



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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US should first protect rights of its own people

Says PM in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mentioning that people are being shot dead in the US every day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said America should protect the human rights of its own people first.



"Let them think first about how to save the people of their own country. That's what they should do," the premier told the Jatiya Sangsad in her concluding speech of the budget session.

Referring to the recent city corporation polls and parliamentary by-elections, Hasina said only the Awami League can hold free and fair elections in the country.

Blasting the US, the leader of the House said, "Many are being killed across the world. Even children are being shot dead in America every day. Killings are taking

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Tamim Iqbal could not hold back his tears, pausing mid-speech to gather himself, as he announced his retirement from international cricket during a press briefing at a hotel in Chattogram yesterday. Such a drastic step from the Bangladesh ODI skipper took everyone present in the briefing room, and later the entire nation, by surprise but the country's best opener did not take questions following his announcement.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Yet another controversial law passes JS

a2i bill goes through disregarding due process

MAHMUDUL HASAN

For the second time in two weeks, a bill was passed in the parliament that has taken its relevant industry stakeholders by surprise and is now facing a pushback.

The Agency to Innovate (A2i) Bill 2023, which was passed on Wednesday, empowers Aspire to Innovate (a2i), a special project of the ICT division to facilitate the government's Digital Bangladesh agenda, to form a company.

The subsidised state company would be able to participate in government tenders, run e-commerce, do IT consultancy and make software and hardware – a development that the promising ICT industry says would pose a threat to its very existence.

The industry stakeholders fear that all government projects, which is a healthy source of revenue for them, would be going for direct procurement of IT products and services with the view to patronising a2i instead of the existing practice of competitive tender.

Subsequently, from the moment the ICT division-drafted bill was passed by the cabinet in May last year, they have been opposing it. And the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of posts, telecommunications & information technology, which has been tasked with scrutinising the bill, appears to have taken their grievances into account.

BANGLADESH ECONOMY 'Nothing to fear, all is well now'

Finance minister hails recovery from Russia-Ukraine war fallout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fear over Bangladesh's economy that began after Russia invaded Ukraine is now gone, said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

"Considering the global economy, we have to admit that what we achieved is much better than what the others did," Kamal said in response to reporters' questions after a meeting with Yamada Junichi, executive senior vice-president of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), at the secretariat yesterday.

About the IMF loan, the finance minister said, "The loan we are taking out from the IMF equals to two months' remittances.

"We did not understand how long the war would continue. We were scared as the reserve was falling as well as the prices of goods in the world market were rising," he said on why the loan was taken.

"Now we have no fear. All is well now," he said.

About inflation, the finance minister said, "Now inflation is high all over the world. And when we came to power, inflation was 12.30 percent. But it did not increase.

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Why, and why now?

Tamim retires from international cricket

AL-AMIN

Tamim Iqbal sent shockwaves throughout the sporting fraternity yesterday when the Bangladesh ODI captain announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect.

The best opening batter the country has ever produced, Tamim left all and sundry speechless at a hotel in the port city of Chattogram, where the left-hander abruptly drew curtains on a chequered 16-year

at least another couple of years left in him to serve the country? Why did Tamim, who was singularly focused on the coming ODI World Cup only a few months ago, take such a decision, which is damaging for him as well as for his country?

Tamim, at 34, is still no pushover as a batter. His healthy ODI average of 36.62 runs speaks volumes of his ability.

And his record as ODI captain is enviable to say the least. Under his stewardship, Bangladesh have won 60 per cent of their

Why did Tamim, who was singularly focused on the coming ODI World Cup only a few months ago, take such a decision, which is damaging for him as well as for his country?

international career during an emotional press briefing.

"Yesterday [Wednesday] against Afghanistan was my last international game. I am retiring from international cricket, effective right now," Tamim told reporters.

His decision to quit with the 50-over World Cup in India only three months away and Bangladesh possibly having their best line-up ever and a shot at a first-ever World Cup title led to some burning questions.

Why did Tamim decide to quit when he had

ODIs. After Mashrafe's retirement in 2020, Tamim took over as ODI captain. In his 37 games at the helm, Bangladesh won 21 games, losing 14.

At the press briefing, Tamim – wearing a black T-shirt and a baseball cap – did not elaborate on his sudden decision. He thanked everyone associated with cricket and wished the Tigers the best in the upcoming World Cup.

He did not field questions from the

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TO US, TAMIM IS STILL THE ODI CAPTAIN: PAPON – PAGE 11

Emotional overdrive of final hours

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram

As the members of the Bangladesh team returned to their rooms at the team hotel in Chattogram following defeat to Afghanistan in the first ODI on Wednesday, there were arguments, disappointment, agitation, anger and a lot of emotion flowing around in Tamim Iqbal's room till midnight.

It came as a big shock for those present in Tamim's room, including his elder brother Nafees Iqbal and a handful of his close friends, to whom the 34-year-old had first revealed his decision to retire from international cricket.

There were long phone conversations between Tamim and his wife in Dhaka, and it was learnt that the family members requested him to reconsider his decision.

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"The parliamentary process of forming a law was not followed here," said Russell T Ahmed, president of BASIS, the trade body for software and IT-enabled services providers.

But the version of the draft that eventually became the law does not reflect the committee's decisions, raising questions about the point of the exercise. There is no scope to change the decisions of the parliamentary standing committee.

On June 18, the committee comprising eight lawmakers sat in a meeting to scrutinise the bill, which was presented at the parliament on June 7 by Zunaid Ahmed Palak, the state minister for ICT. The committee was supposed to send a report to the parliament, which would then be reflected in the law.

Also invited to the meeting were the presidents of five ICT trade bodies: Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), the Bangladesh Computer Samity, the e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (eCab), the Internet Service Providers' Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) and the Bangladesh Association of Call Centres and Outsourcing (Bacco).

"It was unanimously decided that a2i would not be allowed to form a company," Mustafa Jabbar, minister for telecommunications & information technology, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Jabbar attended the meeting at the invitation of the standing committee chairman AKM Rahmatullah.

"And the presidents of the trade bodies thanked the ICT state minister for accepting all of their demands including this," Jabbar added.

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TALKS WITH US DELEGATES

Polls, labour rights may figure high

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The high-level US delegation visit, slated for July 11-14, may feature discussions on the upcoming election, human rights, labour, Rohingya and trade issues, according to foreign ministry officials.

Uzra Zeya, under secretary for civilian security, democracy, and human rights, will lead the delegation that also includes Donald Lu, US assistant secretary for South and Central Asia Bureau, and Anjali Kaur, USAID deputy assistant administrator.

At a press briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said, "I have no such knowledge that the delegation's visit will be specifically to discuss election related issues. It [the visit] is a continuation of our engagement with the US, and election may be one of the issues to be discussed, along with those of human rights, labour, Rohingyas and trade."

He said the relationship between the US and Bangladesh has many different aspects. "We will discuss many issues. I am not ruling out the election. That may also come up."

Diplomatic sources said the next general election and labour rights issues

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The trial run of the metro rail on Agargaon-Motijheel route will start today. Commercial operation on this route is expected to begin in October. The Uttara-Agargaon section of the country's first metro rail, officially known as Mass Rapid Transit-6, opened to the public in December last year. The photo was taken near the High Court yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

US, EU politicians interfering in Bangladesh

Says Russia

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russia has termed the letters issued by American and European politicians urging free and fair polls in Bangladesh "neocolonialism" and "blatant interference" in the internal affairs of the country.

"We have taken note of certain European and American politicians publishing letters calling for 'free and fair' elections in Bangladesh," according to a verified Twitter account of the Russian foreign ministry, which quoted its spokeswoman as saying.

"...This is #neocolonialism and yet another attempt at blatant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state," it said yesterday.

The national election in Bangladesh is slated for January next year.

The statement comes when Bangladesh faces pressures ahead of the next parliamentary elections. The ruling Awami League and BNP are also at loggerheads over the polls-time government.

The US on May 24 announced visa restrictions on individuals and their immediate family members if they are responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh.

The US has been critical of the elections

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PM to attend BIMSTEC summit on November 30

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit Thailand to attend the BIMSTEC summit on November 30.

Masud Bin Momen, secretary to the foreign ministry, said this after a meeting with Indian Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (East) Shaurobh Kumar in the capital yesterday.

From December, Bangladesh will be the next chair and India the secretary general of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

There will also be a foreign minister-level meeting of the BIMSTEC on July 17, Momen told reporters at the foreign ministry.

He added that he and the Indian external affairs secretary discussed the agenda of the minister-level meeting and the future course of actions for BIMSTEC.

Shaurabh talked about India's perspectives as a focal country for security issues while Momen shared how there might be free trade in the sub-region.

Roads and energy connectivity were also discussed.

"We also want to take the bilateral or trilateral projects to a higher level."

There are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal Motor Vehicle project, Asian Highway Project, and India, Myanmar, Thailand Highway Project, he said.

"These should be coordinated, not fragmented. The same goes with the grid connectivity."

When asked if they discussed the upcoming national election, Momen said the issue was irrelevant.

"These meetings are pre-scheduled. One is not linked to the other. There can be many meetings simultaneously and each has its issues [to discuss]."

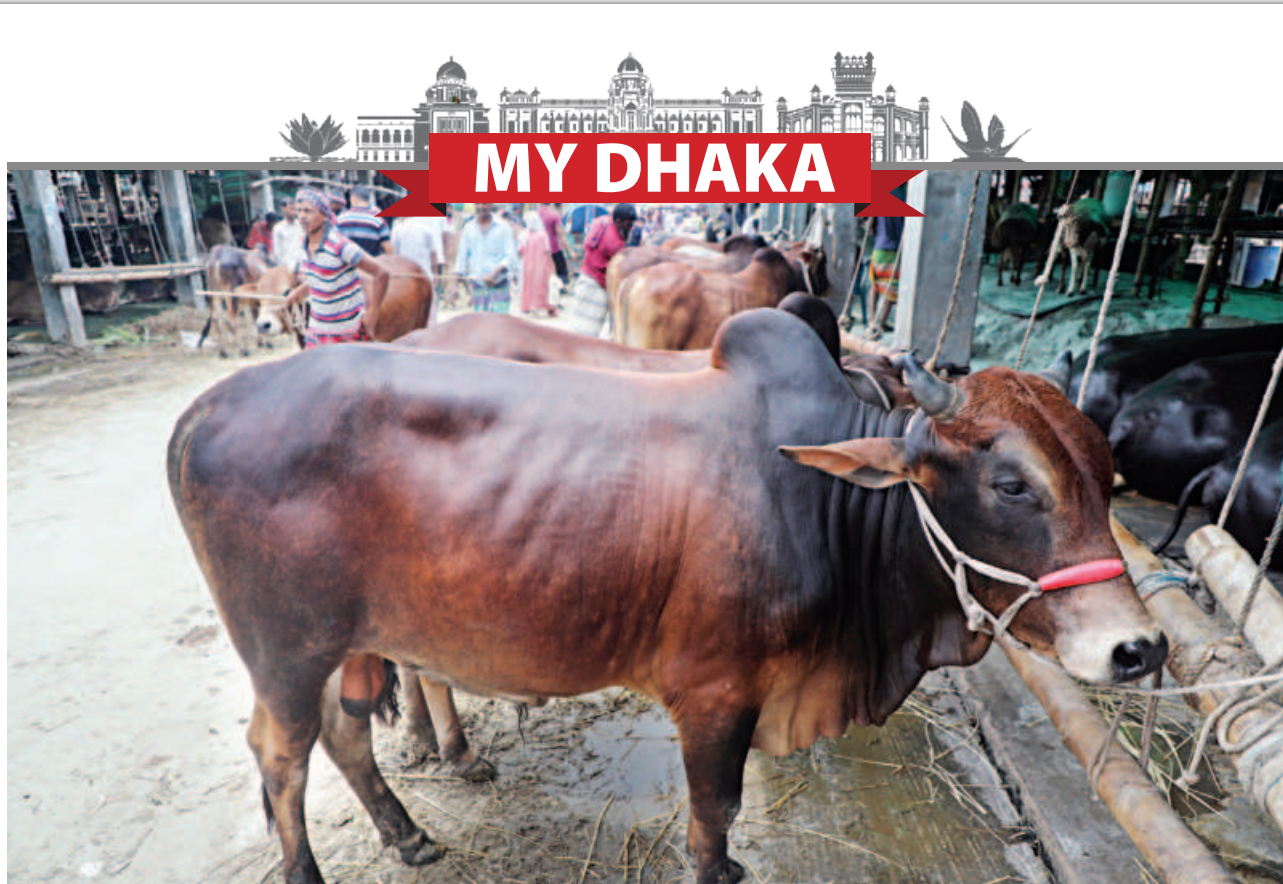


PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Small, marginal farmers and Gabtoli cattle market

SHEIKH HANNAN

The Gabtoli cattle market is situated at Aminbazar. In the past, the area was a suburb of Dhaka but is now considered part of the city as Dhaka has expanded, stretching its boundaries. Gabtoli operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

Gabtoli never sleeps!

The cattle and livestock market has several permanent sheds that are occupied by traders, known as beparis. These beparis sell their purchased cows to all types of customers, mainly to butchers (koshais), who are now branding themselves as "meat businessman".

The beparis and koshais have a love-hate relationship because they cut into each other's profit. However, some have friendly relations and credit sales by the beparis to the koshais are common affairs. Occasionally, these beparis will sell their cows to nearby well-established cattle-rearing farms.

The traders have their good days and bad. Overall, they survive and are financially sound. A few brokers hang out, most of the time staying inactive and springing to life during Eid-ul-Azha. They make a few quick bucks by creating chaos and confusion between the sellers and customers.

Ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha, Gabtoli constructs many temporary sheds to

accommodate the influx of sellers. They come from all over the country. Among the seller are some new-generation of male and female, small and marginal livestock farmers (prantik khamaris).

These farmers have high hopes and set the initial asking prices similar to the prices set by the well-established cattle farms situated in and around Dhaka city.



As days pass, they are worried, lose hope, start panicking, and in desperation resort to distress sales. Finally, after fervent requests and intense bargaining, they sell their prized possessions at rock-bottom prices. While the farmers are in financial grief, the buyers are happy, and some gleefully decorate the cows with ornaments.

I recollect a young prantik khamari cried profusely and cursed the Dhaka residents because he was unable to sell his cow. He completely broke down



when he realised that he will have to pay rent to Gabtoli for occupying the space even if the cow remains unsold. Another farmer quietly left the city after donating his cow to an orphanage.

The khamari-cows are no less (if not better) than the cows of the well-established cattle farms in terms of breed, colour, size, shape, and weight as evidenced in the recent cattle show held in Agargaon, Dhaka.

We need to help, support, and save the prantik khamaris from distressed sales.

The Department of Livestock through its vast network of field offices provides technical know-how, training, inputs, and medical support to the farmers. The department should take the imitativensness to tackle this distress-sale issue.

These actions will help the farmers receive fair prices for their cows and make Bangladesh self-sufficient in meat production.

Yet another

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting agreed on three issues: a2i cannot participate in commercial activities, form a company and incorporate the presidents of the five trade bodies to the board of directors as its members.

But section 21 of the law allows a2i to form a company.

"The parliamentary process of forming a law was not followed here," said Russell T Ahmed, president of BASIS, the trade body for software and IT-enabled services providers.

The parliamentary standing committee meeting was filmed, he said.

"So if the video or the meeting minutes are made public, one will see that the decision of the meeting has not been reflected in the law. We all came out of the meeting that day [June 18] with happy faces as all of our demands were met."

The bill goes against the interests of the country and the industry.

"This is unacceptable -- we will formally raise the issue and will take it to the prime minister," Ahmed added.

The trade bodies sought the meeting minutes but are yet to get the document, said Wahid Sharif, president of BACCO.

"We are surprised -- we cannot find any logical explanation. We don't know if it was because of a mistake. If it was a mistake, it needs to be corrected," he added.

Contacted, Md Nurul Amin, a lawmaker who is a member of the standing committee, said he could not remember the contents of the meeting.

Fakhrul Imam, a Jatiya Party lawmaker, vehemently opposed the bill in the parliament on Wednesday.

"If the law gets passed, a2i will do consultancy work and contractor's work simultaneously," he said.

In response, Palak said most of the objections raised about the law have been met.

Rahmatullah and Palak could not be reached for comment.

US should first protect rights

FROM PAGE 1

place in schools, shopping malls, and on streets.

"... People are being killed with their families inside homes. They should protect the human rights of their own people first," she added.

Hasina, also the AL president, said thousands of women and men are suffering as refugees due to the war in Ukraine. Mentioning about the shootings in Syria and Palestine, the PM questioned why no one was speaking about those. "Are human rights not being violated there?"

The premier said her government sheltered the persecuted and forcibly displaced Rohingyas in Bangladesh. "We took the responsibility of so many people on humanitarian grounds. What can be a bigger

instance of human rights protection than this?"

The AL chief questioned why would her government, which sheltered the people persecuted in another country, violate human rights.

She asked if those who say there are no human rights in Bangladesh saw the repression committed in 2001, the August 21 grenade attack and the incidents that happened from August 15, 1975, to 1996.

Hasina said the government's goal is to protect the voting rights of the people and ensure their economic emancipation. "We have been doing the work and we will continue to do it."

Talking about elections, the PM

said city polls were held recently in Barishal, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna and Gazipur. She said the AL lost in Gazipur and won in four other cities, but no one could raise any question about those elections.

"Did we go there to steal votes? We didn't. Have such peaceful elections ever been held in Bangladesh before?"

Hasina said the AL has secured the voting rights of the people, made them aware of their rights and kept the democratic process uninterrupted in the country.

"They [BNP] were not able to destroy democracy by carrying out arson attacks, murders and other misdeeds from 2009 to 2023," she said.

Polls, labour rights

FROM PAGE 1

may figure prominently in the discussions during the visit.

The issue of the election is considered crucial, especially after the US on May 24 announced a policy that said it won't issue visas to the Bangladeshis found complicit in vote rigging or intimidation in the election process.

Earlier in 2021, the US imposed sanctions on Rab and a few of its senior officials and also did not invite Bangladesh to President Biden's democracy summits in 2021 and 2023.

The US has long been critical of the 2014 and 2018 elections on account of alleged vote rigging.

Suspending GSP facilities for Bangladesh after the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, Washington has also been critical of the labour rights issues, including union rights, living wage and more.

A foreign ministry official said Bangladesh may request Uzra Zeya to withdraw sanctions on Rab and its officials. Earlier this year, the US said Rab made progress in terms of curbing extrajudicial killings, especially since the sanctions were imposed.

A diplomatic source said that while Bangladesh has been making progress under various initiatives since the Rana Plaza, the recent murder of trade union leader Shahidul Islam has complicated things, and so the issue of may come up during the delegation's visit.

On Wednesday, US Ambassador Peter Haas visited the headquarters of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation and called on the Bangladesh authorities to investigate the murder thoroughly and hold the perpetrators accountable.

Rafiqul Islam, acting director of the foreign ministry's publicity wing, at a regular media briefing yesterday, said European Union Human Rights Affairs' Special Representative Eamon Gilmore will also visit Bangladesh

later this month.

PEACEKEEPERS TO RETURN FROM MALI

Meanwhile, around 1,700 Bangladeshi peacekeepers stationed in Mali will be coming back home by December this year, Rafiqul said.

The decision, taken by the UN Security Council, came after the UN government wanted the UN peacekeepers to be withdrawn from its country.

Since 2013, Bangladeshi peacekeepers -- both from Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police -- have been involved in the mission.

US, EU politicians interfering in Bangladesh: Russia

FROM PAGE 1

of 2018 and 2014, citing alleged vote rigging and irregularities.

On May 25, six US Republican congressmen wrote to US President Joe Biden, calling for urgent actions to stop the "human rights abuses" by the Bangladesh government and "give the people of Bangladesh the best possible chance for free and fair parliamentary elections".

On June 13, six representatives of Congress from the Democratic party wrote to the US secretary of state calling for actions to ensure free and fair parliamentary elections in Bangladesh.

On June 12, six Members of European Parliament also asked the EU High Representative Joseph Borrell to contribute to ensuring free, fair, and impartial general elections in Bangladesh, "possibly under a poll-time neutral caretaker government".

The animosity between the US and Russia got worse following Russian invasion of Ukraine, which had a rippling impact across the globe.

The US and EU also imposed sanctions against many Russian entities.

Bangladesh also faces difficulties in paying Russia for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project.

2 killed as train hits motorbike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least two people were killed and another injured yesterday when a train hit a motorbike at the Birampur rail crossing area in Santhia upazila of Pabna.

The deceased are identified as Md Jamirul Islam, 32, and Md Babu Munshi, 25, of village Kabarikola in Santhia upazila of Pabna.

The injured Momin Shikdar, 28, of the same village has been admitted to the Pabna general hospital in a critical condition.

Sub-inspector of Ishwardi GRP police station Islam Alimullah, quoting locals, said they were going to Kashinathpur Bazar from their village riding a motorbike. While crossing the Birahimpur rail line around 6.30am, the Dhalarchar Express hit the motorbike leaving the two dead on the spot, the SI added.

The SI said there is no gate at the crossing for the safety of people.

A case was filed with the Ishwardi GRP police station.

ICC prosecutor visits Rohingya camps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor Karim A A Khan yesterday visited Rohingya camps in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar and interacted with refugees to know about the alleged crimes committed against them in Myanmar.

A three-member delegation of ICC led by Khan visited Camp 1 and Camp 12, said Mohammad Khalid Hossain, additional commissioner of Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC). What they discussed in the meeting couldn't be known as no journalists were allowed there.

Mohammad Zubair, chairman of ARSPLA, a refugee camp-based organisation working for the rights of Rohingyas, said 15 people from the persecuted community, including him, met the ICC prosecutor in the morning at the Lambasia camp office.

He said the women present there narrated the tortures and abuses they suffered in Myanmar in 2016-17.

On Wednesday, Khan held a meeting with the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman. Officials present at the meeting said they discussed the total situation of the camps, law and order situation and assistance activities.

The prosecutor also expressed his concerns over the slashing of food assistance to the Rohingyas.

BGB detains 2 Indians for illegal entry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) early yesterday detained two Indian nationals in Lalmonirhat for entering the country without valid documents.

The detainees were identified as Rahmat Ullah, 30, and Suman Haque, 23. They are both from Jaridharla Daribas village under Dinhatata Police Station in West Bengal's Cooch Bihar, said Maj Asifur Islam Siddiquee, acting commanding officer of Lalmonirhat BGB Battalion 15.

They were detained from a house at Kawar Char area on the border of Dighaltari under Aditumari upazila. They will be handed over to India's Border Security Force (BSF) through a flag meeting, he said.

Democracy crucial to development

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her Awami League government wants the continuation of the democratic process to maintain the country's development spree.

She said this while inaugurating a new office for officers of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat at the Parliament Bhavan.

She said the country's democratic trend is the result of long struggle and all have to keep in mind that it did not happen overnight.

"Since forming the government in 2009, we have been able to strengthen our democratic process. As a result, the whole country has changed," she said.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury also spoke on the occasion.

She said the activities of the office of Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat would be fully shifted to new compound.

Besides, an archive on life, works and struggles of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Liberation War will also be set up there by October, she added.



A man spraying mosquito repellents with a fogger machine in front of the secretariat in the capital yesterday. As the number of dengue patients continues to rise rapidly, and fatalities soar, authorities are taking various measures to curb the menace.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

METRO RAIL Test run from Agargaon to Motijheel today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities will conduct a test run of the trains on the Agargaon-Motijheel section at 4:00pm today.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the test run from Agargaon station, said metro rail authorities said yesterday.

The Uttara-Agargaon section of the country's first metro-rail line, formally known as MRT Line-6, was opened in December last year.

Since then, the demand for the Agargaon-Motijheel section has increased as the major catchment area runs through Mirpur to Motijheel.

At that time, it was announced that the Agargaon-Motijheel section would open in December, while the Motijheel-Kamalapur one would open in June 2025.

But at a June 18 programme, Quader said the prime minister will inaugurate the Agargaon-Motijheel section in October. Till June this year, the section saw 95.20 percent progress, shows the DMTCL monthly progress report.

The government is implementing the fast-track project to build the 21.26km elevated metro line, which will have 17 stations, from Uttara to Kamalapur at a cost of Tk 33,472 crore.

Samrat's bail extended till Aug 28

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended bail of expelled Jubo League leader Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat till August 28 in a Tk 222-crore money laundering case.

Judge Monjurul Imam of the Special Judge's Court-6 of Dhaka passed the order after Samrat's lawyer Afroza Shahanaj Parvin Hira submitted two separate applications -- one for seeking extension of his bail and another for adjournment of charge framing hearing.

Samrat, a "kingpin" of illegal casino business, was present at the court yesterday. On August 22 last year, the same court granted ad-interim bail to Samrat considering his health.

Following that, Samrat had been taking treatment at BSMMU.

Dengue spreads to 57 districts

Urgent measures needed to combat the crisis, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM

In a worrisome development, the deadly dengue fever has rapidly spread its grip across Bangladesh, reaching 57 districts of the country.

At least 11,116 dengue patients have so far been hospitalised till yesterday, of whom 3,217 are from outside Dhaka. Meanwhile, two dengue patients died and 661 were hospitalised in the 24 hours till this morning.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported a death toll of 64 dengue patients till yesterday.

As per the DGHS data, all districts, barring Sunamganj, Habiganj, Jhalakathi, Natore, Joypurhat, Chuadanga, and Gopalganj, have reported cases of dengue this year.

According to entomologist GM Saifur Rahman of National



Dengue death toll 64

Total number of patients 11,116

2,129 still undergoing treatment

661 more hospitalised yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS

University, the absence of surveillance at the district level has been a critical oversight throughout the year, despite its crucial importance.

"The government should establish an effective surveillance system to identify dengue hotspots,

The government should establish an effective surveillance system to identify dengue hotspots, enabling local government departments, community organisations, and educational institutions to carry out targeted interventions.

GM Saifur Rahman
Entomologist

enabling local government departments, community organisations, and educational institutions to carry out targeted interventions," he said.

Saifur also highlighted the shared responsibility of both

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CASE AGAINST DR YUNUS Court sets July 13 for recording depositions

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A labour court in Dhaka yesterday set July 13 for recording depositions in a case filed against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, also chairman of Grameen Telecom, and its three other top officials for violating labour laws.

Sheikh Merina Sultana, chairman of the Third Labour Court of Dhaka, passed the order.

The prosecution yesterday filed a petition with the court, seeking cancellation of Yunus' bail, but the court rejected the petition, he added.

On June 6, the court framed charges against Yunus and Grameen

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'Nur admitted meeting Safadi' Claims a faction of Gono Odhikar Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Member Secretary of the Gono Odhikar Parishad Nurul Haque Nur admitted meeting Israeli citizen Mendi N Safadi in several internal meetings, claimed leaders of a faction of the party.

Faruk Hasan, a joint convener of the platform, made the claim on behalf of Nur's opposing faction within Gono Odhikar at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Joint conveners of the party Mia Mashiuzzaman, Saddam Hossain, Zakaria Palash, and joint member secretaries -- Tariq Rahman, Abul Kalam Azad and Abu Saeed were present in the press conference, among others.

"During a meeting held on June 18, the party's convener Reza Kibria raised several allegations against Nur which included meeting Safadi, receiving personal financial benefits from the party funds and not providing accounts of the expenditure," said Faruk.

"In view of the complaint, Nur admitted holding a meeting with Safadi in Qatar. However, he refused to disclose the agenda of the meeting," he added.

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A city corporation worker removing a tangled web of overhead cables, which has been a long-standing nuisance for Dhaka residents. The photo was taken in Paltan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BOSILA, HEMAYETPUR

Most buildings built illegally

State minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the buildings at the city's nearby Bosila, Hemayetpur and Sugandha Housings have been constructed illegally and without permission from Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk).

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Sharif Ahmed said this at parliament yesterday while replying to a query from Jatiya Party MP Fakhru Imam.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, the question-answer was tabled.

In a written answer, the junior

minister said supervision has improved significantly as Rajuk got additional manpower after 2022.

He also said some unscrupulous people might be collecting money from the owners of illegally constructed buildings in the name of Rajuk.

The state minister, however, said, so far, no complaint has been received against any employee of Rajuk.

Proper measures will be taken against the responsible persons as per service rules if any complaint is received in this regard. Meanwhile, State Minister for Primary and

Mass Education Zakir Hossen told parliament yesterday that the country has a total of 6,704 government primary schools with dilapidated buildings.

The state minister said this in reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Shah E. Alam from Barishal-2.

He said a list of 2,049 schools has been sent to the demand-based government primary school development project for the construction of additional classroom buildings.

The state minister also said

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Rejoinder, our reply

Dr Masum Siraj, senior Consultant and head of cardiac surgery department at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute in Dhaka, has sent a rejoinder to our report headlined "Surgeon accused of mistreatment" published on June 13.

He claimed that the report was untrue and one-sided, and presented unjustly with a motive by manipulating information, and without discussing with him.

In his rejoinder, he said the bypass surgery on a patient named Kanchan Kumar Dey was done on an emergency basis as per the protocol to save his life.

"During the surgery, one bypass graft was done in each of the three blood vessels. By protocol, graft needs to be done on the healthy part of the blood vessel next to the vessel stenosis. But no healthy part was found in the case of the patient. The entire vessel was thick and rough... Besides, the status of the vein and artery tissue used [in the bypass] was not also in good condition. The part of Aorta in the upper point of vein graft was sclerosed. All of these three conditions is harmful

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER
TIMING



JULY 7

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-55 8-17

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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BIWTA director gets integrity award

STAR REPORT

AKM Arif Uddin, director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), has received an integrity award 2022-23, said a press release.



Integrity Awards are given to the officers and employees of the government for their outstanding contributions for prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity.

The BIWTA director received the award from his efforts to recovering the grabbed riverbanks around the capital.



With an infant in her arm, a girl walks on a narrow, makeshift bamboo bridge over a pond beside the Sylhet-Sunamganj highway. Residents of Shantiganj upazila continue to suffer for lack of a proper bridge. Their sufferings exacerbate during monsoons. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTIR

Bridge works remain halted

FROM PAGE 5
fishermen who have to visit the sea on a daily basis to earn their daily living, informed Abdus Salam, a former union parishad member.

"The fishing boats usually take shelter in the canal during natural calamities like storms or rain. With the bridge being just 10 feet high, boats won't be able to ply beneath it during high tides," he added.

Ripon Mallik, a fisherman in the area, echoed the same. Contacted, contractor Amir Hossain said the bridge's design was made by LGED.

"We had followed LGED's instructions. I don't know why the objections came after a significant portion of the construction was completed," he added.

Russel Imtiaz, engineer at the upazila's LGED office, said the height of the bridge has to be extended by another 8-10 feet using steel structures. "An Army Engineering Corporation team visited the site in February this year and promised to come up with a solution. The work will resume once the new plans are approved by the authority," he added.

Most buildings built illegally

FROM PAGE 3
that the government has plans to replace all the dilapidated and half-pucca buildings with new buildings by 2025.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Dipu Moni told parliament that the government spends Tk 5.34

lakh per student of cadet college.

The minister gave this information in response to the question of AL MP Mozaffar Hossain.

The minister said that the government allocation of cadet colleges in the last financial year was Tk 197.59

crore. Currently, 3,700 student study in cadet colleges.

According to the education minister's information, the government's annual expenditure per student at the higher secondary level is Tk 50,512.

Nur admitted meeting Safadi

FROM PAGE 3
The meeting got heated after Nur hurled abusive language towards some elderly members of the party, Faruk added.

"In another meeting of the party held the next day, Nur again confessed about the meeting in the beginning of his speech," Faruk further claimed.

Faruk alleged the recent activities of Nur are contradictory to the charter and principles of the party.

He also claimed that the removal of Reza Kibria from the post of party convener is completely illegal and the decision to hold the party's council excluding Kibria is

pushing the party towards a split.

Meanwhile, in response to the allegation, Nur during an event of the Jatiyatabadi Nabin Dal at the press club, said, "Many people who want to be highlighted in mass media and social media, make such comments. Because they know if they say something against Nur, the media will immediately grab it."

He also claimed that Kibria was removed following the charter.

The split in Gono Odhikar Parishad came to light as Kibria and Nur have removed each other from the leadership positions.

At a meeting on June 18, Nur and the other leaders of the party removed Kibria from the post of convener and replaced him with Rashed Khan, who was the joint convener.

A day later, Reza issued a statement announcing that Nur and Rashed had been temporarily suspended from the party.

On June 25, a faction of the party loyalist to Nur sent a letter to Kibria proposing a no-confidence motion against him.

The party issued a press release last Saturday, claiming that Reza Kibria was removed from the post of convener.

Dengue spreads to 57 districts

FROM PAGE 3
residents and city corporations in maintaining awareness, cleaning houses, and eliminating potential breeding sources to ensure effective source reduction.

EXPERT'S TAKE
Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said as dengue continues to spread, the number of cases outside Dhaka will inevitably increase, eventually reaching all districts of Bangladesh.

He emphasised the urgent need for preventive measures to control Aedes mosquitoes, calling on deputy commissioners and city corporations to take immediate action.

He stressed the importance of hotspot management and conducting targeted drives in areas from which dengue patients are originating, highlighting the necessity of eliminating adult mosquitoes as they carry the dengue virus.

Prof Bashar underscored the significance of raising awareness, organising anti-mosquito campaigns, and

implementing compulsory measures such as dengue testing, staying indoors under mosquito nets when fever is present, and hospitalising individuals who experience a second infection, as they are more vulnerable.

Additionally, he emphasised that citizens also play a crucial role by remaining vigilant, checking their homes and surroundings weekly for stagnant water sources that could serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

CHATTOGRAM'S DENGUE CRISIS DEEPENS

In response to the escalating dengue outbreak in Chattogram, the Civil Surgeon of the port city, Dr Ilias Chowdhury, has written an urgent letter to the mayor of Chattogram City Corporation, emphasising the immediate need for comprehensive measures to control the spread of dengue.

Dr Chowdhury highlighted the alarming rate at which the number of dengue patients has

been increasing during the current monsoon.

The letter disclosed that within the past five days since July 1, 197 dengue cases were detected, resulting in three fatalities.

Dr Chowdhury urged the CCC to take prompt action in destroying Aedes mosquitoes and their larvae while raising public awareness to prevent further outbreaks.

Similar letters were also sent to the DGHS director and the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research to take necessary steps to address the crisis.

Five killed in road

FROM PAGE 5
Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Gouripur upazila on Wednesday evening.

Baten, 65, from Kishoreganj; and Ashrafunnahar, 60, from Haluaghat, were declared dead at Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex.

Quoting locals, Gouripur Police Station OC Md Mahmudul Hasan said the accident occurred at Ramgopalpur around 7:00pm.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver Abul Kashem, 40.

In Faridpur, a covered-van driver was killed and

another injured after his vehicle and a bus collided on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Goreda Mor area early yesterday.

Rusel Sheikh, 35, a driver of SA Paribahan from Noakhali, was declared dead at Madhukhali Upazila Health Complex, said police.

Madhukhali Police Station OC Sohridul Islam said the collision took place between the covered van and a Dhaka-bound bus of Golden Line Paribahan around 7:00am. Highway police seized both the vehicles.

Bring perpetrators to book

FROM PAGE 5
She died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 2.

Abul Hossain, acting coordinator of Domestic Workers' Rights Network, said if the accused were charged under the Prevention of Violence against Women and Children Act, 2010, they would have been denied bail.

Fojila Khanom, joint

director of Dushtha Shasthya Kendra said according to the constitution of Bangladesh, all citizens should have equal opportunities and rights.

The participants mentioned that a total of 33 domestic workers were killed and tortured between January and December 2022, and 585 domestic

workers were injured from 2011 to 2021.

Farhana Afrin Tithi, coordinator of working women; Syeda Samiha Azim, programme officer, Oxfam in Bangladesh; Salma Begum, sub-inspector, Pallabi Police Station; and representatives of Breaking the Silence, USEP Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট
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১	সরকারি দপ্তর	০১.০০০০-২০০০.০১.০১০.২২.২১.২১	১৯/০৭/২০২৩
২	সরকারি দপ্তর	১.০০০০/১০০০	১৯/০৭/২০২৩
৩	সিটিজেন বিক্রেতার স্থান	০১/০৭/২০২৩	১৯/০৭/২০২৩
৪	সিটিজেন বিক্রেতার স্থান	০১/০৭/২০২৩	১৯/০৭/২০২৩
৫	সরকারি দপ্তর	০১/০৭/২০২৩	১৯/০৭/২০২৩
৬	সরকারি দপ্তর	০১/০৭/২০২৩	১৯/০৭/২০২৩

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World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The World Health Organization in Bangladesh invites proposals/bids from the interested Companies in Bangladesh for the following service:

1. **RFP/BAN/2023/018:** Request for Proposal (RFP) for providing service provisions of facilitating WHO social media campaign under Long Term Agreement (LTA) for 1 year.

Deadline for the submission of RFP: **14:00hrs, 20 July 2023 (Dhaka time).**

Interested Companies can view and download the relevant RFP documents from: <https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/procurement-notice>.

Interested bidders are requested to submit their financial and technical proposals in two separate sealed envelopes as per the instructions provided in the RFP documents at the Reception of WHO Bangladesh, House-SW(1)1/A, Road-8, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 3
to the graft. This was also mentioned clearly in the discharge summary," he wrote.

In the following angiogram in April, when the patient again had chest pain, the right coronary artery was found to have narrowed down, according to the rejoinder.

"We previously had this suspicion which has been mentioned in the discharge summary of the patient as 'long term benefits remain doubtful'," Siraj wrote.

"In fact, the open-heart surgery was successful from the perspective that the patient had been able to undergo the angioplasty later, which was not possible unless the first surgery (open heart surgery) was done."

OUR REPLY
The Daily Star published the report based on a copy of the complaint submitted to Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) by the patient.

The patient complained about an alleged unsuccessful open-heart surgery on December 12, which he claimed led to his cardiac arrest approximately three months later.

Besides, the report also incorporated comments of Dr Masum Siraj on the second, 10th and 11th paragraphs, where he denied the allegation, which was also mentioned in the rejoinder in details.

Court sets

FROM PAGE 3
Telecom's top officials -- Ashrafur Hasan, Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan.

On September 9 of 2021, SM Arifuzzaman, a labour inspector (general) of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department, filed the case with the Third Labour Court of Dhaka.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
Purchase & Procurement Department
Plot 16, Block B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R.A., Dhaka 1229.

TENDER NOTICE FOR LIBRARY RFID SYSTEM

Sealed bids are invited from bona fide firms for the implementation of a customized RFID management system at the IUB Library.

Interested bidders are requested to collect the bid document from the Purchase & Procurement Dept. upon a cash payment of Tk. 500/- (non-refundable) to the Finance & Accounts Dept. during office hours (9:30am-4:00pm, Sunday-Thursday) by July 20, 2023. Detailed specifications of required equipment and software for the RFID management system, and relevant terms & conditions are mentioned in the bid document.

Bidders are expected to submit the bids in two separate sealed envelopes to the Purchase & Procurement Dept., one with the technical offer and another with the financial offer. The deadline for submitting the bids is July 31, 2023, on or before 2:00pm. The technical offers will be opened on the same day at 3:00pm. Technically qualified bidders will be duly notified of the date for opening of the financial offers. The financial offers must be accompanied by an earnest money equivalent to 2.5% of the total quoted price in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank issued in favour of 'Independent University, Bangladesh'. Any open or improperly sealed bids, or bids without earnest money will be rejected.

The university authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of bids without stating a reason.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Alamdanga, District: Chuadanga
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.1807.000.14.000.23- 903
Date: 06/07/2023
e-Tender Notice No: 01/2023-2024(OTM)

e-Tender is invited for 03 (Three) Nos Packages in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works details is given below:-

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package Description and Package No	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
01.	849987	Construction of additional class room Jadabpur GPS under PEDP4(2H/F3). e-Tender/PEDP4/CHU/ALA/2022-2023/W1-04120	31-07-2023, 16:00	01-08-2023, 14:00
02	849971	Construction of additional class room Bhang Baria GPS under PEDP4(2H/F3+1H Future Ext). e-Tender/PEDP4/CHU/ALA/2022-2023/W1-04112	31-07-2023, 16:00	01-08-2023, 14:00
03	850826	Construction of Boundary Wall & Gate Of NANDBER,KAIRADANGA,JOGONATHPUR MATPRA, BARO GANGNI. e-Tender/PEDP4/CHU/ALA/2022-2023/W14-02895	31-07-2023, 16:00	01-08-2023, 14:00

This is online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no off line 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 01-August-2023,12.00 PM. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Arifuddin)
Upazila Engineer
Alamdanga, Chuadanga
Ph:02477790352
Email-uc.alamdanga@lged.gov.bd

Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed and four injured in road accidents during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Dinajpur, two cousins died as a microbus hit their motorcycle in Chirirbandar upazila on Wednesday night.

The accident happened on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Bhushirbandar area, said police.

Mizanul Islam, 15, son of Anisur Rahman; and Sakib Hossain, 18, son of Moksedul Islam from Birgaon village in Sadar upazila died on the spot, said police.

Md Siddiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Doshmille Highway Police Station, said they were returning home from a wedding party by riding a motorcycle.

The microbus hit their bike when they arrived near the bridge over Atrai river around 9:30pm. The microbus fled the spot right after the accident.

In Mymensingh, two persons were killed and three injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a bus collided head-on at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

DEATH OF HOUSE HELP

Bring perpetrators to book: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Domestic workers and civil society members yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in killing Tamanna Akhter (18), a house help in Dhaka's Rupnagar, within 90 days.

In addition, they pushed for the ratification of ILO Convention 189 and the inclusion of domestic workers in the Labour Act 2006 to provide a decent and safe working environment for them.

They made the demands at human chains in the capital's Mirpur, Khilgaon, Mohammadpur and Badda, organised by Karmajibi Nari and Dushtha Shasthya Kendra, funded by Oxfam in Bangladesh and Global Affairs Canada.

Tamanna fell from a nine-story building on June 23. The victim's family alleged that the wife of the householder pushed Tamanna off the building.

Tamanna worked at a house in Arambagh, Rupnagar for four to five months.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

SONAKATA TENGRAGIRI ECOPARK

Bridge works remain halted for over a year

Locals, tourists suffer

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The Sonakata Tengragiri Ecopark has seen a decline in number of tourists due to the suspension of construction works on the bridge linking the area to Barguna's Taltali upazila's Fakirhat Canal for one and a half year.

According to the sources at the upazila's LGED office, the works were initiated early in 2021 under a Tk 7 crore project. Following a tender, the project was allotted to Amir Engineering Corporation of Barishal.

The contractors have already completed the physical works for 48 metres (24 metres from each end) of the

72-metre girder bridge. The constructed bridge is 7.5 metres wide and 10 feet tall above the water level.

However, six months after the works began, the local fishermen and the Planning Commission objected to the structure's design as they believed the height of the bridge was too low, making it difficult for boats to ply beneath it.

Mosharef Hossain, forest officer of Chakhina Bit, informed of the declining number of tourists at the park.

Earlier, around 150-200 tourists visited the park each day. The crowd was even bigger on weekends. However, the number has dropped to only 15-20 visitors per day, he added.

"With the bridge works being put on hold indefinitely, we have to take small dinghy boats to move to and from the park. This comes with great risks," said Rahima Begum, a student who was visiting the park.

Hossain Hawlader, a hotel owner in Fakir Hat, said their business had been facing losses since the construction work was stopped.

"There used to be a small iron bridge. However, that was demolished before the contractors started working on the new bridge. The water route is the only link between the two ends now," he added.

The area is home to numerous

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

LANDSLIDE RISK AT HILLS 500 structures dismantled in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram district administration yesterday knocked down at least 500 risky makeshift structures from the hills in Akbar Shah area of the port city, following a court order.

The administration in cooperation with the Department of Environment led the drive.

Touhidul Islam, senior assistant commissioner of district administration, told The Daily Star that they dismantled more than 500 illegal structures from hills near Foy's Lake in Beltolighona area.

"A landslide occurred there last March, so we wanted to make sure that people who are exposed to landslides are safe," he added.

"After the eviction, we have erected barbed wire fences and pillars to prevent the encroachment of the hilly land," he said.

The district administration found 835 families living on 17 hills in the port city in a survey in 2019.

The Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed a petition on August 1, 2022 with the High Court in this regard.

The same month, an HC bench ordered removal of illegal structures from the hills in the port city.



RU celebrates 70th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) celebrated its 70th anniversary yesterday with a series of events.

The day's events began at 10:00am with hoisting of the national and university flags at the Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam Administration Building premises.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Humayun Kabir inaugurated the event.



The programmes included a colourful procession around the campus and planting of saplings by senior teachers.

At 11:00am, a book titled "Rajshahi Biswabidyaloyer Sat Doshok: Smriti Satta Bortoman" was unveiled by the acting VC.

The book is written by Prof Sanat Kumar Saha, Bangabandhu Chair of RU.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ	
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা	
পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের ১ম কোয়ার্টার (জুলাই-২০২৩ হতে সেপ্টেম্বর-২০২৩) এর রেশন সামগ্রীর জন্য চিনি ক্রয় এর নিমিত্তে "The Public Procurement Rules-2008" অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলনোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
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৬. তারিখ	তারিখ-০৫/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।
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১১. দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৭/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময়	১৭/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	
১৩. অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা। ২। ডিআইজি, ময়মনসিংহ রেঞ্জ এর কার্যালয়। ৩। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ।
১৪. দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী/অফিস	১। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।
১৫. দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।
১৬. খ্রি টেন্ডার সভার স্থান, তারিখ, সময়	খ্রি টেন্ডার সভার স্থান: পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা। তারিখ: ১৫/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ, সময়: ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।
দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত তথ্য	
১৭. দরপত্র যোগ্যতা	১। হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২। আয়কর সনদ, ৩। ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ৪। ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদ, ৫। স্বশ্রুতি কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, ৬। অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা যা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউল-এ উল্লেখ আছে।
১৮. মাল্যমালের পরিমাণ/বিবরণ	এমপ নং: ০১ আইটেম: চিনি পরিমাণ: ২৪,০০০ কেজি দরপত্রের মূল্য (টাকা): ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা নিরাপত্তা জামানত (টাকা): ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময় (দিন): ১৫ (পনের) দিন
দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারীর বিবরণ	
১৯. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	জনাব মোঃ ফয়েজ আহমেদ।
২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	পুলিশ সুপার।
২১. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা।
২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ফোন-০২২৯৬৬৫১৫২০, ফ্যাক্স-০২২৯৬৬৫১৫৯৯।
২৩. বিশেষ শর্তাবলী	
ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। খ) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। গ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেম পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে। ঘ) দরপত্র "পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮" মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।	
মোঃ ফয়েজ আহমেদ বিপি-৭৯০৬১১৯৭২১ পুলিশ সুপার নেত্রকোণা ফোন-০২২৯৬৬৫১৫২০, ফ্যাক্স-০২২৯৬৬৫১৫৯৯ E-mail: spnetrokona@police.gov.bd	
জিডি-১০৮৩	



With the bridge work remaining suspended for more than a year, locals and tourists have no other option but to use boats to cross the canal.

'Save us from Jamuna erosion'

Residents of Tangail village block road in protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Residents of Chituliapara village in Tangail's Bhuapur took to the streets yesterday, demanding immediate action to protect their village from the relentless Jamuna erosion.

They demonstrated on the Govindasi-Bangabandhu Bridge Road for an hour to realise their demand.

According to the protesters, the erosion began last month with the rising water levels of the Jamuna, but the situation worsened in recent days, resulting in the loss of over 100 houses.

A portion of the village has already been engulfed by the Jamuna river, they said.

Hearing the news of the protest, Bhuapur UNO Belal Hossain visited the spot and assured the villagers of taking necessary measures to prevent erosion.



Later, the villagers withdrew the blockade. Contacted, the UNO said, "The work of placing geo bags in another 100m section of the river would start today (yesterday)."

The villagers also said their repeated calls for constructing an embankment to protect the area from erosion have been falling into the deaf ears of the authorities concerned.

A couple of days ago, local lawmaker Tanvir Hasan Soto Monir visited the affected area and assured villagers that emergency measures are being taken to prevent the erosion.

Meanwhile, as the water continues to rise, river erosion has intensified in various places of Bhuapur, Sadar, Kalihati, Nagarpur, and Mirzapur upazilas of Tangail. The Water Development Board is dumping geo bags in the river to prevent erosion.

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A new feather in BUBLY'S HAT

“Playing Orpa was very challenging, I had to take extensive preparations. My director helped in that regard.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

This Eid-ul-Azha was a special one for Shobnom Bubly. Two of her films, *Prohelika* and *Casino* were released in theatres on the occasion. During Eid-ul-Fitr, her films also reached unprecedented heights, as Bangladeshi audiences reacted exceptionally well to *Leader Amie Bangladesh*.

Bubly sat down with The Daily Star to speak about her films that were released this Eid, as well as their subsequent success.

Two of your films were released this Eid. How has the response been so far?

I love that people are enjoying my film. A few days back, I even saw that people had gone to the halls to watch my film even amidst the rain and storm. The shows are going houseful as the audience are loving the film. That's why I'm grateful to them. When you have a good film, it will spread by the word of mouth of audiences. This movie is proof of that.

Can you tell us a bit about 'Prohelika'?

This film adds a new feather to my hat. It has an exceptional story. In the film, I've donned the role of Orpa, Mahfuz Ahmed plays Mona and Nasir Uddin Khan, Jamshed. Chayanika Chowdhury is amazing at her craft and so was everyone involved.

Playing Orpa was very challenging, I had to take extensive preparations. My director helped in that regard.

How was the experience of acting opposite Mahfuz Ahmed?

He is an amazing human being and an exceptional actor, no doubt about that. I've learned a lot by working alongside him.

This Eid, your film had to compete with Shakib Khan, Apu Biswas and many others. Did you feel pressured in any way?

No, I didn't feel pressured or anxious in any way. Instead, I hope everyone's film does well. The film industry is a family, as much as I like to watch my films, I also watch everyone else's as well. I want everyone's films to be successful.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



Shakib Khan in the US for 'Priyotoma' release today

The top hero of Bangladeshi cinema, Shakib Khan has gone to the US. This is because today, *Priyotoma* will be released in 42 halls across the US and Canada.

Speaking to The Daily Star a few days back, Shakib Khan had said, "The film will be released in the US today. I am also going there for the release. That's where I'll watch *Priyotoma*. But I won't be staying there for too long."

Sajeeb Saptak, owner of the international distribution company, Swapno Scarecrow, said, "The film will be released in 42 theatres, in the first week, in Canada and the US. It is really good to have a Bangladeshi film release in so many theatres at this time."

Teaser for Prabhas starrer 'Salaar: Cease Fire' out



Today, renowned Indian actor Prabhas surprised fans by dropping the teaser for his upcoming film, *Salaar: Cease Fire*. Helmed by KGF famed director, Prashanth Neel, the film counts as the first part of the *Salaar* franchise.

Taking to his social media accounts, Prabhas shared, "The *Salaar: Cease Fire* teaser has arrived. Have you seen it yet?"

The teaser gave fans a glimpse into the action-packed world of *Salaar*. It portrays the story of a gang leader, who is trying to keep his promise to his dying friend and has embarked on a path to conquer all other gangs.

Salaar: Cease Fire stars Prabhas, Shruti Haasan, Chandu Kanuri, Prithviraj Sukumaran, and Jagapathi Babu, among others.

COUNTRYWIDE

FARM PRODUCE E-commerce can cut middlemen out

SHYKH SERAJ

Farmers are true entrepreneurs as progress of future economy of our country depend in their hands.

According to the statistics, currently there are more than 78 lakh (7.8 million) small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh, who contribute about 25 percent to the country's GDP.

The government is trying to increase the contribution of the SMEs to 32 percent by 2024.

When the spread of coronavirus turned the world economy upside down, E-commerce sector thrived across the world at the same time.

But, even after the COVID-19 pandemic, online shopping has become a part of their daily life to many people.

Compared to the previous times, online shopping has increased by 70 to 80 percent in Bangladesh during the pandemic period.

In 2008, Moyez, a farmer from Pabna's Ishwardi, phoned me and said he has some cows, raised in organic method.

He then asked me whether I would like to buy any of those cows for the Eid-ul-Azha?

"How can I buy without seeing the cow," I replied.

"It doesn't matter. Please give me your email ID, I will send you some photos of the cow," Moyez said.

After a few minutes, I opened my email and found some pictures of the cow with specifications in detail.

I was completely surprised because no one taught Moyez how to do that, rather he did that using his creative mind.

The online livestock markets were quite crowded ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha this year, while mangoes are also being sold online.

In 2017, I asked Li, a dragon fruit orchard owner at a remote village in China's Xinjing County, where do you sell so many dragon fruits?

He said he post the quantity and price of the fruit, produced in his orchard, in their Wechat group.

The global market of agricultural products will be worth USD 4 trillion by 2024, while our current achievement is only USD 500 million.

Markets for diversified agricultural products are gradually growing, but there is risk of fraudulence in such a competitive market.

Proper planning and monitoring are required from the beginning so that a farmer does not get cheated and take U-turn from this potential sector. We will have to think about a platform, where every entrepreneur can appear as an idol with their own brand.

The government is providing support to the young entrepreneurs through various initiatives like startup loans and implementing innovative ideas. If the government also takes initiative in creating an international online market for farmers, our young farmers would be more enterprising.

Deputy secy sacked on rape charges

FROM PAGE 12

questions and raped them. Mehedhi was then asked to explain why he should not be handed a severe punishment. But his reply was unsatisfactory.

Bangladesh Public Service Commission agreed to the public administration ministry's decision of sacking him.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin also approved the dismissal order.

Central Hospital

FROM PAGE 12

and hide their faults, vested quarters are using all means and are always busy misleading people of the country with false information," she said.

Akhi was not her regular patient, she added.

Following her press conference, the hospital authorities on June 22 sent a legal notice to Sangjukta, asking her to withdraw her statement.

These statements were baseless and tarnished the reputation of the hospital, read the notice.

It also warned that legal action would be taken if her statement was not withdrawn within seven days.

Akhi died on June 18, eight days after the death of her newborn baby.

On June 14, her husband, Yakub Ali Sumon, filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station, bringing allegations of a botched C-section and fraud against the doctors concerned and the hospital.

In connection with the case, police on June 15 arrested two doctors.

Shahzadi Mustarshida Sultana and Muna Saha -- who later confessed to their negligence before a magistrate.

Why, and why now?

FROM PAGE 1

attending press corps but left enough food for thought about his sudden decision. "There are different reasons, which I don't think are necessary to reveal here. In fact, for some days, I've been discussing it with my family members," Tamim said.

Tamim has been under tremendous pressure both from the team management and some cutthroat media ever since his last-minute withdrawal from the one-off Test against Afghanistan last month due to a recurring back problem.

The situation probably reached the point of no return after a scathing counter-attack from none other than Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan Papon.

The BCB boss was reacting to Tamim saying on the eve of the first ODI against Afghanistan that he was not 100 percent fit and hinting that there was

a risk involved in playing the game.

While Tamim's remarks drew criticism in the media, Papon only fuelled the fire by publicly saying that it was not some game being played in a neighbourhood. This is not the first time the BCB boss has publicly offended a player when he should instead have been playing the role of protector.

Tamim is not the first cricketer to play a game at less than 100 percent fitness, and he certainly won't be the last. Ask England captain Ben Stokes, currently playing the Ashes with a heavily strapped knee. His less-than-100-percent status is a well-known fact, and has not invited any censure when spoken about publicly.

But the all-encompassing BCB president is perhaps the only cricket chief in the world who pokes his nose into anything and everything when others

leave it to people who are experts in this field.

If Tamim's remarks were ill-advised, Papon's counter-offensive is damaging for Bangladesh cricket. For someone like Tamim, who played a key role in taking Bangladesh cricket to where it stands now, there is every reason to be offended by such an unbridled comment from the board president.

It also suggested that there was a division in the team and everyone was not rooting for the captain ahead of the World Cup.

Earlier, Papon went on record and said both Tamim and champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan had not been on talking terms for a while. However, there was little visible effort from the board president to break the ice or negate that tension.

While swiping at Tamim's remarks about his fitness, Papon said it has been creating discontent in the team. Even if there was any

discontent in the team, is the BCB boss in a position to disclose it to the public? The established cricket world considers the players' dressing room a sacred place, with internal discussions staying just that.

The latest incident was probably too much to handle for a gentleman like Tamim. The southpaw may be criticised for his apparent inability to accept criticism. But unfortunately, this had little to do with his on-field performance.

Making his debut in 2007, Tamim has been the epitome of skill combined with courage. He is the only Bangladesh batter to have put his name on the Lord's honours board with a magnificent century at a tender age in 2010. He is one of the few cricketers who injected a much-needed positive vibe into a defeatist team.

Tamim is a legend of Bangladesh cricket. He has 15,205 runs and

25 centuries across the formats, more than any other Bangladeshi. He has also featured in Bangladesh's highest opening partnerships in both the Test and ODI formats.

He deserved better than a tearful end to a magnificent career.

Reshuffle

FROM PAGE 12

to Dhaka (North) City Corporation mayor and a 25th batch officer, is appointed as the DC of Bandarban; Kaisarul Islam, APS to principal secretary to the PMO, is the new DC of Tangail; Md Asaduzzaman, APS to the home minister, is now the DC of Pabna; Arifuzzaman, APS to deputy minister of water resources ministry, is the new DC of Shariatpur; Khandakar Mushfiqur Rahman, APS to the state minister for disaster management, is now the DC of Cumilla.

Mohammad Mossaraf Hossain, home ministry deputy secretary and a 25th batch officer, is now the DC of Rangamati; Suraiya Jahan, deputy secretary at the Finance Division, has been made the DC of Lakshmipur; Shahina Aktar, deputy secretary at the Economic Relations Division, is the new DC of Feni; and Abdul Fatey Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, deputy secretary at the Power Division, is now the DC of Gazipur.

With the latest appointment and transfer, 29 DCs are from the 24th batch, 17 from the 25th batch, 11 from 22nd batch and seven from 27th batch.

It is likely that between 10 and 15 other districts will get new DCs in the coming days.

Graft allegation against health minister

FROM PAGE 12

report in a newspaper, he said the minister and his children bought land in Manikganj before it was acquired by the government to set up a factory for Essential Drugs, a state-run company.

He said it has become a practice for some people

with prior knowledge to purchase land on proposed project sites to make hundreds of crores of taka.

"It is sad that allegations were raised against our health minister in the newspaper regarding land acquisition," he said.

According to the opposition MP, the

minister bought 6.39 acres, his son bought 3.12 acres, his daughter bought 11.14 acres, and one of his brothers-in-law bought 5.54 acres of land near the project site.

The JP MP said that earlier, a report termed the land acquisition office in Cox's Bazar

a corruption hub. According to reports, the office used to take a 15 percent commission.

Urging the land minister to take action, Pir Fazlur Rahman said these incidents are shameful when the prime minister is carrying out development activities.

'Nothing to fear, all is well now'

FROM PAGE 1

"Do you see people going without food?" Kamal said.

"We are not just reducing inflation but also providing Tk 1.26 lakh crore as food assistance through family cards," he said.

Inflation must be controlled by giving food to those who do not have it, he said, adding that it was the best way to fight inflation.

"People are suffering all over the world due to the increase in the prices of

daily commodities. We are not outside the world... We are using what we have and we are in a good position," the minister said.

Kamal said, "Jica has come to see the status of the projects which are

being financed by them. Usually, multi-lateral financiers come to see their projects. They have also provided budget support."

Jica can help us in some sectors by coordinating with our budget, he noted.

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Up to 40 aid workers killed since 2021: UN

AFP, Geneva
UN human rights chief Volker Turk said yesterday up to 40 aid workers have been killed in Myanmar since the military coup that ousted democratically elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021.

In a report to the body's Human Rights Council, Turk condemned "direct attacks" on aid workers, who mainly work for local organisations, amid fighting between the military junta behind the coup and its opponents.

He said the deaths were part of "deliberate and targeted" efforts to obstruct aid and "a calculated denial of fundamental rights and freedoms for large swathes of the population".

The UN has already warned that obstruction or denial of humanitarian assistance may amount to serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian laws.

The junta has killed and injured thousands of civilians while destroying goods and infrastructure necessary for survival, including food, shelter, and medical centres, according to Turk's

report. An estimated 1.5 million people have been internally displaced and approximately 60,000 civilian structures have reportedly been burnt or destroyed, it says.

More than 17.6 million people, or one third of overall population, require some form of humanitarian assistance.

"Civilians live at the whim of a reckless military authority that relies on systematic control tactics, fear and terror," Turk told the council.

"Credible sources indicate that as of yesterday, 3,747 individuals have died at the hands of the military since they took power, and 23,747 have been arrested," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said.

Those figures include only documented cases, meaning the actual toll is probably much higher.

In June, the United States announced sanctions against Myanmar's defence ministry and two "regime-controlled" banks that enable transactions between the military regime and foreign markets, to buy arms and other materials.



PHOTO: REUTERS
Rescuers work at a site of a residential building hit by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Lviv yesterday. At least five people were killed and 36 others were injured in the missile strike in a city that is far from frontlines and home to thousands displaced by war.

MANIPUR VIOLENCE

Woman shot dead outside school

NDTV ONLINE

A woman was shot dead outside a school in Manipur's Imphal West district by unidentified assailants, the police said yesterday, amid ongoing ethnic clashes in the state that have been raging for over two months.

The incident sparked panic in the area, where schools reopened a day ago.

The incident came a day after security forces disrupted a confrontation in the Kangpokpi district between two armed groups from the Mapao and Awang Sekmai regions. In light of these incidents, the government has announced a further five-day extension of the suspension of internet services across the state until July 10th.

In a separate incident, the house of an IRB personnel was set ablaze by a mob in the Thoubal district, following his successful efforts in preventing rioters from looting firearms from a police armoury.

Nepal PM's India remark stirs up storm

Opposition demands his resignation

NDTV ONLINE

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's stunning remarks that an Indian businessman settled here "once made efforts" to make him the premier has stirred up a storm in the Himalayan Nation with the opposition demanding his resignation.

Prachanda also said that Sardar Pritam Singh, a pioneer trucking entrepreneur in Nepal, played a special and historic role in enhancing Nepal-India relations.

Prachanda made these remarks on Monday while addressing a function to launch the book, 'Roads to the Valley: The Legacy of Sardar Pritam Singh in Nepal' "He (Singh) had once made efforts to make me the prime minister," Prachanda said. "He travelled to Delhi several times and held multiple rounds of talks with political leaders in Kathmandu to make me the prime minister," the Prime Minister said.

Prachanda also said that Singh has played a special and historic role in enhancing Nepal-India relations. The



remarks have stirred up a storm and drawn criticism from several quarters.

The main opposition party Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML) disrupted the National Assembly meeting on Wednesday, demanding the prime minister's resignation.

Chairman of CPN-UML, KP Sharma Oli talking to media persons on Wednesday said that they want resignation from the Prime Minister, not a clarification.

Demanding the prime minister's resignation, former prime minister Oli said,

"his remarks have given a blow to national independence, dignity, the Constitution and the parliament itself."

The House of Representatives meeting has been postponed until 3:00 pm today, following the disruption by opposition parties - the UML, the Rashtriya Swatantra Party, and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) - over Prachanda's remarks.

The members of the main Opposition Communist CPN-UML and the RPP shouted slogans that "a Prime Minister appointed by New Delhi does not have the right to continue in the post".

Speaking in the lower house, UML lawmaker Raghujee Pant said, "The prime minister should resign on moral grounds. We don't need a prime minister appointed by Delhi." Not only the opposition, but the ruling parties have also expressed their dissatisfaction with Prachanda's statement.

"The prime minister's remarks are worthy of criticism. His remarks are wrong," said Bishwa Prakash Sharma talking to journalists after the House meeting on Wednesday.

RIVALRY WITH US China unveils new operating system

AFP, Beijing

China has launched its first homegrown open-source operating system for computers, state media said yesterday, as Beijing seeks to reduce its foreign dependence at a time of increased rivalry with the United States.

The announcement of the new system came just before US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen was due to land in Beijing yesterday for meetings with Chinese officials aimed in part at stabilising relations between the world's two leading economies.

The system, called OpenKylin, has been designed as a rival to the ubiquitous Windows and MacOS systems. Previous versions of the software had already been deployed on the computers of some government departments, state media said. OpenKylin users have access to the software's lines of code and can modify them as they wish, unlike Microsoft and Apple, which keep the workings of their Windows and MacOS systems secret.

China has long regarded that opacity as a vulnerability, one that has been reinforced in recent years by geopolitical tensions with the United States.

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ফোন- ০২৪৭৭৭৮১৫৩৫; ই-মেইলঃ eekus@rhd.gov.bd
স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৫০০০.৪৩৯.০৭.০০৩.২১-১৯৯৫ তারিখ : ০৬/০৭/২০২২ খ্রিঃ

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, কুষ্টিয়া সড়ক বিভাগের আওতাধীন ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে পূর্ণ কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়সূচি মোতাবেক ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়ন করা হবে। অগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন প্রক্রিয়ায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হল।

ছক-১: নবায়ন

বিবরণ	নবায়ন কি	ভাট ১৫%	বিনা জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা	৫০% জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা	১০০% জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা
তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়ন	২০০০/-	৩০০/-	০৯/০৭/২০২৩ হতে ৩১/০৭/২০২৩ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত	০১/০৮/২০২৩ হতে ৩১/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত	০১/০৯/২০২৩ হতে ২৬/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত

ছক-২: নতুন তালিকাভুক্তি

বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরমের মূল্য	তালিকাভুক্তি কি	ভাট ১৫%	তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম সংগ্রহ ও জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০/-	৫০০০/-	৭৫০/-	০৯/০৭/২০২৩ হতে ০৮/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রি. তারিখ পর্যন্ত

শর্তাবলীঃ

- ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরের লাইসেন্স নবায়নের জন্য এ অফিসের হিসাব শাখায় তালিকাভুক্তি নবায়ন কি ও ভাট জমা প্রদান পূর্বক মানি রশিদ সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
- ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ১০০০/- টাকা মূল্যের তালিকাভুক্তি ফরম এ অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ পূর্বক ফরমে উল্লিখিত সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণ করে দাখিল করতে হবে। তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ কমিটি কর্তৃক যাচাই-বাহাই অর্থে উত্তীর্ণ ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্তি কি গ্রহণ পূর্বক ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।
- নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোনক্রমে নবায়ন/তালিকাভুক্তি কি গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়নের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থবছরে নবায়নের ক্ষেত্রে শুধুমাত্র ২০২২-২০২৩ অর্থবছরে হালনাগাদকৃত তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণই বিবেচনা কর হবে।
- সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে দরপত্র আহ্বান/কাজ প্রদানের নিম্নস্বত্ব প্রদান করে না।

(সোহানুদ দৌলত আলী)
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২১৩৭
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, কুষ্টিয়া।

World sees hottest June on record: EU

REUTERS, Brussels

This past June was the hottest June globally on record in terms of sea and air temperatures, according to a statement by the EU-backed Copernicus Climate Change Service.

"The month was the warmest June globally at just over 0.5°C above the 1991-2020 average, exceeding June 2019 - the previous record - by a substantial margin," the Copernicus report said.

The body bases its findings on computer-generated analyses using billions of data from satellites, ships, aircraft and weather stations around the world.

Copernicus said Europe experienced record temperatures during the month while parts of North America, Asia and eastern Australia were significantly warmer than usual for the time of year.

The sea temperature rose to a new record in June due to longer term changes and in part due to El Nino, a natural climate phenomenon that fuels cyclones in the Pacific.

"Exceptionally warm sea surface temperature anomalies were recorded in the north Atlantic... Extreme marine heatwaves were observed around Ireland, the UK and in the Baltic Sea," it said.

**Department of International Relations
University of Dhaka**

**Admission Announcement (Revised Schedule)
10th Batch, Summer-2023
Professional Masters in International Relations (PMIR)**

The Department of International Relations, University of Dhaka invites applications from the interested candidates for admission in Professional Masters in International Relations (PMIR) for Summer 2023 session. This eighteen-month accelerated professional degree programme contains the following features:

- (a) a total of three semesters;
- (b) 12 course units consisting of 48 credit hours;
- (c) research module on International Relations;
- (d) classes on weekends (Fridays and Saturdays).

Application Requirements

1. Bachelor's degree in any discipline from any recognized university with at least 2nd class or a CGPA of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in their academic career.
2. The applicants with a CGPA of at least 2.5 in the Post-Graduate Diploma in International Relations (PGDIR) Programme offered by the Department are eligible for direct admission.
3. Applicants on service must apply through proper channel.

Admission Procedure

- Prospective applicants can collect application forms from and submit them to the office of the Department on working days (10 a.m-4 p.m.). Each form costs Tk.1500/-
- Last date of submission is **24 July 2023**.
- Attested copies of all certificates & transcripts along with 2 passport size photos should be submitted with the application form.

Contact Details
Office of the Chair, Department of International Relations, 5th Floor, Social Sciences Faculty Building, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000. Phone: 9661920-73 ext. 6541 & 6542 (between 10am-4pm). Mobile: 01871542055, 01819203709 01922113262 (between 11 am-5 pm only). Email: ir@du.ac.bd; Website: <http://www.duir.ac.bd>

*The Programme Coordination Committee reserves the right to make necessary changes to the above provisions *

The PMIR programme offers comprehensive understanding of a wide range of theoretical and empirical perspectives on issues of regional and international politics, security and development. It is thus designed for further academic and career development of the professional and practitioners.

E-centres in shambles

Is this what Digital Bangladesh should look like?

We are thoroughly disappointed by the fate of an ambitious government project, undertaken more than a decade ago, to convert 8,500 post offices in rural areas to e-centres for the communities. A whopping Tk 541 crore was spent under the Post e-Centre for Rural Community project to deliver services including e-governance, e-commerce, e-education, e-agriculture, faster disbursement of remittances and allowances to rural communities. But a recent report by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), based on field visits to 900 of the centres, concluded that the funds had essentially been "wasted." The rural communities are completely unaware of the digital services that are supposed to be offered, as a result of which most of the spaces are severely underutilised.

Although about Tk 380.68 crore was spent on purchasing expensive equipment such as computers, scanners, headphones, printers, finger vein machines and so on, 20 percent of the centres were never even inaugurated, while the equipment in the rest are also falling apart as a result of lack of use. Another Tk 7.81 crore was wasted by purchasing devices not required. Meanwhile, about Tk 18.83 crore was spent to purchase furniture, of which 70 percent was lost over the years. Those who are supposed to manage the e-centres and provide support to users were found to be occupied in other professions.

Given the current status of the centres, it seems safe to surmise that spending the funds was the sole purpose and priority of those planning and implementing the project. Clearly, no effort was made to involve the communities in the centres afterwards and to capacitate them to use the technology to better their lives. Those tasked with running the centres did not even bother to ensure their minimum maintenance. This is indeed shameful, particularly for a government that has always prided itself for its role in creating a Digital Bangladesh. Is this what lies behind the grand gesticulations of digitisation – deserted spaces with dilapidated gadgets that no one knows how to use?

Mustafa Jabbar, who has been serving as the posts and telecommunication minister since 2018, admitted that there was inadequate planning when the project was undertaken. But why has nothing been done to make these centres operational and useful in the past four years? As for the colossal waste of taxpayers' money to fund this project, who will answer for it? We welcome the CAG's audit, which has laid bare the appalling condition of the e-centres, and urge the relevant ministry to take urgent steps to salvage whatever still remains of the initial investment and start delivering at least some of the digital services promised.

Provide urgent support to the flood-affected

Make sure their financial and medical needs are properly met

The flood situation in the north and northeastern districts of the country continues to be of significant concern. Heavy rainfall in the first few days of July and onrush of water from upstream caused sudden flooding in the country's northeast and, eventually, in northern districts. As of writing this editorial, several northern and northeastern districts continue to be inundated with rivers continuing to swell. According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC), the water level of Jamuna and Padma rivers will continue to rise till Friday.

The water of the Teesta crossed the danger level early Wednesday, inundating villages in low-lying areas of Lalmonirhat. This has also resulted in the swelling of the Dharla. The combined effects of this, along with rising water levels of other rivers, mean that the situation in certain regions of Kurigram and Bogura needs to be followed closely.

For now the good news is that except for the Khowai, the Someswari and the Dhalai rivers, water levels of major rivers in the northeastern region of the country are falling, and the trend may continue for 48 hours. This might provide the inhabitants of the region with some respite from flooding soon.

However, the fact remains that much of the damage from flooding has already been done. In places like Sunamganj, several thousand people have been badly affected by the flooding. In Netrakona, vast areas of Kalmakanda upazila have been inundated. And several other regions have experienced similar situations. Farmers of some north and northeastern districts have incurred substantial crop losses. So, the government needs to urgently provide support to the farmers, as well as the general people of these regions.

The outbreak of waterborne diseases is always a risk after floods. Therefore, besides providing people with financial and rehabilitative assistance, the government, working with NGOs and others, needs to ensure that everyone across the affected regions have immediate access to adequate medicines and medical support.

As we navigate the age of climate change, it is important to take note of the fact that extreme flooding events have become the norm. Instead of rushing to provide support and relief after disaster strikes, Bangladesh must prioritise adaptation with a focus on climate resilient infrastructure both in practice and at a policy level.

New Message

To: _____

Subject: _____

Have things to say? Want your thoughts about current events to be published in The Daily Star? Send us a letter (100 - 300 words) with your name and area!

Write to us: letters@thedailystar.net

Politics at crossroads

The prospect of a free and fair election is still eluding us



THE THIRD VIEW
Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher
of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

Most national elections, wherever they are held, occupy that country's attention for a maximum of a few months – in some cases, even a few weeks. But for us, it is a multi-year obsession. We started talking about our national election from last year. Now it occupies the centre stage of talks even with some of our most important international partners, namely the United States and European Union; the latter's pre-election assessment mission is already in town, whose findings will significantly impact Western views on the upcoming polls.

With so much attention, one would think that our election must be among the best in the world. Sadly, it is among the most questioned. Even Erdogan's election, who ruled Turkey as prime minister and president with an iron hand for over 20 years, was not subjected to such scrutiny as ours is and will be. Even the run-off went smoothly with razor-thin margins the first time around. The opposition never accused the all-powerful president of rigging. The reason is simple: everybody – be it the ruling or the opposition party – trusts the process. Our case is the exact opposite.

Even though there are endless talks about the election, there is hardly ever any sensible discussion on it. What we have is regular public utterances of the major political parties, which are mostly acrimonious, defamatory and setting precedents, but never aimed at narrowing the distance among them. Even after 52 years of independence and 32 years of restoration of democracy – and after all the talks, experiments, debates, international negotiations (there was also an attempt by former US President Jimmy Carter some years back), efforts by the Commonwealth and UN – we still don't have an agreed formula on how to hold a free and fair election.

At the moment, a section of the international community, led by the US, is pressing us to hold a free and fair election. The ruling party interprets this simple and natural demand as a hidden attempt to remove them from power. The opposition hopes that it is a formula that will place them in power. Nobody wants to know, or even asks, what the citizens want.

As taxpayers and law-abiding citizens, we want our freedoms, rights, and good governance. They can only be realised if democracy exists. Democracy, simplistically put, can only flourish if genuine representatives of the people are elected, and that can only happen if elections are free, fair and without violence and money play. We come full circle and end with the focus on free and fair elections.

Journalistically put, our development

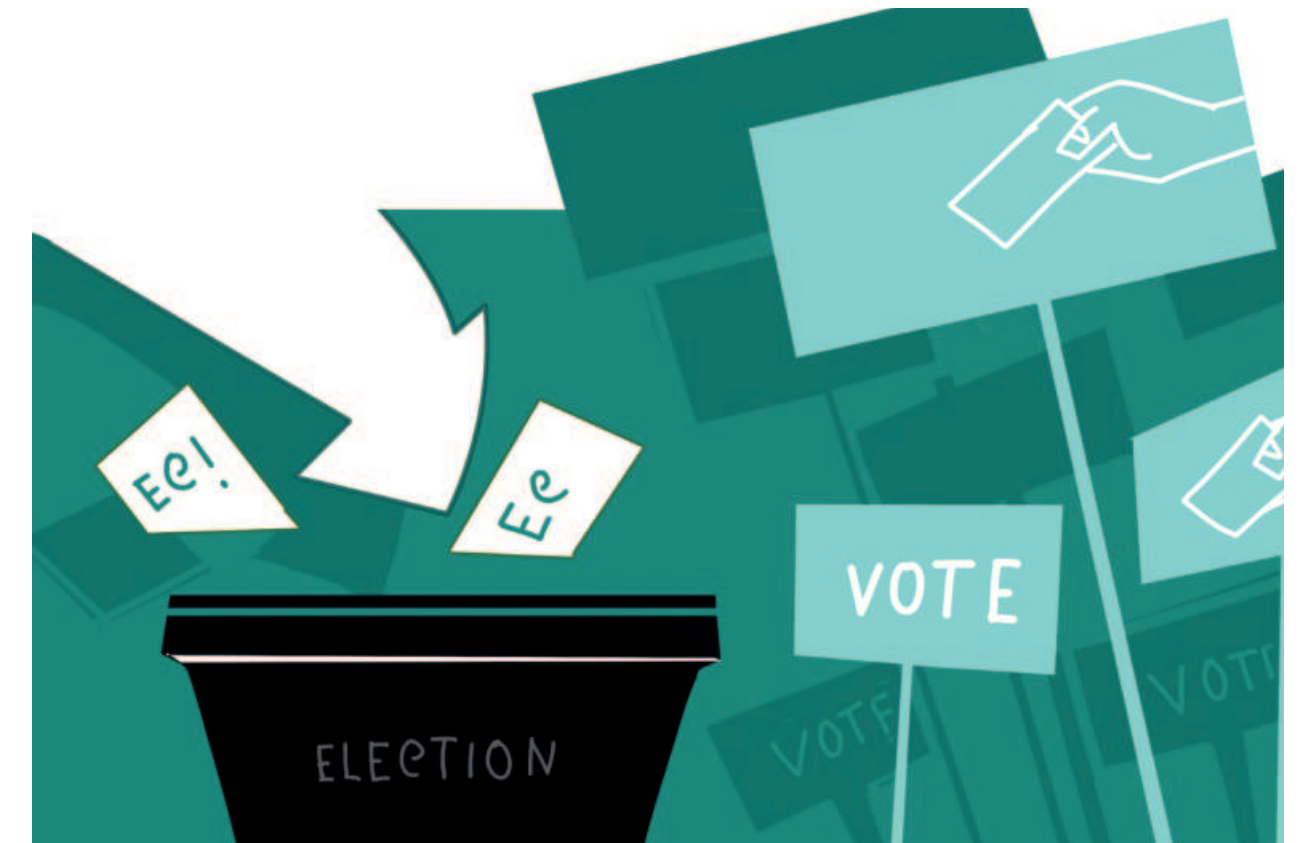


ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLOB CHAKROBORTY

curve has been moving upwards while our democracy curve has followed an opposite trajectory. The reality today is that our advancement in the economic field is being overshadowed by our setbacks in freedoms, rights, and institutions of accountability. This fact, our government and its leadership do not seem to fully understand. The question it should be asking itself is that after so much development, especially in infrastructure and energy, why widespread dissatisfaction should still exist. The denial of this fact is what has isolated the ruling party from the masses, leading it to suspect that a demand for free and fair elections is aimed at a change of guard at the highest level. With such a record of economic success, it is the Awami League who should confidently move towards an acceptable election and not make questionable laws that further fuel suspicion as to their intentions.

The government move that really launched the downward trend in our democracy, especially the nature and quality of our representative government, is the abolition by the parliament, on June 30, 2011, of the caretaker government system for holding elections. It was done on the basis of a "short order" of a few lines by the Appellate Division, presided over by the then Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, delivered on May 10, 2011. Interestingly, the short order also

suggested that the system be allowed to continue for one or two more terms. However, the government, without considering that option and without waiting for the full text of the verdict, threw out the caretaker government provision from our constitution. One may recall that it was done by the same party that instituted it after years of mass agitation, economy-

of the election schedule till the official publication of the results, which usually covered a period of 40 plus days. Now, the EC's option is to act only on the "polling day." Even if the EC concludes that sufficient ground exists to apprehend that violence may take place on the election day, it still cannot suspend the election till the very day. It could, before the amendment.

crippling hartals, and resignation from parliament following endless walkouts. The way the two subsequent elections – in 2014 and 2018 – were conducted clearly revealed why the ruling party abolished the caretaker government system.

As the world is now looking at us to see how we are preparing for the upcoming national polls, our government has just passed a law that clearly reduces the Election Commission's independence in conducting elections. The amendment bars the EC from cancelling election results and allows it to withhold polling only at specific centres where irregularities occur. The law minister said the EC shouldn't have such powers, it is anti-democratic. But shouldn't the EC have the power to make up its own mind? What happens if violence occurs in the majority of the polling centres in a constituency? Shouldn't the EC suspend the election in the entire constituency even then? The amendment has been kept vague on this point. This will ultimately result in restraining the EC. Experience shows that when a law is vague, the authorities usually shy away from stern action, especially if the candidate is from the incumbent side of the political divide.

The other crucial amendment is shortening the time period during which the EC can act. Previously, it was from the date of the announcement

If we really believe in the EC's independence, why tie its hands in this manner?

If an election is ultimately the expression of the "public will," measures must be taken so that it can be expressed without fear, especially of repercussions. The institution that is at the centre of the whole process, the EC, must be given full authority and freedom to act, as specified by the constitution. Curtailing its power, that also in the name of democracy, and with the 2014 and 2018 elections still fresh in our memory, really does not cut much ice. A repressive legal structure cannot be expected to deliver a free public will. There have been several promises of amending laws such as the Digital Security Act (DSA) and others, and also restraining law enforcement members from inappropriately using their powers. There is no evidence of that happening yet.

If politics is the art of compromise, we seem never to have heard of it. If elections are the mechanism of peaceful transfer of power, we never want to practise it. And if democracy is the system where all political parties have a level playing field, we just don't want to play that game.

Can we solve in the next few months what we have been unable to in the last three decades? If we fail, what prospect does it hold for our future?

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

The US and India's non-aligned alliance



Shashi Tharoor,
a former UN under secretary-general and
former state minister, is an MP for the
Indian National Congress. He is the author,
most recently, of 'Ambedkar: A Life.'

SHASHI THAROOR

Indian PM Narendra Modi is riding high. His triumphant visit to Washington, which featured a state dinner at the White House and a rare second address to a joint session of Congress, appears to mark a new chapter in the relationship between India and the United States.

Modi's visit was preceded by several major breakthroughs, including the recent US-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology, which seeks to foster bilateral collaboration on technologies. US semiconductor manufacturer Micron Technology recently announced that it plans to invest \$825 million in a new chip assembly and testing facility in India.

The US and India have also unveiled several defence agreements, which have not been previously extended to a country that is not formally an ally and highlight the intensifying bilateral defence partnership.

The US' preference for alliances with anti-communist regimes led the US to establish relationships with a series of increasingly Islamist dictatorships

in Pakistan. Meanwhile, India's non-aligned democracy gravitated towards the secular Soviet Union. Non-alignment was not well-received in the US, where President Dwight Eisenhower's Secretary of State John Foster Dulles famously declared that "neutrality between good and evil is itself evil."

The end of the Cold War, together with the reorientation of India's foreign policy and its integration into the global economy, led to improvement in US-India relations, but India's detonation of a nuclear device in 1998 triggered US-led economic sanctions. President Bill Clinton's visit to India in 2000, his final year in office, marked a major turning point, and George W Bush's administration built on the momentum by signing a defence agreement with India in 2005 and a landmark accord on civil nuclear cooperation in 2008. The positive trend persisted under both Obama and Trump, and now appears to have reached a zenith under President Biden.

Today, the US seems much more willing to accommodate India's post-colonial obsession with strategic autonomy. This shift has been partly driven by China's geopolitical assertiveness under President Xi Jinping, which represents a radical departure from his predecessors' adherence to the doctrine of China's "peaceful rise." The US clearly views China as its primary adversary and has been actively pursuing regional alliances to counter its growing influence.

India has traditionally been reluctant to pick sides, but China's repeated encroachments on its territory across the disputed Himalayan border, and its killing of 20 Indian soldiers in June 2020, have rendered neutrality untenable. While India maintains its independent posture, the recent G7 summit in Hiroshima notably included the second-ever in-person Quad summit between Biden, Modi, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese.

The message to China is clear. While India maintains that it is not a US ally (but a partner), it has increasingly aligned itself with the democratic West in its escalating rivalry with communist China.

But it would be a mistake to view India-US relations solely through a Chinese lens. The US and India have far more in common than is generally acknowledged: democracy, a common

language, and dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

The most important factor contributing to the deepening ties between the US and India is the growing number of Indian-Americans, which exceeds four million. Indian-Americans are disproportionately affluent, with the highest median income of any US ethnic group, including Whites. They are also becoming an increasingly influential voting bloc, and their prominent roles in political fundraising, on Congressional staffs, and in government offices have given rise to a so-called Samosa Caucus. The US has had two governors and seven members of Congress of Indian heritage. US Vice-President Kamala Harris's mother is Indian, and Former US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley – currently running for president – is the daughter of Punjabi Sikh parents.

In the past, it was often said that Pakistan was a US ally but not a friend, while India was a friend but not an ally. With the US out of Afghanistan, Pakistan has become a less significant ally. But while India still isn't one, owing to its insistence on strategic autonomy, even US sceptics who say the two countries' interests are more aligned than their values concede that those interests warrant closer cooperation. Modi's visit was one more indication of how close that cooperation has become.



Louis I Kahn, the American designer of our parliament building, is considered one of the most transformative examples of 20th century global architecture.

COLLAGE: TEENI AND TUNI

The Louis Kahn mystique: 20 years after 'My Architect'



THE GRUDGING URBANIST

Dr Adnan Zillur Morshed is an architect, architectural historian, urbanist, and professor. He teaches at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, and serves as executive director of the Centre for Inclusive Architecture and Urbanism at Brac University. His most recent book is 'Dhaka Delirium.'

ADNAN ZILLUR MORSHED

It has been two decades since Nathaniel Kahn's acclaimed documentary, *My Architect: A Son's Journey* (2003), renewed interest in architect Louis I Kahn, the American designer of our National Parliament building, who is considered one of the most transformative examples of 20th century global architecture. I keep wondering what enabled *My Architect* to strike such a popular chord around the world and become a classic. Is it Kahn's monumental architecture, his mystical style of teaching, his complicated personal life, or something else? Conceived as a self-reflective journey – albeit through architecture – in search of a father long gone, the film was the brainchild of Nathaniel Kahn (hereafter Nathaniel), Kahn's son born out of wedlock. Nathaniel was 11 years old when his father died of a heart attack in 1974 in the men's room of New York's Pennsylvania Station, after a 24-hour flight from India and Bangladesh. Nathaniel met his father only a few times during his life.

The tragic set of events decidedly contributed to Kahn's legend. Through a probing, at times emotional, study of his celebrated father's buildings, Nathaniel seeks to understand the enigmatic father he rarely saw and barely knew. The result is a personal reflection on the mysterious intersection of private life, public identity, and their roles in the creation of architecture.

Along the journey, Nathaniel interviews renowned architects and planners who were either influenced or repelled by his father, the various people who met him, and, most of all, the two colleagues-turned-lovers – Anne Tyng and Harriet Pattison – each of whom bore a child with Kahn (while Kahn remained married to his wife, Esther Kahn). Nathaniel, Pattison's son, is one of them. The archaeology of personal secrets interwoven with an epic narrative of architecture, built and unbuilt, spread across the US, Jerusalem, Iran, India, and Bangladesh, unleashes a philosophical energy that compels the audience to ask questions concerning human nature, creativity, and the enigma of their inter-relationship. The film also examines the nature of the father-son relationship, further compounded when architecture plays the abstract role of surrogate father.

Nathaniel's journey resonates with classic filial quests – Homer's Telemachus looking for his father Odysseus, or Parsifal finding a father figure in a hermit uncle. The fatherless son's narrative is a timeless narrative, an archetype:

losing his father at a tender age, and thereafter setting out to find him, the son initiates an existential journey of self-discovery. Telemachus' search for his father who would come back to restore his mother Penelope's honour, for instance, takes on redemptive meanings deeper than merely yearning for a lost father.

"As a little boy, I never quite believed that Lou was gone," Nathaniel reminisces, "I would always look for him in crowds. I'd see a white-haired man turning the corner and think maybe it was him." Nathaniel's Telemachian desire is neither to rescue his mother Pattison (a landscape architect who collaborated with Kahn in the design

I keep wondering what enabled 'My Architect' to strike such a popular chord around the world and become a classic. Is it Kahn's monumental architecture, his mystical style of teaching, his complicated personal life, or something else? Conceived as a self-reflective journey – albeit through architecture – in search of a father long gone, the film was the brainchild of Nathaniel Kahn, Kahn's son born out of wedlock. Nathaniel was 11 years old when his father died of a heart attack in 1974 in the men's room of New York's Pennsylvania Station, after a 24-hour flight from India and Bangladesh. Nathaniel met his father only a few times during his life.

of the Kimbell Art Museum in Texas) from surrendering to banal fatalism nor to simply reconstruct a father from stratified memories. Nathaniel starts off the documentary with the burden of his own scandalous origin, yet in his search he remains resolutely philosophical about the nature of conflicts between his father's personal life and creative endeavours.

The audience is left wondering to what extent does one privilege personal narratives in the rather amorphous process of aesthetic appreciation. Nathaniel's pilgrimage inadvertently criticises formalistic

architectural pedagogy that isolates the analysis of architectural forms from the personal sagas of form-givers. By imagining the father in the realm of architecture, *My Architect* reaffirms, if subconsciously, the educational importance of aesthetic criticism that, among other things, includes what could be called the interior stories, anxieties, and desires of the designer.

The amazing footage of Kahn – walking around absentmindedly, talking to students like a yogi, and drawing with charcoal – shed new light on the ways in which architectural historians discern the kind of impulses and tensions that sustain the sublimity of Kahn's architecture. *My Architect's* dramatic finale – expressed through the exquisitely filmed parliament building of Bangladesh – exudes a son's reflective delight in at last being able to reconcile with his dead father. Nathaniel chooses to see the building through the bedazzled eyes of a solitary, prepubescent Bengali boy, a reference to Nathaniel's own age when his father died. This is the frozen moment that serves as the film's official image.

Inside the parliament building, Nathaniel interviews architect Shamsul Wares, who delivers a startling, if not the ultimate, message: that personal failings should not blind us to the genius of a great artist and that a son must seek his father not always in the father's fulfilment of familial duties, but sometimes in the humanity of his aesthetics.

Father-seeking was an integral theme of modernist architectural history. If the archetypal fatherless son's search bears redemptive spirit or the hope of performing spectacular things – to form a utopian society, to remind humanity of a golden bygone era, or to return civilisation to a pristine condition – early historians of modern architecture articulated the image of the architect with similar filial devotion. In their formulation, the architect became a "fatherly" figure, a saviour, a master, under whose tutelage the phoenix of modern utopia would rise from the ashes of dysfunctional cities. The historian often played the role of the fatherless son, imagining the advent of a visionary father: upon reconciliation they would resituate the state of architecture in the Garden of Eden to begin civilisation anew.

Despite the film's inherent melancholy, people discover *My Architect* as a populist case study, so to speak, to inquire into the historical and sometimes fateful alliance between the modern architect and the historian, an alliance that often transpired within the mould of the archetypal filial quest.

The legend of Louis Kahn remains strong. I wonder if it is the enigma and magic appeal of a father figure that inspire people to feel the way they do toward Kahn.

Can we look beyond the seasonal activism against animal cruelty?



Abida Rahman Chowdhury is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star with interests in wildlife and biodiversity conservation.

ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

Over the centuries, our fellow sentient beings have played many roles: as muse for the very first human art, as spiritual deities, as captive entertainment, as aides for humans in carrying and lugging about heavy loads, as beloved companions, and as a source of livelihood. But as the relationship evolved (or devolved), so did its exploitative tendencies.

Human beings steadily climbed to the top of the food chain, and animals – even apex predators – slowly started to be relegated to the back. We have plundered, exploited, and built entire businesses on the backs of animals, domestic or wild. Even as pet parents, many are guilty of being neglectful or preferring more expensive breeds. The breadth and range of animal abuse is wide-ranging – from damaging their habitats (hence driving them towards extinction), selective breeding to make profits and keeping them captive, to

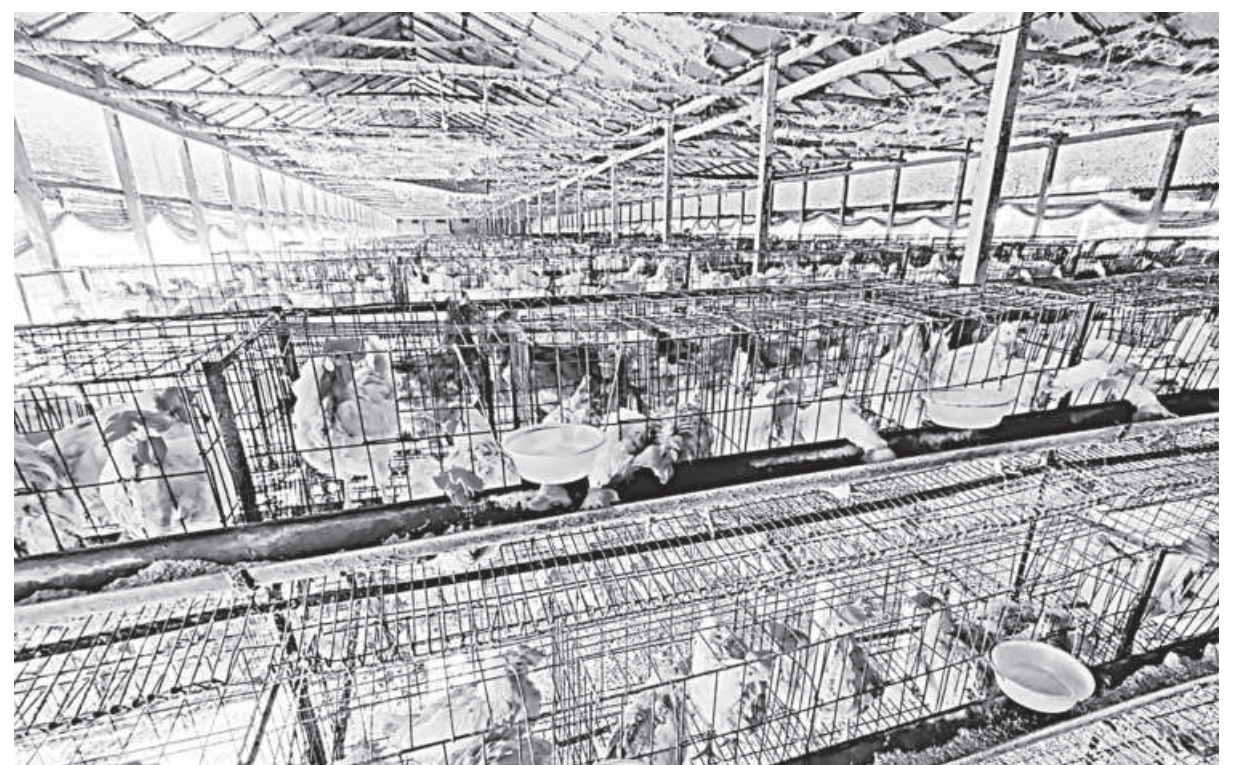
with/rear/raise/consume livestock/pets/wildlife?

Farmed animals make up the bulk of the protein we consume on a day-to-day basis. And yet, many of us never stop for a moment to think about the conditions these poor animals were raised in. All that broiler chicken that we consume, almost every single day for our protein needs, are subjected to some of the cruelest conditions known to an animal – from confinement right after their birth to being packed into coops without any space to roam around, and almost never getting to see or feel the sun in their lifetime, all make for an extremely cruel existence. In fact, a study by the University of Guelph that looked at more than 7,500 broiler chickens from 16 genetic strains found that the fast growing chicken varieties that are commonly found in factory farms suffer a host of health problems that are different from the ailments caused by their horrifying

the fate of poultry farms, cattle growing up and living their whole lives inside cattle farms are not faring much better. They don't get to graze fallow land or forage looking for the best tasting grass out there. They get mass produced feed to make sure they fatten up nice and quick for consumption.

After introducing these horrid farming practices themselves, now the West is trying to move towards more free-range, grass-fed happy, healthy animals for consumption. But, Bangladesh always had free-range chickens that roamed around our grandparents' backyard until some important guest arrived and one of them was sacrificed. But, at least, at the very least, the poor animal didn't live all their life in abject misery.

Even for selfish reasons, we need to start looking at how our animals are being farmed and also take note of our increasing consumption. And if you concern yourself with matters of the environment, then that is all the more reason to be aware. According to a 2021 report by the United Nations Environment Programme (Unep), livestock accounts for roughly 32 percent of human-caused methane emissions. Unep recommends cutting down on dairy and meat consumption, and bringing an overall change to our farming methods.



In Bangladesh, studies or articles on the overall well-being of our poultry is negligible, and most scientific articles tend to focus on the business aspect of poultry farms, or their environmental impact.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

trafficking them for valuable parts, to subjecting them to casual torture and intensely cruel farming conditions.

These conversations are mostly ignored until this particular time of the year, when we engage in (or have engaged in) mass celebrations of animal sacrifice. We dissect the practice of animal sacrifice, the cruelty of the celebrations, the disconnect from the beings we are sacrificing for the greater good, and all manner of other issues. Was the sacrifice simply a show of big bucks or was it from the heart? Was the animal treated with love, and did it hurt us to say goodbye?

But is animal cruelty something we only condemn during this particular time of year? What are the subtle and not-so-subtle acts of cruelty we exhibit as we interact

living conditions alone. This means that the fast-growing variety, which is what most farms are opting for, now experience a lot of suffering even if they were provided with the ideal living conditions.

In Bangladesh, studies or articles on the overall well-being of our poultry is negligible, and most scientific articles tend to focus on the business aspect of poultry farms, or their environmental impact. No one, it seems, is really concerned whether the chicken they consumed for lunch today had access to a healthy, happy, or full life before they were butchered for consumption. While livestock in Bangladesh is still somewhat out of the clutches of large-scale factory farming, cattle farms are slowly being established across the country. While not as dark as

Bangladesh doesn't have to look to the West to import good sense. We have been doing grass-fed beef and free-range chicken for decades now. The key is to scale up these good practices, and not confine and subject an animal to a host of terrible experiences before their life comes to an abrupt end, all so that some rich business person can feed his family with imported grass-fed beef in the city.

The country has the necessary legal framework to make sure animals have a good life as well. As per Section 6 (d) of Animal Welfare Act, 2019, "cruelty" amounts to restricting an animal to such an extent and in such a manner that makes the animal unable to stand, sit or function in its natural ways.

But when exactly will the country learn to translate laws into action?

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Diverts
- 7 House topper
- 11 Small restaurant
- 12 Writer Ferber
- 13 Sensible
- 15 Hired thugs
- 16 Docking spot
- 18 Kid
- 21 Prohibits
- 22 Swindled
- 24 Fitting
- 25 Road to take
- 26 25-Down, in France
- 27 Hamburg talk
- 29 Make lots
- 30 Decisive defeat
- 31 Long-snouted fish
- 32 Amber,

DOWN

- 1 Jackson 5 hit
- 2 A thou thou
- 3 Employ
- 4 Play places
- 5 Goolf
- 6 Manhattan area
- 7 Logic
- 8 Strange
- 9 Lowest die roll
- 10 Passing craze
- 14 Take pleasure

IN

- 16 Copier need
- 17 Prologue
- 19 Be furtive
- 20 Throw with effort
- 21 Chips buy
- 22 Paint buy
- 23 Word on a bill
- 25 Bottled buy
- 28 Diego Rivera works
- 29 Target at a party
- 31 Component
- 33 Not barefoot
- 34 Hotel amenity
- 35 Films, slangily
- 36 Actor Wallach
- 37 Pop
- 38 Eden resident
- 39 Bear's lair



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LAW ANALYSIS

REASONABLE RESTRICTIONS

Article 39 of the Bangladesh Constitution and Global Standards

While the Constitution lacks a definitive textbook definition or clear delineation of the expression "reasonable restriction," it does establish in article 39(2) that restrictions can be legally imposed under various circumstances.

NOOR AFROSE AND TARAZI
MOHAMMED SHEIKH

The issue of imposing limitations on freedom of expression has garnered the interest of scholars across the globe. The present discourse echoes back to the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh (1972), wherein eminent personalities like Dr Kamal Hossain spoke at debates about the matter in question. Dr Hossain, citing examples from socialist and democratic states and the UN Charter, provided that no country can guarantee fundamental rights without incorporating reasonable restrictions defined by law. The issue of implementing limitations on the freedom of expression has been a topic of continuous discussion over time.

While the Constitution lacks a definitive textbook definition or clear delineation of the expression "reasonable restriction," it does establish in article 39(2) that restrictions can be legally imposed under various circumstances. These include safeguarding national security, fostering friendly relations with foreign states, maintaining public order, upholding standards of decency and morality, and addressing contempt of court, defamation, or incitement to commit an offence. In this context, it is worth emphasising that the freedoms of speech, expression and press provided in this provision are paramount not only for intellectual self-expression and social interaction among the citizens but also for preserving the spirit of unity by promoting democratic and secular values to boost national productivity.

The ICCPR, a well-known international human rights treaty, provides useful perspectives when comparing article 39 with global standards. The ICCPR also allows for restrictions to protect national security, public order, or the rights and reputation of others. Concerning a limitation on the right to freedom of expression under article 19(3) of the ICCPR, a three-part test is used to assess whether such a limitation is justified: (i) the limitation must be provided for in law; (ii) it must pursue a legitimate aim; and (iii) it must be necessary for a legitimate purpose.

Although there is a parallel between



VISUAL:
REHNUMA PROSHOON

article 39 and the ICCPR in recognising the need for reasonable restrictions, the scope and interpretation of these restrictions differ. The Human Rights Committee of the UN, which monitors the implementation of the ICCPR, employs a three-step test to prevent the occurrence of arbitrariness in General Comment No. 34. According to the Comment, the general approach to impose reasonable restriction must be based on clear and accessible law, must pursue legitimate purpose, and the restriction must be necessary to achieve the intended purpose and be proportionate to the specific goal pursued. It is noteworthy that this test is not explicitly incorporated within our Constitution.

Other than that, article 5 of the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), articles 12 and 13 of the Convention on the Rights of

the Child (CRC), and article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) also protect the right to freedom of expression. While international instruments do reference the freedom of expression, there is no explicit mention of a specific test regarding reasonable restrictions akin to the ICCPR.

The American Constitution is known for its robust protection of freedom of expression, including hate speech while imposing strict limitations on government interference. However, as established in *Brandenburg v Ohio* (1969), it permits speech restrictions that incite imminent lawless action. Some scholars argue that Bangladesh, a democratic country like the US, should avoid imposing any limitations to safeguard freedom of expression. However, reports from the US sources highlight that unregulated freedom of expression has been associated with

increased hate crimes. Specifically, the spread of hate speech resulted in an alarming 11.6% increase in hate crimes, with a bias against individuals based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and religion.

Europe offers another global standard for freedom of expression. The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) takes a holistic approach to freedom of expression, unlike the US. The ECHR's article 10(2) restricts this right under the three-step test. The test also evaluates whether the restriction is necessary and proportionate to achieve the legitimate goal. In cases such as *Sunday Times v The United Kingdom* (1979) and *Groppera Radio AG and Others v Switzerland* (1990), the court has successfully struck a balance between safeguarding freedom of expression and maintaining other crucial societal interests. In addition, it is noteworthy that European courts

have established a framework on the margin of appreciation for member states, which holds significance in safeguarding the freedom of expression.

In case *30/1992 (V 26) AB of the Constitutional Court of Hungary*, it was stated that freedom of expression is a mother of several freedoms. Hence, the protection of freedom of expression is necessary. To conclude, the commitment to safeguarding freedom of expression is reflected in article 39 of the Bangladesh Constitution. However, scope exists to improve the formulation and implementation of restrictions. From international legal instruments such as the ICCPR and the European context, Bangladesh can borrow the three-step test to enhance clarity and precision, mitigating the risk of abuse and arbitrary enforcement.

The Writers are Official Contributors, Law Desk, The Daily Star.

RIGHTS WATCH

The state of press freedom: A comparison between regional and international best practices

TASNIM MAKSUD

The fundamental right of journalists and media organisations to operate independently without interference, censorship, or undue influence from the government, political entities, or other external forces is referred to as press freedom. It includes the freedom of expression as well as the right to access, gather, and disseminate information without hindrance or fear of retaliation.

Press freedom is necessary for a democracy to function and flourish because it acts as a check on power, promotes transparency and accountability, and allows citizens to make informed decisions. It enables journalists to investigate and report on public-interest issues, expose corruption, hold governments and public officials accountable, and provide a platform for a diverse range of voices and opinions.

Organisations such as UNESCO, Reporters without Borders (RSF), the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and others advocate for and monitor press freedom around the world. These organisations develop frameworks and policies to promote and protect press freedom. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 includes freedoms of expression and the press as fundamental rights.

While best practices for press freedom vary by region, international standards, legal frameworks, and the work of advocacy organisations all play an important role in shaping and promoting press freedom around the world. Governments, civil society, and media organisations must collaborate to protect and strengthen press freedom in their respective regions and beyond.

While the concept of press freedom is universally valued, the specific practices and regulations surrounding it can vary across regions and countries. Here, we have compared regional and international best practices on press freedom.

To begin with, Europe has a strong tradition of press freedom. European countries consistently rank high in global press freedom indexes. The region's laws



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

and institutions protect journalists' rights and independence. Freedom of expression and press are guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights, which is enforced by the European Court of Human Rights. Transparency, access to information, and journalist source protection are also laws in many European countries.

In North America, particularly in the United States and Canada, press freedom is protected by constitutional provisions and legislation. The United States Constitution's First Amendment guarantees press freedom by prohibiting the government from interfering with information distribution. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees freedom of expression and the press. However, concerns about the region's press freedom have been raised by issues such as declining media trust, corporate ownership, and government surveillance.

Although press freedom in Latin America has improved significantly in recent years, challenges remain. Some countries have enacted legislation to protect journalists' rights and ensure access to information. However, in some countries, violence against journalists, impunity for crimes against the press,

and government control or influence over media outlets are still issues. When compared to other countries in the region, Costa Rica and Uruguay have stronger press freedom environments.

Press freedom in Africa is a mixed picture. Some countries, such as Namibia, Ghana, and South Africa, have relatively robust press freedom environments, with legal protections and independent media. However, other countries face challenges like government control, censorship, and violence against journalists. Lack of access to information and legal harassment are also prevalent in some regions, limiting journalists' ability to operate freely.

Asia's press freedom landscape is diverse, with notable variations across different countries. Countries like Japan and South Korea have strong traditions of press freedom, with independent media and legal protections. However, in countries like China and North Korea, press freedom is heavily restricted, and media outlets are often controlled by the State. Journalists face censorship, surveillance, and legal consequences for reporting on sensitive topics in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Other Asian countries fall somewhere in between, with varying degrees of press freedom protection.

When comparing Bangladesh's press freedom with other countries, it is important to note that press freedom rankings can vary depending on the source and methodology used. One widely recognised index that measures press freedom is the World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

In terms of press freedom, Bangladesh has faced challenges. Journalists and media outlets in the country have endured assault, physical attacks, and legal constraints. Bangladesh was ranked 163rd out of 180 countries in RSF's 2023 World Press Freedom Index, a rise from its 2022 ranking of 162nd. The report expressed concern about the use of repressive laws to limit media freedom, such as the Digital Security Act, which has been criticised for suppressing free speech.

A number of incidents have been taking

place in last few years in Bangladesh.

are frequently used as comparison examples:

Norway consistently ranks highly in press freedom indexes. It is known for its robust legal protections and strong support for journalistic freedom.

Sweden also ranks among the countries with the highest press freedom. The country's legal framework, coupled with a tradition of open and transparent governance, contributes to a favorable environment for journalists.

United States has a strong tradition of press freedom, protected by the First Amendment of its Constitution. However, challenges such as attacks on journalists, polarisation, and declining trust in media have raised concerns in recent years.

Germany is recognised for its press freedom. The country has a diverse and vibrant media landscape, and legal protections safeguard journalists' independence.

China often ranks low in press freedom

indexes due to strict government control over media and extensive censorship. The government tightly regulates and monitors media organisations, resulting in limited freedom of expression and information.

One of the most important steps towards freedom of press is to pass legislation that protects journalists and press freedom. Many states have "shield laws," which give journalists an absolute or qualified right to refuse to reveal their sources. A shield law protects both the journalist and their sources. Because there is no federal shield law in the United States, many activists are working toward this goal. In Bangladesh also, we should work for this kind of "shield laws" to protect press freedom. Individual citizens can help protect press freedom by staying informed about threats to press freedom and efforts to support free media. Supporting local newspapers is another way to stay informed and ensure that the issues that are most important to citizens are covered. For the sake of democracy, press freedom is a right that every entity in society must care about and commit to protecting.

The Writer is an Official Contributor, Law Desk, The Daily Star.

Press freedom is necessary for a democracy to function and flourish because it acts as a check on power, promotes transparency and accountability, and allows citizens to make informed decisions.

place in last few years in Bangladesh. According to International Press Institute (IPI)'s monitoring data from October 2022 to March 2023, journalists in Bangladesh continue to work in a hostile and dangerous environment, frequently facing physical attacks and threats, as well as judicial and legal harassment. During this six-month duration, IPI recorded at least 42 press freedom threats or violations, half of which were reported cases of physical, verbal, or online attacks on journalists.

If comparing Bangladesh to other countries, it is critical to consider a diverse range of nations from various regions and political contexts. The following countries

Tamim's illustrious career in numbers

- 14: Number of ODI centuries – the highest by a Bangladesh player.
- 16: His international career's time-span in years. Tamim debuted as an 17-year-old in February, 2007, against Zimbabwe in Harare, and played an iconic 53-ball 51-run knock against India in the ODI World Cup the month after.
- 25: Number of international centuries across three formats – the most by a Bangladesh player.
- 37: Number of ODIs he captained Bangladesh. The Tigers won on 21 of those occasions.
- 56: Number of ODI half-centuries – the most by a Bangladesh player.
- 60: Win-rate for Tamim as the ODI skipper – most by any Bangladesh player who captained the nation at least five times.
- 103: Number of sixes in ODIs – most by a Bangladesh player.
- 292: Starred in Bangladesh's highest ODI partnership for any wicket with Liton Das against Zimbabwe in 2020.
- 312: Starred in Bangladesh's highest opening partnership in Tests with Imrul Kayes against Pakistan in 2015.
- 389: Number of international matches.
- 916: Number of boundaries in ODIs – the most by a Bangladesh player.
- 8313: Number of ODI runs – the highest by a Bangladesh player.
- 15205: Number of international runs across three formats – the highest by a Bangladesh player.



The defining image of Tamim Iqbal's desire to put the team and his nation first shone brightest in the 2018 Asia Cup, when the southpaw came back out to bat after retiring hurt so the team could have one final push. The left-hander had to fend off just one delivery, doing so with utmost bravery and the use of only one hand.

Purveyor of a new beginning held TRUE TO HIS MERITS

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

It was the 2007 World Cup and if one expected a 17-year-old Bangladesh batsman to be overcome with the nerves of playing against one of the best sides in the world in India, they had another thought coming. For Tamim Iqbal, just five games deep into his ODI career, showed the meaning of class and domination against a fine India attack.

Bangladesh is a cricket-crazy nation but the Tigers were just in their eighth year of top-class international cricket. With the nation looking for something special from the team, that day became a special occasion.

India's Zaheer Khan was a top-notch bowler, feared by both openers and tail-enders alike and had pace, bounce and ability to cover batters. Within Tamim's 53-ball 51 was a boundless courage to stand tall.

Till his shock retirement yesterday, he had held his own despite being overcome by the emotion that gripped him during his announcement at a city hotel in Chattogram, his hometown.

He copped blows from Zaheer too, but it only served to strengthen his resolve.

He charged Zaheer, dismissing the bowler with his presence straight down the ground – not something expected of a Bangladesh batter against a quick like Zaheer – and it signalled the rise of a new talent. A statement was made by a generational Bangladeshi talent. The shots square off the wicket were a joy to behold and the whole of Bangladesh rejoiced at his arrival.

"That an opening batter could go down the track and hit straight down the ground was not a concept that a Bangladesh



PHOTO: MAZHAR UDDIN

Excerpts from Tamim's presser

"Yesterday (Wednesday ODI) against Afghanistan was my last international game. I'm retiring from international cricket, effective right now.

"It is not that I took this decision abruptly. There are different reasons, which I think isn't necessary to reveal here. I've always said that I play the game to fulfil my father's dream. I don't know how much I've made him proud throughout these 16 years of international career.

"I thank everyone I've played with – whether it's the Under 13s, 15s, 17s, 19s, premier league, national league – and especially my colleagues in the national team. And cricket board (BCB), obviously, having given the opportunity to represent the country for so long and to captain Bangladesh. "Whoever has helped me to grow

as a cricketer or as a human being, I thank all from the bottom of my heart.

"Actually, I don't have much to say. One thing I'll definitely say is that I tried giving my hundred per cent whenever I was on the field.

"There are a lot of other things I want to really say. As you can see, I'm unable to speak. But I hope you all will be able to respect the circumstances. Quitting international cricket is not easy.

"However, I will only request [the media] one thing: about the ones who will play cricket in future, write good or bad or whatever about them but stick to cricket.

"I'll request that you end my topic right here. It's the end, at least as far as international cricket is concerned. Please don't poke around to find what could've happened.

opening batter could fathom before that," his captain in that World Cup Habibul Bashar recalls.

"Our concept was to save our wicket, play along the ground and not go for aerial shots. That was what the coaching concept was like. Tamim Iqbal changed all that and brought a new theory, a culture and the idea of being able to hit an opening bowler like that. That was Bangladesh cricket's new beginning. That was a statement," he reminisced.

"In a World Cup game, on that wicket, it wasn't a small target. His innings, even if small, made everyone's innings easier to accomplish. India did not think that Bangladesh could attack like that. That start from Tamim took the match out of their hands and they received a shock."

That was how Tamim went about his cricket for a majority of his career. Till today, he is the only Bangladesh batter to hit a ton at Lord's, the only one with tons in all three formats for Bangladesh and the only one from the country to cross 15,000 runs in all three formats combined.

The games won under him since he took on captaincy at a difficult time also assured Bangladesh of the current solidity heading to the ODI World Cup in India.

Had he waned so much to be unable to handle the pressure of the international circuit? Much will be speculated regarding the reasons. The grumblings underneath of division may have been pronounced in Tamim's exit. Above all however, whether his fans agree with his decision or not, there cannot be a doubt that Tamim stands by what was a very tough decision.

He took blows but taught how to hit back. In his exit, he will be remembered as having held his own. That is the Tamim everyone always wanted and why he is what he is.

WHAT THEY SAID

He passed the fitness test. Then why did he say in front of the media that he was not fully fit? If he was not fit then how did he get the green signal to play? If he had a problem regarding this, he should have gone to the physio or come to us. What was his intention behind saying this to the media? International cricket doesn't work like that. We never tolerated this and won't do it in the future.
– Nazmul Hassan Papon

Aged 34 years and 108 days, why did you retire so soon? Is it really that you are no longer able to continue? Or is there some sort of pressure that forced you to do so? Maybe many of your fans will look answers of these questions – they will search for answers today and maybe for a long time to come.
– Mashrafe Bin Mortaza

It's been a long journey with you [both] on and off the field with lots of moments & memories together. I'm grateful to you because of all the support you gave us as a brother and captain. We will miss you Tamim bhai
– Taskin Ahmed

Back when I was young and started understanding cricket, I used to watch and enjoy Tamim bhai playing. Didn't think that one day I will have the fortune of playing alongside him. My debut match too came under Tamim bhai's captaincy. I am proud to have played cricket alongside a legendary cricketer. You will be missed a lot in international cricket.
– Shoriful Islam

We batted together, shared a dressing room. Had a lot of memories together. Can't believe you will not play for Bangladesh anymore. Will miss you badly vai. All the best for your future life.
– Liton Das

To us, Tamim is still the ODI captain: Papon

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon said that the board still considers Tamim Iqbal as their ODI captain and that it will wait and hope for a change of heart from the opener, who had shocked the nation earlier on Thursday with the news of his retirement from international cricket.

"To us, Tamim is still the ODI captain," Papon affirmed as he briefed the media following a meeting of the BCB high-ups at Friday midnight at a hotel in the capital.

Papon mentioned that he had sent a message to Tamim through his brother and Bangladesh team's logistics operations manager Nafees Iqbal, asking him to at least stay on as captain till the end of the ongoing Afghanistan series, but had received no response from the left-handed opener.

"He is still an important player, who we dearly need in the ODI team. So, if he reconsiders and changes his decision then we will be very happy. And we are waiting for this," Papon added.

Papon also wondered that such a drastic step from Tamim could not have been a decision he thought through completely.

"Even though he said that it was not a sudden decision as he had thought this through, I think it was an emotional decision. Why else would he take this decision so close to the Asia Cup and the World Cup?"

Asked if the board has made any decision regarding the next ODI captain, Papon said: "If for some reason the captain does not play then vice captain takes the charge of the team. So that's what will happen. However, we are not announcing any permanent captain for the team now."

Liton Das, who is the vice captain of the ODI team, will be leading the Tigers in the final two ODIs against Afghanistan in Chattogram.

Of friendship, bitterness and uneasy circumstances

SPORTS REPORTER

Both Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan made their debuts in close proximity. Tamim was the first to enter the ODI format, Shakib coming in just a few months later. Shakib had debuted first in Tests, ahead of Tamim, who debuted in 2008. In friendship, the two of the big and young characters of Bangladesh cricket took the team to new heights. In their split, it is as if a broken mirror now shows the muddy atmosphere of the cricket fraternity.

Tamim and Shakib were the aggressors, the assets of our cricket that bled new life into the country's cricket. Two youngsters who knew how to stare down the opposition came together and combined to deliver and take Bangladesh to new heights.

They were known as best friends, and as individuals they publicly fawned over their bond as well. They even banked on each other's merits, with many a partnership where the duo showed how they thrived alongside each other.

All good things come to an end though. Even in the gentleman's game, things that happen inside the dressing room and in personal conversations can create a bitter rift. A broken relationship like theirs is

not the first in world cricket, nor will it be the last. It has reportedly been a few years since they talked as 'just friends.'

While their uneasy relationship may have been an open secret to many, the news had stayed out of the public's ears until this year, when BCB president Nazmul Hassan, in



an explosive interview, exposed the strained relationship, bringing the issue to the forefront of Bangladesh cricket.

"This is not a healthy dressing room, that I can guarantee you. This thing [rift between Shakib and Tamim], it's not that I have

not tried to sort it out. I spoke with both of them but I felt that it would not be easy to settle the issue at the moment," the BCB president had said.

Shakib, amongst other qualities, is recognised as someone who can compartmentalise his emotions and focus on bringing out the best of his game, no matter the mental strain he is facing off the field. For Tamim, the scenario became increasingly difficult as the ODI captain as talks of a divided dressing room continued.

The team was left to cater to both big-hearted characters, but it brought out a pressure Tamim may not have felt before. Amidst the lack of runs and recurring injury issues that Tamim faced recently, the very public knowledge of his strained relationship with his friend became an issue.

There were whispers of a change of ODI captaincy and zero transparency, brought along by the remarks from the board president. It in the end effected Tamim and as far as BCB's ways of dealing with senior stars go, it was another ugly mark on the country's cricket.

As administrators, they needed to solve their issues internally and gather both their forces for the upcoming World Cup in India. They failed significantly in that regard.



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LAND ACQUISITION Graft allegation against health minister, family 'regrettable' Says JP MP in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party MP Pir Fazlur Rahman, referring to a government land acquisition deal involving the health minister and his family, yesterday said corruption is rife in the country's land sector.

While participating in the discussion on the "State Acquisition and Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 2023, the opposition MP, terming a report against Health Minister Zahid Maleque as "regrettable", demanded the land minister look into the corruption in the sector.

Fazlur said corruption is rampant in districts where there are land acquisition projects.

He said it is understandable that land needs to be acquired for various development projects undertaken by the government but the government has to tackle corruption there.

Referring to the recently published

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In-patients and potential patients, along with their attendants, crowd the pathology section for platelet counts and blood tests to check for dengue at Mugda Medical College Hospital. With dengue cases soaring exponentially, hospitals across the city have been struggling to provide proper treatment facilities to those in need. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

FOREIGN MISSION IN KSA Deputy secy sacked on rape charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government sacked a deputy secretary for raping multiple female domestic workers who were sheltered at the safe home of the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia.

As the allegation of rape against Deputy Secretary Mehedi Hasan, a former counsellor at the embassy, is found to be true, he is dismissed from the job, according to a circular issued by the public administration ministry yesterday.

As per the Government Employees (Discipline and Appeal) Rules-2018, Mehedi will be unfit for any government job in the future.

He was withdrawn from the embassy on January 24, 2021, amid allegations of raping women who were earlier tortured by their Saudi employers.

He was suspended on February 8 that year and asked to explain his conduct the following month.

The public administration ministry later initiated departmental proceedings, and an investigation found that he asked the women vulgar

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Four lives lost as ambulance, truck collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Four people were killed and three others injured in a head-on collision between an ambulance and a truck in Gopalganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Shamsul Alam, 60, a retired doctor of Khulna Shipyard; his attendant Jewel Hossain, 36; ambulance driver Momin Khan, 42; and his assistant Faisal, 25.

Shamsul was on his way to a hospital in Dhaka for treatment, said police.

Talking to this newspaper, Shamsul's son, Riyadul, said his father had been suffering from psychological disorders for the past few years and was under the care of doctors at a private clinic in Dhaka's Keraniganj.

"As my father's mental state started deteriorating the clinic authorities sent a five-member team to take my father to the clinic," said Riyadul.

"They picked up my father from our home in Khulna in the morning and started heading towards Dhaka in the ambulance. Later, we came to know that the ambulance got into an accident," he added.

The ambulance collided head on with a truck in the Miapara area on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway at around 6:45am, said Javed Masud, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station.

The ambulance driver died on the spot, and six others were injured.

The police, with the help of firefighters, rescued the injured and sent them to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared three people dead, the OC added.

The truck driver, Mohammad Ali, was also injured and is receiving treatment at Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

Speaking to this newspaper, he said: "I, along with two others, was transporting an excavator to Khulna from Dhaka. When we reached the Purba Miapara area, the ambulance suddenly got onto the wrong lane, and we crashed into each other."

Capacity charge is model of robbery

Says IMED in a report on the power sector

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The practice of paying capacity charges to power plants is a "model of robbery" and is a reflection of ill-motivated contracts, said the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) in a report recently.

"This system is not sustainable," the report said.

The government has paid Tk 90,000 crore in capacity charges in the last 14 years, which is increasing every year.

In the last 12 years, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has made a loss of Tk 154,190 crore. But its losses would amount to Tk 113,532 crore in fiscal 2021-22 and 2022-2023.

It is a "false claim" that if the system of capacity payment does not exist, investment in the power sector will not come.

Only two conditions are enough to attract investment: allowing the private power producers to sell electricity at a higher rate of 25 to 50 percent depending on the location and a minimum offtake of one-fourth or half the electricity generated.

The report found only 56 percent of the total power generation capacity was being used.

There will be no solution to the

fund crisis in the power and energy sector until the government does not stop the high payment for per unit electricity, capacity charges, fuel supply and selling lands to them at low cost, easy bank loan, duty-free import opportunity etc, it said.

The report also blamed the indemnity act of 2010 on the power sector.

"This is a barrier to accountability -- the per unit production cost of some power plants goes past Tk 100. Such mischief should be stopped immediately."

The report reviewed the progress of 67 power division projects taken from 2013 by PDB, Power Grid Company of Bangladesh, Desco, DPDC, NESCO, Sreda, EGCB, Power Cell, Rural Electrification Board, RPCL and so on.

"The situation is disappointing," it said.

Even after seven years, some projects' implementation is just 10 percent. None of the projects made any progress in the first year.

There are separate agencies to implement the power transmission and distribution infrastructure, but due to a lack of coordination, some power plants are sitting idle after completion in the absence of transmission and distribution systems.

It is a "false claim" that if the system of capacity payment does not exist, investment in the power sector will not come.

Rohingya leader killed in Ukhiya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya community leader was stabbed and shot dead at the Ukhiya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar last morning.

Ebadullah, 40, was a sub-majhi of Camp A9 under Camp 1W, said Inspector Arifur Rahman of Armed Police Battalion-14.

"Some 8-10 masked criminals chased Ebadullah and caught him at his house. They stabbed him indiscriminately and shot him. He was rushed to a nearby NGO-run hospital, where doctors declared him dead," the inspector said.

The reason behind the attack and the identity of the criminals still remain unknown, he said.

On June 17, another Rohingya leader was killed.

Noor Hossain Bhutto, 42, a sub-majhi of 9D block at camp-2 in Kutupalong, was believed to be murdered over previous enmity.

At least 48 Rohingyas, including 16 Majhis, 11 ARSA members and a volunteer were killed in clashes or gunfights in the last six months in Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar.

Giant stone artefacts found on rare Ice Age site in Kent



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Researchers have discovered some of the largest early prehistoric stone tools in Britain, including a foot long handaxe almost too big to be handled.

The excavations, which took place in Kent, revealed prehistoric artefacts in deep Ice Age sediments preserved on a hillside above the Medway Valley.

The researchers, from UCL Archaeology South-East, discovered 800 stone artefacts thought to be more than 300,000 years old, buried in material which filled a sinkhole and ancient river channel.

Two extremely large flint knives described as giant handaxes were among the unearthed artefacts.

Handaxes are stone artefacts which have been chipped, or knapped, on both sides to produce a symmetrical shape with a long cutting edge.

It is believed that this type of tool was usually held in the hand and may have been used for butchering animals and cutting meat.

The two largest handaxes found at the Maritime site have a distinctive shape with a long and finely worked pointed tip, and a much thicker base.

BOTCHED C-SECTION Central Hospital sues Dr Sangjukta for defamation Seeks Tk 500cr compensation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Central Hospital is suing doctor Sangjukta Saha for Tk 500 crore for her "defamatory remarks" about the hospital following the deaths of Mahbuba Akter Akhi and her newborn.

Didarul Alam, secretary of the hospital, filed the law suit with Dhaka's First Joint District Judge's Court yesterday.

After a hearing, Judge Md Masudul Haque accepted the case and asked Sangjukta to submit a written statement against the suit by July 25.

According to the lawsuit, Sangjukta, at a press conference on June 20, blamed Central Hospital for the deaths of the mother and her newborn.

She said the authorities did not take her consent, verbally or in writing, while admitting Akhi on June 10.

The authorities also lied about her presence at the hospital, she claimed.

"I was not in Bangladesh during the operation. How could I be responsible if I was not there? It is totally the responsibility of the hospital. To cover up the real incident



Sangjukta Saha

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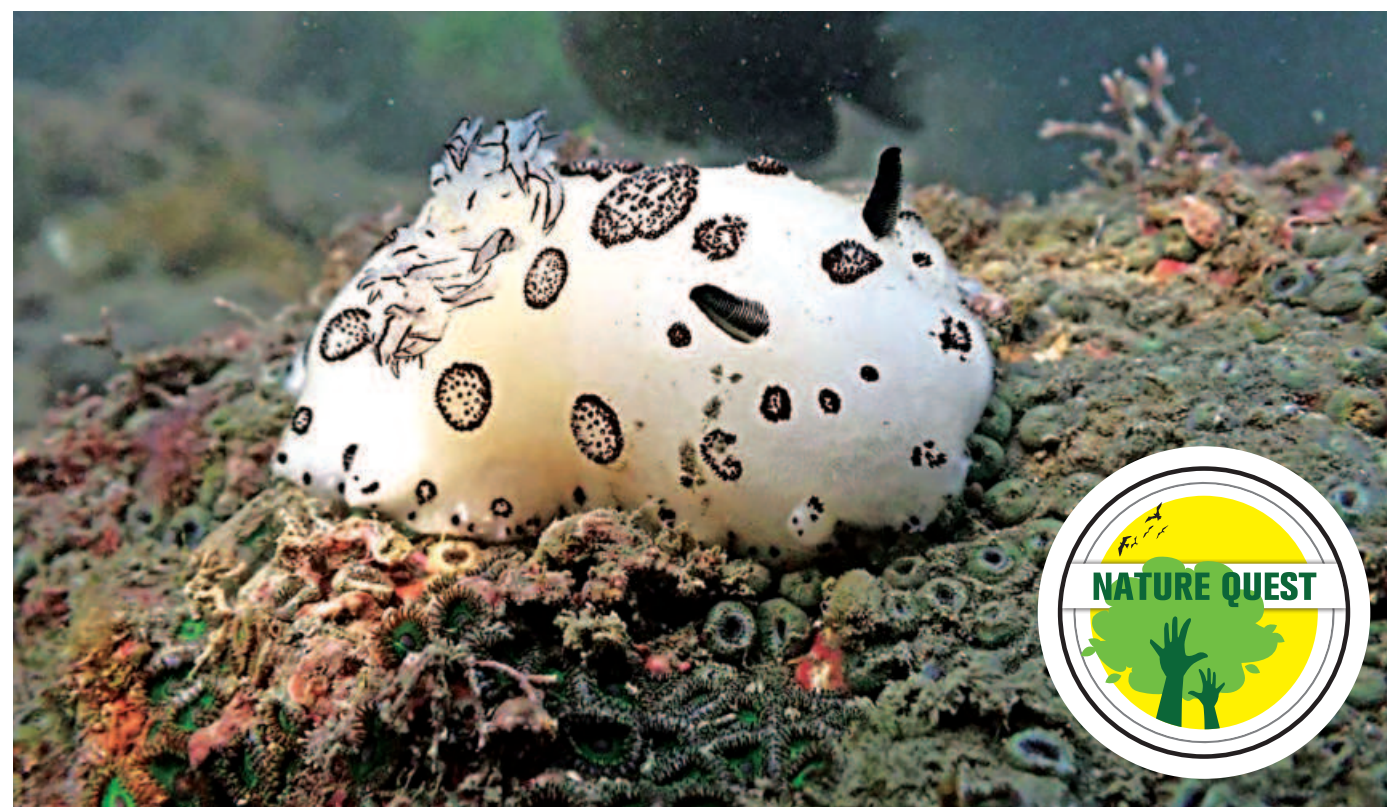


PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

BUNNIES OF THE SEA ... Spotted around 7-8ft under the Bay of Bengal in Saint Martin's Island, this is a sea bunny slug, scientifically known as Jorunna parva. Found mainly across the Indo-Pacific region, these tiny, shell-less molluscs are termed the "cutest" sea creatures. However, they're a threat to predators due to high toxicity, which comes from some of the food they consume -- such as toxic sea sponges. Their fuzzy "rabbit ears", for which they get their name, are actually sensory organs -- rhinophores -- that help them detect food and potential mates. They are, however, hermaphrodites -- with both male and female genitalia. So, they can be a mother to one offspring and father to another. Sea bunnies are vital for ocean health, as they consume algae and control its growth in their habitats. But habitat loss, overfishing and climate change still threaten their populations.

Reshuffle in admin 9 DCs appointed, one transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed nine new deputy commissioners and transferred one.

The move is considered significant as the DCs will be the returning officers in the districts during the next general election slated for January.

This is the first time the government has appointed officers from the 27th batch of BCS as DCs. They were recruited during the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government, and they got appointments in 2009 when the Awami League was in power.

Of the 10 officers, three were assistant personal secretaries (APS) to ministers, one was the APS to a mayor from the AL, and another one was the APS to principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Anisur Rahman, a 24th batch officer who was the DC of Gazipur, has been transferred to Dhaka.

According to a gazette notification issued by the public administration ministry, Shah Mozahid Uddin, APS

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