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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

REGULAR NEWSPAPER INSIDE

DHAKA MONDAY MAY 29, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 130

JAISHA 15, 1430 BS

[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

ZILQAD 8, 1444 HJRI

28 PAGES : Tk 15.00



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\*See page 5 for details



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Let's Co-Create!





**B1** Planning minister talks to Star about the budget



**P7** 40 insurgents shot dead in India's Manipur



**P6** Curtains close on Cannes film festival



**P3** Cox's Bazar now a dengue hotspot

## Reining in inflation top priority

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to unveil a Tk 7,61,785 crore budget for the next fiscal year on Thursday, setting containment of high inflation as a major target.

The budget would aim at curbing inflation and maintaining the higher GDP growth trajectory, a high official of the finance ministry told The Daily Star.

It would not be "expansionary or contractionary", added the official seeking anonymity.

The budget, the last of this Awami League government's five-year term, comes at a time when people are struggling to cope with high prices for almost everything, from food to fuel and from transport fares to utility bills.

The government wants the growth to hit 7.5 percent in the next fiscal year and keep the inflation rate around 6 percent.

The provisional estimate of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) shows that the GDP has grown by 6.03 percent in the current fiscal year and the inflation rate was 8.4 percent till April.

The next budget will be 12.34 percent bigger than the current one.

It will be 15.21 percent of the projected GDP of Tk 50,06,672 crore, compared to 15.27 percent in the current fiscal year. This shows that the next budget is not ambitious, the finance ministry official pointed out.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is set to deliver his budget speech titled "The progress of Smart Bangladesh after a decade and a half of development" in parliament on Thursday.

There will not be any major increase in the allocations for sectors like health, education, and social safety net.

Higher allocations will be made for subsidies, more than Tk 1.10 lakh crore, and for interest payments, around Tk 1.02 lakh crore. In the current fiscal year, the allocation for subsidies was around Tk 81,000 crore and for interest payment around Tk 80,000 crore.

The allocations are being raised to cushion the blows of high prices of commodities in the international market and the weak taka.

Another finance ministry official said the electricity and fertiliser prices have been raised to shed some subsidy burden but the government still needs more money for subsidies to clear arrears.

The official said the government will continue to maintain the austerity measures in the next fiscal year to reduce pressure on foreign reserves.

Salaries of government officials will not be raised through the budget, the official said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

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Budget 2023-24  
Tk 7,61,785cr

REVENUE  
Tk 5,00,000cr

DEFICIT  
Tk 2,61,785cr  
(5.2% of GDP)

FINANCING  
Domestic  
Tk 1,50,785cr  
Foreign  
Tk 1,11,000cr

GDP SIZE  
Tk 50,06,672cr  
GDP GROWTH 7.5%  
INFLATION 6%



TARGETS

MAJOR EXPENDITURE

Subsidy  
Tk 1,10,000cr  
Interest payment  
Tk 1,02,000cr

BUDGET SIZE  
(In crore taka)



SOURCE: FINANCE MINISTRY

Development possible for peaceful environment Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said



Bangladesh has been able to achieve remarkable socioeconomic development over the last 14 years due to a peaceful democratic environment in the country.

She gave the credit for the success to her party, the Awami League, which formed the government in 2009 after winning the 2008 election.

The prime minister was speaking at a programme celebrating the golden jubilee of the conferment of the Joliot Curie Peace

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## Shaken, AL plans to rejig Gazipur units

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League will reorganise its Gazipur district and city units after its mayor nominee lost to an independent on Thursday.

Besides, the AL will identify the reasons why its nominee Azmat Ullah Khan lost the election and the activists who acted against him, insiders said.

Azmat, president of Gazipur city AL, met with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

In the Gazipur city polls, Azmat conceded defeat after officials announced that Zaida Khatun, an independent, won by a margin of 16,197 votes. Zaida is the mother of suspended Gazipur mayor and expelled AL leader Zahangir Alam.

Hasina yesterday asked Azmat about the reasons why he lost. She also wanted to know the number of votes he got in the neighbourhoods of certain party leaders and MPs. Azmat then presented the prime minister with the data, according to sources.

Hasina told Azmat to visit each ward of the city and talk to local leaders to reorganise the party, the sources added.

During the meeting, Azmat handed the PM two books he had written.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque visited Azmat's home in Tongi last night.

The AL leadership is collecting information about the role of grassroots leaders, Azmat's polling agents, word councillors of the AL, said sources.

The AL might also form a committee to identify the reasons behind Azmat's defeat.

"We must know the reasons. Gazipur was a lesson for the Awami League. If we can't find the reasons, we can't make use of the lesson," an AL leader told The Daily Star, wishing anonymity.

Besides, the AL asked its leaders and activists in Dhaka city not to engage in arguments or clashes with opposition activists unless they came under attack by the opposition activists.

The directive was given at a joint meeting of the secretaries, presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka city units of the AL and its affiliated bodies.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Besides, the AL asked its leaders and activists in Dhaka city not to engage in arguments or clashes with opposition activists unless they came under attack by the opposition activists.

AL IN CITY POLLS

## Challenging in Barishal, smooth sailing in Khulna

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The rift within the local Awami League has put its mayor nominee for Barishal city in a tight spot, while the party ticket holder in Khulna city should have an easy run since he has no strong opponents.

The polls to Barishal and Khulna city corporations are on June 12.

In Barishal, if the AL fails to resolve the feud between its mayor candidate Abul Khair Abdullah and incumbent Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, the party may suffer a blow like it did in the recently held Gazipur city polls, said local AL leaders.

In the Gazipur City Corporation polls held on Thursday, AL candidate Azmat Ullah Khan lost to independent Zaida Khatun, mother of former GCC mayor Zahangir Alam.

Despite the intervention of central AL leaders, the dispute in Barishal AL rages on.

Tarun Chanda, former vice-president of Barishal city AL, said this conflict is an ominous sign for Barishal AL. There is a serious challenge ahead for the party if it does not take immediate steps to end the conflict.

If this situation continues, Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) contender Syed Muhammad Faizul Karim may have the upper hand in the polls, said locals.

The much-hyped meeting between the central and Barishal AL leaders on Friday did not yield much fruit as Khair and his nephew Sadiq did not attend it.

From that meeting, the central AL leaders instructed leaders and activists of the party's Barishal units to work together to ensure victory of the party candidate.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

### THE BUSINESS

Tk 10,964cr loans turn sour in 3 months

Banks in Bangladesh witnessed an accumulation of default loans by Tk 10,964 crore in the first three months of 2023, highlighting the worsening financial health of the banking sector, official figures showed.

Non-performing loans stood at Tk 131,621 crore as of March 31, up 9 per cent from three months ago and 16 per cent from a year earlier, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

STORY ON B1



The Dhaleshwari river has been significantly narrowed, and the reclaimed land is being used to make bricks. As is often the case, the brick kiln owners have disregarded the ecological importance of the river and bypassed legal restrictions. The photo was taken in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Erdogan gets another 5 yrs

REUTERS, Istanbul

President Tayyip Erdogan claimed victory in Turkey's presidential election yesterday, a win that would steer his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

Addressing supporters, Erdogan said voters had given him the responsibility to rule for the next five years.

"The only winner is Turkey," he said, addressing cheering supporters from atop a bus in Istanbul.

Final official results have yet to be released. There was no immediate response to Erdogan's victory speech from his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

The election had been seen as one of the most consequential yet for Turkey, with the opposition believing it had a strong chance of unseating Erdogan after his popularity was hit by a cost of living crisis.

Instead, victory will reinforce his image of invincibility, after having already redrawn domestic, economic, security and foreign policy in the NATO member country of 85 million people and positioned Turkey as a regional power.

Supporters gathered at his Istanbul residence in anticipation of victory as data reported by both state-run Anadolu agency and the opposition ANKA news agency gave him the edge with nearly 99 percent of ballot boxes counted.

The head of the High Election Board earlier told a news conference that Erdogan was leading Kilicdaroglu with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## Unpaid power plant's gas line severed over dues

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd (KGDC) has severed gas connection of a Regent Power plant in Chattogram as the plant owes it Tk 8 crore in bills.

However, the power plant authorities said they have not been paid by Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) since October.

The PDB owes it Tk 19 crore, it said. Due to the mismanagement of two government agencies, Barabkunda 22MW (megawatts) Power Plant has not been producing electricity for the last 11 days.

KGDC said they disconnected the gas connection for the power plant on May 18.

"The power plant is one of the biggest bill defaulters among our consumers and we had meetings with them several times. We have instructions to disconnect lines of defaulters," said Aminur Rahman, general manager (operations) at KGDC.

"It will not be possible to restore the connection before getting the dues," he added.

The Regent Power authorities said that they have two operational plants and the PDB owes them about Tk 140 crore.

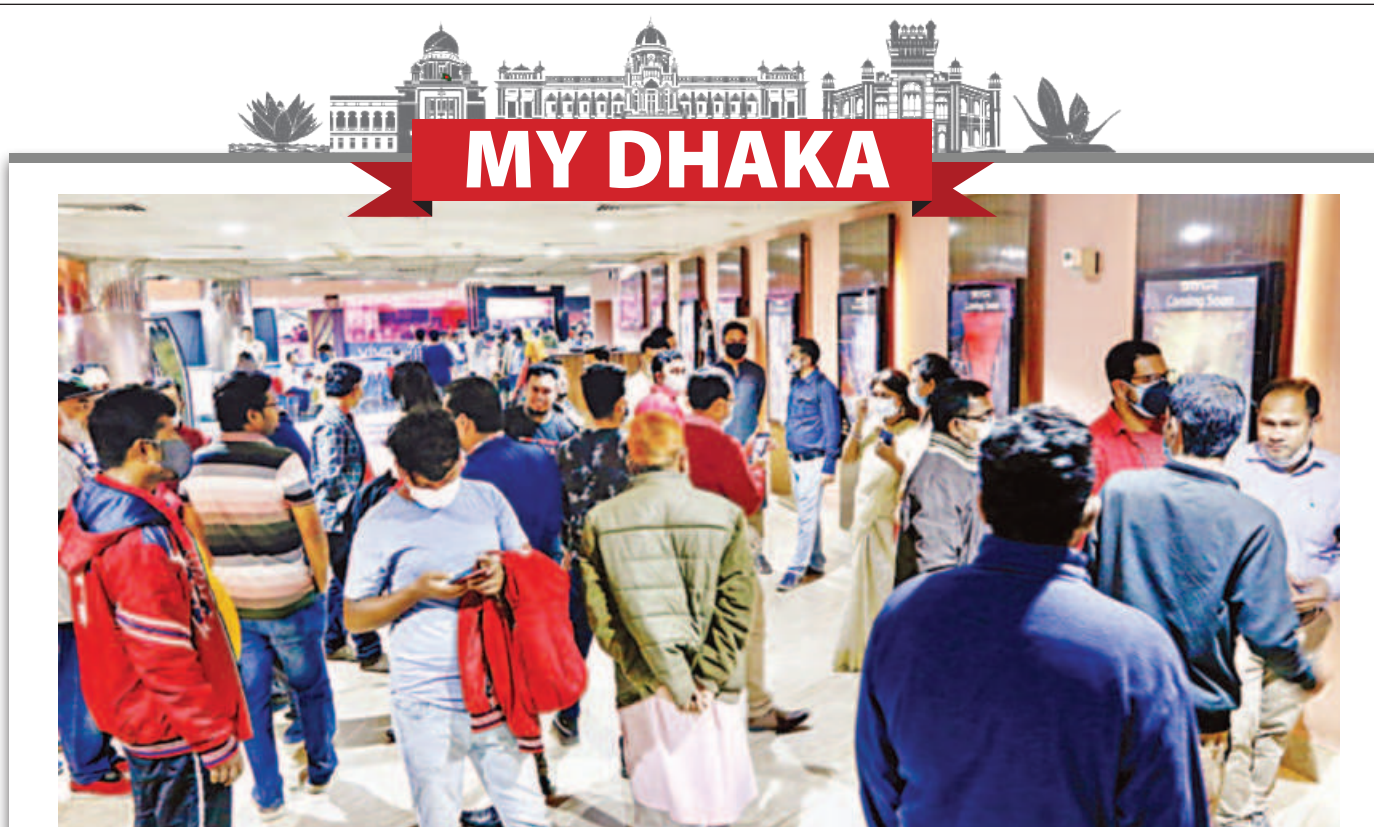
"The disconnected plant has due from the government worth Tk 19 crore. Since we are not getting the bills in time, we are facing problems in paying the employees and loan installments. We had imported some machinery for the power plant, but we could not offload those from the port and thus we will have to pay damages," said Sumit Ranjan Barua, head of finance at Regent Power.

About the Barabkunda power plant, he said, "We've contacted the PDB authorities regarding it as we need their help to resolve the issue. We've paid the due gas bill up to February."

PDB owes around Tk 17,000 crore to the independent power producers since October, according to the members of Bangladesh Independent Power Producers' Association.

Contacted, PDB member (finance) SK Aktar Hossain said that it will not be possible to talk about specific issues without checking documents.

About the dues to the IPPs, he said, "We will get a subsidy from the government, and will be able to pay the dues soon."



## Back to the theatre!

RBR

Thanks to *Aynabaji*, a crime thriller directed by Amitabh Reza Chowdhury, and *Debi*, a supernatural thriller by Anam Biswas based on Humayun Ahmed's novel, I started going back to the cineplex for movie night dates with cousins or friends. Watching a film with a big gang is now a thing; this culture was almost diminished and forgotten from our entertainment radar until recently.

With super hits like *Poran*, *Hawa* and *Damal*, we are eagerly looking forward to good entertaining films so that the pull towards watching a film in the theatres remains a temptation. *Poran* and *Hawa* managed to pull crowds who did not set foot in cinema halls in last 30 to 40 years!

During our parents' teen years or early married life, films like *Sujan Shokhi*, *Sarang Bou*, and *Anonto Prem* stole their hearts and records say that they have been to the theatres for over a dozen times to see that one hit movie, over and over again.

They even went for Roger Moore's Bond movies. Films were their only entertainment in a way but later on, the industry pushed its ardent fans far away with its lacklustre productions.

I remember when I was an adolescent, my uncle took me to my first film in big screen at Modhumita Cinema Hall. It was an English movie, *The Land that Time Forgot*. I loved Modhumita's wide staircase, it had a grand feeling, and the beautiful men and women on the cinema posters adorning the walls stirred my imagination. The dark theatre and a humongous screen, the red velvet



chairs that could be pulled down; I was mesmerised with it all. I felt all these transported me to an unknown grand world.

"So, this is how adults have fun" was my only thought. My major attraction was the only snack bar selling brandless, *deshi* potato chips, orange Mimi chocolate bars, and Igloo's famous Choco bar ice cream.

Well fast forward to my middle years, I never for once wanted to go to the theatre to watch something, except maybe *Titanic*, that too a premiere show in Modhumita. By that time the film industry moved so far away from pulling general masses to the theatres that it was an absolute disappointment. I do not want to delve into that era, rather I want to bring our focus to present times.

The cine complexes are state of art theatres now that gives you the perfect

setting for enjoying a movie. The food stalls sell popcorns of different flavours, caramel, butter, salt and pepper, nachos platters, patties, and tumbler of soft fizzy drinks. You can even lie down and watch a movie for premium tickets. Latest Hollywood blockbusters and now a Bollywood addition and our bold contemporary films are taking us back to the theatres again.

We Dhakites now make it a point to hop to cineplexes for a movie date and look forward to what's next. I want our talented young directors and producers to bring back that golden time of Bangla movies. And also urge hall owners to keep us abreast on latest international blockbusters.



## School principal arrested for attempted rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The principal of Dhamrai Government Technical School and College was arrested for allegedly attempting to rape a seventh grade schoolgirl early yesterday.

Khairul Bashar was produced before a Dhaka court in the morning, which sent him to jail, said Md Harun-or Rashid, officer-in-charge of Dhamrai Police Station.

Case Investigation Officer Mahubur Rahman Hamid, sub-inspector of Dhamrai Police Station, said Khairul was arrested from the Rajapur area around 1:00am.

Quoting the case statement, he said, the principal sexually harassed the schoolgirl and tried to rape her in his office room on Thursday.

An arbitration was held after the incident but the matter remained unsettled. Later, the girl's mother filed an attempt to rape case with the police station on Friday afternoon.

Meanwhile, OC Harun told The Daily Star that the police inquired about the principal after the incident and found that he had similar complaints against him in the past.

## Tk 14 lakh looted from agri development bank

UNB, Gaibandha

Robbers allegedly broke in and looted Tk 14 lakh from the vault of the Kochashohor branch of Rajshahi Agricultural Development Bank in Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha early yesterday.

Jesmينة Akhter, manager of Kochashohor branch of the bank, said some robbers entered the bank after tying up the security guard of the bank at the dead night and looted the money from the vault.

Izar Uddin, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj Police Station, said there was no sign of breaking and entering but the money went missing.

"However, police are investigating the incident," he said.

The security guard was asleep when the crime was committed, he added.

## Two children drown in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Two minors drowned in a pond near their home at Charpara village in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna district yesterday.

The deceased are Nahid, 7, son of Shah Alam of Charpara village and Ridoy, 8, son of Nayeem Hossain of the same village.

Md Saiful Islam, member of Gunaigacha Union Parishad, said Nahid and Ridoy went to take a bath in the pond next to their house at noon.

The two children might have drowned while taking a bath in the pond, he said.

Later, family members found their bodies floating on the surface of the pond and took them to Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared them dead, UP member Saiful Islam said.

## ROHINGYA GENOCIDE Do more, help The Gambia with funds for case at ICJ

OIC secy to members

UNB, Dhaka

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Secretary General Husein Brahim Taha yesterday urged the member states to do more and help The Gambia with funds to run the case on Rohingya genocide in the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

"We call upon all member states to support this fund created by the OIC. This case is a top priority for us," OIC secretary general told reporters after his meeting with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

Momen said, "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the OIC secretary general, and the president of Gambia sent a joint letter to the member states recently seeking support for the fund created by the OIC."

The OIC delegation will visit the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar today. "They [OIC] have taken a leading role. Tomorrow [Monday] they will visit the Rohingya camps," Momen said yesterday.

The OIC secretary general said, "The Rohingya crisis is one of the top priority issues for the OIC," he said, adding that, they discussed the issues to maintain peace stability and development within the member states.

"We are here to convey our thanks for the tremendous efforts done by the Bangladesh government. These Rohingya people are suffering. They deserve peace, security, and better lives," said Husein Brahim.

Later in the evening, the OIC Secretary General paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

As the Chancellor of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), the OIC Secretary General will join the 35th Convocation of the IUT to be held on May 30, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Reining in inflation top priority

FROM PAGE 1  
REVENUE TARGET

Keeping in mind a condition of the IMF's \$4.7 billion loan programme, the government targets a revenue collection of Tk 5 lakh crore, around Tk 67,000 crore more than that in FY23.

According to the IMF condition, the finance ministry has to adopt revenue measures in a way that can "yield an additional 0.5 percent of the GDP in the FY24".

The finance ministry official said the total tax-revenue collection target for FY24 would be the actual revenue generated in FY23 plus the additional 0.5 percent of the FY24 GDP.

The projected GDP for the next fiscal year is Tk 50,06,672 crore, and 0.5 percent of it is Tk 25,034 crore.

To achieve the revenue collection goal, several measures, including recruitment of private agents across the country, have been taken to increase the number of taxpayers, the official said.

The agents will go door to door to convince people to come under the tax net, and help people open tax files and submit returns, the official said, adding that the agents would not collect taxes.

People, who have tax identification numbers (TINs) and are below the taxable income ceiling, must submit their returns and pay a minimum tax of Tk 2,000.

The taxable income ceiling will be raised to Tk 3.50 lakh from the current Tk 3 lakh. The minimum tax on taxable income will remain the same, at Tk 5,000.

The official said people with no taxable income will have the option to cancel their TIN.

There are around 88 lakh TIN-holders but only around 30 lakh submit their returns. Many of those who submit returns don't pay tax as their incomes are not taxable.

Another finance ministry official said they will install more electronic fiscal devices (EFDs) to ramp up revenue collection.

Over the next three years, three

lakh EFDs will be set up. At present, 9,000 EFDs are in operation.

Regarding the IMF recommendation for reducing tax exemptions, the official said it would be implemented gradually in the next budget.

An IMF technical mission is due in July to see how revenue collection could be improved.

**BUDGET DEFICIT**  
The overall deficit in the next budget will be Tk 2,61,785 crore, which is 5.2 percent of the GDP.

To meet the deficit, the government plans to borrow Tk 1,50,785 crore from domestic sources, including banks, and Tk 1,11,000 crore from foreign sources.

But an IMF loan condition limits the primary deficit to 3 percent of the GDP.

The official said the deficit is actually close to the IMF-set limit since the primary deficit excludes interest payments and foreign grants, from the overall deficit.

The primary deficit target for FY24 is 3.1 percent of the GDP.

## Development possible for peaceful environment

FROM PAGE 1

Medal to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Cabinet Division organised the programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) with the PM in the chair.

Hasina said that after getting the people's mandate in 2008 her government has been working for the development of the country in a planned way.

"As a result, we have been able to reduce the poverty rate and maternal mortality, increase literacy and life expectancy," she said.

"So, a peaceful sustainable environment is needed for the people

to attain economic emancipation, and all have to remember that," she said.

Denouncing the global arms race, she put emphasis on settling all disputes through dialogue as Bangladesh did with India and Myanmar.

"Why this arms race now, why will the money that is being used for arms race not be used for hungry children and humans? For this arms race, thousands of children and women are leading inhuman lives around the globe," she said.

In this connection, she mentioned that Bangladesh has given shelter to more than one million forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals, Rohingyas, who faced oppression. In this regard, she

recalled the genocide Bangalees suffered in 1971.

"We want that peace returned to the world. There shall be no types of unrest (in the world)," she said.

The prime minister firmly said Bangladesh does not want any unrest and confrontation in the world.

"We want development in people's lives, and we always want that for everyone," she said.

She also announced the introduction of "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Peace Prize" to recognise those who are working for establishing peace at home and abroad.

"Because we want peace we will surely advance towards the path of peace," she said.

## Erdogan gets another 5 yrs

FROM PAGE 1

54.7 percent support, with 54.6 percent of ballot boxes logged.

Erdogan, head of the Islamist-rooted AK Party, appealed to voters with nationalist and conservative rhetoric during a divisive campaign that deflected attention from deep economic troubles.

The defeat of Kilicdaroglu, who promised to set the country on a more democratic and collaborative path, would likely be cheered in Moscow but mourned in Western capitals and much of the Middle East after Turkey took a more confrontational and independent stance in foreign affairs.

Erdogan supporters who were gathered outside his Istanbul residence chanted Allahu Akbar, or God is Greatest.

"I expect everything to become better," said Nisa, 28, a headscarved woman wearing a headband with Erdogan's name.

Another Erdogan supporter said Turkey would get stronger with him in office for five more years.

"There are issues, problems in every country around the world, in European countries as well... With strong leadership we will overcome Turkey's problems as well," said Mert, 39, who had come to celebrate with his son.

Bugra Oztug, 24, who voted for Kilicdaroglu, said she was not surprised at the result, blaming the opposition for failing to change.

"I feel sad and disappointed but I am not hopeless. I still think there are people who can see the realities and truth," Oztug said.

Erdogan's performance has wrong-footed opponents who also thought voters would punish him over the state's initially slow response to devastating earthquakes in February, in which more than 50,000 people died.

But in the first round of voting on May 14, which included parliamentary elections, his AK Party emerged top in 10 of the 11 provinces hit by the earthquakes, helping it secure a parliamentary majority along with its allies.

## Shaken, AL plans to rejig Gazipur units

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting was held at the AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue.

At the meeting, the AL leaders said they would continue to hold the peace rallies and prepare for the national election, slated for January next year.

"BNP men are giving the wrong message. But I will ask the AL leaders and activists to deal with the situation calmly. We will not do anything first. But if an attack on AL men takes place, they will not be spared," AL

General Secretary Obaidul Quader told reporters after the meeting.

He also alleged that the BNP was conspiring to disrupt the election. He also wondered what the US would do about those who obstruct the AL from holding a free and fair election.

No sanction will stop the election and the government has no worries about sanctions, he said. "Foreigners are our friends, not masters. The BNP is involved in bad politics. If the ruling Awami League remains united, the BNP will be defeated."

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Vice Minister of the Foreign Ministry of China Sun Weidong calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

## JP's downward spiral continues

Party candidate became 6th in GCC polls, lost security deposit as he couldn't bag 8pc of total votes

RASHIDUL HASAN

Ahead of the Gazipur City Corporation polls, the main opposition in parliament Jatiya Party had said its mayoral candidate would secure good result in the election if it was held in free and fair manner.

Overcoming all confusions, the GCC polls was held in a peaceful atmosphere. But the JP mayoral candidate MM Niaz Uddin earned the sixth position out of total eight mayoral candidates and even lost security deposit as he couldn't bag eight percent of the total casting votes.

Political analyst said although, in papers, JP is the main opposition party in parliament, the party lacks credibility in people's mind due to its flip-flopping over the years.

In the May 25 GCC mayoral race, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Gonofront and an independent candidate secured more votes than the JP.

JP Chairman GM Quader, while talking to The Daily Star, admitted that although they are called the main opposition party, it has been suffering from image crisis for various reasons for which their candidates couldn't do well in the competitive election.

“

**One of the reasons is that our senior leaders are making contradictory remarks in and outside the parliament on a similar issue, which is creating confusion among people's mind regarding our real political stance.**

GM QUADER

“One of the reasons is that our senior leaders are making contradictory remarks in and outside the parliament on a similar issue, which is creating confusion among people's mind regarding our real political stance,” said the JP leader.

Another reason is that their political stance is not getting clear before the people's mind, he also said.

GM Quader said, “The confidence we are creating among people simply washed away due to our leaders' paradoxical statements.”

The JP chairman also said, “Some of our leaders [MP] deliver speeches in parliament in support of the government

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

**NARROWING JAMUNA**  
HC wants documents on proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted all the relevant documents regarding the proposal for narrowing the Jamuna river to see who are involved in it.

The Water Development Board has been ordered to submit the documents before the HC in 10 days.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Muhammad Mahbub Ul Islam passed the order while hearing a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

The organisation submitted the petition

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING					
MAY 29					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-47	8-35	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Cox's Bazar now a dengue hotspot

Cases surging ahead of seasonal outbreak, warns DGHS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health officials yesterday issued a warning that the number of dengue cases is increasing rapidly, well ahead of its typical outbreak season.

They also said the Cox's Bazar district has become a dengue hotspot.

The rainy months of June through September are typically considered the dengue season in Bangladesh.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), since January this year, a total of 1,771 dengue cases have been detected countrywide, of which, 426 were in Cox's Bazar.

In addition, a total of 1,066 cases were identified among Rohingya persons residing in various camps.

Health officials said contagion prevention and case management have become “difficult” in Rohingya camps.

“Members of the Rohingya community lack awareness of dengue disease. And working among them is difficult since they are from different cultural backgrounds,” said Prof Dr Nazmul Islam, director of the Disease Control Unit at DGHS, at a conference held at the DGHS headquarters yesterday.

In response to a query, he said since the Rohingyas reside in a small area and there is no water distribution system, they conserve water and the ideal breeding

ground for Aedes mosquitoes is clean water.

Stressing the need to destroy breeding sources immediately, Nazmul said failure to do so at this stage, which is prior to the monsoon season, could result in a more dire situation during the full monsoon season.

In the past 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning, 67 individuals suffering from dengue fever were admitted to hospitals. Of those, 9 were from areas outside Dhaka.

As per the DGHS report, there are currently 209 dengue patients receiving treatment at hospitals, out of which 29 are from outside of Dhaka.

Thirteen individuals have died so far due to dengue fever this year.

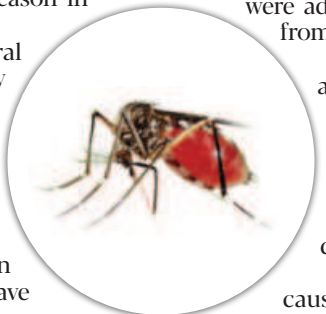
Meanwhile, 1,549 have been discharged from hospitals.

Last year, the number of deaths caused by dengue was 281, with a total of 62,382 cases reported. Out of these cases, 23,162 were reported outside of Dhaka.

During the press conference, Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general (planning and development) at DGHS, cautioned against the practise of overcharging patients for dengue testing.

In 2020, the government established a fixed fee for dengue tests; in public hospitals, Tk 100, and at private hospitals Tk 500.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



**SAVING SANDHYA**  
HC blasts Barishal district admin for failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the Barishal district administration for not complying with its 2018 directives over removal of the obstacles from Sandhya River in the district, and its preservation and protection.

“...They have not implemented the directives of this court in last five years. They will not comply with the directives in even 100 years. They have established the reign [of powers].”

“You as well as we know the situation of the court and the country... They are selling the country. Will they take away the looted money to America?” the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury said during hearing of a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

**Be more people-friendly**  
President asks police

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin has asked members of Bangladesh Police to be more people-friendly.

He gave the directive when Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun paid a courtesy call on the president at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Shahabuddin also directed law enforcers to submit investigation reports as soon as possible to settle various cases.

President's press secretary Md Joynal Abedin informed the news agency about the meeting.

Cybercrimes are increasing due to the development of information technology. Police members should be trained in technology to deal with cybercrimes, he said.

Shahabuddin also praised police for curbing militancy and terrorism.



## 'MISSED MIDTERM' AT FINANCE DEPT

### 800 DU students face uncertainty

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The finance department at Dhaka University did not grant any marks to approximately 800 students from four batches who skipped one of two midterm examinations.

Students reported on December 5 last year, they had asked the department chairman and course instructor to reschedule the exams scheduled on December 6.

“We requested due to safety concerns, as a large number of people were expected to attend the Chhatra League's central council meeting on campus,” said a student who requested anonymity.

They said only five second-year students attended the exams on December 6.

The authorities published the midterm results this month, where around 800 students from all four sessions were absent. This implies that the marks allocated to that exam will not be added to their Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) at the end of the semester.

The department prepares the final results based on two midterms exams of 15 marks each, a term paper and a presentation of 10 marks and a semester final exam of 60 marks.

Students said usually, the authorities of different departments retake mid-term exams if a large number of students are absent.

Even though almost all students requested the authorities to reschedule the exam date, the finance department refused. However, on May 8, the department rescheduled a midterm exam for final-year students because the course instructor forgot to prepare the question paper.

**“We requested [rescheduling of exam] due to safety concerns, as a large number of people were expected to attend the Chhatra League's central council meeting on campus.”**

A FINANCE DEPT STUDENT

According to another student who requested anonymity, the exam was rescheduled less than a half-hour prior to the scheduled start time.

“We approached our course instructors multiple times, who suggested that we

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



The prize giving ceremony of “The Daily Star Bangladesh Olympiad powered by EducationHub” was held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. To instill patriotism among the younger generation, The Daily Star organised the olympiad. This year, it was held under three categories -- junior school, senior school, and college. In the initial phase, an online round was organised with more than 4,000 participants. After the preliminary stage, the quarter-finals were held with the best 50, the semi-finals with the best 30, and the final round with the best six students yesterday. Imran Kadir, head of sales and marketing, The Daily Star, and Rafiqul Islam Liton, director, EducationHub, along with Abdullah Arafat, director & head of operations, EducationHub, handed over the prizes to the winners.

PHOTO: STAR

**FAIR POLLS**  
Role of law enforcers crucial: CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Mentioning the role of law enforcement agencies in ensuring fair elections, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal yesterday said if any disruptions of law and order occur, the law enforcers have to take the responsibility.

“Our instructions to law enforcement agencies are clear -- the election must be conducted fairly, and law and order must be maintained,” he said.

Ahead of Barishal City Corporation election to be held on June 12, the CEC made these remarks after a views exchange meeting with election officials, executive magistrates, and law enforcement agencies at the Circuit House in Barishal.

Highlighting the EC's objective, he said their aim is to bring the voters to the polling centres so that they can exercise their franchise.



The 25th National Art Exhibition commenced yesterday at Shiipakala Academy, which will feature 301 projects of 261 artists in 11 mediums. The event will run till July 16 from 11:00am to 8:00pm. PHOTO: ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY

## HC blasts Barishal district admin for failure

FROM PAGE 3  
Assistant Attorney General Md Salim Azad appeared for Barishal district administration and sought time from the court for the last time to implement the directives saying that the administration has started working in this regard.

The HC bench asked how much time they (district administration) will need. "When were you scheduled to comply with the court order?" the HC bench asked AAG Salim. HRPB lawyer Manzill Murshid said the deputy commissioners play with

the court. The HC said hundreds of contempt of court cases against (government high officials) are pending as they don't implement its orders. Barishal Deputy Commissioner Md Jahangir Hossain told this correspondent that

he heard from the upazila nirbahi officer concerned that Sandhya River has been filled with earth and turned into a land and therefore, it was not possible to conduct an eviction drive. "I will enquire and submit a report to the High Court," he added.

## Two siblings

FROM PAGE 5  
then tied the two to a tree and tortured them for two hours. Later police rescued the two, said Shanewaz, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station. They were produced before a court, which sent them to jail. Meanwhile, Syed Mukhlesur Rahman Jinnah, president of the district Krishak League, said Rukon is the vice president of the organisation's Jamalpur municipality unit.

## HC wants documents

FROM PAGE 3  
based on a report published in Bangla daily Kalbela on March 11, headlined "Jamuna Nadi Chhoto Korar Chinta" (Plan to narrow down Jamuna River). According to the report, WDB undertook the project to reduce the width of Jamuna. In the petition, the organisation sought HC order to take legal action

## Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 3  
against the officials involved in making the proposal for narrowing the river for committing misconduct under the Government Service Act. Petitioner's lawyer Manzill Murshid said the HC on May 21 asked the government to submit a list of officials involved in the proposal but they did not disclose the names. The court adjourned the hearing till June 11.

FROM PAGE 3  
"We have published guidelines for dengue treatment. Every physician must follow them," Prof Ahmedul Kabir said. According to his statement, hospitals have received instructions to make necessary preparations for treating patients amid the outbreak. Besides, health officials have been urged to admit dengue patients to hospitals before it's too late.

## JP's downward

FROM PAGE 3  
to get allocation for... their constituency. They talk in such a way that we are the government's B-team."

GM Quader said the party is going to take stern actions against those leaders who will talk against their policy.

Al Masud Hasanuzzaman, a professor of Government and Politics at Jahangirnagar University, said although JP is called the main opposition in parliament, in real sense and in the political process, BNP is in that position.

He also said there is perception in people's mind that JP is the part of the government. That's why, their credibility in the election and in the political field is questionable.

Several JP MPs including its Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun, on different occasions, also raised questions whether JP is the real opposition or not.

After a reversal decision ahead of 2014 one-sided national elections, JP finally took part in it and after polls the party was both in the opposition and in then Sheikh Hasina's cabinet.

JP contested the 2018 elections as a component in the AL-led grand alliance. However, the party finally decided to sit in the opposition bench in parliament.

## 800 DU

FROM PAGE 3  
approach the department chair since exams are scheduled centrally. However, he refused," he added.

This newspaper contacted three course teachers -- Hussain Ahmed Enamul Huda, Rashik Amin and Kazi Golam Rabbani Mowla -- all of whom refused to make any comments on the matter and asked this correspondent to contact Prof Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, chairman of the Department of Finance.

Contacted, Prof Jahangir, refused to comment on the matter as well and said, "You can write whatever you want." "The university's departments are independent bodies that are free to decide on matters such as holding examinations. I don't interfere in such issues," said DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman.

"However, I believe that when making any decision, we should consider the convenience of students. It is our duty as educators," stated the VC.

**Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation**  
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road  
Chattogram, Bangladesh

**Invitation for International Quotation for Import of Gasoil 0.005% (50 PPM) 'S', JET A-1, Gasoline 95 RON, HSF0 180CST and Marine Fuel 0.5% 'S' during July-December, 2023**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
3	Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
4	Procuring entity district	Chattogram, Bangladesh.
5	Invitation for	Procurement of 8,280-8,952 Million Barrels (11,10,000-12,00,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% Sulphur, 1.20 Million Barrels (150000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1, 125000 Metric Tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 cSt, 0.516-0.688 Million Barrels (60,000-80,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoline 95 RON and 30,000 Metric Tons of Marine Fuel 0.5% Sulphur (+/-10%) for each grade at Buyer's Option).
6	Invitation Ref. No./date	28.03.0000.041.01.004.2023; 29th May 2023.
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
7	Procurement method	Request for International Quotation.
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
8	Budget and source of funds	Own source of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation/GoB fund.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement name	Procurement of 8,280-8,952 Million Barrels (11,10,000-12,00,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% Sulphur, 1.20 Million Barrels (150000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1, 125000 Metric Tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 cSt, 0.516-0.688 Million Barrels (60,000-80,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoline 95 RON and 30,000 Metric Tons of Marine Fuel 0.5% Sulphur (+/-10%) for each grade at Buyer's Option).
10	Notice publication date	29th May 2023.
11	Document last selling date	08th June 2023; 1600 Hours (BST).
12	Closing date and time of submission of quotation	Date Time 07th June, 2023 1430 Hours (BST)
13	Quotation opening date and time	07th June, 2023 1445 Hours (BST)
Name & address of the office(s) Address(s)		
14	(a) Selling place of quotation document	(i) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh. (ii) Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BTMC Bhaban, Level-10, 7-9, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. (iii) Document is available in BPC's website ( <a href="http://www.bpc.gov.bd">www.bpc.gov.bd</a> ). Document original money receipt must be enclosed with bid document during submission.
	(b) Receiving and opening place of quotation document	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban (1st Floor), Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
<b>INFORMATION FOR BIDDER</b>		
15	Eligibility of bidder	(i) The Bidder must own Refinery(ies) or more than 50% equity of a refinery. Processing capacity of the refinery(ies) must be at least 3.00 million metric tons per year. (ii) Satisfactory completion of export of Petroleum Products of minimum 2.00 million Metric Tons per year in last 3 (three) years. Bidder must submit year-wise export quantity & name of destination/organization. (iii) Annual turnover of the bidders during last 3 (three) years must be equivalent to minimum US\$ 3.00 billion. (iv) The Bidders must have minimum 05 (Five) years' experience in the export of petroleum products. Experience certificate mentioning year & the country of supply must be submitted along with bid documents. (v) The Bidders must be free from any interdictory from international organization like UNO, OPEC, WTO etc. (vi) The Bidders must have to comply with international safety standard and environment compliances. (vii) The minimum amount of liquid asset or working capital facility must be US\$ 2.00 billion. (viii) The Bidders must have to fulfill all terms and conditions of quotation documents.
16	Brief description of goods	(i) <b>Package-A:</b> The total quantity to be supplied 4,103-4,550 Million Barrels (550,000-610,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.640 Million Barrels (80000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). Minimum and maximum range of importable quantity is Buyer's option. (ii) <b>Package-B:</b> The total quantity to be supplied 4,177-4,401 Million Barrels (560,000-590,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoil 0.005% 'S' and 0.560 Million Barrels (70000 Metric Tons) of Jet A-1 (+/-10% for each grade at Buyer's Option). Minimum and maximum range of importable quantity is Buyer's option. (iii) <b>Package-C:</b> The total quantity to be supplied 125000 Metric tons of High Sulphur Furnace Oil (HSFO) 180 cSt (+/-10% at Buyer's Option). (iv) <b>Package-D:</b> The total quantity to be supplied 0.516 - 0.688 Million Barrels (60,000-80,000 Metric Tons) of Gasoline 95 RON (+/-10% at Buyer's Option). Minimum and maximum range of importable quantity is Buyer's option. (v) <b>Package-E:</b> The total quantity to be supplied 30000 Metric tons of Marine Fuel 0.5% 'S' (+/-10% at Buyer's Option). BDT 10,000.00/ US\$ 120.00 non-refundable by Cash/ Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favor of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. US Dollar 2.00 (Two) Million.
17	Quotation document price	BDT 10,000.00/ US\$ 120.00 non-refundable by Cash/ Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favor of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation. US Dollar 2.00 (Two) Million.
18	Quotation security amount/bid bond	As per quotation document.
19	Type of payment for security amount	Through Letter of Credit (LIC).
20	Mode of payment	CFR Chattogram, Bangladesh.
21	Mode of shipment	The quantity of the products delivered shall be determined by the independent inspector by measurement of the Vessel's tanks immediately upon arrival at the customary anchorage at the discharge port.
22	Determination of quantification	06th August 2023 at 1600 Hours (BST).
23	Validity of the offer	Quotation should be inserted in closed envelope bearing the name and address of the Quotationer, Ref. No. and date and be addressed to the procuring authority. 01 (One) marked as "ORIGINAL" and other as "COPY" in separate envelope in the form of book/spiral binding. Both the "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" shall have to be inserted in a single envelope. All submitted papers and quotation documents must be Signed and Sealed by authorized official of Bidder. The document must be well organized and table of contents must be included.
24	Submission of quotation	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
25	Name of official inviting quotation	Mustafa Oudrat-Elahi.
26	Designation of official inviting quotation	General Manager (Commercial & Operations).
27	Address of official inviting quotation	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, 1st Floor, Saltgola Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
28	Contact details of official inviting quotation	Telephone: +88-031-716121, Mobile: +880 1755587628; +8801713755377 E-mail: gm.com.bpc@gmail.com
29	Incomplete, conditional quotation and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all quotations partly or wholly without assigning any reason.	GD-943

**ফ্ল্যাট/বাড়ি বিক্রয়**  
ধানমন্ডিতে ২২০০ ও ৪৫০০ বর্গফুটের কমার্শিয়াল ফ্ল্যাট এবং বনানীতে ৬ কাঠার উপর ৪ তলা বাড়ি বিক্রয় হবে।  
যোগাযোগ: ০১৯১২৮১৯৩৭৮

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of The Director  
Chittagong Medical College Hospital  
[www.cmch.gov.bd](http://www.cmch.gov.bd)

Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2022-2023/5921 **e-GP Tender Notice** Date: 28-05-2023.

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contract numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan, Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Chattogram for the Procurement of:

SL. No.	Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/ Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date & Time	Tender/ Proposal Opening Date & Time
1	837368	Procurement of Anesthesia Machine with Ventilator for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	11-Jun-2023 15:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00
2	837370	Procurement of Diathermy Machine for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	11-Jun-2023 15:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00
3	837656	Procurement of Electro Surgical Vessel Sealing System (Ligasure) for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	11-Jun-2023 15:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00
4	837785	Procurement of ERCP Accessories for Existing Machine (Full Set) for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	11-Jun-2023 15:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00
5	839237	Procurement of Machinery Repair for the fiscal year 2022-2023.	11-Jun-2023 15:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00	12-Jun-2023 14:00

For pursuer e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-tender will be accepted only as stated in above list, accepted tenders will be opened online as stated in above list.

(Brigadier General Md. Shamim Ahsan)  
Director  
Chittagong Medical College Hospital  
Telephone: +8802333360179.  
E-mail: [cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd)

GD- 938

**WE'RE HIRING**

**APPOINTMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)**

Nagad Finance PLC, a non-banking financial institution in Bangladesh, invites applications from competent and energetic professionals for the post of its Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer. The candidate is expected to build and lead an efficient management team.

**Key Deliverables**

- Leadership and Strategy: Providing strategic direction and vision for the company and developing and implementing long-term business strategies and goals. Leading and inspiring the management team and employees to achieve objectives.
- Financial Management: Overseeing financial performance, budgeting, and financial reporting. Ensuring the company's financial health and sustainable growth.
- Operational Oversight: Monitoring operational performance and ensuring efficient and effective execution. Developing and implementing operational policies and procedures.
- Risk Management and Compliance: Ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and corporate governance standards. Establishing effective risk management and internal control systems.
- Culture and Talent Development: Nurturing a positive organizational culture and values. Attracting, retaining, and developing top talents.
- Stakeholder Management: Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders.

**Working Experience and Age Limit**  
Having a minimum of 20 (twenty) years of working experience in any financial institution(s) or bank(s). In addition to that 2 (two) years of continuous working experience in the immediate previous rank of Managing Director & CEO i.e. AMD/DMD in any financial institution(s)/Bank(s). The candidate is expected to be within 50 years. The criteria may be relaxed for the competent candidate.

**Educational Qualification**  
A candidate who has obtained a Master's degree from any reputed university with a good academic result. Having Master's in Economics/Finance & Banking/Business Administration/relevant overseas degree and work experience will be considered as an added advantage.

**Other Qualifications**  
Strong Interpersonal Skills, Strong Leadership Skills, Strategic Thinking, Strong Communication and Influencing Skills, Financial Acumen, etc.

**Compensation Package**  
An attractive and competitive compensation package will be offered to the competent candidate.

**Application Procedure**  
Please send your updated CV to [hr@nagadfinance.com.bd](mailto:hr@nagadfinance.com.bd) keeping the subject description as "Application for Managing Director & CEO-Nagad Finance PLC".

**Application Deadline: 30 May 2023**  
Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for the interview. The organization reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications.

**NAGAD FINANCE PLC**  
Delta Dahila Tower, 36, Kemal Ataturk Avenue Banani, Dhaka-1213

## Mother, 2 children die in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Transport worker Manik Mia and his family — a wife and three children — were building onto their dreams in their humble abode in a slum in port city's Bayezid Bostami East Sahidnagar area.

However, his joy soon transformed into agony after a catastrophic fire at his house engulfed his wife Noor Nahar, 30, and two children — three-year-old Faria, and one and a half year old Maruf, early yesterday.

"I have lost everything," said Manik, who was away from home when the harrowing incident took place.

With his eldest son Masud being the only one to escape the inferno, Manik now has to live with a void that can never be filled.

Two fire service units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control at 5:50am, upon information. Their efforts also led to the rescue of four individuals, who were promptly rushed to a hospital for urgent medical attention.

Preliminary investigations suggested that the fire originated from a mosquito-repellent coil in the slum, engulfing Manik's house and later spreading to five other adjacent homes, informed Ferdous Jahan, officer-in-charge of Bayezid Bostami Police Station.

"The family of the deceased filed an unnatural death case with our police station," he added.



Chattogram turned into a city of procession and rally yesterday as the ruling party and BNP held programmes in Laldighi Maidan and Bakalia area respectively. In Bakalia, BNP brought out a procession demanding resignation of the Awami League government, left. Meanwhile, AL held a peace rally at the Laldighi Maidan to protest against the arson attacks and violence by BNP-Jamaat men.

PHOTO: COLLECTED, RAJIB RAIHAN



## Two siblings sent to jail for torturing schoolboys

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Two brothers who were arrested for torturing two schoolboys over a football game in Jamalpur, were sent to jail yesterday.

The incident took place at Sadar upazila.

The arrests were made after the father of one of the victims, Jetu Mia, filed a case with the Jamalpur Sadar Police Station on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Sheikh Mohammad Rukon, 40, and Motaleb, 35, said Nur Mohammad, investigation officer of the police station.

According to Jetu Mia, the incident unfolded when a quarrel erupted between Rukon's son Bulbul and his son Babu during a football game, over a goal. They returned to their respective homes following the altercation. However, Rukon, along with his younger brother Motaleb, rushed to Babu's house and forcibly took Babu and his friend Raihan to their residence. They

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Alokbali's water hyacinth woes

JAHIDUL ISLAM and SHARIFUL ISLAM, back from Narsingdi

Mahmuda Begum was bleeding excessively after she gave birth to a baby girl on December 22 last year.

The 22-year-old mother from Alokbali union under Narsingdi Sadar upazila needed emergency medical care, which didn't exist in the union, located on a remote char in the Meghna river.

It was 5:00 am. Nasir Ahmed, her husband, started a race against time to get to the Narsingdi Sadar Hospital by navigating the Meghna river in an engine boat.

However, Mahmuda's condition deteriorated rapidly, and she fell unconscious en route. Hours later, when they finally arrived at the hospital, the duty doctor informed him that it was too late to save his beloved wife.

"If only she had reached the hospital a couple of hours earlier," Nasir sobbed, while sharing his story.

Mahmuda's tragic incident is not an isolated case in this remote char region. During the months of March to June, the journey to Narsingdi Sadar becomes a nightmare for residents, plagued by dense bushes and water hyacinths obstructing the waterways.

The owners of the 200 or so illegal fish farms, which are set up along the river's banks and branches are directly to blame for this, said locals.

These fish farm owners, in an effort to maximise their profits, release water hyacinth



into the river during the dry season. Within weeks, this invasive plant spread throughout the water body, rendering it nearly impassable for water transport. The consequences are dire, with lives hanging in the balance.

Nizam Uddin, 34, from Khodadila village in the Alokbali union of Sadar upazila, has two fish enclosures.

He said, "We do not create barriers in the river for the movement of boats. Instead, water hyacinth is typically present in the river during this time of year. Besides, there are other plants floating in the river."

Residents of Alokbali union expressed that their woes subside during the rainy season when rising water levels and the inundation of surrounding areas alleviate the problem. They rely on engine boats and occasionally

speed boats to reach Narsingdi Sadar via the Meghna river. However, when water hyacinth fills the river, even speedboats are rendered immobile. The normally short 30-minute speed boat journey is extended to one and a half hours on an engine boat.

Narsingdi Deputy Commissioner Abu Nayeem Mohammed Maruf Khan said the district administration is not aware of the matter. He said they will take necessary steps in this regard.

Local MP Lt Col (Rtd) Nazrul Islam Hiro (Bir Pratik) said he placed a survey report conducted by LGED to construct a concrete road and two bridges at Jatiya Sangsad last year, but it is yet to be approved.

"I hope the project will get approval from the Ecnc soon," he added.

## 'How dare you do BNP politics' 'BCL men' beat 4 Jubo Dal leaders in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Four Jubo Dal leaders were injured in an attack allegedly by Chhatra League men in Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila on Saturday night.

They are Obaydul Hossain Rocky, general secretary of Murapara union unit Jubo Dal under Rupaganj upazila; Al-Amin, assistant general secretary of the same unit, Md Kamal Hossain, president of ward-8 under the union, and Farhad Hossain, vice-president of the same ward unit.

Talking to The Daily Star, Obaydul said they were going to Murapara from the Rupshi area at around 9:00pm on Saturday when some youths intercepted them, and asked for their identities, he said.

"When they (attackers) came to know that we are involved with Jubo Dal, they started beating us. Instantly, some 20 to 25 more people joined them. They also snatched our mobile phones and wallets," he alleged. While beating us, the attackers said, "How dare you do BNP politics," said Obaydul.

"The attackers identified themselves as BCL activists and tried to take us to the office of Tanzir Ahmed Reaz, who is acting president of Rugganj upazila unit BCL," he added. Obaydul said later they took treatment at the local health complex.

Contacted, Riaz denied the allegation. Inspector (investigation) Ataur Rahman of Rugganj Police Station said, "If anyone files a complaint, we will take legal action."

Narayanganj district unit Jubo Dal convener Golam Faruk Khokon alleged, "We are being targeted by ruling party men. If we go to the police station, the law enforcers harass us rather than cooperating. So, we will not file any complaint."

## Schoolboy among three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people — including a schoolboy — were killed and three injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Cumilla, two persons died and three were injured as a microbus fell into a roadside ditch after being hit by a truck in Daudkandi upazila.

The deceased are Sattar Mia, 65, and Dulal Bapary, 62. Both were residents of the upazila.

The Dhaka-bound truck hit the microbus from behind in front of Shahidnagar MA Jalil High School around 8:30am, said Md Jahangir, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Highway Police Station.



One of the victims died on the spot and another was declared dead at a local hospital. The victims were passengers of the microbus, he said.

The truck toppled on its side upon impact, the OC said, adding that police seized both vehicles after the accident.

In Bogura, a nine-year-old boy was killed after a bus ran him over on Bogura-Naogaon regional highway in Adamdighi upazila.

Abu Bakar Siddique, son of Shamim Miah of Dalomba slum, was a student of class II at a local government primary school, said Adamdighi Police Station OC Rezaul Karim.

Quoting locals, the OC said a Bogura-bound bus from Naogaon hit the boy while he was going to a shop beside the highway to buy food around 8:00am.

The bus managed to flee the scene, he said. The body was handed over to the family without an autopsy.

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### INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 for the Goods and related Services and under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Tender Document:

1. Tender Ref.	: JBL/DO/SYLHET/IT237/OTM-01/2023		
2. Tender Name	: TENDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTER RELATED HARDWARE & LASER PRINTER & ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING) FOR DIFFERENT OFFICE BRANCH UNDER CONTROL OF JANATA BANK LIMITED, DIVISIONAL OFFICE, SYLHET FOLLOWING OPEN TENDERING METHOD.		
3. Brief description of Goods/services:	The items shall be internationally renowned while the UPS must be at least BSTI/ISO certified. No clone/Assembled items will be accepted:		
Lot	SI	Item	Quantity
Lot-1	i	Computer(PC)	77 units
Lot-2	ii	Laser Printer	45 Units
Lot-3	iii	Line Interactive UPS-650VA	125 units
Lot-4	iv	Multi-Function Printer (Copy-Print-Scan)	20 units
4. Time for completion of delivery	: 8(Eight) weeks for all Lot from the date of Contract Sign.		
5. Eligibility of Tenderers	: 5.1 The Tenderer shall be the developer/manufacturer/authorized dealer/distributor/reseller/bona fide supplier having minimum 2 (Two) years of overall business and specific experience of supplying, installing, commissioning, operating of similar goods and providing support service to different organization/banks in Bangladesh in multi-user environment. 5.2 Must have strong presence and support offices in Dhaka/ Sylhet with well-equipped service cell manned by adequately qualified technical personnel for maintenance and support for the proposed Goods and Services. Floating or home address shall not be considered as established offices. 5.3 The participating company may offer proposals for the items in any or all lots and must quote all the items in that/those lot(s). Evaluation will be done Lot by Lot basis and contract will also be awarded Lot by Lot basis. Partial offer for any lot will not be accepted. 5.4 The offers should have validity for at least 120 (One Hundred & Twenty) days from the date of opening the tender.		
6. Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Tender Document	: Janata Bank Limited, Divisional Office, Sylhet, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Dewan complex, Airport Road, Ambarkhana, Sylhet-3100. Interested Tenderers may view the Notice at the website of the Bank. (Website: www.jb.com.bd)		
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10. Last Date and Time for Submission of Tenders	: 12-06-2023 within 3.00 P.M.		
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13. Special Instructions	: a. The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings without showing any reason. b. The procuring entity shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest quotation. c. If any "force majeure" situation arises in the specified date mentioned in the tender data sheet or/and invitation for tender, the event will take on the next working date.		

*(Munir Ahmad)*  
Assistant General Manager  
Janata Bank Limited



(L-R) Leonardo DiCaprio, Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro at the premiere of "Killers of The Flower Moon".



Julia Garner at the premiere of Wes Anderson's "Asteroid City".



Natalie Portman attends the premiere of "May December".

## Jaya Ahsan attends IIFA Awards 2023

Dubai, the glitzy city of lights, witnessed a star-studded extravaganza as the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2023 began on Friday.

Popular Bangladeshi actress Jaya Ahsan also attended the event with the Indian stars, leaving everyone in awe of her impeccable style and grace. She took to Facebook and shared some beautiful moments from the award ceremony.

She was adorned in a mesmerizing blue and white fusion saree, having draped the saare with a matching pair of embroidered pants. With a heavy neck piece and minimal make-up, she completed the look with a white bag and coiffed hair.

On the second day, the gorgeous actress wore a sequined black saree, with a golden shimmery, backless blouse. The *Debi* actress kept her look natural, with a stylish neckpiece and earrings.



## Curtains close on CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

**Bangladesh had its own film, Aronyo Anawer's "Maa", starring Pori Moni, screening at the Marche Du Film. We even had our own stall at the festival, for the first time ever.**

AAQIB HASIB

On Saturday night, cinema's marquee event, the 76th iteration of the Cannes Film Festival finally came to a close. While the festival might initially have been a place for artists to assemble and recognise each other's efforts, the modern-day version is a pop-culture event that captivates the masses as well.

Like a sea of stars, celebrities flooded the red carpet with their glamorous outfits, once again becoming the main focus point for Cannes worldwide. Like each year, people argued back and forth over whether Cannes is a film or fashion festival, taking further focus away from the films being screened.

Looking back, the major movies being screened at the festival were *Indiana Jones and the Dial of the Destiny*; Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*; Johnny Depp starrer *Jeanne du Barry*; Wes Anderson's *Asteroid City*; and Justine Triet's *Anatomy of a Fall*, just to name a few.

Bangladesh had its own film, Aronyo Anawer's *Maa*, starring Pori Moni, screening at the Marche Du Film. We even had our own stall at the festival, for the first time ever. However, the stall—which is expected to be a gateway into a country's film and culture—remained empty for the most part.

This mishap occurred over a reported logistical issue, where BFDC members were



Justine Triet receives the Palme d'or for "Anatomy of a Fall". PHOTOS: COLLECTED

denied their visa applications due to them applying too late. Hopefully, this will be a learning opportunity that will help us better prepare for next year's event.

One film that has been widely discussed, following its Cannes debut, is Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The world-famous director commented shortly before the festival, echoing the words of renowned filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, saying, "I am only now beginning to see the possibility of what cinema could be, and it's too late."

At Cannes, *Killers of the Flower Moon* would receive a standing ovation, with many in attendance calling it Scorsese's best film.

The festival had opened by awarding Michael Douglas and Harrison Ford the honorary Palme d'or. It would finally draw to a close by awarding the prestigious Palme d'or to Justine Triet, for *Anatomy of a Fall*.

In between, other awards had also been handed out with the most notable ones being: Jonathan Glazer's *The Zone of Interest* (Grand Prix); Tran Anh Hung for *La Passion de Dodin Bouffant* (Best Director-Feature Film); Aki Kaurismäki's *Fallen Leaves* (Jury Prize); Flóra Anna Buda's *27* (Short Film Palme d'or); Molly Manning Walker's *How to have Sex* (Un Certain Regard Prize); Merve Dizdar for *About Dry Grasses* (Best performance by an actress) and Koji Yakusho for *Perfect Days* (Best performance by an actor), many more.

## Shams becomes first Bangladeshi-American to win Emmy

Music Director Shams Ahmed has become the first Bangladeshi-American to win an Emmy award for Music Direction for a Super Bowl LVII piece, *Ragged old flag*, at the 44th Sport Emmys.

Shams Ahmed announced the news on his Facebook along with his Emmy award.

"To receive this award is an honour and blessing - but to be the first Bangladeshi/Bangladeshi-American to win an Emmy Award for Music Direction. Feels absolutely unbelievable. Thank you to everyone for your unwavering support," read his post.

They were nominated in two categories - one for camera work, and the other for direct contributions in Music Direction.



## NEWS

### Liton's income rises fourfold

FROM PAGE 14  
Liton's income from fish cultivation has increased by more than seven times in the last five years. In 2018, he reported an income of Tk 32 lakh from fish farming, which increased to Tk 2.42 crore in 2023.

However, Liton, the immediate past Rajshahi mayor, didn't specify fish farming as his profession, rather he declared himself as a lawyer but showed no income from his law practice.

"Law has been my profession since the beginning. However, I no longer earn from it and only practice law sparingly to support my party members," Liton, also a presidium member of Awami League told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Shaheen Akhtar, Khairuzzaman's wife, also declared an annual income of Tk 3.10 crore, even though she had no income during the 2018 RCC polls.

Besides, the assets in her name have also increased in value.

In 2018, she declared immovable assets including 1.63 acres of

agricultural land, a three-storey building, and two flats in Dhaka's Banani. Now, she has 1.77 acres of agricultural land, a fish farm worth Tk 79 lakh, and a two-storey building.

Among her movable assets, Shaheen Akhtar had 50 bhoori gold ornaments and other assets worth Tk 92 lakh in 2018. Now her movable assets are valued at Tk 2.20 crore plus the previously owned 50 bhoori gold.

Regarding his wife's income, Liton said his wife has been importing stones from India with her cousin for the past three years and raising a fish farm by herself.

In July 2008, when Liton contested the mayoral election for the first time, he declared his annual income of Tk 2.44 lakh and a net wealth worth of Tk 5.29 lakh.

AHM Khairuzzaman was elected as Rajshahi City Mayor for the first time in 2008. He was then defeated by BNP's Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul in the next election in 2013. Liton was re-elected mayor in the 2018 election.

He served in several local political

posts before he was made a presidium member of the Awami League in November 2021.

His wife Shaheen Akhtar is the vice-president of AL's Rajshahi City unit.

**LITON'S RIVALS NOT EVEN CLOSE**  
The four mayoral candidates in this election are Awami League nominated candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Jatiya Party's Saiful Islam, Zaker Party's Latif Anwar and Islami Andolan Bangladesh's Murshid Alam.

Saiful Islam reported an annual income of Tk 3.6 lakh and assets worth Tk 4.3 lakh. Latif Anwar reported an annual income of Tk 3 lakh and assets worth Tk 1.5 lakh. Murshid Alam reported an annual income of Tk 3.3 lakh and Tk 12 lakh in cash.

On June 21, the RCC polls will be held using electronic voting machines (EVMs) from 8:00am to 4:00pm without any break.

The voting will take place at a possible 152 polling stations.

The total number of voters this time is 352,157. Of them, 171,185 are men and 189,972 are women.

### Influential man, his 3 brothers worked Rab

FROM PAGE 14  
influential person, Rajib said, "You are wise people, you will understand. They changed the trajectory of our lives when we were councillors. I can't reveal his name even if I want to. There are safety concerns for me and my family."

He added that the law enforcers never found his involvement with any casino.

Besides, the law enforcers have not found any evidence of his bank account abroad and the allegations of abundant wealth turned out to be false, he said.

Habibur, the other former councillor, alleged that he too was arrested because the Ahmed brothers wanted him out of the area.

"There was not any previous case against me. Rab charged me with possession of a firearm that did not belong to me. I turned in my firearm in 2018, a year before my arrest. I have a proof," he said, adding that Rab also

changed his name to "Pagla Mizan".

"They took away valuable documents, money and gold ornaments from my house. These items were not mentioned on the seizure list. I still haven't got any of it back."

About the allegations, Rab Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Khandaker Al Moin said those who had complaints against Rab should have written to the Rab headquarters.

"We conduct raids following the legal procedures. If there was a deviation, the individuals could have said it any time in the last four years. They can even inform the court through a lawyer."

"I don't know why they are telling this to journalists four years after the raids."

Moin added that the individuals making the allegations might have an ulterior motive.

The Daily Star could not reach Joseph, Haris, Anis and their brother

for comments.

In 2019, Haris wrote an application to the home ministry, saying that he and his brothers Anis and Joseph were falsely accused of killing a man named Mostafizur Rahman alias Mostafa.

The application also mentioned that the false accusation was made by Mostafa's brother Habibur Rahman Mizan, who was one of the two former councillors at yesterday's press conference.

Haris was sentenced to life in prison in two cases on May 25, 2004, over the murder of Mostafa, and on March 3, 2004, over the murder of Dhaka University student Abu Morshed.

Even though Haris didn't mention anything about the second case in his letter to the home ministry, the latter issued a circular on March 28, 2019, announcing that the government had pardoned him in both the cases.

Haris' brother Joseph, who had been sentenced to death, got the presidential clemency.

### Challenging in Barishal, smooth sailing

FROM PAGE 1  
But the faction loyal to Sadiq is largely absent on the campaign trail, said local AL sources.

Sources involved in Khair's campaign said Khair did not attend the Friday's meeting as most of the participants were Sadiq loyalists.

The Sadiq-led faction of AL has so far remained aloof and they may vote in favor of the IAB candidate.

The Daily Star could not reach Sadiq for comments as his phone was found switched off.

Meanwhile, criticising the incumbent mayor yesterday, Khair said, "The mayor failed in all sectors. The city dwellers couldn't reach him when they needed to."

He made the remarks at a views-exchange meeting with members of Barishal Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Called last night, Rubel Hawlader, personal secretary of Khair, picked Khair's phone and said that Khair was in a meeting.

"Islami Andolon Bangladesh has the biggest vote bank after the ruling Awami League. Considering this, the Sadiq led faction may silently extend its support to the Islami Andolon candidate," Rafiqul Alam, general secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) of Barishal unit, told The Daily Star.

Also IAB, which was founded by late Fazlul Karim, popularly known as Charmonai Pir, has a strong vote bank in Barishal since it was founded in Barishal and run from the city.

As the BNP boycotted the election, a faction of its supporters may favour the IAB mayor candidate, making it difficult for the AL contender to win the mayoral race.

Kamrul Ahsan Rupon, son of BNP leader and former mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal, is running as an independent.

In the Khulna City Corporation polls, the position of AL-nominated candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque is quite the opposite.

No feud within the local AL is visible. Khaleque has a "clean image" and the major opposition BNP is not taking part in the election.

For this, it should be easy for the ruling AL candidate to win, say AL sources.

"We are conducting door-to-door campaigns. The local Awami League is united to get the party candidate elected," MDA Babul Rana, general secretary of the city AL, told this newspaper.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kudrat-e-Khuda, president of Khulna Satcheton Nagorik Committee, said, "A participatory and competitive election creates an environment

of accountability. The absence of competition and accountability may give a sense of impunity to the elected persons, which may put the Khulna City Corporation in crisis."

[Our Barishal and Khulna correspondents contributed to this report.]

### Ruet VC quits

FROM PAGE 14  
movement by locking the VC's office from today if their demands are not met, he said.

At 11:45am yesterday, over 50 teachers stormed his office and started a sit-in inside demanding their promotion.

According to the teachers, at least 80 teachers have been deprived of their due promotion over one year.

They refrained from attending classes for four days until May 24 and staged sit-in programmes on the campus.

The teachers said the acting VC was unable to take any steps to solve their problems.

Meanwhile, Prof Awal, secretary of Ruet Teachers' Association, said the appointment of Prof Sazzad violates the Ruet rules that ensure none other than teachers from the engineering faculties will be the Ruet VC.



Arab-Israeli students and Israeli left-wing activists lift flags and placards during a protest against a new law bill bolstering restrictions on raising the Palestinian flag, at the Tel Aviv University campus in the eponymous coastal city yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



## SUDAN CONFLICT US, KSA call for extended truce

REUTERS, Dubai

Saudi Arabia and the United States yesterday called for the extension of a ceasefire deal that has brought some let-up in a six-week war between military factions but little humanitarian relief for civilians.

There were clashes overnight in the capital Khartoum and Omdurman, an adjoining city across the Nile, residents said, while human rights monitors reported deadly fighting in El Fashir, one of the principal cities in the western region of Darfur.

The conflict between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that erupted on April 15 has left the capital reeling from heavy battles, lawlessness and a collapse in services, driving more than 1.3 million people from their homes and threatening to destabilise the region.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his wife Emine Erdogan vote at a polling station during the second round of the presidential election in Istanbul, Turkey yesterday. Inset: Kemal Kilicdaroglu, presidential candidate of main opposition alliance, and his wife Selvi Kilicdaroglu cast their ballots at a polling station in Ankara yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Good ties with China possible without BRI Says Italy PM

REUTERS, Milan

Good relations with China are possible even without being part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) deal, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said in an interview published yesterday, as her government weighs abandoning the project.

Italy is the only major Western country to have joined China's BRI scheme, which envisions rebuilding the old Silk Road to connect China with Asia, Europe and beyond with large infrastructure spending.

In an interview with Il Messaggero daily, Meloni said it was too early to anticipate outcome of Italy's decision on whether to remain part of the project, which it signed in 2019, drawing criticism from Washington and Brussels.

"Our assessment is very delicate and touches upon many interests," said Meloni. The pact expires in March 2024 and will be automatically renewed unless either side informs the other that they are pulling out.

In an interview with Reuters last year, before she won power in a September election, Meloni made clear she disapproved of the 2019 move.

## 40 insurgents shot dead in India's Manipur

Says the state's chief minister; 10 hurt; encounters on

NDTV ONLINE

Commandos of the Manipur Police had been engaging insurgents for over eight hours yesterday in several areas of the Indian state hit by ethnic violence, sources have told NDTV.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh told reporters they have got reports that "40 terrorists" have been shot dead.

"The terrorists have been using M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles and sniper guns against civilians. They came to many villages to burn down homes. We have started taking very strong action against them with the help of the army and other security forces. We have got reports some 40 terrorists have been shot dead," Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh told reporters yesterday.

"I won't call them Kuki militants. They are Kuki terrorists. They have been shooting at unarmed civilians," Singh said.

The insurgents simultaneously attacked five areas in and around Imphal valley at 2:00 am yesterday, sources said.

The areas are Sekmai, Sugnu, Kumbi, Phayeng and Serou. There are reports of gunfights going on in more areas and unclaimed bodies lying on the streets.

The gunfight at Sekmai is over, sources said, without giving more details.

Doctors at the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) in state capital Imphal told NDTV on phone yesterday they have received 10 people injured in the gunfight at Phayeng.

Khumanthem Kennedy, 27, a farmer, was killed after he was hit by multiple bullets in Bishenpur's Chandonpokpi; his body is being taken to RIMS, sources said, adding more casualties are feared. Kennedy is survived by his wife and infant son.



Over 25 Kuki insurgent groups have signed the tripartite "suspension of operations" (SoO) agreement with the centre and the state government. Under the SoO rules, the insurgents are to be confined in designated camps identified by the government and the weapons kept under locks, regularly monitored.

Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Manipur today. He has appealed to both the Meiteis and the Kukis to maintain calm and peace, and work for bringing normalcy.

Army chief General Manoj Pande also went to the state on Saturday on a two-day visit to review the security situation.

The continuing ethnic violence between the Meiteis, who live in and around Imphal valley, and the Kuki tribe, who are settled in the hills, over the Meiteis' demand to be included under the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category has claimed over 70 lives since clashed started on May 3.

The development imbalance favouring the valley over the hills has been a point of contention and rivalry between the ethnic groups, reports Reuters.

The groups coexisted peacefully until unrelated events in recent months exposed old faultlines.

Separately, the state government in February launched a drive to evict tribal communities from forests in the hills, saying they had encroached on government land, sparking anger among tribal people that they were being forced out of their homes.

"It has been building up for a long time, in some ways unseen and some ways quite openly, but the government was not paying attention," said Pradip Phanjoubam, editor of the Imphal Review of Arts and Politics.

Manipur has been without internet for over 25 days.

## Republicans, Biden reach debt ceiling deal

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden and Republican leader Kevin McCarthy announced a deal Saturday to raise the debt ceiling, dragging the United States back from the precipice of default with only a few days to spare.

Congress will vote on the deal to extend the government's borrowing authority on Wednesday, just shy of the June 5 "X-date" when Treasury estimates government will no longer be able to pay its bills, plunging the economy into turmoil.

Biden said in a statement that the deal was "good news for the American people, because it prevents what could have been a catastrophic default and would have led to an economic recession, retirement accounts devastated, and millions of jobs lost."

McCarthy, who spoke with Biden on Saturday to close the deal, said there was still "a lot of work to do, but I believe this is an agreement in principle that's worthy of the American people."

The Republican speaker added he would consult again with president and oversee final drafting of the bill, and the House would "then be voting on it on Wednesday."

## PLANNED RAID INCIDENT

### Minister trying to cover up 'horror stories': ex-Pak PM

DAWN ONLINE

PTI Chairman Imran Khan yesterday hit back at Pakistan Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah's allegations that the party had planned to orchestrate a "raid and rape" at a known worker's home in an effort to malign law enforcement agencies, terming them an effort to pre-empt and cover up "horror stories".

Imran's remarks came hours after Sanaullah, in a post-midnight press conference in Faisalabad, alleged that intelligence agencies had intercepted a telephone call in which a plan to "stage a raid and rape" at a known PTI worker's home was being discussed.

The interior minister did not provide any proof of his claim. "A plan [...] was being prepared. That there is an actual raid at a home — and that home will be of a known PTI worker — and an incident of firing occurs there, resulting in casualties," he said, adding that this was being planned to highlight human rights violations in Pakistan.

"In the same conversation that was intercepted, a second drama was that a rape is carried out. Meaning that an actual rape is carried out and it is blamed on law enforcement agencies [and] that it is happening at the government's behest."

The minister alleged that the PTI had then planned to highlight the issue on international media. He said that there were chances that the act would be carried out "tonight" (Sunday night) which is why the government had deemed it "necessary to make the nation aware of the devilish design".

## HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS Indian cops detain protesting wrestlers

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police yesterday dragged away and detained two Olympic wrestlers and dozens of others as they tried to march to parliament demanding the arrest of the sport's federation chief over allegations of sexual harassment and intimidation. In an escalation of the month-old standoff, police also cleared the site in central New Delhi where the wrestlers have been camped out while calling for the arrest of Brij Bhushan Singh, an AFP journalist at the scene said. The wrestlers attempted to march to new parliament yesterday just as it was being inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but they were halted by some of the hundreds of police on duty for the event.

## China's home-grown plane makes maiden flight

AFP, Beijing



China's first domestically produced passenger jet made its maiden commercial flight yesterday, a milestone event in the nation's decades-long effort to compete with Western rivals in the air. Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models like the Boeing 737 MAX, though many of its parts are sourced from abroad.

Its first homegrown jetliner with mass commercial potential would also cut the country's reliance on foreign technology as ties with West deteriorate. "In the future, most passengers will be able to choose to travel by large, domestically produced aircraft," CCTV said.

## Modi inaugurates new parliament 19 opposition parties boycott the event

AFP, New Delhi

Flanked by priests, Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new Indian parliament yesterday in a ceremony steeped in religious symbolism but boycotted by opposition parties.

The hexagonal new building — shaped like a coffin, one opposition party said — is centrepiece of a remodelling of the heart of New Delhi by Modi aimed at ridding the capital of vestiges of British colonial rule.

"India is not only a democratic nation but also the mother of democracy," Modi said.

"This is not just a building... this is the temple of democracy that gives the world a message of India's determination."

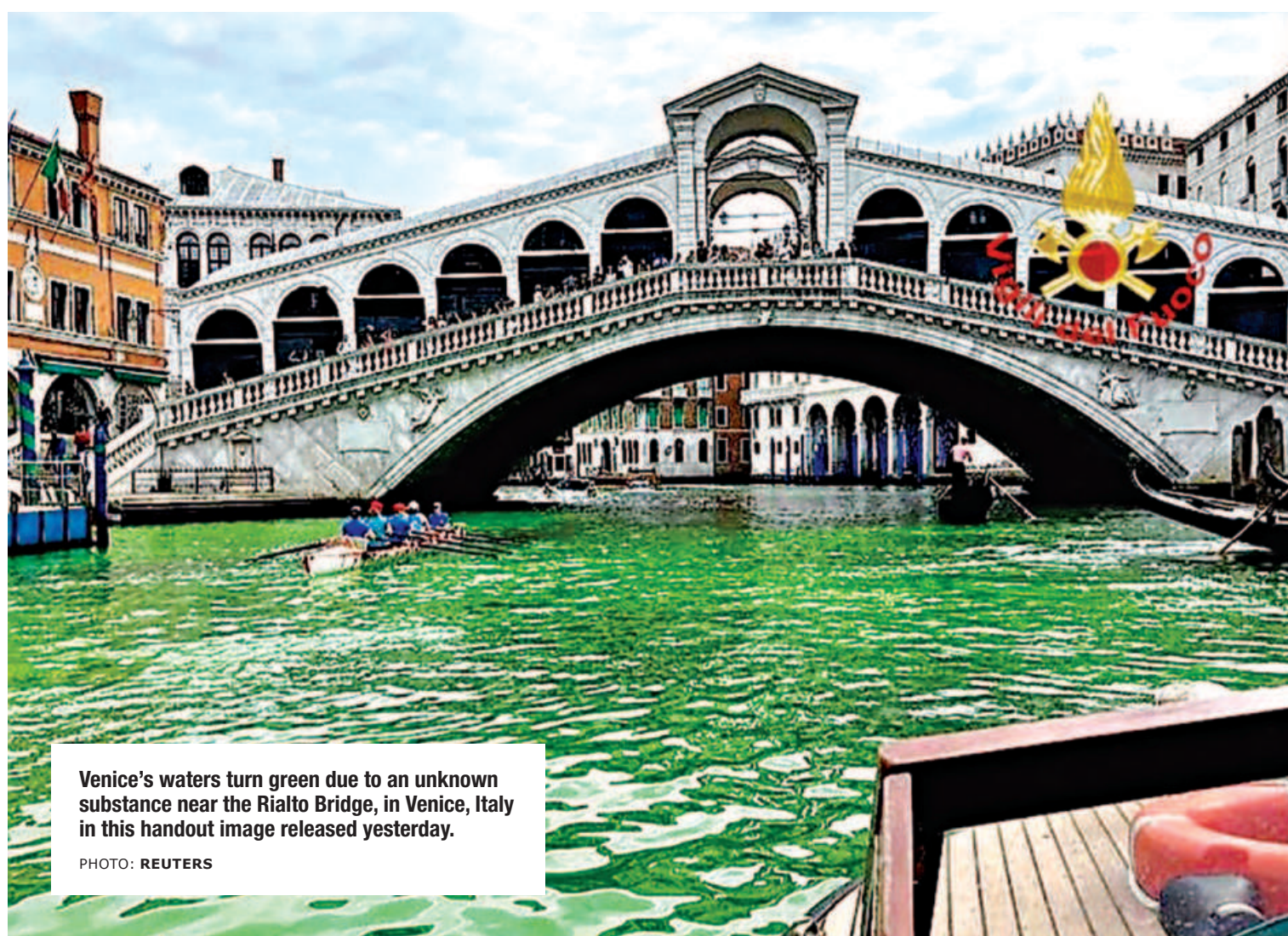
The unveiling was preceded by a multi-faith prayer ceremony and Modi later entered the chamber accompanied by a posse of chanting Hindu seers in saffron robes before installing a ceremonial sceptre.

He later re-entered the chamber to chants of "Modi Modi" by government lawmakers.

Nineteen opposition parties boycotted the event because Modi, and not Indian President Droupadi Murmu, was inaugurating the new chamber, calling it a "direct assault on our democracy".

Modi "has relentlessly hollowed out" parliament, with opposition lawmakers "disqualified, suspended and muted" and laws passed "with almost no debate", a statement by the parties said.

The new legislature building stands next to the ageing and cramped colonial-era parliament building.



Venice's waters turn green due to an unknown substance near the Rialto Bridge, in Venice, Italy in this handout image released yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Three killed, 5 hurt in US rally shootout

AFP, Los Angeles

At least three people were killed and five others wounded in a shootout at a biker rally on Saturday in the US state of New Mexico, local media reported.

The shooting occurred around 5:00 pm as 20,000 bikers took part in an annual Memorial Day motorcycle rally in Red River, a small town near the ski destination of Taos.

In a video interview with local outlet Questa Del Rio News, Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun confirmed the deaths and injuries, and said an unspecified number of suspects had been arrested.

"No law enforcement, no first responders were injured. No local people were injured... It was a gang-related incident," she said, declining to divulge which gangs were believed to be involved.

"The shooters have all been apprehended," she added.

## Political will needed to save the economy

Repeat of poor economic policies will cost us dearly

We strongly concur with the Centre for Policy Dialogue's warning that Bangladesh's economy is in its worst state in recent history, and the situation may worsen if policymakers do not take appropriate corrective measures to address the problems. The main drivers for the current crisis, according to the think-tank, are high inflation, slowing remittance and exports, falling forex reserves, lack of good governance, lax policy implementation, and the inability to make necessary reforms on the government's part. The fact that policies have for long been formulated to protect the interest of influential groups at the expense of ordinary people and the nation remains the greatest obstacle to making the required reforms.

With the next budget to be presented in parliament on June 1, the primary concern for policymakers should be to restore the country's macroeconomic stability. The first step in that direction would be to not repeat the mistakes made during the preparation of the last budget, including the setting of unrealistic targets. For instance, last year the government set an inflation target of 5.4 percent. Yet, actual inflation was slightly below the decade high of 9.52 percent in August last year. Such discrepancy between the government's make-belief scenario and peoples' lived reality has led to one poor government policy decision after another. As a result, the government measures taken to resolve the ongoing problems – such as the initiatives to boost remittances or resolve the ongoing crisis in forex reserves – have also failed.

Furthermore, according to the think-tank, the central bank did not even use its monetary tools to contain inflationary pressure. For example, it should have relaxed the interest rate cap of 9 percent on loans to tackle the high inflation. Additionally, given that the state-owned monopoly Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has made an after-tax profit of Tk 36,074 crore over the last seven years, there is no reason for it to not reduce petroleum prices now.

While the government has pursued a number of poor economic policies, the fact remains that they have largely been driven due to political considerations. Therefore, the only way to make a course correction is for the government to finally develop the necessary political will. We call on the government to put the interest of the nation first – instead of that of special interest groups – in preparing the next budget and its upcoming economic policies.

## Safe repatriation must be the goal

We need a sustainable, not one-off, solution

During the 12th Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between Dhaka and Beijing, China reiterated its commitment to early repatriation of Rohingyas to the Rakhine state. While China's intervention and the "pilot repatriation plan" have shone a ray of hope on the six-year crisis, we must not forget that this is the third initiative taken at China's behest. The previous two yielded no results, due to Myanmar backtracking on its promises and failing to take accountability. A proper timeline is yet to be established in the pilot plan, which raises questions about Myanmar's sincerity on the matter. For repatriation to be a sustained process, it has to be agreed upon by all stakeholders in the international fora. Otherwise, it runs the risk of becoming a one-off repatriation, with China playing to the world gallery.

Two recent attempts of repatriation in May failed as no Rohingya volunteered to return to Myanmar, arguing that they lack guarantee of citizenship and security as their villages have been turned into displacement camps. Five refugees who went on the "go and see visit" on May 5, in coordination with Bangladesh and Myanmar's junta, expressed their fear of history repeating itself. About 600,000 Rohingyas in Rakhine state remain confined to squalid camps, according to the Human Rights Watch. Given the violence the Rohingyas have suffered in the Rakhine state, for which they fled to Bangladesh in the first place, safe and voluntary repatriation would only be possible if Myanmar's military government puts a stop to the systematic persecution of the community.

The US and others have warned that Myanmar is not yet conducive to the Rohingya's safety but has not prioritised the urgent need for repatriation from Bangladesh's end. The UN Security Council passed the first ever resolution last year to address "military violence" in Myanmar. However, as we have seen over the course of the current protracted crisis, international actors have failed to create the critical pressure on Myanmar needed to render repatriation a possibility. The financial burden to support Rohingyas in Bangladesh, while the nation battles with economic turmoil, has become a critical issue. For Bangladesh's sake, we back efforts for early repatriation, but for this plan to follow through, the international community must step foot on the pedal and come together to ensure that Myanmar creates a state that is conducive to the safe repatriation of the Rohingya.

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# Macroeconomic challenges that overshadow FY24 budget



### MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The macroeconomic stability that our economy has enjoyed for a long time has disappeared in the face of multiple challenges – from both external and domestic sources. Due to the inherent weaknesses of the domestic economy, making a turnaround to the previously experienced comfort zone has become tough.

The trends during the first three quarters of the outgoing fiscal year reveal a lacklustre performance in revenue collection that has led to a contraction of fiscal space. During the first eight months of FY2023, the total revenue collection fell compared to the corresponding period of FY2022, as per data from the finance ministry. With such a trend of low mobilisation, reaching the target for total revenue growth for the year will be difficult.

Similarly, utilisation of the ADP budgetary allocation has been less during the first eight months of FY2023 compared to the same period of the previous year. In the midst of a shrinking fiscal space, the budget deficit during the first eight months of FY2023, excluding grants, was equivalent to Tk 21,201 crore, as opposed to the budget surplus of Tk 2,937 crore during the same period in FY2022. The government is covering the budget deficit by borrowing from the Bangladesh Bank, which is high-powered money and could fuel inflationary pressure if continued.

Heavy reliance on borrowing from the central bank to finance the budget deficit has resulted in tightened liquidity for the scheduled banks. To create fiscal space, the government will have to enhance its efforts towards revenue mobilisation. Besides, tax exemptions provided to some sectors should be discontinued and reduced. How much tax is foregone due to such exemptions should be made transparent.

Due to limited fiscal space, the government cannot allocate more resources to support poor and low-income households struggling with high commodity prices. There are several essential items on which various types of duties and tariffs are imposed. If a portion of those duties could be removed for a limited period of time, poor and low-income families could get some relief. However, since our



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

tax system is dependent on indirect tax, there is an unwillingness in undertaking such a measure.

Export earnings during the first 10 months of FY2023 grew by only 5.4 percent compared to the corresponding period of FY2022. In order to meet the strategic target of 11.5 percent in FY2023, exports have to grow by 41.4 percent in the remaining months of the year. In case of remittances, growth was slow during July-April of FY2023, at 2.4 percent, compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. What's worrying is that even though the number of people going abroad for work has increased, particularly in the Gulf countries, the remittance flow from those countries has not increased accordingly.

Due to a restriction on the import of luxury items, import payments have reduced, which has helped improve the balance of trade significantly – though it is still negative as of March 2023. The current account balance, despite some improvements, is also in the negative. Another worrying sign is the deterioration in the financial account balance. The gross foreign exchange reserves have declined by about \$13 billion between March 2022 and March 2023. If the IMF estimate of forex

selectively restricted, and the letter of credit (LC) margins were increased. This reduced import payments, but reduction of import payment for capital machineries should be observed carefully as it has implications for private investment. As it is, private investment has been stagnant at about 24 percent of GDP for many years. Without any breakthrough in this area, employment generation will not be possible.

In response to these difficulties, the government has sought a loan of \$4.7 billion from the IMF, which has imposed a series of quantitative benchmarks and qualitative prerequisites that our economy badly needed. The policymakers have taken measures that are detrimental to the welfare of the country. The subsidy issue is a case in point. Partly driven by the need for increased earnings and partly due to the IMF pre-condition, our policymakers have continued to increase energy prices. This has been implemented at a time when global energy prices are on a decline. This has fuelled inflation further and eroded people's purchasing power. Low-income households and small businesses have been severely affected by the energy price hikes.

shocks would have on the country's overall macroeconomic management. This has been observed in their way of policy formulation. For example, the FY2023 budget was prepared in a business-as-usual scenario where the ongoing politico-economic realities were not considered. The FY2023 budget projected a 7.5 percent GDP growth and set an inflation target of 5.6 percent. Moreover, the potential impact on the external economy – exports, imports, remittances, reserves, and exchange rates – was not accurately appreciated. Since the projected growth was not possible to achieve given the reality, the GDP growth target had to be revised to 6.03 percent. On the other hand, the actual inflation rate has been significantly higher than the projected rate, reaching 9.24 percent in April 2023.

In view of the ongoing economic challenges and the experience of mistargeting major macroeconomic indicators in FY2022-23, the policymakers are expected to have formulated the budget for FY2023-24 in a more practical fashion. Carefully planning and efficiently implementing a budget is crucial in addressing and overcoming the ongoing challenges.

## Bangladesh must prepare for shorter production runs



### RMG NOTES

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

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

The world has too much clothing. Just recently, the European Union agreed to ban the destruction of unsold clothing as part of a drive towards reducing waste and improving levels of reuse and recycling. The proposed new law arrives amid growing concerns about excess clothing in the EU Bloc, an issue emerging from the rising trend of online purchasing and high rates of product returns.

The EU is not the only trading area where there are concerns about the amount of clothing being imported but not being sold. The argument is that this is a waste of valuable resources, not to mention a source of significant carbon emissions.

While these regulatory developments are happening, suppliers in Bangladesh are seeing another trend that may well be related: requests from customers for shorter production runs. This is a big deal for a country like ours, with its garment industry having built its reputation on the ability to deliver major orders in a relatively short timeframe.

For context, a large production run for, say, jeans might be considered to be 10,000-40,000 units (or pairs of jeans). A short run would be more like 500-1,500 units. As one can see, there is a huge difference, with clear implications

for garment manufacturers. No manufacturer wants its machinery to be lying idle for long periods of time.

At present, we are already seeing market demand for shorter runs. There is also anecdotal evidence that manufacturers are unwilling to accept such orders for a variety of reasons. For example, they may not make financial sense as larger manufacturers are designed to operate at full capacity (or close to it) in order to leverage the benefits of scale economies.

There is some irony here. I wrote recently about larger manufacturers being the future of our industry, simply because they will be the only players financially capable of meeting impending requirements related to sustainable production. And yet, we may see more and more of them being asked to accept smaller orders – which they were not designed to handle.

Regarding broadly, there are challenges regarding production and logistics in terms of shorter runs in Bangladesh. We are not geared for such runs in the same way that some manufacturers in Europe are. In countries such as Italy, the implementation of automation and digitisation to facilitate short-batch production is far more advanced than it is in Bangladesh and in other parts of Asia.

Will shorter runs be permanent? It is hard to say right now. For the time being, however, I see the demand for shorter runs becoming more and more common. One reason for that is the rising concerns about the global economy. In much of Europe, we are seeing high inflation rates which are affecting food and energy prices – two

**Already, the world's fastest growing fashion retailer, Shein, is using short runs to test the market for seasonal items. This keeps inventory levels down, helping to reduce waste in Shein's supply chains. I believe other fashion brands will be looking at this model to see if there aren't any lessons to learn.**

necessity products. If people are forced to spend more on energy and food, they have less money for luxury items. To some extent, clothing and fast fashion fall under this category.

The second reason for shorter runs is linked with sustainability and environmental concerns. As outlined previously, the EU is cracking down on this issue and clothing retailers will be looking at their business models to see how they can better handle inventory.

Already, the world's fastest growing fashion retailer, Shein, is using short

runs, often of just a few hundred units, to test the market for seasonal items. This keeps inventory levels down, helping to reduce waste in Shein's supply chains. I believe other fashion brands will be looking at this model to see if there aren't any lessons to learn. This model, it should be noted, relies on a flexible, highly responsive garment supply chain close to Shein's headquarters in China.

I don't think we will see long runs disappear completely, but I do believe we will see more and more demand in the market for shorter runs. This places further pressure on Bangladeshi garment manufacturers to adapt and innovate. We will also need our logistics infrastructure to evolve, becoming more flexible and nimble.

Some see a desire for near-shoring as a threat to Bangladesh, and a move towards shorter runs could be beneficial for our competitors in Europe (or, say, Mexico for the US market). There is some logic to this argument; however, Bangladesh continues to beat most of our competitors on price and this remains a key factor for brand-buying teams.

Finally, there is the issue of garment workers. Could shorter production runs lead to less employment in our industry? All other things being equal, this is likely to be the case. However, our industry can mitigate this by better gearing up for a more streamlined, responsive industry as the future unfolds and fashion brands seek greater efficiencies in their supply chains. Shorter runs could be an opportunity to evolve our industry into something better and more sustainable.



**Office of the Chapainawabganj Pourashava**  
District: Chapainawabganj

Memo No. 46.43.7033.002.02.140.22.215 Date: 25/05/2023

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1	837672	LGCRRP/Chapainawabganj/2022-23/W-01	19-06-2023 Time: 16:00	20-06-2023 Time: 13:00	OTM
02	837673	LGCRRP/Chapainawabganj/2022-23/W-02	19-06-2023 Time: 16:00	20-06-2023 Time: 13:15	
03	837674	LGCRRP/Chapainawabganj/2022-23/W-03	19-06-2023 Time: 16:00	20-06-2023 Time: 14:00	

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**Md. Toufique Islam**  
Executive Engineer  
Chapainawabganj Pourashava  
District: Chapainawabganj  
E-mail: [xen.ps.cwawabganj@gmail.com](mailto:xen.ps.cwawabganj@gmail.com)

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১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
২	এজেন্সি	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৩	ক্রয়কারীর নাম	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৪	ক্রয়কারীর জেলা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৫	যে দরপত্রের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি আহ্বান	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৬	বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্র নং	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৭	তারিখ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩

মূল তথ্য  
৮. প্রস পদ্ধতি: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।  
৯. বাজেট ও অর্থায়ন উৎস: রাজস্ব।  
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১১. দরপত্র প্যাকেজ এর নাম: বিক্রয় প্রকার বাসভূমি/২২-২৩/প্যাকেজ-এ বি.সি.ডি.ই.সি. এইচ ও জি।  
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১৪. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।  
১৫. দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।

১৬. অফিস (সহ) এর নাম ও ঠিকানা: জেলা স্টেট, জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
১. কারা উপমহাপরিদর্শক, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা।  
২. কারা উপমহাপরিদর্শক, হুগুন্ডা বিভাগ, হুগুন্ডা।  
১. জেলা স্টেট, জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
২. জেলা স্টেট, জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
৩. সদর থানা, পঞ্চগড়।  
১৭. প্রাক-দরপত্র স্থান/তারিখ/সময়: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।

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মোঃ কামাল হোসেন  
বিলে নং-০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১  
জেলা সুপার  
জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়

জিডি-৯৩০

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Gurudayal Govt. College**  
**Kishoreganj**  
website: [www.gdc.gov.bd](http://www.gdc.gov.bd)

Memo No. CEDP/GDCG/DSB/GS/2022-23/133 (4) Date: 28/05/2023

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Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	839563	Procurement of Digital Smartboard and Related Services for Gurudayal Government College, Kishoreganj	13/06/2023, 1.00 pm	13/06/2023, 2.00 pm

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

**(Professor A N M Murtaza Rahman)**  
Principal  
Gurudayal Govt. College, Kishoreganj  
Phone: 02997761680/02997761567  
E-mail: [gdgckishoreganj@gmail.com](mailto:gdgckishoreganj@gmail.com)

GD-941

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
পরিচালক এর কার্যালয়  
কুর্মিটোলা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল  
কুর্মিটোলা, ঢাকা।  
E-mail: [kurmitola500bed@hospi.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:kurmitola500bed@hospi.dghs.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং-কুর্জি/১৫/প্রশাসন/২০২৩/১৮৩৮ তারিখ: ২৩/০৫/২০২৩

**অবৈতনিক চিকিৎসকদের প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

কুর্মিটোলা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জন্স (বিসিপিএস) কর্তৃক নিম্নলিখিত ক্লিনিক্যাল বিষয়ে পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট ট্রেনিং পরিচালনার অনুমোদন রয়েছে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে জুলাই-ডিসেম্বর/২০২৩ইং সেশনে পোস্ট গ্রাজুয়েট ট্রেনিং এর জন্য সরকারী নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী অনারারী মেডিকেল অফিসার (HMO) হিসেবে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদন ফরম [www.kgh.gov.bd](http://www.kgh.gov.bd) ওয়েবসাইট হতে ডাউনলোড করে যথাযথভাবে পূরণ পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ২১/০৬/২০২৩ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে জমা প্রদান করা যাবে।

ক্রমিক নং	প্রশিক্ষণের বিষয়	ক্রমিক নং	প্রশিক্ষণের বিষয়
১.	মেডিসিন	৫.	অটোল্যারিসেলোজি
২.	সার্জারী	৬.	অফথ্যালমোলজি
৩.	গাইনী এন্ড অবস	৭.	এনাসেথেসিওলজি
৪.	পেডিয়াট্রিস	৮.	ডার্মাটোলজি এন্ড ভেনেরোলজি

এ সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য কুর্মিটোলা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল ওয়েব সাইট: [www.kgh.gov.bd](http://www.kgh.gov.bd) অথবা হাসপাতাল প্রশাসনিক অফিসে পাওয়া যাবে।

**বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল মেডিসিন কীবরিয়**  
পরিচালক  
কুর্মিটোলা জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, কুর্মিটোলা, ঢাকা।

GD-934

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
জেলা সুপার এর কার্যালয়  
পঞ্চগড় জেলা কার্যালয়  
[jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com)

**দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	সর্বশেষ বিক্রয়/প্রদান তারিখ
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
২	এজেন্সি	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৩	ক্রয়কারীর নাম	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৪	ক্রয়কারীর জেলা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৫	যে দরপত্রের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি আহ্বান	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৬	বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্র নং	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৭	তারিখ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩

মূল তথ্য  
৮. প্রস পদ্ধতি: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।  
৯. বাজেট ও অর্থায়ন উৎস: রাজস্ব।  
১০. দরপত্র প্যাকেজ এর নাম: বিক্রয় প্রকার বাসভূমি/২২-২৩/প্যাকেজ-এ বি.সি.ডি.ই.সি. এইচ ও জি।  
১১. দরপত্র প্যাকেজ এর নাম: বিক্রয় প্রকার বাসভূমি/২২-২৩/প্যাকেজ-এ বি.সি.ডি.ই.সি. এইচ ও জি।  
১২. দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।  
১৩. দরপত্র বিক্রয় সর্বশেষ তারিখ: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।  
১৪. দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।  
১৫. দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।

১৬. অফিস (সহ) এর নাম ও ঠিকানা: জেলা স্টেট, জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
১. কারা উপমহাপরিদর্শক, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা।  
২. কারা উপমহাপরিদর্শক, হুগুন্ডা বিভাগ, হুগুন্ডা।  
১. জেলা স্টেট, জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
২. জেলা স্টেট, জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
৩. সদর থানা, পঞ্চগড়।  
১৭. প্রাক-দরপত্র স্থান/তারিখ/সময়: ১৯/০৬/২০২৩।

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: মোঃ কামাল হোসেন।  
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: পুলিশ সুপার, গাইবান্ধা।  
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার মোবাইল নং: ০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১।  
২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ইমেইল: [jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com)।

২৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: মোঃ কামাল হোসেন।  
২৪. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: পুলিশ সুপার, গাইবান্ধা।  
২৫. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়।  
২৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার মোবাইল নং: ০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১।  
২৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ইমেইল: [jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com)।

২৮. সকল দরপত্র বা দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার অধিকার ক্রয়কারী সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ কামাল হোসেন  
বিলে নং-০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১  
জেলা সুপার  
জেলা কার্যালয়, পঞ্চগড়

জিডি-৯৩০

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona  
Phone: 02-996651285, Fax: 02-996651479  
E-mail: [enet@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:enet@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.7200.455.00.000.22-758 Date: 25.5.2023

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of work	Date & time
01.	Tender ID: 838496 Package No: e-GP/Rev/65/ NRD/2022-23 & APP ID 186306; Scheduled tender/proposal publication date and time: 25-May- 2023 14:30	Repairing works of Prado jeep Dhaka Metro Gha-11-2354 by supplying spare parts under Metrokona Road Division during the year 2022-2023	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date and time: 11-Jun-2023 16:00 Last date and time for tender/proposal security: 12-Jun- 2023 11:30 Tender/proposal closing & opening date and time: 12-Jun-2023 12:00
02.	Tender ID: 838498 Package No: e-GP/Rev/66/ NRD/2022-23 & APP ID 186306; Scheduled tender/proposal publication date and time: 25-May- 2023 14:30	Repairing works of Toyota pickup Dhaka Metro Tha- 11-2523 by supplying spare parts under Metrokona Road Division during the year 2022-2023	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date and time: 11-Jun-2023 16:00 Last date and time for tender/proposal security: 12-Jun- 2023 11:30 Tender/proposal closing & opening date and time: 12-Jun-2023 12:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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

**Shahriar Sharif Khan**  
ID No. 602247  
Executive Engineer (CC), RHD  
Netrokona Road Division, Netrokona

GD-935

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়  
গাইবান্ধা  
**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

স্মারক নং- ১৪৭৫/ই, তারিখ: ২৭/০৫/২০২৩

দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং তৎপরবর্তীতে সংশোধিত ২০১৯ আইন/বিধিমালা মোতাবেক ২০২০-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে গাইবান্ধা জেলা পুলিশের নিম্নবর্ণিত বিভিন্ন মালামাল ক্রয় ও বিক্রয় মেশিন সামগ্রী মেরামতের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তি কোম্পানি ও স্থানীয় ফার্মেসী মালিকদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	সর্বশেষ বিক্রয়/প্রদান তারিখ
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
২.	সংস্থা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৩.	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম ও জেলা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৪.	দরপত্র সূত্র নম্বর	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৫.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৬.	বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অফ ফান্ড	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৭.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৮.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৯.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১০.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১২.	দরপত্র দাখিল ও বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১৩.	দরপত্র প্রকাশকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১৫.	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১৬.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	১৯/০৬/২০২৩

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: মোঃ কামাল হোসেন।  
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: পুলিশ সুপার, গাইবান্ধা।  
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: জেলা কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা।  
২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার মোবাইল নং: ০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১।  
২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ইমেইল: [jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com)।

২৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: মোঃ কামাল হোসেন।  
২৪. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: পুলিশ সুপার, গাইবান্ধা।  
২৫. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: জেলা কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা।  
২৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার মোবাইল নং: ০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১।  
২৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ইমেইল: [jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com)।

২৮. সকল দরপত্র বা দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার অধিকার ক্রয়কারী সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ কামাল হোসেন  
বিলে নং-০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১  
জেলা সুপার  
জেলা কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা

জিডি-৯৩৯

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
পুলিশ টেলিকম  
পুলিশ টেলিকম ভবন, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা  
[telecom.police.gov.bd](http://telecom.police.gov.bd)

**উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)**

২০২৩-২৪ অর্থ বছরে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজে ফ্রেমওয়ার্ক মুক্তির ভিত্তিতে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক সীলমোহরযুক্ত বামে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন স্মারিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক	বিবরণ	সর্বশেষ বিক্রয়/প্রদান তারিখ
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
২.	সংস্থা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৩.	ক্রয় কর্তৃপক্ষ	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৪.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৫.	দরপত্রের অর্থের উৎস	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৬.	সিডিউল বিক্রয় সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৭.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৮.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
৯.	দরপত্র দাখিল সন্মতের ঠিকানা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১০.	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার ঠিকানা	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	১৯/০৬/২০২৩
১২.	দরপত্রের স্মারক নং	১৯/০৬/২০২৩

১৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: মোঃ কামাল হোসেন।  
১৪. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: পুলিশ সুপার, গাইবান্ধা।  
১৫. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা: জেলা কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা।  
১৬. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার মোবাইল নং: ০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১।  
১৭. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ইমেইল: [jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com](mailto:jailsuperponchogorh@gmail.com)।

১৮. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম: মোঃ কামাল হোসেন।  
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী: পুলিশ সুপার, গাইবান্ধা।  
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২৮. সকল দরপত্র বা দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার অধিকার ক্রয়কারী সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ কামাল হোসেন  
বিলে নং-০২৬৬৯১০০১৯১  
জেলা সুপার  
জেলা কার্যালয়, গাইবান্ধা

জিডি-৯৩৯

# SHIFT

AUTOMOTIVE PUBLICATION OF The Daily Star

## The untold tale of the Bangladeshi MOTORCYCLE INDUSTRY

**To further enhance the industry's growth, local companies are gradually venturing into motorcycle component manufacturing to reduce dependence on imports. With over 700 components required for bike production, the domestic industry is capable of producing four key components: drive chains, seats, stands, and batteries.**

RAHAQ

Dhaka, with a metro population of over 23,000,000, understandably comes with significant transportation challenges, due to which motorcycles have become the preferred mode of transportation for many urban dwellers. These two-wheelers offer affordability, low operating costs, and a built-in cooling effect through the generous use of the throttle. As such, Bangladesh has witnessed a significant surge in motorcycle users in recent years. Let's take a closer look into the popularity, production and problems of motorcycle sales in Bangladesh - and how local manufacturers are addressing the issue.

### INCREASING DEMAND

The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has reported a fourfold increase in motorcycle



registrations over the past decade, from 759,257 in 2010 to 2,991,612 in 2020. Market insiders disclosed that approximately 500,000 motorcycles were sold in 2019 alone, with nearly 1,500 motorcycles being purchased daily.

To meet the surging demand, the local motorcycle industry in Bangladesh has expanded significantly. According to a 2021 report from The Daily Star, the industry has attracted investments totalling Tk. 8,000 crore and employs approximately 200,000 individuals in direct and indirect jobs. Another report revealed that nearly 96% of motorcycles in the country are either locally manufactured or assembled.

To further enhance the industry's growth, local companies are gradually venturing into motorcycle component manufacturing to reduce dependence on imports. With over 700 components required for bike production, the domestic industry is capable of producing four key components: drive chains, seats, stands, and batteries. At least four companies are engaged in component manufacturing in Bangladesh, including QVC Bangladesh and Run Industries.

### FACTORS AFFECTING SALES

Despite the gradual increase in local production and demand, motorcycle

sales experienced a notable slowdown during the pandemic, leading to a decline in sales to 311,016 units in 2020. Overall, the impact of Covid-19 resulted in a reduction in sales to 311,016 units in 2020. Aside from the pandemic, the drop in motorcycle sales can be partly attributed to the decline in the general public's ability to afford these vehicles, affected by higher consumer prices over the past year. Shah Muhammad Ashequr Rahman, CEO of Bangladesh Honda Private Limited (BHL), reported a 42% decline in sales of Honda-branded motorcycles in the last two months, with an 18% increase in motorcycle prices because of the UK dollar's rise.

Dileep Banerjee, CEO of Uttara Motors Limited, the distributor of Indian motorcycle giant Bajaj, stated that their sales have dropped to 14,500 to 16,000 units per month in recent months, compared to around 22,000 units during normal times. "Currently, people are not considering motorcycles as an essential item," Banerjee commented. Industry insiders have reported that sales of TVS, Honda, Runner, and other brands have also declined by 20% to 42%.

### GOVERNMENT POLICIES

In addition to economic challenges, certain government policies have unsettled potential buyers. In February of

this year, the government introduced the Motorcycle Operation Guideline 2023, which includes measures such as a 30 km speed limit for bikes within cities and a restriction on bikes below 126cc from highways. Furthermore, purchasing a motorcycle without a driving licence would no longer be permitted.

However, the draft policy has faced criticism due to its vague language, lack of involvement of bikers and

confusion locally among motorcycle owners.

Manufacturers advocate for an approach that prioritises safety awareness and traffic rules instead of penalising riders. "A year ago we invested in our factory to enhance the production capacity according to the market. In recent years overall industry market size has decreased," says A.K.M. Tauhidur Rahman, COO of Suzuki Motorbikes. "To encourage positive changes, we are working on road safety, Eid highway service and monthly awareness campaigns for motorbike users," he adds.

Through campaigns on highway service and road safety, the industry aims to educate bikers about responsible riding practices and enhance overall road safety. These initiatives not only prioritise the riders' well-being but also contribute to a positive image of the motorcycle industry in Bangladesh.

### IS THERE A SOLUTION?

As can be seen, the motorcycle industry in Bangladesh is currently facing challenges related to declining sales and affordability. To overcome these challenges and foster growth, the industry requires support from higher authorities and government regulations. The investments made by motorcycle manufacturers in expanding production capacities subsequently reflect their confidence in the market's potential.

Additionally, safety initiatives and campaigns demonstrate the industry's commitment to rider safety and awareness. By addressing these concerns and implementing supportive measures, the motorcycle industry in Bangladesh can navigate current challenges and lay the groundwork for sustainable growth in the future.



manufacturers in the decision-making process, and failure to address the concerns raised by riders. As a result, there have been numerous protests against the draft policy, with motorcycle manufacturers and assemblers formally opposing it.

### HOW ARE MANUFACTURERS ADDRESSING THE IMPOSED RULINGS?

Biplab Kumar Roy, CEO of TVS Auto Bangladesh Ltd and Bangladesh Motorcycle Assembler and Manufacturer Association (BMAMA), expressed concern about the potential negative impact of the reported guideline, stating, "If such a guideline is formulated, it will have serious repercussions on the country's bike industries." Ashequr Rahman, CEO of BHL, highlighted the negative impact the draft policy has had on the market, which has caused



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Capture of Bahadur Shah Zafar and his sons by William Hodson at Humayun's tomb on 20 September 1857.



Troops of the Native Allies. Painting by George Francklin Atkinson, 1859. Courtesy; Wikimedia Commons.

# 1857: The Uprising in Delhi and Its Brutal Suppression

**The revolt had a pan-Indian character. What is usually overlooked in standard textbooks is that eastern and north-eastern areas of the subcontinent too were affected. News of the events at Chittagong resulted in rumours about preparations for an uprising in Dacca.**

AMAR FAROOQUI

The great revolt of 1857 was a momentous struggle against colonial rule in the Indian subcontinent—the most widespread anti-colonial struggle during the nineteenth century. It began in the second week of May and soon encompassed large parts of northern, central and eastern India. Several hundred thousand subjects of the British Indian empire were killed during the revolt. Whereas the British managed to restore their authority in most of the areas where the uprising took place, the final operations continued till the beginning of 1859. The upheaval of 1857-59 was not an isolated event. It was part of a long tradition of resistance to the East India Company (EIC). The revolt must be regarded as a significant phase in this continuous struggle against colonial exploitation.

In the historiography of the great revolt, the output of published material from the British perspective was so voluminous during the latter half of the nineteenth century that for a long time the dominant colonial narrative of this upheaval remained unchallenged. Until the first decade of the twentieth century there was no major published work from the perspective of the colonized. This, however, is not surprising. Given the ruthlessness with which the revolt was crushed, and the repression that was unleashed by the colonial state in the post-1857 period, any attempt to glorify the revolt was out of the question.

The revolt had a pan-Indian character. What is usually overlooked in standard textbooks is that eastern and north-eastern areas of the subcontinent too were affected. The British were in the process of consolidating their position in the region from the 1820s onwards following a war against Burma (First

resistance. More than forty sipahis were killed in the confrontation between the rebels and the British, while others were killed when they were attempting to escape. Many of the remaining soldiers marched out of Dacca towards Mymensingh and Rangpur; some were captured while others found shelter in the foothills of Nepal. Unfortunately, the history of this resistance has not been adequately researched.

Accounts of the revolt began to appear as early as 1857-58, as for example, Charles Ball's *History of the Indian Mutiny*; George Malleson's *The Mutiny of the Bengal Army*; John Adye's *Defence of Cawnpore*; L.E.R. Rees's *A Personal Narrative of the Siege of Lucknow*; and Henry Mead's *The Sepoy Revolt: Its Causes and Consequences*. However, the foundations of colonial historiography on the revolt were laid by the immensely influential work of John W. Kaye, *A History of the Sepoy War in India*. Kaye was a senior colonial official and a military historian. The first volume of *History of the Sepoy War* was published in 1864; two subsequent volumes appeared in 1870 and 1876 respectively. Kaye passed away in 1876, and the work remained unfinished.

While on the one hand the list of publications emanating from British authors grew progressively lengthy, there was on the other hand a prolonged, and for historians a painful, silence in India. However, this does not mean that the revolt had rapidly faded from local memory. There can be little doubt that memories of the revolt remained alive in the form of a robust oral tradition. We are referring here to the world of private conversation, the transmission of remembrances and lore about the revolt by word-of-mouth within an intimate circle. In the second

trauma and suffering which Indians had to undergo during and after the revolt. It needs to be mentioned that critical studies of the revolt, written by professional academics and based on serious archival research, only began appearing in the mid-1950s. The most significant of these pioneering works were *Eighteen Fifty-seven* by Surendranath Sen, S.B. Chaudhuri's *Civil Rebellion in the Indian Mutinies*, Syed Mahdi Husain's *Bahadur Shah Zafar and the War of 1857 in Delhi*, and *Rebellion 1857: A Symposium* edited by P.C. Joshi. These writings represented a shift away from colonial historiography on the revolt.

The revolt began as a mutiny in the EIC's Bengal Army, and soon turned into a popular uprising. The EIC's army had three components, namely,

rifle were lubricated with substances which were taboo. The cartridge was made of paper, and contained both powder and bullet; it had to be torn open and the contents loaded into the barrel from the front. After a preliminary enquiry the sawars who had refused to participate in the drill were put on trial and on 8 May were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for ten years. This punishment led to discontent among the soldiers and culminated in a mutiny on 10 May. The British were taken completely by surprise. J.A.B. Palmer's study, *The Mutiny Outbreak at Meerut*, argues quite convincingly that British officers at Meerut had absolutely no idea of the intensity of the anger caused by the punishment of the soldiers. Palmer has pieced together most of the available evidence relating to the events of that day. The immediate objective of the

Delhi. They then succeeded in taking over the Ridge or hillock located north of the city.

The rebel administration found it increasingly difficult to function because it had hardly any access to resources. Wealthier sections of the city were unwilling to give money to them as they did not have sufficient confidence in the rebel leaders. At the same time the pressure of the British forces increased, and the defence of the city became the main priority.

The British force numbered around 6500. Throughout the summer months the British force remained stationed at the Ridge. Then in mid-September 1857 it carried out a major assault to capture the city. From the Ridge the (British) troops moved in the direction of the Kashmir Gate of the city. The gate was stormed and taken. The attack was led by John Nicholson who was wounded and died shortly afterwards. By 20 September 1857 the entire city had been taken over and the rebels were defeated. Then began a period of vicious large-scale massacre of the rebels and the ordinary people of Delhi. For about a week the troops killed able-bodied men indiscriminately. It is not possible to estimate the number of people killed in the first six days of the assault. But we do have some figures which give us an idea about the scale of the massacre. Nearly 1400 residents were massacred in just one locality—Kucha Chelan. The main target of course were the remaining rebel soldiers and the inhabitants of the Red Fort. However, sadistic brutality perpetrated on a mass scale as a matter of official policy resulted in the entire population of the walled city being driven out. The aged and the infirm, who had been unable to join the general exodus, too were evicted from the city by the orders of the military officials. Delhi was literally cleansed of all inhabitants. They were allowed to re-enter the city selectively in several phases after a few months, upon verification of their credentials.

By the beginning of 1858 colonial officials were considering various proposals for punishing Delhi. A proposal for razing the entire walled city to the ground, and erecting a grand memorial on the site, was under serious consideration though eventually abandoned. But large areas of the city were demolished, especially the zone adjoining the Red Fort. All buildings within a radius of 448 sq. yards were levelled. The densely populated area between the Fort and the Jama Masjid was also destroyed, resulting in large-scale dislocation of the residents of this part of the city—an important cultural and literary hub. There was also large-scale confiscation of property. Moreover, several prominent residents remained under house arrest for several years after 1857-58.

Thus ended the revolt in the erstwhile Mughal capital, though the struggle continued in many other regions. In fact, some of the most intense fighting between the rebels and British forces took place in the first half of 1858 (Lucknow, Jhansi, Gwalior, Bareilly and Shahabad in Bihar). The suppression of the revolt was a major setback for the anti-colonial struggle, and it was only towards the end of the nineteenth century that the struggle could be resumed. For the time being the reconquest of the empire by Britain meant that the people of the subcontinent would have to endure colonial rule for another ninety years. However, the revolt remained an important source of inspiration for the freedom struggle.

Amar Farooqui is a retired professor of history at the University of Delhi.



"The Sepoy revolt at Meerut", wood-engraving from the Illustrated London News, 1857.

the Bengal Army, Madras Army and Bombay Army. Soldiers for the Bengal Army were mainly recruited from the Ganga-Jamuna Doab. This had become the main fighting arm of the EIC by the early decades of the nineteenth century. The mutiny initially broke out at Meerut on Sunday, 10 May 1857. Meerut was a major cantonment. The rebel sipahis then marched to Delhi, where they arrived the next morning. They put an end to the Company's administration in Delhi (since 1803 the EIC had administered the city and its environs on behalf of the emperor). The sipahis assumed control of the walled city (Shahjahanabad) and its immediate outskirts without much resistance. They persuaded Bahadur Shah Zafar (r. 1837-1857), who at that time occupied the Mughal throne, to support their cause. In turn they affirmed their loyalty to the emperor. This was an indication of the symbolic importance of the Mughal emperor as the legitimate sovereign of most of the territories of the EIC. The Company too had reluctantly recognized the *de jure* authority of the Mughals, even though by the middle of the nineteenth century they had made the emperor completely powerless and irrelevant. Nevertheless, the sipahis were prompted by the popular perception of the Mughal emperor as sovereign when they proclaimed him their nominal leader. This was crucial for legitimizing their authority.

In the last week of April, eighty-five sawars belonging to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the Light Cavalry posted at Meerut had refused to take part in a practice drill that was intended to teach them how to load the newly introduced Enfield P53 rifle. The soldiers were apparently agitated over reports that the new cartridges supplied to them for the

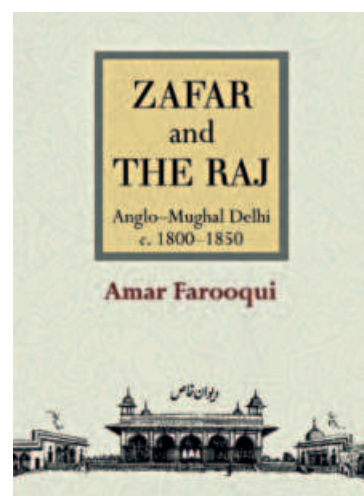
mutinous soldiers was the release of the imprisoned sipahis, in which they were successful. This was the month of Ramzan and it seems that the initial tumult took place in the regimental bazaar where some of the soldiers might have been making purchases for *iftar*, or might just have congregated in the bazaar shortly before *iftar*. The incidents began in the evening, and within a short time British authority collapsed both in the cantonment and the city.

The sipahis then marched to Delhi, where they arrived early next morning. Almost all the mutinous soldiers had departed from Meerut before midnight. It was assumed by the European officers, most of whom still remained within the cantonment, that the sipahis would disperse to the countryside and gradually make their way towards their homes. They were unaware of their movement on roads leading to Delhi. Consequently EIC officials in Delhi had no prior intimation about the approaching confrontation.

After the rebel soldiers had established their control over Delhi, and had proclaimed Bahadur Shah as the nominal head of their regime on 11 May, they set up a new administration in Delhi. Till the end of June, the main person who coordinated these efforts (including the major task of defending the city) was Mirza Mughal who was the eldest surviving son of Bahadur Shah. Subsequently the leadership of the rebels, and of the administration of Delhi, was taken over by Bakht Khan. Bakht Khan, an experienced 'native' officer in the artillery wing, arrived in Delhi at the beginning of July. The British had meanwhile launched a counter-offensive. On 6 June 1857 they had defeated a large force of the rebels at Badli-ki-Sarai, a short distance from



(L) The Flagstaff Tower, Delhi, where the British survivors of the rebellion gathered on 11 May 1857; photographed by Felice Beato (R) Cover of Amar Farooqui's book *Zafar and The Raj*



Burma War, 1824-26). A major uprising occurred in November 1857 when soldiers ('sepoys' or sipahis) stationed in Chittagong mutinied, attacked the jail and released prisoners, ransacked the government treasury, and set fire to the 'sepoys lines' (lodgings) in the cantonment. The rebels then marched northwards to Cachar via Sylhet and Tripura. They were able to enlist the support of some of the princes of the Manipur royal house, who had been living in Cachar since the 1830s. The British were able to put down the insurrection by the beginning of 1858. News of the events at Chittagong resulted in rumours about preparations for an uprising in Dacca. When the British authorities attempted to disarm Indian troops stationed in the city they met with

decade of the twentieth century Khwaja Hasan Nizami, *sajjadnamashin* of Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah, embarked upon a project to publish popular tracts on the revolt, mainly relating to Delhi, many of them based on oral traditions. Hasan Nizami was a journalist and a prolific writer. He began publishing a series consisting of low-priced booklets on the theme of the revolt written in simple Urdu. Thirteen booklets were published as part of this series. Some of the titles are: *Begamats ke Aansu* ('Tears of the Begams', i.e., women of the royal family), *Dilli ki Akhri Shama* ('The Last Flicker of the Candle') and *Dilli ki Jankani* ('The Agony of Delhi'). Such writings were important for undermining the colonial narrative of the revolt as they preserved memories of the

## Liton unfazed by form

SPORTS REPORTER

Liton Das was in immense form last year across formats and consequently picked up the top Kool-BSPA (Bangladesh Sports Press Association) sports award yesterday at a ceremony held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. The Bangladesh star batter has not shone in a similar way this year but said he was not worried about his current form.

Liton scored runs across formats last year, notching an average of 44.44, 52.45 and 28.63 in Tests, ODIs and T20Is, respectively. This year his T20I average has improved but ODI average declined, having notched two fifties in nine ODIs so far this year.

With the ODI World Cup in India coming up, Liton's form would be key if Bangladesh are to make a case for themselves. Liton himself was not overtly worried about lack of form.

"You can't play good cricket every day. Some days you will play well while on others days it will go badly. Actually, I'm not worried. I'll just keep practicing and see what happens," he told reporters yesterday after receiving both the Sports Person of the Year and Cricketer of the Year in male category.

The Tigers will gear up for the lone Test against Afghanistan next month with their training camp expected to begin from Monday. Liton felt the immediate focus was not the World Cup but the Afghanistan Test.

"There is still some time before the World Cup. Tomorrow [Monday] we may begin our camp, so let's see but we will start with that."



Pacer Hasan Mahmud is expected to play a key role for Bangladesh when they face Afghanistan in the one-off Test in Mirpur next month, especially with the growing likelihood that the Tigers would take lessons from their scathing 224-run defeat in the only Test ever played against the Afghans in 2019 and prepare a much better pace-friendly surface this time around.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Akhi leaves BFF camp

SPORTS REPORTER

Akhi Khatun, a key member of the national women's football team, has left the camp with aim of going to a Chinese sports institute.

The centre-back, who was a key member of the SAFF Women's Championship winning team following a number of successes with age-group teams, confirmed that she has left the camp two days previously and conveyed her desire to go to China to BFF's technical director Paul Smalley.

"I have already left the camp. I talked with Smalley sir about this and I'm hoping I would get permission. If not, I don't know what I would do but I'm adamant to go there," Akhi told reporters during a programme at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Although Akhi could not provide much details about what her trip to China might entail, she said she would look to continue her studies and sports there.

"I'm not leaving football for good. I'm not leaving BFF for good. I might be back sometime," she said.

When asked whether she was going there in order to get married, which rumours had suggested, Akhi said, "Anything can happen."

# 'Smalley is irreplaceable, Choton not'

ATIQU ANAM

Kazi Salahuddin, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president, claimed that the success in women's football is largely due to the effort of technical director Paul Smalley. He also said that while Golam Rabbani Choton's sudden departure is a setback, the long-serving head coach is not irreplaceable.

The BFF president said the above while reacting to a report published on The Daily Star's May 28 issue, titled 'Wheels finally fall off', retorting that "wheels are not falling off at all".

"I phoned Choton today and he said he wouldn't reconsider his position," Salahuddin said yesterday.

"Choton could have talked to me if he had any issues. I think he chose the time, when the BFF is under pressure, to malign me and my organisation."

"Choton is an honest and hardworking person. But he is not irreplaceable. Paul Smalley is irreplaceable. If Smalley leaves today, women's football will be finished."

"I'm not taking credit away from Choton and others, but success in women's football is due to Smalley's effort. He is the one who keeps pushing me for increasing facilities for the women footballers. If I put a local coach in his place or take him out of that

position, I can bet women's football will not win a trophy in a year," the 69-year-old opined.

Smalley was appointed as technical director of the BFF in 2016 and barring one year when he was the manager of Brunei football team, the Englishman has been working with various aspects of Bangladesh football, with special emphasis on women's football teams.

According to a BFF spokesman, Smalley gets a monthly salary of 16,000 dollars post-tax, and has reportedly negotiated a hefty raise in recent weeks while in contract, with his current one running till August, 2024.

Asked whether Smalley gets a proportionately higher salary compared with BFF's other coaches, Salahuddin asserted, "Smalley more than deserves what he gets."

This development comes at a time when the women's team members have staged two protests at the camp in demand for raise in wages and improvement of overall facilities, without getting anything concrete except for assurance.

The senior team, since winning the SAFF Women's Championship title in September last year, have not played a competitive game while their Indian counterparts played five international friendlies since SAFF Championship till



**BFF president called me today. I told him I was not going to return there. I'm quitting BFF to relax now and will not change my decision. For the players, I feel the federation should take steps to stop their exodus and stage the proposed Women's Super League as soon as possible.**

**Golam Rabbani Choton,**  
Departing coach of Bangladesh women's team



**I think leaving football is a loss for the girls, especially after considering where Bangladesh women's football stands now. At the end, following the success of the team, the federation may not provide any financial help but the financial help from outside the federation is a matter of honour.**

**Sabina Khatun**  
Bangladesh women's football team captain

the Olympics qualifiers, from which the BFF pulled out the Bangladesh women's team citing financial shortcomings.

Moreover, Sabina Khatun and company had to let go off offers from the Indian league due to the lure of the proposed Women's Super League in Bangladesh which, however, remains far away from seeing light.

Despite having no qualms about raising Smalley's wages, Salahuddin said he is helpless in regards to the demands of the players, citing a lack of funds and lack of interest from sponsors.

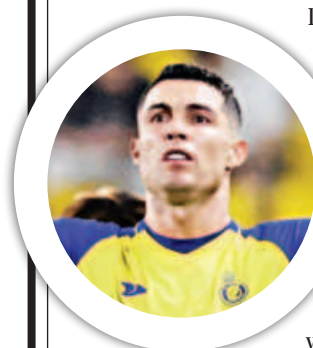
Regarding Sirat Jahan Swapna's retirement and Akhi Khatun's intended departure from the camp, Salahuddin said he expected more players to leave, not due to financial reasons but for personal and societal issues.

"Akhi [Khatun] is going to China for personal reasons. There is, I'm sure, a personal reason behind Swapna's departure too," Salahuddin opined. "These girls are 22-23 years old. At this age, they may leave due to pressure of getting married. Others will come and fill their void."

## CR7 ends debut Saudi season empty-handed

REUTERS

Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr could not resist the temptation to sign five-time Ballon D'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo in January, but although the prolific Portuguese forward scored an impressive number of goals, they finished the season empty-handed.



Ronaldo's hopes of silverware ended on Saturday as Al-Ittihad clinched the league title for the first time since 2009 with one match to spare.

Al-Nassr signed Ronaldo from Manchester United in a deal reportedly worth more than 200 million euros to make him the world's highest-paid athlete, according to Forbes.

He scored 14 goals in 16 league games but failed to net during a 1-1 draw with Al-Ettifaq on Saturday in which he was substituted.

Real Madrid's all-time leading scorer failed to impress in several key matches, often taking out his frustration on his team mates.

The first trophy to slip from his grasp was the Saudi Super Cup when his team lost 3-1 to Al-Ittihad in the semifinals in January.

Al-Nassr also suffered a surprise 1-0 defeat by lowly Al-Wehda in the King's Cup semis.

That left the 38-year-old Ronaldo's hopes of winning a trophy dependent on Al-Ittihad stumbling in the league and that did not happen.

Al-Nassr's failings were not all Ronaldo's fault, of course, although his presence appeared to affect his team mate Anderson Talisca with the Brazilian scoring 11 goals in 11 games before Ronaldo's arrival and seven in 11 alongside him.

## Kostyuk jeered as Tsitsipas moves on

AFP, Paris

Aryna Sabalenka won a politically-charged French Open duel against Marta Kostyuk on Sunday as jeers rained down on the defeated Ukrainian who refused to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent.

World number two and Australian Open champion Sabalenka swept 10 of the last 12 games to win 6-3, 6-2 as she kick-started her push to reach the second week in Paris for the first time.

Kostyuk honoured her pledge not to shake hands with Sabalenka in protest at Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Belarus is a key military ally of Moscow.

"It was a very tough match, tough emotionally. I didn't know if the booing was against me but thank you so much for your support, it's really important," said Sabalenka who apologised for her exaggerated, theatrical bow to the Court Philippe Chatrier crowd.

Kostyuk, 20, famously refused to shake hands with Sabalenka's Belarusian compatriot and former world number one Victoria Azarenka at the US Open last year. She opted instead for a cursory touch of rackets at the net.

The 39th-ranked Kostyuk, who has been a vociferous critic of the decision



**She (Sabalenka) never says that she personally doesn't support this war, and I feel like journalists should change the questions that you ask these athletes because the war is already there. It's been 15 months since the war has begun.**

**Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk** whose parents still live in Ukraine, said Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus had a duty to speak up because of her status as a top player.

to allow Russian and Belarusian players to keep competing on tour since the invasion of her country, questioned the crowd's motives in booing her stance.

"I want to see people react to it in 10 years when the war is over. I think they will not feel really nice about what they did," she said.

"I didn't expect it. People should be honestly embarrassed." Sabalenka had admitted on the eve of the tournament that she could accept if Kostyuk had feelings of "hate" towards her.

"I never said publicly nor privately nor to anyone that I hate Aryna Sabalenka or any of the players. I just don't respect her because of her position in this situation," added Kostyuk, who wants Russian and Belarusian players to individually denounce the war which has raged on since February last year.

Meanwhile, Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who blew a two-set lead to lose the 2021 final to Novak Djokovic, made the second round Sunday with a 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) win over Jiri Vesely, the 455th-ranked Czech.

Vesely, who had previously only played in two second-tier Challenger events this year, squandered four set points which would have forced a deciding set.



World Cup winner Lionel Messi scored the only goal in Paris Saint-Germain's 1-1 draw at Strasbourg, an outcome that helped PSG clinch a French record 11th Ligue1 title on Saturday. With his 496th strike in Europe's top five leagues, Messi, who is expected to leave the French club at the end of the season and could end up playing football outside of Europe next season, surpassed long time rival Cristiano Ronaldo's previous record of 495 goals. Also, the silverware was Messi's 43rd in a glittering career, making him the most decorated footballer alongside former Barcelona teammate Dani Alves.

PHOTO: AFP



## COMMERCIAL VEHICLES 74,000 set to go under crushers

BRTA data shows their economic life expired as per new govt rules

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Over 74,000 registered buses, trucks and other commercial vehicles are past their economic lifespan set by the government.

According to a circular issued by the Road Transport and Highways Division (RHD) earlier this month, these vehicles will have to be scrapped now.

At least 36,123 buses and minibuses are past their 20-year economic life while 38,123 trucks, lorries and tankers are past their 25-year life, according to BRTA data.

Such vehicles account for over one-fourth of the total 2.83 lakh commercial vehicles registered with the BRTA as of April.

Although the government set the economic life of commercial vehicles, a guideline on scrapping them has yet to be finalised. The gazette setting the economic life has not been published either.

Nevertheless, the authorities said they would start dumping these vehicles once the gazette is published.

However, BRTA officials still do not know where to dump the vehicles and for how long the vehicles should be kept in their custody.

Apart from finalising the guideline, the authorities will have to hire contractors to scrap the outdated vehicles. This is why the authorities are not able to tell when the process of scrapping will start.

The RHD set the economic life of commercial vehicles with an aim to improve road safety and reduce pollution.

As of April, 81,424 buses, minibuses and 2,01,976 trucks, lorries and tankers are registered with the BRTA.

**The Road Transport and Highways Division on May 17 issued a circular setting the economic service life of commercial vehicles aiming to improve road safety and reduce environmental pollution.**



Of these, 74,246 are expired, meaning 26.20 percent of these vehicles are outdated, according to BRTA data.

BRTA officials believe many of the vehicles are no longer on the streets as some of them were registered even before the Liberation War.

"We assume that around half of the outdated vehicles are not running now," BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that the number of those in operation would still be big and there was no alternative to scrapping them.

The division has also prepared a draft guideline for scrapping old vehicles. The draft mentions that no vehicle owner will be able to register a new vehicle if they own a vehicle that has gone past its economic life.

According to the draft Motor Vehicle Scrapping Guideline 2023, the government will be outsourcing the job of vehicle scrapping to enlisted private firms that will carry out the task under the BRTA supervision.

However, questions have been raised about the rationale of setting economic life without approving the scrapping guideline and hiring a firm to scrap the vehicles.

The BRTA will try to finalise the draft as soon as possible, said its chairman, adding that hiring a vendor would take some more time.

There is a scarcity of scrapyards in Dhaka and Chattogram.

Officials said the draft guideline and the circular contained some discrepancies regarding the way private vendors would be hired. These issues should be fixed before scrapping of vehicles starts, they said.

## DRIVE AGAINST CASINOS 'Influential man, his 3 brothers worked Rab to get us arrested' Claim 2 ex-councillors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two former councillors of the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday said they were wrongly arrested during a 2019 crackdown on casinos because an influential man and his three brothers wanted them out of local Awami League politics.

Habibur Rahman Mizan of ward-32 and Tarekuzzaman Rajib of ward-33 made the allegations at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

They didn't name the influential man, but said that his brothers were Tofail Ahmed Joseph, Haris Ahmed and Anis Ahmed.

The former councillors alleged that the Ahmed brothers had Rab members arrest them so that their nephew Asif Ahmed could become a councillor.

Rajib said the Ahmed brothers, who had been known as thugs since the 1990s, were looking to make a political debut.

When asked about the name of the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

This recent photo of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport shows construction work in full swing. Around 70 percent of the work has been completed. The 2.30 lakh square metre terminal will have 115 check-in counters, 64 departure and 64 arrival immigration desks, 12 boarding bridges, and 16 carousels. The soft opening is expected in October.

## Russia unleashes massive drone attack on Kyiv

Two killed; Ukraine downs 52 out of 54 drones; Moscow warns West 'playing with fire' over F-16 jets

AGENCIES

Russia unleashed waves of air strikes on Kyiv overnight in what officials said appeared to be the largest drone attack on the city since the start of the war, as the Ukrainian capital prepared to celebrate the anniversary of its founding yesterday.

Ukraine's Air Force said it downed 52 out of the 54 Russia-launched drones, calling it a record attack with the Iranian-made 'kamikaze' drones. At least two people were killed in the air strikes.

In what also appears to be the first deadly attack on Kyiv in May and the 14th assault this month, falling debris killed a 41-year-old man, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

The pre-dawn attacks came on the last Sunday of May when the capital celebrates Kyiv Day, the anniversary of its official founding 1,541 years ago. The day is typically marked by street fairs, live concerts and special museum exhibitions - plans for which have been made this year too, but on a smaller scale.

"The history of Ukraine is a long standing irritant for the insecure Russians," Andriy Yermak, the head of President Volodymyr Zelensky's office, said on his Telegram channel.

"Every time you shoot down enemy drones and missiles, lives are saved... you are heroes!"

Zelensky told his air defence forces yesterday morning, also thanking rescuers.

Air Force said on Telegram that Russia had targeted military and critical infrastructure facilities in the central regions of Ukraine, and the Kyiv region in particular, reports Reuters.

With a Ukrainian counteroffensive looming 15 months into the war, Moscow has intensified air strikes after a lull of nearly two months, targeting chiefly military site and supplies. Waves of attacks now come several times a week.

The overnight attacks came after Kyiv said that combat clashes eased around the besieged city of Bakhmut in southeastern Ukraine, the site of the war's longest battle.

Serhiy Popko, the head of Kyiv's military administration, said the attack was carried out in several waves, and air alerts lasted more than five hours.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday said Western nations were "playing with fire" by agreeing to supply Ukraine with advanced US F-16 fighter jets, reports AFP.

It was "an unacceptable escalation" of the conflict, Lavrov said in an excerpt from a Russian TV interview posted on social media, denouncing an attempt to "weaken Russia" by "Washington, London and their satellites in the EU".

**"Every time you shoot down enemy drones and missiles, lives are saved... you are heroes!"**

Volodymyr Zelensky tells his air defence forces



A firefighter works at a site of a tobacco factory damaged during Russian suicide drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ruet VC quits amid teachers' demonstration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Ruet VC (additional charge) Prof Sazzad Hossain tendered his resignation last night as a group of teachers demonstrated at his office for around nine hours, demanding their promotion.

Prof Sazzad, the dean of the faculty of applied sciences and humanities at Rajshahi University of Engineering Technology, told The Daily Star that he submitted his resignation letter to university Registrar Prof Selim Hossain at 8.45pm.

"I was appointed to perform the VC's daily business, but teachers' promotions and upgradations were not in my jurisdiction. There was no alternative to my resignation," he said.

The teachers refused to leave my office and threatened tougher

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

## ANCIENT BURIAL GROUND Egypt unearths mummification workshops, tombs

REUTERS, Saqqara

Egypt unearthed human and animal mummification workshops as well as two tombs in the ancient burial ground of Saqqara, officials said on Saturday, marking the latest in a string of discoveries that the country hopes can help revive its vital tourism industry.



Mostafa Waziri, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, told reporters that the two large "embalming workshops" date back to the 30th dynasty (380-343 BC) and the Ptolemaic (305-30 BC) eras.

The discovery was made after a year-long excavation near the sanctuary of the goddess Bastet, which is home to the catacombs of mummified cats in Saqqara, some 30 kilometres (18.6 miles) south of Cairo.

It was the same spot where hundreds of mummified animals and statues were uncovered in 2019.

"We found embalming workshops, one for humans and one for animals. We found all the tools that they used (in mummification) in ancient times," Waziri said.

Both workshops featured stone beds, clay pots, ritual vessels, natron salt, which is one of the main ingredients for mummification, and linens among other mummification instruments.

## RAJSHAHI CITY POLLS Liton's income rises fourfold

Fish cultivation main source of earnings, shows his affidavit to EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, the Awami League nominated mayoral candidate in the upcoming Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls, has declared a significant increase in both his assets and annual income since the last time he ran for the post five years ago.

Liton's annual income has increased from Tk 78 lakh in 2018 to Tk 2.98 crore in 2023, an almost four-fold increase.

Besides, his movable assets have more than doubled in value since 2018, when they were worth Tk 1.75 crore. As of now, they are worth Tk 4.17 crore.

For his immovable property, he has shown 4.63 acres of agricultural land and his fish farm worth Tk 70 lakh. In 2018, the agri land amounted to 1.63 acres and he had no fish farm.

The source of this data is a comparison between his affidavits for the 2023 and 2018 RCC elections.

This time, fish cultivation has been shown as his main source of income, which accounts for over 80 percent of his total earnings.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1