

# A new era in Dhaka commute

Hasina opens elevated expressway, says her govt not afraid of sanctions, threats

#### STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened the country's first elevated expressway, which is expected to usher in a new era in Dhaka's commute by significantly cutting the travel time.

"This is a milestone in the communication sector. I have inaugurated the airport to Farmgate portion of Dhaka Elevated Expressway Project. Work on the remaining portions will be completed soon," she told a rally on the old trade fair ground at the capital's Agargaon after opening the 11.5km stretch of the much-awaited expressway.

The expressway is a gift to the people of Dhaka and across the country, the PM said, adding that it would play a great role in improving communications, report BSS and UNB.

"The expectations of the residents of Dhaka have been met with the opening of the expressway. The expressway will play a great role in reducing traffic jams significantly," she told the rally.

Before attending the rally, Hasina inaugurated the expressway around 3:30pm.

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CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY THRIVING ON MEGA PROJECTS; ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY TO SAVE TIME, COST – BI



Vehicles of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's motorcade on Dhaka Elevated Expressway yesterday. Hasina paid the toll, *inset*, at the airport end and inaugurated the expressway before travelling towards Farmgate.

PHOTO: PID/FOCUS BANGLA

## How to get on, off the elevated expressway

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A part of the country's first ever elevated expressway is open to traffic since this morning.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated it yesterday.

The Tejgaon-Bijoy Sarani overpass has been connected to the expressway through two ramps, both for entering the expressway.

One ramp is for vehicles heading towards Tejgaon, and the other for those going towards Bijoy Sarani.

There is another entry to the expressway in front of Banani Rail Station.

The expressway has an exit on Indira Road at Farmgate.

There are entries at Kawla near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Progoti Sarani, and in front of the Army Golf Club on Airport Road.

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## MAIN FEATURES

- TOTAL LENGTH **19.73km** (Airport to Kutubkhali)
- OPENED TO TRAFFIC **11.5km** (Airport to Farmgate)
- NUMBER OF RAMPS **31** (15 entry, 16 exit)
- CURRENTLY OPEN **13** ramps
- PROJECT COST **Tk 8,940cr**

## TOLL RATES



Car, taxi, SUV, microbus, mini truck  
**Tk 80**



Bus with 16 and more seats  
**Tk 160**



Truck (6 wheels)  
**Tk 320**



Truck (more than 6 wheels)  
**Tk 400**

## SPEED LIMIT

- ON EXPRESSWAY  
**Maximum 60 km/hour**

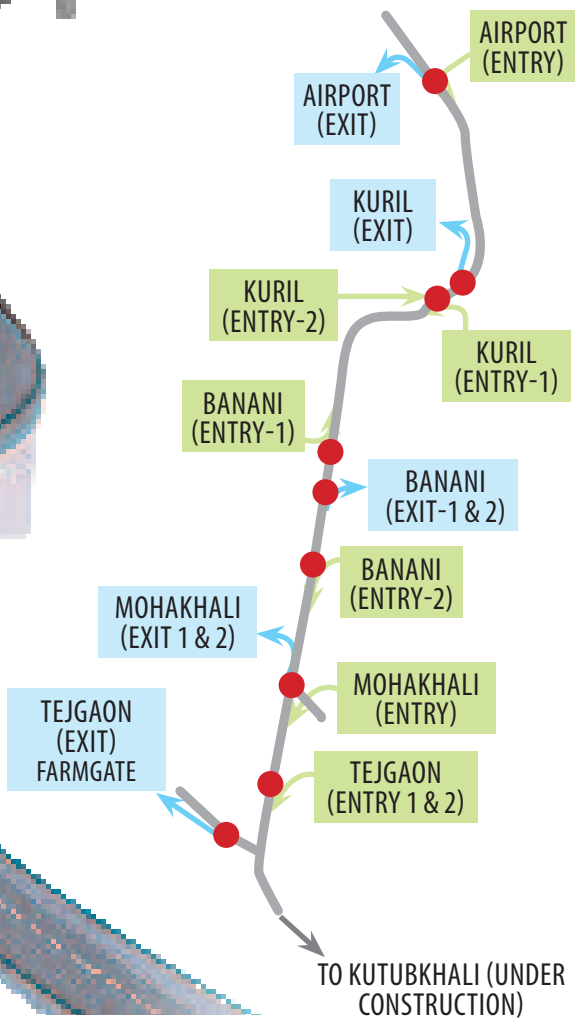
- AT ENTRY/EXIT POINTS  
**Maximum 40 km/hour**

## NOT ALLOWED

Motorcycles and three-wheelers



## ENTRY/EXIT RAMPS



## National polls in January first week

Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman says

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The general elections will be held in the first week of January, although the exact date is yet to be determined, Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman yesterday said.

He made the comment while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the training of trainers for election officials at the Electoral Training Institute in the capital. Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal was the chief guest at the event.

The two-month long training for 3,500 election officials will end on November 30. These officials will then train about 900,000 field-level polling officials.

"With today's training, the formal process of the next parliamentary election has begun," Anisur said.

The current parliament expires on January He "But

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## 3 major powers battling it out in Bangladesh

Say experts at seminar

#### DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the entire South Asia region have become a battleground for three great powers, making it increasingly challenging for Dhaka to continue to balance its relations with the three, said a US-based foreign policy expert.

The tussle between India and China intensified with the Ladakh border clash, while the US is increasing its engagement with South Asian countries to ensure that they do not become completely dependent on Beijing, said Michael Kugelman, South Asia Institute director at the Wilson Centre, a Washington-based think-tank.

Kugelman's comment came at a seminar on Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific Outlook organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies yesterday.

He cited the case of the US-sanctioned Russian ship that was refused for offloading equipment for the Rooppur nuclear power plant in December last year after US objections, putting Bangladesh in a tricky spot.

Bangladesh has so far been making the balancing act, which was evident in its Indo-Pacific Outlook.

"But there could be tipping points that put Bangladesh's balancing policy to test."

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#### DENGUE OUTBREAK

## Highest deaths in a day recorded

21 die from the disease; death toll now 618

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one dengue patients died in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the highest number of single-day casualties from the mosquito-borne disease in the country.

The total number of deaths from dengue fever now stands at 618.

Of the deceased, 19 were in Dhaka city hospitals, followed by one each in Mymensingh and Barishal, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Thirteen patients, however, were brought to Dhaka from outside the city, due to what experts said was a detection and treatment gap outside Dhaka.

During the same period, 2,352 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals, raising the total number of patients hospitalised this year to 1,27,694.

The dengue cases may continue to rise as the ongoing survey by the DGHS revealed a high density of Aedes mosquitoes in 79 wards of two city corporations in Dhaka city.

**"Dengue cases and deaths may continue to be as high as they are now throughout September. Because, as of Friday, we found the Breteau index to be very high, around 20, in the majority of the wards surveyed in the last eight days."**

**Kabirul Bashar,** entomologist and professor at Jahangirnagar University

"Dengue cases and deaths may continue to be as high as they are now throughout September. Because, as of Friday, we found the Breteau index (BI) to be very high—around 20—in the majority of the wards surveyed in the last eight days," Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist and professor at BI

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## Must-win clash for Tigers

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A meek surrender against Sri Lanka has Bangladesh pinned back to the wall as they lock horns with Afghanistan in their second and final Asia Cup group fixture at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore today.

The match is scheduled to begin at 3.30pm, as per Bangladesh Standard Time.

Shakib Al Hasan and Co face an added pressure of having to win by a large margin to boost their chances of advancing to the Super Four.

Just a win for the Tigers today could still do the trick, given Sri Lanka beat Afghanistan in their final group game. Or else, Bangladesh will see the equation come down to net run rate, which has been heavily dented by the big margin defeat in their first game.

Bangladesh had little time to regroup as they instantly had to head off to Lahore from Kandy following a five-wicket loss to co-hosts Sri Lanka.

Except for Najmul Hossain Shanto's 89-run knock, none of Bangladesh batters had an impact as the wheels

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



**Rain forced a no-result in the blockbuster Asia Cup clash between India and Pakistan after just one innings of play on Saturday. Pakistan bowled out India for 266 in 48.5 overs with pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi returning figures of 4-35, but no further play was possible due to persistent rain in Pallekele.**



## DEATH OF HOUSE HELP 10-yr-old girl was beaten, then strangled to death

Say police after arresting  
her employer from Jashore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10-year-old house help, whose body was recovered from a city flat last week, was beaten with a wooden utensil before being strangled on the day she died, said police quoting her employer.

Police said Sathi Parvin, 40, frequently tortured Hena, 10.

They came up with this after arresting Sathi from Jashore yesterday morning.

Sathi had been on the run since August 26 when police recovered the body from her Central Road flat.

The arrestee gave distressing details of torture after her arrest, Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Kalabagan Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Hena's entire body had several signs of torture, said morgue sources at the Dhaka Medical College.

The OC said that Hena, hailing from Muktagacha of Mymensingh, lost her parents when she was little. She was under the care of one of her aunts who took her to Sathi's home in Dhaka three years ago.

Sathi was supposed to pay Hena's aunt Tk 2,000 a month, which she stopped paying after a few months.

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## Missing boy found dead in Ctg canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The body of a boy who went missing in Halishahar area of the port city on Friday evening was recovered from a canal last night.

The deceased is Md Abdul, 5, son of Md Kamal, a resident of the Halishahar area.

The body was recovered from a canal beside Shafiq Colony of Chotopol area under Double Mooring Police Station.

Fazlul Quader, officer-in-charge (OC) of Double Mooring Police Station, told The Daily Star, "The boy went missing from Badsha Mia Brick Field area near his house on Friday around 3:00pm under Halishahar Police Station."

Locals and family suspected that he fell into the canal while playing near it.

An unnatural death case has been filed in this connection.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina flanked by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at a rally on the former trade fair ground at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar after the prime minister inaugurated the country's first elevated expressway yesterday. *Inset*, a section of the crowd at the rally.

## UKRAINE COUNTEROFFENSIVE Troops ‘moving forward’, Zelenskiy says rebuffing critics

Russia says downed three drones near border, Ukrainian shelling kills 1

REUTERS

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said yesterday that Kyiv's troops were "moving forward" in their counteroffensive against Russian forces, rebuffing Western officials who say that Ukraine is gaining ground too slowly.

The much-vaunted counteroffensive, which is nearing the three-month mark, has retaken more than a dozen villages but no major settlements with soldiers hampered by vast Russian minefields and defensive lines.

This week, unnamed US officials vented frustration at the slow progress of the operation and even faulted Ukrainian strategy, according to Western reports that drew Kyiv's ire.

"Ukrainian forces are moving forward. Despite everything, and no matter what anyone says, we are advancing, and that is the most important thing. We are on the move," Zelenskiy wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry said yesterday that it had brought down three Ukrainian drones over the

Belgorod region, while the regional governor said that one man had been killed in a Ukrainian rocket strike on a village close to the border.

Separately, the governors of the nearby frontier regions of Bryansk and Kursk said a string of border villages had come under

**"Ukrainian forces are moving forward. Despite everything, and no matter what anyone says, we are advancing, and that is the most important thing. We are on the move."**

—Zelenskiy

fire from Ukraine, and a woman had been wounded in Kursk region.

Some fear the West's support could begin to falter as colder and wetter weather slows progress on the battlefield later in the year. The West has poured in many billions of dollars to help the counteroffensive and Kyiv says it needs more.

Ukrainian battlefield momentum has picked up slightly in one part of the

southeastern Zaporizhzhia front where Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said on Friday that Kyiv's troops had broken through the first line of Russian defences.

The White House said there had been "notable success" by Ukraine in the area, although Maliar warned that Kyiv's troops had reached even more heavily fortified positions on the other side after breaking through.

Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian territory have picked up in recent weeks, with dozens of drones striking Russia at once on some days, reaching as far as the western city of Pskov, 400 miles (600 km) from Ukraine.

Russian-installed authorities in the Moscow-controlled part of Ukraine's Kherson region also said that Kyiv struck the village of Maslivka in a drone strike, wounding a civilian.

In its daily battlefield update, the Ukrainian military reported no new breakthroughs, but said its troops continued to advance towards Melitopol, a major Russian-occupied urban centre in Zaporizhzhia region.

## Baby killed over property dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police on Friday night arrested two women on charges of killing a five-month old baby over a land dispute in Nalitabari, Sherpur.

Lovely Begum, 30, and her mother-in-law Hanufa Begum, 65, were accused of killing the baby by throwing her to the ground.

According to a case filed by the baby's father Moysor Uddin, a resident of Kandapara, he and the family of the arrestees had a property dispute for years, said Abdul Latif Miah, officer-in-charge of Nalitabari Police Station.

Moysor and his wife Fatema Begum were planting banana saplings on the land in the afternoon when Lovely, her husband Hamidul Islam and Hanufa went there and engaged in an argument, read the complaint.

At one stage, Lovely snatched away the five-month old baby from Fatema and threw her to the ground.

The baby died while being taken to Sherpur General Hospital. Moysor later filed the case accusing the arrestees and three others.

## Two children drown while swimming in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two children drowned while taking a bath in a pond in Kalihati, Tangail yesterday.

The children were Sadi'a Akter Jeem, 8, and her aunt Jannati Akter, 11, of Narandia union.

Jakaria Hossain, an uncle of Jeem, said the girls were declared dead when taken to a hospital.

## Motorcycle accident leaves 23-yr-old dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pillion rider died in a bike accident on Postogola Bridge in the capital early yesterday.

The driver lost control of the motorcycle and the victim, Farhadul Islam Shihab, 23, was hit by a bus after he fell off the bike.

Shihab, son of Abdus Satter from Chandpur, used to live with his family in Jatrabari.

His friend, Saurav, 23, who was driving the motorcycle at the time of the accident, was also injured.

Saiful Islam, sub-inspector of Shyampur Police Station, told The Daily Star that the accident happened around 1:30am.

"Shihab, during the fall, was hit by a passing bus," he said.

Both friends were rushed by police to Dhaka Medical College Hospital's emergency unit.

At the hospital, medical personnel declared Shihab dead.

The police are investigating the incident further to determine the exact cause of the accident.

Shihab's body was sent to the morgue for an autopsy, while Saurav was taken to his residence in Jatrabari after initial medical treatment, added Saiful.

## A new era in Dhaka commute

FROM PAGE 1

She paid the toll at the Kawla end where Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader received Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana.

After a short ceremony there, her convoy drove the 11.5km airport-Agaragaon section and reached the old trade fair ground, where she unveiled the inaugural plaque around 4:00pm.

This section will open to traffic today.

The opening comes a decade after the government signed the deal with Italian-Thai Development Public Company to build the expressway in 2011, at a cost of Tk 8,703 crore. The agreement was revised and inked again in December 2013 with a revised cost of Tk 8,940 crore after bringing several changes to the design. According to the deal, the government will provide Tk 2,413 crore (27 percent) while the private partner will bear the rest.

## Mega projects alone

FROM PAGE 12

are being set up across the country without ensuring quality of education.

The economist observed that the country should set up a lot of polytechnic and nursing education institutes. He said a lot of nurses are recruited by Singapore hospitals from Kerala of India, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

Wahiduddin said a few mistakes in the economic management have caused the current troubles in the macroeconomic management and the ordinary people are suffering the most due to this.

High inflation, depleting forex reserves and current account deficit are the major crises the economy is faced with now, he said, adding that the severe fallouts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war only worsened the crises.

According to him, Bangladesh's economy was performing well

The total length of the expressway is 46.73km stretching from Kawla, Kuril, Banani, Mohakhali, Tejgaon, Moghbazar, Kamalapur, Sayedabad and Jatrabari to Kutubkhali on the Dhaka Chattogram highway.

To mark the opening, Dhaka city AL organised the rally, where Awami League leaders and activists from Dhaka and other districts gathered amid much festivity, chanting various slogans.

Speaking at the rally, Hasina said nothing could be gained by threatening to oust her government through imposing sanctions or visa restrictions.

"Let me tell you clearly. This is our soil; we liberated the country under the leadership of the Father of the Nation. There is nothing to gain by threatening us. People know how to realise their rights," she said, report UNB and BSS.

She also asked her party activists not to be afraid of clouds, and said, "Every cloud has a silver lining."

"There are six seasons in Bangladesh. During these six seasons, sometimes we see rain, sometimes we have storms, sometimes we have sun, and sometimes we have cyclones. We have the experience of witnessing different things in different times. There is no point trying to intimidate us," Hasina said.

The AL chief also said BNP is now talking about a movement for revival of democracy though the party itself was established undemocratically.

"There are many who do not see democracy in the country and want to salvage democracy. How can a party that was formed undemocratically offer democracy?"

Hasina said that between 1975 and 1996 and again between 2001 and 2008, the country had plunged into darkness. "Today, the country is not in that era of darkness anymore. Bangladesh is now on a journey towards light."

The economist said the government could not check borrowers not repaying although banking transactions leave behind evidence.

The Hallmark Group took money from banks. There are paper and digital trails of the transactions, he said, adding, "What is the point of such digitalisation?"

All these bad incidents caused instability in Bangladesh's macroeconomy, he said.

The authorities made another mistake by keeping the loan interest rate unchanged for many years. As a result, an uncertainty was created regarding the economy, he added.

He said the government should adopt an integrated economic policy in a transparent way.

Maintaining a balanced relationship with both China and India is important for Bangladesh as they are major sources for importing

She also said that since 2009, the government has ensured democracy and voting rights in the country.

Speaking at the event, Obaidul Quader said many development projects including elevated expressway, metro rail, Padma Bridge and Bangabandhu Tunnel have been implemented during the AL government's tenure, while the BNP gave the country nothing.

Hundreds of leaders and activists of various associated bodies of AL started thronging the rally venue since 12:00pm with colourful banners and festoons praising the government and the PM.

Within hours, the rally venue was packed with thousands of activists.

Jasim Uddin, 60, came from Jamalpur to attend the rally.

"This [the expressway] is our pride. I have come from so far to listen to the prime minister and other party leaders," he said.

industrial raw materials, said the expert.

Also, maintaining warm ties with the Western countries is important as they are major export destinations for Bangladesh, he said.

The former DU teacher said it doesn't matter whether Bangladesh became a BRICS member.

Payment for exports and imports without US dollars is not possible for Bangladesh as the balance of trade with the importing nations is not adequate to settle payments, he said.

In such a difficult time, the government should think about improving living standards of the low-income people. It should now take up projects which are least harmful to the economy, he observed.

ERF President Mohammad Refayet Ullah Mirdha and General Secretary Abul Kashem also spoke at the event.

## Must-win clash for Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

Except for Najmul Hossain Shanto's 89-run knock, none of Bangladesh batters had an impact as the wheels fell off at the innings' back end, resulting in a paltry 164-run total.

After debutant Tanzid Hasan Tamim and Naim Sheikh failed to provide a stable start, the opening position came under criticism.

The top-order batting thus remains the biggest headache for head coach Chandika Hathursingha, who may make a few changes to the playing eleven.

A lot will be riding on Shanto, Towhid Hridoy, and the seasoned

## National polls

FROM PAGE 1

29. According to the constitution, national elections must be held within 90 days before the expiry of the five-year term of parliament. The 90-day countdown starts on November 1.

Speaking at the event, CEC Kazi Habibul Awal said holding a free and fair election will be an accomplishment for the Commission, and that the EC wants the election to be not only free, fair and peaceful, but also credible.

He said that although determining credibility can be difficult, people's perception following an election is important.

The CEC said conducting an election is not easy in a country where the culture of election, politics and democracy has yet to reach its highest level.

He cited the example of Europe where elections are peaceful because of the level of maturity of their democracies.

"But we are still moving forward with the trial-and-error process," he added.

If people can truly exercise their

Shakib and Mushfikur Rahim to shoulder a lion's share of responsibility against a tough Afghan bowling outfit.

StarleggieRashidKhanandmiserly off-spinnerMujeeb Ur Rahman are anticipated to play crucial roles, as is left-arm seamer Fazalhaq Farooqi — who was instrumental in their recent 2-1 ODI series triumph over hosts Bangladesh.

The iconic Gaddafi Stadium remains an unfamiliar territory for both teams. Bangladesh last played here in 2008, while Afghanistan will be making their debut.

right to vote freely, then that election can be called a true election, he noted, adding, "And the government will be formed on the basis of the opinion of the people."

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan said elections are a teamwork and for having a neutral, free and fair election, all-out support from everyone is necessary.

EC Rashida Sultana said everyone should remain careful so that no questions arise regarding the election.

## How to get

FROM PAGE 1

There are exits on Kemal Ataturk Avenue at Banani and near Mohakhali Bus Terminal.

Two- and three-wheelers are not allowed on the expressway.

Cars, SUVs, minibuses with fewer than 16 seats, and trucks with a capacity of less than 3 tonnes will pay Tk 80 for using the expressway.

Trucks with six wheels will pay Tk 320, those with more than six wheels Tk 400, and buses with 16 or more seats Tk 160.



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## Repression of opposition, journos continue

### Says monthly report of Human Rights Support Society

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 27 political cases were filed against opposition party leaders-activists naming over a thousand people and accusing over 11 thousand unnamed individuals in last month alone.

This was stated in a monthly human rights bulletin circulated by the Human Rights Support Society yesterday.

In addition, 501 people were subjected to political arrests by law enforcement agencies, and 494 of them from the opposition, said the organisation.

At least 6 people were killed and 878 injured in 74 incidents of political violence in August and most of these casualties occurred in clashes centering around the ruling Awami League's infighting and BNP's peace rally, it added.

Besides, there have been incidents of obstruction concerning 14 meetings of the opposition parties by law enforcement forces, that led to clashes, pointed out the statement.

"During the clashes, 435 people were injured and 48 people were arrested," it added.

"A review of the human rights situation in the month of August 2023 shows that, obstruction of peaceful assembly, cases of disappearance by security forces, political arrests, obstruction of funeral prayers, unlawful behavior by members of security forces, attacks and arrests on journalists continue," it stated.

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The dengue ward of the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital overflows with patients and their loved ones, as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease. With medical facilities getting overwhelmed, the doctors and nurses are struggling to ensure proper treatment. The country yesterday reported 21 deaths related to dengue fever, the highest single-day death toll. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## Abul Mansur Ahmad's 125th birth anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the 125th birth anniversary of renowned litterateur, journalist, and politician Abul Mansur Ahmad. On September 3, 1898, he was born in Dhanikhola village of Mymensingh.

He died on March 18, 1979, in Dhaka.

One of the leading satirical writers of Bangla literature, he also had an illustrious career as a journalist and a politician.

In 1946, he was the founding editor of the Daily Ittehad [in Kolkata]. He had earlier worked at

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## 50 editors protest open letter on Yunus

BSS, Dhaka

Fifty editors in a joint statement yesterday protested the issuance of an open letter by foreigners to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina favouring Dr Muhammad Yunus.

"Some foreign noted personalities, including Nobel laureates, politicians, businessmen and civil society members, on August 28 issued an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, calling to stop the ongoing trial proceedings against Dr Muhammad Yunus under Bangladesh's labour law. It is an undue interference in the independent judiciary of a sovereign country; we strongly protest it," they said.

Noting that according to Article 94(4) of the country's constitution, the judiciary of Bangladesh is completely independent, they said, "By issuing such a letter, we think they have unethically, illegally and unconstitutionally interfered in the independent judicial system of Bangladesh".

Such statements or open letters completely go

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## ROOPPUR POWER PLANT

# Tight security planned for nuke fuel transportation

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Extensive preparations are being taken to ensure safe delivery of radioactive fuel to Rooppur power plant in Ishwardi of Pabna ahead of the arrival of the first batch of nuclear fuel in late September.

"The fuel consignment will reach Bangladesh by air, and will then be transported to the project site, some 270 kilometers from the airport [in Dhaka], on special vehicles under strict

**The first batch of nuclear fuel expected to arrive in late September**

security procedures," Shawkat Akbar, project director (PD) of the Rooppur plant, told The Daily Star.

The nuclear fuel containers will be loaded into a chartered plane from Russia by Atomstroyexport, a subsidiary of the country's state-owned Rosatom. The plane will land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with the uranium rods.

Bangladesh Army will devise a security protocol for transporting



the radioactive fuel to the project site by road.

The fuel will be in a special 40-wheel lorry and escorted by vehicles of the armed forces, fire brigade, and health service personnel and ambulances.

"The army will design the security plan and, if needed, engage other departments," an official of the Rooppur project implementation authority the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

The special lorry has already been hired, the official added.

Contacted about the security arrangements and potential risks, Prof Md Shafiqul Islam of the

Nuclear Engineering Department of Dhaka University, said that there are no reported incidents of accidents in transporting unused nuclear fuel.

"According to international standards, transportation companies must use top-tier insurance for such deals, but in this situation, they have no insurance coverage in Bangladesh," he added.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's safeguard mission has been working in Bangladesh to maintain safety standards and training of human resources in nuclear fuel transport, said an official of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA).

The IAEA mission conducted a training under the "National Training Course on Safeguard" on August 20-24 at the BAERA head office in the capital, said Satyajit Ghosh, project director of the nuclear regulatory infrastructure development.

"We have already submitted a series of self-assessment reports to the IAEA in this regard. Furthermore, the IAEA team visited Rooppur and was pleased with the precautions we took to ensure the safe transportation and handling of nuclear fuel," he added.

The first batch of the fuel for unit-1 of the plant was made by TVEL Fuel Company.

The Rooppur nuclear power plant is being built at Ishwardi of Pabna for \$12.65 billion. The two units of the plant have a capacity to produce 2,400MW a day.

The unit is likely to be commissioned next year.

A three-member team led by Miharu Kiryuk, director of IAEA's safeguard department, visited the plant on August 28.

Before the commissioning of the plant, IAEA will set up another monitoring cell for supervision, Satyajit informed.

## Won't be so easy to hold lopsided polls this time

### Khosru tells govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday warned the government that it won't be easy to hold a lopsided election this time.

"An Election Commissioner has said this (Saturday) morning that the election will be held in the first week of January and they've started working on it. Whose election is it?" he said.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said the Election Commission is going to hold the election of a party not that of the people of Bangladesh. "They think people are stupid. It's not that easy to hold the election only by announcing a schedule."

Ganatantra Forum arranged the programme titled 'Justice, Democracy and Human Rights in the Current Context' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

Earlier in the day, Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman said the next national elections will be held in the first week of January.

Khosru, a BNP standing committee member, alleged that the current illegitimate and unelected government is not able to approach the people because of fear of facing wrath while it can't go to fair polls because of fear of the BNP.

"They're using all (state apparatus) to implement their project of stealing votes by keeping people out (of the electoral process.) But it won't happen since the people have decided not to retreat this time. After the liberation war, they have now been on the biggest struggle and their victory is certain," he said.

## INDO-PACIFIC OUTLOOK

# Dhaka stresses on shared prosperity

### Says Shahriar at int'l seminar

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam yesterday said Bangladesh believes that cooperation and collaboration among countries in the Indo-Pacific region are essential for the shared prosperity of all.

"Our Indo-Pacific Outlook is an attempt to tell the world that the region is for common prosperity, not just for those who live in the region, but also for the whole world," he said.

The state minister was speaking at an international seminar on 'Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific Outlook: Opportunities and Way Forward' at BISS auditorium.

Shahriar Alam said a "free, open, peaceful, secure and inclusive" Indo-Pacific is essential for peace, security, stability and growth in the region and beyond.

"Thus, our Indo-Pacific outlook is not security-centric, rather we focus on inclusive development of this region. It is not about critical choices between the major powers," the state minister for foreign affairs said.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, Chairman of BISS AFM Gousal Azam Sarker, Convener, Centre for Research on Strategic and Security Issues, New Delhi Pankaj Saran and Chairman, BFRS ASM Shamsul Arefin

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

The stellar duo Salma Akhter Mone and Mst. Sakina Khanam with representatives from bti and The Daily Star.

## Honouring two stellar women

### bti, Star award 2 in sports, agriculture categories

CITY DESK

To recognise the special contributions of emerging, young and promising women from different walks of life, bti and The Daily Star honoured two women in 'Sports' and 'Agriculture' categories at an event yesterday.

The event -- "Stellar Women Awards" -- was held at bti Celebration Point, Gulshan-2 in Dhaka.

Salma Akhter Mone in the "Sports" category and Mst. Sakina Khanam in the "Agriculture" category were presented with the awards.

This initiative will award 12 women in 12 categories. Previously, promising women from 'Development', 'Technology', 'Architecture', 'Education', 'Corporate' and 'Culture' sectors have been awarded the recognition.

Salma Akhter Mone is the first Bangladeshi female referee to officiate international matches beyond South Asia. In 2021, she became the first female Bangladeshi FIFA assistant referee, and currently serves as an AFC elite assistant referee. She previously officiated age-level men's tournaments and played as a district-level athlete.

After receiving the award, she said, "I would like to thank bti and The Daily Star for recognising my years of hard work and dedication".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



## 7000 families

FROM PAGE 5  
least 798 houses went underwater 5,683 hectares of agricultural land were damaged, it said.

Abdullah Al Mamun, Executive Engineer of Kurigram Water Development Board , said, “There is no imminent possibility of rise in water levels in the next 48 hours, which indicates an improvement in the flood situation.”

DC of Kurigram, Mohammad Saidul Arif, said that resources have been allocated by the district and upazila administrations to aid flood-affected people. Distribution of relief materials is underway, he said.

“Furthermore, 18 permanent and 361 temporary shelters have been established to provide shelter to the displaced residents, and an adequate number of speedboats and boats are on standby for flood rescue operations,” he added.

In Gaibandha, academic activities of sixty primary, secondary schools and madrasas in four upazilas have been suspended due to the ongoing flood.

## Over 2,200 sued

FROM PAGE 5  
obstructing government work using explosives and attacking the police in Gaibandha town during the party’s rally on Friday.

Sub-Inspector Zakaria of Gaibandha Sadar police station filed the case yesterday afternoon.

Three accused have already been arrested in the case, said Masud Rana, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gaibandha Sadar police station.

The clash broke out on Friday afternoon when BNP brought out a procession in Gaibandha on the occasion of the founding anniversary of the party.

Dr Moinul Hasan Sadiq, president of Gaibandha chapter BNP, said when their rally reached Shahid Minar area of the municipality, police obstructed them and charged batons to disperse the BNP leaders and activists. Police also fired tear gas shells and bullets, leaving 20 leaders and activists of the BNP injured, claimed the BNP leader.

Like all Indo-Pacific partners, he said, Bangladesh faces a number of non-traditional security threats that can be a serious detriment to our economic growth and development aspirations unless we tackle them through effective regional and international collaboration.

“Here, we would like to stress that security or defence cooperation does not necessarily entail joining any military bloc or alliance,” he added.

Foreign Secretary Masud Momen said Bangladesh cannot afford to pursue a divisive or exclusionary approach to the Indo-Pacific as we strive towards collective resilience and prosperity in tandem with their own development trajectory.

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## 50 editors protest

FROM PAGE 3  
against the provisions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the laws of Bangladesh, safeguarding labour rights, the editors added.

Such statements and letters from the globally famous and Nobel laureate personalities are unwanted and unethical, they said, adding the demand that one cannot be prosecuted or sued for committing crimes is contrary to the establishment of justice and the rule of law.

“We think they made such a demand without having proper knowledge about the cases (against Dr Yunus). So, we would like to invite them or their representatives to come to Bangladesh and observe whether Dr Yunus is being harassed at all. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already given this message, and we also support it,” said the eminent editors.

The comments made in the letter regarding democracy and elections in Bangladesh are

tantamount to direct interference in an independent and sovereign state, the statement said, adding, as citizens of the independent country, which emerged through the great Liberation War, the people of Bangladesh will not accept such insulting, unwanted and illegal interference from any quarter.

“We call upon all concerned to show respect to Bangladesh’s independence, sovereignty, independent judiciary and labour rights,” the editors said.

The editors included the Daily Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, the Ajker Patrika Editor Golam Rahman, the Ittefaq Editor Tasmina Hossain, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Chief Editor Abul Kalam Azad, the Kaler Kantho Chief Editor Imdadul Haque Milan, the Samakal Editor Alamgir Hossain, the Jugantor Editor Saiful Alam, the Bangladesh Pratidin Editor Naem Nizam, UNB Editor Farid Hossain and the Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutt.

Genetics & Breeding at Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA). After receiving the award, she too, appreciated this Stellar Women initiative in her welcome speech.

“Believe in your qualifications and prove yourself. Don’t let your focus stray even for a bit,” she added.

bti Managing Director FR Khan, , Head of Marketing at The Daily Star Imran Kadir, and several other senior officials of both the organisations attended the event.

Repression

FROM PAGE 3  
“These findings are based on information from various media outlets in Bangladesh, as well as investigations conducted by the HRSS’s dedicated unit and input from local representatives.”

The statement also pointed out that violence against women continues unabated with as many as 85 women being raped, of whom 38 were minors.

“It is of great concern that 13 women and children were gang raped and 2 were killed after the rape,” it said. They also logged one incident of acid violence.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 3

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00  
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Flat for sale

address: 1 Block, Bashundhara R/A, plot No: 657/A, 657/B 657/C & 716 Road: 4th Avenue size-3000sqft Facing: 3side Road Facing Completion status: 2 car parking Other Facilities: Infinity Swimming pool , Convention Hall, Playground etc.

Contact No: 01711226475

কমার্শিয়াল স্পেস বিক্রয়

মতিঝিল দিলকুশার ইউনুস ট্রেড সেন্টারে ৮ তলায় ৭৮০০ বর্গফুট ও ২টি কার পার্কিংয়ে একটি কমার্শিয়াল স্পেস বিক্রয় করা হবে।

01712021072

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR TRADE FACILITATION

swisscontact

SWISS FOUNDATION FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

House 28, Road 43, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR “SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING of Server, LAN, WIFI and CCTV SURVEILLANCE System for Bhomra Land Port.”

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Swisscontact Bangladesh (Swiss Foundation for Technical Cooperation) is seeking **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR “SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING of Server, LAN, WIFI and CCTV SURVEILLANCE System for Bhomra Land Port.”** Interested bidders are required to submit their proposal along with the necessary documents specified in the RFP.

For detail RFP & necessary Annexes are available on the website. Please visit:

**Swisscontact Bangladesh Link:**  
https://www.swisscontact.org/\_Resources/Persistent/8/8/0/9/880916f8e551328a723c5f3b b97509aff108edaa/230831%20RFP%20Bhomra%20Land%20Port%20GATF%2C%20DBLP.pdf

**BDJOBS.com Link:**  
https://hotjobs.bdjobs.com/jobs/swisscontact/swisscontact562.htm

The interested bidder must submit soft copies and hard copies by **5:00 p.m. on September 30, 2023**, in accordance with the RFP’s submission guidelines.

ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল কলেজ

৫৩/১, জনসন রোড, ঢাকা-১১০০।

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল কলেজে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদের নাম	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১। অধ্যক্ষ বয়সঃ ৬০ বৎসর (অনুর্ধ্ব)।	বিএমএন্ড ডিসি’র নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী।

**শর্তাবলীঃ**  
১। অগ্রাহ্য প্রার্থীগণকে কলেজ অফিস অথবা কলেজের ওয়েব সাইট (www.dnmc.edu.bd) হতে নির্ধারিত দরখাস্ত ফরম সজ্জা করে নির্ধারিত ফি (ব্যাক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার) সহ দরখাস্ত আগামী ২৩-০৯-২০২৩ইং তারিখ দুপুর ২.০০টার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।  
২। আবেদনকারীকে তার সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে), ৪ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রসিদ ছবি এবং এন.আইডি এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি আবেদন পত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।  
৩। কলেজের নিয়মানুযায়ী নির্ধারিত বেতন-ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে।  
৪। শুধুমাত্র বাহ্যিকৃত প্রার্থীদেরকেই সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য ঢাকা হবে এবং থাকের উপর পদের নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।  
৫। চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।  
৬। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।  
৭। অভ্যন্তরীণ অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে অগ্রাধিকার প্রদান করা হবে এবং বয়স শিথিল যোগ্য।  
৮। কর্তৃপক্ষ কলেজের স্বার্থে বিজ্ঞপ্তির যে কোন শর্ত শিথিল, বাতিল অথবা পুরো নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল/স্থগিত করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)  
ঢাকা ন্যাশনাল মেডিক্যাল কলেজ।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

পরিবেশ ভবন, ই/১৬, আগারগাঁও

শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.doe.gov.bd

সংখ্যাঃ পরিবেশ/ওডিএস(বিঃওঃডিঃ)/১৬৬/২০২৩/৮০

তারিখঃ ৩১ আগস্ট ২০২৩খ্রিঃ

শিশু-কিশোর চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতা

বিষয়ঃ পরিবেশ ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন।

স্থানঃ বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমী, দোয়েল চত্বর, হাইকোর্ট এলাকা, ঢাকা।

তারিখঃ ৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩; রোজঃ মঙ্গলবার; সময়ঃ বিকাল ৩:০০টায়।

প্রতিযোগীর বয়সঃ ক গ্রুপঃ ০৪ বছর - অনুর্ধ্ব ০৭ বছর;  
খ গ্রুপঃ ০৭ বছর - অনুর্ধ্ব ১১ বছর;  
গ গ্রুপঃ ১১ বছর - অনুর্ধ্ব ১৬ বছর;  
ঘ গ্রুপঃ বিশেষ চাহিদাসম্পন্ন শিশু

মাধ্যমঃ যে কোন অংকন সামগ্রী (পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর কার্টাজ পেপার সরবরাহ করবে)।

পুরস্কারঃ প্রতি গ্রুপে ৩ (তিন) জন বিজয়ীকে সনদপত্র ও পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে।

বিশ্ব গুজোন দিবস, ২০২৩ উদযাপন উপলক্ষে শিশু-কিশোরদের চিত্রাঙ্কন প্রতিযোগিতা আগামী ০৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ তারিখ, রোজ মঙ্গলবার, বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমী, দোয়েল চত্বর, হাইকোর্ট এলাকা, ঢাকা প্রাঙ্গণে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। অগ্রাহ্য প্রতিযোগীদের দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রয়োজনীয় উপকরণ (রং, তুলি, বোর্ড ইত্যাদি) এবং জন্ম সনদপত্রের ফটোকপিসহ উপস্থিত হয়ে প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আহ্বান জানানো যাচ্ছে। পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর কার্টাজ পেপার সরবরাহ করবে।

বিজয়ী প্রতিযোগীদের নাম মূল জন্ম সনদপত্র যাচাইপূর্বক ডাক যোগে ও মোবাইল নম্বরে জানানো হবে এবং ১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর বিশ্ব গুজোন দিবস উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত সেমিনারে পুরস্কৃত করা হবে।

মোঃ জিয়াউল হক

পরিচালক (বায়ুমান ব্যবস্থাপনা)

ফোনঃ ০১৭১৩০১৩৩০১০/০১৭১৬২২৩৬১৪

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Alternative Medical Care (AMC)

Director General of Health Services

Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Memo No. DGHS/AMC/Procurement plan/GoB (Services)/2023-2024/3966

Date: 31/08/2023

1.	Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
2.	Division	Health Services Division.
3.	Agency	Directorate General of Health Services.
4.	Procuring entity name	Line Director, Alternative Medical Care (AMC), DGHS.
5.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6.	Expression of interest for selection of	SL. No. Package No. Name of the service package
		01 AMC-2023-2024-SD-1 (Unani) Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMC Education Unani System of Medicine Situation analysis.
		02 AMC-2023-2024-SD-2 (Ayurvedic) Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMC Education Ayurvedic System of Medicine Situation analysis.
		03 AMC-2023-2024-SD-3 (Homeopathic) Survey on Challenges and opportunities of AMC Education Homeopathic System of Medicine Situation analysis.
7.	EOI Ref. No.	Memo No. DGHS/AMC/ Procurement plan/GoB (Services)/2023-2024/
8.	Date	03/09/2023.
9.	Procurement method	Consulting firm/research institute will be selected in accordance with the People's Republic of Bangladesh procurement Guideline and procedures set out in the Public Procurement Regulation 2008 of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh (Followed by QCBS Method).
10.	Budget of source of funds	As per ADP allocation 2023-2024 (GOB), Health Sector Development fund.
11.	Project/program name	4th HPNSP, Alternative Medical Care (AMC).
12.	Development partners	N/A.
13.	Project/program code	127-12702-224021011
14.	EOI closing date & time	01/10/2023 (Up to 1.00pm). EOIs shall be submitted in sealed ghala envelope to Line Director, Alternative Medical Care, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Name of the work should be mentioned on the top of the envelop.
15.	Brief description of assignment	(1). Survey on challenges and opportunities of AMC Education Unani System of Medicine Situation analysis. (2). Survey on challenges and opportunities of AMC Education Ayurvedic System or Medicine Situation analysis (3). Survey on challenges and opportunities of AMC Education Homeopathic System of Medicine Situation analysis.
16.	Experience, resources & delivery capacity required	The application shall have to submit the EOI with the following documents: (1) Category of the firm: Research Organization/Survey organization/Consulting firm; (2) Brief description of the firm with proof of working in the relevant areas and of conducting Survey; (3) Updated Valid Trade License/Registration; (4) Updated income Tax certificate; (5) Updated Certificate of VAT; (6) Minimum 05 (five) years experience in the health related survey/research; (7) List of major clients working within last five years with contact reference; (8) Liquid money or credit facility certificate with of Tk. 75.00 Lac (Seventy five lac) in case package AMC-2023-2024-SD-1 (Unani), Tk. 75.00 Lac (Seventy five lac) in case package AMC-2023-2024-SD-2 (Ayurvedic) & Tk. 75.00 Lac (Seventy five lac) in case package AMC-2023-2024-SD-3 (Homeopathic) (Any liquid money or credit facility certificate issued before 28 days prior to last date of submission of EOI will not be accepted) (9) Updated Bank solvency certificate with statement & financial audit report (10) Name of the central key personnel with CV who will be involved with the assignment; (11) Relevant documents in favor of organizational strength of the farm; (12) Each research organization/survey organization consulting farm can apply only in one package.
17.	Association with other firms	Consultant firm/research institute may associate with other consultants to enhance its quality (optional).
18.	Association with foreign firms	N/A.
19.	Name of official inviting EOI	Dr. Md. Abu Zaher.
20.	Designation of official inviting EOI	Line Director, Alternative Medical Care (AMC).
21.	Address of official inviting EOI	Room No-502, (Old Building) Alternative Medical Care, DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
22.	Contact details of officials inviting EOI	Tel No-02-58812134, Email- amc@ld.dghs.gov.bd
23.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject any or all of the EOIs.	

Dr. Md. Abu Zaher

Line Director

Alternative Medical Care Program

DGHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka

GD-1337



## COP-BNP CLASHES Over 2,200 sued in 4 dists

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers have filed three cases accusing more than 2,200 people—mostly BNP leaders and activists—in Netrakona, Magura and Patuakhali districts, report our local correspondents and UNB.

In Magura, a case was filed yesterday against 1,400 people, of whom about 1,300 are unnamed, following a clash between police and BNP activists during the party's procession marking its founding anniversary.

The incident happened in Mohammadpur upazila on Friday, said police.

In the case, filed by Mohammadpur Police Station Sub-inspector Jannatul Badsha, the people were accused of obstructing government work, assaulting police and vandalising vehicles.

A total of 101 upazila BNP activists were named among the accused. Four people were arrested, said police.

In Netrakona, police filed a case yesterday accusing 285 BNP men under the Special Powers Act for allegedly attacking police and obstructing them from performing their duties during a clash between Awami League and BNP activists in Kalmakanda upazila.

Over 50 people—including four police personnel—were injured in the clash that ensued on Friday.

Thirty-five named and 250 anonymous persons were accused in the case, said Kalmakanda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jalal Uddin.

In Patuakhali, a case was filed on Friday night against 225 BNP men in connection with a clash with police in Dasmina upazila during the party's procession marking its founding anniversary earlier in the day.

At least 13 people, including three policemen and 10 BNP leaders, were injured in the incident.

Dasmina Police Station SI Mehedi Hasan filed the case accusing 25 named BNP men and 200 unnamed others. Two BNP men have been arrested in this connection so far, said Dasmina Police Station OC Anwar Hossain Talukdar.

In Gaibandha, a case was filed against 36 BNP leaders and activists and some 300 unnamed individuals for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Water, water everywhere, not a drop to drink! Hospital in Netrakona's haor area runs amid array of crises



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Khaliajuri Upazila Health Complex in Netrakona's Khaliajuri upazila has a tale of irony to begin with.

Established in the haor area of the district in 1996, the hospital has water everywhere around it. In fact, it is the only hospital in Netrakona that has a water ambulance service to reach critical patients to upazila and district headquarters during the monsoon.

And yet, the 31-bed hospital has no supply of pure drinking water.

The only deep tube-well at the hospital went out of order more than six months ago but has not been replaced yet to mitigate the drinking water crisis.

"Soon after I joined the hospital in March this year, I informed Public Health Engineering Department about the crisis. They repaired the old deep

tube-well but it went out of order again within few days," said Dr Hasanul Mahmud, upazila health and family planning officer in Khaliajuri.

"It is beyond imagination that a hospital has been running for months without having the facility of pure drinking water supply. It is a basic need for patients, their attendants and hospital staff as well," lamented Mrinal Kanti Deb, a local journalist.

For thousands of poor people in the haor area, the hospital is very much the only place to go for treatment. More than 500 patients throng to the hospital for outdoor and indoor treatment every day, while an average of around 40 patients remain admitted to the hospital daily.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## ROAD CRASH 1 killed, 2 hurt in Dinaipur

UNB, Dinaipur

An autorickshaw driver died and two Nepalese students of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University in Dinaipur sustained injuries as a speeding truck rammed into their autorickshaw nearby the university yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was named Ikramul, 40. The injured students Makbul Hossain, 25, and Trafing Kachhi, 22, are pursuing higher education at the university.

Locals and witnesses said the accident happened around 2:00pm when the truck ran over the autorickshaw, leaving the driver dead on the spot.

## 20 hurt as BNP, cops clash in Rajbari; 15 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajbari

At least 20 people including four police personnel were injured as BNP leaders and activists clashed with police in Rajbari town yesterday.

Police detained 15 people after the clash.

Around 12:00pm, Ali Newaz Mahmud Khayyam, former lawmaker of Rajbari constituency and former president of Rajbari BNP, brought out a procession with thousands of BNP leaders and activists on the occasion of BNP's 45th founding anniversary.

When the procession reached the court gate intersection, police fired rubber bullets, and tear gas, Khayyam claimed.

Police, however, said they were provoked by the BNP members to take necessary actions in order to contain the situation.

Khayyam claimed that sixteen BNP leaders got injured in the incident.

GM Abul Kalam Azad, Superintendent of Police in Rajbari stated, "The activists of BNP started throwing brick chunks at the police. They also tore down Mourning Day placards, festoons. Police opened fire with shotgun pellets to bring the situation under control. 4 cops were injured. They took treatment at Rajbari Sadar Hospital."

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Memo No. 35.01.0000.195.32.032.23-2127 Dated: 31/08/2023

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender are invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rangpur for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender last selling (Date & time)	Tender closing (Date & time)	Tender opening (Date & time)
01.	869531	SE/RHD/RR/C/ PMP-Major/02/ 2023-2024	Strengthening of Existing Pavement Providing Aggregate Base Type-1, Dense Bituminous Surfacing (DBS Base Course & DBS Wearing Course) from Ch. 12+575 (Simanto Mor) to Ch. 15+935 (Shaptibar) and Construction of footpath along the road of Ch. 11+300 to Ch. 13+450 under PMP (Road Major) of Barabari-Lalmonirhat-Burimari National Highway (N-509) under Road Division, Lalmonirhat during the year 2023-24.	01/10/2023 at 17:00	02/10/2023 at 13:00	02/10/2023 at 13:00
02.	869532	SE/RHD/RR/C/ MP-Major/03/ 2023-2024	Strengthening of Existing Pavement Providing Aggregate Base Type-1 and Dense Bituminous Surfacing (DBS Base Course & Wearing Course) from Ch. 48+630 to 50+400 (Bhotmari Bazar), Ch. 50+700 (Bhotmari Bazar) to 52+000 (Gaglarpar Jame Mosque) under PMP (Road-Major) of Barabari Lalmonirhat-Burimari Road (N-509) under the Road Division, Lalmonirhat during the year 2023-2024.	01/10/2023 at 17:00	02/10/2023 at 13:05	02/10/2023 at 13:05

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd)). Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after date on 02/10/2023 at 13:00 for Tender ID No: 869531 and date on 02/10/2023 at 13:05 for Tender ID No: 869532.

**Md. Abdur Rahim**  
ID No. 005111  
Superintending Engineer, RHD  
Road Circle, Rangpur

GD-1336

## FLOOD IN KURIGRAM 7000 families still stranded

UNB, Kurigram

The water levels of 16 rivers in Kurigram started receding on Friday morning, but nearly 7,000 families of five upazilas have been struggling in stagnant floodwater without drinking water and cooked food.

Over the past two days, 60-80 houses were swept away by the Brahmaputra River due to intense erosion in Chilmari upazila's Nayarhat and Shakhahati Chars.

The unfortunate residents of these areas now find themselves bereft of homes, enduring an inhumane existence under the open sky.



Visiting the flood-affected areas, UNB correspondent witnessed the desolate scenes unfolding as people huddled inside their homes, cowsheds, or seeking refuge in boats.

The persisting waterlogging and submerged tubewells is exacerbating the clean drinking water shortage. To add to their misery, they are forced to subsist on dry rations.

The scarcity of cooking fuel has rendered cooking nearly impossible in these areas. Some families have resorted to pooling resources, with 4-5 households sharing a single stove, cooking together to conserve fuel while preparing their meals.

Homes and agricultural land along the riverbanks in Kurigram Sadar, Ulipur, Chilmari, Nageswari, and Rajarhat remain submerged. While erosion along the Teesta's banks has slightly decreased, fresh erosion has emerged within the Brahmaputra basin.

According to the district administration's Disaster Management unit, 18,626 people are still marooned after the third flood hit the district. At

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Body of child recovered

STAR REPORT

The Fire Service yesterday recovered the body of a child who went missing earlier while taking a bath under Bakrail Bridge in the Tongi West area of Gazipur.

The rescued child, Bayezid (10), is the son of Alamgir Hossain of Gaibandha district.

Bayezid went missing on Thursday afternoon. Later, the fire service's diving team recovered his body from the bridge's side, confirmed Tongi West Police Station OC Md. Shah Alam.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
District Primary Education Office  
Patuakhali  
<https://dpe.patuakhali.gov.bd>

Memo No. dpeo/patua/580

**e-Tender Notice No. 02/2022-23**

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

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Tender/proposal document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender/proposal closing date & time	Remarks
1	Goods, Procurement of Furniture supply for 126 Nos. Classroom and 29 Nos. of Teacher's Room of Selected 32 Nos. of Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary Schools Constructed under NBIDNNGPSP1 project of Bauphal, Dashmina and Dumki Upazilla in Patuakhali District FY-2022-2023	767146	NBIDNNGPSP1/ PAT/2022-23-G1-08	24-Sep-2023 16:00	25-Sep-2023 14:00	OTM
2	Goods, Procurement of Furniture for Furniture Supply for 125 Nos. Classroom and 29 Nos. of Teacher's Room of selected 32 Nos. of Newly Nationalized Govt. Primary School Constructed under NBIDNNGPSP1 project of, Galachipa, Kalapara, Mirzaganj and Patuakhali Sadar Upazilla in Patuakhali District FY-2022-2023	848756	NBIDNNGPSP1/ PAT/2022-23-G1-09	24-Sep-2023 16:00	25-Sep-2023 14:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no of line/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for tender/proposal document to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Molla Bokitar Rahaman**  
District Primary Education Officer  
Patuakhali  
Ph: 02-478835640  
E-mail: dpeopatua@gmail.com

GD-1339

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৩১ আগস্ট ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

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জাতীয় দৈনিক পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ২২/০৫/২০২৩ তারিখে ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০২.২৭১৯.২০১৯-৪২১ নম্বর স্মারকে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (পুর) পদের বিপরীতে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর কারিগরি সহযোগিতায় অনলাইনে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনকারীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী গ্রহণ করা হবেঃ

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০২। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য পরীক্ষার্থীগণ তাদের স্ব-স্ব প্রবেশপত্র ০৫ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে এ ওয়েবসাইট (<http://dssc.teletalk.com.bd>) মাধ্যমে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতীত কোনো পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

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**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT)**  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.

**e-Tender Notice**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication date	Online Tender Closing date
01	865619 (KUET/P&D/64/05/2023 Date-29/08/2023)	Package No.-RG-01 (Revenue)/ 2023-2024 Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply of Electrical Goods for KUET	03 September 2023	18 September 2023
02	865622 (KUET/P&D/65/05/2023 Date-29/08/2023)	Package No.-RG-02 (Revenue)/ 2023-2024 Open Tendering Method (OTM)	Supply of Papers for KUET	03 September 2023	18 September 2023

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

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

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

**(Prof. Dr. Sobahan Mia)**  
Director, Planning & Development  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET)  
Khulna-9203.

GD-1335



# I don't need a hero as long as the story is good:

PRIYONTEE URBEE

Portraying a character like Borsha, was very exciting for me. Her multilayered persona and the way it was written intrigued me the most.



**RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA**

The sweet and charming Priyontee Urbée donned a different avatar in Deepto Play's web-film *Apolap*. From portraying a resilient mother in *Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban* in the project *Ei Muhurte*, to playing the antagonist in her latest web film, Urbée loves taking on challenging roles as she thrives to prove herself in Showbiz.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the actress opens up about her latest projects and more.

**How was your experience of playing an antagonist?**

Portraying a character like Borsha, was very exciting for me.

Her multilayered persona and the way it was written intrigued me the most. Antagonist roles often receive immense hatred from the audience. The reception of Mostafa Monwar's character in *Shurongo* is a good example of this tendency. However, despite playing an antagonist, people loved my portrayal of the character.

**What was the most challenging scene in the web-film? How did you prepare yourself for the role?**

*Apolap* did not present many challenges for me as an artiste. However, I had difficulty walking around in heels, which was tough as I don't wear such uncomfortable shoes in real life.

My director, Muhammad Ali Munna, gave me some films to study to help mold my character. He told me sternly that I must essay the role with such ease that the audience shouldn't be able to guess till the end that I am the antagonist, and that everything had been happening because of Borsha.

**How was it working with such a stellar cast?**

I didn't have any scenes with Nipun *apu* and I first got to interact with her during the premiere. She is exceptionally sweet and down to earth.

Barshon was incredibly supportive as I shot most of my scenes with him.

I was initially worried about working with Ziaul Roshan, fearing that commercial actors might be difficult to work with. But he was always punctual.

I developed a great rapport with my co-stars, making it feel as though we'd worked together before.

**How has the production's reception been so far?**

The response has been positive till now. Our main feedback will come from Deepto Play's subscribers, who are paying a nominal fee to access our content.

However, it is disheartening to discover that some people are watching our content for free on Telegram. Despite our best efforts and significant investment from our producers, it breaks our hearts that our audience can not afford to pay Tk 18 to enjoy our web film.

**Why is it that most of your projects don't have heroes?**

My stories are my heroes; as long as my story is good, I don't care about having a hero on screen.

While shooting for *Kothay Palabe Bolo Rupban*, excited spectators asked me who the actress was. I told them there was no 'heroine' as I couldn't make them understand the plot.

Asked about the hero, I often responded by saying the '*golpo*' (story) was the production's hero. This answer often left them confused as they thought '*golpo*' was the name of my hero in the production.

**What are your upcoming projects?**

Currently, I am shooting with Afzal Hossain for the feature film *City Gold*, helmed by Sajal A Azad. We have a few days of shooting left. I have also finished shooting for *June* and am currently involved in the dubbing process.

Additionally, I am also in talks for the *Ministry of Love* anthology series, but nothing has been finalised yet.



## Ayushmann to start filming Sourav Ganguly biopic in December

Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana is all set to step into the shoes of former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly for an upcoming biopic. Directed by Aishwarya Rajinikanth, the film is slated to commence shooting in December.

In the latest report from Mid-Day, it's been noted that Khurrana, who is a left-handed batsman like Ganguly, had been chosen with confidence so that he can authentically capture the cricketer's essence on-field. The actor will also undergo extensive training to delve into Ganguly's life beyond the cricket pitch.

A source closely associated with the film revealed, "Ayushmann will commence his training next month in Mumbai. He will have more than two months to prepare for the role."

## Rajinikanth becomes highest-paid actor in India with 'Jailer'

Rajinikanth's latest release, *Jailer*, continues to dominate the box office. Since its worldwide debut on August 10, the film has amassed over Rs 328 crore nett in India within 22 days and is steadily progressing towards crossing Rs 650 crore worldwide.

Celebrating the film's immense success, renowned film trade analyst Manobala Vijayabalan took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to make a significant announcement: Rajinikanth is now India's highest-paid actor.

*Jailer* features an ensemble cast, including Rajinikanth, Vinayakan, Ramya Krishnan, Vasanth Ravi, and Tamannaah Bhatia in pivotal roles.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Mass grave of 7 martyrs lies neglected

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh**

A mass graveyard of seven valiant freedom fighters, who embraced martyrdom during the Liberation War in 1971, in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila is on the verge of being eroded by the Ganeshwari river.

Freedom fighter Abdul Khaleque Talukder, also chairman of Kalmakanda Upazila Parishad, said seven freedom fighters—Dr Abdul Aziz and Mohammad Fazlul Haque of Netrakona, Mohammad Yaar Mahmud, Bhabotosh Chandra Das, Dijendra Chandra Biswas and Mohammad Nuruzzaman of Mymensingh, and Jamal Uddin of Jamalpur—borrowed martyrdom during a fierce battle with the Pakistani occupation forces at Nazirpur Bazar in Kalmakanda on July 26 in 1971.

Later, fellow freedom fighters took their bodies and buried them in bordering Phulbari area.

Every year the upazila administration and local freedom fighters observe the day as 'Historic Nazirpur Day' with due respect, said Saidur Rahman, chairman of Lengura Union Parishad (UP).

But continuous erosion by the

Ganeshwari river in the last couple of years has put the graveyard at risk as the paved road along the river is eroding every year, the chairman added.

At present, the graveyard is pretty close to the river and if immediate steps are not taken to stop the erosion right now, it may devour in the river soon, a number of locals said.

Schoolteacher Ashraf Ali said such historic places should be preserved for the better interest of the younger generations.

Local people have been urging the authorities concerned to build a guide wall along the Ganeshwari river to protect the martyrs' graves from further erosion, he said.

They have also been demanding to construct a museum at the place with complete information about the seven martyrs, their memorabilia and history of other freedom fighters in the region.

Kalmakanda LGED Upazila Engineer Shuvra Deb Chakraborty said they have sent a project proposal to repair the damaged road, stretching from Lengura Bazar to the Martyrs' Graveyard, and construct guide walls at different risky spots of the road.



Present condition of the mass grave of seven martyred freedom fighters along the Ganeshwari river in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila.

### 10-yr-old girl

**FROM PAGE 2**

"Sathi used to torture Hena with excuses like not doing her job properly and not paying heed to her instructions. On the day of the incident, Sathi beat her with a wooden lentil mixer and then stepped and pressed on her throat," said the OC.

After Hena died, Sathi fled.

Mofizur Rahman, manager of the seven-storey flat building, said Sathi had been living in the flat, owned by her ex-husband, with her four-year-old daughter.

Sathi went to meet her ex-husband in Jashore after the incident, according to police.

Awlad Hossain, who got on a bus from Gulistan, said, "It took over 4 hours to cover the short distance to Farmgate. We wasted so much time on the road, whereas it normally takes just 20 minutes."

Other commuters echoed similar frustrations over the extreme delays. Many were forced to walk long distances, with one Pavel Rahman walking from Mirpur 60 feet to Farmgate which took him three hours.

### Highest deaths

**FROM PAGE 1**

Jahangirnagar University who is coordinating the survey, told The Daily Star.

BI is calculated as the number of containers with any larvae or pupae, divided by the total number of inspected households, multiplied by 100.

A total of 99 wards—40 in Dhaka North City Corporation and 59 in Dhaka South City Corporation—are being surveyed under the programme.

The survey will end today, according to Kabirul.

"The high BI reflects that the anti-mosquito drive has not been effective and is inadequate," he added.

Dr Mushtuq Hussain, consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), meanwhile, highlighted the absence of access to dengue testing services in rural areas.

"There is no dengue testing arrangement in upazila health complexes. As a result, people cannot even know in time that they have a dengue infection," Dr Mushtuq Hussain told The Daily Star yesterday.

He urged the government to arrange low-cost dengue testing services at people's doorsteps outside Dhaka.

## Dhaka grinds to a halt

**FROM PAGE 12**

Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital at 10:30am. However, due to traffic jams, they reached the Banglamotor intersection after four gruelling hours.

"I hired a CNG for Tk 600 but we couldn't reach the hospital even by 2:30pm," Jalal said anxiously, unsure if his mother could see a doctor that day.

Awlad Hossain, who got on

## Flood worsens in six districts

**FROM PAGE 12**

don't have enough food and drinking water," said Abdul Kuddus, 65, a resident of Fulchari's Guptamoni area.

Fulchari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Anisur Rahman said relief efforts will begin today.

In Bogura, the Jamuna was flowing 21cm above danger level at Sariakandi, flooding around 172

## 3 major powers battling

**FROM PAGE 1**

Those are China's invasion of Taiwan and Russia's expansion of war to Poland, a NATO member.

"If one or both of these happens, Dhaka could come under unprecedented pressure from the US and its Western allies to take stronger positions against China and Russia," Kugelman said, adding that the scenarios should not be discounted at all.

The Indo-Pacific region is the focus of global powers and so is Bangladesh because of its geographical location, said foreign policy analysts from home and abroad.

The Russia-Ukraine war has further intensified the global power competition.

Constructive regional and international cooperation is one of the guiding principles of Bangladesh's 'Indo-Pacific Outlook', said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"There were no vehicles so I had to walk. I didn't know about the rally. If I had, I would've stayed home," said Pavel.

Citizens openly vented anger over the rally disrupting lives across the capital for hours.

"Ordinary people shouldn't suffer this way due to political events blocking streets," said one anonymously.

hectares of farmland, officials said.

"I cultivated Aush paddy on two bighas of land. But the crop is under water now," said a farmer named Rafiqul Islam.

In Kurigram, over 30,000 people of low-lying areas have been affected by floods caused by the Brahmaputra.

"We are trying to provide food and drinking water

among the people," said Bablu Mia, chairman of Begumganj Union Parishad in Ulupur.

Floods may take a turn for the worse Chilmari if an old embankment collapses, according to locals and BWDB officials.

[Our correspondents from Pabna, Tangail, Jamalpur, Bogura and Lalmonirhat contributed to the report]

The country also stresses regional connectivity and always takes an active role towards this end.

"Through these, Bangladesh has worked as a bridge between South and Southeast Asia. Now Bangladesh is ready to expand its engagement with more members of the Indo-Pacific region."

Momen went on to urge the regional countries to help resolve the Rohingya crisis for a stable Indo-Pacific.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said "militarisation in the sea lanes" is undesirable as Bangladesh believes in the foreign policy dictum "friendship to all and malice to none".

Its only goal now is socioeconomic development, he added.

One should not ignore the importance of the middle and emerging powers of the region, said David Brewster,

## More than 100 injured in Eritrean clashes in Tel Aviv

**REUTERS, Jerusalem**

More than 100 people were injured in violent clashes in Tel Aviv between Eritrean government supporters celebrating an Eritrea Day event and opponents of President Isaias Afwerki.

Israeli police fired stun grenades to break up the clashes, while some protesters hurled stones at police and set fire to trash bins, Reuters journalists at the scene said. Footage on social media showed Eritrean government supporters beating anti-government protesters with clubs.

Israeli medical officials said more than 114 people had been treated for injuries, including about 30 police officers.

The violence broke out around an event organised by the Eritrean embassy to mark Revolution Day on September 1, which commemorates the start of the Eritrean War of Independence against Ethiopia in 1961.

### 24th session

**FROM PAGE 12**

The Election Commission is likely to announce the scheduled for the 12th general elections in October.

Before the House goes into session today, a meeting of parliament's Business Advisory Committee will be held at 4:00pm to fix the duration and agenda of the session.

According to the constitution, parliament has to convene within 60 days after the end of its previous session.

The last session of parliament, which was the budget session, was prorogued on July 6.



G20 MEET IN INDIA

## Summit important despite Russia, China absence

Says German chancellor

REUTERS, Frankfurt

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the upcoming G20 summit in India remains important despite the absence of Russia and China, in an interview with German radio station Deutschlandfunk released late on Friday.

The G20 still has an important contribution to make and a “big damn obligation” to fulfil, said Scholz, particularly as BRICS – a grouping of the world economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – grows in significance.

Scholz also said countries with a colonial history had a responsibility to enable development in former colonies. He offered to help former colonies exploit and process their natural resources in what he called “fair partnerships.”



Protesters hold sticks and flags near members of Israeli security forces during violent demonstrations by Eritrean asylum seekers, including both supporters and opponents of the Eritrean government, in Tel Aviv, Israel, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Singapore ex-deputy PM elected president

AFP, Singapore

Singapore's former deputy prime minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam was elected president Friday, earning a landslide victory in the city-state's first contested vote for the largely ceremonial position in more than a decade.

Singaporeans headed to the polls that were closely watched as an indication of support for the ruling party after a rare spate of scandals, but the longtime stalwart of the party won more than two-thirds of the vote over two rivals.

"I believe that it's a vote of confidence in Singapore. It's a vote of optimism for a future in which we can progress together and support each other as Singaporeans," the former finance minister said in a speech before the results were announced.

"I'm humbled by this vote. It is not just a vote for me, it is a vote for Singapore's future."

He won 70.4 percent of the vote to win a six-year term. His main rival Ng Kok Song conceded after winning only 15.7 percent of the vote.

## Russia ‘trying to silence’ peace laureate Muratov

Says Nobel committee; Nobel Foundation uninvites Russian envoy to prize ceremony

AFP, Oslo/ Stockholm

Russia is trying “to silence” the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dmitry Muratov by branding the journalist a foreign agent, the body in charge of the prestigious award said yesterday.

“Dmitry Muratov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize ... for his efforts to promote freedom of speech and freedom of information, and independent journalism,” Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said in a statement.

“It is sad that Russian authorities are now trying to silence him. The accusations against him are politically motivated,” she added.

Reiss-Andersen said the Norwegian Nobel Committee “continues to stand behind the important work” done by Muratov and the independent publication Novaya Gazeta.

The Nobel Foundation meanwhile said it was reversing its decision to invite ambassadors from Russia and Belarus to this year's Nobel award ceremony in Stockholm, after the move sparked a backlash.

Ukrainian foreign ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko wrote on Facebook that the foundation should support efforts to isolate Russia and Belarus as “millions of Ukrainians suffer from an unprovoked war and

the Russian regime is not punished for its crimes”.

Yesterday, Nikolenko called the reversal a “victory for humanism.”

“We thank everyone who demanded the restoration of justice. We are convinced that a similar decision should be made regarding the Russian and Belarusian ambassadors to Oslo,” he said in another post to Facebook.

In 2022, the Nobel Foundation, which organises the annual Nobel prize ceremony and banquet in Stockholm, decided not to invite the Russian and Belarusian ambassadors to the Stockholm award event because of the war in Ukraine.

## Iraq crash kills 18 including Iranian pilgrims

AFP, Samarra

A collision between two minibuses killed 18 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, medical officials said yesterday.

The “horrible accident” occurred between Dujail and Samarra, state news agency INA said, citing Khaled Burhan, director of health services in Salaheddin province. Among the dead were 14 Iranians, two Afghans and two people yet to be identified, another hospital official said.

## Thai king endorses new cabinet

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's king endorsed a new cabinet yesterday, taking the country one step closer to a fully functional administration after months of political deadlock. King Maha Vajiralongkorn acknowledged the new cabinet led by Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and the appointment of 34 ministers, according to a statement in the Royal Gazette, including some from the previous deeply unpopular army-backed administration.

“Srettha Thavisin, the prime minister, has selected a qualified cabinet to administer the country further, so the King has commanded a new cabinet,” the statement read.

## Work begins on Iraq-Iran rail link

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq's prime minister yesterday inaugurated construction work on what is slated to become the first railway line connecting the country to neighbouring Iran, a major political and economic partner. The “Basra-Chalamja connection project” will link the major port city of Basra in southern Iraq to Iran's vast railway network through the Chalamja border crossing, a transport ministry official told AFP. It is estimated that the project will take “between 18 and 24 months”. The goal is to be able to transport “travellers from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Central Asian countries” to Shiite holy cities, Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said in a speech.



PHOTO: REUTERS

People walk past fallen wall at a police station following Super Typhoon Saola in Hong Kong, China yesterday.

## Gabon reopens borders 3 days after coup

REUTERS, Dakar

Gabon reopened its borders yesterday, an army spokesman said, three days after closing them during a military coup in which President Ali Bongo was ousted. Military officers led by General Brice Oligui Nguema seized power on Wednesday, placed Bongo under house arrest and installed Nguema as head of state, ending the Bongo family's 56-year hold on power. The coup – the eighth in West and Central Africa in three years – has raised concerns about a contagion of military takeovers across the region that have erased democratic progress made in the last two decades. Coup leaders have come under international pressure to restore civilian government but said that they would not rush to hold elections.

## Typhoon Saola slams southern China

Weakens to severe storm

AFP, Hong Kong

Typhoon Saola swept across southern China yesterday after tearing down trees and smashing windows in Hong Kong, although the megacity avoided a feared direct hit from one of the region's strongest storms in decades.

Tens of millions of people in the densely populated coastal areas of southern China had sheltered indoors on Friday ahead of the storm.

Saola had triggered Hong Kong's highest threat level on Friday evening – issued only 16 times since World War II – and registered winds of around 210 kilometres per hour at its peak.

It was downgraded before dawn yesterday as the typhoon passed the city and tracked towards coastal areas of mainland China – where it weakened into a severe tropical storm.

So far, Hong Kong has had no reported casualties and far less damage than that created by 2018's powerful Typhoon Mangkhut, but authorities warned people to stay away from the shoreline as Saola was

still whipping up strong gales.

AFP journalists saw multiple fallen trees strewn across Hong Kong roads, broken windows, and crumpled scaffolding from under construction buildings, while local media reported that solar panels had been ripped off rooftops.

The last storm to earn the city's highest typhoon alert, Mangkhut shredded trees and unleashed floods across the city, leaving more than 300 people injured in its wake.

In mainland China, it killed six people and impacted the lives of more than three million others.

Saola made landfall in the Chinese coastal city of Zhuhai, where workers on yesterday moved metal railings from roads and cleared sand whipped from a nearby beach.

By afternoon, it had moved west to the tourist island of Hailing in Guangdong province, bringing sustained winds at a speed of 100 kilometres (62 miles) per hour.

Guangdong province downgraded its emergency response due to the weakened windspeed by afternoon.

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জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়	
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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
এতদ্বারা খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরধীন জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, নরসিংদীর আওতাধীন ০৭(সাত)টি (নরসিংদী, রায়পুরা, ঘোড়াশাল, পালাশ, শিবপুর, মনোহরদী ও বেলাবো) এলএসডিতে অক্টোবর/২৩ হতে সেপ্টেম্বর/২৫ পর্যন্ত বা নিয়োগের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ২ বছর জন্য একজন করে শ্রম ও হস্তার্পণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ করা হবে। অগ্রাহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে দরপত্র বর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ	
১. মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়।
২. এজেন্সি	ঃ জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী।
৩. সংগ্রাহক সত্তা	ঃ জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, নরসিংদী।
৪. যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র/কাজের নাম	ঃ খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরধীন নরসিংদী জেলার ০৭ (সাত) টি (নরসিংদী, রায়পুরা, ঘোড়াশাল, পালাশ, শিবপুর, মনোহরদী ও বেলাবো) এলএসডি এর জন্য শ্রম ও হস্তার্পণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ।
৫. দরপত্রের সূত্র নং ও তারিখ	ঃ স্মারক নম্বর- ১৩.০১.১২০০.০০৩.৪৯.০০৩.২৩-১০৬৮ তারিখঃ ৩০/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ
৬. দরপত্রের ধরণ	ঃ এক ধাপ দুই খাম পদ্ধতিতে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)
৭. দরপত্রের কার্যকাল	ঃ অক্টোবর/২৩ হতে সেপ্টেম্বর/২৫ পর্যন্ত বা নিয়োগের তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ২ বছর।
৮. দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন।
৯. দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (প্রতিসেট)	ঃ ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
১০. টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি	ঃ ৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকা।
১১. পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি	ঃ দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লেখিত পরিমাণ।
১২. বাজেট এবং আয়ের উৎস	ঃ রাজস্ব বাজেট, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
১৩. দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী দপ্তর	ঃ জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী।
১৪. দরপত্রদাতার অভিজ্ঞতা	ঃ খাদ্য অধিদপ্তরধীন খাদ্যশস্য/খাদ্য সামগ্রীর শ্রম ও হ্যান্ডলিং এর সমজাতীয় কাজে ন্যূনতম ০২(দুই) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা খাদ্য বিভাগীয় শ্রম ও হ্যান্ডলিং এর সমজাতীয় কাজে ন্যূনতম ০২ বছর এবং অন্য সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে সমগ্রকৃতির কাজে ০১ বছরসহ মোট ০৩(তিন) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা। উক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ/সংগঠিত আয়ন ও ব্যয়ন কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত হতে হবে এবং অভিজ্ঞতার সনদে ঠিকাদারীর ধরণ ও কার্যকাল (কোন সাল হতে কোন সাল পর্যন্ত ঠিকাদারী কাজ সম্পন্ন করেছেন বা করছেন) অবশ্যই উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে।
১৫. দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১২/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখ, দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৬. দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী দপ্তরের নাম	ঃ জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী।
১৭. দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকারী দপ্তরের নাম	ঃ জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী।
১৮. দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১২/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ, দুপুর ১.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১৯. দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ, স্থান ও সময়	ঃ (ক) ১২/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় যোগ্যতা বিষয়ক প্রস্তাব জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, নরসিংদী এর অফিস কক্ষে দরপত্রদাতা/দরপত্রদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটি (TOC) কর্তৃক খোলা হবে। (খ) যে সকল দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা বিষয়ক প্রস্তাব গ্রহণযোগ্য (Responsive) বিবেচিত হবে কেবলমাত্র সেই সকল দরপত্রদাতার আর্থিক প্রস্তাব খোলা হবে। Responsive দরপত্রদাতাদের তালিকা, আর্থিক প্রস্তাব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান সম্পর্কিত তথ্য জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদীর নোটিশ বোর্ডে টাঙ্গিয়ে দেয়া হবে।
২০. উদ্ধৃত দর	ঃ সর্বনিম্ন মূল্যায়নিত দরের সমতা হলে PPR-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।
২১. দরপত্রের মেয়াদ	ঃ দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ হতে ৯০ (নব্বই) দিন।
২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	ঃ মং খ্যাই, জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক, নরসিংদী।
২৩. দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত সকল তথ্য জানার জন্য	ঃ হিসাব শাখা, জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রকের কার্যালয়, নরসিংদী। ফোন নং- ০২২২৪৪৫১৬১৪
২৪. এ দরপত্র পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী পরিচালিত হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সংগ্রাহক সত্তা এ নোটিশ বাতিল বা পরিবর্তন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাখ্যান/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	৩০/০৮/২৩ মং খ্যাই জেলা খাদ্য নিয়ন্ত্রক নরসিংদী
জিডি-১৩৩৪	



## Better connectivity with elevated expressway

### Managing ramps and digitising toll collection are vital

At a time when citizens are severely affected by Dhaka's traffic jams, which eat up around five million working hours per day (as per a 2018 Buet study), we welcome the opening of the Tk 13,857.57-crore Dhaka Elevated Expressway, which promises to relieve congestion in certain areas, reduce travel time, and significantly improve connectivity. The partially opened 11.5-km expressway from Airport Road to Farmgate aims to reduce the trip to a duration of 10 minutes from the usual hour or more. In addition, the 13 ramps for accessing and exiting the expressway will provide alternative routes for vehicles. Commuters will enjoy the total benefit of the project when the full 19.7-km expressway, from the airport to Kutubkhali on the Dhaka-Chattoqram highway, is opened next year. The expressway promises to increase the road capacity of the capital by 20 km.

One noteworthy benefit is that heavy vehicles (such as trucks) which can only operate at night will be able to use the expressway and bypass the city, reducing the clogging on regular roads. The shorter lead times and improved infrastructure are anticipated to benefit businesses such as the apparel industry and the export of perishable goods, which rely on products reaching the airport on time for shipment through air. It will also connect major industrial belts such as Savar, Gazipur, Narsingdi, and Narayanganj. The Dhaka-Ashulia Expressway is also being built, with a deadline of 2026. The two expressways will enable people travelling from the northern, western, and south-western regions to bypass the congestion in Dhaka while crossing the city.

While we look forward to the significant changes this expressway and other under-development infrastructure will bring about, it is vital for the government to address all the concerns expressed by experts. The ramps, for instance, have to be managed efficiently. And a digital tolling system must be installed to avoid long queues of vehicles.

The Dhaka Elevated Expressway is part of a much bigger plan of modernising and expanding our transport network that will, no doubt, alleviate traffic congestion as well as provide greater and more efficient connectivity. At the same time, the government must focus on improving the existing roads under the expressways, flyovers, and the Dhaka metro rail, which will continue to be used by thousands of public transport users as these vehicles are unlikely to use expressways. The government must ensure that all these infrastructure projects are aligned with one another so that the transport system in its totality will see the dramatic positive change that they promise.

Finally, given the multiple setbacks this public-private partnership (PPP) project faced due to problems with securing funds, among other factors, the government should work on removing bureaucratic tangles that impede PPPs which, if managed efficiently, can bring about impactful developmental changes.

## LPG cylinder prices burdening people

### Strict market monitoring needed from authorities

We are concerned with the way importers, distributors, and retailers are indiscriminately increasing the prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders, despite the fact that the prices are being fixed by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) regularly. According to a report in this daily, the BERC fixed the retail price of a 12-kg LPG cylinder at Tk 1,440 in early August. However, consumers in different parts of Dhaka had to buy the refilled cylinders for around Tk 1,400. Our reporters recently visited some areas of the city, including Kachukhet, Shewrapara, Tejuri Bazar, and Karwan Bazar, and found that a 12-kg LPG cylinder was even sold at Tk 1,500 in some places. At a time when the country's people are already overburdened by increasing costs of living, such illegal practices by traders have added to their sufferings.

The LPG market in Bangladesh has always been chaotic due to price manipulation by traders at different levels. Although the BERC fixes the price of LPG every month, the importers, distributors, and retailers reportedly do not abide by this. When asked about the reasons behind the inflated LPG prices at the consumers' end, retailers blame the distributors and the distributors point fingers at the importers. We often hear from importers that there is a shortage of imports and that they have to face many challenges in opening letters of credit, and that the volatile foreign exchange rate also contributes to increased prices. But these excuses do not fly with the public because the BERC is supposed to fix the prices of LPG cylinders in the country while considering all factors. Moreover, such prices have to be adhered to by the concerned distributors.

The BERC, therefore, cannot shrug off its responsibility. It seems that the regulatory body has confined its work to fixing the prices only, even though monitoring the market should also be one of its top priorities. It also has the power to take action against non-compliant companies, which it should exercise regularly. We therefore urge the BERC to take every step that is necessary to keep the LPG cylinder prices within the reach of ordinary people.

New Message

To

Subject

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# The dread of dengue has taken over



Wasim Bin Habib is head of reporting at The Daily Star.

WASIM BIN HABIB

The photographs of two young siblings who died of dengue recently have been doing rounds on social media, triggering an outcry. In one photograph, printed by a Bangla daily, nine-year-old Arafat Hossain Rauf is seen sitting with his seven-year-old sister, Isnat Jahan Raida. It's hard to take your eyes off the adorable picture. But that warm feeling turns into anguish as soon as you read the news of their demise. The mental state of their parents just adds to the heartbreak. It's beyond anyone's imagination how they would cope with this void that has now taken the place of their precious children.

According to the newspaper reports, the father, Mohammad Ibrahim, while sharing fond memories of his children, said that Rauf and Raida would always cling on to him, whether it be at the dining table or when they would go to sleep. Ibrahim had plans to paint Raida's room pink and Rauf's blue. But all those plans have been shattered in the span of a week. Rauf died of the dengue on August 18, while Raida breathed her last on August 25. Raida had developed a fever on the day her brother died. As her condition deteriorated, Ibrahim rushed from one hospital to another for a paediatric ICU, but to no avail.

Rauf and Raida are among several hundreds of people joining the procession of the dead. Once a seasonal fever, dengue is now taking its heaviest toll on Bangladesh, shattering all previous records of infections and deaths. Despite this, we have hardly seen any effective measures from the authorities concerned, especially from the two city corporations in Dhaka. Far from admitting their shortcomings, authorities have maintained that they have done enough, that too with the same old approach to contain

the vector-borne disease. Both the Dhaka city corporations have spent hundreds of crores in their war against mosquitoes, but nothing seems to have borne any result as people are dying every day and hospitals are still scrambling to serve patients. As many as 597 precious lives have been lost this year, and more than 1.25 lakh people have been infected as of September 1.

corporations round the year, despite the fact that dengue has been an all-year-long phenomenon for the past decade.

The city corporations continue to carry out anti-mosquito activities with the same old methods, like fogging and using larvicide in a non-systematic manner, along with some occasional drives. This

tilapia fish in the lakes. That did not help, either: all the fish died within a few days, and most of the ducks either died or were stolen. All this while the city corporation high-ups never lagged behind in advising citizens to play their part in ensuring mosquito-free houses and neighbourhoods.

Human lives are on the line. We don't know how many more parents



The dengue situation this year wouldn't have been so dire had our authorities learnt any lessons from past experiences.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The situation wouldn't have been so dire had the authorities learnt any lessons from past experiences.

In 2019, Bangladesh registered the highest number of dengue cases – 1,01,354 – ever since the disease's official outbreak in 2000. That year, 179 people succumbed to the virus. Then came 2022, the year when the country recorded the most dengue deaths – 281. Yet, we have seen an absence of concerted efforts from city

casual approach, coupled with a lack of planning and coordination among government bodies, have only made the situation grimmer. Besides, we have seen some bizarre strategies being employed by the city corporations, such as flying drones to detect stagnant water and releasing frogs in ponds to destroy mosquitoes and their larvae. Before the frogs, authorities tried to control mosquitoes by releasing guppy fish in the city's drains, and ducks and

will have to lose their children to the disease, a fate that can be preventable if the appropriate scientific steps are taken. We would like to know whether the people in responsible positions are witnessing the families' despair. Are they hearing the cries for lost loved ones? How many more lives will have to be sacrificed before the authorities wake up from their slumber and take necessary measures? We don't want any more Raufs and Raidas to meet such a tragic end.

## How farmers' markets lead to thriving communities

Naima Akter is project manager at Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust and a member of the board of directors of the World Farmers Markets Coalition.

NAIMA AKTER

It's always a pleasure to see Bangladesh be the hero in a story. As such, it was a huge delight attending the General Assembly of the World Farmers Markets Coalition in Rome and seeing our country being showcased for connecting farmers and consumers through farmers' markets. This acknowledgement was particularly rewarding for me because I had worked hard to establish local farmers' markets. Following a pilot project, we set up 15 new markets over just 15 weeks in Dhaka North, Dhaka South, Gazipur, and Narayanganj city corporations, bringing the total to 16.

Why is it so important to connect the growers and consumers of food? Many people are afraid to eat local fresh fruits and vegetables for fear of chemical contamination. Being able to visit a market, chat with the farmers, and be assured by a government agency (the Department of Agricultural Extension) that the produce being sold is safe and mostly chemical-free enables people to eat a healthier and more local diet. The closer the food is grown to where we live, the less our consumption contributes to the climate crisis.

Today's children may even think that vegetables come from the superstore, having no idea of the role of farmers in our food supply. Try asking a child how many kinds of soft drinks or chips they can name and then how many kinds of local fruits or vegetables they can think of. It's a tragedy to see people suffering ill health due to poor diets, while losing their connection with the local supply of food.

Without a doubt, establishments like farmers' markets benefit growers, who earn more but also forge a connection to those for whom they grow food. They



At farmers' markets, growers enjoy getting to know the buyers, while buyers enjoy the connection with farmers, the freshness and tastiness of the produce, and the knowledge that it is grown safely.

PHOTO: STAR

also help communities, which gain a lively, attractive, and small market that can become a weekly meeting place for the neighbourhood.

So there I was in Rome, in a large auditorium. On a huge screen, a locally-made short video about our farmers' market programme was being played. The audience cheered loudly. Throughout the five days I was there, Bangladesh's success in establishing and operating so many markets was mentioned repeatedly. People from other countries looked up to us as an example to re-establish a connection between growers and consumers of food.

The markets were originally funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with support from the Netherlands embassy. We all

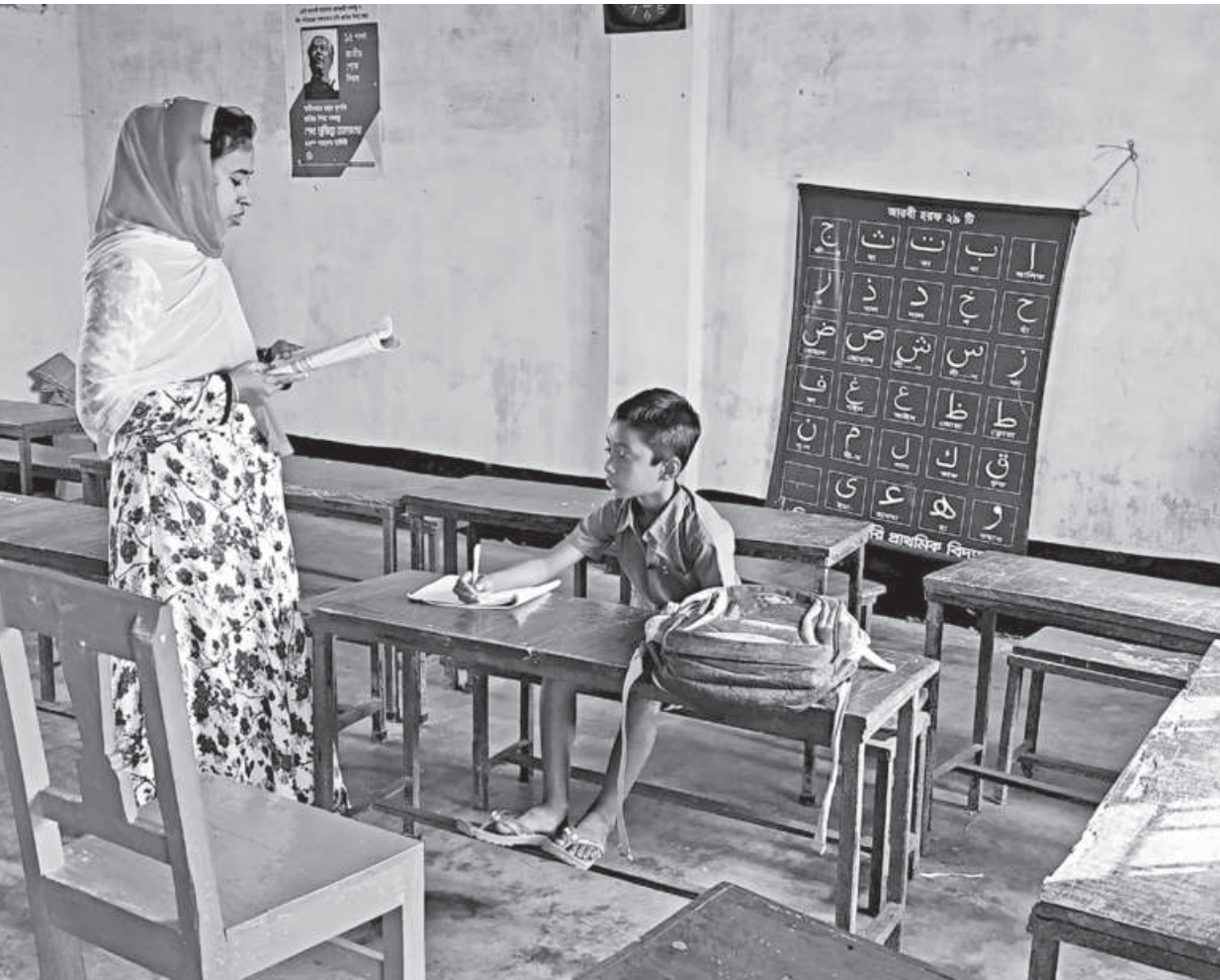
know what happens at the end of a project: however much talk there may be of sustainability on the application form, the work tends to stop when the funding runs out. It would have been tragic to see all the effort my colleagues and I put into those markets simply vanish, along with the markets, at the end of our project.

Fortunately, most of the farmers, community members, and local officials involved saw the importance of this new connection and worked hard to ensure that it would continue after the funding ended. One community even increased the frequency of the markets from once to twice a week. To date, while fewer farmers are attending and there are some limits to what is being sold, partly due to the heavy rains, 15 of the 16 markets continue to operate. Farmers enjoy getting to know

the buyers, while buyers enjoy the connection with farmers, the freshness and tastiness of the produce, and the knowledge that it is grown safely. Local officials are happy to provide these benefits to their communities.

As the South Asian representative of the World Farmers Markets Coalition Academy, I am thrilled to be able to help spread the knowledge gained in Bangladesh more widely in the region and world. I'm also excited to have the task of helping others throughout the world gain insight into how to connect rural and urban areas through farmers' markets. Lastly, it's a delight for me to visit a local farmers' market each week to choose bright, fresh, tasty leafy greens, fruits, and vegetables – buying directly from the person who grew them.





In terms of literacy, students are not retaining what they learned in Class 3 after being promoted to Class 5.

# All that ails our primary education



Md Shah Nawaz Khan Chandan is an assistant professor at the Institute of Education and Research, Jagannath University. Reach him at s.nawazk28@yahoo.com

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

The Directorate of Primary Education has recently published results of the seventh national student assessment (NSA), and it reveals a grim picture of the quality of Bangladesh's primary education. The assessment, conducted in 2022, reveals that more than 60 percent of Class 3 students and 70 percent of Class 5 students did not have the expected grade-level proficiency in mathematics. Also, 51 percent of the Class 3 students and 50 percent of the Class 5 students lacked grade-level proficiency in Bangla.

So, according to the performance standards followed for NSA 2022, most of our primary school students can only solve basic maths problems, can follow simple instructions, and acquire a minimum number of the skills prescribed in their curriculum. This also means that these students cannot work independently, cannot connect, interpret, and communicate different ideas, cannot follow systematic methodologies to solve problems, and cannot apply their knowledge to deal with new situations.

Such a bleak scenario in Bangladesh's primary education sector is nothing new, unfortunately. After introducing the NSA in 2006, with a view of measuring the achievements of primary school students in accordance with the curriculum, the government regularly administers this assessment on Class 3 and Class 5 students. The students go through written tests on two foundational subjects (Bangla and mathematics) to assess their literacy and numeracy skills.

Results of the sixth NSA were published in 2017, which was the last NSA before the Covid-19 pandemic. The NSA 2017 also revealed an equally bleak scenario. For instance, it found that around 26 percent of Class 3 students could not demonstrate the expected proficiency in Bangla, and more than 80 percent of Class 5 students failed to demonstrate expected proficiency in Bangla. Back then, more than 60 percent of Class 3 students and more than 80 percent of Class 5 students also could not display the expected proficiency in mathematics.

The NSAs indicate that, in terms of literacy, students are not retaining what they learned in Class 3 after being promoted to Class 5. They are consistently failing to achieve basic maths skills by the time of completing primary education. There might be several factors responsible for this bleak scenario, the major ones being lack of trained and skilled teachers in primary schools. In the NSA 2022 technical report, it has been stated that teachers' skills and sincerity significantly influence students' achievements.

On the other hand, if we look at the current statistics on the educational qualifications and training profiles of primary school teachers, it is easy to see why our students are failing to achieve basic competencies.

According to the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE), the total number of teachers working in all types of primary level institutions is 388,917. Among them, 177,387 do not have honours degrees. A significant number of these teachers have only completed the pass course, a three-year long degree programme under National University, whose quality and acceptability has been questionable for long. Many colleges under the National University have already stopped offering this programme due to its old-fashioned curriculum and extremely low achievements.

The NSAs indicate that, in terms of literacy, students are not retaining what they learned in Class 3 after being promoted to Class 5. They are consistently failing to achieve basic maths skills by the time of completing primary education. There might be several factors responsible for this bleak scenario, the major ones being lack of trained and skilled teachers in primary schools. In the NSA 2022 technical report, it has been stated that teachers' skills and sincerity significantly influence students' achievements.

acceptance by employers. Besides this, more than 70,000 primary school teachers only possess a higher-secondary level of education or less.

Although several public and private universities offer specialised degrees for educators, there are only 291 primary school teachers holding these degrees. A considerable number of primary school teachers do hold postgraduate degrees, but they have not specialised in education or pedagogy.

These statistics indicate that most primary school teachers, when they start their career, do not possess the required educational qualifications or do not have any orientation or knowledge about pedagogy or the education system. As a result, the

government has to ensure that these teachers receive professional training in the 67 Primary Teachers Training Institutes (PTI) located all over the country. However, due to poor quality of the training methods and lack of participation of the teachers, such training can do little to improve the quality of primary education.

The only dedicated professional degree for primary school teachers offered by PTIs is Diploma in Primary Education (DPEd). Introduced in 2012, it's an 18-month residential course where participants, besides theoretical studies, have to practise teaching in experimental schools attached to respective PTIs and, subsequently, at their own primary schools as well. Out of 388,917 primary school teachers, only 78,298 have completed this training so far. However, teachers who have completed the DPEd often question its applicability as they do not get sufficient opportunity to practise teaching in the poorly performing experimental schools. In 2019, the government published a circular to recruit 329 permanent teachers to revitalise these experimental schools. However, they have not been able to complete the recruitment process even four years on.

This year, the DPE has already decided to discontinue the DPEd programme and launch a 10-month basic training programme, wherein primary school teachers will attend a six-month theoretical course and practice teaching for four months.

Besides, a large number of primary school teachers (at least 217,022) have completed the now-defunct one-year-long Certificate in Education (CED) course. Due to its poor curriculum and lack of applicability, this course was withdrawn and replaced by the DPEd. Now, the government's decision to further reduce the duration of the training programme to 10 months has raised concerns and protests. PTI instructors have filed a writ petition before the High Court, challenging the legitimacy of the decision. On May 7, the HC stayed the petition and gave the 10-month training programme a go-ahead.

Nevertheless, due to such bureaucratic tangles, this year, primary school teachers have not been able to attend any training programmes so far and there is no certainty as to when this will be possible. Such frequent changes and cancellations in the training modality, and the bureaucratic complexities, act as major deterrents for primary school teachers to avail training in the PTIs.

Teachers are at the heart of the primary education system and in many countries, teaching at primary schools is a highly-paid, skill-intensive and sought-after job. However, in terms of qualifications, training, and benefits, primary school teachers are some of the most neglected professionals in Bangladesh. Until the government takes pragmatic, research-driven policies to improve the quality of these teachers, there will be little hope to improve the academic performance of primary school students.

## ASIA CUP 2023

# How well will the Tigers deal with change?



Madiha Athar Khan is a technical writer and art enthusiast.

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Asia Cup tournaments in the last decade or so have become Bangladesh's comfort zone. Since 2012 – the first year Bangladesh ascended to the final of the tournament – there have been five editions. Bangladesh played three of those finals. However, unlike the women's team, the men have not seen nearly as much success.

Bangladesh's performance in the 2007 World Cup is cited by many as a turning point in its cricketing journey. Before then, Bangladesh had had some success – such as the win in 2005 against Australia – but they could mostly be dismissed as upsets. When the Tigers beat India in 2007, it seemed to be a sign of something big to come, but what could only be proven with time. There was something about Tamim Iqbal dancing down the wicket against the formidable bowler, Zaheer Khan, that showed a dash of daring that our players had found difficult to conjure before then. In

were supported by a rotating crop of cricketers who seemed bolstered by the force of the unit itself. There was a kind of chemistry among these core players that threaded together the playing eleven. Of late, though, many would say that this coherence in the team has been missing.

We saw Tamim Iqbal miss out on a few major tournaments, despite being the ODI captain, due to injuries. Both Mahmudullah and Mushfiqur suffered from wavering forms, which eventually saw the former not making the cut for the Asia Cup squad. It can therefore be inferred that Mahmudullah possibly will not feature in the World Cup, either. At 37 years of age, Mahmudullah Riyad's contribution to Bangladeshi cricket might have reached its conclusion. While Shakib leaves nothing to be said about his consistent performances on-field – either with the bat or the ball – one can only imagine how much better things could be if he

Thursday, Sri Lanka were missing four of their key bowlers. Yet, a dazzling performance by youngster Matheesha Pathirana outdid even our most senior batters. Pathirana, who is only 20 years old, caught the eye of MS Dhoni when the bowler's video – showing his bowling action that uncannily resembles Lasith Malinga's – went viral on social media. He has played for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, yielding much success for his team.

On the other hand, our lone performer of the day was Nazmul Hossain Shanto, a man who has been in tremendous form for the whole year, reminiscent of Liton Kumar Das' run in 2022. Sometimes, all it takes is one great performer. But more often than not, cricket continues to be a team sport. With Tamim's injury, Liton's fever, and Riyad's exclusion, the average age and experience of the Bangladesh team suddenly seems dauntingly low.

Still, Bangladesh has a chance to make it to the Super Fours by beating Afghanistan. There seems to be a hum of anxiety in and around the team. But if this can be muted out, the strengths of the Tigers can come to the forefront of the performances. There are match winners like Mehidy Hasan Miraz, momentum shifters like Taskin Ahmed, and surprise packages like



At Thursday's match against Sri Lanka, Najmul Hassan Shanto was the only batter who managed to get going a good number of runs in the bag for Bangladesh.

PHOTO: AFP

2010, Bangladesh beat New Zealand 4-0 in a home series. In 2012, it won one nerve-racking match after another to get to the finals in the Asia Cup, only to succumb to the most heartbreaking loss our country has seen in cricket. Victories started becoming much more of a norm, especially in the homeground. Throughout this solidifying period of Bangladeshi cricket, we came to rely on four great talents – people we grew to be regarded as gifted, not merely as skilled cricketers. Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Mushfiqur Rahim, and Mahmudullah Riyad found their individual places in the lineup and functioned as a tight-knit unit often led by the most magnetic leader, Mashrafe Mortaza. They

was also as unifying a leader as he is mesmerising as a player.

In Bangladesh's first Asia Cup 2023 match against Sri Lanka, hopes were high. New and young players have made their way into the squad, many of whom were a part of the U-19 World Cup winning team. Eventually, it will be these players who take Bangladeshi cricket forward. But as we go through this transitory period, where we take the best that the oldest still have to offer, empowering the future talents may inevitably be a rocky experience. Aside from the technical details that denote success and failure, a zoomed-out view provides a more traceable journey for a team.

It is worth mentioning that, on

Mustafizur Rahman. ODI cricket has been our strength; it is a format we have figured out how to excel in. A day's bad performance does not necessarily have to be indicative of how the rest of the tournament will go for the Bangladesh team.

While blind optimism is helpful to no one, the new reality must be accepted – these are our players, their calibre is defined by what they bring out on the field, and it is them who we have to back. Things will change, and perhaps in the near future, things will change even faster than at present. How much resilience the Tigers bring forward to deal with these changes will ultimately define the next stretch of Bangladeshi cricket.

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

#### ACROSS

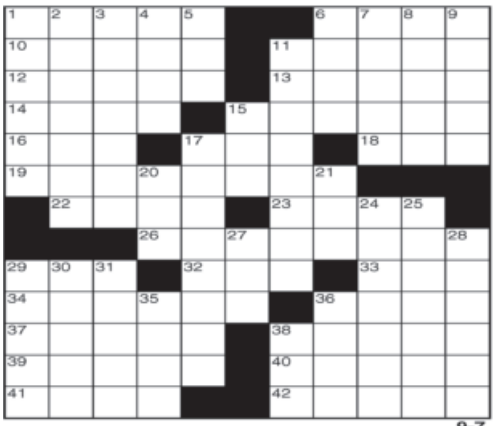
- 1 Barely adequate
- 6 Parks of civil rights history
- 10 Hardly a fan
- 11 Last year's frosh
- 12 Stand
- 13 Gold unit
- 14 Take it easy
- 15 Diatribe
- 16 Conditions
- 17 Cobbler's tool
- 18 That woman
- 19 Quadruple
- 22 Coral structure
- 23 Punch
- 26 Prophesied
- 29 Expected
- 32 Tire track
- 33 Be a

#### DOWN

- 1 Zhivago's portrayer
- 2 Look after
- 3 Disputed
- 4 High home
- 5 Uno plus due
- 6 Stadium sound
- 7 Winfrey of TV
- 8 Parasol offering

#### 9 Fall flower

- 11 Job interview topic
- 15 Binary base
- 17 Was able to buy
- 20 Field worker
- 21 Morse bit
- 24 Cop's words to a partner
- 25 Language spoken at some conventions
- 27 Regret
- 28 Hinders
- 29 Frisbees, e.g.
- 30 Open, in a way
- 31 Conjure up
- 35 Mimicked
- 36 Au naturel
- 38 Diamond club



### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

V	A	P	O	R		C	A	G	E	R
I	N	A	W	E		A	B	O	V	E
C	O	U	N	T	E	R	S	T	E	P
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S	C	A	N	T		P	A	C	T	S
P	O	G	O		N	A	B			
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## Genetics and exercise: tailoring diabetes prevention strategies for high-risk individuals

### STAR HEALTH REPORT

Type 2 diabetes affects over 500 million adults worldwide, posing significant health and financial challenges. It results from insufficient insulin production, with symptoms like increased thirst, frequent urination, and fatigue. Risk factors include being overweight, having abnormal cholesterol levels, and being over 45. While genetics play a role, lifestyle choices significantly influence susceptibility.

A recent study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine examined the link between genetics, exercise, and type 2 diabetes. Researchers studied



500,000 people aged 40 to 69 over 6.8 years. Participants wore accelerometers to measure physical activity and sleep patterns. Findings revealed that higher physical activity significantly reduced diabetes risk, with a 68% to 80% reduction in risk.

All participant groups benefited from exercise, which was based on genetic risk. Those with a strong genetic predisposition also saw risk reduction, particularly with moderate to intense exercise. However, low-intensity exercise required longer durations for substantial benefits.

This study underscores the importance of regular exercise in reducing type 2 diabetes risk, particularly for individuals with a family history of the condition. Prioritising physical activity alongside a healthy lifestyle can help combat this global health concern.



## Embracing wellness: a journey through diet and exercise in aging

### STAR HEALTH DESK

Imagine the golden years stretching ahead, filled with laughter, adventures, and cherished memories. To ensure that this chapter of life is as vibrant as the rest, you must start with the foundation of good health: a balanced diet. It's like tending to the soil before planting a garden.

First, consider calcium. Strong bones are your fortress against the ravages of time, protecting you from osteoporosis and fractures. Now, your body craves more calcium than ever. Make it a goal to incorporate three servings of calcium-rich foods and beverages into your daily routine. Dark, leafy greens, canned fish, fortified cereal, milk, and fortified juices or plant-based alternatives should become your trusted allies.

Fibre is the next building block of vitality. It keeps you regular, combats constipation, and acts as a guardian against heart disease, type 2 diabetes, colon cancer, and high cholesterol. Fill your plate with fruits, vegetables, whole-grain breads, cereals, beans, and peas to reach your daily fibre goal.

Protein, the architect of muscle preservation, is vital to maintaining

strength. Women should aim for about 46 grams daily, while men should target 56 grams. Sources like low-fat dairy, lean meats, fish, poultry, cooked dried beans, and yoghurt will fuel your muscles and keep you agile.

Too much salt can lead to high blood pressure and heart disease. Transform your cooking style by replacing salt with herbs and spices for flavour.

The fats you choose should be healthy and reliable. Say no to saturated and trans fats and instead embrace polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats found in nuts, seeds, fish, olive oil, etc. Keep the balance by increasing potassium-rich foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and beans, while decreasing your salt intake to maintain healthy blood pressure levels.

Hydration is essential. Make a conscious effort to drink enough water, energising your body and mind. Opt for fat-free milk and 100% juice, and steer clear of beverages laden with added sugar or salt.

With your diet fortified, venture into the realm of fitness. Before you dive in, consult your doctor. They are your compass, guiding you towards

exercises that align with your unique needs and abilities. Remember, safety always comes first.

Aerobic exercise should become your daily ritual, like a sunrise stroll along the beach. Aim for 2.5 hours of brisk walking, dancing, or even a friendly game of tennis every week to breathe life into your heart, lungs, and energy levels. Stretching and yoga will be your daily rituals, ensuring your body remains supple and agile.

Balance exercises, like standing on one foot or practicing tai chi, will keep you steady on your path, preventing falls that could disrupt your journey. Strength training is your armour against muscle loss and fragile bones. Twice a week, engage in activities like weightlifting, resistance bands, or bodyweight exercises to fortify your body and fend off injury. As your joints gracefully age, opt for gentle exercises like swimming, walking, or biking, which protect your hips and knees.

Remember, even the longest journey begins with a single step. Start by rising from your chair, taking a short walk, and marching in place. Progress may be slow, but every step brings you closer to a life of health, vitality, and joy.

### HAVE A NICE DAY

## How much is too much? - Part II

DR RUBAUL MURSHED

For generations, society has faced the question of how much money is enough to bring joy. What does the world's most extensive happiness study say about money? It turns out that money does not make people happy, nor does their position. In that 85-year Harvard study, contrary to what we might think, it is neither career achievement nor prestigious jobs with more money that make people happier in their lives. In their long study, the most consistent finding they have learned is that positive relationships and social connections keep us happier and healthier and help us live comfortably.

That is why smart people know there is more to life than being rich.

Most people think that the richer they are, the happier and more successful they become. In Greek mythology, Croesus wished that all he touched would turn to gold, which it did, and he died as a result. Since ancient times, wise sayings have been quick to point out that riches are short-lived and uncertain, and it would be foolish to fix hope on something so transient. Based on her own experiences and those of her clients, Thayer Willis wrote an epic book named 'Navigating the dark side of wealth'. She addressed the dangers in our materialistic culture. The author explained the risks of great wealth that can lead people into the morally corrupting and emotionally inhibiting effects that having material riches can cause and, sooner or later, the pain and distress that follow. The author, importantly, also talked about the troubled successors need for more balanced and fulfilling relationships.

E-mail: rubaيلمurshed@shomman.org



## Experts call for integrated mosquito management plan and PPP to prevent ongoing dengue crisis in Bangladesh

### STAR HEALTH REPORT

The International Society of Bangladesh-affiliated Microbiologists (ISBM) organised a webinar on the dengue crisis that is claiming many lives daily in Bangladesh, says a press release. Based in Maryland, USA, ISBM carried out this online event on Zoom on August 26, 2023, entitled "Current state of the dengue epidemic in Bangladesh: potential short-term and long-term remedies for control and prevention." An international panel of experts from home and abroad delivered their presentations over a two-hour-long webinar.

Some of the essential ideas and opinions that were exchanged during the session included the current state of dengue and how it has escalated to a serious, life-threatening level in Bangladesh. Dr Shirin updated the audience on the status of dengue in Bangladesh and IEDCR's initiatives to control the spread of the vector, the Aedes mosquito.

Typical reservoirs and breeding grounds for these mosquitoes were the areas surrounding household WASA water metres and construction sites, besides plant pots and roof-top gardens. Biological control of mosquitoes has been successful in controlling dengue in Singapore. Therefore, a combination of currently available biological treatment on the ground and aerial spraying of safe pesticides may be effective for the immediate control of dengue in Bangladesh.

Dr Shakila presented her work on *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which produces a protein that effectively kills Aedes mosquito larvae. Domestic remedies mentioned at the meeting included growing peppermint, 'gandha' flowers, and basil leaves, which may have a repellent effect on mosquitoes. Among the topics of public health awareness, personal protection from mosquito bites was mentioned.

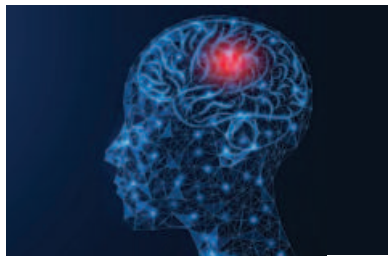
Due to the unavailability of vaccines and no specific treatment to counter dengue infection in Bangladesh, it was stressed and agreed upon that the country is indeed in dire need of improving and synchronising its public health policies for effective mosquito management.

Vaccine development, which involves a time-consuming and meticulous screening process, was additionally another brief focus of discussion and is a distant possibility for Bangladesh to combat dengue. Issues related to serotype variability and vaccine administration amongst vulnerable age groups were pointed out.

While summarising the webinar, Dr G U Ahsan also emphasised public health awareness, coordination between administrators and scientists, and community engagement for effective control of dengue. Based on prior research carried out in Bangladesh, source reduction of mosquitoes should be given a priority to combat dengue, and managing water would be key to reducing the disease.



## Hypertension, migraine, and cervical artery dissection risk are correlated, while beta-blockers offer potential prevention



Cervical artery dissection (CeAD) is a common cause of brain ischemia in young and middle-aged adults, yet its underlying causes remain unclear and challenging to study. In a study featured in the *Annals of Neuroscience*, researchers investigated three groups of patients from 39 centres in Italy:

1. Patients with sCeAD (spontaneous cervical artery dissection)
2. Patients with acute stroke from other causes unrelated to sCeAD
3. healthy control individuals without a history of stroke who were staff members at these centres.

Each patient with sCeAD was matched with a stroke patient from the non-CeAD group and a stroke-free control of the same age, sex, and race.

The study involved 1,468 patients with spontaneous events. Factors associated with a higher risk of sCeAD included hypertension, a personal history of migraine (especially with aura), and a family history of vascular disease in close relatives. Surprisingly, traditional stroke risk factors like diabetes, high cholesterol, and obesity were less common among sCeAD patients when compared to stroke-free controls.

Patients with sCeAD also experienced more frequent migraine attacks and were less likely to receive migraine-preventive drugs, particularly beta-blockers, compared to both comparison groups. These findings shed light on the risk factors and characteristics of CeAD, aiding our understanding of this condition.

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MRCSEd, FCPS, MS  
Consultant

Dr. M. A. Zulkifl

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## ‘Enjoyed Rohit’s wicket more’

SPORTS REPORTER

The way India’s Rohit Sharma took guard to face the first delivery of the game, bowled by Pakistan’s Shaheen Shah Afridi, during the two sides’ Asia Cup Group A game in Pallekele yesterday, it was clear what was going in the mind of the Indian skipper.

Standing with legs not covering the line of the three stumps, Rohit’s strategy must have been to avoid what had happened two years back in Dubai during the T20 World Cup in 2021 – an LBW.

Rohit seemed to have the upper hand for a while, flicking Afridi for two boundaries. But the Pakistan quick still had the last laugh when he got through the defenses of one of the best ODI batters after the first of many rain breaks throughout the game. A quick fuller delivery that nipped back ever so slightly beat the inside edge of Rohit and crashed onto his stumps.

Afridi quickly followed it up with yet another crucial wicket – that of Virat Kohli – in his very next over.

And it was not at all surprising to discover which of the two Afridi enjoyed the most. “I think both were crucial wickets, but I think I enjoyed Rohit’s more,” said Afridi, who returned figures of four for 35 in 10 overs that included two maidens.



Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi leaps into the air as he celebrates the dismissal of India stalwart Virat Kohli during the Asia Cup match at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Kandy yesterday. Eventually, with the match abandoned due to rain after India were all out for 266 in 48.5 overs, Pakistan advanced to Super Four.

PHOTO: AFP

## Desperate Tigers ‘to bring A game’ against Farooqi and Co

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are expected to face a stiffer challenge in their do-or-die Asia Cup match against Afghanistan at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore today.

Batting remained the biggest area of concern – as evidenced by a lacklustre performance in the first game which saw the Tigers get bundled for a meek 164 against a relatively inexperienced Sri Lankan bowling attack. When it comes to Afghanistan, who possess two world-class spinners in Rashid Khan and Mujeeb Ur Rahman, they are always in contention to make even the in-form teams work for their runs.

However, it appears that Fazalhaq



“Both are good teams and we can’t say Bangladesh are not good. I think both Afghanistan and Bangladesh are the favourites but I think our team will do good. But whichever team plays good, positive cricket, the result will go in their favour.”

Hashmatullah Shahidi,  
Afghanistan captain

Farooqi could pose a greater threat for the Tigers’ vulnerable top-order. Farooqi, 22, has been lethal against Bangladesh in recent times, having contributed with eight scalps and two three-wicket hauls in their 2-1 away

series win against the Tigers in July this year.

Overall, Farooqi had 14 wickets in six games against Bangladesh, at an economy of 4.46. The left-arm seamer not only provided the early breakthrough but also left the Tigers batters perplexed with his lethal full-pitched deliveries swinging both ways.

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha is well-aware of the Afghan bowling unit’s threat, but is optimistic that the Tigers batters will be able to emerge unscathed in the vital Asia Cup match.

“Afghanistan’s bowling attack is one the best in the world and definitely it’s a challenge. We have played against them recently and our players had some success. So, it all depends on the day

how you perform. We are very much aware of the challenge that we are going to face,” Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha told the media yesterday.

As the game will be played in Lahore’s Gaddafi stadium, where pacers have historically enjoyed a clear edge over spinners in 64 ODIs – having registered 519 scalps against 239 – it would be intriguing to see how the Bangladesh batters negotiate someone like Farooqi.

Given the conditions against Afghanistan in store, it will be fascinating to watch if the Bangladesh team management chooses a different team combination.

“We just arrived here and we haven’t seen the wicket yet. Definitely if the condition and pitch here is different, we will definitely think about a different combination,” Hathurusingha said.

Bangladesh will need to beat Afghanistan to keep their dreams of qualifying for the Super Four stage alive, but they will also need to rely on the net run-rate to progress.

“Before we think about the final, we need to get to the second round. So, this game is very important because of what happened in the last game against Sri Lanka.

“So, we know this is a must-win game for us and we certainly didn’t play to our potential in the last game and we didn’t represent ourselves well enough. But we are confident to bring our A game against Afghanistan tomorrow [today],” said the Bangladesh coach.

## Depleted NZ to visit a different Bangladesh?

SPORTS REPORTER

Following the Asia Cup, Bangladesh will host New Zealand for a three-match ODI series in Mirpur, for which the Kiwis announced a 15-member squad yesterday.

A lot of big names – Tom Latham, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Daryl Mitchell, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, and Tim Southee – were rested by New Zealand, who will be led by Lockie Ferguson as regular ODI skipper Kane Williamson is recovering from a knee injury. Their head coach Gary Stead will also miss the tour.

The series is set to work as a prelude to the ODI World Cup the following month.

For a Bangladesh fan, all the aforementioned things might seem familiar. Just two years ago, a second-string New Zealand visited Bangladesh ahead of the T20 World Cup only to lose to the Tigers for the first time in a bilateral T20 series.

At that time Bangladesh used low and slow Mirpur surfaces to their advantage and took a false sense of achievement to the T20I World Cup which eventually backfired on the Tigers horribly.

However, according to national selector Habibul Bashar, Bangladesh will not be employing a similar tactic this time around.

“We have a very good bowling attack now. I don’t think we will be going with that type of pitch anymore as we already have a good bowling unit – both spin and pace,” Bashar said of the type of surfaces that might be prepared for the New Zealand series.

Bashar also mentioned that the Tigers may even rest a few key players in the series to keep them fresh for the World Cup which will involve a hectic traveling schedule. However, that will depend on how far Bangladesh can go in this Asia Cup.

“Also, a lot will depend on how far we can make it into this Asia Cup. If we can qualify for the Super Four then we will have played a lot of games. In that case, we might even opt to rest a few of our key players against New Zealand,” Bashar added.



Novak Djokovic saw his US Open hopes nearly sunk by a fellow Serb but after dropping the opening two sets to compatriot Laslo Djere, he lifted himself up off the floor to claim a 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win. It marked the 38th time Djokovic has won a five-setter and kept alive the 36-year-old’s quest for a fourth US Open crown that would pull him level with Margaret Court’s record haul of 24 Grand Slams. “It was one of the toughest matches I have played here in many years,” said Djokovic.

PHOTO: AFP

## Focus on qualifiers as Bangladesh face Afghanistan

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will hope to beat Afghanistan for the first time as the two teams face off in the first of two FIFA friendly matches at the Bashundhara Kings Arena today.

The match, which will kick off at 5:00pm, will be the first international match to be hosted by a sporting private club, the first time in the history of Bangladesh football.

In the previous eight meetings, the central Asian nation have beaten Bangladesh twice while the six other encounters ended in draws. The last meeting of this two teams ended in a 1-1 draw during a FIFA World Cup Qualifier in Doha in 2011.

The hosts, who will play their first match since an impressive SAFF Championship campaign two months ago, are hoping to show the same spirit and performance in the two matches against the Afghans, with the ultimate aim being October’s World Cup Pre-qualifiers against Maldives.

Bangladesh have played eight times against the Lions of Khorasan, losing twice and drawing on six occasions. The last of those matches was during the Qatar World Cup



Qualifiers in 2021 in Doha, with the game ending in a 1-1 draw.

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera said they want to continue the good work from the SAFF Championship and show everyone that they are an improving side.

“The attitude from the players in training has been very high. I’m very positive with the level of training and the standard of the team. It’s a very exciting challenge ahead of us, and an opportunity for us to show

all of our fans that we can continue the performance we did in SAFF Championship,” the Spaniard said at the pre-match press conference at the Kings Arena yesterday.

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan, who only returned from his club duty in Argentina a couple of days earlier, echoed the coach’s sentiment while saying that a good outing against a strong Afghanistan side will prove that they are on the right track.

“Most Afghanistan players play in



Europe, some play in India, Malaysia and Indonesia. So they are a strong team, which is good for us because our main match is against the Maldives,” the midfielder said.

The Bangladesh skipper also said that playing at the Kings Arena instead of other venues in Bangladesh will give them an advantage in terms of crowd support.

“I can’t remember the last time we played in Dhaka. I’m looking forward to playing in Dhaka and for

the first international match at the Bashundhara Kings Arena, which is a big thing for everyone.

“What’s great about the Kings Arena is that fans are much nearer to the players. So we will feel the atmosphere which is a positive thing,” the Bangladesh captain opined.

Afghanistan coach Abdullah Al Mutairi, who was previously coach of Nepal when the Himalayan side drew 1-1 against Bangladesh during the 2021 SAFF Championship, brought his charges to Dhaka on August 26 to prepare for these two matches and one against Philippines next week. However, like his Bangladesh counterpart, Mutairi said his team’s target is next month’s World Cup Pre-qualifiers where they will face Mongolia.

“Don’t ask me who will win,” the Kuwaiti national said. “These are just friendly matches. We have come here to prepare for the World Cup Pre-qualifiers...I changed 80-85 percent players when I took charge. So we will take these two matches, especially the first one tomorrow, to judge where we stand as a team.”

SAFF U-16 CHAMPIONSHIP

### Bangladesh start with a defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh started their SAFF U-16 Championship campaign on a negative note, losing 1-0 against India at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

The boys in red and green, who won the event twice out of six times, conceded the only goal of the game in the 74th minute of the match.

The game was a fairly even affair but a dreadful error from defender Siam Omit led to the goal. Siam made heavy weather of a long-range ball from the Indian midfield, first misrouting his header under no pressure and the failing to clear the ball on second attempt. India forward Manbhakupar Malngiang got hold of the loose ball and attempted at goal. Bangladesh goalkeeper Nahidul Islam could only parry the effort in front of goal, with Usham Singh smashing home the rebound.

Coah Saifur Rahman Moni rued the mistake, but hoped his team would do better in their next match against Nepal. “I told my boys, if you make mistakes India can win. Unfortunately, we missed a lot of chances,” Moni said.

Bangladesh will take on Nepal in their second and final group game tomorrow. India and Nepal will play the last match of the group on September 6, with top two teams from each of the two groups slated to advance to the semifinals.





## A section of filling station owners goes on strike today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners' Association is set to begin a nationwide strike from today demanding 7.5 percent sales commission, a gazette recognising pump owners as agents, and 50 years of economic life for tanker trucks.

The faction, led by Syed Sazzadul Karim Kabul and Mizanur Rahman Ratan, president and secretary general, announced the strike on August 27.

However, another faction yesterday announced it was in talks with the government which promised to fulfil the aforesaid demands by September 30.

This faction, led by Nazmul Haque and Mir Ahsan Uddin Parvez, urged the pump owners to "keep the business running as normal".

Mir Mohammad Aslam Uddin, deputy information officer at the energy ministry, said a gazette recognising the owners as agents may be issued soon while "the other demands are being considered".



Gridlocks on major city roads yesterday forced many to get off their vehicles midway and walk to their destinations. The photo was taken from Farmgate area in the afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Dhaka grinds to a halt on weekend

### City dwellers suffer in gridlocks as civic rally has knock-on effect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of city dwellers suffered long delays yesterday as they endured massive gridlocks on different city roads due to a civic rally organised by north and south city units of Awami League at the old trade fair ground in Agargaon.

The massive gathering caused traffic congestion on streets leading to the venue as leaders and activists from the AL's various affiliated bodies marched there in processions. The halt in public transportation eventually disrupted traffic flow across the street.

Major roads from Gulistan, Paltan, Shabagh, Science Lab, and Panthapath all remained gridlocked since 9:00am. Traffic almost came to a standstill on Mirpur Road, Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Mohakhali, Banglamotor, Elephant Road, Dhanmondi, and Green Road.

The situation worsened when people started commuting to work.

Eyewitnesses said that although the rally was on the occasion of the inauguration of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, the suffering of commuters started earlier as ruling party supporters marched to the venue in procession from daybreak.

Meanwhile, getting to hospitals was a nightmare for many.

Jalal Hossain left Gulistan with his sick mother for

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## College teacher hacked to death in broad daylight in Bogura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A college teacher was hacked to death in Shajahanpur, Bogura over a "family feud" yesterday.



Shahidul Islam, officer-in-Charge of Shajahanpur Police Station said, "Parvez was killed over a family feud. The attackers are from the same village. We are looking for the suspects."

He was also a vice-president of the Ashkepur Union Awami League.

Union Parishad Chairman Hazrat Ali said Parvez was going to Bogura town on his motorcycle around 10:45am when 4-5 people stopped and attacked him in Mathail Chapor area.

The attackers left him with a hand severed from the wrist.

Locals rushed him to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College hospital where he was declared dead.

Ali said, "One and half months ago, some locals attacked Parvez's elder brother Panna demanding money. They threatened Parvez too."

Shahidul Islam, officer-in-Charge of Shajahanpur Police Station said, "Parvez was killed over a family feud. The attackers are from the same village. We are looking for the suspects."

# Mega projects alone can't ensure true development

### Improving human resources is crucial: Wahiduddin Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development of the country is not possible through the implementation of mega projects alone and without the human resource properly developed, said a noted economist.

"The infrastructure will end up looking like a skeleton and the country may fall into the low-middle income trap if the human resource is not developed," said economist Wahiduddin Mahmud.

The government should look into whether its infrastructure projects could attract foreign direct investment (FDI), he said in a conversation with journalists about the economy.

The event was organised by Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at its Paltan office in the capital yesterday.

Wahiduddin, also an adviser to a former caretaker government, said some measures could have been taken instead of implementing a few mega projects with foreign loans.

For example, if buses stopped at designated places of the city roads and the traffic was managed better, the government would not have had to construct the mega infrastructures to ease traffic congestion, he added.

The economist said if the rivers could have been protected from encroachment, the

government would not have had to spend money on eviction drives and it would have also been able to develop an environment friendly communication system with low cost projects.

Wahiduddin said the government is implementing many mega projects with foreign loans which will have to be repaid.

Bangladesh's foreign loan doubled to \$100 billion from \$50 billion in the last three years and it will have to repay \$5 billion every year within the next three to four years. If the country borrows more, the repayment amount will increase, he said.

Also, some mega projects have been taken up at a time when giving financial assistance to low-income people is needed more. "This is not the time for taking up prestige projects," Wahiduddin said.

The former Dhaka University professor said it is important to assess how much foreign and local investments would be available for mega infrastructure projects before taking up those.

He said Vietnam also built major infrastructures and was able to attract \$10 billion FDI in a year, but Bangladesh could attract only \$1 billion a year despite implementing mega infrastructure projects.

On education, he said numerous universities

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## North Korea fires multiple cruise missiles

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired multiple cruise missiles off its west coast yesterday, Seoul's military said, the latest in a string of recent Pyongyang military actions.

The launches come three days after the North launched a pair of short-range ballistic missiles as part of a "tactical nuclear strike drill" prompted by the annual US-South Korean Ulchi Freedom Shield military exercises, which always infuriate the reclusive regime.

Pyongyang views such the drills as a rehearsal for invasion while the two allies say they are defensive in nature.

An unspecified number of cruise missiles were launched at around 4 am (1900 GMT) towards the Yellow Sea, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said yesterday in the statement, adding the specifications of the missiles were being evaluated.

"We have stepped up surveillance and monitoring and are maintaining utmost readiness in close coordination with the United States," the JCS said.

## India launches spacecraft to study the sun

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Following quickly on the success of India's moon landing, the country's space agency launched a rocket yesterday to study the sun in its first such solar mission.

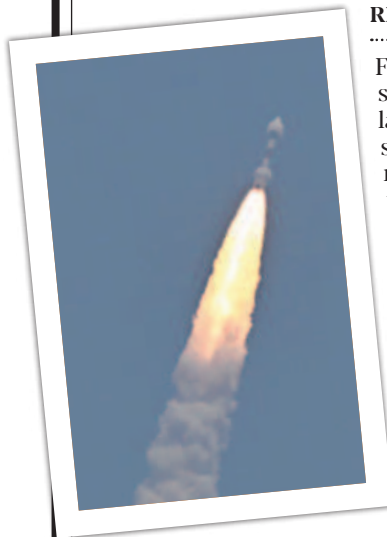
The rocket left a trail of smoke and fire as scientists clapped, a live broadcast on the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) website showed.

India's space agency on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, later said the satellite was now in orbit.

The broadcast was watched by more than 860,000 viewers, while thousands gathered at a viewing gallery near the launch site to see the lift-off of the probe, which aims to study solar winds which can cause disturbance on earth commonly seen as auroras.

Named after the Hindi word for the sun, the Aditya-L1 spacecraft took flight barely a week after India beat Russia to become the first country to land on the south pole of the moon. While Russia had a more powerful rocket, India's Chandrayaan-3 out-ended the Luna-25 to execute a textbook landing.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing for India's space missions to play a larger role on a world stage dominated by the United States and China. Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah, on social media platform X, said the launch was a "giant step" towards Modi's vision.



## Flood worsens in six districts

STAR REPORT

Swelling rivers have worsened flooding in six districts.

The Jamuna was flowing 18cm above the danger level at one place in Sirajganj yesterday, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

In Tangail, vast areas have been flooded as the Jhanai was flowing 59cm above the danger level at Jokarchar, Jamuna 19cm at Porabari, and the Dhaleshwari 10cm at Elasin yesterday morning, according to BWDB.

Educational institutions in the flood-hit areas remained closed, said locals.

"Flood water started entering our house in the morning," said Laboni Ghosh, a resident of Kostapra in Bhuapur upazila.

In Jamalpur, homes of around 40,000 people have been flooded by the Jamuna, said Alamgir Hossain, the district relief officer.

The river was flowing 30cm above the danger level at Bahadurabad Ghat, according to BWDB.

At least 120 villages of Dewanganj upazila have been inundated. Academic activities at 28 educational institutions have been suspended, according to local administration.

People and their farm animals have taken shelter at flood centres. Local government representatives from the areas say people are suffering from shortage of food and water.

In Gaibandha, the Brahmaputra was flowing 26cm above the danger level at Fulchari yesterday afternoon.

"My house has been under water for five days. We

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Farmers harvest half-ripe paddy and load them into a boat yesterday, 10 days after the cropland was flooded in Shonpocha Char under Karnibari union in Bogura's Sariaikandi upazila.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## 24th session of 11th JS begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th parliament is set to go into its 24th session today.

The session will start at 5:00pm at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, according to a press release of the parliament secretariat.

This is likely to be a brief session. Some important bills, including the much talked about cyber security bill, is likely to be placed in this session, sources at the parliament secretariat said.

The cabinet on August 7 approved in principle the proposed Cyber Security Act. It is expected to be passed in this session.

The Digital Security Act will be renamed Cyber Security Act, bringing some changes to the existing law.

The government, however, did not pay heed to the demands by rights groups and civil society members for repealing the DSA and enacting a new law.

According to sources, parliament may go into another session in October which will be the last session of the 11th Jatiya Sangsad.

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