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Dhaka commits to buy 10 planes from Airbus

Macron says before wrapping up his trip

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh has committed to buying 10 new A350 airplanes from Airbus, a multinational aerospace corporation, as the two countries forge a new strategic partnership.

"I thank you for your trust in the European aerospace industry. And this commitment for 10 Airbus A350 is important," Macron yesterday said at a joint media briefing after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office in Dhaka.

Speaking at the briefing, Hasina said, "We both hope that this new strategic move between Bangladesh and France will play an effective role in establishing regional and global stability and peace."

The two countries also signed a letter of intent for space partnership between Airbus and Bangladesh



"I thank you for your trust in the European aerospace industry. And this commitment for 10 Airbus A350 is important."

French President Emmanuel Macron

Satellite Company Ltd. The letter includes a clause about buying the Bangabandhu-2 Earth Observation Satellite System. Bangladesh's first satellite Bangabandhu-1 was also manufactured by a French company.

Besides, a credit facility agreement was also signed with Agence Française de Développement, under which France will provide €184 million to support urban governance and infrastructural development in Bangladesh.

According to a Reuters report, French officials said the deal for the Airbus flagship A350 planes, which is still being finalised, is with the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Biman's current fleet comprises of six Boeing 737-800s, four 777-300ERs, four 787-8s, two 787-9s, and five

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and French President Emmanuel Macron at a joint press briefing at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. The two leaders joined the event after holding bilateral talks.

PHOTO: PTD

Macron's day out

PORIMOL PALMA

While French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Dhaka featured geopolitics, trade and economy, he won the hearts of Bangladeshis with his curiosity to experience the local culture and way of life.

"Wherever the president goes, he experiences the local aspects of the country -- call it arts and culture, health, education, anything. He likes to

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Biman heading for a mixed fleet

Commits to Airbus A350s before making business case

ZYMA ISLAM

Bangladesh has committed to buying 10 Airbus A350s for Biman but the carrier is yet to come up with a business case for purchasing the planes.

In a statement to the media after a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office, French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday thanked Bangladesh for trusting the



European plane maker.

The Biman Bangladesh Airlines board on May 3, 2023, decided that such a purchase could only happen after a technical and financial evaluation.

Biman had created two committees to conduct the techno-financial evaluations.

This correspondent spoke to Biman insiders with knowledge of the committees

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India's Virat Kohli jumps in the air to celebrate his century against Pakistan in an Asia Cup Super Four fixture at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Kohli scored 122 not out as India smashed 356 for two before restricting Pakistan for 128 to register a 228-run victory.

PHOTO: AFP

Kohli, Rahul help India thump Pakistan

REUTERS

India beat rivals Pakistan by 228 runs after Virat Kohli passed 13,000 in one-day internationals en route to his 47th century and KL Rahul marked his return from injury with a ton in a lopsided Asia Cup Super Four clash in Colombo on Monday.

Pakistan's batsmen, needing a daunting 357 for victory after Kohli made 122 not out off 94 balls and Rahul remained unbeaten on 111 off 106, never really got going and finished on 128 with Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf both absent through injury.

India spinner Kuldeep Yadav (5-25) ripped through Pakistan's lineup following a brief rain interruption after Jasprit Bumrah removed Imam-ul-Haq and Hardik Pandya castled the dangerous Babar Azam.

India had reached 147-2 in 24.1 overs after half-centuries by skipper Rohit Sharma (56) and fellow opener Shubman Gill (58) on Sunday but rain meant the match would finish on the reserve day and the runs continued to flow after a

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Tk 4,282cr project for developing Mongla Port

China to fund it; AIIB to finance power supply infrastructure; proposals to be placed before Ecneec today

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to implement a project with Chinese funds for the development of Mongla Port.

Another project aimed at improving power infrastructure in the southern part of Chattogram division and Bangabandhu Hi-tech City in Gazipur will be funded by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Besides, a project for empowering the country's rural women will be implemented by the government with funding by the United Nations Development Programme, the Swedish embassy, and Marico Ltd.

The three project proposals are likely to be placed for approval at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council meeting today.

Of the Tk 4,282.36 crore Mongla Port development project, the Chinese government will provide 88 percent or Tk 3,782.36 crore in loan under a government to government mechanism, according to the Ecneec meeting agenda.

The remaining Tk 500.39 crore will be financed by the Bangladesh

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ASSAULT ON BCL LEADERS

ADC Harun suspended

Inspector transferred; no case filed yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday suspended Additional Deputy Commissioner Harun-or-Rashid from his post, two days after he along with several policemen allegedly tortured two Chhatra League leaders inside Shahbagh Police Station.

Earlier on Sunday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police withdrew Harun from Ramna Division and attached him to its Public Order Management Division over the incident. The same day, he was transferred to the Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

After his suspension yesterday, Harun has now been attached to the Police headquarters, according to a home ministry order.

The DMP formed a three-member probe committee on Sunday, which was asked to submit a report in two work days.

Victims and other BCL leaders alleged Harun along with several policemen tortured BCL Organising Secretary Anwar Hossain Naeem and BCL Science Affairs Secretary Sharif Ahmed Munim at Shahbagh Police Station on Saturday night. Another BCL leader who came to their rescue was also assaulted.

Among them, Naeem is still receiving treatment at a city hospital.

Naeem told reporters on Sunday that 10-12 policemen, including Harun, beat him in the OC's (investigation) room of Shahbagh Police Station. They all had their faces covered with cloths, and the nameplates on their uniform were taken off.

"I recorded some of it on my phone, but

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ADC Harun

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem

Date of Expire
12 September, 2022

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12 September, 2023, of Prominent industrialist

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the Founder Chairman and Managing Director of Nasir Group of Industries, the family members, all the officers, employees and workers of Nasir Group are deeply saddened.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for peace and forgiveness of his departed soul. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaus, Ameen.

Nasir Group

Bangladesh, UK strategic dialogue today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the UK are set to hold the fifth strategic dialogue in Dhaka today. The dialogue will cover political and diplomatic relations as well as issues of global and regional security and the Rohingya.

The UK Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Sir Philip Barton, and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen will lead their respective countries to the talks.

The other issues that will come under discussion include economy, trade and development partnerships, according to a statement of the UK high commission in Dhaka.

"Building on the UK and Bangladesh's historic links, the Strategic Dialogue reflects the two countries' shared commitment to develop a modern economic, trade and security partnership," the statement said.

The dialogue, the high commission said, will also provide an opportunity to boost economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, cooperation on COP28 and joint work on climate financing, adaptation and resilience to climate impacts, and showcase the UK's substantial economic development investment offer.

Philip, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday, will also meet politicians, civil society members, business leaders and youth representatives.

This is Philip's first visit to Bangladesh as the UK permanent under-secretary. He had been in Bangladesh in 2008 as director (South Asia) of the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

N Korea's Kim to visit Russia, meet Putin

AFP, Seoul

North Korea said yesterday that leader Kim Jong Un would visit Russia and meet President Vladimir Putin, with the reclusive leader's armoured train reportedly on its way to the border.

Experts suggest that Putin is seeking artillery shells and antitank missiles from North Korea for Moscow's war in Ukraine, while Kim is reportedly in search of advanced technology for satellites and nuclear-powered submarines, as well as food aid for his impoverished nation.

Kim "will soon visit the Russian Federation at the invitation of ... Putin," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said.

Dhaka commits to buy 10 planes

FROM PAGE 1

short-haul De Havilland Canada Dash 8 400s.

The initial order would be for two Airbus planes, the Reuters report quoted State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali as saying.

"We have asked for 10 aircraft in phases. The technical committee is now evaluating. These aircraft will be used on new and old routes. Each country has Airbus and Boeing in its fleet. But we only have Boeing, not a single Airbus."

After attending the G20 summit in New Delhi, Macron arrived in Dhaka on Sunday evening at the invitation of Hasina, who had visited Paris in November 2021. He attended the official banquet hosted by the Bangladeshi premier at Hotel InterContinental.

Yesterday morning, Macron visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi to pay homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Later, he attended the meeting with Hasina and left Dhaka at 2:45pm, ending his 19-hour trip.

Macron and Hasina recalled the Letter of Intent on Cooperation and Exchanges in the Field of Defence signed between the two governments during Hasina's visit to France in November 2021, according to a joint statement issued after the meeting between Hasina and Macron.

They also stated their willingness to step up defence cooperation, with a focus on naval, air and terrestrial capacity, including transfer of technology, in support of Bangladesh's strategic autonomy, reads the statement.

Both countries condemned the unconstitutional change of government and unlawful military takeover in any country, and called for urgent and unimpeded humanitarian assistance for those displaced due to conflicts, violence and atrocious crimes.

"Bangladesh and France regard

Back in the late 1700s, when Chinese traders and labourers, who worked for the British Raj in India opened restaurants selling Chinese food, they adapted their culinary styles to suit Indian tastes. This is the most popular origin story of this fusion food we lovingly call deshi Chinese.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

AUTHENTIC ISN'T EVERYTHING

Nothing hits the spot like Deshi Chinese food!

RBR

Eating out in the late 70s usually meant going to Chinese restaurants, typically run by Chinese couples. Those dimly lit restaurants, flaunting red velvet upholstery, welcomed you to another world of unique gastronomic delight. A child's mind is impressionable, and small details of the cuisine like the ramekins of soy sauce, green chilli dipped in white vinegar, and ketchup on the table remain forever etched in our nostalgia.

The food we ordered was always a bowl of chicken corn soup and fried wontons as appetisers, followed by mixed chowmein, fried rice, sweet and sour prawn balls, mandarin fish, fried chicken, and beef or vegetable gravy. Gravy was always needed for our Bangladeshi palate. These items were the staple order, along with sizzling chicken and everyone's all-time favourite Chinese chop suey. Thus began our love for deshi or Dhaka Chinese food. However, if we are being pedantic, it is actually Indo-Chinese food that we refer to when we mean

Dhaka Chinese.

Deshi Chinese was the start of fusion food, where we adapted typical Chinese seasoning and cooking techniques to suit our tastes. Authentic Chinese dishes are much milder; you can taste the flavour of the meat or vegetable, or so I am told. But deshi Chinese dishes are made like stews, or the bowl is full of gravy in Manchurian style, as I have tried in Dhaka. Authentic Chinese dishes usually forgo gravy.

I can confidently say that every person in Dhaka craves deshi Chinese at least once every two months. While there are some (Gen Z and Alpha) who vehemently deny deshi Chinese and instead, seek out authentic Chinese cuisine, most who are millennials or older would love nothing more than our good old deshi style.

Dhaka boasts deshi-style Chinese places like Sung Garden in Eskaton, New Cathay in Banani, among a few. And they all host some of our all-time greats, such as Hakka noodles, or plain old chowmein smeared in soy sauce, oyster sauce, and deshi chilli garlic sauce, sprinkled with ground black pepper and a touch of brown sugar. The chowmein is stirred in a wok with hot toasted sesame oil and mixed with chicken, vegetables, and eggs. The nutty aroma and flavour of the toasted sesame oil give you that addictive taste and smell of deshi chowmein. A bowl of chicken corn soup with wontons or

batterless fried chicken, crispy chop suey with Sichuan gravy or American toppings -- all these are practically food for the soul.

The mere aroma of it all takes me back to those long-ago comforting dinners at old Chinese restaurants with my parents. I believe we crave deshi Chinese for those cherished memories. It is a time capsule ride to happier, carefree days.

If you absolutely must have the real thing, then Dhaka also boasts many authentic Chinese dining places, serving Cantonese, Hunan, Sichuan cuisines. Places like Cheong Shing, Yum Cha District, Chows, are just some of the hot favourites in town. Apparently, the latest craze in Dhaka is dining at Huaxing Chinese Food restaurant in Uttara, Sector 3. It serves mind-blowing original Chinese food, cooked by a Chinese chef from the Xinjiang Province. The chef's authentic recipes make their mild tofu soup so filling, and the black fungus or rabbit's ear salad tossed in soy sauce and mixed with onions so addictive. Their Jinan noodles and Kung Pao chicken are simply delicious, with that genuine style of Chinese cooking. The preparation, the use of sauces, and cooking techniques set the authentic cuisine apart from deshi Chinese, which uses spicy soy-based sauce with classic local spices like garlic, ginger, and green chillies.

Abducted girl found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A four-year-old girl was found dead yesterday, two days after she was abducted, in Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila.

The deceased, Habiba Akter, was the daughter of Ashraful Islam of Bepari Para village of Dangdhara union.

Police detained a man from the area in connection with the abduction last night around 7:00pm.

The detainee is Rubel Mia, 25, of Nemaimari village of Dangdhara union.

Police recovered Habiba's from a bamboo grove near her house in the afternoon.

Sanandbari Police Investigation Centre in-charge Abdur Rahim said, "Habiba with her cousin went to nearby shop to buy some snacks on Saturday morning."

Later her little cousin returned home alone but Habiba didn't.

"As Habiba was late to return home, her mother Hira Begum went out to search for her and found her shoes on the road."

After a while, someone made a phone call to his father's phone, demanding Tk 1.5 lakh, said the police official quoting the family.

5 killed in road crashes

UNB/BS

At least five people died in road accidents in four districts yesterday.

In Magura, two people were killed as a speeding bus crashed into a motorbike on the Dhaka-Khulna Highway in front of Magura Sadar Hospital. The deceased were Anwar Hossain, 50, and Rokeya Begum, 60.

In Dinajpur, a girl was run over by a speeding tractor after she fell off her uncle's bike as it crashed into an electric pole at Dangapara Bazar in Hakimpur upazila. Jannatul Nayeema, 8, daughter of Mozammel Miah of Birampur upazila, was a fourth grader at Pausghara Fazil Madrasa.

In Gopalganj, a man was killed when a microbus hit him as he was walking along the Dhaka-Khulna Highway near Daserhat Shiva temple area under Muksdpur upazila. Bidyut Kumar Bhowmik, 46, of Daserhat village, was a grocer in Gerakhola Bazar in the area.

In Bhola, a construction worker was killed and five others were injured when the three-wheeler carrying them overturned on the Bhola-Charfashion regional highway in Banglabazar area. The deceased is Al Amin, 35, of Shibpur union of Sadar upazila.

Rohingya man shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man was shot dead by a group of masked criminals at Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila, Cox's Bazar last evening.

Md Salam, 37, was a resident of Camp 2, said Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Harun-ur-Rashid, commander of the 14 APBs.

The incident occurred around 6:00pm at Block C of the camp.

A group of 8-10 masked criminals shot Salam and fled the scene.

Locals rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

"We have yet to determine the motives behind this murder, but we are conducting operations to arrest the killers," the commander added.

Biman heading for a mixed fleet

FROM PAGE 1

and they on the condition of anonymity said the committees had a few meetings but were nowhere near the state to be able to produce any report.

The Biman board did not insist that the planes had to be from Airbus and left it as an option. Biman currently has a fleet of 21 aircraft, 16 of them from US maker Boeing.

"Up to eight Rolls-Royce powered A350-900/1000 aircraft (the "A350 Pax Aircraft") or any other suitable aircraft (wider or narrow) as per Biman's requirement, with an option to purchase additional aircraft after carrying out techno-financial evaluation based on the market demand, Biman's route plan, and necessary approval from Biman's management," state the meeting minutes of the 288th board meeting.

The Daily Star has a copy of the minutes.

It proposed that two narrow-body freighters can be inducted into the fleet based on the above-mentioned conditions, but did not specify the name of the airframe maker or any company. The Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 family planes are considered narrow-body aircraft.

A joint communique on aviation trade was signed in London on May 5, two days after the board meeting, between United Kingdom's Minister of State in the Department for Business and Trade Lord Dominic Johnson and Private Industry and Investment Adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Salman F Rahman.

However, the joint communique, which The Daily Star has a copy of, states "Sale by Airbus and the purchase by Biman Bangladesh Airlines of up to 8 Rolls Royce powered A350-900/1000 aircraft (the "A350 Pax Aircraft") and two Airbus freighter aircraft (subject to further discussions)."

Rolls Royce aircraft engines are made in the UK.

The joint communique signed despite the decisions made by the Biman board was pointed out in a letter Biman's Managing Director Shafiul Azim sent to the secretary of the civil aviation ministry on July 4 and again on July 12.

This newspaper has copies of the letters which detail how the joint communique fails to mention anything about purchases being made after a techno-financial evaluation.

In his July 12 letter, Azim said the Biman board had made those recommendations after seeing a draft of the joint communique before it was signed. However, there were "partial

differences" between the decisions made by the board and the final agreement signed.

However, Azim last night told The Daily Star, "What the French president said is in view of the joint communique. Airbus gave us two business proposals in July and we have formed a technical and a financial committee to work on evaluating the proposals. This is how it is done. We can customize according to our preferences."

When pointed out that the board's decision conflicts with the joint communique, he said the latter is written in diplomatic language.

The techno-financial evaluation that Biman is currently doing consists of figuring out the route plans, expected fuel burn on those routes, maintenance costs, how much revenue could be earned from those routes, and whether the revenue would be enough to cover the instalments for the new planes.

The Biman committees will also have to decide if the existing planes are overworked and if the predicted growing number of passengers can be served with the current fleet.

Currently, planes of the Biman fleet have a rather low average estimated utilisation of five hours a day, said highly placed Biman sources.

Tk 4,282cr project for developing Mongla Port

FROM PAGE 1

government. The project deadline is June 2027.

The objectives of the project are to enhance the port's container-handling capacity with modern facilities and build container terminal (jetty), container delivery yard, and container yard (near the jetty).

Once the project is completed, it will be possible to provide the port users with modern services, according to an assessment of the Planning Commission.

Besides, the project will play an important role in ensuring proper and safe handling of containers and cargoes at the port.

The Tk 2,762.43 crore project for developing power infrastructure in the southern part of Chattogram and Bangabandhu Hi-tech City is expected to be done by June 2028.

AIIB will provide Tk 1,696.46 crore in loan for the project. The rest will be financed by Bangladesh.

Besides, the project is also aimed at smooth power supply to different under-construction economic zones in the Chattogram region and the under-construction Bangabandhu Hi-tech City in Gazipur's Kaliakoir.

According to the Planning Commission, uninterrupted power supply to different establishments of the project area will be possible once the project is implemented.

The government will also implement the 148.4 crore Strengthening Women's Ability for the Productive New Opportunity

(SWAPNO) (Phase-II) project in 283 unions and 32 upazilas of 12 districts.

For the project, the UNDP, the Swedish embassy and Marico Ltd will provide Tk 76.79 crore while the remaining Tk 71.61 crore will be given by Bangladesh.

Under the project, 10,188 female beneficiaries will get mobile phones, their skills will be improved and new employment opportunities will be created.

The government is to take up the project aiming to alleviate poverty of the rural women.

REQUIREMENTS


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This picture was an appropriate response to the BNP leaders' propaganda that the government has no friends.

OBAIDUL QUADER
Awami League general secretary on the US President Joe Biden's selfie with Sheikh Hasina



“
People now want a change [of government] from the bottom of their hearts. The time is very short. Let's unite and continue the struggle [for democracy].

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP secretary general on Awami League government's misrule



(Clockwise from left) French President Emmanuel Macron is welcomed by musician Rahul Ananda and his wife at their residence in the capital's Dhanmondi on Sunday night; Macron takes a selfie with Bangladeshi locals and members of an NGO after a boat ride on the Turag river, yesterday; following the cruise, the president stops by a local stall to enjoy a plate of shingara, samosa and jilapi. PHOTO: PID AND AFP



Dengue cases cross 1.5 lakh

11 more die, 2,944 hospitalised in 24 hours

HELEMUL ALAM

At least 2,944 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country yesterday, pushing the total number of infections to 151,272.

According to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 11 more people died from the mosquito-borne disease in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. With the new deaths, the total number of fatalities rose to 741 this year.

Of the 11 deaths reported yesterday, seven were reported in the capital.

This is the deadliest year since the first recorded Dengue epidemic in 2000.

Hospitals, especially in Dhaka, are struggling to accommodate the large number of patients suffering high fever, joint pain, and vomiting.

Among the top 10 affected districts, Dhaka ranked first with 46.34 percent dengue patients of the total, followed by Chattogram and Barishal with 4.74 percent and 4.26 percent patients, respectively.

Patuakhali has 2.49 percent dengue patients, Lakshmipur 1.99 percent, Pirojpur 1.90 percent, Chandpur 1.85 percent, Manikganj 1.82 percent, Cumilla 1.75 percent, and Faridpur 1.70 percent.

According to DGHS data, in terms of hospitalisation, Jatrabari ranks first among Dhaka city areas with 17.08 percent patients this year, while Shabujbag and Kadamtali rank second and third with 12.87 percent and 8.29 percent patients, respectively.

Mohammadpur (4.03 percent), Khilgaon (3.72 percent), Keraniganj (3.71 percent), Cantonment (3.54 percent), Uttara (2.92 percent),

Dhanmondi (2.67 percent), and Pallabi (2.60 percent) are among the top ten areas.

Mohammad Harun, a resident of Jurain, while sharing his ordeal with this correspondent, said he has been staying with his infected nine-year-old child, Md Ramim at Mugda Medical College and Hospital for the past 10 days.

He said his wife, Jahanara Begum, also got infected with the dengue virus around 20 days ago. She has now recovered, receiving treatment at home.

“The insecticides they are using are useless in killing mosquitos,” he said criticising the city corporation's efforts.

Khadiza Begum, mother of 17-month-old dengue patient Khadimul from Madartek Chourasta, echoed the same.

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DENGUE CRISIS

Reform health sector
Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has failed to tackle the dengue outbreak effectively, said speakers at an event yesterday.

Although there is a need for reforming the health sector, no major political party has shown any concern in this regard, they said at the event titled “Compassionate Bangladesh to Save Lives from Dengue”, organised in front of Jatiya Press Club to protest the government's inability in curbing dengue infections.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Probe report submission deferred for 103rd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended till October 15 the deadline for submitting the probe report of a case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi in February 2012.

This is the 103rd extension of the submission deadline.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rashidul Alam passed the order after Rab Additional Superintendent of Police Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, also the investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

On August 7 this year, the same court asked Rab to submit the probe report by September 11.

Earlier, two separate courts expressed dissatisfaction over the probe and the investigators' failure to unearth the motive behind the murders and arrest the real culprits.

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012, in their rented flat in the capital's West Razabazar.

Their only son Mahir Sarowar Megh, then 5, was home at the time. Nousher Ali Roman, Runi's brother, filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Police Station the following day.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Reporters Unity expressed concern over the delay in submitting the probe report.

Zaida takes charge as GCC mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Zaida Khatun yesterday took charge as the first female mayor of Gazipur City Corporation (GCC).

“We will build a planned city with everyone, including all the councillors,” Zaida said at City Hall around 1:00pm, after assuming her role as mayor.

Former mayor Zahangir Alam, Zaida's son, said, “Parliamentary election is ahead of us. Everyone should work together. Everyone should cooperate with each other.”

He also sought prayers and good wishes for his mother.

Later, a reception was accorded to Zaida at Bangtaj Auditorium in Rathkhola area, in the southern part of Nagar Bhaban.



After a long tiring day on the streets, a child, draped in a red blanket, rests on a road divider in the capital's Manik Mia Avenue as speeding cars cross him from both sides. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ANTI-HARASSMENT COMMITTEES IN RMG SECTOR

It's not working properly: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-harassment committees (AHC) in the garment industry do not submit their annual reports to the government. This limits their transparency and accountability regarding gender-based violence experienced by workers, says a report by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies.

The study, titled “Effectiveness of Role Played by Complaint Committee to Protect Sexual Harassment at Workplace” was unveiled during a seminar on the capital's Topkhana Road yesterday.

Gender Platform Bangladesh organised the event with support from Mondiaal FNV under the STITCH Programme.

According to the study, members of anti-harassment committees are not adequately trained to investigate such offences, and they are unaware of the reporting mechanisms to the government authorities.

Moreover, there is very limited data available on the number of cases reported and resolved by the AHC.

Despite the existence of AHC, factory management often

handles sexual harassment issues. Additionally, many factories have established anti-harassment committees without meeting the necessary legal requirements, merely as a response to demands from their buyers.

Consequently, there is no clear distinction between the committees' activities and those of factory management, as stated in the report.

Workers are often unaware of the functions of these committees and whom to contact with their complaints regarding sexual

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‘A threat to country's sovereignty’

510 SC lawyers protest global letter for Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 510 lawyers of the Supreme Court have strongly protested and expressed grave concern at the global leaders' open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina about the trial proceedings of the cases against Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

In a statement, the lawyers, including several pro-Awami League counsels, said the signatories of the letter have urged to stay the trial proceedings of the cases against Dr Yunus, which is a clear threat to the country's sovereignty and independence of judiciary.

The lawyers also said the foreign citizens' statement in the letter has been made in order to protect the interest of Prof Yunus, bypassing the interest of the victim labours, which is unfortunate and unwarranted.

The statement made by the foreign citizens about the democracy and elections of Bangladesh was offensive to the sovereignty and Bangladesh had achieved through sacrifices of millions of lives, the lawyers said in the statement.

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Talent Hunt

Esquire Paints Ltd.

Published job circular on dated 29 August 2023 corrective application submission date by 13 September 2023 instead of 13 August 2023.


Applicants are requested to apply with details resume history color passport size photograph to the email address: talenthunt@esquire.com.bd

কর্মশীল স্পেস বিভাগ

মতিঝিল দিল্লিশার ইউনিস ট্রেন্ড সেন্টারের ৮ তলায় ৭৮০০ বর্গফুট ও ২টি কার পার্কিংসহ একটি কর্মশীল স্পেস বিভাগ করা হবে।

01712021072

NOTICE : EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM-2)



Cadet College Club Limited

NO. CCCL/EGM-2/2023 09th September 2023

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM-2) of the Club will be held at the Cadet College Club, Purbachal venue. As per Article 50 of Articles of Association of the Cadet College Club Limited, notice is issued and circulated.

EGM-2 will be conducted according to the following Schedule and Agenda. Honorable Primary Members are requested to kindly attend on time.

Lunch will be served from 1330-1500 hours for the member's present attending the EGM.

Date : 30 September 2023 (Saturday)
Time : 1730 hours
Venue : Cadet College Club, Purbachal

Agenda :
Consideration and approval of budget for implementation of Architectural & Engineering design, Preparation of Bid documents, Construction Supervision & Project Management for Permanent Club Complex (Phase-1) at CCCL, Purbachal.

Sd/
(TM Shahidul Islam)
Secretary General

Death anniv of Najma Jasmine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 34th death anniversary of Dr Najma Jasmine Choudhury, eminent writer, researcher, playwright and former teacher of Dhaka University's Institute of Modern Languages (IML).

On the occasion, a memorial lecture will be held at IML auditorium at 3:30pm.

Nilufar Sultana, retired professor of English department at Chittagong University, will deliver this 30th memorial lecture.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman will chair the programme.

Dr Najma Jasmine Chowdhury was the wife of Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury.



Mob snatches

FROM PAGE 5

"Umi Ching Marma was arrested on Sunday night in this connection and later confessed to Shibli's murder and burial during overnight interrogation," said the OC.

When police were returning with Shibli's body and the arrested accused to Raozan Police Station around 11:00am yesterday, agitated locals in Kadalpur snatched Umi Ching from the police van and beat him up, leaving him critically injured, the OC also said.

"Umi Ching was later taken to the upazila health complex, where he was declared dead," said OC Haroon.

The bodies of Shibli and Umi Ching have been kept at Chattogram Medical College morgue.

Legal steps in this connection was underway, the OC added.

Nylon fence to be set up

FROM PAGE 5

then, they've seen a dramatic fall in the reported numbers of tigers entering human settlements, he added.

The project, with a budget of Tk 35,93,80,000, launched in March 2022, is aimed at keeping tigers and humans out of each other's space.

Anwarul Kadir, director of Sundarban Academy, told The Daily Star that many rivers and canals are drying up in the Sundarbans, allowing easy access for people to enter parts of the mangrove forest.

He said the local community like the Village Tiger Response Team (VTRT), Community Patrol Group (CPG) will maintain the fencing, adding that nylon fencing has worked well in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal, India.

According to the Forest Department, tigers in the Sundarbans have entered human settlements more than 50 times in the past 15 years, with casualties on both sides during these incidents.

Forest Department data show that 49 tigers died in the Sundarbans between 2001 and 2021.

Furthermore, for the 'Sundarbans Tiger Conservation Project' implementation, various equipment such as drone cameras, satellite trackers, nylon fences, GPS devices, tranquillizing agents for tiger sedation, cameras, VTRT equipment, and various auxiliary materials, including clothing and training materials for CPG members, will be procured.

A threat to country

FROM PAGE 3

The 510 lawyers expected that the foreign citizens will refrain from "unsolicited interference in the judicial system of Bangladesh" by withdrawing their statement in favour of Muhammad Yunus.

Signatories of the statement include senior lawyer and Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad's convener M Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir and its secretary Md Abdun Nur Dulal, and lawyers Sayed Ahmed Raza, Md Motaher Hossain Sazu and Shah Monjurul Hoque.

Earlier, 104 Nobel Laureates and 79 other global figures in an open letter to PM Sheikh Hasina on August 28 expressed concern about the safety and freedom of Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Reform health sector

FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, farmers' rights movement leader Razib Hasan Munna and the labours' rights movement leader Abdullah Al Kafi Ratan staged a hunger strike from 8am-4pm as part of the event.

Razib said, "The dengue outbreak has taken a dangerous turn thanks to the irresponsibility of the government. We want them to be compassionate in this regard."

Addressing this hunger strike, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said, "This is not just a hunger strike by two persons, rather this is a protest on behalf of the entire country."

He urged the government as well as the city corporations to take effective measures in eliminating Aedes mosquitoes and ensure equitable healthcare facilities for all.

Echoing the same, Mushtuq Hussain, Consultant at Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research highlighted the absence of a well-planned healthcare system in the country and called for an urgent reform in the health sector to ensure equitable access to healthcare for all.

Political willingness is important in this regard, he added. Leaders from different political and civic organisation attended the event.



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bank for inclusive growth

Head Office (annex), General Services Division
Zahed Plaza (7th Floor), 30 North Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212
Website: www.midlandbankbd.net

Tender Notice for Procurement of IT Equipment and Vehicle

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed companies for following works:

SL	Name of the Works	Available Tender Schedule From To	Submission & Opening Date
01	Purchasing of Rack Server and SAN Switch	12.09.2023 20.09.2023	27.09.2023
02	Purchasing of Hyper converged Infrastructure (HCI) Solution	12.09.2023 20.09.2023	27.09.2023
03	Purchasing of Network Stack Switch (Cisco 9200 Stack) & Secure Web Proxy	12.09.2023 20.09.2023	27.09.2023
04	Purchasing of Network HSM	18.09.2023 27.09.2023	12.10.2023
05	Purchasing of System and Service Monitoring Solution & Patch Management Solution	18.09.2023 27.09.2023	12.10.2023
06	Purchasing of 200F Forti Gate & Forti Authenticator	18.09.2023 27.09.2023	12.10.2023
07	Purchasing of Web Application Firewall (WAF)	18.09.2023 27.09.2023	16.10.2023
08	Purchasing of Data Backup Solution	18.09.2023 27.09.2023	16.10.2023
09	Purchasing of Toyota Lexus SUV (RX 300/Large Shape)	12.09.2023 20.09.2023	21.09.2023

Interested companies may collect tender schedule/s by submitting an application addressing the undersigned from General Services Division during office hour (10.00 am to 5.00 pm) **on payment of Tk. 3,000.00 for SL # 01, 02 & 08; Tk. 2,000.00 for SL # 04, 06 & 07; and Tk. 1,000.00 for SL # 03 & 05** in the form of payment order (non-refundable) favoring "Midland Bank Limited" for the above mentioned schedules. Each tender must be submitted in the sealed envelope mentioning the name of work on top of the envelope within 3.30 PM on the above mentioned submission date and will be opened at 4.00 PM on the same date. For SL # 09, Schedule will be available at Bank's website, required link: <https://www.midlandbankbd.net/tender>.

MDB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever.


*Terms & Conditions Apply Head of General Services Division

Dengue cases cross

FROM PAGE 3

Many dengue patients across Dhaka are seeking treatment at Mugda Hospital, which has treated 9,794 patients, the highest number of hospitalisations in the country.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said second-time dengue infection with a different strain and late hospitalisation are among the main reasons for the rise in deaths this year.



বাংলাদেশ রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সোসাইটি

জাতীয় সদর দফতর

৬৮৪-৬৮৬, রেড ক্রিসেন্ট সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৭।

তারিখঃ ১২ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৩ইং

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট নার্সিং কলেজে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শূন্য পদে চুক্তি ভিত্তিক নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশী স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্র: নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা
১.	অধ্যক্ষ	১ টি	আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে	• বিএনএমসি রেজিস্টার্ড নার্স/মিডওয়াইফ • নার্সিং/মিডওয়াইফারি/সমন্বয়ের কোর্সে ন্যূনতম স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি • NIPSOM থেকে MPH সম্পন্নকারীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।	• নার্সিং শিক্ষকতায় ১০ বছর, প্রশাসনিক ৫ বছর ও ৫ বছর ক্রিনিক্যাল অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ন্যূনতম ২০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা। • অধ্যক্ষ পদে কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ব্যক্তিকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।

শর্তাবলী

- আবেদন পত্রের সাথে পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত (CV), সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সত্যায়িত সনদ, সদ্য তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ (দুই) কপি রসিদ ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, ০২ (দুই) জনের রেফারেন্স এবং হলি ফ্যামিলি রেড ক্রিসেন্ট নার্সিং কলেজের অনুকূলে ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা ৬৫ বছরের কম হতে হবে।
- আবেদন পত্র উপরে লিখিত ঠিকানায় মহাসচিবের দপ্তরে আগামী ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৩ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে পৌছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।
- খামের উপরে অবশ্যই পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- গুণমাত্র বাছাইকৃত (Short listed) যোগ্য বিবেচিত প্রার্থীগণকে লিখিত পরীক্ষা/সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য ডাকা হবে।
- আবেদনকারীর আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মহাসচিব



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শেখ হাসিনার মুদ্রাশিত গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Date : 11.09.2023

Memo No. 46.60.9000.102.14.203.19-386

e-Tender Notice (OTM) Number :02/2023-2024

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

SL No	Tender ID No.	Package Number	Tender Last Selling Date	Tender/proposal Closing and opening Date
01	872792	e-gp/ZPS/adp/OTM/W.08	05-October -2023 12:00 PM	05-October-2023 14:00 PM

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 downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to **05.10.2023** Time 14.00pm.

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

Sd/-
Md Golam Mostafa
Assistant Engineer
Zila Parishad, Sunamganj
☎ : 0871-61359
ae@zpsunamganj@gmail.com

GD-1393



BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL

(An Enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)

122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.

☎ : 41060501-24, Fax: 41060476

Website: www.birdembd.org or www.dab-bd.org

INVITATION FOR TENDER

01.	Name of Works	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Electro Medical Equipments for BIRDEM General Hospital.
02.	Invitation Ref. & Dated	BIRDEM/Purchase/2023/03 Dated: 11 September' 2023
03.	Details of Work	Procurement & Commissioning of the following equipments- Lot: A-Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) / WWTP for BIRDEM General Hospital. Lot: B-Generator for BIRDEM General Hospital. Lot: C- Cryostat (Frozen Section) Machine for Histopathology Department. Lot: D-Real Time PCR Machine for Microbiology Department. Lot: E- Five Headed Microscope For Laboratory & Hematology Department. Lot: F-LED Light Source for ENT & Surgery Department. Lot: G- High End Ultrasound System Machine for Radiology & Imaging Department. Lot: H- 110" Multi Touch All-in-one Interactive LED Smart Board with Double Stand for BIRDEM General Hospital.
04.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
05.	Source of fund	BIRDEM General Hospital
06.	Date of selling of tender documents	Tender documents will be available from 14 September 2023 to 15 October'2023 on all working days (09.00 am to 01.00 pm)
07.	Price of tender document	Tk. 5000/- (five thousand) only. (Non-Refundable)
08.	Tender closing date	17 October '2023 (From 08.00 AM to 12.00 PM)
09.	Tender opening date	17 October '2023 at 12.30 Noon (In presence of the tenderers or their authorized agent, if anybody available)
10.	Name & Address of the office selling tender documents	Procurement Section at Room: 230 (1 st Floor) of OPD Building, BIRDEM General Hospital.
11.	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Prof. M K I Quayyum Choudhury Director General BIRDEM General Hospital
12.	General terms & conditions for the Tenderers:	(a) The tenderers should be manufacturer or their authorized supplier/distributor or dealer of the items. (b) Evaluation will be done by lot wise. Bidder may participate in any & or all lots. (c) Lot wise detail specifications, terms & conditions, warranty & after sales service shall be enumerated in the tender schedule. (d) The tenderers shall have valid trade license, TIN, VAT & Income Tax Certificate. (e) Detail terms & conditions are mentioned in the Tender documents.
13.	Pre bid meeting	A pre bid meeting will be held on 1st October' 2023 in the room no: 246 at 12.00 hrs.
14.	Tender security	3% of the quoted amounts have to be deposited in the form of Demand Draft or Pay-order from any local commercial bank in favour of BIRDEM General Hospital for each lot separately.
15.	BIRDEM authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.	
16.	In case of holiday or any unavoidable circumstances last date of dropping of the tender will be the next working day.	

Director General
BIRDEM General Hospital

GD-1394

‘Music connected us both’

The story of Emmanuel Macron’s visit to Rahul Ananda’s residence

“I gifted him an Ektara. Macron is a good student, said Rahul. “I showed him how to play the instrument, and he caught the idea and played the same note in a matter of minutes,” he added.

DOWEL BISWAS

Situated in Dhanmondi 32 is a 140-year-old one-story house with a rather peculiar outlook. Unconventional flowers like lilies, marigolds, roses lying indifferently at its premises. This is where prominent artiste and musician Rahul Ananda, with his wife and son is residing for years, and this is where he makes his music.

However, in the evening yesterday, this house was the centre of attention. As unconventional as it sounds, the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, deliberately asked for an invitation here and was welcomed as an old friend by the family.

‘An artiste’s visit to another’ the title may seem curious to many. To which



Rahul Ananda's house. PHOTO: ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PID



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PID

Rahul replied, “Curious..? I feel that it’s quite natural. As a representative of my culture, people, and country, my studio has been blessed by the presence of many foreign dignitaries and ambassadors in the past.”

“I cannot say how or why President Emmanuel Macron decided to meet me. Although I feel as a musician himself, it was quite natural for him to connect with another,” Rahul continued with his welcoming smile.

“I am accustomed to getting invited to sing and perform for them, but it seemed quite atypical to get to know that President Macron wants to visit my studio to see how I build musical instruments and songs there.”

“He didn’t want me to perform for him, but just to know how I create music and where. So, I prepared as much as I could at my house, which is a 140-year-old broken-down one, to welcome my guest.

Rahul continued, “Then I thought a musician is coming to another’s house, and thus, there is nothing to be prepared for. He should visit us as we are, as it is.”



PHOTO: ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY

But how does an artiste really prepare his home and studio to welcome the President of France, Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron?

The multi-instrumentalist and front-man of the urban folk group Joler Gaan said with his evergreen, graceful

smile, “Just like I invite and welcome any other person into my home, be it a teenager, rickshaw puller or a youth admirer of my music.”

“My home has always been open to people who wanted to talk to me and catch a conversation regarding

NEWS

Biden

FROM PAGE 12

“As I always do, I raised the importance of respecting human rights and the vital role the civil society and a free press have in building a strong and prosperous country with PM Modi,” he said.

According to the joint statement issued on Friday after Modi and Biden held bilateral talks, “The leaders re-emphasised that the shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, inclusion, pluralism, and equal opportunities for all citizens are critical to the success of our countries enjoy and that these values strengthen our relationship.” Biden also talked about the “significant business” he had done in India during the G20 Summit.

Kohli, Rahul

FROM PAGE 1

delayed start.

Kohli and Rahul saw off the threat of Pakistan’s pace attack, missing Rauf due to a right flank problem, and the duo targeted the spinners on an improving wicket to post 356-2 in 50 overs.

Rahul and Kohli’s unbeaten 233-run partnership for the third wicket was the highest stand in the Asia Cup.

India raised the tempo amid the threat of more showers and cruised to the 300-run mark in 45 overs before Rahul reached his sixth hundred.

Kohli then became the fifth batsman and the quickest to make 13,000 runs in the format and celebrated his own century shortly afterwards, pumping his fists before raising his hands to huge roars at the R Premadasa Stadium.

He finished with a flourish, carting Faheem Ashraf to four fours – including one from a free hit – and a huge shot over the ropes at the end of the final over.

Djokovic wins

FROM PAGE 12

“It’s hard to describe. I’m really living my childhood dream to compete at the highest level in this sport.

“I never imagined I would be standing talking about 24 Grand Slams but the last couple of years I’ve felt I have a chance and I have a shot at history and why not grab it.”

The Serbian is the first man to win three Grand Slam events in the same season four times, crowning his impending return to world number one in the most fitting of ways inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

ADC Harun suspended

FROM PAGE 1

Harun deleted it,” he said.

After indiscriminate beatings, when Naeem fell on the ground, the policemen struck his face with a weapon’s butt. At one point, he passed out.

BCL leaders who spoke to The Daily Star said Harun and a female police official, ADC Sanjida Afrin, were at Birdem hospital on Saturday evening. Around 8:30pm, the female official’s husband, a BCS cadre officer, went there along with the two BCL leaders and an altercation ensued between the ADC and the BCS cadre.

The ADC called members of police and took the two BCL leaders to Shahbagh Police Station around 9:00pm where police tortured them for about an hour, BCL leaders alleged.

Contacted last night, ADC Sanjida said she went to Birdem for treatment. As Harun was her colleague and in

charge of that zone, he helped her getting the doctor’s appointment there. Her husband and some BCL leaders went there out of the blue, and picked a fight.

She said she is yet to give her version of the event to the DMP probe committee.

Talking to this correspondent at the hospital yesterday, a relative of Naeem said they were not thinking about filing a case at this moment, as Naeem’s treatment is their first priority. They would decide about it after talking with the BCL leaders.

BCL KEEPS FAITH IN POLICE PROBE

BCL President Saddam Hossain and General Secretary Sheikh Wali Asif Inan yesterday spoke with DMP Commissioner Khandaker Golam Faruk at the DMP headquarters about the police brutality.

Briefing media after the meeting, Saddam said they have faith in the

departmental investigation of the DMP, and decided not to file any criminal case over the incident.

“The DMP commissioner assured us that the departmental enquiry will ensure maximum legal punishment,” he said.

He also denied that the BCL discouraged the victim’s family to file any cases.

Asked about involvements of other police officers in the torture, DMP Joint Commissioner Biplob Kumar Sarker said, “The investigation will find out who played what role. The DMP commissioner assured of maximum actions against them based on the probe report.”

Harun has long made headlines for his high-handedness.

Over the last couple of years, he has developed a habit of beating and assaulting teachers, journalists, lawyers, protesting students,

opposition politicians, and even his colleagues.

Last year, a video of him slapping a police officer went viral on social media.

In March this year, Harun reportedly led a police attack on journalists and lawyers during the Supreme Court Bar Association election. One of the victims, a senior reporter at ATN News, said he complained to senior police officials about Harun’s assault, but no action was taken.

BCL FACTIONS ANGRY

At least 10 residential hall units of BCL in Dhaka University condemned the police assault. But the BCL did not issue any statement over the incident yet, much to the anger of a section BCL leaders and activists.

However, BNP’s student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra Union issued separate statements condemning the attack.

Over the last two days, Saddam

Hossain and Sheikh Wali Asif met the home minister and the DMP commissioner, demanding punishment of the police officials.

But some BCL leaders and activists say the central leaders are not sincere enough to ensure justice. A section of BCL leaders even took to social media to mock the BCL president and secretary.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Saddam said they were showing responsibility. However, a section is trying to fish in troubled waters over the incident.

In another development, Golam Mostafa, inspector (operations) of Shahbagh Police Station, was last night transferred to DMP’s Central Reserve Office over torturing BCL leaders.

Earlier, while talking to reporters, injured BCL leader Anwar identified Mostafa as one of the torturers.

Macron’s day out

FROM PAGE 1

connect the people with the things that shape their lives,” a French embassy official told this correspondent.

Right after the official banquet at the Hotel InterContinental, he took a tour of Dhanmondi, a residential and commercial area known for its central location and cultural vibrancy.

The origins of Dhanmondi can be traced back to the late 1950s when the government of East Pakistan developed it as a centrally planned and residential area to house the city’s top bureaucrats.

He took an evening stroll on Dhanmondi streets and around Dhanmondi Lake before meeting the artists of the famous musical band Joler Gaan.

Rahul Ananda of Joler Gaan collaborated with Alliance Française for “Musical Rickshaw” through which he turned rickshaws into musical instruments.

“That’s how Rahul and some other artists were chosen for the interaction with the president.”

An overwhelmed Rahul welcomed Macron with flower petals. He played flutes for the president and sang songs including one of Lalon Shah.

Rahul gifted Bangladesh’s ektara to Macron and shared the origins of

the instrument. Macron also tried to play it with the help of Rahul.

Before leaving his studio, President Macron gifted him a pen.

“This is the most beautiful gift from French President Macron: a pen. He made me commit that I will write songs and poems with this pen – of nature and life – and he will one day listen to those songs. Let the earth be beautiful,” Rahul wrote on his Facebook wall.

While Macron’s jaunt to Dhanmondi was disclosed in advance, his Turag river cruise came as a surprise.

After the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Macron went to the Turag river and took a ride on a traditional panshi boat operated by Contic, a sister concern of NGO Friendship, around noon.

During the boat journey jointly organised by the French embassy in Dhaka and Friendship, the panshi boat departed with Macron from Mirpur’s Bara Bazar Eco Park dock and traversed through the Karnatali river that flows past Kaundia union in Savar.

Hasan Mahmud, the information and broadcasting minister; Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP; Marie Masdupuy, the French ambassador to Bangladesh; and Runa Khan, the founder of Friendship, accompanied

the president on the trip, among others.

The boat ride gave him a chance to enjoy the scenic beauty of rural, riverine Bangladesh.

They also enjoyed various festivities including a boat race, a musical performance featuring traditional instruments and baul folk songs, and a live demonstration

of local fishing techniques during the cruise.

“The president also had an in-depth exchange of the climate change impacts in Bangladesh and the ways how the words can be turned into actions when it comes to saving the earth as well as adaptation to climate change,” the French embassy official added.

Irregularities in good faith!

FROM PAGE 12

For this violation, a complaint was filed against the PD with the fisheries department, prompting the authorities to conduct an investigation. A one-member committee with Md Shahed Ali, deputy director (Finance & Planning) of the department, on September 3 was asked to submit its probe report in three working days.

According to the complaint document obtained by The Daily Star, the rent-a-car firm received Tk 120,000 per month since March this year. It continued receiving the money until the matter came to light.

Speaking to this newspaper, Ashikur said he received Tk 50,000 per month from the car rental company.

“Since the fisheries department could not manage a suitable car for rent within the allocated budget, I

gave the vehicle to the rent-a-car firm in good faith.”

Asked about returning the car provided by the department, he said he thought using that “old” car would be risky.

“That’s why I communicated this to the higher authorities and the vehicle was later sent to another department,” the PD said.

Regarding the violation of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1979, Ashikur claimed that he was not aware of it.

Probe body chief Shahed Ali yesterday said he already submitted the report. He, however, refused to disclose the findings.

KH Mahbubul Haque, director general of the Department of Fisheries, said they received the probe report and sent it to the fisheries and livestock ministry for next course of action.

Steps taken to rein

FROM PAGE 12

and cottage, small, and medium-sized industries, he said.

Replying to another question from ruling party MP Mozaffar Hossain, the finance minister said a task force was formed in 2009 to solve the problems of ailing industries.

According to the task force’s decision, circulars were issued to write off loans taken out by 279 ailing garment factories in 2011 and 2015. One hundred circulars were also issued in 2011 and 2015 to write off the loans of textile factories.

Replying to another question from Awami League MP Kazim Uddin Ahmed, Kamal said Tk 35,000 crore has been allocated for loans under the agricultural and rural loan policy and programme this fiscal year.

Responding to a question from AL MP Samil Uddin Ahmed, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said the current mobile phone call rate was determined in 2018 after analysing the market and socio-economic situation.

“There are no plans to revise the call rate right now.”

The minister said the maximum call rate is Tk 2 per minute and the minimum is Tk 0.45. Even though the maximum price is Tk 2, the carriers design packages at rates less than Tk 1 per minute due to competition.

S CHINA SEA ROW
US, Vietnam
warn against
'threat or
use of force'

AFP, Hanoi

The United States and Vietnam yesterday warned against the "threat or use of force" in the disputed South China Sea, days after the latest clash involving Chinese vessels.

President Joe Biden and Vietnam's Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong said the competing claims on the strategic waterway must be settled under international norms.

Beijing claims almost the entire sea, through which trillions of dollars in trade passes annually, and has ignored an international court ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

"The leaders underscored their unwavering support for the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, without the threat or use of force," Biden and Trong said in a joint statement.

They also called for "freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded lawful commerce in the South China Sea".

The statement came a day after Biden and Trong struck a deal to deepen cooperation, seen as a way to counter China's growing assertiveness in the region.

Washington is at loggerheads with Beijing on a range of issues including trade, security, human rights and climate change.



Firefighters and police perform at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum at the Ground Zero site in lower Manhattan, New York City, US yesterday, during commemoration ceremonies for the 22nd anniversary of the attacks.

PHOTO: AFP

Climate change fuelling rights
emergencies: UN rights chief

AFP, Geneva

Climate change is sparking human rights emergencies in numerous countries, the UN rights chief said yesterday, stressing the need to fight the impunity of those who "plunder our environment".

Speaking before the United Nations Human Rights Council, Volker Turk pointed to recent examples of "environmental horror that is our global planetary crisis".

He described visiting Basra, Iraq, where date palms once lined canals, but now "drought, searing heat, extreme pollution and fast-

depleting supplies of fresh water are creating barren landscapes of rubble and dust".

"This spiralling damage is a human rights emergency for Iraq, and many other countries," he said in his address opening the 54th council session in Geneva.

"Climate change is pushing millions of people into famine. It is destroying hopes, opportunities, homes and lives. In recent months, urgent warnings have become lethal realities again and again all around the world," Turk said.

"We do not need more warnings. The dystopian future is already here. We need urgent action now."

Turk was speaking after the G20 at the weekend failed to commit to a phase-out of fossil fuels.

At a time when the ravages of climate change are forcing more and more people to leave their homes, Turk said he was "shocked by the nonchalance" seen towards surging numbers of migrant deaths.

"It is evident that far more migrants and refugees are dying, unnoticed," he said, pointing to the more than "2,300 people reported dead or missing in the Mediterranean this year, including the loss of more than 600 lives in a single shipwreck off Greece in June."

Taiwan detects
39 Chinese
warplanes,
carrier

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan said yesterday it had detected 39 Chinese warplanes and an aircraft carrier near the island after a US destroyer and a Canadian frigate transited through the Taiwan Strait over the weekend.

Between Sunday and yesterday morning, 26 aircraft and 13 warships were operating around the island, while another 13 planes were detected since the early hours of yesterday, according to Taiwan's defence ministry.

China's Shandong carrier was also detected yesterday around 60 nautical miles southeast of Taiwan's Luannan, sailing eastward and entering the Western Pacific for training, the ministry added.

China claims self-ruled Taiwan as its territory and has vowed to take it one day -- by force if necessary.

In recent years, Beijing has ratcheted up military and political pressure on Taiwan, often conducting naval exercises to coincide with any diplomatic engagements with Taipei.

Taiwan said 22 of the 39 planes it had recently detected crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait.

"The military is closely monitoring the situation and has tasked aircraft, navy vessels, and land-based missile systems to respond," Taiwan's defence ministry said in a statement.

ECONOMIC CORRIDOR
Modi hails Saudi
ties after 'historic'
route unveiled

AFP, New Delhi

India hailed its "strategic" partnership with oil-rich Saudi Arabia yesterday, days after unveiling a major trade and transport route linking Europe, the Middle East and India as part of a broad alliance. "Together, we made the historic start to establish an economic corridor," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in New Delhi. On Saturday, the pair took part alongside other G20 leaders in the unveiling of ambitious plans to create a modern-day Spice Route, boosting trade ties with potentially wide-ranging geopolitical implications. "This corridor will not only connect the two countries, but economic cooperation, digital connectivity between Asia, West Asia and Europe," Modi added. India and Saudi Arabia, along with the US, the EU, the UAE and others launched the initiative to link railways, ports, electricity and data networks and hydrogen pipelines.

POWERFUL STORM, FLOODS
150 people killed in
Libya in two days

REUTERS, Benghazi

A powerful storm and heavy floods have killed 150 people in the eastern Libyan city of Derna over the last two days and the death toll is expected to rise to 250, the head of the Red Crescent in Benghazi said yesterday. Footage on social media showed people stranded on the roofs of their vehicles as Storm Daniel hit Benghazi, Sousse, Al Bayda, Al-Marj and Derna, a city on the Mediterranean some 250 km (150 miles) east of Benghazi. "We recorded at least 150 deaths after the collapse of buildings. We expect death toll to rise to 250. The situation is very catastrophic," the Red Crescent's Kais Fhakeri told Reuters. The toll in other areas was not immediately clear. Heavy floods washed away vehicles, footage broadcast by eastern Libya's Almustkbal TV showed.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়
পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া
রাসামাটি

অকেজো গাড়ী নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

স্মারক নং-(পিএসটিএস)/২৫২৫

তারিখঃ ১১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ

এতদ্বারা স্বরূপ মন্ত্রণালয়, জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, প্রশাসন-২ শাখার স্মারক নং-৪৪.০০.০০০০.০২০.৫২.০০২.২০২০(অংশ-১)-২৩৮ তারিখঃ ২৩/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ এবং পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.০২৪.১০.০০২.২০২২.১৩৭০ তারিখঃ ১৭/০৮/২০২৩খ্রিঃ মূলে পুলিশ স্পেশাল ট্রেনিং স্কুল (পিএসটিএস), বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটির নিম্নবর্ণিত অকেজো যোযিত যানবাহনসমূহ (যে অবস্থায় আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য শর্ত সাপেক্ষে অগ্রহী বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক/গাড়ী ব্যবসায়ী/প্রতিষ্ঠানে এর মালিকগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক নিলাম দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ীর নাম	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং	ইঞ্জিন নং	চেসিস নং	তৈরীর সন
০১।	বেডফোর্ট (৫ টন ট্রাক)	রাসামাটি-ম-০৭-০০০২	৬৫৭৩৬৩৭	৭০০১৯০	১৯৯০
০২।	টাটা (৩ টন ট্রাক)	রাসামাটি-ম-০৭-০০০৮	৫৭১৯৮৫	৩৬৮০২০৫০৪৫১	১৯৯৩
০৩।	সিসেল কেভিন (পিকআপ) এল-২০০	বাপেরহাট-ম-১১-০০০৮	এএ ৭৩৯৫	০২৫৩	১৯৯৭
০৪।	জীপ (ডায়হাট-সু)	রাসামাটি-ঘ-০২-০১৩৭	০৭১২৭৬৭	০০০৫০৮৮৮০	২০০০

তথ্যাদি	ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ীর নাম	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং	ইঞ্জিন নং	চেসিস নং
ক্রমিক নং	গাড়ীর নাম	রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং	ইঞ্জিন নং	চেসিস নং	তৈরীর সন
০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	স্বরূপ মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।		
০২।	সংস্থা	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।		
০৩।	নিলাম দরপত্র আহবানকারী স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	ঃ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি), পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।		
০৪।	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহবান	ঃ	অকেজো যোযিত যানবাহনসমূহ নিলামে বিক্রয়।		
০৫।	গাড়ীর অবস্থান	ঃ	পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।		
০৬।	নিলাম দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	(১) অতিরিক্ত আইজি, এপিবিএন হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকার কার্যালয়। (২) কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি। (৩) পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, রাসামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা।		
০৭।	নিলাম দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	ঃ	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।		
০৮।	নিলাম দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার স্থান	ঃ	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।		
০৯।	নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	১৩/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।		
১০।	নিলাম দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৬/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
১১।	নিলাম দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৭/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।		
১২।	নিলাম দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৭/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।		
১৩।	নিলাম দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২৭/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৪.০০ ঘটিকায়।		
১৪।	পৃথীত নিলাম দর ও বিধি অনুযায়ী ভাট এবং আয়কর পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে গাড়ী ডেলিভারীর তারিখ	ঃ	০৯/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।		
১৫।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হইবে (বিস্তারিত দরপত্র তফসিলে উল্লেখ থাকবে)	ঃ	(ক) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (এনআইডি) (খ) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (গ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট (ঘ) হালনাগাদ ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (ঙ) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট, (চ) সদ্যতোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০৩ (তিন) কপি ছবি এবং অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বাহা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে।		
১৬।	লট নং	গাড়ীর বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	নিরাপত্তা জামানত	২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার টাকা) ১৫,০০০/- (পনের হাজার টাকা) ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা) ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার টাকা)
	০১।	বেডফোর্ট (৫ টন ট্রাক)	৭০০/- (সাতশত টাকা)	৭০০/- (সাতশত টাকা)	
	০২।	টাটা (৩ টন ট্রাক)	৭০০/- (সাতশত টাকা)		
	০৩।	সিসেল কেভিন (পিকআপ) এল-২০০	৭০০/- (সাতশত টাকা)		
	০৪।	জীপ (ডায়হাট-সু)	৭০০/- (সাতশত টাকা)		
১৭।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	ড. মোঃ আব্দুস সোবহান পিপিএম।			
১৮।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)।			
১৯।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ স্পেশাল ট্রেনিং স্কুল (পিএসটিএস), বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।			
২০।	দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ই-মেইলঃ cmdpsts@police.gov.bd			
২১।	বিশেষ শর্তাবলীঃ				
	ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন নিলাম দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।				
	খ) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর সিলমোহরসহ স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক ০৬ নং কলামে উল্লেখিত অফিসসমূহ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত নিলাম দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।				
	গ) সর্বোচ্চ নিলাম দরদাতা ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান অকেজো যানবাহন গ্রহণের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন।				
	ঘ) সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতা ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সর্বোচ্চ মোট মূল্যসহ বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভাট সরকারি কোষাগারে জমা প্রদানপূর্বক নিলামকৃত অকেজো যানবাহন বুকে নিতে বাধ্য থাকবেন।				
	ঙ) নিলাম দাখিলের পূর্বে যে কোন নিলাম দরপত্রদাতা অকেজো যোযিত যানবাহনসমূহ পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি এসে দেখতে পারবেন।				
	চ) পৃথীত নিলাম দরে গাড়ী ডেলিভারী গ্রহণে ব্যর্থ হলে জামানতের টাকা বাজেয়াপ্তসহ প্রচলিত বিধি অনুযায়ী সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ গাড়ী ব্যবসায়ী/ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।				
	ছ) দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাবেন/সংরক্ষণ করেন।				
	জ) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি সরকারি ছুটি/বন্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয় তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিনকে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।				

ড. মোঃ আব্দুস সোবহান পিপিএম

বিপি নং-৭০০১০২০৮৬৫

কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)

পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া

রাসামাটি

E-mail: cmdpsts@police.gov.bd

জিডি-১৩৮৭

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়
পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া
রাসামাটি

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM)

স্মারক নং-(পিএসটিএস)/২৫২৬

তারিখঃ ১১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ

২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে পুলিশ স্পেশাল ট্রেনিং স্কুল (পিএসটিএস), বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটির নিম্নবর্ণিত 'লট' ভিত্তিক কাজের ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে 'পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮' এর সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী, অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ব্যবসায়ী/ঠিকাদার/উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরূপ মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০২।	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
০৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি), পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।
০৪।	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান	ক্রমিক নং- ১৯ এ বর্ণিত লট ভিত্তিক।
০৫।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	পিএসটিএস স্মারক নং-২৫২৬ তারিখঃ ১১/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।
০৬।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।
০৭।	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক কোড	অর্থনৈতিক কোড-৩২৫৪১০২ খাদদ্রব্য খাত।
০৮।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের শেষ তারিখ	১৩/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ।

০৯।	দরপত্র সিডিউল সর্বশেষ প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	২৬/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০।	দরপত্র জমা-প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায়।
১১।	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১২।	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।
১৩।	দরপত্র তফসিল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	(১) অতিরিক্ত আইজি, এপিবিএন হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, ঢাকার কার্যালয়। (২) কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি। (৩) পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, রাসামাটি পার্বত্য জেলা।
১৪।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।
১৫।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।
১৬।	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	২৭/০৯/২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৪.০০ ঘটিকায়।
১৭।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	'পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮' এর সংশোধনী বিধি মোতাবেক যে কোন সরকারী সংস্থা/পুলিশ/ এপিবিএন/সেনাবাহিনী/বিভাগি এ সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং ১৮নং কলামে উল্লেখিত দলিলাদি।

১৮।	দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করতে হবে এবং দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় প্রদর্শন করতে হবে	(১) হালনাগাদ বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট (৩) হালনাগাদ ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট (৪) হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট (৫) সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ (৬) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (৭) দরপত্রদাতার ফার্ম/প্রতিষ্ঠান কোডো তালিকা ভুক্ত নয় মর্মে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে প্রতিশ্রুতিসহ মূল্যসহ (৮) প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে ০৩ (তিন) টি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর বাহা ১ম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত (৯) সদ্যতোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ০২ (দুই) কপি ছবি (১০) সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ কাজ বাস্তবায়নে ঠিকাদারী লাইসেন্স (১১) অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বাহা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় ০১নং হতে ০৮নং পর্যন্ত মূল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
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১৯।	লট নং	লটের পরিচিতি	পরিমাণ/সংখ্যা	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র জামানত	কাজের সময়সীমা
	০১।	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টারের বিএসটিআই কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত ভিটামিন "এ" সমৃদ্ধ কোলোন্টরলমুক্ত সুপার রিফাইন্ড ভোজ্যতেল (সয়াবিন) সরবরাহ।	১,৮০০ লিটার (এক হাজার আশিশত)	৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা)	১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার টাকা)	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর/২০২৩খ্রিঃ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৩খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত)
	০২।	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টারের প্যাকেটকৃত ছোট দানার উন্নতমানের দেশী মস্তর ডাল (বছ পলিপ্যাকে প্যাকেটজাত করে) সরবরাহ।	৯০০ কেজি (নয়শত)	৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা)	৩,৫০০/- (তিন হাজার পাঁচশত টাকা)	
	০৩।	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে ২য় কোয়ার্টারের উন্নতমানের দেশী চিনি সরবরাহ।	১,২০০ কেজি (এক হাজার দুইশত)	৪০০/- (চারশত টাকা)	৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা)	

২০।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম	ড. মোঃ আব্দুস সোবহান পিপিএম
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা	পুলিশ স্পেশাল ট্রেনিং স্কুল (পিএসটিএস), বেতবুনিয়া, রাসামাটি।
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের মাধ্যম	ই-মেইলঃ cmdpsts@police.gov.bd

বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ	
ক) নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর আর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।	
খ) ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর সিলমোহরসহ স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক ১৮নং কলামে উল্লেখিত অফিস সমূহ হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।	
গ) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র তফসিল সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।	
ঘ) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স হতে অর্থ বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।	
ঙ) দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেমের উপর নির্মাণ বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা রয়েছে।	
চ) সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতার দর গ্রহণে কর্তৃপক্ষ বাধ্য নয়।	
ছ) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাবেন/সংরক্ষণ করেন।	
জ) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি সরকারী ছুটি/বন্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয় তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিনকে একই স্থান ও সময়ে দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।	

ড. মোঃ আব্দুস সোবহান পিপিএম

বর্ণি নং-৭০০১০২০৮৬৫
কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)
পিএসটিএস, বেতবুনিয়া
রাসামাটি
E-mail: cmdpsts@police.gov.bd

GD-1388

Bangladesh–France ties on right track

Greater French investment vital in achieving our development goals

We are delighted to see the increased prospect of trade and connectivity between Bangladesh and France following the two-day visit of French President Emmanuel Macron. This is the first visit by a French president to Dhaka in 33 years, which demonstrates the growing importance of Bangladesh in the region. We also recall with gratitude the French support for the people of Bangladesh during our Liberation War in 1971. Against this backdrop, the positivity expressed on both sides in Dhaka promises to usher in a new era of partnership based on mutual trust and interest. And although it is yet to reach the level of a “strategic” one, both sought to advance it by signing two bilateral instruments to enhance cooperation in different fields including infrastructure and satellite.

The Bangladesh government, as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said while welcoming her French counterpart, sees Macron’s “push for strategic autonomy” to be in alignment with our own foreign policy. Later, she again noted his support for Bangladesh’s sovereign policy independence. It cannot be denied that any strategy of non-interference at this particular time comes with a political caveat for local observers, with Bangladesh preparing for its next parliamentary election in five months, but it also strengthens our position as a nation as Bangladesh tries to diversify its partnerships and navigate through an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, while the Western world, including France, focuses more on South Asia to advance their Indo-Pacific vision.

Geopolitical strategies are fraught with competing interests. But there are rich dividends to be reaped by strategic cooperation in areas of mutual interest. On Monday, Bangladesh and France, in further acknowledgement of the potential of their growing ties, signed those two bilateral instruments, including a credit facility agreement between Bangladesh’s Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the France Development Agency (AFD) on “Improving Urban Governance and Infrastructure Program”. The other one is a Letter of Intent (LOI) on cooperation between Bangladesh Satellite Company Limited (BSCL) and Airbus Defence and Space SAS, France related to the Bangabandhu-2 Earth Observation Satellite System. A number of vital areas of cooperation were also discussed during bilateral talks, including climate change, energy, security, etc. According to a report quoting the residence of the French president, the country has big plans for investments in strategic projects in Bangladesh, including nuclear power, hydropower, and aeronautics.

It is because of such collaboration that total trade between the two countries soared from €210m in 1990 to €4.9b in 2023, with France being the 5th country for exports. Evidently, the possibilities are endless if both countries, especially Bangladesh, continue to explore and engage in mutually beneficial projects. We hope this spirit of collaboration will keep on enriching both of our nations.

ADC Harun’s infamy finally gets noticed

Why was his excessive use of force not addressed before?

After numerous allegations of abuse of authority against Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADC) Harun-or-Rashid, we are relieved to see that his violent tendencies have finally gotten the police administration’s attention. According to media reports, Harun was transferred less than 24 hours after he tortured two members of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Shahbagh police station on Saturday evening. A three-member probe committee was formed by police to look into the matter, and on Monday afternoon, the home ministry suspended Harun.

Over the past few years, ADC Harun has racked up an “impressive” record with his abusive behaviour. There have been a number of media reports detailing how he assaulted students, teachers, journalists, members of opposition parties – anyone who protested on a public issue or against a government policy. His excessive use of force has been brought to the notice of police higher-ups many times, but in vain. In one instance last year, he even slapped a fellow police member, the video of which went viral. When this issue was raised before the then DMP commissioner, he categorically said no action would be taken against the ADC. In March this year, Harun reportedly led a police attack on journalists and lawyers during the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election. One of the victims, a senior reporter at ATN News, said he had complained to senior police officials about Harun’s assault, but no action had been taken.

However, we find it curious that after all the failed attempts to draw attention to his abuse of power, the police authorities decided to act only when he assaulted two members of the ruling party’s student wing. Does this not imply that due process against an act of injustice was taken based on political considerations?

That ADC Harun has broken rules by overexerting his authority on a number of occasions should have been addressed a long time ago. We urge the police administration to pay heed to all complaints of police misdemeanour and brutality with the same fervour that they did in the case of ADC Harun. They must remember that their primary obligation is to the citizens of the country, not the ruling party.

All that went wrong for Bangladesh’s economy



MACRO MIRROR

Dr Fahmida Khatun
is the executive director at the
Centre for Policy Dialogue and
non-resident senior fellow of the
Atlantic Council.

FAHMIDA KHATUN

The somewhat comfortable macroeconomic situation that Bangladesh – with high economic growth, low inflation, and good foreign exchange reserves – was experiencing for the last few years has now disappeared. The economic pressure came from high global commodity prices, high imported inflation, and supply chain disruptions. But Bangladesh is not the only country feeling the pressure – every country, rich and poor, has been struggling to recover from the fallout of the pandemic and war in Ukraine.

However, while countries like Sri Lanka – on the verge of an economic collapse – have begun to turn around, Bangladesh’s economy is still facing difficulties on many accounts. The fiscal year 2022-23 ended with several disquieting factors on the economic front. Most of these problems could not be handled properly due to policy failures.

Notwithstanding marginal fluxes, high inflation has remained a prevailing concern. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) reported that the monthly average inflation was 9.02 percent as of June 2023, surpassing both the government’s projected rate of 5.6 percent for FY2023 mentioned in the finance minister’s budget speech and the central bank’s projection of 7.5 percent in the Monetary Policy Statement for January to June 2023. To compare, in FY 2022, average inflation was 6.15 percent. Worryingly, latest BBS estimates reveal that average inflation in August 2023 was 9.92 percent while food inflation went as high as 12.54 percent.

Policymakers continue to ascribe the escalation of prices to exogenous factors such as high import prices of essential commodities. However, global prices have been on a downward trend for several months now. Hence, Bangladesh’s inflation cannot be attributed to high import costs anymore. But prices of domestically produced commodities are continuously rising despite ample local production. Market manipulators creating a supply crisis and the inability of policymakers to take any measures against them have left common people undone, since wages have not increased as inflation has.

Most countries, following the Ukraine war, adopted a contractionary monetary policy to control money supply in their respective markets. In contrast, Bangladesh Bank kept interest rates fixed at nine percent for lending and six percent for deposits. High inflation and a low lending rate made money cheaper, encouraging people to borrow. As such, broad money supply (M2) increased to 10.48 percent in FY2023 compared to 9.43 percent in FY2022. BB kept the lending rate low under pressure from the business community. On the other hand, depositors were losing money due to high inflation, which has eroded their purchasing power. Finally in July, Bangladesh Bank adopted a market-based interest rate policy as part of an IMF conditionality for the \$4.7 billion loan.

The external sector also has a relation with inflation. Our foreign exchange reserve is increasingly shrinking. With a reserve of \$41.8 billion in June 2022, the country was comfortable in terms of spending for its imports and external

payments. The gross official forex reserve reached \$31.20 billion in June.

But, in July, the central bank started to calculate the forex reserve as per the IMF’s Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BIMP6) method. According to this, our reserve had declined to \$23.06 billion by August 30. BB has now excluded the amount disbursed for export development funds, foreign currency loans to local banks, and other funds which are not readily available for use. In the past, the inclusion of these funds made the forex reserve look larger than it actually was.

For the past several years, Bangladesh enjoyed stability in its external sector even during periods of relatively low export performance or sluggish

for foreign labour markets is not reflected in the patterns of remittance flows into the country. It is said that a large volume of remittances come in through hundi. The government’s incentive of two to five percent for remitters is not attractive enough. The cost of sending remittance through formal channels is often higher than the government incentive to do so.

Imports also declined by 15.76 percent in FY2023, which can be attributed to a combination of policy measures and the decline in global commodity prices. The implementation of selective import restrictions, challenges in accessing foreign currency to initiate letters of credit, and the significant depreciation of the taka played crucial roles here. While some degree of import restriction was necessary in view of high commodity prices globally and to control imported inflation, the import of capital machinery and intermediate goods which are crucial for production has been reduced. In view of falling global prices, the import restrictions policy is no longer an effective way to reduce inflation.

The foreign exchange market has also experienced multiple exchange

Financial account balances encompass foreign direct investment (FDI), remittances, and other investments and are substantial contributors to the forex reserves. The declining reserves result from the deteriorating financial account balances. The strain on reserves has made it extremely difficult to pay for imports and service debt.

High energy prices are another important source of inflation in Bangladesh. The capacity payments made to independent power producers (IPPs), including rental and quick rental power plants, have escalated substantially over the years. Seemingly, the government is trying to earn this amount by hiking energy prices for consumers and producers. The pressure from the IMF to remove subsidies is also forcing the government to raise energy prices at a time when the cost of living is already high. Energy prices have been increased several times since 2021, which contributed to inflationary pressure. There has been a scarcity of natural gas – a primary fuel for power generation – due to the progressive decline in domestic supply. This shortage has been offset by higher imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG)



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKRABORTY

growth in remittance. This provided policymakers with some amount of flexibility and confidence. Regrettably, they failed to make any strategic decisions to address the impacts of the global economic crisis on Bangladesh’s external sector and its macroeconomic situation.

The value of taka was kept artificially high for a long time even though countries such as China, Cambodia, India, and Vietnam had depreciated their respective currencies. A strong currency was helpful for importers, but not desirable to exporters. However, despite the depreciation of taka against the US dollar, export sector performance was not impressive in FY2023. According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), export revenue growth was 6.7 percent compared to the government’s target of 11.4 percent. Depressed demand in importing countries has been the main reason behind low export income.

Remittance growth in FY2023 was only 2.7 percent – lower than the rate of migration growth, which was 11.38 percent in the outgoing fiscal year. Serious concerns about the remittance flow have been raised since the increased number of migrant workers departing

rates, which made it rather chaotic. The central bank’s unified and market-driven exchange rate system allows the exchange rate between the taka and the US dollar (or any other foreign currency) to be determined by the market. BB will no longer provide specific exchange rates for buying or selling foreign currency, thereby promoting market stability. But the outcome of this measure is yet to be observed.

Failure to increase export and remittance earnings has created pressure on Bangladesh’s trade and current account balance. In FY2022, the current account deficit reached negative \$18.6 billion for the first time. Trade deficit was also high at negative \$33.2 billion. Though the balance of trade and current account balances improved somewhat compared to FY2022, deficits are still high. In FY2023, trade deficit amounted to negative \$17.15 billion and current account deficit amounted to negative \$3.3 billion.

More worryingly, the financial account deficit recorded in FY2023 was the highest in Bangladesh’s history at negative \$2.14 billion. Thus, the overall balance of payments was a negative \$8.2 billion in the outgoing fiscal year.

to fulfil unmet demand. There has also been a dearth of public investment in the power and energy sectors even though various geological surveys have indicated the prospect of finding gas in the country.

Government borrowing from the central bank in FY2023 also fuelled inflation by increasing money supply. The inability to generate adequate domestic resources gives little fiscal space for the government to undertake activities such as supporting the poor in times of high inflation. Macroeconomic stability deteriorated further in FY2023 due to higher borrowing from BB, which is equivalent to printing money.

Clearly, the major economic challenges facing Bangladesh are results of inadequate and incorrect policies. Added to this are poor policy implementation, inherent structural weaknesses, lack of good governance, and an absence of reform initiatives. With two months of FY2024 having passed us by, there is still no silver lining in terms of overcoming these challenges. It is also doubtful that any dramatic changes will occur during the rest of FY2024, since all efforts will be devoted to political activities and economic issues may take a backseat.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send us your letters to letters@thedailystar.net

Innovative approaches to preventing dengue

The number of dengue fatalities this year has increased to 716 from 281 in 2022, making this the deadliest dengue year since the first outbreak in Bangladesh in 2000. A total of 1,45,335 dengue cases have been reported this year.

Dengue continues to pose a significant global health threat. With the increasing incidence of infections and the potential for severe outbreaks, it has become crucial to explore innovative methods to prevent its spread.

One novel strategy includes introducing the bacterium *Wolbachia*

into *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which are the principal carriers of dengue.

Wolbachia is known to hinder these mosquitoes’ ability to transmit the dengue virus to humans. When *Wolbachia*-infected male mosquitoes mate with uninfected females, the resulting eggs do not hatch, resulting in a decrease in mosquito numbers over time. This strategy has demonstrated extraordinary efficacy in field testing.

Apart from this, other methods have also been used. Advancements in genetic engineering have led to the development of genetically modified

mosquitoes that are resistant to dengue virus infection.

Lastly, traditional mosquito control focuses on eliminating adult mosquitoes, but targeting mosquito larvae can be equally effective. Innovative methods include deploying larvicide-impregnated oviposition containers – artificial breeding sites for mosquitoes that contain larvicidal agents. These containers attract female mosquitoes to lay their eggs, but the larvae are exposed to the larvicide, disrupting their development and preventing them from becoming disease-

transmitting adults.

In the battle against dengue, innovation is key. These strategies, when integrated with existing methods, have the potential to reshape the landscape of dengue prevention. However, it’s essential to balance these innovations with rigorous research, ethical considerations, and continuous evaluation to ensure their long-term efficacy and safety.

Obaida Karim
Research associate, Brac James P
Grant School of Public Health



Air pollution affects all kinds of spaces, from bustling cities to serene rural areas.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

AIR POLLUTION

What can we do to reclaim 6.8 years of our lives?

Dr Md Firoz Khan
is associate professor of environmental science and management at North South University (NSU), former visiting professor at China University of Mining and Technology, and former assistant professor at the University of Malaya in Malaysia.

Diya Mahmood
is a student in environmental science and management at North South University (NSU).

MD FIROZ KHAN and DIYA MAHMOOD

In a world that constantly deals with complex challenges, a revelation has raised alarm about something that needs our immediate attention. The Air Quality Life Index study, conducted by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC), has uncovered that the people of Bangladesh are losing 6.8 years of their life expectancy due to the toxic blend of air pollution and other environmental factors. This grim statistic should now force us to confront the dire consequences of inaction and recalibrate our priorities for the sake of present and future generations.

In Bangladesh, air pollution looms as a silent yet pervasive threat. In 2019, the Health Effects Institute (HEI) found 173,500 instances of excessive mortality attributable to the adverse effects of subpar air quality. What's more concerning is that over half of these undue fatalities can be attributed to indoor air pollution. Polluted air, contaminated water, and a lack of proper sanitation facilities have collectively become a toxic concoction, gradually eroding the very essence of life itself. The loss of 6.8 years is more than a mere statistic; it signifies countless missed opportunities, unfulfilled potential, and the absence of cherished moments spent with loved ones. Who knows, those lives could have driven the nation forward.

Air pollution affects all kinds of spaces, from bustling cities to serene rural areas. Despite being often disregarded as a minor

concern, it significantly reduces efficiency, raises healthcare costs, and imposes a burden on social systems. Those residing in crowded urban centres inhale a dangerous mix of particles, metals, chemicals, fibres, asbestos, and toxic gases. A type of airborne particle, bioaerosol, can even transport microbes over vast distances. Breathing in all these substances leads to illnesses, as the lungs become battlegrounds and the heart, brain and other organs start giving up. Such environmental damage also exacerbates poverty, as low-income groups are exposed to greater air pollution due to subpar indoor living conditions, improper energy usage, and a specific lifestyle.

The causes behind this air pollution epidemic are manifold. Low-grade fuel, brick kilns, unfit vehicles, construction and demolition materials, and power plants are generally the main sources for pollution. Our reliance on wood, coal, and cow dung is not helping improve the situation, and the spread of pollution across borders significantly adds to the woes. As the population continues to grow and urbanisation accelerates, the problem will keep on compounding, unless swift and comprehensive measures are adopted. Such measures require a diverse approach that transcends geographic boundaries and prioritises the shared responsibility of governments, industries, and individuals.

A robust system for monitoring air quality needs to be established nationwide. Accurate data is

essential to understand the extent of the issue, pinpoint areas with high pollution levels, and track improvements over time. It's surprising that we still lack information about the reasons behind air pollution spikes in remote regions. Identifying the sources of emissions and pollution hotspots is now critically important. To achieve this, the government could propose a comprehensive nationwide study using advanced experimental and modelling techniques.

Concurrently, it's crucial to enforce stricter emission standards for vehicles and industries. This effort should be coupled with investments in cleaner technologies and renewable energy sources. Industries should adopt eco-friendly practices that prioritise sustainability and reduce carbon emissions. By fostering collaboration between governments and the private sector, innovative solutions can emerge that balance economic growth and environmental conservation. The old approach of conducting business cannot persist; the time has come to shift towards a new mindset that embraces environmentally conscious practices.

Moreover, campaigns to raise public awareness have a crucial role in safeguarding lives, especially those of children. When individuals are well-informed, they can initiate change at the grassroots by making informed decisions daily, contributing to a healthier environment. Schools, media outlets, and community groups have an essential role to play in spreading information about the impacts of air pollution and the steps individuals can take to minimise harm. This education should be targeted at schools, communities, and workplaces. Adopting the appropriate lifestyle can significantly save lives, especially in the low-income

group, which should be educated about proper indoor ventilation, cooking methods, and energy sources. It's crucial for the general public to grasp the severe consequences of being indifferent toward air pollution.

The "Air Pollution (Control) Rules 2022" is a welcome addition in this fight. However, the available legislations should be properly enforced to curb illegal sources of pollution, such as the open burning of waste, a major contributor to air pollution. Aside from that, waste management systems should be modernised to encourage proper disposal and recycling. The current methods used to handle solid waste are facing significant challenges, and waste sites have negative impacts on urban heat waves, air quality, and the spread of diseases carried by vectors. Besides, green spaces and tree planting initiatives should be promoted to naturally cleanse the air and provide a break from the concrete jungles. Lastly, international collaboration is also crucial. Air pollution knows no borders, and efforts to combat it should not be confined within national boundaries. Sharing best practices, technological innovations, and expertise can accelerate progress in reducing pollution levels regionally and globally.

The revelation of a 6.8 year life loss in Bangladesh should serve as a wake-up call; it should remind us that we are custodians of a fragile planet, who are responsible for the well-being of billions of people. The study's findings should evolve into a catalyst for change. Time is of the essence, and the government, private sector, civil society, and individuals must unite to tackle this challenge head-on. By doing so, we not only reclaim years of life but also ensure a healthier, more sustainable future for generations to come.

Lifespan of the Leviathan

KNOT SO TRUE



Dr Rubana Huq
is the vice chancellor of Asian University for Women.

RUBANA HUQ

One can't go unnoticed in this day and age. One can't live in shadows, or be unheard; the edges of visibility have expanded and have collapsed the surreptitious and the stealth. Every whisper is a bleat; every breath is pronounced. Life is like being in a live theatre, exposed to the onlookers, either to be booed or loved for the duration of whatever our lives, lies and loves are worth. There's a rampant cancel culture, lest one publicly shares preferences that don't go down well. Opinions must hinge on the balance principle. Yet, while all over the world society is more critical than ever before, governance goes unnoticed and state-building continues to be a failed exercise.

The voices siding with the unusual and extraordinary don't have the bandwidth of crossing the neighbourhood or one's own social media page. Op eds are carefully penned, lest they risk the wrath of the Leviathan. The contemporary discourse being hosted in electronic media bends towards an extreme bias, with competing pitches bordering on onscreen violence and impropriety accompanied by democratic intolerance being all out to shame all lessons learnt from History.

Opinion is no more a natural claim; it is tailored by a structured refrain, constructed through a careful exercise of blatant advertisements of self-proclaimed pace of growth, fuelled by fanatics from despotic corners, throttled by a concocted, fabricated notion of progress.

Freedom, for the most part, walks through the narrowest corridors while Fear lurks in every block. Only the blind walk unchained, since they have neither witnessed the unbridled blood-drenched trail of falsehood, nor realised that the stench comes from home. Nightingales have had their vocal cords removed in the dark expectation of having their throats slit. Sight has retreated to liminal spaces with the only hope of backrooms chasing the light away.

The megaphones all over the world are travesties of any decent world order. Either it's the bandwagon of despots writing the playbook of autocracy or it's the launch of a new episodic wave of human rights abuses. Somewhere, some master players are conspiring to make sure that they rule forever, in whichever lands they rule. Somewhere, somehow the conjurers of evil have made sure that they have full control over media, wealth, and a constant narrative of growth. Economies fail, politics plunge to ever newer lows and moral infrastructure is at a loss. Corruption is quickly brushed under the carpet; criticism is met with flack; the media is tasked to mask all bigotry.

It seems this entire civilisation of ours has sunk to the depths of an inescapable inferno of war-mongers who report to hyper-nationalism, align with the soft powers that push countries to unimaginable debt traps, claim regional camaraderie, continue seeking external endorsement and, at the end, pull through one way or the other.

Where is History in all this? History cannot be our destiny, but we could certainly learn from it, if we wanted to.

We could remember how the "Great Elector" of Prussia, Frederick William I, whose rule began in 1640, and who, after having ruled Brandenburg-Prussia for more than 48 years, believed that the strengthening of the state and the expansion of its power

could only come from "one brain." As a result, Prussia went on to collect more taxes, raised revenue, went to war, controlled society more and yet lost out on nation-building just because society was nowhere to be seen.

On the contrary, the Swiss resisted the Habsburgs by uniting all the cantons, and by allowing the peasants to become autonomous. The Swiss started with watches, then moved on to the machine tools industry, pharma, chocolates, and cheese. By "going Swiss," the Swiss ended up having the highest per capita income than any other European state.

In both of the above cases, it was war that propelled statehood. But in one, society was ignored and in the other, the Swiss society and the state together built one of the most vibrant democracies in Europe.

We could also remind ourselves of the Chile that said "no" to Pinochet in 1990 and transitioned to democracy; we could remember Lech Walesa who, after defeating Jaruzelski, led the country to democracy, led the Polish parliament with 28 different political parties, and finally inked a compromise, so that the government, the trade union, and the management could talk together and build the nation. That talk itself created a safe transit to democracy.

But what does one do with history?

Freedom, for the most part, walks through the narrowest corridors while Fear lurks in every block. Only the blind walk unchained, since they have neither witnessed the unbridled blood-drenched trail of falsehood, nor realised that the stench comes from home.

What happens to the collective national memory of lands which have lived through wars, hunger, flood, poverty, and still managed to turn around in democracy? Apparently nations that have memories of democracy can never suffer from dementia. Apparently there are civil societies that awaken when they are pushed too far beyond. But times have changed...


Who would want to move for democracy and risk losing it all?

Remember there was one Litvinenko, an operative in Russia's Federal Security Bureau, who shared his horrors of secret services with Putin, who listened to him attentively, and the next day opened a file on him? Litvinenko, having no option, fled from his own country for fear of his life in 2000 and then was poisoned six years later by two ex-KGB agents in London while having a cup of tea with them, which resulted in his death three weeks later of polonium-210-induced radiation syndrome.

Truth be known: the Czech president and the playwright, Vaclav Havel's "The Power of the Powerless" has fallen prey to erasure while Machavelli's prediction of the despaired common people giving their support to "one man, so as to be defended by his authority" stands erect in total audacity.

Therefore, untouched despots live and thrive in the association of braggarts, undeterred, and confident of survival and absolute power.

Office of the Chief Engineer
University of Dhaka
Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Phone: 880-2-9670531, 9661920-9/4120
Fax: 880-2-9667222
E-mail: registrar@du.ac.bd
vcoffice@du.ac.bd
মেমো নম্বর ৬৪৪৫(২)/প্রকৌঃ



প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ
ফোনঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৬৭৪৭৮১ (অফিস)
ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৬৬৭২২২


তারিখঃ ২৬/৫/১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ
১০/০৯/২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

টেন্ডার নোটিশ
(সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি-OTM)

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টস বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	টেন্ডার বন্ধ বছরের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
ক)	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শহীন সার্কিট জঙ্কশন হুক হলের বুনিয়াদ মেসের রাস্তাঘরের ফ্রেম ও দেওয়ালে টাইলসসহ জানালার খাই এ্যালুমিনিয়াম গ্রিল স্থাপন, দরজা মেয়ামত, সিলিং ওয়ারমাল ও আন্তরসহ সংকল্প কাজ।	২৪/০৯/২০২৩ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত	২৫/০৯/২০২৩ দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত	২৫/০৯/২০২৩ দুপুর ১.০০টা	প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, ডাঃ বিঃ।


ই.ম. মোঃ মোজাম্মদ উদ্দিন
অতিরিক্ত প্রকৌশলী, জোন-২
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

রিজি-১০৯১



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UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA: Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 01 (One) permanent post of Assistant Professor in the Department of Zoology in the pay scale of Tk. 35,550-67,010/- (National Pay Scale-2015).

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Candidates must have a first class/a minimum CGPA 3.50 out of 4.00 in both Honours and Master degrees in Zoology with a first division/a minimum GPA 4.25 out of 5.00 in both SSC and HSC examinations. Requirements for either the SSC or HSC Examinations may be relaxed for the candidates who have obtained the first position/the highest CGPA in both Bachelor and Master Degrees. Candidates must have at least 03 (three) years of teaching experience at a university, or, at least 02 years as post-doctoral research or at least 06 (six) years research experience as a research/scientific officer or an equivalent position in a reputed research organization. Candidates with a Ph.D should have at least 01 (one) year of teaching experience at a university. Applicants must have at least 03 (three) research publications in the indexed/quality journal with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier)/double blind peer review policy. Relevant notes and Conditions apply. (For details, see the Dhaka University website).

Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, grade sheets/mark sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk. 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only, payable to the Registrar, should reach to office of the Registrar on or before 02/10/2023. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

GD-1389



Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park becomes Bangladesh's first free Bangla book reading destination

The Book Garage inauguration event marked a fun-filled hour of literary excitement, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, featuring an amazing storytelling session by Tahmina Rahman Sathi from Goofi and a lively puppet show. The storytelling session transported the audience into the enchanting world of the Bengali storybook *Jebhabe Pelam Bangla Noboborsho*.

On September 9, Grow Your Reader Foundation (GYRF) celebrated a significant milestone with the inauguration of two new Book Garages in collaboration with Goofi at the Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park, Gulshan.

How wonderful would it be to get a small library on our way, while being tired from strolling at the park! What can be a more amazing way to take a break and get rid of all your tiredness? Yes, that's what the Grow Your Reader Foundation has been dreaming of, establishing street libraries throughout Bangladesh. Where all people will have access to read books regardless of their social status, religion, and race.

The objective of the Book Garage installation at Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park comes from a genuine concern shared by Bengali parents – the fall in the proficiency of their children in the Bangla language, which is influenced by the general existence of English in modern life, including English schools, TV, and YouTube. In an era controlled by screens and digital



distractions, the aim is to address this challenge by promoting the use of the Bengali language amongst children and providing an alternative source of entertainment that encourages reading, nurturing a deeper connection with the native language and culture.

To address this issue and promote the use of the Bengali language now, GYRF and Goofi made a partnership. As part

of this partnership, they installed not one, but two Book Garages within this park. The Book Garages are installed in two different locations. Both are situated in very easy and accessible points of the park. One book garage is near the North End Cafe and the other one is right in front of the Kids' Zone. These Book Garages will be filled with Goofi Bengali books, ready to ignite

your imagination, take you on exciting journeys, and inspire you to embrace the joy of Bangla reading. Gradually they will cover more parks.

Upon selecting a book from the Book Garage, the children seamlessly integrate into the reading community, embracing the understanding that this privilege requires a responsibility. Once they have finished reading the book, it is requested that they faithfully return the book to the very same Book Garage from which they initially borrowed it. This considerate gesture ensures that the captivating stories can be enjoyed by others in the community. Additionally, if the children have older books to share with fellow readers, their contributions are not just welcomed but strongly encouraged. This enriches the wide range of books in the book garage and enhances the reading experience for the entire community.

The Book Garage inauguration event marked a fun-filled hour of literary excitement, from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM, featuring an amazing storytelling session by Tahmina Rahman Sathi

from Goofi and a lively puppet show. The storytelling session transported the audience into the enchanting world of the Bangla storybook *Jebhabe Pelam Bangla Noboborsho*.

Sadia Jafrin, the founder of Grow Your Reader Foundation, expressed her excitement and said, "Our objectives are crystal clear – to foster a profound love for Bangla books, preserving cultural heritage; bring back books that are forgotten, enriching the community's reading resources; cultivate empathy and respect through diverse perspectives; and create nurturing reading environments in parks and schools for both young and adult minds to explore and grow. We aim to nurture a reading habit among children and adolescents by providing free access and organising regular reading circles."

The event was open to all, welcoming families, friends, and book enthusiasts to join in celebrating the joy of reading and learning. It was a memorable day at Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park, showing the transformative power of books and reading.

Making the jump from O level to A level

ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM

If you have or are going to sit for your O level examinations anytime soon, chances are you've heard your teachers warn you to not get lost in the euphoria of finishing O levels. Though the idea of not going on a month-long vacation after toiling away for two years might seem cruel, it could shape how well-prepared you are for your A levels. While studying for the O levels, we often make the mistake of thinking it is the culmination of all our school efforts. However, O level is only the tip of the iceberg.

It only takes a few weeks into A levels for students to realise the stark difference between O and A levels. Some subjects involve slight revision of O level content before delving into the syllabus. Others, like Chemistry, will hit you like a truck right from the get-go.

There is just a huge difference in the way a subject is approached during these exams. O level mostly involves brushing the surface of a topic while A level tends to be a deep-dive. In theory, A level shouldn't be much harder than O level because the number of subjects is reduced to compensate for the more complex content. However, the syllabus content is simply too extensive, and

the time constraint is too intensive for it to not feel much harder.

All that said, one can see why taking time off after O levels might not be a great idea. It is very unfortunate but you really do have to start preparing for your exams from the moment you start classes. A lot of people make the mistake of thinking that cramming all your content four months before your exams might work out in A levels like it did in O levels.

However, that is simply not true. A level content is a lot harder to comprehend, and a lot of your ability to score marks can come from how well-acquainted you're with the marking points and the format.

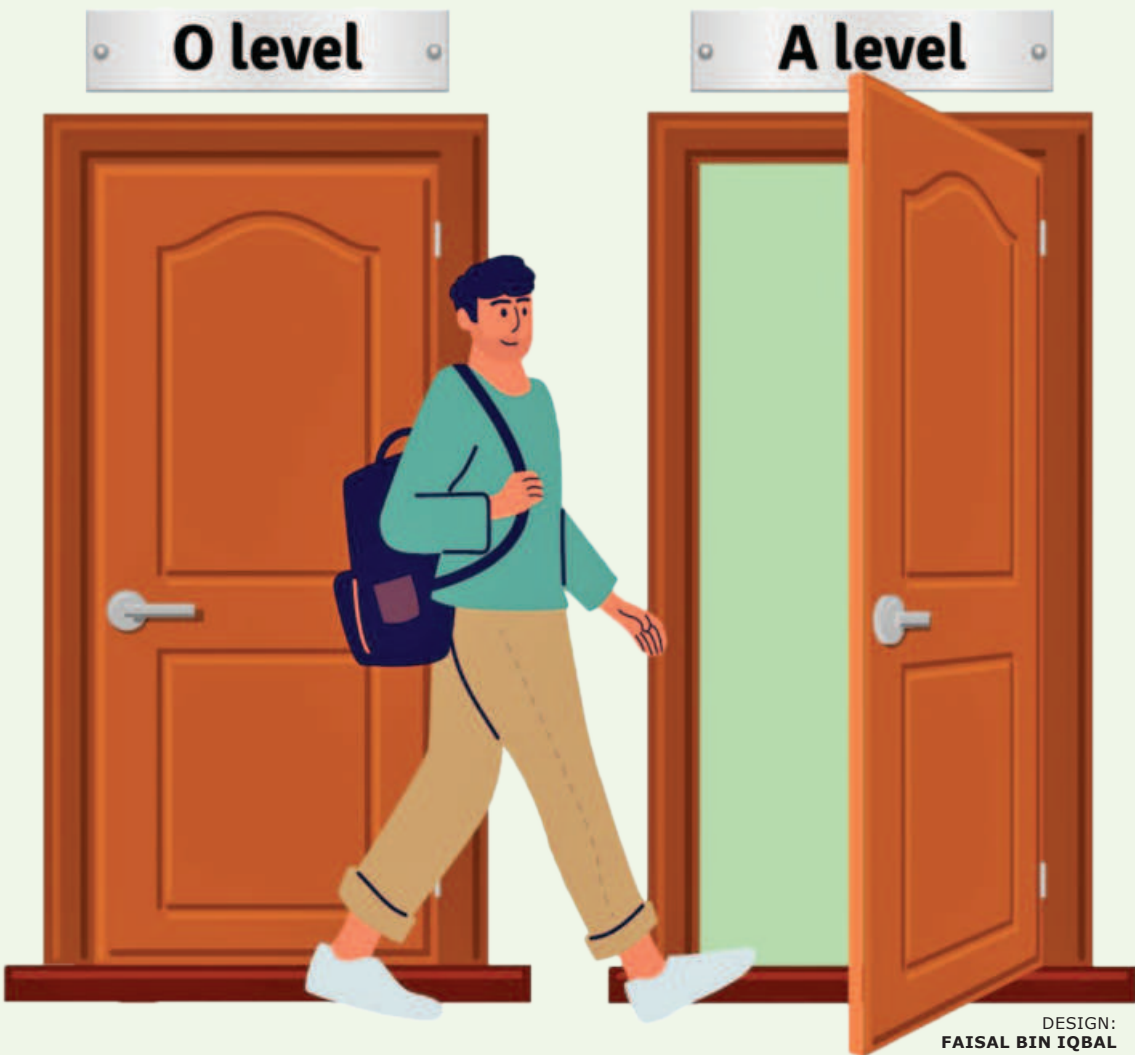
Simply memorising notes cannot be your strategy. Solving as many past papers as possible, learning information from those papers about patterns of answering and utilising that information to enhance your own answers is the only sure way to score marks. A lot of the questions you'll come across are also highly analytical and case-based so a full understanding of your subject content is crucial.

In order to streamline your studies, it is important that you know what sources to use and how to use them. For students in the Cambridge curriculum, your coursebooks are your best friends. They are very

well-written and are structured in the exact way your syllabus is structured. A few thorough readings of the coursebooks can go a long way to understanding the topics. For Edexcel students, you might need to actually read from sources outside of your coursebooks because they are often not sufficient to cover the syllabus.

It might seem hard to juggle all of this while also trying to make the most of your school experience, and it really is difficult. That said, it is not impossible. Your time management game needs to be tight if you don't want to end up overwhelmed. The first few months should be spent tackling your subject content and solving papers topically to get the hang of it. After finishing your syllabi, as the mock season rolls around, you should be in a state of constant revision and solving yearly papers. You need to have a solid game plan if you want to enjoy yourself while not compromising your studies. But how you approach that game plan will depend entirely on what works best for you.

And, finally, you need to understand that your success in O levels doesn't automatically equate to success in A Levels. You need to put twice as much effort as you did in your O Levels over a much shorter period of time.



DESIGN:
FAISAL BIN IQBAL

DJOKOVIC

not yet ready to pass the torch

MILESTONES ACHIEVED

Ties Margaret Court for the most Grand Slams ever.

The only Open Era player to have won 24 Grand Slam singles titles.

Becomes the US Open's oldest men's singles champion in the Open Era.

The first player to win three Grand Slam titles in a single year four times.

REUTERS, New York

Novak Djokovic has no intention of passing the torch to the next generation just yet, the 36-year-old Serb proving age is just a number by becoming the oldest man in the Open Era to hoist the US Open trophy on Sunday.

With Roger Federer retired and the oft-injured Rafa Nadal ready to call it quits after next season, the days of the 'Big Three' are long gone but Djokovic - the final member of that triumvirate - reminded fans in New York that he is far from finished.

His 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 victory over Russian Daniil Medvedev brought him not only a fourth Flushing Meadows title but a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam crown, and Djokovic wants more.

"Knowing that I play at such a high level still, ... I don't want to leave this sport if I'm still at the top," said Djokovic.

Djokovic swatted side some

DJOKOVIC'S CAREER HONOURS

Total ATP titles: 96

Grand Slams: 24

Australian Open (10) -- 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023

French Open (3) -- 2016, 2021, 2023

Wimbledon (7) -- 2011, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022

US Open (4) -- 2011, 2015, 2018, 2023

ATP Tour Finals (6) -- 2008, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2022

Davis Cup (1) -- 2010

of the United States' brightest young stars en route to the final. In Medvedev, however, he faced an older foe, and one who gave him the chance to exorcise his demons - two years earlier the Russian had ended his bid for a calendar Grand Slam on the very same court.

Djokovic did not squander that opportunity, smothering the 27-year-old in a series of exhausting rallies.

As he basked in the glory of his win, Djokovic had no words of comfort for those hoping to replace him.

"It's not my interest and neither business to really review what everyone talks about or thinks, whether there is a passing of the torch or new gen, next gen, future gen, whatever you want to call it, happening or not happening in the sport," he said.

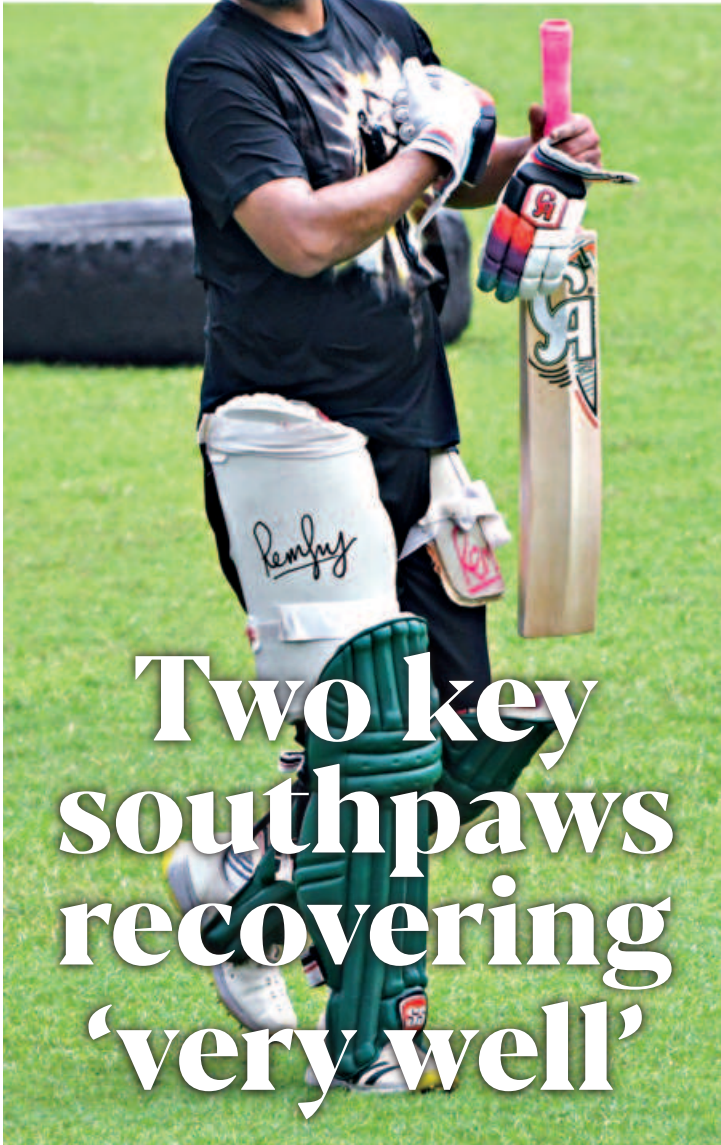


"When you tell him he can't do something, it's even worse. Then he's going to show you that he can do it. No excuses. He always tries to find a way to win, to fight, even when he's not feeling well, injured, not injured."

GORAN IVANISEVIC
former Wimbledon champion and Djokovic's coach since 2019.

"Well done again Novak, I'm sure 24 feels as great as one, especially when you have fought so hard to get where you are and to stay there against a growing tide of challengers... Take another bow, champ!"

ROD LAVER
11-time Grand Slam champion



Altitude and Messi concerns for Argentina

AGENCIES

Argentina will have the chance to start their World Cup qualifying campaign with back-to-back victories when they travel to La Paz for Tuesday's clash with Bolivia but the World champions will have to deal with the challenging altitude and the prospect of playing the game without their captain Lionel Messi.

The Albiceleste take on Bolivia at the Hernando Siles Stadium, a football ground that will pose a different kind of challenge for the Argentinian squad with its altitude sitting at a whopping 11,932 feet above sea level.

With players needing to be at their utmost fitness to deal with the altitude challenge in Bolivia, Argentina's challenge will be compounded if Lionel Scaloni decides to rest star forward Messi, whose late freekick saw the three-time World Champions eke out a 1-0 victory against Ecuador in their first qualifying game on Friday.

The 36-year-old Messi travelled with the squad but is not a certain starter at the game because

of fatigue. Messi had asked to be substituted in their last game.

Scaloni said that even though Messi is fit for the game against Bolivia, a decision about him starting or even playing the game will be taken today.

"Leo trained separately, but he is fit. There are two days left, and we will make a decision on whether or not he will play the day before or on Tuesday. Messi and Cuti Romero are fit, and we'll see if he [Messi] plays from the start or from the bench or even if he doesn't play," Scaloni said in his pre-match press conference in Argentina before leaving for Bolivia.

While the world champions are hoping to follow up Thursday's victory over Ecuador, the hosts will have to pick themselves up from a heavy defeat to Brazil.

Bolivia's qualifying campaign began with a forgettable outing against five-time World Cup winners Brazil, who cruised to a 5-1 victory in Bellem.

Having lost their last five qualifiers, Bolivia coach La Verde will go into the daunting fixture against the world champions as massive underdogs.



SPORTS REPORTER

The reality exposed in the ongoing Asia Cup for Bangladesh has certainly compelled Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and the team management to only hope that their best players will be available for the upcoming World Cup in October.

On the batting front, the return of seasoned opener Tamim Iqbal and in-form Najmul Hossain Shanto will give the Tigers' misfiring batting lineup a much-needed balance for the showpiece event in India.

BCB chief physician Debashis Chowdhury, however, provided encouraging fitness updates of the two aforementioned players yesterday.

Tamim mentioned three days ago that he was hopeful of featuring in the three-match ODI home series against New Zealand, starting from September 21.

"Tamim is doing very well right at this moment. He has no complaints regarding back pain. He is facing all sorts of bowling at the nets, apart from performing fielding and running drills. He will now start batting in central wickets without nets," informed Debashis.

The ongoing Asia Cup saw the 'Tigers' top-order, devoid of Tamim and Shanto, lack back-up plans.

Thus, nothing would fare better for Bangladesh than to see Tamim rediscover his mojo in the New Zealand series. For the greater interest of the team, it is also important for the former Bangladesh ODI captain to be comfortable in the dressing room when he reunites with his teammates since withdrawing his retirement.

In Shanto's case, the team management needs to be cautious about his return to the New Zealand series since a hamstring injury forced the batter's exit from the Asia Cup. Shanto scored 193 runs in two matches and his absence was badly felt during Bangladesh's two Super Four matches.

Debashis also expressed his satisfaction over Shanto's rehabilitation progress.

"Shanto's is now running with 60 percent intensity. It's very difficult to give any time frame about his return, but he will be okay very soon."

According to sources within the team management, Shanto could be allowed to skip the entire New Zealand series to keep him fresh for the World Cup, or he might play one match to get back into rhythm.

Debashis, however, cautioned that a successive hamstring injury can prove to be fatal for Shanto since "it will take more time for him to get back to full fitness".

"Look, he might have played the [Asia Cup] tournament with this injury, but he had to return to avoid the risk. But he is now doing very well."

Voeller focuses on getting Germany 'back on track'

AFP, Berlin



Nine months before Euro 2024 kicks off in Germany, the hosts have turned to Rudi Voeller to get the team back on track before Tuesday's friendly against France after coach Hansi Flick was sacked.

Flick became the first Germany coach in history to be relieved of his duties after his side slumped to a 4-1 loss to Japan in Wolfsburg on Saturday, the latest in a run of poor results which included a group-stage exit at the World Cup in Qatar last year.

The German Football Association (DFB) have turned to 1990 World Cup winner Voeller to take over on an interim basis for the friendly against 2022 World Cup finalists France in Dortmund.

"The most urgent task is to hire a national coach who will quickly get the team back on track and prepare us for the big European Championships next year," Voeller said.

Diniz's upbeat Brazil face Peru

AGENCIES

An upbeat Brazil will look to follow up Friday's dominant victory over Bolivia when they travel to Lima for Wednesday's clash with Peru in World Cup qualifying.

Bruno Guimaraes, who bossed the midfield and assisted one in Brazil's whopping 5-1 victory against Bolivia in Bellem, hailed the impact of new Brazil manager Fernando Diniz.

"He [Diniz] has instilled a lot of belief in us," Guimaraes told reporters on Sunday. "He sees football differently and is a great motivator. I think there's still a lot to do because we've only had four training sessions with him but the game against Bolivia showed that we are on the right track."

Brazil's star forward Neymar will

look to add more to his tally, after surpassing legend Pele to become the country's all-time top-scorer with 79 goals. Having missed a penalty in the first half against Bolivia, Neymar scored a brace to overtake Pele, who has 77 goals for Brazil.

Meanwhile, Peru, the hosts, will be hoping to pull off a surprise win after they shared the spoils with Paraguay in their opening game.

While they may have won just one of their last five internationals, Peru will be pleased with the fact they have now kept three clean sheets in their last four matches.

Another point on Tuesday would certainly be regarded as a success, but the hosts will be dreaming of claiming their first competitive win over Brazil since June 2016.



'Fresh' Sri Lanka take on India

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka will come in "fresh" for an Asia Cup Super Four clash against an Indian team, who will be playing for a third consecutive day.

India's match against arch-rivals Pakistan spilt over into a reserve day on Monday after only 24.1 overs, with the 50-over contest acting as a prelude to their big battle in the upcoming ODI World Cup.

Dasun Shanaka's Sri Lanka, who won the last edition of the Asia Cup -- played in the T20 format -- began their Super Four with a win over Bangladesh on Saturday. Another victory would improve their chances of making the final on September 17.

"With a team like India, you never know, but obviously they are playing three days in a row," Sri Lanka assistant coach Naveed Nawaz told reporters. "We have got a bit of a break since the last game, so the boys are fresh for tomorrow. That can be good for us."

Sri Lanka remain unbeaten in the tournament after winning both their group matches.

"If we plan to play good cricket, if we execute our plans and go into the best version of ourselves in the middle against India -- obviously the result will be favourable for us," Nawaz said.

Only India have won more Asia Cup titles than Sri Lanka, who have often spoiled the India-Pakistan party in the final.

In the last edition, they beat Pakistan to lift the title in Dubai.

"Our boys are very resilient when it comes to handling pressure," said Nawaz, pointing out that Sri Lanka have been without some of their first-choice players in the past two editions of the tournament.

Families announce NZ WC squad

AGENCIES

New Zealand announced their World Cup squad in the most refreshing manner yesterday.

In a social media video posted by New Zealand Cricket (NZC), respective family members of the chosen 15 players called out the names.

The video featured the wife and kids of Kane Williamson, followed by the sons of Trent Boult, wives of Mark Chapman, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Glenn Phillips, Mitchell Santner, Ish Sodhi, daughters of Daryl Mitchell and Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson's fiancé, Jimmy Neesham's grandmother, Will Young's mother and Rachin Ravindra's parents.

Head coach Gary Stead said it is unclear whether Williamson, still suffering from injury, will be ready in time for World Cup opener.

Tom Latham was named deputy while Trent Boult -- who returned to the Black Caps recently -- leads a seasoned pace battery, comprising Tim Southee, Lockie Ferguson, and Matt Henry.



Djokovic wins record-tying 24th Slam



AFP, New York

Novak Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev in straight sets on Sunday to win his fourth US Open and a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title, cementing his claim as the greatest tennis player in history.

The 36-year-old Djokovic won 6-3, 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 to become the oldest men's champion in New York in the Open era and match Margaret Court's all-time mark for most Grand Slam victories.

"I don't know where to start. It obviously means the world to me," said Djokovic, wearing a white jacket with the number 24 on his chest during the trophy presentation.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Vehicles negotiate the waterlogged New Elephant Road after heavy rains in the capital yesterday afternoon. Commuters had to face traffic jams in many areas of the city due to waterlogging.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Irregularities in good faith!

Fisheries official uses own car as rental to pocket public money

MD ABBAS

A project director of the Department of Fisheries has used his car as a leased vehicle for his project and earned money from the lease.

SM Ashikur Rahman, the project director of the protection and development of local species of fish and snails in Gopalganj, had refused to use a government-provided vehicle claiming it to be old and risky, according to a complaint.

He later bought a Nissan X-Trail bearing the registration number Dhaka Metro Gha-22-1416 and leased it to a rent-a-car service provider. Ashikur then allegedly helped the firm win a bid so that his vehicle could be used in the project, which is a violation of the Government Servants (Conduct) Rules 1979.

The Section 17.1 of the rules stipulate that no government servant shall, except with the previous sanction of government, engage in any trade or undertake any employment or work, other than his official duties.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

MEETING WITH MODI Biden raises rights issues, free press

AGENCIES

US President Joe Biden on Sunday said he raised the issue of respecting human rights with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in discussions on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

He also said that he held "substantial discussions" with PM Modi on ways to strengthen the Indo-US partnership and thanked him for his leadership and hosting the summit in New Delhi, reports NDTV online.

"As I always do, I raised the importance of respecting human rights and the vital role the civil society and a free press have in building a strong and prosperous country with PM Modi."

US President Joe Biden

Biden, who arrived in Delhi on his first visit to India as the US president, held wide-ranging talks with Modi and they vowed to "deepen and diversify" the bilateral major defence partnership while welcoming forward movement in India's procurement of 31 drones and joint development of jet engines.

"I want to once again thank Prime Minister Modi for his leadership and his hospitality and for hosting the G20. He and I have had substantial discussions about how we're going to continue to strengthen the partnership between India and the US building on the Prime Minister's visit to the White House last June," Biden said during a press conference in Vietnam's Hanoi.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Steps taken to rein in inflation Finance minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal has told parliament that the government has taken different measures that will help control inflation.

"The government has drawn up various plans and is implementing them to control inflation, improve the balance of payments, and stabilise the foreign exchange rate," he said while responding to a question from Awami League lawmaker Mamtaz Begum yesterday.

Kamal said the central bank announced a contractionary monetary policy, raising the policy rate from 6 percent to 6.5 percent to control the supply of taka.

The bank has also announced that the exchange rate of the taka with other foreign currencies, including the US dollar, will be market-based, he said, adding that unnecessary imports were also being discouraged.

Prefinance and refinancing schemes have been introduced for the agriculture sector,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Oil rigs near Crimea recaptured from Russia Says Ukraine, seizes helicopter munitions, radar system; UN rights chief criticises Moscow for quitting grain deal

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukrainian forces have regained control from Russia of several gas and oil offshore drilling platforms close to Crimea, Ukraine's military intelligence (GUR) said yesterday.

It said on the Telegram messaging app that Kyiv's forces had retaken the drilling platforms known as the "Boiko Towers" in a "unique operation".

The platforms had been occupied since 2015 by Russia, which seized and annexed Crimea in 2014, and had been used by Moscow for military purposes since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion on Ukraine in February 2022. Russia did not immediately comment on the report.

"For Ukraine, regaining control of the Boiko Towers was of strategic importance and, as a result, Russia lost the ability to use them for military purposes," GUR said in a video posted on Telegram.

"Russia has been deprived of the ability to fully control the waters of the Black Sea, and this makes Ukraine many steps closer to regaining Crimea," it said.

GUR also captured other "valuable trophies" such as helicopter munitions

and a radar system that can track the movement of ships in the Black Sea, it said.

Meanwhile, the United Nations rights chief Volker Turk yesterday blamed Russia's exit from the Black Sea grain deal as well as its attacks on agricultural facilities for higher food prices that have been particularly damaging in the Horn of Africa.

"The Russian Federation's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative in July, and attacks on grain facilities in Odesa and elsewhere, have again forced prices sky-high in many developing countries - taking the right to food far out of reach for many people," Turk said at the opening of the Human Rights Council session in Geneva, referring specifically to high malnutrition rates in Somalia amid drought.

Ukraine said yesterday its troops had regained more territory on the eastern and southern fronts in the past week of its counteroffensive against Russian forces.

Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar said in televised comments that Ukraine had retaken nearly 2 square km (0.77 square mile) of land around the eastern city of Bakhmut, captured by Russia in May after months of fighting.

Ukraine claims limited gains on southern and eastern fronts.

Scientists generate electricity from deadly bacteria



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have managed to generate electricity from the deadly E coli bacteria in a "groundbreaking" breakthrough. And the finding could revolutionise both waste management and energy production.

Bioelectronic experts from the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) have managed to engineer the bacteria to produce electricity in a variety of settings.

The team used a process known as extracellular electron transfer (EET) to engineer the bacteria to make them highly efficient electric microbes.

This led to a three-fold increase in electrical current generation compared to conventional strategies.

According to the study published in the journal Joule, the researchers were able to create a complete EET pathway within E coli, a feat not achieved before.

Professor Ardemis Boghossian at EPFL said: "We engineered E coli bacteria, the most widely studied microbe, to generate electricity."

"Though there are exotic microbes that naturally produce electricity, they can only do so in the presence of specific chemicals."

MOROCCO EARTHQUAKE

Rescuers race to find survivors

Death toll rises to 2,681; foreign teams join rescue efforts

REUTERS, Imgdal

Rescuers yesterday searched villages reduced to rubble for any survivors of Morocco's deadliest earthquake in more than six decades, in a desperate race against time as the death toll rose to 2,681 and the scale of destruction became clearer.

Search teams from Spain, Britain and Qatar were joining efforts to find people buried under debris after a 6.8 magnitude quake struck late on Friday night in the High Atlas Mountains, with the epicentre 72 km southwest of Marrakech.

Many survivors spent a third night outside, their homes destroyed or rendered unsafe. The state news agency reported the death toll was now 2,681 with 2,501 people injured.

Footage from the remote village of Imi N'Tala, filmed by Spanish rescuer Antonio Nogales of the aid group Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras (United Firefighters Without Borders), showed men and dogs clambering over steep slopes covered in rubble.

"The level of destruction is ... absolute," said Nogales, struggling to find the right word to describe what he was seeing. "Not a single house has stayed upright. We're going to start our search with dogs and see whether we can find anyone alive."



Volunteers search for survivors in the rubble in the village of Talat N'Yacoub, south of Marrakech, Morocco yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BUSINESS

Wage growth stays behind inflation

Low and unskilled workers continue to see their standards of living worsen as their wages have not grown in line with the spiraling food and non-food prices.

The wage growth for low and unskilled workers grew 7.58 percent in August, which was 2.34 percentage points below the inflation rate of 9.92 percent, shows BBS data.

August was the 19th consecutive month that inflation outpaced wage growth.

STORY ON B4