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4,000 ACRE RAIL LAND Locked in litigation

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway (BR) is in a legal predicament as it struggles to recover around 4,000 acres of land grabbed by private citizens and public entities alike.

Currently, it is tangled up in over 2,000 cases -- 1,184 under the east zone and 892 under the west zone of BR, according to railway documents.

Some of the cases were filed by BR against illegal occupants, although most of them were filed against the railways by individuals and different public and private organisations.

According to the railways ministry's 2021-22 annual report, BR owns 61,860 acres of land -- 24, 441 acres in east zone and 37, 419 acres in west zone.

Of the total land, 3,842 acres -- equivalent to over 15 square kilometres -- are under illegal occupation, according to the report published early this year.

Of its total land, the BR uses 31,569 acres for railway operations and leased out 14,473 acres to different individuals and entities. Another 11, 976 acres remain unused.

Many influential people have long been occupying railway lands, often in association with some unscrupulous railway staffers.

After the formation of a separate railways ministry in 2011, rail ministers almost on a regular basis informed parliament about the scale of the encroachment and vowed to recover the lost land.

Indeed, it carried out several drives through its four divisional estate offices to evict the grabbers and demolish the illegal structures. But the grabbers returned within a few days in most cases due to lax monitoring.

However, sources said BR sometimes carries out eviction drives upon pressure from the high-ups, which is actually "an eyewash".

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PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Twenty-two wind turbines are being installed in Cox's Bazar with some of them already making test supplies to the national grid since May 26. The wind farm is expected to formally start operation before November end and generate 60MW a day.

Teesta bursts its banks again

Around one lakh people
marooned in the North

STAR REPORT

Due to relentless monsoon rains and onrushing water from upstream India, the Teesta's water has crossed the danger level for the third time this season, leaving around one lakh people stranded in Rangpur, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat.

Meanwhile, the water levels of Jamuna and Dharla have also been increasing in the northern region.

However, officials of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) believe the floods will not last long.

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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DEATH OF PASSENGER 'Plane denied priority landing'

HSIA made delays despite
medical emergency, pilots say

RASHIDUL HASAN

A passenger who fell ill on board a Biman flight died in the early hours yesterday after his treatment was delayed due to Dhaka airport's air traffic control putting the plane's landing on hold, according to the cockpit crew.

About an hour before landing at the Hazrat

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US sharing info with The Gambia for ICJ case

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has shared information on atrocities against the Rohingya with The Gambia that filed a genocide case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice.

US Under Secretary of State Uzra Zeya said this at an event in Washington DC on the occasion of Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day on Friday.

"Our work is not just humanitarian, we also must move towards accountability," she said.

She said the US also provides support to the UN's Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar to strengthen its ability to conduct open-source investigations and to protect witnesses and victims.

Zeya said not a single Rohingya returned to Myanmar. She also mentioned there

ATROCITIES AGAINST ROHINGYAS

was no guarantee of citizenship, safety and conducive environment in Rakhine, six years after the influx of around 750,000 Rohingyas who fled a brutal military campaign in Myanmar and took shelter in Bangladesh.

The US determined in March 2022 that members of Myanmar military committed genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingyas. It also imposed various sanctions against Myanmar military. The latest one was on Wednesday when the US imposed sanctions on any foreign individual or entity operating in the jet fuel sector of Myanmar's economy and designated two individuals and three entities.

"We will continue to use our sanctions authorities to deprive the military regime of the resources that enable it to oppress its people and urge others to take similar accountability measures," Zeya said.

She said the US coordinates with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

YOUR CHANCE TO NOMINATE THE TORCH BEARERS OF ICT IS HERE ONCE AGAIN

8th



BRAC BANK
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The Daily Star



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8-yr-old house help found dead in city flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eight-year-old girl, who worked as a house help, was found dead yesterday at a flat in the capital's Central Road area.

Tipped off, police recovered her body from flat "EI" on the first floor of the building around 10:30am, said Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalabagan Police Station.

"We suspect that she was tortured before death," the OC said.

The police, however, are get her name and home address.

Mofizur Rahman, manager of the seven-storey building, said the girl had been working in the flat of Sathi Parvin, 40, for three years.

"This morning [Saturday], Sathi was looking worried. She quickly left and returned to the building several times, finally leaving at around 9:10am. She hasn't been seen since," Mofizur said.

"Police first came in around 1:30am, saying they had information that a house help died by suicide. But, they could not say in which flat. Later, they returned around 9:00am and found the girl's body laying on a bed in flat EI, with a piece of white cloth wrapped around her face," he added.

Mofizur said Sathi had been living in the flat, owned by her ex-husband, with her four-year-old daughter. She got divorced in 2020.

"But she didn't pay service charges and utility bills. Over Tk 3 lakh is due," he added.

Kalabagan OC Saiful said that they were trying to arrest Sathi.

The body of the girl was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Chinese national's body recovered from Khulna river

UNB, Khulna

The body of a 44-year-old Chinese national was recovered from the Bhairab river in Khulna city's Khalishpur Charer Haat area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Wang Siao Khui, an engineer of the 800-MW under-construction power plant inside Khulna Newsprint Mill.

Naimai Mandal, inspector (investigation) of Khalishpur Police Station, said being informed by locals, police recovered the body of the Chinese national in the morning.

The reason for the death could not be ascertained immediately.



Families evacuate Khitab Kha village in Rajarhat upazila, Kurigram, yesterday in search of higher ground after the Teesta overflowed its banks and flooded the area following heavy monsoon rains and the onrush of water from upstream.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sign oath of allegiance

Putin orders Wagner fighters as Kremlin declines to confirm Prigozhin's death

REUTERS, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin has ordered Wagner fighters to sign an oath of allegiance to the Russian state after a deadly plane crash believed to have killed Yevgeny Prigozhin, the volatile chief of the mercenary group.

Putin signed the decree bringing in the change with immediate effect on Friday after the Kremlin said that Western suggestions that Prigozhin had been killed on its orders were an "absolute lie". The Kremlin declined to definitively confirm his death, citing the need to wait for test results.

Russia's aviation authority has said that Prigozhin was on board a private jet that crashed on Wednesday evening northwest of Moscow with no survivors exactly two months after he led a failed mutiny against army chiefs.

President Vladimir Putin sent his condolences to the families of those killed in the crash on Thursday and spoke of Prigozhin in the past tense.

He cited "preliminary information" as indicating that Prigozhin and his top Wagner associates had all been killed and, while praising Prigozhin, said he had also made some "serious mistakes."

Putin's introduction of a mandatory

oath for employees of Wagner and other private military contractors was a clear move to bring such groups under tighter state control.

The decree, published on the Kremlin website, obliges anyone carrying out work on behalf of the military or supporting what Moscow calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine to swear a formal oath of allegiance to Russia.

Described in the decree as a step to forge the spiritual and moral foundations of the defence of Russia, the wording of the oath includes a line in which those who take it promise to strictly follow the orders of commanders and senior leaders.

Western politicians and commentators have suggested, without presenting evidence, that Putin ordered Prigozhin to be killed to punish him for launching the June 23-34 mutiny against the army's leadership which also represented the biggest challenge to Putin's own rule since he came to power in 1999.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday that the accusation and many others like it were false.

"There is now a great deal of speculation surrounding this plane crash and the tragic deaths of the plane's passengers, including Yevgeny Prigozhin. Of course, in the West, all this speculation is presented from a well-known angle," Peskov told reporters.

Dhaka, Tokyo in talks to ink defence deal

Says Japanese ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Japan may soon sign an agreement facilitating a transfer of defence equipment and technology as part of their efforts to promote regional peace and stability.

"We are in discussion on an agreement concerning the transfer of defence equipment and technology. We will not be able to disclose the details at this moment. However, the discussions are progressing in a positive manner," Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh, Iwama Kiminori, said yesterday.

He was addressing a roundtable organised by the Pan-Asia Research Institute (PARI), a Japan-based think tank, at the Japanese embassy.

Japan selected Bangladesh as one of the four countries—the others being the Philippines, Malaysia, and Fiji—to be the beneficiaries of Japan's new Official Security Assistance (OSA) programme. The two countries also agreed to appoint defence attachés in their respective embassies.

The topic was discussed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan in April this year.

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Joint patrol at Rohingya camps to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Law enforcement agencies conducted a joint patrol in the Rohingya camps of Cox's Bazar yesterday as incidents of crimes, particularly those related to narcotics and murders, increased over the last seven months.

More than 450 members of APBn, Rab, Police, BGB, and Ansar participated in the three-hour patrol out in different blocks of Balukhali 8 West Refugee Camp in Ukhiya upazila.

These patrols will be conducted regularly from now on, said Additional Deputy Inspector General Mohammad Iqbal, commander of 14 APBn.

The safety and security in the camp have deteriorated significantly in recent months since Myanmar-based armed groups Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Arakan Solidarity Organisation (RSO) started engaging in violence to establish dominance over the control of narcotics and arms trade inside the camps, Rohingya leaders said.

Apart from ARSA and RSO, other criminal groups, including the Nobi Hossain Group, Munna Group, Dakat Hakim Group, Dakat Saleh Group, and Islamic Mahas Group, are also reportedly active in the camps, they added.

Some robbery, trafficking, and abduction gangs are also active in Ukhiya and Teknaf camps that have now become crime havens, leaders also said.

Six sued over deaths of 2 construction workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A site engineer was sent to jail yesterday in a case filed over the deaths of two construction workers who fell from an under-construction building of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST).

The site engineer is Hossain Ali.

Md Mofizur Rahman, a relative of deceased Tuhin Hossain, lodged the case against Hossain and five others with Pabna Police Station, said Kripa Shindhu Bala, officer-in-charge of the station.

The five other accused are GM Azizur Rahman, project director; Harunur Rashid, director of the construction company MN Huda Construction; Md Nasirul Haque and Mizanur Rahman, managers of the company; and site engineer Md Sujauddoula.

Police arrested Hossain on Friday night, the OC said, adding that they were trying to arrest the others.

Mother, daughter die after being electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A mother and daughter were electrocuted at Gobordanga village under Harinakundo upazila in Jhenidah early yesterday and died.

The victims are Morium Khatun, 65, and her daughter Taslima Khatun, 32.

Morium's husband Amjad Hossain said Taslima went to fetch water from a tube well which somehow was touching a live wire around 6:30am yesterday morning.

Her mother rushed to save her but in vain. They all died on the spot.

Officer-in-charge Abu Aziz of Harinakundo upazila confirmed the incident.

Locked in litigation

FROM PAGE 1

In most cases, the illegal occupants re-occupy the land paying bribes to the influential and crooked rail staffers, meaning such drives actually increase the occupation rate, they said.

A TOOL FOR ILLEGAL OCCUPATION

On instructions of the parliamentary standing committee last month, the rail ministry prepared a detailed report on the land-related cases, and submitted it before the committee on Thursday, sources said.

According to the report, railway is fighting 2,076 land cases in different courts across the country, including 562 in the two divisions of the Supreme Court.

Of the total cases, at least 38 were filed by BR while rest were filed by different individuals and organisations against the railways.

Those sued by BR include Bangladesh Chemical Industries Ltd, the district administrations of Naogaon, Faridpur, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Lalmonirhat, Khulna City Corporation and Khulna Development Authority. Mayors of Syedpur and Ishwardi municipalities,

and Khulna Bus Malik Samity, among others, have also been sued by BR.

On the other hand, individuals are the plaintiffs in most of the cases filed against BR. However, several government ministries and agencies, including just and textile ministry and the Kushtia district administration, also sued BR.

Officials of the Chief Estate Office and Divisional Estate Office – the two offices responsible for dealing with the railways lands – come from the admin cadre on deputation.

Sujan Chowdhury, chief estate officer (east) of BR, said people often filed cases when rail officials conduct eviction drives. Besides, many people sued the railways using fake documents to claim land ownership.

"Most of these cases have been filed so they can keep occupying railways land," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"When an individual can afford to pay even Tk 1 lakh for a lawyer, we cannot manage even Tk 20,000 for a lawyer to deal the cases timely," he said, adding that his office has only about a third of the 145 approved manpower.

US sharing info with The Gambia for ICJ case

FROM PAGE 1

international partners and NGOs to support Rohingyas courageously seeking justice in the courts of Argentina, and works with the civil society and members of the Rohingyas to document the atrocities and other abuses committed against them.

"We stand ready to support a holistic transitional justice process to address the long history of atrocities once such a process becomes viable to respect the demands of victims and survivors for truth, reparation, justice, and non-recurrence."

Zeya said the gradual loss of rights,

citizenship, homes, and even their lives in the years leading up to the 2016-2017 outbreak of atrocities made clear that the regime sought to destroy the Rohingya communities based on a false, discriminatory narrative of ethnic and religious differences.

"This false narrative attempted to obscure the fact that Rohingyas have been an integral part of Burma's society for generations.

"We must address the military's continued impunity for human rights abuses. And, we must support the fight for justice for those who have suffered."

Rezaul Karim, chief estate officer (west) of BR, gave a similar account about the grabbers and pending cases.

BR sources said there are only three posts of law officer in the 47,637-strong organogram of BR. Of them, there are only two posts for law officers in the two zones and a law officer at the BR headquarters, which is currently vacant.

"How can we deal with so many cases with this poor manpower?" said one official.

Asim Kumar Talukder, general manager (west) of BR, said the court cases are a major hurdle for them to recover the land.

He also said the law section of BR is too weak to put up the tough fight required for the recovery of the land.

Replying to a question, he said rail land often gets reoccupied as the rail authorities cannot put them to proper use in a quick manner, as the existing leasing process is time-consuming.

Rail Secretary Humayun Kabir and BR Director General Quamrul Ahsan did not respond to our requests for comments.

15 BNP men injured in 'AL attack' in Cumilla

FROM PAGE 12

crude bomb blast near the city's court point area around 4:00pm, when BNP's student wing, Chhatra Dal, was bringing out a black-flag procession.

BNP leaders said they immediately detained the suspected bomber and handed him over to police.

The detainee was identified as Abdul Kadir Jilani, 25, from Sunamganj.

Sylhet police said they were probing the incident, and no case has been filed yet regarding the blast.

Plane denied

FROM PAGE 1

Shahjalal International Airport, Md Shahajalal, 42, a migrant worker from Chandpur, became sick and later fell unconscious, a cockpit crew of the BG350 flight from Dammam, told The Daily Star.

"As the Dhaka airport was the best option for us rather than Kolkata, we continued to fly to Dhaka. Before entering into the Bangladesh airspace, the issue was well communicated with the Dhaka ATC and medical assistance was sought upon arrival."

As per protocol, a flight with a critically ill passenger should get priority for landing.

But the Dhaka tower sent the Biman plane for holding to make way for a foreign airline's landing. A video from Flightradar shows the Biman flight circling the sky as it awaits clearance for landing.

Then upon landing, there was no doctor available for the patient despite clear communication to the air traffic control.

According to the protocol, the sick passenger was supposed to come out of the flight first. Since no doctor showed up, the sick passenger could not be brought out of the flight.

The aircraft landed at 3:25am and a doctor attended Shahjalal at 4:00am and pronounced him dead.

Apparently, a doctor had arrived at the scene only to find no Biman flight at the aerobridge. Since the foreign airline was given landing priority, the doctor left.

"For the first time in our lives, we were at a loss about what to do," said another cockpit crew.

The HSA authorities denied any negligence or mishandling of the situation.

"The passenger died two hours before the flight's landing as per the doctors," said Kamrul Islam, executive director of HSA.

No doctor was on board the flight when Shahjalal complained of breathing problems and excessive sweating; the cabin crew gave him medical assistance as per protocol.

Teesta bursts its banks again

FROM PAGE 1

"We are monitoring the situation as the water levels of most of the rivers are increasing. But we still think it's going to be another short-term flood," said Mehedi Hasan, duty officer of the FFWC, yesterday.

He added that Teesta's water level will continue to rise over the next 24 hours.

As of Saturday evening, the river was flowing 28cm above the danger level at the Dalia barrage point and 53cm above at the Kaunia point in Rangpur.

Following the rise in the water level, around 50,000 people have been stranded in 100 chars and riverside villages in 22 unions of eight upazilas in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

Abdullah Al Mamun, executive engineer of Kurigram WDB, said the rise in Teesta's water level has caused floods in Rajarhat, Ulipur and Chilmari upazilas.

Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of Lalmonirhat WDB, the char areas have been flooded due to incessant rains and water from the upstream.

Meanwhile, Dharla's water level in Lalmonirhat has also been rising but is still below the danger level, he added.

Speaking to this correspondent, Supen Chandra Barman, 65, a farmer in Lalmonirhat Sadar's Rajpur village, said his house is now 2-3 feet under water.

"If the water rises further, we will have to relocate."

Farmer Fazlar Rahman, 65, of Gobordhan area of the district's Aditmari upazila, said his home was flooded and he and his family had to take shelter on a WDB embankment.

"We are worried about our livestock. Already six chickens and three ducks were washed away."

Meanwhile, at least 15,000 people have been suffering as the Teesta inundated around 40 villages on the chars of Rangpur's Kaunia and Gangachara upazila on Friday night.

While homes have been submerged, vast areas of rice fields are also under

water now.

Many affected residents have already left their homes and are seeking refuge in higher areas.

Farmer Nazrul Islam said Aman paddy fields and seedbeds of around 10,000 families in his village were submerged.

In Nilphamari, nine unions of Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas have been affected by the flood, stranding around 5,000 families.

Rabiul Islam Shaheen, chairman of Tepa Kharibari union, said at least 2,000 families in his area were affected.

Abul Hossain, 50, Kisamoter char in Khaga Kharibari union, who took shelter at an embankment with his seven-member family, said, "With four consecutive floods this season, I have become financially crippled. I had to sell all my belongings to arrange food for my family."

BCL activists

FROM PAGE 12

been disturbing her in many ways. Her classmate tried to protect her, but to no avail.

The victim said that around 11:00pm on Wednesday, the accused called her and her classmate to Room-606 of the dorm and hurled abuse at them for informing other students about the incident.

She added that at one point, they took away their mobile phones. When she felt sick after two hours of the ordeal, she was sent to her room with another student. After returning to her room, she lost consciousness. She was later admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

"An unexpected incident happened with journalists. We are trying to solve this issue," said SBMC Vice-Principal Nazimul Haque, who was in charge of investigating the torture of the student.

However, he termed the torture a minor incident.

This correspondent tried to reach the accused BCL leaders, Fahmida and Neelima, several times over phone and via WhatsApp for their comments, but they did not respond.

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TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

Pass amendment
to it urgently
Speakers say at event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The amendment of the Tobacco Control Act should be urgently passed to protect the health of the countrymen and build a strong, talented young society, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Passing of the amendment of the law will see lower deaths, while achieving SDG goals and making a tobacco-free Bangladesh a reality, they said.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the event at Janata Tower Software Technology Park auditorium in the city, said a release.

"To Achieve the SDGs, we must pass the amendment of the Tobacco Control Act," said Iqbal Masud, director (Health and Wash Sector) of the Mission.

"If the amendment is passed, the number of tobacco users in the country will decrease. As a result, it will be possible for Bangladesh to become tobacco-free by 2040 as announced by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he added.

Shariful Islam, coordinator of the Tobacco Control Project, said, "Non-smoking citizens are suffering from the harm caused by passive smoking as the existing 'Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products (Control) Act 2005' allows smoking in public places, restaurants, and public transport which is a severe threat to health."

"While the existing law completely prohibits the advertising and promotion of tobacco products, however, there is no specific ban on the display of tobacco products

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Locals continue to suffer during their daily commute on Banasree-Rampura Road as it has remained dug-up for the last three months. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

BRICS SUMMIT
PM Hasina
returns today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Johannesburg for Dhaka yesterday afternoon, wrapping up her South Africa trip.

She attended the 15th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg on August 22-24 at the invitation of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

A regular flight of Emirates, carrying the premier and her entourage, took off from OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg at around 2:00pm (6:00pm Bangladesh time).

PHULBARI MOVEMENT

Conspiracy on
to restart coal
mine project

Claims Anu Muhammad at rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Conspiracies are still afoot to reinstate the Phulbari coal mine project, said Anu Muhammad, member secretary of National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

Asia Energy, a London-based company contracted to implement the project, has partnered with a Chinese company to resume the project, he said while speaking at a rally marking 17 years of the Phulbari movement in Nimalta area of the upazila town.



"The ones who believe that the movement has waned are mistaken. The locals are vigilant even today," added Anu Muhammad who was present as the chief guest.

Urging the authorities to take preventive measures, he said that the people will reunite if the foreign companies conspire again.

On August 26, 2006, three people were killed and hundreds injured while protesting against Asia Energy's open-pit coal mining project at Phulbari. Following four days of strikes and blockades, a contract was signed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Hong Kong mulls
hiring more
female workers

JAMIL MAHMUD

Hong Kong's labour ministry has shown interest in hiring more female workers from Bangladesh, opening doors towards a prospective market expansion.

About 700-750 Bangladeshi woman migrant workers are currently employed in Hong Kong as female domestic helpers (FDHs). However, new workers need to have skill and language training in Cantonese, among other qualifications, to migrate as FDH, said Bangladesh Consulate General officials in Hong Kong.

According to a Facebook post of the consulate, Hong Kong labour and welfare ministry, headed by its secretary Chris Sun Yuk-han, held a meeting with the Bangladesh mission officials on August 8 to discuss possible ways of expanding the country's labour market in Hong Kong.

Consul General Israt Ara, who headed the Bangladesh side at the meeting, said the meeting was held as the Hong Kong counterparts wanted to know ways of recruiting more FDHs from Bangladesh.

The meeting was held after

Indonesian Manpower Placement Agency Association said it would enforce rules introduced by Jakarta in 2020 and last year, stating that employers had to foot the administrative bill when they hired new helpers, according to South China Morning Post.

However, details on whether local employers would have to pay the full HK\$20,000 (US\$2,558) remained unclear as of August 11, SCMP said in the report.

New workers need to have skill and language training in Cantonese, among other qualifications, to migrate.

The Indonesian consulate and Hong Kong's Labour Department said existing policies would be unchanged, the report added.

The Philippines and Indonesia are the two top source countries of FDHs in Hong Kong, as per SCMP reports.

As per the Bangladesh mission, Hong Kong is a specialised market for FDHs as the working conditions there are better than the ones which have employed female workers from the country.

The minimum wage for an FDH is HKD 4,730 (about Tk 65,939) per month, effective from October last year.

A Bangladeshi female migrant

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

ROHINGYA CRISIS
Repatriation
the only
solution

Says Hasan Mahmud

UNB, Dhaka

Immediate repatriation of Rohingya refugees is the only proper solution to the Rohingya problem, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

"We see no other option [to solve the crisis] except for the safe return of Rohingya refugees [to Myanmar]. Moving some refugees to other countries won't solve it, rather it may escalate the problem," said Hasan Mahmud in a seminar held at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building of Dhaka University, marking the 6th year of the Rohingya crisis.

The seminar titled "Genocide and Justice: Bangladesh's response to Rohingya crisis" was organised by Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka.

The seminar focused on the suffering of the Rohingya people and ongoing efforts that are being undertaken by the government of Bangladesh to solve the crisis.

DU VC Prof Md

A k h t a r u z z a m a n

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BNP would wipe
out AL if it comes
to power: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader

yesterday stressed that there is no alternative to Sheikh Hasina at the helm of the country.

"Sheikh Hasina is taking the country forward despite the global crises. Who is a more qualified leader than Sheikh Hasina to be the next prime minister? I want to ask this question to all the political parties," he said.

"Bangladesh will lose if Sheikh Hasina loses the election. She has to win to save the poor people."

Quader said this while addressing a food distribution event, organised by Dhaka City (North) AL in the capital's Mirpur area, marking the 48th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He also said if BNP comes to power, it would wipe out the AL overnight to its entirety, and engulf the country's democracy and the spirit of Liberation War.

"The BNP leaders said that no harm would be caused to the Awami League activists. But it [BNP] has an angel's face with a devil's mind. The party will wipe out the Awami League in one night. It is their actual intention," said Quader.

"Their plan is to turn Bangladesh to Pakistan and Afghanistan," he also said.

The countrymen do not want Sheikh Hasina's resignation, caretaker government, and dissolution of parliament, Quader added.

Awami League organising secretary Mirza Azam, Dhaka City (North) general secretary SM Mannan Kochi, and lawmaker Aga Khan Mintu also spoke at the event among others.

BCL plans to
assemble five
lakh activists
on Sept 1

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday announced that they will gather about 5 lakh leaders and activists from all units for its "massive student rally" on September 1 at Suhrawardy Udyan, where the prime minister will attend as the chief guest.

BCL President Saddam Hussain made the announcement at a press conference at Madhur Canteen in DU.

"Many rallies and meetings were held earlier. But no rally was arranged by only students. For this reason, we termed it a massive student rally. About five lakh students from across the country will join us."



A bike stays parked in a passenger shed, already crowded by hawkers, in the capital's Fakirapool area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Taposh seeks
Aedes survey
reports on time

STAR REPORT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday urged the health directorate to provide to it on time the survey reports on the presence of Aedes mosquitoes during the monsoon and pre-monsoon seasons.

"We start our work [anti-mosquito drives] on the basis of the health directorate's survey. We have already done our job as per the pre-monsoon survey, but the report was delayed much. We hope we will have the survey reports on time so that we can start our activities more effectively," he said.

He came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after taking

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

AL govt rejected
both at home
and abroad

Says BNP leader Amir Khasru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said the present Awami League government has been rejected both at home and abroad.

"The government has been rejected in the country as well as abroad. They have no place to go. Spending people's tax money, the prime minister went to South America to become a member of BRICS but failed. Even the Prime Minister is not present at the official photo session of the participating heads of states in the summit."

Khasru was addressing as the chief guest of a mass procession, organised by BNP Chattogram city unit in the port city's Kazir Dewri area.

Stressing that BNP is a party of decent people, Khasru said, "We are still demonstrating and agitating peacefully in a disciplined manner and non-violent way along with the countrymen."

To the party men, he said "Those who come to arrest you in the middle of the night, take their photos. Tell your neighbours about that."

"If the filing of false cases and ghost cases

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Pass amendment to it urgently

FROM PAGE 3
at the sales outlets.”
“Tobacco companies are advertising and promoting tobacco products through the display of their products at the outlets. For this reason, the Ministry of Health has recently formulated a draft for further revision of the Tobacco Control Act,” Shariful said.
He added that if this draft is approved, several weak aspects of the tobacco control law will be largely eliminated, including banning of smoking in public places and public transports, display of tobacco products at sales centres, retail sales, e-cigarettes, and CSR of tobacco companies.
Mostafizur Rahman, lead policy advisor, and Humaira Sultana, communications manager (Bangladesh) of Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Bangladesh, and leaders of Aviation and Tourism Journalists Forum of Bangladesh, were present at the event among others.

Conspiracy on to restart coal

FROM PAGE 3
between protestors and the then government which banned open-pit mining, and expelled Asia Energy from conducting operations in the country.
As the national election nears, he urged political parties to commit to implementing the contract, popularly known as the six-point commitment, if they come to power.
“The uprising in 2006 saved us from a project that would have devastated public life and wildlife. I request the ones in power to support this cause,” he said.
The central demand of this movement was that no development work should proceed without the consent of the local populace, and no destruction should be planned in the name of progress,” he added.
Jonaid Saki, chief coordinator of Ganasanghati Andalan, and notable speakers from various political parties and organisations also spoke at the rally, chaired by Saiful Islam Jewel, convener of the Phulbari unit of the committee.

Repatriation the only solution

FROM PAGE 3
inaugurated the seminar where Information Minister Hasan Mahmud was present as the chief guest.
Mofidul Hoque, trustee of the Liberation War Museum, presented the keynote paper at the event, chaired by Prof Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, director of the Centre for Genocide Studies.
Hasan Mahmud said, “Bangladesh is an overpopulated country. We have many issues including natural and man-made disasters to address. Moreover, we have a refugee problem.”
“Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina allowed Rohingyas to come in and stay in Bangladesh while the military junta massacred them. It was a great response to a humanitarian call,” he added.
Addressing the international community, he said they cannot deny their responsibility.
“Moving a few refugees is not a solution. Repatriation is the only solution to this problem. If the entire international community, especially India and China join in hand, nothing can prevent Rohingyas from returning to their homeland,” the minister added.
Among others, DU VC Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman, Johannes Van Der Klaauw, UNHCR Representative to Bangladesh; Asif Munier, migration and displacement specialist; and Prof Zia Rahman, dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Dhaka, were also present at the seminar.

Hong Kong

FROM PAGE 3
worker in Saudi Arabia earns Tk 17,300 per month on average, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics’ “Cost of Migration Survey-2020”.
The first batch of FDH from Bangladesh to Hong Kong was recruited in May, 2013, according to the Bangladesh mission.
Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training data shows, 2,005 female migrants went to Hong Kong for employment between 1993 and June 2023.

AL govt rejected both

FROM PAGE 3
continues, then we will resist it. Then you will realise what is resistance,” he also said.
Over 5,000 leaders and activists of the BNP and its other wings joined the mass procession to press home their one-point demand – the resignation of the government and holding an election under a neutral caretaker government.
Earlier in the day, post-deprived leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Chattogram south district wing locked the BNP Chattogram south office in Kotowali area.
“The 42 member newly declared JCD committee includes married, expatriate and bank and other office employees who are not directly involved with JCD politics now,” claimed JCD leader Ziaul Haque.

Taposh seeks Aedes

FROM PAGE 3
part in a public awareness campaign to prevent the spread of dengue in the capital’s Basabo.
The mayor said after reviewing the DGHS data, the DSCC has categorised several wards out 75 as red, where more than 10 dengue patients were found last week.
“Now, we will conduct a daylong combing operation in those words to destroy the breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes. We will engage local people, schools, mosques, madrasas, house owners, owners of all establishments and all social organisations to conduct the special drive,” Taposh said.
On August 23, the mayor at a programme announced that if any ward records 10 dengue cases in a week, then a special drives would be conducted there with the help of cleaning staffers and mosquito-control workers. The drives would be carried out every Saturday.
Responding to a question about Marshall Agrovet, the company that allegedly forged documents in importing BTI pesticide for the Dhaka north city, Taposh said, “We do not import pesticides through any firm. After 2019, we started importing directly from the manufacturers as per the government policy.”

Skeleton theft surge!

FROM PAGE 5
in Ghoraghat upazila, villagers discovered that thieves had taken away four skeletons from the graveyard during the night.
The Ghoraghat Police Station Officer-in-Charge, Md. Asaduzzaman Asad confirmed that police had visited the graveyard on Thursday.
Unfortunately, thieves struck again at Tulsipur graveyard in Birganj on Friday. Locals reported that they found 10 human remains missing from Tulsipur graveyard in Birganj.
Shahinur Islam Chowdhury of Mohanpur Union Parishad stated that 21 remains were stolen in two separate incidents from the same graveyards within a span of 2 weeks.
This has understandably alarmed residents near these graveyards and the relatives of the deceased, as the dignity and security of their loved ones’ remains are compromised.
Despite these concerns, law enforcement authorities have thus far been unable to provide a solution to this problem.
Since July 2022 up to August of the current year, at least 120 human remains have been stolen from various graveyards in districts such as Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinaipur, Nilphamari, and Gaibandha.
In January 2020, at least 28 human remains were stolen from two graveyards in Dinaipur Sadar upazila, including 20 from Shibpur Graveyard and eight from Darbarpur Graveyard.
The sale and trade of human remains, including skeletons, is generally highly regulated and illegal in many countries, including Bangladesh.
According to local sources within law enforcement, there is a high demand for human remains, including skeletons, particularly in education and research fields, both locally and internationally.
Theft incidents tend to rise when the demand for such skeletons increases.
A single skeleton can reportedly fetch a price between Tk 35,000 to 50,000.
Monjurul Islam, a villager, appealed to the local police to take strong measures to prevent such thefts.
Contacted, Md Khodadad Sumon, Additional SP (Birganj Circle), confirmed that he had visited the graveyards, and the police are actively investigating the incidents.

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Sl.	Name of Item	Quantity
Muli Bamboo: Circumference: 3.5-4 inches in the bottom, Length of 17-18 ft, Matured and insect-free as per the selected sample. 10 pcs per bundle, Delivery location: 10 FDMN camps.	101,000 Pcs	

The Separate Tender Schedule will be available for collect at ActionAid Cox's Bazar Office (House No-752, Ward- 11, Jhawtola, Masjid Road, Cox's Bazar- 4700) from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm during the office hour of 27-30 August (Working Day) 2023. Alternatively, the schedule can be obtained from the following website.

Website
https://actionaidbd.org/tender-notice

Quotation needs to be submitted in sealed envelope on or before 31st August 2023 by 11:00 AM (GMT+6) at above locations.

The authority of ActionAid Bangladesh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

PM Hasina returns today

FROM PAGE 3
The flight is scheduled to land at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 8:40am (Bangladesh time) today.
On August 22, Sheikh Hasina arrived in Johannesburg to attend the 15th Summit of BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
On August 23, during her visit, the prime minister delivered a speech as the chief guest at the “Bangladesh Trade and Business Summit”, organised by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).
Later, she attended the “Bangladesh Envoys Conference” organised by Bangladeshi ambassadors stationed in African countries.
In the afternoon, she held a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Hotel Hilton Sandton.
In the evening, the prime minister joined a cultural programme and “State Banquet” hosted by the current chair of BRICS and the South African president.
On August 24, she spoke, 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.
On the sidelines of the BRICS Summit, bilateral meetings between Sheikh Hasina and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of Mozambique Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of Tanzania Dr Saima Sulluhu and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi were held at Sandton Convention Centre on Thursday.
A meeting was also held between the Bangladesh premier and President of the New Development Bank Dilma Vana Rousseff at the same venue.
During her visit, the PM also met Bangladeshi expatriates living in South Africa.

Attack leaves Rabidas youth

FROM PAGE 5
“Informed, my family members with the help of locals later rescued me and took me to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex. As my condition deteriorated, I was shifted to Kurigram Sadar Hospital.”
“The goons threatened to kill me if we do not withdraw a case we filed against Bazlar,” he added.
Sajmati Rabidas, mother of Subas, told The Daily Star that her son was attacked by Bazlar’s men two years ago too.
“Some goons hired by Bazlar Rahman picked up Subas and beat him up over a land dispute at that time. A case was lodged with Phulbari Police Station against Bazlar and others in this connection. The case is now under trial with the court,” she said.
“Bazlar along with other accused have been pressuring us to withdraw the case. As we did not withdraw it, Bazlar hired goons again and beat up my son,” Sajmati said.
“We have no assets except 13 decimals of land for our homestead. Bazlar Rahman has long been trying to grab our land, which is why the dispute ensued in the first place. Now Bazlar and his men are threatening to evict us from our home,” said Subas’s younger sister Purnima Rabidas, a college student.
“My brother is still very ill and undergoing treatment in the hospital. We are preparing to lodge another complaint at the police station over the attack on him,” she also said.
“We are feeling very helpless,” Purnima added.
Contacted, Bazlar Rahman refuted the allegations against him. He also claimed he is being harassed and falsely accused, adding that he was also neither involved in attacking Subas previously nor is he threatening Subas’s family of eviction.
Pranakrishna Debnath, officer-in-charge of Phulbari Police Station, told the journalists that he heard about the incident.
“However, no complaint has been received by police in this regard yet. Police will take legal action if a complaint is filed,” the OC said.

Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Education
Secondary and Higher Education Division
International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)
1/Ka, Shahid Captain Mansur Ali Sarani
Segun Bagicha, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
www.imli.gov.bd

Memo No. 37.26.0000.107.18.003.22-806 Date: 24/08/2023

Research Scholarship

Applications are being invited according to the International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) Research Guidelines-2022 for the fiscal year 2023-2024 in Post-doctoral, PhD, MPhil, Fellowship and Professional research categories in the prescribed application form available in the website: www.imli.gov.bd of IMLI. The Research Guidelines and other documents are also available in this website.

Last date of Submission: 15th October 2023.

২৪ AUG 2023

Professor Dr. Hakim Arif
Director General

GD-1297

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০২।	কাগজের বিবরণী
০৩।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি
০৪।	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস
০৫।	দরপত্র / সিভিলিয়ন বিক্রয়কারী
০৬।	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান
০৭।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান
০৮।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়
০৯।	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১০।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১১।	দরপত্র সিভিলিয়নের মূল্য
১২।	দরপত্র সিকিউরিটি মানি
১৩।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা এবং বিশেষ নির্দেশনা (প্রাক যোগ্যতা)

২৪.৮.২০২৩

মোঃ শফিকুর রহমান

এক্সিকিউটিভ ম্যানেজার

ফোন: ২২৩৩৮৫৪৫৫

GD- 1296

AL-BNP CLASH

Over 237 BNP men
sued in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mouvibazar

A case was filed yesterday against over 237 BNP leaders and activists over the Awami League-BNP clash in Habiganj town on August 20.

Habiganj BNP Joint Convener GK Gaus and District Chhatra Dal President Shah Rajib are among the accused, confirmed police.

Mahibur Rahman Mahi, former general secretary of Habiganj Chhatra League, said he had filed the case with Habiganj Police Station under the Explosives Act, accusing 87 named leaders and activists of BNP and its associate bodies and over 150 unnamed party people.

BNP leader Gaus, also a former mayor of Habiganj Municipality, said the case was filed to keep the party men away from political activities. He said that BNP would fight the case legally.

On August 20, supporters of the two rival political parties clashed in Habiganj town for about two and a half hours.

Both parties claimed that the clash injured at least 100 of their people.

Police fired rubber bullets and used teargas canisters to quell the trouble.



Water Development Board officials deploy geo bags as the swelling Padma erodes its banks in Manikganj's Harirampur upazila. The river has already devoured 12 homesteads, arable lands, and a local primary school. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Skeleton
theft surge!32 human remains
go missing from
graveyards in 15 daysOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

At least 32 skeletons have been stolen from three graveyards in two Dinajpur upazilas, Birganj and Ghoraghat, over the past 15 days, as per local sources and police report.

Of these, 28 skeletons were taken from graveyards in Birganj upazila in the last 2 weeks, starting from August 10, according to locals.

Similar incidents of theft have been reported in Gaibandha.

Villagers in Tulsipur discovered several graves had been opened on the morning of August 10.

According to Md Shahinur Islam Chowdhury, chairman of Mohanpur Union Parishad in Birganj upazila, human remains from 11 graves, which were between 6 to 12 months old, were found missing.

Two more incidents were reported on Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday morning, residents of Chowdhury Hat village of Mohanpur union of Birganj discovered that seven human remains were missing from Balapukur graveyard.

On the same day,
SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

JASHORE MUNICIPALITY

Incessant rain
inundates area

Locals blame poor drainage system

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Incessant rainfall has inundated most areas in Jashore Municipality, causing immense sufferings to its residents.

Locals blamed the authority's lack of initiative to improve the town's poor drainage system.

Downpour for around five hours last week caused severe waterlogging and the situation hasn't improved.

Visiting different areas recently, this correspondent saw most areas have gone under dirty water coming from overflowing drains. The floating garbage added to the menace.

The city's drains have not been cleaned for a long time. In low-lying areas, water even entered houses, claimed locals.

Vegetable and fish markets were closed due to waterlogging. Large potholes have formed on the roads.

Similar situation was seen at Kharki intersection on Shah Abdul Karim Road near MM college.

Besides, rainwater has inundated the town's Karbala, Stadium para, Circuit House para, Raipara, Shankarpur, Ghop Kabarasthan para, Beipara, Taltala, Naldanga Road area, TB Clinic para, Ashram Road area, Baraf Kal Mor, Loan Office para, Bara Bazar residential area, Fire Service Office and inside the district education office, among other places.

Ayub Hossain of Beipara area said even after a little rain, the roads go under knee-deep water.

Shariful Islam, another resident,

alleged that the municipality authorities have been indifferent to their problems.

"Every monsoon we face this problem. Our elected representatives seem to be indifferent to our problems, no one even came to inquire about the situation," said a local referring to Mayor Haider Gani Khan Palash and other municipality officials.

"But they do not hesitate twice to realise service charges including holding charges," he added.



The municipality authorities, however, said construction of drain on PTI road is going on and situation will improve once the work is completed. Jashore Municipality mayor Haider Gani Khan Palash, however, blamed the locals for such a situation.

"If people throw garbage in the drain, it will be blocked. As a result, water will not be discharged through the blocked drains and will instead accumulate on the roads even after slight drizzles," he said.

"Please cooperate with us and do not throw garbage in the drains," he added.

Every monsoon we face this problem. Our elected representatives seem to be indifferent to our problems, no one even came to inquire about the situation.

A LOCAL RESIDENT OF THE JASHORE MUNICIPALITY AREA



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তারিখঃ- ২৭/০৮/২০২৩ইং

“উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি”

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ০১/২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছর

২০২৩-২০২৪ ইং অর্থ বছরে ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতালে ভর্তিকৃত রোগীসহ অন্যান্য রোগীদের চিকিৎসা সেবা প্রদানের স্বার্থে চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি, এমএসআর সামগ্রী, মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাই, পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা সামগ্রী, অন্যান্য মনিহারি, আসবাবপত্র, কম্পিউটার (মেরামত), অন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (মেরামত), কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক, পথ্য সংগ্রহের নিমিত্তে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলো :

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০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	২০০০.০০	৮,৭৫,০০০/- (আট লক্ষ পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
০২	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার নাম	২০০০.০০	২,২৫,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার)
০৩	সংগ্রাহক সত্তার জেলা	১০০০.০০	১,৯৫,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ নব্ব্বাশ্ব হাজার)
০৪	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	১০০০.০০	৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার)
০৫	অর্থের উৎস	১০০০.০০	১,২০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ বিশ হাজার)
০৬	সংগ্রহের বিবরণ ও গ্রুপ অনুযায়ী দরপত্র টেন্ডার সিদ্ধিবিধি ম্যানুয়াল পরিমাপ	১০০০.০০	১,২০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ বিশ হাজার)
০৭	চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি	২০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
০৮	এমএসআর মেসিন (নন-ইউটিএল) সামগ্রী	১০০০.০০	৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার)
০৯	এমএসআর হালকা চিকিৎসা যন্ত্রপাতি সামগ্রী	১০০০.০০	১৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার)
১০	এমএসআর যন্ত্রপাতি মেরামত	১০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
১১	এমএসআর সিলেন সামগ্রী	১০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
১২	এমএসআর পল, ব্যাজে ও এ্যাব্রাসিভ স্টোন সামগ্রী	১০০০.০০	৬,৫০০/- (ছয় হাজার পাঁচশত)
১৩	এমএসআর কমিউনিকেশন, ই-এক্সট্রা (এক্স-রে ফিল্ম, ইমিগ্রি পেপারসহ)	২০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
১৪	এমএসআর আসবাবপত্র সামগ্রী	১০০০.০০	৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার)
১৫	এমএসআর পরিবহন (সাইকেল ও সরবরাহ)	১০০০.০০	১৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার)
১৬	মুদ্রণ ও বাঁধাই	১০০০.০০	২,৫০০/- (দুই হাজার পঁচাত্তর)
১৭	পরিষ্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা সামগ্রী	২০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
১৮	অন্যান্য মনিহারি (বিবিধ)	২০০০.০০	২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার)
১৯	আসবাবপত্র	২০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
২০	কম্পিউটার (মেরামত)	১০০০.০০	১২,৫০০/- (বার হাজার পঁচাত্তর)
২১	অন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি (মেরামত)	২০০০.০০	৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)
২২	কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক	১০০০.০০	৬,৫০০/- (ছয় হাজার পাঁচশত)
২৩	পথ্য	২০০০.০০	৫,০০,০০০/- (পাঁচ লক্ষ)

উক্ত দরপত্র অর্থ আসল গ্রন্থের নং “কোড নং ১-২৩১১-০০০০-২০২৩” এ টেন্ডারী চালানের মাধ্যমে অত্র হাসপাতালের পরিচালকের অনুমোদন পেয়ে কোন সিদ্ধিবিধি ব্যাংক করা নিয়ে চালানের মূল কপি সহ অনলাইন ডেভিকেটেড প্রজ্ঞাপন মাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত কোম্পানী/চিকিৎসার নিম্নলিখিত পয়েন্টে আসল পূর্বক দরপত্র সিদ্ধিবিধি করা যাবে।

০৭	দরপত্র পরিচালক/বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা।	পরিচালক, ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।
০৮	দরপত্র পরিচালক/বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা।	ক) পরিচালক, ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা। খ) ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন, আঞ্চলিক শাখা-৩, মহাখালী, ঢাকা। গ) অফিসার ইনচার্জ, বনানী থানা, মেট্রোপলিটন, ঢাকা।
০৯	দরপত্র সিদ্ধিবিধি বিক্রির তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৮/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ হতে ২৪/০৯/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত। প্রতি কর্মদিবসে সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। উক্ত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র সিদ্ধিবিধি করা হবে না।
১০	প্রতি-বিন্দু সত্তার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	১৮/০৮/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ, বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর সভাকক্ষ।
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	২৫/০৮/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ, সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণ খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৫/০৮/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ, বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকা, ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর সভাকক্ষ।
১৩	দরপত্র তফসীল আহ্বানকারীর নাম	কর্ণেল এ কে এম জাহিদুল হোসেন বান, এমপিএইচ
১৪	দরপত্র তফসীল আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	পরিচালক।
১৫	দরপত্র তফসীল আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা, ফোন ও ফ্যাক্স নম্বর	ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতাল, মহাখালী, ঢাকা ফোনঃ ০২৪১০৮২২৭৭
১৬	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী	ক. দরপত্র তফসীলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিবরণ এবং শর্তাবলী উল্লেখ রয়েছে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য তথ্যের প্রয়োজন হলে অত্র কার্যালয়ে সপ্তাহে ১ সপ্তাহ ও সরবরাহ শাখা হতে বিজ্ঞপ্তি জানা যাবে। খ. প্রতিটি গ্রন্থের আইটেম আলাদা আলাদা ভাবে মূল্যায়ন করা হবে। গ. কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র/ক্রটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র/অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ঘ. সর্বশেষে পি পি এ ২০০৬ এবং পি পি আর ২০০৮ অনুসরণ করা হবে।

১৭ অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলা না হলে, পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে উল্লেখিত সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল ও খোলার তারিখ হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

কর্ণেল এ কে এম জাহিদুল হোসেন বান, এমপিএইচ
ভারপ্রাপ্ত পরিচালক
ডিএনসিসি ডেভিকেটেড কোডিড-১৯ হাসপাতাল

GD- 1298



বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন

জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়

ফোনী।

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নং- ১৭.১০.৩০০০.০০০.৬৬.০০১.২৩-৩৪৫

তারিখঃ ০৬ ভাদ্র ১৪৩০
২১ আগষ্ট ২০২৩

ফোনী জেলার ইভিএম সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য বাড়ি/গোডাউন ভাড়ার দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসারের কার্যালয়, ফোনী এর ইভিএমসমূহ সংরক্ষণের জন্য অফিস সংলগ্ন/ফোনী পৌর এলাকায় (প্রস্তুত রোডের পাশে) গৃহায়ন ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ভাড়ার হারে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের চুক্তিতে (নবায়নযোগ্য) ৩০০০-৫০০০ বর্গফুটের বাড়ি/গোডাউন ভাড়ার জন্য, বাড়ি/গোডাউন মালিকগণের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারির পর হতে আগ্রহী বাড়ির মালিকগণ আগামী ১৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ তারিখ দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে জেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার, ফোনী এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত বাক্সে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র জমাদান করবেন এবং প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমূহ ১৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) গঠিত দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত কমিটি কর্তৃক উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল আগামী ১৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন (সকাল ৯:০০ হতে বিকাল ৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) সময়ে নগদ ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমাদানপূর্বক জেলা নির্বাচন অফিস, ফোনী হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং বিস্তারিত নিয়মাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ করা হয়েছে। কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মোহাম্মদ নাছির উদ্দিন পাটওয়ারী)

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GD- 1299

We shouldn't let anyone distort Nazrul's legacy

KHAIRUL ANAM SHAKIL

"During his lifetime, Kazi Nazrul Islam expressed grief over the modification of his music to modern tunes, in his own words," addressed renowned Nazrul Sangeet exponent Khairul Anam Shakil, who is the Chairman of Nazrul Institute and General Secretary of Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha.



I understand that Coke Studio Bangla's intention is positive. They want to spread Nazrul's artistry to the younger generation—but in a modern manner. However, changing the original form and distorting his works is disrespectful.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

SHARMIN JOYA

It has been 47 years, since our National Poet left us for good. Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha intends to preserve the heritage of Nazrul and promote awareness about the depth of his work. The organisation aims to inspire the younger generation of artists to carry Nazrul's legacy forward.

Observing the Poet's death anniversary (August 27), The Daily Star spoke to Khairul Anam Shakil, to know more about their works and arrangements commemorating the rebel poet.

Could you share about the arrangements which will take place on the National Poet's death anniversary, today?

Nazrul was known for his portrayal of love, freedom and revolution. He opposed religious bigotry through his works.

Every year, Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha chooses new themes to observe this day. Since it is his death anniversary, we always try to keep the solemnity, thus selecting to perform Nazrul's devotional songs, that speak about solidarity amongst all religions.

The event will take place at Chhayanaut's auditorium in the evening, at 7pm today.

Can you please highlight the preservation process that the institute has initiated?

It is a lengthy process, yet we have already archived 250 songs under strict supervision of Nazrul Institute, which is being performed under exact accordance with authentic lyrics and compositions. These are performed by seasoned veterans and emerging artists from Bangladesh and West Bengal.

Besides, we have been holding

workshops quarterly in a year, where we discover young talents from all over the country. These talents are primarily students, who are quite eager to learn accurate lyrics, notations and compositions of Nazrul Sangeet.

Furthermore, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has accommodated all the logistic aid and the Cultural Ministry has been a great support for us in this project. We have covered 40 districts already and continue to cover more.

During this process, what seemed to be the biggest challenge?

Although we are trying, people still

that goes beyond this instruction, we send them an official notice.

Recently Coke Studio Bangla has released two of Nazrul's songs—'Bagichay Bulbuli Tui' in the first season and 'Darale Duare Mor Ke Tumi' in the second. These compositions and arrangements were entirely designed in a modern way. Did Nazrul Institute take any step against this?

We have sent an official letter to Coke Studio Bangla, objecting to the matter. We have requested them to discuss with us before doing anything similar

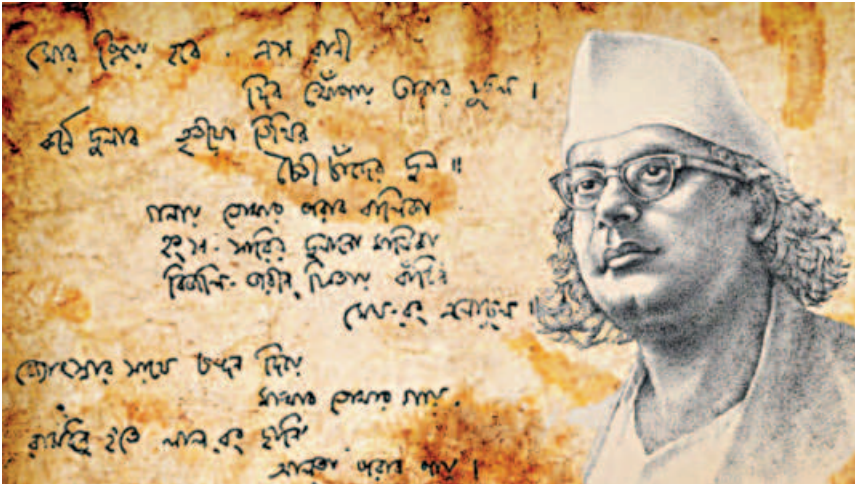


ILLUSTRATION DESIGN: ANTARA RAISA

perform Nazrul's songs in modified forms. The Nazrul Institute is being strict about upholding the correct form now. An official government notice has been imposed which ordered that no one can distort the original form of Nazrul Sangeet, and the lyrics have to be authentic. At the same time, the notice also mentioned that we cannot use Nazrul Geeti anymore, it should be Nazrul Sangeet.

Whenever we encounter anything

in the future, I am not sure if they will follow this, but we are following the rules strictly.

I understand that their intention is positive. They want to spread Nazrul's artistry to the younger generation—but in a modern manner. However, changing the original form and distorting his works is disrespectful. These songs were popular on the internet as well. Anything that is popular is not necessarily of a high standard.

COUNTRYWIDE

MANGO EXPORT

Growers innovate farming practices

ANWAR ALLI, Rajshahi

The rising quantity of mango exports has been changing the farming practices of the fruit in Rajshahi region as farmers are now opting for more chemical-free mango production, agriculturists say.

Farmers are now gradually adopting organic farming method as they intend to meet the high standards, required by the international markets.

This year, a total of 92,913 hectares of land has been brought under mango cultivation in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon and Natore, said Md Shamsul Wadud, regional additional director at Rajshahi Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

But, safe or chemical-free mangoes were grown on only 630 hectares of land this year, which was around 500 hectares last year, said the DAE official.

They have a plan to extend the area to 728 hectares next year, he said.

"As the areas are gradually increasing, incidents of pest attacks are also increasing, he said, adding that but farmers are eager to get better prices of their produces from the buyers.

Instead of any harmful chemicals,

farmers are using pheromone traps and adopting fruit-bagging method to protect the fruit from hopper pests, untimely rains and hail storms, said Anwarul Haque, president of Rajshahi Agro Food Producers' Association.

"We use pesticides on three to four occasions before applying the bagging method," Haque said.

Farmers stop use of chemicals 45 days before the fruits arrive at the market for sale, he said.

"Growers are now opting for quality mango production, targeting the international markets," Soheli Rana, one of the mango growers from Naogaon, said.

Another mango producer Shafiqul Islam of Rajshahi's Bagha upazila said apart from the pheromone traps and fruit-bagging, a few farmers also use bio-pesticides, which is quite costlier.

Such methods attract the buyers, he said, adding that exporters contact the farmers before the season starts, while local DAE officials examine the farming processes.

According to the DAE, this year around 2,700 tonnes of mangoes were exported to some 34 countries across the world, compared to 1,757 tonnes last year.



PHOTO: STAR

Grower Anwarul Haque tends his mango orchard at Terokhadia in Rajshahi city.

Ex-husband

FROM PAGE 12

Hafiz was informed about Masuma's location from her present driver, whom he had known from before.

On August 17, the group took position on Bailey Road, and as the victim reached there in a microbus around 8:15pm, Masum and the others intercepted the vehicle using a motorcycle and a rickshaw.

When the microbus driver got down to see what was going on, the group attacked him. Masum then took control of the microbus and sped towards Hatirjheel, Moin quoted the prime accused as saying.

"When they reached Harun's rented house, they found the main gate locked. So, they took her to a garage in Kanchpur area, tortured her and demanded Tk 50 lakh."

They took her to Madartek area the next morning, and Harun, the ex-husband, told Masum to take her back to the Hatirjheel house after Jum'a prayers.

"When Masum, Raju and Sabbir went out to get food, she managed to escape," Moin added.

On August 19, Masuma filed a case against seven people for abduction, torture and ransom, but her ex-husband was not included as an accused, according to police.

Asked whether the law enforcers will arrest Harun, the Rab official said the case is being investigated by Ramna police and the investigation officer may quiz or arrest him.

Abducted

FROM PAGE 12

Police are trying to arrest the abductors, said Inspector Aktaruzzaman.

Mafizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, said police started investigation into the incident after the general diary was filed and suspects a neighbour of the victim might be involved with the abduction.

Dhaka, Tokyo in talks

FROM PAGE 2

Japan-Bangladesh bilateral trade is close to \$4 billion, and the East Asian country has provided the largest amount of overseas development assistance, \$24.72 billion, to Bangladesh since 1971. It is developing some of the major infrastructure, including Matarbari, metro rail, and the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

With Bangladesh coming out of LDC status and the era of a duty-free regime gone by 2026, Dhaka and Tokyo are studying the prospects of signing an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) to promote trade and investments.

Iwama Kiminori said the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Study Group, which has already held two meetings on EPA, is preparing for the third round. It aims to start the negotiation process before signing the EPA at an early stage.

Japan is also supporting

Bangladesh in establishing

an industrial belt surrounding Cox's Bazar, with Matarbari Deep Sea Port at the helm, and connecting Northeast India in the process.

A trilateral discussion among Bangladesh, Japan, and India is also underway on exploring ways of improving connectivity and industries in the region, Kiminori said.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said Japan is Bangladesh's all-weather friend, and the two need to grow together.

With an ageing population, Japan will need a huge workforce, and Bangladesh can offer such human resources. Japan is Bangladesh's fastest growing market for IT and can be a major destination for Bangladesh skilled workers, he said.

Shahriar Alam said that while Japan is working for regional peace and stability, it can step up efforts to address the Rohingya crisis.

Speakers from both

countries said Japan can

do a lot in terms of capacity building for youths in Bangladesh, which will help Bangladesh become a developed country by 2041.

They said improving the business environment in Bangladesh, easing traffic congestion, and making climate change-resilient infrastructure are some of the essentials that Bangladesh needs to focus on.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Shahabuddin Ahmed; JICA Bangladesh Senior Representative Eiji Yamada; Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Mahbubul Alam; Japanese Commerce and Industry Association in Dhaka President Etsuro Kano; Foreign Ministry Director (East Asia and Pacific wing) Sayem Ahmed; PARI President Yuji Ando and Executive Director Dr Abdullah-Al-Mamun also spoke at the roundtable.

Nazrul's 47th death anniv

FROM PAGE 12

lyricist, musician and philosopher.

Different political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay respect to the national poet.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the grave of the poet, discussions, and poetry recitation sessions and staging of plays from the creative literary works of the poet.

Besides, Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television, and other private television channels and radio stations will air special programmes.

Kazi Nazrul was born on 11 Joishutha, 1306 Bonggabdo in the village Churulia, West Bengal of India's Bardhaman district. His father's name was Kazi Faqeer Ahmed and mother was Zahida Khatun. His nickname was 'Dukhu Mia'.

The nation got inspirations from Nazrul's poems and songs during the great Liberation War in 1971 and all other democratic movements and struggles.

Nazrul wrote nearly 3,000 songs and composed many of them which are known as Nazrul-Geeti or Nazrul Sangeet.

After the independence of Bangladesh, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman brought poet Nazrul Islam to Dhaka from Kolkata along with his family and made arrangements for them to live with state honour.

Bangabandhu also provided a residence for the family of the poet in the city's Dhanmondi.

INDIA MOON MISSION

It's a model for aspiring space powers: Modi

AFP, New Delhi

India's budget Moon landing is a model for other countries aspiring to develop their own space programmes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said yesterday while praising the scientists behind the successful mission.

Chandrayaan-3 -- "Mooncraft" in Sanskrit -- touched down on the lunar surface on Wednesday, making India the first nation to land an unmanned craft near the largely unexplored lunar south pole.

It also became only the fourth country behind the United States, Russia and China to achieve a soft landing on the Moon.

The success marked the latest milestone in India's ambitious but cut-price space programme, sparking celebrations across the world's most populous country.

"The region that our mission will explore will help open new avenues for moon missions of other countries," Modi told mission staff at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) premises in Bengaluru.

"This will not only unravel the mysteries of the Moon but also help in resolving the challenges of the Earth."



This week's mission comes four years after the previous Indian lunar mission failed during its final descent, in what was seen at the time as a huge setback for the country's space programme.

Modi praised the scientists for learning from that failure and being unrelenting in their pursuit of the Moon mission.

"I salute your hard work, patience, perseverance and passion," he said.

India has a comparatively low-budget space programme, but one that has grown considerably in size and momentum since it first sent a probe to orbit the Moon in 2008.

Chandrayaan-3 has a cost of \$74.6 million -- far lower than many missions from other countries and a testament to India's frugal space engineering.

Experts say India can keep costs low by copying and adapting existing technology, and thanks to an abundance of highly skilled engineers who earn a fraction of their foreign counterparts' wages.

ISRO is slated to launch a three-day crewed mission into Earth's orbit by next year. It also plans a joint mission with Japan to send another probe to the Moon by 2025 and an orbital mission to Venus within the next two years.



Women take part in a candlelight protest at a street in Imphal yesterday, to condemn the sexual violence against women and for peace in the ongoing ethnic violence in India's north-eastern state of Manipur. At least 120 people have been killed since May in armed clashes in Manipur, a remote state in northeast India with a history of ethnic conflict.

PHOTO: AFP

FUKUSHIMA CRISIS
Japan says no radioactivity found in fish

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan's fisheries agency yesterday said fish tested in waters around the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant did not contain detectable levels of the radioactive isotope tritium, Kyodo news service reported.

Nets were set up on Thursday when plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) 9501.T began releasing treated radioactive water into the Pacific, angering fishermen and many others in Japan, alarming consumers in neighbouring countries and prompting China to ban Japanese aquatic products.

The agency plans to announce test results daily. Tepco said on Friday seawater near the plant contained less than 10 becquerels of tritium per litre, below its self-imposed limit of 700 becquerels and far below the World Health Organization's limit of 10,000 becquerels for drinking water.

After lengthy debate, the government decided on Tuesday to allow the release of 1.3 million tonnes of treated water from the Fukushima plant, destroyed by a 2011 tsunami, because Tepco was running out of storage space.

The utility filters most radioactive elements out of the water, but it dilutes tritium, an isotope of hydrogen, which is difficult to separate from water.

Yesterday, protesters gathered in the capital of South Korea to demand that the government take steps to avoid what they fear is a looming disaster from Japan's release of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Russia 'foils' more drone attacks
Says three drones downed; second ship since grain deal expiry leaves Ukraine's Odesa

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday said that it shot down two drones over its Belgorod region and one headed for Moscow, as it reported Ukrainian shelling wounded six people in a border town.

Russia and the Moscow-annexed Crimean peninsula have been hit by a wave of attacks in the past month, after Kyiv warned in July it aimed to "return" the conflict to Russian territory.

The Russian defence ministry said one drone was destroyed close to the border in Belgorod region at 09:00 (0600 GMT), while another was intercepted over the region at 14:15 (1115 GMT).

A separate drone headed for Moscow in the early hours of the morning was also thwarted, the defence ministry said.

Moscow, which was rarely attacked during the early stages of the conflict, is now being targeted by almost daily drone strikes.

"Tonight, air defence forces destroyed a drone on approach to Moscow in the Istrinskii district," the capital's mayor Sergei Sobyanin wrote on Telegram.

"Preliminarily, there were no casualties or damage. Emergency services are working on the site," he added.

The drone attacks came as the governor of Russia's Belgorod region said Kyiv shelled the town of Urazovo, about 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Ukrainian border, injuring six people.

Russian regions bordering Ukraine have regularly accused Kyiv's armed forces of indiscriminate shelling and occasional cross-border incursions by Ukrainian-backed



militants.

Meanwhile, two people were killed and one wounded yesterday after Russian forces shelled a village near the town of Kupiansk in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, hitting a cafe, officials said.

In another development, the second ship to leave Ukraine's port city of Odesa since Moscow's withdrawal from the Black Sea grain deal set sail for Bulgaria yesterday, Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksiy Honcharenko said on the Telegram app.

Honcharenko posted a photograph of what he said was the ship leaving the port.

The Liberia-flagged bulk carrier Primus is moving from Odesa to the port of Varna in Bulgaria, news agency Interfax Ukraine reported citing the MarineTraffic database.

Odesa's three seaports shipped tens of millions of tons of grain during Russia's invasion under a UN-brokered deal which collapsed in July after Moscow withdrew. Russian forces have since targeted Ukrainian ports with volleys of missiles and kamikaze drones.

Meanwhile, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov yesterday said Russia's military cooperation with Iran will not succumb to geopolitical pressure, following a report that Washington has asked Teheran to stop selling drones to Moscow.

"There are no changes, and cooperation with Iran will continue," Ryabkov said, according to a report on Saturday from Russian state news agency RIA. "We are independent states and do not succumb to the dictates of the United States and its satellites."

9 killed in Indian train coach fire

AFP, New Delhi

At least nine people were killed yesterday after a train coach parked in southern India caught fire when a passenger tried to make tea, officials said.

The coach, which had been detached from a train, was stationed at the Madurai railway yard in the southern state of Tamil Nadu when the fire broke out before dawn.

"It was a single, stationary coach booked by a private tourist operator. Somebody tried to make tea and it caused the fire," Madurai district spokesman Sali Thalapatthi told AFP.

"Nine people have died, three of them are women. Nine others are injured but their injuries are not life-threatening."

None of the bodies had been identified so far, he added.

Footage showed huge flames leaping out of the windows of the train carriage. Some passengers managed to escape the inferno in time.

Local media reports said the passengers had illegally smuggled aboard a gas cylinder which exploded when they tried to use it.

India has one of the world's largest rail networks and has seen several disasters over the years.

Bhutan cuts daily tourist fee by half

REUTERS, Kathmandu

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is to halve the \$200 daily fee it charges tourists in an effort to boost a sector still struggling to recover a year after the end of Covid-19 restrictions. Bhutan raised its "Sustainable Development Fee" to \$200 per visitor per night, from \$65, when it ended two years of Covid restrictions in September last year saying the money would go to off-set the carbon generated by visitors. The new rate of \$100 per night would come into effect from September and last for four years, the government said in a statement late on Friday.

Disinformation 'first sin' of journalism: Pope

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Francis yesterday denounced "disinformation" and fake news spread in an effort to influence public opinion as journalism's principal offence.

"Disinformation is the first of the sins, the mistakes -- let's say -- of journalism," Francis told Italian journalists at a Vatican gathering to bestow a journalism prize.

Widely considered a savvy communicator himself, the pontiff returned to the term "sins" to list what he called the four misdeeds of the media, according to the Vatican's translated statement of his comments.

"Disinformation, when journalism does not inform or informs badly; slander (sometimes this is used); defamation, which is different from slander but destroys; and the fourth is... the love of scandal."

"I am concerned, for example, about the manipulations of those who interestingly propagate fake news to steer public opinion," he said, urging a "reawakening of responsibility" in particular as Europe grapples with the ongoing war in Ukraine.



A group of migrants try to climb over a barbed wire fence after crossing the Rio Grande into US from Mexico, in Eagle Pass, Texas on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hunt for Loch Ness monster begins

AFP, Drumnadrochit

The biggest search for the Loch Ness Monster in five decades got underway in the Scottish Highlands yesterday, as researchers and enthusiasts from around the world braved pelting rain to try to track down the elusive Nessie.

The expedition deployed drones with thermal scanners, boats with infrared cameras and an underwater hydrophone to try to unravel a mystery that has captivated the world for generations.

"There's not a corner of the globe you can go to where people haven't heard of Nessie, but it is still one of our biggest questions -- what is the Loch Ness Monster," said Paul Nixon, general manager of the Loch Ness Centre told AFP.

The searchers believe the thermal scanners could prove crucial in identifying any strange anomalies in the murky depths.

The hydrophone will allow the searchers to listen for unusual Nessie-like underwater calls.

Stretching 23 miles (36 kilometres) and with a maximum depth of 788 feet (240 metres), the freshwater loch is the UK's largest lake by volume.

Reports of an aquatic monster lurking in Loch Ness date back to ancient times, with stone carvings in the area depicting a mysterious beast with flippers.

The earliest written record of the creature

dates back to AD 565 in a biography of the Irish monk, Saint Columba. According to the text, the monster attacked a swimmer and was about to strike again when Columba commanded it to retreat.

There are now more than 1,100 officially recorded Nessie sightings, according to The Loch Ness Centre in Drumnadrochit, near Inverness.

The monster brings in millions of pounds (dollars) in tourism revenue to the Scottish economy each year.

Over the years, scientists and amateur enthusiasts have tried to find evidence of a large fish such as a sturgeon living in the depths of the loch.

Some have suggested the monster could be a prehistoric marine reptile like a plesiosaur.

In 1972, the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau undertook the biggest search to date but returned empty-handed.

In 1987, Operation Deepscan deployed sonar equipment across the width of the loch and claimed to have found an "unidentified object of unusual size and strength".

In 2018, researchers conducted a DNA survey of Loch Ness to determine what organisms live in the waters.

No signs of a plesiosaur or other such large animal were found, though the results indicated the presence of numerous eels.



Decline in Rohingya funds most worrying

World leaders must step up financial contributions to help them

It is disheartening to see that even after six years since they fled a brutal campaign by the Myanmar military, the future of the Rohingya refugees remains as uncertain as the day they arrived on these shores. The crisis has only grown since, with none of the options considered so far – their repatriation to Myanmar, legal integration into Bangladesh, or resettlement in a third country – seeming any closer to fruition. Bangladesh stands firm on repatriation – the most just option – as do the refugees. But until that happens, the priority is to ensure steady provision of assistance and support for the refugees and host communities.

Unfortunately, that is proving to be increasingly challenging. As per an estimate by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), this year, humanitarian organisations have appealed for \$876 million in aid for both Rohingya refugees and local communities. However, only 29 percent of the target had been achieved as of mid-year. The steep decline in funds is forcing humanitarian actors to “focus on the most critical and life-saving needs”, according to the UNHCR. It has, for the first time, resulted in the reduction of refugees’ food assistance, raising concerns about cascading dramatic consequences: malnutrition, school dropout, child marriage, child labour, gender-based violence, etc.

The timing of this couldn’t have been worse. It comes at a time when the refugees are facing a greater test of their resilience than ever before, with fires raging their shelters in March, a cyclone ripping through the camps in May, and monsoon rains and associated risks now endangering their lives. While some of the challenges are natural, they do add to the overall crisis. Unfortunately, the larger issues surrounding repatriation and prosecution of the Rohingya genocide have been politicised so much that it has also affected funding prospects, with regional powers like China, India and even Russia showing little interest in providing funds, let alone matching the contributions of their Western counterparts, which could ease some of the immediate pressures.

This is deeply troubling. While the larger issues are being resolved – which, we hope, will be sooner than later – the importance of consistent financial support cannot be overemphasised. This is not just a matter of humanitarian assistance; it’s a matter of upholding human rights. We urge world leaders to step up their financial contributions as well as diplomatic efforts to find a sustainable resolution to this crisis.

Why are there so few nurses?

Shortage of nurses is affecting the care of dengue patients

At a time when the dengue outbreak is taking lives every day and hospitals are getting overwhelmed with patients, we are again reminded of the acute shortage of doctors, nurses and other health workers in public hospitals. A report in this newspaper gives a grim picture of the dengue wards of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the largest public hospital in the city. It is unthinkable that there are only four nurses per shift looking after 100 patients daily, with the numbers reaching 200 at times. It goes without saying that nurses are the ones who carry out follow-up instructions for doctors and have to be on constant alert for any changes in patients’ condition. A shortage as severe as this obviously affects the care and recovery of patients.

Even during regular times, our public hospitals do not have enough nurses or doctors, anaesthesiologists, surgeons, gynaecologists and other healthcare staff. This paper has reported innumerable times the manpower crisis in district public hospitals, where patients cannot get proper care and are often forced to go to private facilities where costs are often beyond their means.

In 2020, there were approximately 73,043 registered nurses while the estimated demand was for 3 lakh. We have nursing institutes but many nurses opt for the private health sector or overseas jobs where the pay is better. In recent years, the government has tried to attract more nurses by offering better pay and benefits, but clearly, it is not enough to ensure an adequate inflow of nurses in public hospitals.

The government, therefore, must strengthen nursing and midwifery education and increase the capacity of nursing institutes. Policymakers must review the curriculum, faculty and teaching methods, and where necessary, reform them so that the skills of nursing graduates match the needs of the health sector. Moreover, they must focus on recruiting more nurses, establishing more nursing colleges, and providing adequate incentives, financial and non-financial, to persuade them to join public hospitals so that patients are better served at times of health emergencies.

New Message

To

Subject

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Write to us: letters@thedailystar.net

Of river erosion and the people it displaces

Dr Mohammad Zaman is an international development and resettlement specialist. His latest edited book (with co-editors Reshmy Nair and Shi Guoqing) is titled 'Resettlement in Asian Countries: Legislation, Administration and Struggles for Rights.'

MOHAMMAD ZAMAN

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are ones forced to flee their homes due to war, armed conflict, ethnic/religious persecution, and various forms of natural disasters. Lately, the impacts of climate change have joined the list of displacers. IDPs live in their own countries as displaced and homeless, without crossing an international boundary. They are found to migrate internally for employment and livelihood.

Although often used interchangeably, IDPs are different from refugees in many respects. Refugees are those who fled their homes for another country and are unwilling to return due to the violation of their human rights and/or fear of torture and intimidation. There are also “economic” refugees, who leave their countries in desperation due to economic hardships and for a better life. While IDP is an internal and descriptive category, refugees receive protection under international law and can’t be forced to return home.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, by the end of 2022, there were around 108.4 million people worldwide who were forced to flee their homes. Of these, 62.5 million were IDPs. Bangladesh is currently placed 17th among countries with the largest numbers of IDPs. Many of the displacements in Bangladesh are

Close to 70 upazilas in the country are affected and/or liable to annual riverbank erosion, displacing hundreds of thousands every year. Many are continually displaced by bank erosion; Despite this, there is no specific Standard Operating Procedure for riverbank erosion and displacement responses.

owing to natural disasters such as flooding, river erosion, cyclones, and impacts of sea-level rise in coastal areas.

Between 2008 and 2014, as per estimates by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), close to five million people were displaced due to disasters in Bangladesh. Another study estimates that as many as 16 to 26 million people would likely be forced from their homes in the years between 2011 and

PHOTO: MARUF AREFIN NIM

Despite the bulk of IDPs being victims of erosion, there is very little support for these impoverished populations.

2050 due to climatic hazards, possibly leading to internal displacement and other forms of labour migration predominantly within the country.

In Bangladesh, the impact of all disasters such as floods, river erosion, and tropical cyclones are not the same. These differences matter in regard to preparedness, responses, and post-disaster rehabilitation. For instance, there is a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for district and local administrations during high floods, which often affect around one-third of the country, displacing – mostly temporarily – millions of people. The SOP requires the district administration concerned to undertake evacuation, provide temporary shelters, relief, and post-flood rehabilitation assistance, including agricultural recovery. There is also an array of cyclone preparedness methods such as early warnings, rescue, relief, and cyclone shelters for protection of the people and communities in coastal regions. As a result, there have been fewer reported deaths from natural disasters in recent times. Improved readiness and disaster response capacity have made floods less deadly. Both in the cases of floods and cyclones, most of the affected people are able to return home with assistance and

the country are affected and/or liable to annual riverbank erosion, displacing hundreds of thousands every year. Many are continually displaced by bank erosion; the extent and frequency of displacement at the individual and household levels are phenomenal. Despite this, there is no specific SOP for riverbank erosion and displacement responses. There is hardly any institutional support for erosion victims from national or local government agencies, compared to the response that flood and coastal cyclone victims get. Local government administrations rarely respond to or assist those displaced by erosion. And for the displaced populations, there are no homes to return to once those are devoured by the rivers.

The displaced households primarily rely on assistance from relatives and friends, and typically resettle within the local communities. Those who are unable to find a place resettle on available flood control embankments. Only a limited number of displaced households leave for the cities in search of livelihoods.

The extent of losses and damages caused by erosion displacement can be significantly reduced with an SOP dedicated to erosion displacement, resettlement, and rebuilding. Such an SOP should address socio-economic

and displaced households are on the margins of Bangladeshi society and are deprived of basic protection and assistance. They are dispossessed of their land resources and other property, and are unable to secure livelihoods for themselves. The SOP should help develop and strengthen the localised strategies of resilience and adaptive mechanisms for the socio-economic development of IDPs. The Disaster Management Bureau of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief should look into this urgently and extensively.

IDPs are one of the most vulnerable groups in the country. Bangladesh cannot afford to leave behind the IDPs in its journey to becoming a middle-income country. The government should put it high up on its agenda to prevent and manage internal displacement, protect those already displaced, collect data on the numbers and conditions of IDPs, support training on the rights of IDPs, and develop localised strategies for all kinds of climatic adaptation and development. This would require a comprehensive, IDP-specific legal instrument that affirms the rights of those who are internally displaced, while establishing minimum standards for the well-being of IDP communities.

Rising sea levels and the lessons to learn

Antara Halder is a project associate at Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management.

ANTARA HALDER

Bangladesh’s geographic location has given it a wealth of natural diversity while also making it vulnerable to many calamities. Floods, droughts, tides, coupled with rising sea levels, are typical throughout the year. The proximity of the Bay of Bengal to the country’s south is particularly concerning, as the negative impacts of rising waters are already apparent. Over the next few decades, millions could be displaced if the at-risk Sundarbans and heavily populated coastal areas become submerged. By 2100, there could be a 0.4- to 1.5-metre rise in sea levels, which presents Bangladesh’s islands with a possibility of going under.

In this situation, we may take lessons from strategies that other countries are using to combat this crisis. For example, due to its low elevation, the Netherlands is particularly susceptible to rising sea levels. So, its

government has put in place measures such as creating greater space for rivers to lessen the risk of flooding, strengthening river dikes, building coastal dikes and seawalls, and investing in environmentally friendly urban development. Bangladesh has formulated the Delta Plan 2100, drawing lessons from the Netherlands’ experiences.

Low-lying deltaic landscapes can be found in both Bangladesh and the Netherlands. However, Bangladesh does not have the financial, scientific, or technological resources to build raised sea fortifications. Furthermore, it is essential to incorporate adaptation measures for climate change into national and sectoral planning if these plans are to be in line with the nation’s overarching objectives for sustainable development. A thorough and strategic approach is required to defend against the recurrent floods and climatic

disasters Bangladesh faces.

Another example is Japan, whose resilient urban planning ideas could inspire Bangladesh’s ability to anticipate and respond to disasters. In addition, Costa Rica’s concentration on sustainable land management and reforestation provides insights into reducing the effects of climate change. These strategies demonstrate the

It is essential to incorporate adaptation measures for climate change into national and sectoral planning if these plans are to be in line with the nation’s overarching objectives for sustainable development.

viability of targeted measures to increase resilience against floods and climate disasters, even though each solution may need to be modified to fit Bangladesh’s context. The country needs to decide on how to cope with the challenge of sea-level rise, as farming and residential areas may become submerged. For instance, with climate change harming food production, researchers could develop a type of rice that can withstand flooding and salinity while providing a

higher yield. Additionally, houses can also act as shelters, so people do not have to go far from their homes when floods occur. Similar initiatives have already been undertaken by some local NGOs.

The government has made some progress in protecting people and infrastructure from rising sea levels. Bangladesh has submitted multiple national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has formulated a 100-year delta plan. Its adaptation plans include water, flood, and erosion management, ensuring climate-resilient livelihoods, and various Ashrayan projects. Among all these, constructing a barrage on Brahmaputra and the Gorai River Restoration Project are the most important. Besides, lead authors for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change include scientists from Bangladesh, who continue to conduct outstanding studies.

Many tactics can be used to reduce the risks of rising sea levels. But to use these, governments and communities must join hands and act quickly. At the same time, they must put effort into reducing greenhouse gas emissions to stop further global warming. The only way to save our planet and ensure a secure and sustainable future is by taking action urgently.

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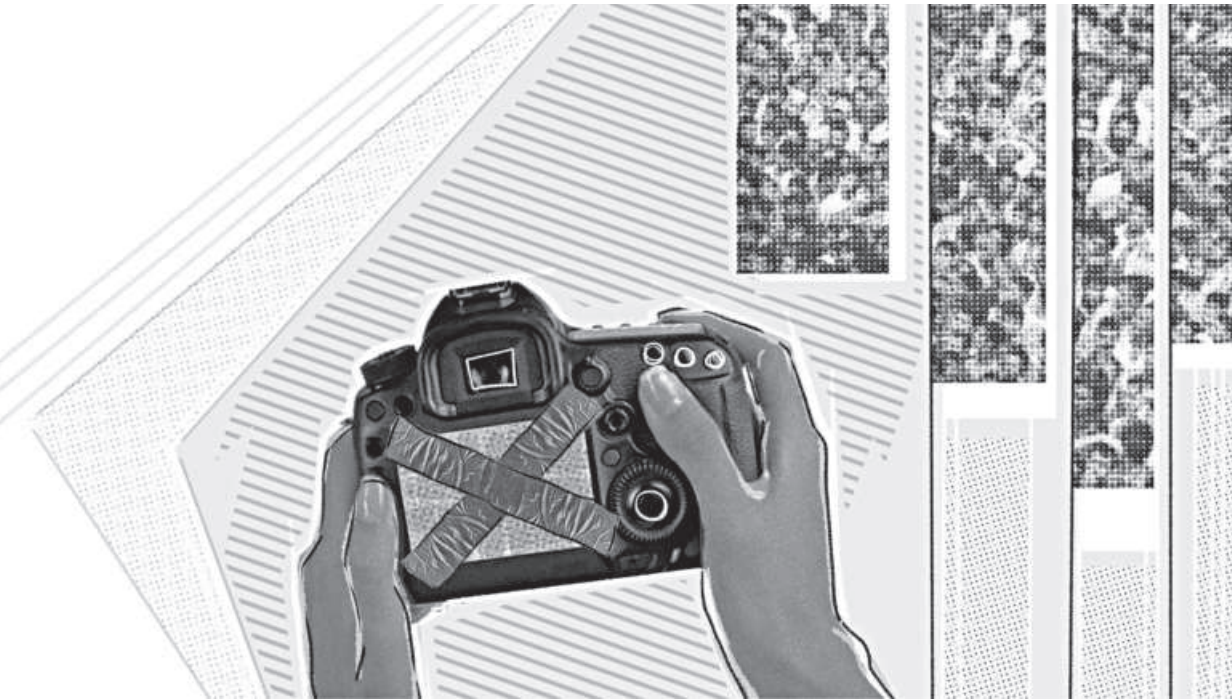
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VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

FROM DSA TO CSA

The same two bottles of agony

Rezaur Rahman Lenin is an activist academic.
Nowzin Khan is an independent researcher.

REZAUR RAHMAN LENIN and NOWZIN KHAN

The August 7 announcement to repeal the Digital Security Act became a matter of great anxiety and discomfort for citizens, as the government had proposed a new law called the Cyber Security Act, 2023, without consulting stakeholders. Unfortunately, the proposed law’s content – particularly its provisions regarding cybercrime and the composition and operation of organisations involved in cybersecurity – is essentially identical to that of the Digital Security Act, 2018 and amounts to a contravention of the constitution, international human rights standards, and the rule of law.

At a press conference on August 10, Law Minister Anisul Huq and State Minister for Information Zunaid Ahmed Palak said that stakeholders could provide feedback on the draft Cyber Security Act (CSA) within 14 days and that any specific recommendation made in response would be taken into consideration. During the conference, both said it was imperative to review the criticism of the CSA and made statements acknowledging the reconsideration of several previously voiced concerns, which a few organisations have enthusiastically embraced. These concerns include decriminalising ethical hacking, legal action against law enforcement misuse, legal recourse against false and deceptive lawsuits and how to stop them, and monetary compensation for victims of human rights abuses or unlawful detention due to wrongful prosecutions and perjury, alongside other issues.

The proposed CSA and Digital Security Rules, 2020 involve four agencies: Digital Security Agency, the Bangladesh government’s e-Government Computer Incident Response Team, its Digital Forensic Lab, and the National Digital Security Council. The proposed CSA allows regulators to restrict or delete data based on subjective criteria, potentially restricting free speech. It criminalises vague speech, inviting government interference and potentially restricting freedom of expression. It could also require the BTRC, through government intimation, to delete or block data under Sections 8(1) and 8(2), which might cause Bangladesh’s internet to be blocked, filtered, and censored, causing concerns about transparency and official opacity.

Furthermore, the National Emergency Response Team, the director general of the Cyber Security Agency, and police investigators can obtain, remove, block, or otherwise regulate data and internet activity without protections or judicial review under the proposed CSA. Additionally, the draft CSA repeals Section 57 of the DSA, which states that no employee or other party shall be liable for harm resulting from good-faith actions. But if officers, employees, or individuals of these institutions violate fundamental human rights, freedom of expression, and the right to privacy of personal information, how and where can employee accountability, the requirement to publish transparent annual financial and activity reports, and standard operating procedures be implemented?

The proposed Cyber Security Act’s penalties for most transgressions appear to be excessive,

disproportionate, and unlawful. For instance, Section 29 criminalises defamation on internet media and carries a fine of Tk 25 lakh for doing so. Besides this, criminal defamation is punishable by two years in jail with or without a fine under Sections 499 and 500 of the Penal Code, 1860. While defamation on digital media maintains the aforementioned legislative definition, the punishment for the same offence is different. How can an accused get a longer term for the same crime? Due to its conflict with Article 27 of the constitution, Section 29 can be deemed unconstitutional, unlawful, and voidable under Article 26 of the constitution. Also to be emphasised is the distinction between criminal and civil defamation in Bangladeshi law, with the latter being based on tort law. Tort law wrongdoing is decided at the judge’s discretion, while defamation must be established beyond a reasonable doubt in criminal proceedings. Damages for civil defamation, however, could be determined by probability. The government should have emphasised the significance of adopting modern communication technology in Bangladesh’s defamation legislation and the emergence of civil defamation in democracies.

The now-possibly-repealed DSA included harsh, unreasonable, and illegal punishment provisions; nevertheless, the proposed CSA minimised excessive penalties and boosted bailable crimes. In reality, the proposed CSA will not aid accused criminals to lessen sentences or increase the number of offences that are eligible for bail since, once a case has been filed, the bailable clause is added to the non-bailable clause, which not only is against the rule of law but also gives rise to fear, intimidation, and panic in citizens. Under the proposed CSA, no new judicial system has been established, and the authority has been given to the Cyber Tribunal that was established under the ICT Act. The bail of the accused under the DSA is also subject to the bail requirements in the ICT Act. It goes without saying that the responsibility imposed on the court before granting bail in the aforementioned act is against legal precedent and unjust in nature.

The state must protect freedom, human dignity, and reputation without compromising individual rights. Section 38 of the proposed CSA gives the investigating officer 90 days to finish the probe, and the higher authority might grant an extra 15 days. After 75 days, the cyber tribunal might prolong the investigation by statute. The DSA has seen serious clause breaches. The proposed legislation provides harsh penalties on conviction, and the crimes are non-bailable with limited exceptions.

Different nations have unique regulations governing the length of pre-trial detention since there is no chance it may be seen as a punishment. If the investigating agency fails to produce the report promptly, the accused may be granted bail. But there are no laws or standards in place that govern how people are punished for crimes. Measures for penalising violations of the CSA need to be revised. The conflicting stances of recent laws have made our criminal justice system more challenging and contentious, jeopardising people’s fundamental rights.

Cyberterrorism and other “national security” offences, including those that might be used to retaliate against whistleblowers, are also overbroad and do not offer sufficient protection against misuse. While the Disclosure of Information in Public Interest (Protection) Act, 2011 encourages individuals to speak out against corruption, Sections 21, 25, 29, and 32 of the proposed CSA prevent it. Several journalists and rights advocates were prosecuted under the DSA at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic for covering misconduct by public officials and representatives. Moreover, citizens were given the power to enforce the legislation, which exacerbated court harassment since judges and investigators did not understand how to investigate and punish DSA offences.

The proposed CSA’s Section 34 states that assisting in the commission of an offence constitutes an offence, and the penalty for aiding and abetting is the same as the original offence. This is excessive and disproportionate, as it does not differentiate between those who commit a crime and those who help and abet it. The proposed act lacks distinctions between unlawful action and public interest, and also lacks specific definitions. International cybercrime treaties list several offences, but the proposed CSA defines many of them too broadly and leaves out the question of criminal intent. Additionally, many of the offences in the CSA are already covered by other criminal laws, such as the ICT Act, making it too broad to interpret multiple offences in multiple areas.

More alarmingly, the proposed CSA and the DSA encourage the arrest of children, violating their internationally recognised rights, contravening the UN Children’s Rights Declaration and the Charter. Furthermore, the proposed CSA does not include a provision that would make it illegal to file false charges or provide false evidence, which is in violation of Section 211 of the Penal Code.

Citizens have applauded the decision to repeal the harsh and onerous Digital Security Act, 2018. However, the implementation of the CSA could negatively affect social justice, human dignity, fundamental rights, and human rights.

To pass cyber laws, regulations, and recommendations, the government must regularly, spontaneously, consistently, and meaningfully engage with civil society. Since too many parts of the proposed Cyber Security Act, 2023 – from definitions of crimes to the powers, rights, and obligations of administrative institutions – violate national and international human rights legislation, it must not be implemented.

Numerous DSA cases indicate that most prosecutions restrict the public’s and the media’s freedom of expression, and the provisions in the proposed CSA are raising comparable concerns. In order to preserve the constitution and fundamental human rights (particularly the right to free expression) in Bangladesh, the proposed CSA should not be presented to parliament right away. Fourteen days is not enough time for people to extensively consider an issue of such importance. Instead, a legislative measure such as a bill to repeal the DSA could be introduced to safeguard unencumbered cyberspace freedom and promote democratic principles in Bangladesh.

Did the Wagner drama expose Putin’s weakness?



Ramisa Rob is a journalist at The Daily Star.

RAMISA ROB

Two months ago, Russian President Vladimir Putin faced the biggest test of his 23-year reign, when Yevgeny V Prigozhin, chief of the paramilitary Wagner Group, seized control of a Russian military office in the city of Rostov-on-Don and made a brief attempt to march in Moscow. The insurrection by the Russian strongman’s one-time ally led to sprawling commentary in Western media, which jumped at the sight of Putin’s seemingly “weakening grip” over a nation that is, largely and solely, just his.

Theories were concocted in galore that the rebellion panning out would disarray the Russian military, turn the Kremlin upside down, and possibly end the Ukraine war. For context, the Wagner Group has

and analysts have approached the past two months of Prigozhin-filled headlines with wishful thinking and fantasies of a dark political thriller in the making.

Putin’s response in the aftermath of the mutiny led to a universal conjecture that he is “weak.” Ukrainian President Zelensky used the same label to criticise his adversary. Despite calling the Wagner chief a “traitor,” Putin allowed him to strike a deal with Belarus and leave Russia for exile, invited him for a three-hour chat at the Kremlin, and dropped formal charges against him.

For each and every day that Prigozhin lived, it reinforced the impression of “Putin’s weakness” in the West. The lack of violence in the first response, divorced from the usual course of

and dissenters coincidentally die by suicide. A long series of mysterious events in the past two decades – such as the attempted poisoning of Alexei Navalny, Putin’s biggest opponent, and the sudden death of former Russian KGB officer, and Kremlin’s foe, Alexander V Litvinenko from radiation poisoning – have all been perceived as Putin’s cunning ways of “payback” and his political prowess.

Yet, with Prigozhin’s demise, the Western media has been more reserved at drawing conclusions that uphold the narrative of Putin’s sustained grip over Russia. The leaderless Wagner Group, with its fighters stranded across multiple countries, is said to be finished, and in the hands of Vladimir Putin, who can frankly do anything he wants with the remnants of it. Still, rather ridiculously, the fact that Prigozhin was alive for the past two months is being analysed by commentators in Western media as a reminder that Putin is weak.

The whole Wagner saga has been interpreted as an embodiment of domestic distrust towards Putin among the ranks of Russian elites and private military organisations. But



VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

played a significant role in the war against Ukraine, spearheading some of the bloodiest battles in the conflict, including the fight to conquer Bakhmut, which killed thousands. Putin has publicly said that the Russian state paid Wagner almost \$1 billion in the first year of the war. Some commentators perceived that, without the mercenary group, the Russian front would collapse – none of which materialised.

The mutiny turned out to be nothing but a short-lived moment of humiliation for Russia’s leader, catapulted by Western journalistic clichés that mistakenly examine Russia’s strictly personalist dictatorship through the black-and-white lens of Western liberal conceptions of dictatorship. Even juxtaposing Putin’s Russia with Stalin’s doesn’t take us far enough to understand what’s going on today. Though the Stalin era was brutally repressive, it was not as unpredictable and arbitrary as the current state of affairs.

The absence of the Wagner Group has not hurt Russia’s position in the Ukraine war, nor has it objectively created negative ripple effects on the morale of the Russian military as analysts had predicted. The Russian Federation has not been fragmented and the military has instead held off against the Ukrainian counteroffensive. Bereft of a proper framework to understand the hidden Kremlin politics, commentators

Russia’s reputation for deceit, paved the way for the West’s shortsighted discourse on Putin’s political strength.

Then, two months from the day the Wagner chief stepped out to betray Putin, the expected fate arrived. Prigozhin is now reportedly dead in a plane crash, with some of his top lieutenants. The crash also came the same day Gen Sergei Surovikin, commander of the Russian air forces, was dismissed. Surovikin was close to the Wagner Group, which lends itself to a plausible theory of a calculated, carefully planned purge of those associated with the mutiny – the ultimate act of betrayal against Putin.

The information regarding what caused the crash remains suspicious. While at first, it seemed like a missile from the ground shot the aircraft down, US intelligence now suggests it was sabotage with an explosive onboard. Whatever it was – and whether the Wagner chief is actually dead or in some secret cave somewhere – there seems to be little confusion among observers that it was Putin’s handiwork. Though the Kremlin has dismissed the claims of Prigozhin’s assassination as an “absolute lie,” leaders around the world, including US President Joe Biden, are seemingly not surprised at Prigozhin’s fate.

Things often happen in Putin’s Russia like dark magic, with rarely any explanations or conclusions. People fall from windows “by accident,”

that doesn’t even matter. The Wagner Group’s demise only shows that the regime’s strength, and Putin’s control, are largely disconnected from the will of the Russian people, including the elites. The fact that such a high-profile political challenger was thrown off the scene reflects the unbound nature of political options that Putin still has.

We all assumed that Prigozhin was alive on borrowed time. But to hold on to the trajectory of circumstances in that borrowed time, only to purposely underscore Putin’s weakness, is completely far-fetched and unproductive. If the ruthless leader’s revenge was coming, then wouldn’t the guarantees of safety that Putin gave to Prigozhin have all been a part of his twisted game? This remains the least analysed aspect of the Wagner drama in the Western circle.

Let’s face it, amid the wildfire of speculations, no one will actually know what happened. But if we need to gauge anything about Putin’s Russia, it’s that Putin is Russia.

So, Western media can sing the “Putin is weakened” song as much as they desire. But it will play in a vacuum of meaningless conjecture that pushes us further away from truly understanding how things work in a dictatorial system where the leader is the system, and from understanding the actual power of the very leader whose political decisions are severely costing the entire global system.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

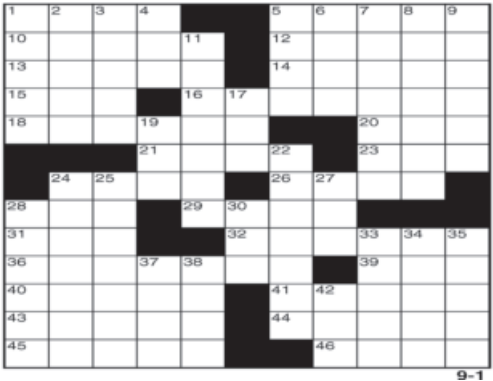
- 1 Hiker’s route
- 5 Truman’s Missouri hometown
- 10 Exemplary
- 12 Blow away
- 13 Bellini opera
- 14 Add up
- 15 Catterer’s pot
- 16 Try for a pin
- 18 Mortar’s mate
- 20 Brood watcher
- 21 Dress lines
- 23 Put away
- 24 Utters
- 26 Chapel features
- 28 List-shortening abbr.
- 29 Hawk

- 31 Brief time
- 32 Get snug
- 36 Bridge support
- 39 Spell
- 40 Safari sight
- 41 Chutzpah
- 43 John of music
- 44 Condescending look
- 45 Takes ten
- 46 Shoulder muscle, for short

DOWN

- 1 Locker poster
- 2 Dote on
- 3 Shorebirds
- 4 Scenery chewer
- 5 Overdue
- 6 Singer Tori
- 7 New Testament book

- 8 Flowery shrubs
- 9 Let up
- 11 Anarchic
- 17 Sleep state
- 19 Quaker’s pronoun
- 22 Neighbors of kidneys
- 24 Like the OR
- 25 Believes
- 27 High trains
- 28 Purim honoree
- 30 Photo blowup: Abbr.
- 33 First odd prime
- 34 Flatten
- 35 Ply
- 37 Set eyes on
- 38 A lot
- 42 Last part



THURSDAY’S ANSWERS



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Researchers claim a new discovery could drastically reduce hospital admissions

STAR HEALTH DESK

Half of England's adult smokers making the switch to e-cigarettes could save the NHS more than £500 million per year, a study has claimed. Researchers at Brunel University London used data from NHS Digital, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to identify the prevalence of smoking in each region.

They found that between 2019 and 2021, 13.6% of people aged 18 and over in England smoked. The lowest rate of smokers is in the south east (12.2%), compared to 14.1% in the midlands, 14.6% in the north west, and 15% in the north east and Yorkshire.

The study, published in the British Journal of Healthcare Management, suggests that if 50% of those people were to switch to e-cigarettes, hospital admissions would reduce by 13%, translating to savings of £518 million.

The figure was calculated by looking at data relating to smoking as a cause of death as well as the risk of developing five diseases as a result of the habit: cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. The research team calculated total health expenditure by multiplying average ward costs per bed day for a specific disease by the mean length of stay in hospital for that disease. In the North East and Yorkshire alone, half of smokers switching to a vape could save £148 million, researchers said.

In 2019, the UK government outlined its ambition to make England smoke-free by 2030. It also launched a "swap to stop" campaign in April, offering one million smokers vapes to encourage them to quit cigarettes.



DR ZUBAIR KHALED HUQ

Cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, and dementia are common chronic conditions in old age. Osteoarthritis, diabetes, and related mobility disabilities will increase in prevalence as the population ages. These population changes have considerable public health importance. No matter your age, it is important to take care of your body and prevent illness. But if you are older, the flu or common cold can progress and lead to complications. This includes secondary infections like pneumonia, bronchitis, an ear infection, or a sinus infection.

If you have a chronic condition such as asthma or diabetes, a respiratory illness can make these conditions worse. Because of this, it is important to make healthy choices to strengthen your immune system and reduce the likelihood of illness. Physical activity is an immune system booster. The more you move, the more your body can fight inflammation and infections. Low-impact exercises are also effective in this case. You can get engaged in moderate-intensity exercise for about 20 to 30 minutes a day to reach the recommended total of 150 minutes a week.

Some supplements help support a healthy immune system. Some

supplements they may recommend include calcium, vitamin D, vitamin B6, or vitamin B12. Take supplements or multivitamins as instructed to boost your immune system.

Diets rich in fruits, vegetables, and lean meats also give your immune system a boost and protect against harmful viruses and bacteria that cause illnesses. Fruits and vegetables are good sources of antioxidants. Antioxidants protect your cells from damage and keep your body healthy. You should also limit your consumption of sugary and fatty foods, which can trigger inflammation in the body and lower your immune system.

Washing your hands regularly is another excellent way to stay healthy year-round. Viruses can live on surfaces for up to 24 hours. It is possible to become ill if you touch a virus-covered surface, contaminate your hands, and then touch your face. Wash your hands with warm, soapy water often and for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your nose, face, and mouth with your hands.

Chronic stress increases your body's production of the stress hormone cortisol. Too much cortisol can disrupt different functions in your body, including your immune system. To reduce stress, increase physical activity, get plenty of sleep, set reasonable

expectations for yourself, and explore relaxing, enjoyable activities. Not only can sleep reduce your stress level, but sleep is also how your body repairs itself. For this reason, getting an adequate amount of sleep can result in a stronger immune system, making it easier for your body to fight off viruses. Sleep is also important as you get older because it can improve memory and concentration. Causes of insomnia can include inactivity during the day and too much caffeine. Or it can be a sign of a medical condition like sleep apnea or restless leg syndrome.

Conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure can go undetected. Regular physical examinations will enable your doctor to diagnose any problems early. Getting early treatment may prevent long-term complications.

Also, if you have any cold or flu symptoms, see your doctor immediately. The flu virus can lead to complications in adults over the age of 65. The immune system weakens with age, making it harder to fight off the virus. If you must go out, protect yourself by wearing a face mask. If you are caring for someone with the flu, wear a face mask and gloves and wash your hands frequently.

*The writer is a gerontologist and a public health specialist.
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HAVE A NICE DAY How much is too much? - Part I

DR RUBAUL MURSHED

Money is a good servant, but a bad master—an ancient proverb. People first crave wealth, because they want power, status, and a luxurious life. Eventually, they desire material possessions to compare themselves to others and show superiority. Once the rich become more prosperous, they can have anything they need but still focus on making more money.

However, recent studies have shown that the more money you have, the more likely you are to suffer from depression and other mental health problems, including megalomania (obsession with the exercise with power).

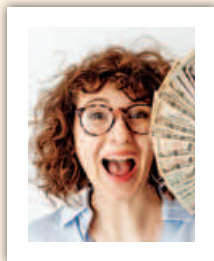
Even billionaires make the mistake of believing that money, not time, sharing, and moral values, will enrich their lives. The urge for unlimited wants can create social pressure in human nature. Chasing wealth is a trap because it leads only to an increased focus on rushing for money by bypassing moderate lifestyles.

Researchers found that high income may improve a high standard of lifestyle but not emotional well-being. They learned that happiness increases with income levels until our basic needs are met. Studies also found that wealthy people are not happier than the upper middle class.

A luxury good is a product that is thought to be non-essential. Some reasons wealthy people buy luxury goods when they do not need them include a sense of irrationality and accomplishment. This means consumers do not need expensive luxury items for a good living, like clothing from high-end designers, handbags, jewellery, watches, high-end vehicles, and certain accessories.

Well, all expensive things are not luxury, as sometimes good-quality baby food or medicine could be costly. However, evidence shows that our sense of self-worth, inner peace, and attitude towards events can bring us true happiness.

E-mail: rubaulmurshed@shomman.org



Elevating beauty and confidence by redefining aesthetic care

STAR HEALTH REPORT

Este Medical Bangladesh Ltd. was founded in 2021 by Mohammed Faisal with the aim of providing exceptional aesthetic care and dermatological services not only in Bangladesh but throughout South Asia. Mr Faisal envisioned a state-of-the-art facility that would offer top-quality treatments for skin, body, hair, and dental needs, utilising the best technology and dermatological experts trained by Este Medical.

Este Medical Bangladesh established itself as a brand in the field, catering to clients seeking dermatological, aesthetic, dental, and cosmetic procedures. Mr Faisal firmly believed that the combination of advanced technology and talented professionals would result in unparalleled creativity, innovation, and success.

Partnering with Alif Group, Este Medical Group (UK) embarked on an ambitious plan to expand its presence in South Asia. With branches planned in Bangladesh (Dhaka and Chattogram), India, Dubai, and other locations, Este



Mohammed Faisal, Managing Director of Este Medical Bangladesh Ltd.

Medical aimed to become a household name associated with exceptional medical and aesthetic care. Este Medical's beauty expertise and commitment to embracing the latest technology and attracting top talent set the stage for historical achievements. Mr. Faisal expressed his unwavering faith in technology and talent, recognising the immense potential

they hold when working together.

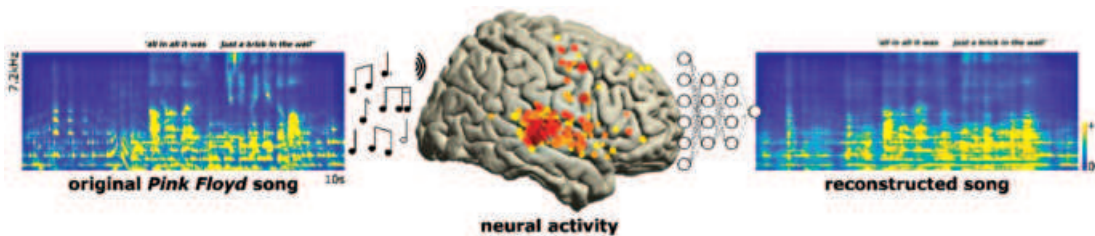
Este Medical's services encompass various treatments under Este Plant, Este Comfort Zone, Este Beauty, and Este Dental, covering a wide range of aesthetic and dermatological procedures.

With a rich experience of 25 years in the consumer market and a dedicated workforce, Alif Group embodied the values of hard work, trust, and client dedication.

Alif Group remained committed to supporting the community during challenging times, such as the pandemic and natural disasters like the Sylhet flood. With a strong sense of responsibility, the group stood beside the people of Bangladesh and worked towards their well-being.

Este Medical Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Alif Group, aimed to revolutionise the landscape of aesthetic care in Bangladesh and South Asia. With their combined expertise, cutting-edge technology, and unwavering dedication, Este Medical strived to provide unmatched services, leaving a lasting impact on the industry.

DID YOU KNOW? Classic rock music can be recreated from recorded brain activity!



STAR HEALTH DESK

Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, have shown that they can recreate recognisable versions of Pink Floyd's rock music using brain activity recorded while patients listened to the song. This was done through advanced computer modelling.

The study, published in PLOS Biology, used brain data from 29

patients listening to "Another Brick in the Wall, Part I". The researchers found brain regions related to rhythm perception, a critical element of music, which could be useful for brain-machine interfaces.

The researchers succeeded by analysing brain activity from 29 patients listening to rock music. They found that specific brain areas, like the superior temporal gyrus, are key for perceiving

music elements like guitar rhythm.

Previous research could recreate speech, but not the complexity of music. They recorded brain activity from electrodes placed on patients' brains as they listened to music, identifying key brain areas involved.

This discovery might help people with hearing issues by improving how they perceive rhythm and melody.

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Shakib prefers dealing one at a time

SPORTS REPORTER

It was Shakib Al Hasan's first official press meet since being appointed as the new ODI captain of Bangladesh, replacing Tamim Iqbal. The ace all-rounder arrived at the press conference room with head coach Chandika Hathurusingha to address the media ahead of Bangladesh's Asia Cup campaign in Mirpur yesterday.

Shakib had been unable to take part in the Tigers' two-week training camp since he was busy playing Global T20 League in Canada and Lanka Premier League. The 36-year-old was seen in Mirpur but did not participate in the practise game on the last day [Thursday].

However, Shakib did make sure he had a proper communication between coach Hathurusingha, the team management and the players to have clarity in order to have a better environment in the dressing room.

"What happened was I had a discussion with [Nazmul Hassan] Papon and then he announced [captaincy]. About the meeting with the team, mainly that day it was the coaching staff who discussed among themselves and I did not require to talk much. It's not that I don't know the players who came in. I know most of them for a long time as majority of them played under me or I played under them.

"So, I don't think there is the need for huge adjustment. The one or two new players, I think, have got an idea about me. Also, the coaching staff have got the idea. So, there is not much of adjustment required and everyone knows their responsibilities. Since we have a cricketing culture or it is developing, everyone knows their job in the dressing room," Shakib told the media yesterday.

The Bangladesh captain across all formats also welcomes the inclusion of young Tanzid Hasan Tamim in the squad. Shakib highlighted the aspect of enjoying the atmosphere in the dressing room, regardless of his performance in the coming days.

With the upcoming Asia Cup emerging as the tune-up for Bangladesh ahead of the ICC ODI World Cup later in October this year, Shakib is not willing to think too far ahead. Instead, he is inclined to focus on the immediate objective: which is to qualify for the second round of the Asia Cup.

"I don't think you can relate this with that [with Asia Cup to World Cup] since both are two different tournaments. Yes, if we can do well here, we can gain the confidence that we are growing as a better unit. It will then help us to do well in the World Cup. From that point it is important. But that doesn't mean we will be disheartened if we don't do well in the Asia Cup. Even if we do well it doesn't mean our chances for the World Cup will grow stronger," he said.

Interestingly, Shakib deflected the limelight from himself, both as a leader and also as an individual player, when asked whether he would bat at number three where he shone bright in the 2019 World Cup.

Moreover, Shakib pressed the importance of having the experience behind the team, whether it was his leadership in the 2011 World Cup or the presence of Tamim Iqbal in big events. He, however, reiterated saying everything depends on how well the individual contributes for the team.



Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha shakes hands with captain Shakib Al Hasan at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur after attending an official press conference yesterday. The Tigers will depart for Sri Lanka today to take part in the six-team Asia Cup, starting from August 30.

PHOTO:FIROZ AHMED

Liton has his work cut out to recover consistency

SPORTS REPORTER

Liton Das is a natural stroke-maker and when such batters struggle even for short periods, naturally a lot of questions regarding lack of form also arrive.

Despite not being completely out of runs, the manner of Liton's dismissals over the past few months have been a concern for the Bangladesh team management. With major tournaments such as Asia Cup and the World Cup to come, Liton's form is a big area of dependency for the Tigers as a strong start from the top-order is required when wickets favour batters.

Liton scored 152 in seven innings in the Global T20 league in Canada at an average of over 21 and strike-rate of just over 100. His LPL stint of three games saw him average just over 11, managing 34 runs at a strike-rate of 113.33.

Yesterday, head coach Chandika Hathurusingha too was asked to address the "concern" regarding the vice-captain's form. Chandika, though, felt that the recent T20 performances in franchise leagues were not an apt indicator. "I have no concerns about his form at the moment because he's played in a few competitions in Canada and in Sri Lanka. Those are T20s. But he's training really hard.

"If you look at those recent tournaments that he played, the pitches are not that great, not high scoring, especially in Canada; and

LITON'S ODI STATS IN 2022 AND 2023		
	2022	2023
Matches	13	12
Runs	577	301
Highest score	136	70
Avg.	52.45	30.10
Strike-rate	83.14	91.29
100	1	0
50s	4	3

to a certain extent in Sri Lanka. So, whatever the runs he scored were impact runs," Chandika said at the press conference yesterday.

What Liton's role would be as an opener, apart from being able to see off the new ball is still a tactically nuanced question. But the head coach insinuated there was a plan regarding his role. "Yes, we want him to play a different, like a big role, during the Asia Cup and the World Cup. So, hope that he will show."

Liton was phenomenal across formats last year but averages just over 30 this year. Despite the three fifties this year, including one in his last ODI while playing Afghanistan, even the team management feel Liton has been a little off. A part of the issue has been getting starts and not being able to carry on. "He [Liton] thinks that he could have done much better. So, we also think that he's capable of doing

more than what he's showing us," Hathurusingha said.

Liton shared his recent struggles with childhood mentor Montu Dutta, who had coached Liton during his BKSP days. The coach divulged that there were some issues with Liton's movements during the shots he was trying to execute.

"I talked to him today regarding some of his movements. While playing spin, his shoulder does not get down and I suggested some things," he told members of the media after watching Liton bat at the nets yesterday in Mirpur. In recent times, Liton has been getting out to awkward shots of good-length deliveries. The coach tried to provide an explanation.

"While playing the shot, if the head isn't somewhat down, you won't be able to execute the perfect shot. To get on top of the delivery and be able to judge it properly, I talked to him about why his foot movement wasn't happening.

"It's not a big problem but a small thing is becoming big in stature. He discussed that sometimes he was hitting deliveries that aren't there to be hit. We discussed how to mentally prepare to avoid these things," he added.

Montu felt that Liton needed a few drills to get going before delving into focused net sessions. For now, apart from the technical adjustments, it would be those mental preparations that can set Liton towards the kind of run-scoring he showed last year.

Women's hockey team bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's hockey team registered back-to-back victories in the Women's Hockey5s Asia Cup in Salalah, Oman.

The women in red and green, who started their campaign with a 7-4 defeat against Indonesia on Friday, bounced back by beating Chinese Taipei by 10-5 goals on the same night.

Orpita Pal scored six goals while Riya Afrin scored four for Bangladesh in that victory.

Then the Bangladesh team beat Iran by 9-3 goals in their third match yesterday, with Riya scoring four and Orpita bagging three.

The Bangladesh team were scheduled to take on hosts Oman in their fourth match last night and will play their last group match against Hong Kong today.

Bangladesh are playing in the Challenger category of the competition, which features six second-tier teams of the continent.

This is the first international five-a-side appearance for Bangladesh women's team while the last time they appeared in an 11-a-side international hockey tournament was in the AHF Cup in 2018.

FIFA suspend Rubiales over Hermoso kiss

AFP, BARCELONA

FIFA suspended Luis Rubiales as president of Spain's football federation on Saturday for kissing Spanish Women's World Cup player Jenni Hermoso on the lips, and banned him from making contact with her.

"(We)decided today to provisionally suspend Mr. Luis Rubiales from all football-related activities at national and international level," world football's governing body said in a statement.

FIFA's suspension of Spanish federation (RFEF) president Rubiales will last 90 days, while they undertake disciplinary proceedings against the 46-year-old.

They added that both Rubiales and the RFEF are prohibited from contacting Hermoso and those close to her.



FIFA's move was the latest development in a deepening row between Rubiales and the RFEF and Hermoso and her Spain teammates which the players say has tarnished the glory of their World Cup win in Australia last Sunday.

Hermoso said in a statement on Friday that Rubiales and the federation put "continuous pressure" on her and her family and friends to make her appear alongside

Rubiales in a video in which he apologised for his kiss, but she declined.

Rubiales refused to resign at an emergency RFEF meeting on Friday and on Saturday, the federation threatened to take legal action over Hermoso's "lies" about the kiss.

Hermoso said "at no time" did she consent to the kiss following the 1-0 win against England in Sydney, which Rubiales described as "mutual, euphoric and consensual".

The RFEF responded, saying they would "demonstrate each of the lies that have been spread, whether in the name of the player, if that is the case, or by the player herself".

It would take "as many legal actions as necessary to defend the honour of the President of the RFEF."

Hermoso, 33, along with 80 other Spain players, including the entire World Cup winning squad, said they were going on strike and would not play for the national team until the "leadership" changed.

That was a reaction to Rubiales refusing to resign despite unprecedented criticism. He claims he is the target of a "social assassination".



PHOTO: AFP

After losing the first two games, Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr bounced back in style with a 5-0 victory over Al-Fateh on Friday. The 38-year-old Ronaldo fired on all cylinders by scoring a hat-trick, set up one of Sadio Mane's two goals in their first win in Saudi Pro League season. "My happiness knows no bounds in Saudi Arabia. I voiced this sentiment last year, and my belief holds strong: the Saudi league is poised to rival the world's most esteemed tournaments. It's impressive to witness the league attracting such esteemed talent," said Ronaldo after the match.

Asif fetches top price as BFF auctions academy players

SPORTS REPORTER

Brothers Union scooped up six of the 10 players as Bangladesh Football Federation held a first-of-its-kind auction for 10 of its Elite Academy footballers at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

The four other players were snatched by Bashundhara Kings, Abahani, Sheikh Russel KC and Fortis FC for the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League season, with representatives of all but one of the 11 participating clubs present at the occasion.

The auction took place after three different clubs – Sheikh Russel, Mohammedan SC and Brothers Union – demanded these players to the game's local governing body, prompting BFF to organise the auction.

It was also a promotion for the BFF Elite Academy, which started with 33 budding footballers two years ago and now accommodates and trains 63 players in its dormitory in Kamalapur.

An audio-visual display highlighted the features of BFF Elite Academy and its impact on the country's football. The players were auctioned in two categories – A with a base price of Tk 5 lakh and



B with a base price of Tk 4 lakh. Mohammad Asif, the only goalkeeper in the list who had a base price of Tk 5 lakh, was sold for highest 13.75 lakh to BPL champions Bashundhara Kings.

While most of the clubs had already roped in players of their liking for the next season, the auction was a unique event in the history of the country's football and was attended by the high-ups of BFF and all the clubs and beamed

live on a satellite channel.

While the auction was conducted quite professionally, it took a heated turn when Mohammedan officials staged protests over the decision to allow Rubel Sheikh to be bought by Brothers, claiming Mohammedan had bid a higher price just before the hammer went down. After a brief period of chaos and stoppage, the bidding restarted and the issue of Rubel was settled through a rebid, with Brothers buying him eventually for a high price.

Player	Position	Base Price	Buying Price	Club
Chandon Roy	Midfielder	5 lakh	9 lakh	Sheikh Russel
Rubel Sheikh	Defender	4 lakh	4 lakh	Brothers Union
Asadul Molla	Midfielder	5 lakh	7.75 lakh	Abahani
Imran Khan	Defender	4 lakh	4 lakh	Brothers Union
Sajed Hasan Jummon	Midfielder	5 lakh	7.25 lakh	Fortis FC
Sumon Soren	Striker	4 lakh	4 lakh	Brothers Union
Mohammad Asif	Goalkeeper	5 lakh	13.25 lakh	Bashundhara Kings
Sirajul Islam Rana	Defender	4 lakh	4 lakh	Brothers Union
Mirajul Islam	Forward	5 lakh	6.5 lakh	Brothers Union
Azizul Haque Ananta	Defender	5 lakh	10 lakh	Brothers Union

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin praised the initiative to auction the young players of the academy. "This is a proud moment because two years back I could never believe this will become a reality.

"The camp for the girls' team and their success is what motivated us to start this academy. Manik took a brave decision in this regard," Salahuddin said in his speech.

Manik informed that the players will get 40 percent of the auctioned price while the rest will go to the BFF coffers.



DENGUE OUTBREAK Diarrhoea now a key symptom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More and more dengue patients are experiencing diarrhoea this year, which is causing severe complications.

“Diarrhoea has emerged as a highly prevalent characteristic among dengue patients, which we did not see the previous year – the condition of the patients with diarrhoea is turning worse fast,” said Tariqul Matin, assistant director at the emergency unit at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Roughly 40 percent of the dengue patients at BSMMU suffer from diarrhoea along with vomiting.

At noon yesterday, around 28 patients were undergoing treatment at the BSMMU, including the emergency unit and the dedicated dengue unit at the hospital, according to Matin.

BSMMU has around 50 beds dedicated to dengue patients.

Doctors at the capital’s Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital said the same as Matin.

About 30 percent of dengue patients suffer from diarrhoea, said Khalilur Rahman, director of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

“This has become a very common feature of dengue infection this year.”

Another common feature among the hospitalised patients is vomiting.

“Dengue patients should take adequate fluid such as oral saline. It will prevent vomiting and the patient’s condition will remain stable,” Rahman said.

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Parents taking their nine-month-old son Mehedi, who has been receiving dengue treatment at Mugda Medical College Hospital for three days, to the nurses so that his saline drip bag can be changed. The health directorate reported another nine deaths from the mosquito-borne disease yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Nazrul’s 47th death anniv today



BSS, Dhaka

The 47th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed in the country today in a befitting manner.

On August 27 (12 Bhadra of Bangla calendar year) in 1976, the poet breathed his last at the then PG Hospital, now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, in Dhaka.

The poet was buried with state honour beside the Dhaka University central mosque.

Kazi Nazrul was a poet,

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ABDUCTION OF NBR OFFICIAL Ex-husband is the mastermind Rab says after arresting 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent abduction of Masuma Khatun, an official of the National Board of Revenue, was masterminded by her ex-husband, Rab yesterday said after arresting three people, including the prime accused.

The victim’s ex-husband, Harun-or-Rashid, a retired government official, hired prime accused Masum alias Masud, 42, who until recently had worked as the victim’s driver, to carry out the abduction.

Masum and his two associates – Hafiz, 48, and Abdul Jalil Panu, 48 – were arrested from Gazipur’s Sreepur and Dhaka’s Sabujbagh on Friday night, Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab’s legal and media wing, told a press briefing at the Rab Media Centre yesterday.

So far, six people were arrested over the incident.

Masuma, a joint tax commissioner of the NBR, was abducted on August 17 from in front of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College. She managed to escaped the following day, 18 hours after the abduction.

After preliminary interrogation, Rab said Masum earlier worked as Masuma’s driver but was sacked for “misbehaviour” on August 1.

Harun recently contacted Masum and said he would give him a handsome amount of money if he abducted and took Masuma to Harun’s rented house in Hatirjheel area, said the Rab official.

He was allegedly angry about her second marriage and “wanted to teach her a lesson”. He also made a complaint in this regard to the NBR in April.

“He initially paid Masum Tk 70,000,” the official added.

After receiving the money, Masum informed his associates Hafiz, Panu, Raju, Sabbir, Saiful and Shanto about the plan to abduct her and distributed the money among them.

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15 BNP men injured in ‘AL attack’ in Cumilla

2 have gunshot wounds; crude bomb explodes during Chhatra Dal procession in Sylhet

STAR REPORT

At least 15 BNP leaders and activists were injured, including two with gunshot wounds, in an attack allegedly carried out by Awami League men in Cumilla yesterday.

Local Swechhasebak Dal leader Monir Hossain and Jubo Dal leader Firoz Ahmed were shot during the attack, said Mafizul Islam Khandaker, member secretary of Belghar union BNP.

They were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital, he said, adding that doctors said they were out of danger.

The clash ensued at Goyarbhang Bazar in Belghar North Union around 2:00pm when AL and Jubo League men brought out a procession, at which time the BNP was also holding a committee meeting.

Witnesses said AL and Jubo League men led by upazila parishad Chairman Kamrul Hasan and upazila AL Organising Secretary Ayatullah attacked the BNP programme venue.

As tensions mounted, they traded gunfire, leaving over 15 BNP men injured.

BNP leaders alleged the house of local BNP leader Mofijul Islam in Undania village was vandalised and looted.

The party planned a committee

meeting at Mofijul’s house with BNP leader Manirul Haque Chowdhury as chief guest.

However, AL rejected the allegations and blamed BNP men for attacking their peaceful rally.

Moreover, Upazila AL President Kamrul Kamrul Hasan claimed at least 10 of their men were injured.

Hanif Sarker, officer-in-charge of Lalmai Police Station, claimed police did not find any evidence of gunshots being fired at the scene.

In a statement issued last night, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhruul demanded prompt arrest and punishment of the AL activists who carried out the attack.

He called it part of the government’s “grand scheme” to intimidate the BNP through violence ahead of the next general elections.

Meanwhile, in Sylhet, there was a

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ROHINGYA RETURN Situation in Rakhine not what some say it is Says Chinese ambassador

UNB, Dhaka

Highlighting the importance of joint global efforts to realise the repatriation of the Rohingyas, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen has said those who keep claiming situations in Myanmar “not conducive” for repatriation have seldom visited Myanmar’s Rakhine State.

“It’s quite strange. And they didn’t answer the question of whether the situation in Cox’s Bazar is right for the displaced people to live a decent life. This is something they have to ask themselves,” he told UNB in an exclusive interview.

The current influx of Rohingyas took place on August 25, 2017, which has seen its 6th anniversary on Friday.

Go to www.thedailystar.net for the full interview.

Trump mugshot merchandise selling like hot cakes



REUTERS, Washington

Former US president Donald Trump’s historic mugshot, posted by a Georgia courthouse on Thursday evening, is being turned into T-shirts, shot glasses, mugs, posters and even bobblehead dolls by friends and foes alike.

The shot of Trump with a red tie, glistening hair, and an icy scowl was taken as the Republican presidential front-runner was arrested on more than a dozen felony charges, part of a criminal case stemming from his attempts to overturn the 2020 election.

Supporters and campaign managers have embraced the image of his arrest, as they rally around Trump’s claims that the charges against him are politically motivated.

To critics, the photo symbolises that his long list of legal woes has finally caught up to him.

Trump’s Save America fundraising committee is selling “NEVER SURRENDER!” mugshot T-shirts (\$34.00), beverage holders (\$15.00 for two) and coffee mugs (\$25.00). His son Don Jr. is marketing “FREE TRUMP” mug shot t-shirts (\$29.99) and posters (\$19.99).

‘BCL activists torture student’, teachers attack journos in SBMC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least six journalists came under attack and a camera tripod was damaged when they went to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Barishal yesterday to cover alleged torture of a female student.

Shakil Mahmud, a journalist of Somoy TV, told The Daily Star that Probir Saha, superintendent of a female student hall, medicine doctor Bakibillah, and some their staffers swooped on them at the administrative building when they were talking to the female student and her mother after SBMC academic council recorded their statements.

“The accused teachers and staffers of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College attacked us with chairs. They kicked me and camera tripod of Channel 24 was damaged. At least six journalists were attacked,” he said.

On Wednesday night, SBMC students brought allegations that Neelima Hossain alias Jui, a student of the 50th batch and joint general secretary of Chhatra League SBMC unit, and Fahmida Roshan alias Prabha, a student of the 7th batch of dental unit and also a BCL activist, tortured and hazed the third-year student.

The victim said the BCL leaders had

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With her one-year-old daughter on a rickshaw-van, Kajol Rekha sells kitchen utensils to support her family as her husband is ill. She earns Tk 200-Tk 250 from daily sales and spends the money on her husband’s treatment, son’s education, and family. The photo was taken in Khulna city’s Boyra Bazar area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Abducted teen found dead in Chattogram

Police didn’t take
prompt action, victim’s
father alleges

UNB, Chattogram

A 13-year-old boy, who was abducted from Dhaka’s Jatrabari area on August 21, was found dead in Chattogram city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nurun Nabi, son of Golam Rasul, from Dhalpur in Jatrabari.

Aktaruzzaman, inspector of Panchlaish Police Station, said the abductors might have killed the boy after failing to realise the ransom they demanded.

Family members of the victim said after Nurun Nabi went missing, someone demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom from the victim’s father over a mobile phone call.

Golam Rasul lodged a general diary with Jatrabari Police Station the next day.

He also provided Tk 5,000 to the abductors through bKash.

Golam Rasul claimed that despite providing all information to police, they did not take prompt action.

Yesterday morning, locals spotted the body of Nurun Nabi in Hill View residential area in Chattogram and informed police.

Nurun Nabi’s brother identified the body last night.

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