



DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9, 2023

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 198

SRABAN 25, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

MUHARRAM 21, 1445 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00



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CHATTOGRAM DIVISION

Flood, rain keep wreaking havoc

Thousands left without access to safe drinking water, power, mobile networks

STAR REPORT

Floods have brought much of Chattogram division to a standstill, leaving thousands of residents without access to safe water, electricity, and mobile phone networks.

Incessant rain and overflowing rivers submerged vast areas and closed all roads to Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

The waters will hopefully begin to recede from today because there will be less rain, said Meteorologist Bazlur Rashid of the Met office in Dhaka.

Officials in Cox's Bazar say almost 3 lakh residents of 60 unions in Cox's Bazar are affected by the floods. Of those evacuated, 34,000 are sheltering in government allocated centres such as educational institutions and government facilities, according to the administration.

The authorities yesterday used megaphones in neighbourhoods to urge people to evacuate immediately due to

risks of landslides.

In the Rohingya refugee camps, 207 families were relocated because of risks of landslides, said the refugee, relief and repatriation commissioner.

Submerged roads to the beach town were closed to traffic yesterday morning.

Floods closed the roads to Bandarban on Sunday and stranded at least 8,000 families while mudslides damaged over 450 houses.

Six upazilas of the district have been without power since Monday night and over 9,500 residents were taken to flood shelters.

People reported that mobile phones were not working in the district.

"Even the first floor of my building has been inundated. All of our belongings got damaged," said Osman Ali of Keching Ghata area in Bandarban town, who has been at a shelter for the last few days.

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This bus almost fell into a ditch as it tried to find its way on a stretch of Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway in Chandonais in Chattogram that went under knee-deep water. Torrential rain in the southeast inundated parts of Chattogram city, towns in Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Rangamati districts. Road communication between Cox's Bazar and rest of the country snapped yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

RISE IN DENGUE PATIENTS

DMCH faces acute shortage of beds

Many being treated on floor; 13 more including doctor die from the virus; another 2,742 hospitalised

HELEMUL ALAM and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Twenty-year-old Mohammad Sakib was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Sunday as he was experiencing severe weakness -- a dengue symptom that is considered a "warning sign".

However, as there was not a single bed available, his father had to buy a mat for him to be placed on the floor of the medicine unit, where he is still undergoing treatment.

"I was diagnosed with typhoid and dengue, both. I am doing a bit better now. But I plan to leave my job and go to my village home once my condition improves, as where I live and work right now in the city -- Matuail -- lacks anti-mosquito activities," said Sakib.

Like Sakib, many patients at DMCH are being treated on the floor due to a scarcity of beds.

Riaz Uddin, a doctor at the medicine ward, said, "We don't send back patients who are in a critical stage with such warning signs, comorbidity patients, or those in high risk."

"As we have a scarcity of beds, we are trying to make space on the floor in order to ensure their treatment," he said.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital,

said immediate hospitalisation is required if a patient experiences severe stomach aches, breathing difficulty, severe weakness, vomiting, and/or bleeding from gums and nose.

"If a patient is not hospitalised within 24 hours [of these symptoms surfacing], they may go into dengue shock syndrome."

Zaheda Begum, an aunt of Abir, 15, who has been in DMCH since Saturday, said they also had to get a mat to use as a bed on the floor for him.

"However, with continuous treatment, Abir is doing well now."

Morshed Alam, 30, a resident of Cumilla's Daudkandi, was admitted to DMCH with dengue on Sunday and was about to get his treatment started after his test reports were available.

"But as I was placed on the floor, my test reports, along with my mobile phone, were all stolen."

Meanwhile, a doctor died of dengue fever at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of yesterday.

Almina Dewan Mishu, 32, was a 39th BCS cadre officer. She had been under treatment at the hospital's ICU since August 1.

Earlier, she was at a private hospital after being diagnosed with dengue on July 26, and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BNP plans to hold protest rally in city August 11

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

After a 12-day break, BNP and like-minded parties are set to restart their one-point movement for the government's resignation with a protest rally in Dhaka on August 11, according to party sources.

It, however, currently has no plan to launch protests outside Dhaka due to excessive flooding in many districts at the moment, party leaders said.

The BNP standing committee took the decision on Monday.

At a press conference held at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, the party's secretary general, said BNP is gearing up for a simultaneous movement.

"The government is making all arrangements to prevent the opposition party from participating in the election. There is no level-playing field."

"Our senior leaders have been detained and are prevented from conducting political programmes."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NAT'L ENERGY SECURITY DAY

High time to start gas exploration

Experts say excessive dependence on LNG imports pose threat

ASIFUR RAHMAN

With local gas production on the wane, import dependency in the power and energy sector is on the rise, in what can be viewed as a threat to national energy security, according to experts.

The liquefied natural gas (LNG) import ratio has reached the amount of gas produced by local gas companies. As a result, the power plants and industries are not getting enough gas to operate properly.

Bapex, Bangladesh Gas Fields Company and Sylhet Gas Fields Company produce around 24-25 billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas in a month whereas the LNG import stood at around 22-23 BCF, according to the latest report of the hydrocarbon unit of the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources.

Besides, the two foreign companies -- Chevron and Tullow -- operating in local fields are producing around 42 BCF of gas monthly, which is more than 50 percent of the country's total gas production.

The reserves of both of the gas fields operated by foreign companies are fast depleting, which is another threat to energy security, according to the experts.

If the government does not enhance gas exploration and finds an alternate option, the remaining gas reserves would be exhausted in nine to 10 years.

Currently, Bangladesh is consuming about 1 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas every year and the remaining reserve of 29 gas fields is only 9.76 TCF, shows data from Petrobangla.

In such a situation, the government is set to observe National

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

HIKE IN ENERGY PRICES FAILS TO IMPROVE SUPPLY -- BI

UNIVERSAL PENSION

PM likely to roll it out August 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may unveil the Universal Pension Scheme for ordinary citizens on August 17.

People at home and abroad would then be able to register with the scheme. But the registration would be on a limited scale.

The finance ministry could not roll out the pension scheme on a full-fledged basis as it is yet to complete all preparatory work.

It has already finalised two rules to execute the scheme. The rules have been sent to the law ministry for vetting.

Details of the rules may be disclosed before the pension scheme's rollout, sources said.

Four separate schemes for both local and non-resident Bangladeshis have been formulated. The schemes -- Probas, Progoti, Surokkha and Samata -- can be availed by everyone except government employees.

There will be different

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Eleven-year-old Saima was excited about getting a sibling in just two months. Yet here, she is being consoled by a relative as she wails, having learned that her eight-month-pregnant mother Farzana just died from dengue in Mugda Medical College Hospital's ICU yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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DHAKA AIRPORT PM to open part of third terminal on October 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate a portion of the third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital on October 7.

Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab), made the announcement at a press conference yesterday held at the under-construction terminal building.

According to Caab, 12 of a total of 26 boarding bridges will be operational in October.

The Caab chief, meanwhile, said the terminal will be fully functional by the end of 2024.

He also stated that around 82 percent of the third terminal's construction work has already been completed.

"Our target is to complete 90 percent of the work before the partial inauguration. We hope everything goes accordingly," he added.

Every day, 120-130 planes from over 33 airlines take off and land at Dhaka airport's Terminal 1 and Terminal 2; around 30,000 to 35,000 passengers pass through the two terminals. This way, the airport currently serves around 8 million passengers annually.

Once fully operational, the new terminal, covering an area of 542,000 square metres, will be capable of serving more than 12 million passengers annually.

The new terminal will feature a parking apron capable of accommodating 37 aircraft. It will also have 26 boarding bridges.

A multi-storey car parking with a capacity of accommodating 1,044 vehicles is also being constructed in the terminal.

The three-storey terminal building will have 115 check-in counters, 64 departure and 64 arrival immigration desks, 27 baggage scanning machines, 16 carousels, and 11 body scanners, among other facilities.

In December 2019, Hasina inaugurated the construction work of the Tk 21,398-crore project aimed at boosting Dhaka airport's passenger and cargo handling capacity.

I have been living in Dhanmondi for the last few years but my admiration for this place began some 17 years ago when I started studying at a college in the area. Having spent so much of my life here, it is not just a residential area for me but a place where I can experience the convenience of urban facilities and the beauty of nature in a best-of-both-worlds package.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA



The many facets of DHANMONDI

FEDA AL HOSSAIN

Talking about Dhanmondi, people will mention modern residential and commercial buildings, glitzy shopping malls, and a bustling food scene. However, Dhanmondi's biggest strength is how it still maintains a residential area identity.

If you have a keen eye, you will still spot some two-storied houses, something that will make you reminisce about the yesteryears of Dhaka. The changing landscape of traditional to contemporary architecture tells the story of the transformation in Dhaka, which can be witnessed when you take time and walk around the neighbourhoods of Dhanmondi.

If we consider the living

aspect, then one of the biggest advantages of Dhanmondi is the close proximity to so many top-notch educational institutions. Seeing school children going to their campus is one of the things Dhanmondi residents are very familiar with, as many leading schools are situated here. For parents who prefer living close to their children's school, Dhanmondi is the ideal place for many.

Of course, another feature that will be mentioned over and over again is the Dhanmondi Lake. Serving as an oasis in the heart of the city, this is a place many Dhakaaites go

to unwind, walk or run for a workout to keep fit or spend time with a loved one amid the greenery.

As Dhakaaites, we only have very few open spaces left and Dhanmondi Lake plays its part in welcoming everyone.

Aside from the living experience, Dhanmondi is also known for being a paradise for foodies. Whether you are craving kachchi biryani, pizza, sushi or fuchka, rest assured

you will find it in various restaurants in the area, and even under one roof in the numerous food courts.

As satisfying as the Dhanmondi experience can

be, like the rest of Dhaka, it also has its share of challenges and problems. The traffic congestion can get pretty bad during peak school and office hours, and an abundance of commercial entities just along the residential area is making the place busier than ever, taking away its serene effect. And last but not least, the relatively high cost of living here, as rent for residential apartments is significantly more expensive than in many areas of Dhaka.

Despite the drawbacks, Dhanmondi is the place that still has this great underlying charm. For me, it's where "Old Dhaka" reaches out and expands itself to its "new Dhaka" identity, which makes it a special place in the hearts of Dhaka dwellers.



DMCH

FROM PAGE 1

then was transferred to DMCH as her condition deteriorated.

She was declared dead around 5:30am, DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Nazmul Haque told The Daily Star.

She was buried at her ancestral graveyard in Narayanganj's Kanchan municipality.

The Directorate General of Health Services expressed deep condolences at the death.

According to the DGHS, with the deaths of Almina and 12 others yesterday, the number of dengue fatalities rose to 340, of which 194 are female and 146 are male.

Eleven of the deaths occurred in Dhaka city.

Meanwhile, 2,742 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning, bringing the total number of cases to 72,225.

BNP plans

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, a press release by the party's standing committee said, "Preparations are underway to ensure the programme's success."

Earlier on July 29, BNP held sit-in programmes at the capital's entry points. After those were marred amid violence unleashed by law enforcers and AL activists, the party took a step back.

Leaders believe their sit-in lacked coordination as those responsible to ensure it failed to perform their tasks, which highlighted the weakness within the party. They also said the programme was not executed as per the standing committee's plans.

Party sources said their top leadership has been in discussion with senior members in this regard over Skype.

About the lack of participation in the July 29 sit-in, Fakhrul at the press conference said, "It was because police and Awami League activists attacked and foiled our programme."

High time to start gas exploration

FROM PAGE 1

Energy Security Day today with the theme "Energy savings: the oath of smart Bangladesh".

The government has been observing the day since 2010 to mark Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's decision on August 9, 1975 to purchase five gas fields from a multinational oil drilling company, Shell Oil Company, by paying some 4.5 million pounds (about Tk 17-18 crore then).

Those five fields — Bakhrabad, Titas, Rashidpur, Kailashtila and Habiganj — account for 82 percent of the country's total gas reserves. The other 18 percent of gas reserves were discovered in the past 50 years.

"In the last 15 years, much more emphasis was laid on LNG imports, leaving aside the development of the local gas sector," said Maqbul E-Elahi Chowdhury, a former member of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, at a webinar yesterday while presenting the keynote paper.

The current gas crisis is a result of the government's excessive interest in import-dependent fuel supply policy, he said at a webinar titled "Philosophy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Energy Security, Achievement and Implementation Status".

"We could not take proper initiative to explore the local onshore and offshore gas in our country. It was Bangabandhu's philosophy to develop the local gas sector," he said at the webinar organised by the Bangladesh Energy Society.

Among the 29 gas fields, 21 are operational and produce about 2,150 million cubic feet of gas a day (mmcf). Since 2016, production has been declining. The highest production then was 2,666 mmcf.

LNG import was initiated in late 2018.

Due to the pandemic and Ukraine war, the government needed to spend

an additional \$8 billion on imports, said Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the prime minister's energy advisor.

"The gas supply will increase in 2026 as we are working on increasing local production under a crash programme," said Md Khairuzzaman Majumder, senior secretary of the energy division, at a recent programme.

At the same time, the government has signed two contracts to import more LNG from Qatar and Oman.

With the lack of gas supply, the industries and power plants are facing acute crises to operate smoothly. Around 60 gas-fired power plants need around 2,174 million cubic feet of gas per day but have been getting only 1,100-1,200 mmcf, shows data from Petrobangla.

At least 20 gas-fired power plants were shut yesterday due to a gas crunch. Only three out of seven fertiliser factories are getting gas, shows data.

Chevron took huge initiatives to increase production of the Bibiyana gas field and kept the production stable from the onset, said M Tamim, dean of Buet's chemical and materials engineering faculty, in yesterday's webinar.

"But the local gas companies failed to raise the production, especially in the Titas gas field, even though its reserve is the same as Bibiyana," he added.

Bangladesh has a lot of hydrocarbon potential, said Badrul Imam, honorary professor at the University of Dhaka's geology department.

Even though the gas reserves are drying up, the country still has two-thirds of its areas unexplored.

"Besides, we don't know what is the situation of our offshore reservoirs."

The government should focus on rigorous gas exploration.

"If we don't explore the alternatives in time, national energy security

will be under threat. LNG imports should not be the dominant source of gas supply; rather it should be a supplement to local gas," he added.

PM likely to roll it out August 17

FROM PAGE 1

ceilings in the Probash scheme, which is for non-resident Bangladeshis. The instalments can be paid in dollars.

The Progati scheme is for private sector employees and will be similar to the provident fund. Employees will pay a certain percentage of their basic salaries towards the scheme and their employers would be putting in the same amount.

The Surokha scheme was designed for those in the informal sector. There will be different instalment ceilings. The instalment amount will not be dependent on basic salaries.

Samata scheme is for the poor, with the government bearing half the instalment amount.

The schemes will be operated through apps. For smoother operations, over 100 tech experts will be recruited by the authority.

The government has already formed a two-member National Pension Authority to execute the pension scheme formulated to provide pension services for the common people.

Kabirul Ezzani Khan, an additional secretary of the finance division, has been made the executive chairman of the body, and Golam Mostofa, another additional secretary of the division, is the executive member.

In January, the government enacted the Universal Pension Management Act-2023.

Under the proposed scheme, a beneficiary can enjoy pension benefits subject to the payment of a subscription fee up to the age of 60 if the person enrolls between 18 and 50 years of age.

Suspended ASI indicted in narcotics case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against three people, including a suspended assistant sub-inspector of police, in a case filed over the possession of 100 yaba pills.

The accused are Mahbub Alam, suspended ASI of Pallabi Police Station, and his informants, Mohammad Rubel and Sohel Rana.

Mahbub Alam and the two others, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Tahmina Haque read out the charges to them. Prior to that, the magistrate rejected their requests to be exonerated of the case's charges.

The magistrate set December 26 for the start of the trial in the case.

In September last year, footage from a private TV channel showed ASI Mahbub, in plainclothes, stopping one Khalil near Cantonment Railway Station.

Mahbub took a packet of yaba pills from Rubel and put it in Khalil's pocket. He then claimed to have caught Khalil with yaba pills.

Khalil was sent to jail on September 7, and later in the month, he was cleared of charges after police found him innocent during the investigation.

Six BNP men held for torching bus on July 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested six leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations for vandalising and torching a bus in Ashulia during BNP's sit-in programme at Dhaka's entry points on July 29.

The arrestees are Jubo Dal's Dhaka district unit Joint Secretary Shahidul Islam, and Assistant Organising Secretary Suruzzaman, amid Dhamrai municipality unit Chhatra Dal activist Apurba Chandra Das, BNP activist Moniul Islam, and Jubo Dal activists Md Sujon and Rajib Hossain.

Md Asaduzzaman, Dhaka district's superintendent of police (SP), said they were arrested from different parts of Dhaka.

"The arrestees have admitted to torching the bus," he told reporters at a press briefing at his office yesterday.

Video footage of the bus burning incident, which was circulated in the media, showed that three of the three arrestees including Shahidul and Suruz were present nearby when a group of people vandalised the bus on July 29.

'Illegally lifted' sand crushes two children

UNB, Pabna

Two children were crushed to death when a sand pile collapsed on them at Jhaudia village in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila on Monday night.

Himel Rana, 9, was son of Md Ashrafal Islam, and Jihad Hossain, 10, was son of Asan Ali.

According to witnesses, a huge pile of sand, illegally lifted from the Padma river, was stored precariously in the village's Blockpara area.

Himel and Jihad were playing near the sand pile around 7:00pm, when suddenly, the sand pile collapsed on them, leaving them seriously injured.

Locals rescued them and took them to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex, where doctors on duty declared them dead on arrival.

Hasan Basir, officer-in-charge (OC-Investigation) of Ishwardi Police Station, said the incident was being investigated.

PORTUGAL WILDFIRE

More than 1,000 evacuated

REUTERS, Odemira

Hundreds of firefighters scrambled yesterday to put out a blaze raging in southern Portugal that has scorched thousands of hectares of land and forced the evacuation of around 1,400 people.

The wildfire, currently being tackled by over 850 firefighters and six water-bombing planes, started on Saturday in the municipality of Odemira, in the Alentejo region, but has since spread south towards the

Algarve, one of Portugal's top tourist destinations.

High temperatures and strong winds have complicated efforts to fight the flames, which have destroyed around 6,700 hectares of land. Jose Ribeiro, commander of the emergency and civil protection authority, said weather conditions were expected to remain a challenge.

Shortly before sunset on Monday, the sky in Odemira turned dark as a huge smoke cloud filled the air.

Flood, rain keep wreaking havoc

FROM PAGE 1

The situation in the already-flooded town worsened yesterday as 10.55 inches of rain fell in 24 hours until 6:00pm, said Meteorologist Emdadul Haque.

In Lama upazila, the health complex, the grain silo, and most of the buildings got flooded, said Deputy Commissioner Shah Mujahid Uddin, adding that officials were sending dry food to the people in distress.

In Chattogram, three lakh residents of Chandanaish, Satkania and Lohagara upazilas have been left without electricity since yesterday morning.

Floods have stranded 36,500 families in the district, said Deputy Commissioner Abul Bashar Mohammad Fakhruzzaman.

Zafar Ali Hero, a resident of Dohazari municipality in Chandanaish, said people in his neighbourhood were in a crisis of drinking water and they had way to cook food. "We have been eating dry food since Monday night," he said.

Ilias Chowdhury, of Amilaish in Satkania upazila, said the hand pumps had gone under water and there were no shops selling bottled water.

"We desperately need drinking water," he told The Daily Star on

Monday night.

Hundreds of acres of farmland and countless fisheries have been inundated and ruined in Chandanaish, Satkania, and Lohagara upazilas, locals and officials said.

In Rangamati, torrential rains over the last five days submerged large parts of the town and Bilaichari, Bahgaichari, and Barkal upazilas. About 1,200 of 5,000 families at risk of landslides have been evacuated, officials said.

In Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar, two-year-old Samia drowned in her front yard yesterday morning while 55-year-old Kabir Ahmed died of snake bite in his flooded house in Pekua upazila.

In Chattogram, a man drowned yesterday and two others went missing after falling into floodwater.

Educational institutions in Chattogram, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Cox's Bazar will be closed today and tomorrow.

A statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations yesterday said the army was working to assist people amid the floods and landslides in Chattogram and Bandarban.

[Our correspondents from Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Chattogram and Rangamati contributed to the report.]

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She knew how to wage a movement

Hasina on Bangamata's role in historic June 7 hartal

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib had a significant contribution to the independence of the country and all achievements during the struggle for liberation.

"My mother made the June 7 hartal [a countrywide strike in 1966 in support of the historic six-point programme] a success. She knew how to wage movement and keep the organisation united [in Bangabandhu's absence]," she said.

The PM was addressing an event in the city's Osmani Memorial Auditorium on the occasion of the 93rd birth anniversary of Bangamata.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs arranged the event to celebrate the Bangamata's birth anniversary and to confer the Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak 2023.

Bangamata was gunned down along with her husband Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most members of their family during the mayhem on August 15, 1975 at their Dhanmondi 32 residence.

Hasina said that when Bangabandhu was in jail, Bangamata used to inform him about the political situation and his organisation, Awami League. She also used to convey Bangabandhu's instructions to the party's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



DRIVING HOME... Amid furniture, kitchen racks and cupboards, a woman tries to ensure that her cat is comfortable and safe as the pick-up truck carrying them to their new home hits the Kemal Ataturk Avenue. This photo was taken on International Cat Day, celebrated around the world yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

No scope to defer HSC exams

Says edu minister; coaching centres closed from Aug 14 to Sept 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said the HSC and equivalent examinations this year will be held with a curtailed syllabus.

The exams, however, will be held for full duration and with full marks, except for the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) exam, which will be conducted for 75 marks instead of 100, she said.

The practical exam for this subject would comprise 25 marks, and the remaining 50 marks would be split between 20 marks of MCQ questions and 30 marks of written questions.

The decisions came in a bid to ease the pressure on the students,

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YUNUS CASE

HC rejects petition, trial to proceed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a petition filed challenging the labour court order that framed charges against Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and three other Grameen Telecom officials in a case filed over labour law violation.

The bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice Shahed Nuruddin passed the rejection verdict after holding a hearing on the rule issued over this matter.

The trial proceedings of the case against Yunus and others will run following the HC verdict, complainant's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Deputy Attorney General Sujit Chatterjee Bappi echoed him.

Meanwhile, Barrister Abdullah-Al-Mamun, the lawyer for Yunus, told this correspondent that a petition will be moved before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court seeking stay on the HC judgement.

Full text of the HC verdict is yet to be released.

Anomalies aplenty in Biman

Finds CAAB audit report

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Biman Bangladesh Airline's policy, procedure, or activity does not fully comply with the approved company manuals or the applicable regulatory standard, finds a recent audit report of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

The Air Operator Certificate (AOC) renewal audit for 2022 assessed Biman's level of conformance with the regulatory requirements, and identified 39 operational and 10 airworthiness objections.

The objections were identified in the areas of Air Operator Certificate Management and Finance (two), flight operations (seven), cabin safety (14), airworthiness (10), ground handling (10), flight dispatch (two) and dangerous goods (four).

Biman also failed to ensure they have adequate manpower for safe operations.

The CAAB in its audit report expressed concern regarding the Continuing Airworthiness Management Exposition (CAME) where required Reliability Control Board (RCB) meetings were not conducted on a regular basis.

CAME is a set of processes by which an aircraft, engine, propeller or part complies with the applicable requirements for flight operation and remains in a sustainable condition for safe functioning throughout its operational life.

Besides, RCB refers to how well an aircraft's systems are maintained over time to ensure safe operation.

Also, the maintenance of the Boeing 737-800 aircraft was found not updated in accordance with the latest revision of the relevant maintenance programme document

Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES	
NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Air operator certificate 2	Hire adequate manpower
Flight operations 7	Review operations, flight dispatch, cabin safety
Cabin safety 14	Ensure full compliance with requirements
Airworthiness 10	Find root causes of issues
Ground handling 10	Design necessary corrective action plan
Flight dispatch 2	
Dangerous goods 4	

(MPD), the report added.

Meanwhile, during the sample aircraft inspection of Biman's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft, registered S2-AJU, the Universal Precaution Kits (UPK) was not found in the proper place as per the Location of Passenger Accommodations (LOPA).

"Most of these (objections) represent deficiencies in process, procedures and guidelines that are to be specified in the company operations manuals, the Cabin Safety Manual, Dangerous Goods Manual, Flight Dispatch Manual, and the Ground Handling Manual," the report said.

Cabin Operation & Safety Manual (COSM)

was also found not updated with the CAAB's requirements concerning flight and duty time limitations and the rest time for pilots and cabin crew, it said.

Besides, Biman issued authorisation to its personnel for the positions of In-flight Entertainment (IFE) and in charge cabin safety without ensuring proper requirements, the audit added.

Additionally, Biman could not provide documentary evidence of updating the existing operation manuals with the current regulatory requirements.

Biman also could not establish necessary policies and procedures for the documentation of flight crew training records, and specific procedures to ensure the preservation of the required training documents of cabin crews in a standardised manner for traceability, the report mentioned.

Also, the organisation could not produce necessary evidence to ensure availability of adequate cabin crew for safe aircraft operation in its existing routes.

For cabin crew recruitment, qualifications mentioned in the recent Biman circular do not match with those established in the Continued Operational and Safety Manual.

Also, the Cabin Operation and Safety Manual was not found in the organisation's training facility.

No training record was found for the locally recruited personnel working in different foreign stations, and the Grade-6 officers and above in the Ground Service Equipment (GSE) division.

The airline has valid insurance coverage for all aircraft but failed to show any documented

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Punished for journalism'

Says suspended CoU student after publishing news on VC's comments

MASHFIQ MIZAN

What should have been a routine day for a campus correspondent turned into a harrowing ordeal for Mohammad Iqbal Monwar.

Monwar is Cumilla University campus correspondent of Bangla daily Jai Jai Din.

While he should have been attending his classes on campus, Monwar, also a master's student of English department at CoU, is now wandering the Dhaka streets and contemplating his next move after being suspended from the university.

His crime? Journalism.

Monwar was suspended on August 2 after his news report on the CoU vice chancellor's comments at a programme was published in the Bangla daily on July 31.

According to the suspension order issued by the CoU acting registrar, Monwar stands accused of "intentionally distorting the VC's statement and disseminating it with misleading information".

Monwar refuted these allegations.

"I merely fulfilled my duty as a journalist to deliver the news without any malicious intent," he told The Daily Star recently.

He claimed that the university failed to provide him or his newspaper with a show-cause notice or a rejoinder to present their side of the story.

HOW THE CONTROVERSY BEGAN

The report was based on VC Prof AFM Abdul Moyeen's speech at the freshers' reception in the Marketing department of the university on July 31.

"I want my students to have critical thinking ability. I want them to contradict me. Just

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Old wine in new bottle

Fakhrul on Cyber Security Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government's move to introduce Cyber Security Act through changing the name of Digital Security Act is tantamount to "deceiving people".


"BNP firmly believes that the Awami League government is trying to deceive the people by merely changing name

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



What looks like a dump yard is actually a part of DND canal next to the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. Piles of non-biodegradable garbage dumped by locals have completely choked the waterbody. Though there is a dedicated DSCC dumping zone within a kilometre, this mindless action continues. The photo was taken in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**The City Bank Limited**

Head Office: City Bank Center
Plot: SE (D) - 3, 28, Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

Price Sensitive Information

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of The City Bank Ltd. in its 640th Board Meeting, held on August 07, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. through Digital Platform, has approved the proposal for joining a "Consortium" of 9 commercial banks who together will apply for a Digital Bank with the proposed name of "Digi10 Bank Plc.", and also to become a sponsor shareholder by way of investing BDT13.88 crore out of the total initial paid-up capital of Tk. 125 crore (i.e. to hold 11.11% shares of the proposed Digital Bank) subject to receiving all regulatory approvals.

Dated: August 07, 2023


By the order of Board,
Sd/-
Md. Kafi Khan
Company Secretary

PRAYER
TIMING

AUGUST 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15
JAMAAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 5:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Prethindra shines

FROM PAGE 5
“So, I used to memorise chapters after chapters without understanding them,” he said.

He went on to achieve scholarships in fifth and eighth grades and was later admitted to Khagrachhari Government High School. Prethindra later completed his honours and master's degrees from Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University under Agroforestry and Environmental Science Department.

“During my university days, I faced financial constraints. To support myself, I used to provide 4-5 tuitions alongside my studies. I covered all my expenses, including tuition fees and living costs, from first year of university and onward,” he said.

He said when the quota for students was cancelled, like many others, he thought it would create a setback in their education.

“However, when I performed well in my honours exams, it instilled in me a belief that I can overcome the odds, and I ultimately achieved it,” he

added.

Prethindra emphasised that his family played an instrumental role in his success.

His father Natabaran Chakma, a retired headteacher, and his mother Santi Prava Chakma, a homemaker involved in agriculture, supported him amid adversities.

“My parents and brother supported me both financially and emotionally. They believed in me and my ability to succeed,” he said.

Looking ahead, Prethindra aspires to make a significant impact to his community and the nation. He envisions a brighter future for the hill regions through enhancing primary education and improving literacy rates.

“My aspiration is to alleviate the darkness of illiteracy in the hills. Along with developing primary education in the hills, I want to improve the literacy rate,” he said.

Furthermore, he aims to contribute to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

Waterlogging

FROM PAGE 5
Daily Star that Nipa was pursuing studies and taking multiple tuitions to meet her educational expenses.

“But she didn't live to fulfil her dreams. It's heartbreaking,” she added. Meanwhile, Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, yesterday visited Nipa's home and gave Tk 1 lakh as compensation to her family.

Besides, he promised to give a job to Nipa's younger sister, who is also a college student, at CCC office.

Gazi Shafiul Azim, councillor of CCC's South Pahartali ward, said, “I have asked Nipa's family to contact us if they need any help.”

Police handed over Nipa's body to her family on Monday night, following an autopsy.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Model Police Station said, “We suspect that she drowned in the accumulated water near her residence.”

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station, the OC added.

No scope

FROM PAGE 3
Dipu Moni said while addressing journalists after a national monitoring and disciplinary committee meeting in the capital.

The minister also announced the closure of coaching centres across the country from August 14 till September 25 in order to ensure a proper environment for the exams scheduled to be held from August 17 till September 25.

The decisions came amid recent nationwide student protests calling for the deferment of the HSC exams and the exclusion of the ICT subject.

Dipu Moni urged the protesting students to go home and return to their studies, saying there was no scope to defer the HSC and equivalent exams.

A total of 13,59,342 students have registered for the HSC and equivalent exams. Of them, 6,88,887 are boys and 6,70,455 are girls.

A total 11,08,594 students will sit for HSC exams; 98,031 for Dakhil; and 1,52,717 for vocational tests.

The number of examinees from science group has increased by 1,55,935 this year, Dipu Moni revealed.

Ecotourism the way forward

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The stakeholders of the tourism industry should be encouraged to adapt to ecotourism, stressed speakers at an event yesterday.

They made the remarks at the inauguration of Green Key Bangladesh Programme in Agargaon.

The programme certifies hotels, holidays parks, hostels, conference centres, small accommodations, camping sites and restaurants for fulfilling the environmental criteria for sustainable tourism

set by the Foundation for Environmental Education, recognised by Global Sustainable Tourism Council.

Saber Hossen Chowdhury, special envoy to the PM for environment and climate change, said development is not sustainable if environment is not conserved.

Abul Kalam Azad, principal secretary, PMO; Daniel Shaffer, CEO, Foundation for Environmental Education; and Finn Bolding Thomsen, director of Green Key, also spoke at the event.

26 years of unkept

FROM PAGE 5
Huda said, “After independence, we envisioned a democratic and discrimination-free state, but what we have instead is a severely discriminatory and undemocratic one.”

Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University said the state bears the responsibility of recognising all its citizens and safeguarding the rights of indigenous communities through self-determination.

“Regrettably, the government takes discussions about self-determination to be a call for independence, which it said would incite separatism. However, this concept is flawed,” he added.

However, self-determination actually entails transformative changes for indigenous communities and their

equal rights. To ensure their civil rights, the state has to acknowledge them as indigenous communities, not “minorities”, explained the professor.

“Developed nations have recognised these communities, realising the richness and diversity of their culture. Yet, Bangladesh has continued to be reluctant towards them for years,” he added.

Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University explained the reasons behind the communities' resistance toward development.

Development initiatives often demand the communities' eviction from their century-old home grounds, he said.

“These communities have been suppressed for decades. Evicting them from their homesteads is a tool to completely erase their existence and identity,” he added.

Anomalies aplenty

FROM PAGE 3
policy requiring the liabilities to be covered, the report revealed.

Biman also failed to show that they have sufficient GSE to perform safe ground handling operations in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet airports.

Similarly, the Emergency Response Plan was not found in GSE maintenance and operations.

All of Biman's 81 newly-recruited ground service assistants have been deployed in operational duties before completing the required mandatory training programme.

WHAT BIMAN NEEDS

The report recommended Biman to give attention to different areas including ensuring availability of the required number of qualified and competent personnel in all areas of operational activities.

The airline also needs to complete a review of the operations, flight dispatch, cabin safety, and

ground handling manuals to ensure full compliance with the recent changes to the CAAB requirements.

“The airline is required to find the root causes of each of the findings. Based on the root causes, the airline is required to design the necessary corrective action plan (CAP) to resolve each of the findings within the agreed time frame,” the report added.

Three accused

FROM PAGE 5
On July 30, footballer Sadia Nasreen filed an attempt to murder case with Batiaghata Police Station naming four people. Police arrested Noor Khan, but the other three accused were granted bail by the court.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed solidarity with the female footballers who were tortured in Khulna's Batiaghata.

Sheikh Salahuddin Jewel, lawmaker from Khulna-2 constituency, conveyed the message while talking with the footballers.

Punished for journalism

FROM PAGE 3
memorising textbooks won't help you to secure jobs,” the VC said.

Then he went on to explain the relation between corruption and development, as an “example” to see “whether the students have counter arguments to refute him”.

This newspaper has obtained the audio clip of the VC's 51-minute speech.

On the same day, a report titled “Corruption is the reason for development in Bangladesh: CoU VC” was published in daily Jai Jai Din, detailing some remarks made by the VC during the programme.

According to CoU authorities, the words attributed to the VC in the report were taken out of context while he was merely trying to encourage the students to develop cognitive thinking and critical thinking ability.

Then on August 2, Monwar was suspended from the university.

“I was served a letter on August 2 stating that I was suspended for violating university's discipline. But I didn't get a show-cause notice. I didn't get a chance to defend myself,” he told The Daily Star recently.

“Usually even in case of severe allegations, first the university's disciplinary committee conducts an investigation, and recommends the university

syndicate to take actions if the allegations are found to be true,” he said.

“However, in my case, everything was done with secrecy, and promptly,” he claimed.

Monwar said if actions were deemed necessary, those should have been taken against him as a journalist, not as a student.

According to journalistic norms, the university should have sent a rejoinder to his newspaper and awaited their response before taking any punitive measures.

However, no such rejoinder was received from the university authorities, and instead, CoU's Marketing department issued a statement protesting the news report, he added.

Sohel Haider Chowdhury, news editor of Daily Jai Jai Din, said, “We didn't receive any rejoinder from the university authorities. We stand by our news as we have published exactly what the VC said.”

“He (VC) just expressed his rage by suspending the student for publishing this news. We will provide all types of support to our colleague,” he added.

Contacted, VC Prof Moyeen said, “We decided to suspend the student after a meeting on August 2, where all the six deans of the university, pro-VC, treasurer and proctor were present.”

Asked if the university can take such a decision so promptly, he said, “The VC can take such a decision based on recommendation of the authorities concerned to maintain peace and discipline in the university.”

“The students were enraged by such distorted news published by the newspaper. Hence, we made a decision to suspend him because it was needed,” he added.

“A four-member body, consisting of four syndicate members and the proctor, has been formed to investigate the matter and asked to submit the report within seven working days [August 10],” the VC also said.

Meanwhile, the authorities of CoU's Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall issued a notice on August 3 asking Monwar to vacate the hall.

“I received a letter from the probe body asking me to appear before it within August 10. In the letter, it is stated that the VC's speech was intentionally distorted to harm the reputation of the university,” said Monwar.

“Can a probe body come to this conclusion even before starting their investigation?” he asked.

J o u r n a l i s t organisations, university teachers and rights bodies continue to protest Monwar's suspension.

Old wine in new bottle

FROM PAGE 3
of Digital Security Act,”

Fakhrul said at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office around noon.

He said BNP wants complete repeal of Digital Security Act. “This law goes against the principles of democracy, human rights, and media freedom. There

is no question of keeping it.”

Fakhrul said replacing the DSA with Cyber Security Act is an attempt by the government to belool the people.

He said there is international pressure over the DSA. “This is only an attempt to make them [foreigners] understand.”

“We know their [Awami League] character. They are controlling the freedom of expression,” he added.

Following a Cabinet meeting, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government decided to “transform” and “modernise” the DSA, and change its name to Cyber Security Act.

She knew how to wage

FROM PAGE 3
leaders and workers.

“Our house was always under the surveillance of the Pakistani intelligence. My mother used to talk to leaders and convey them the instructions [of Bangabandhu] going to different places avoiding the watch of intelligence,” she said.

In this context, the PM recalled her mother's firm stance in favour of the historic six-point demand when some leaders argued for an eight-point demand instead.

Talking about the detention of Bangabandhu in the Agartala conspiracy case, PM Hasina said her mother took a firm stance for the release of all the accused through the withdrawal of the case,

not accepting a proposal for the release of only Bangabandhu on parole. “What firm morale my mother had!” she said.

She said Pakistani intelligence quizzed Bangamata as well and tried to implicate her in the case.

“My mother had an important contribution to the independence and all achievements,” she said.

The premier sought blessings from all so that she could work for the people as her father's lifelong struggle was to change the fate of the people of this country.

“I've been trying to work for the people, based on what lessons I learnt from my mother and father,” said Hasina.

The PM earlier handed

over Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak 2023 to four distinguished women and the national women's football team for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

The four women are Advocate Sahara Khatun (posthumous) in politics, Anima Mukti Gomes in education, Nasima Jaman Bobi in culture and sports, and Dr Senjuti Saha in research.


Hasina also inaugurated the distribution of sewing machines and donations to insolvent women throughout the country. Some 3,000 women are receiving the donations through a financial mobile banking channel on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bangamata.



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INVITATION FOR TENDER

1	Procuring Entity Name	ICT Division, BASIC Bank Limited										
2	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka										
3	Invitation Reference No. & Date	BASIC/HC/ICTD/Server/BFTN & RTGS/2023/001										
4	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)										
5	Budget and Source of Fund	BASIC Bank's Own Fund										
6	Tender Publication Date	09/08/2023										
7	Tender Last Selling Date	22/08/2023 at 4:00 PM										
8	Tender Closing Date & time	23/08/2023 at 3:00 PM										
9	Tender Opening Date & time	23/08/2023 at 3:15 PM										
10	Name & Address of the Office for purchase and submit Tender	ICT Division: Peoples Insurance Bhaban (5 th Floor), 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.										
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	1) The Tenderer shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract and have not been declared ineligible by any competent authority. 2) Minimum 3(three) years' experience in ICT business as a registered company/entity in Bangladesh. 3) Must have at least 3 (three) years' proven experience in supplying computers / networking equipment/ servers in any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh. Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying computers/networking equipment/servers to BASIC Bank Limited. 4) The participating company must submit relevant document(s), along with the offer/tender, as proof of its experience as mentioned here. 5) The participating company has to submit Manufacturer's Authorization letter; 6) The participating company must be an authorized distributor / dealer of the brand of servers offered in the tender;										
12	Brief Description of Goods	03 units server for NIKASH BFTN system and 02 units server for RTGS system.										
13	Price of Tender Document	Tk 1,500/-										
14	Performance Security	10% of work order value in the form of Pay order / Bank draft / Bank guarantee from any schedule bank in favour of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office for 03 (three) years validity.										
15	Lot details <table><tr><th>Lot No</th><th>Identification</th><th>Location</th><th>Security Amount (Tk.)</th><th>Completion Time</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Server</td><td>Dhaka</td><td>2,50,000/-</td><td>120 Days</td></tr></table>		Lot No	Identification	Location	Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time		Server	Dhaka	2,50,000/-	120 Days
Lot No	Identification	Location	Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time								
	Server	Dhaka	2,50,000/-	120 Days								
16	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Helal Uddin										
17	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager										
18	Address of Official Inviting Tender	BASIC Bank Limited, ICT Division, Peoples Insurance Bhaban (5 th Floor), 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000										
19	Contact Details	Phone: 02-9555087, 223382960; E-mail: basicid@basicbanklimited.com										
20	a) The tenderers should be bound to obey all the terms, conditions, rule & regulation of PPR - 2008. b) The procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders (partly or fully) at any stage without showing any reasons. c) The Bank shall not be under any obligation to accept the lowest priced quotation d) If any "Force Majeure" arises in the specified date mentioned in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) and invitation for Tender, the event will take place in the next working day.											
Deputy General Manager, ICT Division												




INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. UNFPA/BGD/2023/001

MANUFACTURE AND/OR SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS AND RELATED SERVICES FOR CUSTOMIZED DIGNITY KITS (MAMA KITS FOR NEW BORN BABIES AND MOTHERS)

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an international development agency, invites bids for LTA for the supply of products and related services for Customized Dignity Kits (Mama Kits for new born babies and mothers) for its programme in Bangladesh. The qualified and experienced bidders are encouraged to download the ITB documents through the following link from UNGM:

https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/208516

Please note that, the Bid must reach at UNFPA's secured email inbox **procurement.bangladesh@unfpa.org** no later than **21 August 2023 Monday, at 15:00 hours** Bangladesh standard time.



বাংলাদেশ ফুটবল ফেডারেশন
BANGLADESH FOOTBALL FEDERATION

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Sponsorship for Bangladesh National Football Team and Various Age Level Teams Participating in FIFA/ AFC/SAFF Approved Tournaments

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) hereby invites EOI proposal for sponsorship from the reputed Commercial Organizations /Sports Agencies for the Team's sponsorship for Bangladesh National Football Team, Bangladesh U-23 National Football Team and Age level Teams from various international competitions and the details are given below.

Tender No. & Date	Ref: 2390/BFF-Admin/2023, Date: 09/08/2023
Description of Sponsorship	1. Bangladesh National Football Team for the upcoming FIFA Friendly Matches against Afghanistan in Bangladesh on 4 th and 7 th September 2023. 2. Bangladesh U-16 National Football Team for the upcoming SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 on 1 st to 10 th September 2023 in Bhutan. 3. Bangladesh U-23 National Football Team for the upcoming AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualifiers in Thailand from 4 th to 12 th September 2023. 4. Bangladesh U-19 National Football Team for SAFF U-19 Championship 2023 in Nepal from 21 st to 30 th September 2023. 5. Bangladesh National Football Team for FIFA World Cup 2026 Qualifiers Round 1 on 12 th October 2023 at Maldives and 17 th October 2023 at Bangladesh
Timeline for Submission of EOI	You are requested to submit the offer in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Acting General Secretary, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) Office at BFF House, 14/B Toyenbee Circular Road, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh or electronically via email info@bff.com.bd on or before 16/08/2023 .
Contact Details	Phone: +88 02 223354232, +8801709660506 Email: info@bff.com.bd
Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol, Betting will not be eligible to participate in this EOI Process.	
Acting General Secretary Bangladesh Football Federation BFF House, 14/B Toyenbee Circular Road Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000	
D-96	



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Contact:-
01841521333, 01729996550, 01749991138.



বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ।

স্মারক নং-বঙ্গবন্ধুশেখমুজিবুর/নিয়োগ/২০২৩/২৬-২৯/৩৭৫ তারিখঃ ১০৬ আগস্ট ২০২৩

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি


বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, এ্যাপ্রয়েড কেমিস্ট্রি এন্ড কেমিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ইতিহাস, রসায়ন, বায়োটেকনোলজি এন্ড জেনেটিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, লোক প্রশাসন বিভাগে ও বঙ্গবন্ধু ইনসিটিটিউট অব লিবারেশন স্টাডیز এন্ড বাংলাদেশ স্টাডিজ-এ সহকারী অধ্যাপক/প্রভাষক, পরিচালক (পটও) এবং পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব) পদসমূহে ন্যা পদের বিপরীতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

আবেদন ফর্ম, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও নিয়োগের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট **www.bsmrstu.edu.bd** -থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

আবেদনপত্র পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখঃ ৩১/০৮/২০২৩ বিকাল ০৪.০০ টা।

(মোঃ দলি্লুর রহমান)
রেজিস্ট্রার

জিডি-১২০৩



Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Natore.
☎02588871270 Fax: 02588873810
e-mail: **rhdnatore@gmail.com / eenat@rhd.gov.bd**

Memo No: 35.01.6900.453.07.003.23.2115 Date : 08/08/2023

e-Tender Notice (Re-Tendered)

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore.

e-GP Tender ID	Name of work	Tender Document Last Selling/ downloading date and time	Last date and time for Tender Security submission	Tender Closing date and time
860294	02/e-GP/OTM/NRD/2023-2024 Milling, Mixing and Recompacting damaged bituminous surface and DBS Wearing course at Ch. 73+050 km to 73+850km and repairing at different parts from Ch. 75th km. to 85th km of Kashinathpur-Dasuria-Natore-Rajshahi-Nawabganj-Kansat-Sona Masjid-Baliadighi Border (N-6) Road under RHD, Road Division, Natore during the year 2023-24.	22-Aug-2023 16:00	23-Aug-2023 10:45	23-Aug-2023 11:00
860295	03/e-GP/OTM/NRD/2023-2024 Milling, Mixing and Recompacting damaged bituminous surface and DBS Wearing course at Ch. 72+050 km to 73+050km and repairing at different parts from Ch. 69th km. to 73rd km of Kashinathpur-Dasuria-Natore-Rajshahi-Nawabganj-Kansat-Sona Masjid-Baliadighi Border (N-6) Road under RHD, Road Division, Natore during the year 2023-24.	22-Aug-2023 16:00	23-Aug-2023 10:45	23-Aug-2023 11:10
860296	04/e-GP/OTM/NRD/2023-2024 Milling, Mixing and Recompacting damaged bituminous surface and Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST) work at Ch. 74+400 km to 74+900km of Kashinathpur-Dasuria-Natore-Rajshahi-Nawabganj-Kansat-Sona Masjid-Baliadighi Border (N-6) Road under RHD, Road Division, Natore during the year 2023-24.	22-Aug-2023 16:00	23-Aug-2023 10:45	23-Aug-2023 11:20

Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after closing time.

১৫.০৮.২৩
(Md. Kamrul Hasan Sarkar)
ID No. 602312
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Natore

GD- 1204

‘Waterlogging killed my granddaughter’

Death of college student leaves family in despair

SIFAYET ULLAH, City

Nipa's life was never easy. At the age of eight, she was abandoned by both her parents, who went into hiding to avoid having to repay their increasing debts, leaving her and her baby sisters behind.

They were raised by her grandparents. To make matters worse, Nipa Palit was diagnosed with epilepsy (a brain disorder characterised by repeated seizures. After a seizure, the person may remain unconscious for several minutes).

But she didn't give up. She dreamt of taking over her sisters' and grandmother's responsibilities after completing her college education, graduating from a reputable university and landing a well-paying position.

But the waterlogged roads of Chattogram have swept away her dreams, as she drowned near her home at Nandir Hat Badamtoli area in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila on Monday.

She was wading through waist-deep water on her way to college to sit for an exam. By the time some students of

Chittagong University living in the area noticed her and rushed to rescue, it was too late, said Sohel Rana, sub-inspector of Hathazari Police Station.

Her family suspect that she could not save herself as she was epileptic.

Nipa Palit, 22, daughter of Uttam Palit, was a student of second year BBS at Hathazari Government College and was the eldest of three sisters.

Visiting her house yesterday, this correspondent observed that Badal Palit, Nipa's grandfather, was mourning his granddaughter.

"Nipa's parents went into hiding when she was 8. I raised her as my daughter and fulfilled all of her demands like a father," said the 75-year-old.

"My granddaughter's dream was to finish her graduation and support her two younger sisters," he added.

Nirubala Palit, Nipa's grandmother, said, "Waterlogging killed my granddaughter. We came to know from locals that she became unconscious while wading through waist-length water."

Umme Habiba, a friend of Nipa, told The

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Nipa Palit



DRIZZLE DELIGHTS... Sheltering themselves from rain with a cotton scarf, a mother and her son share a moment joy on their way back home. The photo was taken recently in Barishal city's Nazir Mohalla.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Prethindra shines against all odds

Youth from remote Khagrachhari village finds BCS success



Prethindra Chakma with his parents.

PHOTO: STAR

LALTANLIAN PANGKHUA

A youth from a remote village in Khagrachhari has become a beacon of inspiration for his community after being recommended for appointment in the administrative cadre of the 41st Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination results published recently.

En route to fulfilling his aspiration, Prethindra Chakma, 28, triumphed over language barriers and financial constraints.

Recently, he spoke with The Daily Star and shared his journey.

"Each of us have our own story. Just as a barren land becomes fertile with a drop of rain, success in life is a result of many different factors," he said.

Growing up in remote Chittaranjan Karbari Para, a small village with limited resources, Prethindra struggled to learn lessons at school due to a language barrier, as his mother tongue is Chakma. It was difficult for him to comprehend lessons taught in Bangla.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

INT'L DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

26 years of unkept promises

Say speakers on CHT peace accord, urge youths to play active role in its implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The youth can compel authorities to fully implement the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord by waging a strong movement," said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, Parbatya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity Chairman, yesterday.

Better known as Santu Larma, he made the remarks at a national seminar titled "The Role of Youths in Establishing Land Rights, Self-determination, and State Responsibility", organised by International Indigenous Day Celebration Committee 2023, at the CIRDAP auditorium in the capital.

Though years have passed since the treaty was signed, its full implementation is still a myth, he added.

"The youth, driven by political ideology and principles, must step forward to accelerate the movement, pressuring the government to fully implement the treaty to ensure their

fundamental rights," he asserted.

He also urged the youth to understand the existing power dynamics and prevailing inequalities within the state and stressed the importance of tailoring the movement in accordance with new political and social dynamics.

"We won't succeed if the younger generations fail to develop a deep knowledge of the existing power dynamics," said Larma.

Emphasising the necessity of launching a united movement similar to the one that led to the accord's signing, the leader directed the youth to spearhead the movement.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development, highlighted the ruling party's failure to fully implement the accord, despite promising it in their 2008 election manifesto.

Indicating that indigenous communities are the biggest victims of the state's suppression,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ATTACK ON FEMALE FOOTBALLERS

Three accused sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday cancelled bail of three accused in a case over the attack on female footballers in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district.

The court also sent them to jail.

Khulna Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Hadiuzzaman passed the order when three accused – Salauddin, his mother Ranji Begum and sister Nupur – appeared before the court.

The court observed that the three accused who secured bail in the attempt to murder case had violated all the conditions of their bail. They threatened the case's complainant and captain of the football team Sadia Nasrin and other footballers to burn their bodies with acid if the case was not withdrawn and this was proved by the police investigation.


The order to cancel the bail was passed to ensure the safety of the complainant and other footballers.

Earlier, on July 29, 2023, Noor Alam Khan and his family members verbally abused and beat up four women footballers for wearing shorts at Teultala village in Batiaghata upazila during their regular practice session.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

After independence, we envisioned a democratic and discrimination-free state, but what we have instead is a severely discriminatory and undemocratic one.

SHAMSUL HUDA
ALRD executive director



INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH

HEAD OFFICE

8, RAJUK AVENUE, BDBL BHABAN (Level 14-21)

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Procurement & Common Service Department

Date: 08.08.2023

e-Tender Notice

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

SL No	Tender ID	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication Date and Time	Online Tender Closing Date and Time
1.	859019	Goods, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 03 Nos Firewall Devices in ICB Network.	06-Aug-2023 12:00	20-Aug-2023 12:00
2.	859132	Goods, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 40 Nos Desktop Computer	06-Aug-2023 10:00	20-Aug-2023 12:00
3.	860289	Goods, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 12 Nos Laser Network Printer	08-Aug-2023 10:00	22-Aug-2023 12:00
4.	860298	Goods, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 05 Nos Scanner	08-Aug-2023 10:00	22-Aug-2023 12:00

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

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branch up to date & time.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Tapas Dhali)

Assistant General Manager

Web: www.icb.gov.bd

Tel: 02- 223388655



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়

পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী

স্মারক নং- পিটিসি/নোয়াহ/রেশন/১১০৯/১(২)

তারিখঃ ০৭/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-রেশন-০২/২০২৩-২০২৪

নিম্নোবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং তদানীন্তন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ (সংশোধিত ২০০৯, ২০১৬ এবং ২০১৮) এর বিধান মোতাবেক বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প কর্পোরেশন এর স্মারক নং- ৩৬.০৪.০০০০.০৩৬.৯৯.০২৫.১৮.১৭২ তারিখ- ২০/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ, স্বরূপে মন্ত্রণালয় এর স্মারক নং- ৪৪.০০.০০০০.০৯৭.৯৯.০০৪.২০-৯৮ তারিখ- ০৭/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ এবং পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স স্মারক নং- ৪৪.০১.০০০০.৪৩৬.০২.০২৯.২০/২৬৫(১৪৪) তারিখ- ০৯/০৫/২০২৩খ্রিঃ মূলে ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার অর্থাৎ (অক্টোবর, নভেম্বর ও ডিসেম্বর/২০২৩খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত) মত্তর ডাল, সয়াবিন তৈল ও গম পেয়াই এবং ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারের জন্য চিনির পুনঃদরপত্র ও জ্বালানী কাঠ (এক বৎসরের জন্য) ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগানদার/ সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়	জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়
০২।	সংস্থ	পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০৩।	ক্রয়কারী/সংগ্রহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
০৪।	ক্রয়কারী/সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলা	নোয়াখালী জেলা।
০৫।	যে কাজ/ক্রয় এবং যে সময়ের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার অর্থাৎ (অক্টোবর), নভেম্বর ও ডিসেম্বর/২০২৩ পর্যন্ত) মত্তর ডাল, সয়াবিন তৈল ও গম পেয়াই এবং ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের ১ম ও ২য় কোয়ার্টারের জন্য চিনির পুনঃদরপত্র এবং জ্বালানী কাঠ (এক বৎসরের জন্য চাহিদা মোতাবেক) ক্রয়। অর্থাৎ ৫ কেজি, ৪ কেজি এবং মত্তর ডাল ৪ কেজি, ৫ কেজি ৫০০ গ্রাম এবং ৩ কেজি ৫০০ গ্রাম উন্নতমানের স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকে প্যাকেটজাত করে সরবরাহ করতে হইবে।
০৬।	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব খাত।
০৭।	দরপত্রদাতা/যোগানদার/ সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ এবং রেশন সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।
০৮।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের প্রান্তির স্থান	১। কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, লক্ষীপুর জেলা।
০৯।	সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ ২৭/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত)
১০।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান, শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। তারিখঃ ২৮/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী তারিখঃ ২৮/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২৮/০৮/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৩।	সিডিউল বিক্রয় মূল্য	প্রতিসেট = ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতখোপা)।
১৪।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।
১৫।	দরপত্র নিরাপত্তা জামানত মোট	১। মত্তর ডাল = ৫৫,০০০/- টাকা, ২। সয়াবিন তৈল = ৭৫,০০০/- টাকা, ৩। চিনি = ৭০,০০০/- টাকা, ৪। গম পেয়াই = ৫০,০০০/- টাকা, ৫। জ্বালানী কাঠ = ১,০০০/- টাকা।
১৬।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	১। পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ এবং তদানীন্তন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর সকল বিধি বিধান দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে। ২। ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন। ৩। দরপত্র সিডিউল অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বর্ণিত রহিয়াছে। ৪। দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল কাগজপত্র সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে। (সত্যায়িত কপি) ৫। হরতাল, অবরোধ অথবা অন্য কোন অস্বাভাবিক কারণে দরপত্র দাখিলের দিন বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথানিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও উন্মুক্ত করা হইবে।



এস এম রোকন উদ্দিন

বিপি-৬৬৯৫০০৯৭৩১

কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি)

পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী

ফোন- ০৩২১-৬১০৯০, ফ্যাক্স- ০৩২১-৬১৮৩০

জিডি-১২০২

RASHED MAMUN APU A new villain in town

“My artistic focus is drawn more towards negative characters. These roles offer a myriad of opportunities to delve into the intricacies of a character’s psyche. The canvas for expression is vast. As an actor, my aspiration is to master the craft of acting”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In the realm of contemporary cinema, Rashed Mamun Apu stands out for his remarkable portrayal of negative characters, earning accolades for his roles in the highly acclaimed films *Poran* and *Damal*. With an impressive tally of 15 released films and an additional 12 awaiting their debut, Apu has firmly cemented his status as a sought-after actor. Notably, he graced the screens with *Prohelika* and *Laal Sari* during the previous Eid season.

Your emergence as a prominent figure in the industry hasn’t gone unnoticed. What type of roles resonate with you the most?

My artistic focus is drawn more towards negative characters. These roles offer a myriad of opportunities to delve into the intricacies of a character’s psyche. The canvas for expression is vast. As an actor, my aspiration is to master the craft of acting. I regard myself as a character artiste, a facet of the industry that often goes underappreciated.

Could you share the response you received, especially from loved ones, for your performance in ‘Prohelika’?

The experience of portraying DB Officer Sharif in *Prohelika*, under the direction of Chayanika Chowdhury, was immensely rewarding. The character offered layers that I eagerly embraced—shifting between shades of negativity and adaptability. The response from various quarters was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the depth of engagement the role offered. My role in *Prohelika* stands as a pinnacle in my cinematic journey.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Reflecting on your filmography, which cinematic endeavour do you believe brought you closest to the hearts of the audience?

To be candid, while I am grateful for every film I’ve been a part of, *Poran* holds a special place for the recognition it brought me. Additionally, my portrayal of Kutu in *Damal* was exceptionally well-received by the audience. The character of Kutu, a *razakar*, evoked significant reactions and discussions. Even today, Tojo’s character from *Poran* remains a topic of conversation. Undoubtedly, *Poran* stands as the zenith of my career thus far.

Can you share your aspirations for a dream role?

The journey of learning is infinite, a path I am eager to tread. I draw inspiration from both veterans and contemporaries. I don’t have a dream role. Every role that comes my way assumes the status of a dream role.

How do you manage the hassle that comes with popularity, during visits to your hometown?

I embrace popularity as an achievement rather than a burden. I have many friends and relatives in Rajshahi. I have studied law at Rajshahi University. Visiting my hometown is an experience I relish, as I am met with huge response and immense love from people there. This reservoir of love serves as a driving force to deliver compelling performances on screen.

Suhana Khan starring in next Karan Johar film?



After a hiatus spanning seven years, Karan Johar has made a triumphant return to the director’s chair with his latest film, *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, which is making waves at the box office. However, it appears that Johar is wasting no time and is already gearing up for his next venture, which reportedly features none other than his close friend Shah Rukh Khan’s daughter, Suhana Khan.

According to insiders at Bollywood Life, both Karan Johar and Suhana Khan are enthusiastic about the upcoming project. Unlike any of Johar’s previous franchises, this new film will showcase an entirely fresh script, presenting a captivating romantic narrative.

While details about Karan Johar’s next project with Suhana Khan are still in their preliminary stages, sources suggest that filming is likely to commence by the end of this year.

Shyam Benegal applauds Shuvoo’s acting in ‘Mujib’

Shyam Benegal, the director of the highly anticipated film *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*, has showered praises on Bangladeshi actor Arifin Shuvoo for his acting prowess.

In a recent interview with an Indian YouTube channel, Shyam Benegal delved into the film’s creation, sharing insights into his creative journey and vision for the project.

When asked about the actors’ performances, Benegal remarked, “Every Bangladeshi actor in the film was outstanding, but if I were to single out one, it would be Arifin Shuvoo. He is an incredibly hardworking and dedicated actor.”



COUNTRYWIDE

People suffer as road condition awful

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Thousands of people in Netrakona’s Kendua upazila have been suffering badly as the nine-kilometre-long Kendua-Mahmudpur road has become almost unfit for movement due to lack of repair for long.

Moreover, the road goes under water and remains waterlogged even after a moderate rainfall.

Locals said a number of cracks and potholes developed on different parts of the busy road due to lack of proper maintenance by the authorities concerned.

Several thousand people, especially students and office goers, who use the road to reach Kendua upazila headquarters, have to suffer a lot due to the dilapidated condition of the road.

Critical patients and their attendants are the worst sufferers as they have to travel through the awfully dilapidated road to reach Kendua Upazila Health Complex, Ali Hossain of Baniagati village said.

Out of the nine-kilometre road, about four-kilometre portion, stretching from Sajiura intersection to sub-registry office, has developed many small and large potholes in the last four

years, said Ashik Mahmud of Sajiura village.

During monsoon, the situation gets more worsened as most parts of the important road goes under water and many of us cannot attend our classes, said tenth-grader Abida Sultana of the same locality.

Chirang Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Enamul Kabir Khan said local people have been urging the authorities concerned to repair the road for long, but no step has been taken yet in this regard.

Nearly 50,000 people of different villages under three unions of Kendua, and four unions of adjacent Madan upazila use the road to go to Kendua upazila headquarters every day.

Local farmers do not get fair prices of their produces as they cannot carry their agricultural good to nearby markets due to awful condition of the road, he said.

Contacted, Kendua Upazila LGED Engineer Mozammel Hossain said a proposal for the road repair work has been sent to the concerned ministry recently.

They will start the repair work soon after getting allocation from the higher authorities, he said.



A portion of Kendua-Netrakona Road has remained dilapidated for long, but the authorities have turned a blind eye to the woes of its users.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

It’s a strong message to the corrupt

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his three-day visit yesterday.

During the meetings, he sought to learn the challenges that Bangladesh faces in curbing corruption and preventing money laundering. He also wanted to know what support Washington could provide Bangladesh to this end.

During Nephew’s visit, two media outlets reported that some Bangladeshi individuals, including politicians, businessmen, and bureaucrats, will be facing US sanctions for corruption.

Asked about it, Foreign Secretary Masud said there was no discussion on any specific individual, although Nephew noted that sanction is a tool against corruption.

A diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday that Washington does not reveal names of individuals who may face sanctions.

But the US is considering imposing sanctions on corrupt individuals because the Biden administration has taken a strong position against corruption globally, as it hurts democracy.

Nephew’s visit to Bangladesh is part of that initiative as corruption here is widespread and a huge amount of illicit money transfer happens from Bangladesh to different countries, including the US, the UK, Canada, Middle East, Malaysia, and Singapore, the source said.

“Before imposing sanctions, there is a process. They [US officials] conduct internal investigations to collect evidence before it [imposing sanctions],” the diplomatic source added.

Analysts say the timing of Nephew’s visit is significant, as the US has already put pressure on Bangladesh by imposing sanctions against some Rab officials, and is

demanding a free and fair election this year against the backdrop of alleged anomalies in the last two national polls in 2014 and 2018.

“Washington wants to both punish the corrupt as well as support the institutions of Bangladesh in building capacity to fight corruption,” the diplomatic source said.

Ittekkharuzzaman, who was present at a meeting between Nephew and civil society groups at the US embassy on Monday, told this correspondent that if Washington means what is being said about imposing sanctions on corrupt individuals, it can initiate legal procedures against the money launderers, confiscate the ill-gotten money and help bring the money back.

During the meeting with Nephew, Foreign Secretary Masud said that many

countries, especially those known as tax havens, do not cooperate fully when it comes to providing information on money laundering.

Ittekkharuzzaman, during his meeting with Nephew, said that many countries where ill-gotten money is transferred actually create conditions for laundering and do not question the origin of the money.

He said that Nephew acknowledged the matter and said they will look into it.

During their meeting with Nephew, Bangladesh officials said that the US can help Bangladesh in enhancing capacity of relevant officials and institutions, including those of the ACC, the BFIU, and Criminal Investigation Department of police who are responsible for investigating financial crimes.

Ittekkharuzzaman said if equipped with appropriate knowledge and technical knowhows, Bangladesh officials can easily interact with the foreign entities to glean information on financial crimes, investigate, and prosecute the offenders.

“Money laundering is a sophisticated crime. One needs high-level skills to investigate it, especially as there are international connections,” he said.

But financial corruption is not all about money laundering. Many financial corruptions take place within the border. So, how can the US initiative help curb domestic corruption?

Ittekkharuzzaman said that if those involved in large-scale corruptions are punished, it will have an impact on society as a whole. To do that, the government needs to uphold its political commitment and show zero tolerance for corruption.

Number of local organisations to be cut by half

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observers were selected on the basis of a guideline. “According to the policy, politically affiliated organisations are not qualified for being observers,” he noted.

The local observers must be non-partisan and politically neutral, EC officials said, adding that organisations with affiliation with any party cannot be a member of an election observation body.

The registration of local election observers was introduced before the 9th parliamentary election in 2008. Based on the Representation of the People Order bill, the EC developed a policy for selecting local election observers.

This year the EC started the selection process in February and a total of 210 organisations applied to the election commission (EC)

for registering their names as election observers.

Later, the EC shortlisted 94 organisations and enquired about them with assistance from two intelligence agencies. Certain questions were raised about the political affiliation of over two dozen applicants, said EC sources with knowledge of the list.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said the EC used a number of tools to check the competency of the applicants.

Commenting on the selection and registration process, EC Brigadier General (Retired) Md Ahsan Habib Khan said, “The Election Commission Secretariat selected the organisations after proper verification of all necessary information and following the policy thoroughly.”

The EC is set to provide registration to 39 new organisations.

From the previous list, some 40 organisations applied this year for registration again. 29 of them are likely to get registration this year, too. They include Manabdhikar O Samaj Unnayan Sangstha, Seba Social Foundation, Agradut Sangstha, Activity for Reformation of Basic Need, Highlight Foundation, Move Foundation, Democracy Watch, Jatiya Nirbachon Parjabeekhan Parishad, Disability Inquisition Activities, Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation, Esdap, Bibi Asia Foundation, Lutfor Rahman Bhuiyan Foundation, Samaj Unnayan Prayash, Jubo Unnayan Sangstha, Taltola Jubo Unnayan Sangstha, Banche Shekha, Association for Social Development of Bangladesh, and Institute for Environment and Development.

The much talked-about organisations — Election

Monitoring Forum and SAARC Human Rights Foundation — did not get registration this time. Both the organisations are headed by Abed Ali.

Election Monitoring Forum recently brought four foreigners — two journalists and two social workers — and introduced them as “international election observers” to the EC and various other organisations. SAARC Human Rights Foundation was criticised for its “partisan” role in the parliamentary election in 2018.

During the 2018 national election, about 26,000 individuals from 81 organisations were approved as observers by the EC. In the 2014 polls, about 8,900 individuals monitored the election when 153 MPs were elected unopposed and many opposition parties boycotted the election. In 2008, 1.59 lakh local

observers monitored the election and in 2001, the number was 2.18 lakh.

Stakeholders

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incorporated a provision of fine up to Tk 25 lakh. If someone fails to pay the fine, there can be a jail sentence of three to six months, Law Minister Anisul Huq told media.

The bill also reduced the punishment for propaganda or campaign against the spirit of the Liberation War, Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the national anthem, or the national flag from 10 years to seven years, he said.

Miller was also asked on the extradition of one of the self-declared killers of Bangabandhu living in the US.

He said they don’t comment on extradition matters.

Sudan at risk of disease as corpses litter streets: charity

AFP, Cairo

War-torn Sudan is at risk of major disease outbreaks, with thousands of unburied corpses remaining out in the open and country's health and sanitation infrastructure destroyed, Save the Children warned yesterday.

Residents say Khartoum is littered with dead bodies from fighting between the forces of army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and his former deputy Mohamed Hamdan Daglo, who commands the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

With thousands of corpses decomposing on streets of the capital and morgues overflowing four months into the conflict, the charity raised the alarm about "the risk of major disease outbreaks in the city".

Sudan has seen repeated cholera outbreaks in recent years, and doctors have warned of a renewed threat as a result of the war.



Smoke billows as Israeli soldiers demolish a house at the Asker camp for Palestinian refugees east of Nablus city in the occupied West Bank, early yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

NIGER COUP US backs West African diplomatic efforts

Junta unresponsive AGENCIES

The United States yesterday backed efforts by West African countries to restore constitutional order in Niger after a July 26 coup and said that diplomacy was preferable to military intervention.

Heads of state from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) are preparing for a summit tomorrow to discuss their standoff with the Niger junta, which defied an August 6 deadline to reinstate ousted President Mohamed Bazoum.

The possibility of military intervention will be on the table. "There's no doubt that diplomacy is the best way to resolve this situation," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told French radio station RFI yesterday.

In a separate interview with BBC, Blinken said: "I think what happened, and what continues to happen in Niger was not instigated by Russia or by Wagner, but... they tried to take advantage of it."

"Every single place that this Wagner group has gone, death, destruction and exploitation have followed," said Blinken.

POST-COUP MYANMAR

War crimes by military 'more frequent, brazen'

UN probe finds; Indonesia says Myanmar solution needs 'political will' from all sides

REUTERS, GENEVA

War crimes committed by Myanmar's military, including the bombing of civilians, have become "increasingly frequent and brazen", a team of United Nations investigators said in a report published yesterday.

The report by the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar (IIMM), which covered the period between July 2022 and June 2023, said there was "strong evidence that the Myanmar military and its affiliate militias have committed three types of combat-related war crimes with increasing frequency and brazenness".

These crimes include the indiscriminate or disproportionate targeting of civilians using bombs and the burning of civilian homes and buildings, resulting at times in the destruction of entire villages, it said.

The report also cited "killings of civilians or combatants detained during operations".

"Our evidence points to a dramatic increase in war crimes and crimes against humanity in the country, with widespread and systematic attacks against civilians, and we are building case files that can be used by courts to hold individual perpetrators responsible," said Nicholas Koumjian, head of the IIMM.

Since a junta seized power two years ago, Myanmar has been plunged into chaos, with a resistance movement fighting the military on multiple fronts after a bloody crackdown on opponents that saw Western countries re-impose sanctions.

A spokesperson for the junta could not be reached for comment on the findings made by UN investigators.



The junta has previously denied atrocities have taken place, saying it is carrying out a legitimate campaign against terrorists.

Although it has justified bombings as attacks against military targets, UN investigators said the Myanmar military "should have known or did know" that a large number of civilians were in or around the alleged targets when the attacks took place.

Meanwhile, Indonesian President Joko Widodo yesterday said a resolution to the Myanmar crisis that has dragged into its

third year needed "political will" from all sides of the conflict, as divided Southeast Asian nations step up diplomatic efforts.

"We are aware the situation in Myanmar is still full of challenges. We must also realise this situation can only be resolved if there is political will from all parties," he told an anniversary event for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

The Indonesian leader told foreign dignitaries the 10-member bloc, which includes Myanmar, must continue to work together to find a breakthrough to the crisis.

"Asean, as a big ship, must move forward. This big ship must continue to sail," he said. "This big ship cannot sink because this is our responsibility to hundreds of millions of people inside."

Indonesia is this year's chair of the Asean bloc and will host a leaders' summit in September. Jakarta has engaged in what it calls "quiet diplomacy" with the Myanmar junta in a bid to bring it back to the negotiating table.

Widodo said the bloc's efforts to solve the crisis would continue along the lines of a five-point deal agreed with Myanmar's junta two years ago.

But the junta has largely ignored that agreement, which aims to end violence and resume talks between the military and the anti-coup movement.

MILITARY DRONES

India bars makers from using Chinese parts

REUTERS, NEW DELHI

India in recent months has barred domestic manufacturers of military drones from using components made in China over concerns about security vulnerabilities, according to four defence and industry officials and documents reviewed by Reuters.

The measure comes amid tensions between nuclear-armed neighbours and as New Delhi pursues a military modernisation that envisages greater use of unmanned quadcopters, long-endurance systems and other platforms.

But as the nascent Indian industry looks to meet the military's needs, the defence and industry figures said India's security leaders were worried that intelligence-gathering could be compromised by Chinese-made parts in drones' communication functions, cameras, radio transmission and operating software.

Three of these people and some of the six other government and industry figures interviewed by Reuters spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to talk to the media or because of the topic's sensitivity.

Jailed Imran Khan challenges graft conviction

Pakistan EC disqualifies him for five years

REUTERS, Islamabad



Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan appealed against his conviction and three-year sentence on corruption charges yesterday, his lawyer said, a ruling which analysts say is likely to fuel political instability. Nacem Panjutha said the petition challenging the weekend conviction had been filed in Islamabad High Court which will hear the case today.

Ex-cricketer Khan, 70, was jailed on charges of selling state gifts unlawfully during his tenure as premier from 2018 to 2022.

A US State Department spokesman said on Monday the arrest of Khan is Pakistan's "internal matter", declining to take a position on the legal troubles of the former prime minister and frequent US critic.

"Being aggrieved and dissatisfied", Khan has appealed to the high court to "set aside" the trial court's order that convicted and sentenced him, according to a copy of the petition posted by Panjutha on social media platform X, formerly Twitter.

Meanwhile, Khan was barred from politics for five years by Pakistan's election commission after his conviction on graft charges, local media reported yesterday.

NEW HISTORY TEXTBOOKS

Russia praises offensive in Ukraine

AFP, Moscow

Written in record time and praising the army: Moscow unveiled new history textbooks Monday ahead of children returning to the classroom for a second school year with troops fighting in Ukraine and ruptured ties with the West. The Kremlin has tightened its control over the historical narrative in schools under President Putin -- a trend that has hugely accelerated since Moscow launched its Ukraine offensive last year. The conflict has increasingly been presented to the youngest Russians as part of Moscow's historical mission. Presenting the new book at a press conference in Moscow, Education Minister Sergei Kravtsov said the material was written in just a few months.

July hottest month on record: EU

AFP, Paris



July was the hottest month ever recorded on Earth, the European Union's climate observatory confirmed yesterday. Marked by heatwaves and fires all around the world, the previous month was 0.33 degrees Celsius higher than the record set in July 1979 when the average temperature was 16.63C, it said. "The month was 0.72C warmer than the 1991-2020 average for July," it said. About 1.2 degrees Celsius of global warming since the late 1800s has made heatwaves hotter, longer and more frequent, as well as intensifying other weather extremes like storms and floods. "Heatwaves were experienced in multiple regions of the Northern Hemisphere, including southern Europe. Well-above average temperatures occurred over several South American countries and around much of Antarctica," climate observatory Copernicus said.

INDIAN PARLIAMENT MPs debate no-confidence motion against Modi govt

AFP, New Delhi

India's parliament debated a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government yesterday, a day after opposition leader Rahul Gandhi returned to the house.

The opposition Congress party launched the debate in a bid to force comment from Modi on months of deadly ethnic conflict in northeastern Manipur state, with a vote potentially to be held tomorrow.

Government minister Kiren Rijiju said the motion had "been brought at an extremely bad time and Congress would regret it later".

Modi's Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 303 seats in the 543-member lower house in the 2019 election and is expected to comfortably defeat the no-confidence vote, which it has dismissed as a headline-grabbing gimmick.

Gandhi, the scion of India's premier political dynasty, was restored to parliament on Monday after the Supreme Court last week suspended his defamation conviction over comments criticising Modi.

The 53-year-old Gandhi was sentenced to two years' imprisonment in March in a case that critics flagged as an effort to stifle political opposition in the world's largest democracy.

"This no-confidence motion is our necessity," Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi told a rowdy session of parliament. "We had to bring it... This was never about the numbers but justice for Manipur," Gogoi said.



The Bibby Stockholm accommodation barge is pictured moored to the quayside at Portland Port in Portland, on the south-west coast of England yesterday. Britain on Monday began housing migrants on board the barge, in its latest controversial immigration policy that has drawn heavy criticism from locals and rights campaigners.

PHOTO: AFP

Two dead, 7 hurt in China knife attack

AFP, Beijing

Two people died and seven others were being treated in hospital after sustaining injuries in a knife attack yesterday in China's Yunnan province, authorities said.

In a statement released yesterday evening, Luoping County police said a 20-year-old man with a history of mental illness had "stabbed his mother with a knife at home then fled, stabbing eight (more) people successively".

"Among them, two people were unable to be saved and died," the statement added. Seven of the victims were still being treated in hospital for their wounds.

The suspect, surnamed Chen, was arrested by public security personnel after the attack, which occurred around 8 am in the county's Lashan urban residential district.

"Investigation into the case and dealing with its aftermath are being conducted in an orderly manner," police said.

A repackaged DSA brings renewed worries

Govt must address concerns expressed by the media, rights defenders

This could have been a moment to celebrate for human rights defenders, a moment when a law that has done so much damage to civil liberties is finally done away with. Instead, a rebranded, or rather repackaged, Digital Security Act (DSA) has only sparked scepticism. The cabinet's approval on Monday of a "transformed" and "modernised" version of the law – henceforth renamed Cyber Security Act, and to be likely passed in parliament in September – brings to mind how, years ago, the erstwhile Section 57 of the ICT Act was struck off only to introduce harsher and broader restrictions on freedom of speech with the DSA.

There are enough reasons to be sceptical of this new (version of the) law. For one, the cabinet's refusal to make its draft public until it is placed in the form of a bill before parliament is suspicious. As per available information, however, none of the offences from the DSA has been decriminalised. Some offences that were previously non-bailable are now eligible for bail, while jail terms for some were either reduced or excluded, albeit retaining the option of fines. In other words, there has been little change beyond a cursory redistribution of punishment. The cabinet secretary has all but acknowledged it when he said that while the DSA is more focused on punitive prison sentences, the Cyber Security Act puts more emphasis on financial penalties. But what about the so-called offences?

Ever since the enactment of the DSA, we have continuously objected to not just the severity of the punishment but its very characterisation of what constitutes an offence. But the government's stubborn refusal to amend or repeal those nine vague, controversial provisions means that people facing charges under the DSA will continue to do so under the new version. Equally troubling is the unresolved fate of those already in jail. What will happen to these people? All the trauma and harassment that the victims have faced will likely continue. As well as the lack of clarity on the future of those facing charges, detention or jail time, there is also no word on whether they will receive compensation for their troubles, which they very much deserve.

Moreover, the new version may be as vulnerable to abuse as the one before it. This is why its approval has been met with guarded optimism at best, and outright rejection at worst. We also don't know how journalist-friendly it will be. There was at least a pretence of interacting with the media leaders before the DSA was formulated, even though their concerns were not addressed. The government has foregone any such pretence this time. So while we appreciate the effort to finally respond to years of complaints against the DSA, we feel that the government should engage with the media and other stakeholders before proceeding any further. Any reform to the law must respect human rights and the freedom of the press for it to be acceptable to us.

Bandarban needs urgent attention

Govt must immediately deploy resources, personnel to help the flood-affected people there

We are extremely concerned with the situation in Bandarban hill district. Following six days of heavy rains and mountain runoff from upstream, the two roads connecting Bandarban to Chattogram and Rangamati have been completely flooded. As a result, the district has been totally cut off from the rest of the country. And due to its only power substation also getting flooded, people there have been without power since Sunday. On top of that, the mobile network in the district has gone down in most places, effectively cutting off communications.

Rescuers are literally having to go from place to place in search of people stranded by the flood. It is unclear how many people are stuck and in danger. As of writing this editorial, 90 percent of Bandarban city is said to be under water. In most places, the water has not receded for days, while chances of further rain mean that the suffering of residents will continue unabated. One doesn't need a reminder as to what catastrophe may unfold in the remote reaches of this border district in the prolonged absence of basic facilities like electricity, food, shelter or any security guarantee. Therefore, the government must launch an all-out effort to rescue and rehabilitate those in danger. All necessary resources and administrative personnel need to be deployed immediately to that end, and to prevent any loss of lives and mitigate the damage.

On the other hand, it needs to be understood why the district, which did not go under water during heavier rainfalls 15 or so years ago, has been so heavily affected this time around. And the main reason for that has been the environmental damage that has been done in the district. The continuous cutting of hills and removal of stones to pave the way for development have caused the soil to soften and break down. The removal of trees is another massive factor. These have created a situation where flooding has become inevitable. Meanwhile, the lack of dredging and elevation of riverbanks allow river water to easily overflow. And since influential quarters have occupied different canals that are part of the district's drainage system, the overflowed water cannot easily escape.

All of these did not happen overnight. The authorities have, for years, overlooked these facts, which makes them culpable for what is presently happening. Therefore, after tackling this emergency, the authorities need to make substantial changes in Bandarban so that such a disastrous situation does not occur again.

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Easier said than done



A CLOSER LOOK

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is @tasneem_tayeb

TASNEEM TAYEB

The recent indication by Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs, Deng Xijun, that the Rohingya may be taken back to their own villages should come as a welcome news for both the one million or so Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh and for the host country itself. The majority of the refugees have been stranded here since the 2017 attacks by Myanmar's state forces which led to the killing of more than 24,000 Rohingya Muslims and exodus of more than 700,000 victims.

While Bangladesh has tried its best to shelter the vulnerable and unprotected refugees, their living conditions in the sprawling camps in Cox's Bazar have not been ideal. Starting from unhygienic sanitation conditions, to lack of economic opportunities forcing some refugees into illegal activities (including prostitution), to subpar security measures resulting in regular infighting between groups and killings of Rohingya leaders (including the brutal assassination of Mohib Ullah by criminals linked to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army), the Rohingya have been surviving in dire conditions. To add to this, the recent monthly food aid slash by the World Food Programme (WFP), first from \$12 to \$10 per person in March 2023, and then from \$10 to \$8 (effective from June 1), has made life even more difficult for the refugees. On its part, the WFP has cited declining global aid for refugees. Indeed, foreign aid for the Rohingya has dwindled over time.

Between 2017 and 2019, international humanitarian assistance accounted for 73 percent, 72 percent, and 75 percent, respectively, of the funds needed to sustain the Rohingya. In 2022, this plummeted to 49 percent of the amount required. As of June 2023, against a yearly Joint Response Plan appeal of \$876 million, only 24 percent could be assured. This has added pressure on Bangladesh and, coupled with its ongoing economic ailments, made it difficult for the country to support the lives and livelihoods of the million refugees.

The Rohingya are also desperate to escape these squalid living conditions and the restrained life of the camps. Every year, an increasing number of hopeless Rohingya refugees are paying human traffickers in search of livelihood opportunities abroad. And, inevitably, many of them are perishing in the merciless seas. According to the United Nations, in 2022 alone, more than 348 Rohingya refugees fell victim to deadly sea voyages. In fact, out of desperation, many of the refugees are now willing to go back to Myanmar even without any assurances from the Myanmar junta of their safety. To this end, demonstrations have also been taking place. According to an *Al Jazeera* report, one placard read: "No more refugee life. No verification.



PHOTO: REUTERS

The Rohingya are also desperate to escape these squalid living conditions and the restrained life of the camps.

No scrutiny. No interview. We want quick repatriation through UNHCR data cards. We want to go back to our motherland." The same report also quoted a protester as saying that they will have to "steal food for survival" if things keep going south.

But the question remains: even if they go back to their homeland, what exactly is awaiting them there? Most of their villages have been razed to the ground by the Myanmar military, even before the military takeover in 2021. As early as 2019, it was reported by the BBC that the villages were being cleared to make space for military and government infrastructure. Since 2017, more than 400 villages have reportedly been cleared. In the process, the Myanmar military has also renamed some of the places to remove any trace of the Rohingya belonging there.

The issue of the Rohingya's citizenship also remains disputed. While the Rohingya – as people of Myanmar – should be given citizenship, the Myanmar regime is still suggesting that they will only be provided with a National Verification Card (NVC), at least for now.

To put the Rohingya's citizenship issue into context: for decades, the predominantly Buddhist Myanmar population has nurtured an exclusionist approach towards the Muslim Rohingya and other minority groups. This surfaced prominently after General Ne Win grabbed power in 1962. After the coup, all attempts previously made

to recognise Rohingya's citizenship, including official documents and any such guideline to make citizenship inclusive in the 1948 constitution, were rejected by the regime, resulting in the Rohingya's statelessness.

Later, in the 1974 Myanmar constitution, the ethnic groups lost their recognition. And the Citizenship Law of 1982 ensured that the Rohingya

refugees.

As Bangladesh had suggested in 2017, to stop the ethnic cleansing and genocide of the Rohingya population and other minority groups, UN-monitored "safe zones" could be created in Myanmar. Perhaps even UN peacekeepers, consisting of troops from neighbouring countries – Bangladesh, India, and China who

lost all claim to Myanmar citizenship, in any form (full, associate, or naturalised), although their existence in Myanmar could be traced back to before 1823. The 1982 law stated that only children of the "national races" will be considered full citizens of the country, and the Rohingya certainly did not fall under the category. Now, citing this infamous and controversial law, Myanmar is trying to deny the Rohingya their right to citizenship in their motherland.

There is also the unresolved issue of guaranteeing the safety of Rohingya once they go back to their country. One might recall how the 1978 military operation against the Rohingya, termed Operation Dragon King, forced more than 200,000 Rohingya to flee Myanmar. Ever since then, thousands of Rohingya have fallen victim to the nefarious genocidal and ethnic cleansing drives of the Myanmar military, even during the so-called democratic regime of Aung San Suu Kyi.

What guarantee is there that the Rohingya will not be subjected to slow, covert killing by the same military junta, after their return to Myanmar? Without legislative measures or a formal written guarantee – to Bangladesh and international bodies such as the UN and other global players with influence over the Myanmar junta – ensuring the security of the Rohingya post-repatriation, it would be highly irresponsible on the host country's part to agree to the repatriation of the

are well aware of geopolitical realities and the historical sensitivities involved – could be deployed to protect the minority civilians in these safe zones. They could be tasked with monitoring and observing peace processes in post-conflict areas, providing security to civilians and UN personnel, apart from other responsibilities. As per standard international protocol, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees should be given free access to the returnees and the repatriation document outlining every essential detail should be reviewed and signed by the UNHCR.

China deserves thanks for assuming a leadership role in driving the repatriation discussion with Myanmar, and the Bangladesh government's positive response in this matter should also be appreciated. However, we urge the Chinese and Bangladeshi governments to ensure the rights and security of the Rohingya population in Myanmar before their repatriation. And any such repatriation should be conducted under complete international monitoring and as per standard protocol. Myanmar's ruling junta must also be urged to be considerate of the current realities and give the Rohingya their right to citizenship and a dignified life in Myanmar.

It is in the interest of the greater Asian region that the Rohingya be helped to return to their homeland, where they belong. And all of us must work together to ensure this.

What our new climate envoy can do for Bangladesh



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and a professor at Independent University, Bangladesh.

SALEEMUL HUQ

Last month the PM Sheikh Hasina appointed Saber Hossain Chowdhury, member of parliament, as her climate envoy. This is excellent news as many countries have climate envoys and Bangladesh could really use one too.

Climate change has become a part of daily life and climate-relevant international meetings are being held around the world every week. This is where the climate envoy can step in. While the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change leads the Bangladesh delegation to the annual Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), this event is not the only important one anymore when it comes to taking global-level decisions on climate change. The government needs a full-

time climate envoy to represent the country at many relevant events.

For example, soon after he was named climate envoy, Chowdhury headed to Paris, France to attend a major climate finance summit. There, I had the good fortune of joining our climate envoy during a number of the events. Before the COP28, to be held in Dubai in December, there will be the NYC Climate Week, which the MP Chowdhury will need to attend.

In addition to his role at the global level, Chowdhury is also the chair of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), from which capacity he successfully passed a unanimous parliamentary resolution declaring a "planetary emergency" a few years ago. He is also in a position

to provide guidance to the different ministries and agencies involved in tackling climate change in Bangladesh.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer him some advice and also my strong support for his endeavours on behalf of Bangladesh and the LDC Group at COP.

The first order of business I would recommend for him is to convene all the relevant ministries and agencies, including MOEFCC, the planning ministry, the foreign ministry, and the finance ministry to ensure that they work with each other in a whole-of-government manner. This can focus on comparing and mapping the different activities across our climate change plans, such as the National Adaptation Plan, the Nationally Determined Contributions, the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, and the Delta Plan so that any duplication of efforts can be avoided and synergies synced. This process would also allow devising a prioritisation plan for short-, medium- and long-term projects.

The second aspect for the climate envoy to focus on would be to enhance our access to global funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and future Loss and Damage

Funds. This needs a more concerted and focused effort, engaging the most relevant Bangladeshi experts to submit well-thought-out funding proposals to the global funds.

The third issue MP Chowdhury should focus on is improving the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) of existing national climate change funds, including the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, the annual climate budget, and even donor funds. Unless it can be proven that we were able to extract credible, positive results from the funds we received in the past, it will be difficult for Bangladesh to attract more climate funds in the future.

Finally, our new climate envoy should opt for a whole-of-society approach in changing the brand of Bangladesh, from that of a vulnerable country to one that is resilient. Our expertise in terms of climate change should also be brought to light. As part of foreign policy work, we can start sharing our knowledge with other countries. Ultimately, Bangladesh should be branded as a global leader when it comes to tackling climate change.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

It remains to be seen whether BNP can revive their lost momentum and give the ruling party a run for their money.

Did BNP make the wrong call?



THE STREET VIEW

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

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Last December, BNP managed to create a strong momentum with successive divisional rallies, defying obstacles from the ruling party cadres and law enforcement agencies. But it lost that momentum when it tried to hold a rally in Dhaka. Since then, the party – which has been out of office for more than 16 years – has been trying to regain that thrust. This time around, BNP held a series of programmes around Dhaka and got some traction thanks to its supporters, leading up to its grand rally of July 28. The party was also able to hold the rally at its preferred venue, in front of its Nayapaltan headquarters. Tens of thousands of BNP workers joined in, defying myriad odds and obstacles. It turned out to be a mammoth rally and, encouraged by the turnout, BNP announced sit-in programmes at five entry points of the capital the very next day, presumably to cut off Dhaka from the rest of the country for several hours between 11am and 4pm. But the sit-in failed in the face of the ruling party’s strong presence on the street and the aggressive attitude of the police. And again, BNP lost its momentum.

Since then, a few questions have been circulating in political circles: why did BNP go for such a programme? What did it achieve? And what will the party do now that the national election is just a few months away?

After the announcement of BNP’s one-point demand – resignation of the ruling government for a caretaker government to oversee elections – movement on July 12, the party took only 16 days to announce the sit-in demos. Coordination among the party fronts and associate bodies, which requires time, is imperative to make such ambitious programmes successful, but there seems to have been a lack of coordination among BNP leaders in this regard. Even some of the party’s senior leaders were in the

dark about these programmes till they were announced. The decision of a sit-in demo of such a scale, without much time on its hands, indicates that BNP was in a hurry.

There is no denying that the party has a strategy in place to achieve its goal of the next election being held under a nonpartisan, election-time government. But it seems that the plan may not be as well thought out as BNP supporters would like. The party’s leadership felt charged up

Back in 2013, the BNP did not come up with alternative strategies when they saw that the blockades were not working. At least this time around, they have backtracked from their plans and proposed an alternative when they realised that the sit-in had failed.

seeing the large-scale turnout in the rally, but they underestimated the government’s strength and strategic abilities. This explains why BNP couldn’t succeed entirely in its programme, and now seems to have backtracked from its tough stance. After the sit-in, the party announced demos in districts and cities across Bangladesh, which is a deviation from its Dhaka-centric plans. The

lack of coordination and confidence in terms of holding large rallies and showdown-like programmes can demoralise grassroots BNP supporters, who are paying a high price for the erroneous judgement calls of the party’s top brass.

For the longest time, BNP has argued that the government and law enforcement agencies are obstructing their peaceful rallies, and the events which unfolded on July 29 has once again lent credence to their claims. The attack by ruling party men, in the presence of the law enforcement agencies, has laid bare just how “democratic” the government will be in the lead up to the elections. Of course, some BNP men did engage in violent activities during the sit-ins, but the previous programmes of BNP were largely peaceful, despite instigations. Either way, BNP knows that any violence from its own party will eventually work against itself. And this time, the party is being careful as it was accused of conducting arson attacks in 2013 and trying to sabotage the January 5, 2014 election.

Back in 2013, the party did not come up with alternative strategies when they saw that the blockades were not working. At least this time around, they have backtracked from their plans and proposed an alternative when they realised that the sit-in had failed. This could be interpreted as the party being more mature and wiser in its current decisions.

BNP’s real loss in all this was giving the upper hand to the ruling party. There was no doubt that the ruling party felt pressure, especially after the composed and largely organised grand rally. But the following day, when ruling party cadres were able to easily disperse the BNP demonstrators, it worked like a morale-boosting tonic for the former. They felt more confident about being on the streets and not giving anything away to the BNP. This was essential for the Awami League at a time when it seemed to be under pressure from different directions to hold a free and fair election. Now it remains to be seen whether BNP can once again revive their momentum and give the ruling party a run for their money.

Our ‘I hate politics’ generation



Abu Afsarul Haider
is an entrepreneur.

ABU AFSARUL HAIDER

“I hate politics and I do not want to enter politics” seems to be the general tone of the well-educated, young, and intelligent minds of the country today. Even Obaidul Quader, general secretary of Awami League, recently said, “We have not been able to make politics interesting,” and that, “No educated, honest person wants to do politics. But they should. Otherwise, politics will lack character.” So, what is so wrong with today’s politics?

Politics in Bangladesh boasts a glorious past. It has a proud history of struggle and supreme sacrifices made for national causes, including the Language Movement in 1952, the Mass Uprising of 1969, and the Liberation War in 1971. In those days, the most well-educated, honest, and socially conscious people with high moral values were involved in politics. But unfortunately, over the passage of time, things have changed. Nowadays, for some people, politics is a hereditary calling; for others, it is just a business, a means to acquire wealth through the preferential allocation of contracts once they are in office. Various media reports of recent years have suggested that more than 61 percent of lawmakers in the present parliament are from the business community. This makes me wonder, who is running the country? Is it politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen, or others?

Good political leadership requires a mixture of knowledge, honesty, integrity, empathy, and the ability to communicate effectively. We expect our leaders to speak on key issues of economic development, health, education, etc. But, save for a few exceptions, our politicians are usually seen criticising and abusing each other using offensive language and flimsy arguments. The decency and decorum once considered inseparable from the public offices have been thrown to the wind. These so-called leaders stoop to any level to achieve their personal political aims or the interests of their parties. As such we also do not see any healthy debates or discussions on the issue that touch citizens’ lives directly.

There is no denying the fact that political standards in Bangladesh are deteriorating to abysmal levels. Given the current political climate, the concept of political reconciliation, tolerance, honesty,

human dignity, and of respecting the values of others seems lost in our politics. Today’s politics is mainly driven by two things: power and money. Money wins elections, and the winners enjoy power. It is natural to assume that a candidate who spends lavishly on elections will only focus on recouping his/her investment or simply “return favours” to those who funded him/her. This practice has tremendously weakened formal accountability mechanisms and put governance in a crisis.

Bangladesh also suffers from widespread corruption, with political leaders accused of taking bribes, embezzling funds, and engaging in other corrupt activities. According to the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index of Transparency International, Bangladesh ranked at 147 out of 180 countries.

Moreover, there are often allegations that many of these young people are engaged in illegal money-making activities including extortion and land-grabbing. In exchange, they are used as musclemen to subdue political parties’ opponents.

A study conducted by the World Economic Forum in January 2020 revealed a shocking statistic: 82 percent of young people aged between 15 and 29 years say they have no intention of living in Bangladesh and would rather migrate. Undoubtedly, it is the utter failure of our political leadership that it has created a sense of disillusionment and disengagement among young people. They have lost faith in our politics and in the politicians.

But what the youth must realise is that politics is not bad in itself; it is the people in the business that make it seem so. For Bangladesh to progress, we need good leaders. And if young and talented people remain reluctant to participate in politics, the nation will soon have to face the dire consequences of a leadership crisis. At present, the total population of Bangladesh stands at around 169.8 million, and 45.9 million of them are young people aged between 15 and 29 years. Their voices must be heard because the future of this nation lies

Undoubtedly, it is the utter failure of our political leadership that it has created a sense of disillusionment and disengagement among young people. They have lost faith in our politics and in the politicians. But what the youth must realise is that politics is not bad in itself; it is the people in the business that make it seem so. For Bangladesh to progress, we need good leaders. And if young and talented people remain reluctant to participate in politics, the nation will soon have to face the dire consequences of a leadership crisis.

Once upon a time, the most brilliant and socially conscious students used to feel proud being involved in student politics. When the need arose, they did not hesitate to participate in matters of national importance. But now, movements are mostly dictated by non-students who are used as political fodder by their senior paymasters. Partisan politics and greed for power and money have polluted our student politics, which is currently nothing but an extension of national politics.

in their hands. It is high time to take effective initiatives to break the vicious trend of the youth’s disinterest in politics, or else there will be further deterioration in the country’s political scenario. Political parties and leaders must work together to create a more positive, inclusive, and responsive political system that values and supports young people, so that they can play an important role in the development of our country and the growth of our economy.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Inform against
6 Clinton
nickname
11 Draw out
12 Shylock's
crime
13 Cavalry posts
14 First odd
prime
15 Brooklyn team
17 Concludes
18 Neighbor
20 Pale tan
22 Workout unit
23 Solar event
26 Espresso
order
28 Door sign
29 Desdemona's
husband
31 That woman
32 Move slowly

33 Stock holders
34 Derivative
chuckles
36 Bike part
38 Some swords
40 Sun-dried
brick
43 Rodeo rope
44 Characteristic
prime
45 Nervgous
46 Marshy grass

DOWN

1 Field worker
2 Bustle
3 Apply
increased
pressure
4 Quartet
doubled
5 High home
6 Except
7 Herald

8 Speed
9 Raised
10 Ensign's okays
16 Brief time
18 Singer Guthrie
19 Trounce
21 Jazz singer
Laine
23 Sinuous fish
24 Glimpsed
25 Goes astray
27 Serving
collections
30 Trip part
33 Mission man
34 Vengeful
goddess
35 As neat as —
37 Puts away
39 Put into
words
41 Sizable
42 Riviera season

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8-19

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

T A P S S C H E M E

H I R T L O O T E R

O D O R I M L A T E

R E F O R M E D

E S S E T I C K S

E S S E X S T O N E

L O S F I N I X

S N O B S F I F T Y

E G R E T A C E

G O A T E E A S I A

A D D L E S G O N G

B E S E T S E R A S

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তারিখঃ ২২ শ্রাবন ২০২৩
০৬ আগষ্ট ২০২৩

কুমিল্লা জেলার ইভিএম সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য বাড়ি/গোড়াউন ভাড়ার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার কার্যালয়, কুমিল্লা এর ইভিএমসমূহ সংরক্ষণের জন্য অফিস সংলগ্ন (কুমিল্লা সিটি কর্পোরেশন এলাকা ও সিটি কর্পোরেশন বহির্ভূত সংলগ্ন এলাকায়) গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ভাড়ার হারে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের চুক্তিতে (নবায়নযোগ্য) ৩০০০-৫০০০ বর্গফুটের বাড়ি/গোড়াউন ভাড়ার জন্য, বাড়ি/গোড়াউন মালিকগণের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারির পর হতে আগ্রহী বাড়ির মালিকগণ আগামী ৩১ আগষ্ট ২০২৩ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার, কুমিল্লা এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত বাস্তব সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র জমাদান করবেন এবং প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ ৩১ আগষ্ট ২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) গঠিত দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত কমিটি কর্তৃক উন্মুক্ত করা হবে। বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল আগামী ২৮ আগষ্ট ২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন (সকাল ৯:০০ হতে বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) সময়ে নগদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমাদান পূর্বক সিনিয়র জেলা নির্বাচন অফিস, কুমিল্লা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলি সিডিউলে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে। কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করবে।

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জিডি-১২০১



TREE FAIR

Rain leads to low turnout

MOHAMMAD SUMON

“Due to continuous rain, no buyers are visiting the plant fair for the last four days. We hope to see a good turn-out when the rain recedes,” said Nusrat Jahan Mim, owner of Bagan Bilas Nursery.

More than 70 nursery owners and employees have been waiting for visitors for the last few days at the 15-day tree fair, organised by Chattogram forest division in the port city’s busy CRB area. Though the fair began on a good note on July 30, continued rain has led to a poor turnout for the last few days.

Visiting the fair on Monday, this correspondent saw all 100 stalls, displaying various kinds of local and foreign varieties of plants, vacant since morning. While some visitors came to the fair when the rain lessened in the afternoon, the number rounded off to a few as the drizzles continued.

“I did not want to miss out on the opportunity of exploring new species of trees and plants with my children. So, I came to the fair today. My children really enjoy such fairs, but the rain is making regular visits difficult,” said Rowshan Ara, a homemaker who visited the fair with her two children.

Rubel Hossain, a salesman of Paharika Nursery, requested the authorities to extend the fair as his sales were very low in the last four days.

“I could not even sell trees worth Tk 200 after the rain started. Eight days have already passed. Hopefully, the authorities will consider the situation and extend the fair,” he said.

The fair is organised annually, informed Chattogram North Divisional Forest Officer SM Kaichar.

“We take this initiative to raise awareness on the need of planting more trees and conserving them for the future. Considering the situation, we might extend the fair,” he said.



Continuous rain for the last four days swamped the port city, inundating homes, shops, schools, and hospitals. While some resorted to deploying sandbags and bricks to prevent the water from entering their premises, a few set off with nets to enjoy fishing amid the drizzle. The water has receded from main roads, but many of the city’s lanes and alleys still remain waterlogged. The photos were taken over the last couple of days in different areas of Chattogram city.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CMP service centres remain closed for poor response



FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

Two service centres of Chattogram Metropolitan Police in the port city have remained closed for months following poor response from service seekers.

CMP introduced the centres last year in Agrabad and Kazir Dewri areas in a move to take its services to the peoples’ doors.

After their inauguration, CMP said people from any police station area under CMP can lodge a general diary for missing documents and mobile phones and pay traffic fines at the centres.

The service centres were set up using a 40-feet container each, with computers, furniture, and air conditioners installed inside.

CMP Commissioner Saleh Mohammad Tanvir first inaugurated the centre in front of Agrabad Corporate Branch of Sonali Bank in Kadambari area under Double Mooring Police Station.

CMP made significant efforts to announce and advise regarding the centre’s inauguration to draw people’s attention and get a good response.

Later, another centre was inaugurated in the Kazir Dewri area under Kotwali police station.

Initially, response from people was good following the inauguration, according to CMP sources. However, over time, the response gradually came down.

Seeking anonymity, a police official of CMP’s Kotwali zone said, “There is no visible work of the service centre installed in the Kazir Dewri area. For the poor response from the public, the centre has been closed. Now



traffic police or police personnel use it while covering different political programmes.”

“To run the service centre, a sub-inspector, an assistant sub-inspector, a constable and a computer operator were appointed. Sometimes, only one GD was registered over a span of two days while four police personnel had to stay at the centre from morning till evening to keep it operational. It was a waste of manpower,” he added.

This correspondent visited Agrabad and Kazir Dewri service centres on three days last week and found those locked.

On a few occasions, Agrabad Service Centre was opened for traffic police, said roadside hawkers.

However, senior officials claimed the service centres have been fully functional and are not closed.

Talking to The Daily Star, Muhammad Jasim Uddin, deputy commissioner of CMP west zone, said “It’s not true that the service centre in Agrabad is closed. We are providing legal suggestions and assistance to the people from the centre and it is fully functional.”

When asked how many people were served from the centre in the last one month, the DC asked to talk about the issue with the Double Mooring Police Station.

Contacted, Kotwali Police Station’s Officer-in-Charge Jahidul Kabir said, “The service centre in Kazir Dewri is not closed. Most of the people, however, are now coming directly to the police station for legal assistance.”

The OC, however, admitted that the number of service seekers at the centre has not been significant.

No respite for KARNAPHULI, HALDA

Sewage flow into the rivers continues as STP project yet to finish

SIFAYET ULLAH

Chattogram city dwellers will have to bear the nuisance of sewage pollution in the Karnaphuli and Halda rivers even longer, as the completion deadline for the Sewerage Treatment Plant-1 project has been extended.

Every day, more than 25 crore litres of polluted water, including sewage, flows through the city’s 16 main canals, and eventually goes into the Karnaphuli and Halda, damaging the aquatic ecosystem.

The deadline for the STP-1 project, implemented by Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority was June. However, the government has now extended its deadline by a year to June 2024, as CWasa failed to complete the project within the scheduled time.

The project officials, however, said the STP-1 project is unlikely to be completed before 2026, as only 30 percent of the physical work has been completed so far.

“We need at least three more years to complete the project, as construction of a road and complications in land acquisition have delayed it,” said Mohammed Ariful Islam, STP-1 project director.

According to the port city’s Sewerage Master Plan 2017, CWasa divided the city into six packages to set up six STPs. They started work on Package-1 with an estimated cost of Tk 3,808 crore, said CWasa officials.

This correspondent recently visited Bakalia area of the port city and observed polluted water from the septic tanks of buildings flowing straight into Chaktai canal, which is directly linked to the Karnaphuli.

Akter Hossen, a resident of the area, admitted that they let their sewage into the canal. “We are forced to do so as we have no alternative,” he said.

The main objective of the STP project is to reduce pollution of the Karnaphuli and Halda, as both water bodies were being polluted with sewage wastes produced by six million residents of the port city, said project officials.

The per day sewage waste figures, generated by city dwellers, will rise to around 515 million litres by 2030, which will push the Karnaphuli and Halda to the deathbed, unless the waste treatment plants come into effect, according to the Sewerage Master Plan.

Experts have already warned that aquatic organisms in the Karnaphuli will be wiped out if the ongoing situation continues.

Over the last 20 years, a total of 30 species of freshwater fish have disappeared from the Karnaphuli, according to a study conducted by Prof Md Manzoorul Kibria of Chittagong University’s Zoology department.

“The Karnaphuli still survives despite the thousands of tonnes of waste being dumped into it as the tide washes the river every day. But CWas should complete the project soon to save the river,” said Prof Kibria.

Under the STP-1, approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in 2018, two million urban dwellers of 11 wards in the port city will be brought under the sewerage system.

A treatment plant will be set up on 165 acres of land in the city’s Halishahar area and 200 km-long pipelines will be installed. After completion of the project, no buildings will require septic tanks, as all household sewage will directly go to the STPs.

A South Korean company, Taeyoung Engineering and Construction Limited, is implementing the project.



The unfinished STP 1 project.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Time of the essence as BCB defers captaincy call

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) convened an emergency board meeting yesterday to discuss the ODI captaincy. Although the assumption was that the captain was going to be announced on the day, eventually BCB decided to defer the decision.

It was decided in the meeting that BCB president Nazmul Hassan Papon has been given the responsibility to hold talks with potential candidates over the captaincy role.

Shakib Al Hasan, already the Test and T20I captain of Bangladesh, is still in pole position to be selected for the role. According to BCB sources, however, the board are concerned over the fact that giving captaincy of all three formats to Shakib may turn out to be a bit of a burden for the player, especially with the Asia Cup and World Cup looming.

"We have options, it isn't like we don't have options but we want to know what the board directors are thinking," a BCB source said on conditions of anonymity.

BCB cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus came to address the media following the meeting and talked about probable candidates.

"As you know, Shakib is there, Liton [Das] too, and we have the promising Miraz [Mehedi Hasan]. We will hold talks with them," Jalal told the media.

It could not be ascertained whether talks have gone on with Shakib. It is, however, irregular that no major decision was taken following an emergency board meeting. Even yesterday, BCB officials had suggested that they would reach a decision on Tuesday.

The cut-out date for the Asia Cup squad is August 12 and the board would have to announce the captain and the squad by then. BCB wants to learn where Shakib stands in terms of captaining the ODI side and the duration he would take over the reins for.

A few of the BCB directors remained unsure of Shakib's preference. The all-rounder has various kinds of obligations that keeps him busy. Shakib has commercial obligations while franchise cricket still has an allure for the all-rounder. Logistically, captaining the side in three formats is a difficulty given his family resides in the USA.

The BCB wants to appoint a captain for the Asia Cup, the New Zealand home ODI series and the ODI World Cup in India. They want to know what Shakib's preference is before moving forward with the captaincy choice.

The board directors during the meeting voiced their opinions regarding who they find suitable for the job. Given Shakib's experience, Shakib was the preferred option for the majority.

The concern is whether Shakib sees himself captaining in all three formats following the World Cup since BCB prefers a more long-term solution. However, time is of the essence as the deadline for announcing the World Cup squad is September 5.

Split captaincy for white-ball and red-ball formats is also in the discussion, according to sources. If Shakib prefers taking over the white-ball format hot seats, the Test captaincy could see change.

"Since we have the Asia Cup coming up, we want to announce the Asia Cup captain first. Along with that, the other two formats are there and we want to think about them and then give responsibility," Jalal added.

Whether or not Shakib now sees himself as the captain, the BCB's preference would be towards him. If Shakib, at the age of 37, does not see himself captaining the side behind the World Cup, the board would have to hold discussion.

For now, though, the ball may very well be in Shakib's court as BCB talks with potential candidates. It is a matter of frustration for even board members that the captaincy matter before major events is yet to be settled.



Bangladesh national women's football team members stand behind Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other dignitaries following the distribution of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Padak-2023 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday. The football team and four distinguished women received the award for their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

PHOTO: PMO

Tigers dreaming of 'special outcome'

SPORTS REPORTER

A festive atmosphere pervaded at Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday as the current and former national cricketers enjoyed moments with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 trophy, on its second day of the three-day tour in Bangladesh.

Excitement was in abundance from the youngsters. Shamim Hossain, for instance, could not resist himself from kissing the World Cup trophy before the photoshoot.

Veterans Mushfiqur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad were seen posing for pictures with the World Cup trophy, showing that experienced campaigners were not far behind in terms of having enthusiasm.

Earlier, an animated Mushfiqur carried the trophy to stadium premises. Behind his huge smile, the experienced cricketer may have masked his long-held desire to lift the World Cup for Bangladesh.

Mushfiqur will be featuring in his fifth ODI World Cup, in what could most likely be his final appearance at the marquee event. The same goes for Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and Riyad.

The 36-year-old, dreaming of something special in the upcoming World Cup, highlighted that Bangladesh's vast experience could prove to be a vital factor this time around.

"Obviously, experience is a big factor but, no matter how good you are in pen and paper, you have to play better cricket on the given day. Most importantly, I am lucky to have played in the last four World Cups and if I get the opportunity, I will try to make it even more special, in terms of result compared to the previous four occasions," Mushfiqur said.

"We have the strength and we have the belief, but everything will depend on how well we can start. I think it's very important to have a good start.

"Since we are an experienced side in ODIs and we have been playing consistent cricket in the past four-five years, obviously we can hope to get a very good and special outcome this time around."



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

The fascination towards the World Cup trophy remains similar from one generation to the next, according to another former Bangladesh captain and current selector Habibul Bashar Sumon.

Bangladesh were a mere participant in their maiden World Cup appearance in 1999. An optimistic Bashar now wants to get closer to the trophy this time around.

"We played the '99 World Cup and, truth be told, I got very excited watching the trophy. Feels like the World Cup started today (yesterday). In 2019 we were in a good position and went there with a good side," said Bashar.

"We don't want to just play well, we want to do something very good. We want to get closer to the trophy. We have played well in World Cups before but the results didn't always come. This time we want results.

"Everything is in a good state but the kind of form the team is in at the World Cup is very important. The last one year we have been in tremendous form and if we can carry that to the World Cup, we can expect something good," Bashar added.

Mushfiqur, Bashar and many deem the upcoming World Cup as Bangladesh's best chance to make it a special one. With ever-growing expectations this time around, can the Tigers dare to dream big?

AFC U-23 ASIAN CUP QUALIFIERS

Mintu picks 37 players for training

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday disclosed a 37-member preliminary squad for AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, with head coach Julfikar Mahmud Mintu focusing on physical and mental preparation to fight it out against superior rivals in the campaign.

Bangladesh have been pitted against Thailand, Malaysia and Philippines in Group H, with 11 group winners and four best runners-up teams slated to advance to the finals of the competition.

"It is a big challenge for me to make the players ready physically and mentally as I can't get seven to eight players from the national team due to different engagements including that of the national team as well as of Abahani and Bashundhara Kings," said Mintu, who previously worked as an assistant coach of the national team.

In the five previous additions, Bangladesh lost 14 out of 16 matches, only managing to beat Sri Lanka 2-0 in the 2020 edition and playing out a goalless draw against India in the 2016 edition. They suffered heavy defeats against opponents such as Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tajikistan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen in the past.

"Thailand and Malaysia are strong opponents who have been together for one and a-half years. They play high-pressing football, so, we have to find out how to play against them, resisting their high-pressing football," said Mintu.

After discussing with national team's head coach Javier Cabrera, Mintu picked 10 players from the Asian Games contingent in his squad, which will begin its residential camp at BKSP today.

FIXTURES

Sept 6: Bangladesh vs Malaysia

Sept 9: Bangladesh vs Thailand

Sept 12: Bangladesh vs Philippines



A second-half goal by Catalina Usme fired Colombia to a 1-0 win over Jamaica on Tuesday and carried the South Americans to their first Women's World Cup quarterfinal. [Inset] France's Kenza Dali celebrates with Kadidiatou Diani after scoring her team's second goal during a 4-0 victory over Morocco to reach quarterfinal.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India 'trying everything' to end 12-year wait

AGENCIES

India ODI captain Rohit Sharma reflected on World Cup memories and looks optimistically ahead to a home campaign beginning in October.

On hand during the Barbados leg of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 Trophy Tour, posing with the prize on offer come 19 November, Rohit said, "I have never seen this trophy from this close."

While India may not have advanced past the semi-final stage in the last two ICC Men's



Cricket World Cups, Rohit believes his side can emulate the 2011 success of his compatriots.

"When we won in 2011, I was not a part of the squad, but it is beautiful and has so many memories behind it. I remember watching it from home, every single match," said the 36-year-old, who admits having considered not watching the campaign at all after the disappointment of missing out on squad selection.

"We are trying everything we can from our perspective to make sure we are ready for that World Cup."

Hockey team in tough Asian Games group

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh hockey will be up for the challenge to defend its sixth position in the Hangzhou Asian Games after being drawn in a tough group alongside three superior rivals.

Bangladesh have been pitted against India, Pakistan, Japan, Uzbekistan and Singapore in Pool A, while Pool B features South Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand and Indonesia.

During the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia, Bangladesh finished sixth, equaling their previous best feat from 1978. They lost against South Korea in the fifth-place deciding match following third-place finish in Pool B where Pakistan and Malaysia emerged champions and runners-up to advance to the semifinals.

This time around, Bangladesh will face an uphill task against India, Pakistan and Japan if they want to finish among top three in Pool A. If Bangladesh fail to do so, they will have to play in classification match for the seventh-eight positions, subject to finishing fourth in the six-team pool.

Bangladesh will start their campaign against Japan on September 24, a day after the opening ceremony of the multidiscipline event in Hangzhou, China.

Pool A: Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Japan, Uzbekistan, Singapore

Pool B: South Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand, Indonesia

All my love and respect to you. I am sorry for what happened. Also, for our England fans and my team-mates, playing with and for you is my greatest honour and I promise to learn from my experience.

England's Lauren James to Nigeria's Michelle Alozie



All the awards are special to me because every award has its own significance.

Sabina Khatun, Bangladesh captain

"This award means a lot to me for being able to receive it in the presence of many [esteemed] people."

Maria Manda, Bangladesh vice-captain



POLLS MONITORING

Number of local organisations to be cut by half

EC decides at meeting

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The number of local organisations that will monitor the next general polls is likely to be reduced by nearly half compared to previous elections.

The election commission yesterday decided at a meeting that a total of 68 local organisations would get registration to monitor the 12th parliamentary election.

EC Secretary Jahangir Alam said the EC in a public notice following the meeting published a list containing names of 68 local organisations as election observers.

Jahangir said any individual or organisation can raise objections about the names on the list. However, he noted, the objections should be lodged with the EC within the next 15 working days.

The list will be finalised after considering such objections, he added.

Ahead of the last December 30, 2018 parliamentary polls, the EC provided registration to 118 local organisations.

The EC secretary also said the local

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Vehicles in a long tailback at the capital's Kakrail intersection around noon yesterday. Several streets in the city had gridlocks amid intermittent rain the entire day.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

It's a strong message to the corrupt

Say analysts about US anti-corruption official's communication to Momen

PORIMOL PALMA

Washington's communication that it may consider sanctions as a tool against corruption delivers a strong message to those who have already been proven corrupt or have been accused of large-scale corruption, analysts say.

US State Department Coordinator for Global Anti-Corruption Richard Nephew made the communication to Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen during a meeting at the Foreign Service Academy on Monday.

"This message [from Washington to Dhaka] can add a new dimension in the fight against corruption," Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Nephew, who arrived in Dhaka on Sunday, met officials of the Anti-Corruption Commission, foreign ministry, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), businessmen and civil society members before ending

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IMF'S \$4.7B LOAN

Two of 6 major conditions missed

Staff mission to review H1 progress later this quarter

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has failed to meet two of the six quantitative targets set for the first half of 2023 by the International Monetary Fund for the \$4.7 billion loan, with one of them being a mandatory condition.

The finance ministry has already written to the Washington-based multilateral lender explaining why the country missed the two conditions, The Daily Star has learnt from officials involved with the proceedings.

They have also explained the matter to Krishna Srinivasan, the IMF's director of the Asia and Pacific Department, when he called into Bangladesh last month.

The government has failed to maintain minimum net international reserves (NIR) of \$24.46 billion at the end of June.

The NIR target was missed by about \$3 billion as the government had to dip into reserves to pay for essential imports of fuel, fertiliser and foodstuff from the reserves, the finance ministry officials said.

Govt will seek a waiver from meeting the two conditions such that the second instalment of the loan can be released.

The minimum tax revenue target will also be missed. The government needed to collect at least Tk 345,630 crore in tax revenue in fiscal 2022-23.

That target will be missed by about Tk 15,000 crore as collections slowed down as a result of the import curbs put in place to preserve the strained dollar stockpile.

Subsequently, the government will seek a waiver from meeting the two conditions from the IMF such that the second instalment of the loan can be released, the finance ministry officials said.

If a country misses a quantitative performance criteria (QPC) condition, the IMF executive board may approve a waiver if it is satisfied that the programme will still succeed. This may be because the deviation was minor or temporary or because national authorities are taking corrective actions.

Missed structural benchmarks (SB) and indicative targets (IT) do not require waivers but are assessed in the context of overall programme performance.

The minimum NIR is a QPC while the tax revenue floor is an indicative target.

The rest of the quantitative targets like the floor on budget, social spending and development capital investment and the ceiling on reserve money have been met.

The government has also met all six of the SBs for June 2023, the finance ministry officials said.

The SBs for June include the adoption of an interest rate corridor system, reporting official reserve assets as per the IMF's BPM6 definition and introduction of a market-determined exchange rate.

The central bank was supposed to complete the pilot risk-based supervision action plan and publish banks' distressed assets in the annual financial stability report as well.

The finance ministry has also adopted tax revenue measures yielding an additional 0.5 percent of GDP in fiscal 2023-24's budget.

The first review of the programme to assess the programme's quantitative targets and progress of reform implementation will take place in the last week of September or the first week of October.

Russian missiles destroy apartments, hotel

Says Ukraine; 7 killed; Poland to send additional troops to Belarus border

REUTERS, Pokrovsk

Russian missiles struck the eastern Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk twice on Monday night, destroying a popular hotel and apartments, killing at least seven people and wounding scores, officials said yesterday.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said seven people, including five civilians, were killed.

"We are resuming clearing the rubble. At night, we were forced to suspend work due to the high threat of repeated shelling," Klymenko said on the Telegram messaging app yesterday.

Two missiles hit the centre of Pokrovsk within 40 minutes of each other, witnesses said. Pictures posted by officials showed that the hotel, in the centre of the city, suffered a direct hit, with several floors missing.

Residents said the Druzhba (Friendship) Hotel was popular with journalists, aid workers and the military. It was one of the few still operating in the eastern Donetsk region, close to the frontline.

Russia's defence ministry yesterday said Russian forces had hit a Ukrainian command post in Pokrovsk, known in Russia as Krasnoarmysk, the Interfax news agency reported.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a video published yesterday that Ukraine would fight back against Russia in the Black Sea to ensure its waters were not blockaded and it could import and export grain and other goods.

The comments, published on the president's website, come days after Ukrainian maritime drones packed with explosives damaged a Russian warship near a major Russian port and struck a Russian tanker.

"If Russia continues to dominate the Black Sea, outside its territory, blockading or firing at us again, launching missiles at our ports, Ukraine will do the same. This is a just defence of our opportunities, of any corridor," Zelensky said.

Meanwhile, Poland's defence ministry has agreed to send additional troops to the Belarus border following a request from the border guard service, state-run news agency PAP reported.

Warsaw has been on high alert recently as Russian Wagner mercenary troops arrived in Belarus for training.

On Monday, the border guard service asked the defence ministry to send an additional 1,000 troops to the border amid increased attempts to cross the frontier illegally.

CYBER SECURITY ACT

Stakeholders should have a say in it

Says US state dept

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US encourages Bangladesh to give all stakeholders an opportunity to review and provide input to the new draft Cyber Security Act to ensure it meets international standards.

"We welcome the Bangladeshi government's long stated commitment to reform the law, to protect freedom of expression," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller at a briefing on Monday in response to a question.

He said as Washington previously stated, the Digital Security Act has been used to arrest, detain, and silence critics.

The comment comes after the government on Monday decided to "transform" and "modernise" the Digital Security Act and change its name to Cyber Security Act.

The bill dropped the provision of jail term for defamation charge and

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Long before whales, a marine reptile was a filter-feeder



REUTERS

The blue whale and other baleen whales, the gentle giants of the sea, sift huge quantities of tiny prey from ocean water using a filter-feeding system in their mouths. But they were not the first marine creatures to feed like that.

Fossils unearthed in China's Hubei Province indicate that a curious marine reptile called Hupehsuchus nanchangensis that lived 248 million years ago in the Triassic Period employed a similar system during a time of tremendous evolutionary innovation following Earth's worst mass extinction.

Unlike the blue whale, today's largest animal, Hupehsuchus was modest in size, about three feet (one metre) long. It possessed a long and narrow snout, toothless mouth, front and back limbs that could serve as paddles for steering, and a broad tail that it flipped from side to side for forward propulsion.

Long and loose bones made up its snout, with a narrow lower jaw only loosely connected to the rest of the skull to let it open its mouth widely to take in large quantities of water bearing small prey called zooplankton.

Kidnapped Bangladeshi UN official released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi UN official, who was abducted by al-Qaeda from southern Yemen, has been released yesterday, around 18 months after his kidnapping, family members said.

AKM Sufiul Anam, field security coordination officer of United Nations Department of Safety and Security, was kidnapped in February last year.

He retired from the Bangladesh Army as lieutenant colonel in 2005 and had been working with the UN since.

Sakeef, son of Sufiul, told The Daily Star that they were grateful to the prime minister, chief of army staff, and everyone who was involved in the matter in the administration.

"I talked to my father a few hours ago. He is well," Sakeef said yesterday evening.

Sufiul was among five UN employees who were taken as hostage by al-Qaeda.



Rescuers work at the site of a building destroyed during a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS