high quality corporate depository clientele relationship.
- > Onboard new corporate customers with potential business opportunities and achieve assigned business targets.
- > Generate new business while cross selling different products of the bank.
- > Plan and ensure mobilization of low cost fund by offering innovative solution.
- > Assist to the digitization process of the corporate banking solutions.
- > Follow market changes to identify new opportunities.
- > Drive different sales promotions and campaigns.
- > Efficient management of allocated portfolios, customer feedbacks and complaints.
- > Ensure AML compliance and other regulatory policies and requirements.
- > Maintain SLA time with both internal and external customers.
- > Ad-hoc responsibilities assigned by the Line Manager.
- > Ensure service excellence.

Associate Relationship Manager (ARM) to Unit Head

Grade: SO to VP
Trade Sales, Transaction Banking, Corporate Banking.

Prime Responsibilities

- > Manage and utilization of the limits sanctioned on trade transactions to corporate customers.
- > Identify and utilize new opportunities to grow trade business for existing and new customers as well as generate new business while cross selling different products.
- > Ensure new trade business growth and client service solutions to build long term relationship.
- > Collaborate with corporate clients to render best possible services related to trade.
- > Play advisory role to make hybrid/complete trade solutions for customers.
- > Increase revenue from existing client base.
- > Drive different sales promotions and campaigns.
- > Efficient management of allotted portfolios, customer feedbacks and complaints.
- > Ensure credit risk, AML compliance and other regulatory policies and requirements.
- > Maintain SLA time with both internal and external customers.
- > Ad-hoc responsibilities assigned by the Line Manager.
- > Ensure service excellence.

Qualification & Other Competencies

- > Minimum graduate from relevant background.
- > Good understanding of cash management products and solutions available in Bangladesh market.
- > Ability to understand customer requirements and offer for solutions accordingly.
- > Work experience in permanent position in respective department i.e. cash management/ trade sales/ trade finance/corporate banking in reputed banks or financial institutions.
 - RO to RM position (Officer to SPO): 3-5 years
 - SRM position (AVP to SAVP): 8-12 years
 - Unit Head position (AVP to VP): 8-12 years
- > Strong interpersonal and communication skills with effective business acumen.
- > Adequate computer literacy to work on online software modules and MS Office packages.
- > Geographic mobility and flexibility will be preferred.
- > Self-motivated with good business network (especially on Govt. sector/ MNC/ insurance & other private sectors).

Job Location

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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

The poor need better budget support

Govt must ensure the most vulnerable get the assistance they need

It's disheartening to know that the government's allocation for social safety net programmes in the upcoming budget may see only a marginal increase amid a raging inflation. According to a draft plan of the finance ministry, there may be an allocation of about Tk 1.2 lakh crore for social safety net. This is slightly higher than the existing budget's Tk 1.13 lakh crore allocation. However, in terms of the percentage of total budget and the percentage of GDP, it actually marks a decline. This means that even though the cost of living has skyrocketed, there will be no additional support for the poor to weather the storm.

The government feels that the allocation is enough, and the apparent decline in poverty – as claimed by Planning Minister MA Mannan in April – could be used to justify it. This is only half the truth, however. Despite doubts over the veracity of any data from the state-controlled BBS, the real concern is less about the precise number of the poor, and more about the changing reality of poverty, the quality of the support given, and whether it is sufficient. There is no doubt that the exorbitant prices of essentials have had a disproportionate impact on the poor, including the "new poor" – who now form the majority of poor people in Dhaka – whose plight still remains unrecognised. The gap between their income and expenses is getting wider, and a business-as-usual approach to address this will only hurt more.

Questions can also be raised about the use of the social safety allocation. How judicious is it, for example, that a large chunk of it is repurposed to provide pension for retired government employees? Many of the poor are already being deprived due to the questionable method of selecting social safety net beneficiaries, which has left it vulnerable to exploitation. As per a 2021 World Bank report, eligibility criteria were not met by 26.6 percent of the beneficiaries of allowance for the elderly and 38.4 percent of those in employment generation programmes. If these issues are not addressed, the social safety project will fail to deliver expected results.

Addressing the inflation's devastating impact on the poor needs a holistic approach. We urge the government to take measures to stabilise prices, increase its social safety allocation, and ensure its maximum utilisation so that the poor receive the assistance they need.

Not a place for corruption

Investigate the allegations raised against BSMMU VC

It is unfortunate that BSMMU, the highest postgraduate medical institution in Bangladesh, has been suffering from various irregularities, particularly regarding recruitment. According to a recent report by Prothom Alo, at least 11 relatives of Vice-Chancellor Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed secured jobs in the university over the last decade. Seven of them were recruited after he was appointed as VC in March 2021, two when he served as pro-VC, and the rest when he was president of the BSMMU branch of the pro-Awami League doctors' association Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad. Among those recruited were his sons, his wife's nephew, etc.

These recruitments clearly fly in the face of meritocracy, and by allowing them the VC has enabled an environment of nepotism and corruption that may not only affect the quality of education in BSMMU or the medical services it provides to patients, but also harm its reputation. While the VC has claimed that the recruitments were made considering the merit of those involved, these were, according to insiders, actually in breach of rules as all his relatives got jobs without sitting for any exam.

Reportedly, during the tenure of this VC, a total of 1,857 people have been appointed in various posts including professor, associate professor, assistant professor, medical officer, accounts officer, administrative officer, nurse, ward boy, nanny, driver, sweeper, etc. However, only less than 500 of these appointments were made following proper procedure – through advertisements in newspapers and recruitment tests. More than 1,300 people got jobs as temporary staff, and they will be gradually made permanent, according to insiders who believe this is nothing but an avenue for corruption. Many of them have also alleged that each temporary recruitment has been made in exchange for money.

These are all serious allegations and particularly disturbing because these involve the highest authority of a university. We demand an immediate, fair investigation into the allegations and hope that proper measures will be taken if those are found to be true. Universities that create future leaders should never be a place harbouring corruption and nepotism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Even on Metro Rail, we don't follow rules

I have used the Metro Rail service quite a few times this year, and have been pleasantly surprised by its timeliness and the overall helpful nature of those working at the stations.

However, even to this new facility, some passengers seem to be carrying over negative public transport habits that seem to be ingrained in our culture. The first car of each train is reserved for female passengers only. However, some men often knowingly use these cars, even when there is space for them in other cars. When notified of the error, most turn a deaf ear.

The Metro Rail is a modern and efficient transport service, quite unlike the unfit and deadly buses that roam our roads. So why are we treating (or mistreating) the two services the same? Can women not hope for Metro Rail to be a safer, more respectful mode of transport? I hope the authorities will take notice and nip this regrettable practice of some male passengers in the bud.

Sabina Halim, Dhaka

DRAFT REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT 2023

Setting rules of the game without parties' consent may prove unwise



Kamal Ahmed is an independent journalist. His Twitter handle is @ahmedkal

KAMAL AHMED

When loan defaulting has become the most preferred option to get rich quicker for habitual defaulters, it seems they are so blessed that they can now contest the upcoming parliamentary election by rescheduling their loans or bills just a day prior to collecting nomination papers. The cabinet last week gave the final nod to the draft Representation of the People (amendment) Act (RPA) 2023 that will allow candidates to reschedule loans or bills on the day before collecting nomination papers, instead of the current rule of rescheduling them seven days prior to nomination paper collection.

There's little doubt about the magnitude and seriousness of the crisis that the accumulation of defaulted loans have caused in the country's banking sector. According to Prothom Alo (based on Bangladesh Bank data), whereas in 1990 the amount of defaulted loans was Tk 46.46 billion, in 2022 the amount reached Tk 1.3 trillion. The most loans have been defaulted in the past 14 years, when the dominance of businesspeople in parliament and in the government rose significantly. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), as part of its suggested reform plan, has set a deadline of September 2023 to implement changes in the Bank Company Act in order to be eligible for the next tranche of loan.

The government has also finalised the proposed draft amendment of the act which is now expected to be placed before parliament soon. The draft Bank Company (Amendment) Act, approved by the cabinet on March 28, 2023, (if and when it becomes law) will bar willful defaulters from travelling abroad, registering houses, vehicles and companies, as well as from being in committees of political parties.

It is, therefore, quite intriguing how the RPA amendment can be so accommodating to defaulters who are desperate to gain political power.

Doing business is not a reason for automatic disqualification from taking part in politics or in elections. But if politics becomes a tool for taking unfair advantages of power and



ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLO CHAKROBORTY

masking business failures, there's every reason to put in place preventative actions to desist such unethical practices. Questions about this group's ability to serve the nation becomes more important given that they are incapable of running their business projects efficiently and are defaulting in repaying debts and bills.

A good reminder about some of these businesspeople-turned politicians has perhaps come from an unexpected source. The State Minister for Industries, Kamal Ahmed Majumder, said, "I have been in politics for 50 years. Forty years ago, those who I used to see walking around the streets with briefcases, without money, are now the owner-managers of banks." Speaking at a seminar on the SME sector in Dhaka on May 11, he said that these people have become directors of private banks by taking money from government banks. The minister stressed that the names of

with the RPA amendment. If the draft amendment – as cleared by the cabinet – gets parliament's approval, the Election Commission (EC) will no longer be able to cancel an election in an entire constituency (as it had done in Gaibandha in October 2020). Instead, it will be allowed to postpone or cancel elections at one or more polling centres if it finds irregularities.

Election Commissioner Rashida Sultana tried her best to assure us that the amendment would still allow the EC to cancel or postpone elections, but had to concede that what the Commission sought was the authority to annul the result after it is announced by the returning officer. Empowering the EC to cancel voting for an entire constituency, even after results are announced, would have further ensured a fair election, EC Rashida Sultana added.

Despite any reservations that one may have against the current

certifications.

The Representation of People Act is the most important part of an election as the rules set by this act require an agreement between all major contending parties. We all remember how a consensus reached by the three alliances after the fall of military dictator General Ershad had helped draw up the rules for the 1991 election. Since then, the RPA (or its previous model, known as the RPO) has been updated quite a few times, as per consensus between all major parties until the abolition of the caretaker government system. At present, unless such an agreement is reached between the major players in the political powers game – which is clearly absent as reflected in the reactions of the opposition – these amendments, whether empowering the EC more or curtailing it, would make very little difference in terms of ensuring a credible and fair election.

Imran Khan's moment of truth



Zahid Hussain is an author and journalist. His Twitter handle is @zidhussain

ZAHID HUSSAIN

What is happening now is not unfamiliar to Pakistan's treacherous power politics. The signs of rupture are evident in its ranks as the PTI faces a massive crackdown.

Several prominent members – the latest among them Shireen Mazari and Fayyaz Chohan – have left the party and many others are lining up to exit. Former prime minister Imran Khan is paying the cost of taking on his powerful erstwhile patrons.

A protégé-turned-rebel has to be culled. The May 9 mayhem provided the establishment a justification to strike back with a severity not witnessed in recent times.

Several thousand PTI supporters have been detained in the clampdown. Almost the entire senior leadership has been incarcerated; some of them might be tried by military courts.

Imran Khan's bail may have been extended again, thanks to the courts, but the noose is tightening around him. The maverick leader is facing the most serious test of his chequered political career.

Despite the defections, his popular base seems to have so far remained intact. But his political fortunes depend on how long – and if – the senior leadership can defy the establishment's pressure and stand by him in his hour of reckoning.

The events of recent weeks have changed the country's political landscape. It has brought the stand-off between the PTI and the security establishment to a head. It is an ironic reversal of the period when Khan was in

power.

Some three years ago, speaking at a dinner for the then ruling coalition lawmakers, he had arrogantly boasted "we are the only choice" for the establishment. But the game has changed as he finds himself pitted against the same institution. The May 9 incident seems to have closed all doors to reconciliation.

Perhaps Khan believed that a show of street power could force the establishment to step back. He has singled out the army chief for his attack. In a recent interview to a foreign TV channel, he accused him of "attempting to impede his path to reclaiming power." He seemed to have gotten carried away by the perception built by his supporters on social media of a division within the top brass.

But that brinkmanship has boomeranged. The widespread violence targeting army installations, particularly the vandalising of memorials to martyred soldiers, has provoked an intense reaction, especially in the battleground of Punjab.

Notwithstanding the heightened anti-establishment sentiments in the heartland whipped up by Khan's narrative, the May 9 violence has changed the situation. A massive media campaign launched by the PDM government highlighting the destruction perpetrated by its supporters has also put the PTI on the back foot.

It has allowed the security agencies to launch a vicious clampdown on PTI supporters not witnessed in recent

times. There have also been reports of brutal violations of human rights. Even those senior members who haven't left the party are being compelled to denounce the violence.

Imran Khan, too, after resisting for days, finally decried the attacks on the military installations. But it has not helped ease the stand-off. The establishment is not willing to forget what has happened and the army has termed the events of May 9 a "dark chapter" in the country's history.

The intensified confrontation between Khan and the military establishment has given the shaky ruling coalition some space. Its entire effort seems to be to get the PTI declared a terrorist group or at least get Imran Khan out of the electoral field. This so-called minus-one formula to keep political leaders out of the arena has never worked in the past and will not work now.

Indeed, Imran Khan too has hit a dead end with his confrontational politics. His shifting narrative has raised questions about his credibility. He is now contradicting his initial claims of an American conspiracy for regime change. After bashing America for months, he is now seeking the help of American lawmakers to put pressure on the Pakistani establishment to stop the crackdown on his party.

There is no mention of a US conspiracy in engineering his ouster anymore. Khan is doing exactly what he has been accusing his rival parties of doing: seeking foreign intervention. His turnaround may not change his hardcore support base but his false narrative of regime change conspiracy has hugely damaged the democratic process in the country.

The latest crackdown on his party has narrowed Khan's options. The exodus, first of the second- and third-tier, and with Dr Mazari's departure the top level, has had a demoralising effect on party ranks.

The party may not disintegrate but the cracks can widen further as the stand-off with the establishment continues. With its main support base among the middle classes, the party cannot withstand this kind of repression.

What has worsened its plight is that the party has isolated itself from other political forces, refusing to talk to them. Perhaps most damaging for the party has been Khan's decision to pull out of the National Assembly and prematurely dissolve the Punjab and KP assemblies.

Earlier, Imran Khan had unsuccessfully tried to bring down the PDM government through street power. Instead of fighting his battle in parliament, he chose to take to the streets.

Khan tried to demolish the entire edifice thus weakening the democratic process and consequently strengthening the establishment. In his arrogance, he failed to understand that he could only return to power through a democratic process.

He may have succeeded in mobilising mass support largely because of his false narrative of regime change and the disenchantment of the public with the PDM government's flawed policies. But he failed to build a strong political structure on a solid programme.

He took on, simultaneously, rival political forces and the establishment, which has cost him dearly. And as he took on the establishment he also looked to it for support. Populism has its limitations, which Khan has never understood.

The way the party has crumbled in the face of state repression is unprecedented. It is the former prime minister's moment of truth. It remains to be seen if he can learn from his mistakes.

This article was first published in Dawn, an ANN partner of The Daily Star, on May 24, 2023.



VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

Rise of inequality, drumbeat of development



Kallol Mustafa is an engineer and writer who focuses on power, energy, environment and development economics.

KALLOL MUSTAFA

Recently, a five-star hotel in the capital announced the sale of jilapi wrapped in 24-carat edible gold. Priced at Tk 20,000 per kg, those jilapis were sold out so quickly that the hotel's stock of imported edible gold ran out within six days and it had to stop taking orders. Ironically, in March 2023, a survey by Sanem revealed that the majority of the people in the country are forced to reduce their food intake after massive food price hikes. According to the survey, in February, 96.4 percent of households had reduced their meat intake compared to six months back, followed by the intake of fish (88.2 percent), oil (81.4 percent), eggs (77.1 percent), and rice (37.1 percent). Moreover, the survey found that poor households are switching to low-quality food.

In the midst of an economic crisis, when the queues for cheaper rice, lentils, oil, and sugar at open market sales and the Trading Corporation Bangladesh's mobile trucks keep getting longer, and when low-income people, being unable to buy pricey whole chickens are forced to buy chicken livers, legs, necks, and broken eggs, the sale of luxury cars or flats is increasing in the country. As the prices of all kinds of construction materials have increased due to the Russia-Ukraine war, the demand for low-cost flats in the capital has decreased. But the sale of luxury flats, costing crores, has not decreased in areas like Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Dhanmondi, and Uttara. And, according to Prothom Alo, while two decades ago 50 to 60 European branded cars were imported annually, now an average, more than 500 such cars are imported annually. Till March 2023, the BRTA registered 84,765 SUVs, of which 67 percent were registered after 2011. Even during the acute dollar crisis, at least 10,240 SUVs were registered in 2022 alone.

This issue of increasing economic disparity in the country has also come up in the BBS' (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics) Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022. The Gini coefficient related to income rose to 0.499 in 2022, up from 0.482 in 2016 and 0.458 in 2010. Generally, a country is considered to have high income inequality if the Gini coefficient is 0.500.

According to the Global Wealth Databook 2022 prepared by Credit Suisse, 21 individuals of Bangladesh have assets worth more than \$500 million. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of people possessing more than \$1 million of wealth in the country increased by 43 percent in 2021.

This trend of economic development for a few, while millions are deprived, is also evident in Bangladesh Bank data. Amid the economic crisis and rampant inflation, while most people are struggling to meet their daily expenses, the number of bank accounts with more than Tk 1 crore is increasing, alongside their deposits. According to a report by the *Dhaka Tribune*, the number of bank accounts with Tk 1 crore or more of

deposits increased by 7,970 in just one year (between December 2021 to December 2022). This rise more than doubled (16,056) in just two years and more than tripled (26,107) in three years. As of December 2022, 42.63 percent of the total deposits in the banking sector are from those account holders alone.

Policymakers seem to want to portray this rise in inequality as a "normal" process of economic development. But the increase in inequality in Bangladesh is not natural or inevitable. It is happening because of a particular type of development model and political structure, which is characterised by regressive taxation, extremely low wages, and rampant corruption.

Industrialists and businessmen utilise various types of infrastructure and institutional facilities for conducting "business", including roads, transportation, power and energy, raw materials, skilled human

According to Prothom Alo, while two decades ago 50 to 60 European branded cars were imported annually, now an average, more than 500 such cars are imported annually. Till March 2023, the BRTA registered 84,765 SUVs, of which 67 percent were registered after 2011. Even during the acute dollar crisis, at least 10,240 SUVs were registered in 2022 alone.

resources, medical facilities, and law enforcement. The money required for these comes from the direct and indirect taxes paid by the public. And the duty of the businessmen is to pay living wages to the workers and taxes to the government so that the tax money can be spent on various types of infrastructure development and for the provision of public services. This is how people's money can be recycled to be used for the benefit of the whole population.

But if businesses and corporations can get away with not paying adequate taxes and decent wages, the majority of people are deprived and their share of national income decreases compared to that of the rich. This is exactly what is happening in Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, businessmen and industrialists make use of infrastructure without paying taxes proportionately. Industrialists and businessmen also do not pay decent wages and get away with not spending enough on workplace safety. Some enjoy various opportunities of looting money

from banks and laundering it abroad in the name of import and export. This is how inequality increases as the size of the country's economy increases.

Most of the government's revenue comes from indirect taxes. Instead of properly collecting taxes from the rich on their income and profits, the government is focusing on collecting indirect taxes like VAT and duties from the poor-lower-middle-class majority. Bangladesh's current tax-to-GDP ratio stands at 7.9 percent, which is way below the ideal benchmark of 15 percent. In 2022, of the government's tax revenue, 65 to 67 percent came from indirect taxes, while the remaining portion came from direct or income taxes. According to the Center for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh is losing potential taxes amounting to as low as Tk 41,800 crore to as high as Tk 2,23,000 crore every year because of tax evasion.

Whenever people purchase something, they pay indirect taxes. Although importers pay duties for their imports, they actually collect that amount from the buyer when selling the goods later on. Similarly, the VAT collected by the government at every stage of production, marketing, and sales ultimately has to be paid by the consumer. So, when buying the same amount of oil or sugar, the rich and the poor pay the same amount of indirect taxes. And this is the ultimate form of inequality, as poorer sections of society spend a larger share of their income on indirect taxes. This is how most of the tax revenue collected from common people is spent to increase the wealth of the rich, thereby exacerbating inequality.

The wages of workers are not enough for them to live a decent life. According to a study by the CPD, as of December 2022, a family of four living in the centre of Dhaka needed Tk 23,676 just for food. And if this family lives on a "compromised diet", with no fish, mutton, beef, or chicken, their average monthly cost of food would be Tk 9,557. The CPD compared this minimum food cost with the minimum wages of workers in 21 industrial and service sectors and found that, in 15 sectors, the minimum wage is not enough even when a family's diet is compromised. Besides, an ILO report shows that Bangladesh is the only country in the Asia and Pacific region where the minimum wage is below the international poverty line. Moreover, the actual minimum wage of workers in Bangladesh has decreased at the highest rate among the countries in the region, because wages did not increase proportionately with inflation between 2010 to 2019. If workers are forced to adjust to such abnormally low wages, it is natural that the wealth of businessmen will increase disproportionately.

Moreover, due to the systemic nature of corruption and lack of accountability, more development projects means more corruption and more cost increase. Thousands of crores of taka are being looted from banks in the name of loans, all under the political and institutional patronage.

To be clear, rising economic inequality in Bangladesh is not an inevitable phenomenon. The existing political economic structure is closely related to the existing inequality. And this cannot be rectified until the political economic structure, in which systemic transfer of wealth from the masses to a few wealthy people is considered "normal", is rejected.

REMINISCING ABOUT PROF NURUL ISLAM

A gale-force intellect and a caring man



Dr Ahmad Ahsan is director at the Policy Research Institute, a former World Bank economist, and a faculty member at the Economics department of Dhaka University. Views expressed here are his own.

AHMAD AHSAN

"You have to hold on to your hat to discuss issues with Prof Nurul Islam." That is how I had phrased my views on Prof Islam's intellect in 2021 when, as part of Dhaka University's centennial celebrations, I joined a discussion panel about memories of DU with Prof Nurul Islam, along with his two distinguished students Dr Farahuddin Ahmed and Manzur-e-Elahi. The reverence and affection of his two students for their former teacher shone through their discussion. It was evident that Prof Islam had been a towering and formative presence in their DU days.

When my turn to speak came, I, too, thought it appropriate to make some comments about Prof Islam before turning to my memories of Dhaka University. Although I had not known Prof Islam as a teacher, I had known him long before I met him, through his reputation and books. And most of all, I knew him as a neighbour for over two decades, with whom I had many one-on-one intense discussions, mostly about Bangladesh, economics, and development.

During our discussions, I had to hold on to my hat because Prof Islam's intellect came through with gale force. That gale blew questions, facts, stories, deep knowledge of theory, data, history, and scientific scepticism, challenging you. And he expected his discussant to respond and challenge him, too. It is not that he never agreed with what you said. In fact, he agreed without reluctance or prejudice, but not before questioning and being convinced by his discussants' arguments, facts, and sources. These discussions were sometimes followed by phone conversations or emails carrying on the argument, asking for pertinent documents, and even a further written debate.

My last discussion with him was on April 16, lasting 90 minutes longer than our regular hour. Unnoticed, the time passed quickly. I got up to leave, not wishing to fatigue him. It was only later I reflected that I had forgotten that he was 94 years old during most of our discussion. But sure enough, an email came from him the next day asking for some of the documents we had discussed the previous day.

What is the source of Prof Islam's eminence? This article is not the place to discuss in any depth the broad range of his intellect: one of a pioneering quantitative development economist who, ahead of his time, also rendered important institutions and processes in his work that ranged from international trade, agriculture, rural development, to governance. Nor is this the place to discuss the long arc of his distinguished career, spanning diverse institutions, occupations, continents, and decades before retiring as an emeritus fellow of the globally leading International Food Policy Research Institute. A man of limitless curiosity, he was also greatly interested in history and politics.

Instead, let me answer this question through a telling comment on one of Prof Islam's books, *Foreign Trade and Economic Controls in Development: The Case of United Pakistan*. The reviewer, Paul Streeten,

a pioneering development economist himself, writes: "There are books by academic economists that present models that are elegant and shapely, but deficient in vital organs... there are memoirs of men of action, full of detail, but sometimes obscuring the wood for the trees... Nurul Islam, united Pakistan's greatest economist, combines in this volume relevance and elegance, skeleton and flesh and blood. He participated in and observed at close range the story he tells, but he maintains a cool detachment". Another reviewer of this book, S Guisinger, writing in the prestigious *The Economic Journal*, had this to say: "Reading Islam's book should be one of the conditions attached to IMF loans to those

were grilled to the finest detail about what we had observed and what we concluded.

In the first part of his professional life, Prof Islam made two pivotal career choices to serve Bangladesh. Early in his life, he refused the offer of an IMF economist's job, a position of great prospect and generous financial reward. Later, in the early 1970s, he turned down the offer to become director of the research department of the World Bank, a prestigious and impactful position.

Instead, in the first case, he returned to then-Pakistan to build up the highly respected Dhaka University Economics department, where he trained more than a generation of the finest economists, civil servants, politicians, journalists, and businesspeople. After that, he created one of the leading development research centres in the PIDE and one of the top development research journals in the world. He contributed to the planning processes in Pakistan. There, based on dispassionate, rigorous analysis and research, he fought passionately,



Nurul Islam (1929-2023).

PHOTO: COLLECTED

developing countries seeking relief from balance of payments pressures."

Prof Islam was not only a brilliant intellect, but he was also a caring man. Being friends with his daughter from the mid-1980s, when we were PhD students, I know how in his family life, he was much more than a patriarch; he was a friend.

A very social man, Prof Islam enjoyed company and took an interest in various aspects of others' lives. One example of this was when, in a private conversation, he warned me against playing golf in the winter, saying that it put pressure on the heart. Needless to say, I was touched. He and Mrs Islam hosted splendid parties at their house, where the food was delicious and the conversation sparkling. He was a regular participant of the Washington DC Saturday breakfast adda that was held over Zoom due to Covid. The last one he attended was on May 6, three days before he passed away.

He cared deeply about his multitude of students and the younger economists he came to know later. He was generous with his attention and kind and sincere with his encouragement of their work. He called them regularly and maintained a voluminous correspondence with many till his last days. I came to appreciate long ago that he had an in-depth flow of news about Bangladesh from first-hand sources.

After his family, he cared most deeply for Bangladesh. Although he was away during the second part of his professional life, Bangladesh was always in his heart and mind. Any of us who returned from Bangladesh

once face-to-face with General Ayub Khan, for the rights of a deprived Eastern wing of Bangladesh.

Ultimately, he became persuaded of the need for political power to obtain the due rights of Bangladeshis. At Bangabandhu's call in 1969, Prof Nurul Islam became one of his closest associates in helping to present the Six-Point Programme as a political platform and advising on the country's running during the non-cooperation movement in March 1971. During the Liberation War, he crossed the border to become a freedom fighter, and from his base at Yale University, he joined other Bangladeshi economists to lobby for independence. After the war, turning down the prestigious World Bank job offer, he returned home to work tirelessly to set the economic foundations of a newly independent Bangladesh. A few years later, having set up the Planning Commission and completing the First Five Year Plan, he left Bangladesh pleading fatigue.

Those of us who knew him knew that, while he had left Bangladesh, Bangladesh never left him. Prof Islam's one concern these past years was the lack of good intellectual and critical discussion in Bangladesh about policy matters. He appreciated it when I pointed out the important work some of us economists had done to this end. Towards the end, I believe, he also became concerned that the environment was not conducive to such critical discussions, to the country's detriment.

Read the full version of this tribute on our website.

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DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

A book of longing and belonging

'The Earthspinner' by Anuradha Roy (Hachette India, 2021)

NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

I found myself holding Anuradha Roy's *The Earthspinner* when I returned to fiction after a few months' hiatus. It took me a while to get into the story and understand what it was all about.

The journey was perplexing. Was it a love story? Or one of unrequited love? Does it aim to provide social commentary? The answer, I found soon enough, was yes and no. It was all those things, and probably more.

"Home was my father asking us to be quiet because he wanted to listen to the cricket scores. It was the usual Sunday sound of the newsreader's posh voice, the dissonant trumpets of a wedding band, my mother at her typewriter in the bedroom, the clacking of a shower of pebbles, her fingers moved so fast. A time when Tia and I were still close, when any place was home if the two of us were together with the reassuring voices of our parents who quarrelled out of old love."

With this vivid monologue, the narrator Sara's story starts to feel more like an attempt to retrace her home, or the idea of it. An idea, which fades a little every day, turning into letters from her mother and sister during her days abroad for studies, filled with incoherent updates of their lives, or long distance phone calls where both parties find it increasingly difficult to convey any meaningful message. As Sara's journey of reclaiming her home through her memories begins, the story unfolds and introduces us to Elango, the potter and her mentor, and Zohra, a young Muslim woman and librarian. Soon, we embark on the story of the duo's 'forbidden' love—in a land where religion can be used and abused for any and

every purpose, a subcontinent where religion has been used as means to a political end again and again in the form of bloodshed, lost homes and lost lives, both before and after the 1947 Partition.

Elango conceives his masterpiece, a horse sculpture, in his dreams at a time when he falls in love with Zohra. The dream comes alive with Anuradha Roy's beautiful imagery and subtle mythical undertones of the choice of the animal. In Hindu mythology, the figure of the flaming, underwater horse has been repeatedly used to represent balance and harmony—a state in which both the elements of fire and water can coexist. In the *Mahabharata*, the mythical horse Uchchaihshrava rose from the churning of the milk ocean, along with other treasures like Lakshmi, the goddess of fortune. It is only fitting that Elango's dream horse should represent his family's hopes for a fortune earned through his pottery, as well as his personal hopes for the power of his love outweighing religious differences. Elango dedicates his work to Zohra and gets her grandfather, Osman, a blind calligrapher, to engrave Urdu poetry on it, through which their two faiths would mesh into a beautiful and ever-lasting coexistence.

However, on the day of the grand revelation, the crowd spots the engravings on the clay horse and starts a riot, terming the Arabic script as "the language of mullahs".

What caught my attention is the subtlety with which Roy describes communal hatred and mob violence, keeping the tone from becoming nonchalant—the reason it does not turn into mere social commentary. The riot is narrated by Sara, a teenage girl, who in her disbelief at the sudden turn of events is only able to narrate bits and pieces of the horror

she felt. But she does so with incomprehensible clarity and explains the gravity of the turmoil. Against this background, Anuradha Roy's prose evokes a sensory experience, where one can not only see the events unfold but also feel, smell, and touch them.

Forbidden love is a recurring theme that Sara has to witness again and again—through her complicated infatuation with Elango at a young age, through her friend Karin who finds herself in love with a woman. It all comes full circle. All the characters are reunited, not in a literal sense, but by common delicate threads that connect them—from the woman on the highway who dedicates herself to a lifelong quest to find her lost dog, to the dog itself finding its way to Elango and then to Sara's family.

And thus, when I finally finish reading the book, jumping from one emotion to another, the abrupt end catches me off guard. I realise what the experience was all about.

"If sea creatures lived on dry land as fossils, I think now, my father too has merely gone into another element, somewhere I will find him again in another form." I come back to this line by Sara and conclude that the book has been a story of longing all along. The longing of the woman on the highway for her lost life and her lost dog, Sara's longing for her lost father, her lost love and, to some extent, her lost home.

Some of it I have already felt enough to know what it means, some I'm about to. That's how *The Earthspinner* stays with me, as a muse and representation of my own longing, given life through Anuradha Roy's magic of words.

Nahaly Nafisa Khan is a writer and journalist. She is working as a sub-editor at *The Daily Star's* City Desk.

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Rocky ride along the evolutionary scale

'Women, Gender and Development: Contemporary Issues' by Nazmunnessa Mahtab (AH Development Publishing House, 2015)

GM SHAHIDUL ALAM

Close to a decade has passed since Nazmunnessa Mahtab has published *Women, Gender and Development: Contemporary Issues*, a fairly all-encompassing book on women and gender issues. At the outset of the book, in her Preface, the author explains her rationale for composing it: "This book is the culmination of a series of lectures I have been offering to the students of different departments of the University of Dhaka who have courses on women, gender and development issues." That will partly explain the occasional pedantic bent of the book (by no means a demerit) as well as its all-encompassing nature in dealing with a very crucial topic in human and societal evolution: women and gender issues.

Nazmunnessa Mahtab is a Professor in Dhaka University's Department of Women and Gender Studies, of which, incidentally, she is one of the founding members, after having completed a lengthy stint as a teacher in that University's Department of Public Administration. The book under review provides a clear pointer to her love for women and gender studies, and in her quest to find answers to the questions that have arisen regarding the evolution of the concept that now understandably grabs the attention of development practitioners as well as curious laypersons on the issue.

Mahtab introduces at the beginning of her book the concept of feminism, which might as well arouse debate among others not in tune with her, and asserts that "the driving force behind women's studies is *Feminism*" (italics author's). Echoing Kumari Jayawardena, Mahtab makes the following point that evokes conceptual evolution: "In the context of South Asian countries like Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka the words 'feminism' and 'feminist' have become emotive words that evoke hostile reactions."

The author then brings her readers to the contemporary world when she asserts that "the meaning of the word has been expanded to mean an awareness of women's oppression and exploitation within the family, at work and in the society, and conscious action by women and men to change the situation." *Touche!* Mahtab quite deftly navigates through some expected thorny issues

relating to a vital subject in global developmental issues. What could be a truism is the author's assertion that "...the final argument is that the legitimacy and autonomy of Women and Gender Studies, as a field of intellectual activity in its own right, must be asserted and maintained in the context of feminist perspective" And, critically, "It is

crucial to maintain the connection between women's studies and the real world, especially in terms of the creation of knowledge and ways of thinking and doing research that will positively affect policy decisions."

Mahtab focuses on a different approach for studying women: The Evolutionary Approach, which anchors on the issue that men's domination of women everywhere was based on male control of strategic resources; The Structural Approach, The Productive Approach, The Traditional, Cultural, and Religious Approach. She takes up quite substantially on the status of women in the Third World.

Mahtab provides her own answer to the cultural theme when she avers: "The virtual exclusion of women, their lives, works and struggles could be understood at the theoretical level from a survey and critique of the dominant perspectives in development models/theory of the past." She is rather skeptical that, despite positive effects, or because of hindrances, women continue to face formidable hurdles towards gender equality: "Women are pitted against two enemies—First is Poverty which tugs them down on to the lowest rungs in their societies. Second is Patriarchy—which sabotages their attempts to climb higher" (from a study based on just seven single mothers in seven countries—Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Scotland and Uganda—and, hence, subject to limited sample size).

Different currents in feminism are dismissed by her and her point that emerges is that, "Feminism" is a movement, a set of beliefs, that problematize gender inequality. Feminists believe that women have been subordinated by men's greater power, variously expressed in different arenas. They value women's lives and concerns, and work to improve women's status. There are many feminisms with different emphasis and aims." She goes on to discuss at some modest length the different currents in feminism: Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism, Marxist Feminism, and Eco-Feminism.

Mahtab advances two important conditions for the advancement of women and promotion of gender equality. One is political commitment at the highest level. The other is to encourage and strengthen partnerships and cooperation between the Government and NGOs, women's organizations, civil society to form a common agenda and a common platform in the implementation of commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on women...."

Nazmunnessa Mahtab has written a quite all-encompassing book on women and gender issues.

GM Shahidul Alam is a thespian and educator.



DESIGN: SARAH ANJUM BARI

INTERVIEW

On weaving family, culture and place into a compelling story

USRAAT FAHMIDAH

Towards the end of 2022, I came across a book called *The Halfways* (HQ, 2022), which takes place across multiple cities: London, Wales, New York, and Bangladesh, and focuses on the Bangladeshi immigrant experience.

Born in Shropshire to Sylheti parents, author Nilopar Uddin's father, like the fictional family in her novel, owned and operated an Indian restaurant in Wales. By profession, Nilopar works as a financial services lawyer. But she mentions during our first meeting that she has always loved writing. I was deeply moved by Nilopar's writing style, which focuses on the immigrant experience through both physical and metaphysical avenues. The novel's prose is truly remarkable.

I caught up with Nilopar via Zoom, which was followed by an email conversation in late April.

What inspired you to write this particular book that spans across all these places?

As microcosms of society, family dramas are a great platform from which to deep dive into personal relationships and to navigate the gulfs between multiple generations, to explore the impacts of

disparities in education and earnings and the differences in values and faith.

The Halfways grew out of an assignment that was set a few months into my MA in Creative Writing at London's City University. We were asked to write about a character waking up in strange circumstances, and I wrote of a woman who wakes up next to a young child into a world vastly different to the one she had woken up to before. I hung the scaffolding of my ambitions to write a sprawling family saga around this intimate scene of two people grappling with grief, and *The Halfways* unfolded around it—messily at first, and then with more conviction, revealing an abundance of characters and drama that shaped the Islam family's world.

What literary influences have shaped your writing?

Being a daughter of first-generation immigrants from Bangladesh, it

felt important to me to foster an understanding of the Sylheti Bangladeshi community in Britain, their food, their language and their customs. I loved finding a character like me between the pages of a book when I discovered Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*. Her stories about second generation Bengalis living in the West filled me with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and relief.

Over the coming years, I discovered Zadie Smith, Monica Ali, Yaa Gyasi, Mohsin Hamid, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Jeffrey Eugenides and so many more writers from whom I learnt how the universal themes in literature (love, courage, freedom, family, faith, justice, coming of age) can be beautifully enriched by the specificities of ethnicity and culture.

What themes or messages did you hope to convey through your debut novel,



COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA, PHOTO: HQ

and how did you go about exploring them in the story?

The novel is named after an important theme in the book: the Islam family members reside halfway between places—some feel stuck halfway between two cultures, others feel trapped between conflicting expectations and values. I wanted to delve into these experiences which are universal issues facing other diasporas around the world.

I also wanted to explore racism—both external and internalised. Nasrin grapples with everyday racism from her neighbour whilst also struggling to always see herself through the brown lens with which she thinks her husband and the world perceive her. Sabrina has internalised racism, and she loathes in herself and in others behaviours which might mark them out as "others" in a Westernised world.

Read the full interview on The Daily Star website and on Star Books & Literature's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

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

Dhoni keeps fans guessing

AGENCIES

India legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni is looking to win the Indian Premier League (IPL) with Chennai Super Kings for the fifth time.

On Tuesday, skipper Dhoni's tactical nous – at times controversial – again sealed the deal as CSK overcame the fancied Gujarat Titans by 15 runs to book a slot in Sunday's final at the world's biggest stadium in Ahmedabad.

With his finishing skills on the wane, a dodgy knee and his place in the batting order increasingly hard to justify, Dhoni has suggested on several occasions his retirement is imminent.

However, the 41-year-old again kept fans guessing, saying on Tuesday he would take until the auctions for the 2024 IPL in December to make his final decision.

"I will always be there for CSK whether in playing form or sitting somewhere," he said.

"I don't really know. But frankly, it takes a heavy toll."



'A' team falter on Day 2

STAR SPORTS DESK

West Indies A took their lead to 31 runs against their Bangladesh counterparts at the second day's close of play in the second four-day match in Sylhet yesterday.

The visitors bundled out Bangladesh A for 237 before ending the day at 268 for six, courtesy of fifties from Kirk McKenzie and Keacy Carty. McKenzie missed out on a century when he was dismissed for 91 by Saif Hassan, while Carty had to taste the misfortune of a run out at 68.

Earlier, Bangladesh A, who had lost half their side for 175 at stumps on opening day, managed to add 62 runs to their overnight total, courtesy of a 73-run knock from Shahadat Hossain Dipu.

Pacer Akeem Jordan picked five wickets, while seamer Ander Phillip and off-spinner Sinclair scalped two apiece for the Joshua de Silva-led side.

Jabeur carrying 'entire continent's dream'

AGENCIES

Tunisia's Ons Jabeur is aiming to go all the way in the upcoming French Open and become the first Arab and African woman to win a major tournament. French Open, the year's second grand slam, saw its qualifying round commence on May 22. The main draw is scheduled to run from May 28-June 11.

Jabeur said her "life changed beyond the tennis court, in Tunisia" as she cemented final berths in the latest Wimbledon and US Open.

"I try to be an example that, not just in tennis but in any walk of life, the girls can succeed, they just have to believe," Jabeur told Eurosport yesterday.

The 28-year-old suffered injuries this year but recovered some momentum with a WTA title (Charleston) in April.

"Obviously, the pressure is there but I will use that pressure to make sure I'm ready to realise my dream, to realise the dream of an entire people, an entire continent in fact."



Pipe dream or a true disruptor?

SAMAMA RAHMAN

Cristiano Ronaldo's comments on Tuesday that the Saudi Pro League could in time become one of the top five leagues in the world drew plenty of ridicule, but is it so unfathomable that the Middle East could become a centre of world football?

Ronaldo, who joined Al-Nassr in January, said: "The Saudi league is getting better and the next year will be even better. Step-by-step I think this league will be among the top five leagues in the world but they need time, players and infrastructure. But I believe that this country has amazing potential, they have amazing people and the league will be great in my opinion," he added.

Some believe Ronaldo may have been waxing lyrical simply for the sake of his mammoth contract, estimated to be worth more than 200 million euros per year, but perhaps there is something that the globe-trotting superstar noticed which emboldened him to make such a big statement.

Chief among those reasons is the seemingly infinite supply of cash in the Kingdom, which means they can outmatch offers by magnitudes and attract the best talent in the world. The next phase of that chapter seems destined, with reports abounding that Al Hilal will secure the marquee signing of Lionel Messi for a contract that could reach €400 million.

It is a tactic that teams in England's



Premier League, bolstered by deals from the most lucrative broadcasting deal in football, have used for a long time. They have created a brand based on the melting pot of various ethnicities, styles of play and precocious talent.

As it stands now, reports estimate that the average Premier League footballer's annual salary is between €2.5-3 million, easily more than double that of competing leagues such as La Liga in Spain and the Italy's Serie A. Wages in the Premier League have risen to such an astronomic

rate that if the average annual salary in the United Kingdom had kept pace, it would have ballooned to £437,084.

However, casually dumping a hundred or so million into salaries in itself would not be enough, as evidenced by the rise and fall of the Chinese Super League. But with intervention from Saudi's sovereign wealth fund, a structure could take shape that could look to rock the traditional Euro-centric identity.

It is something that the Saudis have done recently in the world of golf with

MAZHAR UDDIN

The mantra for top cricketers in the world as they look to sustain success is a constant drive to develop new skills. There are innumerable instances of highly-talented players starting off their international career with a bang but failing to carry on for an extended period of time due to not improving their skills and becoming predictable. Modern technology has made things even harder, with opponents analysing even the slightest details and preparing accordingly.

But despite being in top form in recent times, all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz's urge to learn new tricks and add to his arsenal relays his hunger to become the best in the business. The official training camp ahead of Bangladesh's one-off Test against Afghanistan scheduled for next month is yet to begin, but Miraz and Mushfiqur Rahim started individual preparations at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur a few days ago.

Miraz, who has developed into a crucial member of the national team's spin department, was eager to learn the 'doosra', which spins in the opposite direction to an off-break, as he looks to add more variations.

Mushfiqur recommended seeking suggestions from his age-level teammate and former first-class cricketer, Rezaul



Islam Rajon.

Rajon, who played the ICC Under-19 World Cup in 2006 alongside Mushfiqur, Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, was regarded as one of the best off-spinners in the country, with his ability to deceive batters using the doosra especially catching the eye.

"I developed the doosra under my coach, Mohammad Yakub sir, in my early days. Later, there was a spin-bowling camp in Dhaka, where legendary Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq, who popularised the doosra, came for a few days. I adopted the skill from him. Not many were able to bowl the doosra during that time and my ability to bowl

the delivery was widely known in the cricketing fraternity," Rajon told The Daily Star.

However, Rajon could not make it to the national team set-up and quit professional cricket following his last Dhaka Premier League season for Abahani in 2013. He then decided to take up the role of a coach and help youngsters master the difficult art of spin bowling.

The likes of Shakib, Mahmudullah Riyad and many others have in the past called on Rajon and faced off against him in nets sessions as part of preparations to tackle off-spinners before international assignments.

Yesterday, a keen-to-learn Miraz was

working with Rajon at the outer nets of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

"Mushfiqur called me a few days ago and asked me to help him in training sessions. Miraz was with him when I showed up. Mushfiqur advised Miraz to speak to me since he wanted to work on the doosra. Miraz is a keen learner. He called me in the next day and asked me to help him with the doosra and I must say he seems eager to learn fast," he said.

Miraz burst onto the international scene with a bang, scalping 19 wickets in his first two Tests. But he has seen his fair share of ups and downs since.

There were instances when Miraz looked predictable, especially abroad, due to a lack of variations, but the 25-year-old continued working and has emerged as a vital member of the team across all formats.

"Miraz has some variations up his sleeve. He bowls one from side-on, which tends to move away from the right-hander. He also uses the crease pretty well and bowls the drifter accurately. We have just started on the doosra, but what I noticed is that he has really big fingers, which is an added advantage for spinners. We worked on the grip, sideways movement and planting the foot. He wanted to know whether he could bowl the doosra using his existing bowling action. I feel he can develop this art very quickly," Rajon said.

Durjoy laments subpar monsoon set-up

SPORTS REPORTER

Chairman of the High-Performance Committee Naimur Rahman Durjoy lamented how Bangladesh's cricketing infrastructure is still lacking in a few aspects, pointing out the issues it brings especially during the rainy season.

The former Bangladesh captain underlined the struggles that players face in the rainy season owing to a lack of indoor facilities to train. Doubled with a jam-packed schedule due to other domestic competitions, the HP program is forced to run its course in that season of unpredictability.

"I still think I haven't been able to do everything from the Bangladeshi perspective because we have a few gaps infrastructure-wise like grounds, indoor, gym. We have to struggle a lot in the rainy season. Similarly, we have to run the HP program during the rainy season," Durjoy told the media at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

"The players remain busy as they have to play the national league, domestic cricket, BPL, and DPL. We can't run those programs during those times, particularly the skill training can't be carried out then. So, we have to do those things during the rainy season which is why we have to make improvements in terms of infrastructure, especially



"How do we measure it? I think success will be around how many players we transition through this [HP] program into the next program above. We want to make sure that Bangladesh cricket is stronger and stronger, because there's more depth of players to choose from - because of this program."

David Hemp, HP head coach

when it comes to indoors, gyms," he added.

Meanwhile, the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium welcomed the arrival of newly appointed HP head coach David Hemp yesterday.

"It is a really important role in terms of the development of players in the Bangladesh cricket community," Hemp told reporters.

"We are trying to help players achieve their goal, which is, in essence, to play for the Bangladesh national side. We provide that platform where players can learn and grow, and step up into that

next group - the A team. From that, they can go into the main national side," added the former Bermudian cricketer.

Hemp's first assignment will see him take charge of HP's new program that will be carried out in three phases across three cities - Dhaka, Bogura, and Rajshahi - starting from June 24. While the SBNC has adequate indoor facilities and a gym, the venues in Rajshahi and Bogura have rudimentary facilities and if it rains, the training sessions in those venues would have to come to a halt.

Bangladesh up against Malaysian might

SPORTS REPORTER

Fresh off a 2-0 win over hosts Oman in the first match of AHF Junior Asia Cup, Bangladesh under-21 hockey team are looking forward to putting up an even better show against strong in their Pool B encounter in Salalah today.

Malaysia are considered as Pool B favourites and an 8-1 thrashing of Uzbekistan in their opening match is evidence of their strength.

However, Bangladesh are confident about putting up a good show as the men in red and green set their sights on a last-four berth in quest of securing a place in FIH Junior World Cup.

"Malaysia are a strong side, who play crisp passing to control the match," said head coach Mamunur Rashid, who articulated the strong and weak points of the Malaysia team by analysing their video footages.

"I instructed the boys to play against Malaysia without any fear or pressure because we don't have anything to lose against them, rather we can achieve something big," said Rashid.

Bangladesh had suffered an 8-0 defeat to the same opposition during the 2015 Junior Asia Cup.

Fahad remains on top

SPORTS REPORTER

International Master Fahad Rahman maintained his solo lead in Hanoi Grandmaster Chess Tournament-2 after beating WGM Vo Thi Kim Phung and drawing against CM Wong Zhenyong Jayden in Vietnam yesterday.

Fahad, who on Tuesday beat two GMs, secured five points from six matches to stay on top of the table.

Fahad played with white pieces in Queen's Indian Dec system against WGM Phung of Vietnam after 62 moves in the fifth round before drawing against Singapore's CM Zhenyong Jayden after 61 moves.

Pep-City bond tightens

AGENCIES

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola says he wants more than 100 Premier League charges levelled against the club for alleged financial irregularities to be dealt with "as soon as possible".

"Hopefully they are not so busy and the judges can see both sides and decide what is the best can see both sides and decide what is the best because, in the end, I know because in the end I know fairly what we won on the pitch and we don't have any doubts," he said before Brighton fixture yesterday.

City, who are celebrating their third consecutive English top-flight title and are chasing a trophy treble this season, were referred to an independent commission in February over 115 alleged rule breaches between 2009 and 2018.

The Catalan, who has a contract until 2025, stressed he would not walk away from the club "while there are 110 breaches against City".

"I would like to continue here next season independent of the result (of the Champions League final)."





TK 350CR LOAN TO SHELL FIRM HC orders probe into allegations against AB Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed a probe into the allegations of AB Bank approving loans to a shell company violating banking rules.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), and the Criminal Investigation Department have been ordered to conduct the probe and submit their reports to the HC in three months.

The court also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain why their inaction and failure to take action against the people responsible for the approval of the loans should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries concerned at the finance ministry, Bangladesh Bank governor, ACC chairman, BFIU, CID, and AB Bank managing director have been made respondents.

The HC came up with the suo motu order and rule following media reports.

AB Bank had sanctioned loans to the tune of Tk 350 crore to shell company Brandshare Trading Ltd, violating rules, said the BFIU.

The BFIU asked the bank not to release any funds to Brandshare as its business characteristics are fishy.

The management and board of the bank in connivance with one Ali Haider Ratan had the loans sanctioned in favour of Brandshare, according to BFIU documents seen by The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



With a 65-day ban on fishing in the sea in force from May 20, a fisherman uses his time to mend a net on the Karnaphuli in Chattogram city's Baklia area on Tuesday. Fishing boats are seen moored. The government imposes such bans every year to ensure fish breeding.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Nazrul's 124th birth anniversary today

BSS, Dhaka

The 124th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated across the country today in a befitting manner.

Ministry of Cultural Affairs has chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day at the national level.

Different organisations and cultural bodies, including Dhaka University, have also taken programmes to celebrate the day amid various functions.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Pakistan mulls banning PTI

Says defence minister; Imran Khan's key aide resigns from PTI

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan is considering banning former prime minister Imran Khan's party for attacking the state, the defence minister said yesterday, a decision likely to enrage his supporters and exacerbate his confrontation with the military establishment.

The former cricket star is embroiled in the latest, critical phase of a decades old rivalry between civilian politicians and the powerful military, which has ruled directly or overseen governments throughout Pakistan's history.

The face-off has brought widespread protests by Khan's supporters, raising new fears about the stability of the nuclear-armed country as it struggles with its worst economic crisis in decades.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif told reporters that Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party had attacked the "very basis of state", which could not be tolerated.

"It is under consideration to ban PTI," he said, adding the parliament would have to give final approval for a government decision to ban the party.

Bangladesh keen on China's dev initiative, not military bloc

Says foreign ministry official ahead of Chinese vice minister's 2-day visit

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh is considering to join China's Global Development Initiative that aims to support developing countries in public health and alleviating poverty.

However, Bangladesh remains reluctant on China's Global Security Initiative (GSI).

"We are always in favour of initiatives that help our socio-economic development as we aspire to become a developed country by 2041. However, we are not interested on anything that puts us into a military bloc," an official told this correspondent yesterday.

The issues may be discussed during Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Sun Weidong's two-day visit to Bangladesh beginning tomorrow.

He will lead the Chinese delegation at the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC), which is going to be held after a gap of three years. The event was supposed to be held every year.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen will lead the Bangladesh side on Saturday.

According to sources, China offered Bangladesh to join the Global Development Initiative in the wake of the pandemic in 2021, and later the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



TINA TURNER
1939-2023

'Queen of rock 'n' roll' no more

REUTERS

Tina Turner, the American-born singer who left a hard-scabble farming community and abusive relationship to become one of the top recording artists of all time, died yesterday at

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Ancient galaxy discovered 25m light years away

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Astronomers have used the most powerful telescope ever built to identify a massive, densely packed galaxy 25 million light years away.



Known as GS-9209, the galaxy formed around 600 to 800 million years after the Big Bang, and is the earliest of its kind found to date, researchers say.

The scientists, led by University of Edinburgh experts, used the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to reveal the properties of the galaxy called GS-9209 for the first time.

"The James Webb Space Telescope has already demonstrated that galaxies were growing larger and earlier than we ever suspected during the first billion years of cosmic history," lead researcher Dr Adam Carnall, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Physics and Astronomy, said.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A part of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway is under water in Gazipur's Vogra area due to poor drainage yesterday. Locals say water from dyeing factories and RMG plants is aggravating the perennial waterlogging problem.

Funeral Prayer (Namaja Janaza)



Mr. Mohammad Shahjahan Khan died on Monday, 22nd May 2023 at Bangkok Hospital (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raziun). His Namaja Janaza will be held on Friday 26th May 2023 after the Jummah prayers at **Gulshan Azad Mosque**, Gulshan, Dhaka. Everyone is humbly requested to attend the Janaza.

Family, all officers and employees.

Bulgaria's 'Time Shelter' wins Int'l Booker Prize

AFP, London

Bulgarian writer Georgi Gospodinov and translator Angela Rodel were named Tuesday winners of the International Booker Prize with the novel "Time Shelter" -- a first for a book in Bulgarian.

The prestigious award recognises works of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

আমরা বদলে যাব
আমরা বদলে দেব

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অগ্রিম আয়কর

২০২৩-২০২৪ কর বৎসরের জন্য অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি পরিশোধ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

- ❖ কর আইন অনুযায়ী যে সকল করদাতার সর্বশেষ নিরূপিত আয় ৬ লক্ষ টাকার বেশি তাঁদের অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধের বাধ্যবাধকতা রয়েছে।
- ❖ ২০২৩-২০২৪ কর বৎসরের জন্য ০৪(চার) কিস্তিতে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়করের ৪র্থ কিস্তি পরিশোধের শেষ তারিখ ১৫ জুন, ২০২৩।
- ❖ সংশ্লিষ্ট সার্কেলের উপ-কর কমিশনার (Deputy Commissioner of Taxes) এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার অথবা ক্রেসড চেকের মাধ্যমে অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
- ❖ চালানের মাধ্যমে সরাসরি কর জমার ক্ষেত্রে কোম্পানী করদাতাদের প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর ১-১১৪১-০০২০-০১০১ কোডে এবং ব্যক্তি করদাতাদের প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর ১-১১৪১-০০২০-০১১১ কোডে জমা করতে হবে।
- ❖ নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করা না হলে আয়কর অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৪ এর ৭০ ধারা অনুসারে ১০ শতাংশ হারে সরল সুদ এবং ১২৫ ধারা অনুযায়ী প্রদেয় আয়করের সমপরিমাণ অংক জরিমানা আরোপযোগ্য।
- ❖ সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে নির্ধারিত তারিখে অথবা তার পূর্বে প্রদেয় অগ্রিম আয়কর পরিশোধ করে সরল সুদ এবং জরিমানা পরিহারের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আয়কর আইন ১৯৮৬ এর অধীনস্থ

জাতীয় রাজস্ব আয়কর আইন ১৯৮৬ এর অধীনস্থ

অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-১; টেলিফোন: ৮৩৩১৮৪৫

অতিরিক্ত কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-২; টেলিফোন: ২২২২২৭৩৫৩

যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-৩; টেলিফোন: ৮৩৯২৫৫৬

যুগ্ম কর কমিশনার, পরিদর্শী রেঞ্জ-৪; টেলিফোন: ২২২২২৭২৩৭

কর কমিশনার
কর অঞ্চল-৫, ঢাকা

জিডি-৯১৩