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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 28, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 187

SRABAN 13, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 9, 1445 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE : Tk 15.00



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business**



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play against  
Japan'**



**Niger coup:  
Military declares  
support, world  
condemns**



**Decades not  
detering  
Afsana Mimi**

# BNP plans big push from big rally

Fresh programmes may begin Sunday

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A charged-up BNP plans to stage a big show of strength in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters today after the police finally gave it the go-ahead.

However, party leaders asked BNP supporters, who started arriving in the capital in droves from across the country, to avoid confrontations and to remain alert to any instigation.

Talking to The Daily Star, a number of top BNP leaders yesterday said they already have a "strategic win" against the government's initial decision to not allow their rally.

At the same time, they are concerned about the possibility of the ruling party activists creating "anarchy" and then blaming it on them.

The BNP is yet to finalise its next course of action to drive home its one-



BNP activists from different parts of the country started gathering in front of its Nayapaltan central office ahead of the party's today rally there. The party will announce the next course of action at the rally to press home its one-point demand for polls under a non-party interim government. The photo was taken yesterday evening.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Polls schedule likely in late Oct: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal yesterday said the schedule for the 12th parliamentary election could be unveiled in the last week of October.

"If we don't announce the schedule in October, then we will have to do it in November since there is an obligation to hold the election within 90 days," he told The Daily Star last night.

According to the constitution, the national election must be held within 90 days before the five-year term of the parliament expires. The 11th parliament began its first sitting on January 30, 2019.

The CEC said, "There was neither any discussion in the commission about the schedule nor any decision was made regarding it," he added.

The Daily Star talked to the CEC after he told a television channel that the schedule of the next polls

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## Unease in Dhaka before rivals' rallies

Light traffic on weekday; over 500 detained in 2 days; cops on riot gear on streets

STAR REPORT

An uneasy calm was prevailing in the capital ahead of the Awami League and BNP rallies today.

Police arrested over 500 people in the capital alone over the last two days, the BNP said. Besides, traffic was light on the streets yesterday, even though it was a weekday.

Hundreds of people offer their Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram on Fridays. The ruling AL's rally at the south gate of the mosque will presumably see thousands of activists gather in the area.

Abul Kalam Azad, who works for a company, said he went to his office in Paltan yesterday, but returned home early fearing violence.

"Some of my colleagues did not even go to work," he told The Daily Star.

Riot control vehicles and a large number of law enforcers were seen in front of the BNP office in Nayapaltan



yesterday.

Police did not let journalists take photos in front of the BNP office. They even seized phones from journalists who went live on social media.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq yesterday said police, Rab, Armed Police Battalion, and Ansar will be on the city streets while the border guards will be ready to prevent any untoward situations.

Criminals may take advantage of the large gatherings of the two major parties and disrupt law and order, he added.

Regarding the large number of arrests, he said police detained wanted individuals and people they suspect to be criminals with the overall security in mind.

Besides, this was done as part of the regular efforts to combat crime.

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## AL to be on guard across the capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has made preparations to ensure a large gathering at its "peace rally" near the south gate of Baitul Mukarram today.

Leaders and activists of AL's city units will be at their offices and in the neighbourhoods so that BNP activists do not launch a blockade, try to lay siege to any important government facility, and "create unrest".

They, however, were also asked not to stop BNP activists from joining their rally at Nayapaltan, according to Abu Ahmed Mannafi, president of Dhaka City (south) AL.

Since the top AL leaders want to see at least two lakh people at the event, activists from the districts adjoining Dhaka were asked to attend the rally.

The AL rally, organised by Jubo League, Chhatra League and Swechchhasebak League, will begin at 2:30pm.

AL's associate bodies first announced

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## Journos to blame for foreign envoys 'bossing us around'

Says Momen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said special briefs on various issues have been prepared and will be given to foreign countries so they can have a better understanding of Bangladesh.

This, he said, would help the countries refrain from making "ignorant" remarks on Bangladesh.

Momen said this while speaking to reporters after a book launch at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital.

He also said foreign diplomats in Dhaka are "extra active" and "boss around" due to journalists' activities.

He made these remarks a day after the government expressed dissatisfaction over the joint statement issued by 13 foreign missions condemning the attack on Hero Alom, an independent candidate in Dhaka 17 by-polls. The government termed the statement a "violation" of diplomatic norms and urged all missions to refrain from such behaviour.

"Journalists should see the good sides [of Bangladesh] ... Due to them,

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## DENGUE OUTBREAK 178 dead in July alone

Late hospitalisation, re-infection to blame for death rate, say experts

HELEMUL ALAM and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

With 10 new deaths recorded yesterday, 178 people have died from dengue just in the month of July.

The number is just one shy of the total deaths in all of 2019 when dengue reached epidemic proportions with over one lakh patients.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, apart from the new deaths, 2,361 people were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Since January this year, 225 people have died from the mosquito-borne virus. The number was 281 last year, 105 in 2021, seven in 2020 and 179 in 2019.

Experts and doctors have attributed this year's death rate to late hospitalisation and re-infections.

Fluid intake is the main treatment for dengue patients, they said, adding that in most cases, blood and platelets transfusions are not needed.

They suggested that those diagnosed with dengue at home take sufficient amounts of fluids and consider

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Three-year-old Tasnim, from Brahmanbaria, and five-year-old Jannat, from Narayanganj, sharing a single bed on the floor in Mugda Medical College Hospital's dengue ward. As the number of cases has been on a steep rise, hospital authorities are having to ask incoming patients to share beds as there are no free ones available anymore.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Corruption, labour rights discourage investment

Says US state dept on Bangladesh's business climate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's inadequate infrastructure, limited financing instruments, bureaucratic delays, lax enforcement of labour laws and corruption continue to hinder foreign investment, said a recent report by the US Department of State.

The government has made gradual progress over the past decade in reducing some constraints on investment, such as taking steps to better ensure reliable electricity, but inadequate infrastructure, limited financing instruments, bureaucratic delays, lax enforcement of labour laws and corruption continue to hinder foreign investment.

The government has made efforts to improve the business environment, but the full implementation of its foreign investment policies has yet to materialise, said the report styled '2023 Investment Climate Statements: Bangladesh', which was unveiled yesterday.

"Bangladesh's weak and slow legal system, which is widely believed to be corrupt, impedes foreign investment. In Bangladesh, courts have little ability to enforce their

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**"Although Bangladesh is a traditionally moderate, secular country, political disturbances are likely to grow in size and intensity as national elections approach in late 2023/early 2024."**

US Department of State



## CTG-10 BY-POLLS AL candidate meets Hefazat leader, seeks blessings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Mohiuddin Bacchu, Awami League candidate in Chattogram-10 by-polls, met Hefazat-e-Islam top leader Mufti Harun Bin Izhar, alias Harun Izhar, and his father Mufti Izharul Islam on Wednesday and sought blessings and votes.

The meeting took place at the mosque of Jamiatul Ulum Al-Islamia Madrasa, known as Lalkhan Bazar Madrasa.

Mufti Izharul Islam is the founder and principal of the madrasa. His son Mufti Harun Izhar was the education and cultural affairs secretary of the now-dissolved central committee of Hefazat.

AL insiders confirmed Bacchu's meeting with Mufti Izhar and his son.

The Daily Star obtained a photo of the meeting, in which Lalkhan Bazar ward councillor and AL leader Abul Hasnat Md Belal was also present. Mufti Izhar, Bacchu and Belal were sitting together in a row.

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## PM to open Matarbari power plant in December

Officials say; 600MW to  
be added to nat'l grid

UNB, *Dhaka*

The first unit of Matarbari coal-fired power plant in Cox's Bazar's Maheshkhali is likely to go into production by December this year, adding 600MW of electricity to the national grid.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the plant, project officials told reporters recently.

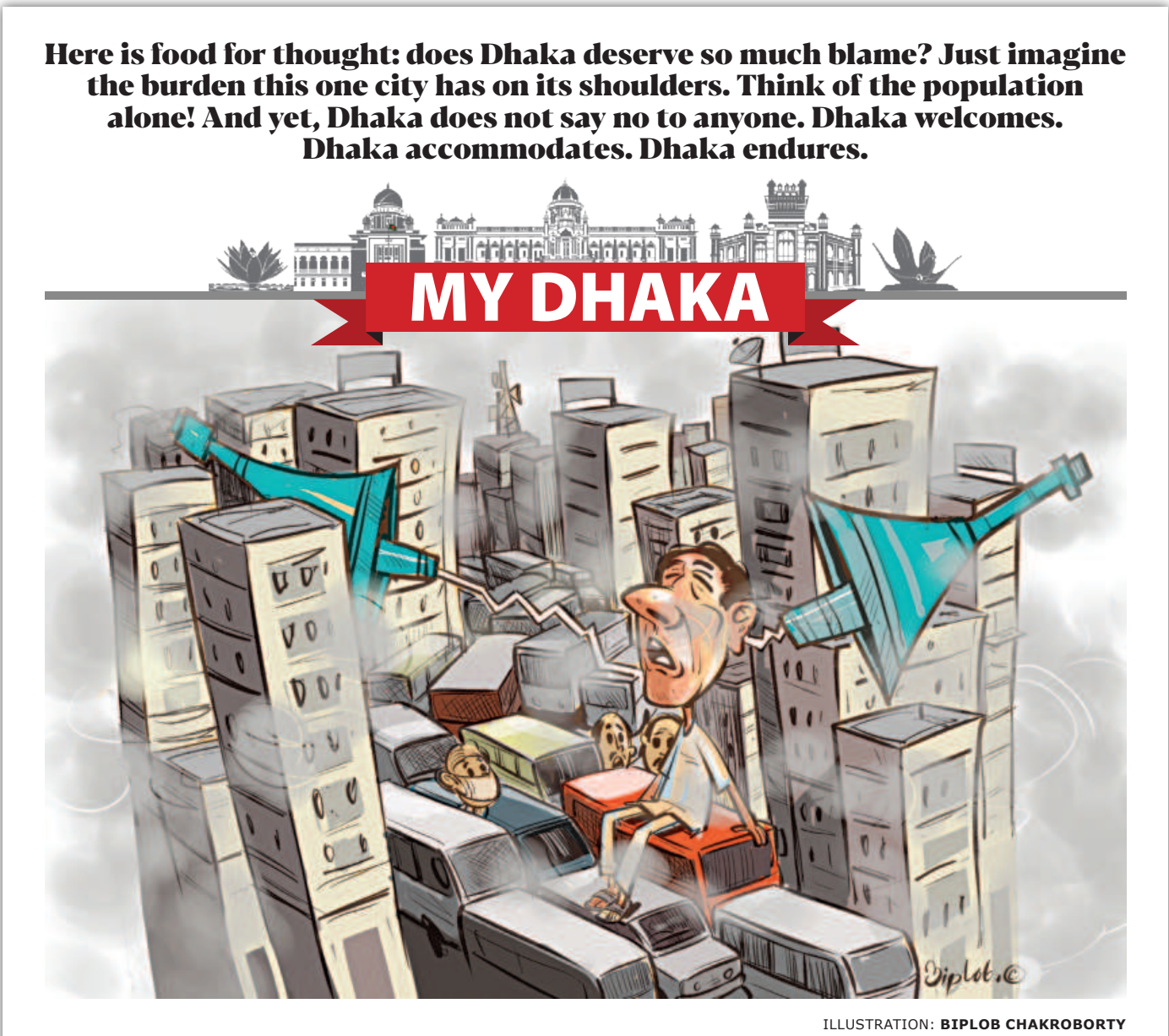
A ship carrying 64,300 tonnes of coal arrived from Indonesia on June 23.

While visiting the area recently, it was seen that the project implementing company, Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Limited (CPGBL), is going ahead with the work of the mega project. The work on the jetty and the power plant is almost complete.

According to sources, 95 percent of the jetty and physical infrastructure work has been completed and 90 percent of the overall physical infrastructure work has been done.

Nazmul Huq, executive director of the power plant project, said the prime minister will inaugurate it in December.

He added that the second unit will be commissioned in next July.



## Making sense of the ‘impossible city’ that is Dhaka

MH HAIDER

So, you live in Dhaka? Must be so awful with the traffic! You are from Dhaka? It is so costly! Is it even safe? The air pollution, sound pollution, crowd, so much crime...

These are among the common complaints and concerns a lot of people who do not live in Dhaka raise about this city. Not that they are wrong, but they cannot look beyond these issues. “Why would anyone want to live in such a miserable city?” they ponder.

I listen to them with a smug smile, because, you see, if you are from outside the capital, you will never understand the love we have for it. You can never fathom the power this seemingly ugly city has over us.

In other words, you will never be able to make any sense of Dhaka if you have never lived here.

One may say that this city has a bad PR; a terrible reputation. Just turn on

the news, and Dhaka is often portrayed as a horrible, impossible place.

Even Dhakaites rant on Dhaka; but when we are outside for a few days, we get homesick and also get bored soon enough.

Since you do not live here, all you can make of it is traffic congestion, politics, and high-rise buildings. But there is so much more!

Granted, our city has its problems but Dhaka is not without charms: diverse people from all over the country with so many ideas, thoughts, and tastes, and preferences; the old part of the city bearing history; the vibrancy; the pace, even the hustle and bustle.

At first impression, Dhaka has a hardened character – somewhat rude, at times cruel as well. It is like that cranky fellow nobody likes in their first meetup, but eventually, like an old soul, it grows on you, slowly starts to show generosity, and guides you with its wisdom.

Here is food for thought: does Dhaka

deserve so much blame? Just imagine the burden this one city has on its shoulders. Think of the population alone! And yet, Dhaka does not say no to anyone. Dhaka welcomes. Dhaka accommodates. Dhaka endures.

Perhaps, ironically the biggest challenge of Dhaka is not related to Dhaka itself: one may claim that what our country needs is extensive decentralisation. It is unjust that so much pressure is put on just one region.

I personally see Dhaka as a city still under construction, a project that bears the label or status of work-in-progress. The optimist in me can visualise a dream city but the sceptic in me gets frustrated. There are myriad problems to solve. It is far from perfect, but it is our home and we should not give up on it.

And as for the naysayers who reside anywhere in our country albeit Dhaka, stop bickering about our city. Dhaka has a pulse of its own, and only those who live here can resonate with it!

## Journos to blame

FROM PAGE 1

many ambassadors in Dhaka are ‘extra active’ and ‘boss [us] around’ on different internal matters. As result of your [journalists’] work, it has become a culture.

“Many foreign diplomats make these remarks whenever someone [journalist] approaches them ... Sometimes the nature of their comments depends on whether and from where they are getting funds.”

Addressing the book launch, Momen commented on how many countries are ignorant about Bangladesh's long history in upholding democracy, human rights and justice, and how 30 lakh people made the ultimate sacrifice to achieve those.

When reporters later asked about the comment, pointing out that some ambassadors in Bangladesh make remarks about the state of democracy, he said, “The prime minister held a meeting with all Bangladeshi ambassadors to European countries.

“As many people in other countries have limited knowledge of our country, we have prepared 10 special briefs on various issues like human rights, democracy, election process, the election commission and more.”

He said the missions in different countries will share the briefs to let them learn about Bangladesh. “The Bangladeshi diplomats have a big role to play here so that they [foreigners] can act sensibly.”

About the 13 missions in Bangladesh, including the Italian one, making a joint statement condemning the attack on Hero Alom and whether the issue was raised during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent Italy visit, he said, “No, we did not raise any such issue during her visit for the sake of decency.”

“Such rubbish should not be discussed and they should understand that.”

About many politicians themselves going to foreign diplomats, Momen said, “This culture has been going on for years and we don't like it.”

## BNP plans big push

FROM PAGE 1

Mirza Abbas, another standing committee member, held a meeting with the Dhaka city unit leaders and then talked to journalists. He thanked the police for allowing the party to hold the rally.

“I hope the police will ensure safety and security of our rally. We hope our party leaders and activists will not face obstructions on their way to the rally,” he said.

On July 22, the BNP announced it will hold a rally on July 27, but police did not give it permission citing public sufferings. Police asked the party to hold the rally at Golapbagh instead, but the BNP declined to go there and deferred the rally to Friday.

Party leaders said the government was forced to give the permission yesterday as pressure from the international community is mounting.

“The attitude of the police and the government is undemocratic, unpolitical, and unconstitutional. Dillydallying over permission never helps to create a congenial atmosphere; it rather creates a tense situation,” Khosru said.

## Unease in Dhaka before rivals’ rallies

FROM PAGE 1

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said anyone attempting to create anarchy will face action.

He also requested all political parties to refrain from violence, and said the government would ensure public safety and security during these events.

The minister also discouraged political parties from holding rallies on streets.

Over the last two days, police raided different hotels and homes in the city.

At least 50 BNP leaders and activists were arrested at Midway Hotel in Nayapaltan while the Detective Branch (DB) of police early yesterday picked up Aktaruzzaman, former joint secretary of Chuadanga BNP, and 12 others from a house in Dhanmondi.

An eight-member team from Tejgaon Police Station searched all 51

A senior BNP leader wishing not to be named said that most of the party leaders were in favour of non-stop street programmes, but not hartals.

He said the programmes are likely to continue till August 10 and there will be a pause ahead of the National Day of Mourning on August 15, the day Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed along with most of his family members in 1975.

“Programmes may resume from August 20 and the movement will intensify after that,” said the leader.

Party sources said many BNP leaders who came to Dhaka to join the Youth Rally on July 22 did not leave. Many others have reached the capital early to avoid police obstructions at the last minute.

Party activists living in districts adjacent to Dhaka is expected to arrive today.

To ensure a large gathering, BNP top brass instructed their district-level leaders to join today's rally.

The party men were setting up the stage and installing loudspeakers at different points adjacent to the office last night.

hotel rooms of the New Grand Hotel Wednesday afternoon and asked the boarders why they were in Dhaka.

Police also instructed the hotel management not to let more than five people check-in together and check the NID cards and phone numbers of people getting rooms.

Our correspondent from Savar reported that police were checking vehicles entering the capital.

Our Gazipur correspondent reported that police yesterday raided at the houses of BNP leaders.

Akbar Ali Khan, officer-in-charge of Kalliakoir Police Station, however, said police did not such thing. Md Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Tongi Pashchim Police Station, said police nabbed two men from a “secret meeting” on Wednesday night.

At least 458 people were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka yesterday

## Floods displace hundreds in Punjab

AFP, *Lahore*

Hundreds of people were displaced when at least 50 villages were inundated after the Chenab River burst its banks in Pakistan's Punjab province, officials said yesterday.

Authorities evacuated more than 14,000 people from villages elsewhere in the province earlier this month because of flooding caused by monsoon rains.

“You can say the seasonal rains are the cause of the rising water levels,” said Aurong Zaib, an official at the Chiniot Flood Control Room.

“Due to river erosion, the low-lying villages have been affected by flooding,” he told AFP.

River levels have also been affected by neighbouring India opening sluice gates to release pent-up water into the Indus tributary.

hours after they were arrested in the city. Of them, 362 were arrested in 54 political cases while 96 were shown on papers as arrested under Section-54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, under which cops can arrest individuals without a warrant.

Mahfuza Akhter, wife of a drugstore owner, said her husband Shafiqul Islam Shaheen was arrested at his pharmacy in the capital's Jurain on Wednesday.

“Around 10 or 12 years ago, he was a BNP activist. But he is no longer involved in politics.”

Police produced Shafiqul before the CMM court of Dhaka yesterday as an arrestee in two old cases – one filed in March this year and the other in 2006.

Yesterday, anxious family members of many arrested BNP leaders and activists gathered in front of the court as police brought the opposition leaders and activists in prison buses.

## AL to be on guard

FROM PAGE 1

that they would hold the rally on July 27. But the DMP on Wednesday denied them permission, saying that such an event on a weekday would cause public suffering.

Chhatra League then sought permission from the Dhaka University authorities for a rally either on the gymnasium ground or at the Central Shaheed Minar.

The AL's associate bodies then rescheduled their rally for today at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Eventually, the three associate

## 178 dead in July alone

FROM PAGE 1

hospital admission if there are signs of deterioration.

Medical experts also said that many patients have a misconception about treatment and believe getting platelet transfusion is a necessity.

Parveen Akhter was anxious when her two-year-old daughter Alsanah's platelet count dropped to 36,000.

“I was very worried until I admitted her to hospital on Monday. However, she has been recovering with fluid management.”

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said, “Only five to 10 percent of dengue patients need blood transfusions,” adding that they prescribe blood transfusions to patients who have active bleeding or are in a critical stage.

“If a platelet is stable with even a 5,000 platelets count, we do not prescribe transfusion ... Patients experiencing dengue shock syndrome are first given crystalloid fluid and then colloid fluid. If the patient's blood pressure or hematocrit [volume of red blood cells] do not improve from those, then we move on to blood transfusion.”

Prof Ahmedul Kabir, additional director general of DGHS and secretary general of Bangladesh Society of Medicine, said, “Rather than platelet count, blood pressure is a more significant parameter for a dengue patient to know the extent of severity. It's possible for people to get treatment

## SEVERING OF JL LEADER’S HAND 2 AL leaders get bail, another sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

A Natore court yesterday granted bail to two local Awami League leaders in a case filed for the severing of a local Jubo League leader's hand.

In the morning, District AL General Secretary Shariful Islam Ramzan, Municipal AL President Syed Mostak Ali Mukul, and District AL Joint General Secretary Syed Mortuza Ali Bablu submitted their bail petitions in court.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Rawsan Alam approved the petitions of Ramzan and Mukul, while Mortuza was denied bail and sent to jail.

They were key accused in the case filed against 30 named and eight to 10 unnamed persons.

According to the case statement, followers of Ramzan attacked the victim Mithun Ali, general secretary of Natore municipality ward-3 Jubo League in Balaripara of the town around 9:30pm on Sunday and cut off his hand from the wrist.

At the time, Ramzan and Bablu were allegedly present at the spot.

## Schoolteacher killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A schoolteacher was killed after a truck hit his motorcycle on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail's Gharinda area early yesterday.

The deceased, Aminul Islam, 51, was an assistant teacher at Jashihaty Government Primary School in the district's Basail upazila.

Abdul Latif Manju, a cousin of the deceased, said Aminul used to live in Sabalia area of Tangail town.

In the morning, he was on his way to his village home in Jashihaty from the district town by motorcycle.

When he reached Gharinda around 6:30am, the truck hit his motorcycle from behind, leaving him dead on the spot, said Manju.

Jahid Hasan, officer-in-charge of Elenga Highway Police Station, said police recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee.

## Foreign liquor seized from Maitree Express

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) seized 162 litres of abandoned foreign liquor from Maitree Express in Dhaka.

A CIID team carried out a drive after the train arrived at Dhaka Cantonment station from Kolkata around 4:15pm on Tuesday and recovered the illegal liquor from under some seats and the false ceiling of the staff coach of the train, CIID Deputy Director Sanjida Khanam told The Daily Star on Wednesday.

The team also recovered an additional 27 litres of liquor from a locked room at the station and 15 litres from an Indian national, she said.

The CIID official said they will soon write to the Indian authorities concerned informing them about the issue.



## Myanmar not cooperating

### Says home minister on preventing drug smuggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal has expressed concern over the lack of cooperation from Myanmar in preventing drug smuggling across the border.

Addressing a press conference on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking yesterday, Kamal pointed out that the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar poses significant challenges in terms of control.

"To enhance border surveillance, the government has taken steps to acquire helicopters and is increasing the number of border guards, along with improving their training," he said.

The minister emphasised government's commitment to combat narcotics smuggling and

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with Tony Blair, former British primer minister and executive chairman of Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday evening. At the meeting, the premier sought British cooperation for the development of Bangladesh Railway. Hasina returned home from Italy early yesterday after attending the UN Food Systems Summit+2 Stocktaking Moment.

PHOTO: PID

## 3 die as boat with bridal party capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Tangail

Three people of a bridal party died when a boat capsized in a beel in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila yesterday.

The deceased are the groom's elder brother Ripon Miah, 40, from Mandirapara village in the upazila; the groom's cousin Sneha, 8, of the same village; and Asif, 20, of Haria village.

Tarapur Union Parishad Chairman Aziz Reza said after lunch at the bride's residence, some bridal party members left for home on a boat.

On the way, several passengers saw a snake in the water and started panicking. As the snake moved towards the boat, they started fidgeting, which led to the boat's capsize. Many were able to swim ashore but the three drowned. Later, locals recovered the bodies.

Belayet Hossain, station officer of Mirzapur Fire Service and Civil Defence, said they came to know about the accident. However, since it was evening, it was not possible to send divers to the spot, he said.

Mirzapur Police Station OC Abu Saleh Mohammad Masood Karim told The Daily Star that a local UP member informed him of the incident. No case has been filed in this regard yet.

## WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

# Hepatitis a silent killer

TAHIRA SHAMSI USTA

"I did not know I had hepatitis C, not even during my pregnancy," said Muslima Kader Mili, a 35-year-old mother of two.

The Brahmanbaria resident found out she had the virus in 2013 when doctors did her blood work, as she was one of the potential donors for her daughter, who needed to undergo an operation at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in the capital.

"That day, the doctors informed me of the virus and how the blood transfusion would also infect my child. I had never heard of any such virus before," she added.

Mili had to take seven units of blood during her first C-section at Dhaka Medical College Hospital in 2002 as she developed eclampsia.

"I must have been infected during that time. However, none of my children have the virus," she said.

According to doctors, hepatitis C can be transferred from mother to child but it is not contagious.

Nevertheless, many in Mili's family and neighbourhood were unaware of the virus. But suggested alternative treatments by village quacks and homoeopathy, as the medicinal treatment for hepatitis C is expensive.

Marzia Begum, another 25-year-old mother of two, shared a similar experience.

"I did not know that I had hepatitis B when my first child, now 11 years old, was born. However, I got to know of my condition when my second child, a girl, was born in 2019," she said.

The virus was passed on to her daughter Lamia, the second born.

Mili, Marzia, and Lamia are currently receiving free treatment at the National Liver Foundation Bangladesh (NLFB) under their Zakat Fund programme.

According to WHO, hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal.

The virus has five variants -- A, B, C, D, and E.

The A and E variants can be transmitted through food and drinking water but usually resolve within 4-8 weeks through the body's built-in immune system, informed Dr Mohammad Ali, liver surgeon and founder of NLFB.

E variant can cause complications during



Hepatitis B and C are the main causes of liver cirrhosis and cancer -- the third leading cause of human deaths around the world. Over 700 million people are infected with hepatitis every year while around 1.1 million lose their lives to this virus every year.

### WHAT IS HEPATITIS?

➔ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver that is caused by a variety of infectious viruses and noninfectious agents leading to a range of health problems, some of which can be fatal

➔ Virus has five variants -- A, B, C, D, and E

➔ B and C variants are the deadliest

### WAYS OF PREVENTION

➔ Treatment facilities at all state-run hospitals

➔ Free test kits, medications

➔ Compulsory tests for expecting mothers, babies

➔ Timely inoculation

pregnancy for the mother and her child. Meanwhile, the D and B variants may lead to chronic inflammation. However, the B and C variants are the deadliest, he mentioned.

Over 700 million people are infected with hepatitis every year, while around 1.1 million lose their lives to this virus every year, said the doctor, referring to a WHO study.

"Hepatitis B and C are the main causes of liver

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Don't repeat the mistake

### HC tells Cox's Bazar judge on granting bail to 9 accused without due process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said judiciary will suffer if a judge does not follow the due process of law.

The HC said this to Cox's Bazar District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ismail in regard to granting bail to nine accused without due process.

"You are a senior judicial officer. If you had followed the due procedures [in granting bail to nine accused] no question would have been raised. What you have done is not expected of anybody. Don't repeat the mistake," the HC bench of Justice Md Habibul Gani and Justice Ahmed Sohail said.

Earlier in the day, Judge Ismail appeared before the bench while hearing a criminal revision petition in compliance with its previous summons order.

He also offered unconditional apology before it for granting bail to nine accused of a criminal case even before the magistrate court rejected their bail petition.

The bench accepted his apology and exonerated him from its proceedings.

On June 21, the HC

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## TARIQUE GRAFT CASE

# Verdict on Aug 2

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed August 2 to deliver judgement in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2007 against BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

After the closing arguments, Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court set the date.

The couple has been shown as fugitives in the charge sheet.

During the closing argument, ACC Public Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kazol told the court that they were able to prove the charges brought against the couple beyond doubt.

So, they should be given the highest punishment for acquiring illegal wealth (10 years) and concealing the information of wealth (three years), the PP added.

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## ASSAULTING DOCTOR

# Dengue patient's father gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Habibur Rahman a day after his arrest on charges of assaulting a doctor of Dhaka's Mugda Medical College Hospital over admitting his seven-year-old daughter, a dengue patient, to the hospital on Wednesday.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ashekh Imam passed the order after Sub-Inspector Md Abdul Mannan of Mugda Police Station, also the case's investigation officer, produced him before it with a forwarding report.

Dr Boni Amin, the case's complainant, appeared before the court and said he had no objection if the court grants him bail.

In the forwarding report, the IO said the accused assaulted the complainant who gave first aid to his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Women in the driving seat

## 11 ready to take the wheels as professional drivers after receiving Brac training

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Our training was not just limited to driving, we learned many other things too like how to improve our social skills," said Mousumi Khatun, one of the female drivers who obtained a professional driving license after receiving training from Brac Driving School.

"They prepared us in such a manner that we are now fully prepared for this profession," she said.

Like her, 10 other female drivers are now ready to embark on their careers as professional drivers.

To celebrate their success, a certificate distribution ceremony was held at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) headquarters on Wednesday.

At the event, Mainul Hossain, manager of the Brac Road Safety Programme, provided an overview of the organisation's road safety programmes and activities.

He highlighted that the 11 women had completed an intensive three-month residential training programme at Brac Driving School in the capital.

Additionally, they received basic communication skills training in English,

as well as gender sensitisation and safeguarding training.

Upon successfully completing the training, the women took part in the licensing tests conducted by BRTA and obtained their professional driver's licenses.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

They were subsequently assigned to Brac's transport division as apprentice drivers, where they will undergo further training for three months under the guidance of senior drivers.

Addressing the event as the chief guest, ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of Road Transport and Highways Division, emphasised that driving is a respectable profession but unfortunately, it is often

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# Pilgrims suffer for mismanagement

RASHIDUL HASAN

Layek Ali and his wife Nasima Begum, residents of the capital's Mugda, were supposed to be accommodated within 400-500 metres of Kaaba Sharif as they paid Tk 8.20 lakh each to their agency to perform hajj under category A.

"Upon arriving at the hotel, we came to know that our stay is 1,300-1,400 metres from the Kaaba, which was promised to pilgrims who paid around Tk 6 lakh for category B," said Layek, a retired government official.

He chose category A as his wife was sick and had a knee problem.

Around 68 others in their group had to face a lot of inconveniences as their agency - Salman Hajj Group -- "cheated" them and did not keep up with their promises despite collecting payments.

"We could not even perform the hajj properly as my wife became ill as she had to walk for such a long distance. We were promised a three-star hotel, but the actual condition was worse than our local hotels. The ACs and lifts were not working properly, while the stench from restrooms was unbearable," added Layek.

The couple also alleged that the agency did not provide transport



FILE PHOTO

Every year, thousands of hajj pilgrims endure both physical and emotional suffering due to a number of reasons largely stemming from a subpar management process and corruption by hajj tour operators.

services while visiting different places in Makkah, Mina and Arafah, though it was promised in the package.

"Due to the agency's mismanagement and delays in providing vehicles, it took us around seven hours to reach

Mujdalifa from Arafah, located just seven kilometres away," he also said.

Several other pilgrims accused their agencies of such mismanagement.

"We could seldom find any Bangladeshi guide during our

needs. The few we found were unable to help us as they did not speak Arabic," shared pilgrim Rejaul Islam, who had to look for a guide for five hours when he was detached from his group in Makkah.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



## Women in the

FROM PAGE 3  
looked down upon as a job.

“This perception hinders many from considering driving as a viable career option,” he said, adding that to promote the employment of women drivers, the government has reserved 10 percent of its total driver positions for women.

BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder expressed that not many people are aware of Brac’s initiative for driver training, and with increased awareness, more employers might come forward with job offers for graduates from the school.

Md Tazul Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, pointed out that there are family and societal barriers that discourage women from becoming professional drivers.

He cited an example from the past year, where BRTC advertised for 100 drivers, and only one female candidate applied and got the job.

He encouraged women to break through these barriers and consider professional driving as a viable and empowering career option.

Brac Road Safety Programme Director Najmul Hussain said the female drivers received extensive training of about 100 hours and covered over 1,200 kilometres on the roads.

He said all of them successfully passed the BRTA license test on their first attempt and obtained their licenses three months ago.

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**কায়স্থ হিন্দু পাড় চাই**

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## Renovated in 2020

FROM PAGE 5  
The uneven surface causes vehicles to sway in a wave-like motion, which leads to loss of control over the steering, mentioned Tahidur Rahman, driver of a bus that has been plying the Khulna-Satkhira route for over 20 years.

“I had to face five accidents on this road over the last couple of years [due to the above-stated problems],” he added.

The road’s maximum weight capacity is 22.5 tonnes, yet trucks transporting goods from Bhomra Land Port to Dhaka exceed a staggering weight of 50 tonnes, said

Anisuzzaman Masud, executive engineer of Khulna RHD.

Alongside overloading, the traffic surge following the inauguration of Padma Bridge has worsened the road condition, he opined.

When asked about the use of substandard materials during construction, he said, “It might have happened at some places.”

“The road will soon be upgraded into a national highway. A project has already been approved, and work will commence as per the authorities’ directives,” he added.

## Verdict on Aug 2

FROM PAGE 3  
Earlier, the court recorded statements of 42 prosecution witnesses. On April 13, the same court framed charges against them.

Tarique and Zubaida have been in London since 2008.

Accepting the charges brought against them, this court on November 1 last year issued arrest warrants against the duo.

On June 26 last year, the HC declared Tarique and Zubaida “fugitives” and rejected their petitions challenging the filing of the graft case. The HC also

withdrew the stay order on the case.

On September 26, 2007, the ACC filed the case with Kafirul Police Station against the two and Zubaida’s mother Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu, on charges of amassing assets worth Tk 4.82 crore through illegal means and concealing the information of Tk 2.16 crore in their wealth statements.

After a probe, the IO pressed charges against the three on March 31, 2009.

However, trial proceedings against Zubaida’s mother were cancelled.

## Dengue patient’s

FROM PAGE 3  
daughter and advised him to take her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

But the accused, instead, locked into a scuffle with the physician, who sustained injuries to his two fingers. So, accused should be confined in jail until the investigation is completed, the IO said.

The defence, however, submitted an application seeking his bail on grounds that Habibur was sued with an intent to harass him. Moreover, the physician had committed an offence

for handing Habibur over police whereas he was in tension for his daughter’s life.

So, he should be granted bail, said the defence lawyer.

Upon hearing both the sides, the magistrate granted bail to the accused upon a bond of Tk 5,000 with two guarantors.

Police arrested Habibur Rahman on Wednesday after Boni Amin, a medical officer of emergency department of Mugda hospital, filed the case against him.

## Man held with gold bars worth Tk 2.2cr

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh detained a suspected smuggler with four gold bars weighing over two kilogrammes along Sultanpur border in Darshana upazila of Chuadanga yesterday.

The arrestee is Kusum Poddar, 47, of Gazipur.

A media release of BGB said a team of the border force conducted a drive in Hatatpara rail crossing area and arrested him around 7:00am.

Later, the four gold bars worth Tk 2.20 crore were recovered from his possession.

A case was filed with Darshana Police Station and the bars were deposited to the govt exchequer, the release added.

## Don’t repeat

FROM PAGE 3  
issued the summons order against Ismail following the criminal revision petition filed by Khodesta Begum Rina, chairman of Dakkhin Mithachhori union in Cox’s Bazar, challenging the bail order.

Khodesta’s lawyer ABM Altaf Hossain said the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Cox’s Bazar rejected the bail petition of nine accused of case including Mohammad Yunus, Nurul Absar and Riaz Uddin around noon on May 21.

Interestingly, the accused submitted an affidavit with some photocopy documents to the court of Sessions Judge Ismail around 10:00am the same day seeking bail in the case.

Even, the accused did not seek any permission from the court to submit the photocopy.

Judge Ismail granted them bail based on those photocopy papers, which the law does not support, the lawyer said.

## Pilgrims suffer

FROM PAGE 3

He was finally able to find his tent with help from Indian and Pakistani guides.

Over 500 individuals were appointed by the government in various administrative, support, and medical teams, while thousands others were appointed as guides to assist Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims.

“My wife fell sick in Makkah but the Bangladeshi Medical team could not give her the necessary treatment. What is the use of sending a medical team wasting public money,” pilgrim Monirul Islam.

Instead of serving pilgrims, the assistants were busy with personal business in many cases, alleged Shahidul Islam, a pilgrim from Khulna who failed to find government-assistants in Makkah and Madina.

Pilgrim Anisur, who went to perform hajj with a group of 200 people, also complained of poor service and quality at the hotels during his stay.

“We did not receive food at the right time,” he said.

Shahidul Alam, another pilgrim from Brahmanbaria, said he did not find any restroom facilities in Muzdalifa. His sufferings were further exacerbated as the agency had not arranged transport for him, despite promising it.

Number of pilgrims 1.22 lakh
Hajj agencies 603
Last date of return flights Aug 2
Hajj observed on June 28
Total death toll 117 so far

Acknowledging the sufferings of hajj pilgrims due to the mismanagement of hajj agencies, M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, president, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, said, “It’s true that a section of hajj agencies does not keep their promises. We will urge the religious ministry to take action against such agencies.”

He also promised strict action on his end.

## We are worried about

FROM PAGE 3

instead of going outdoors.

Besides, the results would be published in the morning while the political programmes are scheduled to be held in the afternoon, he said. So, there would be no issues with the result publication, he added.

This year, over 20 lakh candidates attended SSC and equivalent examinations. The exams were held on all subjects with full marks but on revised syllabuses.

**HOW TO GET RESULTS**  
The candidates can get their results online or through SMS.

To get it under general boards through SMS, candidates have to type

SSC, the first three letters of the board name, followed by the candidate’s roll number and year, and send the message to 16222.

For example, a candidate who sat for the exams under the Dhaka board with a roll number of “123456” will have to type SSC (space) Dha (space) 123456 (space) 2023, and send it to the aforementioned number.

Alternatively, they can also get results from www.educationboardresults.gov.bd, entering their roll and registration numbers.

An educational institution can also download results from dhakaeducationboard.gov.bd by inputting its EIIN number.

## Hepatitis a silent killer

FROM PAGE 3

cirrhosis and cancer — the third leading cause of human deaths around the world. These two variants are silent killers, as only one percent of B virus carriers and 1.5 percent of C variant carriers are under treatment worldwide,” he said.

The B variant is mostly genetic, as it is passed on from the mother to the child. The figures are 40-90 percent for B and five percent for C variant, he added.

To prevent hepatitis, expecting mothers should be tested before delivery, and babies should be screened immediately after birth. Infected newborns should be given the first dose of vaccine within 24 hours of birth, followed by two other doses — one when the baby is a couple of months old and another at six months.

NLFB is serving poor patients for free, but not all from marginalised households, especially those in rural areas, have access to them. The

capacity and resources are also limited, stressed Dr Ali.

Hepatitis treatment and medication are expensive, said Dr Faroq Ahmed, associate professor and head of Dhaka Medical College Hospital’s hepatology department.

Patients have to spend around Tk 5000-7000 on tests at state-run hospitals. However, DMCH does not have a DNA test facility, which compels the infected to go to private hospitals where the test fees are Tk 10,000-12,000, he informed.

The annual treatment costs add up to some Tk 30,000-45,000. Some need three to four years to fully recover, while others have to be on medication throughout their lives,” he mentioned.

“To prevent hepatitis, treatment facilities should be introduced in all state-run hospitals. Test kits and medications should be available for free or at a subsidised price, and should be accessible to all,” he added.

## Myanmar not

FROM PAGE 3

its collaboration with international community to address the issue.

He stressed that creating awareness among people about the dangers of narcotics is a key aspect of their approach. Bangladesh will observe the day on July 30 this year.

Kamal outlined three strategies to establish a drug-free Bangladesh.


The first strategy focuses on reducing demand and involving public engagement in awareness campaigns against drug use. The second strategy aims to disrupt supply

chain of drugs, focusing on curbing production and trafficking.


The third strategy focuses on minimising the harm caused by drugs, with an emphasis on providing treatment and rehabilitation for individuals struggling with addiction.

Kamal pointed out that a significant number of prisoners in Bangladesh are incarcerated for drug-related offenses.

The minister reiterated the government’s strong commitment to building a drug-free Bangladesh and urged all to cooperate in these efforts.



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Date: 27/07/2023

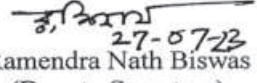
Memo no.46.10.0000.015.07.031.23-363

**e-GP: Tender Notice**

This is to notify for all concern that the following tender has been published in e-GP portal:

Sl. No	Tender ID	Name of works	Last date and Time For Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	856345	Supply of Larvicide (Temephos 50 EC) for Controlling mosquitoes at the larval stage of Dhaka North City Corporation Area in the Financial year 2023-2024	20-08-2023 13.30	20-08-2023 14.00


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



**27-07-23**  
Ramendra Nath Biswas  
(Deputy Secretary)  
Chief Store & Purchase Officer  
Dhaka North City Corporation  
Phone 02-222260923

GD-1167

**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**



This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Bank Asia Limited in its 501<sup>st</sup> meeting held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Bank’s Board Room at Bank Asia Tower (10<sup>th</sup> Floor), 32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, has approved the un-audited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on June 30, 2023 and disclosed the following financial indicators of the Bank:


Particulars	January to June 30, 2023		January to June 30, 2022	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Net Asset Value (NAV) (Crore)	3,025.02	3,008.26	2,795.42	2,779.13
Net Asset Value (NAV) per Share	25.95	25.80	23.98	23.84
Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) *	14.29	14.43	33.12	32.73

Particulars	January to June 30, 2023		January to June 30, 2022		April to June 30, 2023		April to June 30, 2022	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Earnings per Share (EPS)**	2.86	2.88	1.99	2.00	1.79	1.81	0.91	0.94


*\*Net Operating Cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS) decreased mainly due to decrease borrowings.*  
*\*\*Earnings per share (EPS) has increased as a result of increase in profit after tax.*

The details of un-audited financial statements of the Bank for the second quarter ended on June 30, 2023 will also be available on the website of the Bank at [www.bankasia-bd.com](http://www.bankasia-bd.com)

Dated: Dhaka  
July 27, 2023

**Bank Asia**

**Corporate Office**  
Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue  
Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215



**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
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- Verifying all medical papers and to ensure proper counselling of the patients as and when situation arises.
- Providing on call consultation services to the NSU faculty, students, officers and staff if required after office hours.
- Attending faculty, students, officers and staff at the NSU Medical Center.
- Coordinating and monitoring the tasks of the nurse and employees of the NSU Medical Center and taking steps to make the Medical Center more user-friendly.
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- Any other job assigned by the Authority.

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**Age:** Not exceeding 40 years.

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**Other Terms and Conditions:**

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**NSU reserves the right not to appoint anyone if suitable candidates are not found.**

**Any prior communication or persuasion to the position will be considered as a disqualification. Interested candidates are requested to apply through [jobs.northsouth.edu](http://jobs.northsouth.edu) by 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023.**

Department of Administration  
**NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
Plot# 15, Block# B, Bashundhara, Dhaka – 1229  
**NSU Job Portal: [jobs.northsouth.edu](http://jobs.northsouth.edu)**



# Dhaka airport launches three digital services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passengers using the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will now be able to easily access information and lodge complaints, using the newly-launched website, 24/7 call centre and customer relationship management software.

"The new website will be extremely helpful for passengers, providing information about everything from flight schedules to check-in procedures," said Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director, HSI, during the inauguration ceremony of the three new services.

The website supports both Bangla and English, so that travelers from all over the world can learn about the airport's various services related to domestic and international flights.

It will also feature the activities of various organisations working at HSI.

The web-portal will also highlight all the rules for those traveling to or arriving from abroad.

The 24/7 call centre will also be operated in both Bangla and English, so that it is accessible to passengers from all over the world. Apart from passengers, people can also get various information related to the airport through this service.

The two numbers for the call centre are 09614-013600 and 13600.

"Our main objective is to ensure quality service to all passengers traveling through the airport. I think the launch of the new website, call centre and customer relationship management software will play a significant role in providing a better experience to the passenger," Kamrul Islam added.

He also said various complaints from passengers will be recorded weekly, fortnightly, and monthly. Passengers will also be notified about the matter when resolving their complaints through the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) team.

**The 24/7 call centre will also be operated in both Bangla and English, so that it is accessible to passengers from all over the world.**

The new CRM software will enable HSI to better store and resolve passenger complaints and suggestions. It will also help personalise passenger services and make the airport experience more efficient for everyone, said Kamrul Islam.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said, "I hope these new initiatives will make the airport a more comfortable and pleasant place to travel."

KHULNA-SATKHIRA REGIONAL HIGHWAY

# Renovated in 2020, deteriorated by 2023

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Dilapidated, riddled with potholes, and patches of deteriorated bitumen -- such is the situation of Khulna-Satkhira regional highway.

Repaired in 2020 spending Tk 160 crore, the road was damaged significantly within just the next three years, with the 33km Khulna section of this 64km road being the most defaced.

The status quo has sparked public outrage as locals and project insiders allege the use of substandard materials during its construction.

Meanwhile, the Roads and Highways Department blamed the frequent plying of heavy vehicles, mostly stone-laden trucks from Bhomra Land Port in Satkhira who use this road to enter the capital, for the road's miserable state.

The renovation work of the road's Khulna section began in 2018, covering the stretch from



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Khulna city's zero point to Atharo Mile in Dumuria upazila.

The project was completed in June 2020, and was among the 100 roads and highways, spanning across 50 districts, inaugurated by the prime minister on December 21 of the following year.

According to Khulna RHD, the

road's width was expanded from 18 to 36 feet under the project. Additionally, eight culverts, drainage systems in market areas, and strategically placed bus stops were also constructed under this project.

Visiting various areas along the road, including Koilya Bazar,

Gutudia, Dumuria, Kharnia, Chuknagar, and Atharo Mile, it was evident that the condition of the road has significantly deteriorated.

The bitumen (a black, viscous mixture of hydrocarbons used for road surfacing) rutted in some places, creating small holes on the surface.

"The bitumen began to deteriorate within a year of renovation, leading to frequent accidents. Such poor work quality is disappointing," said Nittananda Mondal, a resident of Dumuria's Bandha village.

The uneven road surface makes it difficult for drivers to maintain control over their vehicles, said Biprodas Bairagi, a rickshaw v-puller of Batiaghata upazila's Chaksailmari area, who uses the road to transport goods to Gallyamary.

"Speeding buses and goods-laden trucks multiply the risks," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Man gets life term for killing wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his wife in Mirsarai upazila around 13 years ago.

Priyo Lal Das, 41, who is on the run, was convicted in absentia, court sources said.

The court of 5th Additional District and Sessions Judge Muhammad Sharifur Rahman also fined him Tk 50,000, in default of which he will have to suffer six more months in jail, said Public Prosecutor Sheikh Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury.

An arrest warrant has been issued against the convict.

According to the case, in March 2010, Priya Lal Das got married to Sujatabala Das with family consent.

On December 8, 2010, Nitai Chandra Das, father of Sujatabala Das, was informed that she had died by suicide over a family dispute.

Later, Mirsarai police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to Chittagong Medical College morgue for post-mortem.

But after the autopsy, police found that she was strangled, prompting the victim's father to file a murder case.

# Woman, child crushed under train in Cumilla

UNB, Cumilla

An unidentified woman and a child died after they fell under the wheels of a train at Bijoypur of Laksham upazila in Cumilla district on Wednesday night.

Quoting locals, Masud Alam, officer-in-charge of Laksham Police Station, said the "Sonar Bangla Express" hit the woman and the child while they were crossing Dhaka-Chattogram rail track near Bijoypur around 7:30pm, leaving them both dead on the spot.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent them to a local hospital morgue.

PRAYER  
TIMING

JULY 28

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:20 12:30 5:00 6:50 8:15

JAMAA 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# KALAPARA OF PATUAKHALI

# 1,320MW power plant to come on stream next June

SOHIRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Another 1,320MW coal-based thermal power plant is in progress in Patuakhali's Kalapara area. The first of its two units (660MW each) will come on stream in June 2024 and the second unit in October.

The under-construction power plant is located on the banks of the Ramnabad River, just two kilometres north of the 1,320MW Payra Thermal Power Plant in Patuakhali.

Rural Power Company Limited (RPCL) is implementing the project. Project director Taufiq Islam said the physical progress of the project is 73 percent and the financial progress is 51 percent till June this year.

According to RPCL sources, 915 acres of land in Nishanbaria, Dhankhali and Londa villages of Dhankhali union of Kalapara upazila have been acquired for this project, but the infrastructure construction work is progressing on 500 acres.

The physical structure of the first unit including boiler, main power house, turbine, generator hall has already been completed.

Besides, chimney, central control room, laboratory, fuel oil storage, water storage, transformer grind, fly ash silo, fuel-well pump, rain water reservoir, fire station service and firefighting water tank, regular and irregular waste water storage basin, infrastructural works of administrative building, engineering building, multipurpose hall, workshop, mini fire station have also been completed.

Construction of jetties for

loading-unloading coal and conveyor belts for bringing coal from ships is also underway in the project area. The main equipment of the project -- including the main transformer -- has also been installed and some goods are in the process of discharge at Chattogram Port.

Sources also said currently 5,979

1,320MW Payra Thermal Power Plant has been operational since last year while the construction work of RPCL and Ashuganj power plants are ongoing; and the RPCL's work is almost at the end.

The electricity generated here is being added to the national grid, he said.

Contacted, Kalapara Upazila



**Recently visiting the power plant, this correspondent saw that local and foreign workers are doing various types of work including installation of equipment. Apart from this, internal and external road development work is also going on.**

PHOTO: STAR

officials and employees -- 972 foreigners and 5,007 Bangladeshis -- are working on the project.

Dormitories, canteens and mosques have been constructed for the officers and employees working at the project site.

Recently visiting the power plant, this correspondent saw that local and foreign workers are doing various types of work including installation of equipment. Apart from this, internal and external road development work is also going on.

Local Dhankhali UP chairman Md Tinu Mridha said his union has three power plants. Among them

Parishad Chairman Rakibul Ahsan said the present government has taken various steps in electricity generation, as a result of which the power situation has significantly improved.

Project director Taufiq Islam said this power plant is being built at a cost of around Tk 2,500 crore.

"If everything goes well, the first unit of the power plant will come into production in June next year and the second unit in October. The electricity generated there will be connected to the national grid through the Payra thermal power transmission line," he added.



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASTR

**Two women sow tea seeds into mud-bags while others nurse young plants under the sun at Malonichhara Tea Estate in Sylhet. These seedlings will be planted during May-June next year. The photo was taken yesterday.**

**The first unit of the power plant will come into production in June and the second unit in October. The electricity generated there will be connected to the national grid.**

TAUFIQ ISLAM  
Project director

# Cumilla Victoria College ex-principal sued in graft case


STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued former principal of Cumilla Victoria Government College and two other employees of the college for misappropriating around Tk 2.4 crore.

ACC Assistant Director Rafi Md Nazmus Sadat filed the case against the former principal, Ratan Kumar Saha, former accountant Mohammad Abdul Hannan and office assistant Kazi Zahangir Alam, sources at the ACC said.

According to the case statement, the accused showed Tk 2,40,92,907 was spent in 22 different funds.

However, the investigation officer, during a probe, found no existence of these funds.

<div><div></div><div><div>Agrani Bank Limited</div><div>Establishment &amp; Engineering Division</div><div>Head Office</div><div>9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka</div><div>Invitation for Tenders</div></div></div>		
1	Procuring entity name	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Upgradation of CCTV System Agrani Bank Limited 12 Branches of Chattogram Circle
4	Invitation Ref No.	ABL/E&ED/Eng/Mecha-107/2023
5	Date	24/07/2023
KEY INFORMATION		
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method
FUNDING INFORMATION		
7	Budget and source of funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank Limited.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
8	Tender publication date	24/07/2023
9	Tender last selling date	14/08/2023
		DateTime
10	Tender closing date and time	16/08/20233.00pm
11	Tender opening date and time	16/08/20233.15pm
12	Name & address of the tender document selling office	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13	Receiving tender document	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
14	Place of tender opening	Tender opening will take place at the Primary place
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
15	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	Tenderers who have: a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Tenderers shall have at least 03(Three) years of overall business experience in similar works preceding the date of publication of IFT. c. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. d. Certificate by the bidder stating that he/she had successfully completed CCTV installation, testing and commissioning works at govt/semi-govt autonomous organizations reputed limited company. e. No joint venture company is allowed.
16	Tenderer to attach copies of the following documents	i) Up-to-date valid trade license ii) Up-to-date income tax paid certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) TIN certificate v) Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the tenderer shall be Tk. 9,00,000.00 (nine lac) only. vi) Catalogue/brochure. vii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 6,75,000/- viii) Tender Submission Letter (Form PG3-1) ix) Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. x) International Standard Conformity Certificate and every other documents mentioned in TDS.
17	Price of tender document (Tk)	1500/- (Tk one thousand and five hundred only) non-refundable Pay-Order from any branch of Agrani Bank Limited in favor of Agrani Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka.
19	Name of official inviting tender	Shyamal Chandra Mahottam
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager
21	Address of official inviting tender	Agrani Bank Limited, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7 <sup>th</sup> Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	02223381674eedmechanical@agranibank.org
23	a) The Tenderer shall furnish Registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladesh nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day. c) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008. d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.	
GD-1166		Shyamal Chandra Mahottam Deputy General Manager





# Decades not deterring AFSANA MIMI

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

**Afsana Mimi's film 'Patalghor' has been released in Chorki yesterday. The actress is seen playing a single mother, who struggles through life with her only daughter by her side, played by Nusraat Faria.**

Afsana Mimi has seamlessly shifted from television to OTT, going from *Kothao Keu Nei* to *Mohanagar 2*. The versatile actress also created a name for herself in films such as *Nodir Naam Modhumoti*, *Chitra Nodir Pare*, and *Priyotomeshu*, among others.

Afsana Mimi's film *Patalghor* has been released on Chorki on July 27. The actress is seen playing a single mother, who struggles through life with her only daughter by her side, played by Nusraat Faria.

"This is the first time that I have worked with Nusraat Faria and I had an incredible time shooting with her, outdoors in Pangsha. We started shooting around October 2020 and the memories that we made there will forever be treasured in my heart," said the actor.

The film has an incredible ensemble of talented actors and Afsana Mimi is hopeful that audiences will surely love *Patalghor* based on its wonderful concept.

"The movie revolves around the bond between a mother and a daughter. I play the role of a single mother who has to grapple with the complexities of her relationship with her daughter. The film highlights how distance tries to test our relationship, but our love pulls us back together," added the actor.



PHOTO: STAR

Prior to being released in Bangladesh, the film was screened in various international festivals and even competed in the 'Asian Competition' category at the prestigious Bengaluru International Film Festival. The film was also screened at the 53rd International Film Festival in India.

*Patalghor* also won the Best Feature film award at Nepal International Film Festival on March.

Although Afsana Mimi can be hardly seen on television anymore, she has been channeling her efforts towards OTT.

"OTT has a wider range of audiences. People from all around the world, who understand Bangla, can fully enjoy the content. Furthermore, some of the programming is dubbed in different languages in order to reach a global audience. This makes OTT a fantastic

medium for artistes," said the actor.

Afsana Mimi believes that a great number of producers are invested in producing quality content in OTT.

"OTT can be a wonderful example of how to produce great concepts, with exceptional acting. Directors here get the perfect canvas to showcase their talents on a boarder spectrum. New talents and budding directors are venturing to the sector too," stated Afsana Mimi.

When asked about her biggest strength when it comes to acting, the accomplished actor replied it's the love of fans.

"I am here because of my fans. When it comes to shooting, we have to travel to numerous locations and my fans shower me with lots of affection. Their love is something truly priceless," said the actress.



## 'Barbie' hits \$200M, 'Oppenheimer' \$100M in 5 Days

Greta Gerwig's whimsical film *Barbie* has surpassed \$200 million in North American ticket sales and reached \$400 million globally, becoming the seventh-highest-grossing film of the year domestically. Margot Robbie's portrayal of the iconic doll has captivated audiences worldwide, boosting the success of the film that had a budget of \$145 million.

On the other hand, Christopher Nolan's poignant and lengthy biopic *Oppenheimer* delves into the world of brilliant scientists and politicians. Despite its weighty subject matter, the movie has earned \$107 million in North America and a total of \$238 million worldwide, making it one of the select 19 films to hit the \$100 million milestone this year.

## Sunny Deol dishes out justice in 'Gadar 2' trailer



The much-awaited trailer of Anil Sharma's *Gadar 2* was finally released Wednesday, and its star casts Sunny Deol and Ameesha Patel have reprised their iconic roles as Tara Singh and Sakeena in the film.

Tara and Sakina's son Jeete (Utkarsh) is tortured by a Pakistani army officer in the caravan. Tara assures a distraught Sakeena that he will bring back Jeete. He goes to Lahore and sledgehammers Pakistani army personnel. The trailer of *Gadar 2* was released on the occasion of India's "Kargil Vijay Divas".

*Gadar 2* is slated to be released in theaters on August 11.

# NEWS

## Corruption, labour rights

FROM PAGE 1  
decisions. Bangladesh does not have a separate court division dedicated to commercial cases."

The legal system lacks independence from the government, which directs judicial appointments. Other pillars of the justice system such as the police are also closely aligned with the ruling political party.

Arbitration and dispute resolution are limited by the fact that the timeframe is unpredictable with many taking years. Moreover, arbitration results are unevenly enforced by the courts, which appear to show a bias against foreign investors, it said.

"Corruption remains a serious impediment to investment and economic growth."

Bangladesh is a party to the UN Anticorruption Convention and has laws to combat bribery, embezzlement, and other forms of corruption, but enforcement is inconsistent.

"Corruption is common in public procurement, tax and customs collection, and among regulatory authorities. Off the record payments by firms reduce Bangladesh's GDP by 2 to 3 percent, according to some estimates."

The current Awami League-led Government publicly states its commitment to fighting corruption, but opposition parties claim the ACC is used by the government to harass political opponents, it said.

Government efforts to ease public procurement rules and a recent constitutional amendment to diminish the independence of the Anti Corruption Commission, the main institutional anti corruption watchdog and investigator in cases of bribery and corruption, may undermine institutional safeguards against corruption.

The report also expressed concern

about the political situation in Bangladesh.

"Although Bangladesh is a traditionally moderate, secular country, political disturbances are likely to grow in size and intensity as national elections approach in late 2023/early 2024."

In the last general election in December 2018, Prime Minister Hasina's ruling Awami League party won 289 parliamentary seats out of 300 in an election marred by widespread vote-rigging, ballot-box stuffing, and intimidation.

"Harassment and violence during the pre-election period made it difficult for opposition candidates and supporters to meet, hold rallies, and campaign freely. Civil society groups are widely concerned about the trend toward a one-party state and the marginalisation of all political opposition groups."

The One Stop Service Act (2018) gave responsibility for attracting foreign investments to four investment promotion agencies: Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA), Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), and Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA).

"These agencies offer some streamlined services, but corruption and excessive bureaucracy have held back the complete and effective rollout of the One Stop Service Act."

To encourage investment, the government has offered incentives, guarantees and tax breaks (e.g., no value-added tax on exports, tax holidays for certain industries).

However, several US companies have experienced difficulties securing the incentives initially offered by the government. They reported that infrastructure guarantees (ranging

from electricity to gas connections) were not fully delivered and tax exemptions were delayed.

"These challenges are not specific to US companies but reflect the broader challenges in the business environment."

The report also slammed the labour situation in the country.

The Bangladesh Labor Act specifies compensation for injured workers, employment conditions, freedom of association, health and sanitary conditions, leave policies, minimum wage setting procedures, right to join unions and working hours.

"But in practice, the government does not consistently and effectively enforce labour laws and independent trade unions face persistent barriers to registration. Charges for unfair labour practices are rarely brought against employers for violating labour rights, but workers in unions have been subjected to police violence, mass dismissals, and arrests of union leaders for asserting their rights to protest, according to labour rights groups."

Companies frequently discourage or prevent the formation of independent worker-led labour unions, preferring pro-factory management unions.

Labour organisations reported most workers feared reprisal if they exercised their rights to form unions, attend meetings or bargain collectively with employers.

The government reports over 1,000 registered trade unions, but labour leaders estimate less than 200 active trade unions are in the country's dominant export sector, garment, and only 30 to 40 of these engage in collective bargaining negotiations because union activities are inhibited by intimidation, corruption and violence.

FROM PAGE 12

employee.

Mohiuddin was the brother-in-law of late BNP minister Aminul Haque. He belonged to the pro BNP-Jamaat teachers' platform at the university.

The executions were carried out more than a decade after Rajshahi's speedy trial tribunal handed down death sentences to four accused in 2008.

A six-member Appellate Division bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, delivered the last verdict in the case on September 15 last year.

"In view of the evidence as discussed earlier we have no hesitation to hold that Dr Mohiuddin, a highly educated man and associate professor of Rajshahi University, only for the purpose of getting promoted to professor annihilated Dr Taher from this world presuming that if Professor Taher lived, the chance of his getting promotion would be zero," said the verdict.

THE MURDER

Prof Taher went missing from his home on the campus on February 1, 2006, when he was aged 59.

Two days later, police recovered his body from the septic tank of his home.

Taher's son Sanjid Alvi Ahmed

filed a murder case with Motihar Police Station on the same day accusing unidentified people.

THE INVESTIGATION

On March 18, 2007, the police submitted a chargesheet accusing six persons.

Other than Mohiuddin and Jahangir, another key accused in the charges was Mahbubul Alam Salehi, the then-president of RU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Three others were Jahangir's father Azimuddin Munshi, brother Abdu Salam, and brother-in-law Nazmul Islam.

Soon after Taher went missing, the police arrested the trio -- Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul, who made judicial statements and confessed that they murdered Taher and dumped his body in the septic tank on February 1.

The trio's confession also revealed the names of Mohiuddin and Salehi.

THE PLOT

The slain professor detected plagiarism and piracy in 10 out of 11 of Mohiuddin's research papers, which the latter submitted for his promotion, according to the charges.

Salehi also had a grudge against Taher over his examinations. Mohiuddin and Salehi hired the killers by promising them money

and jobs.

After Jahangir killed Prof Taher by stabbing, Mohiuddin and Salehi confirmed his death by suffocating him.

While Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul carried the body and dumped it in the septic tank. Mohiuddin and Salehi were also there with them.

THE TRIAL

The trial started at Rajshahi's Public Safety Tribunal in June 2007 by framing charges against the six.

However, the court refused to conduct the case two months later mentioning "unavoidable circumstances."

The trial resumed at Rajshahi's Speedy Trial Tribunal in December and examined a total of 26 witnesses before announcing the verdict on May 22, 2008.

THE VERDICT

The tribunal judge ATM Mesbaudoula gave death sentences against four persons -- Mohiuddin, Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul.

Two other accused -- Salehi, and Azimuddin were acquitted.

The judge in his verdict observed that Ahmed's findings of piracy were enough to prevent Mohiuddin's promotion.

## Two convicts executed 17 yrs after killing

## EU to keep the pressure on Myanmar

FROM PAGE 12

Dhaka; Sebastian Rieger Brown, first secretary (political); and Anna Orlandini, who oversees EU's humanitarian efforts in Bangladesh.

The delegation met with 15 Rohingya representatives, both men and women, at UNHCR's Community Centre at Camp 4.

A Rohingya leader who participated in the discussion said they told the delegation that the situation in Rakhine is still not suitable for repatriation.

Mohammad Zubair, chairman of Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH), a camp-based organisation working for the rights and justice of Rohingya people, said he along with some executive members of their organisation met the delegation at Camp 4 extension and handed them a letter.

"In the letter, we requested the EU delegation to help us with dignified and justified repatriation and create a safe zone for Rohingyas in Myanmar,"

he said.

A Rohingya woman expressed her concern over the reduction in food assistance to \$8 from \$12. She told the delegation that they are struggling to run their family.

Later, the delegation visited the Rohingya Cultural Centre operated by the International Organisation for Migration and met with the Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner at his office in Cox's Bazar town in the evening.

## AL candidate meets

FROM PAGE 2

Asked about the meeting, AL candidate Bacchu said, "I've been visiting many places to ask for votes."

He said he went to the mosque to do the same. However, he claimed not to have held any meetings there and did not notice if Mufti Izhar was present.

When his attention was drawn to the photo, he asked The Daily Star, "If you know everything, why did you call me?"

Meanwhile, Belal confirmed to The Daily Star that during their visit, Mufti Izhar was indeed present. "However, his son Mufti Harun was not present at that time. We were there to ask for blessings and vote."

According to the media reports, Mufti Izharul, a former Naye-e-Amir of Hefazat, is known to have helped

radical organisation Huji spread its tentacles across the country since the early 90s.

His son Harun Izhar was freed on bail in Chattogram on May 23 this year after securing bail in 28 cases filed in the port city, Rajshahi and Dhaka.

On April 29, 2021, he was arrested from the madrasa by Rab in cases filed with Hathazari Police Station over anti-Modi protests in March of that year.

According to the investigators and media reports, Mufti Harun, once an active organiser of the banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji), had been arrested several times for his alleged links to a madrasa bomb blast in Chattogram's Lalkhan Bazar in 2013 and for plotting an attack on the US embassy

in Dhaka with Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2009.

Senior officials of Chattogram Metropolitan Police said that after the Hathazari clash on March 26, 2021, which left four dead, Harun played a significant role in taking the bodies of the deceased without the postmortem from Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Investigators and senior police officials of Chattogram said Lalkhan Bazar madrasa used to be a training centre for Huji members. The institution has been under the scanner of law enforcement agencies since the 2013 bomb blast.

There are 488,638 voters in this constituency and polls will be held in 156 polling centres with 201 polling booths with electronic voting machines on Sunday.



FOSSIL FUEL USE

Environment chiefs of G20 ready fresh proposal

AFP, Chennai

G20 environment ministers in India readied a fresh bid yesterday to strike deals tackling climate change, days after heavy criticism for failing to agree on cutting fossil fuel use.

Environment chiefs from the Group of 20 major economies -- constituting more than 80 percent of both global GDP and CO2 emissions -- are focusing on critical topics including climate change adaption finance, biodiversity, and principles for ocean-based economic activities.

Those agreed by environment ministers during their one-day conference today will be signed off by leaders during a summit in New Delhi in September.

Global temperatures are hitting record highs, triggering floods, storms and heatwaves, climate experts say.



A general view of billowing smoke as supporters of the Nigerien defence and security forces attack the headquarters of the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism (PNDS), the party of overthrown President Mohamed Bazoum, in Niamey yesterday. Inset, Supporters of the Nigerien defence and security forces gather outside the national assembly in Niamey.

PHOTO: AFP

Earth in ‘era of global boiling’ Warns UN chief as July set to be hottest month on record

AFP, United Nations

July 2023 is set to upend previous heat benchmarks, UN Secretary-general António Guterres said yesterday after scientists said it was on track to be the world's hottest month on record.

The UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service also said in a joint statement it was "extremely likely" July 2023 would break the record.

"We don't have to wait for the end of the month to know this. Short of a mini-Ice Age over the next days, July 2023 will shatter records across the board," UN Secretary-general António Guterres in New York said.

"Climate change is here. It is terrifying. And it is just the beginning," he told reporters, adding "the era of global boiling has arrived".

The effects of July's heat have been seen across the world. Thousands of tourists fled wildfires on the Greek island of Rhodes, and many more suffered baking heat across the US Southwest. Temperatures in a northwest China township soared as high as 52.2C (126F), breaking the national record.

While the WMO would not call the record outright, instead waiting until the availability of all finalised data in August, an analysis by Germany's Leipzig University released yesterday found that July 2023 would clinch the record.

This month's mean global temperature is projected to be at least 0.2C (0.4F) warmer than July 2019, the former hottest in the 174-year observational record, according to EU data.

The margin of difference between now and July 2019 is "so substantial that we can already say with absolute certainty that it is going to be the warmest July", Leipzig climate scientist Karsten Haustein said.

July 2023 is estimated to be roughly 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial mean. The WMO has confirmed that the first three weeks of July have been the warmest on record.

Commenting on the pattern, Michael Mann, a climate scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, said it was clear by mid-July that it was going to be a record warm month, and provided an "indicator of a planet that will continue to warm as long as we burn fossil fuels".

Niger military chief backs coup leaders World condemns

AFP, Niamey

Niger's armed forces chief yesterday declared his support for troops who said they had overthrown the government, despite a defiant stand by the country's elected president and an outcry from the world community.

The latest target of a coup in the deeply troubled Sahel, President Mohamed Bazoum was confined at his residence on Wednesday by members of his presidential guard.

Hours later, their leaders, calling themselves the Defence and Security Forces (FDS), declared they had "decided to put an end to the regime," and all institutions were being suspended, the borders closed and a night-time curfew imposed.

Armed forces chief General Abdou Sidikou Issa yesterday swung his weight behind the putschists.

"The military command... has decided to subscribe to the declaration made by the Defence and Security Forces... in order to avoid a deadly confrontation between the various forces," he said in a statement.

Earlier, Bazoum defiantly stood his ground as condemnation of the putsch swelled from African and international organisations and allies France and the United States.

"The hard-won (democratic) gains will be safeguarded," Bazoum said on Twitter, which is being rebranded as X.

"All Nigeriens who love democracy and freedom would want this."

Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massoudou said Niger's "legal and legitimate power" was the one exercised by its elected president.

There had been a "coup bid" but "the whole of the army was not involved," he told France24 television.

"We ask all the fractious soldiers to return to their ranks," he said.

"Everything can be achieved through dialogue but the institutions of the republic must function."

On Wednesday morning, disgruntled members of the Presidential Guard sealed off access to Bazoum's residence and offices and after talks broke down "refused to release the president", a presidential source said.

The coup leaders -- 10 men in military uniform -- appeared on television overnight.

Their leader, an officer named Colonel-Major Amadou



Abdramane, announced they were taking power following "the continued deterioration of the security situation, poor economic and social governance."

The parties in Niger's ruling coalition denounced "a suicidal and anti-republican madness" and condemnation poured in from regional and global leaders.

ECOWAS and the African Union each blasted an "attempted coup d'etat" while UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attacked "the unconstitutional change in government."

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said he had spoken to Bazoum to offer support from Washington, which deploys about 1,100 troops in Niger.

France, a key ally which has 1,500 soldiers in Niger, called for "the restoration of the integrity of Nigerien democratic institutions."

Russia -- isolated internationally since invading Ukraine in February 2022 -- joined nations appealing for Bazoum's release.

All disputes should be resolved "through peaceful and constructive dialogue," it said.

Bazoum took office after elections two years ago, in Niger's first-ever peaceful transition since independence.

He had been interior minister and right-hand man to former president Mahamadou Issoufou, who voluntarily stepped down after two terms.

SUPER TYPHOON

Doksuri kills 25 ferry passengers off Manila Storm headed to China

REUTERS, Beijing/ Taipei

Doksuri regained super typhoon strength yesterday in its final approach to southeastern China after pummeling Taiwan and the northern Philippines with rain and strong winds that led to the capsizing of a ferry in which at least 25 people died.

As of 5:00 pm Beijing time (0900 GMT), the winds around the eye of the storm had reached up to 187 km per hour (116 mph), putting Doksuri back on the top rung of China's tropical storm categorisation system after weakening earlier.

The ferry sank near the Philippine capital of Manila after passengers alarmed by strong winds rushed to one side of the boat, overturning it. As many as 36 people have been killed this week during Doksuri's transit off the northern Philippines.

Doksuri is expected to make landfall in China on this morning somewhere between Dongshan and Putian in the southeastern province of Fujian.

The China Meteorological Administration forecast that Doksuri would be weaker than 2016's Typhoon Meranti, the strongest storm to hit China's coast since 1949 which killed at least 11 people.

14 SUMMIT Norwegian woman, Nepali sherpa set record

AFP, Islamabad

A Norwegian woman and her Nepali guide set the record Thursday for the fastest summit of all 14 of the world's 8,000-metre (26,000-foot) mountains, their team said in a statement.

Kristin Harila and Tenjin "Lama" Sherpa completed the feat in three months and a day after summiting Pakistan's K2, the last peak on their quest.

"Kristin said it was a very hard climb because of the amount of snow. She is grateful and extremely happy to share the record with Lama," Rigmor Berthier, from her press team, told AFP.

The record reflects "their unwavering determination, teamwork, and sheer tenacity throughout this monumental endeavour", a statement from her team said.

"Harila and Lama's collaboration has showcased the essence of mountaineering unity, transcending borders and cultures to achieve greatness together."

The pair surpassed Nepal-born British adventurer Nirmal Purja's record of six months and six days, set in 2019.

Both records were achieved with the help of oxygen and helicopters, which has drawn some criticism from the climbing community.

Pakistan is home to five of the world's 14 "super peaks", and climbing them all is considered the ultimate achievement of any mountaineer.

Besides being far more technically difficult to climb than Everest, K2 -- Earth's second-highest mountain -- has notoriously fickle weather and has only been scaled by 425 people since 1954, including around 20 women.

More than 40 people have summited the world's top 14 peaks, but only a few of them women.



42 eminent citizens

FROM PAGE 12

to the constitution of the state.

Tanya Amir, the lawyer for the 42 applicants - among whom are freedom fighters and members of martyred freedom fighters' families - told The Daily Star that the court may hold a hearing on the application and two other pending petitions against Jamaat on Monday.

The applicants include academician and historian Syed Anwar Hossain; writer and researcher Shahriar Kabir; educationist Shyamali Nasreen Choudhury; actor, stage director and theater producer Ramendu Majumder; actor and film director Mamunur Rashid; Shawan Mahmud, daughter of martyred musician Altaf Mahmud; Prof Muntassir Uddin Khan Mamoon, historian and president of "1971: Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum"; Prof Meghna Guha Thakurta, executive director of Research Institute, Bangladesh, and former teacher of Dhaka University; freedom fighter and film director Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu; historian Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed; academic and social activist Mahfuza Khanam; human rights activist Rokeya Kabir; Dhaka University's senior teacher Asif Munier; film actress and former state minister advocate Tarana Halim; Dr Nuzhat Choudhury; social activist, feminist and environmentalist Khushi Kabir; artist and painter Birendra Kumar Shome; film maker and writer Tanvir Mokammel; writer, journalist and columnist Haroon Habib and; senior journalist and the Daily Kalbela's Editor Abed Khan.

Earlier on June 26, the contempt of court petition was filed by Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Bangladesh Tariqat Federation, and two others against five Jamaat leaders, including its Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman for holding public meetings as a political party despite its leave to appeal against the cancellation of its registration as political party with the Election Commission awaiting the apex court disposal.

In the petition, the petitioners also brought a contempt of court allegation against three government high officials, including the home ministry's senior secretary, for allowing Jamaat to hold the programme in Dhaka.

The same day (June 26), they filed a separate petition with the Supreme Court seeking its order of injunction restraining Jamaat from carrying out any political activities including meetings, public rallies and processions using its name or banner.



An aerial view of houses among burned land, as a wildfire burns on the island of Rhodes, Greece yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

900 migrants drowned off Tunisia this year

AFP, Tunis

More than 900 migrants have drowned off Tunisia's coast so far this year as they tried to reach Europe by boat, the North African country's government said yesterday.

The interior ministry said 901 bodies had been recovered by July 20 following maritime accidents in the Mediterranean Sea.

National Guard spokesman Houcem Eddine Jebabli earlier reported that almost 800 migrants had died by late June, and that more than 34,000 had been intercepted and rescued, most of them from sub-Saharan Africa.

Coastguard units had carried out over 1,300 operations -- more than double the number of missions for the same period last year.

Over 550 "organisers and intermediaries" of human trafficking had been arrested so far this year.



## A welcome step to utilise the diaspora

### Govt must build an effective mechanism to support its policy

The government's decision to formulate a policy with the broad objective of including the Bangladeshi diaspora community in its "march towards development" and ensuring their wellbeing is a step in the right direction. As per the draft Bangladesh National Diaspora Policy 2023, the diaspora includes those "Bangladeshi individuals who obtain citizenship of another country or their citizenship status is under process or are permanently living in another country or were born as Bangladeshi-origin or grew up in another country." At a recent workshop, the expatriates' welfare minister also confirmed the policy objective, underscoring the importance of involving Bangladeshis living abroad in the country's development journey.

It is an unfortunate reality that over the years, there has been a massive amount of "brain drain" out of the country. The policy could, in some ways, reverse that as, if properly implemented, it could encourage those Bangladeshis to share their knowledge and expertise leading to a significant boost in the country's development speed. According to a 2021 study of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), there could be an estimated 2.4 million Bangladeshi diaspora members with the UK and the US alone. Therefore, it can be assumed that the total number of Bangladeshis living abroad is huge. Even if a small portion of them contribute their skills and expertise, it could make a huge difference.

Additionally, the government will be reportedly looking to facilitate investment opportunities for those living abroad, and the policy will act as a tool to encourage Bangladeshi diaspora to send remittance through authorised channels. This, too, could make a massive difference for our economy. However, it is essential that the government establishes an effective formal framework to complement the policy, which would allow Bangladeshis abroad to make the maximum contribution in terms of our financial, economic and entrepreneurial needs.

If we take the case of India, it too has had a similar policy in place for more than two decades. And the reason why it has been successful is because of the foundational blocks that the country's government has managed to lay down over the years. Similarly, we must also develop a strong and transparent system, which makes contributing to the country – whether in financial or intellectual terms – easy, rewarding, and hassle-free.

It must be acknowledged that Bangladeshis living abroad are already making a sizeable contribution to our country. It is incumbent upon the authorities to also ensure their well-being. We are pleased that the government has recognised this. However, its track record of doing so via its missions in foreign countries is not very satisfying. We hope that besides finalising this policy, the government will successfully establish an accountable mechanism that can guarantee that this is done much better in the future.

## When bridges are not bridge-y enough

### It shows how poor planning and lax quality control are marring development projects

A bridge is a useful structure, yes, but in Bangladesh's context, it is increasingly emerging as a metaphor for the widening – or, shall we say "unbridged"? – gap between the promise and the reality of our development projects. Forget the mega construction projects, where the stakes are much high and are thus better planned and executed. But in small, lower-budget projects meant to serve local communities – such as bridges, culverts, and roads – the level of scrutiny is not the same. Hence, often they suffer from poor planning and lax quality control, leading to suffering and a wastage of public resources.

Bridge, both as a structure and a metaphor, comes to mind because of the frequent media coverage of poorly designed, district-wide bridge development projects undertaken in recent years. The latest report in this regard, published by this daily on Thursday, highlights how this has been a continuing trend. It reveals the woeful state of two newly constructed bridges, over a canal in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila, which have been left unfit for use due to the absence of approach roads on either side of the bridges. As a result, both structures – built at a combined cost of about Tk 1.5 crore by the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, respectively – have turned out to be nothing more than symbolic structures, failing to serve their intended purpose. Today, they stand as a glaring example of mismanagement and negligence.

The question is, what's the point of building a bridge if there are no connecting roads to make it accessible for the users? A project official, however, claims that there were connecting roads but those were "washed away" by a recent flood, which, ironically, only confirms our suspicion of poor workmanship and lax quality control. It is clear that these bridges and supporting structures were built without their long term functionality in mind. This is the second time in July that we have had reports of such ill-conceived bridge projects, the first being at the Ajmiriganj upazila of Habiganj, where the lack of approach roads has also left villagers stranded. Last month, The Daily Star also reported how a bridge built five years ago in Tangail's Basail upazila – which then tilted under pressure from floodwaters just before its inauguration – has been left unusable ever since.

These incidents are becoming too frequent to be considered "isolated". Often, such small projects are undertaken without comprehensive feasibility studies and executed in a manner that renders them practically useless after a certain time. This is totally unacceptable. We urge the higher authorities to critically examine this trend and take all measures necessary to stop it.

## Vienna Convention and the relationship with our development partners



### THE THIRD VIEW

**Mahfuz Anam**  
*is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.*

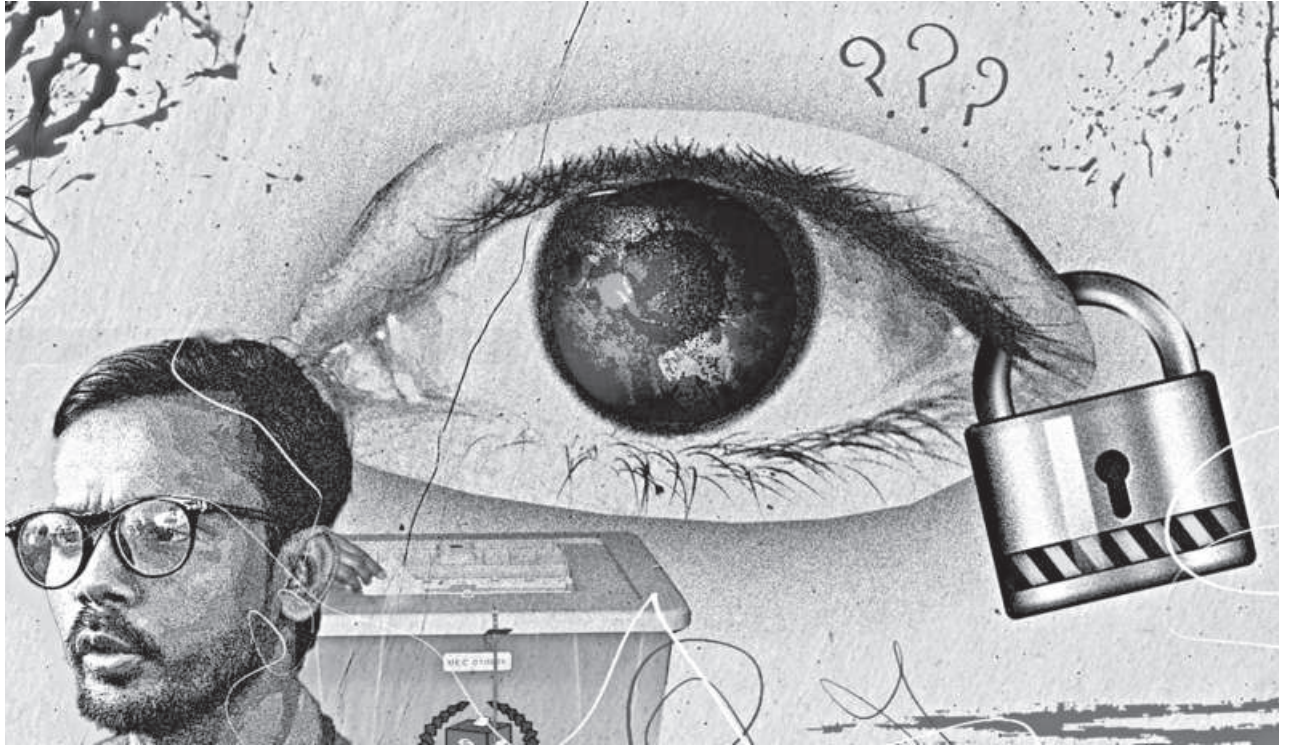
MAHFUZ ANAM

Hero Alam is a lucky man. He may not have won the by-election, but he has definitely gained far more attention than he deserved, and his name may have become familiar at the "Bangladesh desk" of many foreign capitals. In our view, it is a typical case of a "storm in a teacup." The event need not have generated a joint statement by 13 ambassadors – almost the totality of what constitutes the Western bloc – and, on the other side, such a statement should definitely not have resulted in those ambassadors being called in for an earful by our state minister for foreign affairs. First the press statement, and then the "summoning" of the acting UN coordinator, followed by the calling of 13 ambassadors, are a case of overreaction on both sides.

The joint press statement by the ambassadors – we value every one of them – is a very powerful option. It should be used only sparsely. Did the occasion call for it? We think not. There were other means of delivering the same message. On the other hand, the foreign ministry's reaction could have been far better structured and more subtly layered. In diplomacy, "how" one does is sometimes far more important than "what" one does. Though we denied it, for all practical purposes, we did "summon" these ambassadors – or that is how it will look to the outside world. Was such action necessary? Or was it the case that one public posture begot another?

As we can understand from State Minister Shahriar Alam's press briefing, Wednesday's meeting with the group of 13 mainly consisted of reminding them about the provisions of the Vienna Convention, which their press statement was in violation of. The joint statement was termed a "non-diplomatic behaviour" which ignored "objectivity, impartiality and non-biasness" and could "create a crisis of mutual trust." Very powerful expressions with a threat of a far-reaching outcome – a crisis of trust.

Very rarely has our foreign ministry called in 13 ambassadors – from the US, the UK, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the European Union (EU), almost the totality of what is popularly called the Western Group – and addressed them in these terms. Under no circumstances can we allow our relations to move towards a "crisis of trust."



COLLAGE: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

As his wont, our foreign minister held the media as the main culprit. "Our media gives them [the ambassadors] undue importance which they enjoy. This gives them a feeling that they are the kings of this country and that is why they make comments about everything." He criticised journalists for giving too much publicity to foreigners and advised us to find out what the police do in their respective countries, saying, "Have you seen how police torture in England?... You have seen how police kill by strangling in America." We wonder how looking into the operations of the US and the UK police resolves the issue at hand. Accusing them of thinking of themselves as the "kings" of Bangladesh exemplifies a form of immaturity that cannot be healthy for the growth of external relations.

What concerns us is that years, if not decades, of solid friendly bilateral relations are being put to test in discussing issues concerning the upcoming general election. There is life beyond the election, and there are many issues of trade, commerce, investment, etc that will far outlast our election. Are we to jeopardise all that? Yes, the US and the EU are showing more than the usual level of interest in our elections. However, putting emphasis on holding a free and fair election is fully in line with our stated constitutional objective,

and every other body related to elections keep on repeating that our goal is to hold a free and fair election. So why should it be an interference when foreign missions say so?

Whatever may be our position – and it will vary according to partisan lines – there is no doubt that the whole nation is highly worried at the unresolved nature of our fundamental political issue as to how we go about holding the next election.

BNP's position of no election with Sheikh Hasina in power and the Awami League's total refusal of it keep our politics in total limbo. Normally, regardless of public posturing, behind the scenes negotiations continue and, at some stage, produce results. In our case, we have no evidence of any such exchange occurring. In fact, it is the very opposite that is true. Even the slightest attempt to establish any line of communication between the two will be condemned as sabotage by both sides.

We are now faced with a total political impasse with no signal of resolving it. Every day, the rhetoric goes up a few notches and the threats and counter-threats of violence grow louder. As it is true for a family, so also it is true for a country: if we fight among ourselves, then our neighbours, in the regional and global sense, will almost inevitably be drawn into it. On the one hand, we proclaim

We seem oblivious to another important factor in relations between the government and the opposition, which is that the government needs to take more initiatives than the opposition, because most of the state powers are vested in the government while the opposition practically has none. The onus of negotiations is on the side that has the power.

No country is an island. In the digital world, it is even less so. None of us – not even the big ones like Russia, the US, China, and India – can visualise a world in isolation. Some may try to impose their will on others, but it is still an interdependent world that they are operating within. Bangladesh's economic growth is nothing but a story of international cooperation, which we have put to a most effective use. The privileges we have enjoyed as an LDC, the GSP facilities that assist our exports, the concessional loans and all the facilities provided by the UN that we have enjoyed, are all the result of greater international understanding and a rules-based international order, including holding free and fair elections and ensuring a good and accountable governance process. These cannot be set aside now that our focus is principally on the election. Whatever our domestic priority may be, when dealing with the diplomatic world, we cannot and must not forget the bigger picture.

## How banana fibre can improve coastal women's reproductive health



**Monira Sharmin**  
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MONIRA SHARMIN

Bangladesh recently saw a momentous achievement: the making of Kolaboti saree from banana plant fibres. Radhavati Devi, a weaver from Moulvibazar, came up with the idea of making a saree out of the discarded portions of banana plants. There are a number of banana gardens in Bandarban, and the Bandarban district administration has taken the initiative to produce yarn from banana fibre. Banana yarn has also been used to make curtains, mats, bags, pen holders, and other handicrafts. Given the fabric's quality, one could expect that it could also play a vital role in the menstrual hygiene management of women in the country's coastal region.

In rural Bangladesh, menstrual hygiene management is still one of the most tabooed matters. According to a World Bank report from 2018, 77 percent of Bangladeshi women are unaware of proper menstrual hygiene

products, making them susceptible to a variety of health issues. The coastal region is home to 35 million people, or 29 percent of the total population, half of whom are women. A recent research by the Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD) revealed that 90 percent of women in the coastal districts of Bagerhat and Satkhira are adversely affected by climate change in terms of their lives and means of subsistence, particularly due to increased salinity intrusion due to sea-level rise. From Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira and Mongla upazila in Bagerhat, 17 cases involving women aged between 35 and 60 years were chosen for the study. Nearly 64 percent of the respondents in Mongla and 54 percent in Shyamnagar were found to have issues with their reproductive health. Most of them were involved in shrimp cultivation; they worked in the brackish water in shrimp enclosures

from dawn to dusk.

According to a 2018 study by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 29 percent of menstruating women in Bangladesh use sanitary napkins. High tariff on the raw materials of sanitary napkins makes them unaffordable. The socioeconomic condition of the two areas mentioned above is poor. One pack of sanitary pads in the local market costs between Tk 100 and Tk 300, which most low-income and socially underprivileged women cannot afford. So, despite the risks, they continue to use old cloth for napkins, which is unhygienic. A campaign by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital in 2020 revealed that about half of the women in the country's coastal areas were suffering from pre-cervical cancer symptoms.

In this situation, banana fibre can be a catalyst for change for Bangladeshi women and girls if it is used to make affordable, environmentally friendly sanitary pads. A report on eco-friendly and biodegradable sanitary pads reflected that it could take up to 700 years for the plastic materials used to make sanitary napkins to decompose. Because these disposable menstrual hygiene items generate more than 200,000 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste worldwide each year, they pose a grave risk to the environment.

Furthermore, in Bangladesh, the production cost of each sanitary napkin is about Tk 12, whereas a napkin made from banana plant fibre would cost around Tk 3.5 only. The latter also absorbs water more effectively than cotton because of its unique composition. It is fully biodegradable, environmentally friendly, and has no history of aggravating skin issues or rashes.

It takes 10,000 litres of water to produce one kg of cotton. The water footprint of banana fibre is about 5,000 6,000 litres including irrigation, processing and other phases of production. Surprisingly, banana fibre is more absorbent and softer than any other material used for making sanitary pads.

With its eco-friendly and biodegradable, comfortable, and economical attributes, banana fibre may thus be regarded to be an appropriate fibre for the future. To make access to sanitary pads feasible for women in the coastal region, sanitary pad manufacturers can plan to make use of this fibre. Doing so will also promote the Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. The day is not far off when the women of Bangladesh's coastal belt will be able to utilise their full potential by ensuring their own reproductive health.





A virtually uncontested election has paved the way for reelected Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen to hand over power to his son, Hun Manet. PHOTO: REUTERS

# The old political playbook needs a major upgrade



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin  
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

One of the ways you realise that people are basically the same no matter which corner of the planet they are from is by looking at how they conduct themselves when they wield any sort of power over others. Leaders, especially in countries where terms like “accountability,” “transparency” and “good governance” induce allergic reactions among the political elite, follow the same playbook titled “How to remain in power for the next 100 years” and behave in almost identical ways to each other.

Cambodia’s recent election is a case in point. On July 23, Prime Minister Hun Sen’s ruling party won a landslide victory over, well, an obscure party he once crushed with military forces, whose name most Cambodians probably can’t even remember. With various ingenious moves, Hun Sen managed to get his only credible rival, the Candlelight Party, barred from the election over a technicality: they had provided a photocopy of a document instead of the original one while registering. And, naturally, this oversight was far more important than allowing the biggest opposition party to participate, which would have at least provided some legitimacy to the election.

Before that, Hun Sen allegedly used the age-old techniques of arresting and intimidating opposition party members and stamping on the media whenever it became too critical, crippling them financially by imposing massive tax bills. Al Jazeera reported of voters being too scared not to vote as they could be “blacklisted.” So fear, intimidation, and harassment with the help of state institutions to wipe out the opposition has been the traditional formula for a sure win in a virtually uncontested contest. One voter likened the situation to a boxing ring with only a lone boxer.

But it is the end result that counts for these leaders, and victory must be attained at all costs. The ruling Cambodian People’s Party won 120 of the 125 parliamentary seats.

Before that, in the 2018 election, Hun Sen managed to get rid of his main opposition, the Cambodia National Rescue Party, which had won almost half the votes in the 2013 election. And now, with Candlelight out of the way, the path is as clear as it has been for the last 38 years. Criticism from human rights groups, US visa restrictions, and damning comments by the US Department of State may have put a damper on the victory after parties, but did not dissuade him from paving the way for his son, Hun Manet, to rule – like a true monarch bestowed with a divine right, leading to another hundred years of sole power.

In keeping with the formula from the playbook, Hun Sen’s family has links with more than a 100 companies across all sectors of the economy – from agriculture to the media. There are allegations against his party’s elites living abroad, and of laundering money by buying huge properties in Australia.

There are many leaders who have joined this club of pseudo democracies – sometimes termed “hybrid democracies” – which have all the accoutrements that qualify them for the status of a democracy. These include things like national elections, voter lists, an election commission, human rights commission, judiciary and other constitutional institutions, not to mention an abundance of political rhetoric on how democratic the nation is. Despite having all this grand paraphernalia, a hybrid regime is one that has increasingly autocratic tendencies. Political opponents – the real ones – have to be steamrolled into total irrelevance by obstructing their

rallies, making arbitrary arrests, and incarcerating them. Institutions like the election commission and human rights commission have to be made toothless. Meanwhile, all security-related bodies – law enforcement, intelligence agencies, etc – are turned into the main weapons to crush political opponents, annoying critics from civil society, and the meddlesome media that is obsessed with corruption. Laws are enacted or amended to help punish anyone who makes the slightest noise that sounds rude to the powers that be.

Unfortunately, one cannot endlessly follow a playbook that has become as outdated as men’s baggy pants, and that paints an unflattering picture in front of the rest of the world: embarrassingly low rankings in democracy indices, threats of sanctions like visa restrictions on individuals, and generally being treated like the delinquent student who got caught changing the grades on his report card. For one thing, cronyism and nepotism, which are major spin-offs of following the old playbook, usually get out of control and even the leader cannot do anything to stop the leakage they incur. All kinds of goof-ups then occur. Obsequious party members may publicly boast of their involvement in manipulating the votes to help a candidate win, the police may chargesheet ghost opponents, banks may be bled dry, relief items may land up in local leaders’ homes, and public hospitals may end up with beds but no doctors (or vice versa) at the height of an epidemic. It’s a total mess.

Ultimately, it will become more and more difficult to get regular voters to go to the polling centres when there is, as they say, “only one boxer in the ring.” Being a constant bully is tiring – and lonely – because it is hard to know who your real friends are, or if you even have any, when you are surrounded by greedy lackeys.

Leaders would be wise to throw away the old playbook and get tips from democracies that provide leaders with the greatest power of all: the true mandate of the people, earned through an election that is deemed credible both at home and by the rest of the world.

# Words of a fed-up Rohingya refugee

Pacifist Farooq  
is an activist poet, community-based teacher, and educationist. He is a Rohingya refugee living in the world’s largest refugee camp in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh. He has used a pseudonym for security purposes.

PACIFIST FAROOQ

It has been close to six years since hundreds of thousands of Rohingya faced a deadly genocide by Myanmar’s military and fled the country in search of protection and refuge in neighbouring Bangladesh. The Rohingya population has been undergoing persecution, discrimination, arbitrary arrests, and atrocities in Myanmar for over seven decades. Their condition is alarmingly worsening in the squalid refugee camp in Bangladesh, and they are currently facing a significant risk of generational loss due to lack of access to formal education and the loss of their culture, traditions, and language.

As an educator and poet hailing from the Rohingya community, I have had the opportunity to closely observe the students and people living in the refugee camp. I have noticed that the students prioritise learning English and Bangla over Burmese. In fact, for the first three years after arriving in Bangladesh, they exclusively studied English. It took considerable efforts from teachers to get them back on track with the Burmese curriculum taught in community-run schools. Meanwhile, the adults in the camps have taken to watching Bangalee TV shows, listening to Bangalee Islamic preachers, and frequently conversing with one another in Bangla, instead of watching lectures by Burmese scholars and speaking in Burmese. This is quite normal for the people who have encountered bad experiences and fled their homes, as they may wish to turn away from everything that reminds them of “Myanmar.” At the same time, it is important for us not to break the chain of our ancestors, in order to be able to exist as a culturally and historically unique and enriched community on this planet.

Due to our isolation from our motherland for more than five years, we are gradually losing touch with our cultural practices that have been passed down from one generation to the next. The traumatic experiences that we faced have left us feeling hopeless and disheartened, with many of us lacking the motivation to preserve our traditions or learn more about them.

Our children and youth have adapted to the local culture to varying degrees, and their lifestyles have changed significantly compared to what they were in Myanmar. For instance, they now wear trousers instead of the traditional *longyi*, which may be due to dress code restrictions imposed by NGOs and INGOs. Rohingya individuals are not permitted to work officially while wearing *longyi*, and even wearing traditional clothing in public can result in mockery and devaluation. Upon my arrival in

the standard of education is quite low. There are no high schools available, except for a few middle schools run by NGOs in some camps. Unfortunately, the teachers in these schools are often not adequately qualified, with many of them not even high school graduates. This is a significant problem that needs to be addressed.

Another issue that we face is that the government has shut down many community-based schools, including the one where I used to teach. My colleagues and I had established this school using our own funds, with the aim of advancing the education of our generation by having qualified instructors teach the Myanmar curriculum. Unfortunately, our school was also shut down by the government, with their reasoning being that if we taught at our school, students would not attend the schools run by NGOs. So, the lack of encouragement and support for education is yet another factor that contributes to the generational loss of the Rohingya.

**This disregard for our culture and traditions in the refugee camp has resulted in a generational loss for our entire ethnic group. And what I mean by generation loss is the loss of our traditions, practices, terminology, heritage, and legacy inherited from our forebears, which we embraced and cherished in Myanmar for centuries. Our language, which serves as a crucial marker of our existence in our homeland, is currently facing the threat of extinction.**

Most importantly, all stakeholders have failed to ensure access to advanced studies for us, in Bangladesh and abroad, despite receiving millions of dollars in funding from countries such as the US, the UK, Japan, and Canada. None of this funding has been used to support higher education initiatives. There are numerous students who have passed their matriculation exam in Myanmar and are currently enrolled in community-based schools. It is disheartening to see their potential being wasted within the confines of the refugee camp. They are not recognised and have no prospects for continuing their education or developing specialised skills. This puts us at risk of not having knowledgeable leaders for future generations.



Due to their isolation from their motherland for close to six years, the Rohingya say they are gradually losing touch with their cultural practices. FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**

1 Hands over

6 Is ominous

11 Bring together

12 Pastoral poem

13 Pick up the tab

14 Handle

15 Small bit

16 Binary base

18 Pluto, for one

19 Swelled head

20 Horror’s

21 Chaney

22 Lyricist

Gershwin

22 Lease signer

24 Privy to

25 Deluge

27 Manhattan area

29 Foot parts

32 Verb for you
- 33 Brief time

34 Series-ending abbr.

35 Bathroom, in brief

36 Bat wood

37 Question of identity

38 Irritated

40 Cheering loudly

42 Dance’s de Mille

43 Nary a soul

44 Squalid

45 Tenth president

**DOWN**

1 Patrol boat

2 Infuriate
- 3 Failed at an early stage

4 Greek vowel

5 Homesteader

6 Plains grazers

7 Dedicated poem

8 Deep-rooted

9 Corrida critter

10 Catchphrase

17 Frets

23 Overly

24 Co. abbr.

26 Charm

27 Latin dances

28 Grove fruit

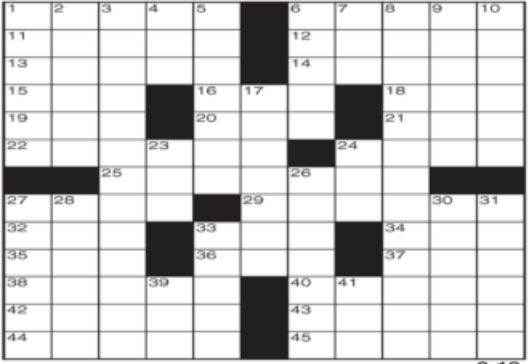
30 Flammable gas

31 Sports official

33 Fresh

39 TV’s Danson

41 Singer Orbison



## YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS



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LAW ANALYSIS

Workplace safety for construction workers

All in all, the current state of the rights of construction workers can be deemed to be a violation of the constitutional aim of an egalitarian society as enshrined in the preamble of the constitution of Bangladesh. It is imperative that rights are not only iterated in laws but also enforced.

RAFID AZAD SAUMIK

On 24 June 2023, four construction site workers met gruesome death due to lack of safety standards at the construction sites. According to Bangladesh Workplace Death Report 2020 published by the Safety and Rights Society, 118 construction site workers died in 2020 alone. The reasons for such preventable deaths include electrocution, falling from a height, getting hit by objects, suffocation, etc. This article tries to highlight the rights of construction workers and discuss how these rights are often infringed upon.

In Bangladesh, no specific law exclusively deals with safety of construction workers. However, attention may be given to the following laws– Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 (BLA), Bangladesh National Building Code, 2006 (BNBC), and Bangladesh Labour Rules, 2015 (BLR). These laws provide guidance for establishing and maintaining a safe work environment, enunciates rules for compensation for death or injury, sets a minimum standard for construction work and design, etc.

Since accidents often happen from construction-related machinery, chapter 6 of BLA prohibits use of defective machinery and mandates their regular monitoring and maintenance. Rule 57 of the BLR further requires employers to pay extra fees for use of dangerous machinery and requires that they provide workers' sufficient safety equipment needed to operate such machineries. Employers cannot make the workers work

without providing them with sufficient safety equipment and proper training (section 78A of BLA). Section 75 and rule 64 further highlight the need for eye goggles to prevent eye-related hazards and measures to tackle harmful smoke, respectively.

As basic safety kits are crucial in such hazardous work, section 89 of the BLA mandates that every workplace must have sufficient basic medical aid for its workers. This ensures that certain injuries are swiftly treated, and further injuries are prevented. Rule 76 details exactly which ingredients must be present in such medical aid kits.

Section 19 of the BLA ensures compensation for workers who die or sustain injury at the workplace. The amount will be equivalent to the salary or gratuity of 45 days, whichever is higher, and will be paid to the respective nominee or representative according to the definition given in section 2(30).

Section 34 of BLA prohibits children or teenagers from being employed except in special circumstances. Further, Section 100 specifies that a worker cannot be made to do work for more than 8 hours and 10 hours in special circumstances. Section 74 states that workers cannot be made to lift excessively heavy objects. Despite all these, if workers suffer an injury, chapter 12 of the Act clarifies that the owners must pay compensation unless special circumstances exist, such as when the worker sustains injury either on account of purposely ignoring the safety rules or due to deliberate drunkenness. Section 151 and rule

134 further fix the amount of compensation.

Despite such legal safeguards, the reality is quite grim. According to a survey by Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation, around 228 people suffered work-place related injuries in 2022 alone. The first reason for this high number of accidents is that employers often ignore applicable legal standards and compel workers to work in unsafe conditions. For instance, owners often ignore the standard procedure enunciated in rule 58 of BLR regarding preventing electrocution, which is a primary reason behind deaths of workers at the construction sites. Due to the hardship of getting actual remedies and power disparity with the owners, the workers often stay quiet or settle for lower compensation than what is required by law. Ignorance regarding such rights and economic hardships further means that workers are less likely to bring actions against the owners.

All in all, the current state of the rights of construction workers can be deemed to be a violation of the constitutional aim of an egalitarian society enshrined under the preamble of the constitution of Bangladesh. It is imperative that such rights are not only iterated in laws but also enforced. The government must undertake stricter policies to ensure greater enforceability and compliance with laws in order to overcome this continuous gross violation of labor rights.

The writer is an Intern, Law Desk, The Daily Star.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION  
Remedies against false cases

MD. SHAMSUL HUDA SHAON

What could possibly be more distressing than being accused of a crime that someone has not committed? Newspaper reports often note the prevalence of false cases which result in innocent individuals being falsely accused, detained, and harassed. Many spend years in jail before their trial begins, causing families to struggle both financially and emotionally. Mostly, poor, vulnerable, and marginalised communities face unjust burdens trapped within the vicious cycle of power and manipulation. It is imperative that necessary steps are taken to deter this mischief.

There are several provisions in the laws of Bangladesh that provide for the punishment of those who file false, baseless, or vexatious cases. In addition to the special laws, there are two sections of the Penal Code, 1860, namely, sections 211 and 182, that may be used to penalise those who file false first information reports (FIRs) or initiate any fraudulent criminal cases. Generally, in this regard, separate actions must be initiated.

There is however possibility to penalise people who make false accusations even within the same process with the help of section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898. According to this provision, if the charge is found to be untrue and baseless, the court may order the complainant or informant to compensate the accused. In *Karimdad v Abul Hossain*, the High Court Division held that section 250 of the Code empowers only



magistrate to invoke the provisions while trying a case by him if he finds the accusations to be false, frivolous, or vexatious. On the other hand, sessions courts in India are permitted to use this section notwithstanding comparable rules in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. In *State of Rajasthan v Jainudeen Sheikh and Others*, the court ruled that section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 explicitly empowers the magistrates to award compensation under specific situations. The sessions judge may also award compensation in certain instances.

Furthermore, compensation under section 250 of our Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 is quite low (generally, capped at one thousand Taka or at five hundred Taka if the magistrate is of the third class). Damage awards in India can extend to the maximum amount of fine that a magistrate is generally empowered to impose. Compensation in Pakistan is capped generally at 25,000 Pakistani Rupees, or 2,500 Pakistani Rupees if the magistrate is of the third class. Considering developments in other countries, it is high time we strengthened our regime for submitting a fraudulent case or filing a false FIR.

False cases with malicious intent require thorough screening by authorities to prevent a steady increase in filings. Enforcement of laws against false case filers and compensation for victims are crucial measures to combat this issue. Concerted efforts from lawyers, law enforcement officials, and judges can help reduce frivolous litigations in Bangladesh.

The writer is an advocate, District & Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka.

COURT CORRIDOR

JAPANESE DAUGHTERS' CUSTODY  
instance of the 'best interests' doctrine

FARJANA YESMIN

A family court of Dhaka has granted Japanese national Nakano Eriko custody of her two daughters at the conclusion of a prolonged judicial proceeding. Citing the welfare or best interests of the children doctrine, the court ruled that the girls' mental, emotional, social, and overall well-being would be better served by remaining with their mother. Before analysing the legal aspects of the case, the circumstances surrounding the case need to be evaluated.

Ideally, child custody decisions should involve assessment of inter-parent relationships, possibility of cooperation in parenting, domestic violence or substance abuse histories. Courts must thoroughly evaluate each case and prioritise best interests and well-being of the child.

Imran Sharif, a Japanese citizen of Bangladeshi origin, married Japanese national Nakano Eriko in 2008 and the couple had three daughters. Imran picked up his daughters on their way back from school and brought them

to Bangladesh after Nakano filed for divorce in January 2021. Eriko sought custody of her two children in a writ petition before the High Court Division (HCD) of Bangladesh in August 2021. The HCD granted custody to Imran, prompting Eriko to seek a stay order from the Appellate Division (AD). Later, the AD passed a judgment stating that the children would be in the mother's custody until the suit in the family court is settled and the father would be allowed to visit them. Even though Imran was allowed to see his daughters at

any time, the court decided that it would be in the best interests of the girls from all aspects to continue living with their mother. In the whole ruling, the court stated that children's welfare should reign. Finally, on 16 July 2023, the family court granted Eriko Nakano



custody of her two children. As their mother is a physician by profession, according to the court, living with her ensures their safety and well-being.

It may be of interest to note two international treaties in this

regard. The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction addresses parental child abduction. The Convention emphasises habitual residence (of a child) and the speedy return of a child wrongfully

removed therefrom. Again, the 1996 Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement, and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children gives authorities in

the state of habitual residence exclusive jurisdiction to make decisions regarding the child. The reason underlying the emphasis on habitual residence is welfare of the children. Bangladesh however is party to none of the treaties.

Ideally, guardianship and custody related decisions should involve assessment of inter-parent relationships, possibility of cooperation in parenting, domestic violence, or substance abuse histories. Section 17 of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 obliges the court to consider the welfare of the minors as a paramount point in deciding guardianship of a minor. When determining child custody, the courts of Bangladesh tend to prioritise the welfare of children as well. In *Ayesha Khanum v Major Shabbir Ahmed* (46 DLR), the HCD ruled that the paramount need for the welfare of the child supersedes the personal laws that govern the parties. The recent decision by the family court too is an instance of the 'best interests of child' principle.

The writer is an Assistant Professor, the Department of Law, University of Chittagong.



# Training camp for Asia Cup in early August

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national cricket team will begin their Asia Cup preparations with the official training camp expected to start in the second week of August.

According to sources, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is expected to name a squad of 21-22 members that will head out to Sri Lanka for the Asian challenge on August 26.

The Tigers will take on Sri Lanka in their opening fixture in Kandy on August 31, before making thea trip to Pakistan to face off against Afghanistan in their final group-stage encounter on September 3.

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is expected to return to the country by the first week of August by which he will have his coaching staff to kick-start proceedings.

A fitness camp, where the BCB is likely to have as many as 30 players from the existing pool, is scheduled to begin on July 31 before the official training camp.



The selectors will name the official squad for the Asia Cup by August 6.

The squad is likely to include an additional opener due to ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal's fitness concerns. Rony Talukdar and Mohammad Naim have featured in recent ODIs and either of the two might get the nod.

Another area of concern for the Tigers has been the number seven spot in the eleven.

On most occasions, the team management has leaned towards using Alif Hossain to finish off the innings. However, it has been learned that Soumya Sarkar, who had scores of 40s and scalped six wickets in the recent Emerging Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, is a strong contender for making it back to the national team as a fast bowling all-rounder.

If the team management opts to go for experience, however, veteran Mahmudullah Riyad, who played his last ODI against England in March, might be handed a wild card entry.



Bangladesh batter Liton Das, who is currently playing for Global T20 Canada side Surrey Giants, enjoys his visit to the Canadian side of the Niagara Falls, while in another continent, pacer Taskin Ahmed, who spearheads Bulawayo Braves' bowling attack in the Zim Afro T10 league, celebrated his side's victory as he went sight-seeing with his skipper Sikandar Raza yesterday. Photo: Facebook



## ‘Excited to play against Japan’

SPORTS REPORTER

Soon after securing a place in the finals of the 2017 AFC U-16 Women's Championship, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) wanted to have a talented group of girls feature on a bigger stage – the 2018 Asian Games.

However, the board had to backtrack on their decision following heavy media criticism for throwing the inexperienced girls into unknown territory.

Over the years, they have grown and established their supremacy in the sub-continent by clinching the SAFF Women's Championship last year.

The chance for those talented girls to feature in the Asian Games has finally arrived as the Bangladesh women's team will play former FIFA Women's World Champions Japan, fast-improving Vietnam, who are also playing the current Women's World Cup, and familiar rivals Nepal in the quadrennial event.

Bangladesh have been drawn in a tough Group D, with the draw involving 17 nations being held in China yesterday.

Bangladesh's U-16 women's team faced strong teams like Japan, North Korea, and Australia in the AFC age-group tournament, but the senior team never played against top teams like Japan and Vietnam, ranked 11th and 32nd in the FIFA rankings, respectively.

Maria Manda, Krishna Rani, Monica Chakma, Shamsunnahar, Sanjida Akhter, Sheuli Azim, and others had once played against Japan's age-group sides.

"Personally, I am really excited to play against Japan because it is going to be a great experience for me regardless of the outcome," Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun told The Daily Star. "Overall, it will be a great experience for the girls who will also learn something new by taking part in the Asian Games."



# Booters brace for ‘most important’ challenge

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team are all set to face a stiff challenge following an impressive show in the recently concluded SAFF Championship in Bengaluru.

Everybody will be eager to see whether Javier Cabrera's charges can carry their good form when they face some superior opponents in their next



## Round 1 qualifiers for 2026 FIFA World Cup and 2027 Asian Cup

**October 12:** Maldives vs Bangladesh in Male  
**October 17:** Bangladesh vs Maldives in Sylhet  
**2023 Asian Games (Men's)**  
**Group A:** Bangladesh, India, China, and Myanmar  
**2023 Asian Games (Women's)**  
**Group D:** Bangladesh, Japan, Vietnam, and Nepal

two tough assignments: the upcoming Joint Qualifiers for 2026 World Cup and 2027 Asian Cup after the 2023 Asian Games.

Following a draw held in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Bangladesh were pitted against familiar-yet-strong Maldives in a home-and-away basis Round-1 of World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers.

Bangladesh captain Jamal Bhuiyan termed the pre-qualifiers encounters as "most important matches this year" for his side since crossing the Maldives' hurdle would open the gates for Bangladesh to enter next round where Australia, Palestine and Lebanon await.

"If we can qualify for the next round, the continuity of the international

match will be maintained. It will be good for the country's football," Jamal told The Daily Star yesterday.

Maldives, 155th in FIFA Ranking, will remain favourites on paper against 189-ranked Bangladesh. They have been a South Asian rival who remained unbeaten against Bangladesh for 18 years before Bangladesh beat them twice in the last four meetings from 2021 to 2023, including a 3-1 win in their latest meeting at the SAFF Championship.

"I think it will be totally different than what happened in the SAFF Championship because it was a tournament but here, we have to play two back-to-back matches against them. So, it is totally different, the context is also different," Jamal warned.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin had also warned the players about the consequence of any failure in pre-qualifiers; similar to what happened in 2016 when Bangladesh lost to Bhutan in the pre-qualifiers for 2018 World Cup.

Forward Rakib Hossain mentioned they cannot afford to be complacent but hold an "advantage" over the Islanders.

"We know the expectation is high at present, but there is no reason to take Maldives lightly despite a recent win against them. They are a really strong team, who might have had a bad day against us during the SAFF Championship.

"One advantage is that Maldives are familiar opponents and we will also play against them in a familiar ground [in Male], where a lot of our players have playing experience," said Rakib who, however, felt relieved in having avoided much stronger sides like Indonesia, Yemen, and Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Olympic team, comprising three senior players along with U-23 squad, have been grouped alongside hosts China (80th in FIFA Ranking) and India (99) and Myanmar (160) following a separate draw held in China yesterday.

In the Asian Games, Bangladesh made it to the second round for the first time during the 2018 edition. This time around, Bangladesh announced a comparatively depleted squad due to players' commitments with Bashundhara Kings and Abahani in AFC Champions League and AFC Cup, respectively.

## Marchand wins 200 IM world title

AFP, Fukuoka

France's Leon Marchand won the men's 200m individual medley on Thursday for his third gold medal of swimming's world championships.

Marchand won in a time of 1min, 54.82sec, ahead of British pair Duncan Scott on 1:55.95 and Tom Dean on 1:56.07.

"I feel amazing," Marchand said. "It's been very big for me. I'm very happy with the time and with the win today."

The result gave Marchand an individual medley gold double, having won the 400m event in stunning fashion on the opening night.

He came home in 4min, 02.50sec to break American great Michael Phelps's 400 IM world record, which had stood since the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Marchand followed that up by winning the 200m butterfly on Wednesday night.



Australia pacer Mitchell Starc celebrates taking the wicket of England's Harry Brook, who stood out for the hosts with a 91-ball 85 on Day 1 of the fifth and final Ashes Test at The Oval yesterday. England, sticking to their aggressive approach termed 'Bazball', were 250 for seven in just 50 overs at Tea.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# A touch of ‘Bazball’ in Colombo

AGENCIES

It may not have entirely worked for England in their pursuit of Ashes this term, but their brand of aggressive cricket, the 'Bazball', seemed to have been adopted by the Pakistan side that routed Sri Lanka by an innings and 222 runs to clinch the second Test inside four days and sweep the series 2-0 on Thursday.

Noman Ali took seven wickets to lead Pakistan, with the left-arm spinner taking the first seven wickets and fast bowler Naseem Shah scalping the final three to bowl Sri Lanka out for 188 in the evening session in Colombo.

Noman returned career-best figures of 7-70 in his 15th Test to hand Pakistan their biggest Test win over Sri Lanka and fourth overall in innings victories. Sri Lanka suffered their heaviest Test defeat at home. The series sweep also saw Pakistan go top of the World Test Championship with a total of 24 points accumulated from the two games.

"Everyone stepped up and showed hunger to win this series," skipper



Babar Azam said.

Pakistan, who won the opening Test by four wickets, declared their first innings on 576-5 in just 134 overs with a blowout lead of 410 runs – having

played just two overs in the morning session on Day 4.

Opener Abdullah Shafique stood out with his 201 in an innings that saw three century stands, including a 124-

run partnership with Agha Salman, who smashed an unbeaten 132.

Runs came quickly for Pakistan's batters, scoring at a brisk run rate right from the beginning in the only innings they batted, with their approach having a touch of 'Bazball' – the aggressive style devised by England's coach Brendon McCullum and skipper Ben Stokes.

"Being aggressive was part of the plan, it's something we had discussed before coming here," said Azam.

"We wanted to play positive cricket. So all the credit to the boys. It's not easy to play spin here but they played very well."

Shafique was named man of the match for his maiden Test double ton.

Pakistan held all the aces after bundling Sri Lanka out for 166 in the first innings.

"The batting unit needed to stand up but 166 in the first innings wasn't enough," said Karunaratne.

"It was a pretty good wicket but we threw away our wickets and we were always chasing from there on."

## Nigeria stun Australia

AFP, Brisbane

Second-half goals from Osinachi Ohale and Asisat Oshoala gave Nigeria a stunning 3-2 win over Australia at the Women's World Cup on Thursday to leave the co-hosts in danger of an early exit.

In front of 49,156 fans in Brisbane, the Matildas missed a golden chance to reach the last 16 and instead now face a must-win final group game against Canada.

In contrast, Nigeria top Group B and play Ireland – who are already out of contention – with the knockout rounds in sight.

Captain Steph Catley felt that the Australians – who actually took the lead and dominated in the first half – had enough chances to win the game.

But she conceded: "They were great on the counter and they finished their chances. We've just got to think about Canada now."

"A lot of things (went wrong). We weren't patient enough at times and we weren't clinical enough," she told Optus Sport.

"Our backs are up against the wall now, and it's not how we would have liked it, but nothing good comes easy."

Meanwhile, The United States were far from their best in an entertaining 1-1 draw against Netherlands in front of a crowd of 27,312 in Wellington.

Portugal defeated Vietnam 2-0 in the other match in Group E on Thursday.





## PROF TAHER MURDER

# Two convicts executed 17 yrs after killing



Mohiuddin Jahangir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two convicts in the Rajshahi University teacher Prof S Taher Ahmed murder case were hanged at Rajshahi Central Jail last night.

The executions of Mia Mohammad Mohiuddin and Jahangir Alam were conducted at 10.01pm, Jailer Nizam Uddin told this newspaper.

Mohiuddin was a former colleague of Prof Taher at the Department of Geology and Mining while his accomplice Jahangir was an RU

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Two men and two children precariously positioned in the back of a pickup that is taking them, their families (not all in the photo) and belongings back home. Despite moving to the capital five years ago for a better life, these two families are forced to return to their village home in Jhenaidah due to the rising cost of living in Dhaka. The photo was taken in Gabtoli area yesterday.

## EU to keep the pressure on Myanmar

Says EU special rep Gilmore

MOKAMMEL SHUVO and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

The EU will continue to support the Rohingya people for their right to return to their homeland, said Eamon Gilmore, the EU's special representative for human rights.

"We will continue our pressure on the Myanmar regime," he told reporters after a visit to the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The situation in Myanmar has deteriorated after the military coup and the EU has enforced several rounds of sanctions against the military regime and their supporters, including some of the economic entities in Myanmar.

"We will continue that pressure. We will continue to talk with the other countries about what can be done to bring about the necessary changes in Myanmar so that the Rohingya refugees can return with safety and with dignity to their home and that is the ultimate solution to the problem."

In the meantime, the EU will continue to provide support for the refugees who are in Cox's Bazar.

He also applauded the education facilities and the opportunities provided for education in the camps.

"The majority of the population in the camps are young people. Education has a value and it can never be taken away," said Gilmore, who went to Cox's Bazar as part of a five-member EU delegation.

The delegation includes Viktor Velek, political adviser to European External Action Service; Charles Whiteley, EU ambassador to

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## RUSSIA-AFRICA SUMMIT

# Putin promises free grain to nations

'Handful of donations' can't replace Black Sea deal, says UN chief

REUTERS, Moscow/United Nations/Seoul

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday offered free grain to six poor African countries as he launched a summit with leaders from the continent days after withdrawing from the Ukraine grain export deal.

The two-day summit in Putin's native Saint Petersburg is being scrutinised as a test of his support in Africa, where he retains support despite international isolation sparked by his military intervention in Ukraine last year.

In a keynote address at the summit, Putin promised to send grain to six African countries.

"In the coming months we will be able to ensure free supplies of 25,000 to 50,000 tonnes of grain to Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, Mali, Somalia, Central African Republic and Eritrea," Putin said.

Meanwhile in North Korea, Russia's defence minister accompanied North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to a

defence exhibition that featured the North's banned ballistic missiles as the neighbours pledged to boost ties, North Korean state media reported yesterday.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that a "handful of donations" won't correct the dramatic impact of the end of a deal that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukraine grain for the past year.

"It is clear that when taking out of the market millions and millions of tonnes of grains it is clear that ... will lead to higher prices," Guterres told reporters. "So, it's not with a handful of donations to some countries that we correct this dramatic impact that affects everybody, everywhere."

While global wheat prices are about half the record high hit in early March 2022 after Russia's invasion, Guterres said any increase now would be "paid by everybody, everywhere - and namely by developing countries and by the vulnerable people in middle-income and even developed countries."

## 42 eminent citizens want to argue against Jamaat

Appeal to SC to be included in petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-two eminent citizens from different professions yesterday filed an application with the Supreme Court, seeking permission to place before it their arguments against Jamaat-e-Islami.

They submitted the application to the Appellate Division of the SC through senior lawyer Tanya Amir, requesting they be made an added party to a pending contempt of court petition against Jamaat.

In the application, they said article 7 of the constitution states that sovereignty belongs to people, but Jamaat asserts in its charter that sovereignty belongs to the divine and that it somehow has the mandate to govern as the divine's representative on earth, which is utterly repugnant

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PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN



SPOT THE BIRD! ... Hidden behind the grass, this Indian Stone Curlew, otherwise known as the Indian thick-knee, was spotted roaming Padmar Char in Rajshahi. As one can see, these birds are gifted with an appearance fit to camouflage themselves in their habitats – dry areas, including fields, deciduous forests, and dry riverbeds in south and southeast Asian countries. In such places, they also find plenty of food like insects, worms and small reptiles. Indian thick-knees, named after their stout legs and thick knees, are mainly active and make their calls after dark. During the rest of the day, they prefer to remain out of sight. Though they are listed in the "Least Concern" category by the IUCN, Indian thick-knee populations have been seeing a decline throughout the last decade – possibly owing to habitat destruction.

## BUSINESS

### Cost of corporate tax abuse

Bangladesh is losing \$361 million worth of tax annually owing to the shifting of profits by multinational companies, especially into tax havens abroad, according to a report by the Tax Justice Network. In addition, the country is losing \$26 million a year due to global tax evasion committed by private individuals, the report said.

STORY ON B1

## SHARMIN GROUP

### Join the Winning Team & Build your Career

SHARMIN GROUP is one of the fast growing 100% export oriented Woven Garments Manufacturing Companies specialized in Men's, Ladies and Children's casual trousers, shorts, shirts, skirts & jackets with in-house embroidery, printing & washing facilities in Bangladesh. As part of expansion of our business & present set up, the Group is looking for qualified Bangladeshi or Foreign Nationals for the following vacant positions:

Sl	Position	Qualification	Experience
HR, Admin & Compliance			
01	Executive Director (HR, Admin & Comp) Group/Factory	Masters in any discipline / MBA	Reasonable experience in related field/ Defence officers preferred.
02	Assistant General Manager (Admin)	Masters in any discipline / MBA	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
03	Assistant General Manager (HR)	Masters in any discipline / MBA	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
04	Assistant General Manager (Fire Safety)	Graduate/Masters in relevant Education	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
Marketing & Merchandising			
05	Executive Director (Marketing & Merchandising)	Graduate/Masters in any discipline. Preference will be given to Textile & Apparel background	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
06	General Manager (Marketing & Merchandising)	Graduate/Masters in any discipline. Preference will be given to Textile & Apparel background	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
07	Deputy General Manager (Marketing & Merchandising)	Graduate/Masters in any discipline. Preference will be given to Textile & Apparel background	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
08	Manager (Merchandising)	Graduate in any discipline. Preference will be given to Textile & Apparel background	Minimum 08 years experience in the similar field
Employment of Foreigners			
09	Production Director Vacancy: 02, Unit: Ilmceyat Apparels Ltd.	Graduate/GCE/Diploma Salary & Benefit: Basic Tk. 267,500 to 323,800, H. Rent: Tk. 30,000, Conveyance: Tk. 5,000 & Medical: Tk. 5,000	Minimum 08-10 years experience in the similar field
10	Manager (Marketing & Merchandising) Vacancy: 02, Unit: Sharmin Apparels Ltd.	Graduate/GCE/Diploma Salary & Benefit: Basic Tk. 193,200 to 200,750, H. Rent: Tk. 30,000, Conveyance: Tk. 5,000 & Medical: Tk. 5,000	Minimum 06-08 years experience in the similar field
Accounts & Finance			
11	Manager/Assistant Manager (Accounts-Finance & C&F Dept)	Masters in Commerce with CA CC completed	Minimum 05 years experience in the similar field
Audit			
12	General Manager (Audit)	FCA	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
13	Manager (Audit)	Masters in Commerce with CA CC completed	Minimum 05 years experience in the similar field
Purchase			
14	GM / DGM /Manager (Purchase)	Masters in any discipline	Minimum 06-10 years experience in the similar field
15	Assistant Manager / Executive (Purchase)	Masters in any discipline	Minimum 03-06 years experience in the similar field
Commercial			
16	Director / GM (Commercial)	Masters in any discipline	Minimum 08-10 years experience in the similar field
Planning			
17	Director (Production Planning)	Masters in any discipline. Preference will be given to IE background	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
18	General Manager (Production Planning)	Masters in any discipline. Preference will be given to IE background	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
Production			
19	Director / GM (Production)	Graduate in any discipline	Minimum 08-10 years experience in the similar field
Sample			
20	General Manager (Sample/Technical)	Graduate in any discipline	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
Washing Plant			
21	ED / GM / DGM (Washing)	Masters in any discipline	Minimum 08-10 years technical experience in Washing & Dyeing Industries.
Quality			
22	Director / General Manager (Quality)	Graduate in any discipline	Minimum 08-10 years experience in the similar field
Embroidery & Printing			
23	AGM / Manager (Embroidery & Printing)	Graduate in any discipline	Minimum 08-10 years experience in the similar field
Design & Product Development			
24	General Manager (Design)	Graduate in Fashion Design	Minimum 10 years experience in the similar field
Construction			
25	GM / AGM (Construction)	B. Sc in Civil Engineering	Minimum 08-10 years experience in the similar field

Job Location: Ashulia/Rajendrapur/Valuka.

Application Procedure: Candidates willing to take challenges and meet the above requirements are encouraged to apply along with updated resume and recent 2 copies of passport size photographs to the Managing Director, Sharmin Group, Narashingapur, P.O. Zirabo, Ashulia, Dhaka-1341 or email your application along with scanned photograph and resume to [hr.corporate@sharmingroup.com](mailto:hr.corporate@sharmingroup.com)

Application Deadline: 11 August 2023