



B4

Indigo farming showing promise



P11

Babar pumped up for 'high intensity' clash



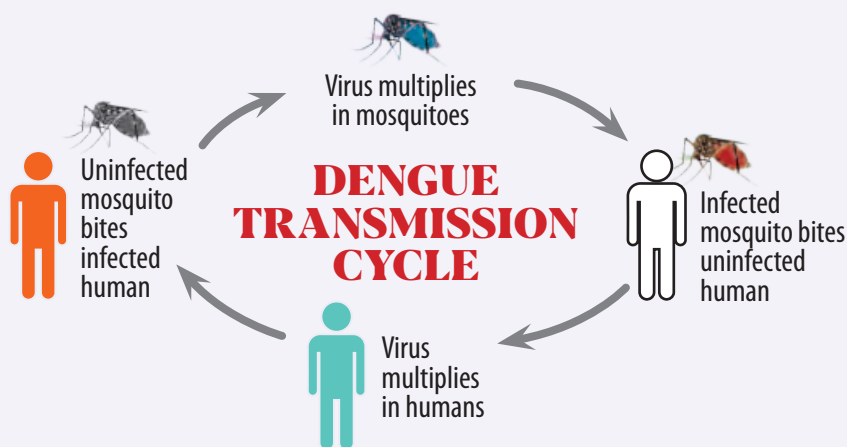
P7

US approves first arms to Taiwan



P5

Lone school on verge of collapse in Bajra



BOTCHED DENGUE RESPONSE

Where does the fault lie?

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

2019 was a watershed for dengue, with the highest number of cases ever reported globally. For Bangladesh too, it was a loud wake-up call, with record caseload and deaths. But the government continued with its slumber.

The local government, rural development and co-operatives minister and the two Dhaka mayors, however, maintain they have done enough. And yet, the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the primary vector for dengue, is having its most successful outing, already besting its 2019 record, thanks to insufficient preparedness.

A complete lack of planning, coordination and accountability among the government bodies has emerged as the narrative of Bangladesh's fight against

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DENGUE SCOURGE (BANGLADESH)		
YEAR	CASELOAD	DEATHS
2010	409	0
2011	1,359	6
2012	671	1
2013	1,749	2
2014	375	0
2015	3,162	6
2016	6,060	14
2017	2,769	8
2018	10,148	26
2019	101,354	179
2020	1,405	7
2021	28,429	105
2022	62,382	281
2023*	123,808	593

WB to help ramp up the fight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank yesterday approved \$200 million to help Bangladesh improve primary healthcare services for treatment, prevention and referral for common illnesses including mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, and medical waste management in Dhaka, Chattogram City, Savar and Tarabo.

One of the objectives of the project – called the Urban Health, Nutrition and Population Project – will be to strengthen the existing mosquito control unit of the Local Government Division with adequate technical support, equipment, human resources and training.

With high population density, climate change and rapid urbanisation, new health challenges are emerging, including an increase of dengue

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OVER 3.7M CASES, 2,000 DEATHS IN 70 COUNTRIES AS OF AUG 23		
COUNTRY	CASELOAD	DEATHS
India (July 31)	31,464	36
Thailand (Aug 23)	73,979	68
Afghanistan (July 8)	425	1
Malaysia (Aug 31)	79,415	55
Singapore	6,099	2

SOURCE: EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Unbearable weight of grief Parents lose both children to dengue

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Every Thursday, Mohammad Ibrahim's seven-year-old daughter Isnat Jahan Raida would call him at work in the evening and ask him to take her somewhere on the weekend.

On most Fridays over the last few years, Ibrahim and his wife Rabeya Akhtar took their children Raida and nine-year-old Arafat Hossain Rauf somewhere for dinner.



This would be the first of many difficult weekends for Ibrahim and Rabeya. Dengue claimed both the children.

Raia died on August 25 just about a week after Arafat died. Both of them were students of a kindergarten.

"What can I tell you? Everything has turned upside down," Ibrahim, a garment factory employee in the capital's Mirpur,

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Should Bangladesh try Wolbachia?

Studies show method reduced dengue cases by 70-80pc

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Many countries including Singapore, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Brazil are opting for the Wolbachia method for dengue control.

Under the method, lab-grown male Aedes aegypti mosquitoes infected with the naturally occurring Wolbachia bacteria are released into the wild. The bacteria compete with viruses inside the mosquito, thus hindering viral replication and transmission of diseases like dengue, Zika, chikungunya and yellow fever.

This is the rationale behind a Wolbachia replacement strategy, where Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes are released to take the place of Aedes aegypti mosquitoes to reduce disease transmission.

Instead of replacement, Singapore uses a suppression strategy wherein non-biting male Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes are released to mate with female non-Wolbachia-carrying Aedes mosquitoes.

The resulting eggs do not hatch because of cytoplasmic incompatibility, leading to a decline in both Aedes mosquito populations and the spread of disease. This strategy directly targets the mosquito population and does not rely on Wolbachia's ability to reduce viral transmission.

Developed by researchers from the University of

HOW OTHERS CONTROL DENGUE – PAGE 2

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ডেঙ্গুবাহী মশা থেকে ৪ ঘণ্টা পর্যন্ত নিশ্চিত প্রাকৃতিক সুরক্ষা। সরাসরি তুকে ব্যবহারোপযোগী।

Political rifts will only hurt the judiciary Says outgoing CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday said it does no good to the judiciary when political rifts leave the streets and enter the courts.

"We need to bear in mind that divisions and discords among the lawyers and the resulting reactions harm the judiciary. If political ideologies are implemented politically and the courts are kept at a safe distance, the judiciary feels comfortable," he said.

He made the remark in a farewell speech at his courtroom in the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

The chief justice, who will retire on September 25, appeared in the courtroom for hearing and disposing of cases on his last working day yesterday, as the court will go on a 37-day annual vacation from today.

The farewell, which took place after he concluded the court proceedings, was accorded by Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and Supreme Court Bar Association President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir and its Secretary Abdun Nur Dulal in a jam-packed courtroom.

"It cannot be said that the state and the judiciary are operating in the right way if the laws crush the poor

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Hasan Foez Siddique



The bridge to a ferry pontoon in Chattogram's Boalkhali upazila goes under spring tide Wednesday afternoon forcing people to wade through knee-deep water. The authorities have set up the terminal next to the Kalurghat bridge which remains shut since August 1 for repairs.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Korvi wins Magsaysay Award



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Korvi Rakshand, the founder of JAAGO Foundation, has been honoured with the Ramon Magsaysay Award for his unwavering dedication to education and social change.

Korvi, the 13th Bangladeshi to have received the honour, has won the award in the emergent leadership category this year.

The announcement about this year's awardees was made yesterday by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation.

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How others control dengue

HELEMUL ALAM and
MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

In 2010, Kolkata city had faced its worst dengue outbreak – an event that prompted the municipality to draw up a definitive plan to control the menace.

“We started to get positive results from next year for both dengue and malaria,” Debashish Bishwas, chief vector control officer of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, told The Daily Star.

The plan involved dividing 206.2 square km of Kolkata Municipality areas into 144 wards and 16 boroughs and bringing the whole system under the leadership of five vector management experts, three of whom are PhD holders in this field.

The authorities also formed 32 rapid action teams that took immediate steps after getting information about a dengue patient. Moreover, 1,700 field workers as well as 1,440 staffers work to create ward-based data banks and its monitoring and also do awareness campaigns and collect information about fever.

This year, the Kolkata municipality has had about 500 cases of dengue and no confirmed death. In 2022, two

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY Contractors halt work protesting extortion

Fingers pointed at BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Contractors have suspended their work at Chittagong University bringing allegation of extortion by a group of non-students.

In a letter to the CU vice-chancellor, the association of enlisted contractors of the university yesterday said all types of construction and repair work will remain suspended until steps are taken in this regard.

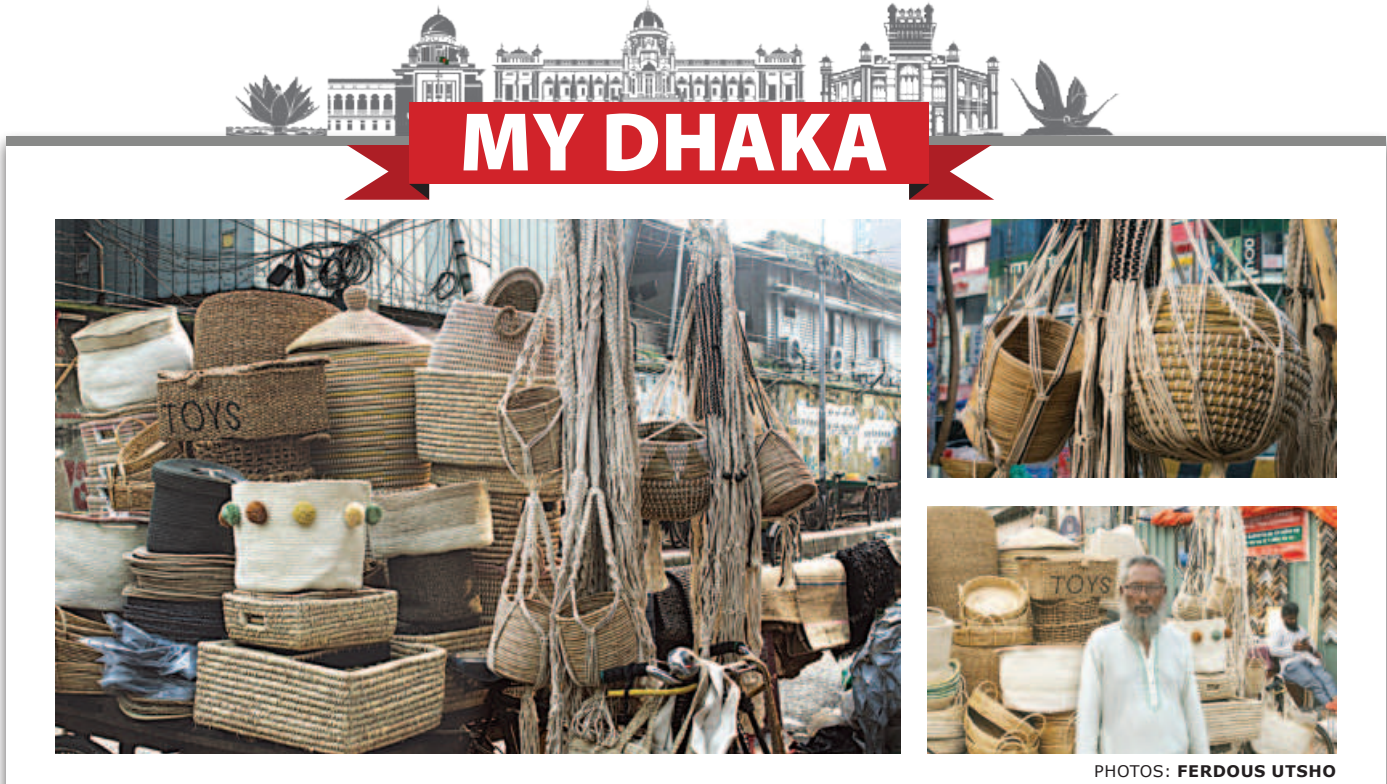
A section of non-student Chhatra League leaders are accused of extortion.

The letter signed by association President Md Sekandar Hossain and General Secretary MA Khaled Chowdhury stated that contractors are extorted by some druggie non-students who also steal all types of construction materials, including rods, bricks, cement, and electrical equipment.

They also beat up contractors, engineers, and construction workers, it added.

Speaking to The Daily Star, association President Md Sekandar Hossain said some former CU students, who have been staying on campus for

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WEAVING DREAMS Jute vendors on city streets

BY AYMAN ANIKA

Recently, while passing through the bustling streets of Gulshan-1, an elderly vendor selling beautifully stitched jute bags and mats caught my attention.

I have encountered such hawkers before – shouting at the top of their lungs to grab the attention of passers-by to sell their jute-infused products.

We will find plenty of such jute-made goods on Dhaka's streets, and the richness of their craftsmanship is immeasurable.

Known as the “Golden Fibre”, jute is deeply rooted in Bangladesh's culture and economy. Dhaka is a living testament to this legacy because you will find vendors selling bags, purses, rugs, footwear, and home décor items crafted with jute, in markets or at roadsides in the capital.

Jute's natural allure and versatility have seamlessly captured the world of home décor. From elegant rugs that add warmth to living spaces to intricately woven mats and carpets that tell stories of tradition, jute brings an authentic touch to interior design.

Just stroll down the streets of Gulshan-1 at Road 11 (beside Gloria Jean's Coffees), and you will find a smiling vendor named Berek Molla selling jute products like masterfully



crafted rugs, carpets, placemats, coasters, baskets, hats, and whatnot!

“We do not necessarily make these products; we buy them from manufacturers who produce them to export abroad. You see, our jute-based products are very popular in foreign countries. Therefore, people exporting them like to order them in bulk,” he said.

“Generally, factories make these jute-based items more than necessary, and after fulfilling the requested order, they sell the remaining products to us – the vendors or hawkers, who set up make-shift shops and stand in the scorching heat or get drenched in the rain to sell these products and make ends meet.”

Local artisans find a canvas in

jute, creating intricate crafts that tell stories of tradition and skill. These hand-crafted jute items are brought in from the northern parts of our country, namely Rangpur, Dinajpur, and Bogura.

“Adverse weather conditions combined with inflation pose significant challenges for us. For example, due to the incessant rain in the past few days, most of my products were damaged while being transported from Rangpur.

“This is heart-breaking for us, but time and again, we have to endure it,” said Berek.

The allure of jute isn't confined to the carts of street vendors or local markets only. You can find similar products, such as rugs, bags, shoes, baskets, etc., adorning the shelves of leading fashion houses in Dhaka.

However, hawkers or vendors sell similar types of products at a relatively cheaper price, costing anywhere between Tk 100 to Tk 1,500.

Take a tour of Doyel Chatter at Dhaka University and you will find many handicraft shops selling versatile jute products. Dhaka College might also be a good option for you, with shops showcasing a wide range of jute-based products.

Plastic bags that clutter the streets of Dhaka have met their match in jute bags. So, it is high time we recognised these sturdy, reusable, and eco-friendly products, as well as the local vendors and artisans who are trying to bring back the charm of jute to the urban landscape of Dhaka.

3-day-old infant missing from DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day-old baby boy reportedly went missing from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

DMCH Director Brig Gen Md Nazmul Haque said they received a complaint in this regard.

Grandmother of the newborn, Mashura Begum, said they came from Mirpur's Rupnagar area on Tuesday, and the newborn was initially kept at ward 212 and later moved to ward 106.

Shahina Akhtar, 22, mother of the newborn, was sleeping in her bed and in the afternoon she realised that the baby was missing.

Mashura said despite an extensive search, the baby was nowhere to be found.

The child's father Hiron Mia said he was not present during the incident. He arrived at the hospital later and notified the police by calling 999.

The DMCH director said they suspect a woman in this connection and were questioning her.

Student killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A student was killed and four others were injured as a lorry collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Narayanganj's Bandar upazila yesterday.

The victim, Israt Jahan Tanha, 17, of Machimpur area in the district's Rupganj upazila, passed SSC exams this year.

The accident took place on the Asian Highway in Andhirpar area around noon, killing Israt on the spot, said Reazul Hoque, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur Highway Police Station.

Police seized the lorry, but its driver and helper managed to flee, he added.

The injured were sent to Dhaka for treatment.

UP member stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

A union parishad member was stabbed to death allegedly by a youth in Cumilla's Laksham upazila yesterday.

The victim, Abul Kashem, 52, was a member of ward 8 of Mudafarganj (Dakshin) Union Parishad, said Abdullah Al Mahfuz, OC of Laksham Police Station.

Victim's cousin Mir Hossain said Kashem had an altercation with Rajib Hossain, 32, at Shreyang around 3:00pm as he asked Rajib to come to his Shreyang Bazar office, saying that locals brought several allegations, including drug addiction, against him.

At one stage, Rajib started stabbing Kashem, leaving him injured.

He was taken to the local upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead, said Mir Hossain.

“When I tried to catch Rajib, he fled the scene throwing chilli powder into my eyes,” he added.

Where does the fault lie?

FROM PAGE 1

the Aedes mosquito, according to entomologists.

The starting point for any definitive largescale action is a policy that would serve as a guideline. Bangladesh's Vector Management Policy – which is being drafted by the ministry of local government, rural development and co-operatives – is yet to see the light of day.

In the absence of a policy, one would think that the city mayors would be proactive in keeping the residents safe from the dangerous mosquito population. But it was all lip service.

Take the case of the Dhaka Mosquito Control Department. For a long time, the two-storied building in Dhakeshwari area was a breeding ground for the mosquito that has so far infected 123,808 and claimed 593 lives – the highest yet for a single year.

Although vector control is not in its jurisdiction, the ministry of health and family welfare's role has been found wanting to. It hasn't created a database, so the actual gravity of the dengue outbreak remains undetermined.

The daily dengue bulletin from the Directorate General of Health Services is based on data from only 57 public and private hospitals in Dhaka and 81 district and divisional-level hospitals.

But as many as 16,000 public and private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres and blood banks across the country are providing dengue care.

Dengue is a reportable disease in other countries, meaning data on every single dengue patient must be recorded, according to Manjur A Chowdhury, a former president of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh.

In the absence of data on the exact number of victims and their locations and serotype distribution, any vector control programme would be akin to driving blind.

“Without information of all dengue patients, cluster elimination is not possible,” Chowdhury said.

Genome sequencing is no less important as identifying any potential changes in the dengue virus gene would inform the dengue management

programme.

Dengue virus exists as four distinct serotypes (closely related forms of the virus). Immunity from infection with one serotype may provide lifelong protection from that serotype but is only partially protective against other serotypes. A second infection with a different serotype than the first infection increases the risk of severe dengue, which can lead to fatality.

Similarly, Bangladesh Meteorological Department's role was found lacking too.

One of the reasons for the rising incidence and transmission of dengue over the last decade has been the warming temperatures, falling humidity levels and heavier summer rainfall – thanks to climate change.

Due to climate change, Bangladesh's temperature remains favourable for the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes all year round, said Kabirul Bashar, professor of medical entomology at Jahangirnagar University.

A temperature between 20 to 30 degrees Celsius is required for Aedes mosquito breeding.

“We get 20 degrees Celsius temperature even during winter – this is why we are getting dengue cases round the year,” he said.

Had the Met department given a warning about the conducive conditions for dengue incidence and transmission this year, the authorities, perhaps, would have been goaded into preparation mode sooner.

What transpired was a complete lack of initiative from anywhere, leaving it to citizens to fend for themselves this year from dengue, whose symptoms of high fever and painful body aches have earned it the nickname of “breakbone fever”.

The authorities concerned failed to chalk out an early plan when they saw over 62,000 cases last year, said GM Saifur Rahman, assistant professor of medical and applied entomology at the National University in Gazipur.

Both the city corporations failed to destroy the Aedes mosquito eggs laid towards the end of last year, according to Chowdhury, also the former chief

executive officer of Safeway Pest Control.

Those eggs hatched at the beginning of this year, earlier than their usual time, thanks to the shorter winter.

Serious anti-mosquito drive identifying active clusters during the lean period of dengue (November to April) is very important as during this time the number of Aedes mosquitoes remains low, said Chowdhury, currently the chairman of the Centre for Governance Studies.

The authorities will have to carry out an extensive drive including source reduction, larviciding and adulticide to destroy Aedes and its larvae.

“But authorities concerned did not take steps following this method,” he said.

Rapid urbanisation is also to blame for the ongoing dengue outbreak.

“The numbers of multi-storey buildings and cars have increased significantly since 2014, both of which play a significant role in the spread of dengue during the dry season – many people wash their vehicles in parking lots, where stagnant water accumulates,” said Bashar, the entomologist from Jahangirnagar University.

The Aedes mosquito requires pools of stagnant water to breed. These pools may be as small as a teaspoon and are found in nature (in puddles or tree holes) or in human environments (in trash, flower pots, buckets, used tyres and so on).

Going forward, dengue is likely to increase for Dhaka as the climatic conditions have become more suitable, said a 2021 World Bank report titled ‘Climate Afflictions’.

Humidity in the range of 60 to 80 percent, maximum temperature between 25°C and 35°C, and rainfall between 200-800mm create ideal conditions for mosquitoes.

Weather data between 1976 and 2019 indicate Dhaka is experiencing falling humidity levels, rising temperatures, and heavier summer rainfall. These together with factors like urbanisation are increasing the risk of the spread of dengue in Dhaka

city, the WB study said.

Subsequently, a coordinated action plan has become the need of the hour. In China, 13 to 18 ministries work together to control mosquitoes, according to Rahman, the entomologist from National University.

“The Vector Management Policy has been prepared – the approval of the cabinet committee is needed to put it to practice,” Md Tazul Islam, LGRD minister, told The Daily Star last month.

The policy, which has been in the works since 2020, has accommodated the research findings of different countries.

“Having a policy is not enough – we have to work in line with the policy,” he said, adding that the LGRD ministry is already functioning as per the policy.

Asked about the lean season management, he said: “During the lean period, eggs are found and it is not possible to destroy them. It is possible to kill the mosquitoes when they turn to larvae.”

The city corporation of Chennai has deployed a drone-based mosquito control system under which drones survey and dispense larvicide to effectively eradicate mosquito breeding habitats. The Delhi municipality is also planning to use the system.

“Without public participation, controlling dengue is not possible – public participation will have to be improved. We are trying our best,” Islam said.

Mosquito is mainly found in urban areas and for that, the city corporations have the capacity to control the menace, he added.

“We started working on controlling dengue from the beginning of the year and we are still doing it,” Atiqul Islam, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation since March 2019, told The Daily Star.

He asserts that dengue is under control in his jurisdiction.

“We were not sitting at home. We have worked in coordination with various agencies to prevent dengue. We have come up with new methods to prevent dengue,” Islam added.

One of the new methods the DNCC intended to adopt was the use of the BTI, a naturally occurring bacterium that kills mosquito larvae. When BTI, short for bacillus thuringiensis israelensis, is present in water, mosquito larvae feed on it and die – long before they can grow up to become flying, biting, disease-spreading adults.

DNCC's BTI supplier, Marshall Aggravate, said the pesticide was imported from a Singaporean company Best Chemicals. The company denied it, prompting DNCC to halt the project and file a case against Marshall Aggravate for their alleged forgery.

“We have taken a comprehensive three-tier plan to combat the spread of dengue fever within the city corporation,” said Selim Reza, CEO of DNCC.

The plan involves a coordinated effort to identify and eliminate the breeding grounds of the Aedes mosquito and has been in action since January.

He denied any lack of coordination between different government agencies in controlling dengue.

“We have been successful in controlling dengue, and the health ministry has said so too,” Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, the mayor of DSCC since 2020, told The Daily Star.

The caseload is stable now and has dropped from July.

“The picture will be clear if you compare the numbers from August last year.”

DSCC is announcing red zones to neighbourhoods with more than 10 dengue patients. Larviciding and adulticide are conducted within 300 metres of the dengue patient's home, he said.

But their words ring hollow as at least 342 people died of dengue this August, making it the deadliest month since the health authorities started recording dengue cases in 2000. Of the deaths in August, 17 were reported yesterday, the last day of the month – and 16 of them were in the capital Dhaka. Besides, of the 593 deaths this year, 438 were reported from Dhaka.

Korvi wins

FROM PAGE 1

“I never thought about winning such a prestigious award while working for the people,” he said in an interview with The Daily Star.

“With this award, our responsibilities have also increased. At the same time, it opens up many new possibilities, such as expanding our successful model to other countries,” he said. “It would also be a source of pride for Bangladesh.”

Korvi said, “We were surprised to learn that the Ramon Magsaysay authority had been monitoring us for the past five years. They even conducted research on our activities and collected information about us.”

JAAGO Foundation currently offers lessons to around 13,500 children with the help of UNICEF. In addition, the NGO also runs a USAID-funded training programme for 55,000 individuals who have dropped out of school, or could not finish their education, or are currently unemployed.

“We are teaching them relevant skills that can help them get employed,” Korvi said.

JAAGO Foundation began its journey in 2007 with the goal of voluntarily teaching underprivileged children. It started with only 17 children but eventually established a school in a slum in Rayerbazar.

In 2011, the foundation launched the platform “Volunteer for Bangladesh.”

JAAGO Foundation was registered as an NGO in 2020. It currently has 600 employees, with offices in 14 different locations outside Dhaka.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award is considered Asia's premier prize and highest honour. The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the seventh president of the Philippines.

This prestigious award recognises exceptional contributions of individuals in various fields, from public service to social innovation that impacts the lives of Asians.

Twelve other Bangladeshis who won the award include Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Prof Muhammad Yunus, Zafarullah Chowdhury, Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Matiur Rahman.

ASEAN SUMMIT

President to visit Indonesia

UNB, Dhaka

President Md Shahabuddin will visit Indonesia for the first time to attend the 43rd ASEAN Summit, upon the invitation of the country's President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

The summit will be held in Jakarta Convention Center on September 5-7.

The president is scheduled to depart Dhaka on September 4, said Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen, who will accompany him during the visit, at a media briefing at the ministry yesterday.

There will be a president-level bilateral meeting between the two nations, said Momen, adding that two MoUs on cooperation in the areas of energy and health could be signed.

Speaking as guest of chair, Shahabuddin will deliver a speech at the closing session on "Strengthening regional architecture to support the epicentrum of growth from the perspective of IORA," added Momen.



A motorbiker struggles to maintain his bike's balance on the inundated Malibagh-Khilgaon road in the capital. Regular waterlogging and submerged potholes make plying of vehicles on this section of the road difficult. The photo was taken yesterday near Malibagh Railgate area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SATELLITE PLANT

Dhaka hails French proposal

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering the French proposal of setting up observation satellite plant in Bangladesh and buying planes from Airbus.

"When we went to France [in 2021], they proposed it. We are considering the proposal. I think we welcome it," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said during a briefing yesterday.

He said the government is also considering to buy another satellite from France.

The first satellite of Bangladesh-Bangabandhu Satellite-1, a geostationary communications and broadcasting satellite, was launched on May 12, 2018.

During the Prime Minister's visit to France in 2021, France proposed selling two more satellites.

Momen said France also wants to sell 10 planes including two cargoes. Due to dollar crisis, the processing is delayed.

"We want both Boeing and Airbus. France technology is good, but final decision has yet to be taken," he said.

The issues will be discussed and even deals may be signed on the issues during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron on September 11, officials concerned said.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

Country sees third highest daily deaths

17 die, 2,308 hospitalised; DNCC mayor stresses awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 more people died from dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday as the country reported the third highest number of deaths in a single day this year.

Of the 17 deaths, 16 were reported in the capital.

With this, the total number of deaths from dengue this year rose to 593, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At least 2,308 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours, which took the tally of dengue cases to 1,23,808, making it the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Atiqul Islam, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), yesterday said, "Cannons or guns are not needed to kill Aedes mosquitoes. All we need to do is not letting water to accumulate."

Addressing a programme at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Academy in the city, Atique said it will be possible to prevent dengue only by removing water stored in yard, terrace, roof and unused container at house.

Awareness is the biggest "weapon" against dengue, he said.

"We have started a campaign on the hashtag "#fightwithbite" for

dengue awareness. This initiative has been taken to increase public participation. Nowadays social media is an easy and big platform. I request everyone to spread this awareness message through social media. Social movement should be developed to control dengue. Everyone should be aware," said Mayor Atique.

It will be possible to prevent dengue only by removing water stored in yard, terrace, roof and unused container at house.

ATIQUUL ISLAM
DNCC mayor

DNCC mayor also said, "Facebook influencers are involved in dengue awareness activities. Father and son of popular Facebook content creator Bap Ka Betta, Sijdas of Sijdas Classroom have come to tell about what to do to prevent dengue. I request other Facebook influencers to make people aware..."

Responding to a reporter's query, the mayor said they are trying in different ways to control dengue. Besides, they are continuing regular activities to prevent the mosquito-borne

disease and trying to involve everyone in those.

"I incorporated people popular on Facebook into the campaign. A theatre group consisting of students from various universities will make people aware by organising plays. They will... perform street plays in ten zones of the DNCC for the next one month," he said.

The mayor said they will also campaign by displaying the picture of Aedes mosquito on 20 rickshaws.

"If everyone tries together, it is possible to control Aedes mosquito," he added.

Prof Emeritus ABM Abdullah of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) said, "Aedes mosquitoes breed both indoors and outdoors. But it grows more in stagnant water at home. They are sometimes called a domesticated mosquito. Therefore, house should be kept clean... Try to save yourselves from mosquito bites."

Dr Mostak Hossain, former chief scientific officer at the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), said, "The monsoon is going on. If rainwater accumulates, Aedes mosquitoes breed there. So, within three days, the accumulated water should be thrown away."

2015 ARSON ATTACK

Rizvi, 6 others indicted for cop's death

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against seven people, including BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, in a case filed in connection with an arson attack that killed a policeman in 2015.

The judge also set September 13 for starting the trial of the case.

The other accused in the case are BNP joint secretary general Habibun Nabi Khan Sohel, the then New Market thana unit BNP president Abdus Sattar, its two members Mohammad Alfaz and Shah Alam, Dhaka College unit former JCD president Anwar Hossain alias Tipu, and Gausia Market unit BNP member Mohammad Rafiq Akand.

Of them, Tipu is on the run while Rizvi and others are now on bail.

Rizvi and five others, who are on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge (in-charge) Bilkis Akhter of Dhaka's 4th Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out the charges to them.

Charges were framed against Tipu and an arrest warrant was issued against him.

Earlier, the judge dismissed petitions

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Food, energy security, climate to top agenda

Says Momen ahead of G20 Summit in India

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh wants the G20 to help end the Russia-Ukraine war and address the challenges of food and energy security and climate change that are affecting the country, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"Bangladesh is the spokesperson of the Global South and remains vocal on climate issues. We do not want war. We want an end to the war," said Momen during a briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday.

He said Bangladesh would call for corrective actions to ensure food and energy security globally.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the G20 summit in New Delhi scheduled on September 9-10. There will also be a bilateral meeting between her and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the sideline.

Momen said the Indian Presidency of the G20 has brought a dynamic change in the concept and they hosted around 250 events in 50 cities.

He said India has taken a leadership role and Bangladesh will get the opportunity to draw attention to the developed countries.

"Bangladesh's participation at the upcoming G20 Summit aligns with our value-driven diplomatic efforts to champion the cause of sustainable development globally," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Repressive provisions of DSA remain in CSA

Says Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Repressive provisions of the Digital Security Act remain in the draft Cyber Security Act. The new act only witnessed a change in its name and amendments to some of its provisions, said a Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) report yesterday.

The rights organisation made the observation in their human rights report for the month of August. It publishes such a report every month based on various news reports and its own observations.

The report, signed by MSF founder Sultana Kamal, said the cabinet has approved CSA in the face of widespread criticism at home and abroad. However, the demand for discussions with all professional organisations was ignored in that process.

Article 6 of CSA and that of DSA remain identical, except for one modification in its corresponding penalty, read the report.

Also, Section 43 of DSA is the same as Section 42 of CSA. The sections states that a police officer search an office or a person, seize a computer or any such device, or even arrest without a warrant.

CSA can be used to prevent free-thinkers, including journalists, from expressing their opinions. Since many sections of CSA have been made bailable, those detained under the earlier acts are entitled to bail in equity, the report said.

According to MSF report, there were five cases under DSA in August. A total of four persons, including a juvenile, have been arrested in four of these cases filed over making "defamatory remarks" against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through social media posts, shares, and comments.

In August, 40 journalists were harassed in various ways while performing their professional duties, it added.

FOREIGN OBSERVERS IN POLLS

EC finalises draft of new guidelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission Secretariat yesterday finalised in principle the draft of the new guidelines for foreign election observers and journalists.

The draft will be sent to the election commissioners next week for their approval, officials said after an inter-ministerial meeting at the EC office yesterday.

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

Ashok Kumar Debnath, additional secretary to the EC Secretariat and chief of the committee to prepare the new guidelines, said they prepared the draft without any major changes.

"We will have an observer-friendly guideline," he told reporters after the meeting.

Asked about whether the EC will keep a provision requiring foreign observers to have prior monitoring experience, Ashok said, "We can suggest about the issue of observers requiring prior monitoring experience."

The EC moved to amend the existing guidelines after Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen met on August 10 to discuss the issue, said EC officials.

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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

The draft will be sent to the election commissioners next week for their approval.



A mobile court seizes batteries of three-wheelers in Rajbari, Gazipur. When this photo journalist inquired about the reason behind not seizing the vehicles, an executive magistrate said they do not have enough space to store all the vehicles and opted for this alternative to stop their illegal plying on main roads. The photo was taken yesterday in front of the area's DC office.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Biman's Dhaka-Tokyo flight starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-anticipated flight on Dhaka-Tokyo (Narita) route of Biman Bangladesh Airlines is going to start from today.

Shafiqul Azim, managing director and CEO of Biman, said the inaugural flight, BG-377, will take off from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 11:45pm local time and reach Narita International Airport in Tokyo on September 2 at 9:15am local time.

Azim said Biman flights from Dhaka to Tokyo will depart every Friday, Monday, and Wednesday at 11:45pm local time, and from Tokyo to Dhaka every Saturday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 11:00am local time.

The minimum one-way fare on the route is Tk 70,828, while the return ticket price is Tk 1,11,656 per passenger.

Khurshid Alam's death anniv today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Md Khurshid Alam, a fiction writer and former additional secretary.

On the occasion, food items will be distributed among orphans. All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

He was an official of BCS cadre (Admin) of 1982 batch. He also authored 19 books.

His first publication "Shwet-kopoter Dana" was published in 1987. Some of his other books include "Digomborir Prem Nei", "Bhangoner Podaboli", "Poribesh, Shomaj O Shamajik Bikash", and "Unoshotturer Koishor". His last book "Shikhhoker Shomudro Jatra" was published in 2008.

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 1					
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:30	12:30	4:45	6:33	8:00	
JAMAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

TUITION WANTED	
15 years of experience Maths teacher wants to teach O-A Level (Edexcel, Cambridge), Q/P solve, Mock test. B.Sc (Hons), M.Sc (Math), DU.	
DIPAK BARMAN 01712018889, 01777846252	0-109

কর্মাগিরা স্পেস বিক্রয়	
দিলকুশার ইউনুস ট্রেড সেন্টারের চত্বরে ৪০০০ বর্গফুটের একটি কর্মাগিরা স্পেস বিক্রয় করা হবে।	
01711059849 (M), 01622223330 (M)	D-110

OLD CAR SALE TENDER NOTICE

The management of **Otto International (Hong Kong) Limited**, Bangladesh Liaison Office as per Board Resolution dated **23 August 2023**, has decided to sale one old car in its current condition. The details are given below:

Sl. No.	Specification	Model	Registration No.
1.	Hyundai H1 Microbus	2012	DM Cha 53-6895

Tenders are hereby invited from genuine vendors/companies/individuals and highest bidder will be awarded accordingly. Interested bidders are requested to communicate with Mohammad Shah Alam Mridha, email: mohammad.mridha@ottoint.com Phone: +88(02)58955979 of **Otto International (HK) Limited**, Bangladesh Liaison Office by **15th September 2023**.

Otto International (Hong Kong) Limited, Bangladesh Liaison Office
Update Tower, Level 7&9, 1, Shahjalal Avenue, Sector-6, Uttara, Dhaka-1230

Jamuna crosses danger level in Sirajganj

Flood situation deteriorates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Jamuna's water levels crossed the danger threshold in Sirajganj early yesterday, deteriorating the flood situation. It may cross danger levels at every point in the district, after which water will recede according to water development board.

According to WDB, Sirajganj, the water level is 12.93 metres at the hard point of Sirajganj Sadar upazila, 3cm above the danger level. It increased by 9cm in the last 24 hours.

Simultaneously, water levels rose to 14.75 metres at Kazipur point of the

river, just 5cm below danger level.

"Water level has been increasing rapidly over last few days and might cross danger levels at every point within a day. It will likely increase over the next two days before it starts receding," said Ranajit Kumar, sub-divisional engineer of WDB, Sirajganj.

Incessant rain in Asam causes water levels to rise and deteriorates flood situation in the district, he added.

Meanwhile, low laying areas and shoal areas of the district have already been flooded due to continuous increase in water levels from last Friday, sources said.

Food, energy security, climate

FROM PAGE 3
Meanwhile, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma said India's invitation to Bangladesh to participate as a guest country during India's G20 Presidency underlined India's belief that Bangladesh's "developmental experience and growing capabilities" would add value to discussions at G20.

He said it also reflected the importance India attached to Bangladesh as a close friend and partner.

He was addressing an event titled "G20 Summit: Dhaka to New Delhi" at the Foreign Service Academy to mark Bangladesh's participation at the G20

Summit.

High Commissioner Verma observed that India's Presidency of G-20 came at a time when the global recovery was emerging from the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic and coping with a myriad of challenges, including supply chain disruptions, climate change, food and energy security risks, and geopolitical uncertainties.

The G20 Presidency has been an important recognition of India's capabilities to set the agenda and lead the global efforts for collective well-being during these difficult times.

In doing so, High Commissioner Verma noted that India has made special efforts to bring the aspirations and perspectives of the Global

South into the priorities and deliberations of G-20.

He described Bangladesh's participation in G20 this year as a valuable contribution to this goal.

The High Commissioner added that during its G-20 Presidency, India has strived to shape the global agenda based on the vision of "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

He stressed that India counts on Bangladesh's support to translate these ideas into action.

The event included panel discussions by diplomats, officials and experts on three key priority areas of India's G20 Presidency: Women-led Development, Digital Public Infrastructures, and Lifestyle for Environment and Green Development.

Rizvi, 6 others

FROM PAGE 3

submitted by the accused for discharging the charges against them.

According to the case statement, police constable Shamim Mia, 28, suffered injuries to his head while trying to escape a petrol bomb attack on a police bus near Matsya Bhaban in the capital on January 17, 2015. The attack left at least 13 police personnel injured.

After battling for life for 19 days, Shamim succumbed to his injuries at the capital's Square Hospital on February 5 of the same year.

Following the arson incident, police filed a case against 31 BNP leaders and activists for the arson attack.

Sub-Inspector Dipak Kumar Das of Detective Branch (DB) of police, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on June 4, 2015.

The IO also dropped the names of 26 BNP leaders and activists from the charge sheet in the case.

Media houses

FROM PAGE 5

congenial work environment for women in media.

Unesco Dhaka Officer-in-charge Susan Vize, Executive Editor of Dhaka Tribune Reaz Ahmad, Actress Azmeri Haque Badhon, Gitanjali Singh, country representative of UN Women, among others, participated in the discussion.

EC finalises draft

FROM PAGE 3

vehicle trackers, cameras, The Broadband Global Area Network (BGAN) facilities and other equipment with a tax waiver when they will visit during the upcoming election.

The current guidelines offer no such waiver.

At yesterday's meeting, it was discussed that since the National Board of Revenue has a policy regarding bringing necessary equipment, there is no need to add it to the observer policy.

If necessary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the NBR can discuss this matter.

It was discussed that the rules and regulations of Bangladesh

Telecommunication Regulatory Commission should be followed regarding bringing BGAN facilities.

The guidelines are being reviewed at a time when foreign diplomats are showing keen interest in the upcoming national election, likely due in January next year.

In August, the US said it would send a monitoring team early October to assess the pre-polls situation.

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

Teacher accused

FROM PAGE 5

cane when I refused to do so," said a fifth-grader.

"Madam forced me and others to clean the toilet today [Thursday]," said a fourth-grader.

When students informed the guardians, they teamed up and laid siege to the school. "We

want her removal," said Swapan Sarker, a guardian.

Contacted, Merina Khatun Banu refused to comment.

Parbatipur upazila education officer Md Anamul Haq Sarkar said he would take disciplinary action if a written complaint is filed.

Lone school on verge of collapse

FROM PAGE 5

So far, no sustainable measures have been taken by the government to stop it. We have lost our arable lands several times to the river," said Kamal Uddin Ahmed, 46, a resident of Banshtala area of Pachua union.

Santosh Karmakar,

sub-assistant engineer of WDB in Faridpur, said a total of 120,000 sand-filled geo bags have been used so far in three unions under Alfadanga upazila to prevent river erosion.

"Even so, erosion could not be stopped. The work has not stopped but due

Death anniv of Nurjahan Murshid today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 20th death anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid, a renowned politician, women's rights activist, and one of the organisers of the 1971 Liberation War, said a press release.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at her grave at Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital today.

Nurjahan was among the few Muslim women who pursued higher education and obtained her Master's degree in History from Calcutta University in the mid 1940s. She was the first Muslim woman to be employed as a broadcaster for All India Radio in 1946.

Born in Taranagar of Murshidabad district on May 24 in 1924, Nurjahan died in Dhaka on September 1, 2003. She played a significant role in different democratic movements.



Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRM SELECTION)

Memo No: 53.23.0000.013.34.002.23.6678 **Date: 30 August 2023**

Country: The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Name of the project: Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)
Credit No.: IDA-7300
Assignment Title: Selection of Firm for Situational Analysis
Reference No. PKSf/SMART/S-01

- The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.
- The consulting services ("the Services") include (but not limited to) scanning the present socio-economic condition of the microenterprise subsectors in Bangladesh in terms of sustainable employment and growth potentials, finding out strength, weakness, opportunity and threat of the selected sub-sector, examining the present environmental condition of the microenterprise of selected sub-sectors, mapping out the potential clusters followed by the sub-sectors, identifying key actors in the forward and backend value chains and their roles, and problems in the value chains etc.

The assignment will require an *estimated of 15.5 professional staff-months* as per the assignment requirement mentioned in the Terms of Reference (TOR). The assignment is scheduled to be completed within a period of four (04) months and is expected to be started from December 2023.

- The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be obtained from the PKSf website (www.pksf.org.bd/tender).
- The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are: *General experience, Experience in similar assignments, Experience in conducting similar studies under multilateral development partner (i.e. The World Bank/ IFAD/ EU/ UN agencies) funded projects, and Financial Capability of the firm.*

Consultants are requested to submit the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria:

- Up-to-date relevant registration papers of the firm(s);
- JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable) along with the proposed JV agreement;
- Firm's brochure including staffing;
- Relevant experience record of Last five (05) years (including name of the assignment, scope, contract amount, name of the client, total input in terms of man-month, period of contract (date of contract signing to date of completion), location of the services, *name of the development partner (as applicable) etc.*)
- Audited financial reports for the last three (03) completed financial years (including Balance sheet, Statement of cash flows, Profit & loss statement etc.);
- All other items necessary to substantiate satisfaction of the shortlisting criteria listed above and/or included in the TOR; However, Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage;

- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" Nov 2020 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. In the case of an association, all members of such "association" must have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment and in such "association" it is preferable to limit the total number of firms including the associates to a maximum of 02 (Two). Notably, the qualifications of sub-consultants will not be considered in the EOI evaluation and shortlisting process.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the **Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)** method set out in the World Bank Procurement Regulations.
- Further information can be obtained at the address below either by e-mail or in person during office hours: 10:00 to 15:00 hours.
- Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in a written form (Hard copy along with a soft copy through flash-drive) to the address of the undersigned (in person, or by courier mail) **by 20 September 2023 on or before 13:00 hours** Bangladesh Standard Time (BST).
- The Procuring Entity (PE) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

AQM Golam Mawla
Deputy Managing Director
Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, Plot: E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Tel: 88-02-222218331-33; E-mail: smartprocure.pksf@gmail.com

Invitation for Tenders (Goods)

damien foundation
let's act now, it's contagious

1	Organization Name	Damien Foundation
2	Source of Funds	Global Fund
3	Tender Package No.	GD-101
4	Invitation for Tenders Ref. & Date	DF/09/Package GD-101/2023; (01.09.2023)
5	Tender Name	Redesign and Upgrade of Culture and Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) Laboratories to BSL-2 Category at TB & Leprosy Hospital, Shomvuganj, Mymensingh
6	Time for Completion of Delivery	Eight (8) weeks for delivery of goods with two (2) years warranty
7	Eligibility of Tenderers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 05 years of experience in the supplying similar goods and related services to those that are the subject of the Tender The Tenderer shall have satisfactorily completed at least two (2) contracts of similar size and nature (period of contract execution, contract amount, and types and numbers of items delivered) during the last three (3) years for the value of Tk. 70 (seventy) lacs. The Tenderer shall have the availability of minimum liquid assets or working capital or credit from a Bank of Tk 1,50,00,000.00 (one crore fifty lac taka)
8	Price of Tender Document	1000 (one) thousand taka only
9	Amount of Tender Security	Tk 1,89,000.00 (one lac eighty-nine thousand)
10	Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Tender Document	Interested Tenderers may collect the documents from Damien Foundation Bangladesh, Apartment # 201, House # 10, Road # 96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. Selling of the Tender Document during (Sunday to Thursday: 9.00am to 5:00pm) working hours.
11	Name and address of the Offices(s) Receiving Tenders	Damien Foundation, Bangladesh Apartment # 201, House # 10, Road # 96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
12	Name and address of the Office Opening Tenders	Damien Foundation, Bangladesh Apartment # 201, House # 10, Road # 96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
13	Last Date and Time for Selling Tender Document	14 September 2023; at 5.00 PM (Local Time)
14	Last date and Time for Submission of Tenders	17 September 2023; at 12.00 PM (Local Time)
15	Date and Time for Opening of Tenders	17 September 2023; at 12.30 PM (Local Time); Tenderers and their authorized representatives are allowed to attend
16	Place of Pre-Tender Meeting	Damien Foundation, Bangladesh Apartment # 201, House # 10, Road # 96, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
17	Date and Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (optional)	05 September 2023; at 12.30 PM (Local Time)
18	Special instructions (optional)	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all tenders prior to acceptance.
19	Brief Description of Goods	The scope of work includes redesigning and renovating the TB laboratory and upgrading to Biosafety Level 2+ (BSL-2+) with directional airflow at a minimum and performing refurbishments to make them fit for purpose as required for conducting molecular diagnosis and conventional and liquid culture and Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) for TB.

MADHUMATI RIVER EROSION IN FARIDPUR

Lone school on verge of collapse in Bajra

Locals fear, if erosion goes on unchecked, more than 500 households will be lost

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Bajra-Charpara Government Primary School in Bajra village of Faridpur's Alfadanga upazila is the only institution that provides the children access to education in the area.

The school, however, is under threat of collapse due to erosion of Madhumati river, which is swelling with onrush of water in the monsoon and is now within a hand's reach from the school building.

"Madhumati is devouring our union [Gopalpur] gradually. The erosion will get worse when the river water will recede a few days later," said Gopalpur Union Parishad Chairman Khan Saiful Islam.

If we cannot save the school, our children will lose their scope to get education," said Araj Ali, 70, a resident of the village.

"The school was established in 1995 and its new building was built in 2012. The river has already come very close to the school building. The toilet of our school has tilted towards the west due to erosion. It may collapse any moment, and eventually the main building of the school will also cave in. Due to this fear, many students have stopped coming to the school," said Farida Begum, head teacher of the school.

Md Matabbar, 54, a resident of



Katlasur area of Gopalpur union, said the river has come within 200 metres of the houses being constructed under a shelter project at the village.

A similar scenario was seen across one and half kilometre stretch of the riverbank under Panchuria, Bana and Gopalpur unions in the upazila, leaving the people in panic with every passing day of monsoon.

Homesteads of at least 500 families, alongside schools and mosques in the three unions, are under grave threat of river erosion, according to locals.

The Water Development Board had dumped geo sand bags in the area for a

while, which reduced erosion to some extent. However, WDB stopped the work and erosion began again in the monsoon, said SM Mizanur Rahman, chairman of Pachuria union.

Every day, people of the area are having their homesteads and croplands disappearing into the river due to erosion, he said.

At least 200 bighas of cropland have already been lost due to river erosion this year in Bana union, said UP chairman Harun-or-Rashid.

"I have been witnessing erosion of the Madhumati river since my childhood.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Sundarbans reopens today after 3 months

Fishing ban lifted in Kaptai Lake

STAR REPORT

The Sundarbans is opening today for fishermen, other forest-based livelihood earners and tourists, after remaining closed for three months.

The forest department banned the entry of all types of foresters, including tourists, in the Sundarbans from June 1 to August 31 to ensure the breeding of 375 species of wild animals and 291 species of fish, including the Bengal tiger and deer.

The department provided fishermen, bawali (reed collectors), and other forest-based livelihood earners, including tour guides, with a pass permit yesterday to enter the Sundarbans ahead of the reopening.

Jaber Islam, a fisherman from Sharankhola in Bagerhat, told the Daily Star that they were in great trouble because of the ban, but now it's a relief that they can catch fish in the canals and rivers of the Sundarbans again.

Meanwhile, fishing in Rangamati's Kaptai Lake resumed in the early hours of today following the end of a ban of more than four months imposed by the local administration to boost fish production, reports UNB.

Though such a ban is usually enforced for three months, this year's ban lasted for 132 days due to a drop in the water level of the lake due to a lack of rain.

The decision to withdraw the ban was taken at a meeting presided over by Rangamati Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Mosaraf Hossain Khan yesterday.

Teacher accused of forcing students to clean toilet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Over 100 villagers yesterday besieged a primary school, protesting "misconducts" of the head teacher, who allegedly forced students to clean toilets and wash clothes.

The incident took place at Kumarpara Government Primary School in Raghunathpur area in Dinaipur around 10:00am and continued for three hours.

Speaking to The Daily Star, several students and guardians alleged that head teacher Merina Khatun Banu forced student to do menial jobs like cleaning toilets, washing clothes and utensils. If any student refused, she physically punished them, they alleged.

"I was forced to wash clothes of madam [head teacher] recently. In the past, she beat me with a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

UNESCO ROUNDTABLE

Media houses yet to be women friendly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The workplace environment for media professionals is not particularly welcoming for women, and people do not have a full understanding of gender issue because they are not taught about it in school, speakers said in a roundtable yesterday.

Unesco in partnership with UN Women organised the roundtable discussion on Gender-friendly Working Environment in Media at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

In the discussion, speakers said that women presence in media is still disproportionately low and stressed that work needs to be done to create a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ				
মধুপুর, ডাকঘরঃ ধামসোনা, থানাঃ আশুলিয়া				
উপজেলাঃ সাভার, জেলাঃ ঢাকা				
মারক নং- খাইপকা/সাভার/১% টেকার/২০২৩/২১				
৩০/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ				
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২৩-২০২৪				
সাভার উপজেলাধীন স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের অধীনে স্থাবর সম্পত্তি হস্তান্তর কর ১% আয় খাতের আওতাধীন নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাস্তমুহে বাস্তবায়নের জন্য সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির (এলটিএম) মাধ্যমে হাসনাবাদকৃত টিকাদার/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীমাহীনবরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।				
১।	মস্তশালার	ঃ	স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।	
২।	এজেক্টিভ/প্রতিষ্ঠান	ঃ	স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ, আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।	
৩।	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটিসি নাম	ঃ	মুহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম, চেয়ারম্যান, স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউপি, আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।	
৪।	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটিসি জেলা	ঃ	ঢাকা	
৫।	দরপত্র সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	ঃ	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (এলটিএম)	
৬।	অর্থের উৎস	ঃ	স্থাবর সম্পত্তি হস্তান্তর কর ১% আয় খাত (স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ)।	
৭।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	ঃ	০১/২০২৩-২০২৪	
৮।	দরপত্র জারি/প্রতি	ঃ	দরপত্র খোলার দিন হতে ৯০ দিন পর্যন্ত বলবৎ থাকবে।	
৯।	সি-টেকার মিটিং এর তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	১১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ, সময়ঃ সকাল ১১ ঘটিকা, স্থানঃ স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ হলরুম।	
১০।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	তারিখ- ২০/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ, সময়- বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা, স্থান- ক) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, সাভার, ঢাকা। খ) স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কার্যালয়, আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।	
১১।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	তারিখ- ২১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ, সময়- দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, স্থান- ক) উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়, সাভার, ঢাকা। খ) স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কার্যালয়, আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।	
১২।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	ঃ	তারিখ- ২১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ, সময়- দুপুর ৩.০০ ঘটিকা, স্থান- স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ কার্যালয়, আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা।	
১৩	দরপত্র সহিত সংযুক্ত কাগজপত্রাদি	ঃ	দরপত্র দাখিলে উল্লেখিত অভিজ্ঞতার ও লিকুইড অ্যাসেস্টের সত্যায়িত সনদপত্র সমূহ, হাসনাবাদকৃত ট্রেডলাইসেন্স, জাতি রেজিস্ট্রেশন পর, টিজাইএন সার্টিফিকেট এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।	
১৪।				
প্যাকেজ নং	কার্যের নাম	প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য	বারান টাকার পরিমাণ (টাকা)	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (টাকা)
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-01	সুবর্ণী ওয়াডা উদ্ভিদ সেওয়াসের বাড়ী হতে সুকজ সেওয়াসের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৮৭২১০০০.০০	২১৯০০০.০০	১৫০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-02	ভাদাইল সরকার মাঠে হতে পুনরারটেক বদর আলীর বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	১০৪৪৩০০০.০০	৩৩৬১০০.০০	৩০০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-03	ভাদাইল শাহজাহান মাঠে হতে বিপ্লবের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	১৩১৮১০০০.০০	৩৩০০০.০০	৩০০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-04	ভিইসিডেক হাটান এপারমেন্ট হতে নাদির গার্মেন্টস পর্যন্ত হাইওয়ে রাস্তার পূর্বপার্শ্বে আরসিসি দ্বারা নির্মাণ	৫৬৩০০০০.০০	১৪১০০০.০০	১৫০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-05	পদাশবাড়ী পশ্চিমপাড়া গোচারের টেক মোঃ লিয়াকত হোসেনের বাড়ী হতে গোচারের টেক জালাল উদ্দিনের বাড়ী পর্যন্ত রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৩৭০৪০০০.০০	৯২৬০০.০০	১০০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-06	পদাশবাড়ী পশ্চিমপাড়া আমির হোসেনের বাড়ী হতে গরিন মন্ডলের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৬৯১৮০০০.০০	১৭৩০০০.০০	১৫০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-07	পদাশবাড়ী পশ্চিমপাড়া মোঃ মজিবুর রহমানের বাড়ী হতে আলী আফগর চৌধুরীর বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৬২১৫০০০.০০	১৫৫৫০০.০০	১৫০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-08	ডেভাবর নতুনপাড়া (ক) কামরুল সিকদারের বাড়ী হতে খোকনের বাড়ীর রাস্তা ব্রিক ড্রেইন ও আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৭৫৮০০০০.০০	১৯০০০০.০০	২০০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-09	ডেভাবর পশ্চিমপাড়া সিরাজুলের দোকান হতে এনায়েতপুর শহিরের বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৫৮২০০০০.০০	১৩২০০০.০০	১৫০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-10	এনায়েতপুর ফজলুর জমি হতে আবুল কাশেমের জমি পর্যন্ত দক্ষিণপার্শ্বে আরসিসি দ্বারা নির্মাণ	৫৪২০০০০.০০	১৩৫৫০০.০০	১৫০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-11	এনায়েতপুর আব্দুল খালেকের বাড়ী হতে মুরুর আলী মামদর সুপার মাঠে ভায়া হাজী মুহুজ আলী বেগারী মাঠে পর্যন্ত রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	১১৬৮০০০০.০০	২৯২০০০.০০	৩০০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-12	ফুসেরটেক আমিনুল ইসলামের বাড়ী হতে ফুসেরটেক ওদর আলীর বাড়ীর রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৪৪৭১০০০.০০	১১২০০০.০০	১০০০.০০
Sav/Dup- 1%/ 23-24/W-13	নলাম পদাশবাড়া পনেশ মাঠের জমি হতে নলাম পশ্চিমপাড়া সিরাজুল ইসলামের জমি পর্যন্ত রাস্তা আরসিসি দ্বারা উন্নয়ন	৭৩৭২০০০.০০	১৮০০০০.০০	২০০০.০০
১৫।	দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত টেকার বারানর টাকা যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডার/চ্যাক ড্রাউ চ্যেয়ারম্যান, স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ বরাবর দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন, টিকাদার নির্বাচন এবং পরবর্তী প্রতিটি ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও বিধিমালা-২০০৮ (পরবর্তী সংশোধনসহ) সকল বিধি বিধান অনুসরণ করা হবে।			
১৬।	বরাক প্রান্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান/বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে।			
১৭।	কর্তৃক্ষ কোন কারণে দরপত্র প্রতিলিপি সরাসরি দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।			
<p>মুহাম্মদ সাইফুল ইসলাম চেয়ারম্যান স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা</p>				
জিডি-১৩৩২				

DEFAMING FAKHRUL

Man sued for Tk 500cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was sued yesterday

for Tk 500 crore in

Thakurgaon for defaming

BNP Secretary General

Mirza Fakhrul and his wife.

Joyal Abedin, general

secretary of Thakurgaon

Bar Association and also

human rights secretary of

district unit BNP, filed the case under sections 500

and 501 with additional chief judicial magistrate's

court, accusing Mehedi Hasan Rony, 27, of Bajitpur

village in Rangpur's Pirganj upazila.

In the complaint, Joyal alleged that Rony

defamed a renowned politician like Mirza Fakhrul

and his wife by using Facebook to circulate the

doctored image of a TK 50 lakh cheque from

the PM fund with the BNP leader and his wife's

photos.

Joyal in the case also demanded Tk 500 crore as

compensation for the defamation.

The plaintiff also said that Judge Ramesh Kumar

Daga of the court received the case and will deliver

directives later in this regard.



Missing boy's body found in Karnaphuli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Police yesterday recovered the body of a seventh grader, who went missing after school on Tuesday, from Karnaphuli river in city's Abhay Mitra Ghat area.

Adrip Ayan Sayan, 13, son of Biswa Jit Das, a resident of city's South Bakalia area, was a student of Hazi Muhammad Mohsin High School in the city.

However, police could not determine whether it was a murder or suicide.

His body, which did not have any injury marks, was identified by his father, said police. River police recovered the floating body after locals informed the police at around 2:00pm.

Adrip went missing from the College Road area on Tuesday.

His father filed a missing diary with Chawakbazar Police Station in this regard, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Md Imran.

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ				
মারক নং-বঙ্গবন্ধুবিজ্ঞান/নিয়োগ/২০২৩/২৬-২৯/১২৫২				
তারিখঃ ৩১ আগস্ট ২০২৩				
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গোপালগঞ্জ-এর এ্যাপ্রায়েড কমিটি/নিয়োগ ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, সিভিল, আর্কিটেকচার, ফুড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, রসায়ন, পরিসংখ্যান, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, পরিবেশ বিজ্ঞান ও দূর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা, ফার্মেসী, উদ্ভিদবিজ্ঞান, মার্কেটিং, ফিন্যান্স এন্ড ব্যাংকিং, ট্যুরিজম এন্ড হসপিটালিটি ম্যানেজমেন্ট, রপ্তানিবিজ্ঞান, ইংরেজি, বাংলা, ফিশারিজ এন্ড মেরিন বায়োসায়েন্স, এনিম্যাল সায়েন্স এন্ড ভেটেরিনারি মেডিসিন বিভাগসমূহে সহকারী অধ্যাপক/প্রভাষক, প্রভাষক ও গ্রন্থাগারিক পদসমূহে শুনা পদের বিপরীতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।				
আবেদন ফর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও নিয়োগের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট www.bsmrstu.edu.bd থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ২৭/০৯/২০২৩ বিকাল ০৪.০০টা।				
<p>বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান চেয়ারম্যান স্বনির্ভর ধামসোনা ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ আশুলিয়া, সাভার, ঢাকা</p>				
জিডি-১৩৩১				

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়	
বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০৫/২০২৩	তারিখঃ ২৯-০৮-২০২৩
রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের গণযোগাযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।	
পদের নাম : প্রভাষক = ০৩ (তিন) টি স্থায়ী পদ।	
বেতনক্রম : প্রভাষক পদে টাঃ ২২,০০০-৫৩,০৬০/-	প্রাক্কলিত ভাতাদি, ৮ম জাতীয় বেতনস্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী।
উপর্যুক্ত পদে নিয়োগের জন্য শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, আবেদন ফি এবং আবেদন পদ্ধতির বিস্তারিত বিবরণ রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের Website-এ পাওয়া যাবে। Online পদ্ধতিতে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করে ০৯ সেট দরখাস্ত ২৪-০৯-২০২৩ তারিখ বিকাল ৪.০০টার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে জমা দিতে হবে।	
শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা (প্রভাষক পদের জন্য)	
১। ক) গণযোগাযোগ ও সাংবাদিকতা বিভাগে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীর ০৪ (চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও স্নাতকোত্তর/মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী থাকতে হবে। খ) স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও স্নাতকোত্তর/মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও স্নাতকোত্তর/মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। গ) এসএসসি/সম্মান এবং এইচএসসি/সম্মান পরীক্ষায় জিপিএ ১০ (৫.০০+৫.০০) এর মধ্যে ৮.৫০ থাকতে হবে। তবে কোনোটিতে জিপিএ ৪.০০ এর কম থাকা যাবে না। ঘ) স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) ও স্নাতকোত্তর/মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী পরীক্ষার ফলাফলে মেধাতালিকায় কেবল প্রথম হতে সপ্তম স্থান অধিকার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন। ঙ) স্নাতকোত্তর/মাস্টার্স পর্যায়ে খিসিস গ্রুপ থেকে উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারী প্রার্থী অগ্রাধিকার পাবেন।	
বিস্ত্র: ০২-০৪-২০১৮ তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০১৮ অনুসারে যারা আবেদন করেছিলেন তাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।	
<p>রেজিস্ট্রার রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়</p>	
জিডি-১৩২৯	

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) IRESPPW-2 nd PHASE		
Palli Bhaban, 5 Kawranbazar, Dhaka-1215.		
Phone: 02-41010341, email: pdiresppw@gmail.com		
Memo No:47.62.0000.966.07.010.23-1270		Date: 30/08/2023
e-Tender Notice		
Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
e-Tenders are invited in the e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works.		
Tender ID	Name of Work	Tender last selling and closing Date and Time
866202	Construction of Boundary wall, internal road & drain, Guard shade & Main gate of NRDT, Noakhali.	24-Sep-2023 12:00 24-Sep-2023 16:00
866227	Construction of Boundary wall, internal road & drain, Guard shade & Main gate of residential complex, Noakhali.	24-Sep-2023 12:00 24-Sep-2023 15:55
866236	Repair, renovation & Modernization of three storied residential staff quarter, BRDB, Noakhali.	24-Sep-2023 12:00 24-Sep-2023 15:50
866240	Repair, renovation & Modernization of two storied residential officer's quarter, BRDB, Noakhali.	24-Sep-2023 12:00 24-Sep-2023 15:45
866245	Repair, renovation & Modernization of Academic building, NRDT, Noakhali.	24-Sep-2023 12:00 24-Sep-2023 15:40
866294	Repair, renovation & Modernization of Auditorium building, NRDT, Noakhali.	24-Sep-2023 12:00 24-Sep-2023 15:30
The interested persons/firms may visit the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.		
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).		
<p>30.08.2023 Mohammad Rashedul Alam Project Director</p>		
GD-1330		

If we overcome budget issues, we can outshine Bollywood: Shamol Mawla

The first season of ‘Shodor Ghatar Tiger’, directed by Sumon Anowar, faced criticisms as it contained U/A-rated scenes in it. “OTT is a personal medium, and contents are curated carefully with proper age gradations,” shared the actor.

SHARMIN JOYA

2023 has been a great year for Shamol Mawla, as six OTT projects featuring the actor were released until now.

“Each character I have donned so far in the web arena is different from one another,” said the *Mohanagar* famed actor.

The versatile artiste began the year with the release of the much-anticipated web-series *Mohanagar-2*, directed by Ashfaque Nipun.

In May, two productions hit the streaming sites—*Shodor Ghatar Tiger 2* and *The Silence*.

The first season of *Shodor Ghatar Tiger*, directed by Sumon Anowar, faced criticisms as it contained U/A-rated scenes in it. “OTT is a personal medium, and contents are curated carefully with proper age gradations,” shared the actor.

Stating his point, he further added, “I believe, it depends more on the subscriber’s mood when choosing a show. Somedays we love watching thrillers, while there are days, we prefer light-hearted contents. Thus, a platform should have a wide range of gallery with contents of different tastes. It falls on the user to decide when and what to watch depending on their mood.”

On the other hand, Vicky Zahed’s web-series, *The Silence*, marked his first collaboration with the director, alongside Mehazabien Chowdhury as a co-artist. After the immense success of the show, the trio once again appeared together in *Ami Ki Tumi?*, released in July. Both of the series earned accolades and much appreciation from the audience.

“I feel truly blessed for having worked in such strong and unique scripts,” he asserted. “Vicky’s both projects, and Anam Biswas’

Virus brought dimensions in our local narratives. We are already ahead of Kolkata’s OTT contents, and If we can overcome budget issues, we can outshine Bollywood too.”

Has Shamol’s nearly three decades of journey in the industry earned him the acknowledgement he genuinely deserved? The *Money Honey* actor shared his thought, “People have showered me with all their love and support, and being an artiste, I cannot ask for more.”

Talking about the deserved recognition in the fraternity, the actor sighed, “I don’t have the power to control others’ perspective, thus, I hope my work will reshape their views someday.”

Attesting to his humbleness, he shared, “I believe that the artiste in me is yet to grow more.”

Shamol is currently enjoying the success of his released works, and waiting for the soon-to-be released indie web-series. The platform of the upcoming project is yet to be revealed.



Three Bangladeshi films selected for BIFF

The curtains are set to rise on October 4 in South Korea, marking the commencement of the 28th edition of the esteemed Busan International Film Festival (BIFF). This year, three films from Bangladesh have secured a place at this prestigious event.

Biplob Sarkar’s *Agontuk (The Stranger)*, and Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury’s *Boli The Wrestler* will compete in the festival’s ‘New Currents’ competition section. Additionally, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki’s directorial *Something Like an Autobiography* will compete in the ‘Jiseok’ section.



Hollywood writers-actors’ strike dampens Venice Film Festival’s fervor

In the midst of the glitzy atmosphere of the Venice Film Festival, the event’s jury president, Damien Chazelle, highlighted the ongoing strikes by Hollywood writers and actors that have cast a shadow over the vigor of the festival. The *La La Land* director voiced his concern about the strikes that have brought a halt to much of the US entertainment industry.

He emphasised the difficulties faced by those in the industry due to the ongoing strike.

For the first time in 63 years, artistes have united in a strike, advocating for limitations on the use of artificial intelligence and better compensation in the evolving landscape of streaming entertainment.

NEWS

BNP stares at tough times

FROM PAGE 12
ability to launch a united movement.

Since late July, the BNP has been demonstrating in Dhaka.

The number of people attending the events was not as large as expected by the top leaders. Besides, the programmes saw attacks, arrests, and lawsuits against countless activists across Bangladesh.

From July 28 to August 29, law enforcers accused 13,430 activists in 327 cases, arrested at least 1,620, and injured 1,250, according to the BNP.

The BNP will observe its anniversary by placing wreaths at the grave of its founder Ziaur Rahman in the capital at 10:30am, holding a rally in Nayapaltan around 3:00pm, and taking out a procession after the rally.

India’s Adani hits back

FROM PAGE 12
stock in the conglomerate “through offshore structures that obscured their involvement”.

Adani said in a statement yesterday that it “categorically” rejected the OCCRP’s findings and accused the investigative journalism network of seeking to profit by “driving down our stock prices”.

“We have complete faith in the due process of law and remain confident of the quality of our disclosures and corporate governance standards,” it said.

“In light of these facts, the timing of these news reports is suspicious, mischievous and malicious.”

A meteoric rise in Adani Group’s share prices — its main listed unit shot up more than 1,000 percent in five years — funded the conglomerate’s breakneck expansion.

Billionaire founder Gautam Adani, who was until this year the world’s third-richest man, lost two-thirds of his net worth in the wake of the Hindenburg allegations.

He is considered a close associate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a fellow native of Gujarat state.

Opposition parties and other critics say their relationship helped Adani to unfairly win business and avoid proper oversight.

His empire’s rapid expansion into capital-intensive businesses has raised alarms, with Fitch subsidiary

In different districts and cities, discussions and other events will be held, said a statement issued yesterday.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is restricted from leaving her house and acting chairman Tarique Rahman is leading the party from London.

The BNP was founded on September 1, 1978, by late president Ziaur Rahman with a 19-point programme “to build a self-reliant Bangladesh”.

The party formed governments four times — once under the leadership of Ziaur and thrice under his widow Khaleda Zia. It boycotted the January 5, 2014 election, but participated in the 2018 election when Khaleda was in jail.

and market researcher CreditSights warning last year that Adani Group was “deeply overleveraged”.

Shares in the conglomerate’s flagship Adani Enterprises fell dramatically after the January allegations by Hindenburg, a short-seller that not only tracks corporate wrongdoing but also makes money by betting on stocks falling.

They remain 35 percent down from the start of the year, falling another 2.4 percent yesterday morning trade on the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Assaulted engineer

FROM PAGE 12
A staff of the Kaliganj Nesco office, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star yesterday, “We are very scared. We were also beaten. It is not safe for us to work in Kaliganj.”

Kaliganj Police Station OC (investigation) Habibur Rahman said they will investigate the complaint and take legal action accordingly.

Rocky on Tuesday told this newspaper that 10-12 youths went to his office and identified themselves as AL and Chhatra League men.

“They said they came to my office as I didn’t receive the call from the social welfare minister’s son Rakibuzzaman Ahmed.

“The attackers beat me and abused me verbally. I left Kaliganj because I was threatened with life.”

Govt not harassing Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 12

than 160 global leaders and Nobel laureates, including former US president Barack Obama, in an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed their concern about the safety of Prof Yunus.

They said they are alarmed that Prof Yunus has recently been targeted by what they believe is continuous judicial harassment and asked the premier to immediately suspend the current judicial proceedings against him.

Prof Yunus faces cases over violation of the labour law and evasion of tax payments.

On July 23, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court upheld a High Court verdict that justified the tax authorities’ decision to impose tax on the money Prof Yunus donated to his three charitable trusts. Two days later, the Nobel laureate paid Tk 12.47 crore tax on the money he donated to his three trusts.

Foreign Minister Momen said Prof Yunus brought laurels for the country, but it is not unusual that such personalities may face

punishment. There are many such instances, he added.

He said as far as he knew, five percent of the profits of Prof Yunus’ companies were supposed to be shared with the workers, but this was not done.

“Those who have written the letter may have not known these matters clearly. They thought he is possibly being harassed for political purposes. I hope those who wrote the letter would learn in detail about the matter. We will definitely provide them with the information if they want to know from us.”

Momen said the government won’t hold any diplomatic briefing on the issue.

Asked if the government felt any pressure, he replied in the negative.

“The court will decide on the matter.... If the major foreign leaders ask us to withdraw the case, we cannot do so because our judiciary is independent.

“If the court thinks that the case has no merit, it can do whatever it deems right. We have nothing to do with it,” Momen said.

AL to stay on streets

FROM PAGE 12

associate bodies will have their own programmes.

Jubo League, the youth front of the AL, is also planning to hold a massive rally in the capital.

Hasina will address the Chhatra League rally scheduled for 3:00pm today.

The student body conducted rigorous offline and online campaigns across the country to make the rally a success and gather the people.

Its central committee has asked Chhatra League units, even those at educational institutions, to send a certain number of activists to the rally.

According to Chhatra League insiders, the units have been asked to explain to the central committee if they fail to send the number of people requested. The unit sending the most people would be rewarded, they said.

Speaking at a press conference

yesterday, Chhatra League President Saddam Hussain said, “We are going to have the biggest student gathering in recent times ... The message of ‘no compromise with the killers’ will be conveyed through the student rally.”

Tomorrow’s “citizen’s rally” at the old trade fair ground will be organised by Dhaka city AL units (north and south) at 3:30pm.

They aim to get 5 lakh people for the rally which representatives of foreign countries, donor organisations, and civil society members will join.

Sources said 11 district AL units of Dhaka division and Narayanganj and Gaziipur city units have been asked to send a certain number of people to the rally.

Two Dhaka city units were asked to send 100,000 people each while the Dhaka district unit 50,000. The other district units were asked to send on an average 30,000 people.

UN body’s suggestions

FROM PAGE 12

2022, included repealing Sections 21 and 28.

Section 28 punishes publication of information that “hurts religious values or sentiment”.

Section 21 criminalises “any kind of propaganda or campaign against the Liberation War, spirit of the Liberation War, father of the nation, national anthem or the national flag”.

“International human rights law protects individuals from intolerance, violence and discrimination based on their religion or belief, but it does not allow restriction of criticism of religious belief or sentiment,” she wrote in her August 28 letter sent under the mandate of the special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

“Furthermore, the imprecise language of the provisions would risk encouraging human rights abuses in the name of religion.”

She also pointed out that criticism of state authorities, including the head of the state, and diverse views relating to a state’s flag, national symbols or historical events are legitimate expressions, protected by international law.

“While appreciating the [Bangladesh] government’s desire to protect the distinct national historical legacy of Bangladesh, the vague and broadly framed nature of this provision could lead to unlawful restriction of political expression and is not consistent with international law.”

Irene Khan encouraged the government to promote respect for the liberation struggle and national symbols and values through enhanced public education instead of pursuing criminalisation.

She also recommended that

the government replace criminal defamation in the CSA and the Penal Code with a provision on civil defamation to help limit the claim only to those directly affected. Another recommendation is this regard was to include public interest in the subject matter as valid defences.

Her letter further said, “The criminalisation of ‘offensive or false information’ [Section 25] is both contrary to international law standards and ineffective in combating disinformation and misinformation.”

“The right to freedom of expression applies to all kinds of information and ideas, including those that may shock, offend or disturb.”

Access to independent, diverse and pluralistic media, and digital and media literacy of the public has proven to be more effective against false information than criminalisation and censorship, she added.

The special rapporteur pointed out that the DSA’s Section 27 on cyber terrorism has been reproduced in the draft CSA.

“That definition of cyber terrorism is extremely broad and vague, and does not refer to the elements in the international definition of terrorism.”

She also said that law enforcement agencies and the telecommunications regulatory authority enjoy extensive, unfettered power under the draft law.

Section 42 gives police a very wide authority to search and seize, and arrest any person without a warrant.

“The experience of the DSA suggests strongly that independent judicial oversight over the conduct of search, seizure and arrest by law enforcement officials must be strengthened.

“The punishments remain disproportionately harsh under the draft act ... The proposed changes would not be significant enough to be meaningful.”

74 killed as fire guts

FROM PAGE 12

the flames.

Blankets and sheets used for escape hung from the burned-out windows. Witnesses spoke of parents throwing their babies out into the street, hoping to save them.

“There were people catching the babies and there were also mattresses laid out for (them),” said Mac Katlego, 25, who lives across the street.

Mulaudzi said rescuers were combing the building “floor by floor” as firefighters damped down hotspots after putting out the flames.

“This is a great tragedy, felt by families whose loved ones perished in this terrible manner,” South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said at an event in the southern city of Gqeberha. “Our hearts go out to every person who is affected by this disaster.”

S CHINA SEA ROW
4 countries
reject China’s
latest map

REUTERS

The Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam have rejected as baseless a map released by China that denotes its claims to sovereignty including in the South China Sea and which Beijing said yesterday should be viewed rationally and objectively.

China released the map on Monday of its famous U-shaped line covering about 90 percent of the South China Sea, a source of many of the disputes in one of the world’s most contested waterways.

The Philippines called on China yesterday “to act responsibly and abide by its obligations” under international law. Malaysia said it had filed a diplomatic protest over the map.

China says the line is based on its historic maps. It was not immediately clear whether the latest map denotes any new claim to territory.

US approves first arms to Taiwan under aid program

China warns the move would harm the island

AFP, Washington

President Joe Biden’s administration has for the first time approved direct US military aid to Taiwan under an assistance program aimed at foreign governments, officials said yesterday, as worries grow over China.

The State Department informed Congress on Tuesday of the \$80 million package, which is small compared with recent sales to Taiwan but marks the first assistance to Taipei under the Foreign Military Financing program, which generally involves grants or loans to sovereign countries.

For five decades, the United States has officially recognized only Beijing although Congress, under the Taiwan Relations Act, requires supply of weapons to the self-governing democracy for its defense. Successive US administrations have done so through sales rather than direct aid to Taiwan, with formal statements speaking in the tone of business



transactions with the island’s de-facto embassy in Washington.

The State Department insisted that the first-ever aid under the program did not imply any recognition of Taiwan sovereignty. “Consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act and our longstanding One China policy, which has not changed, the United States makes available to Taiwan defense articles and services necessary to enable it to maintain a sufficient self-defense capability,” a State Department spokesperson said.

“The United States has an abiding interest in peace and

stability in the Taiwan Strait, which is critical to regional and global security and prosperity.”

Taiwan’s defense ministry expressed gratitude. “The aid will help in regional peace and stability,” it said in a short statement.

China’s defense ministry, asked about the aid at a regular briefing, warned that US military aid to Taiwan would harm the island.

“US military aid and sales to Taiwan only nourish the US military-industrial complex while harming the security and well-being of Taiwan compatriots,” spokesperson Wu Qian told a briefing.

Gabon coup followed flawed polls

Says EU’s Borrell

AFP, Toledo

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell noted yesterday the military coup in Gabon could not be compared to the crisis in Niger, arguing officers intervened after ousted president Ali Bongo won an unfair election.

“Naturally, military coups are not the solution, but we must not forget that in Gabon there had been elections full of irregularities,” he said, arguing a rigged vote could amount to a civilian “institutional coup”.

Borrell was speaking just ahead of a meeting of EU foreign ministers at which they were to discuss how to help ECOWAS handle the military takeover in Niger.

The meeting in the Spanish city of Toledo was to be attended by ECOWAS chairman and foreign minister of the ousted Niger civilian government.

Unbearable weight of grief

FROM PAGE 1

told this correspondent. “They used to wait all week for Friday. How would I live?” asked the grieving father, while walking aimlessly near his home in Paikpara.

To cope with the grief, Ibrahim and Rabeya have decided to leave the neighbourhood to get away from the place where they were raising their children.

Arafat had a mild fever on August 14. After visiting a doctor the next day, the family ate out and took selfies that turned out to be the last photos of them together.

On August 16, a test confirmed that Arafat had dengue. A neighbourhood doctor said there was no need for hospitalisation because the boy was not seriously ill.

But Arafat’s blood platelet counts dropped the next day, and by the time Ibrahim took him to a hospital on August 18, he was dead.

“We were not given any chance to do anything. After he died, my wife and I blamed ourselves thinking we had neglected his treatment. When Raida

tested positive for dengue within days, we tried everything.

“But there were no beds available at hospitals. There was no room in the paediatric intensive care units. We went from one hospital to another.”

Eventually, Raida was admitted to the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU) of a hospital in Dhanmondi. After five days, she was released.

But soon after returning home, she fell ill again. Then she was admitted to the PICU of another private hospital in Mohakhali.

Doctors planned to give her seven injections that would cost Tk 3 lakh. Two injections were administered. But on the morning of August 25, Raida died.

“They could not be without each other for a moment. That’s why they have gone together. We buried them beside each other in Hemayetpur.”

Ibrahim’s brother said the city corporations were responsible for the tragedies as they failed to combat the mosquito population and the health system for failing to handle the outbreak.

Should Bangladesh try Wolbachia?

FROM PAGE 1

Queensland in the early 2000s, this natural, self-sustaining and environmentally friendly method was first applied as a means of controlling dengue in Australia’s Queensland in 2011.

As a result, Far-north Queensland is now essentially a dengue-free area for the first time in well over 100 years, according to the World Mosquito Program.

After successful trials in Australia, the method was expanded to countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Brazil between 2016 and

2020. Studies showed that the release of Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes reduced dengue cases to a great extent – ranging from 70-80 percent in treated areas.

Hasan Mohammad Al-Amin, a researcher on Bangladeshi Mosquito at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Australia’s Queensland, recommended implementing the Wolbachia method in Bangladesh.

The Wolbachia approach offers a promising way to reduce dengue transmission without relying on

chemicals, he said, adding that Bangladesh can apply the approach for a sustainable solution in addition to others.

The method can be deployed in addition to other mosquito control programmes.

“Not that this will solve the current outbreak, but it will be fruitful in the future if it is started now,” he added.

Kabirul Bashar, professor of medical entomology at Jahangirnagar University, however, expressed scepticism about its viability in Bangladesh.

Introducing Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes across

a vast area like Dhaka lacks scientific validity, given the challenges of adapting laboratory-reared mosquitoes to real-world conditions, he said.

“I don’t completely dismiss the technology. If it can be brought to Bangladesh, local entomologists can produce Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes in the laboratory and potentially implement it on a smaller scale for testing. Otherwise, the feasibility on an economic level remains questionable.”

Besides, there might be financial corruption in the project, he added.

Political rifts

FROM PAGE 1

and the rich crush the laws. A strong and independent judiciary is indispensable for a strong democratic system,” Hasan Foez said. “The desire to bring about changes in the judiciary was roused in me by people’s growing demand for solving problems. Perhaps I could just create a stir. The steps I have taken will contribute to solving their problems but solutions to all the problems are not possible overnight,” he said.

Talking about solutions, he said finding comprehensive solutions requires a lot of initiatives, including coordinated approaches and a commitment to rid social, political and state institutions of corruption.

The chief justice urged the politically affiliated lawyers to think about the colossal sacrifices made for this country at least 10 times before they take any decision that may damage the image of the judiciary.

“If your decisions are wrong, the state and judiciary will be harmed ultimately. The learned lawyers must take a stand against those forces which weaken the judiciary and impede the establishment of democracy and the rule

of law,” he said.

Hasan Foez said the judiciary is the protector of the fundamental rights of the people as well as the constitution. The judges have to be brave, liberal, patient, thoughtful, kind and prudent to ensure justice, he added.

The chief justice said independence of the judiciary is essential for establishing participatory democracy, the rule of law, and the rights of the weaker sections of society.

All the judges and lawyers of the Appellate Division and the High Court Division of the Supreme Court were present at the programme.

Contractors

FROM PAGE 2

a long time and are leaders of the pro-ruling party student organisation, are involved in such criminal activities.

He also alleged that contractors have been extorted by a section of leaders and activists of the pro-ruling party student platforms over the years.

This newspaper could not reach Vice-Chancellor Prof Shirin Akhter for comments as she did not answer her phone.

How others control dengue

FROM PAGE 2

people died and about 5,000 were infected.

Kolkata’s dengue management work begins in January with scoping out all possible breeding sources.

Besides, there is a ward-based database containing coordinates of ponds, high-rise buildings, open spaces, water tanks, drums, wells, vacant land, small drains and under-construction buildings.

When a field level worker gets information about a possible dengue patient, they ask the patient to give their blood sample to the Urban Primary Health Care (UPHC) found in every ward.

A patient can easily get their report through mobile SMS and the report goes to several places including chief vector control officer, chief health officer and deputy mayor when it is positive.

The Rapid Action Team visits the house of the dengue patient within 24 hours to conduct extensive search to find out Aedes mosquito larvae, eggs or breeding sources there.

The team also conducts extensive searches of at least 50 adjoining houses, he said.

“None of the dengue patients remain out of our list as we also collect data from all other private diagnostic centres by our workforces,” he said.

These activities are done before the start of the rainy season in July or August.

Kolkata has banned fogging for about five years now as it is not an effective method: it drives out mosquitoes from one place to another.

“To control Aedes or other mosquitoes, round-the-year activities is a must,” he said, adding that fine for finding aedes larvae goes up to Rs 1 lakh.

Malaysia, on the other hand, uses an integrated vector management to control dengue.

Those include year-round strategy source reduction, targeted larval control, community involvement, and the implementation of the Wolbachia method to suppress dengue transmission through Aedes mosquitoes.

Medical professionals and hospitals are required by law to report dengue cases to the government upon detection, while specialized teams conduct robust anti-mosquito efforts within a 200-meter radius of identified cases, said Hasan Mohammad Al-Amin, a researcher on Bangladeshi Mosquitoes at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute in Australia’s Queensland.

In Thailand, the Thai government employs a comprehensive approach to managing dengue like Malaysia.

Their year-round programme includes active surveillance, vector control through larviciding and fogging, community engagement, education campaigns and innovative methods like the Wolbachia bacteria approach to reduce mosquito-borne diseases.

Indonesia is also deploying the Wolbachia method.

The Indonesian Health Ministry on June 6 released modified (Wolbachia-infected) mosquitoes in

Semarang, Central Java, on a pilot basis, and plans to expand it to other cities, according to The Jakarta Post.

“Controlling the dengue outbreak requires a combination of methods; community engagement is essential for success,” Alamin said.

Tigers stumble

FROM PAGE 1

14. Shakib was dismissed for a cheap score of five as Bangladesh found themselves struggling at 36 for three inside eleven overs.

Shanto, however, remained firm at the other end, scoring the bulk of the runs. He too was under pressure, losing batting partners at regular intervals.

Towhid Hridoy’s 20 off 41 was the second-highest score for Bangladesh while Mushfiqur Rahim (13), Mehedi Hasan Miraz (5), and Mahedi Hasan (6) all failed to put up a partnership and were eventually bundled out with 44 balls to spare.

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ

১৪/৬-১৪/২৩, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬

ফোন- ০১৭৬৯-৭২১০১০, ফ্যাক্স-০২-৫৮০৫১০১০

ই-মেইল: regoffice@bsmmru.edu.bd, ওয়েবঃ www.bsmmru.edu.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর: বিএসএমআরএমইউ/রেজি-৩৩৬/২৩/০৪

তারিখ: ৩০/০৮/২০২৩

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের ২০১৩ সনের ৪৭ নং আইন দ্বারা প্রতিষ্ঠিত বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ-এর জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে শিক্ষক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও পদ সংখ্যা	গ্রেড ও বেতনস্কেল	সর্বোচ্চ বয়স	মন্তব্য
ক।	সহকারী অধ্যাপক মেরিটাইম সিকিউরিটি এন্ড স্ট্র্যাটাজিক স্টাডিজ-০১ জন	(গ্রেড-০৬, বেতনস্কেল- ৩৫,৫০০-৬৭,০১০/-)	---	১। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং আবেদনের শর্তাবলি সক্রেডস বিজারি তথ্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bsmmru.edu.bd) দেখুন।
খ।	প্রভাষক মেরিটাইম সিকিউরিটি এন্ড স্ট্র্যাটাজিক স্টাডিজ-০১ জন	(গ্রেড-০৯, বেতনস্কেল- ২২০০০-৫৩০৬০/-)	৩০ বৎসর	২। আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩।
গ।	প্রভাষক মেরিটাইম সার্কেল-০১ জন			৩। বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্থায়ী ক্যাম্পাস চট্টগ্রাম (৫নং মোহরা ওয়ার্ডের হামিদচর এলাকার শোজা চর রাস্তামাটিয়া ও বাকলিয়া, থানা: বন্দর, জেলা চট্টগ্রাম)-এ নির্মাণাধীন।

রেজিস্টার

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ

GD- 1327

Jahangirnagar University

Department of Microbiology

Savar, Dhaka 1342, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tenders

Ref No. JU/Microb/DGHS/OTM/015

Date: 01.09.2023

1	Division/Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
2	Agency	Directorate General of Health Services			
3	Procuring entity name	Professor Dr. Shamsun Nahar, Project Director, Rapid Culture-Independent.....by One Health Approach" Project, Department of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342			
4	Invitation for	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment			
5	Invitation Ref. No.	JU/Microb/DGHS/OTM/015			
6	Procurement method	National Competitive Tender			
7	Budget and source of funds	Open Tendering Method Bangladesh Govt.			
8	Project/program name (if applicable)	"Rapid Culture-Independent.....by one Health Approach" Project			
9	Tender Package No.	Microb/DGHS/DSN/OTM-1			
10	Tender package name	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment.			
	Date	Time			
11	Tender publication date	01.09.2023	Not applicable		
12	Tender last selling date	17.09.2023	2.00pm		
13	Tender closing date and time	18.09.2023	2.00pm		
14	Tender opening date and time	18.09.2023	2.30pm		
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents					
15	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Tenderer shall have a minimum of three (03) years of overall experience in Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning Laboratory Equipment, etc.The Tenderer shall have satisfactorily completed similar Goods/ works/supply/establishment of a minimum of 8,00,000.00 (Taka eight lac) under a single contract in the last three (03) years, i.e., years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. Only completion Certificate will be considered.The Tenderer shall have a minimum amount of liquid assets, working capital, or credit facility of 12,00,000.00 (Taka twelve lac).			
16	Brief description of goods or works	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment.			
17	Price of tender document (Taka)	Cash 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) non-refundable.			
18	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Taka)	Completion time in weeks/months
		Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment.	Dept of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342, Bangladesh	35,000.00 (Taka thirty thousand BDT only)	Six (06) weeks from the date of contract signature
19	Name of official inviting tender	Professor Dr. Shamsun Nahar			
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, "Rapid Culture-Independent.....by One Health Approach" Project, Department of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342.			
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-7791045-51, Ext.-1566 Fax: +880-2-7791052 E-mail: nahar@juniv.edu			
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.				

GD-1328

Don't disregard Japanese firms' dissatisfaction

Let the survey be a wake-up call for our economy

We're extremely concerned to learn that a recent survey by the Japanese External Trade Organisation (Jetro) found that 71 percent of Japanese firms operating in Bangladesh are dissatisfied with the general business environment. The findings are particularly distressing, given the fact that Japan had stated last year that they view Bangladesh "as a frontier for foreign investment," and had expected more investment flowing into our nation in the coming years. Japan also happens to be our biggest bilateral development partner since the inception of our nation. So, if Japanese firms are now increasingly dissatisfied, will we be wrong to glean that the alarm bells posed in this survey also apply to *all* foreign investors?

The Japanese firms in the survey stated that, compared to other ASEAN countries, Bangladesh's exchange rate volatility, difficulties in procuring local raw materials, shortage of electricity, frequency of power cuts, and complicated customs procedures pose significant barriers to their business operations. The reasons cited by the firms undoubtedly undergird core issues prevailing in our economy today. But the tragedy of the situation is that these issues are indeed easily addressable.

Since the dawn of the crisis, experts have shown great concern regarding the free-falling depreciation of taka. Yet, Bangladesh Bank has repeatedly failed to undertake key measures to pull the brakes on ongoing exchange rate volatility. On the other hand, the ongoing energy crisis fuelled by the authorities' unwillingness to deviate from import-dependent energy policy has put further pressure on the foreign currency reserves, posing various roadblocks for both domestic and foreign businesses to thrive to their full potential. And, needless to say, ease of doing business, such as seamless customs procedures are integral to attracting foreign investment. We need to dramatically shift our current approach and work towards mitigating significant bureaucratic delays and red tape that detract our foreign investors.

The truth is, the lack of necessary adjustments in our economic policies has debilitated our industries and the resulting adverse impacts are becoming increasingly inevitable. We know all too well that the government has a track record of brushing over such surveys that reveal alarming macroeconomic indicators. But in the current global crisis, and with our ambitious aims of economic growth with abundant foreign direct investment, the Jetro survey must be taken seriously. We urge the government to pay attention to the concerns underlined by the Japanese firms and introduce policy reforms to ensure a favourable climate for all foreign investors.

Killing us slowly but surely

How long before the government actually does something to curb air pollution?

We are alarmed by yet another study report of the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), which has found that the average life expectancy of people in Bangladesh is being cut short by 6.8 years due to their continuous exposure to polluted air. And this is not the first time that we have come across such worrying reports. Earlier this year, a World Bank study found that air pollution was causing about 20 percent of all premature deaths in Bangladesh. Another study has found that poor air quality is contributing to the rise in premature births and babies born with low birth weight in Dhaka. Over the past few years, different global organisations have published regular reports on air pollution, in which our capital city Dhaka has often been ranked as one of the top polluted cities. The question, therefore, is, what steps have the authorities taken in all these years to reduce air pollution, which has become an existential threat for all of us?

The EPIC report has identified some major sources of air pollution in Bangladesh as well as other South Asian countries, including smoke from brick kilns, fumes from the vehicles, dust from construction sites, industrial pollution, etc. While government sources claim that some initiatives have been taken to reduce the number of brick kilns using old technology in the country, not much has been done to reduce other factors contributing to air pollution. The number of vehicles on our roads tripled between 2010 and 2020, and between 1998 and 2017, the amount of electricity production fuelled by coal and oil also increased threefold. And the numerous ongoing development projects have also increased the level of dust pollution.

Will the government continue to treat air pollution as a non-issue or will it take some effective measures? China could be our example in this regard, which declared a war against air pollution and eventually reduced it by 42.3 percent between 2013 and 2021. It is said that if such improvements are sustained, the average Chinese citizen will be able to live 2.2 years longer. The EPIC report suggested that Bangladesh could also increase its people's life expectancy significantly by lowering its PM2.5 levels. But the question, as always, remains: will the government really act now?

New Message

To

Subject

Have things to say? Want your thoughts about current events to be published in The Daily Star? Send us a letter (100 - 300 words) with your name and area!

Write to us: letters@thedailystar.net

DSA to CSA: A sham of a reform

Journalists' fate is again being determined in the dark



THE THIRD VIEW

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

MAHFUZ ANAM

I like our law minister for his one extraordinary habit: he answers all calls on his mobile phone personally. It is a superb courtesy that he extends to all and for which I thank him most profusely. However, I so earnestly wish I could thank him just as profusely for the way he prepared the Cyber Security Act (CSA), which is slated to replace the hated Digital Security Act (DSA). Regrettably, I cannot. In contrast to the openness he demonstrates by receiving calls from all and sundry, the secrecy with which he prepared the CSA is inexplicable. There were media reports of his meetings on the CSA with some stakeholders, with relevant UN bodies, and heads of some civil society bodies. They were listened to and repeatedly reassured that the revised law would live up to democratic norms – but were never shown the draft, not even its outline.

What was inexplicable was that our law minister did not meet any representative of journalist unions, editors' bodies or any other representative institutions of journalists. As journalists were among the biggest victims of the DSA and it was they who were at the forefront of protesting against the DSA, not talking to them while formulating the CSA boggles the mind.

It is our view that it was the media's activism, along with strong protests by civic bodies, that triggered the reform process of the DSA. The law minister repeated ad infinitum that the DSA was not meant to curb freedom of press or freedom of expression. And yet, journalists, dissenters and rights activists continued to be jailed, harassed and intimidated. He repeatedly assured that measures had been taken not to arrest journalists immediately upon the filing of a DSA case. And yet, arrests continued. In the recent past, as the draft CSA was being finalised, the law minister assured all concerned that the new law would make us happy.

Tragically, happiness is still eluding us and, in its place, nightmare seems set to be replayed. Those who have seen the CSA draft cannot but conclude that change has been more in name than in substance. It was tweaking at best. Few sections have been made bailable and, in some cases, jail terms – which were already absurd and totally disproportionate – have been reduced. But fines have been hiked to a level that most media houses cannot afford, leave alone individual journalists.

When the DSA was formulated five years ago, the public was told

that it was to prevent cybercrimes. In reality, the law became an instrument in the hands of the government to suppress its opponents, critics, and the independent media. To put it bluntly, the DSA is a political instrument in the garb of a law.

So, will the CSA turn out to be the same? Its draft clearly indicates as much. It is just as anti-freedom of speech, anti-freedom of expression, and anti-freedom of press as the DSA. As Transparency International

Bangladesh (TIB) has stated, "The draft contains all provisions of the DSA that curbed freedom of speech, dissent, freedom of thought and conscience, and particularly the freedom of the press and independent journalism."

The very process of formulating the CSA gives us some idea as to the government's sincerity of purpose. After years of protest by journalists, rights bodies, and civil society, the government opened itself up to amending the DSA. Following repeated commitment to various UN fora, in June last year, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a technical note to the government recommending a revision of the DSA. The note was detailed and suggested point-by-point reformulation. The



ILLUSTRATION: BIPOB CHAKROBORTY

from stakeholders were either not taken note of or were ignored totally, making the whole exercise a sham.

On August 30, the law minister said there was still time to make inputs as "stakeholders will be called to the parliamentary standing committee meetings and the matter will be discussed." We recall the same exercise being done while finalising the DSA. Last time, too, those of us from the media were not consulted while the DSA was being drafted – or, should we say, crafted. When we finally became aware of it, we raised our legitimate concerns and, like this time, were assured that all our objections would be heard and duly responded to as the draft DSA was being considered by the parliamentary standing committee.

Well, this writer had the honour

The concerned minister, while introducing the DSA bill to the parliament, said the whole world was waiting with eagerness and excitement to see the new law being enacted in Bangladesh and, upon seeing it, would flood us with eulogies for the wisdom contained in our law. We now know how the world reacted and judged us. It is our view that whatever gains Sheikh Hasina's government made at the international level for its success in economic growth were eroded significantly due to this repressive law. Nothing eroded this regime's international image more than this single law.

Should the government repeat the same mistake, it will face stronger criticism and suffer greater erosion of its status as a democracy.

Are you looking for a pet or an accessory?



Aaqib Hasib
is a sub-editor at The Daily Star.

AAQIB HASIB

In recent years, keeping pets has become much more common in Bangladesh, particularly amongst the middle- and upper-middle classes. While there is no specific data, according to the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh imported Tk 285.21 crore worth of live animals and birds in the 2020-21 fiscal year, the highest since FY 2016-17.

Bazlur Rahman Shikder, general secretary of Aqua and Pet Association in Katabon, had noted to *The Business Post* in 2022 that the annual turnover at the Katabon market alone was over Tk 30 crore. There were more than 2,000 pet shops across the country at the time, and the market was growing by 10-12 percent annually, according to Shikder.

Similarly, when you look at the animal- and pet-related groups on Facebook – which have tens of thousands of members – it becomes

evident that the craze of owning a pet has taken over the country.

While all of this might seem exceptionally wholesome, there are some causes for concern.

In Bangladesh, cats and dogs are people's favourites. And when you look at the situation of street or stray animals in Dhaka, it becomes quite clear that animal lovers don't need to look too far to get themselves a pet. Despite this, business is booming for pet shops in Katabon and also for private breeders.

So, why is it that some people are still paying money to get a pet, when our streets are filled with cats and dogs that desperately need a home? And are places like Katabon or the private breeders themselves contributing to animal abuse?

If you have ever been to Katabon or even seen pictures of the shops there, it is quite obvious why these places

are ground-zero for animal rights violations.

Scores of cats, dogs, rabbits, and birds are crammed inside cages in these tiny shops taking up the length of the road. Cats and birds are not meant to be kept inside cages. While dogs can have kennels or cages where they sleep, the cages in Katabon don't even give them enough space to stretch their legs. At night, when the shops are closed, these animals remain trapped inside in the darkness. The screams and howls coming from the shuttered shops echo through the streets. On top of that, the country has experienced significant heatwaves in the last few months, with no one seemingly worried about the suffering of the animals in Katabon.

Similarly, breeders have small kennels in which they keep exotic breeds of cats and dogs, forcing them to procreate over and over to sell off the litter for huge profits. You will often hear horror stories about how the animals there contract diseases but are not given any sort of veterinary care. Instead, when some of the babies in a litter are sick, the breeders simply throw them away to protect the remaining litter from illness.

What further aggravates the issue is that these breeders are usually supplying breeds of dogs or cats that are not meant for a climate like ours.

For example, in recent years, the

Russian Neva Masquerade breed of cats and Huskies have become particularly popular in Bangladesh. From what I know, people often pay between Tk 50,000 to Tk 1,50,000 for these specific breeds.

Sadly, these animals aren't meant to live in Bangladesh's heat and humidity. This summer, when the heatwaves were quite extreme, I heard countless stories of these dogs or cats, many of which were exotic, suffering heat strokes and dying.

When reflecting on all this information, the only question I am left with is: why?

While an endless number of local stray animals die on the streets from accidents and starvation, why do we need to *buy* a pet? Are we not culturally well-known for being prudent with how we spend our money?

The sad reality is that more and more people are becoming "clout chasers," looking to spice up their Instagram feed with an exotic animal, rather than give a home to a local one that desperately needs it.

Those who have their own *bideshi* cat or dog may even refuse to acknowledge this. But this is the reality. By buying an animal from Katabon or from a breeder, one is financially supporting corrupt organisations that treat animals like products, not pets that deserve our love.



VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

Are we normalising the humiliation of teachers?



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

Why should teachers be respected? A significant majority reading this will find such a question inane if not objectionable. Inane because it is a universal value that teachers must be respected; it is the basic premise of learning. It is objectionable because someone has the audacity to ask something so contrary to any civilised society’s value system.

But because of some events of the last few years, this question is no longer so ludicrous and, for some people, not objectionable at all.

This is why a female teacher in Jashore was viciously assaulted by a Jubo League leader on August 23. The teacher was punched repeatedly in the classroom, in front of her students, and then dragged outside by her hair to the playground. It was only when other teachers pulled him away that the victim was saved, though the injuries were so severe that she had to be hospitalised. The reason for this violence was that the teacher asked her student why he had gone out during an ongoing exam and why he had used the teacher’s washroom without her permission. According to the case statement, the student started using abusive language when she questioned him. It was when the third-grader complained to his father that such unbelievable violence was unleashed. In a positive move, the police arrested the Jubo League leader and sent him to jail, where he awaits trial.

Yet, the fact remains that this teacher was humiliated first by her student and then by his father, who resorted to ruthlessly assaulting her. Even after her wounds heal, this teacher will be haunted forever by the memory of this attack. Students must have been traumatised by this incident as well. But they have also been exposed to the ugly idea that it is okay to insult your teacher; that if you are connected to power, you can do anything you want.

We all remember the horrific

incident in which a powerful lawmaker humiliated the headmaster of a school in Narayanganj in 2016. The MP made the headmaster hold his ears and do squats – a repulsive, mediaeval form of corporal punishment for school kids – in public. He was also asked to seek pardon for “demeaning religion,” an allegation that was later found to be baseless. A video of the incident went viral and people from all over the country posted pictures of themselves holding their ears with the caption “Sorry, Sir” in protest. The outrage showed that there were still many Bangladeshis who held on to the traditional value of holding a teacher in the highest regard, a culture in which such a reprehensible act of humiliating a teacher would be considered an unforgivable crime.

In a laudable show of respect for the headmaster and his position, the then education minister reinstated the teacher and scrapped the school’s governing body, which had failed to protect the highest ranking person of the institution. But does anyone believe that the headmaster will ever forget the trauma of the incident that blew up into smithereens his dignity and self-respect? And what about the MP who had inflicted this shameful abuse? Was any action taken against him? Being from a “politically powerful family”, it was not surprising that he faced no repercussions whatsoever.

In June 2022, a college teacher in Narail was forced to wear a garland of shoes around his neck by a mob, as punishment for trying to protect a student who had been accused of “hurting religious sentiments.” The student had gone to school and faced a mob of students and locals who wanted to beat him up for his post. He went to his teacher’s room to take shelter. So his apparent crime was to protect his student from getting lynched. In the old days, we thought that was exactly what the duty of a

teacher was – to protect their students from harm. But in this case, that was exactly why the teacher was punished. A case was filed by police against 170 to 180 people though only three were arrested and sent to jail. The National Human Rights Commission asked authorities concerned to take legal steps against the policemen, who did nothing to stop the mob from the abhorrent act of humiliating the teacher.

While both incidents had communal motivations behind them – as both victims were of Hindu faith – what was also evident was the complete lack of respect for teachers displayed by the local politician, administrative bodies, students and the police. Students can be chastised for being bullies but what can you do when people in high seats of power display such disdain and aggression towards teachers? What message does it give to the students and other members of society? It normalises the idea of humiliating a teacher, disregarding the position of a teacher and even assaulting a teacher.

So what kind of values do parents who use their position in society to abuse anyone they feel like teach their children? As in the Jashore incident, a third-grader thought his status as a political leader’s son allowed him to verbally abuse his teacher and make sure his father taught her a lesson.

Unfortunately, there is a whole new emerging category of parents who feel that their wealth and power allow them to be unanswerable to anyone for their criminal behaviour, and consequently, their children are entitled to the same impunity. Think about the MP who humiliated the headmaster, the mob that forced a teacher to wear a garland of shoes. Think about those teachers, school administrative bodies and police who stood by and allowed such abhorrent things to happen. When important members of society either take part in or show silent acquiescence to teachers being openly humiliated, how can we teach our children that the fundamental principle of learning is to respect and value the persons imparting knowledge? What is the point of classroom lessons if the society at large does not value the absolute necessity of young people to become decent, honest human beings?

Culture war in EDUCATION



Dr Manzoor Ahmed
is professor emeritus at Brac University,
chair of Bangladesh ECD Network and
vice-chair of the Campaign for Popular
Education. The views expressed in this
article are his own.

MANZOOR AHMED

In the southern state of Florida in the United States, where I have been visiting recently, Governor Ron DeSantis has called for the elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion programmes in the state’s public schools and in state-supported higher education. One would have thought that these would be the principles an education system should be striving hard to follow. DeSantis is campaigning for the nomination of the Republican Party in the 2024 presidential election. Former President Donald Trump is still the front-runner, as per public opinion poll, for the Republican nomination. DeSantis now aims to garner conservative voter support by making education an election issue.

A campaign strategy for DeSantis is a crusade against “woke” culture. A positive shorthand for awareness of social injustice and bigotry used originally by progressive groups, “woke” has become a catch-all culprit for *anything* right-wing conservatives view as a social problem – from the

Constitution’s four basic principles of state policy: democracy, nationalism, socialism, and secularism. The military rulers, from 1975 to 1990, shelved the Khuda commission’s report, distorted the character of the Constitution with numerous amendments, and set up various education commissions and committees to put their stamp on the education system.

The successive elected governments since 1991 failed to overturn the legacy of the military rulers in many areas. A three-way, mostly low-quality school system developed that became a vehicle for division and disparity. The education policy of 2010, adopted by the regime still in power, gave legitimacy to the divisive system, though it espoused the objectives of a unified, equitable, and quality system. More significantly, nothing much was done to reorient the existing system by trying to implement the National Education Policy 2010.

In 2010, the Hefazat-e-Islam, drawing support



VISUAL: STAR

collapse of banks to rise in crimes to mass shootings.

In 1996, prominent Christian rights leader Ralph Reed declared, “I would rather have a thousand school board members than one president and no school board members.” A former Trump adviser, Steve Bannon, recently said, “The path to save the nation is very simple – it’s going to go through the school boards.”

Public schools in the US are funded by state and federal budgets complemented by local taxes, but the management of schools (including the hiring of teachers and deciding curricular content) is the responsibility of some 14,000 locally elected school boards.

An analysis by *The Washington Post* found that, over the past three years, legislators in 45 states proposed 283 laws that sought to restrict what teachers can teach about race, racism, US history and gender identity; increase parents’ control over their children’s education; limit students’ access to school libraries and books; and promote what lawmakers defined as “patriotic” education. Of the proposed bills, 64 have been signed into law in 25 states.

The first amendment to the US Constitution prohibits the state’s sponsorship or support of any religion or restriction of free observance of religion by citizens. This has been the basis for the Supreme Court’s interpretations of the “separation of church and state” doctrine. But this doctrine has not eliminated debates and conflicts about religion and the state’s role, especially with respect to state-supported education.

In 1925, in the State of Tennessee, science teacher John T Scopes was convicted in a trial – popularly known as the “monkey trial” – for violating state law by teaching Darwin’s theory of evolution in high school. The state law was eventually repealed in 1967. But the political debate and attempts to influence education content and practice have not stopped.

The debate about control of education has become more intense across the globe, manifesting in varying ways in different historical and socio-political contexts. In South Asia, the rise of authoritarian populism and polarisation in political culture have fueled a form of culture war in national education systems.

The BJP government of Narendra Modi in India, in power since 2014, shares a staunch chauvinistic and cultural nationalism, and a populist appeal, with Trump’s Make America Great Again (MAGA) credo and also the belief in neoliberal capitalism as the motor for national growth and development.

A new education policy (NEP), the first in a quarter-century, was announced in 2020 in India. Critics are concerned that BJP sees NEP as a tool to spread a Hindu nationalist agenda. In recent years, curricula have been adapted and textbooks (on history, for example) rewritten with an ideological bias. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Hindu-right-wing ideological support base for BJP, sees education as the instrument for shaping people’s cultural consciousness as per its own orientation.

Some argue that the new policy is a cautious compromise that navigates different ideological positions and reconciles diverging objectives. Others are sceptical, given the fierce commitment to the Hindutva agenda that the government has shown and the political advantage it sees in pursuing this line to mobilise its support base.

In Bangladesh, the first Education Commission Report of 1974 by Quadrat-e-Khuda attempted to formulate education objectives reflecting the

from the Qawmi madrasa network, was formed in Chittagong. Led by Ahmad Shahi, it was meant “to safeguard Islam from alleged anti-Islamic policies and to end secularism” and to create an Islamic State in Bangladesh under Sharia Law. In 2013, Hefazat came up with a 13-point agenda, demanding gender segregation, punishment of “atheist” bloggers, mandatory Islamic education in schools, and restricting “anti-Islamic” NGO activities. Hefazat flexed its muscles by calling a “siege of Dhaka” on May 5, 2013, which was violently suppressed by the government.

The Awami League government, however, has been conciliatory to Hefazat, expecting to use the group to counter the political power of its main opponent, BNP, and the radical group, Jamaat-e-Islam, which had collaborated with the Pakistan Army in 1971.

The government conceded to Hefazat’s demands, including arresting some secular activists. And in 2017, the government ordered the removal of 17 stories and poems by secular and non-Muslim writers from Bangla textbooks following demands by the group. In 2018, the government recognised Dawra-e-Hadith – a degree programme of the Qawmi madrasa – as being equivalent to a master’s degree in Islamic studies from a general university.

The debate about control of education has become more intense across the globe, manifesting in varying ways in different historical and socio-political contexts. In South Asia, the rise of authoritarian populism and polarisation in political culture have fueled a form of culture war in national education systems.

In August 2022, Hriday Chandra Mondal, a science teacher from Munshiganj, was accused of defaming Islam for teaching about the theory of evolution. A student had recorded his conversation and a school staff member lodged a complaint with the police. Mondal was promptly arrested by police. He was granted bail after 19 days, and eventually acquitted in court. But Mondal kept receiving derogatory messages and death threats.

Earlier this year, opposition politicians criticised the inclusion of Darwin’s theory of evolution in textbooks introduced as part of a school curriculum revision. They claimed (falsely) that the text said humans evolved from monkeys. They demanded withdrawal of the textbooks which, according to them, defamed and opposed Islam. The books have been withdrawn and revisions have been underway.

Ever the optimist, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed wrote shortly before he died in December 2019 – in his foreword to a book by this writer and two colleagues on political economy of education – “In South Asia and elsewhere the upsurge of ultra-nationalism, rejection of pluralism and secular humanism, self-serving populism, xenophobic trends and the majoritarian subversion of democratic institutions and values have emerged as new threats to human progress. Education itself is in danger of being misappropriated to serve these retrograde forces.” He urged that the education community – including teachers, parents, and students – unite to reclaim the idea of progress itself in education.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

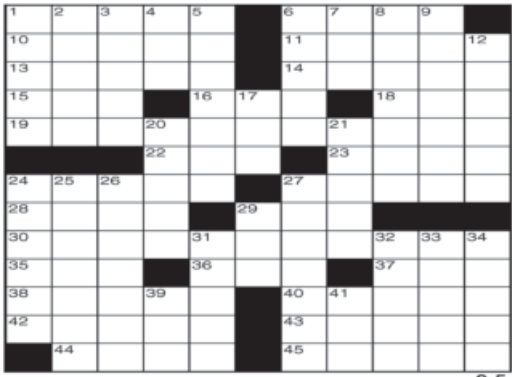
- 1 Track
- 6 competitions
- 10 Be bold
- 11 Bit of history
- 11 Checkout line count
- 13 Comic Radner
- 14 Varnish
- 15 ingredient
- 15 Pub pint
- 16 Cloth scrap
- 18 One – million
- 19 Union figure
- 22 Arthur of TV
- 23 Painter
- Magritte
- 24 Destined to happen
- 27 Prices
- 28 Yard sale label
- 29 Unit of resistance

DOWN

- 30 Pep rally figure
- 35 Playground game
- 36 Keats work
- 37 Australian bird
- 38 Nebraska city
- 40 Tex-Mex treats
- 42 Twin of
- Romulus
- 43 Banded rock
- 44 Owed amount
- 45 Swiss cheese features
- 1 Majestic
- 2 Walled Spanish city
- 3 Luminary
- 4 Finish
- 5 Had the lead

6 Mournful

- music
- 7 Had lunch
- 8 Dwells
- 9 Famous
- 12 Traps
- 17 In the style of
- 20 Past plump
- 21 Scent
- 24 Element
- 25 Red-faced
- 26 Reason for overtime
- 27 Fastest mammal
- 29 Outmoded
- 31 Comedic tribute
- 32 Car sticker
- 33 Ham it up
- 34 Tricks
- 39 Center
- 41 Before now



TUESDAY’S ANSWERS



LAW VISION

Cryptocurrency Conundrum
Lessons from the MTFE Scam in Bangladesh

The lessons learned from MTFE's disappearance should serve as a call to action for better regulation, vigilance, education, and transparency. Indeed, the path forward lies in striking a balance between innovation and regulation, between empowerment and protection.

NAURIIN AHMED

In an era driven by technological advancement and financial innovation, the realm of virtual assets and currencies has gained substantial attention, drawing both curiosity and apprehension. The frenzy around cryptocurrencies has given rise to a variety of legal and regulatory obstacles that require swift and effective reactions. This has been exacerbated by the recent events that have sparked discussions about the perils and potential pitfalls of engaging with virtual assets in Bangladesh. MTFE, an online broker, allowing trading of Forex, commodities, indices, stocks and cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin, Dogecoin, Polkadot, Bitcoin Cash and BNB on its platform, and operating in Bangladesh at least since June of 2022, has disappeared along with crores of public funds of Bangladeshi users.

Since the disappearance of MTFE, which claimed to be registered in Ontario, Canada with the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), it has come to light that in addition to dealing in virtual assets, they were also operating a multi-level marketing (MLM) scheme by offering its users attractive referral benefits and monthly returns for logging on to the platform. It must also be noted that FINTRAC is not the authority in Ontario, Canada for authorising brokers, such as MTFE, it is rather the Ontario Securities Commission (OSC). MTFE was not registered with OSC and was running its business illegally from Dubai.

The question then arises, can MTFE be held legally responsible in Bangladesh under the existing regulatory framework? In this regard we must delve into the legality of offering virtual asset-related services on a cross-border basis— as was offered by MTFE, to individuals in Bangladesh— which has been a topic of much contention. According to Bangladesh Bank's FE Circular No. 24 dated 15.09.2022, it's crystal clear that transactions involving virtual assets or virtual currencies within, to, or from Bangladesh are unequivocally prohibited. This ban extends not only to the exchange, transfer, or trading of these assets but also to any facilitation of such activities. The foundation of these prohibitions lies within the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA, 1947) and any transgressions may be met with severe penalties, including imprisonment and hefty fines. Moreover, these violations can also intertwine with the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2012.

However, it's important to mention that FERA, 1947 applies exclusively to citizens, residents of Bangladesh, and individuals in the service of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, regardless of their location. This implies that even though MTFE was involved in activities banned by Bangladesh's central bank through the authority of FERA, 1947, holding it accountable under the existing regulatory framework might not be feasible. The reason being that MTFE lacks registration as an entity in Bangladesh, and FERA, 1947 doesn't possess jurisdiction beyond the nation's borders. Under the current regulatory setup, only users of MTFE who are citizens or residents of Bangladesh, can be held liable for

contravening Bangladesh Bank's prohibitions. Consequently, foreign online platforms like MTFE can continue their operations with impunity in Bangladesh.

Furthermore, MTFE's operations are not merely about virtual assets; it's also about MLM schemes. MLM has been a contentious issue in Bangladesh, with the Multi-Level Marketing (Control) Act, 2013, clearly stipulating that any company engaging in MLM activities must obtain a license from the Ministry of Commerce. The Act further dictates that before applying for an MLM license, a company must register itself as a company limited by shares under the Bangladesh Companies Act, 1994. This registration requirement is intended to bring transparency and accountability to MLM activities, to protect consumers from pyramid schemes and deceitful marketing practices. However, MTFE was running its MLM operations from Dubai, without having any

law are held accountable, irrespective of their domicile. Outright banning of dealing in virtual assets has not been effective and has done nothing to prevent bad actors such as MTFE from continuing to operate under the radar of the regulatory authorities in unmonitored environments. Also, it is not the only foreign online virtual asset trading platform currently operating in Bangladesh; there are in fact many others that continue to operate illegally and launder money from the country.

As we seek a way forward, education emerges as a powerful tool to safeguard the masses from fraudulent crypto schemes. Ensuring that citizens have access to accurate and unbiased information about virtual assets and MLM schemes is crucial. By fostering financial literacy, we can equip individuals with the tools needed to make informed decisions and thereby safeguard themselves



registrations or licenses in Bangladesh.

The MTFE debacle highlights not only the flagrant disregard for the law but also the consequences of such actions on unsuspecting citizens. This further underscores the need for awareness of the law and strict adherence to the law by the general public and the vital role of regulatory bodies in preserving the integrity of our financial system. The loss of hard-earned money, coupled with shattered trust, is a grim reminder of the urgent need for a stronger overarching regulatory framework. As virtual assets become part of the contemporary financial landscape, it's crucial to either facilitate their legal and transparent integration into the economy or establish improved regulations prohibiting them. These regulations should not only deter individuals from participating in virtual asset activities, but also ensure that those who disregard the

from potential scams.

In conclusion, as we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of virtual assets, the MTFE scam serves as a stark reminder of formulating a better legal framework and the importance of enabling a culture of adherence to it. The MTFE debacle has laid bare the risks, liabilities, pros, and cons associated with virtual asset-related services. The lessons learned from MTFE's disappearance should serve as a call to action for better regulation, vigilance, education, and transparency. Only through collective efforts, can we hope to create a safer, more secure financial future for all. Indeed, the path forward lies in striking a balance between innovation and regulation, between empowerment and protection.

The writer is a Senior Associate at The Legal Circle.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Recent
Amendments
in the Bank
Company
Act, 1991



HARISUR ROHOMAN

Recently, the Bank Company Act, 1991 has been amended to bring about significant changes in various provisions of the Act. To curtail family influence on the board of directors, section 15 of the Act has been amended and according to this new amendment, maximum of three from one family can be appointed to the board of directors of a bank. It should be noted that as per the earlier provision, maximum of four from one family could be appointed.

As per section 15AA of the Act, the tenure of the director has been increased to 12 years, earlier it was 9 years. The provision may increase the powers of directors, posing a significant obstacle to establishing good governance in the banking sector. To overcome this challenge and foster the overall development of the industry, reducing the tenure of the directors is necessary.

The newly added section 27B empowers Bangladesh Bank (BB) to declare a directorship vacant in case someone deliberately defaults on a bank loan. Moreover, he/she will not be able to become director of the bank for the following five years. On the other hand, according to the said section, if any bank or financial institution violates the said provision, a minimum of 50 lakhs to a maximum of 1 crore Taka fine will be imposed (additionally, a penalty of 1 lakh Taka will be imposed for every day from the day of such violation). As a result, the tendency of defaulting loans will likely be reduced to a large extent.

On the other hand, in the said law, there is a provision for providing loan facilities to other institutions or companies of a defaulting company or an individual (section 27), if the BB is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for the default of the loan, i.e., the said person or institution is not a willful defaulter. However, a willful loan defaulter can take advantage of this provision. Therefore, BB needs to exercise its discretion prudently in this regard; otherwise, there will be chaos in the banking sector.

The new changes are quite major; however, the biggest challenge is to implement these provisions effectively in order to establish good governance in the banking sector.

The Writer is a Student of Law, University of Asia Pacific.

REVIEWING THE VIEW

Vicarious Liability and Liability Insurance

There is no doubt that Bangladesh Beverage v Rowshon Akhter was quite a leap in the right direction as it opened the scope for bringing claims on vicarious liability to courts. However, without a proper liability insurance framework and adequate legal guidance on the quantum of compensation in place, it may be a challenge to implement the mechanism.

RAGIB SHAHRIAR

Bangladesh Beverage v Rowshon Akhter (2016) was one of the first instances where tortious damages for vicarious liability were awarded in Bangladesh, firmly entrenching a significant precedent in the realm of constitutional torts in general. Vicarious liability refers to the liability of one person or company for the act of another done on behalf of the former. Although *Bangladesh Beverage* was indeed a landmark, some crucial aspects for cases involving vicarious liability have remained unanswered—this includes guidance on assessment and quantification of damages and the need for a liability insurance framework.

The vicarious liability doctrine may differ on a case-to-case basis. The main element that is considered in every such case is the course of employment. The court examines primarily whether the wrongful act has occurred within the course of employment. For instance, in this case, the driver was a direct employee of the Bangladesh Beverage. While driving a vehicle of the company, the driver ran over the respondent, and



he died. Hence, Bangladesh Beverage was held responsible as the action of the driver fell within the scope of his employment and the Appellate Division (AD) awarded compensation of 1,71,47,008 Taka to the deceased's family.

In this case, the company was capable of paying the hefty amount of compensation. However, most small

and medium enterprises (SMEs) may need help in paying damages in such situations. The doctrine of vicarious liability is mainly implemented in legal systems where there is an established framework and practice of liability insurance. In countries with well-established liability insurance frameworks, the burden of compensation mostly falls upon the

insurer. This not only results in victims receiving adequate compensation but also keeps economic stability by safeguarding businesses from bankruptcy. Moreover, such a system promotes responsible business practices and fosters a culture of accountability among the employers. However, in Bangladesh, in absence of the practice of liability insurance, being held vicariously liable may result in smaller companies facing significant financial hardships and therefore, the issue of liability insurance needs to be brought to attention.

Furthermore, in the judgment, the AD mentioned that the assessment of damages in such cases must necessarily be to some extent of a rough and approximate nature, based more or less on guesswork. In countries with established practice of vicarious liability claims, while assessing the damages, judges frequently rely on the data and statistics of reputed organisations. Awarding compensations based on guesswork alone can hardly result in fair judgments. This shows that our current justice system needs to be better equipped in terms of assessing

and quantifying damages for tortious claims.

Another key critical observation on the judgment is the fact that the judges could have also taken into account (and discussed briefly) the economic consequences of prolonged litigation— indeed, the family had waited 27 long years seeking 'justice'. Failing to consider the impact of inflation over 27 years is also a grave injustice to the bereaved family. The family's need for reparation must have significantly changed over time. Hence, it raises the question as to whether the compensation awarded was sufficient or not.

In a nutshell, there is no doubt that the 2016 judgment was quite a leap in the right direction as it opened the scope for bringing in claims on vicarious liability to courts. However, without a proper liability insurance framework and adequate legal guidance on the quantum of compensation in place, it may be cumbersome to implement the mechanism.

The writer is a student of Law at North South University.

‘We did not bat well as a unit’

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan pointed out the batting failure as the main reason behind the Tigers' comprehensive five-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka in their Asia Cup opener in Pallekele yesterday.

The Tigers were bundled out for a meagre 164 runs in 42.4 overs after electing to bat. Najmul Hossain Shanto's 89-run knock remained the only notable performance from the Bangladesh batters.

According to Shakib, the Bangladesh batters failed to read the surface properly, saying a total in the range of 220-230 would have been a decent one to defend.

"It wasn't a 300-run wicket. If we could post 220-230, it would've given us more chance," Shakib said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Shakib, who gloved one back to the wicketkeeper after scoring just five off 11 deliveries to leave the Tigers reeling at three for 36, realised his contribution with the bat left a lot to be desired but mentioned that it was a collective batting failure.

"I think I have more responsibility [with the bat]. But, today, I couldn't do that, unfortunately. However, we did not bat well as a unit and that cost us the game. We have to regroup ourselves as we have got another important game in a couple of days. We have to learn from this and we have to take those learnings into the next game in order to do better," Shakib added.

The opening pair featuring debutant Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Naim Sheikh failed to provide a steady start and Shakib's dismissal early in the innings saw pressure mount up on the Tigers.

The Tigers' next group stage game against Afghanistan on September 3 in Lahore has now turned into a do-or-die scenario for Bangladesh. And, Shakib only hopes that his troops can rectify their mistakes by that time and keep their Super Four hopes alive.

"There were a lot of nerves when we started the game. As we kept on batting, the atmosphere in the dressing room became more comfortable by the 20th over. Lots of players are playing the Asia Cup for the first time in front of the away crowd. I hope they will learn from those and look forward from here on," he said.

BRIEF SCORES

SRI LANKA VS BANGLADESH BANGLADESH

164 all out in 42.4 overs (Shanto 89, Hridoy 20; Pathirana 4-32, Theekshana 2-19)

SRI LANKA

165 for five in 39 overs (Asalanka 62 not out, Samarawickrama 54; Shakib 2-29, Shoriful 1-23)

Result: Sri Lanka won by five wickets

Player-of-the-match: Matheesha Pathirana

Shakib also talked about his faith in the team members, who he thinks can show their mettle on the biggest of occasions.

"They are definitely playing some good cricket and that's why they are in the dressing room. I don't have any doubt about them, but it's just about them being able to perform on the biggest occasions," Shakib added.

Defending a small total, Bangladesh bowlers impressed early on as they removed the top three Sri Lankan batters to leave the hosts reeling at 43 for three inside the Powerplay. Pacer Taskin Ahmed castled opener Dimuth Karunaratne in the third over of the game while left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam, and Shakib picked up a wicket each to inject some energy and hope into the Tigers' camp.

"When they [Sri Lanka] were three down upfront, we needed a couple more wickets at that time. But, unfortunately, we couldn't get those. Bowlers, both spinners and pacers, have been doing their jobs for quite some time now as they kept on attacking the batters. We picked up wickets but didn't have enough on the board," Shakib regretted.



Having gloved back a Matheesha Pathirana delivery, Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan walks back to the pavilion after scoring just five in their opening Asia Cup game against co-hosts Sri Lanka in Kandy yesterday. Pathirana starred for Sri Lanka with four wickets but it was the Bangladesh batters who orchestrated their own downfall, failing to show any sort of resilience except for Najmul Hossain Shanto, who scored 89.

PHOTO: BCB/AFP

Shanto and middle-order can't always be the answer

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's batting effort in their Asia Cup opener against Sri Lanka yesterday struck a familiar chord with the two side's memorable outing in the tournament's 2018 edition, the last time the Tigers beat the Islanders in an Asia Cup fixture.

In the game dating back to 2018, it was Mushfiqur Rahim who set up the victory with a massive 144 run-knock while the bowlers all contributed to restrict Sri Lanka to 124. Barring Mohammad Mithun, who struck 63, only three other batters reached double figures and all three came in at eight, nine and eleven respectively. Later, Tamim Iqbal came out with a broken hand to partner Mushfiqur during a 32-run stand.

Yesterday, however, only Najmul Hossain Shanto, who once again got amongst the runs, procured an important 89. Despite the gap in the scores from the two matches, what threaded the batting effort from both games together was that no other batter played around Shanto this time to make a more substantial total as Bangladesh fell away for just 164 with 7.2 overs to spare.

Bangladesh's recent success in ODIs have mostly come

down to the bowling attacks potency, with the pacers often shining for the team. But the batters' contribution has been a headache. The team often depends on one or two batters on form. Currently, it is either Shanto, Tawhid Hridoy or Mushfiqur while Shakib often turns up.

The opening pair has remained unstable this year with Tamim Iqbal falling prey to injuries, and coupled with the fever that eventually led to Liton Das being ruled out of the Asia Cup, meant that a very new opening pair started the Asia Cup. Of course, a new pair was going to face difficulty but what about the rest?

It may not have been a brilliant batting track but there was enough of a platform during the 59-run stand between Shanto and Hridoy to put up a suitable score.

First up the Powerplay battle. When Sri Lanka brought on mystery spinner Maheesh Theekshana in just the second over, it was to arrest any momentum the opening duo might have gathered seeing there was no sideways movement for the pacer Kasun Rajitha. Theekshana was also a matchup for the two left-handers as they kept guessing on whether the

ball was coming in or going away. When both openers departed and with Shanto at one end, Shakib kept up the chain of left-handers -- a questionable decision in hindsight -- by coming to bat at number four. The situation did not get better when Shakib departed.

Hridoy for his part, showed intent with singles but once he departed, followed by Mushfiqur a little later, Bangladesh appeared to have no answer.

In winning causes this year, Shanto, Shakib, Mushfiqur and Hridoy average at 48.20, 58.25, 65 and 65, respectively. In losing outcomes, on the other hand, the same players from number three to six average 17.75, 26.50, 22.50 and 33.50, respectively. The difference in average is pretty big and it means that when number three to six do not put in a commendable effort, Bangladesh often find themselves out in deep water and sink.

Key point is that consistent performances have not come from lower middle-order and opening slots recently. While opening problems may be solved when Tamim and Liton return, it is contributions from elsewhere, one that has to be guided by proper batting plan, that the Tigers too must procure.

Haaland, Bonmati win UEFA Player of the Year prizes

AFP, Monaco

Manchester City's Erling Haaland and Spain's World Cup-winning star Aitana Bonmati won the UEFA Men's and Women's Player of the Year prizes respectively at a ceremony in Monaco on Thursday.

Norway striker Haaland scored 52 goals in 53 games to help City win the treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup, while Bonmati inspired Spain to World Cup glory earlier this month.

Haaland's achievements in his first season at City after joining from Borussia Dortmund saw him take the men's award, for which his club colleague Kevin De Bruyne and Lionel Messi were also shortlisted.

Messi was at Paris Saint-Germain last season but has since left to join Inter Miami in Major League Soccer.

Spain coach Jorge Vilda missed out to England manager Sarina Wiegman for the women's coach of the year prize.

Pep Guardiola won the men's coach of the year award after leading City to the treble.



PSG in tough Champions League group

REUTERS, MONACO

Paris Saint-Germain will kick off their quest for a maiden Champions League trophy in a strong Group F featuring Borussia Dortmund, AC Milan, and Newcastle United following the draw on Thursday.

Holders Manchester City will take on RB Leipzig, Red Star Belgrade, and Young Boys in Group G.

City captured their first European crown this year and Pep Guardiola's side should have few problems in making the last 16, having handed Leipzig a 7-0 thrashing in last year's tournament.

Record 14-times winners Real Madrid will play Serie A champions Napoli, Braga and Union Berlin in Group C. German heavyweights Bayern Munich take on Manchester United, FC Copenhagen and Galatasaray in Group A.

Last season's runners-up Inter Milan meet Benfica, RB Salzburg and Real Sociedad in Group D, while Europa League winners Sevilla and Arsenal were drawn together in Group B along with PSV Eindhoven and RC Lens.

LaLiga champions Barcelona take on Porto, Shakhtar Donetsk and Royal Antwerp in Group H and Group E is made up of Feyenoord, Atletico Madrid, Lazio and Celtic.

The Champions League group stage will begin on Sept. 19 and conclude on Dec. 13. The knockout stages begin in February, with the final taking place at London's Wembley Stadium in June.

‘We must keep the SAFF C’ship spirit’

SPORTS REPORTER

Having undergone a recovery session on Wednesday, Bangladesh national team returned to a full-fledged training session at the practice ground of the Bashundhara Sports Complex ahead of two FIFA friendlies against Afghanistan.

The men in red and green and Afghanistan face off on September 4 at the Bashundhara Kings arena before playing the second game three days later at the same venue.

Although head coach Javier Cabrera began preparations for two FIFA friendly matches against Afghanistan in the third week of last month, he did not get his full squad as the players of Bashundhara Kings and Abahani joined the camp on Sept 25 and 27, respectively.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan was the last player to join the camp following his engagement with Sol de Mayo in Argentina's third division football league.

"Afghanistan have been a strong team as most of their players play in Europe. They are 30 to 35 places ahead of Bangladesh [in FIFA ranking], so they are strong, I think," Jamal told reporters following yesterday's training.

"However, we have the home ground advantage. We have to keep the spirit we showed in the SAFF Championship. I think we can produce a good result," said the 34-year-old midfielder, adding



that he was happy to join training after returning home from Argentina.

Jamal shared his experience of playing in Argentina as the captain of Sol de Mayo.

"I was surprised [to get the captaincy] there. The club president gave me the captain's armband, so I was happy. First of all, they helped me a lot and I liked it. Playing style and people have been different there and it has overall been a good experience," Jamal said.

"Everything like food, weather is different there. It is now a chilly winter in Argentina and I am now adapting to the conditions here."

AGENCIES

Brimming with confidence, Babar Azam and Co reached Sri Lanka yesterday for Saturday's blockbuster showdown against arch-rivals India.

Babar led from the front to kick off their campaign with a comprehensive victory against Nepal on Wednesday and Pakistan skipper said the victory gave them confidence ahead of the vital clash.

"India-Pakistan will always bring high intensity. We want to give 100 percent in every match, hope to do that there as well," said the prolific right-hander, who made a masterly 151 off 131 deliveries during their 238-run victory against Nepal, their third-highest in ODI.

After his 19th ODI hundred against Nepal, Babar is now just one century away from equalling Saeed Anwar's record of 20 ODI centuries - the most by any player from Pakistan. Will the stylish batter be able to reach another milestone for his

country when they meet India? Although Babar has mostly featured at the key number three position but, given his form which is in stark contrast to that of opener Fakhar Zaman's -- who averages below 20 in last seven ODI appearances -- the Pakistan think-tank could ponder on enabling him to play maximum deliveries as an opener. Former cricketer-turned-commentator Ramiz Raja said that sidelining Fakhar for the India

encounter could prove to be beneficial for the 2012 champions.

"His [Fakhar] body language is suffering, and Pakistan need an in-form opener. If Imam also gets dismissed cheaply, it creates pressure. Pakistan need to assess Fakhar," said Raja on his YouTube channel.

I believe they should rest him, give him some time out. Sidelining him is better for him as well as the Pakistan side. He's a good player, Pakistan has given him chances. But against India, with the form that he has, that chance is not worth being taken."



LIST OF RECORDS BABAR ACHIEVED WITH CENTURY AGAINST NEPAL

- He became the quickest player in the history to score 19 ODI centuries (102 games), surpassing South Africa's Hashim Amla who achieved the feat in 104 matches.
- The 151 was the second highest score achieved at the Asia Cup, only bettered by Virat Kohli's 183 against Pakistan in 2012.
- It was the first time a captain has scored 150 or greater at an Asia Cup, beating the previous best from a skipper when Kohli compiled 136 against Bangladesh in 2014.
- The innings boosted Babar's ODI average to an astonishing 59.47, which is the fourth highest of all time in men's ODI cricket and the best of any player with a minimum of 2000 ODI runs
- It was Babar's 31st international century, drawing him level with Pakistan legends Javed Miandad and Saeed Anwar with Yousif Khan (41), Mohammad Yousuf (39) and Inzamam-ul-Haq (35) the only players from the country in front of him.



ATTACK ON NESCO OFFICE Assaulted engineer gets suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, LALMONIRHAT

Rocky Chandra Das, executive engineer of Northern Electricity Supply Company (Nesco) office in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat, has been suspended for “violating office rules”.

The move came on Wednesday, a day after he was assaulted and threatened by a group of youths who identified themselves as ruling party men.

The suspension letter issued by Nesco said Rocky has been attached to the company chief engineer’s office in Rangpur.

A copy of the suspension letter was sent to journalists on Wednesday night.

This newspaper could not reach Rocky for comments as his mobile phone was found switched off.

Meanwhile, Nesco Managing Director Zakiul Islam visited Kaliganj Nesco office yesterday afternoon.

Speaking to journalists, he said, “The social welfare minister’s son Rakibuzzaman Ahmed, also an Awami League leader, was not present at the scene of the attack at Nesco Kaliganj office. His was not involved in the incident.”

He said a three-member committee has been formed to identify those involved.

A written complaint was filed by a Nesco official with Kaliganj Police Station yesterday noon over the attack.

However, he did not name the accused in the complaint.

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Farmers harvest Aman from a field in Sylhet's Sonatola area. They are happy with the good yield this season thanks to favourable weather. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

UN body’s suggestions not reflected in draft CSA

Special rapporteur writes to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The technical recommendations made by a UN rights body about the Digital Security Act have not been reflected in the draft Cyber Security Act, Irene Khan, UN special rapporteur for freedom of expression, said in a letter to the government.



Irene Khan

The draft CSA contains vague and overly broad provisions, criminalising legitimate forms of expression, reproduced from the DSA, she said.

The recommendations, sent by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in June

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BNP stares at tough times on streets Say insiders; party observes founding anniv with nationwide programmes today

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP observes its 45th founding anniversary today amid growing doubts among supporters about the effectiveness of their movement demanding Awami League government’s resignation.

Many leaders and activists feel that the rallies and processions they have been organising will not cut as they can see that the party lacks a proper strategy and coordination between top leaders and the rank and file, a BNP standing committee member told The Daily Star.

They fear that the non-partisan polls-time administration might be an elusive goal, especially since the BNP events in August visibly lacked energy and organisation.

“We are going through the toughest time. The one-point movement [for election under a caretaker government] lacks public support and direction. If it fails, the BNP may become irrelevant,” said the leader of a Dhaka city unit, requesting anonymity.

As the party has not been in power for 15 years, the longest the party has ever been in opposition, even the key leaders doubt whether their party has a future after the parliamentary election, likely to be held in January.

Insiders say the absence of dynamic leadership and weakness as an organisation have hamstrung BNP’s

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AL to stay on streets entire month

Plans to gather 5 lakh people for rallies today, tomorrow

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and AASHIQ ABDULLAH APU

Apart from preparing for the election, the Awami League will tighten its grip on the streets throughout September by organising political programmes on a regular basis.

The AL high-ups believe that the BNP will hold several programmes this month to realise its one-point demand for the removal of AL from power and elections under a non-partisan government and that is why the ruling party wants to stay on the streets with its programmes, sources said.

The AL wants to flaunt its strength and popularity today through Bangladesh Chhatra League’s, pro-AL student body, rally at the Suhrawardy Udyan and tomorrow at another rally at the old trade fair ground centring the inauguration of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway.

It plans to gather 5 lakh people for the programmes.

AL Joint General Secretary Bahauddin Nasim told The Daily Star that the party would be on the streets until the election.

“We along with the people will be

on the streets so that no evil force can deteriorate law and order. We will not allow BNP to carry out any destructive activities and if the party tries to do so, we will resist them,” he added.

The AL’s election-related activities will be in full swing in October and party President Sheikh Hasina will join rallies in different parts of the country, the sources said.

The prime minister will inaugurate a number of infrastructure projects in October and her party will organise rallies centring the inaugurations. It will also publicise the achievements across the country.

Hasina will not be in the country for about half of the month. She will be in New Delhi between September 8 and 10 to join the G20 Summit and in New York for 13 days from September 17 to join the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

During her absence, the AL will publicise the government’s achievements since 2009 and hold mass contact programmes and rallies across the country, the sources said, adding that the party’s front and

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Govt not harassing Prof Yunus Momen says

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has said the government is not harassing Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus over political or any other issues, and that the global leaders writing letters in his support may lack information on the cases against him.

He also said that Bangladesh’s judiciary is independent and the government cannot influence the court.

“They can write letters for Prof Yunus. The matter is possibly not very clear to many of them. Many are thinking that the Nobel laureate is being harassed for political or other purposes. So far as I know, the case has not been filed by the government,” Momen told journalists in response to a question at a briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday.

On August 28, more

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Webb images reveal Ring Nebula in unprecedented detail

CNN ONLINE

The James Webb Space Telescope has revealed colourful new portraits of the iconic Ring Nebula.

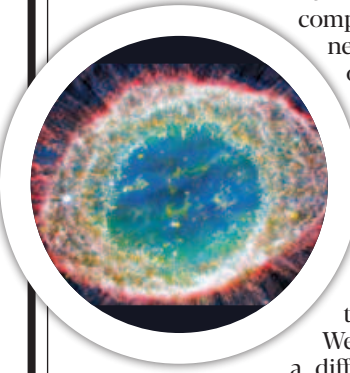
The new images capture the complex details of the planetary nebula, an enormous cloud of cosmic gas and dust that’s home to the remnants of a dying star.

The two images were taken in different wavelengths of infrared light, which is invisible to the human eye, using instruments on the space observatory.

Webb previously captured a different perspective on the Ring Nebula, as well as the similar-looking Southern Ring Nebula.

A longtime favourite of astronomers, the Ring Nebula has been studied for years due to its observability and the insight it can provide into the lifetime of stars. It is located in the Lyra constellation more than 2,000 light-years from Earth, but on clear evenings during the summer, sky gazers using binoculars can see it.

Planetary nebulae, which have nothing to do with planets despite the name, usually have a rounded structure and were so named because they initially resembled the disks from which planets form when French astronomer Charles Messier discovered one for the first time in 1764.



ALLEGED STOCK MANIPULATION India’s Adani hits back at new report

AFP, New Delhi

India’s Adani Group yesterday hit back at a new report investigating alleged manipulation of the conglomerate’s share prices, accusing its authors of conspiring to drive down its stocks for profit.

The globe-spanning ports-to-power conglomerate saw around \$120 billion wiped from its market value after US short-seller investment firm Hindenburg Research accused it of “brazen” corporate fraud.

On Wednesday, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) said it had uncovered financial documents backing Hindenburg’s claims that Adani had used offshore tax havens and related party transactions to drive up its share price.

The report said two men who had served as directors in Adani Group companies had spent years trading

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COMPETING FOR CANOPIES ... A black giant squirrel lounging on a tree branch in Moulvibazar’s Adampur. Found in many South and Southeast Asian countries, including Bangladesh, this is one of the largest species of squirrels in the world – sometimes weighing up to 1.05-1.25kg, with its head-and-body length going up to 34-37cm and a long tail which can grow till 42cm. The animal, like other squirrels, is solitary and extremely shy. It prefers living in forested areas, where it competes for canopies and food – seeds, pine cones, fruits and leaves -- with other arboreal animals such as primates. It also has a host of predators, mainly birds of prey, but its most dangerous one is humans. In recent decades, the animal’s habitat globally has steadily been encroached upon by human settlement, timber harvesting and agriculture, which, along with overhunting, has resulted in its population declining by at least 30 percent over the last 10 years. For this, the IUCN has listed the black giant squirrel in its “Near Threatened” category, urging its immediate conservation.

PHOTO: SHABBOSACHI DAS

74 killed as fire guts housing block in South Africa

52 hurt; Johannesburg city authorities say the block was turned into illegal housing

AFP, Johannesburg

A fire that tore through a five-storey building taken over for illegal housing killed more than 70 people including children in central Johannesburg overnight, the South African city’s emergency services said yesterday.

An additional 52 were injured in what is on track to become one of the deadliest fires worldwide in recent years. Bodies were discovered piled up at a security gate that was closed, preventing people from escaping the blaze, an official said.

City authorities said the municipality-owned building in a deprived, crime-ridden area had been turned into illegal housing after being abandoned. Most of those living there were foreigners, one resident said.

“We have now 74 fatalities and 52 people injured who were transported to various healthcare facilities for further medical care,” Emergency Management Services spokesman Robert Mulaudzi said.

At least twelve children were among those killed, the youngest under two years old, he said. Some were left burned beyond recognition.

“I’m grateful to be alive, there was a lot of us running, trying to find the fire exit and a lot of people eventually died because of the smoke inhalation,” said Kenny Bupe, a survivor caught up in the blaze while visiting a friend.

The 28-year-old told AFP he was part of a group that managed to break open a locked fire escape gate and run to safety, while others “jumped out” of windows to escape

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