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**High time to reduce demand, tackle inflation head-on: BIDS**



**Captain Liton up for Afghan challenge**



**Global nuclear arsenal grew last year: SIPRI**



**Nadeem wants to revolutionise music industry in Bangladesh**

## AL's Khair prevails over own clan

After attack on mayor candidate in Barishal, Islami Andolan announces boycott of Sylhet, Rajshahi city polls

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, MD ABBAS and SUSHANTA GHOSH

Abul Khair Abdullah was little known in Barishal. He has neither any party portfolio in the city nor enough followers. He used to live in a rented house because he was not allowed at his family home in Barishal.

After the Awami League nominated him for mayor, Khair needed support from his mighty elder brother Abul Hasanat Abdullah and nephew Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah. But neither gave him genuine support. In fact, they acted like rivals.

Despite all these, Khair has won yesterday's election to Barishal City Corporation.

Abul Hasanat is a veteran politician who is the president of Barishal district AL, lawmaker from Barishal-1, and member of AL central working committee and AL parliamentary nomination board. His son Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, the general secretary of Barishal City AL, is the incumbent mayor of Barishal.

The father and son had for years controlled AL politics in Barishal without giving rival groups any chance. Their noncooperation with Khair was all too evident.

In a recent visit to his constituency, Hasanat hugged his younger brother, but the rift between them over the mayor nomination remained.

Since hardly any leaders from Barishal city AL would join Khair on his campaign trail because of their loyalty to Hasanat, Khair had to rely on AL central committee leaders.

Sadiq, away from Barishal since May 26, did not cast his vote and his followers were not seen in the vicinity of the polling centres yesterday.

But Khair, also known as Kokhon Serniabat, had the last laugh, defeating Mufti Syed Faizul Karim of Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) by 53,980 votes, according to unofficial results.

However, some incidents of violence and irregularities took some shine off his win.

During polling, Faizul and his supporters were attacked when they were walking out of Sabera Khatun Girls' High School around 12:30pm in Choumatha area. Later in the day, police and BGB men used truncheons to disperse his followers at Beltala Bazar.

Police later said the activists were chased away for defying instructions. "Ruling party men were asking people to vote for a specific symbol. They attacked me because I was telling the presiding officer about it," Faizul said.

Correspondents of this newspaper saw eight to 10 men wearing badges of the ruling party's electoral symbol attack Faizul and his supporters.

Briefing reporters at the Election Commission office in the capital, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan said the attack on Faizul was "sudden", and it was an isolated incident. He added that the attackers would be punished.

Alzalul Karim, chief election coordinator of the AL camp, said IAB supporters, some of whom were not even from the city, had tried to create instability during the election. "We do not know who attacked them."

In the evening, Mufti Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim, ameer of the Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB), announced that his party had boycotted the city corporation elections in Barishal and Khulna. He added that the party would shun the coming elections in Sylhet and Rajshahi cities.

Large numbers of AL activists wearing badges of the party were seen at most of the 126 polling centres.

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**Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB) supporters form a human shield around their mayor nominee Mufti Syed Faizul Karim while being attacked allegedly by ruling Awami League men at Choumatha in Barishal during yesterday's city corporation polls. Faizul and some of his supporters were injured in the attack. Top right, police and Border Guard Bangladesh members use truncheons against IAB supporters at Beltala Bazar. Bottom right, voters wait in queues at Rupatali Zagua College in the morning.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED/PALASH KHAN

## Development to be the focus for both mayors-elect



Abul Khair Abdullah



Talukder Abdul Khaleque

### STAR REPORT

The mayors-elect of Barishal and Khulna have pledged to work for the development of their respective cities, as well as for all people, irrespective of their political affiliations.

They made the pledges while giving their immediate reactions after announcement of the polls results.

"I will fulfil all the pledges I made in my electoral manifesto in phases. I seek blessings from the almighty. I will build a new Barishal," said Barishal mayor-elect Abul Khair Abdullah.

He also expressed his gratitude to all, including voters, law enforcers and journalists.

Khair, who is the uncle of Barishal city's incumbent mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah, contested the city polls on an Awami League ticket for the first time.

He is the younger brother of Abul Hasanat Abdullah, a veteran

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## KHULNA CITY Voting thru EVM proved problematic for some

### Polling peaceful

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU, SAJJAD HOSSAIN and DIPANKAR ROY from Khulna

The voting in Khulna city polls went ahead peacefully yesterday with no incidents of violence or obstruction of voters from casting ballots reported.

Though the voting proceeded slowly in the morning, it picked up as the day progressed. Voters were seen waiting in long queues at the polling centres to exercise their franchise.

A large number of supporters of Awami League mayor candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque gathered outside most of the polling centres. They stayed there during the polling hours.

Visiting at least 30 polling centres, The Daily Star found that the numbers of women

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**Buildings have been built cutting the Rifles Club hill in Sylhet city's Nayabazar over the years. Several hills have been cut to make room for residential buildings in the area ignoring the risk of landslides. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## JAMAAT RALLY AFTER A DECADE

## Speculations run rife over govt strategy

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL MASUM MOLLA

Saturday's rally of Jamaat-e-Islami in the capital after a decade has raised many eyebrows and many believe that the new US visa policy might have led the government to allow the rally.

Although some Awami League leaders claimed that the BNP was behind Jamaat's rally, several of its top leaders defended the government's go-ahead for the rally, reasoning that the party is not banned.

The remarks backing the decision to allow the rally have raised suspicion among some BNP leaders who suspect Jamaat and the government might have had an understanding. The BNP recently restored its communication with its long-term ally to go for the one-point movement demanding elections under a non-partisan interim government.

Jamaat, however, denied the allegation of having made any deal with the government. Rather, it said that it would intensify its organisational activities in the coming days to realise its demand for the restoration of the caretaker government system.

However, many believe that holding the rally was a new Jamaat strategy to see first-hand the government's

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## Home ministry getting job of issuing NIDs

## Cabinet okays draft of National Identity Registration Act-2023

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday gave the final nod to the draft National Identity Registration Act-2023, which will allow the home ministry to issue national identity (NID) cards instead of the Election Commission, which has been doing it since 2006.

The cabinet had approved in principle the draft act on October 10 last year.

Cabinet Secretary Mahub Hossain briefed reporters at the Secretariat after a cabinet meeting yesterday, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Mahub said the EC would use the NID data of the home ministry's Security Services Division for preparing the voter ID cards of citizens aged 18 and above.

The initiative was taken to ease the people's suffering in getting NID cards, he said, adding that the proposed law would have a provision to correct the errors in the cards easily.

According to the draft law, a unique national identity number will be issued after the birth of a citizen which would remain the same for the entire life of the citizen. A citizen will not require any other number.

A registration authority, which will be called the registrar's office, under the Security Services Division will issue the NID cards.

Once the office begins its operation, citizens aged below 18 will be able to have NID cards.

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## Country will be destroyed if any other party comes to power: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the country will be destroyed if any party other than the Awami League comes to power.

She asked the AL leaders and activists to work together to bring her ruling party back to power to sustain the momentum of development.

The prime minister said this at a meeting of leaders and activists of Dhaka Metropolitan North Awami League at her official residence Ganabhaban.

She said that everyone should be vigilant so that anti-state, murderous, fundamentalist groups and anti-liberation war forces do not come to power.

“We have proved that when Awami

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## Hasina sends mangoes for Mamata

UNB, Benapole

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sent 1,200kg of mangoes as a gift for India's West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The mangoes were sent through Jashore's Benapole land port.

The shipment arrived at the Benapole-Petrapole checkpoint around 12:00pm, said Tanvir Ahmed, Benapole customs house deputy commissioner.

Kawsar Sarowar, administrative officer (Accounts) of the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata received the consignment.

Last year, PM Hasina sent two trucks of Haribhanga mangoes to her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and Mamata Banerjee.



Migrants return inland after being prevented from boarding smugglers' boats by French National Police on the beach of Gravelines, northern France yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## BANGLADESHI PEACEKEEPERS UN should enhance screening before appointing them

Says HRW ahead of UN under-secretary-general's Dhaka visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch yesterday urged the UN under-secretary general for peace operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, to publicly voice concerns over the abuses by the government security forces during his upcoming visit to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh security forces, particularly the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), have long been implicated in serious human rights violations, said HRW Chief Advocacy Officer Bruno Stagno Ugarte in a statement yesterday.

“Lacroix should emphasise that if Bangladesh is to maintain its role as the top contributor of peacekeeping troops, it should appropriately apply the UN human rights screening policy, which requires governments, alongside the UN, to ensure their nationals serving with the UN have not violated human rights laws,” the HRW official said.

He said poor enforcement of this

policy fails to ensure Bangladeshi troops, who “engaged in abuses at home”, are not deployed with UN missions abroad.

“In Bangladesh, systematic human rights screening by the UN is applied only at higher ranks and otherwise left to the National Human Rights Commission, which has limited purview over security forces,” read the statement.

The rights body said Bangladesh's weak enforcement of this policy reinforces a message that grave rights violations will not preclude one from service under the UN flag, presenting a moral hazard for the UN.

When reviewing Bangladesh's record in 2019, the UN Committee against Torture recommended an independent vetting procedure, “to ensure that no person or unit implicated in the commission of torture, extrajudicial killing, disappearances or other serious human rights violations is selected for

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## Saber made spl envoy to PM on environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the environment, forest and climate change ministry, has been made the prime minister's special envoy on environment and climate change.

The Cabinet Division yesterday issued a gazette, signed by Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain, in this regard, saying that the appointment will take immediate effect.

This post will be honorary, the gazette said.

Saber has been playing a key role in climate negotiation on behalf of the country.

He was the first Bangladeshi to become the president of Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international organisation of national parliaments.

The Awami League lawmaker had served as deputy minister for ports and shipping and local government, rural development and cooperatives from 1999 to 2001.



## Ex-Italian PM Berlusconi dies at 86

REUTERS, Milan

Silvio Berlusconi, the billionaire media mogul and former Italian prime minister who transformed the nation's politics with polarising policies and often alarmed his allies with his brazen remarks, died yesterday aged 86.

Berlusconi, Italy's longest-serving premier who counted Russian President Vladimir Putin as a friend and gained notoriety for his “bunga bunga” sex parties, had suffered from leukaemia and recently developed a lung infection.

He died at Milan's San Raffaele hospital, where he was admitted on Friday. Four of his five children and his brother Paolo were at his bedside, ANSA reported shortly before his death was announced. A state funeral will be held in Milan tomorrow.

Backed by huge wealth and a media, real estate and football empire, Berlusconi launched into politics in 1994, upending traditional parties and becoming premier. Another businessman, Donald Trump, would mirror that approach in the United States two decades later.

Berlusconi's Forza Italia party is now a junior partner in Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's right-wing coalition, and although he himself did not have a role in government, his death may bring fresh realignments in Italian politics.

His business empire also faces an uncertain future. He never publicly indicated who would take full charge of his MFE MFEB.MI company following his death, even though his eldest daughter Marina is expected to play a prominent role.



## AL's Khair prevails over own clan

FROM PAGE 1

In at least seven places, supporters of councillor candidates chased each other, and AL men were seen entering the polling booths and asking constituents to vote for their candidate at three centres.

IAB leaders and Jatiya Party mayor nominee Iqbal Hossain Tapos alleged that AL activists drove their polling agents out of the polling centres and stopped some people who were going to cast their votes.

## Speculations run rife over govt strategy

FROM PAGE 1

attitude towards it in the wake of the new US visa policy.

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

A section of AL leaders believes that the US visa policy might be a reason.

“Visa policy might be a reason for allowing Jamaat to hold the rally. I think it was an embarrassing decision for the government and it had no alternatives,” an AL leader told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

AL Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud on Sunday said Jamaat was allowed to have the meeting since the party is not banned and that it sought permission.

Besides Hasan, at least four ministers on Sunday tried to justify the government's decision.

Senior BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday said, “In fact, the government was forced to give Jamaat the permission [to hold the rally] because of the US visa policy.”

At several places, officials said the electronic voting machines (EVMs) were slow to read fingerprints. An EVM malfunctioned for about an hour in the morning at the Government Barishal College. BCC polls was conducted with EVMs only.

Renu Bala, 48, said she had to return home without casting her vote at Rupatali Zagua Primary School after waiting for two hours in the queue.

According to AL insiders, there are two different views within the party about the issue.

A section of the leaders believes that by allowing Jamaat to have the rally, the AL's image as a secular party has been harmed and that it sent the wrong message.

The other section feels it is a strategic decision by the government to demonstrate that it is not imposing any restriction on any organisation.

They also think if Jamaat resorted to violence as it had done before, the government's previous stance against the party would be justified in the eyes of the global community.

Al Masud Hasanuzzaman, professor at the Department of Government and Politics at Jahangirnagar University, told The Daily Star, “So far it seems it is a political strategy of the ruling party. Yes, it is a political surprise as Jamaat was allowed to hold a rally after such a long time. There are pressures from different corners of the government to allow the opposition parties to hold rallies.

“With this, the government can say that opposition parties have full

freedom to hold rallies.” Masud said the government will obviously see how Jamaat behaves in the coming days and the political equations will be clearer. “So, we have to wait a bit to get a clear picture.”

Sources in Jamaat said the party leaders found a good opportunity to make their presence felt on the streets after being denied the chance for years.

They said Jamaat took full advantage of the US visa restriction policy. Had the government denied them permission for the rally, Jamaat would have said that the government was obstructing the democratic process.

Asked about the claims of a deal made with the government, Jamaat Naye-e-Ameer (deputy chief) Abdullah Md Taher told The Daily Star that no consensus was made between the government and his party.

“We were focused on our organisational activities in the last 10 years. Now we are focusing on political activities to wage a movement for our demand for caretaker government...,” he said.

## N Korea's Kim offers ‘full support’ to Putin on Russia Day

AFP, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered his country's “full support and solidarity” to Moscow in a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday, state media reported.

Kim sent the message of congratulations on the national day of Russia, one of a handful of nations that maintain friendly relations with Pyongyang.

His message, published by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), did not directly mention the invasion of Ukraine or Moscow's involvement in an armed conflict, but praised Putin's “correct decision and guidance... to foil the hostile forces' escalating threats”.

The North Korean people, it added, extend “full support and solidarity to the Russian people in their all-out struggle for implementing the sacred cause to preserve the sovereign rights, development and interests of their country against the imperialists’

## Voting thru EVM proved problematic

FROM PAGE 1 and elderly voters were relatively higher.

Many differently abled voters also cast their votes.

However, voters at some centres faced difficulties in using electronic voting machines which slowed down the voting.

After casting his vote, AL mayor nominee Khaleque told journalists that casting ballots using EVMs was little slow.

Morzina Begum could not cast her vote at the Nurnagar Government

## DSA CASE Prothom Alo reporter Shams's bail extended

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended the bail of Prothom Alo reporter Samsuzzaman Shams till submission of the probe report in a case filed with Tejgaon Police Station under the Digital Security Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mehedi Hasan passed the order.

On April 9, Shams got ad-interim bail from a different Dhaka court.

Shams also secured bail in another case filed with Shahbagh Police Station under the same act on April 3.

On March 29, Shams was picked up from his home in Savar by law enforcers wearing plainclothes around 4:00am, triggering widespread criticism.

On March 26, the Prothom Alo made a “photo card” to post a report written by Shams on Independence Day on social media. The card had a quote from a day labourer named Zakir Hossain juxtaposed against a photo of an adolescent boy.

He was detained less than two hours after a Jubo League leader filed a DSA case with Tejgaon Police Station.

## Woman's body found in ditch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a woman from a ditch in the Barabkunda area of Sitakunda upazila in Chattogram yesterday.

Selina Akter, 24, a local resident, was the mother of a one-year-old baby.

Local police said they detained her husband Md Arif, who during primary interrogation, claimed Selina was mentally ill.

Selina went missing after she went out for shopping on Sunday evening, said Officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station Tofail Ahmed, quoting family members.

On Monday morning, locals found her body in a ditch and informed police.

“There were no visible injury marks on the body,” the OC said.

Her body was sent to Chattogram Medical College Hospital Morgue for an autopsy, he added.

“We are investigating the matter,” said the OC.

## Gold bars worth Tk 5.4cr seized at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence officials yesterday detained a cleaner and seized 60 gold bars weighing nearly 7kg at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The market value of the gold bars is around Tk 5.4 crore.

Jamal Bhuiyan admitted to carrying and hiding the gold bars in a waste dumping area near Boarding Bridge 9.

A case will soon be filed against him, said Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) Deputy Director Sunjida Sharmin.

She said they had information that a large quantity of gold arrived at the airport on a flight from US Bangla Airlines.



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## PM unveils 'Bhayera Amar'

Book contains 200 speeches  
of Bangabandhu

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday unveiled a book containing 200 speeches of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The book titled "Bhayera Amar" was unveiled at the beginning of the cabinet meeting held at the PMO.

The name "Bhayera Amar (My Brothers)" has been given by the prime minister herself, according to a release from PMO Press Wing. She also wrote the introduction of the book.

The main feature of this collection of speeches of the Father of the Nation is that it includes all the speeches available so far. All the speeches have been collected, compiled and edited by PM's speech writer M Nazrul Islam. The book has been published by Genius Publications.

The accuracy and reliability of each speech has been duly verified. The book highlights the important parts of each speech and displays them separately. Besides, the content, year and date of each speech are mentioned in the index.

In the introduction of the book, the prime minister mentioned, "The new generation, especially the leaders, activists and supporters of Awami League, should not only read Bangabandhu's speeches, but also understand their meaning and practice it in their own lives."



Along the Dhaka-Aricha highway, an alarming sight unfolds as garbage is set ablaze, enveloping the surroundings in a cloud of suffocating black smoke. The toxic emissions taint the air, threatening the health of nearby communities, and casts a cloak that reduces visibility -- resulting in an increased risk of road accidents. This photo was taken recently in Savar's Ganda area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Dengue claims two more lives

180 hospitalised  
in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more dengue patients died while 180 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new cases, the total number of deaths in dengue rose to 26 this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of dengue cases this year stood at 3,390. Some 650 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment.

A total of 2,714 dengue patients were released from hospitals so far.

The total number of deaths in dengue was 281 last year while the total number of cases was 62,382, of which 23,162 were outside Dhaka.

Experts continue to urge the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives identifying clusters of Aedes mosquitoes as soon as possible.

## 'Where's Kalpana Chakma?'

Speakers demand enquiry  
commission

DU CORRESPONDENT

Noted citizens demanded the formation of an inquiry commission to investigate the abduction of Kalpana Chakma, a female leader in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, who disappeared 27 years ago.

They raised the demand from a rally in front of National Museum at Shahbagh yesterday, organised under the banner of indigenous women, students and youth organisations.

In the rally, Dr Khairul Chowdhury, a teacher of Dhaka University's sociology department, said it has been 27 years since the abduction of Kalpana Chakma and as many as 39 investigation committees have failed to uncover the truth behind her disappearance.

"The time for setting up an enquiry commission is now. If we can set up a public inquiry commission to prosecute the war criminals of Bangladesh, why cannot we investigate the case of Kalpana Chakma?" he said.

Kalpana, who was the organising secretary of Hill Women's Federation (HWF), was abducted from her

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PHOTO: STAR

## Only 5 out of 41 parties in city polls

Elections non-participatory with no major opposition, say experts



**BNP and their alliance members are not taking part in the election due to their lack of confidence in the EC. Many political parties do not have the capacity and human resources to participate in the polls, resulting in overall lower participation.**

**M SAKHAWAT HUSSAIN**  
Former Election Commissioner

**There is no scope for the EC to bring anyone in the electoral race. Participation from every party surely makes it more competitive. If that does not happen, we have to conduct the polls either way. We don't have option to stop working.**

**RASHIDA SULTANA**  
Election Commissioner

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Only five out of the total 41 political parties that are registered with the Election Commission are participating in the ongoing five city corporation elections. The opposition parties boycotting the elections made it non-participatory and less competitive, according to political analysts.

The series of city elections started with the Gazipur city polls on May 25.

The Barishal and Khulna city polls have taken place yesterday, while the Sylhet and Rajshahi city polls are scheduled for June 21.

In the Gazipur polls, a total of

eight candidates took part in the elections, of whom, three were independent. The ruling Awami League, the main opposition in parliament Jatiya Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jaker Party and Ganafont fielded their candidates in the electoral race.

Sources from the EC said four parties -- Awami League, Jatiya Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Jaker Party -- nominated their candidates in the Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet polls.

Former Election Commissioner Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said so many political parties deciding not to participate in the polls have made them less

competitive.

"BNP, a major political party, and their alliance members are not taking part in the election due to their lack of confidence in the Election Commission. On the other hand, many political parties do not have the capacity and human resources to participate in the polls, resulting in overall lower participation," he said.

During a meeting held on May 15, the BNP standing committee officially decided to boycott the city polls, saying the five city polls ahead of the national elections are motivated, according to a press release signed by BNP Secretary

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## 'ATTACK ON IAB CANDIDATE'

Did he die, asks  
CEC Awal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polling in the Barishal and Khulna city corporations were held amid festivities, and in a free and fair manner barring a few incidents, said Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday.

He made the remarks while briefing reporters at the EC office.

During the briefing, in response to a question -- when a mayoral candidate is beaten and left in bloodshed, how can the election be called peaceful, CEC said, "the matter is comparative".

"Did he die? No. I did not see him bleeding. But we heard that someone punched him from behind," he said.

Mentionable, Syed Faizul Karim, mayoral candidate of Islami Andolan Bangladesh, came under attack during the city polls in Barishal.

Regarding the incident, the CEC said, "We heard the candidate saying, 'voting is not obstructed. I have been attacked'."

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## Multilateralism vital for greater global interest

Momen tells G20 meeting

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday intervened at various sessions of the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting and emphasised upholding the true spirit of multilateralism for greater interest of the global community.

He stressed on the challenges faced by the countries of global south and called for support from developed countries on means of implementation, financing and capacity building, according to a message from Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi.

India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar chaired the meeting.

Foreign ministers from a number of the G20

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Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen with India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar at a meeting yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## OATH TAKING OF MPS SC fixes July 25 for hearing of appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed July 25 for hearing of a four-year-old appeal that challenged the legality of oath taking by 280 Awami League alliance lawmakers.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice M Enayetur Rahim set the date after Senior Advocate AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, lawyer for


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**PRAYER  
TIMING**

**JUNE 13**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:50	8:15
JAMAA 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION





Vehicles remain stuck in a long tailback on the Airport road yesterday afternoon. Though traffic congestions have become a norm in the capital, especially on weekdays, the morning rain only exacerbated people's sufferings. This photo was taken near Banani.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Surgeon accused of mistreatment

Patient files complaint  
with BMDC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former patient of Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka has complained about an alleged unsuccessful open-heart surgery, which he claimed led to his cardiac arrest approximately three months later.

The physician in charge, however, denied the allegation.

The patient, Kanchan Kumar Dey, 62, underwent open-heart surgery on December 12 after a cardiologist identified five blockages in his heart's blood vessel.

Prof Dr Masum Siraj, head of Cardiac Surgery at the hospital, performed the surgery as the lead surgeon

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## AL divided people

FROM PAGE 5  
against the Liberation War of Bangladesh have already been punished. Some of them have even been hanged. Who are the anti-liberation forces in the country at this moment?"

In a sarcastic tone, Quader further remarked that a new class has emerged, which he referred to as "Awami League Plus". He pointed out that AL loyalists within public service, local administration,

police, armed forces, and the judiciary constitute this "AL plus" group.

Quader went on to claim that the current government was not voted into power by people, but rather the current regime's power grab was facilitated by this "AL plus" group.

He stated, "This group is now looting the country. They have turned the people into their slaves."

## Where's Kalpana

FROM PAGE 3  
home at the remote Niulalaghona village in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila in the early hours of June 12, 1996, a year before the signing of the CHT Peace Accord.

Kalpana's family filed an abduction complaint against some security officers working in Rangamati. However, the investigation never made any progress.

"There was no need for so many investigation committees. There were eyewitnesses of the abduction. But the state did not want the truth to come out," said advocate Luna Nur, a member of Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Tuli Lavanya, a member of the Bangladesh Adivasi Women's Network, said, "We are surprised that even after 52 years of independence, we are not seeing fair trial and justice in the country. If the government of a free country has goodwill, it takes no time to catch the culprits of any incident. We will not accept this culture of impunity."

They demanded full implementation of the CHT Agreement and demanded that the state ensure the safety of indigenous women in the hills and the plains.

The rally was conducted by Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangam Parishad President Alik Mree.

## Councillor candidate

FROM PAGE 5  
among people as the individual responsible for carrying the firearm during the confrontation is still at large and the weapon has not been recovered.

In the CCTV footage, a group of motorcyclists can be seen gathering in front of Sayeed Md Abdullah's residence, with Abul Kalam Azad Tuhin, a former BCL leader, brandishing the firearm at the gate.

Aftab Hossain Khan, the incumbent councillor of ward-7 and president of Sylhet city's Swechasebak League, was seen leading the group. Although three individuals – Atiqur Rahman, Juber Ahmed, and Nuruzzaman – were arrested in connection with the firearm display, Abul Kalam and others remain unapprehended.

CEC Kazi Habibur Awal at a meeting with all candidates assured that necessary steps would be taken.

Azbahar Ali Sheikh, deputy commissioner (north) of police, said, "We are conducting drives to arrest the man who displayed firearms and tried to recover the firearm displayed in the showdown."

In a twist to the ongoing situation, Sayeed Md Abdullah himself has been

sued in a case. Shahnur Alam, finance secretary of the Sylhet city unit of Swechasebak League, lodged the case, alleging that Sayeed and his supporters attacked him on June 6.

According to the case statement, the incident occurred when Shahnur Alam arrived in the Jalalabad Residential Area with posters of the AL mayoral candidate at approximately 10:30pm. Two individuals, Abul Kalam, 50, and Juned Ahmed, 25, have been arrested by police.

Both Aftab Hossain Khan and Sayeed Abdullah could not be reached for comment despite repeated attempts.

### Safeguard

FROM PAGE 5  
concept, he stressed on working at the grassroots. For this, he highlighted collaborative approach among ministries.

"Without strong logistical support, seminars and guidelines will not be effective," he said.

Prof ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the health directorate, stressed on collaborative efforts to reduce the ineffectiveness of the antibiotics.

### Violence mars

FROM PAGE 5  
they return once the officials leave, and they do not heed to our requests to leave the polling centre."

Voters alleged that AL supporters were monitoring them and harassing those who did not vote for the boat symbol. One voter, Mohammad Kamal Hossan, reported that he was slapped by AL supporters after he voted against the boat symbol at around 11:30am.

This correspondent also visited the Araihaazar Government Model Primary School center around 11:00am and found only AL's candidate's polling agents present.

Following the electoral proceedings, Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner, Md Monjurul Hafiz, who visited the area, told reporters that the voting was conducted fairly, and no complaints were filed.

Returning officer Rabiul Alam declared last night at around 8:00pm that Sundor Ali, the AL candidate, emerged as the winner of the election, securing 9,992 votes.

## Multilateralism

FROM PAGE 3  
and guest countries attended the meeting, which primarily focused on multilateralism, progress of implementation of SDGs and green development.

Momen also met his Indian counterpart on the sidelines of the G20 Development Ministers' Meeting in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh and discussed issues of mutual interest.

Momen also met Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, minister at the Prime Minister's

Office, Singapore and Isobel Coleman, deputy administrator of USAID.

During his meeting with Deputy Administration of USAID, Momen underlined the robust partnership between Bangladesh and the USAID that has spanned more than five decades.

During both the meetings, he sought support for early and sustainable repatriation of all the displaced Rohingyas to their homeland in the Rakhine State of Myanmar.

### Did he die

FROM PAGE 3  
"We also tried to find out if the voting process was hampered due to that incident. But, despite the incident, the voting process remained unaffected," the CEC said. "However, we gave instructions to take strict action against those responsible for the incident," he said.

He said the voter turnout was 50 percent in the BCC polls and between 42 and 45 percent in the KCC polls.

EC Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan said the attack on Faizul was a "sudden and stray" incident.

## LGRD ministry asks DC

FROM PAGE 5  
Imrul delivered his speech targeting Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila Chairman Kaisarul Haque Jewel while participating in the Cox's Bazar Municipality election campaign at Tarabuniachara area on behalf of the AL candidate Mahabur Rahman Chowdhury on June 6.

In the speech, Imrul was heard saying he rigged votes at eight centres to make Jewel the chairman of Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila.

Aiming for Jewel, Imrul was heard saying, "You would not be the chairman if I weren't there for you. If you have forgotten what I did for you, ask your elder brother Masedul Haque Rashed, who is competing (in the municipality elections) with the coconut tree symbol. Ask your brother Marshal Mama of the district council. We made you upazila chairman by rigging votes in the EVMs."

"You have targeted us

with your words because you are ungrateful. Otherwise, you would not have forgotten those days," said Imrul.

When his speech came to the notice of the EC, it directed the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to take action against Imrul after an investigation.

M u h a m m a d Shaheen Imran, deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar, could not be connected over the phone to comment on the matter.

## I'm here because my vote matters

FROM PAGE 5  
the EVM was hassle-free. I have voted in previous elections as well. It takes me only 7-8 minutes to complete the voting process."

Her husband said, "We cast our votes efficiently, without any delays. We never miss the opportunity to vote. My wife is always enthusiastic about exercising her voting rights. Today, we came together in the morning, and managed to cast two votes."



PHOTO: STAR

Pulton Nessa and her husband Samshul Islam.

## SC fixes July 25

FROM PAGE 3  
the appellant, placed the appeal for hearing.

The 280 lawmakers were elected in the polls held on December 30, 2018.

SC lawyer Taherul Islam Tawhid had filed the petition on August 20, 2019 against the High Court order that on February 18, 2019 rejected his petition which challenged the legality of their oath taking on January 3, 2019.

Lawyer Mahbub Uddin Khokon told The Daily

Star that oath-taking by the 280 lawmakers was unconstitutional as the tenure of the 10th parliament expired on January 28, 2019.

Therefore, there were two parliaments from January 3 to January 28 in 2019 – which is unconstitutional, he said, adding that the BNP lawmakers had taken oath much later.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin represented the state during yesterday's hearing.

## Surgeon accused

FROM PAGE 3  
and discharged the patient from the hospital a week later.

However, the patient again started suffering from chest pain during mid-March and was admitted to the same hospital on April 2 under Prof Dr Rezaul Karim. After the diagnosis, the doctor informed him that he suffered a mild heart attack the previous day, for which he needed an angiogram.

The angiogram report, however, suggested that there were two blockages, which were left unsolved during the previous open-heart surgery, according to a complaint filed with Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) on May 27.

"My question is -- why were the two blockages left unresolved? This almost led me to my death. My life was at risk due to the mistreatment of Dr Masum Siraj," Kanchan wrote in his complaint.

"I had to endure a huge

loss mentally, physically and financially. I'm still at risk for my life," he said.

Kanchan sought justice from BMDC in this regard.

Asked, Prof Dr Masum Siraj said the bypass surgery was performed to maintain protocol. "Without seeing the records of the patient, I cannot recall how we performed the bypass surgery. Sometimes repairing multiple blockages in the same vessel is not possible at one try."

"Patients may need angioplasty even after the bypass. It is quite normal. Moreover, the patient did not contact me regarding his complaint. He could have contacted me before filing the complaint," he added.

Anwar Hossain, administrative officer at BMDC, told The Daily Star, "We will ask for an explanation from the physician as part of the investigation. The investigation will take some time."

## Only 5 out of 41

FROM PAGE 3  
General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Stating that no election can be neutral, free and fair under the AL government, the BNP policymakers said the city polls will also be controlled by the government, hindering them from reflecting public opinion.

BNP and like-minded political parties have been on the streets since December 24 last year to realise their 10-point demand, including the resignation of the incumbent government and the national elections under a nonpartisan caretaker government.

The party has not contested any election under the government since March 2021.

In 2022, going beyond the party decision, BNP leaders Taimur Alam Khandaker and Monirul Haque Sakku contested the last polls to

Narayanganj and Cumilla city corporations as independent candidates. Both of them lost the polls and were expelled from the party.

In 2018, AL candidates won four mayoral posts, while a BNP nominee bagged one. The opposition party's candidates won all five mayoral polls in those cities in 2013.

Asked about whether the city polls are turning one-sided in the absence of the major opposition parties, Election Commissioner Rashida Sultana said, "There is no scope for the Election Commission to bring anyone in the electoral race. Participation from every party surely makes it more competitive."

"However, if that does not happen, we have to conduct the polls either way. We do not have the option to stop working on the polls," she added.

**Land Purchase @ Gulshan/Baridhara**  
Wants to buy minimum 8 katha upto 20 katha (more/less) at any prime location of Gulshan/ Baridhara diplomatic zone by EXPATRIATE BANGLADESHI. Any commission or service charge is not required from the seller. Only genuine owners are requested to contact. **01711-521084**

**TO-LET**  
Newly built 4 bedroom with attached bath lake & south facing 5<sup>th</sup> floor furnished apartment full generator backup, swimming pool at North Gulshan 2<sup>nd</sup> Circle. **Contact: 01841030041**




### Ebenezer International School

**Job Vacancy Announcement for Principal of EIS**

Ebenezer International School in Bashundhara, Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is seeking a Principal. The term of office is 3 years (It can be extended for 2 years). Koreans or native English speakers with good educational background, experience, and aspirations are encouraged to apply.

**For getting the full information, scan the following QR Code:**





### BANGLADESH KRISHI BANK

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**ICT Operation Department**

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E-mail: dgmictp@krishibank.org.bd  
Website: www.krishibank.org.bd

No. BKB/HO/ICT(OP)/7(5)-76/2022-2023/1218      Dated: 08/06/2023

**“e-Tender Notice (OTM)”**

This is to notify all concern that the following tenders has been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl	Tender ID, Tender Package No. and Reference No.	Name of Tender	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time	Tender Method
01	Tender ID: 845242 Tender Package No: 24/2022-2023, Reference No. BKB/HO/ICT(OP)/7(5)-76/2022-2023/1216	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Hardware Security Module(HSM) for Nikash-BEFTN Service of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.	Date: 02-07-2023 Time: 16:01	Date: 03-07-2023 Time: 15:00	OTM
02	Tender ID: 845283 Tender Package No: 23/2022-2023, Reference No. BKB/HO/ICT(OP)/7(5)-76/2022-2023/1217	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Servers and Server Rack for Nikash-BEFTN Service of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.	Date: 02-07-2023 Time: 16:30	Date: 03-07-2023 Time: 16:00	OTM


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

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-gp help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

স্বাক্ষরকারী: মুহাম্মদ ফারিদ হাসান  
মুদ্রিত: আর এম এলি মুন্সিং, মহাপরিচালক (ICT)  
-ফারিদ হাসান

(Md. Farid Hasah)  
Deputy General Manager (ICT)

GD-1009



### NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

#### TENDER NOTICE

**Tender No. NSU/22-23-T06**

**North South University** is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ distributors/ business partners/ agents for supplying various lab equipment for various department of NSU as described in the tender schedule.

The details of the lot are mentioned below:

Lot-01	Various lab equipment	For Core Research Facility (CRF)
Lot-02	Various lab equipment	For Biochemistry & Microbiology Department
Lot-03	Lab Equipment	For NSU Genome Research Institute (NGRI)

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **July 17, 2023** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **July 18, 2023** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

**Director, Internal Affairs**  
**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229  
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax : +88-02-55668202  
E-mail to: [procurement@northsouth.edu](mailto:procurement@northsouth.edu), [www.northsouth.edu](http://www.northsouth.edu)



### Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry

#### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**DIRECTOR, BI-LATERAL TRADE & INVESTMENT**

Germany is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest export destination of Bangladesh. BGCCI - The Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry is a trusted name among the German and Bangladeshi businesses. BGCCI is the largest bilateral chamber in the country and promoting bilateral trade between Germany and Bangladesh. Since inception, BGCCI has been working as a catalyst of accelerating economic growth for both of the partner countries. Being an independent, member driven bilateral trade organization, BGCCI is known for its vast network at home and abroad. BGCCI provides services to Bangladesh and German companies and acts as a strategic partner between the two economies. BGCCI supports companies and institutions from both countries in opening new trade and business opportunities.

To improve the services and to enhance bilateral trade and expand cooperation with Germany BGCCI requires a director for bilateral trade and investment.

**Job Requirements:**

- Masters in any discipline
- At least 15 years of professional experience in relevant fields bilateral chamber/German organization is preferred
- Strong language proficiency in German and English
- An in-depth understanding of the Bangladesh-German as well as international business environments and EU regulations
- Events and Programs require a flexible work schedule and a willingness to work extended hours
- Experienced with managing the German Government/EU Trade Teams / Delegations
- Strong networking record with German/EU authorities and trade bodies
- Presentable and capable of working under time pressure

If you feel competent for this job, please forward your CV with relevant documents to BGCCI at [office@bgcci.com](mailto:office@bgcci.com) before 18th June, 2023.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Violence mars  
Araihazar polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Voting for the Araihazar municipal polls in Narayanganj took place yesterday amid reports of irregularities and instances of violence.

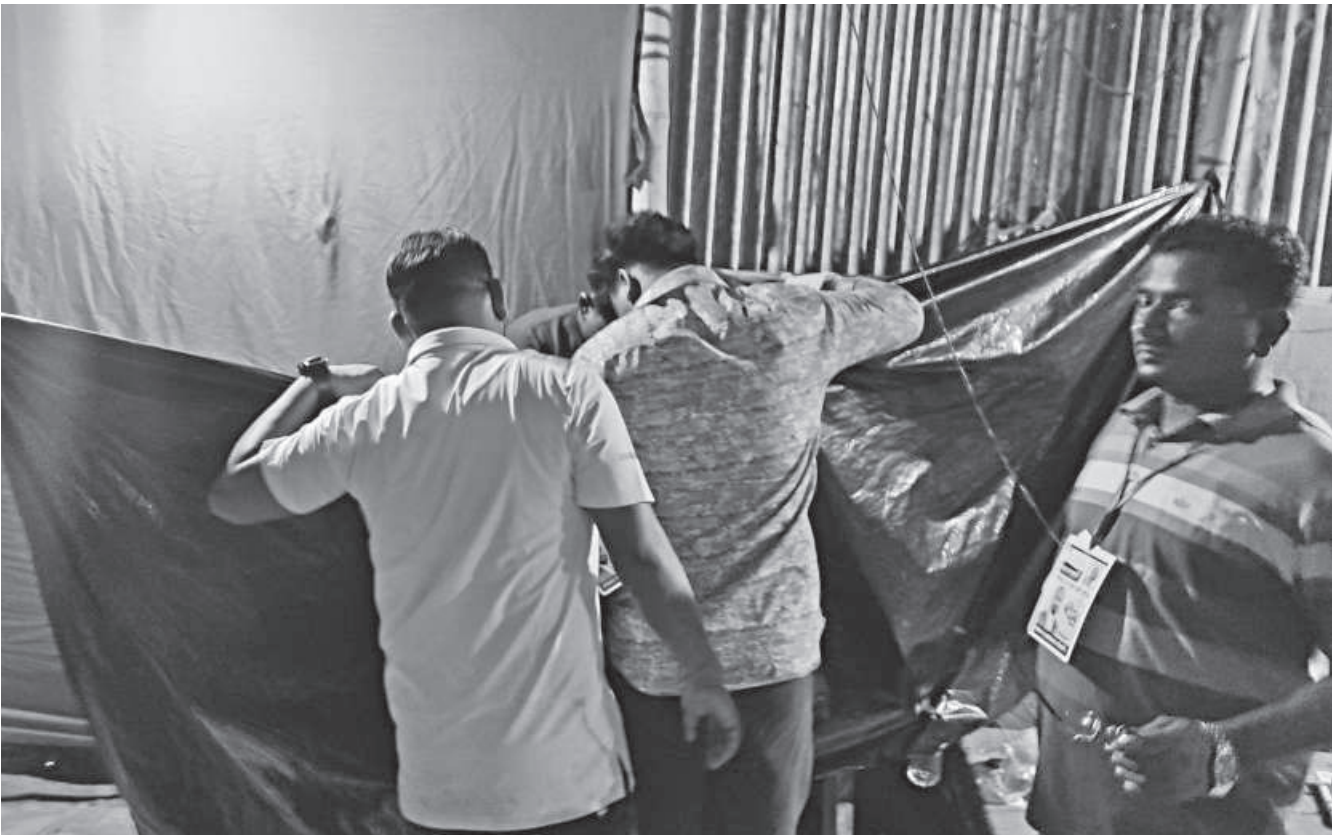
The clash between supporters of different candidates at NIB Shwapnodana Academy took place around 12:30pm, which resulted in injuries to at least five people, including two councillor aspirants. The situation escalated when a cocktail exploded during the clash, prompting law enforcers to intervene and restore order.

Throughout the polling hours, this correspondent visited four out of the 11 polling stations and observed irregularities in two of them. At the Nagerchar Madrasa (male) center, several polling agents and supporters of the Awami League mayoral candidate Sundor Ali were seen standing in front of the secret voting room between 11:30am and 3:45 pm.

They were exerting influence on voters to cast their votes for the ruling AL's "boat" symbol.

Contacted, Presiding Officer Md Shajahan said, "When law enforcement officials come to our polling stations, the Awami League supporters flee. However,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Two people allegedly belonging to the ruling party look over a black curtain, set up to ensure privacy of voters, to make sure that votes have been cast for "boat". Meanwhile, an Awami League polling agent stands guard at the booth. This pretty much sums up the situation during the Araihazar municipal polls in Narayanganj yesterday, said people who went to vote at Nagerchar Madrasa Polling Centre in ward-5.

PHOTO: STAR

VOTE RIGGING CLAIM  
LGRD ministry  
asks DC to probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar has been asked to investigate SM Imrul Kayes, a union parishad chairman of the district, who claimed that he rigged the votes in favour of the AL candidate during the Sadar upazila election.

The DC was directed to submit the probe report within seven working days by an order issued by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development on Sunday.

Earlier, the Election Commission instructed the ministry to take action against Imrul Kayes, chairman of Haldiapalang union parishad in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila, after his speech claiming to rig votes went viral on social media recently.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

FIREARM SHOWDOWN IN SYLHET

Councillor candidate  
show-caused

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

A show-cause notice has been served on Aftab Hossain Khan, a leader of Swechasebak League and a councillor candidate for ward-7 in the Sylhet City polls, for allegedly organising a showdown with arms outside the home of a rival candidate with a group of 20 to 25 men.

The Election Commission served the notice yesterday.

The complaint was filed by Sayeed Md Abdullah, a Jamaat-backed councillor candidate. The EC has directed Khan to provide a written explanation and



PHOTO: COLLECTED

appear before the commission on June 14 at 3:00pm.

Failure to adequately respond to the notice may result in the cancellation of Khan's candidacy, under section 91 of

the Local Government (City Corporation) Electoral Rules 2010 and section 31 of the City Corporation (Electoral Code of Conduct) Rules 2016.

Earlier in the Gazipur City Corporation elections, AL-backed councillor candidate Azizur Rahman lost his candidacy a day before the election.

He was similarly served a show cause notice and called into the EC over his intimidating speech, urging people not to come to polling centres if they do not want to vote for AL.

The incident has raised concerns

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

AL divided  
people for  
own benefit  
Claims GM Quader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The ruling Awami League divided the country at all levels for their own selfish gains, said Jatiya Party Chairperson GM Quader yesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest at the triennial council of Tangail district Jatiya Party, GM Quader said, "Through the narrative of pro-liberation force and anti-liberation force, AL has divided the nation. But all those who stood

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Safeguard animal health  
to protect humans  
Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Safeguarding animal health to preserve human health is crucial, as approximately 70 percent of infectious diseases originate from animals, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They were speaking at the 11th One Health Conference at a city hotel.

"One Health" is an integrated, unifying approach to balance and optimise the health of people, animals and the environment, according to the World Health Organization.

The approach mobilises multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together involving the public health,

veterinary and environmental sectors.

To highlight its importance, One Health Secretariate Bangladesh organises One Health Conference bi-annually.

Researchers from home and abroad, environmentalists, officials from the government and development partner organisations attended the conference.

Speaking at the opening session, SM Rezaul Karim, minister for Fisheries and Livestock, said around 70 percent of infectious diseases are animal borne. "Ensuring medical care for animals is also urgent for the sake of humans," he said.

To reap the benefit of one health

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয় জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার jailsuperjamaipur@gmail.com		
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.৩৯০০.০৯৭.০১.০০৮.২৩-১৬০৭		তারিখঃ ১২ জুন ২০২৩ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ
১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	জেলা সুপার, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
২	এজেন্সি/সংস্থা	কারা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
৩	দরপত্রের নাম	জামালপুর জেলা কারাগারের ০১-০৭-২০২৩খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৪খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের বিভিন্ন প্রকার বিবিধ দ্রব্য সরবরাহের জন্য শুধু কারা টিকাদার নিয়োগের ১ম বারের দরপত্র।
৪	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	Miscellaneous/2023
৫	দরপত্রাদাতাদের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত PG-2 এর শর্তানুযায়ী।
৬	বাজেট ফান্ড প্রান্তির উৎস	জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
৭	দরপত্র আহ্বান	সীমিত দরপত্র (LTM) পদ্ধতি।
৮	দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	১। জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার। (২) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর (৩) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর।
৯	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪-০৬-২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ২:৩০টা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	(১) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর (২) সদর থানা, জামালপুর (৩) প্রধান ফটক, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
১১	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
১২	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্রতিসেট ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র।
১৩	দরপত্র জামানতে পরিমাণ	দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত।
১৪	কার্যাদেশের সময়সীমা	০১-০৭-২০২৩খ্রিঃ হতে ৩০-০৬-২০২৪খ্রিঃ।
১৫	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে	ক) দরপত্র বায়নার মূলকপি ও ফটোকপি, খ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদের কপি, গ) অনলাইন ভ্যাট নিবন্ধনের (১৩ ডিজিট) কপি, ঘ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (সরবরাহকারী) এর কপি, ঙ) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা (লিকুইড এ্যাসেট) সনদের কপি ও স্বচ্ছলতার স্বপক্ষে হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্টের কপি/ব্যাংক লেটার অব কমিটমেন্টের কপি, চ) কারা বিভাগে/অন্য কোন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে ০৩ বছরের মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের কপি, ছ) জাতীয় পরিসংপদের কপি, জ) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ডালিভুক্তি বহির কপি। (সকল ফটোকপি ১ শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক নামমুক্ত সীলমোহের দ্বারা সত্যায়িত)
১৬	প্রি-স্টেডার সভার তারিখ ও সময়	২২-০৬-২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়	২৫-০৬-২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯:০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৮	দরপত্র বাস্তব উন্মুক্তকরণের সময়	২৫-০৬-২০২৩খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৯	মূল্যায়ন কমিটির সভা অনুষ্ঠানের সময়	২৬-০৬-২০২৩খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা।
২০	দরপত্র সিডিউলের অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী জানার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের সংশ্লিষ্ট যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	
২১	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আংশিক বা সকল দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল/গ্রহণের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
২২	কোন দরদাতা ভুল্য কাগজপত্র দাখিল করলে তার জামানত বাতিলসহ তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।	
এমাদুল হোসেন জেলা সুপার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত) জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার		
জিডি-১০১০		

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার		
জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় শরীয়তপুর www.shariatpur.gov.bd		
স্মারক নম্বরঃ ০৫.৩০.৮৬০০.০০৯.০৪.০০১.২৩-২৯৯		
তারিখঃ ২৫ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪৩০ ০৮ জুন ২০২৩		
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়
০২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, শরীয়তপুর।
০৩.	দরপত্রের বিবরণ	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে ও সার্কিট হাউজে স্টেশনারী মালামাল ও ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ এবং কাপড় ধোলাই।
০৪.	তহবিলে উৎস	রাজস্ব তহবিল
০৫.	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
০৬.	প্যাকেজের নাম	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, শরীয়তপুর এবং সার্কিট হাউজে স্টেশনারী মালামাল ও ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ এবং কাপড় ধোলাই।
০৭.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	২৬ জুন ২০২৩, তারিখ বিকাল ০৫:০০টা পর্যন্ত।
০৮.	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২৭ জুন ২০২৩, দুপুর ০১:০০টা পর্যন্ত।
০৯.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ ও সময়	২৭ জুন ২০২৩, দুপুর ০১:৩০টা।
১০.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নেজারত শাখা, শরীয়তপুর।
১১.	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক (সার্বিক), শরীয়তপুর এর অফিস কক্ষ।
১২.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক (সার্বিক), শরীয়তপুর এর অফিস কক্ষ।
১৩.	দরপত্রের মূল্য	২,৫০০/- (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১৪.	কাজের মেয়াদ	জুলাই ২০২৩ হতে জুন ২০২৪ পর্যন্ত।
১৫.	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	জেলা প্রশাসক, শরীয়তপুর এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরতযোগ্য) জামানত হিসেবে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৬.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	০১) দরদাতার সংশ্লিষ্ট পণ্য সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ০২(দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ০২) দরদাতার বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট ও টিআইএন সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে। ০৩) দরদাতার কমপক্ষে ১০ লক্ষ টাকার কাজের সক্ষমতা বা ঋণ সুবিধা থাকতে হবে।
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	মোঃ পারভেজ হাসান, জেলা প্রশাসক, শরীয়তপুর। মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১৫১৯৩৮৯৩।
১৮.	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলী	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
মোঃ পারভেজ হাসান জেলা প্রশাসক শরীয়তপুর ফোনঃ ০২-৪৭৮৮১৫১৪১ মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১৫১৯৩৮৯৩ E-mail: dcshariatpur@mopa.gov.bd		
জিডি-১০১১		





# Entertainment’s Rising Stars

Nadeem plays with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, wants to help Bangladeshi musicians

**Nadeem A Salam is a British-Bangladeshi musician and entrepreneur who has been actively working in the industry for over 10 years. He has worked with famous bands such as Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Megadeth, The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Simple Plan, Secondhand Serenade, among others. He is also the founder of Skesh Entertainment, a music management and production company that aims to revolutionise the music industry in Asia.**

AAQIB HASIB

**How did your journey in music start out?**

Growing up, I wanted to make a living out of music. Being from Bangladesh our parents will obviously gauge our success based on how well we are doing financially in our careers. So, I had the same struggles of trying to convince my parents about my ambitions.

I saw more opportunities in managing and working behind the scenes, rather than in the spotlight. While there was potential to make money while being in the spotlight, I knew that it was extremely risky.

That is why 10 years ago, we started signing a lot of international acts, hoping to bridge the gap in Asia. We wanted to help Asian bands, not just with opportunities, but by helping them get to the next level.

**How did the gig with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus come about?**

When I was 17, one of the first bands I started working with was Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. I was lucky to come across a band like them at an early age, where the lead singer, Ronnie, took the time to teach me and train me over the past 10 years to survive in this music industry.



Nadeem with Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

PHOTOS: COURTESY

Over the past three or four months, we have found ourselves all together on stage and I have been able to play piano with the band. It has been a beautiful, full-circle experience, as in the last 10 years, I have done everything I could do for the band off-stage.

Now I get to perform right there on stage with them. It is a big deal for me because I always hoped to see Bengalis on stage, being the starst I was working with. It was something I thought I would never be able to see.

Whenever we perform now, Ronnie

introduces me as Nadeem from Bangladesh on stage and it is incredible.

**How is the experience of being on stage with such a globally recognised band?**

A while ago, we were in Indonesia, at a festival. There, we played with Secondhand Serenade, Simple Plan and Hoobastank. I couldn't wait to see the other bands after I was done with my set.

Halfway through our set, I look to my right and see the members of Hoobastank and Secondhand Serenade rocking out to our performance. I remember thinking to myself that 10-year-old Nadeem would be losing his mind if he saw this.

**Through Skesh, you were an integral part of why Dads in the Park were at Hammersonic. Do you have plans to do that with other bands in Bangladesh?** In the last 10 years, we have taken over 50 musicians from Malaysia to international stages.

We have set the target to take 50 Bengali musicians to an international stage in the next two years.

I want to take any act that has either the funding, capability or mindset to go international. With Dads in the Park, I think they learned significant lessons that will change the course of their career, by performing at Hammersonic.

## BSA honours legendary artistes with three-day tribute event

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) is paying homage to legendary Bangladeshi artistes Tareque Masud, Sarah Begum Kabori, Alamgir Kabir, Munir Chowdhury and Amalendu Biswas through a remarkable three-day event titled, *Smriti Satta Bhabishyat* which started on Sunday (June 11) and will end today (June 13).

The event serves as a platform to celebrate the indelible contributions of these artistes to the realms of film, music, and theatre.



## Bangladeshi stars will rock LA in ‘West Coast Bangla Music Fest’

There will be an exciting concert titled *West Coast Bangla Music Fest* in Los Angeles, United States, on July 9. This star-studded concert promises to showcase some of the biggest music sensations from Bangladesh, including Habib, Tahsan, Fuad, Pantha Kanai, Tashlee, Muza, Nayeem, Hasib, Tomal, Nick, Sanjoy, and Adhnan.

*West Coast Music Fest* is organised by BlackBox Studio LA and Ok Bro Records on July 8 in Bay Area and July 9 in Los Angeles.

Fans and music enthusiasts are urged to secure their tickets early to ensure they don't miss out on this epic show.



# NEWS

## Development to be the focus

FROM PAGE 1

politician who is the president of Barishal district Awami League, the lawmaker from Barishal-1 constituency and a member of AL's central working committee.

Meanwhile, expressing his gratitude to the prime minister for giving him the party's nomination, Khulna mayor-elect Talukdar Abdul Khaleque said, "I am grateful that the dwellers of Khulna city have

voted for me."

He made the remark while talking to journalists last night. He also promised that he'd turn Khulna into a better city.

Khaleque, also a veteran AL leader, is president of AL Khulna city unit. He has become the city's mayor for the third time. He won the mayoral race in Khulna in 2008 for the first time.

There were seven mayoral

## Home ministry getting job

FROM PAGE 1

"The main purpose of this initiative is to give a unique number to each citizen. Currently, citizens obtain different numbers from various organisations which creates confusion. We want to overcome the confusion," the cabinet secretary said.

The expansion of the office to district and upazila levels will be determined by the rules.

The Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration currently issues birth certificates to citizens.

Mahbub said the proposed law would not come into force immediately after its passage by parliament. Rather, the government would fix a date for enforcing it, he

added.

Yesterday, the cabinet also cleared the drafts of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University, Shariatpur Act-2023, Thakurgaon University Act-2023, Bangladesh Institute of Management Act-2023 and Sylhet Development Authority Act-2023.

The meeting approved in principle the draft of the Bangladesh Economic Zone (2nd amendment) Act-2023 and the National Foundation for Development of Disabled Persons Act-2023.

It cleared the proposal for ratification of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.

## UN should enhance screening before appointing them

FROM PAGE 2

service", the HRW said.

It said the UN should require Bangladeshi officers to disclose previous deployments with Rab, then automatically bar anyone affiliated with Rab from UN peacekeeping.

"The UN Department of Peace Operations should ensure adequate resources for human rights screening of all Bangladeshi troops, not just high-level commanders."

The HRW stated that Lacroix has yet to formally respond to previous communications from human rights organisations calling for the

Department of Peace Operations to enhance the human rights screening process for Bangladeshi peacekeepers, and to ban from UN deployment anyone affiliated with Rab.

During his visit, Lacroix should publicly commit to an enhanced human rights screening that addresses well-documented abuses by Bangladesh security forces, the government's failure to hold those responsible to account, and the threat they pose to the integrity of UN peacekeeping worldwide, added the statement.

## Country will be destroyed

FROM PAGE 2

League is in power, the country develops and people's quality of living improves. The country is moving forward as Awami League is in power. The respect for and status of Bangladesh abroad has increased a lot," she said.

"The change that has been visible since 2009 till date has been possible because Awami League has been in power consistently. We have come to power by winning people's hearts," she said.

She mentioned that Awami League did not avenge the torture that was done to its leaders and activists from 1975 to 2008.

"We respond to injustice with development," she asserted.

Hasina, the chief of Awami League, said that the government has planned development in every district. As a result, the number of poor people in the village is very negligible.

"All the progress we have made in the last 14 and a half years will be destroyed if the continuity of the government is not maintained."

She asked the party leaders and activists to publicise the development

made by the AL government.

"At the same time, the development should continue and Awami League needs to be brought back to power. People's trust must be earned and attained," she said.

Commenting that the upcoming national elections will be challenging, PM Hasina asked the leaders and activists to make the party stronger and better organised up to the grassroots level.

In this context, he called for paying special attention to the leaders and activists who were beside the party during the bad times. They must not be neglected.

Hasina said that her only strength is the party.

"No great achievement is possible without organisational strength. So the party has to be well organised from the grass root level."

Mentioning that many conspiracies have started regarding Bangladesh, the prime minister said, many vested quarters do not want our country to move forward.

Referring to the international conspiracy in this context, the prime minister said, those who provoked the

BNP will not put the party in power. "They will just use them."

She said that many attempts have been made to destroy the Awami League by killing the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family on August 15, 1975.

"But that attempt was never successful. Bangladesh Awami League today has become a powerful organisation by winning people's hearts."

Commenting on the need to strengthen the party, the PM said, "After losing my parents and my brothers, Awami League is my family."

She said that the people of Bangladesh are her strength.

"They are my only hope. We are working tirelessly to improve the quality of their lives. Awami League is the only party that has contributed the most on the side of the people during the Corona epidemic."

Introducing Awami League nominated candidate for Dhaka-17 by-polls, Mohammad A Arafat, the prime minister said, "I have handed over Arafat to you and everyone will have to work together to ensure the victory of the boat."



A makeshift buoy is placed during a protest outside the Chinese Consulate in Makati, Philippines yesterday, to coincide with the country's Independence Day celebrations.

PHOTO: AFP



DIPLOMATIC SWITCH

China’s Xi signals support for Honduras

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged economic and social backing for Honduras yesterday, state media reported, in his first remarks on the Central American country since it cut ties with Taiwan and recognised Beijing instead.

Beijing considers self-ruled Taiwan to be part of its territory and has vowed to seize the island one day.

It does not permit countries to recognise both Beijing and Taipei, and has used economic inducements in recent years to lure away Taiwan’s allies.

Xi’s remarks during a meeting with Honduran President Xiomara Castro in Beijing came after Tegucigalpa officially opened an embassy in the Chinese capital.

The switch of allegiances marked “a historic decision and demonstrated your firm political will”, Xi told Castro, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

“China will unwaveringly develop friendly China-Honduras relations and firmly support the economic and social development of Honduras,” Xi was quoted as saying.

He said China would seek to develop ties “from a strategic height and long-term

perspective, turning the beautiful vision of cooperation between the two countries into concrete results”.

Castro is expected to sign a host of agreements during her visit.

In March, Honduras cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan in favour of Beijing, reducing the number of countries that diplomatically recognise Taipei to just 13.

China opened an embassy in Tegucigalpa last week.

China also encourages Chinese enterprises to participate in Honduras’ projects in areas including energy, infrastructure and telecommunications, CCTV cited a joint declaration as saying.

The Chinese leader also emphasized that both sides should deepen political mutual trust, and uphold the “One-China” principle, reports Reuters.

“One-China principle is the primary premise and political foundation for the establishment of loyal diplomatic relations and the development of bilateral relations,” Xi said.

When Honduras ended its decades-long relationship with Taiwan, the island’s foreign minister accused it of demanding exorbitant sums before being lured away by Beijing.



An aerial view shows smoke from wildfires rising above a forest belt in the eastern Abai region, Kazakhstan yesterday. Flags were lowered across Kazakhstan yesterday as the country mourned 14 forestry workers killed in the wildfire in Abai region. Firefighters were still struggling to contain the blaze raging across 43,000 hectares of land in the Central Asian nation, the government said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MEDIA ROW

China hopes India can meet it halfway

REUTERS, Beijing

China yesterday called on India to meet it halfway in a dispute over journalists working in each other’s countries after China said its reporters in India had been treated unfairly and an Indian journalist was asked to leave China.

The dispute over media staff is the latest episode to highlight tension between the Asian neighbours since a deterioration in ties in mid-2020 when their troops clashed on their disputed Himalayan frontier and 24 people were killed.

“In recent years, Chinese journalists in India have been accorded unfair and discriminatory arrangements,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a briefing yesterday.

“We hope that India will continue to issue visas for Chinese journalists and remove the unreasonable restrictions and create favourable conditions for media exchanges.”

China has declined to renew the visas of the last two Indian journalists based there, citing India taking similar action this month against the two remaining Chinese state media journalists in India.

One of the two Indians, a reporter for the Hindustan Times, left China on Sunday as his visa expired, according to two sources.

The last Indian reporter in China, from the state news agency PTI, will leave this month when his visa expires, the sources said.

Global nuclear arsenal grew last year

Says SIPRI, warns world entering a dangerous phase as countries implemented long-term force modernisation plans

AGENCIES

The number of operational nuclear weapons rose slightly in 2022 as countries implemented long-term force modernisation and expansion plans, a leading conflict think-tank said yesterday, warning that the world was entering a dangerous phase.

The estimated number of warheads in military stockpiles for potential use rose by 86 to 9,576, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a statement, continuing a trend seen in the last couple of years.

“We are drifting into one of the most dangerous periods in human history,” said Dan Smith, SIPRI Director.

“It is imperative that the world’s governments find ways to cooperate in order to calm geopolitical tensions, slow arms races and deal with the worsening consequences of environmental breakdown and rising world hunger.”

The nine nuclear-armed states continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals and several deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2022, reports Reuters.

Pointing to the stockpile of usable nuclear warheads, Smith said that “those numbers are beginning to tick up”, while adding that they remain far below the more than 70,000 seen during the 1980s.

The bulk of the increase was in China, which increased its stockpile from 350 to 410 warheads, reports AFP.

India, Pakistan and North Korea also upped their stockpiles and Russia’s grew to a smaller extent, from 4,477 to 4,489, while the remaining

nuclear powers maintained the size of their arsenals.

Russia and the United States together have almost 90 percent of all nuclear weapons.

“The big picture is we’ve had over 30 years of the number of nuclear warheads coming down, and we see that process coming to an end now,” Smith said.

The higher spending reported by ICAN appeared to back that up. ICAN, which was awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, found that spending on nuclear weapons had risen three percent from 2021, marking the third consecutive annual increase.

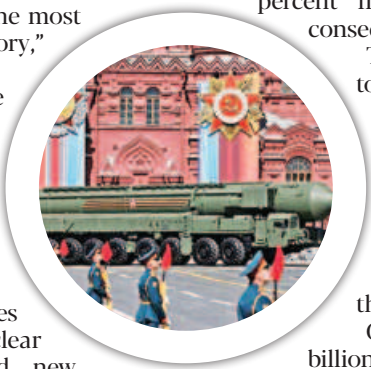
The \$82.9 billion spent amounted to \$157,664 for every minute of 2022, it said in its report entitled “Wasted: 2022 Global Nuclear Weapons Spending”.

Washington spent \$43.7 billion, which was slightly less than a year earlier but was still far ahead of all other countries, the report showed.

China was next in line with \$11.7 billion spent, followed by Russia at \$9.6 billion – both marking an increase of around six percent from 2021.

India meanwhile showed the most drastic spending jump, dishing out \$2.7 billion – 21.8 percent more than a year earlier – while Britain raised its spending level by 11 percent to \$6.8 billion.

The report also highlighted how arms companies involved in the production of nuclear weapons received new contracts worth just under \$16 billion last year, and in turn spent \$113 million lobbying governments in the United States and France alone.



Villagers travel on a truck to government relief camps before the onset of cyclone, in Sujawal district, Sindh province, Pakistan yesterday. A cyclone is making its way across the Arabian Sea towards the coastlines of Pakistan and India, expected to make landfall on June 15.

PHOTO: AFP

THAI ELECTION

Polls body to probe PM frontrunner Pita

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand’s prime ministerial frontrunner Pita Limjaroenrat will be investigated over whether he was qualified to run in last month’s election, a top official said yesterday, in another setback as he battles to win backing for his premiership.

Pita, the 42-year-old leader of the progressive Move Forward party whose election victory stunned Thailand’s military-backed establishment, has faced multiple complaints from rivals, three of which the polls body has dismissed for late submission, while four others against the party have been thrown out.

But Pita is by no means in the clear, with commission looking into whether he was knowingly unfit to register as a parliamentary candidate because of ownership of shares in a media firm, which is prohibited under election rules.

Pita has downplayed the issue, arguing the shares in firm, ITV, have since been transferred and the company was not an active media organisation.

EAST DR CONGO

41 people killed in attack on camp

AFP, Bunia

Militants have attacked a camp for displaced persons in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo, killing at least 41 people, a local official said yesterday. CODECO militiamen attacked the camp in Ituri province in the early hours of yesterday, Richard Dheda, an official of the local administration for Bahema Badjere in Djugu territory, told AFP. The CODECO claims to protect the Lendu community from another ethnic group, the Hema, as well as the DR Congo army. “They began to fire shots, many people were burned to death in their homes, others were killed by machete,” a civil society representative said.

HONOURS FOR ALLIES

UK PM Sunak hits back at Johnson

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak yesterday lashed out at his predecessor Boris Johnson in a row over political honours for allies of the former premier. Outgoing British prime ministers routinely recommend aides and close political associates for honours or elevation to the unelected House of Lords. Johnson was forced out of office last year by a series of scandals including Covid lockdown-breaking parties at Downing Street dubbed “Partygate”. His long-awaited honours list was published Friday – but without several expected names.

AUSTRALIA BUS CRASH

10 people dead, more injured

AFP, Gretna

A bus carrying wedding guests overturned and killed 10 people in an “unimaginable” night-time crash as it travelled through a wine-growing area north of Sydney, police said yesterday, announcing a string of charges against the driver. The white Linq Buses coach was ferrying 35 passengers from a wedding at a local winery when it flipped onto its left side late on Sunday, coming to rest on the pavement alongside roadside barriers at the entrance to a major roundabout. It was Australia’s deadliest road accident in 16 years. Police said they had charged a 58-year-old man with 10 offences relating to dangerous or negligent driving “occasioning death” and denied him bail ahead of a court hearing at nearby Cessnock today.

Seoul skyscraper scaling ends in arrest

AFP, Seoul

A British man was arrested in South Korea yesterday after he attempted to climb the country’s tallest skyscraper – the fifth highest in the world – without equipment, police said. The man was scaling the 123-storey Lotte World Tower in southern Seoul early yesterday when staff spotted him, forcing him to stop his ascent as he reached the 73rd floor. “Lotte staff had to go on a gondola lift to persuade him to stop when he was still climbing above the building’s 70th floor,” an official from the National Police Agency told AFP.

‘Get out of here’

Mother’s last words after Colombia plane crash

AGENCIES

The injured mother of four Huitoto Indigenous children who survived a May 1 plane crash in Colombia told her kids to “get out of here” before she died four days after the crash.

The children’s father, Manuel Miller Ranoque, said his 13-year-old daughter told him the severely injured Magdalena Mucutuy died in the jungle with her children beside her.

“Before she died, their mom told them something like, ‘You guys get out of here. You guys are going to see the kind of man your dad is, and he’s going to show you the same kind of great love that I have shown you,’” Ranoque told media on Sunday outside a hospital in Bogota.

The children – aged 12, nine, five and one – had been travelling with their mother in a Cessna 206, a single-engine light aircraft, reports Al Jazeera Online. The pilot reported engine problems minutes after taking off from an area known as Araracuara, deep in the Amazon.



## No excuse good enough for high prices

Why aren't local prices of essentials going down like global prices?

It is unacceptable that despite global commodity prices declining for 13 consecutive months, local consumers continue to be denied any relief from high prices. It is usually seen that as soon as commodity prices go up in the international market, traders rush to raise prices domestically, while the government tells us to accept it as inevitable. But when the reverse happens, traders are completely uninterested in lowering prices while the government, more worryingly, remains least bothered to investigate why domestic prices are not declining as they should, let alone address such price mismatches.

There are a few well-known reasons for the price incongruity. One is the depreciation of the taka against the dollar, which has made imports of commodities more expensive. The shortage of dollar is also making imports more difficult, thus creating a discrepancy between demand and supply. Additionally, the hike in prices of gas, electricity and energy have had a spill-over effect on all businesses and commodity prices. But the effect of all these issues could have been mitigated to a large extent – if not entirely – with better government policies.

Analysts have also pointed to other issues, such as a lack of competitive environment, control of major commodity imports by a few players, collusion among market participants, and a high profiteering tendency among businesses in the supply chain amid inadequate monitoring and enforcement by public agencies. Instead of pursuing policies that would increase competition in the market, the government, over the years, has prioritised providing special interest groups with benefits that has led to market monopolisation. And it is the consumers who have been paying the price. This, along with systemic problems that have been left unaddressed – particularly in regard to effective market monitoring – has led to a state where neither is the market functioning efficiently, nor are government agencies that are supposed to protect consumer interests being able to perform their duties satisfactorily.

True, the impact of external factors cannot be denied, but to blame high prices wholly on them would be wrong. A major part of it can be blamed on the government's failure to prioritise the interest of consumers and ensure good, accountable governance. Therefore, what we need desperately is a shift in government priorities, followed by policies that can promote greater competition in the market leading to lowering of prices.

## How sincere are we to end child labour?

Government efforts to eradicate it are largely inadequate

It saddens us to see how government efforts to end child labour continue to be limited mostly to observing special days, arranging seminars and such gestures, while the plight of working children remains unaddressed. The World Day Against Child Labour, observed on June 12 each year, offers us a chance to revisit this issue and renew our commitment. There are about 3.45 million child workers in the country, according to an estimate. Of them, 1.75 million fall under child labour category. Most of them are engaged in hazardous jobs, while a significant minority of them are in highly hazardous jobs.

The question is, why is the situation so bad even though we have so many national policies and laws to eradicate child labour? How can underage children still be employed in hazardous jobs when the Labour Act 2006 specifies that the minimum age of employment is 14 and a number of sectors – steel rolling mills, plastic and metal factories, etc. – have been declared as hazardous for children? A joint survey conducted by the ILO and UNICEF on 709 factories has found that 41.5 percent of their total workers were children, between 10 and 12 years of age. So, what have we exactly achieved after being a signatory to a number of international instruments that aim to protect the rights of children? Clearly, very little.

While the government has been very keen in enacting laws, it appeared little interested in implementing them. In recent years, the number of child labourers has been on the rise mostly due to the impact of the pandemic – many students from poor households have dropped out of schools – but we have not seen any sustained and well-thought-out measures to reverse this trend. Such inaction is unacceptable. If the government is really sincere about ending child labour, it must change its laissez-faire approach to this issue. The government reportedly has a target of eliminating child labour by 2025. If that is the case, it must double down on existing efforts to achieve that goal.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

## Why kill the trees?

Trees keep us alive. If we each planted at least one tree, our environment would improve drastically. The other day, I came some surveys which said that more trees are cut down in our country than they are planted.

Trees play a very important role in regulating the temperature. Yet, despite boasting about its environmental policies, the government has done nothing to protecting our existing trees, and very little to plant new ones. It's high time the people took some initiative to change that. We have to consider the plight of our future generations and act.

SM Imranul Islam Rajon  
Dhaka

# Yes, Bangladesh's sovereign rating being downgraded is a big deal



## THE OVERTON WINDOW

Eresh Omar Jamal  
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ERESH OMAR JAMAL

With all the problems Bangladesh has right now, Moody's downgrading of its sovereign rating is one of the worst things that could have happened. It is likely to deal a massive blow to our economy over the foreseeable future. Yet, policymakers have remained unanimously silent over the matter.

The more unlikely reason for their silence could be that they are unaware of just how big a deal this is – which seems to be the case for the majority of our population. The more likely reason behind policymakers' silence, however, is that they simply wish to brush it under the rug (their most favoured tactic when it comes to dealing with just about any issue). But this will only do more harm than good.

The downgrade of a country's rating often indicates that the rating agency believes there has been a deterioration in the country's economic or financial situation, making it riskier for investors to lend money to or invest in that country – as was done in the case of Greece in 2011. It may also indicate that the country's ability to repay debt may have weakened, and there may be increased uncertainty regarding its fiscal health – as was done in the case of Sri Lanka in 2022.

The downgrade of Bangladesh's sovereign rating from B1 to Ba3 means that the country, from being "Judged to have speculative elements and a significant credit risk," is now being "Judged as being speculative and a high credit risk" by Moody's. Among the reasons given by Moody's for this downgrade are Bangladesh's institutional weaknesses – which extend beyond economic institutions and into the political realm, but have a cumulative impact on the overall economy nonetheless – and heightened external vulnerability and liquidity risks that are persistent. "Despite some easing, ongoing dollar scarcity and deterioration in foreign exchange reserves indicate continued pressures on Bangladesh's external position, exacerbating imports constraints and as a result energy shortages," the agency said.

In its report, Moody's also mentioned that the Bangladesh government has not yet fully reversed its import control measures and unconventional policies, including a multiple exchange rate regime and interest rate caps, which are creating distortions. As a combined result of all of the above, it expects the country's gross foreign exchange



FILE ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

reserves to remain below \$30 billion for the next two to three years, with net reserves to likely be lower following Bangladesh Bank's commitment to the IMF to start reporting net reserves excluding the Export Development Fund (EDF) – which had been inflating our reserve balance on paper.

The downgrade will most definitely raise questions among foreign countries, institutions, and individuals as to the strength of our economy. Hence, foreign direct investment (FDI) into Bangladesh – an important source of acquiring foreign currency – which is already worryingly low, is likely to suffer even further, thus negatively impacting our long-term growth. Additionally, businesses will have to pay higher interest rates for loans from abroad, as lending to Bangladeshi entities will now be deemed riskier. Due to the fact that the government has been borrowing heavily from the banking sector, possibly "crowding out" private sector businesses from accessing funds, this may prove to be extremely damaging for businesses, whose borrowing options are becoming increasingly limited.

As managing funds from abroad becomes more difficult for the private sector, the deficit in the country's financial account – which is mainly responsible for the ongoing foreign exchange crisis – may worsen in the

recent rapid decline all the more concerning.

So, overall, what should we make of this downgrade, of what Moody's said, and of the government's silence in the face of it?

Firstly, there is the matter of confidence. The impact of Moody's decision to downgrade Bangladesh's rating will lower confidence in the country's economy, which plays a big part in how modern economies interact with each other. The government is silent because it realises that the effect of the rating won't be anything good, but it doesn't want to shake people's confidence in regards to its own performance – which is already abysmal.

Secondly, only a few months ago, Moody's had lowered the rating of Bangladesh's banking sector. In a sense, there aren't too many differences between how that would impact our economy, and how this recent downgrade will. And, while the government can blame external factors for our recent economic troubles all it wants, the fact is that poor government policies and unmatched corruption are at the real root of these troubles. A central factor which has contributed to both downgrades is the "looting" of our banks – leading to a liquidity crisis in the sector, among other things.

In its own assessment, Moody's

moral bankruptcy of our political class and the special interest groups it has formed a nexus with. And that is what needs to be addressed first.

Additionally, we need to move away from bureaucracy-driven policies which operate on the basis of control and command, and move on to market-enabling policies. We need an end to arbitrary governmental interference in the functioning of markets – which always results in the government manipulating the market to benefit special interest groups, and/or to veil its own corruption and flawed policies.

Those who are ideologically driven tend to think this means an absence of regulation. But that is not the case. What we need are fewer but consistent regulations that are implemented equally across the board. What we can no longer afford are inconsistent government interference in the name of regulating.

Finally, none of these can be done without addressing corruption. And this is not something that the government will ever do of its own accord – especially when it has already gone so far down the corruption rabbit hole. The people must find some mechanism of coercing the government to do so. And we need to do this soon, given the increasingly dangerous direction in which we are headed.

# A legal and ethical justification of US' visa policy



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SAIFUR RAHMAN

The introduction of a new visa policy for Bangladesh by the United States last month caught everyone off-guard, with both the ruling and opposition parties expressing support, albeit in varying tones. In essence, this visa policy dictates that US visas will not be issued for individuals who undermine democratic elections in Bangladesh through vote-rigging, voter intimidation, violence to suppress the exercise of rights to association and peaceful assembly, and measures designed to hinder political parties, voters, civil society, or the media from expressing their views.

Following the policy announcement, extensive debates erupted in the media regarding the motives and ethical justifications behind the US decision. Questions arose about how the US could monitor the electoral process in Bangladesh and enforce visa restrictions against those responsible for election rigging. While there are different opinions, the predominant belief is that the decision is linked to certain developments in the Indo-Pacific region, as the US seeks to deter Bangladesh from aligning with China.

Critics argue that the actions taken by the US in this regard could be seen

as interference in the internal affairs of another country. Advocating for democracy and human rights in one part of the world while supporting autocratic regimes elsewhere raises doubts about the consistency and sincerity of the US commitment to democratic principles. Such inconsistency can undermine the credibility of the US' democratic agenda and lead to accusations of double standards. However, it's important to acknowledge that foreign policy decisions are complex, influenced by multiple factors including strategic considerations, national security concerns, economic interests, and historical alliances. While these factors may explain the past support for autocratic regimes, they do not necessarily justify such actions from an ethical standpoint.

While the ethical considerations surrounding the US visa policy for Bangladesh are intertwined with the larger issue of promoting democracy consistently and coherently worldwide, embracing such a measure should be merited if it helps promote democracy specifically within Bangladesh. Ethics also revolve around determining

what is right and wrong, considering not only the outcomes of an action, but also the methods employed to achieve those outcomes. While an end result may seem advantageous, it does not automatically justify the use of unethical or morally objectionable means. The US has implemented a visa policy to pursue a goal that is not likely to cause any collateral damage to the majority of Bangladeshi people. Its impact will primarily affect a small group of individuals for whom a US visa holds significant personal, financial, and familial importance.

Manipulating election results is regarded as a criminal act in Bangladesh, as stipulated in the Representation of the People Order, 1972. In the US, the Immigration and Nationality Act, specifically Section 212(a)(2), prohibits the issuance of visas to individuals with criminal records. Therefore, the refusal of a visa by the US based on involvement in vote tampering in Bangladesh is legally justifiable. However, the legality of denying visas to the children or spouses of the individuals responsible, thus punishing them for the actions of others, falls in a grey area.

Many people are wondering how the US Department of State plans to oversee Bangladesh's election process and document the individuals responsible for election rigging, which is believed to involve a significant number of people. It is conceivable that their efforts will primarily concentrate on locating a select few influential figures as a means to dissuade others from partaking in similar acts, aligning with the deterrent

objective shared by most of the laws.

Visa officers have the option to utilise open source intelligence (OSINT), which is a commonly employed method for gathering information about individuals or organisations. OSINT involves leveraging sources like social media posts, news articles, and other publicly available information on the internet. Consular officers possess the discretion to consider a broad range of evidence when making visa decisions. The decision-making process involves carefully evaluating all available evidence and reaching a determination based on the overall circumstances. Visa officers possess significant discretionary authority to assess visa applications and establish the eligibility of applicants, including the ability to reject a visa application without disclosing the specific grounds for denial. They hold substantial legal flexibility as granted by the Immigration and Nationality Act when it comes to conducting their assessments.

For this policy to have a meaningful impact, it must be put to practice. While accurately predicting the exact consequences of this visa policy on the election outcome is difficult, it is clear that the US is strongly dedicated to ensuring a free and fair election in Bangladesh. The visa policy is just one among various tools at the disposal of the US government, and it is widely acknowledged that when the US is determined to accomplish a particular objective, it exerts substantial influence to make that happen.



PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# The Modi Decade



**Shashi Tharoor**,  
*a former UN under secretary general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource Development, is an MP for the Indian National Congress. He is the author, most recently, of Ambedkar: A Life (Aleph Book Company, 2022).*

SHASHI THAROOR

Last week, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government inaugurated a new parliament building in New Delhi. It was supposed to symbolise the vision of a “new India” that Modi and his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) claim they have been realising during their nine years in power. But the building has proved highly controversial, with 20 opposition parties boycotting the inauguration ceremony – the latest manifestation of the seemingly irreparable breakdown in relations between the opposition and the government.

As a member of the opposition, I, too, have strongly criticised the Indian government’s policies, rhetoric, and functioning. But the

women are unable to afford to refill gas cylinders, and electricity supplies are erratic. But they have undoubtedly improved the quality of rural life, especially in the poor states of the northern “Hindi Belt.”

The Modi government has also overseen progress in the diffusion of technology. The proliferation of smartphones with cheap data plans has connected nearly a billion Indians to the internet. The much-vaunted “India Stack” – comprising government-backed application programming interfaces (APIs) – has enabled private companies to build the online commons. A startup culture has developed, mainly in the tech domain, and several unicorns (startups valued at more than \$1

surprise that violence has surged. Muslims have faced lynching by so-called cow vigilantes, and some Christians have been subjected to vandalism and assault during the Christmas season.

Though Indian elections remain free and fair, anti-democratic trends have taken hold between votes. Dissent is framed as disloyalty, with criticism of government policies labeled “anti-national.” The tax agencies and financial police have been unleashed against opposition leaders and their supporters, and “bulldozer justice” has been dispensed mainly against Muslim protesters – whose homes and businesses are literally bulldozed – without due process.

Moreover, the autonomy of Indian institutions – from the Reserve Bank of India to the Election Commission – has been weakened. Even the judiciary has come under pressure. Parliament has been reduced to a bulletin board for government decisions.

The Modi government has also fallen far short on economic



Indian PM Narendra Modi holds a sengol with Hindu priests during the inauguration of the new parliament building in New Delhi on May 28.

PHOTO: REUTERS

fact is that Modi reportedly enjoys the highest approval ratings of any world leader. As we approach the beginning of an election year, it is worth considering the sources of this support.

The Modi government can claim some notable accomplishments. The most obvious has been the rapid construction of much-needed infrastructure, including new airports, ports, and highways, enabled by streamlined procedures, quick approvals, and extensive reliance on private contractors. The

billion) have emerged.

When a Pakistani video blogger gushes about Indian street vendors offering Paytm QR codes on their tea carts, or bankers rave about India’s Unified Payments Interface (which transfers money directly between bank accounts), India gains in global esteem. The government’s claim to have reduced “leakage” by delivering welfare payments directly to beneficiaries’ accounts is credible.

Finally, Modi has invigorated Indian diplomacy, traveling tirelessly around the world, hugging

policy. Despite the progress in areas like transport infrastructure and technology diffusion, India has a long way to go on many fronts, particularly schooling, skills development, sanitation, and public health-care facilities.

Likewise, the benefits of economic growth have failed to reach the poor and lower-middle class. Unemployment is at record highs, and female labor-force participation is plummeting. Many small and micro-enterprises had to be permanently closed after the disastrous demonetisation of 2016. Farmers are struggling to cope with falling incomes. Budgetary allocations for many essential welfare programmes, including the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, have dwindled. Crony capitalism is rampant.

The Modi government’s response to the Covid-19 crisis also left much to be desired. Though Indians were eventually vaccinated, images of migrant workers trudging homeward during a nationwide lockdown still haunt the country. And while the government claims that less than 500,000 people died, the World Health Organization estimates that the real figure is 10 times higher, raising questions about the reliability of official statistics.

The jury is still out on the Modi government’s handling of several other challenges, from the Ukraine war to Chinese encroachments along the disputed Himalayan frontier. It is far from clear that India is prepared to handle a conflict with China or Pakistan (or both). The 2015 deal to buy 36 Rafale fighter jets from the French company Dassault Aviation continues to draw controversy, owing to contractual irregularities.

India’s first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, is the only one to have won three successive terms in office. Next year, the Indian people will weigh Modi’s mixed record and decide whether it warrants making him the second.

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VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

## A teachers’ leader becoming a proctor can’t be good news



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PRANAB KUMAR PANDAY

In a concerning development that raises questions about the integrity of educational institutions in Bangladesh, the president of a prominent public university teachers’ association has assumed an additional role as the proctor – which is an office of profit. Such consolidation of power, wherein the bargaining authority and administration are intertwined, has ignited fears that the rights and welfare of teachers are at stake. The educational community now faces the daunting prospect of compromised representation, potential conflicts of interest, and a severe erosion of academic freedom.

The role of a teachers’ association is critical in ensuring fair treatment, representing the rights and interests of educators, and fostering a conducive academic environment. By providing a platform for collective bargaining, these associations act as crucial mediators between the faculty and the administration, safeguarding the welfare of teachers and promoting an atmosphere conducive to quality education.

This move poses a fundamental conflict of interest that undermines the very purpose and autonomy of the association. The bargaining authority, traditionally entrusted with advocating for the rights of teachers, must maintain independence from administrative positions to serve the interests of its members effectively.

Without a clear separation of powers, there is a significant risk that the bargaining authority, now embedded within the administration, may prioritise administrative objectives over the welfare of educators. This could result in reduced bargaining power, inadequate representation, and erosion of long-established safeguards that protect teachers’ rights and working conditions.

Academic freedom, a cornerstone of any thriving educational institution, is also at stake. The ability of teachers to express their opinions, engage in critical discourse, and challenge existing paradigms are essential for the pursuit of knowledge and intellectual growth. However, when the bargaining authority merges with the administration, concerns about reprisals or self-censorship may arise. Faculty members could be hesitant to

voice dissenting views or engage in meaningful dialogue, thus stifling intellectual diversity and hindering the pursuit of excellence.

Moreover, the intertwining of roles raises ethical concerns surrounding potential conflicts of interest. The president of the teachers’ association, occupying both the bargaining and administrative positions, may face conflicting loyalties and obligations. Balancing the interests of teachers while simultaneously fulfilling administrative responsibilities can create a perceived bias, undermining the credibility of the bargaining process and eroding trust among faculty members.

The implications of this consolidation of power extend beyond the immediate concerns of teachers. As the primary beneficiaries of quality education, students are also likely to suffer the consequences. A compromised teachers’ association could reduce job satisfaction among educators, adversely impacting the overall quality of teaching and students’ learning experiences.

Furthermore, if the association’s bargaining power diminishes due to its leader also being proctor, it may struggle to advocate for improved infrastructure, resources, and other vital components of an effective learning environment.

To ensure the protection of teachers’ rights and maintain the integrity of educational institutions, immediate action is needed. The individual who has taken the administrative position despite being the association’s president should have stepped down from their latter position to avoid potential conflict of interest. The teachers should also be more aware while voting for association bodies.

The vice-chancellor should not have offered the proctor position to someone heading a bargaining body such as the teachers’ association. And all stakeholders must recognise the urgent need for a clear distinction between the bargaining authority and administrative positions within public universities. It is imperative to revisit existing regulations and establish safeguards that prevent conflicts of interest and preserve the autonomy of teachers’ associations.

Additionally, transparency and accountability should be central tenets of any system designed to

protect the interests of teachers. The process of selecting officeholders in the bargaining authority and administrative roles should be open, fair, and merit-based. Ensuring the election of individuals with a proven track record of advocating for teachers’ rights and upholding the principles of academic integrity are crucial in maintaining the credibility of these positions.

Furthermore, fostering a culture of dialogue and inclusivity is essential. Regular consultations and open forums should be organised to facilitate communication between the administration, faculty members, and the teachers’ association. This will help address concerns, identify common goals, and strengthen collaboration for the betterment of the educational institution.

A university authority also plays a pivotal role in safeguarding teachers’ rights and upholding educational institutions’ integrity. It should take immediate steps to review and revise existing policies and regulations to explicitly prohibit individuals from holding both bargaining authority and administrative positions simultaneously. These guidelines should be enforced strictly to prevent future conflicts of interest and ensure the independence and effectiveness of teachers’ associations.

Promoting a culture of professional development and capacity building among teachers is crucial. Continuous learning, research, and collaboration opportunities can enhance education quality and empower educators to advocate for their rights effectively. By investing in the professional growth of teachers, the government can cultivate a highly skilled and motivated teaching community that contributes to the advancement of the nation’s education sector.

Lastly, it is imperative for the wider community, including civil society organisations and the media, to remain vigilant and actively engage in discussions surrounding the issue. By highlighting the potential consequences of the consolidation of power within public universities, these stakeholders can raise awareness, advocate for change, and pressurise relevant authorities to take prompt action.

A clear distinction between bargaining authorities and administrative bodies, transparency in the selection process, and establishment of independent oversight bodies are crucial steps towards ensuring teachers’ rights and welfare and maintaining educational institutions’ integrity. By prioritising these measures, Bangladesh can foster an environment where educators can thrive, students can excel, and the pursuit of knowledge can flourish.

infrastructure boom has changed the face of many parts of India, and the work continues, with large new investments in modernising India’s railway network – one of the world’s largest, but among its creakiest.

The government has also strengthened the social safety net for millions of poor Indians. Though Modi campaigned in 2014 against the previous government’s welfare schemes, which he claimed were colossally wasteful and bred a culture of dependence, his government has presided over the provision of toilets, cooking gas cylinders, cash transfers to farmers, and access to electricity and clean drinking water in rural India.

Such initiatives are not perfect – toilets lack enough running water,

world leaders, and addressing raucous rallies of Indian expatriates in foreign capitals. India’s relations with the United States and its allies have never been better, and cooperation with key Gulf countries has never been closer.

But these successes have been offset by far less admirable policies. The BJP’s belligerent Hindutva nationalism – which promotes a narrow interpretation of history and demonises India’s minorities, particularly Muslims – can be likened to a toxin injected into the veins of Indian society.

With BJP leaders and their acolytes in the Hindutva “Parivar,” or “family” of associated organisations, regularly spouting inflammatory and divisive rhetoric, it should be no

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Glen

5 Skating category

10 Tequila source

12 Band-leader Shaw

13 Sheets and such

14 “Superman star

15 Caribou’s kin

16 Concoct

18 Join forces

20 – de la Cite

21 Prepares for war

23 Last letter, in London

24 Fill completely

26 Aid illegally

28 Crony

29 Humorist

Barry

31 Archaic

32 Return to the Enterprise

36 Fill with mist

39 King Kong, for one

40 Hint of color

41 Happened

43 Door sign

44 Less common

45 Baseball’s Pee Wee

46 Some mines

DOWN

1 Parking pro

2 Nimble

3 Sri –

4 Seth’s mother

5 Trim down

6 District

7 Use Schedule A

8 Brook

9 Oozed

11 Lasted

17 LP speed unit

19 Yoga need

22 Avoid a bogey, barely

24 Soup cracker

25 Chewy, as pasta

27 Arthur of TV

28 Movie ad

30 – Dhabi

33 New Zealand native

34 Sports surprise

35 Jury makeup

37 Gets on

38 Just

42 Dre’s music

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YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

A	D	A	P	T	S		C	H	A	P
P	A	R	O	T			Y	A	L	E
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ILLUSTRATION: FAISAL BIN IQBAL

SHAIKH SABIK KAMAL

School students in Bangladesh dread the term “discipline”. While for some, it’s a method of dealing with the unreasonable chaos inscribed within the education system, for most it’s something forcing its way into their lives, coercing them into a fit that simply doesn’t account for their size.

So, what exactly has left discipline in the suffocating shell of a ghost that it is today?

Realistically, the discipline that set out with greater intentions could never live up to the billing. It simply became another set of tools that institutions would misuse to fit everyone into their own idealisms.

Discipline in Bangladesh is usually the enforcement of unreasonable codes as rules. “Disciplining a student” stands as an intimidating expression for chiselling them into a common form as they chip away at all that makes them special. This problematic one-size-fits-all view of discipline has been normalised almost everywhere in Bangladesh.

The focus of discipline has largely shifted to physical appearance over behaviour. The generalisation of a definite look being imposed on everyone is a complicated idea that harms an individual’s uniqueness. With the idea of standing out being forsaken, the youth is cornered into cutting down on anything outside of the norm. This is the reality of today’s discipline. An individual’s freedom is seemingly taken away when schools shove down their idea of a disciplined look.

The youth life in Dhaka warrants plenty of small mistakes. One of them, which shouldn’t be as big of a deal, is accidentally

failing to adhere to the school’s uniform and appearance guidelines. But extreme strictness is shown for such acts. Often, students are severely punished for this even when they aren’t frequent to the deed.

“While I do find that imposing a proper uniform-wearing policy is justifiable, schools do tend to take it too far,” said Rahima Khan\*, a student of class 11 at Viqarunnisa Noon School & College.

Rahima recalled how her teachers were verbally aggressive towards her when she had forgotten her hair band one day at school, albeit her regular obedience to the rules otherwise.

“Of course, it’s mandatory to follow the rules, but sometimes people trying to keep up with the rapidly progressing life tend to miss a few things, which shouldn’t be looked at so harshly,” she added.

The hyper fixation of school authorities on hair length is another debatable topic.

“We’ve had teachers kicking us out of exam halls or handing us our questions late because of not having an army haircut,” said Arthito Addoy Adhip, a student of class 11 at Dhaka Residential Model College.

“While punishment for breaking rules is bound to be handed out, going to such extremes for such small matters puts unimaginable suffering on students,” he added.

An individual’s hairstyle is a unique, personal, and expressional aspect of them. It is a fraction of their identity and it is no crime to wish to style or grow it however they want. It doesn’t define nor radically change their behavioural patterns, let alone any academic influence. Forcing it, however, has repercussions.

Cutting hair forcefully can mentally

scar a student, leaving their sense of self-worth damaged and leaving a taste of powerlessness that simply can’t be comprehended healthily.

The list of unreasonable acts sheltered under discipline’s grace keeps going on. Wahid Ahmed\*, a student of class 10 at St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, shared how they’d been met with disturbing remarks for missing school.

“While I do agree that some students deliberately skip school, how could school authorities be so harsh to every absent student? Not being able to show a proper application the very next day is natural, especially if it concerns illness, a relative’s death, or similar serious matters,” he said.

Wahid added, “They can give them school work or small-scale punishments for faults like these, but teachers and authorities reportedly continue to verbally hound and punish these students.”

Additionally, Rahima mentioned how lavatory break restrictions make students feel uncomfortable. Wahid added on the absurd winter uniform codes disallowing any winter apparel outside of the school ones and warranting a confiscation upon violation. Adhip explained how the restriction of sports essentials for earlier grades in an institution abundant with playgrounds felt unnecessary.

Doing anything against their will impacts a minor’s autonomy, potentially damaging a significant development period. It enforces them into an “encaged” scenario, and in no way does it fall under well-being.

Such problems aren’t aligned only with some selective schools, rather it’s a holistic issue. Schools need to rethink and reinvigorate discipline. Healthy discipline can be a very effective tool in

studying and learning professionalism for young individuals. It can help find safety in learning while forcing it does the opposite.

According to an article published in the Bangkok Post, adolescent medicine specialist Dr Jiraporn Arunakul shared how strict regulation of hairstyles is not related to disciplinary training. She also suggests that one’s hairstyle is not an indicator of their learning efficiency.

Noor Alam\*, a teacher at DPS STS School Dhaka, shared his sentiments on discipline and how it could be healthy.

“In educational institutions, where young minds learn to grow, nothing should be taken to an extreme. A healthy balance can be maintained for discipline, in a way that is reasonable and goes beyond the one glove-fits-all perspective,” said Alam, “Educational institutions should prioritise a healthy and comfortable learning environment for students before anything else. The door to obtaining knowledge with safety must not be shut due to needless punishments in the name of discipline.”

*\*Names have been changed upon request*

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Shaikh Sabik Kamal needs to sleep. Send him something to sleep to at [sabik2005kamal4787@gmail.com](mailto:sabik2005kamal4787@gmail.com)

# YOUTH

## Not fitting into any category at university

RUDAIBA MAHBUB

Do you sometimes feel alienated in your friend group? Is there a thread tying everyone in your group while you sometimes lose track of the thread and fall out of the loop? If so, you might be a perfect fit in the category of people who do not really fit into any category at all in your university. This is not the category of the stereotypical loner that goes to university just for classes and leaves as soon as they end. It’s about those who are part of various groups but often find themselves questioning their place in the respective groups.

When hanging out with the smart or studious ones, do you have intellectual discussions that you really enjoy? But when that same conversation escalates, and you find the group concerned and inquiring about the exams you feel like it’s time to run? No matter how much the nerdy debates excite you, you just cannot concern yourself about the upcoming exam and how that is going to affect your future.



ILLUSTRATION: FAISAL BIN IQBAL

It was about time you took your leave from the group of toppers. And who do you meet on the way but the Carpe Diems? As you can guess, this group likes to “seize the day”, or “live in the moment”. You are reminded of last week when you had spent two entire days with them living in the moment. Yeah, it was fun the first day, which started to wear off the next. So, this time, you choose to skip out, only to find yourself out of the loop with the group the next time you all hang out.

Don’t worry, this is all normal when you have friends from all corners of the university and the habit of drifting from one group to another. This is not necessarily bad.

When you have friends all around, it certainly means you have got a friendly charm to you. That is an attribute to be treasured. With an aura like that, you not only make diverse friends who understand you in different situations but also gain or learn a lot from the different friend groups.

Being part of diverse friend groups means you’ll be opened up to many different situations and your experiences might give you a broader view of the world. Try to soak up as much as you can. It’s an experience at university that’s worth having.

Also, imagine all the tea you will be served with. All the drama to spice up your day-to-day life. However, make sure to not indulge yourself in all this. Try not to become that friend that goes from one group to another spreading rumours and adding fuel to already existing feuds.

While the friend groups from *Friends* or *How I Met Your Mother* might seem like a dream come true, they might not always be realistically possible. Even if you are already part of such a wholesome group, with friends, it’s always the more, the merrier.

# Dhaka Flow - National Youth Wellness Festival 2023 promotes healthy living and mental well-being

NAHIAN JAMAL JOYEETA

Dhaka Flow, the first National Youth Wellness Festival, took place at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on June 3. The initiative aims to provide the youth with the resources they need to live healthy, balanced lives in order to combat mental health disorders.

The opening session of the event featured speeches reiterating the value of youth health and wellbeing, yoga workshops and demonstrations, and talks from health experts on topics like nutrition, discovering passions and purposes, battling mental health issues, understanding consent, setting boundaries, and developing healthy coping mechanisms. The event also launched a photo contest on the theme of SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, inviting photographers of all levels to share their images symbolising health and wellness on Dhaka Flow’s Facebook page.

The Honourable Mayor of North Dhaka, Atiqul Islam, attended the event, as did Professor Imran Rahman, vice chancellor of ULAB, and Mokhlesur Rahman, Senior Operations Officer of the World Bank, among others.

In his speech, Mayor Atiqul Islam praised Dhaka Flow for its efforts to promote health and fitness and emphasised the value of discipline, self-love, and self-worth. He believes that young people, as future world leaders, must find time to pursue their passions every day in order to keep their minds healthy, rejuvenated, and energised.

“Loving yourself will help you love others and your country,” he added. “Your physical and mental wellbeing, along with time management and discipline, will enable you to serve your country and the world.”

“One cannot be healthy in isolation; it requires a holistic community, as well as physical, mental, psychological, and emotional well-being,” said Shazia Omar, co-founder of Dhaka Flow and a yoga instructor. Upon conversation, Shazia revealed that discovering yoga and meditation helped her overcome many mental and physical challenges during her 20s, which inspired her to organise this event and impart the knowledge to others.

Professor Imran Rahman, vice chancellor of ULAB, emphasised the significance of this festival in light of the crucial stage of life that university students are in by iterating that the choices and



habits they form now will shape their adult health and wellbeing.

“Mindful and healthy youth are the backbones of a country and the global village, to combat challenges in the future, including climate change and

the technological revolution,” stated Mokhlesur Rahman, senior operations officer of the World Bank.

In order to promote the wellbeing of Dhaka’s youth, prominent business organisations including Prime Bank,

Turaag Active, Aarong Earth, and Rise, facilitated the festival and provided participants with goodie bags. These organisations support sports and youth development initiatives while promoting activewear, recycled clothing, organic skincare products, and other items that support healthy lifestyles. Sajida Foundation representatives, who strongly support wellness and mental health, demonstrated how to use their services, including Kaan Pete Roi (a suicide hotline), Shojon (mental health counsellors), and Relax (an emotional management app), in partnership with Dhaka Flow.

Dhaka Flow, as a platform, is committed to promoting wellness through blogs, workshops, and insightful information on yoga, meditation, and healthy eating. The young people of Dhaka City greatly value activities like these because they teach them how to effectively manage stress, lessen physical and mental illness, and cultivate compassion and peace both within themselves and in their community. The event took place over the week at IUB, NSU, AIUB, and Brac University.

**Spill the tea with Joyeeta on Instagram.** [com/nahianjamaljoyeeta](https://www.instagram.com/nahianjamaljoyeeta)



## Captain Liton up for Afghan challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

According to reports in the media, Liton Das was sceptical about leading Bangladesh in Tests as he was said to be willing to only focus on his role as a batter.

But as he walked into the press conference room at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Monday, Liton, set to be the 12th Test skipper of the nation on Wednesday during the one-off Test against Afghanistan in Mirpur, the 28-year-old seemed poised and ready for the challenge.

“Nothing of sorts was there,” Liton, however, brushed aside the speculations about his reluctance in assuming the leadership role.

“As the vice captain of a side, at times I had to act as the captain and lead the side for two or three overs when [Test skipper] Shakib [Al Hasan] was off the field. So, I was never worried about being the captain,” a confident Liton asserted.

Liton mentioned he is yet to feel the excitement that usually a cricketer feels when captaining a side.

“Let’s see, if I get such a feeling [of excitement] when I walk out for the toss,” Liton said. “Obviously, there is a good feeling about being a captain. In fact, being a Test cricketer is a matter of pride itself as everyone emphasises Test cricket. So, to lead the nation in this format is obviously a big thing.”

For Liton, the Afghanistan Test is set to be an uphill task, especially given how the Tigers were hammered in the only Test ever played between the sides in 2019 in Chattogram. That time, preparing a rank turner against a spin-heavy Afghans had backfired in the form of a 224-run thumping.

Things are not going to be the same this time around.

“Usually we play on spinning wickets in Mirpur. But this time the challenge would be how we will do better on a green surface. How we can stick around and play big innings – that will be the challenge for us,” Liton said.

In absence of star allrounder Shakib Al Hasan, who will be missing the Test due to a finger injury, and with Tamim Iqbal uncertain due to back issues, Liton said senior campaigner Mushfiqur Rahim will have a major role to play in giving solidity at the top.

The last time that Bangladesh faced Afghanistan, it was the star legspinner Rashid Khan who had scalped 11 wickets and turned the destroyer in chief. But the absence of Rashid for the only Test won’t see any difference in approach from the Tigers, Liton mentioned.

“We will be taking Afghanistan just as seriously as we would have taken them if Rashid [Khan] was around,” he added.



Veteran batter Mushfiqur Rahim turned up at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday despite heavy rain, which eventually postponed the scheduled training session. (Inset) Shamim Patwary and Nasum Ahmed, two of the players not in the squad for the upcoming Test against Afghanistan, seemingly enjoyed the rainfall from under the umbrella. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Significant board meeting sees major agendas approved

SPORT REPORTER

It was a significant board meeting for the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday with many important agendas discussed and some major decisions reached.

One of the most crucial decisions was to increase the monthly remuneration and match fees in women’s cricket. The 25 centrally-contracted women cricketers will see their salaries enhanced while first-class players’ salaries will also be increased, BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon informed in a press conference.

“It’s not easy for girls to play cricket in Bangladesh. You need wickets and pitches and equipment. Given the impediments girls have overcome to play cricket, we have not been able to do much for them. In a different place, they would get more facilities,” Nazmul said bluntly.

Women in the country have long battled to pick cricket as a career, but the salary increase will help take the game to more doorsteps. “It is a first step and we are hoping that the process has begun and will improve day by day,” the BCB president added.

Nazmul also identified that carrying out the first, second and third division cricket matches in Dhaka has been difficult due to a lack of grounds. Matches need to be hosted at international venues, which means scheduling becomes a severe issue.

The BCB had been waiting for NSC to restructure the Khan Saheb Osman Ali Stadium at Fatullah but no work had been done. Fatullah will now be renovated with the BCB’s own fund, he informed. “We have given the go-ahead to work on both the grounds at Fatullah,” he said.

In another big step, the BCB approved the purchase of two plots in Purbachal and Pubail to meet the demands for ground with their

own funds. They are also looking at grounds at Chattogram and Bogura. “We are focusing on facilities and land currently,” the BCB president said of the move.

Another significant decision was applying for the BCB’s own channel to broadcast matches. “We are going to apply for BCB TV and we won’t have to wait for anyone to broadcast games, not only international but also domestic matches,” Nazmul said.

Regional cricket ad-hoc committees were



also formed, with five being received and approved while Barishal and Khulna are soon to be confirmed. The move will help decentralise the sport.

The salaries of A team players also received a significant bump. “It was very significant, especially the decentralisation of cricket. That we have given approval and that their activities will begin from now on is a significant step for the future of Bangladesh cricket,” the BCB president remarked.

Bangladesh A team have seen a significant increase in wages. According to sources, players will get Tk 1,50,000 for four-day matches, which is a Tk 1,10,000 buff in comparison prior to the meeting. For one-dayers, they are set to make Tk 1,00,000 per match, and as for T20s, the match fee has been set at Tk 50,000.

Women cricketers have seen a salary bump as now Nigar Sultana Joty and Co will reportedly see their salary cap at Tk 1,00,000, with the minimum being set at Tk 50,000.

With the aim of strengthening its domestic cricketing infrastructure, the BCB has taken an initiative to build new stadiums. BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon revealed that the board acquired plots measuring 30 bighas and 37 acres in Pubail and Purbachal areas respectively for that purpose and also revealed to do the same in Bogura and Chattogram.

To get rid of broadcasting issues, the BCB has decided to apply for its own TV channel named BCB TV.

In a bid to decentralise, the BCB has approved five ad hoc regional committees, with the remaining two in line to get approval.

The design for the Sheikh Hasina Cricket Stadium has been formally approved and construction would begin by December, with BCB issuing international tenders.

## Booters warm up with win in Cambodia

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh began their second-phase preparation for SAFF Championship with a 1-0 win over Cambodian Premier League outfit Tiffy Army FC in a warm-up match in Phnom Penh yesterday.

Abahani midfielder Sohel Rana scored the decisive goal in the 12th minute of the match in which coach Javier Cabrera tested all of his 21 available players except for winger Rakib Hossain, who is still recovering from a hamstring injury.

Fit-again defender Tapu Barman played the last few minutes as Cabrera fielded centre-backs Tariq Kazi, Mehedi Hasan, left-back Alomgir Mollah and right-back Rahmat Mia behind three midfielders – Jamal Bhuiyan, Sohel and Sohel Rana – while Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Mohammad Ibrahim and Suman Reza played upfront.

“It was a good match as we created more [goal-scoring] chances and played well. It was not easy against the opponents who fielded three to four foreign players. It was a good test for us and the positive side is that we won without conceding any goals,” captain Jamal said in a video message. Cabrera believes the win would boost the



players’ confidence.

“At the beginning, it took us time to get into the match because they were quite aggressive and it was tough in the first 10 to 15 minutes but we had good chances with Sohel Rana scoring the goal. We could have scored one or two goals more to reach the first-half with better result. It was good enough, especially the defensive block was viable,” said the 38-year-old coach.

Manager Amer Khan informed that defenders Bishwanath Ghosh and Isa Faisal would join the squad this morning after flying from Bangladesh on Monday night.



Expectation is high, we are here to play good cricket and want to win the game. Obviously, it will be challenging as everyone knows he (Rashid Khan) is our main bowler. He has done well in Tests for us in the past but we still have enough bowling options in our side and hopefully they will play well. We have seen the wicket today and there were grass in it. We also have good pacers along with the spinners. We will play according to our strengths and prepared for everything.

Afghanistan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi told the reporters during a press conference in Mirpur on Monday.

## Hardship, adversity and ‘tennis mother’ key to Djokovic’s career

REUTERS, Paris

While Novak Djokovic was already looking ahead to a potential record-extending 24th Grand Slam title, there was also time on Sunday for him to look back at what had shaped him as tennis’s most successful male player – hardship and adversity.

Djokovic, who clinched his 23rd men’s major title at the French Open on Sunday, grew up in war-torn Serbia before moving to Niki Pilic’s academy in Munich, Germany in 1999 – one of two key encounters in his life.

“My upbringing was probably different than most of the other players from my generation. Going back to the 1990s when I was four, five years old, and we had couple of wars,” Djokovic told a press conference after winning his third French Open title by defeating Norway’s Casper Ruud in straight sets.

“Serbia had embargo. I couldn’t travel for quite a few junior tournaments. So there was a lot of adversity and it was a very



challenging time for everyone in my country.

“My family was on a very low budget. But my parents still decided to support me in my dream, which was to become a professional tennis player and hopefully win Wimbledon and be number one in the world.”

Djokovic reaped the rewards of spending time with another major

figure in his life, Jelena Gencic, who he called his ‘tennis mother’, with Pilic being the ‘father’.

“She passed away about 10 years ago, but she was an incredibly big influence on me, on and off the court,” Djokovic said.

“She was a true mentor. And she worked closely with my parents, who gave her space and permission to spend a lot of time with me, also when we were not training on the court. I used to go to her home, and we did many different things that were shaping my mind as a human being, but also as a professional, as a young player who dreams of becoming a professional.”

His parents, Srdan and Dijana, were former skiers but had no tennis background, and Djokovic was grateful that they took a leap of faith with him.

“My mother is a rock. She’s an incredible woman who kept the family together in the toughest moments. My father is an incredibly driving force of the family, someone who has instilled in me such power of belief and positive thinking,” he said.

With 23 Grand Slams to his name, Novak Djokovic has now surpassed Spain’s Rafael Nadal for most Grand Slam titles clinched by a male player since the beginning of the Open Era in 1968. In the all-time list, Djokovic is now tied with Serena Williams and only one behind Margaret Court (24).

The Serbian clinched his third French Open title and became the first man in history to have won every Grand Slam at least three times (Court, Serena and Steffi Graf have achieved the same feat in women’s tennis).

Djokovic, at 36 years 20 days, is the oldest men’s singles winner at the French Open since 1968. He broke Nadal’s record (36 years 2 days) set last year.

Djokovic, who already held the men’s record of most appearances in Grand Slam finals with Federer (31) in second and Nadal (30) in the third sport, also equalled the all-time record of Chris Evert (34).

Since turning 35 last year in May, Djokovic has reached three Grand Slam finals. Only Rosewall (6) and Federer (4) have made more men’s singles finals at Grand Slam events after turning 35.



Argentina captain Lionel Messi and winger Angel Di Maria prepare themselves during a training session at the Beijing Olympic Stadium ahead of their friendly against Australia on June 15. The Albiceleste, who are likely to field the same eleven that faced Australia in the World Cup in Qatar last year, will then visit Indonesia for a friendly on June 19 that will wrap up their tour of Asia.

PHOTO: TWITTER





## BASIC BANK LOAN SCAMS ACC approves charge sheet against Bacchu

146 others also included in it over  
embezzlement of Tk 2,265cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has finally approved the charge sheet against former BASIC Bank Chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu and 146 others in connection with 59 cases filed over embezzlement of Tk 2,265 crore.

The commission, however, did not implicate the then board members who were at the helm of the bank when the massive embezzlement took place between 2009 and 2013.

At that time, there were about 10 to 11 members on the board of the BASIC Bank and most of them were either running or former government employees.

Between 2009 and 2013, Tk 4,500 crore was swindled out of BASIC, once a healthy public bank. Of the sum, more than 95 percent was sanctioned by the board.

In 2015, the ACC filed 56 cases in connection with the scam, but curiously neither Bacchu nor any of the board members were named as accused although multiple probes indicated their involvement. Later, four cases were filed.

However, the charge sheet against Bacchu, a former member of the parliament, took eight years to come by.



Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu

**Between 2009 and 2013, Tk 4,500 crore was swindled out of BASIC, once a healthy public bank. Of the sum, more than 95 percent was sanctioned by the board.**

The High Court on several occasions expressed its disappointment over the delay in completing probes into the cases.

The cases were probed by Mohammad Morshed Alam, a director of ACC; and Mohammad Ibrahim, Monaem Hossain, Mohammad Sirajul Haque, and Gulshan Anowar Prodhan, all deputy directors of ACC.

Of the 59 cases, Bacchu was made accused in 58 cases, according to officials with knowledge of the proceedings. The ACC implicated 101 clients and 45 bank officials in the cases.

Among the bank officials, Kazi Faqurul Islam, former managing director of BASIC Bank, and Shah Alam Bhuiyan, company secretary, were also accused in the cases.

The ACC quizzed Bacchu five times. The commission also questioned all the directors of the then board.

Asked why the other board members were not implicated, one of the investigating officers said: "Bacchu with the help of the then managing director and company secretary created fake documents and sanctioned a loan while keeping the board in the dark."

On July 14, 2014, Bangladesh Bank sent a 47-page report on the BASIC Bank scam to the ACC detailing how people embezzled money through shell companies and dubious accounts.

The report, which included a list of borrowers, gave a detailed account of how the loans were approved and the amounts were subsequently withdrawn in clear violations of the rules.

The board and its credit committee disregarded the negative observations made by the branches for several loan proposals and went on to approve those, the BB report said.

## B'BARIA CHHATRA DAL New committee members attacked by 'rival faction' Crude bombs go off on Cumilla-Sylhet highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Leaders and activists of the newly-formed committee of Brahmanbaria district Chhatra Dal were attacked yesterday allegedly by their rivals who did not get any position in the committee.

The attack occurred when the new committee leaders and activists brought out a procession in the morning.

Witnesses said multiple crude bombs were detonated during the incident on the Cumilla-Sylhet highway in the district's Shohortoli area.

Md Emranul Islam, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station, said that following the formation of the new Chhatra Dal committee the situation in the area was tense, which culminated in a clash.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by firing tear gas shells.

Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Selim Sheikh said, "Law enforcement agencies are at the spot to deal with any situation. All legal measures will be taken to protect lives and property."



Covering her nose, a woman wading through stinking water at Barai Para in Chattogram city's Bahaddarhat. Due to a lack of proper drainage system, the area has remained flooded for around a month now. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Ukraine retakes fourth village from Russia

Soldiers lift flag in Storozheve

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday its troops had recaptured a fourth village from Russian forces in a cluster of settlements in the southeast, where its forces have at last claimed gains in its long-anticipated counteroffensive.

The task of ending Moscow's occupation of southern and eastern Ukraine is daunting, given Russia's numerical superiority in men, ammunition and air power, and the many months it has had to build deep defensive fortifications.

Yesterday, soldiers were seen in video holding the Ukrainian flag in the village of Storozheve, along the Mokri Yaly river which flows northward out of Russian-held territory. Reuters confirmed the location.

A day earlier Kyiv said its forces heading south had liberated three other nearby villages: Blahodatne, Neskuchne and Makarivka.

The push is already Ukraine's most rapid advance for seven months, though still short of a major breakthrough, with Russia believed to have a strong line of fortifications further south.

At the furthest claimed by Kyiv, it adds up to five km (three miles) in total, still some 90 km (55 miles) from the Azov Sea coast and the prize of cutting Russia's "land bridge" to Crimea, the peninsula Moscow seized from Ukraine in 2014.

A Ukrainian defence spokesman said Russia had blown up a dam on the Mokri Yaly to make it harder for Ukrainian forces to push farther south. That came less than a week after a huge dam was destroyed on the much larger Dniro River, causing a humanitarian catastrophe in a swathe of the south.

Kyiv has also launched assaults at other locations along the huge front line, probing for Russian weaknesses, though it has given few details so far.

## 5 more lives lost on roads

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed in separate road accidents in Sylhet and Chapainawabganj yesterday.

In Sylhet, three people were killed after a truck hit another that was parked on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Osmaninagar upazila.

One of the deceased was identified as Jashim Miah, 35, reports our local correspondent, quoting Abul Qasem, officer-in-charge of Osmaninagar Police Station.

One truck hit another, which had been parked on the road due to a punctured tire around 7:00am in the Soargaon area, the OC said.

The road accident occurred just four days after a fatal road accident left 15 dead and 10 injured in the same upazila.

Meanwhile, in Chapainawabganj, two people were killed in two separate accidents Nachole upazila.

The deceased are Zillur Rahman, 80, and Mojibur Rahman, 45, reports our local correspondent, quoting Nachole Police Station OC Mintu Rahman.

Zillur died on the spot when a motorcycle hit him while he was crossing the road at Uttar Mollickpur around 7:30am, the OC said.

Later in the day, Mojibur was also killed on the spot when a truck hit his motorcycle at the Chandona area around 10:30am, he added.

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

## World's first manned flying saucer takes to the skies

MAIL ONLINE

At first glance at this image, you'd be forgiven for mistaking it as still from the latest science fiction blockbuster.



But the image is very much real and was snapped as the world's first manned flying saucer took to the skies over Shenzhen, China this month.

The futuristic vehicle looks just like a cartoon UFO, although it won't take you to another planet. Instead, the vehicle is designed to take off and touch back down on either land or water here on Earth.

Incredible footage shows the flying saucer soaring over a lake in Shenzhen with a pilot on board, although it remains unclear when or if it will be ready to accept other passengers.

Chinese news site, Shenzhen Pages, shared images of the donut-shaped aircraft on Twitter this week.

"After more than three years of research and development, Shenzhen UFO Flying Saucer Technology has manufactured the world's first electric vertical take-off manned flying saucer," it wrote.

## 28-STOREY BUILDING Collect dues from real estate within 2 months HC asks DNCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Dhaka North City Corporation to collect the dues in two months from Borak Real Estate Ltd and others involved in the construction of a 28-storey building on DNCC land in Banani.

It asked the DNCC to follow the terms and conditions of the agreement and the principle of equity of law.

The city corporation has also been ordered to submit a report to the HC after complying with the directives in three months.

In response to a writ petition, the bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu issued the rule.

The court said if it finds any element of corruption after receiving the compliance report, it will order the ACC to conduct an enquiry.

LGRD secretary, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission chairman, director general of Department of Environment, DNCC mayor and Borak Real Estate Ltd have made respondents.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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Two groups of Chhatra Dal leaders and activists clash in Brahmanbaria town's Birasar Bus Stand area yesterday over the formation of the new committee of the student body's district unit. The clash ensued when Chhatra Dal men, who have been denied posts in the new committee, attacked a procession of the new leaders and their supporters.