



DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023

Plus 4 pages supplement celebrating one year of the Padma Bridge

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 157

ASHAR 11, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILHAJ 6, 1444 HURI

20 PAGES : Tk 15.00



Fighters of Wagner private mercenary group cross a street as they get deployed near the headquarters of the Southern Military District in the city of Rostov-on-Don, Russia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

EXTENSION OF BANK DIRECTORS' TENURE

A huge blow to banking sector

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Allowing directors to stay on for 12 years will deal a huge blow to the financial health of banks, which are already facing several crises, including a lack of corporate governance in recent years, say experts.

"They will have more control over the banks' management," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

The move to extend the bank director's tenure by three years should have been discussed with the agencies concerned such as Bangladesh Bank, the parliamentary standing committee on

the finance ministry, the cabinet division and so on.

The Bank Company (Amendment) Bill 2023 was passed in the parliament on June 21, with the provision to extend the tenure of bank directors to 12 years added at the last minute.

The version of the bill that was placed in the parliament by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal on June 8 did not seek to amend the tenure of the board members. Neither did the parliamentary standing committee on the finance ministry make any such suggestion.

The provision was included after ruling party MP Ahsanul Huq Titu made

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

FISCAL 2022-23

Govt's tax amnesty offer draws blank

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

For the first time, no one took the opportunity to whiten black money to avail the government's tax amnesty in the outgoing fiscal year.

The government offered the tax break so that the money laundered out of the country is brought back by people, a finance ministry official said yesterday.

Since independence, the government offered such tax amnesty on 21 occasions, and the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Mercenary group halts advance on Moscow

Wagner Group leader says his troops returning to base to avoid bloodshed; Moscow declares amnesty

AGENCIES

Mutinuous Russian mercenaries who surged most of the way to Moscow have agreed to turn back to avoid bloodshed, their leader said yesterday, in a de-escalation of what had become a major challenge to President Vladimir Putin's grip on power.

The fighters of the Wagner private army were just 200 km (125 miles) from the capital, said the leader, former Putin ally Yevgeny Prigozhin. The rebels had captured the city of Rostov-on-Don hundreds of miles to the south before racing across the country.

"They wanted to disband the Wagner military company. We embarked on a march of justice on June 23. In 24 hours we got to within 200 km of Moscow. In this time we did not spill a single drop of our fighters' blood," Prigozhin said in an audio message.

"Now the moment has come when blood could be spilled. Understanding ... that Russian blood will be spilled on one side, we are turning our columns around

"In 24 hours we got to within 200 km of Moscow. ... Understanding ... that Russian blood will be spilled, we are turning our columns around and going back to field camps as planned."

Yevgeny Prigozhin
Chief of Wagner Group

and going back to field camps as planned."

The decision to halt further movement across Russia by the Wagner group was brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko in return for guarantees for their safety, his office said.

Wagner fighters also started pulling out of Rostov-on-Don, a key military headquarters in southern Russia. A Reuters journalist saw Wagner forces pulling away from the district military headquarters, where they had taken control.

The Kremlin, Under the deal, said that Prigozhin would leave for Belarus and a criminal case against him would be dropped.

Members of Wagner paramilitary force who had joined what Moscow called an "armed rebellion" would not be prosecuted, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov added. "We have always respected their heroic deeds at the front."

Peskov said Lukashenko brokered the deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin's approval. The

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

What is Wagner group?

AGENCIES

The Wagner Group, officially called PMC Wagner, is a Russian paramilitary organisation that operates beyond the law in Russia.

It is basically a private military company and a network of mercenaries. The group was first identified in 2014 while backing pro-Russian separatist forces in eastern Ukraine.

Till 2014, it was a secretive organisation that was mostly operating in Africa and the Middle East. Media reports at that time stated that the group had about 5,000 fighters from Russia's elite regiments and special forces.

Since then, it has grown considerably.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Congratulations to

JANAB AHSANUL ALAM

On being selected as Hon'ble Chairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd.

Indeed your young dynamic leadership will add more momentum in solving the ever new challenges of the modern banking system which will move Smart Bangladesh faster towards its objectives. May Allah SWT grant you the ultimate success here & in the hereafter.

Courtesy:

Md. Rafiqul Islam
Chairman & MD

কাজ করি
দেশ গড়ি



KONKA ফ্রিজ

যেমন ছিলো
গাছে
ভেতরে তেমনই
আছে

KONKA

কনকা'র

গার্ডেন ফ্রেশ টেকনোলজি

খাবারের প্রাকৃতিক গুণকে
অক্ষুণ্ণ রাখে অনেক দিন

৭৯% পর্যন্ত বিদ্যুৎসামগ্রী
বেশি স্পেস

Compressor
Replacement
Warranty **10 YEARS WARRANTY**

ব্রিড অফার

ইলেকট্রনিক্স হার্ট-এ বিদ্যমান ব্রিড অফার বেসি বেসি

একটা ফ্রি!

নগদ ছাড়
১০,০০০ টাকা পর্যন্ত

এই সীদে কনকা ফ্রিজ একটা কিনলে স্ক্যাচ কার্ড ঘাষে পাচ্ছেন
একটা ফ্রি অথবা নগদ ছাড় ২০ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত!

KONKA

Electro Mart Limited

Electro Mart Limited

16649

Holidaymakers leaving Dhaka early to avoid hassles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holidaymakers have begun leaving the capital early to avoid the expected traffic congestion and other difficulties on the road to their homes ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, which will be celebrated on Thursday.

Although the official holidays does not start until Tuesday, thousands have been leaving for their villages since Friday.

Regardless, most homebound passengers are expected to begin their journey on Monday night, after government offices close for the holidays.

Police have warned that expansion works on highways, roadside cattle markets, and possible rains may cause delays and difficulties for northbound passengers.

As such, many people were sending their family members home a few days early so that they could avoid the crowds and chaos.

“On Saturday [yesterday], the first day of Bangladesh Railway’s special arrangement for holidaymakers, all trains left Dhaka on schedule,” said Shah Alam Kiron Shishir, commercial officer (Dhaka division) of BR.

“We have put a three- step checking system in place so that nobody can travel without a train ticket,” he told this newspaper.

“A large crowd of passengers gathered at Kamalapur Railway Station in the morning and evening, and a total of 50 trains, including 38 intercity trains, departed from Dhaka for different destinations,” he added

He also said that three special trains to Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, and Dewanganj will be added to the fleet today [Sunday] to accommodate Eid passengers.

Speaking to this newspaper, Abu Raihan, general secretary of the Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners’ Association, said, “People started leaving the capital on Friday, and their journey has so far been smooth.”

“More people will begin their Eid journey on Monday, and the volume of outbound passengers will reach its peak on Wednesday,” he said yesterday.

Meanwhile, no pressure from additional passengers was noticed at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal, the largest in the country.

“We had a typical day today [Saturday]. We expect to see more passengers starting Monday evening,” Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, told this correspondent yesterday.



Away from the hustle and bustle of the city, people are enjoying an affordable ride on an open-top bus along the seafront in the port city’s Patenga. Several tourist buses recently launched by Chattogram district administration roll from New Market to Patenga beach via the scenic Tiger Pass Road and DC Park.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BIDEN-MODI MEETING

Pakistan hits out at US, India over terror swipe

REUTERS, Washington

Pakistan yesterday criticised the United States and India after President Joe Biden met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House and both leaders called on Pakistan to ensure its territory was not used as a base for militant attacks.

Pakistan’s foreign ministry said a joint US-Indian statement was “unwarranted, one-sided, and misleading”. The reference to Islamabad in it was “contrary to diplomatic norms,” it said.

The ministry added that it was surprised by the joint statement and said it had “close counterterrorism cooperation” with the United States.

Relations between India and Pakistan have been fraught for years. Since independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over the Muslim-majority Himalayan region of Kashmir, which they both claim in full but rule in part.

The joint US-Indian statement said: “They (Biden and Modi) strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, the use of terrorist proxies and called on Pakistan to take immediate action to ensure that no territory under its control is used for launching terrorist attacks.”

Pakistan’s foreign ministry said India

was using the allegations of extremism against Islamabad to deflect from the situation in Kashmir and the treatment of minorities in India.

New Delhi has for years accused Pakistan of launching militant attacks in India, including the one in 2008 in Mumbai that killed over 165 people.

Pakistan also expresses deep concern over the planned transfer of advanced military technologies to India

India also says Pakistan has helped Islamist militants who have battled Indian security forces in its part of Kashmir since the late 1980s. Pakistan denies the accusation and says it only provides diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiris seeking self-determination.

The special status given to the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked in 2019 when New Delhi split it into two federally controlled territories. Pakistan calls the moves illegal and wants them rolled back.

Biden rolled out the red carpet for Modi on Thursday, with both leaders touting deals their countries reached on defense

and commerce aimed at countering China’s global influence.

Pakistan also said it was “deeply concerned” over the planned transfer of advanced military technologies to India, saying such steps would not prove helpful in achieving peace in South Asia.

The backdrop to Modi’s visit is the Biden administration’s attempts to draw India, the world’s most populous country at 1.4 billion and its fifth-largest economy, closer amid its growing geopolitical rivalry with Beijing.

Modi did not address China directly during the visit, and Biden only mentioned China in response to a reporter’s question, but a joint statement included a pointed reference to the East and South China Seas, where China has territorial disputes with its neighbours.

Farwa Aamer, director for South Asia at the Asia Society Policy Institute, in an analysis note described that as “a clear signal of unity and determination to preserve stability and peace in the region.”

Alongside agreements to sell weapons to India and share with it sensitive military technology, announcements this week included several investments from US-firms aimed at spurring semiconductor manufacturing in India and lowering its dependence on China for electronics.

Australia sanctions three involved in downing of MH17

AFP, Sydney

Australia yesterday announced financial sanctions and travel bans on two Russians and a Ukrainian involved in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in 2014.

Canberra officials said the sanctions target Russian national Sergey Dubinsky and Ukrainian Leonid Kharchenko, who were found guilty in absentia of murder and other charges by a Dutch court last year, after 298 passengers and crew died in the MH17 disaster.

Sergey Muchkaev, a colonel with the Russian Armed Forces, is also included in the sanctions by Australia. He commanded the anti-aircraft brigade that supplied the weapons system which downed flight MH17, Canberra said.

There were 38 Australians on board when the Boeing 777 en route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur went down over eastern Ukraine in July 2014.

“As either separatist leaders... at the time of the downing of Flight MH17, or a member of the Russian Armed Forces, the three people sanctioned today actively supported actions and policies that threatened the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine,” said Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong.

at giving opportunities to some powerful individuals to whiten the money they had laundered, he told The Daily Star.

A finance ministry official said the government made the move to boost revenue and mobilise foreign currencies at a time when Bangladesh’s foreign currency reserves were under pressure.

Since independence, Tk 45,522.83 crore have been whitened under the government’s tax amnesty, generating Tk 4,641.34 crore in taxes.

What is Wagner group?

FROM PAGE 1

The private army had always denied involvement in conflicts in Africa and the Middle East.

According to Wagner’s chief Yevgeny Prigozhin, 62, the group has around 25,000 troops.

Prigozhin last year admitted he had founded the group, recruiting soldiers from Russian prisons in exchange for amnesty.

However, the UK Ministry of Defence said in January estimated that the group has at least 50,000 fighters in Ukraine.

It said the organisation started recruiting in large numbers in 2022 because Russia had trouble finding people for the regular army.

A BBC investigation into the Wagner Group highlighted the believed involvement of a former Russian army officer, Dmitri Utkin. A veteran of Russia’s wars in Chechnya, he is thought to have been Wagner’s first field commander and to have named the group after his former radio call sign.

Prigozhin, its current head, is a rich businessman nicknamed “Putin’s chef” because he provided catering for the Kremlin.

Although mercenary forces are illegal in Russia, the Wagner Group registered as a company in 2022 and opened a new headquarters in St Petersburg.

“It is openly recruiting in Russian cities, on billboards, and is being named in Russian media as a patriotic organisation,” says Dr Samuel Ramani, of the Royal United Services Institute think tank.

Western countries and UN experts have accused Wagner mercenaries of human rights abuses throughout Africa, including in Central African Republic, Libya, and Mali.

In eastern Ukraine, the mercenary unit has been spearheading Russia’s costly battles. It had been at the forefront of the months-long assault for Bakhmut, capturing the site for Russia, but at huge losses.

The brutal fight also created a rift

One more dies from Covid, 82 new cases reported

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh reported one more death from Covid-19 and 82 fresh cases in 24 hours till last morning.

With the new numbers, the country’s total fatalities rose to 29,459 and caseload to 2,042,131, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The daily case test positivity slightly declined to 7.17 percent from Friday’s 7.18 percent as 1,144 samples were tested.

However, the death and recovery rate remained unchanged at 1.44 percent and 98.33 percent, respectively, DGHS said.

Bangladesh registered its highest daily caseload of 16,230 on July 28 in 2021 and its highest number of fatalities of 264 on August 10 the same year.

On May 8, the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 recommended relaxing Covid-19 guidelines such as social distance, wearing mask and others as the infection rate in Bangladesh was under control for days following the World Health Organization declaration that the Covid is no longer a global health emergency.

Man kills wife over family feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A man allegedly killed his wife over a family dispute in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

Moslem Uddin, 76, went hiding after the killing of his wife Aysha Khatun, 60.

Kalai Police Station Officer-in-Charge Wasim Ali Bari said “Moslem went fishing in a local ditch in the morning. Around noon, his wife Aysha went there and the couple got into a fight. At one point, Moslem hit Aysha with the spade, killing her on the spot.”

Informed, police recovered her body and sent it to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with the police station in this connection, said the OC.

Smuggler held with gold worth Tk 70 lakh

UNB, Chuadanga

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday detained a suspected smuggler with 11 gold bars worth Tk 70 lakh in his possession along the Sultanpur border with India in Darshana upazila, Chuadanga.

Tariqul Islam, 32, was apprehended when he tried to flee after the border security personnel challenged him at the border.

Lt Col Sayeed Md Jahidur Rahman, commander of the BGB-6, said they conducted a drive in Sultanpur after being informed that a consignment of gold would be smuggled to India through the border in the morning.

The market value of the seized gold is estimated to be Tk 70 lakh, he said, adding that it was deposited at the exchequer and a case was filed in this connection.

Mercenary group halts advance on Moscow

FROM PAGE 1

Belarusian president knows Prigozhin for 20 years, he added.

Earlier, Prigozhin said that his “march for justice” was intended to remove corrupt and incompetent Russian commanders he blames for botching the war in Ukraine.

In a televised address from the Kremlin, Putin said Russia’s very existence was under threat.

“We are fighting for the lives and security of our people, for our sovereignty and independence, for the right to remain Russia, a state with a thousand-year history,” he said, vowing punishment for those who “who prepared an armed insurrection”.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said the Wagner revolt exposed complete chaos in Russia.

“Today the world can see that the masters of Russia control nothing. And that means nothing. Simply complete chaos. An absence of any predictability,” Zelenskiy said in his nightly video address.

Video obtained by Reuters showed troop carriers and two flatbed trucks each carrying a tank driving 30 miles (50 km) beyond Voronezh, more than half way to Moscow. A helicopter fired on them near Voronezh.

More than 100 firefighters were in action at a fuel depot ablaze in Voronezh. Video footage obtained by Reuters showed it exploding in a fireball shortly after a helicopter flew by.

Further along the road, a video showed, vehicles apparently placed as barricades to slow Wagner’s advance had been tossed to one side.

Prigozhin, whose private army fought the bloodiest battles in Ukraine even as he feuded for months with the military top brass, said he had captured the headquarters of Russia’s Southern Military District in the city of Rostov without firing a shot.

In Rostov, which serves as the main rear logistical hub for Russia’s entire invasion force in Ukraine, residents milled about calmly, filming on mobile phones as Wagner fighters in armoured vehicles and battle tanks took up positions.

“Will there be civil war?” a woman in Rostov asked the mercenaries who took over the city. “No, everything will be fine,” a fighter answered.

The region surrounding Rostov is an important oil, gas and grains hub.

Prigozhin, a former convict and long-time ally of Putin, accused Russian generals of incompetence

and of withholding ammunition from his fighters. This month, he defied orders to sign a contract placing his troops under Defence Ministry command.

He launched the apparent mutiny on Friday after alleging that the military had killed many of his fighters in an air strike. The Defence Ministry denied it.

In a series of hectic messages overnight, Prigozhin had demanded that Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and the chief of the general staff Valery Gerasimov should come to see him in Rostov.

Western capitals said they were closely following the situation in nuclear-armed Russia. US President Joe Biden spoke with the leaders of France, Germany and Britain, while Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke to counterparts from G7 nations.

The top US military officer, Army General Mark Milley, cancelled a scheduled trip to the Middle East because of the situation in Russia.

The insurrection risked leaving Russia’s invasion force in Ukraine in disarray, just as Kyiv is launching its strongest counteroffensive since the war began in February last year.

paying a seven percent tax remained.

Besides this, the National Board of Revenue was tasked with confiscating undisclosed assets abroad and take various other measures against money launderers.

Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, said it was presumed that no one would take the amnesty offer. “Those who launder money are less likely to have an intention to bring the money back home.”

The amnesty offer was aimed

ministry sources said.

When the finance bill is placed in parliament today, there is little chance the amnesty will be extended, they added.

In June 2022, the finance minister proposed legalising movable and immovable assets abroad, acquired with undeclared income in Bangladesh, in exchange for a certain amount in taxes.

As the proposal received widespread criticism, only the option to bring back cash through the banking channel by

Govt’s tax amnesty offer draws blank

FROM PAGE 1

utilised the opportunity, but this is the first time, no one had whitened black money, added the official, requesting anonymity.

Only about a couple of work days remain of this fiscal year, and it is highly unlikely that someone will suddenly appear now and try to bring back their laundered money, the official said.

If the tax break is not extended, the offer will automatically expire at the beginning of the new fiscal year,

LARGEST ONLINE BRANCH NETWORK

Sharia'h based Islamic Banking
through 501 Branches & 162 Sub Branches

ESTABLISHED IN 1959

LARGEST PRIVATE COMMERCIAL BANK

**পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

64 YEARS IN BANKING

FIRST BANGALEE BANK

Take your remittance
Smile with your gift

Excellence in Remittance Service

Packs of sweets, Tk 1cr and fake ACC officials

Four including PA of the commission's money laundering wing DG held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A broker syndicate attempted to deceive Md Ashiquzzaman, a businessman in the Baitul Mukarram area of Dhaka, by posing as officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Their plan involved a forged letter, purportedly from the ACC, claiming that a case had been filed against Ashiq and summoning him for a hearing on July 10.

The brokers, using the ACC's name, contacted Ashiq and offered to help him avoid the case in exchange for Tk 5 crore. Eventually, they settled for Tk 1 crore to resolve the issue.

According to the agreement, Ashiq was instructed to pay Tk 20 lakh before the Friday prayers on June 23, with the remainder to be paid during banking hours on Sunday. As part of the arrangement, Ashiq concealed Tk 1.5 lakh in four packets of sweets and proceeded to a restaurant in Motijheel.

Prior to his visit to the restaurant, Ashiq reported the incident to the Lalbagh division of the Detective Branch (DB) of police. The police then took position around the designated spot.

When the brokers arrived to collect the

money, police arrested four individuals.

The arrestees are Goutam Chakraborty, 42, the personal assistant to the director general of the ACC money laundering wing; Esken Ali Khan, 57, a suspended police constable, and their associates Habibur Rahman, 42, and Poritosh Mondol, 63.

During the arrest, police confiscated Tk 1.5 lakh in cash, four packets of sweets, four cell phones, and the forged ACC notice from the possession of the suspects.

During the arrest, police confiscated Tk 1.5 lakh in cash, four packets of sweets, four cell phones, and the forged ACC notice from the possession of the suspects.

Harun Ur Rashid, additional commissioner of DB, revealed the details of the arrest yesterday.

Harun said the victim, Ashiq, is a trader involved in the supply of imported carpets and prayer rugs to a carpet shop in the vicinity of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

On June 20, individuals claiming to be

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

LOST IN DARKNESS... Drivers of different vehicles were blinded by a cloud of carbon monoxide emitted from a bus in the capital's Farmgate. Such unfit buses continue to ply the city streets as authorities turn a blind eye to the situation. The photo was taken yesterday.

Address climate change impact on migrant workers

Speakers tell RMMRU event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to collect evidence in light of a new report that suggests migrant workers including Bangladeshis are exposed to extreme temperature-related health challenges in the Gulf, said the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit yesterday.

The migrant rights advocacy group said the United Arab Emirates would host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November this year which will be an opportunity for Bangladesh to place such evidence.

In the upcoming COP28, a day has been dedicated to discuss on health issues, said Prof CR Abrar, executive director of the RMMRU, while sharing the report "Killer Heat: The Impact of Extreme Temperatures and Climate Change on Migrant Workers in the Gulf" during a programme at a city hotel.

"It [COP28] provided us with an important opportunity to place the evidence and raise question before the rich migrant-hosting nations that what are they doing in this regard," he said.

The report is produced by Vital Signs Partnership (VSP), a coalition of migrant rights groups in Asia and the UK. RMMRU is the partner organisation in Bangladesh.

The report is the third and final of a series of works on migrant workers in the Gulf states.

It [COP28] provided us with an important opportunity to place the evidence and raise question before the rich migrant-hosting nations that what are they doing in this regard.

PROF CR ABRAR
Executive director of RMMRU

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

2 more dengue patients die

500 hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Two more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 42 this year.

During the period, 500 more patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Fifteen hundred and three patients are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

So far, the DGHS has



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Wooden benches are often stacked up illegally on a pillar base of the capital's Khilgaon Flyover. Nearby furniture shop owners do this to "save" warehouse expenses. This photo was taken near Shahjahanpur intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GABTOLI MARKET

Small cattle in high demand

Financial hurdles force buyers to adjust budget

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

With Eid-ul-Azha just around the corner, Dhaka residents are flocking to cattle markets in search of sacrificial animals. With prevailing financial challenges, many individuals are opting for smaller and medium-sized cattle this year.

However, this escalating demand for these cattle has resulted in a notable increase in their prices.

The city is preparing to host a total of 21 cattle markets, encompassing both permanent and temporary locations. The selling of livestock in most of these markets is set to start today, heightening the anticipation among buyers and sellers alike.

These correspondents visited Gabtoli, the city's permanent cattle market, for the last two days, and observed that the shades designated for smaller and medium-sized cows were brimming with eager buyers, while the rows dedicated to larger ones stood largely unoccupied.

Rows upon rows of various livestock, including cows, goats, and sheep, were neatly lined up. Sellers, adorned in traditional attire,



skillfully showcased their prized animals, vying for the attention of potential buyers.

Every detail of the livestock, ranging from their health and size to their overall quality, was examined by the potential buyers.

Bargaining ensued, as buyers sought to secure the best possible deal for their sacrificial animal.

However, the surge in prices of smaller and medium-sized cows has posed challenges for many facing financial constraints, who

may now need to navigate their budgets more carefully to fulfill their sacrificial obligations.

Siraj Mia, a cattle trader from Rajbari, said he purchased seven small and medium-sized cows at prices ranging from Tk 80,000 to Tk 1,25,000.

He said customers often refer to last year's prices, overlooking the increased costs of cattle food and the higher prices of beef in the market. As a result, this year's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Maritime ports asked to hoist cautionary signal three

UNB, Dhaka

The country's maritime ports have been advised to hoist the local cautionary signal 3 as deep convection is taking place over the North Bay due to active monsoon, said the weather department yesterday.

Squally weather is likely to affect the maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra, said the Met office.

All fishing boats and trawlers in the North Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice, it reads.

The Met office forecast light to moderate rain or thundershowers

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

'They were planning an armed attack'

Says CTTC after arresting new militant platform chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya aimed to launched an armed attack in Bangladesh to disrupt the country's democratic system.

To receive weapons training, members of the outfit sought refuge at the hideout of the Kuki-Chin National Front (KNF), an armed group in the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

When law enforcement agencies initiated a crackdown, the chief of KNF, Nathan Bom, suggested that they should surrender. However, the outfit's chief, Shamin Mahfuj, rejected the suggestion and instructed the members to resist and counter the law enforcement drive.

Consequently, the outfit made attempts to resist the operation on various occasions.

Following the arrest of Shamin and his wife Naznin Sultana on Friday night in the capital's Demra, the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit disclosed these details yesterday.

The activities of the outfit came to light after reports of missing youths surfaced from Cumilla and different parts of the country last year.

Since then, law enforcers have arrested at least

During his time in jail, Shamin began devising plans to establish a new militant outfit. Upon his release from jail in 2018, he began recruiting members for the outfit.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Minorities fear pre-polls violence

Speakers demand govt action at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of minority population has not reduced by half under the Awami League-led government, but the policies leading towards a decline in minority population continues under this government, said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, yesterday.

He made the remark refuting the claim made by six Congressmembers in a letter to the US president that the Hindu population has been halved since Sheikh Hasina's rise to power.

While addressing a meeting at the Bangladesh Medical Association in Dhaka, he also expressed concern about a vested group's attempt to create instability by targeting minorities ahead of the national election.

"Their only goal is to make the country minority-free," he said.

He further shared their plans to inform foreign embassies in Bangladesh and all political parties about the situation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Children play a game of football amid rain on the field of Salutikor Degree College in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila. Their faces radiate joy as they pass the ball to each other, sliding in the water. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

They were planning an armed

FROM PAGE 3
100, including the outfit's financial, operational, IT, and media wing chiefs.

Naznin, the chief of the outfit's female wing, was previously married to one Ezaz Ahmed, who was killed in a drone attack in Pakistan.

Following his death, Naznin married Shamin as per the outfit's decision.

Addressing the media, Md Asaduzzaman, the chief of CTTC, said, "We had been conducting an operation to apprehend Shamin for a long period. The arrest marks the end of a long wait."

According to CTTC, Shamin was a student of Rangpur Cadet College, but he was suspended after completing his SSC exams due to his involvement with Chhatra Shibir politics. He then completed his HSC from another college and got admitted to Dhaka University.

During his time at DU, he became inspired and

involved in the activities of Jama'atul Muslemeen, which later transformed into Ansar Al Islam.

Shamin came in touch with the Ansar Al Islam leader Jashimuddin Rahmani in 2007.

CTTC chief Asaduzzaman said Shamin and KNF chief Nathan were university friends, and Shamin accompanied Nathan on several visits to hilly areas during their studies.

Shamin was first arrested in 2011 by the Border Guard Bangladesh, and then by the police's Detective Branch in 2014. While in custody, he was held at Kashimpur jail, where he encountered top leaders of Huji B and JMB.

During his time in jail, Shamin began devising plans to establish a new militant outfit, according to the CTTC chief. Upon his release from jail in 2018, Shamin began recruiting members for the outfit.

Asaduzzaman disclosed

that Shamin initially held a meeting with KNF chief Nathan at a hotel in Cox's Bazar in 2020, where they entered into a written agreement to provide comprehensive support to Sharqiya.

While staying at the KNF camp, the leadership of the nascent militant organisation decided to name it Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya in early 2022.

When questioned about why Nathan himself didn't surrender despite giving Shamin similar advice, Asaduzzaman said they are investigating the matter.

"We have many other questions, which we aim to address through interrogating Shamin during remand," he added.

CTTC produced the arrestees before a Dhaka court seeking 10-day police remand. After a hearing, the court granted four-day remand for Shamin and three days for Naznin, according to investigators.

2 more dengue

FROM PAGE 3
recorded 6,839 dengue cases, and 5,294 recoveries this year.

Meanwhile, as many residents are expected to leave Dhaka for the Eid vacation, experts are concerned about the potential increase in dengue breeding grounds that may emerge during this period of vacant households.

Without adequate measures in place, the empty houses become potential

hotspots for stagnant water accumulation, the ideal breeding habitat for Aedes mosquitoes.

Experts also urged all residents to keep all containers dry before leaving, ensuring no water is left stagnant in or around households.

Cleaning activities within the premises are also strongly advised to eliminate any existing stagnant water sources and minimise potential breeding sites.

Minorities fear

FROM PAGE 3
During the programme, speakers reiterated their ongoing movement demanding the implementation of promises made by the Awami League government in their election manifesto concerning minority communities.

They called for the enactment of a minority protection law, the establishment of the National Commission on

Minorities Affairs, the fulfillment of the CHT Accord, the creation of a separate land commission for the ethnic population of the plains, and other relevant measures.

The participants emphasised the importance of addressing the situation of minorities in the pre-election scenario and urged the government to take immediate action to safeguard their rights and well-being.

Lack of fund

FROM PAGE 5
coronavirus pandemic, while 50 percent termed the allocated funds "insufficient".

Speakers at both dialogues demanded an increase in budget, adding that the fund amount should be decided bearing in mind the local and geographical characteristics of the schools.

"We need to work on improving teaching skills and ensure subjective accountability and continuous monitoring for teachers," said Hasan Atiqur Rahman, assistant district primary education officer of Thakurgaon Sadar.

Along with elevating attendance, new recruitments are also important, said Runa Layla, education officer of Thakurgaon Sadar.

Following the evaluation of progress, quality, infrastructure, and public participation in educational institutes, CPD will convey the challenges, development opportunities, and findings of these dialogues to the respective authorities and stakeholders, informed Debapriya Bhattacharya,

distinguished fellow at CPD. Lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen, Thakurgaon Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramkrishna Barman, Dimla Upazila Parishad Chairman Tabibul Islam, Nilphamari Government College associate professor Monisankar Dasgupta, researcher Mozahidul Islam, CPD fellow Prof Mustafizur Rahman, ESDO representatives, and other stakeholders also spoke at the event.

Maritime

FROM PAGE 3
accompanied by temporary gusty wind at most places over Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions.

It also predicted rain or thundershowers may increase in 72 hours.

PRAYER TIMING

JUNE 25

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4-05 | 12-45 | 5-00 | 6-54 | 8-17 |
| JAMAAT 4-40 | 1-15 | 5-15 | 6-57 | 8-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

FLAT FOR SALE

Uttara, Sector-03 : 3200 sft
Uttara, Sector-06 : 2400 sft
Bashundhara - G : 2900 sft
(4 Bed, Corner plot)

01713377885, 01713377886

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 215 OF 2023**

IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994. -AND- IN THE MATTER OF: *Rachel Kattukaran* .Petitioner.-VERSUS- *Direct Source Industries Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd. and others...* Respondents.

Notice is hereby given to all concerned that the petitioner above named has filed and moved an application under section 43 of the Companies Act, 1994 for the rectification of the share register of Direct Source Industries Bangladesh Pvt. Ltd. before the High Court Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, his Lordship, Mr. Justice Khizir Ahmed Choudhury by an order dated **12.06.2023** was pleased to admit the said application.

Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on the date so fixed. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of the required costs.

Anam Hossain, Barrister-at-law, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, House No.18/A (Ground Floor), Road No. 44, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212.

Office of the Naldanga Pourashava
Naldanga, Natore

Memo No. Nal/Eng:01/2023/26

e-Tender Notice No. 01/ADP/2022-2023

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Package No. | Tender document last selling date & time | Tender closing date & time |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 01 | 848166 | NAL/ADP/2022-2023/01 | 17-Jul-2023 Time:12:00 | 17-Jul-2023 Time:15:00 |
| 02 | 848167 | NAL/ADP/2022-2023/02 | 17-Jul-2023 Time:12:00 | 17-Jul-2023 Time:15:00 |
| 03 | 848168 | NAL/ADP/2022-2023/03 | 17-Jul-2023 Time:12:00 | 17-Jul-2023 Time:15:00 |

These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 12.00 on 17-Jul-2023. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

=SD=

Md. Arifur Rahman
Assistant Engineer (IC)
Naldanga Pourashava, Natore

GD-1047

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ডিজাস্টার সায়েন্স এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রেজিলিয়েন্স বিভাগ (DSCR)

প্রফেশনাল মাস্টার্স ইন ডিজাস্টার সায়েন্স এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রেজিলিয়েন্স (PMDSCR)

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(২০২৩-২০২৪ শিক্ষাবর্ষ)

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ডিজাস্টার সায়েন্স এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রেজিলিয়েন্স বিভাগে Professional Masters in Disaster Science and Climate Resilience (PMDSCR) প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আগামী প্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

কোর্সের মেয়াদ: ০২ বছর (০৪ সেমিস্টার)।

আবেদনের যোগ্যতা: প্রার্থীদের স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রীধারী হতে হবে এবং কোনো পরীক্ষায় তৃতীয় শ্রেণি/জিপিএ/সিজিপিএ ২.৫ এর নীচে থাকতে পারবে না। চাকরিতত্ত্ব প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে। তবে তাদেরকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতি নিয়ে ভর্তি কার্যক্রম সম্পাদন করতে হবে। ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, বেসরকারি, দেশী ও আন্তর্জাতিক উন্নয়ন সংস্থা, গণমাধ্যম, দাতাসংস্থা এবং সমগ্র বাহিনীসহ অন্যান্য প্রতিষ্ঠানে দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনায় সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে অভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিদেরকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।

আবেদন গ্রহণের স্থান ও তারিখ: ডিজাস্টার সায়েন্স এন্ড ক্লাইমেট রেজিলিয়েন্স বিভাগের অফিসরুম থেকে ১৫০০.০০ (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা ফি প্রদান করে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২৪ জুলাই ২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকল কর্ম দিবসে সকাল ৯.০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করা ও জমা দেয়া যাবে। ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের www.du.ac.bd/body/DSM ওয়েব সাইটে আবেদনপত্র পাওয়া যাবে। নির্ধারিত আবেদন পত্রের সাথে সত্য তোলা দুই কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রবিন ছবি এবং সকল পরীক্ষা পাসের সার্টিফিকেট ও মার্কশীটের সত্যায়িত কপি জমা দিতে হবে।

লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়: লিখিত পরীক্ষার সম্ভাব্য তারিখ আগামী ২৯ জুলাই ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ, শনিবার বিকাল ৩.৩০টা থেকে ৫.৩০টা পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য ওয়েব সাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

ক্লাস সময়সূচী: শুক্রবার ও শনিবার।

প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ:
৮৮-০৯৬৬৬৯১১৪৬৩, ৭৩৩২
০১৮৯৬১১৬৬১, ০১৮৯৬১১৬৬২, ০১৮৯৬১১৬৬৩
E-mail: dsm@du.ac.bd
website: www.du.ac.bd/body/DSM

Small cattle in high demand

FROM PAGE 3
customers should expect to pay Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 more for each cow compared to last year.

Shamsu Mia, another trader who brought 13 cows from Kushtia, echoed similar sentiments. He shared that the animals were acquired for Tk 1,00,000 to Tk 1,60,000.

Irfan Hossain, a private service holder from the Tejgaon Industrial area, expressed his plans for dividing the sacrificed animal into portions.

"Due to the high prices of cattle this year, my family has decided to divide the animal into five portions

instead of the usual three. Despite our search for a suitable cow priced around Tk 85,000, we are yet to find one that meets our requirement," he said.

Naznin Sultana, a private school teacher, recounted her experience of spending Tk 15,000 on one portion last year. However, this time, she anticipates the cost to exceed Tk 20,000.

Abul Hossain, the manager of the lessees at the Gabtoli cattle market, acknowledged the high demand for smaller cattle this year.

Customers are actively seeking cows priced between Tk 80,000 and Tk

1,10,000, he said. However, he reassured that there is an ample supply to meet the demand, with a significant number of cattle being brought to the market.

"Prices may decrease as Eid-ul-Azha approaches," he said.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim on June 14 said the number of sacrificial animals this year is around 1.25 crore, which is 4.1 lakh more than last year.

Probable demand of the sacrificial animals this year is around 1.03 crore, meaning 21.41 lakh cattle will remain as surplus, he said.

Packs of sweets, Tk 1cr and fake

FROM PAGE 3
ACC officials visited Ashiq's residence in Uttara and presented him with a notice written in red ink, he said.

The DB chief said the notice alleged involvement in gold smuggling and money laundering in relation to his business transactions, causing Ashiq to become frightened.

Taking advantage of Ashiq's fear, they instructed him to switch off his cell phone and go into hiding, as various agencies were supposedly searching for him with the intention

of making an arrest.

Furthermore, the brokers engaged in a conversation with Ashiq via WhatsApp, posing as another ACC official, to further intimidate him, said Harun.

Ultimately, the brokers proposed a meeting at a restaurant in Motijheel to settle the issue.

Harun mentioned that Goutam had been employed at the ACC for the past 18 years and possessed sufficient knowledge regarding the issuance of notices related to corruption.

Exploiting this, Goutam and his syndicate targeted various businessmen and industrialists, often reaching settlements by holding meetings at different restaurants near the ACC office, added Harun.

Asked about details of Goutam's embezzlement and the number of victims, Harun responded that investigations were underway to gather details.

Regarding the involvement of high-ranking ACC officials in the fraud, the DB chief said they had not yet received any information in this regard.

Address climate change impact

FROM PAGE 3
It suggests that migrant workers in the Gulf facing adversity due to impact of global climate change is not just a mere hypothesis but those are backed by scientific evidences, Prof Abrar said.

However, there is almost no data available on the impact of heat on migrant workers in the Gulf which is alarming, he added.

He said there was study in Nepal in which it was found that young returnees from the Gulf states have been suffering from kidney diseases.

Nephrologist Dildar Hossain, who was interviewed in the VSP report, said excessive sweating together with lack of intake of fresh drinking water can cause

an individual to suffer from kidney disease. Also, due to diet imbalance such as intaking of more red meat and less vegetable can accumulate uric acid in blood and this can lead to kidney disease, he said.

Farida Yeasmin, a lawyer and migrant rights activist, said it is important to collect evidence to address the issue.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sarail, Brahmanbaria
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.1294.000.878.01.23-248

Date: 22/06/2023

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2022-23

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID | Name of works | Document last selling (date & time) | Closing & opening (date & time) |
|---------|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 745516 | Construction of Boundary Wall including Gate (i) Chunta Puration GPS, (ii) Kalikaccha Paschim GPS, (iii) Karatkandi RNGPS and (iv) Noawgown West GPS under NBDIGPS-1 at Sarail Upazila, District: Brahmanbaria. | 09/07/2023 17.00 | 10/07/2023 13.00 |
| 2 | 745517 | Construction of Boundary Wall including Gate (i) Kalikaccha Dakkhin GPS, (ii) Rasulpur Paschim GPS and (iii) Surjakandi GPS under NBDIGPS-1 at Sarail Upazila, District: Brahmanbaria. | 09/07/2023 17.00 | 10/07/2023 13.00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Web Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 17.00 on 09-July-2023. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Anisur Rahman Bhuiyan
Upazila Engineer
LGED
Sarail, Brahmanbaria
E-mail: ue.sarail@lged.gov.bd

GD-1046

PATIYA GOVT COLLEGE
Patiya, Chattogram
Website- www.patiyagovtcollege.gov.bd

Memo No. CEDP/PGC/2022-23/15

Date: 25/06/2023

E-Tender Notice - 02/2022-2023

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

| Sl. No. | Tender ID No. | Name of Supply | Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission | Tender Closing Date & Time |
|---------|---------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1. | 849950 | Supply and Installation of Campus Networking for Patiya Govt College, Chattogram. | 11-07-2023 13:00 pm | 11-07-2023 14:00 pm |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches up to 16.00 pm, 10 July, 2023. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Held Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Prof. Mohammad Mozammel Hoque-2664)
Principal
Patiya Govt.College, Chattogram.
Mobile No- 01876029046
E-mail: patiyagovtcollege@gmail.com

GD- 1043

No polls under AL govt: Fakhrul

STAR REPORT

BNP will not participate in any election under this government, said party Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a divisional youth rally in Barishal yesterday.

He also urged the youth to play a key role in removing the government and establishing democracy.

The rally was organised by three BNP-affiliated organisations -- Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal. Over 6,000 leaders and activists attended the rally.

"We want polls to be held under a neutral government," he stated.

Fakhrul said to save the country, it is essential to empower the youth.

He also criticised the chief election commissioner's remarks over the attack on IAB mayoral candidate Syed Faizul Karim. "The government's objective is to manipulate our votes and smuggle our money abroad," he asserted.



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressing a youth rally in Barishal city's Bangabandhu Udyan yesterday. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Railway to transport sacrificial animals

BSS, Rajshahi

The West Zone of Bangladesh Railway will transport cattle to Dhaka from Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi districts centring the Eid-ul-Azha at less cost.

Cattle will be transported in separate wagons of the existing mango special train till June 26.

Asim Kumar Talukder, general manager of the zone, said the sacrificial animals will be transported to mark the Eid Ul-Azha on the basis of demand of farmers and businessmen for the third consecutive year.

The train will depart Rohanpur Railway Station at 4:00pm for Dhaka. It will load cattle in six stations, including Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi, and reach Dhaka at night.

He said 20 cattle can be transported to Dhaka in a broad gauge wagon at a cost of Tk 11,830. Per kilometre, the fare for a wagon load of cattle heads (20 cattle heads) has been fixed at Tk 20.

He said starting from Chapainawabganj, the special train would halt at six railway stations, including Kakanhat, Rajshahi and Bangabandhu Bridge West.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THAKURGAON, NILPHAMARI Lack of fund, resources hinder progress

Says CPD study

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, back from Thakurgaon and Nilphamari

There are no libraries at nine out of 10 primary schools in Nilphamari and seven out of ten schools in Thakurgaon, according to the latest Centre for Policy Dialogue studies.

The studies further showed that only 17 percent of the students in Thakurgaon and 26 percent of those in Nilphamari use the existing libraries.

Approximately half of the schools in Nilphamari lack enough benches for students.

The reports were revealed during two separate dialogues held under the same title "Education atmosphere at Primary education: Our duties", in Thakurgaon and Nilphamari over this weekend.

The sessions were organised in collaboration with the European Union, Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh and Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO).

A total of 136 respondents, including teachers, students, parents, and stakeholders from government and non government organisations in Gaibandha, Thakurgaon and Nilphamari participated in the studies.

Senior Research Fellow at CPD Towfiqul Islam Khan presented the studies.

LACK OF RESOURCES, DIGITAL FACILITIES

According to the reports, 54 percent of the schools in Thakurgaon, and 59 percent of those in Nilphamari lacked internet facilities. Some 29 percent of schools in Thakurgaon had no multimedia projectors, while most of the available ones were out of order.

54 percent of the schools in Thakurgaon, and 59 percent of those in Nilphamari lacked internet facilities. Some 29 percent of schools in Thakurgaon had no multimedia projectors, while most of the available ones were out of order.

Chandi Das Roy, a primary school headteacher in Nilphamari, said, "Students cannot engage in co-curricular activities as we don't have proper playgrounds. Their safety is also an issue, as boundary walls are missing in most schools.

Around 89 percent of respondents from Thakurgaon and 74 percent from Nilphamari said the schools do not have teachers or instructors for extracurricular activities.

LIMITED MOTIVATION TOOLS

Of the Thakurgaon-based study participants, 41 percent said they were dissatisfied with the amount they receive as government stipends and demanded an increase.

Additionally, a large proportion of indigenous students are dropping out due to difficult economic circumstances.

Addressing these issues, the speakers asked the attending government officials to reconsider the stipend amount while also ensuring other educational incentives.

Alfa Begum, headteacher of a primary school in Thakurgaon Sadar, suggested introducing food for education programmes where the students will be offered mid-day meals at school to reduce the existing dropout rate.

Around 18 percent of the students in Thakurgaon had lower pass rates as they did not attend private tuition. In Nilphamari, 55 percent students experienced the same issue.

The lack of skills among primary teachers compels students to seek tuition privately, according to education officials.

BUDGET CONSTRAINTS

Around 61 percent of the survey respondents said they did not receive any grants since the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY

Renovation work halted for Eid

UNB, Dhaka

The ongoing renovation work on Sitakunda section of Dhaka-Chattogram highway will remain suspended for 10 days to ensure smooth journey for Eid travellers.

The Roads and Highway Department announced that all road renovation activities will be suspended until July 3.

Belal Uddin Jahangir, officer-in-charge of Baro Auliya Highway Police Station, said, "Due to the ongoing renovation work carried out in Sitakunda section, vehicles have been limited to using a one-way road. This has resulted in constant traffic congestion... spanning 10 to 15 kilometres".

Additionally, with the approaching Eid-ul-Azha, there has been an increase in the number of sacrificial animal transportation vehicles on the highway.

Pintu Chakma executive engineer of RHD, Chattagram, said, "Upon the request of the highway police, we have instructed the contractors to halt the road renovation work for the next 10 days to ensure smooth journey during the Eid."

BNP undermines democracy, steals votes: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP had snatched people's voting rights in the past, setting records for openly stealing votes and undermining democracy, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader in a statement yesterday.

In response to an earlier comment made by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Quader claimed that BNP leader Khaleda Zia was not being held by the government, but rather serving a court sentence.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had displayed generosity by allowing Khaleda Zia to remain at home through an executive order. Quader said BNP should have shown gratitude towards Hasina instead of expressing anger.

He said BNP is facing the consequences of engaging in wrongful politics.

"Despite being a political party in an independent country, they still hold onto the belief of subjugation. They have yet to rid themselves of the influence of Pakistan. Instead of reaching out to the people, they choose to protest at foreign embassies," he added.

Bangladesh is an economically emerging power in the world today. BNP could never accept this achievement and prosperity of the country. BNP's politics is full of hypocrisy and duplicity, Quader added.



Nalka flyover opens to traffic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Nalka flyover in Sirajganj was opened for vehicles yesterday to ease traffic congestion ahead of Eid-ul-Azha to be observed on June 29.

Manjur Hossain, secretary of Bridge Division and also executive director of Bangladesh Bridge Authorities, inaugurated the flyover at noon.

Meanwhile, vehicles of 22 districts -- including 16 northern districts -- move through Hatikumrul Intersection via Bangabandhu Bridge's western end.

Police said normally 17,000 to 18,000 vehicles pass through the highway every day. But the number increases to around 40,000 before Eid.

Rawshan Yajdani, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge West Police Station, said, "It would have been better if the Kodda and Mulibari flyovers could have been opened. Because after crossing the Bangabandhu Bridge, the pressure of the vehicles falls here first. Besides, the two-lane road in Pachlia of Salonga is also a problem for smooth traffic."

Tofazzal Hossain, deputy secretary of Local Government Division; Adnan Hossain, assistant superintendent of police in Sirajganj; and Sher Shah Farid, deputy project manager of contractor firm Meer Akter Hossain Limited, were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR



Distraught, a farmer sits near the bank of the Padma in Manikganj after losing all of his cattle in a trawler capsized yesterday. The vessel with 47 sacrificial cattle sank in the river in Harirampur upazila around 10:30am. As of filing the report around 9:00pm, the sunken trawler and 28 cattle were still missing. *Inset*, a boat being used for rescue operation.

PHOTO: STAR



Office of the Rangamati Pourashava

District: Rangamati

Memo No. 752

Date: 21-06-2023

e-Tender Notice No. 03/2022-23 (OTM)

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

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | Description of works | Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time | Online(e-GP System) tender closing and opening date & time |
|---------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 847331 | LGCRRP/Rangamati/2022-23/W-01 | a) Development of New Jalia Para RCC road from existing RCC Stair to Sukumar Das house (Ch.00-231m), with connecting-01, RCC road from proposed RCC road to Shadu Das house (Ch.00-35m), Connecting-02, RCC road from proposed RCC road to existing RCC Stair (Ch.00-71m), Connecting-03, RCC road from proposed (1) RCC road to Putul house (Ch.00-52m), Connecting-04, RCC road from proposed RCC road to Dhana Das house (Ch.00-35m),Connecting-05, RCC road from proposed RCC road to Manic Das house (Ch.00-24m) (Ward No-01), under Rangamati Pourashava (b) Development of Footpath from "Upazila Office to Aranyaka Gate" (Ch.00-192m) at Sadar Upazila Office (Ward No-09), under Rangamati Pourashava. | 25 June, 2023 at 9:00am | 18 July, 2023 at 1:00pm |
| 847340 | LGCRRP/Rangamati/2022-23/W-02 | (a) Development of Chompknagar RCC road from existing BC road to existing RCC (Ch.00-65m), with Connecting-01, RCC road from proposed RCC road to Purnendu Chakma (Ch.00-224.50m), Connecting-02, RCC road from proposed RCC road to Mukut Chakma house (Ch.00-35m), (Ward No-08) under Rangamati Pourashava (b) Development of Bijoy Nagor RCC road from existing CC road to Uttam Kumar Chakma house (Ch.00-70m), with Connecting road RCC road from "Proposed RCC road to Sumon Chakma house" (Ch.00-261.50m), (Ward No-09) at Bijoynagar-Valedi under Rangamati Pourashava | | 18 July, 2023 at 1:30pm |

These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 17 July, 2023 at 4:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

স্বাক্ষর
Md. Akbar Hossain Chowdhury
Mayor
Rangamati Pourashava
Dist: Rangamati
E-mail: rangamati.pourashava@yahoo.com

GD-1045

BANNED FISHING TRAPS

A threat to native fish species

MIRZA SHAKIL

Native fish stocks are in serious decline due to indiscriminate use of fishing nets nowadays.

Rampant use of a banned fish trap, locally called China Doary, in different waterbodies and rivers in Tangail is threatening the fish resources, especially native mother fishes and fries.

China Doary is more harmful and destructive than any other fishing nets, including the current nets.

Fisheries officials said fishing by such trap or net is completely prohibited to protect native mother fishes and increasing fish production as well.

A section of greedy fishermen, however, use the harmful nets for fishing in different waterbodies and rivers, threatening fish resources, especially the native ones, they added.

Although authorities concern often conduct drives against use of such banned fishing nets, it is too inadequate to prevent the heinous act, they further said.

They also mentioned that it is quite difficult for them to stop use of such banned traps or nets in remote areas due to lack of necessary manpower and logistics.

Moreover, getting cooperation from the law enforcers in this regard is not so easy as well, they added.

China Doary, made with iron rods and thick nets, in more



A section of some greedy fishermen set this banned fishing traps in the Jamuna river to catch indigenous fish. The photo was taken from Govindasi village in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR

harmful as fishes cannot escape from the trap once they enter it.

People usually set the traps late at the night and lift it in the morning.

Due to rampant use of China nets almost all the fishes are disappeared from the Jamuna river, said Manik Miah, a fisherman from Kakua area in Tangail Sadar upazila.

"Earlier, I used to catch fish worth Tk 3,000 to Tk 5,000 every day, but it is hard to get

fish worth Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 nowadays," Manik said.

Though a section of some greedy people first started using the illegal fishing traps, many dishonest fishermen are now using it, he added.

Another fisherman Narayan Rajbongshi of Mahela village in Kalihati upazila said they often have to return empty handed as almost all the fishes are vanished due to use of illegal fishing nets at different spots of the river.

Both the fishermen and locals use banned fishing traps in different waterbodies and rivers, especially during the monsoon, said Övijit Ghosh, a rights activist and a resident of Govindasi village in Bhuapur upazila.

If the production, marketing and use of China nets cannot be stopped immediately, indigenous fish resources will completely disappear from the waterbodies soon, he added.

Contacted, Tangail District Fisheries Officer Abul Kalam Azad said drives are on against use of illegal fishing traps.

A major part of these fishing traps enters the country illegally, while the rest is manufactured locally, especially in Munshiganj.

Such illegal traps are mainly available at different rural markets, he said, adding that people need to stop use of such traps to save our native fish from extinction.

Educational institution lost to erosion by Brahmaputra

S DILIP ROY

Authorities of Dakkhin Khauria School and College in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila have been compelled to suspend all classes as erosion by the Brahmaputra river devoured a major portion of the institution building.

As a result, education of nearly 600 students of the institution, located in Nayarhat union, has been badly hampered.

Jahirul Islam Mandal, principal of Dakkhin Khauria School and College, said almost 70 percent of the educational institution have gone into the Brahmaputra river in the last couple of days, forcing them to stop all educational activities for the last one week.

Directorate of Education and Engineering handed over the building in 2020, he said, adding that the institution has about 550 students at secondary level and about 120 students at higher secondary level.

Nayarhat Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Asaduzzaman said since erosion by the Brahmaputra has taken a serious turn people under his union are passing days amid fear of losing several hundred hectares of cropland and many homesteads.

Kurigram WDB Executive Engineer Abdullah Al Mamun said the intensity of erosion is so severe that it is quite impossible to stop the erosion by dumping sand-filled geo bags.

Preparations are underway to adopt a plan to prevent the erosion permanently, he said. Chilmari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahbubur Rahman said they were taking reparation to start academic activities of Dakkhin Khauria School and College within two kilometres of its previous location.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The academic building of Dakkhin Khauria School and College at Nayarhat in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila have been devoured partially due to sudden erosion by the Brahmaputra river.

NEWS

UN peacekeepers face pushback in Mali, elsewhere

AFP, United Nations

When Mali recently called for a UN peacekeeping force to depart the country "without delay," it was the latest sign of unease in parts of Africa over the role of the so-called Blue Helmet operations.

Mali Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop last month called for the UN Security Council to withdraw peacekeepers from his country "without delay," denouncing their "failure" to meet security challenges.

The UN Security Council, which was due to vote on the renewal of the mission's mandate on June 29, is likely to agree to Mali's request, according to diplomatic sources.

A draft resolution, which will have to be approved by the Council, "acknowledges the withdrawal" and refers to a six-month period to organize the departure of around 12,000 military and police personnel, a source told AFP.

The mission has been in "persistent crisis" since Mali's military coup in 2020, Anjali Dayal, a professor at Fordham University in New York City, told AFP.

Mali's military has increasingly imposed operational restrictions on the peacekeepers, demanding that the mission instead tackles terror groups in the country.

7 of a family killed

FROM PAGE 16

Abu Zafar, station officer of fire service in Bhanga, said, "We rushed to the scene and doused the flames within around 30 minutes. Then we recovered the bodies that were burnt completely.

"We think the fire originated from a gas cylinder."

Sohag Mia, a witness, said, "I, along with a few others, rushed to the scene seeing the fire. The blaze was so severe that we could not go closer. Then, we saw an injured man lying a few yards away from the ambulance. We rescued him and took him to a hospital."

Shahjahan, superintendent of police in Faridpur, said the driver died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 5:00pm.

Faridpur district administration formed a five-member body headed by an additional district magistrate to investigate the accident.

The family members will be given Tk 20,000 for each of the victims for the funerals, officials said.

Can booters best their old foes?

FROM PAGE 16

Although Bangladesh know they have no alternative but to beat Maldives, who got off to a fine start by defeating Bhutan 2-0, to do so they will have to overcome three major concerns: their lack of goal threat, a habit of conceding late goals and their fragility in pressure situations.

Their inability to score goals has been a longstanding concern, with Bangladesh managing to net only 14 goals in their last 20 international matches since the Tri-nation Cup in Nepal in 2021. Interestingly, defenders have scored more than forwards in that time.

Conceding goals in the dying moments has also been a big concern and took the spotlight after the men in red and green conceded twice in the last moments against Lebanon after a valiant performance.

Another big headache going into the match will be Bangladesh's tendency to break down in crunch situations. On the eight occasions in the SAFF Championship when Bangladesh needed a positive result to avert an exit, they managed to survive only twice.

In the 1999 SAFF Championship, Bangladesh started their campaign with a goalless draw against India and needed a victory in their last match to

progress and did so by emphatically defeating Pakistan 4-0. In the 2009 edition, Bangladesh needed just a draw against Sri Lanka to progress to the semifinals and did the job by defeating the Islanders 2-1.

On the other occasions, Bangladesh were knocked out by Maldives twice in 2011 and 2015 and by Nepal in 2018 and 2021. Sri Lanka and Pakistan sent Bangladesh home in 2008 and 2013.

After securing one point from the first two matches in the 2011 SAFF Championship, Bangladesh needed a win against Maldives to qualify but fell to a 1-3 defeat. Maldives beat them by an identical 3-1 scoreline in 2015 in the same situation after Bangladesh were desperate for a win following a 0-4 loss to Afghanistan.

In 2021, Bangladesh seemed to be on the right track following a 1-0 win over Sri Lanka and a 1-1 draw against India but their aspirations took a hit after they lost 2-0 to Maldives and they were eventually dumped out after conceding an 88th-minute penalty during a 1-1 draw with Nepal in the final group-stage match.

Maldives will now be looking to spoil Bangladesh's party again. The only question is whether the men in red and green can survive by besting the Islanders. Only time will tell.

Two top UN officials

FROM PAGE 16

peacekeeping missions in eight countries, according to the Armed Forces Division.

Catherine Pollard, UN under-secretary-general for management strategy, policy and compliance, arrived in Dhaka on a five-day visit on Friday. She called on Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at her office yesterday.

Pollard acknowledged the contribution Bangladesh has made to the UN peacekeeping operations. She also appreciated Bangladesh's success in women empowerment.

A foreign ministry statement yesterday said Pollard admired Bangladesh's proactive role in peacekeeping operations.

The Speaker informed the UN official about the steps taken by Bangladesh to bring qualitative changes to the lives of women and vulnerable sections of the society.

She mentioned strong female representation in national politics and peacekeeping, and reiterated Bangladesh's strong commitment to advance the women, peace and security agenda.

Shirin Sharmin expressed concern at the prolonged Rohingya crisis and stressed the need for an early

solution.

Pollard and UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix will attend the UN peacekeeping ministerial preparatory meeting on June 25-26. Lacroix arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening.

The theme of the preparatory meeting, to be co-hosted by Bangladesh, Canada, and Uruguay, is "Women in UN Peacekeeping". The conference will be attended by more than 100 delegates from around 45 countries.

Pollard will visit Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training in Gazipur with other delegates on the second day of the conference.

"This is the first of a series of four themed conferences ahead of the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, to be held in Accra, Ghana, on 5 and 6 December 2023," said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN secretary-general, at a briefing in New York on Friday.

Early next month, the UN deputy secretary-general, Amina Mohammed, will be visiting Bangladesh to engage with the government and other stakeholders to discuss climate action and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

FENTANYL TRAFFICKING

Beijing slams US indictments of Chinese firms

AFP, Beijing

Beijing criticised US authorities yesterday for charging four Chinese companies and eight individuals with trafficking chemicals used in manufacturing fentanyl, calling the arrests "arbitrary detention".

The US Justice Department is intensifying a crackdown on the synthetic opioid responsible for

hundreds of thousands of overdose deaths in America over the past decade.

Its latest move is the first time Washington has charged Chinese firms for trafficking fentanyl precursor chemicals to the United States, rather than Mexico, the origin of most fentanyl found in America.

Two of the eight individuals were

arrested and taken into custody in Honolulu, Hawaii.

"This is a typical example of arbitrary detention and unilateral sanctions," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

"It is completely illegal and seriously damages the basic human rights of Chinese citizens and Chinese companies. China strongly condemns this."

When patient safety takes a back seat

FROM PAGE 16

"I wonder how a physician sees such a large number of patients in a single day. The Central Hospital authority has allowed her to do so," said Prof Dr Rashid E-Mahbub.

Although she presents herself as an advocate of natural childbirth, data from the hospital revealed that the rate of C-sections for all childbirths under her care was over 36%, which is more than double the WHO recommended rate of 15%.

A survey by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics reveals that the C-section rate was 41.4 percent in 2022 across the country. This rate is higher in cities.

Dr MA Quasem, vice president of the board of directors at Central Hospital, said, "We verbally warned Dr Sangjukta Saha that she should

not see so many patients per day."

Refuting Dr Quasem, she said, "They never told me any such thing."

After the incident, Dr Sangjukta blamed Akhi's death on the hospital authorities and said she was not responsible because she was not present at the hospital during the C-section. She also said she did not know anything about Akhi's admission to the hospital.

However, speaking at a press conference at her residence yesterday, she admitted that Zamir, her personal assistant and driver, had informed her that her patient Akhi was on the way to Central Hospital to meet her.

Replying to a question about why she did not renew her registration with the BMDC in the last 13 years, she said she could not manage time

to do so.

Talking about providing consultation to so many patients per day, Prof Rowshan Ara, former president of the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, said, "If a doctor sees such a large number of patients per day, it is highly likely that quality service will be compromised. A physician must examine and provide counselling to each of their patients very carefully."

Akhi's husband Yakub Ali filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station on Wednesday accusing the doctors and the hospital authorities of wrong treatment and falsehood. Later, the two doctors who proceeded with the C-section were arrested and sent to jail by a Dhaka court.

A huge blow to banking sector

FROM PAGE 1

the proposal, and the amended bill was passed by voice vote.

"It is purely an internal con job done by the directors," said Mansur, also a former chairman of Brac Bank.

The cabinet, Bangladesh Bank and the finance minister were not involved in taking the decision, but the directors eventually managed the majority of the parliament members' vote, he said.

"I have never seen such type of things take place in Bangladesh," said Mansur, also a former economist of the IMF.

There is no democratic accountability in the country, which is why the bill has been passed without any due diligence, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"And the lack of accountability has been just exposed nakedly just before the national election. The decision process is just rare," he said.

The Banking Companies Act 1991 stated a director could hold his/her directorship for six years in a row, but the provision was withdrawn in 1995, meaning that there was no bar on how many years a director could hold his position in a bank board.

In 1997, the government again amended the act, in which the bank directors were allowed to stay on for six years. But the provision was removed in 2003.

In 2013, the act was amended, allowing a director to hold the bank directorship for six years, and the tenure was subsequently extended to nine years in 2018. And finally, the tenure has been extended to 12 years this time.

"It seems that the directors of the bank have just captured the state power. The directors are the de facto defaulters and they usually give donations to the government on several occasions," Bhattacharya said.

A number of central bank probes revealed that a good number of directors were involved in siphoning a large amount of depositors' money from both state and private banks.

The government is now under a programme of the International Monetary Fund, which stipulates that the non-performing loans in the banking sector will have to be brought down.

"This has given an indication of the gravity of the power held by the bank directors."

Allowing the directors to stay on for 12 years will weaken banks' corporate governance and ultimately increase the defaulted loans further, Bhattacharya said.

In the first three months of 2023, banks' defaulted loans increased by Tk 10,964 crore to take the total to Tk 131,621 crore, up 16 percent from a year earlier, data from the Bangladesh Bank showed.

"The government should have protected the interest of the depositors, but it has served the directors. This means they are the real ruler of the country as they have gathered vast power," Bhattacharya said.

The bank management's freedom will be squeezed more in the coming days due to the initiative, said Salehuddin Ahmed, a former BB governor.

New leadership is highly important for improving an organisation, but the country's banking sector will be deprived of this due to the amendment.

"If a director can hold his/her position for 12 years in a row, how will new leadership be created in the banking sector?"



MIM

on a mission

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Even though Bidya Sinha Mim's much-anticipated cyber-thriller *Antarjal* is likely to not release this Eid, fans will get to witness her debut web series, *Mission Huntdown*. She drops by The Daily Star for a brand-new shoot, and a few hours of adda.



Speculations say that 'Antarjal' will not release this Eid. Can you confirm?

I can't really say much about that, but I will assure you that it will release very soon. I am confident about it as it is our country's first cyber-thriller, with a star-studded cast alongside me.

How excited are you about 'Mission Huntdown'?

I am beyond elated, as this is my first series on OTT, in my decades-long career. This medium has high potential and I am hopeful that *Mission Huntdown* will fulfil the expectation of the audience.

Introduce us to Nira, from the project.

Nira is a simple girl, who lives in a village. She comes to the city to find her lost husband. There are a lot of ups and downs in her journey, and while playing the role, I fell in love with Nira. It was extremely challenging to portray her on-screen. I am hopeful that people from all walks of life will love the character.

You were lucky enough to have worked with a filmmaker like Humayun Ahmed in your debut project. Do you still reminisce those days?

Definitely! *Amar Achhe Jol* was both written and directed by Humayun Ahmed sir. I was just crowned as the Lux Superstar, and got to work with such a great personality. I was nervous; however, he was extremely supportive and gave me enough space as a beginner. Also, sharing the screen with actors like Zahid Hasan and Ferdous was the experience of a lifetime.

When is 'Manush' releasing in Kolkata?

Only the director can say when it will be released. My co-star in this film was the amazing Jeet, and I have enjoyed working in this project.

PHOTOS:
SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Samuel L Jackson speaks up against AI

Samuel L. Jackson is a prominent figure in the world of Hollywood. In a recent interview, the actor made it clear that he refused to be replaced by AI, once his time on Earth is over. Jackson shared his disapproval of studios using AI to replicate his likeness. He stated that he would ensure that such provisions would be removed from all his contracts.

He also advised fellow actors to cross out terms like "in perpetuity" and "known and unknown" from their contracts, which he tends to do, to firmly state his disapproval of AI replication.

Jackson's also left a message for future actors, telling them to take a stand and protect their legacies.



'CID' famed 'inspector Vivek' is now a professor

Recently, Vivek Mashru, who played the character of Inspector Vivek in the series, has been seeing a social media resurgence of his character. The actor's photos and videos from the series have been circulating on twitter, even prompting the actor to respond.

The actor appeared moved by the loving gesture of his fans, as he retweeted their responses. Fans were also quick to find out where their favourite actor is now, appearing surprised by his profession. Vivek is now serves as the director of the Department of Common Core Curriculum at CRM University in Bengaluru.

ENTERTAINMENT'S RISING STARS

ISHAN adds colour to Black

“After I started playing the guitar, I noticed that I had a good sense of pitch. So, I kept an ostad who taught me classical singing. My band members in Naïve also helped refine my singing.”

AAQIB HASIB

During the day, Sakawat Hossain works at a renowned financial institution. However, by night, he becomes Ishan Hossain, the frontman of one of Bangladesh's biggest bands, Black.

"I started by playing the guitar in 2005," says the vocalist. "Funny enough, one of the first songs I picked up was Black's *Ekhono*. In 2008, I started a band called Crave. We did a lot of shows at that time".

Ishan's family does not have any musical background. "After I started playing the guitar, I noticed that I had a good sense of pitch. So, I kept an *ostad* who taught me classical singing. My band members in Naïve also helped refine my singing," he adds.

Ishan started Naïve in 2011, which is still active to this day.

So how did a former fan join Black? "Back in 2014 or 2015, I first met Jahan bhai—one of the founding members of Black. In 2019,

there was a concert called Artcellism to celebrate Artcell's 20-year anniversary. There, I performed along with my band Naïve, and that is where we connected," he said.

At that time, their vocalist Rubayat had left



PHOTOS:
COURTESY

Bangladeshi youths aim to launch country's FIRST 3D WEB-SERIES

XD Bros, a 3D animated web series, hails from the young animators of studio Null Station. Initially started by Ratul Biswas and RTB Ruhan, their project began late in 2021 with a vision to introduce something new to the entertainment industry of Bangladesh.

The duo was later joined by young writer Lamia Hannan Sneha, after which they embarked on the journey as Null Studios. Currently, there are 13 members in the studio.

Awaiting release this August 10, *XD Bros* first season will chronicle the story of three friends, Ratul, Ruhan and Annie. The series will feature 10 episodes on their initial seasons, directed by Ratul and Ruhan.

When asked about what makes them stand out from the animated content currently on air, Ruhan replied that *XD Bros* is trying to pioneer itself as a one of a kind 3D web-series, that aims to deliver world-class animated content, fit for that caliber.

He then further added, "The series introduces the sitcom genre, which hasn't been adapted on Bangladeshi screens before, especially for audiences who are between 15 to 20 years of age. I believe that is something new that they will get to enjoy".

The young people have made it accessible for audiences to easily watch the series, opting to release it on YouTube.



for Canada. "Before he left, Jahan bhai had already talked to me about working with Black. One day, Jahan bhai called me and asked me to meet him. That day, I jammed with them at their practice pad. After that, we decided to first do a concert together before deciding if we would go forward together."

Being the vocalist for a band with such a legacy does not come without challenges. "Lot of people had critiqued that I copy Jon Kabir. However, I really do not, he is one of my idols, so obviously, the influence is there. We also have similar influences in Chris Cornell and Chester Benington."

Ishan is set to perform in two concerts next month, one of which will be attended by over 3,000 people. It can be argued that he is living the dream of many musicians. What's next for Black and its vocalist?

"Three songs have already been recorded. *Shomantoral* is already out, and we will put out a music video for it. I am excited for what the future holds," concluded the vocalist.

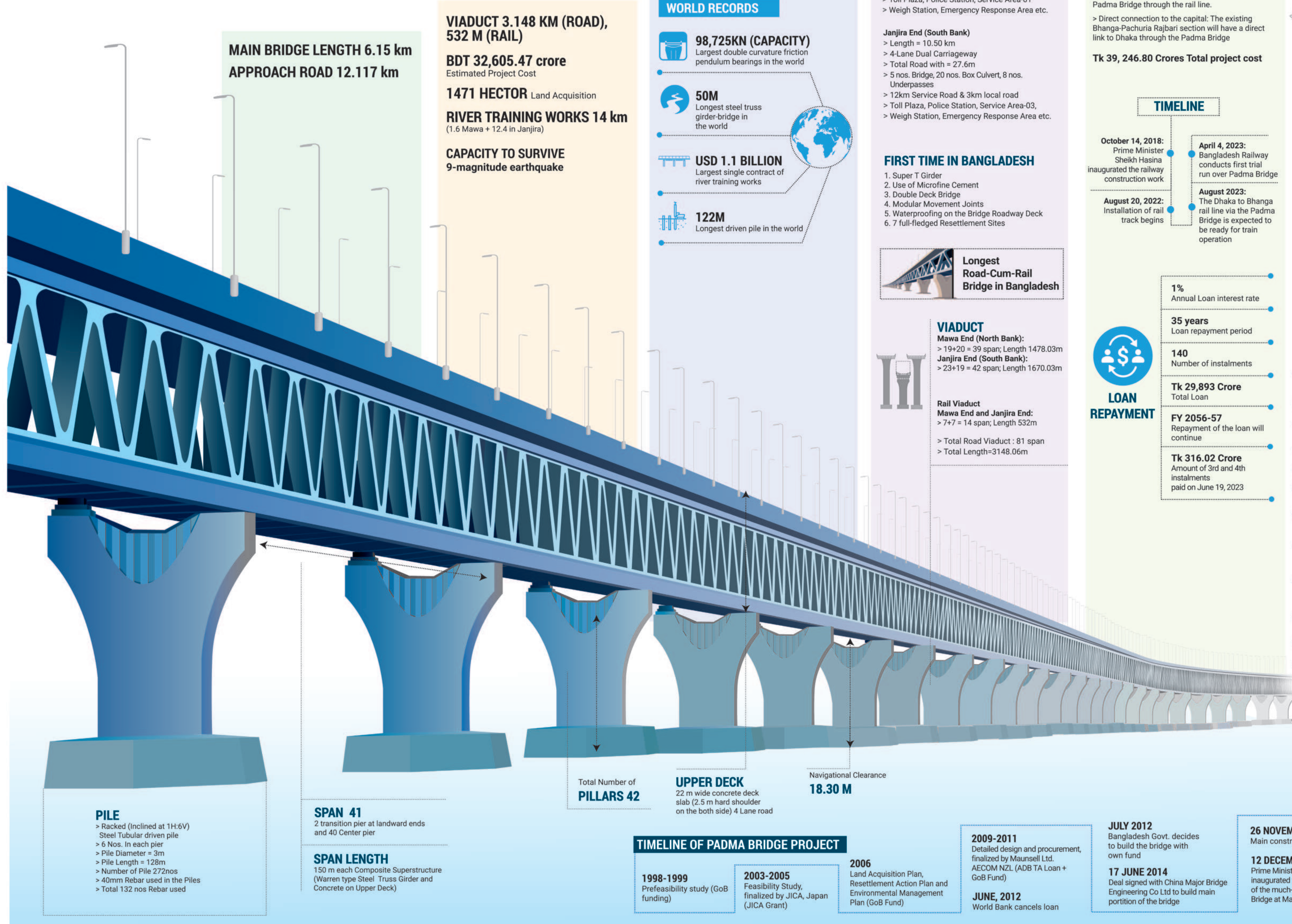
PRIDE OF THE NATION: CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF THE MAJESTIC PADMA BRIDGE

The Padma Bridge, an iconic marvel of infrastructure, completes its first year of successful operation today, signifying a momentous milestone in our nation's history. This magnificent bridge has not only connected previously isolated regions but has also sparked a wave of socio-economic development. This iconic

bridge, made possible by the visionary leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, stands tall as a testament to her unwavering determination and transformative vision. We extend our deepest gratitude to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her exceptional commitment to our nation's advance-

ment. We also express heartfelt appreciation to all the dedicated individuals involved in the planning, construction, and operation, whose tireless efforts have turned this grand vision into a tangible reality. Moreover, we acknowledge the invaluable support and trust of the people of Bangladesh, who have been

instrumental in driving the success of this remarkable endeavor. Together, we will continue to amplify the bridge's impact, propelling our beloved country towards boundless opportunities and a prosperous future.



PROGRESS OF THE PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT

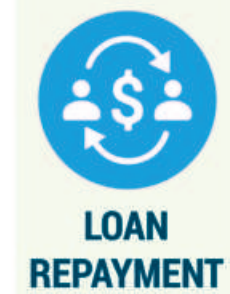
Key Goals

- > Development of national and inter-country rail connectivity: Construction of a 169 km broad gauge railway line from Dhaka to Jessore via the Padma Bridge.
- > Newly linked districts: Munshiganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, and Narail will be connected via the Padma Bridge through the rail line.
- > Direct connection to the capital: The existing Bhanga-Pachuria Rajbari section will have a direct link to Dhaka through the Padma Bridge

Tk 39, 246.80 Crores Total project cost

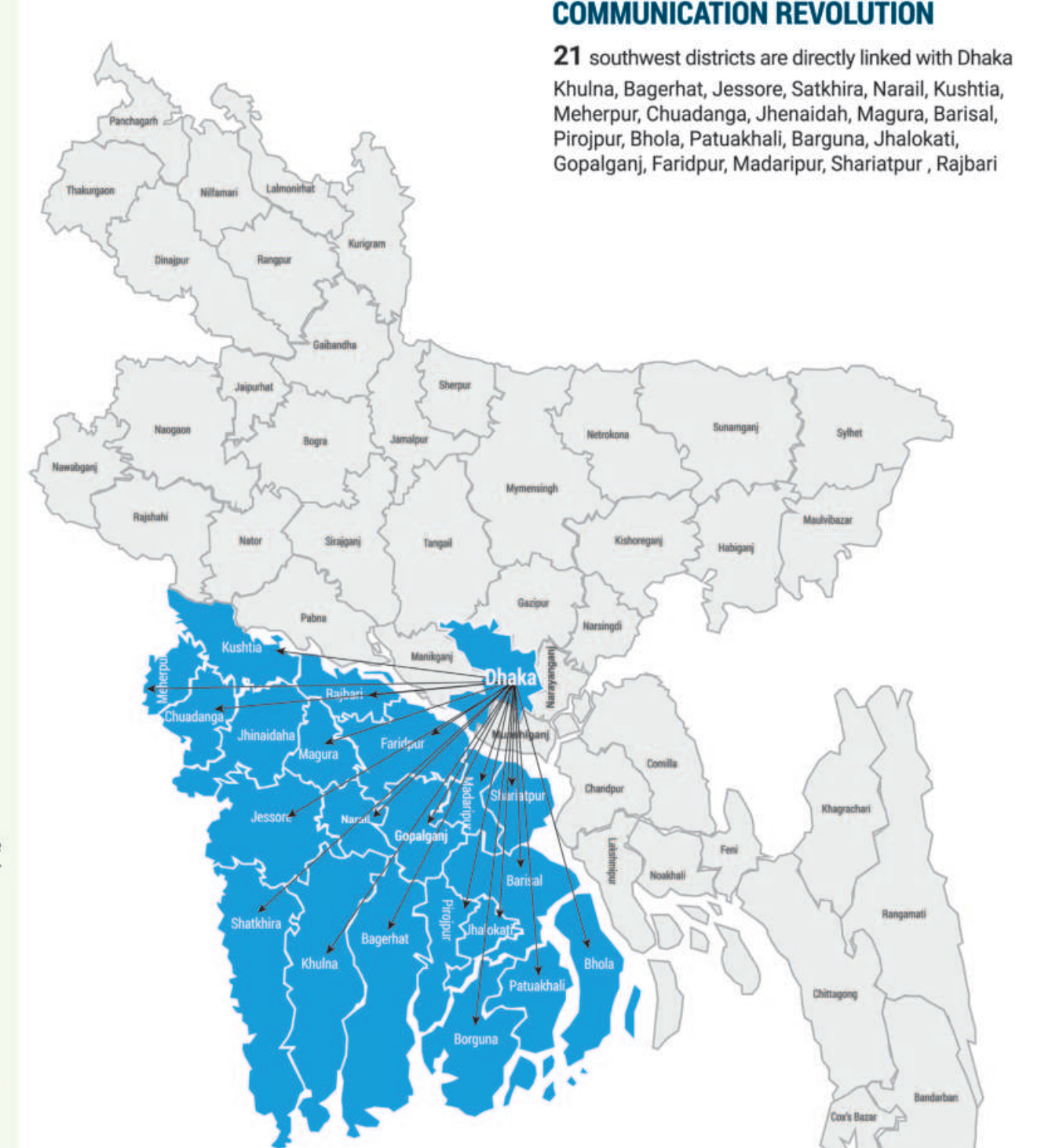
TIMELINE

- October 14, 2018:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the railway construction work
- April 4, 2023:** Bangladesh Railway conducts first trial run over Padma Bridge
- August 2023:** The Dhaka to Bhanga rail line via the Padma Bridge is expected to be ready for train operation
- August 20, 2022:** Installation of rail track begins



LOAN REPAYMENT

- 1%** Annual loan interest rate
- 35 years** Loan repayment period
- 140** Number of instalments
- Tk 29,893 Crore** Total Loan
- FY 2056-57** Repayment of the loan will continue
- Tk 316.02 Crore** Amount of 3rd and 4th instalments paid on June 19, 2023



EXPECTED OUTCOME OF THE PADMA BRIDGE

- **\$18.5 billion** revenue is projected in the next 31 years from Padma Bridge (5.5 times construction cost).
- **\$25 billion** social progress contribution to the economy.
- **Tk 1,400 crore** Value of protected land by river governance
- **Tk 2,400 crore** Savings from electricity, gas, and internet lines
- **70 km** Distance shortened between Dhaka and Kolkata
- **100 km** Distance shortened between Mongla and Dhaka
- Travel time between the capital and the southwest region to be reduced by one-fourth; tourism to get a boost
- Being part of the proposed Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway Network, the bridge will facilitate regional connectivity
- **29%** growth in construction sector, **9.5%** in agriculture, **8%** in manufacturing and transport
- Poverty to drop by **1%** in the region, **0.8%** nationally
- GDP to grow by **1.7%** in southwest region, **0.56%** countrywide
- River training to save 9,000 hectares of land worth **\$156 million** from erosion and flooding
- **\$400 million** ferry service cost on Mawa-Janjira route to be saved



TRAFFIC

Daily traffic forecast

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6,451 first year | 7,898 second year | 11,841 third year |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

1 YEAR AFTER INAUGURATION

- **2.5 times more** vehicles used the bridge daily than predicted for the first year
- **15,000 vehicles** are using the bridge daily
- **56.54 Lac** total number of vehicles passed through the bridge till June 2023



TOLL

TK 794.53 CRORE
Total Toll Collection till June 23, 2023

TK 4.19 CRORE

Record-breaking toll collection in a single day since opening.

Content:
Priyam Paul
Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary
Infographic Design:
Md. Akram Hossen



WAGNER'S MUTINY AGAINST PUTIN

World watches with concern

AFP, Paris

Countries around the world were closely watching events unfolding in Russia yesterday, where a mutiny by the Wagner mercenary group posed the most serious challenge to President Vladimir Putin's long rule.

Below are what governments and analysts are saying about the extraordinary situation taking place in nuclear-armed Russia.

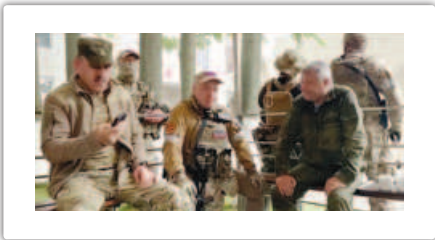
UKRAINE

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that the Wagner mutiny showed Russia was weak.

"Russia's weakness is obvious. Full-scale weakness. And the longer Russia keeps its troops and mercenaries on our land, the more chaos, pain, and problems it will have for itself later," he said in statement on social media.

THE UNITED STATES

US President Joe Biden was briefed on the situation in Russia and Washington and "will be consulting with allies and partners on these developments", National Security



Council spokesman Adam Hodge said.

EUROPE

European Union chief Charles Michel tweeted that the bloc was "closely monitoring the situation in Russia as it unfolds. In touch with European leaders and @G7 partners."

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak urged "all parties to be responsible and to protect civilians."

In Berlin, "the government is closely following the events in Russia", a spokesman told AFP. The foreign ministry advised avoiding central Moscow and government and military buildings in the capital.

In Paris, French President Emmanuel Macron "is following the situation very closely," the Elysee said. "We remain focussed on supporting Ukraine."

In Rome, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is closely following the events taking place in Russia, which show how the aggression against Ukraine is causing instability also within Russia," her office said in a statement.



Rescuers work in a 24-storey building partially destroyed as a result of missiles strike in Ukrainian capital of Kyiv early yesterday. Ukraine was on high alert after a fresh barrage of Russian missiles, with three people were killed and eight wounded in Kyiv and the central city of Dnipro.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SUDAN CONFLICT

Aid situation worsens as fighting spreads

AFP, Khartoum

Desperately needed relief supplies are being confiscated by the warring parties in Sudan as fighting spreads to areas previously untouched by the 10-week-old conflict between top generals, aid agencies said.

Demonstrations in support of the regular army were held Friday in greater Khartoum and in White Nile state to its south as civilians gave vent to their anger at the widespread requisition of private homes by the rival paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), witnesses said yesterday.

The battle for power between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy, RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, has killed more than 2,000 people since April 15, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.

Greater Khartoum and the flashpoint western region of Darfur have been the main battlegrounds so far but this week residents reported a flare-up of fighting in the Kordofan region, scene of another long-running rebellion.

On Friday, witnesses reported renewed artillery exchanges and street-fighting in Khartoum, as well as "clashes between the army and the RSF" in North Kordofan state, hundreds of kilometres (miles) to its south.

The United Nations says a record 25 million people -- more than half of Sudan's population -- are in need of aid and protection.

While some relief supplies have trickled in, aid agencies report almost insurmountable hurdles to their work.

"Blatant restrictions on entry into Sudan for humanitarian workers and aid supplies are leaving millions in need stranded," according to the Norwegian Refugee Council's William Carter.

Doctors without Border (MSF) reported similar hurdles. Permits have been "delayed, rejected, rescinded, or plainly not respected," while "supplies have been confiscated" and staff "beaten and violently threatened" by armed groups, it said.

Two-thirds of health facilities in the main battlegrounds remain out of service, according to the Sudanese doctors' union, which says medical personnel have been targeted amid widespread violations against civilians.

At least 36 cases of sexual violence have been recorded in Khartoum alone by the governmental Combating Violence Against Women and Children Unit, with the majority of survivors accusing RSF fighters.



Activists gather in Seoul, South Korea yesterday to protest against a planned release of water from the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Japan.

PHOTO: AFP

Eyeing China, Biden goes all-in for Modi

AFP, Washington

Laser-focused on countering China, US President Joe Biden has embraced Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he has few other world leaders, casting aside any concerns about the Hindu nationalist's authoritarian streak.

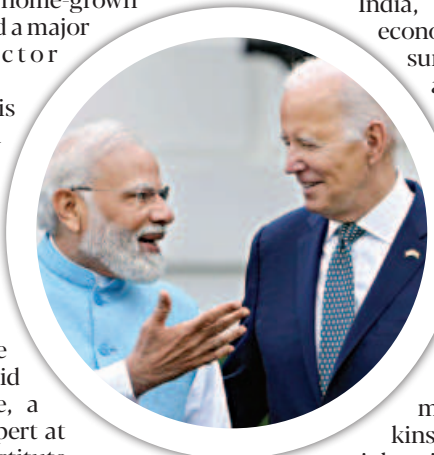
Biden offered Modi the full pomp of a state visit with two dinners -- one intimate and one gala -- a meeting with top CEOs, and a long list of concrete takeaways including agreements on US engines for India's new home-grown fighter-jets and a major semiconductor factory.

Biden is "trying to tell the world that America is back. We've got partners and allies and we've got India on our side of the ledger," said Aparna Pande, a South Asia expert at the Hudson Institute.

Biden hopes to "send a message to China -- you have your people and I have my people and India is among mine," she said.

Tamanna Salikuddin, a former State Department official, called the joint statement for Modi's visit "remarkable" in its scope with the defense deliverables on par with what the United States would give a Nato or other treaty ally.

"The depth and breadth of what we're committing to with India is really putting them in a totally different basket. And I think that is what Modi wanted," said



Salikuddin, now director of South Asia programs at the US Institute of Peace.

The Biden administration considers China the most serious long-term challenger to the United States, despite renewed efforts to manage tensions.

Both Biden and Modi publicly played down the China factor but Modi made a clear allusion in his address to the US Congress where he backed a "free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific," winning knowing applause from lawmakers.

India, a fast-growing economy which has surpassed China as the world's most populous country, has a long-running territorial dispute with China, which the Indian public widely sees negatively.

Modi enjoyed more obvious kinship with fellow right-wing populist Donald Trump, for whom the prime minister arranged a packed stadium rally in his home state of Gujarat, a scene hard to imagine with Biden, who is not known for exciting the masses.

But US presidents across party lines have been seeking a closer relationship with India since Bill Clinton in the late 1990s, seeing alignment between the world's largest democracies after Cold War estrangement.

Modi, the most powerful Indian leader in decades, comes with particular baggage. Before he became prime minister in 2014, the United States refused to issue him a visa due to his alleged role in anti-Muslim riots as leader of Gujarat.

The US State Department in its latest religious freedom report spoke of vigilante violence against minorities after incitement from Modi's base. Indian authorities also raided media offices and parliament expelled the opposition leader.

At least six lawmakers boycotted Modi's speech but Biden made clear that rights concerns would not impede ties and offered carefully chosen words about both countries facing challenges to democracy.

Modi, who has not held an open press conference at home in his nine years in power, was coaxed to take two questions as part of the visit and denied discrimination against minorities.

"There's an irony in that the Biden administration seeks to contrast democratic India with authoritarian China," said Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center.

But Biden "doesn't appear to worry too much" about accusations he is ignoring democratic backsliding in India, Kugelman said.

"The two leaders definitely got what they wanted: They brought the most prestige possible to a partnership they're keen to showcase," he said.

Ashley Tellis, a prominent India scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, offered a contrarian view in a recent essay in Foreign Affairs.

He pointed to India's refusal to join the West in isolating Russia over Ukraine and doubted that India, hesitant at formal alliances, would provide any meaningful support in a US conflict with China.

BOAT SINKS OFF ITALY

40 migrants missing: UN

AFP, Rome

More than 40 people are missing after a migrant boat capsized off the Italian island of Lampedusa, the UN said. The shipwreck took place on Thursday and at least one newborn baby is among those missing, said UNHCR representative to Italy Chiara Cardoletti. The vessel left from Sfax in Tunisia and was carrying 46 migrants from Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast, Flavio Di Giacomo, a spokesman for the UN migration agency IOM, said Friday. The boat capsized in strong winds and high waves, he said. "Some survivors were taken to Lampedusa and others were brought back to Tunisia". "Among those missing were seven women and a minor. The survivors are all adult men", he added.

ANTARCTIC CONSERVATION

Russia, China block move for new reserves

AFP, Santiago

Members of a multinational group on Antarctic conservation failed to agree Friday on a roadmap for the creation of three new marine protected areas -- a goal that has proven elusive for years. "No agreement was reached. It was not possible to obtain... a road map" for protected areas in the seas around Antarctica, Cesar Cardenas, a member of the Chilean Antarctic Institute and part of the Chilean delegation, told AFP. Cardenas said Russia and China resisted new protected areas. The bid to create the sanctuaries around Antarctica to counter climate change and protect fragile ocean ecosystems would safeguard nearly four million more square kilometers (1.5 million more square miles) of ocean from human activities. The areas are home to penguins, seals, toothfish, whales and huge numbers of krill -- a staple food for many species. Members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) met to discuss plans for three new marine protected areas (MPAs): in East Antarctica, the Weddell Sea and the Antarctic Peninsula.

INDIA'S MANIPUR

Gunfights rage on in 2 districts

TNN, Guwahati

Violence continued for the third consecutive day in Manipur on Friday as gunfights were reported between security forces and unidentified attackers in Manipur's Imphal East and Kangpokpi districts.

Sources in the security forces said exchange of fire between joint patrolling teams of Army and BSF and the attackers took place at Urangpat in Imphal East and Yaingangpokpi in Kangpokpi. No casualty has been reported so far.

Sources said armed miscreants sneaked into the area from Yaingangpokpi towards hill side, targeting Urangpat and Gwaltabi villages in Imphal East in the afternoon by firing from automatic weapons.



Palestinian men carry a person during clashes with Israeli troops after Israeli settlers attack Umm Safa village near Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Two Pakistani civilians killed after Indian forces open fire

Two Pakistani civilians were killed yesterday while one other was "critically injured" as the Indian Army opened "indiscriminate fire" at a group of shepherds at the Line of Control, the army's media relations wing said.

In February 2021, both countries had recommitted themselves to the 2003 ceasefire agreement and agreed to address the “core issues” that could undermine peace and stability.

Yesterday, Pakistan's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement, "Today, at 11:55 hours, Indian Army in a display of its usual inhumane approach towards innocent Kashmiris, opened indiscriminate fire onto a group of shepherds in Sattwal Sector.

"In sequel to Indian Army unprovoked firing today while adopting an inhumane approach towards innocent Kashmiris at Sattwa Sector, one more civilian has embraced shahadat while one remains critically injured. (Total two martyred and one critically injured)," it said in a subsequent statement.

REUTERS, Seoul

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken called key ally South Korea to discuss results of his visit to China this month, South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Blinken told South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin he had an honest, practical and constructive dialogue with the Chinese side, and wanted to explain the results of his visit in as much detail as possible, a ministry statement said.

Blinken and Park decided to continue to communicate regarding relations with China and to urge Beijing to play a constructive role in North Korea's suspension of provocations and denuclearisation, the ministry said.

During the visit to China where Blinken met President Xi Jinping and other top officials, the two sides agreed to stabilise their intense rivalry so it does not veer into conflict, but failed to produce any major breakthrough.

Meanwhile, North Korea criticised Blinken for trying to get China to pressure Pyongyang to lay down arms, and warned that its response will grow “more overwhelmingly and aggressively” to any stronger military measures by the United States on the Korean Peninsula, state media KCNA said yesterday.

Blinken's "threats" for China to pressure Pyongyang expresses a "dangerous hegemonic mentality", KCNA said, citing a North Korean foreign ministry official.

KCNA also criticised the US for sending military assets including a nuclear-powered submarine to the Korean Peninsula, risking “peace and security”.

North Korea fired two short-range missiles off its east coast last week, less than an hour after Pyongyang warned of a response to military drills by South Korean and US troops.

The isolated country is under international sanctions over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

In a separate development, Blinken said yesterday he spoke with his G7 and EU counterparts after Wagner fighters took control of some military facilities in southern Russia.




“The United States will stay in close coordination with Allies and partners as the situation continues to develop,” Blinken wrote on Twitter.

Blinken spoke with all of his G7 counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom, and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the State Department said.


“Secretary Blinken reiterated that support by the United States for Ukraine will not change,” State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in a release.

The insurrection also risks leaving Russia's invasion force in Ukraine in disarray, just as Kyiv is launching its strongest counteroffensive since the war began in February last year.





Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
District Primary Education Office
Bogura
Web : www.dpe.bogura.gov.bd
Phone : 02589902852, Mobile: 01711940962



মুজিব
১০০

Memo No. DPEO/BOG/2022-2023/ ১৫৬৬


Date: 21.06.2023

e-Tender Notice No. 02/202-202

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

| Sl No | Package No & Tender ID | Name of work | Procurement Method | Tender Last selling (date & time) | Tender Opening (date & time) |
|-------|---|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | e-Tender /NBIDNNGPSP1/B OGU/2021-22 G1- 03 | Furniture Supply for 54 Nos Class Room and 09 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 15 Nos of Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary School at different location of Bogura District. | OTM | 16.07.2023 16:00 | 17.07.2023 13:00 |
| 2 | e-Tender NBIDNNGPSP1/B OGU/2022-23 G1- 24 | Furniture Supply for 40 Nos Class Room and 3 Nos. Teachers Room of Selected 11 Nos of Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary School at different location of Bogura District. | OTM | 16.07.2023 16:00 | 17.07.2023 13:00 |

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


 (Md, Asaduzzaman Chowdhury)
 District Primary Education Officer
 Bogura.
 Email : dpeobogura@gmail.com

GD- 1044

End impunity for killing journalists

Authorities must protect journalists, expedite trial of all murder cases

Two back-to-back incidents in recent weeks have perfectly epitomised the two gravest challenges confronting journalists today: their lack of safety and the lack of consequence for any harm inflicted upon them. The first incident saw a journalist brutally murdered in Jamalpur, while the second saw the deadline for submitting a probe report in the Sagar-Runi murder case deferred for an unbelievable 101st time. These incidents not only highlight the perils faced by journalists but also the urgent need for comprehensive measures to ensure that those responsible for silencing them are held accountable.

Unfortunately, far from remedying the situation, the authorities have repeatedly dismissed concerns raised by activists. One of the major concerns is the unsolved killings of journalists. As per a report of *Prothom Alo*, 30 journalists have been killed in the last 15 years, with the families of victims yet to see justice in most cases due to delayed investigations and trials. While the Sagar-Runi case is perhaps the most protracted one, there are other long-running cases equally lost in the judicial maze. Meanwhile, many of the accused – with known affiliations with the ruling Awami League – are out on bail. Imagine the plight of families who have been left without justice, or closure, or any protection from the state. One of them is the 80-year-old mother of slain journalist Julhas Uddin, who is unsure if she will see justice before her death. Many are not even convinced about the fairness of the investigative/ trial processes.

All this paints a deeply troubling picture of the media landscape in Bangladesh, which emerged as the eleventh worst country for unsolved killings of journalists in the CPJ's 2021 Global Impunity Index. It is largely because of this questionable legal response that the country is becoming a haven for anti-journalist criminal elements. According to the Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), from 2008 to May 2023, there have been some 3,641 incidents of harassment and torture of journalists, with 682 of them recorded in the last three years. The extent of dangers facing journalists is truly alarming. And the addition of modern repressive tools like the Digital Security Act have only made things worse.

We urge the authorities to take a long, hard look at this state of affairs. They must allow journalists to do their job without any threat of physical, psychological or reputational harm. And they must ensure that the killers of journalists and their political backers are brought to justice.

Prevent a dengue wave post-Eid

Authorities, residents must take rigorous measures to stop it

We share the concern raised by dengue experts about a potential increase in the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes when tens of thousands of people leave Dhaka during the upcoming Eid holiday. Empty houses are ideal breeding grounds as stagnant water can accumulate in many places. Experts, therefore, have suggested some precautionary measures which can help address this threat.

Most of the steps they suggested are simple: clean out all containers and keep them upside down so that water does not accumulate; cover commodores with lids or plastic wrap; clean the house thoroughly, etc. Also, residents should remain generally careful during the rainy season, and use mosquito repellent spray or mosquito nets as an added layer of protection.

One of the major worries ahead of the Eid is local transmission – asymptomatic patients may carry the virus to their destinations. While a person with the dengue virus cannot directly infect another person, mosquitoes become infected when they bite an infected person and can then transmit the virus by biting a healthy one. So people should look out for typical symptoms such as high fever, severe headache and joint pain, get tested, and seek quick medical attention if they test positive. Vehicles that people will take to go to various districts must also be sprayed thoroughly with insecticide before travel. The city corporations should carry out such spraying at all bus terminals.

This brings us back to the failure of the city corporations to take preemptive measures before the dengue outbreak. Experts have frequently pointed to insufficient anti-mosquito campaigns and surveillance efforts which, ideally, should be conducted round the year. With well over 6,000 cases (out of which 1,404 are outside Dhaka) and 40 deaths, we hope that the government will take immediate steps to prevent a widespread outbreak in the districts outside Dhaka as well as within it when people return from vacation. Going forward, the government must vigorously take round-the-year measures to destroy breeding grounds, make insecticides available for the public, and create public awareness to prevent an epidemic in the near future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Support elderly pensioners

Old pensioners surrendered their pension money as per the past pension rules. They did it to address various causes that were genuine. Considering that many of them are suffering in the post-Covid era, the government should kindly consider a reversion to pension payment for the concerned old pensioners.

Unless the time limit for eligible pension after 15 years of retirement is reduced, given the health issues these elderly people are prone to suffer from, their survival will be increasingly difficult. I am sincerely requesting the government to reconsider.

SWO Md Sarwady, Dhaka

Lessons from the five city corporation elections



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

THE STREET VIEW

Mohammad Al-Masum Molla is chief reporter at The Daily Star.

Elections in the five city corporations concluded recently without any major untoward incident. With the main opposition BNP choosing not to participate, election results were predictably in favour of the ruling Awami League except for in Gazipur. These elections were the biggest electoral exercise before the parliamentary elections scheduled between late December and early January. So, how should we view these elections in light of the upcoming national elections? And what messages do they convey for the ruling Awami League?

Before the city polls, political commentators were terming the elections as a test case for the Election Commission (EC), which they were most certainly not. At least not in terms of managing a multiparty election. This time, the commission hardly faced any challenges, as there were scarcely any challengers. Moreover, as BNP was rather strict even about councillor candidates for the first time, the competition basically took place among ruling party contenders.

All five city polls were conducted through Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), but the national election will be held through ballot papers. The two are distinct voting mechanisms and require different types of management. So, from this point of view, too, they were not a test case.

The only positive of these five city polls was the voter turnout. Although the voter turnout in local government elections has traditionally remained high, these elections saw an average turnout of around 50 percent. Obviously, the councillor candidates always play a crucial role in raising the voter turnout. Despite that, it can be said that people will turn up at the polling centres if the atmosphere is good. In other words, a congenial atmosphere would be sufficient to get people to come. But the question remains largely about what would happen if the elections become competitive and are accompanied with the tensions and apprehensions typically surrounding a combative election.

Many believed that the commission



The only positive of these polls was the voter turnout.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

failed abysmally when a mayoral candidate in Barishal came under attack. The comment that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Habibul Awal made after the attack drew huge criticisms. When Barishal city mayoral candidate Syed Faizul Karim was assaulted, journalists asked the election chief about the matter. He replied, "Did he die? No, I did not see him bleeding. But we heard that someone punched him from behind." If any ruling party's mayoral candidate had come under attack, would the CEC have made the same remark?

Apprehension of clashes is always high when the election is competitive. Attack on a mayoral candidate indicated a grave lapse on the part of the EC in fostering an appropriate voting environment. As a result, the Islami Andolon Bangladesh boycotted the elections for Rajshahi and Sylhet city polls. The mayoral candidate in Gazipur, Zaida Khatun's motorcade also came under attack before the

polling day.

In the 2018 elections in the five-city corporations, the allegation against the then KM Nurul Huda-led commission was that it had failed to establish control over the police and administration. At that time, the BNP-backed mayoral candidates alleged that they were driven away from the field even before the voting started

betrayal of ruling party members. In Barishal, the incumbent mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah did not get the party nomination, but his uncle Abul Khair Abdullah did. The division was very much visible and the media reported that Sadiq did not even go to the polling centre to cast his vote. In Rajshahi and Khulna, the party did not face any challenge as there was

One year on, how has Padma Bridge changed Bangladesh's southwest?

Razia Sultana, PhD, is a Senior Research Fellow at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS), under MoFA.

RAZIA SULTANA

Last year, on this day Bangladesh made global news as the country ushered in a new era of communication. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was there in person to inaugurate the megastructure – the Padma Multipurpose Bridge (PMB) – amidst a huge presence of excited onlookers and supporters. The 6.1km megaproject was seen not only as a remarkable achievement of the current Awami League government but also regarded as a major landmark in the development history of Bangladesh.

But the journey to make Padma Bridge a reality did not start smooth, owing to fund-related issues. Added to that, a variety of both national and international pressures posed a major challenge for the government in realising this project. But these obstacles were overcome and the dream finally came true; PMB was made with the country's own resources and is one of the largest river crossings in the world now.

But there is a persistent fear worldwide that despite its many socio-economic potentials, development projects such as PMB are likely to have adverse impacts on local communities. Most importantly among them is the fear that project affected people are expected to face the loss of physical and non-physical assets (such as homes, land, resources, jobs, communities, social and cultural networks, and so on) that might trigger food, health, and social insecurities. So, now after one year of PMB, these are relevant questions to ask:

How have these issues of concern been tackled in the case of PMB? Is PMB going to pay off its promised dividends over time? After the inauguration of PMB, to what extent has this mega project changed or improved local people's lives and livelihoods?

As far as economic growth and connectivity are concerned, PMB is dubbed as a strategic instrument for achieving the development visions (e.g., Vision 2041) of the government by creating an urban space, infrastructure development, and accelerating myriad channels of growth. The southern regions of the country have been traditionally neglected and local people continue to experience a slow pace of growth. Another noteworthy aspect is with the removal of major physical barriers, PMB has set up a road connection between Dhaka and the southwestern part of the country.

Aside from the tangible benefits of a mega structure, local people also value non-monetised issues such as culture, good neighbourhoods, and other factors promoting inclusivity. Among the local communities, the general perception is that PMB has earned them a sense of pride, a distinct identity other than of course promoting connectivity.

PMB underpins the spread of urbanisation and development that is not only related to roads, railways, or telecommunication but also opening the doors to more public investment. It is also expected that cargo movement

will increase between Dhaka to Mongla and Payra Ports and this will eventually reduce the immense pressure and reliance on Chattogram Port.

The bridge has also addressed issues arising from the limited ferry capacity to cross the Padma River, owing to which people had to wait for hours, especially on special occasions (e.g., Eid vacation). Ferry services were also unreliable as they would get suspended for a few days at a time due to inclement weather. The unsafe, overloaded, and unreliable ferry services contributed to the frequency of accidents as well. Now, passengers can save nearly two to three hours when travelling to southwestern districts via the Padma Bridge.

Data collected from resettlement and adjacent areas of PMB legitimises the argument that PMB is a role model among many mega projects in Bangladesh since it was developed through an inclusive participatory approach. This can be said because local communities exhibited a positive attitude and showed their overwhelming support by giving their lands for the mega project. Residents were very positive about PMB as it acts as an important source of opportunity creation at national level (e.g., tourism expansion, rapid industrialisation, etc) and on the local level (e.g., new job creation).

However, it is too early to judge, measure, or assess dividends fully sourced from PMB. It has been further revealed that although PMB offers some positive dividends, it also poses challenges that need consideration. For example, some pressing issues are directly related to resource allocation and livelihood security which was a monumental task to take on in the early stages of the project. Although

the local people were given housing and other facilities as compensation, PMB has directly impacted their livelihoods, especially those who lost a huge amount of cultivable land due to displacement. Usable cultivable land has been an important resource in areas adjacent to PMB as local communities find land for cultivation to be scarce. There is also a lack of proper infrastructure (such as mills, factories, and markets) in Munshiganj, Shariatpur, and Madaripur that could have generated alternative sources of income for locals. Education facilities, an absolute necessity to be able to harness the full potential of PMB, are also scanty outside the camp areas in Mawa, Shibchar, and Jajira.

So, how can strategies of mega projects like PMB be better designed for addressing such concerns in the future? To ensure dividends, investing in people is crucial. Some pertinent issues also need to be considered at a micro-level (including investing in intangible human development components, especially health, and education and promoting river-centric tourism and eco-tourism to ensure livelihoods); and macro-level planning (developing appropriate communication, feeder road, investing in Mongla Port, and safeguarding the environment). Working on mega projects such as PMB with the country's own funds is a comparatively new experience for Bangladesh. Thus, post-monitoring of mega projects is crucial to get leverage in this area by bridging plans from local to national level. Since 2023 is the year of the mega project, proper implementation of this Padma Bridge project is crucial for taking it as a lesson learned for the other mega projects.

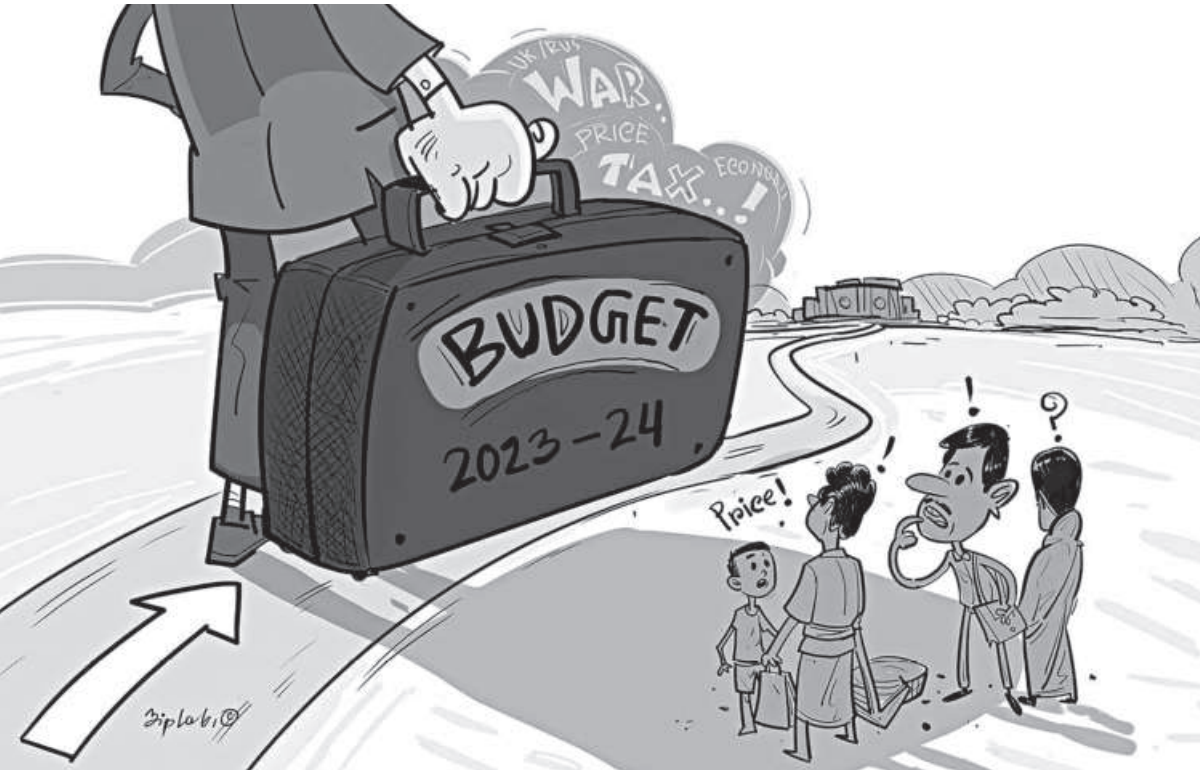


ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

Why the FY23-24 budget will not curb the rate of inflation



AN OPEN DIALOGUE
Dr Abdullah Shibli
is an economist and works for Change Healthcare, Inc., an information technology company. He also serves as senior research fellow at the US-based International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI).

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

The finance minister announced the budget earlier this month and has been taking a lot of heat on a number of issues – the resource shortfall, the new tax proposals, and its impact on inflation, to name a few. The proposed budget for 2023-24 has a total outlay of Tk 7.62 trillion (a 15 percent jump) with development expenditures at Tk 2.59 trillion and non-development expenditures at Tk 4.11 trillion. The budget has been promoted as a “Smart Budget” with the upcoming elections in mind. A Ministry of Finance announcement proclaimed that the “Smart Bangladesh” concept is based on four main pillars which are smart citizens, smart government, smart society and smart economy. “The budget for the next fiscal year (FY24) will be the first budget towards building ‘Smart Bangladesh’,” added the release.

I do not envy the FM because his job is tough even under normal circumstances, and these times are anything but. There is heightened global uncertainty if we take a cursory look at the political environment, food and oil prices, and the total economic growth projections. One does not have to be Pollyanna to state that the budget estimates are but our best hope that things will turn out to be better than last year, and offer some respite for the hapless poor.

For my readers who are wondering who Pollyanna is, allow me a slight detour. “Pollyanna” is the name of the eleven-year-old orphan girl, the heroine in the novel by that name, and has become a byword for someone who, like the title character, has an unfailingly optimistic outlook. A nation, and I mean Bangladesh, facing gloomy days ahead can also collectively use the Pollyanna method to cope with the real difficulties and sorrows that, along with luck and joy, shape every life.

The FM is definitely a Pollyanna: he sounded like one when he declared, “The budget will be for the poor. There is no special pressure this time. The social safety net is increasing in a big way this time.” But on close reading of the budget, we find that the budget is plagued by insufficient

domestic resource mobilisation, an uphill battle to increase the tax/GDP ratio, an out-of-control inflation hammering the poor and the middle class, and the IMF breathing down the government’s neck.

The government is fully aware of the headwinds it faces as it tries to push the GDP growth rate to 7.5 percent, as opposed to last year’s actualised rate which was 5.3 percent according to an Asian Development Bank (ADB) report and 6.03 percent according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The finance ministry has provided some supporting documents to back up the FM’s goals. We learned that the budgetary allocation aims to tame inflation alongside the higher GDP growth trajectory. While the inflation rate broadcast by BBS is currently in the neighbourhood of 10 percent, independent calculations by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) put the effective rate at 15 percent.

Of major concern is the cost of living, particularly for the common person. The budget aims to bring down the inflation rate to 6.5 percent. Unfortunately, the budget will do nothing to ease the hardship and the budgetary crunch felt by the common man. “If a product’s price rises 10 percent in the international market, it increases 30 percent in the local market. We have shown it item by item in CPD’s analysis,” said the Executive Director of CPD at a post-budget review session.

The FM of Bangladesh is in a unique position among his fellow global finance ministers. The budget is presented to the parliament and gets automatic approval, because of the sheer size of the ruling party’s majority. Debate on the budget or political wrangling among different political parties or different wings of Awami League do not present any headaches or cause for worries. While it might be a little frivolous, it would not be too much to characterise the process as a “show” or even say that the parliament is rubber stamping the budget. “The budget is expected

to be passed in parliament on June 26, a bit earlier than the usual tradition because of the holidays of Eid Ul Azha,” reassures the media!

Bangladesh’s budget spending has tended to fall short of the target. According to Fitch Ratings, the gap between budgeted spending and actual spending has oscillated between 20 percent and 30 percent of the projected spending target if we consider the last five years’ statistics. Obviously two of the major determinants of the expected shortfall is the GDP growth rate and the revenue projections. “The Bangladesh government’s projection that the budget deficit will remain broadly stable in the year to June 2024 (FY24) could be vulnerable if growth undershoots the authorities’ relatively optimistic target,” says Fitch Ratings. The same could be said about spending. “Bangladesh’s fiscal outcomes have often diverged significantly from budget forecasts, with persistent underspending against targets,” it notes.

As I mentioned above, deficit financing has been a sore point in Bangladesh’s negotiations with the IMF. However, there is nothing wrong with budget deficits, since all other countries including the USA always has a deficit and just overcame a gruelling duel over the control of budget deficits and debt servicing.

But one also notes that of late, our deficit is significantly higher than long-term trends. The resulting high level of government borrowing has caused liquidity shortages and crowded out private activity. Some sources apprehend that the proposed budget “continues the crowding out by envisaging a growth of 75 percent in domestic financing compared to two years ago.” It is needless to mention, this might keep up the pressure on prices.

On a positive note, the budget document is presenting some initiatives to offer support for the vulnerable population, to renew the pledge to bring down inflation further, and to raise the tax to GDP ratio from 9 to 13 percent to reduce deficits. This ambition may present some problems. In the first 10 years of the Awami League’s current rule, actual budget deficits averaged 3.5 percent of GDP, but in the last five years, it increased to about 5 percent. While deficit financing is expected to hold steady in the 5 percent of GDP rate range next year, the government has declared its intention to bring it down.

AI’s transformative potential for the future economy

M Kabir Hassan is a Professor of Finance at the University of New Orleans, USA.
José Antonio Pérez Amuedo is a PhD Student at the University of New Orleans, USA.

M KABIR HASSAN and JOSÉ ANTONIO PÉREZ AMUEDO

The past few years have been a period of drastic changes due to several factors. The impact of Covid-19 has been notable, changing how we interact. Technology has been crucial in that sense, pushing boundaries that were previously unimaginable. Moreover, another form of technology, artificial intelligence (AI), has emerged, or at least gained massive traction.

John McCarthy, computer scientist expert on AI, explained that artificial intelligence is about making intelligent machines that perform tasks similar to human intelligence, but AI is not limited to methods that can be biologically observed. Under this definition, it seems that humans will be completely replaceable by machines. But the question is: can computers actually reach the level of human intelligence and perform tasks that only a human can do?

lose their jobs or not, rather than whether AI will lead to a boom or a recession. According to certain AI experts, the introduction of large language models (LLMs) could potentially affect at least 10 percent of work tasks for around 80 percent of the US workforce.

However, when we examine the workforce across different countries, it becomes apparent that technologically advanced nations with higher levels of automation actually experience lower unemployment rates. This contradicts the conventional expectation that technology would result in job displacement. Moreover, technology has led to the development of better jobs, and the wages of lower-income individuals have increased more rapidly than those of the wealthiest. As a result, we observe a trend where new technologies are not

this and are preparing themselves for what lies ahead. Each year, more individuals opt to pursue degrees related to technology, while fields that are more susceptible to disappearing are being abandoned. Consequently, when the time comes, a larger pool of individuals will be equipped with the skills necessary to perform AI-related tasks and remain valuable to companies.

Finally, there are three points we would like to highlight. Firstly, the advantage that AI can bring to companies is undeniable. Artificial intelligence undoubtedly enables companies to perform tasks more quickly and efficiently than before its existence. However, it is difficult to believe that AI will completely replace human beings in companies, particularly in the next 20 or 25 years, especially in tasks that require interpretation. AI systems have been developed by humans who understand their functioning. Hence, they can be used as a complement to employees rather than as complete substitutes. AI systems are also



PHOTO: REUTERS

The truth is that artificial intelligence is not a very new thing in finance, since hedge funds have been using it for decades. They use algorithms to choose what stock to invest in, or to decide whether they should go long or short on a particular stock. It is said that retail investors will never be able to overcome the hedge funds consistently, and this is, in part, because those big fish have access to advanced tools such as machine learning that make it impossible for private investors to compete with them.

One of the main reasons why we seek an answer to the initial question is to determine whether a computer, in any of its forms, can perform the tasks we are currently undertaking. This concern stems from the fear that AI may outperform individuals in terms of efficiency and speed. If a company can replace its employees with machines, it stands to reason that it would save money and become more efficient. Consequently, if this holds true, it is evident that many individuals would lose their jobs, and certain professions as we currently recognise them might vanish within a few years. However, this outcome should not come as a surprise, as similar occurrences have transpired in the past with the emersion of technology.

But what would this mean for the economy? There is a group that believes AI will be a transformative force in the economy. According to Goldman Sachs, the widespread adoption of artificial intelligence could result in an annual increase of \$7 trillion in global GDP within 10 years, approximately 7 percent, and result in a 3 percent boost in annual labour productivity. However, there are other experts who express scepticism and do not anticipate AI to drive accelerated growth, at least within a horizon of less than 30 years. So, the question remains: Who is correct and who is mistaken in their future predictions?

Again, if we examine history, we can observe that no single technology has ever brought about a drastic transformation of the global landscape on its own. Even inventions like the spinning jenny, often attributed to the industrial revolution, were influenced by several other factors. However, ordinary individuals are not primarily concerned about the overall impact on the economy, but rather about their own circumstances. People are more focused on whether they will

necessarily replacing people’s jobs but rather reshaping the traditional job landscape. Furthermore, these new jobs offer increased safety, better quality, and higher remuneration. This outcome is understandable since companies have become more profitable due to technological advancements, enabling them to pay higher wages to less skilled individuals.

But this time, the situation may be different. Some companies that provide support to students experienced a significant drop in their stock prices following the emergence of ChatGPT, and many other firms have announced plans to reduce their workforce if their jobs can be easily performed by AI. It has been estimated that around

It is difficult to believe that AI will completely replace human beings in companies, particularly in the next 20 or 25 years, especially in tasks that require interpretation. AI systems have been developed by humans who understand their functioning. Hence, they can be used as a complement to employees rather than as complete substitutes. AI systems are also prone to making mistakes, and companies would require humans who understand their workings to rectify those errors.

prone to making mistakes, and companies would require humans who understand their workings to rectify those errors.

Secondly, we should mention that, as of today, AI systems are far from perfect. While we are often amazed by the range of tasks AI can accomplish, we also witness instances where they make mistakes, similar to humans. For instance, on the day Alphabet Inc introduced its chatbot Google Bard, it provided an incorrect answer to one of the questions, indicating that AI systems are not yet fully developed and reliable enough for companies to solely rely on them. Moreover, it is even less feasible for companies to replace employees with AI. In this regard, companies involved in AI development still have a long way to go in terms of progress and improvement.

Thirdly, it is evident that AI will lead to the disappearance of several jobs. Several decades ago, cars were manufactured manually by individuals using tools they could manipulate. They were responsible for handcrafting all the car parts and assembling the vehicles. However, with the creation of automated robots, most of these processes were taken over by machines, completely replacing human involvement in the entire manufacturing process. This shift allowed companies to produce more cars of higher quality, in less time, and at lower costs, resulting in increased profitability and improved wages for the remaining employees. Consequently, this contributed to an increase in GDP and had a significant impact on the economy.

However, while some jobs were eliminated, new job opportunities arose. Companies that developed these robots emerged and hired engineers to design and create these machines. Additionally, companies involved in car production required maintenance personnel to supervise the robots responsible for manufacturing the cars. Something similar happened when the Internet came into our lives, and something similar will happen with AI. Therefore, although there will be a transformation in the current job landscape, AI will not leave people without jobs. As certain jobs become obsolete, new jobs will emerge, and individuals will receive training to perform these new tasks instead of the outdated ones, similar to the occurrence of previous revolutions experienced by the human species.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Edinburgh native

5 Flight part

10 Folded food

11 Rotated

13 From the U.S.

14 Punctual

15 Space Needle setting

17 Young one

18 Paid tribute to

19 Anger

20 Charged particle

21 Go by

22 Grain to grind

25 Available, as a room

26 Trick

27 Simple card game

28 “— little teapot

...”

29 Grouser’s forte

33 Silent assent

34 Banderas of “Desperado”

35 “Enough already!”

37 Notion

38 Peaceful

39 Religious group

40 Out of style

41 Former spouses

DOWN

1 Hide away

2 Carved gem

3 Mermaid’s home

4 Slow mover

5 Hot, in a way

6 Fixed, as a piano

7 Gallery fill

8 Monogram unit

9 Regret

12 Hate

16 Easy gait

21 Dolphin’s cousin

22 Daily routines

23 Unconfirmed

24 Dancer

25 Bakery buy

27 On the FBI’s list

29 Michael of “Sleuth”

30 Almanac section

31 Flower girl, often

32 Bleating beasts

36 Parrot or puppy

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

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

7-18

YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

R I B B E D C A R S

I N L O V E A V E C

F L A X E N R I C H

L A D E N S P A T E

E Y E D C U S T O M

I S L E O R E

H U N K I D O R Y

M E N I D E A

A R C A N E K N I T

R O O M S S T O N Y

L I R A W A R M U P

I N K S A T E A S E

N E S S N E E D E D

Frontline health facilities faltering without WASH and electricity

STAR HEALTH REPORT

Worldwide, millions of lives could be saved and billions in economic losses prevented through one simple, affordable intervention: water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in health care facilities. Safe WASH services enable life-saving infection prevention and control practices, curb the spread of antimicrobial resistance, and help deliver quality primary health care services to all. Yet, actions taken in countries are insufficient, according to a new report released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

WASH, waste, and electricity services are major contributors to high-quality health care. Interventions such as improving the availability of hand hygiene and drinking water stations, regular cleaning, functioning toilets, and regular on-site water supply can greatly help in improving health services, staff performance, and respecting the dignity of health care facility users.

WASH, waste, and electricity services more generally have critical impacts on the health of mothers and babies during childbirth. Lack of services increases the risk of infection, particularly sepsis, which can be deadly for children and mothers. More than one million women and girls indicated that WASH services are their second-most important demand for quality reproductive and maternal health, after dignified and respectful care.

WHO and UNICEF call on countries and partners to implement the following recommendations in order to rapidly improve WASH, waste, and electricity services in health care facilities:

- Addressing financial obstacles;
- Integrating WASH, waste, and electricity services into health planning
- Developing and empowering the health workforce to deliver and maintain WASH, waste, and electricity services, and practising good hygiene,
- Strengthening accountability by regularly monitoring and reviewing progress



‘Silent’ symptoms of OVARIAN CANCER

STAR HEALTH DESK

The ovaries are important organs responsible for producing eggs and hormones in women. Ovarian cancer is a type of cancer that begins in the fallopian tubes and then spreads to the ovaries. Detecting ovarian cancer early is crucial for successful treatment, and recent advancements have made treatments more effective.

In the early stages of ovarian cancer, there are often no noticeable symptoms. However, as the disease progresses, certain symptoms may start to appear. These symptoms include bloating or feeling pressure in the belly, abdominal or pelvic pain, feeling full quickly during meals, and increased frequency of urination.

It is important to note that these symptoms can also be caused by non-cancerous conditions. Nevertheless, if you experience any of these symptoms persistently for more than a few weeks, it is advisable to report them to the healthcare professionals. They can help determine the cause of your symptoms and provide appropriate care.

Family history plays a role in the risk of developing ovarian cancer. Women with a close relative who has had ovarian, breast, or colon cancer are at a higher risk. Inherited genetic changes, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene mutations, account for about 10% of ovarian cancers. If you have a strong family history of these cancers, it is important to consult with a doctor about potential medical follow-up.

Age is also a significant factor in ovarian cancer risk. The chances of developing ovarian cancer

increase with age, particularly after menopause. Postmenopausal hormone therapy, especially the use of oestrogen without progesterone for 5 to 10 years, may also raise the risk. It remains uncertain whether the combination of oestrogen and progesterone carries the same risk.

Obesity is another factor that heightens the risk of ovarian cancer. Obese women have a higher risk

by a biopsy. The tissue sample is sent to a laboratory for further examination to confirm the presence of ovarian cancer.

Surgery is a critical component of both diagnosing ovarian cancer and determining its stage. It is also the initial treatment approach. The goal of surgery is to remove as much of the cancerous tissue as possible. The extent of surgery may involve removing one or both ovaries, along with nearby tissues and organs, depending on the stage of the cancer.

Following surgery, chemotherapy is usually administered to target any remaining cancer cells in the body. Chemotherapy drugs can be given orally, intravenously, or directly into the abdominal cavity.

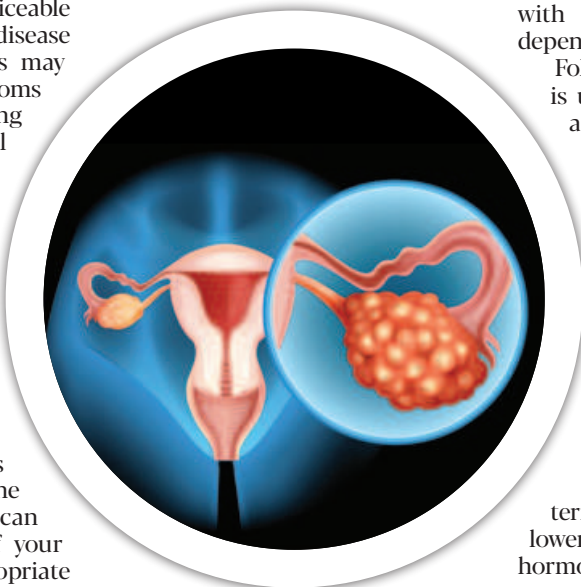
Reducing the risk:

Pregnancy: Women who have biological children have a lower risk, with the risk decreasing further with each pregnancy. Breastfeeding may also provide additional protection.

Birth control pills: Long-term use of birth control pills can lower the risk of ovarian cancer. The hormonal effects of the pill, which prevent ovulation, are believed to offer some protection.

Tubal ligation and hysterectomy: Procedures like tubal ligation (getting tubes tied) or hysterectomy (uterus removal) may reduce the risk of ovarian cancer.

Low fat diet: Although no specific diet guarantees the prevention of ovarian cancer, studies suggest that following a low-fat diet for an extended period may lower the risk. Additionally, a diet rich in vegetables may also have a protective effect, but further research is needed to establish these associations.



compared to non-obese women. Furthermore, death rates from ovarian cancer are higher among obese women, particularly those who are severely overweight.

Diagnosing ovarian cancer involves a series of imaging tests, such as ultrasounds or CT scans, that can reveal the presence of an ovarian mass. However, these scans cannot definitively determine if the mass is cancerous. If cancer is suspected, the next step usually involves surgery to remove suspicious tissues, followed

Breast cancer Early detection matters

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancers among women. In developed countries, one in every eight women suffers from breast cancer. In Bangladesh, one in every 10 women suffers from breast cancer, and many women aged between 15 and 20 are found to be suffering from breast cancer, which is rare in other countries. Some 12,764 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in the country every year, and 6,844 of them die of the disease.

DR SHUVRA DEBNAATH

Breast cancer screening means checking a woman's breasts for cancer before there are signs or symptoms of the disease. All women need to be informed by their healthcare provider about the best screening options for them. Some methods of breast cancer screening are given below:

Breast self-exam (BSE): Breast self-exam, or regularly examining your breasts on your own, can be an important way to find breast cancer

early, when it is more likely to be treated successfully. Women over 20 years old should undergo BSE regularly. The best time to perform a self-exam for breast awareness is usually the week after menstruation (period) has ended. BSE is also applicable during pregnancy.

Clinical breast examination (CBE): A CBE is a physical exam of your breasts done by a health care provider well-trained in the technique. Women over 30 should undergo regular CBE.

Ultrasonography (USG): The USG is highly accurate in diagnosing a simple cyst of breast cancer in women over 40, and

it is helpful in evaluating some complex cysts.

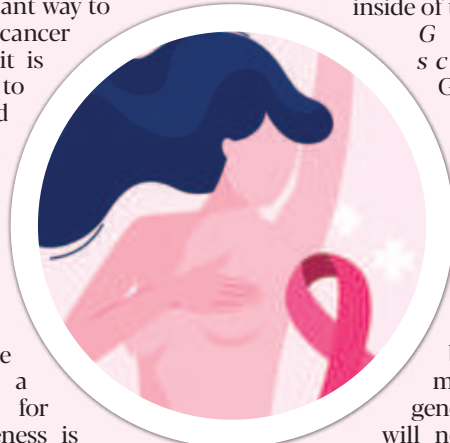
Mammography: A mammogram is an X-ray picture of the breast. Doctors use a mammogram to look for early signs of breast cancer and tumours. There are two types: (a) screening mammography and (b) diagnostic mammography.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): Breast MRI uses radio waves and strong magnets to make detailed pictures of the inside of the breast.

Genetic screening: Genetic testing is available for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. Most breast and ovarian cancers are not caused by inherited mutations, so genetic testing will not help most women with a family history of breast and ovarian cancer.

Besides, a breast biopsy is the only test that can diagnose and confirm breast cancer. Awareness surrounding breast cancer is incredibly important, as early detection, often through screening, can catch the disease when it is most treatable.

The writer is a Cancer Specialist at the National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICRH), Mohakhali.



Chronic fatigue syndrome and long COVID share common symptoms and biological abnormalities



STAR HEALTH DESK

Chronic fatigue syndrome, also known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME/CFS), is a debilitating illness that often begins after a flu-like infection. It leaves patients with persistent symptoms such as fatigue, cognitive problems, disrupted sleep, and pain.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a similar condition called "long COVID" emerged. Many individuals recovering from acute COVID-19 experienced lingering symptoms resembling those of ME/CFS, including fatigue, cognitive difficulties, and muscle pain. Interestingly, both ME/CFS and long COVID share not only symptoms but also underlying biological abnormalities.

These abnormalities affect various systems in the body. Neurologically, both conditions are associated with cognitive deficits, reduced blood flow in the brain, sleep problems, and autonomic dysfunction.

Immunologically and infectiously, increased levels of inflammatory markers, presence of autoantibodies, reactivation of herpesviruses, and imbalances in the gut microbiome are common. Metabolic abnormalities, including reduced energy production and increased oxidative stress, are also observed. Furthermore, cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary issues, such as diminished exercise capacity and endothelial dysfunction, are present in both conditions.



The mYoga App is available for health conscious people

STAR HEALTH DESK

Yoga is recognised as an accessible way to lead a physically active lifestyle. The World Health Organisation's (WHO) mYoga is an app for the general public to use regularly, providing Yoga learning and practise sessions of varying durations.

The app was developed through a review of scientific literature and extensive international expert consultation processes. The app is safe and secure, collecting no data from users at all, and can be used as a daily yoga companion for people aged 12-65 years. It is available in English and Hindi, with other UN languages following in the coming months.

The app comprises a collection of videos and audio practise sessions that users can do in the comfort of their own homes as and when they wish.

WHO launched its global Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 to strengthen the quality, safety, and effectiveness of Traditional and Complementary Medicine. With support from the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (Ministry of AYUSH), Government of India, WHO has developed the mYoga app to support the implementation of the strategy and encourage people to practise quality yoga at the touch of their smartphone screen.

The app has been assessed to be very safe in terms of cybersecurity because it does not require any information about the user. It does not even require you to set up an account.

The links to the app are <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1549821346> (iOS) and <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.who.APPMYOGA> (Android).




United
Renal Care
Centre



UROLOGY



Dr. AB Shahriar Ahmed
MRCSd, FCPS, MS
Consultant



Dr. M. A. Zulkifl
FCPS, FRCS (England)
Senior Consultant



**Prof. Maj. Gen.
Md. Shahidul Islam (Retd)**
MCPS, FCPS, FACS (USA)
Senior Consultant

Harness the Transformative Benefits of Urological Procedures and Surgeries

Discover a range of urological surgeries and procedures that can address various conditions eg. Kidney Stone, Prostatitis, Benign Prostatic Enlargement, Prostatic Malignancy, Renal Malignancy, Haematuria, UTI, Urinary Incontinence, Polycystic Kidney Disease, Pyonephrosis, Erectile Dysfunction, Male Infertility

Reconstructive Surgeries

- BMG Urethroplasty
- Anastomotic Urethroplasty
- Penile prosthesis surgery
- Hypospadias and Epispadias

Minimally Invasive Procedures

- Laparoscopic surgery
- TURP, TURBT (Cystoscopic surgery)

Kidney Stone Treatments

- Lithotripsy
- PCNL (Percutaneous nephrolithotomy)
- Ureterscopy
- RIRS (Laser Stone Surgery)

Onco Urological Surgeries

- Nephrectomy & Nephroureterectomy
- Cystectomy with Urinary Diversion
- Prostatectomy
- Orchidectomy
- Ureteral surgery

Paediatric Urology

- Fulguration of PUV
- Pyeloplasty for PUJ obstruction
- Ureteroneocystostomy for congenital megaureter
- Torsion Testis

Our Sister Concerns



United
Medical
College &
Hospital



medix
dharmadi



M A Rashid
Hospital

Appointment
02 22 22 62 68
10666

Pothas warns of Afghan white-ball threat

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's assistant coach Nick Pothas believes that Afghanistan will be more motivated to make a statement and come hard at the hosts in the white-ball series following their record 546-run defeat in the lone Test.

The return of star leg-spinner Rashid Khan, along with Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi, will strengthen the Afghan side and they are expected to give tough fight to the Tigers.

"A lot of their (Afghanistan) main players will now be fresh. They've had a break. They're going to come back. They're a very proud nation. The defeat in the Test match will motivate them as well when we're coming back," Pothas told the media in Mirpur yesterday.

"But it's very exciting for us because it'll tell us where we are and it'll give us a really good insight as to what we need to work on, what we're doing well, etc. So, it's an exciting series, but it's going to be very, very tough." The three-match ODI series, starting early next month, is expected to be the last series for the Tigers to prepare and chalk out plans for the upcoming Asia Cup and the ICC ODI World Cup later this year.

"All of this is part of a much bigger picture. The big picture is obviously the World Cup, the Asia Cup. We cannot wish for better preparation for that than a series against Afghanistan. They are a very good one-day team," he said. "With regards to pressure on us, pressure only comes from one side. It comes from the media and the supporters, not from us. So, it's up to you how much pressure you want to put us on," said the South African.



After losing their SAFF Championship opener against Lebanon in a disappointing manner -- conceding two late goals due to errors from the defenders -- Jamal Bhuiyan and Co. will hope to put on a better display when Bangladesh face Maldives in a crucial Group B encounter at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru today.

PHOTO: BFF

Dutch, WI and Zim progress

AFP, Harare

The Netherlands progressed to the Super Sixes with a seven-wicket victory which knocked Nepal out of the World Cup qualifying tournament in Harare on Saturday.

The Dutch win also confirms West Indies and Zimbabwe's progress into the next stage.

Nepal were put in to bat in the crunch tie by the Netherlands but folded for 167 after a middle-overs crisis initiated by Vikramjit Singh and developed by Logan van Beek.

Van Beek got Aasif Sheikh chopped on in the third over of Nepal's innings, but Kushal Bhurtel and Bhim Sharki did well to fight their way through.

Bhurtel welcomed Vikramjit with a cut that went through cover for four and a punch through mid-on for three.

But Vikramjit found his lengths to firstly dry up the runs, and then dismiss Bhurtel and Aarif Sheikh in the 15th and the 17th overs respectively.

Nepal slumped from 46 for 1 to 91 for 5, and were unable to recover.

Cagers give new hope

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national basketball team can win an elusive medal in the next South Asian Games, believes team's coach Ranjit Chandra Das after leading the team to a runners-up spot in the recently-concluded Five Nation Basketball Championship in Bhutan.

Bangladesh have never been able to win a basketball medal in the regional multi-sport event, but Ranjit thinks that if the team is given opportunities to train continuously and play more matches, they can end the drought sooner rather than later.

The next South Asian Games is scheduled to be held in Pakistan even though the time of the event has not been decided as yet.

Bangladesh fell agonisingly short of the five-nation title, also featuring Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives, after losing to Bhutan by 62-60 points in the final in Maldives on Thursday night. The men in red and green were leading by a point with less than a minute remaining, but eventually conceded a two-point defeat.

"We were unlucky. We could've won it had luck been in our favour. We conceded a silly foul in the dying moments which eventually cost us the title," the veteran coach told The Daily Star as the team were in Sri Lanka last night, en route to Dhaka. "Of course everyone was disappointed. But we came with a young team and it was a very good learning experience for us. Even the crowd appreciated us despite the defeat."

Bangladesh Basketball Federation lost its long time home, the Dhanmondi Indoor Basketball Gymnasium, last year and now the team only gets to train at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium ahead of any tournament.

"We came to Maldives with the target of becoming champions, but with only about a month's preparation - 20 days in Jashore and then 15 days in Dhaka. If we had better preparation, we could have won it," he said.

The coach felt that if this young team is given enough exposure and provided a permanent home for training and tournaments, they can not only win a medal in SA Games but also bring more glory for the country.



Bangladesh ready for today's 'final'

ANISUR RAHMAN from Bengaluru

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera appeared to be taking a contemplative walk around the artificial turf at the Karnataka State Association Stadium in Bengaluru with his head bowed and his hands behind his back before starting the final preparations for today's SAFF Championship match against Maldives.

Before the start of the training, fitness coach Ivan Razlog tried to raise spirits, engaging the players in a game based on wearing their bibs quickly and correctly.

Cabrera then showed the players various things designed to break down Maldives, who have proven to be a formidable opponent for Bangladesh. Maldives have remained unbeaten against Bangladesh for the past 20 years, ever since a loss to Bangladesh in the 2003 SAFF Championship in Dhaka.

Asked if Bangladesh were ready to deal with the challenge, Cabrera said: "We are ready. It is a very, very important match for us. Not getting any points against Lebanon was disappointing, but we have to depend on ourselves. We need to win; we want to win. The atmosphere is good. Everyone is positive and tomorrow we have a really tough fight. But we believe we will achieve our objective."

Cabrera was uninterested in looking back to the past, which he

| OVERALL HEAD-TO-HEAD | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Match | W | D | L | |
| 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | |
| 1997 SAFF Championship | | | | |
| Bangladesh 1-1 Maldives (Group Stage) | | | | |
| 2003 SAFF Championship | | | | |
| Bangladesh 1-0 Maldives (Group Stage) | | | | |
| Bangladesh 1 (5) -1 (3) Maldives (final match) | | | | |
| 2011 SAFF Championship | | | | |
| Maldives 3-1 Bangladesh (Group Stage) | | | | |
| 2015 SAFF Championship | | | | |
| Bangladesh 1-3 Maldives (Group Stage) | | | | |
| 2021 SAFF Championship | | | | |
| Bangladesh 0-2 Maldives (Group Stage) | | | | |

regarded as just a statistic. He said Bangladesh aimed to win and keep their semifinal hopes alive.

"We are focusing on the present. We are in a positive moment and we are quite positive about the performance against Lebanon regardless of the result. That will give us the strength to face Maldives tomorrow," the Spaniard said, adding that Sunday's match was going to be a 50-50 affair.

When Cabrera was reminded that Bangladesh had fallen apart in crunch situations in the past five campaigns, he replied: "I think pressure applies to both sides because I don't think Maldives will come looking for one point since

that would be risky. Both teams will give their best and we are looking forward to getting three points."

Nevertheless, Maldives, who have more skillful players than Bangladesh, are expected to cause various problems. But plans have been made to restrict their forwards.

"We had a team meeting today [Sunday]. The players know the formation and we always highlight the opposition's top players as well as study their weaknesses and strengths. We did the same before the match against Lebanon and we will have the same plan against Maldives. They have talented players up front, but we believe that we also have talented players in the forward line-up who can win matches," Cabrera said, adding that he had emphasised set-pieces in training.

Defender Tapu Barman added: "Keeping a clean sheet will be vital and we will try our best to do that." He also reiterated the words that were heard from the Bangladesh camp previously, saying: "We will treat this match like a final."

After the completion of the final preparations, Cabrera called on team manager Amer Khan, team leader Shawakat Ali Khan Jahangir and team attendant Mohammad Mohsin to bring everyone together and form a circle in the middle of the field. Once the short briefing was finished, loud screams were heard from the players. They will be hoping to make some noise once again after the 'final'.

Ruman wins individual gold after five years

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace archer Ruman Sana regained his national individual gold after five years with a 6-0 sets victory over Mishaad Prodhan in the final of the men's individual recurve event of the 14th Teer National Archery Championships in Tongi yesterday.

Ruman had won the title from 2013 to 2017 but failed to win it in the last five years. His form had dipped a bit in recent years and a disciplinary suspension in November 2022 also had an impact on his game too. However, the 28-year-old archer had his two-year suspension lifted in March this year and had been training ever since before taking part in the national competition, which concluded yesterday.

The Bangladesh Ansar archer missed out on two gold medals earlier in the day, settling for silver alongside Diya Siddique and missing out on a medal altogether in men's recurve team event. However, the man from Khulna proved too good for Mishaad of BKSP in the final of the individual event after winning 6-0 against Hakim Ahmed Rubel of Bangladesh Police Archery Club in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, Ansar's Diya finished with two gold medals and a silver medal following the defeat to Bangladesh Police's Rubel and Jyoti Rani in the mixed team event.

Ansar finished on top of the medals tally with five gold and one silver medal, followed by BKSP who won three gold, two silver and one bronze medal. Police finished third with one gold, one silver and three bronze medals.



'We now have many different heroes in the team'

In the second and final part of an exclusive interview with **The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin**, Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha talked about the thought process behind approaching any particular opponent, the Tigers' chances in the upcoming major events and the change in mentality of the team as a unit among other topics. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): You talked about exploiting home conditions keeping in mind the strengths of the opposition. Is using seam-friendly pitches at home, as it was during the recent Afghanistan Test, part of the plan to do better in away Tests?

Chandika Hathurusingha (CH): No. The nature of the surface is adjusted depending on how we want to play against certain opponents. We can work in the nets and training facilities to improve the skill level. Sporting wickets are also being prepared during the NCL and BCL. But we can not think of just playing on seam-friendly pitches in order to play well abroad. It depends on our strengths. If I did not have fast bowlers, then there would be no point in preparing a seaming pitch. But now we have that. If I want spin from the surface, I can have spin-conducive pitches as I have spinners in my team. Tactically, we can play however we want. It would depend on the opposition's strengths and limitations.

DS: You said that Bangladesh have the best opportunity to do something special in the forthcoming Asia Cup. Considering the strength of teams like India and Pakistan, where do Bangladesh stand?

CH: I think we are in such a position that if we can play our best cricket, we can do something special. I know the rankings do not lie and we are ranked number eighth [seventh

in ODIs]. We don't have to fool ourselves. But I know that we have the skill and talent to compete with anyone on a given day and that's what I meant. This is an opportunity for us to do something special.

DS: Bangladesh reached the quarterfinal of the 2015 ODI World Cup during your first stint as coach. We have since been optimistic of our chances prior to major events. However, optimism has been kept in check this time as the team, despite being in form, has repeatedly cracked under pressure when the stakes were high. Do you think the collective mental strength of the team has now reached to a level that fans can really dream big this time?

CH: Fans always have expectations. That's why they are fans. I want them to have hope because we want them to support our team. In 2015, I think we played beyond our capabilities. We beat England [to reach the quarterfinal] and we had some good momentum. We played well in the Champions Trophy [in 2017] - reaching the semifinal by beating New Zealand in foreign conditions. At that time, we believed that we could go a step further. We nearly beat India in 2016 [T20 World Cup]. This time, the tournament is very different because we play every team and have nine games. So you can't have an off day. So, it will be a tough challenge. We might be given the favourites' tag considering that



we are third in the ODI Super League. But it will not be counted once we go to the World Cup. I think we have the capability to do well and that's what I am banking on.

DS: Can we handle pressure in crunch situations?

CH: It is in human nature to handle pressure. For instance, let's say with all the structure in place, you go to a jungle. The moment somebody shouts there is a lion nearby, everyone will jump and start running. The human instinct is to survive. It is similar in sports as well. Whenever in pressure situations, players follow their instinct. And that's where the structure and the game plan become important. That's what I am trying

to do - having a team culture, structure, and particular tactics in place. Instead of letting the pressure consume you, doing the boring stuff that you always do during practice sessions will give you the best chance to be successful. I am trying to bring that change - that players do not become stiff and not do anything during pressure situations.

DS: It seems Bangladesh often tend to rely on the individual heroics of Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, or Mushfiquir Rahim. Do you think this needs to change?

CH: Look, I can not comment on how the fans or other people perceive it. Looking at the last few series, we can see there were so many different heroes. I don't think Shakib or Tamim were involved in winning major tournaments. In the India series, who was the man of the series? It was [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz. You don't have to worry about only one or two people now as we have a good team.

DS: Players like Shakib, Mushfiquir Rahim, and Tamim are approaching the end of their careers. Are you focusing on developing the leadership aspects of others? Do you feel the likes of [Najmul Hossain] Shanto, Liton [Das], Miraz and Taskin [Ahmed] have gained enough experience to fill those big shoes?

CH: I think the board has already put Liton in charge of some games while Shanto was the vice-captain. Miraz was also the vice-captain in some series. I don't think they

have to develop and from what I see, they are already leading by action. Shanto, Miraz, Taijul [Islam], Taskin, Ebadot [Hossain] are all leading by action. I think they are ready.

DS: There was this belief from within the board and fans that you are probably the right person to take Bangladesh cricket to the next stage as a coach. So, there's a lot of expectation. Do you realise that?

CH: I have my own expectations - things that I can control. I can not control other people's expectations. I am glad that they think I am capable of doing that and it is good to hear. My own expectations are really high but at the same time, I am very practical. All I can ask is for the players to be pushing themselves to get better.

DS: We played a Test in England 13 years ago and in Australia 20 years back. How difficult is it to become a good Test unit and compete with the big teams, considering the fact that Bangladesh do not play enough Tests?

CH: 100 per cent. You can not get better if you are not doing something and we need to do something. It is really a disadvantage for us and unfortunate that the players are expected to do wonders during a 30-day tour. Even the best teams like Australia struggle in subcontinental conditions. They learn and get better on their 15th tour. [Having more away Test fixtures] It is something beyond our control, unfortunately.

THE POWER TO MINIMIZE THE DEVASTATION OF EARTHQUAKES IS IN YOUR HANDS



EARTHQUAKE AWARENESS DAY 2023

BSRM building a safer nation

SHAH CEMENT

THE MOST LOVED BRAND

BEST BRAND AWARD WINNER EVERY YEAR

BEST BRAND AWARD 2022

When patient safety takes a back seat

Botched C-section at Central Hospital raises questions over state of gynaecological care

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The deaths of Mahbuba Rahman Akhi and her newborn, following a botched C-section at the Central Hospital, have raised a few questions about the condition of gynaecological care in the country.

The questions being asked are about the effects that doctors' promotional videos on social media may have on attracting more patients at the expense of the latter's safety.

Dr Sangjukta Saha posted many promotional videos on her Facebook page about normal deliveries she had supervised as a gynaecologist at Central Hospital. In her videos, she presents herself as an advocate of natural childbirth at a time when C-sections are growing at an alarming rate. Her videos are available on YouTube and Facebook.

Hooked by her videos, Akhi, who had wanted a normal delivery, consulted Sangjukta and was supervised by her for three months. When she went into labour on June 9, she was admitted to Central Hospital and was told that Dr Sangjukta would oversee her delivery.

Later, Dr Shahzadi Mustarshida Sultana and Dr Muna Shaha, who worked as part of Dr Sangjukta's team, performed a C-section which went wrong and led to the

Attracting patients through social media campaigns is "unethical" for a physician, said Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub, president of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement.

death of both the newborn and the mother.

Later, Akhi's husband Yakub Ali Sumon alleged that Dr Sangjukta entrusted his wife to her fellow physicians without their knowledge for financial gain.

But Sangjukta is not alone in advertising her practice. Posting promotional videos is a recent trend among many doctors. Such campaigns are aimed at attracting more patients.

A section of medical practitioners believes that posting promotional videos is a questionable campaign for doctors.

Attracting patients through social media campaigns is unethical for a physician, said Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub, president of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement.

Addressing the issue, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, which protects and promotes the health and safety of the public in the practice of medicine, stated on Friday that it is unethical for doctors to run social media campaigns to attract more patients.

In a video posted on YouTube on May 5, 2021, D Sangjukta features a newborn she's just delivered and says, "We have an expert team." Evidently, she promotes her team working at the Central Hospital.

Between May 1 and June 9, Dr Sangjukta saw patients for 23 days and she provided consultations to 1,426—around 62 patients per day on average, according to data obtained from the Central Hospital.

However, both the hospital authorities and Dr Sangjukta confirmed that there were more patients who sought her consultation but whose names were not recorded by the hospital.

During the same period (May 1-June 9), Dr Sangjukta assisted in 163 normal deliveries, 93 C-sections and 72 other surgeries.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Cattle are being brought to the capital by boats from around the country for sale ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. Dhaka city corporations have set up makeshift cattle markets in different locations to sell sacrificial animals. The photo was taken in Mill Barrack area of the city's Sutrapur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UN PEACEKEEPING

Two top UN officials in Dhaka to hold talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two top UN officials, who look after peacekeeping operations, policy and compliance, are currently visiting Bangladesh while another one will be touring the country early next month.

Apart from attending a preparatory conference on peacekeeping, the officials are scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

A total of 163,887 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have so far participated in UN missions in 40 countries. Bangladesh is currently one of the leading troop contributors, with 6,582 peacekeepers, including more than 400 women, deployed in nine

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

7 of a family killed as ambulance goes up in flames

3 children among dead; driver too dies

STAR REPORT

At least eight people, including seven of a family, died as an ambulance veered into the guardrail of Dhaka-Bhanga expressway and went up in flames in Bhanga upazila of Faridpur yesterday.

The children and grandchildren of 50-year-old Taslima Begum were taking her home from a hospital in the capital to their village home in Boalmari upazila when the moving vehicle caught fire.

Taslima, her two daughters Kamala, 30, and Beauty, 26; Kamala's three children Arif, 12, Hasib, 10, and one-year-old Afsa; and Beauty's son Mehedi, 10, had all died inside the ambulance.

The driver, Mridul Malo, 41, a resident of Faridpur town, died at a hospital, police said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kamala's brother-in-law Siddique Khan said Kamala and Beauty lived in the capital with their families.

After their mother Taslima, who lived in Boalmari, fell sick around two months ago, she was taken to Dhaka for treatment.

"Yesterday, all of them were heading towards their village home to celebrate Eid. Since Taslima had not fully recovered, they decided to travel by an ambulance," said Siddique.

"They left Dhaka in the morning. But we were informed about the accident around 3:00pm. Police said it took time to identify the burnt bodies."

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Highway Police Station in Madaripur, said, "The ambulance was in Maligram area of Bhanga upazila on the Dhaka-Bhanga expressway around 10:45pm when one of its tyres exploded, causing the driver to lose control over the vehicle, which rammmed into the guardrail of the expressway and caught fire."

Locals said the driver managed to get out of the vehicle, and was taken to a hospital, but he did not survive the burn injuries, the OC added.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

3 construction workers die as crane's cable snaps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three construction workers were killed and another was injured after a crane's cable snapped and its goods-carrying cage fell on them at an under-construction building in the capital's Demra yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Mizan, 30, Mostafa, 42, and Zafar, 50.

Omar Faruk, inspector (investigation) of Demra Police Station, said that the incident took place in the Sanarpar area around 2:00pm when the workers were lifting construction materials to the sixth floor of the building.

The three workers died on the spot, he added.

The injured was rushed to a hospital.

Ziaul Ahsan Talukder, deputy commissioner (Wari Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they would conduct a probe to identify if there was negligence by any person.

He said they were waiting for the victims' families to file a case in this connection.

57,000-year-old Neanderthal wall art found in France



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Finger markings discovered inside a cave in France are "organised and intentional" and were likely made by Neanderthals more than 57,000 years ago, scientists have said.

Thought to be the oldest known engravings made by the extinct human relative, the marks were found on La Roche-Cotard cave walls in the Centre-Val de Loire region of northern France.

The researchers said their findings, published in the journal Plos One, add to evidence that Neanderthals were "complex and diverse as those of our own ancestors".

The authors wrote: "Fifteen years after the resumption of excavations at the La Roche-Cotard site, the engravings have been dated to over 57,000 years ago... making this the oldest decorated cave in France, if not Europe."

For the study, Jean-Claude Marquet, of the University of Tours in France, and his colleagues analysed the wall markings, also known as finger flutings.

The team created 3D models of the engravings and compared them with known human markings.

The researchers concluded that the wall markings were deliberate, based on their shape, spacing, and arrangement.

Can booters best their old foes?



ANISUR RAHMAN
from Bengaluru

After suffering a 2-0 defeat to Lebanon, Bangladesh are in a vulnerable position once again in the SAFF Championship, aware that any result other than a victory against Maldives at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru today would leave them on the verge of exiting the competition in the group stage for the sixth straight time.

The match will kick off at 4:00pm.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



People coming towards the capital remain stuck in an almost 5-km tailback on the Dhaka-Aricha highway because of what locals say is a large number of trucks leaving a cattle market in Gabtoli all at once. The photo was taken at Aminbazar yesterday morning. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ROOPPUR POWER PLANT

Nuclear fuel to arrive in Sept

Yeafesh Osman says plant likely to be inaugurated same month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman has said they are expecting to inaugurate the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in September when the nuclear fuel will arrive.

He said the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, may join the inauguration of the power plant along with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We are trying to ensure the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin virtually," he told reporters at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) yesterday.

Yeafesh said his ministry was trying to organise the function at the beginning of September or in the middle of that month.

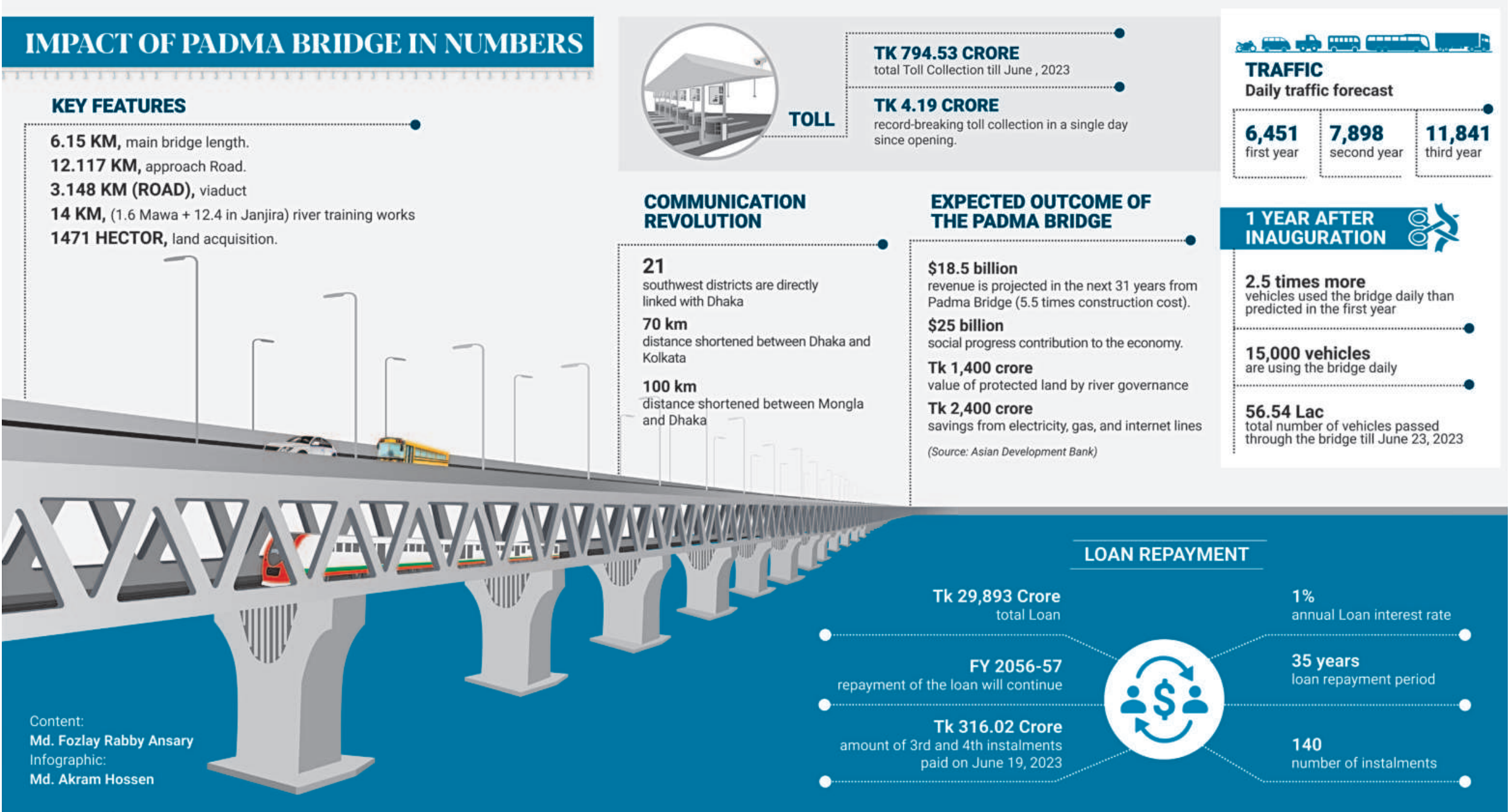
The minister joined a press conference marking the launch of a mobile app named "Solelectricity". The app, developed by the BCSIR, will provide solar electricity-related support countrywide.

Yeafesh talked about the government's goal of achieving 40 percent electricity production by using renewable energy by 2041.



A BRIDGE TO PROSPERITY

One year of the Padma Bridge and its transformative impact on Bangladesh



TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Every time Bappi Hasan takes a ride to his Shariatpur home crossing the Padma Bridge, one thing crosses his mind: had the bridge been built 20 years ago, he could have managed to ensure better treatment for his deceased mother.

His mother suffered a major brain stroke at one of his relative's houses in Dhaka in 2003. Unfortunately, Bappi was at his home. His mother should have been rushed to a specialized hospital immediately, given the severity of the stroke, but his distant relatives could only manage to take her to a local hospital as they neither had the financial ability nor the people to do so.

Upon receiving the news over the phone in the late evening, Bappi and his maternal uncles started for Dhaka, but the mighty Padma River stood in their way. They could not reach Dhaka that night as the launch service was shut down.

By the time they reached the capital on the following day, his mother's health condition had seriously deteriorated, and she was paralyzed forever. She died a few years later.

"Now the hours-long journey to cross the river is reduced to only 7-8 minutes, thanks to the Padma Bridge. So, whenever I get on the bridge, I tell myself that if there had been a bridge over the river at that time, I could have reached Dhaka and could have done something for my mother in arranging faster treatment," said Bappi.

"So, the Padma Bridge is not just a mere structure; it's etched with my emotions," he said.

Like Bappi, tens of thousands of people from 21 southwestern districts are now connected with their life and livelihood as the double-decker bridge not only shortens the journey and saves money but also brings changes in the mindset of the people living in the region.

On June 25 of last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the country's largest bridge, directly connecting the capital with the southwestern region. The bridge was opened to traffic on the following day.

As of June 23, 2023 a total of 56.54 lakh vehicles have used the bridge since its opening, and the bridge authority has collected Tk 794.53 crore as toll. On average, 15,000 vehicles use the bridge daily, and this number increases to 30,000 to 40,000 on special occasions,

according to the Bangladesh Bridges Authority (BBA).

The bridge has brought about a positive change in the socio-economic scenario.

Take tourism in Kuakata as an example.

The number of tourists has doubled after the launch of the Padma Bridge, which is contributing to the local economy, according to Motaleb Sharif, the general secretary of the Kuakata Hotel-Motel Owners Association.

"Not only on special occasions like Eid or New Year, but tourists also come to Kuakata even on weekends because the distance from Dhaka to Kuakata is less than the distance from Dhaka to Cox's Bazar," he told The Daily Star.

Sattar Khan, a private service holder from Kalia Upazila of Narail, said it used to take over six hours to reach Dhaka. But now it takes around

As of June 23, 2023 a total of 56.54 lakh vehicles have used the bridge since its opening, and the bridge authority has collected Tk 794.53 crore as toll. On average, 15,000 vehicles use the bridge daily, and this number increases to 30,000 to 40,000 on special occasions, according to the Bangladesh Bridges Authority (BBA).

two hours after the construction of the Padma and Modhumoti Bridges.

"The most important thing is that the Padma Bridge has resolved the uncertainty over the transportation system in this region. We used to check the weather before starting for Dhaka during the rainy and winter seasons. If it was cloudy, we used to choose buses that had launch facilities, but during the rainy season, we would choose buses that used ferries," he told The Daily Star.

Transport expert Prof Hadiuzzaman thinks the Padma

Bridge is a "transformational infrastructure," not just a communication infrastructure.

The bridge has not only shortened people's journey time and reduced overall transportation costs, but it has also brought about a major change in the mindset of people living in the southwestern region, he said.

"They now consider seeking better treatment and education in the capital. Many of them might have previously considered receiving treatment at local healthcare facilities or studying at local educational institutions," Hadiuzzaman, who teaches civil engineering at Buet, told The Daily Star on June 20.

In addition to improving road communication, the bridge is expected to bring revolutionary changes in railway communication in the country, where public transport like railways is crucial.

The bridge will help expand the rail network in the southern part of the country, which was previously unthinkable, he said.

Regarding socio-economic changes, he said that big businesses and large industrial units have already purchased land in the southern part of the country to expand their operations there. Although the expansion of heavy industries will take time, the process has already begun, he said.

Md Monjur Hossain, the executive director of the Bangladesh Bridge Authority, the implementing and operating agency of the Padma Bridge, said that although they have not conducted any study on the socio-economic changes brought about by the bridge, it is still too early to do so.

"But the changes are already visible," he said.

He mentioned that the land value in the southern region has sharply increased following the opening of the bridge. Business, industries, and the tourism sector are also expanding in the southern part of the country, but it will take some more time, he added.

"It was predicted that the Padma Bridge would boost the country's annual GDP by 1.23 percent. However, many people working on these issues believe that the growth will be much higher if other aspects, such as the increase in land value, are taken into consideration," he told The Daily Star on June 19, 2023.

A symbol of our
National Pride

Padma Bridge is not only an engineering marvel but a dream-come-true project of the nation.

We celebrate the first anniversary of this national symbol of pride and achievement with all Bangladeshis.

Eastern Bank Ltd.

BRIDGING THE NATION CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF THE PADMA BRIDGE

The Daily Star
DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023
ASHAR 11, 1430 BS

S2



PHOTO: STAR

“We have managed 2.5 times more vehicles than the forecast for the first year”

Padma Bridge has provided us with significant experience and self-confidence, which will help us in constructing more major bridges. We are in the process of preparing a masterplan for BBA and have already identified approximately 70 potential bridge sites.

Bridges Division Secretary Md. Monjur Hossain, who is also the Executive Director of Bangladesh Bridge Authority, the implementing and operating agency of Padma Bridge, speaks with The Daily Star's Tuhin Shubhra Adhikary on the occasion of the first anniversary of the opening of Padma Bridge.

Q: Padma Bridge is the most-talked-about project in the country. The Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has built the bridge and is now carrying out its operation and maintenance (O&M). Please tell us about your experience of the last one year.

A: The first thing is that the construction of a bridge over a river like Padma was very challenging. There were problems related to financing after foreign lenders pulled out from the project. The first and foremost thing is the courage. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led us from the front to implement it with our own funds. Our main achievement from the project is that it has proved our capability. Although we have hired foreign contractors and consultants, the project, where sophisticated technologies were used, has enhanced our capability.

Although we have hired a foreign joint venture firm for the operation and maintenance of the bridge, most of the people involved in the work are local, and thus O&M has created a great scope for employment. Padma Bridge, when the construction works were going on, had created a scope for employment, and now the O&M has

created the same scope.

Q: How many vehicles have used the bridge since it was opened and how much money has the BBA collected as toll? How difficult was the task to manage the huge number of vehicles, especially at the initial stage?

A: A total of 55.61 lakh vehicles have used the bridge till June 18 since its opening, and the BBA has collected Tk 781.82 crore as toll. On average, 15,000 vehicles use the bridge daily, and this number rises to 30,000 to 40,000 on special occasions. The daily traffic forecast for the first year was 6,451, while it was 7,898 for the second year and 11,841 for the third year. Therefore, we have managed 2.5 times more vehicles than the forecast for the first year, overcoming the initial challenge. We have made efforts to ensure speedy service despite our limitations. We have six toll booths on both sides and currently, there is no scope to increase the number as the project is still ongoing. Therefore, we have set up toll booths at both ends of the emergency lanes. We have aimed to make optimum use of all our available resources.

Q: Padma Bridge was built taking a loan from Bangladesh Bank, and BBA has paid four installments of the loan so far. Was the toll BBA collected so far enough to repay the loan?

A: We have repaid around Tk 633 crore of the loan so far, excluding VAT and tax, and all the money came from the toll. We did not have to bring money from another fund to repay the loan. We want to give a big thank you to the



bridge users because we have been able to repay the loan with their money (toll). Apart from the loan, we are providing a 15 percent VAT from the toll money. We hope to pay the fee of the O&M operator from the toll as well.

Q: What are the socio-economic changes the bridge has brought for the people so far? What is your observation? Have you carried out any study on it?

A: We will surely carry out an impact assessment, but I think it is still too early for such a study. It would require data for at least two to three years to conduct a comprehensive analysis. The initial prediction was that the Padma Bridge would boost the country's annual GDP by 1.23 percent. However, many experts working on these issues believe that the actual growth will be

much higher if other aspects are taken into account. For example, the increase in land value following the opening of the Padma Bridge was not considered in the initial prediction. Additionally, the bridge is saving a significant amount of time, and if the time-related costs are also considered, the growth potential will be further increased. Previously, people in the southwestern region had to spend at least two nights and one day for work in Dhaka, but now they can complete their tasks within a day. Businesses, industries, and the tourism sector in the southern part of the country are experiencing expansion beyond our expectations. However, we need to allow more time for further expansion of industries and businesses in this region.

Q: What is the progress regarding the installation of weigh scales and Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system?

A: Weigh scales (axle load control centers) have already been installed on both sides of the bridge, and they are currently undergoing trials. We are planning to launch it very soon. Additionally, we have already installed Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) system at Bangabandhu Bridge, and we have initiated the process to do the same at Padma Bridge. We are collaborating with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and the ICT division to ensure better integration in this regard. Initially, we will launch ETC at one or two booths and gradually increase the number.

Q: BBA had taken an initiative to

form a dedicated company for the operation and maintenance of Padma Bridge. Is there any development in this regard?

A: Yes, there has been some progress in this regard. A committee assigned to determine the organogram of the company and address relevant issues has submitted its report. We are currently finalizing it. Our goal is to have the company begin its operations by June 2024.

Q: Do you have any other new plans centered around Padma Bridge?

A: Padma Bridge has provided us with significant experience and self-confidence, which will help us in constructing more major bridges. We are in the process of preparing a masterplan for BBA and have already identified approximately 70 potential bridge sites. The experience gained from Padma Bridge will greatly assist us in implementing this masterplan.

Q: What would be your final remark on the occasion of the first anniversary of the opening of Padma Bridge?

A: We would like to express our gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Road Transport and Bridges Minister. We also extend our thanks to all the people involved, including the contractors, consultants, and officials who worked on this project. Additionally, we would like to thank the journalists for their coverage of the project. Lastly, our heartfelt appreciation goes to the bridge users, for whom the bridge was built.

A BRIDGE TO PROSPERITY

FROM PAGE S1

Prominent economist Prof Mustafizur Rahman, however, said that there is still a long way to go to transform the Padma bridge-backed transport corridor into an economic corridor.

The bridge has changed the transportation

system and reduced travel time, costs, and energy consumption, he said.

“But we have many things to do to convert the transport corridor into an economic corridor,” said Prof Mustafizur, who is also a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

In order to take advantage of the bridge, the government has plans to develop 17 economic zones in the southwestern region and establish sub-regional connectivity involving India, he said.

“If we can merge the three factors—communication, business, and investment—

we will achieve the expected outcome from the bridge,” he told The Daily Star.

Khandaker Enayet Ullah, the secretary general of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, said that the number of buses operating in the southwestern region has almost doubled after the opening of the

Padma Bridge, making transportation easy and smooth for the people.

However, he mentioned that although the number of buses has increased significantly, the transport business has not experienced the expected boost due to intense competition among the bus operators.



শেকড় আমার
জন্মভূমি
**আমার
বিকাশ**
ঠেকায়
কে!

সুর কৃষ্ণ চাকমা

সাউথ এশিয়ান প্রো বক্সিং চ্যাম্পিয়ন



ভিডিও দেখতে স্ক্যান করুন



BRIDGING THE NATION CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF THE PADMA BRIDGE

The Daily Star

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2023
ASHAR 11, 1430 BS

S4

“To achieve optimal results from the Padma Bridge, we need to transform it from a transportation corridor to an economic corridor.”

In conversation with Dr. Md. Shamsul Hoque, Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering, BUET.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Padma Bridge on June 25, 2022.

PHOTO: STAR

In our riverine country, the river channels were expected to provide the most utility. However, since the construction of the Padma Bridge, the river channels have been unable to keep up due to the absence of a national strategy. There should be a balanced and multidimensional development strategy in place that ensures resiliency.

The Daily Star (TDS): Padma Bridge has completed its first year. How would you evaluate the overall impact of the bridge during this time?

Prof. Shamsul Hoque (SH): The Padma Bridge represents a significant milestone in addressing the long-standing deficiency of transformative long term infrastructure. The southwestern region of the country, despite its proximity to the capital, has historically been neglected. However, with the establishment of the Padma Bridge, this previously marginalized population now has access to development opportunities and direct connectivity. It also reflects the strength of our political will.

The bridge optimizes the travel route, eliminating turbulent and uncertain ferry journeys. Additionally, the inclusion of the railway system ensures a multi-dimensional communication network. It creates the possibility of decentralization by providing advanced infrastructure, allowing people to seek job opportunities in different areas.

Our port and coastal belt have immense potential, yet we have not been able to fully harness it. Through the Padma Bridge, we can unlock the potential of the trans-Asian railway and establish connectivity with the National Asian Highway, taking progress to new heights.

One challenge in the railway system is the orientation issue. Currently, all trains, regardless of their origin, enter the Kamlapur Railway Hub from the north, which hampers optimal productivity. This issue will be resolved

with the Padma Bridge, as its railway gateway will be located in Narayanganj, to the south. It will create balance and resilience.

In addition to enhancing the resilience of the railway and highway networks, the Padma Bridge will also enable us to tackle the challenges of the new reality following our graduation from the LDC status.

TDS: What measures should be taken to ensure the proper maintenance of the bridge?

SH: Training the Padma river posed numerous challenges that we had to overcome. As we contend with the forces of nature, it is crucial for us to remain ever watchful of the river's evolving nature and maintain a vigilant approach to river training. It is crucial for ensuring the longevity of the bridge.

TDS: Do you see any challenges in realizing the full potential of the Padma Bridge?

SH: To achieve optimal results from the Padma Bridge, we need to transform it from a transportation corridor to an economic corridor. This entails not only improving vehicle movement

but also promoting overall economic development in the areas connected by the bridge. Despite having such plans outlined in the bridge's planning documents, we observe a lack of implementation.

The unplanned development on both sides of the highway puts it at a disadvantage, resulting in retail-oriented growth rather than large-scale economic development. If retail developments dominate around the Padma Bridge, it will undermine the productivity potential of the infrastructure. My concern lies in the fact that although we have constructed the bridge, there has been insufficient planning to establish a comprehensive economic corridor alongside it.

Furthermore, we must also prioritize the protection of agricultural lands along the highway to ensure the country's food security.

In the era of smart and sustainable development, it is imperative to prioritize long-term utility. In our riverine country, the river channels were expected to provide the most utility. However, since the construction of the Padma Bridge, the river

channels have been unable to keep up due to the absence of a national strategy. There should be a balanced and multidimensional development strategy in place that ensures resiliency. Decision-makers need to concentrate on safeguarding the river routes and transportation system, as they hold the potential to be gateways of endless possibilities. Ignoring the intervention needed for the river channels will lead to their gradual demise, which is a short-sighted approach.

There is a significant lack of enforcement when it comes to road safety. Worldwide, we can observe well-designed roads that facilitate faster transportation. Studies suggest that managing vehicle entry onto roads can help control the accident rate. Unfortunately, it appears that we are not fully prepared for this type of development, or perhaps the individuals responsible for road safety lack the necessary qualifications and accountability. However, to effectively maintain and ensure the safety of passengers in such a grand infrastructure, we must change our mindset. Despite constructing safer roads, we still struggle to make them entirely safe.

The current system of route permits in Bangladesh lacks appropriate judgment based on skills and talent. Anyone who applies for a route permit is granted one, regardless of their qualifications. It is crucial to have a single service provider for each route instead of increasing the number of vehicles on the roads. Instead of adding more cars, introducing double or triple-decker buses can significantly

increase passenger capacity.

Currently, the Padma corridor lacks smart operational points, resulting in competition among vehicles. To address this, there should be a single station in Dhaka and a unified service for the Padma Bridge from that station. This route can cover a distance of approximately 51 kilometres, which is convenient for most passengers. Additionally, there should be a central station on the other side of the Padma, serving as the main entry point for the 21 districts connected to the bridge. Local bus companies can expand their business from this central station, while the central bus business in Dhaka can flourish within the city. By implementing this smart operational bus route plan, utilizing modern scientific technology, we can achieve better control and management of the Padma Bridge with fewer vehicles.

The government is greatly concerned about the rapid increase in motorcycles. Many motorcycle riders tend to ignore traffic regulations, resulting in a high number of accidents, particularly among young riders. While the main objective of the Padma Bridge is to promote economic development rather than personal convenience, these unfortunate motorcycle incidents divert attention from the bridge's primary purpose. Given the absence of dedicated lanes for motorcycles, it is crucial for the government to acknowledge that motorcycles pose a substantial threat to road safety. Taking action to regulate the number of motorcycles from an early stage is essential to prevent an unmanageable situation in the future.

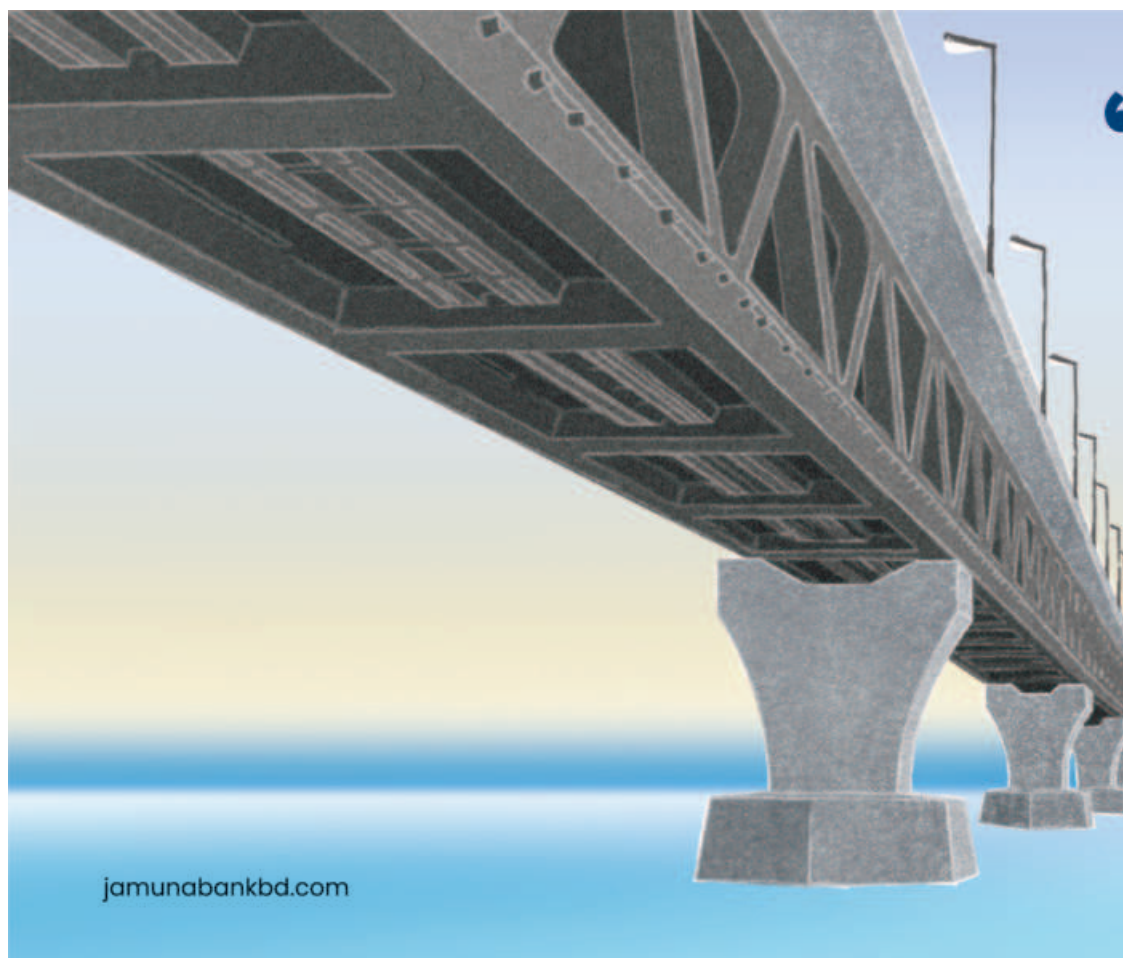
TDS: What suggestions would you offer to enhance the utilization of the Padma Bridge and maximize its potential for driving economic development?

SH: Upon closer examination, it becomes evident that although the Padma Bridge has brought significant promised benefits, there have been reported accidents and a lack of enforcement of adequate safety measures since its completion. Measures such as implementing a strict monitoring system and enforcing vehicle fitness checks can be crucial in effectively addressing the problem.

Additionally, improving the road system by acquiring more land on both sides of the roads and constructing Export Processing Zones (EPZ) can contribute to economic development. It is important for higher authorities to closely monitor these activities to ensure their effectiveness.

Furthermore, it is essential not to overlook the potential of natural waterways and prioritize their strategic development alongside the mega-road projects. By integrating efforts in both the waterway and road sectors, the government can optimize transportation benefits and fuel efficiency.

Interviewed by Priyam Paul



“পদ্মা সেতু” আমাদের গর্ব

দেশের সর্ববৃহৎ যোগাযোগ অবকাঠামো স্বপ্নের পদ্মা সেতু নির্মাণের অংশীদার হতে পেরে আমরা যমুনা ব্যাংক পরিবার গর্বিত। স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণে অর্থনৈতিক অগ্রযাত্রায় ভবিষ্যতেও আমরা কাজ করে যাবো অদম্য গতিতে।

স্বপ্নের পদ্মা সেতু'র রূপকার গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা'কে অভিবাদন।

jamunabankbd.com

