

S ALAM'S BUSINESSES ABROAD

SC halts probe till January 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday put on hold until next year the enquiry into S Alam Group owner Mohammed Saiful Alam's offshore businesses for which there is no record of him taking permission from Bangladesh Bank.

The chamber judge of the SC, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, passed the order, setting January 8, 2024, for holding the next hearing on the matter before a full bench led by the chief justice.

The judge ordered that a status quo be maintained regarding the matter until the next hearing.

On August 6, a High Court bench of Justice Khazir Hayat Lizu and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder had ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit and police's Criminal Investigation Department to probe the findings of a report published by The Daily Star on August 4.

The Daily Star investigation, titled "S Alam's Aladdin's Lamp," found that Saiful Alam along with his wife has built a business empire worth at least about \$1 billion in Singapore, although there is no record of him taking any permission from the central bank to invest or transfer any funds abroad.

At the hearing yesterday, senior lawyers Ajmalul Hossain, Ahsanul Karim and Mohammad Sayeed Ahmed Raza represented Alam and his wife Farzana Parveen, while a number of prominent lawyers in the bar took front-row seats.

On August 21, Alam's lawyers moved the Appellate Division for a stay on the High Court's August 6 suo moto rule.

At the hearing yesterday, nobody represented the government, or any of the government agencies that were ordered to probe Alam's offshore businesses, except for Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan who argued for the ACC.

Other government entities made respondents to the HC rule include the secretaries of the ministries of finance, foreign affairs, law and home affairs, chairman of the National Board of Revenue, inspector general of police, special police super of immigration, and deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Dhaka.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin was present at the courtroom, but did not speak.

"Why would I speak? The state is not a party to this order," he told The Daily Star after the hearing.

However, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told this newspaper, "Since the High Court gave the rule, the state is the petitioner here. And the attorney general should have represented the government."

Alam's lawyers argued that the HC's suo moto rule has no legal ground because it was given before the HC verified the authenticity of the evidence used in the newspaper report. Therefore, the court did not have any prima facie evidence.

In response, Justice Enayetur Rahim said The Daily Star has the evidence, and asked why it would be a problem if there is an enquiry.

Previously, Alam's lawyers had placed the same arguments in a petition submitted to the attorney general's office, asking for the investigation order to be recalled.

When passing the order on August 6, the HC asked The Daily Star to submit an affidavit by October 10 with regard to the authenticity of its report. Yesterday, The Daily Star

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SSIB SEIZURE

10 S'pore banks asked to deliver documents

STAR REPORT

Singapore authorities have requested documents from at least 10 banks as they extend a S\$1bn (US\$737m) money laundering investigation, reports the Financial Times.

Public prosecutors told a court yesterday that they were seeking documents from financial institutions linked to those arrested and charged last week in one of Singapore's biggest-ever money laundering cases, the report adds.

The investigation has named two banks so far, Citigroup's Singapore subsidiary and Malaysia's CIMB, while other banks have not been named, reported FT, adding that none of the financial institutions have been charged.

Citigroup said in a statement it was "committed to the fight against money laundering and ensuring the highest standard of governance controls", while CIMB did not respond to a request for comment, it adds.

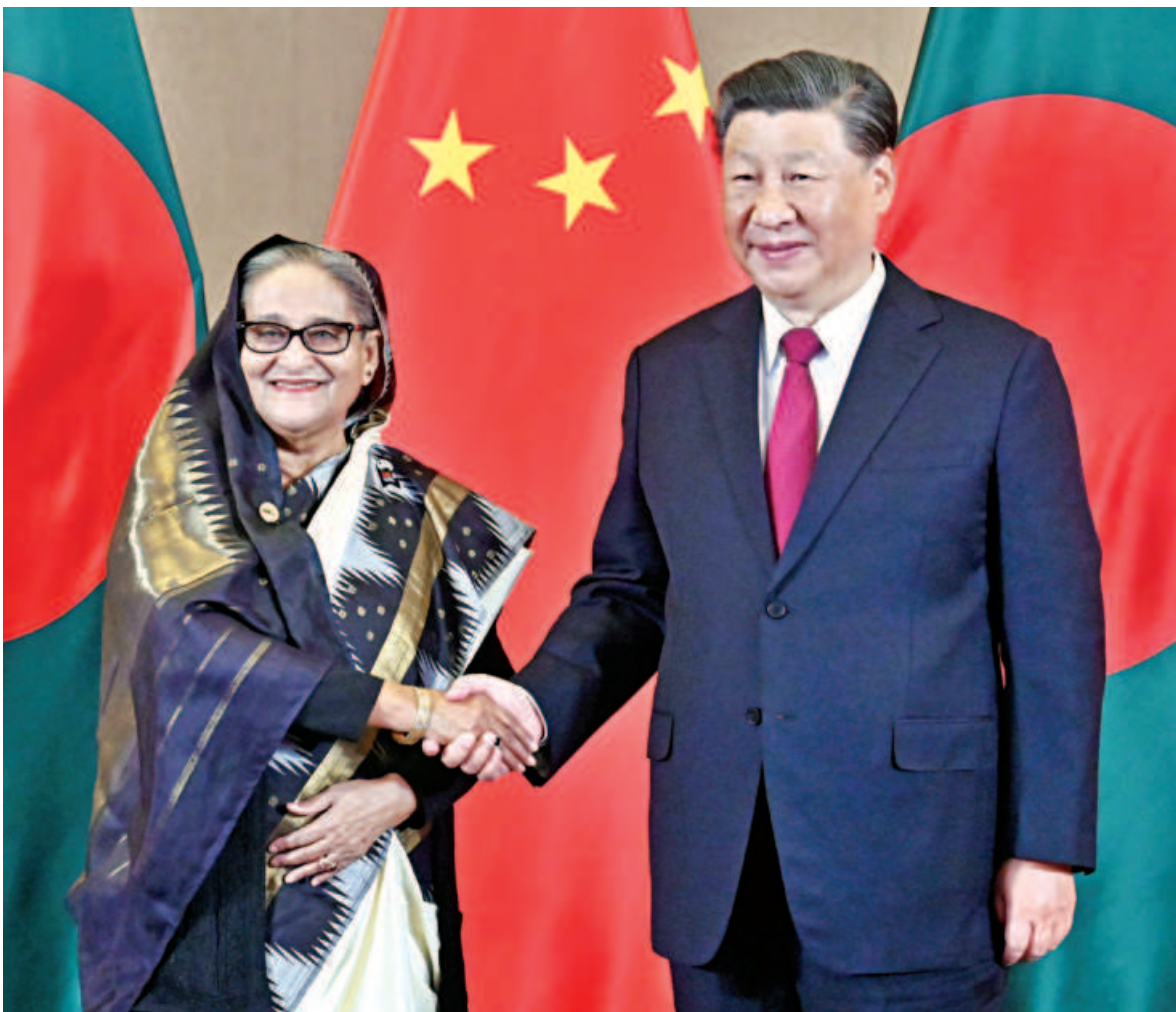
The 10 individuals, who were detained in simultaneous raids involving 400 officers, are suspected of laundering the proceeds of overseas criminal activities, including scams and online gambling, as well as forging documents, reported multiple media outlets.

The individual included nationals from China, Cyprus, Turkey and Vanuatu. They were all in possession of China-issued passports, according to police.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore said that suspicious fund flows and other inconsistencies with documentation had prompted banks to alert authorities, which led to the investigation.

"MAS takes this case seriously and has been in touch with the financial institutions where the potentially

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping shake hands. The two leaders held a meeting at Hilton Sandton hotel in South Africa's Johannesburg last night.

PHOTO: PMO

HASINA MEETS CHINESE PRESIDENT

Xi calls for stepping up cooperation

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

Chinese President Xi Jinping during his meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on China and Bangladesh to push for high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and give full play to their economic complementarity.

Xi, during his bilateral meeting with Hasina, also urged the two sides to step up cooperation in infrastructure, information technology, new energy and agriculture, among other areas, reports Xinhua.

The meeting between the two was held at the Hotel Hilton Sandton in Johannesburg, South Africa, yesterday evening on the sidelines of the 15th BRICS Summit.

Bangladesh premier arrived in Johannesburg on Tuesday to attend the summit.

On August 24, she will deliver a speech on behalf of Bangladesh as a member of the "New Development Bank of BRICS" at Friends of BRICS Leaders Dialogue (BRICS-Africa Outreach and the BRICS Plus Dialogues) comprising representatives from 70 countries, reports BSS.

Chinese President Xi arrived in South Africa on Monday night.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman, PM's daughter and Theamatic Ambassador of Climate Vulnerable Forum and Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders Saima Wazed, PM's Principal Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah and Senior Secretary of Foreign Affairs Masud Bin Momen were present during the meeting.

BRICS agrees on expansion

Bloc leaders adopt mechanisms for considering new members

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Leaders of the BRICS bloc of leading developing countries have agreed mechanisms for considering new members, South Africa said yesterday, paving the way for dozens of interested nations to join the group which has pledged to champion the "Global South".

Agreement on expansion could help lend global clout to BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - at a time when geopolitical polarisation is spurring efforts by Beijing and Moscow to forge it into a viable counterweight to the West.

"We have agreed on the matter of expansion," South Africa's foreign minister Naledi Pandor said on Ubuntu Radio, a station run by her ministry, following a meeting by BRICS leaders at a three-day summit in South Africa.

"We have a document that we've adopted which sets out guidelines and principles, processes for considering countries that wish to become members of BRICS...That's very positive."

Enlarging BRICS has topped the agenda at the summit taking place in Johannesburg. While all BRICS members had publicly expressed support for growing the bloc, there had been divisions among the leaders over how much and how quickly.

Its member countries also have economies that are vastly different in scale and governments that often seem to have few foreign policy goals in common, complicating its consensus-driven decision-making.

China's economy for example, is more than 40 times larger than South Africa's, Africa's most developed country.

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MONEY LAUNDERING

UAE fines 225 companies for violating laws

STAR REPORT

The UAE's Ministry of Economy has imposed administrative penalties on 225 companies with a value of about 76.9 million dirhams (Tk 229.57 crore) to combat money laundering and terror financing, reports the UAE-based Khaleej Times.

It also suspended 50 establishments for three months for failing to register in the anti-money laundering system of the Financial Intelligence Unit. These businesses were put on hold in the third quarter of 2023, the report said on Monday.

Through the anti-money laundering system, the Financial Intelligence Unit receives reports of suspicious transactions. It examines transactions and activities to detect money laundering and terror financing.

The goal is to prevent financial criminal activities that could jeopardise the UAE's efforts to meet the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements.

On August 10, the ministry announced that 29 companies operating in the UAE's designated non-financial business or professions (DNFBP) sector had been fined 22.6 million dirhams for failing to comply with anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) legislation, according to the Khaleej Times report.

The ministry noted that these firms would remain suspended until they are registered in the anti-money

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Create economic corridor to boost output, jobs

Says ADB in its recent study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Establishing an economic corridor connecting the key lagging regions of northeast and southwest Bangladesh via Dhaka can ensure 2.6 times the output and generate 2.3 times the employment by 2050, found an Asian Development Bank study.

Bangladesh has its economic growth concentrated mainly in the Dhaka and Chattogram divisions, while other divisions lack adequate physical and social infrastructure to promote their growth.

Currently, northeast and southwest Bangladesh are key lagging regions in the country, said the Manila-based multilateral lender in a report styled "Bangladesh Economic Corridor Development Highlight". The report was launched yesterday in an event at the BICC with Planning Minister MA Mannan as the chief guest.

As Bangladesh enters the next phase of economic growth, it needs to integrate the lesser developed regions into its development blueprint by way of an economic corridor. Creating an economic corridor can drive the massive structural transformation it needs to ensure

PROJECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORRIDOR
56 railway projects
33 water connectivity projects
114 road connectivity projects
29 port development projects
12,150 educational institutions
134,000 hospital beds
12 manufacturing industries

its development is sustainable and equitable.

ADB has conceptualised a Bangladesh Economic Corridor (BEC) running from the southwest region (Khulna division) to the northeast region (Sylhet and Mymensingh divisions) via Dhaka.

Should Bangladesh form such an economic corridor, the total combined output in the region is expected to increase from \$32

billion in 2020 to \$286 billion by 2050. If no corridor is formed, the total output will be \$110 billion in 2050.

Similarly, the total employment generated in the corridor region is expected to be 15.7 million in 2025 and 71.8 million in 2050. In the absence of the economic corridor, the total employment in the region would be 31.1 million in 2050.

An economic corridor has three complementary components: (i) a trade and transport corridor; (ii) production clusters producing goods for both consumption in the domestic market and for international trade; and (iii) urban centres acting as the major market for goods from the production centres and goods imported through international gateways; they also act as a source of labour, technology, support services, knowledge and innovation.

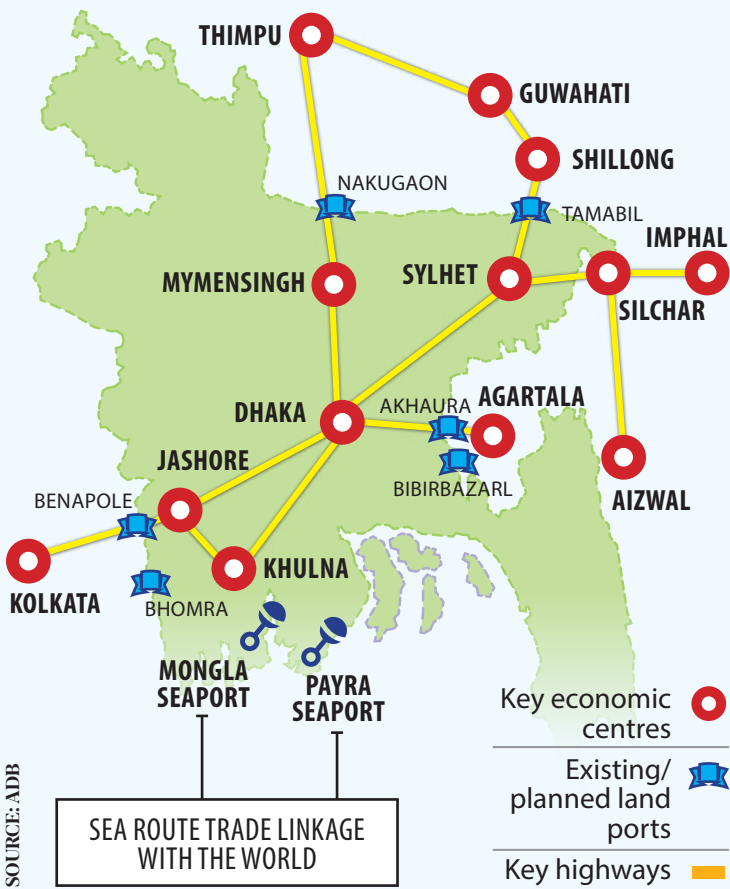
The entire economic corridor conceptualised by ADB encompasses 14 districts, covering 34 percent of the total population.

Along with high population and geographical coverage, the corridor region holds strategic locational advantages.

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BANGLADESH ECONOMIC CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGIC LOCATIONAL ADVANTAGES FOR TRADE AUGMENTATION



Roadmap for becoming high-income country

CHALLENGES

- Road, rail and water transport gateways face capacity constraint
- Low draft, inadequate cargo infrastructure at seaports
- Airports in the corridor also face capacity constraint
- Mismatch between demand and supply of electricity
- Inadequate educational infrastructure

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Proper logistics support
- Adequate financing for entrepreneurs
- Proper, pertinent skills
- Policy stability

Wards with 10 or more dengue cases to see spl cleanup drives

Says DSCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If a Dhaka South City Corporation ward records 10 dengue cases in a week, then a special drive by cleaning staff and mosquito-control workers would be conducted there, Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh has said.

He said the drive would be conducted every Saturday.

The DSCC mayor came up with the announcement while inspecting work on the destruction of Aedes mosquito breeding grounds at Dhaka University yesterday.

“Next Saturday, we are taking another special drive which will be ward-based. We are declaring the wards as red where more than 10 patients are detected in a week.”

He urged locals to clean their homes, establishments, buildings and yards themselves on that day.

“No one should go to work that day. This will be the biggest job,” Taposh said.

“We will have cleaners, mosquito control workers and other officials concerned. We will conduct a daylong combing operation to destroy the breeding places of Aedes mosquitoes. Through this, we can control the spread of dengue,” he added.

The mayor said that they have already found four wards – ward-5, -22, -53 and -60 – where 10 dengue patients were detected in the last one week. “We will conduct the special drive in the wards next Saturday,” he added.

Asked about marking wards “red”, a top official of the DSCC said they actually meant that a special focus would be given to those wards and homeowners and residents would be involved in the drives.

“We want active participation of locals in the drive,” the official said wishing not to be named.

Sudanese factions fight over key army base

AFP, Wad Madani

Sudanese paramilitaries fought the regular army in Khartoum yesterday as they targeted a key military base in the south of the capital for the fourth consecutive day, witnesses said.

Fighters from Mohamed Hamdan Daglo's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) began their assault on the vast strategic base on several fronts on Sunday.

Residents of Al-Shajara, the neighbourhood where the base is situated, reported “large losses on both sides” on the first day of the attack when the fighting was constant.



A portion of Char Mukundia Government Primary School collapses into the Padma as river erosion has taken a severe turn in Manikganj's Harirampur upazila. The photo was taken on Tuesday. At least 12 houses were devoured by the river in the span of half an hour just the day before.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Invest in Bangladesh, join dev journey

PM urges South African entrepreneurs

UNB, Johannesburg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited South African entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh.

“Bangladesh is moving towards prosperity. We want you to join our journey of development. Do invest in Bangladesh. We are confident that your investment will be primed for success, and we are fully prepared for a sustainable partnership,” she said.

The PM was speaking at the Bangladesh Trade and Business Summit at the Radisson Blu Hotel in South Africa yesterday.

The event was organised by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority.

“I have a dream. The 170 million people of Bangladesh have a dream. And that is to become a trillion dollar economy and a fully developed smart nation by 2041,” she said.

Hasina said that investment in Bangladesh is secure due to consistently high returns.

“Moreover, our government ensures a business-friendly and stable atmosphere that guarantees your investment’s success.”

Currently, Bangladesh has the most open Foreign Direct Investment policies

in South Asia. The country offers a liberalised industrial policy, one stop service, 100 percent foreign ownership, an easy exit policy, 15-year tax exemption, VAT exemption for imported machinery, streamlined services, and more, she added.

Hasina said Bangladesh and South Africa have built a strong and friendly relationship

over the last five decades based on mutual respect, shared values, cultural ties, and common beliefs.

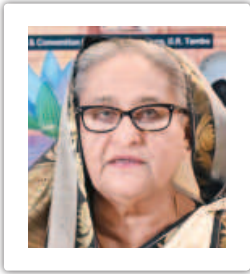
However, despite the significant potential, the Bangladesh-South Africa bilateral trade stood at only \$316.83 million last year, she said.

UNHINDERED DEMOCRACY SPURS ACHIEVEMENT

Addressing the “Bangladesh Envoys Conference” organised by Bangladesh ambassadors stationed in African countries, she emphasised the need for an unhindered democratic process in the country for the sake of non-stop development.

“Development is only possible through the democratic trend. That should be continued so no one can hinder the advancement of Bangladesh,” she said.

Bangladesh has registered unprecedented development in the last 14 years and a half due to the uninterrupted democratic system in the country.



Accused dies in custody of Rajshahi cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An accused in a narcotics case died Tuesday evening after “falling sick” in the custody of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

Moinul Islam, 23, was from Pakuria area in Rajshahi city, said Zahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of the RMP.

Airport police arrested Moinul with four grams of heroin around 11:00pm on Monday and handed him over to court police around noon the next day.

While staying there with five other accused, Moinul fell sick around 3:00pm.

Zahidul said police took him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

The deceased had bruise marks on the right of his neck, forehead, and left hand, wrote Executive Magistrate Mumtahina Kabir, who prepared his inquest report.

Moinul's family did not make any complaints about his death.

His uncle Joynal Abedin said, “My nephew was a drug addict.”

Moinul's mother Moni Begum told reporters that her son used to hurt himself sometimes.

RMCH Director Brig Gen FM Shamim Ahmed said the cause of Moinul's death would be known after getting the autopsy report.

An unnatural death case was filed with Rajpara Police Station.

96 Jamaat-Shibir men indicted over vandalism in 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 96 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir in a case filed over torching vehicles and preventing police personnel from discharging their duties in 2012.

Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman and Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar, a former lawmaker from Khulna-5, are among the accused.

Shafiqur Rahman and Golam Parwar, now in jail, and 78 others, who are on bail, pleaded not guilty to the charges and demanded justice after Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saiful Islam read out the charges to them.

Before that, the magistrate dismissed the petitions submitted by the accused for relieving them of the charges.

Eighteen other accused have been on the run since the case was filed against them. Charges were framed against them in their absence. The magistrate issued arrest warrants against them, said Assistant Public Prosecutor Hemayet Uddin Khan.

Rohingya youth shot dead

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya youth was shot dead allegedly by members of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) at Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya on Tuesday.

The victim was Mohammad Yunus, 18, son of Hamid Hossain of the camp.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, said ARSA members opened fire on Yunus around 7:30pm, suspecting him to be involved in the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation, leaving him injured.

Yunus died on the way to Cox's Bazar's Sadar Hospital.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order, the OC said.

2 children drown in a pit

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two three-year-old cousins died yesterday after drowning in a pit filled with rainwater in a village under Bandar upazila of Narayanganj.

The deceased are – Abdul Aziz, son of Kabir Mia; and Md Ahnaf, son of Md Nuruzzaman.

The incident happened around 3:00pm in Geodhara village under Kolagathia union parishad, confirmed UP chairman Delowar Hossain Prodhan.

The two cousins were playing in front of their house in the afternoon. After an hour or so, they were nowhere to be seen. When their family members started to look for them, they found a pair of shoes beside a hole full to the brim with rainwater. The hole, which is at least five feet deep, was 50 yards away from their house, according to the chairman.

After the boys were rescued, they were taken to the upazila health complex. Doctors announced them dead there, he added.

“Two brothers were playing in front of the house. No one understood how it happened. When we found the boys, they were already dead,” said Nuruzzaman, Ahnaf's father.

BRICS agrees

FROM PAGE 1

Pandor did not give details of the framework of criteria for considering candidates, simply saying that the bloc's leaders would make an announcement on expansion before the summit concludes on Thursday.

More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining BRICS, say South African officials, and 22 have formally asked to be admitted.

They represent a disparate pool of potential candidates – from Iran to Argentina – motivated largely by a desire to level a global playing field many consider rigged against them and attracted by BRICS' promise to rebalance the global order.

“The world is undergoing major shifts, division and regrouping ... it has entered a new period of turbulence and transformation,” said China's President Xi Jinping, who has long pushed for the expansion of the BRICS group.

“Development is an inalienable right of all countries. It is not a privilege reserved for a few,” he told the summit earlier yesterday.

Though home to about 40 percent of the world's population and a quarter of global GDP, the bloc's ambitions of becoming a global political and economic player have long been thwarted by internal divisions and a lack of coherent vision.

Russia, isolated by the United States and Europe over its invasion of Ukraine, is keen to show Western powers it still has friends.

Brazil and India, in contrast, have both forged closer ties with the West.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Tuesday rejected the idea the bloc should seek to rival the United States and Group of Seven wealthy economies.

Moves to expand the bloc and push its New Development Bank as an alternative to established multilateral lenders are, however, raising some concern in the West.

Werner Hoyer, the head of European Investment Bank, yesterday warned the West it was in danger of losing confidence of the “Global South”, unless it urgently intensified its own support efforts for poorer countries.

Create economic corridor to boost output, jobs

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There are eight major trade gateways in the BEC region: Mongla seaport, Payra seaport, Benapole land port, Bhomra land port (four in the southwest); Akhaura land port, Tamabil land port, Bibirbazar land port, Nakugaon land port (four in the northeast).

While Mongla and Payra seaports provide sea route trade linkages with the world (currently contributing about 11 percent of seaborne international trade), land ports in the region act as major trade gateways with India, contributing 36 percent of Indo-Bangladesh trade.

Hence, the corridor region has an inherent advantage for international trade-dependent industries from the perspective of importing raw materials and/or exporting finished products.

Besides, Northeast Bangladesh has an added locational edge with respect to cross-border trade potential with Northeast India, a landlocked territory with a market demand of \$38.5 billion.

Leveraging the logistical advantage, agri-commodities and industries from the Northeast Bangladesh region can find a potential consumer market in Northeast India.

Likewise, Northeast Indian states, being endowed with natural resources, can export rubber, limestone and other mineral resources to Northeast Bangladesh, which can act as raw materials for local industries. In addition, Northeast Bangladesh can leverage its proximity with countries like Nepal and Bhutan.

Not just locational advantage, the BEC region is rich in agricultural produce and it has an abundance of natural resources such as gas reserves, limestone, white clay and peat reserves.

“Despite being strategically located and resource-rich, to date, the southwest and northeast regions have not been able to fully utilise their natural advantages due to inadequate

transport infrastructure within the hinterland and connectivity with the trade gateways.”

Apart from limited physical infrastructure, inadequate social infrastructure is also a key reason behind the poor economic development. The corridor region lags behind the country in terms of educational infrastructure.

This has created relatively lower employment potential in industrial and service sectors (relatively high wage-paying sectors), which is corroborated by the employment number: 58 percent of the population in the corridor region is employed in agriculture, compared to the national average of 48 percent.

The development of this envisaged corridor may be carried out in two phases.

In the first phase, the southwest portion of the corridor may be developed (Southwest Bangladesh Economic Corridor [SWBEC]); in the second phase, the northeast portion of the corridor (from Dhaka to Sylhet and Mymensingh) may be developed (North-East Bangladesh Economic Corridor [NEBEC]).

To develop the BEC, ADB has identified 56 railway projects to enable efficient rail movement in the region, 114 road projects to increase road density in the region by 38 percent, 33 projects to improve inland water connectivity and 38 projects to address the bottleneck at export and import gateways.

Four partially developed industrial clusters have been identified and 12 manufacturing industries were shortlisted for the whole BEC region.

The industries are food processing, leather and footwear, textiles and ready-made garments (RMGs), jute, nonmetallic mineral manufacturers, shipbuilding, furniture, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, plastic products, rubber and rubber products, electrical and electronics machinery, and heavy machinery.

Along with the manufacturing sector, the service sector can also

be developed. Two major service sector industries, i.e., information technology and tourism have been earmarked.

“If we want to implement the ADB recommended corridor, then a stable political regime is necessary. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is creative, innovative and visionary. Only she can implement these plans, if she gets the chance to run the country again,” Mannan said at the event.

Proper institutional and governance frameworks are extremely important for the economic zones to attract investors, said Sabyasachi Mitra, director of public sector management and governance of ADB.

Edimon Ginting, country director of the ADB; Shaikh Yusuf Harun, executive chairman of Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority; Uzma Chowdhury, director of Pran-RFL Group; Md Mostafizur Rahman, additional secretary of ADB wing chief of Economic Relations Division; Soon Chan Hong, senior country specialist at the ADB; and Avijit Chowdhury, executive member of the BIDA, also spoke at the event.

UAE fines

FROM PAGE 1

laundering system. If they don't do so within three months, more severe penalties will be imposed.

It urged businesses to follow relevant legislation, maintain the highest levels of compliance, and communicate with relevant authorities if they have any questions or want to request technical assistance, the report said.

Earlier in Singapore, police in an anti-money laundering operation rounded up a group of foreigners who had amassed about S\$1 billion worth of assets.

The assets, which included properties, luxury cars, and goods, were either seized, frozen or issued with prohibition of disposal orders.

SC halts probe till January 8

FROM PAGE 1

submitted the authenticity report to the HC through swearing an affidavit, which was presented at the court.

At yesterday's hearing, Alam's lawyers also argued that a suo moto rule can only be passed if someone's fundamental rights have been violated. They argued that by ordering a probe, the HC was acting like prosecutors.

The ACC lawyer argued that the HC can pass a suo moto rule regarding public wrongs – and pointed out that Justice Enayetur himself had previously said so in a judgment.

In that judgment, given in a case from November 2017 concerning an investigation into the assets of a retired judge, Enayetur had said that when a public wrong of grave nature has occurred, the court can issue a suo moto rule to protect and uphold the image of the judiciary, the ACC lawyer added.

The HC had also previously passed another suo moto rule against banks owned by Alam on December 4, 2022, based on allegations of loan scams raised by newspaper reports.

In that rule, the HC had ordered the BFU, the ACC and the CID to investigate the loan scams and explain why “the failure and inaction of the respondents in taking appropriate legal steps and actions against the entities and persons who have misappropriated and laundered a huge amount of money from the Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd and other banks taking loans in the name of fake, fabricated and non-existent companies/entities using various unethical mechanisms and massive irregularities as mentioned and disclosed in different newspaper reports, shall not be declared illegal.”

The court had also asked the respondents to take action against the wrong-doers.

Alam did not challenge that rule.

Barrister Sayedul Haque Suman, who had brought The Daily Star report to the notice of the High Court, said he was saddened that he could not place his arguments at yesterday's hearing.

“I had earlier applied before the High Court to be a party to the rule, but my application has been kept on hold,”

said Suman.

“When I applied to be a party, the deputy attorney general questioned my application. Why was he opposing my inclusion, when it was I who had moved a prayer before the High Court?” he said, adding that the government's counsel seems helpless in representing their interests.

According to The Daily Star investigative report, Bangladesh Bank has so far allowed 17 companies to invest outside the country, and S Alam Group is not one of them.

Yet in Singapore, Alam bought at least two hotels, two homes, one retail space, and other properties worth at least about \$1 billion over the last one decade, all the while seeking to remove his name from the paper trails, documents obtained by this newspaper show.

10 S'pore banks

FROM PAGE 1

tainted funds have been identified. Supervisory engagements with these financial institutions are ongoing,” the authority said in a statement last week, as per the newspaper.

Meanwhile, The Straits Times reports that of the 20 firms linked to the suspected money launderers, 11 were not at their registered addresses, despite being listed as “live”.

They included Golden Eagle Assets and Golden Eagle Family Office. Both listed Zhang Ruijin, 44, as a director. The Saint Kitts and Nevis national, who is believed to be from Fujian, China, is facing a fraud charge.

Singaporean law mandates that companies must ensure that their registered office is open and accessible to the public for at least three hours during ordinary business hours on each business day, reports the Singaporean daily.

It quotes Professor Lawrence Loh from the National University of Singapore Business School as saying, “It's actually quite easy to create a business and not conduct transactions.” But a company that is dormant must declare it to the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority, he added.

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STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Flooding may
rise by 36pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flooding in Bangladesh is predicted to increase by up to 36 percent in the future if the global emission continues to rise.

According to a report published yesterday by Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and Centre for Climate Change Economics, peak river flows in the country could surge by 36 percent between 2070-2099 if the global emission continues.

Even if the emission level remains low, floods will increase by 16 percent during this time compared to 1971-2000.

Currently, floods submerge up to 20-25 percent of Bangladesh every year and extreme floods, when they happen, submerge 55-60 percent of the country.

Citing the disaster management ministry, the report says the 2022 flood in Bangladesh is estimated to have cost US\$1.0 billion and affected 7.3 million people.

The report says over half of the country's population is exposed to high flood risks.

"Climate change is exacerbating this risk and causing damage with an increasingly high financial and humanitarian cost," the report mentions.

According to the report, erratic rainfall patterns, intensifying flash floods, rising sea levels, and hastening glacial melting are all contributing to the crisis. The situation demands an urgent and comprehensive response on a global scale, says the study.

It also mentioned that without greater adaptation action and resilience-building, the humanitarian and economic costs of flooding in Bangladesh, which are already high, are expected to increase further.

Between 1971 and 2014, 78 floods claimed over 41,783 lives and inflicted economic damages totaling \$12.2 billion. The 2022 flood is estimated to have cost \$1 billion and affected 7.3 million people, the report adds.

It says a low-carbon pathway is crucial for Bangladesh to tackle future flood crises.

Referring to the recent flood in Bandarban, the study says Bangladesh is "under siege by water" -- floods have reduced the population's ability to cope, triggering a cascade of setbacks that have long-lasting implications for their well-being and prosperity.

Prof Dr. A.K.M. Saiful Islam, director, Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of BUET, said recent events such as the devastating floods in Bandarban and Sylhet serve as stark reminders of the urgency of the situation.

"The vulnerable state of our nation demands immediate action," he added.

Bangladesh contributes just 0.25% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but its plight underscores the need for collective climate action, says the report.

The agriculture and energy sectors are responsible for most of the country's emissions, contributing 44% and 39% respectively and are estimated to peak in 2040.

The report recommends that a low-carbon pathway is crucial for Bangladesh to tackle future flood crises.

Strengthening early warning systems for flood preparedness, improving understanding of vulnerabilities

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Floods submerge
20-25pc of Bangladesh
every year; up to 60pc
submerge in extreme
cases

In 2022, floods caused
damage worth \$1
billion and affected
7.3m people

Between 1971 and
2014, 78 floods claimed
over 41,783 lives

Bangladesh responsible
for 0.25% of global
emissions



Five trees were felled under the supervision of Public Works Department officials near Shaheed Shahabuddin Road at Agargaon yesterday.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Now, trees
cut for govt
housing
projectLocals, activists
unite against
PWD's move

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Workers under supervision of the Public Works Department (PWD) officials yesterday cut down trees to make space for a housing block for parliament officials and staff near Shahid Shahabuddin Road in the capital's Agargaon without authorisation from relevant authorities.

They chopped down five trees out of 59 in the project zone in the morning and stopped their work only after facing protests from locals and environmental activists.

Aged around 30 years, the trees are home to a variety of birds, said locals.

Ahsan Rony, a local and the founder of Green

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

WB to provide
\$100m to
control dengue

Says health minister

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said the World Bank (WB) will provide Bangladesh with \$100 million to control the mosquito-borne disease dengue that killed more than 500 people this year.

He made the announcement while briefing journalists after a meeting with the World Bank representatives at the Secretariat in Dhaka.

The minister said, "Dengue should be brought under control. The World Bank will provide \$100 million to control dengue. They will provide this fund to the Ministry of Local Government to control mosquitoes."

Moreover, an amount of \$700 million will be given for Rohingyas and the host community for the use of infrastructures and services, he said adding

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

BNP instigating
militant groups

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that BNP is instigating militant groups ahead of the upcoming national election.

"Today, when the country is progressing on the path of development and peace under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Sheikh Hasina, BNP is inciting militant groups ahead of the upcoming parliamentary elections. Mirza Fakhrul's speech reflected that provocation," he said in a statement sent to the media.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on Tuesday alleged that the government was staging a "drama" by conducting anti-militant drives to get the attention of the Western world and India.

Obaidul Quader said, "To them, efforts to suppress militants will seem like a drama - this is normal. Because, the network of militant organisations is being operated with the help of the BNP."

The AL leader also said Bangladesh had become a sanctuary of militancy during the BNP rule.

"The journey of radical-communal politics began in this country under the patronisation of BNP. The seeds of communal politics were planted by Ziaur Rahman, while it spread with a strong base during the reign of his wife Khaleda Zia," he said.

Tsunami needed
to oust AL

Says Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the country needs a tsunami to get rid of the ruling party.

He also accused the ruling Awami League of amending the constitution to serve its own interests.

"The constitution is for the Awami League. They have amended it in such a way that it only serves the interest of their party ... You cannot ask any questions (about the constitution), and they (AL-led govt) say it cannot be changed," Fakhrul said.

He came up with the remarks while attending a discussion titled "Civil Constitutional and Human Rights Protection" at Dhaka Reports Unity, organised by Nur-led Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday.

"The constitution is for the people. They (AL-led govt) have destroyed this constitution."

He also said that one of the problems of the AL is that they think they are the owner of the country. "To get out of the situation, we need a big shake-up... Without a big tsunami, the stone on our shoulders cannot be removed," he said.

Referring a BBS report on GDP growth and per capita income, Fakhrul said, "These are based on lies. Whatever their ministers tell them to show, they show it in their reports."

BTI PESTICIDE
Ctg customs
sues Marshal
Agrovat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Customs filed a case yesterday charging five people of importing BTI pesticide for DNCC by forging documents and using false paperwork.

M Nasiruddin Ahmed and Mohammad Alauddin, the executive director and managing director of Marshal Agrovat Chemical Industries Limited, the company which imported the pesticide, were the main accused in the case.

Besides, officials of a local C&F agent Tivoli Enterprise, which delivered the insecticide from the port to Marshal's office in Dhaka, were also accused.

BTI is used to eliminate larvae of Aedes mosquitoes, carriers of dengue virus.

Marshal did not import BTI pesticide from Singapore as it had claimed. Instead, it imported the product from a Chinese

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

US-Bangladesh
defence
dialogue kicks
off in DhakaDIPLOMATIC
CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington discussed defence cooperation on global and regional issues as the two sides began the two-day US-Bangladesh bilateral defence dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

They also discussed cooperation in the areas of defence technology and equipment, disaster management, UN peacekeeping, training, joint exercise, deployment and workshops, according to a statement of the Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR).

Brig Gen Husain Muhammad Masihur Rahman, director general of the Operations and Plan Directorate at the Armed Forces Division, is leading the Bangladesh side, while Brig Gen Thomas J James, director of strategic planning and policy of the US Indo-Pacific Command, is leading the US side.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Rickshaws take up almost one third of this section of Green Road in Dhaka, restricting the movement of both pedestrians and vehicles in the area. This type of illegal parking is a common scene in some of the smaller roads in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

INFORMAL SECTOR

Formulate legal
framework for
workers: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There must be a legal framework in place for workers in the informal sector to provide workplace safety, maternity leave, and a fixed work hour, speakers told a seminar yesterday.

They were speaking in a seminar titled "Ensuring Social Protection for The Women Workers Engaged in Informal Sector in Bangladesh" organised by Karmajibi Nari and Nari Samik Kanta at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Women leader and lawmaker Shirin Akhter said a dignified life must be ensured for the workers in the informal sector. No matter whose profession is what, everyone's dignity must be upheld, she noted.

Stating the importance of the International Labour Organization convention, she said, several of its terms have yet to be ratified by Bangladesh. The country must fully ratify the convention as well as check how much of the existing law is being followed.

"A bill was placed in the parliament about passing a law for informal sector workers. That bill did not progress much. A parliament session will be held soon. We will discuss it there", she added.

Echoing the same, Abdul Kader, deputy secretary (labour wing) of Ministry of Labour and Employment said the number of informal workers, particularly the women, increased in rural areas.

Rajekuzzaman Ratan, president of Samajtantrik

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Wadudul Ambia passes away

STAR REPORT

Wadudul Ambia, father of Remark HB Ltd Managing Director Ashrafal Ambia, passed away on Tuesday, aged 85, said a press release.

He is survived by his two sons and two daughters.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Gosaigram, Tangail yesterday.

SM Ashrafal Alam, chairman of Remark HB, and Shahriar Alam, deputy chairman, were present at the funeral.



WB to provide \$100m

FROM PAGE 3

that the budget will get approved in the Board Meeting at the end of August.

Addressing the need for escalating activities by city corporations and municipalities to handle dengue, he said 500 people have died of dengue as the situation could not be brought under control.

Urging all to behave responsibly, the minister said the death and number of dengue patients would not decrease if mosquitoes do not come under control.

The World Bank will also provide assistance to Bangladesh in developing a coronavirus vaccine, he added.

The minister said that Bangladesh received a financing commitment.

Bangladesh has received a commitment of \$300 million from Asian Development Bank to build a vaccine manufacturing plant in the country.

"We'll ask for more, if necessary," Malek said.

The minister also said that \$27 billion will be needed in five years to make the vaccine.

"Of this, the Government of Bangladesh will arrange \$22 billion. We need \$5 billion in multisectoral funding."

"They already committed \$2- 2.5 billion. They will gradually manage the rest over the next five years," Zahid Maleque said.

Now, trees felled

FROM PAGE 3

Savers, a green movement platform, told The Daily Star that he saw workers cutting trees yesterday morning. When he questioned them, they replied that trees were being felled for a housing block and they were working on behalf of Public Works Department (PWD).

Mohammad Azaz, chairman at River and Delta Research Centre, who is also a local, told The Daily Star that they rushed to the spot in the afternoon and forced the labourers to halt their work. Later, a PWD representative came to the spot and invited the protestors for a meeting today.

"We sought the housing block's layout and design to understand their plan," Azaz added.

"There are hundreds of birds of various species living in the trees. Oriental magpies, parrots, and starlings are regularly seen there. A responsible government can't do

something like this", he added.

Contacted, Moazzem Hossen, executive engineer of PWD, told The Daily Star that the housing block project was planned for parliament officials and staff.

"Receiving instruction from high-ups, I went to the spot. We'll discuss the details with all stakeholders in tomorrow's (today) meeting," he said.

Preferring anonymity, a official from The Forest Department told The Daily Star that PWD did not obtain any permission to cut trees from them.

The incident came only months after a protest against the felling of trees by the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) for road development work on Satmasjid Road in Dhanmondi. Nearly 600 were cut in the area.

DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh later apologised to the locals of Dhanmondi for the felling of trees.

Ctg customs sues

FROM PAGE 3

company called Shandong Ganon Agrochemical, according to customs documents. However, tender documents clearly state that the BTI must be imported from the US, EU countries, Singapore, India, and Malaysia.

Assistant Revenue Officer Md Bakibillah filed the case with Bandar Police Station alleging that the authorities concerned found various discrepancies in the documents provided by the company. It also stated that the company doesn't even have an importing licence,

even though it managed to secure the tender to import the insecticide for DNCC.

Confirming the case, Officer in Charge of Bandar Police Station Sanjoy Kumar Sinha told The Daily Star, "According to the case statement, the importer and its local C&F agent imported mosquito insecticide by submitting false papers and tampering with customs documents."

Earlier, DNCC also lodged a case against Marshal for not importing BTI insecticide as per the purchase contract and blacklisted the company.

US-Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

From Bangladesh side, officials from different ministries and departments, including from the Bangladesh Armed Forces, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Border Guard Bangladesh and Bangladesh Coast Guard also attended the tenth bilateral defence dialogue between the US and Bangladesh.

The ninth Bangladesh-US Bilateral Defence Dialogue was held on May 16-17 last year in the US. The dialogue began in 2012.

"The purpose of this dialogue is to expand the scope for detailed discussion on defence cooperation between the two countries," according to the ISPR.

It said the foundation of cooperation between Bangladesh and the US is strong since the aftermath of the country's independence, and the relation is multidimensional, multi-purpose and ever evolving.

Formulate

FROM PAGE 3

Sromik Front, said, "In the informal sector, women suffer a lot when they conceive. They get fired from their jobs," he added.

Felix Kolbitz, Resident Representative of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Abul Hossen, organiser of Domestic Help Right Protection Network and Zakia Haque, executive director of Creative Pathway Bangladesh, also spoke among others.



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

LEASE TENDER NOTICE


Tender No. NSU/23-24/T-03
Lease for supply and operation of the NESCAFE coffee kiosks

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/ reputed organisations/ business partners/ agents for **Lease for the supply and operation of the NESCAFE coffee kiosks** at the NSU Campus.

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from **Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **Sunday, September 17, 2023**, by paying the non-refundable amount of Taka 2,000.00 (Two Thousand) in cash for each schedule. The bidder has to bid for all works mentioned in the Tender schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 10%** of the yearly quoted rent in the form of a Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Monday, September 18, 2023, by 2.15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
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ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা-১০০০

মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের উপসহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুর) পদে ৩০/০৮/২০২৩ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ পরিবর্তিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী গ্রহণ করা হবেঃ

ক্র. নং	পদ নাম	মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের রোল নাম্বারসমূহ	মৌখিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও বার	স্থান
১.	উপসহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুর)	1604165 1604267 1604311 1604340 1604348 1604395 1604404 1604435 1604473 1604582 1604619 1604731 1604745 1604858 1604861 1604873 1604874 1604896 1604901 1604903 1604940 1604953 1604985 1605001 1605023 1605042 1605043 1605105 1605106 1605111 1605113 1605126 1605277 1605318 1605345	২৯.০৮.২০২৩ রোজ কক্ষ, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা ০৩:০০ মিঃ দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন = ৩৫ জন	মেয়র সভা

২. নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে আবশ্যিকভাবে অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

(১) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/জন্মনিবন্ধন সনদ ও নাগরিকত্ব সনদ এর মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সকল সনদপত্রের একসেট ফটোকপি এবং Online-এ প্রদত্ত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপি দাখিল করতে হবে;

(২) সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে কর্মরত প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি/হাউপত্রের মূলকপি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় জমা দিতে হবে;

(৩) পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্ধারিত সময়ের ৩০ মিনিট পূর্বে যথাস্থানে উপস্থিত থাকতে হবে;

(৪) পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

আকরামুজ্জামান
সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/৪৩/২০২৩-২০২৪
জিডি-১২৮৫

Launch service

FROM PAGE 5

Passengers said that while the journey by launch is comfortable, it takes more time, so they prefer a journey by bus now. However, for the middle-class, launch was an affordable way to get to Dhaka.

Md Bayajid, a regular launch passenger said he is disappointed by the closure of Barguna-Dhaka route. During various festivals, bus owners

charge double the fare for people returning home. He said the launch fare is more affordable.

Masum Khan, the owner of MK Shipping Lines Company, said, "We have stopped the launch service on Barguna-Dhaka route for now. We are losing Tk 1.5 to 2 lakh on every trip. Last month there was a loss of Tk 38 lakh. If fuel prices fall and number of passengers rise, we will start the service again."

Flooding may

FROM PAGE 3

and local needs, increasing capacity within local institutions, and embracing nature-based solutions are vital.

Dr Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) said the need for immediate action is becoming more urgent.

"All we need is global cooperation as we are facing the challenges concerning strong adaptation strategies and energy transition. It is also imperative to have adequate climate finance and take a firm stance on "loss and damage" and create a world that overcomes adversity."

Turn Barind into

FROM PAGE 5

Dr MA Sattar Mandal, emeritus professor at Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, said the government, NGOs, and farmers need to work together for the transformation.

"Aside from smarter rice varieties, certain fruit production, like mango, is already profitable in the region. We need to find more prospective export crops and create opportunities for crop export," he added.

Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan of Rajshahi University's geology and mining department said the area also has the potential for cotton

cultivation, which uses little water and has sufficient global demand.

Syeda Sitwat Shahed, 2030 WRG consultant, briefed about a project titled "Introducing Water Efficient Technologies in Barind," saying, "Some 48,000 farmers used alternative wetting and drying technology for rice and ultra-high density cultivation techniques using drip irrigation for mango in Rajshahi, Naogaon, and Chapainawabganj for the last five years."

With these technologies, farmers increased rice yields by 7 percent while using 16 percent less irrigation, saving 79 percent water, and increasing mango production by around 33 percent, she said.

BMDA Executive Director Abdur Rashid said rice cultivation also has a negative impact on carbon emission levels.

He said BMDA has already started shifting towards using surface water for irrigation, instead of groundwater.

8 Jamaat


FROM PAGE 5

of the Mirganj area under Rangpur City. OC Mahfuzar Rahman of Rangpur Kotwali Metropolitan police station said that police detained them when they tried to bring out a procession in a bid to destabilise law and order situation in the Dhakhiganj area of Rangpur.


PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 24

Fazr	Zohr	Ashr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	4:45	6:38	8:00
JAMAAT 5-55	1-15	5-00	6-41	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয়
মানিকগঞ্জ
zp.manikganj.gov.bd



শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

তারিখ: ২২/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ

“নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের (জেলা পরিষদ শাখা) ০৯ মে ২০২৩ তারিখের ৪৬.৪২.০০০০.০০০.১১.০০৯.১৭-৬৮৫ নং আওতে সাংগঠনিক কাঠামোবদ্ধ সুইপার এর শূন্য পদে লোক নিয়োগের হাউপত্র অনুযায়ী সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জেলা পরিষদ চাকুরী বিধিমালা ১৯৯০ এর বিধি মোতাবেক ২০১৫ সালের জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল মালিকগঞ্জ জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দাদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল	সংখ্যা	বয়স সীমা	যোগ্যতা
০১	সুইপার	৮-২৫০-২০০১০/-, স্কেল-২০ জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী	১ (এক)	১৮-৩০ বছর	সুস্থ দেহের অধিকারী

শর্তাবলি :

০১। প্রার্থীর বয়স ২২/০৮/২০২৩ তারিখে ১৮-৩০বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা পোষাদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর।
জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের ০৫.০০.০০০০.১৭০.১১.০১৭.২০-১৪৯ নং আওতে আবেদনকারীর বয়স ২৫/০৮/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখে সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩০ বছর থাকলে উক্ত প্রার্থী আবেদন করার ক্ষেত্রে যোগ্য হবেন। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না;

০২। আবেদন পত্র প্রদান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, মানিকগঞ্জ বরাবরে আশায়ী ২১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চাপাকাশীন সময়ে জেলা পরিষদ, মানিকগঞ্জ কার্যালয়ে অবশ্যই সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

০৩। জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ২৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৪ তারিখের ০৫.১১০.০০০০.০০.০০.০৮৯.১৪.০১ নম্বর আওতে জারীকৃত চাকরির নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরমের অনুসরণে জেলা পরিষদ মানিকগঞ্জের জন্য প্রস্তুতকৃত ফরমে আবেদন প্রার্থীদেরকে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরম **zp.manikganj.gov.bd** ওয়েব সাইটে এবং জেলা পরিষদ কার্যালয়ে পাওয়া যাবে;

০৪। আবেদনপত্রের ক) প্রার্থীর নাম, খ) পিতার নাম, গ) মাতার নাম, ঘ) স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, ঙ) বর্তমান ঠিকানা, চ) জন্ম তারিখ, ছ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা জ) অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), ঝ) জাতীয়তা, ঞ) ধর্ম, ট) প্রার্থীর ক্যাটাগরি (সাধারণ/মুক্তিযোদ্ধা পোষা/হিলা/এতিমখানার নিবাসী/প্রতিবন্ধী/তফসিল সম্প্রদায়/অসহায় ও ভিডিপি) ঠ) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা (যদি থাকে) ড) ব্যাকড ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নং ইত্যাদি উল্লেখ্য নির্ধারিত ফরমে যথেষ্ট স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে লিখিত এবং ব্যাকের যুক্ত করতে হবে;

০৫। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সত্য তোলা ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত রঙিন ছবি, ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র কর্তৃক ন্যায়িক সনদ পত্রের ফটোকপি সত্যায়িত ও ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদ ও শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি, জন্ম নিবন্ধন/জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র (যদি থাকে);

০৬। প্রদান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা, জেলা পরিষদ, মানিকগঞ্জ এর অনুসূলে তফসিলি ব্যাক হতে ১০০/- (একশত) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাকড ড্রাফট (অফিসের ব্যাক) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যুক্ত করতে হবে;

০৭। প্রার্থীদের দরখাস্তের খামের উপর প্রার্থিত পদের নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে;

০৮। নির্ধারিত ঠিকানায় প্রবেশপত্র ইমার যার্থে আবেদন পত্রের সাথে নিজ নাম ও ঠিকানা সন্নিবিষ্ট ৪"×১০" ইঞ্চি সাইজের ১০/- টাকা মূল্যের অর্থবহুল ডাক টিকিটসহ একটি সেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;

০৯। সুইপার নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে জাত হরিজন সনদ পৌরসভা মেয়র/ইউপি চেয়ারম্যান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত হবে;

১০। প্রার্থী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা পোষা হলে সেক্ষেত্রে তাকে তার পিতা/মাতা/দাদা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা প্রমাণের জন্য সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয় মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব ও দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত মাদানীয় প্রতিবন্ধী কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত সনদপত্র) দাখিল করতে হবে;

১১। প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে উপরিচালক, সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, মানিকগঞ্জের নিবর্ত থেকে তালিকাভুক্তির সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি;

১২। এতিমখানা নিবাসীদের ক্ষেত্রে এতিমখানার তত্ত্বাবধায়কের নিকট থেকে গ্রাম সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি;

১৩। ও ভিডিপির ক্ষেত্রে জেলা কমান্ডার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি;

১৪। তফসিলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ের ক্ষেত্রে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষের সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে;

১৫। চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্রের কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না;

১৬। এ নিয়োগে সরকার কর্তৃক সময় সময় জারিকৃত কোটা সম্পর্কিত নির্দেশাবলি অনুসরণ করা হবে;

১৭। অসম্পূর্ণ/জটিল/অসংগত আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;

১৮। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিপের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;

১৯। প্রার্থীদের নির্বাহী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ দেয়া হবে না;


২০। প্রার্থীদের নির্বাহী/মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণের সময় দাখিলকৃত মূল সনদপত্র অবশ্যই দেখাতে হবে;

২১। দরখাস্তে বর্ণিত তথ্য যে কোন পর্যায়ে মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে দরখাস্ত/নিয়োগপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;

২২। এ নিয়োগে প্রতিযোগী চাকুরীর শর্তাবলি বেতন ভাতা/সুযোগ সুবিধার ক্ষেত্রে জেলা পরিষদ আইন, স্থানীয় সরকার (জেলা পরিষদ) কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারী বিধিমালা ১৯৯০ এবং সরকার কর্তৃক জারীকৃত নির্দেশাবলি গ্রহণ্য হবে;

২৩। কোন প্রকার তদবির প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে;

২৪। কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলীর যে কোন শর্ত পরিবর্তন, সংশোধন বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।



(দূর-রে-শাহজাদা)
প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা
জেলা পরিষদ, মানিকগঞ্জ
ফোন- ০২৯৯৬৬৩০৪৩৩

GD-1284

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Narsingdi Road Division
Bashail, Narsingdi
eenar@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.6800.542.07.001.22-764
Dated: 22/08/2023

e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works as stated below.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of work	Publication and closing date time
01.	859278 e-GP/EE/NRD/PMJ Mejoor-01/2023-24	Installation of Expansion Joint at 71.821st km of Sayed Nazrul Islam Bridge (Bhairab End & Ashugonj End) of Dhaka (Katchpur)-Bhairab-Jagadishpur-Saishtagonj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong Road (N2) under Narsingdi Road Division during the year 2023-2024.	30-Aug-2023 10:46 14-Sep-2023 14:00

The interested persons/firms may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.
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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

22.০৮.২৩
Md. Hamidul Islam
ID No. 602240
Executive Engineer, RHD
Narsingdi Road Division

GD-1283

BARGUNA-DHAKA ROUTE Launch service suspended due to passenger crisis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Launch movement on the Barguna-Dhaka route has been halted due to an extreme shortage of passengers, as a result of the Padma Bridge. Due to the dwindling number of passengers, no launches have left for Dhaka from the Barguna Launch Ghat since Tuesday evening.

Zahirul Haque Panu, vice president of Barguna Traders Association, said if this route is permanently closed, Barguna's businesses will be threatened. The cost of transporting goods will increase, impacting both traders and consumers.

Before the Padma Bridge was inaugurated, every launch on the route would carry 400 to 500 passengers each day, said launch owners. However, not even 100 passengers are available since the bridge opened. There were previously four luxury passenger launches on the Dhaka-Barguna route. Following the opening of the Padma Bridge, only one launch remained on the route.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



HOW TO KILL A RIVER... The once vibrant Kharia river has now become a haunting wasteland. Indiscriminate garbage dumping, construction of illegal structures, and encroachment have choked its flow. The river's silent struggle for survival beneath overgrown weeds speaks volumes about the authority's negligence. This photo was taken in Mymensingh recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Turn Barind into export-focused agri hub: experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Experts at a workshop in Rajshahi yesterday advocated for transformation of the Barind region from a rice bowl to an export-focused agricultural hub to save the declining water resources.

The workshop titled "Joining forces for catalysing transformation in Barind Hotspot" was held at the conference room of the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA).

More than 70 experts joined the workshop, which was jointly organised by the Coca-Cola Foundation, 2030 Water Resources Group, Dasco Foundation, Syngenta Foundation, and BMDA.

The experts said Barind is a country hotspot owing to drought, low rainfall, and groundwater depletion. The region should grow less water-consuming crops instead of Boro rice to conserve water.

They also said the farmers and agribusiness owners will require assistance in identifying extension activities for exportable crops, marketing their products, and improving the supply chain.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Kharia, a river on deathbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Environmental pollution and encroachment have left Kharia river in Mymensingh's Phulpur upazila on its deathbed.

The authorities concerned, however, seem to have turned a deaf ear to the issue as their indifference in monitoring the situation is quite apparent, alleged locals.

The 25km long river is a tributary of the Old Brahmaputra and falls into Kongsho river in Netrokona. The river is also connected with several local water bodies, including Kurhar Doba (swamp).

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw heaps of garbage being dumped in different areas on the river bank. The garbage is being piled up for years apparently with no one to check this menace.

Once a great source of water for agriculture and local fisheries, the river has now become a narrow stream. Hyacinths cover on the water and bushes on the bank have made the river look non-existent, said Abu Mia, a farmer from Poyari village.

The river used to be the life line of agriculture and ecological balance of this locality but it has been left in a serious state of negligence, lamented Azizul Islam, a school teacher.

People have been dumping daily garbage on the river bank for years. Besides, the local butchers also use the river bank as their slaughtering ground, and throw away the animal wastes in river water.

Admitting the matter, Saidul Islam, a butcher at Amuakanda Bazar, said they have been slaughtering animals on the river bank for some 10 years and nobody

ever forbade them from doing so.

Established in 2001, the Phulpur municipality with around 40,000 residents could not even manage a proper garbage management system in the last 23 years, said ATM Robiul Karim Robi, a local journalist.

Only a few dustbins were found in the municipality, including one adjacent to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex. The clinical wastes of the hospital, however, are dumped in front of the facility, said locals.

Shashadar Sen, mayor of Phulpur municipality, said garbage is being dumped on the river bank mainly by the local people and businessmen.

The municipality authority once used to dump garbage on the river bank, but they are using a station in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

8 Jamaat-Shibir men held in 2 dists

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested eight Jamaat Shibir activists from Lalmonirhat and Rangpur for allegedly plotting sabotage.

In Lalmonirhat, six of their activists were arrested from a meeting early yesterday from the Alorupa cinema hall area. They are Jamaat activists Azim Uddin, 58, Abu Taher, 40, Moaimul Islam, 38, and Shibir activists Sohail Parvez, 32, Milon Mia, 20 and Rakib Hasan, 17.

Sensing the presence of police, eight other Jamaat-Shibir men ran away, the law enforcers said.

Police yesterday filed a case against 14 named Jamaat-Shibir men and several others unknown under Section 15 (3) of the Special Tribunal Act on charges of plotting sabotage in this connection, confirmed officer-in-charge of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station Omar Farooq. A judicial magistrate court sent them to jail yesterday afternoon after they were produced before it, the OC said.

Meanwhile, two Jamaat men were detained when they tried to bring out a procession in Rangpur city yesterday, said police.

The arrestees are Abdul Motin and Abul Kalam

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Ex-JP MP dies as motorbike hits him

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Former Jatiya Party lawmaker Mohammad Ullah was killed yesterday afternoon, after being hit by a motorbike on the Dhaka-Raipur road in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur.

Mosleh Uddin, officer-in-charge of Laxmipur Sadar Model Police Station, confirmed the news.

The victim, Mohammad Ullah, 76, is son of Akkas Mia Hawlater from Banchanagar area of Ward No-14 in Laxmipur Municipality.

The deceased's son, Rakib Hossain, said his father was hit by a speeding motorbike while he was crossing the road in front of Alia Madrasa. He was subsequently taken to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Mohammad Ullah was pronounced dead upon arrival, according to Dr Md Johurul Islam Roni, the resident medical officer of the hospital.

The deceased had served as the lawmaker for the Laxmipur-3 constituency from 1986 to 1988. He held the position as the first chairman of Laxmipur municipality. He had also previously served as the president of the district committee of Jatiya Party.

Additionally, he was also the convener of the committee for preparing the council for the latest district-level Jatiya Party council, before his death.



বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ান্স এন্ড সার্জন্স

Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1	Ministry/Division:	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2	Agency:	Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Secretary, Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)
4	Procuring Entity Code:	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka
6	Invitation for:	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Server and Security Solution for eLogbook System.
7	Invitation Ref No:	BCPS /Elogbook/2022/21362
8	Date:	22/08/2023

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method:	Open Tendering Method (National) (One Stage Two Envelope)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds:	BCPS Own Fund
11	Development Partners:	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/Programme Code:	N/A
13	Project/Programme Name:	N/A
14	Tender Package no:	BCPS/Server-01
15	Tender Package name:	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Server and Security Solution for eLogbook System.
16	Invitation for Tender Ref No:	BCPS /Elogbook/2022/21362
17	Tender Publication Date	23/08/2023
18	Tender Last Selling Date	07/09/2023 (10.00 AM)
19	Tender Closing Date and Time	07/09/2023 (12.00 Noon)
20	Tender Opening Date and Time	07/09/2023 (1.00 PM)

NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE(S)

21	Selling Tender Document(Principal)	Room No: C-204, Block-C, 67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka 1212
22	Selling Tender Document(Others)	N/A
23	Receiving Tender Document	Room No: C-208, Block-C, 67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka 1212
24	Opening Tender Document	Room No: C-208, Block-C, 67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Dhaka 1212

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

25	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. Minimum 10 years' experience in ICT business as a registered company/ entity in Bangladesh. Should provide last 10 years Trade License and RJSC Certificate. 2. A minimum of 3 (three) years of overall experience in the supply of hardware, equipments, and related services. 3. Must have experience in providing both hardware and customized software solutions in the government/autonomous medical sector in a single work order. The value of work order must be at least 1 (One) crore each for hardware and software separately in a single work order. 4. Must have a minimum amount of liquid assets in the form of a credit line or working capital of BDT 50 lacs. 5. Average annual turnover for a minimum of BDT 1 (One) Crore in the last 5 (Five) years. 6. Bidder to certify that they are not blacklisted or debarred by any defense organization within Bangladesh regarding participating in the tender. 7. Must have updated ISO 9001, ISO 27001, and CMMi Level 3 (Three) Certificate. 8. Must have a valid Trade License; Register of Joint stock Company (RJSC) Certificate; TIN Certificate; VAT Registration Certificate; Updated Income Tax Payment Certificate. 9. Must have updated membership certificate of BASIS and BCS. 10. JV is not allowed.		
26	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Server and Related Products		
27	Brief Description of Related Services	N/A		
28	Tender Document Price	BDT. 1,000/-		
29	LOT NO	IDENTIFICATION OF LOT	TENDER SECURITY (TAKA)	COMPLETION TIME
01		BCPS/Server-01	1,20,000/-	15 Days

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

30	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Professor Abul Bashir Md. Jamal
31	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Secretary
32	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Room No: 211, Block-C 67 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali,, Dhaka-1212.
33	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone No. 222295006, 222284189, Fax No. 9848928 Web. www.bcps.edu.bd, Email: bcps@bcps.edu.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Secretary

Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS)

67, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh.

Tel: 880-2-9845005-6, 9884194, 9891865, 9842501, 9856616, 9884189, Fax: 880-2-9848928, E-mail: bcps@bcps-bd.org, Website: www.bcpsbd.org



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

গাজীপুর-১৭০১

Email: ddadmnbari@gmail.com
Phone: 49270010

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

Invitation for Tenders

Tender No-08

01.	Ministry	:	Ministry of Agriculture
02.	Agency	:	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)
03.	Procurement Entity Name	:	Director General
04.	Procuring Entity Code	:	N/A
05.	Procuring Entity District	:	Gazipur
06.	Invitation for:	:	Supplying of Manpower by Outsourcing Method
07.	Invitation Ref. No.	:	12.21.0000.005.14.004.23.924
08.	Date	:	22-08-2023

KEY INFORMATION

09.	Procurement Method	:	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10.	Budget and Source of Fund	:	Government of Bangladesh (GoB)
11.	Development Partner (if applicable)	:	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12.	Project/Program Code (if applicable)	:	N/A
13.	Project/Program Name (if applicable)	:	"Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER)"
14.	Tender Package No.	:	PSN-08
15.	Tender Package Name	:	Supplying of Manpower by outsourcing method
16.	Tender Publication	:	24.08.2023
17.	Tender Last Selling Date & Schedule Selling Date	:	06.09.2023 at 3.00PM & From 24.08.2023 to 06.09.2023
18.	Tender Closing date & Time	:	07.09.2023 at 10.55AM
19.	Tender Opening date & Time	:	07.09.2023 at 2.00PM
20.	Brief Description of Tender:	:	

Identification of Package	Tender Security Price (Tk.)	Tender document Price (Tk.)	Location	Comments
PSN-08	1,00,000/- (One Lakh) Taka Only	1,000/- (One Thousand) Taka Only	"PARTNER" Project Area	The conditions described in the tender document will be applicable

21. Name and address of Office (s)

-Selling Tender Document (Principal)	:	Office of the Deputy Director (Accounts & Finance), BARI, Gazipur.
-Selling Tender Document (Others)	:	Planning & Evaluation Wing, BARI, Gazipur.
-Receiving Tender Document	:	Office of the Deputy Director (Admin), BARI, Gazipur.
-Opening Tender Document	:	Office of the Deputy Director (Admin), BARI, Gazipur.

22. Tender Purchase Rules

:	Tender documents can be procured through a written application along with the Deputy Director, Administration Section, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Joydebpur, Gazipur on the company's own Letter Head Pad. Individual tenders/applications will not be accepted except for the mentioned organization/company. An updated trade license (Business type must be related to outsourcing) must be submitted with the application for purchase of tender documents.
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23. Tender Security Types

:	The tender along with the tender should be sent in the form of Pay-order/bank draft from any scheduled bank along with the security deposit to the Director General, BARI, Gazipur.
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24. Eligibility of Tenderer

:	i) Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable law. ii) Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant Professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. iii) Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and registered of Bangladesh. iv) The actual manpower supplier will be able to participate in the tender through outsourcing with relevant work qualifications and experience.
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25. Papers to be submitted along with the tender

:	A) Trade license (Business type related to outsourcing) including renewal of current financial year. B) Certificate of VAT registration. C) Photocopy of renewed income tax payment certificate of current financial year with TIN number. D) Valid certificate of related work experience (Minimum 02 years) should be submitted. E) Also, other documents mentioned in the tender documents.
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26. Brief Description of Services

:	i) Office Assistant cum-Computer Operator 01 (one) person. ii) Driver 03 (three) person and iii) Office Sohayok 02 (two) person
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27. Brief Description of Related Services

:	N/A
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28. Designation of official inviting tender

:	Deputy Director (Admin)
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29. Address of official inviting tender

:	Administration Section, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Gazipur.
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30. Contact details of official inviting tender

:	Email: ddadmnbari@gmail.com
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31. The tenders will be conducted in accordance with the open tender procedure of Public Procurement Rules-2008. However, in the case of recruitment of manpower the outsourcing method of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the circular issued from time to time by the government will be applicable..

32. BARI Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without any noticed.

33. Due to unavoidable reasons if it is not possible to accept the tender on the date and time mentioned in this notice. The tender will be accepted and opened at the same time and place on the next working day.

Deputy Director (Administration)
For Director General
BARI, Joydebpur, Gazipur.
Phone No-49270010

GD-1281

GREECE WILDFIRES

Firefighters battle blazes on multiple fronts

Thick black smoke fills sky in Athens

AFP, Athens

Greek firefighters yesterday struggled to contain uncontrolled fires throughout the country for a fifth day, several of them bordering an acrid, smoke-filled Athens.

A fire ripped through foothills of Mount Parnitha, the largest forest adjoining the capital, and was threatening to spread to its national park.

Evacuations were ordered yesterday morning for three more settlements in the suburb Menidi, including three nursing homes.



The blaze has reached the first houses in Menidi, which is also close to a military camp. Fires have already destroyed homes and properties in the nearby suburbs of Hasia and Fyli.

A migrants detention centre in Amygdaleza, north of Athens, was also evacuated. The Greek capital woke up yesterday to the smell of scorched earth and thick black smoke covering the sky.

“Unfortunately, the wind does not help at all,” Stathis Topalidis, deputy mayor of Menidi told state TV ERT.

Another big blaze was still raging at a landfill in the industrial zone of Aspropyrgos, west of Athens.

One neighbourhood was evacuated yesterday morning. Flames continued to spread unchecked for a fifth day in the northeastern region of Evros, close to the Turkish border in Alexandroupolis and the Dadia forest, and home to rare birds of prey.

More evacuations were ordered in the region overnight. Unfounded rumours and allegations have also been spreading rapidly on social media that blame migrants for responsibility for the outbreak of the fires.

Greece’s Supreme Court Prosecutor yesterday ordered the local prosecutor to investigate both the causes of the catastrophic fire and alleged claims of racism towards migrants.



South Korea’s main opposition Democratic Party members hold electric candles and signs reading “Withdraw the dumping of Fukushima contaminated water!” during a rally against Japan’s plan to release treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant, at the National Assembly in Seoul yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia wants to end war ‘unleashed by West’

Putin tells BRICS leaders, praises the grouping as a counterbalance to US global dominance

REUTERS, Moscow

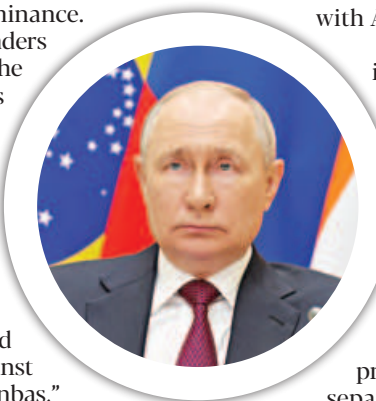
President Vladimir Putin yesterday used a speech to a summit of BRICS leaders to defend Russia’s war in Ukraine and praise the grouping as a counterbalance to US global dominance.

Speaking by video link to leaders of the group, he repeated the Kremlin narrative that his invasion, condemned by Ukraine and the West as an imperialist land grab, was a forced response by Russia to Kyiv’s and Washington’s hostile actions.

“Our actions in Ukraine are dictated by only one thing - to end the war that was unleashed by the West and its satellites against the people who live in the Donbas,” Putin said, referring to the eastern part of Ukraine where Russian proxies have been fighting the Ukrainian army since 2014.

“I want to note that it was the desire to maintain their hegemony in the world, the desire of some countries to maintain this hegemony that led to the severe crisis in Ukraine.”

Putin was speaking to a forum of countries



that have refrained from condemning Russia’s actions in Ukraine. The BRICS - also including Brazil, India, China and South Africa - have taken on added importance for Moscow as it seeks to blunt Western sanctions by boosting trade with Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Russia has repeatedly said it is open to talks to end the 18-month war - but only if they take account of the “new realities” created by its forces who control nearly a fifth of Ukraine. Ukraine demands the restoration of all its territory and the removal of Russian troops.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who in June presented an African peace plan separately to Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said in response to the Russian president’s speech that BRICS members would continue to support efforts to bring the conflict to an end.

Strengthening BRICS forms part of Russia’s vision of undermining US dominance and building what Putin, in his speech, called “a multipolar world order”.

CITIZENSHIP

Germany agrees to ease rules

AFP, Berlin

The German cabinet yesterday approved plans to shorten the path to citizenship for immigrants and allow more people to have dual nationality.

Under the proposed new rules, which must still be approved by parliament, naturalisation in Germany would be possible after five years instead of eight as now.

Those who are particularly well-integrated and have very good German language skills will be able to obtain nationality after just three years.

Prospective new citizens will have to show they are not dependent on state support, although the condition will have exceptions.

New Thai PM sworn in

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand’s new prime minister vowed to bring four years of change to the kingdom as he took office yesterday.

He will head a controversial coalition that includes pro-military parties linked to former coup-makers.

The appointment of former property mogul Srettha Thavasin -- of the Pheu Thai party long associated with billionaire ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra -- ends months of political deadlock following May’s general election.

The 61-year-old was confirmed by parliamentary vote on Tuesday, just hours after Thaksin returned to the kingdom from 15 years of exile and was immediately jailed on old graft charges.

Srettha received King Maha Vajiralongkorn’s official written command to form a government in a ceremony at Pheu Thai headquarters at 6:00pm (1100 GMT).

“The good of the country is my highest priority. I am confident the next four years will be years of change,” Srettha said after accepting the royal endorsement, pledging to work “tirelessly”.

Outgoing prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha -- a former army chief who overthrew the last Pheu Thai government in a coup -- congratulated Srettha and wished him luck.



DATE FOR NEXT VOTE

Pakistan president summons election commission head

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan’s president yesterday summoned the head of its election commission to discuss fixing the date of the next election within the 90-day constitutional deadline ending in early November, a letter from his office said. The opposition party led by jailed former premier Imran Khan has accused outgoing prime minister Shehbaz Sharif’s coalition of dragging its heels in scheduling a new election because Khan’s popularity was growing. Sharif’s government denied this, citing a constitutional requirement to hold elections under the latest census. Khan is under arrest over a conviction on charges stemming from the sale of state gifts, though he denies wrongdoing. Election commission officials have said it will take at least until December to draw up new constituencies based on the latest census.

“The Chief Election Commissioner is invited for a meeting with the President today or tomorrow to fix an appropriate date,” said the letter from President Arif Alvi, which included wording of the constitutional article on the 90-day deadline. Electoral experts have suggested that adjusting constituencies based on the latest census could see the nationwide vote pushed back several months, possibly until February. A caretaker government led by Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was sworn in last week.

EC to finalise changes to guidelines

FROM PAGE 12

Global Area Network facilities and other equipment with a tax waiver when they come to visit during the upcoming election.

The current guidelines offer no such waiver.

The issue of visa duration for foreign journalists and observers was also discussed at the inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.

According to the existing guidelines, polls observers are granted tourist visa.

The validity of visas for long term observers is two months while for

short term observers, it is three weeks.

“A foreign observation mission said they want to stay for a longer period when they come to observe the polls. We held a discussion on it and if someone wants to stay longer, they can extend their visa validity while they are here,” an official from the meeting said.

The official added they also discussed the past issue regarding the monitoring experience of foreign observers.

“We are also considering adding a provision stating that foreign observers should have prior

monitoring experience.”

The guidelines are being reviewed at a time when foreign diplomats are showing increased interest in the upcoming national election, which is likely to be held in January next year.

Earlier this month, the US said it would send a monitoring team early October to assess the pre-polls situation.

On the other hand, the EU’s Election Exploratory Mission visited Bangladesh from July 9 to 23 and will prepare a report, based on which the EU will decide whether or not to send an observer team.

Criminals rape girl

FROM PAGE 12

we saw her in a devastated condition,” he said.

Quoting the victim, he added, “She was also in deep sleep. She woke up to three masked men tying her up. When she tried to shout, they gagged her with a towel and raped her.

“They then proceeded to loot the house and took cash, gold ornaments and our mobile phones.”

The family later realised the men broke into the girl’s room by cutting the window grilles.

On Tuesday night, the brother filed

a case with Savar Model Police Station against three unnamed persons.

He said the victim is currently under treatment at the One Stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, while their parents are at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

In the case statement, he alleged that Habibullah Habib, former member of Bhakurta Union Parishad and also their neighbour, might have been involved in the incident.

However, Habib was not made an accused in the case.

“He [Habib] has already occupied a portion of our land, against which we filed a case. We think he might have done this for revenge.”

Contacted, Habib denied both the allegations of occupying the family’s land and being involved in the rape incident.

“The family is trying to implicate me in the rape case to harass me.”

Dipok Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station, said, “We are investigating the case and trying to trace the criminals.”

DENV-2 strain likely the culprit

FROM PAGE 12

The Daily Star yesterday, “This indicates that the DENV-2 may be one of the factors contributing to the higher fatalities in the country this year.”

“But there are some other associated causes, such as second-time infection,” she said.

She emphasised the necessity of conducting a study on the clinical characteristics of the patients to have a comprehensive understanding of the ongoing dengue outbreak.

“Unfortunately, we were unable to carry out such a study due to a lack of budgetary support,” she added.

In June, the Institute of

Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) also found DENV-2 as the most prevalent serotype after testing 40 samples.

The IEDCR did not conduct any study on the clinical features of patients either.

Meanwhile, the NILMRC is making preparations to start dengue genome sequencing soon, read the press release.

Studies focusing on serotypes study and genome sequencing are very crucial to controlling the dengue outbreak.

“There should be more studies like this. Because we need adequate data to comprehend and control

the dengue outbreak,” Dr Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of Disease Control unit at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The Daily Star.

Stressing the lack of any well-coordinated action plan at the policy level, he said, “Unfortunately, we have yet to develop any systematic approach to fight dengue, though dengue turns severe every year.”

The total number of dengue patients hospitalised so far rose to 1,06,429, including 2,070 new admissions yesterday. The total number of fatalities in dengue reached 506, the DGHS reported.

JCD leader arrested in capital

FROM PAGE 12

DB personnel arrested him and seized the pistol loaded with two bullets, the case statement read.

Talking to The Daily Star, salon staffer Amzad Hossain, who is made a witness in the case, said a nephew of Abul who is their customer came to the salon prior to the raid and requested to keep a shopping bag and hand it over to Abul who will visit

there in five minutes.

After a few minutes, DB police came to the shop with Abul and recovered three “cocktails” from the bag.

He, however, said he did not see police recover any pistol or ammunition from the bag.

Rajib Al Masud, deputy commissioner (Motijheel division) of DB, said they arrested Abul with the

firearm, ammunition, and explosives.

A Dhaka court placed him on a three-day remand yesterday, the DC added.

On August 20, DB claimed to have arrested six leaders of JCD, pro-BNP student body, with firearms and ammunition. DB made the claim of arrests over 24 hours after they were allegedly picked up by plainclothes men from the capital’s Lalbagh area.

Wagner chief presumed dead

FROM PAGE 12

Shortly after the news of the crash emerged, a White House official commented that Prigozhin’s death would be no surprise.

Which was echoed by US President Joe Biden.

“I don’t know for a fact what happened, but I’m not surprised,” Biden said, adding “there’s not much that happens in Russia that (President) Putin’s not behind. But I don’t know enough to know the answer.”

Putin was meanwhile giving a speech for the 80th anniversary of the Kursk battle in World War II.

He did not mention the crash and hailed “all our soldiers who are fighting bravely and resolutely” in the special military operation in Ukraine.

Ukrainian Presidential aide Mykhaylo Podolyak said on social media that the plane crash was “a signal from Putin to Russia’s elites ahead of the 2024 elections. ‘Beware! Disloyalty equals death’.”

During the offensive in Ukraine, launched on February 24, 2022, Prigozhin came out of the shadows.

He spearheaded the capture of several Ukrainian towns including Bakhmut -- and harshly criticised Russia’s conventional military leadership.

Prigozhin was locked in a bitter months-long power struggle with the defence ministry that he accused of trying to “steal” Wagner’s victories.

Tensions degenerated into a short-lived rebellion on June 23 and 24.

They can take families

FROM PAGE 12

of Umrah visas have been extended from one month to three months.

Bangladeshis can also travel inside the country with this visa, Faridul added.

The state minister also said discussions were held on increasing the Hajj quota and reducing the Hajj costs for Bangladeshis.

Faridul said the Saudi authorities accepted what they have asked for about traveling to and from Saudi Arabia, reducing the cost of Hajj, and overall cooperation.

“Such a discussion had not been held before. We could not have imagined that today we will have such a fruitful discussion,” he added.

India becomes first nation

FROM PAGE 12

Africa. “India’s successful moon mission is not just India’s alone,” he added. “This success belongs to all of humanity.”

The Chandrayaan-3 mission has captivated public attention since launching nearly six weeks ago in front of thousands of cheering spectators.

Politicians staged Hindu prayer rituals to wish for the mission’s

success and schoolchildren followed the final moments of the landing from live broadcasts in classrooms.

Chandrayaan-3 took much longer to reach the Moon than the Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s, which arrived in a matter of days.

India used rockets much less powerful than the ones the United States used back then, meaning the probe had to orbit the Earth several

times to gain speed before embarking on its month-long journey.

The lander, Vikram, which means “valour” in Sanskrit, detached from its propulsion module last week and has been sending images of the Moon’s surface since entering lunar orbit on August 5.

Now that Vikram has landed, a solar-powered rover will explore the surface and transmit data to Earth over its two-week lifespan.

Is MLM fraud back in disguise?

Reports of MTFE scams must lead to accountability and transparency

It's disturbing to learn of yet another mass-market-level consumer fraud that was reportedly committed exploiting legal financial channels to defraud thousands of people in various districts. According to a report by *Prothom Alo*, the group behind this is a multi-level marketing (MLM) company called Metaverse Foreign Exchange (MTFE) Group Inc. Its nature of exploitation is different from the now-defunct MLM company Destiny, but just as Destiny used customers to collect customers, it used "investors" to attract investors, using digital tools, a promise of lucrative returns on investments, and hired representatives on the ground to convince them.

All this happening even after the egregious precedents set by MLM companies like Destiny or Jubok – or latter-day players like UniPay2U or Evaly – is a big concern indeed. It means that there has been little improvement in financial governance in the country in all these years, as a result of which an estimated Tk 220 billion has been lost to MLM and e-commerce scams, unlikely to ever be returned in full to the victims.

Since the fallout of Destiny-Jubok controversies, there was a lull in MLM practices for about six-seven years, and the business model reportedly made a comeback in 2018 through e-commerce ventures. There are laws against pyramid schemes and such fraudulent business practices in the country, although there are no approved MLM companies at present. The question is, how could the MTFE then stay under the radar and circumvent regulations, and do that so openly?

A big tragedy of our financial sector is that every time a scam like this is revealed, far from taking responsibility for it, those in charge just pass the buck – as they did this time, too. Reportedly, the Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Bank, and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) are unwilling to take responsibility for what happened, instead opting to blame gullible investors for it. In the past, we have seen the government initiate inquiries, form commissions, and suggest refund mechanisms, yet a majority of victims have not been able to recover their investments.

This is quite frustrating. To prevent the recurrence of such scams, it is imperative that the authorities strengthen financial regulation and monitoring, properly enforce relevant laws, and enhance consumer awareness. Technological vigilance in an era where digital platforms can easily be exploited for financial misconduct is also vital. Those defrauded by MTFE and others deserve nothing less.

Ruling party must reign in BCL activists

Lack of accountability has emboldened them to continue committing crimes

Journalism in Bangladesh has become an extremely dangerous profession. One of the biggest threats facing journalists at present is violence by ruling party affiliated men. The most recent case occurred in Patuakhali, where a group of Chhatra League activists assaulted a journalist apparently for publishing a report against their district unit president. They stopped him while he was on the road, verbally abused him, physically assaulted him and attempted to injure one of his eyes, and even threatened to cut off his limbs should he publish any such reports. Their sheer barbarity demonstrates the level of danger journalists are exposed to these days. Violence, however, is just one of the many threats journalists face.

The main reason why such individuals have become so audacious is the poor state of law and order. It has become common for the powerful to get away with just about anything, often without any legal repercussion. In fact, rather than being used to protect journalists – and people in general – the law is being used to harass them. Under such circumstances, can we really be surprised when such incidents take place? Just a few days ago, another journalist was allegedly beaten up by BCL activists at Jahangirnagar University's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, simply because they suspected he was filming them, when he did no such thing. But the fact that ruling party activists feel so embolden to attack journalists – as well as just about anyone – as their first instinct speaks volumes about how much leeway they have been afforded over the years.

Not only that, ruling party politicians themselves, rather than condemning or preventing such criminal conduct by their supporters, often come out and criticise the media for exposing it. And that just goes to show the lack of remorse they all feel in the face of gross violations of human rights. This cannot happen indefinitely. We call on Awami League leadership to reign in their activists. The law enforcement authorities also should take stern measures to prevent such attacks and project journalists.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Compensation for road crash victims

It is good to know that the government has finally come up with a compensation package for road crash victims and their family members. When the Road Transport Act, 2018 was enacted five years ago, the compensation package was not settled and this deprived victims and survivors severely. Till now, thousands of survivors and victim's families remain without compensation. Although Tk 5 lakh may not be enough for families who have lost their loved one/s to road crashes, it is still a commendable move.

Arif Iqbal
Malibagh, Dhaka



Zillur Rahman
is executive director of the *Centre for Governance Studies (CGS)* and a television talk show host. His X handle is @zillur

ZILLUR RAHMAN

Law Minister Anisul Huq recently stated that he thinks the misuse of the Digital Security Act, 2018 will stop after the enforcement of the proposed Cyber Security Act. He said the problems (that is, some sections of the DSA) which worried the journalist community would be gone, and so the harassment of journalists would also stop. It is supposedly *not* an "old wine in a new bottle."

However, just a casual look into the draft CSA will prove to anyone that the optimism expressed by the law minister is entirely unfounded.

One of the most prominent critiques of the current DSA came from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the form of the OHCHR Technical Note to the Government of Bangladesh on review of the Digital Security Act, published last year. In the report, the UN body highlighted three major issues with the DSA. Firstly, the vague and overly broad provisions of the DSA criminalise various legitimate forms of expression with overly harsh sentences. Secondly, the powers granted to the police and the Bangladesh Telecommunications and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) are far too broad. Thirdly, the offences stipulated in the DSA are non-bailable and allow pre-trial detention.

Of course, one has to give credit where it is due. Under the drafted CSA, the significant positive changes include making several non-bailable offences bailable and also cancelling provisions for repeat offenders.

However, the key issues arising from vague provisions and the broad powers of police and the DSA enforcing agency remain totally unaddressed. Therefore, the function of the DSA as a tool for suppressing freedom of speech is entirely untouched by reform.

I would like to focus on a particular part of the CSA, which encapsulates the worst aspect of this problem.

When the ICT Act was replaced with the DSA in 2018, the government repealed Section 57 of the ICT Act, but all its provisions were included in four separate sections of the DSA. Namely, Sections 25, 28, 29, and 31. Of all the cases filed under the ICT



ILLUSTRATION: REHNUMA PROSHOON

Act, 65 percent were under Section 57. Since the DSA came into effect, the number of cases filed under the aforementioned four sections have exceeded 1,500, according to data collected by the Centre for Governance Studies. Almost one-third of all cases filed under the DSA are under Sections 25 and 29, mainly for defamation.

The UN human rights office observed that Section 25 – which criminalises "offensive, false or threatening data information" – and Section 29 – which criminalises "defamatory information" – of the DSA relate to acts considered civil liability issues in many other countries. The OHCHR also noted that these sections "do not include defences, such as the defence of truth or a defence for public interest in the subject matter..."

The core problem of these two sections in the DSA is that they are considered "desacato laws," meaning that they are laws which penalise offensive expressions directed at public officials and restrict freedom of expression and the right to information. These two sections are the most misused of the DSA, and are

primarily used to target journalists and members of opposition political parties.

In the new CSA, the clauses under Sections 25 and 29 have been untouched. Simply allowing bail does not address the issue of why and how these two sections are being misused. Instead, by keeping the defamation

fall short of Article 19(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Bangladesh has been a party to the ICCPR since September 2000.

Similar to the findings of the OHCHR, an analysis by the Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council) stated that Section 25 of the DSA directly

clauses as a criminal offence subject to a fine of Tk 25 lakh, the process of suppression has been streamlined. It has to be understood that Tk 25 lakh is not pocket change for the average Bangladeshi citizen. For many in the middle class, especially those who are young, that amount equals their life savings. By adopting this approach, the police may no longer have to bother tracking down the accused individual, go through the hassle of picking them up and filling out the paperwork. Instead, fines can be easily sent out in mass against a large number of targeted people, who will inevitably fail to pay the exorbitant fine and will later be collected by police whenever it is convenient for the latter.

The OHCHR has repeatedly stated a general view, under international human rights law, that defamation should be decriminalised as it discourages the media from publishing critical information on matters of public interest, thus posing a threat to freedom of expression and access to information of all kinds, and impeding journalists' legitimate work performance. Thus, the OHCHR is concerned that these sections

affects all investigative reporting in the media. Such reports are usually about some irregularities performed by institutions and individuals. Corrupt people might use this law to intimidate journalists and media organisations, and try to prevent the publication of such stories on the pretext that the reports have attacked or intimidated them. Regarding Section 29, they restated that a law already exists to deal with defamation, so a separate law for digital media is unnecessary.

The way to stop the CSA from being used against freedom of speech would be to turn the acts under Sections 25 and 29 into civil liability issues instead of criminal ones. For this, three things have to be ensured. Firstly, the criminal defamation laws have to be replaced with civil laws that are more narrowly defined. Secondly, only the party who is the alleged victim of defamation or harm to reputation should be allowed to file a case against the alleged perpetrator. And lastly, the sections must include defences and exemptions in regards to defamation, such as the defence of truth or a defence for public interest in the subject matter of the criticism.

The debt supercycle comes to China



Kenneth Rogoff,
professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University and recipient of the 2011 Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economics, was the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund from 2001 to 2003.

KENNETH ROGOFF

The 2008 financial crisis in the United States kicked off a debt supercycle, which spread to Europe in 2010 and has recently engulfed many of the world's low-income and lower-middle-income countries. Could the debt woes of Country Garden, the behemoth Chinese real-estate developer now facing billions of dollars in losses, augur the cycle's next turn?

The answer remains unclear. While the Chinese authorities have a remarkable track record when it comes to containing economic crises, the challenges posed by a significant growth slowdown, combined with high debt levels – especially for local governments and the property sector – are unprecedented.

China's current problems can be traced back to its massive post-2008 investment stimulus, a significant portion of which fueled the real-estate construction boom. After years of building housing and offices at breakneck speed, the bloated property sector – which accounts for 23 percent of the country's GDP (26 percent counting imports) – is now

yielding diminishing returns. This comes as little surprise, as China's housing stock and infrastructure rival that of many advanced economies while its per capita income remains comparatively low.

At the same time, in what had once seemed like a race between a tortoise and a hare, the US is speeding toward artificial-intelligence-powered technological innovation and higher long-term economic growth. As highly respected Wall Street Journal economics commentator Greg Ip recently put it, "No one talks about secular stagnation now," referring to a theory that a chronic deficiency in global demand and economically important innovation will hold down growth and real interest rates long into the future.

Funnily enough, I said much the same at a conference seven years ago. In my presentation, which was based on my 2015 paper "Debt Supercycle, Not Secular Stagnation," I explained that post-crisis malaise was typical and would at least partly fade. I then conjectured that "in nine years, nobody will be talking about secular

stagnation" – a perhaps hyperbolic remark to underscore the point.

Over the past decade, the overwhelming consensus in academic and policy circles has been that the world is deeply mired in an era of ultra-low interest rates driven by weak growth fundamentals. And in fact, it remains so today. For example, Northwestern University economist Robert J Gordon's magisterial history *The Rise and Fall of American Growth* offers persuasive arguments for the death of innovation and the end of growth. Gordon posits that post-1970s inventions – even the computer revolution – are not nearly as economically important as, say, the steam engine or electricity generation.

Billionaire investor Peter Thiel and former world chess champion Garry Kasparov made similar arguments in a 2012 debate on the topic of "Innovation or Stagnation" at the University of Oxford. Arguing on the "innovation" side of that debate, I pointed to advances in chess that heralded the coming of an AI age, while also noting that commercial innovation invariably stalls at times, for example during the Great Depression. In fact, my greatest concern has never been an end to innovation, but rather that the rise of AI will outpace our ability to control it.

There are strong arguments for secular stagnation on the demand side, owing to demographic decline. In a brilliant 2013 speech, Harvard economist Lawrence H Summers argued that only a continuing

shortfall in global demand could explain the era's ultra-low interest rates, triggering an avalanche of research on fundamentals that could explain the demand deficiency. Progressive politicians have used this work to make the case that bigger government is needed to fill the void. Summers, however, was more circumspect, advocating increased investment in infrastructure and education, and outright transfers from rich to poor – ideas with which I strongly agree.

But despite some good arguments for secular stagnation, concerns about sustained slower growth are overblown. Charles Goodhart and Manoj Pradhan have challenged the view that demographic decline inevitably lowers demand by pointing to the rapidly growing elderly population.

Moreover, long-term trends are not wholly responsible for the spectacular collapse in real interest rates after the 2008 crisis; the collapse was at least partly because of the crisis itself. After all, interest rates also fell to zero during the Great Depression and stayed there – until they didn't. Notably, the rate on ten-year inflation-indexed Treasury bonds is currently well above its average level of about zero from 2012 to 2021.

The debt supercycle may have lasted longer than initially expected, perhaps because of the pandemic. But it was a critical piece of the story, and now, as China's economy falters, it is the best explanation for what might come next.



The recent flooding must force us to think afresh about the state of natural balance in the country's hilly regions. PHOTO: MONG SING HAI MARMA

FLOODING IN CHT

When development gives little and takes all



Sulav Chakma is former president of Bangladesh Indigenous Students Action Forum.

SULAV CHAKMA

It is estimated that the Chittagong Hill Tracts, comprising the three districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari, and Bandarban, constitute one-tenth of Bangladesh's total land area. The natural beauty, and the linguistic and cultural diversity of this region have always attracted tourists at home and from abroad. For hundreds of years, many water bodies, including Chengi, Meini, Kajlong, Karnaphuli, Reingkhong, Sangu, and Matamuhuri have flown through the thousands of hills to meet the Bay of Bengal by the lowlands of Chattogram.

At one time, the CHT was known for being the only evergreen forest in the country. But the hilly forest is no longer what it used to be. The topography and demographic characteristics of the hilly areas have changed drastically over the last few decades. The biggest concern is the frequency with which natural disasters are occurring in the three hilly districts of the country. Over the past few years, heavy rains in monsoons and extreme heat in summers seem to have become common in the region. Moreover, floods and landslides have also become a regular occurrence.

Flooding was once a foreign phenomenon in the hilly areas. But recently, the devastating floods in Bandarban have resulted in the suffering of thousands of people, the destruction of roads and communication systems, and extensive damage to infrastructure. All this is forcing us to think afresh about the state of natural balance in this region.

Most of the Sadar upazilas, including Bandarban city, were flooded due to the heavy rainfall between August 2 and 8. Locals say that such a terrible flood situation is unprecedented. According to a Prothom Alo report, 6,569 houses and 132 educational institutions suffered damages. The whole Bandarban district remained without power for quite a few days. The Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers also flowed over the danger level for several days. Bandarban's roads and infrastructure have been severely damaged by the heavy rains and flooding. Reportedly, about one-third of the roads constructed under the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) have become impassable. During this time, the operations of hospitals, fire services, and various public and private emergency service providers were practically at a standstill. About 28,000 books of the District Government Public Library in Bandarban have been lost. For the following week or so, the whole of Bandarban was virtually cut off from other districts of the country. Even now, road networking between Bandarban-Ruma, Bandarban-Thanchi, and Thanchi-Alikadam has not returned to normal. It is safe to say that it will take some time for the situation in the area to improve.

Besides Bandarban, many areas in Rangamati and Khagrachari also experienced flooding like never before. Many upazilas, such as Dighinala and Baghaichari, are reported to have suffered crores of taka worth of damages.

As some may remember, in 2017, hundreds of people lost their lives in a massive landslide in Rangamati district. Now that the recent flood situation in the hill districts is receding, we must think again about the overall balance of the hilly areas. Although many experts have cited landslides (due to the unusually heavy rainfall) as the main cause behind the disastrous flooding in the hill districts, locals claim that there are several other factors, including unplanned development, contributing to such anomalous conditions.

Over the past few decades, the entirety of our mountainous region has undergone massive deforestation in the name of road construction and infrastructure development. Trees were felled indiscriminately. The burden of development has been forced onto the region's pristine natural environment, with no regard for the basic needs and opinions of inhabitants. Various media reports often state how the forests in the hill areas are being destroyed one after another. In keeping a balance in the flow of the rivers passing through these hills, rocks play a crucial role. But despite repeated objections from local victims and environmental activists, stones and rocks have been quarried relentlessly from hill ranges, dams, canals, and rivers in different upazilas of Bandarban over the past few years. Needless to say, these streams are the only source of useable water for the hill dwellers. Due to this loss of drinking water sources, reports frequently emerge of diarrhoea outbreaks and children dying due to lack of treatment from remote areas such as Alikadam, Thanchi, and Naikhongchhari.

The authorities remain oblivious to how incompatible the cultivation of rubber and tobacco and the operation of numerous brick kilns in the hill areas are with the environment. On top of this, there is word that a five-star hotel will be put up in the region to expand tourism. This is despite the fact that locals' experience with existing tourist centres

The authorities remain oblivious to how incompatible the cultivation of rubber and tobacco and the operation of numerous brick kilns in the hill areas are with the environment.

On top of this, there is word that a five-star hotel will be put up in the region to expand tourism. This is despite the fact that locals' experience with existing tourist centres in different areas of the mountains, including Sajek, has not been very pleasant. Additionally, many hill dwellers have been displaced due to the tourism and development activities. The rate of environmental pollution in the region has gone up and the geological balance has been disturbed.

in different areas of the mountains, including Sajek, has not been very pleasant. Additionally, many hill dwellers have been displaced due to the tourism and development activities. The rate of environmental pollution in the region has gone up and the geological balance has been disturbed.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts hold a lot of potential for tourism in Bangladesh. If the natural resources and biodiversity of the region are properly looked after, it can help enhance the overall development of the country. But sustainable development cannot be achieved by destroying life and nature, as the reports of frequent natural disasters in the hill districts have showed us time and again. This downtrodden state of nature only reminds us that, before destroying the natural environment, we need to be aware of the consequences of such actions. The entire world is facing new challenges every day in dealing with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change. If we still fail to realise the impact our actions have on the environment, we could be faced with even more devastating disasters in the future.

A people sidelined by its politicians



THE STREET VIEW

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

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The lists of dengue infections and deaths are only getting longer, and nobody can tell if, or when, the situation will get better. The prices of daily essentials continue to skyrocket, with the price of eggs, the go-to protein for the poor, now equal to that of a kilogram of broiler chicken. Meanwhile, more than 50 people were killed in the floods in Chattogram and the Chittagong Hill Tracts area in recent weeks.

In all of this, it is the common people (or in the context of the upcoming national election, the voters) who are the worst sufferers. But the politicians seem to be blissfully oblivious to the plight of their electorate. There is no denying that the country is headed towards its next parliamentary election with the two major political parties harbouring opposite stances regarding the election itself. Of course, a free, fair, and inclusive election is necessary for a better society and stronger democracy. But when people are suffering the most, when they are dying because of poor governance, how can the political parties focus on only the physical exercise of the election and how it

help but wonder who it is that is actually representing me, or has my interests at heart.

Bangladeshi politics is going through a critical phase. The fact is that politicians have lost control over politics in general, which appears to have been hijacked by corporate interests – given the representation of businessmen and former bureaucrats in the parliament. Currently, around 62 percent of lawmakers are from the business sector. The government's dependency on the administration has increased. And none but the politicians have brought this upon themselves, in their pursuit of shortcuts and expediency. When career politicians become weak, so does politics. And when the people are sidelined, politics – so far as it is concerned with maintaining democracy – becomes more fragile.

It is in this context that the exhortations of the diplomatic corps in Dhaka – India, China, the US, and the EU – about the supremacy of the people and how they hope that the people's wishes will be reflected in the outcome of the election, are both ironic and intriguing.

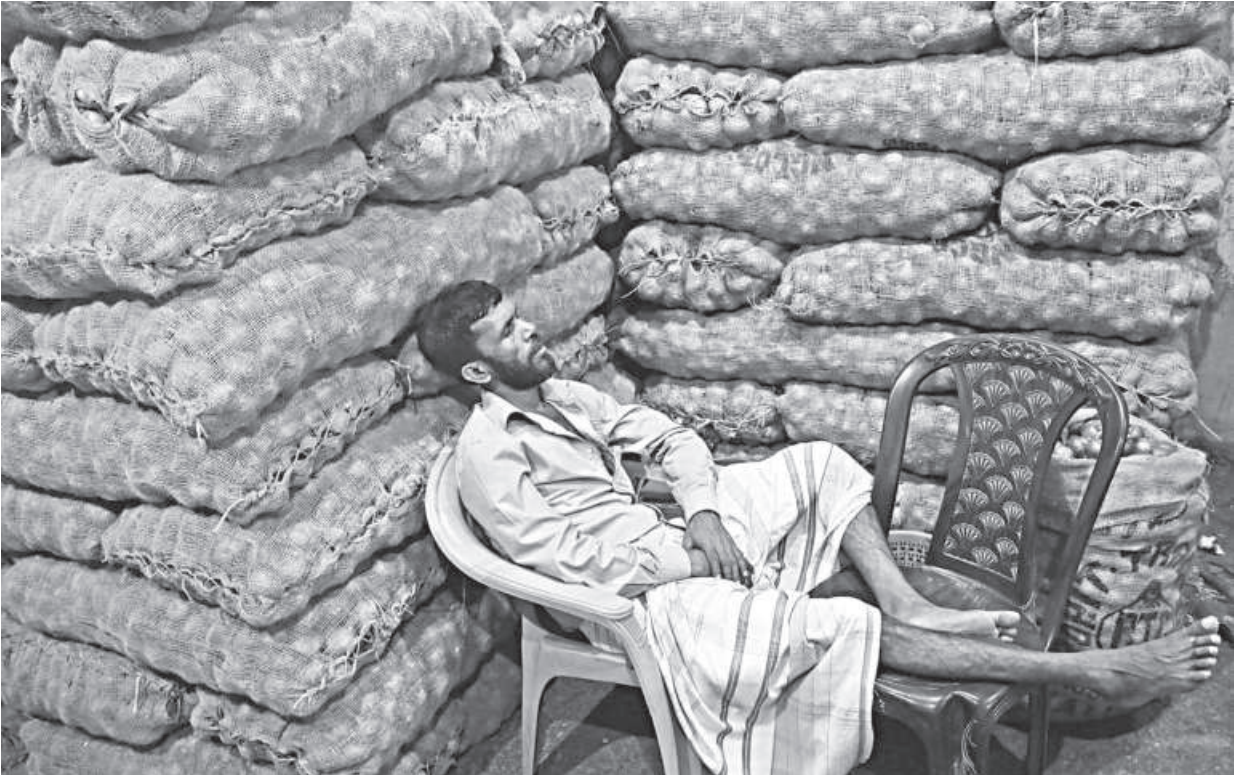
The two previous elections

But now, when a mere nomination all but guarantees victory for a candidate, the exercise of putting in effort to win voters has become all but cosmetic.

On the other hand, while the opposition can do little so far as actual measures are concerned – whether that relates to dengue or

When people are suffering the most, when they are dying because of poor governance, how can the political parties focus on only the physical exercise of the election and how it will play out in about four months? Shouldn't their focus be on how best to serve the people now? Shouldn't they be concerned about the welfare of the poorest of society?

prices – it is their responsibility to hold the government accountable. It falls on the opposition to keep these issues alive so that the government cannot ignore them. One way to do that is in parliament, which has unfortunately lost its purpose since the official opposition is, by and large, an informal extension of the ruling party alliance. Meanwhile, the



The politicians seem to be blissfully oblivious to the plight of their electorate.

FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

will play out in about four months? Shouldn't their focus be on how best to serve the people now? Shouldn't they be concerned about the welfare of the poorest of society? Shouldn't our politicians be working to win the hearts and minds of the people in order to win the elections, instead of engaging in political power play with their archrivals?

Ideally, and historically, people get into politics for the welfare of their people. But it appears from recent political machinations that the people have been conveniently forgotten or even sidelined in the game of politics. When one political party says that the country's people are with it, and the other party claims that it represents the people, I can't

changed the nature of Bangladeshi people's participation in national politics. The 2014 election, which BNP had boycotted and which saw 153 lawmakers being elected uncontested, remains a rare example of a lopsided election. In the 2018 election, many people were denied the right to cast their votes, and allegations emerged of ballot-stuffing on the eve of elections, so much so that it was even mentioned by Awami League's alliance members. When politicians found that they could get elected even without votes, voters ceased to become a factor to consider when trying to win elections. In the past, candidates did have to woo voters, and win their hearts and minds to get their votes.

main opposition camp on the streets, BNP, is too obsessed with its one-point demand for a resignation of the ruling government than with the plight of the voters.

So now, whenever I hear calls for this or that "in the name of the people," and when political parties launch campaigns for the supposed sake of the people, it seems to me that those politicians are merely cementing their political careers using the name of the people. Is anyone actually thinking about the families of those 50 people who died in the floods? Or about the children who are going to bed hungry in Bangladesh even now? That one has to pose such questions in a column is perhaps an even bigger tragedy.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

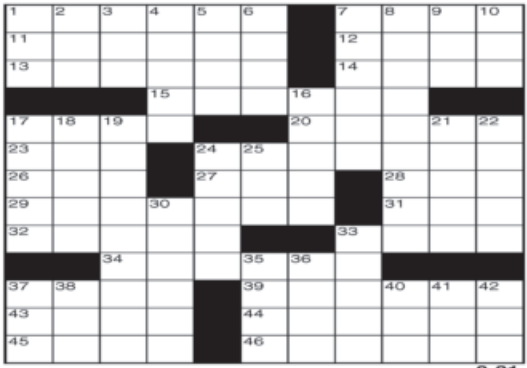
- 1 Rug maker
- 7 Corrosive stuff
- 11 Duds
- 12 Ticked off
- 13 Country singer Larry
- 14 Bridge
- 15 Abates
- 17 Mama's mate
- 20 Tire feature
- 23 In the past
- 24 U2 guitarist
- 26 Grammys category
- 27 Chop up
- 28 Squeak stopper
- 29 Harms
- 31 Hagen of acting
- 32 Message from the boss
- 33 Remain
- 34 Flaw

DOWN

- 1 Funny fellow
- 2 Seventh Greek letter
- 3 Lawyer: Abbr.
- 4 Home in the country
- 5 Lake near Buffalo
- 6 Tenant's fee
- 7 Quell concerns
- 8 Avoided responsibility
- 9 Lyricist

Gershwin

- 10 Cub's home
- 16 Worries
- 17 Louvre locale
- 18 Athlete's optimal effort
- 19 Batted unsuccessfully, in a way
- 21 Heartburn
- 22 Hold up
- 24 Burglar
- 25 That lady
- 30 Reparations
- 33 Play place
- 35 Historic periods
- 36 Minimal change
- 37 Shade tree
- 38 Sock part
- 40 Scottish river
- 41 Wing
- 42 Devilfish



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

R	O	A	D	S		A	L	I	A	S
A	G	R	E	E		N	O	I	A	S
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ILLUSTRATION : MAISHA SYEDA

ESSAY

Kazi Nazrul Islam’s short narratives

Even within the small category of Bengali writers writing about the time of the First World War, Nazrul’s stories stand out for their unique and unstable mixture of violence, fantasy and romance—threatening to unwork any narrative coherence or claims of ‘realism’ in stories like *Hena* or *Byathar Dan*.

ANKAN KAZI

Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976), was a poet, novelist, lyricist and musician in Bengali, and was popularly known as the rebel poet. He seemed to appear out of nowhere upon the Bengali literary scene, much like the comet he has often been compared to, drawing from the name of his first literary journal *Dhumketu*. Famous for his anti-colonial poems and lyrics that preached communal harmony during the period of the late colonial era between the two world wars, he also wrote a substantial body of prose that encompassed reportage, journalism, fiction, political thinking, and literary essays. Feted by all three countries that were created out of the Indian subcontinent, he is considered to be the national poet of Bangladesh.

While Nazrul Islam’s poems, songs—and more recently—his novels, have been diffused into global cultures through English translation, his short narratives have not received the same treatment yet. His prose—in the form of speeches, essays, novels, polemics and stories—is a crucial part of his evolving body of work. His early stories were written to document and narrate his experiences of war, based on his time with the 49th Bengal Regiment that was barracked in Karachi (and briefly, Nowshera) during the First World War. Even though the regiment did not see much action, Nazrul’s stories are fantasies of bravery, masculine courage and youthful experiences of love and ambivalence about national causes. He was fulfilling several roles at once: displaying martial prowess among the ‘bhadrolok’ Bengalis, who were largely thought to be too genteel to be in the army according to colonial stereotypes; emphasising the presence of Muslim youth among the Bengalis who fought for the empire, and later against it,

creating a fantasy-tinged narrative of romantic engagement against the background of global conflict. Soldiers in Nazrul’s stories fight on behalf of the colonial empire, for central Asian freedom struggles as well as the Red Army in Russia. Even though the First World War is rarely name-checked in his poetry afterwards, as scholars like Santanu Das have pointed out, “(t)he influence of the war years can be detected not only in a few explicit ‘war’ writings, but in a more general sense, from his greater confidence to his self-fashioning as a sainik (soldier) to infusing Bengali poetry with martial images and rhythms it had not known before”. There is a line of continuity between Nazrul’s narratives and his poetry and song, with each genre providing their unique set of affective frames that could serve Nazrul’s effort to express his formative identity. And violence was often central to this act of forging one’s identity in a late-colonial context, as much for Nazrul as for many European writers and artists who thought of global wars as technological means for securing idealistic futures; Das suggests the same when he writes that “the war opened up for the tempestuous youth and avant-garde artist a rich imaginative space, replete at once with desire and violence, with violence *as* desire”. These conflicted, almost contradictory, fantasies tell us many things about how contested the world of imagination was in late-colonial Bengal, especially when it came to formulating political programmes for struggle—either against the colonial government or the emergent, ‘nationalist’ middle-class society at large (traditionally understood to be the object of reform).

These stories offer a glimpse into the life and mind of Nazrul at a young age before he took Kolkata and Bengal by storm with his rousing songs and

poetry. They are witnesses to his struggles with himself in the domain of ideas and love. They help us appreciate the great rebel poet more by giving us unrestricted access to his fears and obsessions as a detached, carefree vagabond who sought learning and experience from the world—all by himself and through his narratives. We see glimpses of this soldier-cum-vagabond lifestyle described in his novel, *Bandhon Hara* (Unfettered), which has been translated into English, but the shorter narratives collect various aspects of this existence imagined through different combinations and romantic possibilities, each signifying a distinct emotional core in Nazrul’s poetics. These stories will help English readers to place Nazrul in an intellectual and social context of his own making and historicise his exuberant creative work. They are drawn from his three major collections of short stories: *Byathar Daan* (*The Gift of Pain*), *Rikter Bedon* (*The Feeling of Emptiness*), and *Shiulimala* (*The Garland of Sorrow*).

Even within the small category of Bengali writers writing about the time of the First World War, Nazrul’s stories stand out for their unique and unstable mixture of violence, fantasy and romance—threatening to unwork any narrative coherence or claims of ‘realism’ in stories like *Hena* or *Byathar Dan*. These may be described explicitly as stories of a young Bengali experiencing the world of war at the same time as working out various ideological conflicts within the self, with an emphasis on war’s romantic possibilities. Even if the stories read fantastically, very often they reflect the thick atmosphere of grisly rumours of violence, betrayals and ideological border-crossings that took place at the time, which also opened up opportunities for alternative self-making, compared to what inspiration

was available before that in a colonised state. According to Abhishek Sarkar, “Nazrul was also aware...that some Indian soldiers in Iran had mutinied and deserted the British army to join the Red Army. Among them one Murtaza Ali excelled in guerrilla warfare in the northern Caucasus, and probably served as a prototype for the heroic character named Dara in Nazrul’s story *Byathar Dan*. Nazrul encapsulates in the figure of Dara his favourite ideals of internationalism and heroic masculinity, of which he could not find any embodiment in his lived experience as a Bengali.” Ultimately, through the telling of great world events like the War, the stories will find universal interest as part of a growing archive of war narratives from colonial soldiers and participants who were never directly implicated in the global conflict but by virtue of their forced membership in an imperial commonwealth. The coerced nature of this association is revealed through the cracks in Nazrul’s portrait of his war protagonists and their febrile search for causes.

The other section of the collection is built around narratives of the social world of Bengali villages and small towns during the early 20th century. They give us glimpses of historically-rooted social experience of Muslims and Hindus living together during the times of the Non-Cooperation Movement, for instance—marked, once again, with elements of fantasy. These stories are imagined in the literary context of earlier puthi narratives as well, and are probably better thought of as afsanas or tales, where temporal events are suffused with the imaginary world of ghosts, jinn and sentient serpents. In “Jiner Badsha”, the female protagonist is named Chan Bhanu after a popular character from a qissa that is much admired by her mother, while the male protagonist whiles his time

away reading tales of Shonabhan bibi and imagines himself to be the new Gazi Hanifa. These popular tales and outsized fantasies intrude upon the everyday world of the Bengali rural idyll, grafting insidious desires for romance and adventure, and making it possible for us to trace the characters’ motivations and self-fashioning in the domain of this particular social imaginary.

Nazrul narrates these tales with his tongue in his cheek, reflecting the larger context of secular and conservative political debates that were waged around the need for rationalist methods in approaching faith-based communities that were in dire need of ‘modernisation’. The translation also includes two short allegorical narratives by Fazlul Haq, Bengal’s first Prime Minister and friend of Nazrul, that were reproduced by Nazrul in the journal, *Nobojug*. These emphasise the comedic aspects of Nazrul’s work—whereas he is traditionally known for his angry, rebellious lyrics, or lachrymose devotionals (to the goddess Kali, for instance). Comedic narratives and the use of fantastic elements allowed Nazrul to create popular forms, re-tell older stories and communally-shared oral narratives, which let him evolve an important dimension of his aesthetic. Although for Nazrul—even in the midst of laughter, we are still talking about politics, and the struggle waged by the emotional, individual self against the socially structured, increasingly rationalised and enumerated world of late-colonial Bengal.

Ankan Kazi is a writer and translator. His essays and translations have appeared in the Sahitya Akademi’s Indian Literature journal, Jamini, DAG Journal, Caravan Magazine and The Wire, among others. He is also the great-grandson of Kazi Nazrul Islam. He works as a researcher in Kolkata.

POETRY

Equality

Translated by Niaz Zaman
from Kazi Nazrul Islam’s poem “Samya”

I sing the song of equality—
Of a country where fresh joy blossoms in every heart
And new life springs in every face.
Friend, there is no king or subject here,
No differences of rich and poor.
Some do not feast on milk and cream here,
While others grovel for leftovers and broken grains.
No one bows before the feet of horses here,
Or before the wheels of motor cars.
Disgust does not arise in white men’s minds here
At the sight of black bodies.
Here, in this land of equality,
Black and white are not buried in separate graveyards;
Nor do black and white pray in separate rooms and churches.

In this land there are no footmen or guards,
No policemen to evoke fear.
There are no conflicting religions here,
No cacophony of conflicting scriptures.
The priest and the padre, the mullah and the monk
Drink water from the same glass here.
The Creator’s house of prayer
Is contained in the human body and mind here;
Here His throne of sorrow
Is formed by human suffering.
He responds readily here
To whatever name He might be called,
Just as a mother responds readily
To whatever name her child might call.
No one comes to blows here
Over the different apparel one wears—
Payjama, trousers or dhoti.
Clad though in soiled or dusty garb,
All are happy here.

Niaz Zaman, Advisor, Department of English and Modern Languages, Independent University, Bangladesh, is a writer and translator.



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

“Thank you, dear Saudis, for buying Mr Neymar, who has been one of the most sneaky footballers in recent years on this planet. One of the greatest footballers who only acts, who only dives. Lousy! A very sneaky character. I have to say: thank you very much, we don’t need to stand him anymore.”

– Bayern Munich legend Paul Breitner sarcastically thanked Al-Hilal for taking Neymar to Saudi Arabia



Biman back at cricket’s runway!

SPORTS REPORTER

Biman Bangladesh used to be a big name in the country’s domestic cricket circuit. Players such as Habibul Bashar, the current national team selector, have played for Biman almost for the entirety of his career. Current national team stars like Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiquir Rahim have also featured for the side.

Due to cost-cutting ventures, Biman, who won the National Cricket League (NCL) in their inaugural season in 2000-01, slowly ebbed away from cricket. Bashar and former national team captain Akram Khan on Tuesday met Biman’s Managing Director Shafiqul Azim to propose a return for Biman to cricket.

Following the meeting, Biman has decided to return to cricket. Biman will have a franchise team featuring in the Bangladesh Cricket League [BCL] in the 2023-24 season.

“If Biman returns, it will be good for the sports and also the players. Since they don’t have a team anymore, they would have to start from scratch. We wanted them to be involved. They want to start with the BCL and then they will get involved with sports step by step since at the moment they aren’t involved with any sports. They are interested to start with BCL,” Bashar told The Daily Star on Wednesday.



Former Bangladesh ODI skipper Tamim Iqbal sweats it out in the gym at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium indoor facilities yesterday as he tries to regain his fitness and recover from a recurring back injury to be back in time for the New Zealand series following the Asia Cup in September.

PHOTO: BCB

Premier hockey in October?

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is planning to hold the Dhaka Premier Division Hockey League in October after a two-year gap, but it all depends on the willingness on the clubs.

The premier league was held only once in the last four years as the clubs were not interested in taking part due to the ‘financial constraints’. The last league was held in 2021 only after the Prime Minister allocated one crore taka for the sport.

“I am hoping to form a league committee by this month [the last date of sending names of club representative is August 25] and declare the date of players’ transfers in the first meeting of the league committee,” said re-elected general secretary AKM Mominul Haque Sayeed.

“I prefer the transfers to take place in September and start the premier league in October,” Sayeed said. “I have already spoken to big clubs, which have assured me about taking part in the transfers. They have sought time for the transfers but I had told them that we can’t keep any schedule in December and January due to state affairs (national elections).”

Abahani hockey committee secretary Zaki Ahmed Ripon said that they have no problem in playing and taking part in the transfers.

Usha KC general secretary Abdur Rashid Shikdar, too, said they will respond positively to the federation’s plea and would try to form a strong squad in their return to top-flight hockey after missing out the last season due to demotion.

Rashid, also a BHF vice president, believes the small clubs may face trouble in the transfers ahead of the national elections. However, he believes it is possible to hold the league, which is the lone income sources of the players.

Sayeed promised to come forward personally to help the clubs if they need financial assistance.

“The federation is not capable of providing allocation for the clubs but personally I will try to help the clubs if they seek any kind of help,” said Sayeed.



Pragg takes final against Carlsen to tiebreaker

AGENCIES

In an anti-climax of sorts, the second game of the FIDE World Cup final between India’s Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa and World No 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway ended in a quick draw in just over an hour.

Both players made 30 moves each before they agreed to a draw. They will return on Thursday to play in the shorter time control games.

Game 1 on Tuesday had also ended in a draw after 35 moves, but it lasted much longer as Carlsen tried to chase a win with black pieces. In Game 2, Pragganandhaa, playing with white pieces, was ahead on time at the start of the contest, but was unable to press on his advantage and came under time trouble himself by the end.

Thanks to making it to the final, Pragganandhaa became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

Backups’ training in sync with Tigers’ needs

SPORTS REPORTER

A backup is never just a backup. The training of the nine cricketers at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, who have been kept as backup options with the upcoming World Cup in mind, is well-integrated to the needs of the national team, as per head coach Chandika Hathurusingha’s instructions.

There have been plenty of talk regarding Mahmudullah Riyad’s exclusion from the Asia Cup squad but Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) are ensuring that whenever the experience of someone like Riyad or the ability to clear the in-field much like what Soumya Sarkar does, is required, they get such players well-tuned to the team management’s needs.

Tamim Iqbal is part of the group but his individual recuperation would have to be completed before he can start doing the high-intensity training prescribed for the nine players, a BCB source informed. If his recuperation goes well and he can start taking on more intensity, he will return for the New Zealand series at home.

“The practice sessions have been designed in a way so that the intensity and volume of practice is like the national team’s. So that they can be ready and if picked, cope with the national team very quickly,” coach Sohel Islam, in charge of the group’s training sessions, told reporters yesterday.

The initial phase of the camp would go on

till September 3 but Sohel also informed that the camp may continue till the World Cup. The training sessions are curated according to the national team’s demands.

The focus of the training sessions on skill and training for particular roles. “We are preparing in two ways. One is skill, technical issues so that they can take challenges in specific areas in case they get into the team. The other is preparation based, such as who will play the new ball and how they will play,” Sohel further informed.

Riyad was hitting some big ones yesterday against net bowlers, as he looked to find his rhythm after sitting out the special camp due to a family emergency over the last few days. The veteran also was seen fielding with the rest of the group in the morning.

“The way that instructions came from the top on what the roles are and who will practice what, that is how it was communicated with Riyad and we set up his practice routine. He is in good shape and this preparation routine will go on for a while, and with a few more sessions he will get into a good rhythm,” Sohel said regarding Riyad’s return to the backup options’ camp.

Meanwhile Soumya, who is also among the backups, was looking to overcome his batting issues in order to be ready in case he is needed. Sohel added that Soumya has recognised what areas to work on. With time to prepare, the plans given from the national team management could be crucial.

WARM-UP FIXTURES

September 29: Bangladesh v Sri Lanka, Guwahati
South Africa v Afghanistan, Thiruvananthapuram
New Zealand v Pakistan, Hyderabad

September 30: India v England, Guwahati
Australia v Netherlands, Thiruvananthapuram

October 2: England v Bangladesh, Guwahati
New Zealand v South Africa, Thiruvananthapuram

October 3: Afghanistan v Sri Lanka, Guwahati
India v Netherlands, Thiruvananthapuram
Pakistan v Australia, Hyderabad

Tigers to face SL and England in WC warm-ups

SPORTS DESK

Bangladesh will play two official warm-up games in Guwahati before starting their ICC World Cup campaign against Afghanistan on October 7.

The official warm-up fixtures for the cricket’s showpiece event in India was announced yesterday.

The Tigers will take on Sri Lanka in the first warm up game on September 29 at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati and play the second match against England at the same venue on October 2.

The 10 teams will each play two official 50-over contests during the week leading up to the start of the World Cup on October 5, with matches to be held in three different cities across India.



As India’s Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 touched down on the lunar south pole on Wednesday, Indian cricketers, who are presently away from home to play a three-match T20I series against Ireland, were seen watching the historic event unfold. In a video shared by the BCCI, the cricketers led by captain Jasprit Bumrah were glued in front of a screen while watching the event and burst out in cheers as Chandrayaan-3 landed safely.

PHOTO: BCCI

STREAK ‘DEMISE’ a lesson for all

STAR SPORT DESK

Zimbabwe’s legendary cricketer Heath Streak made a trip to “the other side” and back on Wednesday, thanks to the powerful tool that is social media.

The world of cricket mourned the news of Streak’s “demise”, and was then left bewildered when such a sensitive issue turned out to be a hoax – all in a span of just a few hours.

News of the demise of Streak, 49, spread like wildfire on Wednesday morning with many renowned media houses around the globe running the news by referencing social media posts of Streak’s close associates.

Although the first official source that made the announcement of Streak’s demise remains unknown, a post by his former national teammate Henry Olonga is what seemingly triggered the hoax as even Reuters referenced Olonga in this matter.

“Sad news coming through that Heath Streak has crossed to the other side. RIP Zimbabwe cricket legend. The greatest all-rounder we produced. It was a pleasure playing with you,” wrote on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Olonga was soon joined by former current Zimbabwe

skipper Sean Williams in paying his tributes to Streak.

“Streaky! No words can explain what you and your family have done for mine and many others. Our hearts are broken you leave behind a beautiful family and a legacy for us to live up to! You will be missed we love you dearly. Rest in peace, Streaky,” read Williams’ message on X. The posts by Williams and Olonga are no longer available on X.

About two hours after his initial post, Olonga clarified in his next post that Streak, in fact, is “very much alive” but the damage had already been done by that time.

Understandably, Streak, undergoing treatment for liver cancer, and his family were taken aback by what they heard and saw, demanding an apology from the source for the unverified news.

“It is a total rumour and a lie. I’m alive and well. I am very upset to learn that something as big as someone apparently passing can be spread unverified especially in our day and age of social media, I believe the source should apologise. I am hurt by the news,” Streak told Mid-Day in his first official reaction to the news.

Streak may not get the “apology” for what transpired yesterday but it surely is time for the world to take note and wield the powerful tool in a more responsible way.



Gold medalist Gianmarco Tamperi of Italy celebrates with his wife Chiara Bontempi and bronze medalist Mutaz Essa Barshim of Qatar following the men’s high jump final at the World Athletics Championship in Budapest yesterday. “I feel like a human being who beats superheroes,” said an elated Tamperi, who famously shared the high jump gold medal with the three-time world champion Barshim at the Tokyo Olympics last year.

PHOTO: REUTERS



DENGUE INFECTION

DENV-2 strain likely the key culprit

Reveals govt study; death toll crosses 500-mark with 13 new deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DENV-2, the severest of all dengue virus types, is likely the key factor contributing to higher rates of dengue deaths and infections this year, says a government study.

The study findings were revealed at a time when the death toll from dengue has crossed the 500-mark this year, with another 13 new deaths reported in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Dengue infections are caused by four closely related viruses – DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3, and DENV-4. These are called serotypes because each of them has different interactions with the antibodies in human blood serum, according to Nature, a science journal.

To learn more about the most circulated dengue serotypes in Dhaka, virologists at the National Institute of Laboratory Medicine and Referral Centre (NILMRC) tested 200 samples recently.

In the study, the DENV-2 serotype was detected in 151 samples, DENV-3 in 37, and both DENV-2 and DENV-3 in 12 samples, according to a press release sent by the NILMRC yesterday.

Interpreting the findings, Dr Arifa Akram, assistant professor at the Department of Virology at NILMRC, told

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Nine-month-old Ayesha being comforted by her father in Dhaka Shishu Hospital's dengue ward, where she was admitted a week ago. As dengue cases continue to soar, the numbers of patients and fatalities have both reached a record-high in the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MIGRANTS IN KSA
They can take families for 3-month visits
Saudia, Flynas flyers can now perform umrah on transit visa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on Bangladeshi citizens with transit visa will be able to stay four days in Saudi Arabia and perform umrah and migrants living there would be able to take their families to the kingdom for three months' stay.

The decisions were made during Saudi Arabia's Minister of Hajj and Umrah Affairs Tawfiq bin Fawzan Ar-Rabiah's meeting with State Minister for Religious Affairs Faridul Haque Khan at the Secretariat yesterday.

Tawfiq Ar-Rabiah arrived in Bangladesh on Tuesday night on a three-day visit.

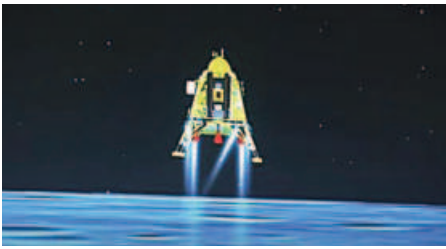
"Passengers will avail this [umrah on transit visa] benefit only if they use Saudi carriers, Saudia and Flynas. The transit visa will be valid for four days," Faridul said.

Meanwhile, the validity

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MOON'S SOUTH POLE

India becomes first nation to land craft near it



AFP, Bengaluru

India yesterday became the first nation to land a craft near the Moon's south pole, a historic triumph for the world's most populous nation and its ambitious, cut-price space programme.

The unmanned Chandrayaan-3, which means "Mooncraft" in Sanskrit, touched down at 6:04 pm India time (1234 GMT) as mission control technicians cheered wildly and embraced their colleagues.

Its landing comes days after a Russian probe crashed in the same region and four years since the previous Indian attempt failed at the last moment.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi smiled broadly and waved an Indian flag on a live broadcast to announce the mission's success as a triumph that extended beyond his country's borders.

"On this joyous occasion I would like to address the people of the world," said Modi from the sidelines of the BRICS diplomatic summit in South

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FOREIGN OBSERVERS, JOURNOS

EC to finalise changes to guidelines in September

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will finalise the changes to the guidelines for foreign election observers and journalists by the first week of September.

At an inter-ministerial meeting at the EC office yesterday, the commission urged relevant ministries to place their proposals at the meeting next week.

Officials from the ministries of foreign affairs, home and information, and the National Board of Revenue were present.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary to the EC Secretariat, said they will finalise the draft incorporating the changes by the first week of September.

"We reviewed the current foreign election observer policy. No final decision has been made yet on the nature of changes to the policy ... We will sit again next week."

The move came after Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen met on August 10 and discussed updating the guidelines, EC officials said.

They held the discussion as some foreign observers, especially of the European Union, want to bring in vehicle trackers, cameras, Broadband

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Wagner chief presumed dead in plane crash

Biden says 'not surprised'; Ukraine says event a message from Putin to Russian elites

AGENCIES

Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin was listed as a passenger on a private jet which crashed yesterday evening north of Moscow with no survivors, the Russian authorities said.

There was no confirmation that Prigozhin was physically on board, according to Reuters and AFP.

Prigozhin, 62, spearheaded a mutiny against Russia's top army brass on June 23-24 which President Vladimir Putin said could have tipped Russia into civil war.

Since the rebellion – seen as the biggest challenge to Russian Putin's authority since he came to power – uncertainty has surrounded the fate of the Wagner group and of its controversial chief Yevgeny Prigozhin.

Russia's emergency situations ministry said in a statement that the aircraft travelling from Moscow to St. Petersburg had crashed near the village of Kuzhenkino in the Tver Region.

"There were 10 people on board,

including 3 crew members. According to preliminary information, all those on board died," the ministry said.

Russian news agencies later reported Prigozhin on the list of passengers of the plane.

"The plane that crashed in the Tver Region listed Yevgeny Prigozhin among its passengers, (Russia's aviation agency) Rosaviatsia said," TASS news agency reported, with RIA Novosti and Interfax

issuing similar reports. Videos on Telegram channels linked to Wagner posted footage – that AFP could not

independently confirm – showing the wreckage of the plane burning in a field.

In an official statement, Rosaviatsia said it set up a special commission to investigate the crash of the Embraer – 135 (EBM-135BJ).

The bodies of eight people have been found so far at the site of the crash, RIA Novosti said citing the emergency services.

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Criminals rape girl, 'sedating' family members

Case filed; family suspects ex-UP member's link

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A case was filed on Tuesday against three unidentified people on charges of raping a 13-year-old after tying her up and gagging her in Savar's Luterchar area the day before.

The incident took place in the victim's house, where she lives with her brother, homemaker mother, and father, who is a driver for a private bank.

Family members claimed the miscreants also looted cash, gold and electronics from the house.

They also alleged that a former local union parishad member, who has been in a long-standing land dispute with the family, might have been involved in the incident.

The victim's elder brother said, "We believe someone might have broken into our house earlier and mixed sedative with our food. After dinner, we all went to our respective rooms and soon lapsed into a deep sleep. Me or my parents could not hear whatever was going on in the house.

"The next morning, we woke up when some relatives came to our house. As we went to my sister's room,

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JCD leader arrested in capital

Detectives say they seized pistol, crude bombs from him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested Abul Hasan Chowdhury, vice-president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal central committee, from the capital's Hatirpool on Tuesday night and claimed that they recovered a pistol, two bullets, and three crude bombs from his possession.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Motijheel zone of DMP's Detective Branch raided the area around 9:45pm and arrested Abul in front of Joy Salon, according to the case statement filed over the arrest and recovery.

DB Sub-inspector Swapan Mia lodged the case with Kalabagan Police Station yesterday.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the arrestee tried to flee. But

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A long tailback on the southbound lane of Airport Road near Kakoli intersection in the capital yesterday. Many hope that once the Dhaka elevated expressway, on the left, is inaugurated on September 2, congestion will significantly reduce in the area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

INDIA'S MIZORAM

26 killed as under construction bridge collapses

2 hurt; authorities open probe

REUTERS, Guwahati

A railway bridge being built in India collapsed yesterday killing at least 26 workers and injuring two, police said, as the state-run railway authority opened an investigation.

The accident happened in Sairang town in the northeastern state of Mizoram, its chief minister, Zoramthanga, said on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Media reported that up to 40 workers were at the site when the bridge collapsed but police said 28 workers were present.

"Rescue workers have been able to recover 13 bodies so far. Efforts are on to recover the remaining bodies," said a state police official who declined to be identified.

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) said in a statement on the messaging platform X that the mishap occurred during work on the Bhaibri Sairang New Line Railway Project.

The NFR said on its website the project will connect Mizoram to the rest of the country, boosting "tourism and socio-economic development".

A "high level enquiry committee" had been set up to investigate, the NFR said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a statement "all possible assistance" was being given to those affected.

India's extensive railway system is used by many millions of people every day.