



Cyber Security Act to replace DSA

Cabinet approves; expected to be passed by JS this Sept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Digital Security Act is being "transformed" and "modernised" and will now be named the Cyber Security Act, in which sections of the existing law will be amended.

The government did not pay heed to the demands by civil society members and others to repeal the DSA and draft a new law in its stead.

The draft law was approved in principle at a cabinet meeting yesterday, and will now be sent to parliament. It is expected to be passed in September.

Section 25, which criminalises the publication of "false", "offensive" or "threatening" information, still carries a jail term, albeit reduced by a year to two years.

However, defamation, as criminalised by section 29 of the law, will no longer carry jail time.

"If the fine imposed is not paid, there will of course be jail time of three or six months, depending on the fine. But the main penalty will be a fine," Law Minister Anisul Huq told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

Some offences that were previously non-bailable are now eligible for bail, including section 31, which is deterioration of law and order, section 32, which criminalises the breaching of government secrecy, and section 28, which criminalises the hurting of religious sentiment.

Four other sections that were previously non-bailable have also now been made eligible for bail.

The jail term for hurting religious sentiments will be reduced from five years to two, as per the new changes.

Offences like hurting the image of the country, its national flag, Father of the Nation and the spirit of the Liberation War are still criminalised by this law, but the jail terms have been reduced from 10 years to seven, according to a copy of the changes received by this newspaper.

These, however, continue to be non-bailable offences.

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WHAT WE KNOW

➤ Punishment for defamation excludes jail term

➤ Existing cases filed under DSA to be transferred to new act

➤ New section against hacking introduced

➤ Repeat offenders to be punished the same as first time

➤ Jail terms under many sections reduced



The Bolibazar area in Bandarban's Thanchi upazila has gone under water due to incessant rain over the last one week. Thanchi is among four upazilas in the district which had been without power for about 48 hours as of 9:30pm yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Torrential rain pounds southeast

Six die in landslides in Bandarban, Cox's Bazar; many parts of Ctg under water for 4 days

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including four Rohingyas, were killed in three landslides in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban yesterday as heavy rain continues to batter the southeastern region.

Incessant rain and tidal water have wreaked havoc in four districts of Chattogram division over the last few days. Thousands of people have been suffering from shortages of drinking water.

Bad weather has left thousands

of households without power. Road communications with many areas were severed as many roads, bridges and culverts went under water.

In Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar, a Rohingya mother and her two-year-old daughter were killed in a landslide that crushed their shack in the evening.

Jannat Ara, 35, and her daughter Mahiya Bibi died at camp 9, said Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Mohammad Mizanur Rahman.

Earlier in the day, two Rohingyas died in a landslide when they were cutting

a hill in Bandarban's Alikadam upazila around noon.

Chobi Rahman, 16, and Mohammad Musa, 17, were residents of Ukhiya Rohingya camps-14 and 15.

Quoting family members, the RRRRC said the two went to Alikadam on Wednesday to work as labourers.

In Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar, two children were killed in the afternoon when a wall of their house collapsed on them.

The incident occurred in Boroghona, a

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Nipa Palit

Flooded Ctg drains claim another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A college student died after falling into a drain while wading through knee-deep water in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila yesterday morning.

The dead, Nipa Palit, 21, daughter of Uttam Palit, was on her way to college to sit for an exam.

The incident occurred in Nandir Hat Badamtoli area, where she used to reside with her family.

Sohel Rana, sub-inspector of Hathazari Police Station, said Nipa was a second-year BBS student of Hathazari Government College.

"She was on her way to the college to attend an exam around 9:00am. As the roads were waterlogged due to excessive rain, she was walking through knee-deep water. She could not notice the drain on her path and she slipped and fell into it."

Quoting family members, he added she could not save herself as she

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Sanctions a tool against corruption: Richard Nephew



P12

Saline disappearing from store shelves in Dhaka



P11

BCB to take major decisions today

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Country should be ruled by the honest: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the full text of a verdict released yesterday, the High Court observed that the country should be ruled not by the corrupt but by those who are honest and have the highest level of integrity.

"We, the people of this country, got independence at the cost of the lives of 30 lakh martyrs and the supreme sacrifices of two lakh heroic women. It is therefore the court's expectation that our country be ruled by law, free from all sorts of exploitation," the HC bench of Justices Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Khizir Hayat Lizu said in the 281-page full-text verdict.

On May 30, the bench delivered the verdict affirming the trial court judgement that had convicted and sentenced BNP leader and former state minister Aman Ullah Aman to 13 years imprisonment and his wife Sabera Aman to three years in jail in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) during the caretaker government rule from 2007-08.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Aman Ullah Aman and Sabera Aman, who had



Steeplejacks wave the Ukrainian flag after finishing installing the coat of arms of Ukraine on the shield of the 62 metre Motherland Monument in Kyiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian trident replaced the coat of arms of the former Soviet Union, which was removed earlier this month.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia strikes Ukraine's Kherson, Kharkiv

3 civilians killed; Zelensky says US, Germany air defences helping Ukraine's war effort

REUTERS, Kyiv

A woman was killed early yesterday when Russian forces shelled the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson, while two other people were killed in Russian shelling of border areas of the Kharkiv region in northeast Ukraine, officials said.

Both the city of Kherson and parts of the Kharkiv region are directly adjacent to the front line. The Ukrainian military has reported increased Russian attacks in the Kharkiv region in recent days.

"A difficult night for Kherson ... The Russian army continued to shell Kherson residents' homes in the central part of the city," governor Oleksandr Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app.

Prokudin said the shelling had started around midnight and lasted for several hours.

Separately, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram that two civilians had been killed and three others wounded during Russian shelling of border areas of Kharkiv region yesterday morning.

Ukraine recaptured Kherson city and parts of the Kherson region in November

after months of Russian occupation, but Russian forces regularly shell the city and surrounding areas from across the Dniipro River.

This month a doctor was killed and five medical workers were wounded in Russian shelling of a Kherson hospital.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday Ukraine is seeing "significant results" from US and German air defence systems, despite waves of Russian air strikes.

The Moscow-appointed head of Crimea said the Chonhar bridge to the peninsula, which was annexed from Ukraine by Moscow in 2014, had been damaged by a missile strike. Another of the three road links between Crimea and Russian-occupied parts of mainland Ukraine, near the town of Henichesk, was shelled and a civilian driver wounded, a Moscow-appointed official said.

In his nightly video address on Sunday, Zelensky said advanced air defence systems, including the US-built Patriot and Germany's IRIS-T, were proving "highly effective" and had "already yielded significant results."

DEFAMATION

Hero Alom sues Rizvi for Tk 50cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashraful Hossain Alom, popularly known as Hero Alom, yesterday filed a Tk 50 crore defamation case against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi for making "defamatory remarks" against him.

Alom, an independent candidate who was defeated in the Dhaka-17 by-polls held on July 17, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate.

During the hearing, Alom told the court that if Rizvi apologised, he would have "forgiven" him, adding the BNP leader's remarks tarnished his image.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saiful Islam recorded Alom's statement and directed the Detective Branch of police to submit their investigation report before it by September 13.

In his complaint, on August 5, Alom said he came across YouTube contents where Rizvi made objectionable and derogatory remarks about him.

Earlier on Sunday, Alom said he visited the DB office to lodge a complaint against the BNP leader, but the DB chief advised him to file a case with the court.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE

Bodies of two more children recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The bodies of two children were recovered yesterday, two days after a trawler capsized in a tributary of Padma in Munshiganj.

The deceased are Mahin Sheikh, 5, and Toran, 7. With this, the death toll in the incident has risen to nine. Now one child - Nafa remains missing.

Mahin's body was found floating 200m from the accident site around 5:15pm, while Toran's body was found floating 2km away from the accident site around 6:00am.

Confirming the incident, Munshiganj's Louhajang Fire Service Station Officer (Acting) Abdul Matin said, "Arrangements are being made to hand over the bodies to the relatives. Now, only one child, Nafa, is missing.

The fire service and BIWTA teams are patrolling the river in search of the missing child.

On Saturday night, the picnic trawler with 46 onboard capsized after being hit by a bulk carrier.

2 held for stealing train fuel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two people, including a railway staffer, were arrested while stealing fuel from Ishwardi-bound commuter express train at Azimnagar Railway Station in Natore on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Helal Uddin, 37, power car driver (electric fitter) of an intercity commuter express train, and Rokonuzzaman Rokon, 45, a resident of Lalpur upazila.

They were sent to jail via a district court order yesterday, said police.

Ishwardi GRP Police Station Sub-Inspector Md Harunuzzaman said a detective branch of Railway Nirapotta Bahini (RNB) detained the duo and seized 45 litres of diesel from the spot.

Some dishonest railway employees have been stealing fuel from power cars at various stations along the Rajshahi-Ishwardi route for quite some time, he added.

A case was filed against them with Ishwardi GRP Police Station in this connection.

Thieves break in at B'baria Indian visa office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Thieves reportedly broke in at the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC), located in West Paikpara of Brahmanbaria town.

They cut open the balcony grills and entered through the back of the building sometime Sunday night, said Shakhawat Hossain, district superintendent of police.

Sabur Ali, the supervisor of the IVAC, told the police that Tk 5,000 in cash, four biometric pen drives, and a CC camera device were stolen.

He added that one of the pen drives was in use, while the other three were intact.

On information, the crime scene investigators from the Police Bureau of Investigation and Criminal Investigation Department visited the spot and collected evidence.

A case would soon be filed over this incident, said police.

Cyber Security Act to replace DSA

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Other non-bailable offences include section 19, which entails damage of computer, computer system, etc; section 17, which criminalises illegal access to any critical information infrastructure, etc; section 27, which criminalises cyber terrorism; section 30 penalising illegal e-transactions; and section 33, which criminalises the illegal storage and transfer of data.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain said that while the DSA was more focused on punitive prison sentences, the Cyber Security Act puts more emphasis on financial penalties.

The DSA harshly penalised repeat offences, but such provisions have been struck off in the new version of the law.

The Digital Security Agency will now be transformed to National Cyber Security Agency.

"The provisions for cyber security that were in the last [version of the] law have been kept untouched in this new one," Huq said.

Meanwhile, those facing charges under the DSA will now see their cases continue under the new version of the law, but only after it comes into

effect.

Huq added that section 33 of the DSA has been scrapped and a section on hacking offences has been introduced in the Cyber Security Act. A hacking offence will carry a maximum jail term of 14 years or a maximum fine of Tk 1 crore, or both.

Following the announcement, Amnesty International South Asia, Regional Office in a tweet said, "The government must ensure that the Cyber Security Act it plans to replace the DSA with does not rehash the same repressive features of the DSA."

"The government must also ensure that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to scrutinise and make recommendations on the proposed new law before it is enacted, and that its provisions fully comply with international human rights laws."

However, Cabinet Secretary Mahub declined to share a draft of the version, stating that it will only be made public when it is placed before parliament as a bill for a decision on whether it should be passed or not.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "We are concerned that many of the objectionable provisions of the DSA

continue to be included under the new [version of the] law.

"We encourage the government to not include the DSA sections that pertained to the repression of opposition voices. Let this new version not be the DSA with a new cover."

Earlier, the law minister on several occasions had stated that the DSA will be amended by September

China, Russia FMs hail cooperation in call

AFP, Beijing

The foreign ministers of China and Russia hailed the "practical cooperation" between the two global powers in a phone call yesterday, Beijing said.

China's top diplomat Wang Yi told his counterpart Sergei Lavrov that Beijing and Moscow "should continue to maintain close strategic coordination, promote world multipolarisation and the democratisation of international relations", according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

Torrential rain pounds southeast

FROM PAGE 1

remote hilly area under Boroitola union, around 4:00pm, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer JP Chakma.

The wall collapsed because of a landslide, he added.

Torrential rains are causing flash floods and landslides in some areas in the Rohingya camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf, said the RRRRC.

According to the official, there were 119 landslides in the camps and over 1,500 homes were damaged or destroyed due to bad weather. Some 90 Rohingyas were moved to safer places.

In Chattogram city, almost all low-lying areas are under water for four days due to heavy rains. This is a city where waterlogging is quite common.

Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has been implementing a Tk 5,617 crore mega project since 2017 to address waterlogging. City dwellers allege that they are yet to get any benefit from the project.

Bishwajit Chowdhury, forecast officer at Chattogram Met office, told The Daily Star that 250mm rain was recorded in 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday.

The city's Chawkbazar, Bakalia, Halishahar, Bahaddarhat, Badurtola, Kapasgola, Sholoshahar, Shulakbahar, Muradpur, Katalganj, Dewan Bazar, Agrabad, Chandgaon and Bibirhat areas are under waist-to-knee deep water.

"Water entered the ground floor of our home around midnight on Thursday. We moved to one of our tenants' home on the first floor," said Shahedul Azam, a resident of Rahattar Pool Wazir Ali Shah Lane.

Water entered the ground floor of Chawkbazar Chaw Super Market four days ago.

"My goods worth about Tk 2 lakh have already been damaged," said Gias Uddin, owner of a cloth store.

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and CDA authorities have traded blame over waterlogging.

The CDA mega project director,

Lt Col Shah Ali, said rain water cannot recede quickly because the CCC workers do not clear the drains properly.

Denying the allegation, CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said the workers clear drains regularly.

"But some irresponsible people dump polythene and plastic waste in the canals and drains, leaving those clogged," he said.

The mayor said the CDA is implementing a project to dredge 36 canals in and around the city, but the work is going on slowly.

And that's why the city dwellers still suffer from waterlogging, he added.

Meanwhile, Chattogram city Awami League President Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury and General Secretary AJM Nasir Uddin in a joint statement yesterday urged the service providers work in tandem to address waterlogging.

In Bandarban, vast areas of the district town and five upazilas - Thanchi, Ruma, Roangchhari, Lama and Alikadam - have been inundated due to water from the overflowing Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers and incessant rain over the last seven days.

People in the district town and Thanchi, Ruma, and Roangchhari upazilas are without power for about 48 hours. Road communications between the district town and the five upazila towns remain snapped for three days.

People are suffering from shortages of drinking water. Many have moved to flood shelters.

Bandarban experienced 903mm rain in a week, 448mm of it was in 24 hours until 6:00pm yesterday, said Md Emdadul Haque, a meteorologist in the hill district.

He also said the weather may remain the same until next week.

At least 48 families from Baganpara village in Thanchi have taken shelter on roads.

"My crops have gone under water. I am now helpless," said Uthoyai Mong, a resident of Khalpra area in Ruma upazila.

Bandarban Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman AKM Jahangir said unplanned urbanisation, poor drainage, and reduction of navigability in rivers are the main reasons for waterlogging.

In Cox's Bazar, over two lakh people in four upazilas have been affected by incessant rains and tidal surges.

A youth drowned in the Matamuhuri river of Chakaria upazila yesterday due to strong currents.

Rashid Ahmed, 24, was from Chakaria's Lakkharchar village, said Fazlul Karim Saydee, chairman of Chakaria Upazila Parishad.

Rashid went missing around 1:00pm. His body was recovered around two hours later, the chairman added.

Coastal erosion continued along the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Marine Drive.

In Noakhali and Laxmipur, crops on over 17,000 hectares have gone under water over the last one week due to incessant rain and tidal surges, according to local Water Development Board officials.

Meanwhile, a weather bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said the Muhuri, Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers in Chattogram, Feni, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar may flow above the danger levels today causing deterioration of the overall flood situation in low-lying areas.

"There is a chance of heavy to very heavy rainfall in the southeastern hill basin and adjacent upstream parts of Bangladesh in the next 24-48 hours. For this reason, all major rivers [Muhuri, Feni, Halda, Karnafuli, Sangu and Matamuhuri] in the country's southeast may swell," said the bulletin released at 9:00am yesterday.

Another bulletin of Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday said little to moderate rainfall may continue across the country this week.

Our correspondents in Chattogram, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Noakhali contributed to this report.

Flooded Ctg drains claim another life

FROM PAGE 1

was a patient of epilepsy.

Some students of Chittagong University living in the area noticed her and rushed to rescue her, but it was too late, the SI said.

"They called 999 and also informed the family. On information, a police team rushed to the spot, but the locals had already taken her to Hathazari Upazila Health Complex, where on-duty doctors declared her dead."

Rana added Nipa's body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy, and a case was lodged in this regard.

The incident was being

investigated.

The issue of falling into open drains and unprotected canals has been prevalent in the port city since at least 2017.

On July 3, 2017, retired government officer Shilbrata Barua fell into an open drain while on his way to attend a wedding in Bakalia.

On June 9, 2018, a child named Al Amin fell into the drain in Amin Jute Mill area.

On June 30, 2021, three people went missing after an auto-rickshaw fell into a canal in Chashma Hill area of Sholashahar. Two bodies were later recovered.

On August 25, 2021, a 50-year-old vegetable trader slipped and drowned in a canal in Muradpur intersection. His body has not yet been found.

A month later, Sheherin Mahmud Sadia, 19, died after falling into a drain in the city's Agrabad intersection.

On December 7 that year, a 10-year-old boy's body was recovered three days after he fell in the same canal in Sholashahar Railway Station area.

On April 15 last year, fire service divers rescued a woman from the Osmania canal in Kalurghat area.

On April 9 this year, three-year-old Ojaifa died after falling into an open drain in Sadarghat Nalapara area.

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Bangamata's 93rd birth anniv today

BSS, Dhaka

The 93rd birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be observed today across the country.

Bangamata, also known by her nick name Renu, was born on August 8, 1930 at Tungipara village in Gopalganj.

On the fateful night of August 15, 1975, she was killed brutally along with Bangabandhu and most of her family members.

Marking the birth anniversary of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, Awami League and its associate bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay respect to her memory. Wreaths will be placed at her grave in Dhaka's Banani area today.

Last year in an award giving ceremony, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter, sketched Bangamata's key-shadow role in protracted independence struggle particularly in major turning points like the six-point demand, Bangabandhu's release issue and his March 7 speech.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh's emergence would have been impossible unless Bangamata would have taken a bold step

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mohammad Hossain, a resident of Tongi in Gazipur, goes home on a rickshaw van with a boat he had just purchased for Tk 2,000. As rain continues to inundate various areas around the country, many others have chosen to take similar measures. This photo was taken yesterday.

HSC EXAMS Students hold demo for postponement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of students preparing for the HSC examinations staged a demonstration yesterday, urging the government to defer the upcoming exam scheduled to start from August 17.

Around 100 students from different colleges brought out a procession around noon from Shahbagh and staged a sit-in at the Science Lab intersection for two hours.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mabruur Rahman Tasdid of Govt Shahid Suhrawardy College said they did not get sufficient time to complete the entire syllabus for the exam.

"At the same time, many of us are also infected with dengue, which has been widespread this year. So we have placed a four-point demand," he added.

Their demands include — holding the exams for 50-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

7 days, over 17,000 cases

First week of Aug sees more dengue patients than that of previous months

HELEMUL ALAM

At least 17,651 dengue patients were hospitalised in the first week of August, which is five times higher than the number of cases in the first week of July and 24 times of that in June.

A total of 3,320 and 698 cases were recorded in July and June respectively.

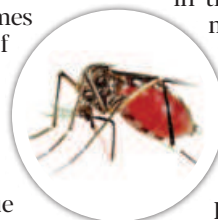
The number of dengue cases this month will be much higher than that of July, which was 43,854, fear experts.

According to Directorate General of Health Services, 14 dengue patients died while 2,751 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new cases, 69,483 dengue patients have been hospitalised so far this year, while the total number of deaths rose to 327.

Contacted, Entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said, "Aedes mosquitoes will lay eggs where

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



AL, BJP to work together for regional stability

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian ruling party BJP President JP Nadda yesterday said their party and Awami League will work for the greater interest of regional stability and carry forward the bilateral relations by strengthening party-level contacts in the future.

"BJP has a historic relation with the AL and we want to carry forward our relation in the days to come," he said after the visiting five member AL delegation held a meeting with the BJP president at his residence in New Delhi.

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak led the Bangladesh delegation consisting of AL joint general secretary Hassan Mahmood, Organising Secretary Sujit Roy Nandi, Aroma Dutta and Prof Marina Jahan.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of issues including political stability in the region, Bangladesh's economic development, curbing militancy and India-Bangladesh relations as well.

Nada said the relations between the two countries reached a new height during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He mentioned that the long standing Bangladesh India Land Boundary and Maritime Disputes and crisis in the Indian North-Eastern

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Won't let BNP, Jamaat foil polls Pledge 14-party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleging that the BNP-Jamaat are conspiring to foil the next national election, the leaders of ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday said they would unilaterally resist any such.

They made the remarks while addressing a "peace" rally organised by the alliance protesting the "terror and anarchy" of BNP, held in front of the AL headquarters at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka.

"BNP wants to change the constitution in the name of movement," said AL Advisory Council member Amir Hossain Amu, also coordinator and spokesperson for the alliance.

Amu alleged that those who did not want the independence of this country are now conspiring to unseat the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



College students stage a sit-in at Nilkhet yesterday, urging the government to defer the upcoming HSC exam, scheduled to start from August 17, for two months.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Unfolding the mysteries of Sundarbans

Initiative taken to set up 'museum and interpretation center'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A strategic location in the Chandpai range of the eastern Sundarbans, in the suburbs of Joymonir Ghol in Mongla's Chila union, has been chosen for establishing the Sundarbans Museum and Interpretation Center, the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The centre has been initiated by WildTeam, with support from the forest department and KfW-German Cooperation under

IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme. It will conduct research on the facts, heritage, and history of the Sundarbans region, which is home to an array of biodiversity.

It looks to widely disseminate knowledge regarding the forest's flora and fauna while advocating for its conservation.

OBJECTIVE AND AUDIENCE
The centre primarily aims to increase knowledge and pro-environmental attitudes among

local people, national and international tourists.

It will also function as a story-sharing hub, delving into the history, culture, and lifestyle of the forest dwellers, shared Enayetullah Khan, founder of WildTeam.

"The centre also aims to create awareness about threats to the forest and formulating ways of conserving it for the future. It will also help promote local ecotourism," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Case filed after minor girl jumps off a building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case has been filed against three people after a seven-year-old house help jumped off the seventh floor of an apartment in the capital's Mohammadpur area on August 4.

The girl's mother Josna Begum filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station on Sunday, accusing Executive Editor of The Daily Star Syed Ashfaqul Haque, his wife Tania Khondoker, and Asma Akhter, said Mahfuzul Haque Bhuiyan, officer in charge of Mohammadpur Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant said her daughter jumped off the building to flee as, she alleged, her employer confined her, did not allow her to talk with her and beat her up.

The girl came to the house for work on August 1, reads the case statement.

She is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. She is now out of danger, according to attending doctors.

Contacted, Syed Ashfaqul Haque said, "The allegations against us are completely baseless and contrary to the facts."

"To us, the most important thing is the girl has survived, and is safe," he added.

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How to Apply:

If you think you are the right person, please send your CV with attached photo to:

career@thedailystar.net

N.B: "Application for Executive, Scheduling & Client Service" must be clearly mentioned on the email subject line.

Application Deadline: August 20, 2023

Technical glitch delays metro rail services by 40 mins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Metro rail services started 40 minutes late yesterday morning due to a technical problem on the tracks.

Ifikhar Hossain, general manager (operations) of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited, said metro rail yesterday started operation from 8:40am instead of the scheduled 8:00am.

City dwellers who use metro rail to go to offices, schools, and other places faced inconvenience due to the unexpected delay.

Mohammad Mahmud in a post on Traffic Alert wrote: "From last 40 minutes waiting for the train towards Uttara."

People of 5 more upazilas to get new homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the houses constructed for homeless people in five more upazilas of Tangail under the Ashrayan Project-2 tomorrow.

The premier will join the event through a video conference from Gono Bhaban, said Tangail Deputy Commissioner Md Kaisarul Islam during a press briefing at his conference room yesterday.

Through this move the PM will declare Kalihati, Mirzapur, Ghatail, Nagarpur and Basail upazilas in the district free from landless as well as homeless people.

According to the district administration, a total of 3,514 homeless families/people were listed in 12 upazilas of Tangail.

AL, BJP to work

FROM PAGE 3 states were solved due to the pro-active initiative of the AL government.

Besides, another meeting was held between the two parties at the BJP headquarters, where issues related to the betterment of both the parties and countries were discussed.

Later, the AL delegation held a meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Jaishankar and discussed various issues at the Parliament House.

7 days, over 17,000

FROM PAGE 3 ever it finds accumulated rainwater. Eventually, these spots will transform into breeding grounds. During field visits, I found a neglectful attitude when it comes to identifying and destroying the sources."

Bashar urged for a collaborative effort by locals, organisations, and government bodies to destroy such sources. He said not all offices and institutions are taking proper measures to reduce mosquito breeding sources.

"Aedes mosquitoes have already laid huge number of eggs in different containers, those will hatch now, thanks to the rain. This will worsen

Students hold demo

FROM PAGE 3 mark instead of 100 or postponing it for two months; rescheduling the exam due to the dengue situation, and excluding the Information and Communication Technology subject from the exam.

Meanwhile, the students alleged that they were attacked by police personnel while holding the demonstration. Some eight to nine protesters were even picked up by police, they claimed.

Talking to The Daily

the situation," said GM Saifur Rahman, assistant professor of medical and applied entomology at National University.

Meanwhile, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Jahangirnagar University and DNCC to enhance research and chalk out ways to eliminate Aedes mosquitoes.

"Based on the agreement, we will identify mosquito varieties to help the authorities know about the type of mosquitoes present in different areas," said Prof Bashar.

The research team will also investigate the density of those mosquitoes creating 10 sentinel sites in 10 DNCC zones.

Star, Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Moudut Hawlader denied any such attack.

"We picked up a few of them. Further steps will be taken after speaking to their respective college authorities," he added.

According to Dhaka Education Board sources, this year's HSC and equivalent examinations are set to begin on August 17 and continue until September 25. The exams will be held on all subjects, with a full marking system, in a reduced syllabus.

Inclement weather

FROM PAGE 5 "Before the start of the 65-day fishing ban, we could not go to the sea as cyclone Mocha hit the coastal area on May 14. Now the inclement weather keeps us away from going far in the Bay."

"For around three months, we could not go to the sea for fishing. If the weather continues like this, how can we survive?" Nurul added.

Delwar Hossain, secretary of Cox's Bazar District Fishing Trawler Owners' Association, said "At least 50 of the trawlers went to the sea and met accidents due to the rough weather."

He, however, termed the period of fishing ban "impractical and untimely".

"The authority should impose the ban on fishing based on ground realities. The ban came a month earlier than required. Around 75,000 fishermen in the district are facing hardships as they have been unemployed for around 90 days," he added.

At present, a moderate

to strong monsoon is active over Bangladesh and the North Bay, causing heavy rainfall and high waves with strong winds at the sea, said Abdur Rahman, assistant meteorologist of Cox's Bazar Meteorological Department.

The current bad weather may continue till August 10, he said.

Three held

FROM PAGE 5 supplies drug consignments to different parts of the country -- including Natore, Ishwardi, and Pabna.

The three were carrying narcotics in an SUV and a microbus.

Acting on a tip-off, a DNC team challenged them at Lalor Bazar around 6:00am, said the official.

The drug peddlers tried to speed away, but the team intercepted them.

Zillur Rahman, a deputy director of the department's Rajshahi office, filed a case against the three with Shingra Police Station.

Unfolding the mysteries

FROM PAGE 3 Planned originally for locals, especially youths, the initiative will also enable foreign tourists learn a lot about this world heritage site, mentioned the WildTeam founder.

He said the centre will be set up on 60 decimals of land. It will be inaugurated at the beginning of next year.

It can also benefit local authorities by giving them access to information and insights about the forest's wildlife, he added.

EXHIBITS TO BE ON DISPLAY The centre will also showcase a wide array of display exhibits.

While dedicated segments will focus on narrating the forest's history and heritage, a part of the centre will be allotted to celebrating the lifestyle of its people and how they co-exist with nature.

The exhibits will also look to highlight the threats the world's mangrove forest is facing, while informing visitors of the wildlife act and policies and wildlife survey techniques.

Special emphasis will be given to eradicating poaching, human-wildlife conflict, unsustainable resource collection, poison fishing, venison consumption, illegal logging, plastic pollution, unplanned industrialisation, and uncontrolled tourism.

Visitors will also be able to explore the livelihood practices, local arts and traditions, and myths and beliefs in the region at the centre, said Enayetullah Khan.

Information outlets for occupations related to the Sundarbans, such as fishing, honey collection, mangrove palm (nypa fruticans) harvest, crab collection, and wood logging, will also be set up at the centre.

"Displays will have an engaging mixture of art, illustrations, photos, objects (both real and artificial), and also audio-

Won't let BNP

FROM PAGE 3 AL Presidium Member Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said, "The dreams of those who are conspiring to foil the election will never come true. The election will be held under the Sheikh Hasina government and in a fair manner."

"If Sheikh Hasina is not re-elected as prime minister, it will not be possible to implement the Ganga Water-sharing Treaty. Foreign pressure and conspiracies cannot weaken the premier," said Dilip Barua, general secretary of Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal.

The leaders at the rally reiterated that the alliance will be on the streets with continuous programmes to prevent any conspiracy of the BNP-Jamaat.

Work for new

FROM PAGE 5 The building will have seven staircases, four fire exits, and eight lifts (four general and four cargo).

Jahirul Islam, acting general secretary of shop owners' association, expressed contentment regarding the progress.

"Eight floors will be constructed initially on 10-storey foundation. Only the owners of the 2,961 shops of the affected four markets will get shops at this complex," he said.

On April 4, a massive fire at Bangabazar Shopping Complex resulted in the destruction of around 3,000 shops, primarily filled with clothing items, causing significant economic losses to several thousand traders.

The adjacent Anexco Tower, Banga Islamia Market, and Banga Homeo Market were also affected, while a police barrack near the Police Headquarters was partially destroyed.

visuals as necessary. Interactive design will be used as much as possible to intrigue the visitors and aid retention of key pieces of information," he mentioned.

The mode of language for the displays will be Bangla and local names and terms will be used in the descriptions. Key information on each display will also be given in English for the international audiences, Enayetullah said.

Facilities like interactive eco-games, audio-visuals, and other educational materials for children to enhance their knowledge and interests in the Sundarbans will be also available at the centre.

"One of the objectives of this centre is to provide a space for visitors to exchange views, share knowledge, and develop ideas to conserve nature. There will be a number of different spaces that will encourage visitors to gather within the building and on its grounds for discussions," he said.

Bangamata's 93rd birth anniversary

FROM PAGE 3 against proposed inclusion of two more points to the Six-Point Demand while Bangabandhu was in Pakistani military captivity during the Agartala conspiracy case.

The premier said several AL leaders were willing to accept Bangabandhu's release on parole while the trial of the case was underway, an idea that was strongly opposed by Bangamata who wanted his unconditional release.

Hasina said if Bangabandhu would have come out accepting parole conditions, no fierce mass movement would have sparked forcing the then Pakistani junta to abandon the case, freeing the accused.

Bangamata feared in that situation all the accused would have been hanged on high treason charges, if not killed in captivity like their co-accused Sergeant Zahirul Haque during the trial.

If Bangabandhu got released on parole, Bangladesh would have never witnessed its

independence, Hasina said. While talking to BSS earlier, academican and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said Bangamata had played a very crucial role in heartening Bangabandhu to pen the drafts of three invaluable autobiographical books which would always remain as precious asset in the history of Bangladesh.

"We talked about Bangabandhu at different times. His speeches and statements have been preserved in different ways. But expressing his own memories in his own words is a rare one and it has been possible because of Bangamata," he said.

Prof Arefin said Bangabandhu in his own reminiscence in the "Unfinished Memoirs" also mentioned how Bangamata inspired him to write the books. He said after the independence, Bangamata had taken the initiative for the first time to

rehabilitate the Biranganas (war heroines), the women who were brutally tortured and repressed by Pakistani occupational forces and their local collaborators during the Liberation War.

Under the leadership of Begum Mujib, the works of rehabilitating the repressed women began at Bangabandhu's Dhanmondi-32 residence for the first time, he mentioned.

She gathered some distinguished women of society and held meetings at Dhanmondi-32 residence to decide how to cooperate with the government and extend support to Bangabandhu in rehabilitating the group of women, he said.

PRAYER TIMING				
AUGUST 8				
Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:47	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	5:50	8:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION				

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বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস কর্পোরেশন এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ে বিজ্ঞ আইন উপদেষ্টা ও বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবী নিয়োগের জন্য অবসরপ্রাপ্ত জেলা জজ (অনুর্ধ্ব ৬২ বৎসর বয়স) ও দেওয়ানী আদালতের মামলা পরিচালনা এবং মহামান্য হাইকোর্ট ও আপীল বিভাগের মামলা পরিচালনাসহ ১০ (দশ) বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন বিজ্ঞ আইনজীবীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবিসহ শিক্ষাগত ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত পূর্বক আবেদনপত্র চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস কর্পোরেশন, বিটিএমসি ভবন, ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ বরাবরে আগামী ২১-০৮-২০২৩ খিঃ (০৬-০৫-১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ) তারিখের মধ্যে প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(কাজী ফিরোজ হোসেন)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (বোর্ড) বিটিএমসি, ঢাকা

KOICA Bid Notice

Korea International Cooperation Agency

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For Construction Works

Date: August 08, 2023

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Bangladesh Office invites eligible Bidders to participate in bidding for the project mentioned below. The Project is to be constructed with the grant aid of the Government of the Republic of Korea.
- Eligible Bidders.
 - Legal Requirement
 - Business License and General Contractor in accordance with laws applicable in construction industry in Bangladesh.
 - ABC Electrical and Supervisory License.
 - List of technical manpower
 - Capability of Contract Fulfillment
 - No history of contract nonfulfillment (last 3 years).
 - No pending litigation (last 3 years)
 - Financial Status
 - Company's Audited Financial Statements over the last three (3) fiscal years
 - Experience Requirement
 - Building Construction Project completed within last three (3) years
 - Tax
 - The company has paid all taxes in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of Bangladesh.
 - The bidders who have submitted an EOI in a timely manner
 - Bid Bond: 3% or more of the total bid price
- KOICA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- Failure to furnish all information required by the bid documents or submission of a bid not substantially responsive to the bid documents in every respect shall be at the Bidder's risk and may result in the rejection of bid.
- The KOICA Bangladesh Office requires that Bidders and Contractors observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, KOICA:
 - will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract.
 - will recognize such a contractor as ineligible for a period determined by KOICA.
- Point of Contact: KOICA Bangladesh Office
Address: Level 5N, Grand DELVISTAA, House CES(A) 1A, Road 113, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212
Tel No.: +8802 2222 84690, +8802 2222 94552
(Mr. Fazle Rabby: Program Manager)
E-mail: bangladesh@koica.go.kr

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) invites proposal from interested individuals for below consultancy services:

- National consultant to support project's partner organizations in implementation of Competency Based Training and Assessment (CBT&A) under NTVQF
- National consultant (lead consultant) to facilitate training for managers/facilitators on the methodology of Community Based Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (CB-TrEE).
- National consultant to support lead consultant to facilitate training for managers/facilitators on the methodology of Community Based Training for Rural Economic Empowerment (CB-TrEE).

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for above services can be downloaded from the ILO website at: https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS_533581/lang-en/index.htm
The deadline for submission of proposal is Sunday, September 03, 2023, by 04:30 PM (BST time).

World Health Organization Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

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

- RFP/BAN/2023/022: Revised (complete) RFP documents for Provisions of conducting Training of Trainers and Supervisors (ToTS) on mhGAP and the Training on mhGAP Intervention in Bangladesh in 2 Lots available in WHO Bangladesh Tender portal.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 14 August 2023 (Dhaka time).
- RFP/BAN/2023/023: Establishment of Tele Mental Health Services in Bangladesh.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 21 August 2023 (Dhaka time).
- RFP/BAN/2023/024: Baseline Assessment of Mental Health Services and Inception Meetings in Six Districts of Bangladesh.
Deadline for the submission of RFP: 14:00hrs, 21 August 2023 (Dhaka time).

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

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

CHAKIRPASA BEEL
Remove illegal structures in 2 months: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday imposed an injunction on leasing out Chakirpasa Beel in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram, asking the authorities to remove all illegal structures from the waterbody within two months.

A bench consisting of Justice KM Kamrul Qader and Mohammed Showkat Ali Chowdhury came up with the ruling in response to a petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) recently.

In the ruling, the court instructed the divisional commissioner of Rangpur and deputy commissioner of Kurigram not to lease out the beel, and asked the superintendent of police in Kurigram and UNO of Rajarhat to dismantle all the illegal structures from the waterbody within two months.

Chairpasa Beel locally known as branch river ends up in Teesta River. The beel has been shown as a pond and leased out to a non-fishing association.

The court also instructed the divisional commissioner and DC to submit a report on what steps they have taken in this regard.

Three held with 240kg of cannabis
They were using home ministry's stickers on vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three members of a group that were using the home ministry's stickers on their vehicles to peddle drugs were arrested in Shingra upazila, Natore yesterday.

The Department of Narcotics Control in Rajshahi also seized the vehicles and recovered 240kg of cannabis, said Fazlur Rahman, additional director of DNC, during a press conference at its city office.

The arrestees are Hossain Ahmed, 23, Nur Alim Sarker Milon, 37, and Mominul Islam, 36.

Hossain from Kurigram had been arrested in May with 110kg of cannabis. He returned to drug peddling 26 days after he was freed on bail.

Fazlur said Nur Alim from the district town used to lead the group. He

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A father carries his son to school on his back while the boy holds an umbrella to protect them from the incessant rain. Continuous rainfall over 48 hours led to Barishal city being waterlogged, disrupting city lives. The photos were taken yesterday morning. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Barishal struggles with waterlogging

Low-lying areas get submerged in city following rain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Persistent rainfall for 48 hours till yesterday noon, coupled with rising waters during high tide, crippled much of Barishal city with waterlogging, disrupting daily life of inhabitants.

Roads and houses in the low-lying areas under Barishal City Corporation — including Rupatali, Bottola, College Row, College Avenue, Baidyapara, Sagardi, and Palashpur — have been submerged under two to four feet of water, causing immense sufferings to people.

The city's busiest main road, Sadar Road, was inundated with at least two feet of water for two days since Sunday.

People living in slums in the city's low-lying areas, including Palashpur and Stadium Slum areas, were unable to cook food due to water entering their houses.



Bithi, a resident of Stadium Slum area, said the slum dwellers had to eat dry food without being able to cook as their houses are submerged.

Most of the small traders of the city could not work on the streets due to incessant rain.

Students were seen returning home wet from school.

Swapon Kumar Das, administrative officer of Barishal City Corporation, said the city corporation workers were working in the waterlogged areas, but very little work has been done due to heavy rain.

"Earlier, water used to submerge the streets, now water is entering our homes," said Faiz Belal, an entrepreneur from the Alekanda area of the city.

Bashir Ahmed, senior observer at Barishal Meteorological Office, said the city saw a total 149.6mm of rain over the last 24 hours till yesterday noon.

Meanwhile, several voluntary organisations, including BD Clean, have been carrying out clean up works in different canals in Barishal city to prevent waterlogging.

Masudur Rahman of BD Clean said they have cleaned the canal in Chowmatha area of the city so that the water can recede quickly.

Inclement weather frustrates hilsa fishers

MOKAMMEL SHUVU, Cox's Bazar

It should have been a busy, festive time for the fishers in Cox's Bazar after the 65-day ban on fishing.

However, two weeks after the ban was lifted, they are still forced to sit idle as rough weather is preventing them from going out to the sea to catch fish — the only occupation they know to earn their living.

They say they are unemployed for nearly three months as, prior

to the ban, rough weather caused by cyclone Mocha prevented them from fishing for days.

Md Badrudduza, manager of Cox's Bazar Fish Landing Station and Wholesale Market, said only 2.76 tonnes of hilsa were caught since the ban was lifted on July 23 whilst the amount was 154 tonnes during the same period last year.

The hilsa trawlers could not go into the deep sea due to high waves, he said.

"Among 5,000 fishing trawlers of Cox's Bazar, 3,000 are capable of catching hilsa fish. Last year, 8,100 tonnes of marine fish, including 3,975 tonnes of hilsa, were brought at Cox's Bazar Fish Landing Station," he added.

"We expect that the monsoon would bring luck for us in the coming days," said Badrudduza. Nurul Absar, a fisherman living in Samitypara in Cox's Bazar, said,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

A moderate to strong monsoon is active over Bangladesh and the North Bay, causing heavy rainfall and high winds at the sea.

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১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম:	জেলা সুপার, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
২	এজেন্সী/সংস্থা:	কারা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
৩	দরপত্রের নাম:	জামালপুর জেলা কারাগারের ০১-০৭-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ হতে ০১-১২-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সময়ের বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের হ্রস্ব বায়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র।
৪	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বার্তা ও তারিখ:	কারা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকার পত্র নং-নং-৫৮.০৪.০০০০.০৩০.০১.০২৮.২৩-১০০৪ (২) তারিখঃ ২৬-০৬-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।
৫	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং:	DTA-2023/2
৬	দরপত্রপ্রদাতাদের ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা:	দরপত্র সিডিউলে সংযুক্ত PG-3 এর শর্তনুযায়ী।
৭	বাজেট ফান্ড প্রান্তির উৎস:	জাতীয় রাজস্ব তহবিল।
৮	দরপত্র আহ্বান:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) পদ্ধতি।
৯	দরপত্র দাখিল প্রান্তির স্থান:	১। জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার। (২) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর (৩) পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর।
১০	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়:	২০-০৮-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২:৩০ টা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান:	(১) জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর (২) সদর থানা, জামালপুর (৩) প্রধান ফটক, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
১২	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান:	জেলা সুপারের কার্যালয়, জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের মূল্য:	প্রতিসেট ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা।
১৪	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ:	দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত নির্ধারিত লট ভিত্তিক।
১৫	কার্যদেয়ের সময়সীমা:	০১-০৭-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ হতে ০১-১২-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।
১৬	কার্যদেয়ের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে:	ক) দরপত্র বায়নার মূলকপি ও ফটোকপি, খ) হালনাগাদ আয়ের সনদের কপি, গ) অনলাইন ভাট নিবন্ধনের (১৩ ডিজিট) কপি, ঘ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (সরবরাহকারী) এর কপি, ঙ) আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা (লিকুইড এ্যাসেট) সনদের কপি ও স্বচ্ছতার স্বপক্ষে হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্টের কপি/ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্টের কপি, চ) কারা বিভাগে/অন্য কোন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে ০৩ বছরের খাদ্যদ্রব্য/সামগ্রীসমূহ সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের কপি, ছ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের কপি, জ) ১ম শ্রেণীর কারা টিকাদারগণের ফেডে হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত তালিকাভুক্তি বহির কপি। (সকল ফটোকপি ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক নামমুহুর্ত সীলমোহের দ্বারা সত্যায়িত)
১৭	ক্রি-টেন্ডার সভার তারিখ ও সময়:	১৭-০৮-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৮	দরপত্র দাখিলের সময়:	২১-০৮-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯:০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৯	দরপত্র বায় উন্মুক্তকরণের সময়:	২১-০৮-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।
২০	মুদ্রায়ন কর্মসূচির সভা অনুষ্ঠানের সময়:	২৪-০৮-২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা।
২১	দরপত্র সিডিউলের অন্যান্য তথ্যবলী জানার জন্য সার্ভিসে কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।	
২২	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে আর্থিক বা সকল দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল/প্রহরণের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
২৩	কোন দরদাতা ভুল কাগজপত্র দাখিল করলে তার জামানত বাতিলসহ তার বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।	

(এমাদুল হোসেন)
জেলা সুপার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
জামালপুর জেলা কারাগার।

জিডি-১১৯৯

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা।
রিয়ল এস্টেট ডিপার্টমেন্ট
বাণিজ্যিক স্পেস ভাড়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর নিম্নোক্ত ভবনসমূহের খালি স্পেস ব্যাংক/বীমা/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট ভাড়া নেয়ার লক্ষে প্রস্তাব আবেদন করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রঃ নং	ভবনের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ভাড়াযোগ্য স্পেসের আয়তন	
০১।	বিডিবিএল ভবন-১ ৮ রাজউক এভিনিউ, হেড অফিস, ঢাকা-১০০০।	লেভেল-১০ (৪৬৭০x২ বর্গফুট)	১১২০০ বর্গফুট (১৮৬০ বর্গফুট কমন স্পেসসহ)
		লেভেল-১২ (৪৬৭০x২ বর্গফুট)	১১২০০ বর্গফুট (১৮৬০ বর্গফুট কমন স্পেসসহ)
		লেভেল-১৩ (উত্তরাংশ)	৪৩২৬ বর্গফুট (১০০৪ বর্গফুট কমন স্পেস বাদে)
০২।	বিডিবিএল ভবন-২, ১২ কারওয়ানবাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা।	লেভেল-১২ (পূর্বাংশ)	৪৫৬১ বর্গফুট
		লেভেল-১৭ (পশ্চিমাংশ)	৪৫৬১ বর্গফুট

০২। অগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হতে ভাড়া নেয়ার সিডিউল অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সাক্ষাৎ করতে পারবেন।

(মোঃ আসাদুজ্জামান)
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার
ফোন : ০২-২২৩৩৫০৬৮৯

জিডি-১১৯৭

Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-Smart Technologies in Khulna Agriculture Region Project
Department of Agriculture Extension
Khulna Region, Khulna.

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

Memo No: 12.01.0000.018.07.010.23.433 Date: 07/08/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the construction of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender Id	Package No	Name of Goods	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
01	857386	CCAP/DAE/2023-24/GD-10	Procurement of Power Sprayer	21.08.2023 14.00	22.08.2023 14.00
02	857387	CCAP/DAE/2023-24/GD-15	Procurement of LLP (8.5HP) (with 100 m Fita Pipe)	28.08.2023 14.00	29.08.2023 14.00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenderers will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), for more details. e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

Shaikh Fazlul Huque Moni
Project Director
Email: ccapkulna@gmail.com

07-08-23

GD-1200

Piracy can't stop SHURONGO

Tama Mirza

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tama Mirza is on cloud nine with the thunderous response to *Shurongo*. Even in its sixth week, the film is running successfully across theatres. It is also doing well in Kolkata, USA and Canada. The actor plays Moyna, whose obsession with money and wealth leads to her downfall.

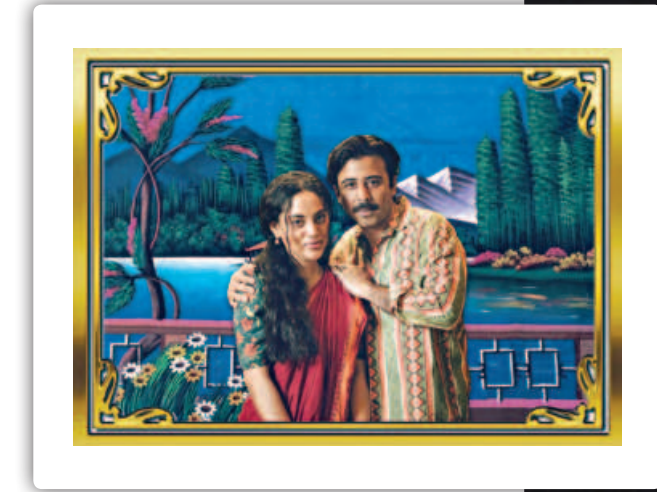
Do you think piracy could stop 'Shurongo' from reaching audiences?

No amount of piracy could stop *Shurongo* from reaching people's heart. People are still watching the film, and it is still going housefull across a few halls in the country. *Shurongo* is the biggest proof that nobody can hurt a good film by illegally releasing it on social media.

I am hoping to start filming again in November. By September, I will begin my grooming session for film and OTT. Throughout the grooming process, I will thoroughly immerse myself in the role so that I can give my all.

When are you returning to shooting?

I am hoping to start filming again in November. By September, I will begin my grooming session for film and OTT. Throughout the grooming process, I will thoroughly immerse myself in the role so that I can give my all. After I start filming, my schedule will be jam-packed with OTT



and film projects from November to June. I will reveal details about the project soon.

What has 'Shurongo' given you?
Shurongo has afforded me the love of the people. The amount of love people has showered on the film and Moyna-Masud, is really commendable. Moyna is such a complex character and I was really overwhelmed while portraying it on the big-screen. People have started calling me as Moyna, and nothing beats that feeling. I am forever grateful for such appreciation.

Your film is still running successfully in theatres in its sixth week.

This is such a huge achievement for Bengali cinema. Our film running successfully in its sixth week just proves how good content always pulls audiences to theatres.

Also, the fact that it has been named the top release of Star Cineplex is also wonderful news for us. Bangladeshi films have outperformed big-budget Hollywood films in the month of July. The future looks great for Bengali film in general.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Dighi returns to silver screen with 'Deyal'

In 2021, Prarthana Fardin Dighi debuted as a heroine in the film *Tumi Acho Tumi Nei*, directed by Delwar Jahan Jhantu. Despite her early success as a child artiste, Dighi faced challenges meeting audience expectations in her debut film.

Now, the actor is all set to grace the silver screen again. The talented actor has joined the ensemble cast of *Deyal*, a film helmed by director Kamrul Hasan Fuad.

The movie is set to feature a stellar lineup, including Mamunur Rashid, Tariq Anam Khan, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Salahuddin Lavlu, Arfan Ahmed, and Saberi Alam.

'Barbie' tops \$1b at global box office



Director Greta Gerwig's blockbuster *Barbie* crossed \$1 billion in revenue internationally on Sunday. The long-awaited cinematic debut of the iconic Mattel doll has swiftly become the year's second-largest release.

Barbie, an instant blockbuster starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, has grossed about \$459 million domestically and \$572 million internationally since its premiere.

One of the summer's most highly anticipated movies, grossed more than \$155 million in the US box office over its opening weekend, including a massive \$70.5 million opening day, making it the biggest opening weekend of the year and the biggest ever opening weekend for a female-directed movie. *Barbie* went on to earn another \$29 million on its second Friday and nearly \$34.6 million last Saturday.

COUNTRYWIDE

Decades-old bridge poses risk of accident

LALTANLIAN PANGKHUA

An old bridge at Promod Karbari Para in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila has remained in a vulnerable condition due to lack of repair work for long.

As a result, thousands of residents living at different villages in the upazila have been suffering a lot to go to the upazila headquarters and adjacent Barkal upazila.

Mentionable, the bridge, built over three decades ago, is the only way of communication between Baghaichhari and Barkal upazila.

Locals said the bridge has become so vulnerable that a major accident can occur at any time as no repair work has been done since its construction more than 30 years ago.

Now it has become so risky that even when a motorcycle crosses the bridge, it starts shaking, they said.

30 No Sarwartoli Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Bhupati Ranjan Chakma said he had repaired the risky bridge three to four times with his own money to avoid any disaster.

I have urged the authorities concerned to repair the year-old bridge on several occasions, but nothing has been done so

far, added the local UP chairman.

About 30,000 inhabitants of several villages use the vulnerable bridge to go to their destinations, including the upazila headquarters, every day.

Moreover, as there is no alternatives about 100 small vehicles cross the bridge amid risk of accident any time, he said.

During a recent visit to the area this correspondent saw most of the pillars of the bridge have developed numerous cracks, while some of those are falling apart.

While talking, Alok Chakma, a motorcyclist, said though the girder walls of the bridge collapsed long ago, he has cross the bridge amid risk of accident as there is no other alternative.

Local farmers are the worst sufferers as they are compelled to use the risky bridge to carry their agricultural products to nearby markets, Alok said.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) built the 130-foot-long bridge in 1989, but no renovation work has been done since its establishment.

CHTDB Executive Engineer Tusith Chakma said they have already submitted a proposal to the Planning Ministry to construct a Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) bridge there.



This old bridge at Promod Karbari Para in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila has remained in a vulnerable condition, posing threat to a fatal accident. PHOTO: STAR

Saline

FROM PAGE 12

stores inside the hospital.

"Even if you pay me double the actual price, I cannot give you a single bag. You can look for it inside the hospital. Because the companies have been prioritising the hospitals," Khairul said.

Saline producers, on the other hand, claimed that the crisis is at "manageable level".

"There is a crisis, but it is not like that the hospitals will run out of saline. We have been prioritising need-based supply," Khairul Bashar, assistant vice-president of Orion Infusion Ltd, told this correspondent yesterday.

He said his company over the last one month has been running its factory even on the weekends and is currently producing around 2,200 bags a day.

"Around 80 percent of our production is normal saline. All six companies collectively can produce around one lakh bags of saline daily. So, there is no need for importing saline," he added.

The other saline producers are - Beximco, Libra Infusions, Opsonin, Popular, and The ACME Laboratories.

Md Salahuddin, deputy director at Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), told this newspaper on Sunday, "It is not possible to increase production overnight."

Not all countries or banks, especially the offshore countries where money is laundered, cooperate when Bangladesh seeks information on ill-gotten wealth, Momen said.

There needs to be more transparency and accountability in terms of international cooperation as one single country or body cannot prevent corruption of international nature.

"I told them there should be mutual cooperation on curbing corruption," he said, adding that there should be strong mechanisms to repatriate ill-gotten money stuck in foreign banks.

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Rahul returns to House after reinstatement

FROM PAGE 12

opposition alliance led by Congress.

Lawmakers are expected to debate, and then vote, on the government's performance from today to Thursday.

Gandhi, whose father, grandmother and great-grandfather were prime ministers, was convicted in March in a case brought by a BJP lawmaker over 2019 comments deemed insulting to Modi and others with the same name, including the lawmaker.

Upon his conviction, Gandhi, 53, lost his parliamentary seat and was jailed for two years but granted bail.

The Supreme Court last week suspended the conviction, allowing Gandhi to return to parliament and contest next year's elections.

Yesterday, Gandhi entered the parliament building after showing respect to the statue of freedom movement leader Mahatma Gandhi in the complex. He did not speak to reporters.

"I have returned to parliament after paying my respects to Babu," Gandhi later posted on Facebook, referring endearingly to Mahatma Gandhi as father.

Lawmakers from Congress and other opposition parties gathered outside the parliament's entrance to cheer Gandhi and their new alliance called INDIA, or the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance.

The alliance is making plans to run against the BJP in national elections due by May 2024.

building of those working to curb corruption," said Iftekhharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, after the meeting with Nephew at the US embassy.

Bangladesh has quite good policies and laws, but their implementation is weak, he said. In terms of preventing money laundering, the ACC needs to improve its skills, he said.

Iftekhharuzzaman also pointed out that corruption has an international dimension, especially in the case of money laundering.

Some countries created scope for foreign investments without questioning the source of money. Taking advantage of such loopholes, some big fish launder money.

Nephew recognised that this is a problem and will look into the issue, Iftekhharuzzaman told The Daily Star.

"We also said that civil society organisations have to create demand for curbing corruption. This requires creating space for civil society. The US can provide support towards this end," he added.

Women will bear the brunt of extreme heat as more frequent heatwaves on a warming planet pose a growing threat to their work, earnings and lives, researchers have warned.

Record-breaking heat waves across the US forced small businesses to close early in July, according to a report released on August 1, and reduced paid working hours for employees as dangerous temperatures reshape consumer behaviour, reports Reuters.

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Imran held in small, dirty prison cell

Says lawyer, prepares to appeal against his graft conviction

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan is being held in a small, dirty prison cell, one of his lawyer's said yesterday after being given access to the former cricket star in jail as he prepares to appeal against his graft conviction.

Khan, 70, has been at the heart of political turmoil since he was ousted as prime minister in a vote of no confidence last year, raising concern about stability in the nuclear-armed country as it grapples with an economic crisis.

Police took Khan from his home in the city of Lahore on Saturday and transferred him to a jail in Attock district, near the capital Islamabad, where a court convicted him of graft charges arising from the unlawful sale of state gifts and sentenced him to three years in prison.

"I met Imran Khan who told me that 'they've put me in a C-class'," Naem Panjutha, the lawyer, referring to conditions in the jail where he said he spent just under two hours with Khan preparing paperwork for filing his appeal.



"It is a small room which has got an open washroom where he said there were flies in the daytime and insects in the night."

Khan's legal team was also appealing to authorities to secure him better conditions in

jail, Panjutha told reporters in Islamabad earlier. Political prisoners are entitled to better "B class" facilities, including access to television, newspapers and books.

A government spokesperson and the prison authorities did not respond to repeated requests for comment on the conditions in which Khan is being held.

The graft conviction, which Khan rejects as politically motivated, likely means he will be disqualified from running in a general election due by November.

Khan's arrest was the latest in a series of blows that have weakened his political standing after he fell out with the powerful military and his party splintered.

Ever since his ouster, Khan has been campaigning for a snap election and organising protests, which led to significant violence on May 9.



Indian paramilitary troopers carry out a precautionary search operation at a park in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir yesterday, ahead of the country's 77th Independence Day.

PHOTO: AFP

INDIA'S MANIPUR

SC to monitor probes into violence cases

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court said yesterday it will monitor all cases of violence against women committed during three months of sectarian clashes in the northeastern state of Manipur since May.

A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said it will appoint a retired senior police official to oversee all complaints of sexual violence to be probed by the federal Central Bureau of Investigations.

The retired police official will report back to the Supreme Court, Chandrachud said.

Last month videos of two tribal Kuki women being paraded naked by a mob of allegedly majority Meitei men had surfaced attracting international condemnation.

The women had said in their police complaints that they were later gang-raped.

Since then several other cases of women being deliberately targeted in violence that has resulted in more than 180 deaths and rendered tens of thousands homeless.

The court has also created a committee of three retired female judges from different high courts to look into the humanitarian issues emerging from the violence.

One of the smallest states in India, Manipur has a population of around 3.2 million. Meiteis, who are 53 percent of the population reside in the more prosperous valley, while the Kukis with a 16 percent population share live largely in the surrounding hills.

TANKER SEIZURES BY IRAN

Thousands of US sailors, Marines reach Red Sea

Tehran accuses Washington of inflaming regional instability

AFP, Dubai

More than 3,000 United States military personnel have arrived in the Red Sea aboard two warships, part of a beelined response from Washington after tanker seizures by Iran, the US Navy said yesterday.

The deployment adds to a growing US military buildup in tense Gulf waterways vital to the global oil trade and led Tehran yesterday to accuse the US of inflaming regional instability.

The US military says Iran has either seized or attempted to take control of nearly 20 internationally flagged ships in the region over the past two years.

The US sailors and Marines entered the Red Sea on Sunday after transiting through the Suez Canal in a pre-announced deployment, the US Navy's Fifth Fleet said in a statement.

They arrived on board the USS Bataan and USS Carter Hall warships, providing "greater flexibility and maritime capability" to the Fifth Fleet, the statement from the Bahrain-based command added.

The deployment adds to efforts "to deter destabilising activity and de-escalate regional tensions caused by Iran's harassment and seizures of merchant vessels," Fifth Fleet spokesman Commander Tim Hawkins told AFP.

USS Bataan is an amphibious assault ship which can carry fixed-wing and

rotary aircraft as well as landing craft.

The USS Carter Hall, a dock landing ship, transports Marines, their gear, and lands them ashore.

In press conference yesterday, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said US deployments are only serving Washington's interests.

"The US government's military presence in the region has never created security. Their interests in this region have always compelled them to fuel instability and insecurity," he told reporters.

"We are deeply convinced that the countries of the Persian Gulf are capable of ensuring their own security."

The latest deployment comes after Washington said its forces blocked two attempts by Iran to seize commercial tankers in international waters off Oman on July 5.

The maritime services in Iran said one of the two tankers, the Bahamian-flagged Richmond Voyager, had collided with an Iranian vessel, seriously injuring five crew members, according to state news agency IRNA.

In April and early May, Iran seized two oil tankers within a week in regional waters.

Those incidents came after Israel and the United States blamed Iran in November for what they said was a drone strike against a tanker operated by an

Israeli-owned firm carrying gas oil off the coast of Oman.

The US announced last month that it would deploy a destroyer, F-35 and F-16 warplanes, along with the Amphibious Readiness Group/Marine Expeditionary Unit, to the Middle East to deter Iran from seizing ships in the Gulf.

Last week, a US official told AFP that Washington is also preparing to put Marines and Navy personnel aboard commercial tankers transiting the Gulf as an added layer of defence.

Washington's stepped-up military response comes at a time of deepening engagement between the region and China, which brokered a shock detente between Gulf rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran in March.

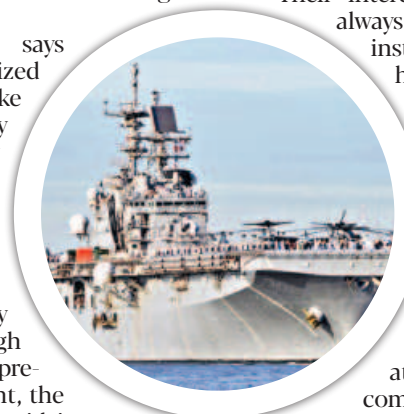
Tehran's relations with other Arab Gulf states are also growing.

The president of the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait's foreign minister were both offered invitations to visit the Islamic Republic last week.

"Security will remain a friction point in US-Gulf relations even if the threat posed by Iranian attacks against shipping eases in the short term," said Torbjorn Soltevd of the risk intelligence firm Verisk Maplecroft.

"The perception that the US isn't doing enough to deter Iranian attacks against international shipping will persist," he told AFP.

"The need for a new approach is evident". Iran on Sunday appointed Mohammed Jafar Montazeri, who is under US and British sanctions, to head the Islamic republic's top court.



Residents carry belongings after heavy rains caused flooding and landslides in Mu Cang Chai district, Yen Bai province, Vietnam yesterday. Flash floods and landslides have killed at least eight people across northern Vietnam, disaster officials said.

THAI ELECTION

Pheu Thai party finds new partners to try to form govt

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand's populist Pheu Thai party yesterday announced that it was forming an alliance with the Bhumjaithai party and was open to other parties joining in to form a government nearly 3 months after polls.

Pheu Thai, led by Shinawatra family, won the second-largest share of votes in the May election and last week stepped up to try and form a government after winner Move Forward's attempts were blocked twice in parliament.

"Pheu Thai and Bhumjaithai party will form the government with the support of other parties," said Pheu Thai leader Cholan Srikaew, adding that Srettha Thavisin remained the party's candidate for prime minister.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy has been beset by political uncertainty since opposition parties rode a wave of anti-establishment support to crush incumbent military-backed rulers at the polls in May.

RE-ELECTION BID

Maldives leader faces seven rivals

AFP, Male

Seven lower-profile candidates registered yesterday to challenge Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih at next month's elections. The independent Elections Commission said a total of eight candidates, including 61-year-old Solih, have filed nominations for the September 9 poll. The Indian Ocean nation embraced multi-party democracy in 2008 after having a one-party since ending its status as a British protectorate in 1965. The jailed main opposition leader Abdulla Yameen was disqualified from election because of his criminal conviction for corruption while president between 2013 and 2018.

SHIPWRECK OFF TUNISIA

16 migrants dead, 44 missing

REUTERS, Tunis

Seven more bodies believed to be of migrants who drowned in a shipwreck off Tunisia have washed ashore, local authorities said yesterday, bringing the confirmed death toll to 16, with 44 still missing and only two rescued. A judicial official said the migrants aboard the boat, which sank off Tunisia's Kerkennah island, were from sub-Saharan African countries. From January 1 to July 20 this year, Tunisian coast guard recovered 901 bodies of drowned migrants. The country is facing a record wave of migration this year and catastrophes involving boats heading to the Italian coast.

THREAT OF INTERVENTION

Niger junta shuts airspace

REUTERS, Niamey

Niger's junta braced for a response from the West African regional bloc yesterday after ignoring its deadline to reinstate the ousted president or face the threat of military intervention. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which has sent military forces into troubled member states in the past, said it would issue a statement on its next steps, responding to the junta's refusal to stand down by Sunday. The bloc has taken a harder stance on the July 26 power grab, the region's seventh coup in three years, than it did on previous ones. On Sunday, as the ECOWAS deadline expired, the junta closed its airspace until further notice.

UNAUTHORISED MIGRANTS

UK hikes fines for employers

AFP, London

The UK government on Sunday announced increased fines for employers and landlords who allow migrants without papers to work for them or rent their properties, as part of measures to deter migrant arrivals. The Conservative government, languishing in the polls ahead of a general election due next year, wants to stop illegal crossings of the English Channel in small boats. The interior ministry said "illegal working and renting are significant pull factors" for migrants making the dangerous journey. Civil penalties for employers will triple to up to £45,000 per worker.

Why is Chattogram drowning?

Address port city's chronic waterlogging issues

It is unacceptable that despite spending huge amounts of money and making many lofty promises over the years, the government has failed to address Chattogram's waterlogging problem. The situation this year has been so bad, in fact, that the port city has gone under water 10 times in the past seven months. Following the latest heavy rainfall, at least 40 percent of the city's area has gone under water, affecting at least 15 lakh people. Aside from causing immense suffering for ordinary people, this flooding has also caused massive losses for businesses and farmers.

According to a 2021 study, Tk 463 crore losses were incurred in one year alone around Khatungonj and its nearby areas in Chattogram due to waterlogging. Most recently, unloading of goods from larger vessels at the outer anchorage of Chattogram Port had to be suspended due to rough seas since Friday, while trade at the Khatungonj Chaktai wholesale hub has dropped significantly. As unloading of goods from bulk carriers at the jetties and delivery of goods have considerably slowed down, at least 25 cargo vessels carrying over 800,000 tonnes of goods have been stranded at the outer anchorage. These vessels are carrying very important goods including wheat, raw sugar, soybean oil, fertilisers, as well as industrial raw materials – a lot of which might get damaged unless they are brought back to land fast. Additionally, importers are having to pay huge sums of money to shipping companies for the use of vessels beyond schedule. And all of these losses might soon get transferred to the consumers, leading to yet another round of price surges.

Over the past six years, the government has spent Tk 5,790 crore to address Chattogram's waterlogging problem, but to no avail. Out of the 40 sluice gates it was supposed to construct during this period, only five have so far been completed. The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), which is implementing a Tk 11,344-crore mega project to mitigate waterlogging, had said before the monsoon that this year's inundation would be less than that of previous years, due to the digging of many canals to address the problem. Blaming the Chattogram City Corporation (CCC), its chief engineer said that the city's drainage system has become ineffective because the CCC has not been cleaning the drains properly. An official from the CCC, meanwhile, has blamed the CDA's failure to complete and hand over the canals for the waterlogging problem.

While the same blame-game that we have seen previously is again being played out, it is the people and businesses that are ultimately losing out. And the fault must fall squarely on the shoulders of the authorities, who have failed to properly coordinate and take responsibility for addressing Chattogram's waterlogging problem over the span of many years. This needs to change. We call upon the government to hold the different organisations entrusted with this responsibility to account, and urgently implement the necessary projects to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

Lacklustre attitude of govt as deadly as dengue itself

Form a centralised response committee to avoid further catastrophe

The dengue outbreak this year has been the deadliest in our history, accompanied by the same tragic story of authorities not taking the issue as seriously as they should. Despite repeated warnings from experts, the health ministry as well as the city corporations have utterly failed to take timely and adequate action, which has proved to be as deadly as the disease itself. The death toll this year has now exceeded 300, and nearly 66,732 people have been infected. Hospitals in the capital have been overwhelmed for weeks, and Shishu Hospital is now turning away children with dengue due to shortage of hospital beds to accommodate the high number of patients. Essential Drugs, the state-owned pharmaceutical company, is rationing supply to public hospitals, unable to meet the high demand for necessary saline due to the unyielding surge in dengue patients, according to a report by this daily.

Earlier in May, experts had warned that Bangladesh will witness a worse dengue outbreak this year and advised city corporations, municipalities, and union parishads to take preventative measures. Almost a month back, when the death toll was 106, we had urged authorities to declare a health emergency over the dengue surge. Yet, even as late as July 22, the Health Minister undermined the necessity of a public health emergency, stating that, "Such a situation has not happened yet that we are not able to give beds to the patients in the hospital, [that] we are not able to give medicines." How much worse does the situation have to get – and how many more children must die – for the authorities to treat the dengue situation with the urgency that it demands?

It is high time for the government to form an emergency response committee to combat further disastrous consequences. We urge the authorities concerned to create a centralised command chain with city corporations, the DGHS, and hospital authorities to coordinate their efforts, prioritising hospital management, curbing further spread of the disease through vector-borne disease prevention work, increasing the mobilisation of resources, and increasing the capacity of testing and treatment in all hospitals. We also back experts' recommendations to collaborate with the World Health Organization – which has been monitoring the situation worldwide – to learn from neighbouring nations which have successfully controlled the outbreak.

Whither Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami?

Ankita Sanyal is working as an associate research fellow at International Centre for Peace Studies (ICPS) in New Delhi.

ANKITA SANYAL

In June, a new party, the Bangladesh Development Party, applied for registration with the Election Commission of Bangladesh. It has been known for some time that the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami – which was deregistered as a political party in 2013 since its constitution contradicts the Bangladesh Constitution – has been contemplating its political future by forming a new party. There has been a debate since 2016 regarding whether the party should reincarnate itself as a new party since all its top leaders had been convicted of war crimes. In 2018, the EC decided not to ban the party, but to cancel their registration following a 2013 High Court order that declared the party's registration illegal. The party would have probably preferred a ban so as to justify the formation of a new party, and also because, if Jamaat is dissolved without a ban, it would essentially be confirming its negative role in the Liberation War.

The War Crimes Tribunal and the hanging of several top leaders of Jamaat after they were convicted has been contested by the party. After 2008, it decided not to participate in the 2014 election following the decision of its alliance partner, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). It participated in the 2018 election under the BNP symbol, as part of the 20-party alliance. Though there was reluctance to include Jamaat in the electoral alliance, given its role in the Liberation War, political expediency prevailed in the end.

Jamaat and BNP: Tactical separation?

Prior to the 2018 election, several leaders within BNP had urged the party to end its alliance with Jamaat. This call for separation was also made by the European Union in 2015, as it was widely believed that Jamaat cadres were involved in widespread violence that had resulted in more than 100 people being killed. Though there was some debate within BNP about its association with Jamaat, in the end it was decided it would not to cut off ties.

Jamaat-e-Islami head Dr Shafiqur Rahman, in a meeting held in August 2022, said, "The alliance has become ineffective." In January this year, BNP and Jamaat held separate programmes. Though some leaders within the BNP attributed Jamaat's decision to go separate ways as "good riddance," the fact remains that the BNP did not have the political courage to de-link with Jamaat. Therefore, this separation

appears to be tactical.

After a decade, Jamaat was allowed to hold a rally in Dhaka on June 10. The permission to hold the rally at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) was granted by overriding another request made by Jatiya Party's youth wing, Jatiyo Jubo Sanghati. Some even speculate a possible understanding between Jamaat and the Awami League, as it has been stated from the government's end that the permission was granted due to "a political decision."

As of now, the two erstwhile allies are holding rallies separately while keeping their options open. Jamaat has always been close to BNP, but seems to have realised that a tactical separation would help it to survive the political turmoil, as Awami League remains focused on discrediting BNP.

in violence against minorities. Though Jamaat in the past has distanced itself from Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, which many believe is the armed wing of the party, most Jamaat leaders in their student days have engaged in politics through Chhatra Shibir. The party has also been at the forefront of a campaign to declare the Ahmadiyya as non-Muslims.

While the EU has been vocal in the past about Jamaat in several of its resolutions, asking the BNP to sever its ties with Jamaat, the US has kept rather quiet regarding the party. In a confidential note, as revealed by Wikileaks, the US Embassy in Dhaka in January 2010 wrote, "Mission Dhaka will continue to engage with Jamaat and Shabbir [Chhatra Shibir] and track their efforts to transform Bangladesh into a

Whither Jamaat-e-Islami?

However, the question is, while the Bangladesh Development Party (BDP) – which many think is a front organisation of Jamaat – is waiting for registration as a new political party, why does Jamaat want to display its political strength by organising rallies, instead of allowing the BDP to emerge? This brings us to another question: is Jamaat expecting the restoration of its registration by the EC? Since it is an established political party, receiving votes in its name would rehabilitate the party in the country's politics, especially post the war crime trials.

Another relatively new party, Amar Bangladesh Party, which is headed by former Jamaat activist Mujibur Rahman Manju, has been denied registration by the EC. AB Party projects itself as



After a decade, Jamaat was allowed to hold a rally in Dhaka on June 10.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Jamaat and the West:

Jamaat-e-Islami remains the largest Islamic fundamentalist party in Bangladesh. But it shares an interesting relationship with the Western countries, especially with the US and those in the European Union. At one point of time, Jamaat was even promoted as a moderate Islamic party. Yet, the US Department of State Country Report on Terrorism 2006 had indicted the Islamic Bank, which had several board members belonging to Jamaat, for funding the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen (JMB), a terrorist organisation. Similarly, it is also known that one of the former JMB leaders, previously Habiganj district head of Jamaat-e-Islami, Saidur Rahman was a *rokan* of Jamaat. However, Jamaat immediately distanced itself from him and argued that Saidur did not belong to the party and had left it a long time back. In 2014, its student organisation was involved

more Islamic state." On July 24, the US ambassador met with the main party functionaries of Jamaat. Meanwhile, the European Union Parliament, following the 2007 violence, had urged the BNP to unequivocally distance itself from Jamaat-e-Islami and Hafezat-e-Islam, which are regarded as the main instigators of the violence, stressing that parties which turn to terrorist acts should be banned.

Jamaat-e-Islami as a party insists on Islamic values and maintenance of purdah. Some of the writings that appear in the newspaper that is controlled by the party discourages mingling between opposite sexes, discourages women from working with men as it would lead to *fitna*, and argues that the prime responsibilities of women are taking care of their husbands, children, and doing household chores.

a reformist party that does not want to burden itself with the history that Jamaat inherited due to their role in supporting the Pakistan Army during the Liberation War. In 2019, Barrister Abdur Razzak resigned from Jamaat, citing the party's role in 1971. Such reformist moves within Jamaat are not new. The party has so far dodged this issue by expelling those who have raised such questions and has survived as a prominent Islamist political party with ideological and monetary strength. Not surprisingly, Jamaat has managed to surface, with its cadres intact, to take the opportunity that the upcoming national election provides. For now, it does not seem in a hurry to implement its larger Islamisation project. But in its hurry to have a multiparty election minus BNP, the AL's flirtation with Jamaat may have serious implications for Bangladeshi society and politics.

Are we underutilising the potential of our youth?



Ifaz Kabir is a director at WARA Ltd.

IFAZ KABIR

According to the most recent census, Bangladesh now has the highest youth population that it has ever had. With individuals aged 15 to 29 years accounting for approximately 28 percent of the total population, the country is on the verge of an exceptional opportunity to boost its economic growth.

However, the road towards this is not without challenges. According to the Labour Force Survey 2016-17, a staggering 79.7 percent of the unemployed population is young people, and perhaps even more concerning is that 89.2 percent of youth employment is in the informal sector. This status quo paints a stark picture of a country falling short of capitalising on its most potent asset: its youth.

On the demand side, structural changes and technological advancement in Bangladesh's economy have driven a need for certain sets of new hard and soft skills. Professional skills like networking, critical thinking, numeracy, and English language proficiency have now emerged as lucrative commodities. Add to this

the escalating flow of fresh graduates entering the labour market, and the situation seems decidedly competitive. Unfortunately, this influx has not been met with an equivalent increase in job creation – mostly due to limited private-sector investment, minimal diversification in manufacturing, and barriers to foreign direct investment.

The obstacles to youth economic engagement are as multifaceted as they are complex. At the core of this issue lies a profound skills gap – a disconnect between the skills our education system offers and those demanded by employers in the labour market. This is evident from the 11.2 percent unemployment rate among youth with tertiary education, compared to the national unemployment rate of 3.6 percent according to the IFS 2022. Vocational and technical training have been found to be inadequate, with low contact hours and equipment shortages impeding skills development.

The disparities extend to internet access, which is an indispensable tool in modern knowledge-based economies. As per the Youth Survey 2018 conducted by BRAC Institute of

Governance and Development (BIGD), a mere 40 percent of young people had access to the internet, with an even lower rate among young women. This digital divide is increasing the education and employment gap between urban and rural youth, effectively creating two distinct classes with varied development opportunities.

Gender disparity is another issue that cannot be ignored in this discourse. With the substantial constraints of social stigma and cultural norms, 92 percent of female youth in Bangladesh fall under the category of NEET (not in education, employment or training). This is particularly alarming since the 2022 Population and Housing Census revealed that females comprise 50.5 percent of the total population and 53.7 percent of the 15-to-29-year cohort. According to a 2018 report by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), on average, each additional hour spent doing household tasks increases the chances of entering NEET status by 0.16 percent for female youth.

On top of all these, the Covid-19 pandemic intensified the state of inequity and access, causing unprecedented learning losses and creating a misaligned labour market environment.

The Bangladesh government has a pivotal role to play in leading the nation towards correcting the mismatch between skills demanded and supplied. Prioritising investment in quality education, and vocational, and technical training will facilitate a much-needed structural transformation towards a more

productive youth labour force for highly productive sectors. Meanwhile, providing the youth with easy access to funding and information to start their businesses can boost employment.

On the other hand, youth must proactively align their skills with the ever-evolving labour market and learn to market themselves professionally and utilise digital platforms like LinkedIn. Moreover, they must adopt a positive attitude towards vocational and technical training and labour-intensive jobs, which have more demand than supply in the market.

The community has a crucial role to play as well. By encouraging the completion of education and ensuring access to employment opportunities for disengaged or left-behind youth, the community can be a crucial catalyst for socio-economic upliftment. Furthermore, altering the deep-rooted social norms that inhibit women's workforce participation is a collective responsibility we must shoulder. Through collective action, we can dismantle the social barriers that prevent females from participating in the workforce and ensure that no one is left behind.

To say that the stakes are high would be an understatement. With a booming youth population, Bangladesh now has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leapfrog into a higher growth trajectory. This responsibility is on us all – the government, the youth, and the community collectively should surmount these challenges and realise our demographic dividend's full potential.

Every country has its own Manipur



Altaf Parvez is a researcher of history.

ALTAF PARVEZ

News of the troubles in the Indian state of Manipur has spread beyond Asia to Europe and the US. It is no longer a simple issue. But many have been surprised to see that it took the Indian prime minister almost 80 days to share his views on the violence in Manipur. The reason behind this can be hypothesised.

Out of the 543 seats of the Lok Sabha, Manipur only has two. The northeastern states (eight, including Sikkim) have a total of just 25 seats in the Lok Sabha, which translates to less than five percent voting power, even though these states are home to a couple dozen different peoples. The question is: with so little political power, how can these populations obligate national-level policymakers to address their problems?

There are many 'invisible Manipurs' in South and Southeast Asia

This is not a problem limited to the northeast of India. Neither is it limited to India itself. Similar situations can be observed all over South and Southeast Asia.

Consider the Chin state neighbouring Manipur. Out of the 664 seats in Myanmar's bicameral parliament, the Chin state only has 21. Similar realities are faced by the Kachin, Karen, and Rakhine in different states of the country. The country's military and non-military authority has always been strictly under the control of the ethnic majority Barmars. Myanmar is a stark example of what happens when a country of vast ethnic diversity is subjected to the totalitarian dominance of one ethnicity.

In Bangladesh's parliament, too, the number of non-Bangalee representatives is very low. Usually, only three or four members out of

by direct elections, the Baloch only have 16, whereas Punjab has 141 seats. The logic behind such discrepancy is population variance. But the immediate result of it is that, in policymaking debates and polls, minorities are weakened. Even after 75 years of independence, the Baloch voice has been kept quiet in a systematic way. It is perhaps natural for separatism to take root in a society such as this. In fact, what's unnatural is covering up their sorrow or forcefully stilling its expression.

Bhutan has been known as a small nation of happy citizens in this region. That is how they have been portrayed. But a large part of the ethnic minority, the Nepali-speaking community in Bhutan, has been driven out of their homes, forced to take refuge elsewhere for long.

The question is, how much longer must the Nepalese in Bhutan, the Tamil in Sri Lanka, the Baloch in Pakistan or the ethnic minorities in India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar wait for their problems to be solved?

This question can also be framed like so: what can these minorities do if the majority in power in these countries are not able to provide durable solutions to their problems? Given the internal political structures, the minorities are not in a situation where they can force the power brokers to listen to them. There are no regional structures, either, through which all ethnic minorities in a country can sit together and voice their issues. Perhaps such a system could have helped the minorities gain more visibility.

'Identity politics' is a dark chasm

Many have been asking what the



Protestors in New Delhi on July 21 hold placards as they attend a protest against the alleged sexual assault of two tribal women in the eastern state of Manipur, India.

PHOTO: REUTERS

live in the mountainous regions surrounding Manipur. Its capital, Imphal, is mainly inhabited by the Meitei. So how can this complicated geography be split in a way that would satisfy both parties?

Secondly, the Naga people from neighbouring Nagaland also have claims upon the Kuki regions. The Naga want the Kuki regions to be included within their desired state of "Nagalim." In their view, those are ancient Naga regions. This claim isn't entirely false. The Naga outnumber Kukis in Manipur. The one common factor between them is that both practise Christianity. Perhaps this is why, in the current conflict between the Hindu Meitei and the Kuki, the

In the past, many states in India have been formed in this way. But that did not result in the expected level of harmony between communities. For example, the mountainous regions of the Khasi, the Jaintia, and the Garo of Assam were once put together to form Meghalaya. In this Bangladesh-adjacent state, the Khasi make up half of the population. Among the rest, the Garo and the Jaintia are the main tribal groups. Now, the Garo want a separate state within Meghalaya. Until that happens, some Garo organisations are demanding that Tura be named the winter capital of the state. The basis of this demand is that the actual capital of the state, Shillong, is mainly a Khasi region. On the other hand, in response to the Garo's demand of making Tura the winter capital for six months each year, the Jaintia have begun demanding that their main city, Jowai, be named the spring capital for a few months every year, too. This chain of demands reveals that even though Assam was split to form the new state of Meghalaya, the ethnic harmony has not been achieved in the region.

This is the dark chasm of identity politics. You can keep moving forward, yet never reach the light. But identity politics is a stark reality surrounding us. We all have to face it eventually.

This crisis was mainly created during the era of colonial rule. The British took over the lands of many small ethnic groups and abstracted their loyalty to the crown. They kept these regions as "princely states," without compromising their cultural independence. But the British left behind a catastrophic situation when they left after nearly two centuries. Without thinking of future outcomes, they handed over the responsibility

of all the ethnic minorities in vast South Asia to the ethnic majorities. But even this could have been a non-issue, had independent Myanmar, India, Pakistan, or Sri Lanka built nations where the cultural, religious, and citizen rights of minorities were protected under the certainty of sovereignty. But this has rarely happened.

Manipur is the symptom of a deep, hidden illness

After 1947, the majority elites of the independent countries in this region have always tried to establish centralised states instead of decentralising power. The natural resources of these regions have been handed over to national and foreign businesses through various means. In trying to make this process as "seamless" as possible, a tactic of setting one small minority against another was employed. Almost always and everywhere, a group of obedient politicians and intellectuals is created from among the minorities to safeguard the interests of the majority.

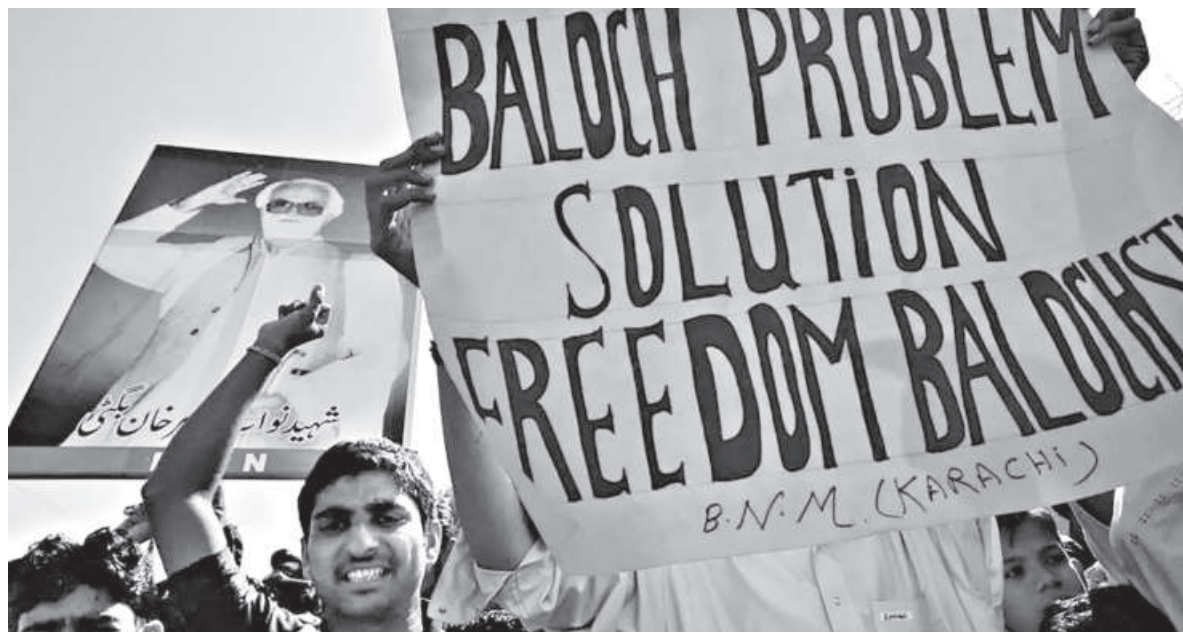
There are two other procedures that are implemented to create cultural hegemony in these regions. Firstly, there's the prevalence of tourism; the second is encouraging various religious organisations to ramp up their operation. At first glance, these activities may seem innocuous. But these efforts have done a lot to disrupt the peace among the minority communities in South and Southeast Asia. Almost all such regions are now more or less under the hegemony of outsiders, and the culture that these outsiders bring. These invisible interferences have happened in a variety of ways over the last 70-80 years. The counter reaction has been

a destructive identity-driven politics, which is hateful and conservative by nature. But every ethnic minority seems to think that this will be their salvation.

This is what we have been seeing in Manipur. A lot can be learned from this crisis if it is viewed as a symbolic event in South and Southeast Asia. The Meitei flatlands and the Kuki mountains have been at peace for centuries, and now they are stooping to lows as heinous as stripping women of the other community naked and exhibiting them in public. If we simply criticise New Delhi because of this incident, we won't be able to make progress. Instead, we must try to figure out how these minority communities got here, and how they might get out of this situation.

The answer to that is that the majorities living in the political and cultural epicentres of many countries in the world have created this reactionary situation. This was not a problem that materialised in an instant. This has been established through the use of trickery and tactics over decades. The way to freedom from this is an overhaul of the existing state structure, a complete decentralisation of the administration. Dialogue must take place with the minorities. The dominance of cultural and political epicentres that have been around since the colonial era must be dismantled. In reality, South Asia or Southeast Asia is not ready for that. One country looks at another country's 'Manipur' and bathes in secret schadenfreude. But none of them understand one thing: they all suffer from this deep, secret illness.

Translated by Azmin Azran.



FILE PHOTO: AFP

Even after 75 years of independence, the Baloch voice has been kept quiet in a systematic way in Pakistan.

the 300 are directly elected, and a further one or two get into the 50 seats reserved for women. There is little scope for minority peoples to exert influence on national-level politics.

In Sri Lanka, the Tamils are in a similar state. A Tamil being elected as president in the current presidential system is not something the Sinhalese are ready to accept easily. In the 225-member parliament, there are only 10 members of the TNA (Tamil National Alliance). Out of the nine states of Sri Lanka, the Tamil have complete control over only one state in the north.

Out of the 226 seats in Pakistan's national assembly that are filled

Indian government can do for the Kuki people in Manipur. But the real question should be: can they do anything at all?

The answer is both yes and no.

The Manipur government and the New Delhi government can definitely increase security for the Kuki. They will certainly try to do that. One reason behind this not being done over the last three months is the lack of cooperation by the Meitei in Manipur. The other reason is the geography of Northeast India.

The Kuki now want to break away from Manipur and form their own state. There are major roadblocks to the Indian government accepting this demand. Firstly, the Kuki

Naga people are sympathising with the latter. But in the past, the Naga and Kuki have also been involved in armed struggles, with many killed and wounded on both sides. All of this means that splitting Manipur in two regions, one each for the Meitei and the Kuki, won't really resolve the current issue. Splitting it into two won't be easy, either. But be it today or tomorrow, this will eventually happen. Despite living side-by-side for centuries, the Meitei and Kuki consider each other to be enemies, to such an extent that they can't be kept in the same state under the same administration for long. As a result, the face of Manipur will change.

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন			
সম্পত্তি বিভাগ			
সেক্টর পয়েন্ট, প্লট নং-২৩-২৬, রোড নং-৪৬, গুলশান-২১, ১০ম তলা, ঢাকা।		শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি	
স্মারক নং-৪৬.১০.০০০০.০৯৩.৫২.৪৩৬.২২-৩৮৭		তারিখঃ ০৬/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ	
"নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"			
১।	এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন অঞ্চল-০৩-এর বিদ্যুৎ শাখার ইনভেন্টরি, রাবার ব্যাটের মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ, উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ শেষে পুরাতন অকেজো/ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী বৈদ্যুতিক মালামাল (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থায় তিহিত) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য যে, দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন দরপত্র বিক্রয় করা হবে না।	স্যালজেবল মূল্য	সিডিউল মূল্য
২।	নিলামযোগ্য মালামালঃ ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন অঞ্চল-০৩ এর বিদ্যুৎ শাখার ইনভেন্টরি, রাবার ব্যাটের মেরামত ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ, উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ শেষে পুরাতন অকেজো/ব্যবহার অনুপযোগী বৈদ্যুতিক মালামাল ইনভেন্টরি অন্তর্ভুক্ত। (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থায় তিহিত)	৬,৪৮,৫৪৭.৫/- (ছয় লক্ষ আটচল্লিশ হাজার পাঁচশত সাতচল্লিশ দশমিক পাঁচ) টাকা।	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা।
৩।	জামানত	মোট উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ) হারে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট মেয়র, ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন, বরাবরে জমা দিতে হবে। জামানত ব্যতিতে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।	
৪।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	সকল শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ ফর্ম/ ব্যবসায়ী ও অস্বাভাবিক ব্যক্তি/ব্যক্তিবর্গ।	
৫।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	(১) প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, ডিএনসিসি, (২) আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, অঞ্চল-(সকল), ডিএনসিসি, (৩) হোসাবা বিভাগ, ডিএনসিসি।	
৬।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর এবং আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় (সকল), ডিএনসিসি।	
৭।	দরপত্রের পর্যায়	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১ম পর্যায়	২১/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ	২১/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ	২২/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ
২য় পর্যায়	০৪/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ	০৫/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ	০৬/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ
৩য় পর্যায়	১৮/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ	১৯/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ
৮।	দরপত্রের সহিতঃ	(ক) ব্যক্তিগত ক্ষেত্রে পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি-২ কপি। (খ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (গ) টিআইএন এন সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি (যে) কোম্পানীর ক্ষেত্রে ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের ফটোকপি দরপত্র দাখিলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে (ঙ) উদ্ধৃত নম্বরের উপর ৩০% (শতকরা ত্রিশ ভাগ) জামানতের অর্থ ঢাকা ছে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে মাননীয় মেয়র এর অনুমুদিত ইস্যুকৃত পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে (চ) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের চালান কপি জমা দিতে হবে।	
৯।	নির্ধারিত মূল্যে সিডিউল চূড়ান্ত হিসাব নং-৩০০০০৪১১৮, সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, গুলশান নিউ নর্থ সার্কেল, ঢাকা জমাদানপূর্বক উপযুক্ত কার্যালয়সমূহ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণকারী অফিসসমূহ হতে নির্ধারিত তারিখে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দেখতে পারবেন।		
১০।	দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণকারী ইচ্ছুক প্রতিষ্ঠান, ব্যক্তিবর্গ নিলামযোগ্য বর্ণিত মালামাল সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে যেকোন তথ্য সম্পত্তি বিভাগ হতে জানা যাবে।		
১১।	বিজ্ঞপ্তির যেকোনো শর্ত পরিবর্তন ও পরিবর্তন এবং কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা ব্যতিরেকে ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সরঞ্জাম করেন।		

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Reopen the closed jute mills after reforms

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) was established in 1972 with 78 jute mills. But over time, due to losses and mismanagement, the number of state-owned jute mills came down to 25 in 2020. The BJMC was incurring losses to the tune of hundreds of crores of taka year after year, but it did not address the corruption or the management issues that were behind this. Sadly, the government

announced the closure of state-owned jute mills in 2020.

It is surprising that when the state-owned mills closed down, private jute mills were making profits. The government had promised that it would reopen the jute mills under private initiatives. But that still has not happened. Many jute mill workers are passing their days in hardship, waiting for work opportunities in the new

jute mills once they are reopened.

At present, the demand for jute and jute products is increasing in the world market. The government should take this opportunity and make concrete plans to rejuvenate our jute sector, employ the unemployed jute mill workers and end their sufferings.

Md Maruf Hasan Bhuiyan
Feni

১১৮

প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা
ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন
ফোন নং-৯৮৫০৯২২



Young leaders from Bangladesh at Women Deliver 2023



NAHIAN JAMAL JOYEETA

The location of the conference in Rwanda allowed people of colour and representatives from the Global South to share their challenges without a colonised narrative attached to them.

Tanjila Mazumder Drishti
The Regional Lead for Asia
at BRAC International

Women Deliver 2023, one of the largest global multi-sectoral conferences devoted to advancing gender equality, was held in the city of Kigali, Rwanda, from July 17 to 20. The event's 6,300 in-person attendees and additional 200,000 online visitors demonstrated a global commitment to empowering women and achieving gender parity.

The conference provided a platform for young people all over the world to advocate for the policies and solutions they felt were most important. Remarkable young leaders from Bangladesh, who each hosted a panel and joined lively discussions representing the Global South, brought us accounts of their experiences from the conference.

Winner of a prize for social entrepreneurship and activism, Nowshin Mehzabin Chowdhury, reflected on the experience, saying, "It was incredibly empowering to stand in a global space and know that I was being heard."

She found the young leaders' charisma, commitment, and values to be motivating at

the 2016 conference, which she attended as a sponsored young delegate.

"It was like walking into a city full of possibilities where everyone has the same goal and is working from different angles to achieve equality, equity, and sustainability for all," said Nowshin upon returning from the conference this year.

Nowshin discussed youth-led labour market assessment and community mentoring for teen girls and young women at a USAID and FHI 360 HIV prevention session titled 'Shifting Power to Adolescent Girls and Young Women'. She felt empowered by bringing in Bangladeshi examples and advocating for local perspectives that emphasise youth involvement in policy-making.

Tanjila Mazumder Drishti, currently the Regional Lead for Asia at BRAC International, joined Women Deliver with a decade of experience in international development. She talked about the conference's dedication to emancipation through the co-creation of effective interventions with public and private partners, so the two were a natural fit. She presided over a panel on 'Transformative Education Approaches for Out-of-School Girls in the Global South', which discussed the obstacles to education that girls in the Global South face due to problems like childbirth, marriage, and poverty.

"The location of the conference in Rwanda allowed people of colour and representatives from the Global South to share their challenges without a colonised narrative attached to them," Tanjila pointed out.

MD Sohanur Rahman, another Bangladeshi who joined the conference, is a climate activist and advocate. He has played a significant role in the environmental justice movement in Bangladesh. The groundwork he laid with vulnerable youth and the intersex and transgender communities in rural Bangladesh prepared him to make a more significant contribution to the international effort to combat climate change and promote gender diversity.

Sohanur talked about local initiatives and policies at a panel called 'Spaces, Solidarity, and Solutions'. The goal of the panel was to talk about inequality in Bangladesh and how disasters affect communities that are already considered social outcasts. He said that giving

a voice to those who do not have one means helping them develop and encouraging them to help make policies and solutions. Sohanur said, "At the conference, we saw a political willingness that we want to see here in Bangladesh."

Talking about the theme of the conference, Sohanur and Nowshin placed a strong emphasis on "taking cultural and religious ethos, pathos, and logos into account", because it was centred on issues pertaining to gender, sexuality, and abortion rights this year. "These vital topics served as a springboard for bringing the discussion to political bodies, thereby kicking off progress and shattering both political and social taboos."

The conference's emphasis on innovative educational strategies for girls in the Global South inspired Tanjila. She thinks that reviving the momentum of Women Deliver in Bangladesh could lead to the empowerment of marginalised communities. She went on to say, "One conference may not solve everything, but Bangladesh is no longer a colonised basket case. It has broken out with its own stories of development and economic independence."

At the global exhibition that took place during Women Deliver 2023, Bangladesh was represented by Brac, a non-governmental organisation that is dedicated to empowering communities across Asia and Africa. Nowshin and Tanjila both praised the attendance and hoped for a larger Bangladeshi presence at future conferences to help boost Bangladesh's international profile and foster international partnerships.

Women Deliver 2023 was a groundbreaking event that promoted equal rights for men and women. It was a transformative experience that reaffirmed Bangladesh's young leaders' commitment to social change, and they believe these events could give Bangladeshi youth a voice and perspective.

Tanjila, Sohanur, and Nowshin serve as examples of why more young people should take part in policy dialogues to talk about their own problems, such as mental and physical health, education, and jobs, to advocate for meaningful change and create a rights-achieving nation on par with the global superpowers.

The importance of building strong parent-teacher relationships

A.M. FAHAD

Education requires a collaborative effort between students, teachers, parents, and educational institutions. As people whose concerns are interlaced with our academic lives, parents can be our closest support systems. Needless to say, a strong parent-teacher relationship can play a crucial role in providing the student with a positive learning experience.

"Often, students want to learn something new or experience new things outside of their regular educational environment," says Khadiza Begum, an Assistant Professor at Cambrian College. "Teachers can understand their students. Effective communication between a teacher and a parent and establishing a support system for the student can lead to positive results inside and outside of the academic sphere."

"Weekly or monthly meetings between students and parents help a teacher communicate a student's shortcomings to their parents or guardians. It helps the guardian work on the student's needs, helping them overcome any



"Often, students want to learn something new or experience new things outside of their regular educational environment,"

obstacles they might be facing," adds Khadiza.

Maintaining open lines of communication is necessary to build the foundations of a strong parent-teacher relationship. While some guardians don't communicate with their teachers often, many tend to over-communicate to the point that it disrespects the teacher's boundaries and causes more harm than good. Participating in conversations with the teacher while understanding and respecting their professional boundaries helps the teacher address their concerns better. It also creates a safe space for the student to grow.

"My mother helped me mentally cope with academic pressure and also provided me with a lot of support whenever it came to participating in extracurricular activities," says Nishat Rahman, an HSC Candidate from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School. "I think it's more difficult for students who don't get that amount of support from parents or teachers."

When parents actively participate in school activities, it allows them to witness the impact of education on their children while being an active part of their life. The more a guardian becomes a part of the school's community, the better they can understand the environment their child is growing up in. It helps them understand their child's interests and behaviour outside of the home.

"Our understanding of our children is never complete," says Khurshida Akter, the parent of a student who goes to Viqarunnisa Noon School and College. "A teacher works with many students. They understand their potential and can nurture them better than anyone else. As people who spend a significant amount of time with them, teachers also see their shortcomings and flaws better than most of us. A healthy relationship with your child's teacher can only contribute to the child's personal and academic growth."

A strong parent-teacher relationship is a collaborative effort that requires open communication, mutual respect, and active involvement. Building such a relationship takes time and understanding, so it's necessary to take it into consideration both the parent's and the teacher's perspective to develop a healthy, nurturing support system for the student.

A guide to your first visit to the gynaecologist

AZRA HUMAYRA

In the bustling chaos of 2020, amidst the pandemic's confinements, I found myself in the clutches of a puzzling predicament that sent shockwaves through my entire being - my period had gone inexplicably missing. As a woman with a trusty regular menstrual cycle, this was an unsettling surprise. Then, as if mocking my distress, when my period finally decided to make a reappearance, it chose to do so with a vengeance. A 28-day-long period - a peculiar form of irony that felt like a cruel taunt from the universe itself.

Navigating uncharted territory, I braved my first gynaecologist visit at 21, determined to escape the grips of self-diagnosis. Looking back, a few essential tips could have calmed my nerves and stilled the uncertainties. Today, I'll be sharing those tips with you.

Track your cycle

Menstrual cycle tracking is simple to handle using calendars or specialised apps. By using these tools, you can gain insights into your ovulation days and correctly count the time between each cycle, which can range from 28 to 35 or even 40 days for various people. If

it's anything different than this scenario you must speak to your doctor about it.

Trust your instincts

Nobody knows your body better than you do. If you see anything out of the ordinary, keep a close eye on it. It is critical to get counsel from your gynaecologist if you are experiencing symptoms like severe cramping out of nowhere, unusually large clots, or intermenstrual bleeding.

Tell everything to your gynaecologist

When presented with the potential of discussing private things with their healthcare professionals, many women experience anxiety, as society standards have long promoted silence on such subjects. But remember, your doctor is here to help you. They have heard it all and nothing that you say will faze them. The doctor will treat the situation according to the



diagnosis. If they are presented with fragmented information, you might not get the help you require. Tell them the details, your situations, and concerns.

Getting an ultrasound

Usually, doctors suggest an ultrasound whenever you're facing cycle irregularities. Ultrasound imaging is used to look for abnormalities, blockages, and other conditions that could be causing your menstrual irregularity. If an ultrasound exam reveals any problems, it can help determine where to focus for additional testing, eventual diagnosis, and management. You must have a full bladder when you're getting an ultrasound. To fasten the process, you can get an ultrasound before you visit the

gynaecologist, it will save you some time.

Issues with pills

The most common remedy given by gynaecologists is pills to regulate your hormones. However, sometimes the side effects of the pills can be so dire that they might hamper your daily activities. Communicate with your doctor about your experiences with hormonal medication. They might suggest you a different medication to accommodate your needs.

Do not lose sleep over it

In most cases, a missed period once in a while is no cause for concern. Drastic lifestyle changes, stress, gaining or losing significant weight, or vigorous exercising can cause your cycle to be irregular.

Just like visiting your doctor for a routine checkup, visiting your gynaecologist once in a while is just being safe. For me, it was to ease my mind and to stop myself from frantically googling what was wrong with me.

Azra Humayra is majoring in Journalism and enjoys French New Wave films. Find her at: azrahumayra123@gmail.com

BCB to make major decisions today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is set to take a few major decisions today, including determining the new ODI captain, in a meeting that will be presided over by the board president Nazmul Hassan Papon in Mirpur.

As things stand, star allrounder Shakib Al Hasan is in pole position to take up the reins of the Tigers' ODI unit as Papon mentioned on Saturday that appointing Shakib would be the 'easiest choice' keeping in mind the Asia Cup later this month and the ODI World Cup in India in October-November.

According to sources, Papon and other board members will discuss the matter with Shakib, skipper of the Test and T20I sides, today and get his opinion on being in charge of the ODI side as well after Tamim Iqbal stepped down from the role last week.

Coach Chandika Hathurusingha is also slated to return to the country today, and the Sri Lankan is expected to be present in the vital meeting.

It was also learned that the selectors are expected to announce the 20-22 member preliminary squad today before revealing the main squad for the Asia Cup.

Apart from Shakib, wicketkeeper-batter and vice captain of the ODI side, Liton Das, was also considered as an option for the captaincy role. However, it was learned that the board remains concerned over handing the player the burden of leading the side in major events like the Asia Cup and the World Cup, especially considering his underwhelming form in the past year.

The captaincy issue aside, the board will also discuss appointing the team director for the upcoming events, with former Bangladesh captain and BCB director Khaled Mahmud Sujon reportedly being considered to assume the role once again. The board is also likely to discuss the inclusion of experienced Mahmudullah Riyad in the squad for the upcoming flagship events.

PCB appoints Inzamam as new chief selector

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan appointed former cricket captain Inzamam-ul-Haq as their new chief selector on Monday, giving him the task of picking squads for the Asia Cup and subsequent World Cup later this year.

The 53-year-old replaces Haroon Rasheed, who was shown the door after a change in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) set-up two months ago.

In a PCB press release, Inzamam said the new job was challenging.

"Heading the selection committee is a tough job, but it will be more challenging this time with Asia Cup and World Cup around the corner," he was quoted as saying.



People take pictures of the ICC World Cup trophy in front of the Padma Multipurpose bridge yesterday afternoon after the silverware arrived in Bangladesh in the early hours of the day. The iconic trophy will be displayed at two more venues before leaving the country tomorrow.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Franchise leagues helping Taskin and Co face 'DIFFERENT PRESSURE'

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Taskin Ahmed's short stint in the Zim Afro T10 league was tremendous -- the pacer ended up among the highest wicket-takers with 11 scalps from seven games maintaining a very impressive economy rate.

Taskin had to use variations that he perhaps did not think of previously and those are the kind of experiences that can take someone's cricket to a new level and help them gather much-required nous of the global level.

Having had to skip so many franchise league opportunities, it was no surprise that playing in the Zim Afro T10 league felt very special to Taskin.

"Playing in a franchise-based league for the first time was a great experience. There is a different pressure in franchise cricket and I feel playing these types of leagues gives a very good experience. Also, being able to play them when the opportunity arises is a good thing," Taskin told The Daily Star yesterday.

Franchise leagues pit players of different calibre against each other, requiring everyone to come up with different approaches. And Taskin only wants to keep on improving in this regard.

"I want to keep my improvement curve upward. Giving my best and trying smartly is what is in my control," Taskin was hopeful of further improvement.

Taskin's spells in the T10 on flat wickets showed the level of adjustments that even

faster bowlers need to make in a batter-dominated format. With a bowler only allowed to bowl two overs, the challenge is steep, and taking on such challenges was important ahead of the ODI World Cup in India where such flat pitches are expected to be awaiting.

"Batters' intent in T10 cricket is very high and it is not easy to bowl economically. I was focusing on execution.



It was a great experience, it doesn't matter whether the format is Test or T10.

"It's difficult to hit good deliveries and when you can execute according to your strengths that's always the best thing. The tournament went very well but there are big tournaments coming ahead for me and I will try to do well. Process-wise, my work now is to do the hard work off the field and practice the right way before giving my best on the field," Taskin, who bowled at an economy of 7.85 -- the lowest among the top 20 wicket takers -- said about the challenges he faced.

Tawhid Hridoy's case is similar to Taskin's as he kept his international exploits going in the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL).

Hridoy managed 141 runs -- third-highest in the LPL top scorers' list -- at an average of 47 in four games, that too on pitches where deliveries do not come easily to the bat. Despite conditions in Sri Lanka making it difficult for batters to time their shots, vastly experienced Shakib Al Hasan bore the brunt of fellow Hridoy's aggression when the youngster struck an unbeaten 44 off 23 against Galle Titans.

The other player who played in the Zim Afro T10 League, Mushfiqur Rahim, scored 126, averaging the same, as he always batted till the end in T10 league.

Shakib, meanwhile, is the sixth-highest wicket-taker in LPL, gathering further experience ahead of the Asia Cup.

On the other hand, Liton Das' maiden stint in the GT20 Canada did not go according to plan as he scored only 143 runs in eight matches but it could go a long way to toughening him up for the opportunities that might appear in the future.

Considering how players from Bangladesh are currently doing in different franchise-based leagues, it is now up to the Bangladesh Cricket Board to facilitate such opportunities when they do arrive. Contrary to the notion that playing in foreign leagues would somehow negatively affect the players' performance in the national team, players can actually return to the national team with more confidence, knowledge, and with an expanded set of skills gained from playing in different formats and conditions.

New faces in Australia's extended WC squad

REUTERS, Melbourne

Marnus Labuschagne's World Cup dreams are over after the batter was left out of Australia's extended 18-member squad for the showpiece tournament in India later this year.

Uncapped duo of leg-spinner Tanveer Sangha and all-rounder Aaron Hardie have been picked in the squad, which would later be trimmed to 15, Cricket Australia said in a statement on Monday.

A five-match series in South Africa in September will be the first assignment of the Pat Cummins-led side, the cricket board said.

Labuschagne has played 30 of Australia's 38 matches since his debut in early 2020 and was part of the team that won a three-match series in India in March this year.

Skipper Cummins sustained a wrist injury during the recent Ashes series that will keep him out of the three-match T20 series in South Africa preceding the one-dayers.

"We view a period of enforced rest for Pat as a positive ahead of this important World Cup campaign," Australia's selection chair George Bailey said in a statement.

"There are still a number of games he could play before the World Cup which is more than enough for him to have a strong preparation."

In his absence, Marsh will lead Australia in the T20 series in South Africa.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell will miss the ODIs in South Africa as he expects the arrival of his first child, and will join the team in India for a three-match ODI series in September.

Five-time champions Australia will begin their World Cup campaign with an Oct. 8 clash with hosts India in Chennai.

Australia ODI squad: Pat Cummins (captain), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Nathan Ellis, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Tanveer Sangha, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, David Warner, Adam Zampa



Australia players celebrate Caitlin Foord's opening goal during a 2-0 win over Denmark in the Round of 16 of the Women's World Cup in front of nearly 76,000 fans in Sydney yesterday. In another Round of 16 encounter, England survived the sending-off of Lauren James to scrape past Nigeria on penalties. The defeat was cruel on Nigeria, the world's 40th-ranked team, who followed up their impressive performances in the group stage by pushing England all the way.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Why are our opinions not being heard?'

REUTERS

The new rules that English football has enacted to avoid time wasting will increase player workload in an already packed schedule, Manchester United defender Raphael Varane said on Monday as he slammed authorities for ignoring player concerns.

As part of the new regulations, referees will add the exact time lost in goal celebrations, substitutions or injuries to the stoppage time. In previous seasons, the policy was to aggregate a nominal period of time.

There were eight minutes of added time in the second half of Arsenal's victory over Manchester City in the Community Shield, while several matches in the second-tier Championship's first round had 10 or more minutes of added time.

"From the managers and players, we have shared our concerns for many years now that there are too many games, the schedule is overcrowded, and it's at a dangerous level for players physical and mental well-being," Varane said on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

"Despite our previous feedbacks, they have now recommended for next season:

longer games, more intensity, and less emotions to be shown by players.

"We just want to be in good condition on the pitch to give 100% to our club and fans. Why are our opinions not being heard?"

City manager Pep Guardiola also criticised the officiating changes after the Premier League champions conceded an equaliser in the 11th minute of stoppage time.

"What is their opinion, we have to accept it. Now the games will be 100 minutes, that's for sure," Guardiola told reporters on Sunday.

"It never happened today and it was eight minutes, imagine if they extend for goals and every time you score a goal in a game (that is) 4-3. You put 30 seconds, 45 seconds on for seven goals, tomorrow morning 9 am I am here playing."

The Community Shield also demonstrated how officials would enforce new rules established to improve the behaviour of players, managers and fans, with Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta being shown a yellow card for protesting a refereeing decision on the touchline.

"I just said 'listen, I cannot change my behaviour in three days'," Arteta told reporters of his yellow card.



Both Cristiano Ronaldo and his longtime archrival Lionel Messi got their names on the scoresheet for their respective clubs on Sunday. Al Nassr's Ronaldo scored the opener in their 3-1 win over Raja Casablanca in the quarterfinal to see his Saudi Pro League outfit make it to the Arab Club Champions Cup semifinal for the first time since the turn of the century. Messi, meanwhile, scored twice, including a brilliant late equaliser from a trademark curling freekick, as Inter Miami advanced past FC Dallas to the quarterfinals of the Leagues Cup on penalties after an enthralling 4-4 draw.

PHOTO: AFP/INSTAGRAM



'Sanctions a tool against corruption'

Says US state dept coordinator for global anti-corruption

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Richard Nephew, the US state department coordinator for global anti-corruption, has said they may consider sanctions as a tool against corruption and will look at integrity while funding big projects.

"There was no discussion on any individual, but Nephew said sanction is a tool against corruption. They can also consider this [in future]," said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen when asked if there was any discussion sanctioning 11 Bangladeshi individuals for money laundering as reported by a local media outlet yesterday.

Momen's comments came after a meeting with Nephew and Peter Haas, the US ambassador to Bangladesh, at the Foreign Service Academy.

Nephew led a three-member delegation to Bangladesh on Sunday and met officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Bank, Momen and a group of

civil society leaders yesterday.

In future, the US will consider the viability of projects in terms of integrity and environment, especially while funding big projects, Momen said. "So, we should be prepared."

Bangladesh has the National Integrity Strategy, which should be practised by all.

"We also need to be careful of the developments internationally so that our development trajectory is smooth."

The US will share concrete information in the future with the foreign ministry, which will then share it with the planning and other ministries or bodies concerned, Momen said.

Nephew wanted to know how the foreign ministry works on curbing corruption.

In response, Momen said the ministry provides training to its officials and evaluates the performance and financial integrity of the missions.

He also detailed how Bangladesh



Richard Nephew



The Airport-Farmgate section of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway is nearing completion in order to be ready for the September inauguration. The photo taken yesterday in Farmgate shows the expressway's exit ramp at Indira Road. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Investigators get time to probe for 102nd time



COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended till September 11 the deadline for submitting the probe report on the 2012 murder of journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi.

This is the 102nd extension of the report submission deadline.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rashidul Alam passed the order after Rab Additional Superintendent of Police Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, also the investigation officer of the murder case, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

The same court on June 22 had asked Rab to submit the probe report by yesterday.

Earlier, two other courts had expressed dissatisfaction over the probe and the investigators' failure to establish the motive behind the murder and arrest the real culprits.

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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Saline disappearing from store shelves in Dhaka

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

Injectable saline solution, an essential fluid used for treating dengue patients, has become scarce in retail drug stores in Dhaka due to a surge in demand caused by the growing number of patients.

Among the 11 types of injectable saline solutions, normal saline (0.9 percent sodium chloride solution) is the most used.

This correspondent yesterday failed to get a single bag of normal saline after visiting 17 drug stores in Green Road and Mohammadpur College Gate areas in the capital.

Besides, owners and salesmen of around a dozen drug stores in Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Savar areas also reported the similar saline crisis, which has been prevailing over the last one month.

Officials of several private hospitals said they are also struggling to maintain their regular stock as the saline-producing companies have started rationing the product to cope with the overwhelming demand.

There is no sign of improvement of this situation even after the drug

administration requested the six saline producers to increase production at a meeting on June 27.

Health experts blamed the lack of preemptive action by the health and family welfare ministry for this crisis.

Prof Rashid E-Mahbub, president, Health Rights Movement, Bangladesh National Committee, told The Daily Star yesterday, "As there is a crisis, the health ministry should take the lead... It's not that difficult to increase production."

"I don't think the companies are unable to meet the rising demand; there must be something unethical going on in distribution. The government should act."

Hossain Ali Khandaker, additional secretary (Drug Administration and Regulation Unit) at the ministry, said no meeting was held over the issue at the ministry, but the drug administration is working to tackle the situation.

"I have recently learnt about the crisis from newspapers. I would talk to the secretary sir (secretary of the Health Services Division)," he said.

He said, "In fact, only private pharmaceutical companies produce the

saline. If they don't have the capacity to meet the demand, [saline] can be imported."

While this correspondent was talking to Lifecare Pharmacy manager on Green Road yesterday, Md Ali, distribution assistant of Popular Pharmaceuticals Ltd, appeared.

Ali said, "The demand for normal saline is the highest. If a drug store asks for 10 cartons of saline (each carton has 10 bags), we can only deliver one or two cartons and that too late."

He added that supply of saline to around 13 hospitals in Green Road area has been severely disrupted.

"The hospitals in this area now have a demand for about 500-600 cartons of Popular saline a day, but we can only supply 60-70 cartons."

Mamunur Rashid Russel, manager of Central Hospital on Green Road, corroborated Ali's statement.

"We usually maintain a week's stock of normal saline, but we now only have a three-day stock left," he said, adding that they have placed an order for 200 bags of saline to each of the six companies per week.

"But each of them can supply only 15-20 bags," he told this newspaper.

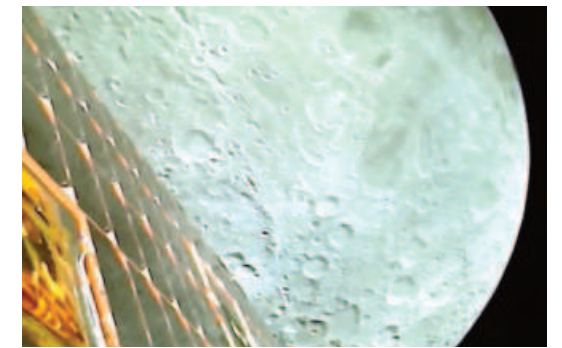
When asked for a bag of normal saline, Khairul Islam, a salesman of Bangladesh Pharma, one of the major drug stores in front of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital in College Gate area, suggested looking for it in the drug

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At least 14 more people died of dengue fever yesterday, as the country faced a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease, with hospitals struggling to accommodate patients. The photo was taken at MUGDA Medical College Hospital's dengue ward yesterday. Related story on Page 3. PHOTO: COLLECTED

India's Moon mission sends back first images



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

India's historic Chandrayaan-3 mission to the lunar South pole has sent back first images of the Moon ahead of its anticipated landing later this month.

On Saturday, the spacecraft carrying the mission's rover and lander successfully entered lunar orbit, following which the Indian space agency Isro tweeted the first images of the Moon taken from orbit.

The images reveal craters on the Moon which appear larger as the spacecraft gets closer to the lunar surface.

After about 10 days of orbiting Earth, the spacecraft has begun circling the Moon, and the rover and lander are expected to reach the lunar surface on August 23.

"Today, the Chandrayaan-3 mission achieved a crucial milestone with the successful completion of the Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI)," Isro tweeted, adding that "the health of Chandrayaan-3 is normal."

Saturday's achievement marks the third time in succession that ISRO has successfully inserted a spacecraft into lunar orbit.

Rahul returns to House after reinstatement

REUTERS, New Delhi



Rahul Gandhi returned to India's parliament yesterday after a Supreme Court ruling, boosting the profile of his Congress party and its opposition allies ahead of a no-confidence vote against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

The vote is not expected to affect the popularity of Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which enjoys a strong majority.

However, the return of Gandhi, the scion of one of India's most renowned political dynasties, to parliament is expected to strengthen the voice of the newly formed, 26-party

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN SOUTH ASIA

Three-quarters of children face extreme heat: UN

AFP, New Delhi

Three-quarters of children in South Asia are already facing dangerously high temperatures, the highest level worldwide, as the impact of climate change grows, the United Nations warned yesterday.

About 460 million children are exposed to extreme heat in South Asia, or 76 percent of children, compared to a third of children globally, the United Nations children's agency said.

"With the world at global boiling, the data clearly show that the lives and well-being of millions of children across South Asia are increasingly threatened by heat waves and high temperatures," said Sanjay Wijesekera, Unicef Regional Director for South Asia.

The UN warns children in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Pakistan

are at "extremely high risk" of the impacts of climate change, defining extreme high temperatures as 83 or more days in a year over 35 degree Celsius (95 degree Fahrenheit).

Children cannot adapt as quickly to temperature changes, and are not able to remove excess heat from their bodies.

"Young children simply cannot handle the heat," added Wijesekera. "Unless we act now, these children will continue to bear the brunt of more frequent and more severe heatwaves in the coming years."

About 1.2 degrees Celsius of global warming since the late 1800s, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, has made heatwaves hotter, longer and more frequent, as well as intensifying other weather extremes such as storms and floods.

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Children in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, and Pakistan are at 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of climate change.