



B1

Surge in orders to test RMG sector's capacity



P11

Sri Lanka meet Pakistan in must-win affair



P7

Russia will win against 'evil' in Ukraine: North Korea



P3

91pc Bangladeshis prefer democracy: survey

Resolve political crisis over polls immediately

Urge eminent citizens at EC event; 'election must be free, fair and participatory too'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next general election will have to be free, fair and at the same time participatory and competitive so that people in the country and elsewhere find it credible, eminent citizens told a discussion yesterday.

Besides, the current political crisis over the coming election has to be solved immediately, they told an Election Commission [EC] workshop titled "12th National Polls: Expectations and Reality".

If a major political party does not participate, the election will be questioned locally and internationally, former election commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain said.

"If you bring 300 parties to the election ignoring a major party, the polls will still not be deemed credible," he said.

Referring to the deputy commissioner of Jamalpur who recently urged people to vote for the ruling party, Sakhawat said, "You [EC] should take a tough stance against such things."

During polling, the EC should have a strong system in place to address complaints, he added.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar said the last two national elections following the abolition of the caretaker government were widely questioned.

In the 2014 election, 153 lawmakers were elected without any competition while during the 2018 election, there were allegations that

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Homes have been built within the demarcated area of the Buriganga river at Basila in the capital. A few years ago the BIWTA evicted people occupying the river and demolished the structures they had built. But new buildings have now sprung up and the demolished ones have been rebuilt.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CYBER SECURITY BILL 2023 JS passes it amid strong protests

JP, Gonoforum MPs slam it saying new law will curb freedom of speech, media

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Cyber Security Bill was passed in parliament yesterday amid strong protests by opposition lawmakers.

Jatiya Party and Gonoforum MPs said it was old wine in a new bottle. Like the Digital Security Act, the new law will also be against people's freedom of speech and thought, and freedom of the media. It is against the constitution, they said.

The new law is to replace the DSA, which has been widely criticised at the national and international levels.

Rights activists and different journalists' organisations said almost all the controversial provisions of the DSA have been retained in the Cyber Security Bill. Only the punishment for committing some offences has been reduced.

The government is saying that it is a new law, but there will be no relief. Because it is an old wine in a new bottle, said Gonoforum MP Mukabbir Khan while taking part in the discussion on the bill.

He said journalists, the United Nations, and the Editors' Council have objected to and expressed concern regarding the new law.

Mukabbir said the Editors' Council pointed out that at least nine sections of the DSA severely curb freedom of expression and independent journalism and demanded they be amended.

"Now in the proposed law, seven sections have been amended regarding punishment and bail. The definition of crime is not clarified. It remains the same. No changes were made to two of the sections. The UN Human Rights Office called for the repeal of two clauses. But instead of repealing those sections in the proposed law, changes have been made in terms of punishment and bail."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

I'll work to stamp out graft: CJ

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Newly appointed Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan yesterday said he will work with judges, lawyers and journalists to eradicate corruption and make the judiciary more robust.

"Corruption is like cancer. There is corruption to some extent in every sector. It cannot be even said there is no corruption or irregularities on the court premises. I learnt from newspapers that a High Court order had been falsified by forging the signatures of two judges of a High Court bench. A lawyer's assistant and a police constable were found involved and they were punished. There is zero scope for compromise with any corruption or misdeeds," he told The Daily Star over the phone.

"Reducing the backlog of cases at courts across the country, and continuing the work and efforts of my predecessors are my main goals. I will solicit opinions from all judges of the appellate and high court divisions of the Supreme Court, lawyers, and



Obaidul Hassan

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

PROBE INTO WEALTH ABROAD S Alam seeks injunction on all media

Files petition with Supreme Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam and his wife Farzana Parveen have filed a petition with the Supreme Court, seeking a blanket injunction against "any and all discourses" about the now-stalled investigation into S Alam's wealth abroad.

The injunction they seek applies to electronic and print media as well as social media – a blackout on the topic.

They also named The Daily Star, Prothom Alo, New Age and SC lawyer Barrister Syed Sayedul Haque Suman, and petitioned that the court restrain them from publishing or broadcasting any statements, opinions, reports, remarks, or online videos "touching the merit" of the Appellate Division's decision to put on hold the enquiry into Alam's assets abroad.

The petition, filed on Tuesday, is slated to be heard today.

The petition says "their [Alam and Farzana] personal and business reputations have been seriously affected" because of the discourse. They called the damage irreparable.

In a suo moto order, the High Court on August 6 asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to probe Alam's wealth abroad after The Daily Star published an investigative report on his overseas businesses.

On August 23, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, ordered a status quo on the probe, until January 8, 2024, when the matter will be heard before a full bench, led by the chief justice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BNP plans rallies in 19 dists this month

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP has planned to hold rallies in 19 districts and organise marches from one district to another this month to realise its one-point demand for election under a non-partisan government, insiders say.

Supporters from the adjacent districts will be asked to join these rallies, they add.

Members of the party's standing committee, its highest policymaking body, made a draft of these programmes on Tuesday night and sent it to the top leaders, according to sources.

The BNP wants to make an impact with these programmes over the next one month, they add.

The standing committee held a meeting online on Monday night and another one in person on Tuesday night. The programmes were discussed in the meetings.

After finalising the draft, the standing committee sent it to BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

A formal announcement of these events is likely to come next week after the matters are discussed with the like-minded political parties.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

US worried over 'oppression' of journalists here

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US yesterday expressed concern over what it said was Bangladesh government's "systematic and pervasive oppression" of journalists and media personalities, who attempt to hold the authorities accountable.

"They [journalists] must be able to do their jobs without fear of harassment, violence, or intimidation," State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller told a press briefing in Washington.

He said this after a reporter asked for his comment on the sentencing of senior journalists Shafiq Rehman and Mahmudur Rahman for seven years and the seizure of the property of another journalist Eleas Hossain, who is now in New York.

Miller said, "Their work uncovers corruption, safeguards the public's right to know information that affects their lives. They

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Almost two lanes of the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the capital's Shanir Akhra are occupied by dirt and debris from construction work. Besides, there is no room even for pedestrians in the densely populated area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Islamic banks face liquidity challenges Says Fitch Ratings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Islamic banking sector in Bangladesh continues to face liquidity challenges because of weak governance and regulatory quality, Fitch Ratings said.

In the first half of this year, Islamic banks faced sizable customer deposit outflows and lower liquidity buffers than conventional banks amid reports of loan irregularities, said the American credit rating agency in a report on Tuesday.

Islamic banks' excess liquidity – defined as total cash reserves minus required reserves with the central bank – declined by 66.6 percent year-on-year to Tk 982 crore at the end of June.

However, excess liquidity has since improved with a 12.7 percent quarterly rise, it said.

"In contrast, deposit growth is slowing."

Islamic banks' total deposits grew by only 3.8 percent year-on-year in the first six months of 2023, "a significant fall from the 12 percent year-on-year growth" in the first half of 2022.

Islamic banks' vulnerability to short-term liquidity challenges is demonstrated by the fall in the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) to 87.7 percent at the end of 2022, below the regulatory requirement of 100 percent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



POST-COUP MYANMAR Junta, Russia agree on polls ‘cooperation’

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta and Russia have signed a memorandum on “cooperation in election activities”, state media reported yesterday, as both governments plan for polls that critics say will be neither free nor fair.

Moscow is a close ally of the junta, providing arms and diplomatic support as Myanmar's military struggles to crush armed opposition to its February 2021 coup.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing met President Vladimir Putin last year during one of several trips to Russia since seizing power. The Myanmar military has described Moscow's invasion of Ukraine as “justified”.

Officials from the junta-stacked election commission signed a “memorandum of understanding for cooperation in election activities” with their Russian counterparts during a recent visit to Russia, the Global New Light of Myanmar reported.

The delegation “also explored Russia's election methods, conditions for conducting elections, campaign procedures”, the newspaper said.

The head of Russia's election commission had also invited Myanmar to observe presidential elections scheduled for next year. That vote is expected to prolong Putin's rule until at least 2030, with many of his critics in jail or in exile.

Myanmar's military has justified its putsch with unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud in 2020 elections won resoundingly by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD).

The junta will likely hold fresh polls in 2025, a senior official from a military-backed party told AFP earlier this month.

The United States has said any elections under the junta would be a “sham” and analysts say they would be targeted by the military's opponents.

Russia has said it backs the generals' plan for polls.

Suu Kyi's NLD – which has trounced military-backed parties in every election it has fought – was dissolved earlier this year for failing to re-register under tough new military-drafted electoral rules.

The coup ended a 10-year democratic experiment and plunged the country into turmoil.

Fighting between the military and its opponents has displaced almost two million people, according to the United Nations.



PHOTO: SILVIA MAHJABIN

JUSTICE SHAHABUDDIN AHMED PARK A refreshing urban retreat

AYMAN ANIKA

Life, in all its shades and colours, can often become too overwhelming for me, and this is why I let myself escape into a green space. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park, a serene oasis at Gulshan 2, holds a special place in my heart — and here, my scattered thoughts find peace. This park is, indeed, a haven of tranquillity and natural beauty in the bustling Dhaka city.

As Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park is not very far from my home, I have had the privilege of spending countless hours amid the verdant beauty that cocoons me. This well-maintained park offers the city residents a refreshing urban retreat like no other.

Raisa Hakim, a single mother and software engineer, often comes here with her daughter to jog and unwind. She shares, “The environment and security of this park is impressive. I feel at ease coming here. I let my daughter play and take a walk at the same time, and thankfully, I don't have to worry about her safety.”

This place was renovated recently, and the introduction of modern amenities, including a well-equipped basketball court, clean restrooms, and seating areas, has made it even more

appealing to families and children alike.

You would see both teenagers and adults actively playing on the basketball court; kids playing on the playgrounds while parents overlooking them or chatting with other parents.

The park has been carefully crafted to harmonise with the natural surroundings, ensuring it seamlessly integrates with the urban environment while preserving its ecological balance. The layout of the wooden walkway above the lake and water features reflects thoughtful planning aimed at enhancing the visitor experience.

As soon as you step into the park, you are greeted by clean surroundings and North End Coffee Roasters — offering you a delightful coffee experience that blends the soothing ambience of the park with the aromatic allure of freshly brewed coffee.

Nevertheless, what truly captivates me is the bookstore, Bookworm Bangladesh, which adds warmth and cosiness to the park's natural charm!

Shams Islam, a retired army official and a regular jogger, routinely visits the bookstore. While scrolling through the bookshelves, he answered, “Back in the day, I was an avid reader. However, due to work and family obligations, I

lost the habit of reading. But this place has revived my habit again.”

Dhaka is a city that rarely allows you to slow down and take a breather. How many parks in the capital would you find such a bookstore that lets you enjoy a quiet time of reading? None perhaps!

Surely, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park has set an example of how a public park should look like.

The pathways are lined with lights that cast a warm glow in the evenings, making it an idyllic place for an evening stroll or jog. For the health-conscious, the park offers well-maintained jogging tracks and outdoor fitness equipment.

The park's amphitheatre will be a place of enjoyment for people with a penchant for culture and the arts. Various events are arranged here — from yoga classes to musical performances — it's a space where creativity flourishes.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park is more than just a green space in the city — it's an ideal place to introspect, a sanctuary for the senses and a place to rediscover your connection with the natural world.

So, the next time you yearn for a break from the daily grind, head to this oasis in the heart of the city!



S Alam seeks injunction on all media

FROM PAGE 1

Alam and Farzana allege in their petition that The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and New Age, and Barrister Suman have violated the status quo by “passing negative remarks and making defamatory statements against the applicants”.

They further claim that this is all being done with the intention to harass them.

“Since last year, The Daily Star has been intentionally targeting the petitioner and his business concerns, S Alam Group, by publishing frivolous news and spreading propagandas,” the petition alleges.

“The said newspapers have also been threatening the applicants to publish further news regarding the same subject matter.

“From an insider source it has been found out that The Daily Star has been gathering information to further report on the S Alam Group ahead of the national elections,” it claims.

“Several newspaper reporters have started working in different branches of Dhaka and Chattogram to report on the S Alam Group as well as Islami Bank Ltd. In parallel, another report is being prepared on the close relatives of the Chairman for the sole purpose of harassing the petitioner and his close associates and relatives.

“Since the national election is coming, the said reports are likely to be prepared and published with the ulterior motive to attack the government and other organisations which have been developing the economy of the country under the ruling government,” the petition claims.

While on the one hand The Daily Star gives the impression that it supports democracy, but “it seeks by underhand methods by attacking business houses which are known to support the government, thereby attacking a particular political party.”

“This is the worst form of abuse that any journalist or any mainstream media house can perpetrate on democracy and the electoral processes in Bangladesh,” it adds.

“Such an action may kindly be

prevented by this Honourable Court,” the couple pleads.

The petition describes Alam as an exceptional businessman, and speaks of his contributions to the economy and continuous support for the nation.

The petition speaks about how the report published by The Daily Star titled “S Alam's Aladdin's Lamp” on August 4 was “baseless, frivolous, false, inaccurate and unsupported”.

The aforementioned investigation by The Daily Star found S Alam has built a business empire in Singapore worth at least about \$1 billion, although there is no record of him taking any permission from Bangladesh Bank to invest or transfer any funds abroad.

The Bangladesh central bank has so far allowed 17 companies to invest outside the country, and this Chattogram-based business giant is not among them, according to Bangladesh Bank documents cited in the report.

Yet in Singapore, Alam bought at least two hotels, two homes, one retail space, and other properties over the last one decade, all the while seeking to remove his name from the paper trails, documents obtained from Singaporean regulatory authorities show.

To set up his business in Singapore, he and his wife used Cypriot citizenship, according to The Daily Star findings. That investigation also tracked down his businesses in Cyprus and the British Virgin Islands.

In their Tuesday's petition for a gag order, Alam and his wife said they have foreign nationality or are incorporated in foreign countries and the relevant Bangladeshi laws do not have extra-territorial effect and do not permit investigation. “Otherwise, it would become possible to investigate and report on foreign assets of all expatriate Bangladeshi citizens or persons of Bangladeshi origin.”

The petition also delves into comments by Barrister Suman in a TV interview regarding the Appellate Division's status quo order, stalling the ACC investigation.

“Suman has inferred that the order

of status quo has been obtained because of the presence of bigshot lawyers. He also inferred that because of the order passed by this court his heart has been bleeding [...] He further inferred that journalists have not been publishing enough news about the corruption of the applicants,” reads the petition.

“Most illegally Suman has stated that this type of order encouraged general people to do money laundering,” it adds.

The petition asks the court to take actions to have all videos of Suman concerning the topic removed.

6 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12

identified. They are Shaheen and Sujana of Rajbari, and Mamun and Shihab of Narayanganj.

Identities of the two other deceased remained unknown, it said.

Currently, an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 Bangladeshis, including the undocumented ones, are believed to be residing in Libya, Rasel said.

The mission in the Facebook post said it was communicating round the clock with international agencies and local authorities involved in rescue operations to learn about the latest situation of Bangladeshis living there.

According to international media, nearly 10,000 people were missing in Libya after the severe storm slammed into its eastern coast this week. The death toll stands at 6,000 and is expected to rise as operations continue to recover bodies.

Storm Daniel formed over Greece on September 4. It caused strong winds, heavy rains, flooding and deaths there and in Turkey and Bulgaria before crossing the Mediterranean.

The storm made landfall in Libya a few days later, causing flooding on Sunday in cities along its eastern coast, including Benghazi, Bayda and Derna.

Derna was the hardest hit after two dams burst upstream, releasing an estimated 30 million cubic metres (39 million cubic yards) of water that tore through the city of about 100,000 inhabitants, according to Al Jazeera.

Islamic banks face liquidity challenges

FROM PAGE 1

At the end of 2021, the LCR was 188.5 percent, it said.

Conventional banks had adequate liquidity profiles, with an industry average LCR of 154 percent.

“However, liquidity is improving, underpinned by central bank support in the form of the Islamic Bank Liquidity Facility and Mudarabah Liquidity Support, and still notable public demand for Islamic deposit products.”

Islamic banks held 25.3 percent of all domestic industry deposits at the end of June, down from 28.2 at end-H22.

Bangladesh had the eighth-largest Islamic banking market globally at the end of 2022, with total assets of Tk 497,070 crore (\$45.3 billion), ahead of Indonesia, Bahrain, Pakistan, Egypt, Jordan and Oman, based on data from the Islamic Financial Services Board.

The market share, based on industry loans, is rising and reached 29.1 percent at the end of June, in contrast to 28.5 percent a year earlier.

Bangladesh has the third-largest Muslim population globally, with sizable segments being shariah-sensitive.

Islamic branches and windows of conventional banks are expanding, with an 8.2 percent share of Islamic banking deposits as of June, in contrast to 7.1 percent a year earlier.

The remaining 91.8 percent is held by full-fledged Islamic banks.

The Islamic finance industry in Bangladesh continues to face key structural impediments.

These include a lack of sukuk and other Shariah-compliant investment options, gaps in human capital development, a lack of unified Shariah rulings, and an Islamic finance regulatory framework that requires an update.

Resolve political crisis

FROM PAGE 1

votes were cast “the night before the election day”, he said.

“We are in fear about the coming election.... Will all political parties be able to take part? Will voters be able to cast their vote freely?”

“We have created a situation that allows many foreign countries to make comments about the polls in Bangladesh. Different states are looking at us. If we fail, we will pay for it.”

Former ambassador Humayun Kabir said people expect an inclusive and competitive election that is free from influence of money and muscles.

Local government expert Tofail Ahmed said the ruling party had already started electioneering while police and administration officials sought votes in violation of the service rules.

Former secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan said, “The Election Commission will have to shoulder the liability if the election is not participatory.”

But the reality is, the EC cannot hold a “good election unless the government wants it”.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hassan said a major challenge facing the EC is getting the parties to take part. “The commission should urge the government to create a situation conducive for participation of all parties.”

Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta said, “People have lost faith in the Election Commission over the years.... Minority communities are the worst victims of election-time violence. It is important to gain confidence within one's own country first.”

Journalists Kazi Abdul Hannan and Mahbub Kamal observed that free and fair elections cannot be held under a partisan government.

But Jatiya Press Club President Farida Yasmin said if the EC worked with confidence and integrity, a fair election was possible even under a partisan government.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Habibul Awal said, “Different kinds of crises are present.... I have been saying it repeatedly. If politicians do not create a conducive environment for us, it will be difficult for us to hold elections.”

11 CASES AGAINST KHALEDA Hearing on charge-framing October 12

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set October 12 for hearing on framing charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in 11 cases, including one for sedition.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the hearing and set the new date, said Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

The adjournment order came following petitions submitted by the defence citing different reasons.

Khaleda, now out of jail following an executive order from the government, was admitted to Evercare Hospital in the capital a few days ago. She is now undergoing treatment there for various ailments.

Among the 11 cases, 10 were filed in the first three months of 2015 over arson attacks, while the other one was lodged with a Dhaka court on charges of making seditious comments on freedom fighters and martyrs of the Liberation War.

JUBO LEAGUE LEADER MURDER SC wants explanation on prompt release of accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday wanted to know how an accused in the Cumilla Jubo League leader Jamal murder case got released from jail the same day the High Court had granted him bail.

The chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, directed the chief judicial magistrate of Cumilla to explain how his court executed the bail bond of accused Sohel Shikder so expeditiously and allowed him to be freed from jail.

The chamber judge cancelled the HC order that granted bail to Sohel on September 3 and directed him to surrender before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court by September 21.

Justice Enayetur also ordered the SC registrar general to form a committee to probe how the HC bail order reached the Cumilla court so fast and how the court conducted the bail bond of Sohel.

The SC registrar general has been asked to submit the probe report to the SC by November 11.

The SC chamber judge passed the order following a petition filed by the state, challenging the HC bail order for Sohel.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi appeared for the state.

3 workers die as sand pile collapses on them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three labourers were killed as a sand pile collapsed on them at Jaukura Ghat of Rajbari Sadar upazila on Tuesday night.

The victims were Rahim Sheikh, 52, Maruf Sheikh, 19, and Md Rimon.

Daud Sheikh, manager of sand trader Hannan Sheikh, said when the three were loading sand onto a truck around 10:45pm, suddenly the sand pile collapsed on them.

He added that they were rescued and taken to Rajbari Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

Hannan stocks sand at Jaukura Ghat for sale.

Md Iftekharuzzaman, additional superintendent of police (Sadar circle) of Rajbari, said they were investigating whether there was any negligence on the part of the sand trader.

REQUIREMENTS



YOUR NID



NOMINEE'S INFO



NOMINEE'S PHOTO



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

PUBALI BANK LIMITED

ঘরে বসেই ব্যাংক অ্যাকাউন্ট খুলুন

PI a PUBALI BANK apps

● Individual ● Shopkeeper (with or without Trade Licence) | Both for Conventional or Islamic Banking | No charges in Transactions

NID Reg Bill passed in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Identity Registration Bill, 2023 was passed in Parliament yesterday amid objection by the opposition MPs.

The bill is aimed at transferring the national identity registration operation from the Election Commission to the Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan placed the bill which was passed by voice vote.

The EC currently conducts the national identity registration operation and has issued national identity cards against citizens aged 18 or above, since 2007, as per the National Identity Registration Act, 2010.

The opposition MPs taking part in the discussion on the bill complained that this decision of the government will increase the suffering of the common people as the police have not yet become people-friendly.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A rickshaw puller covers his nose as he passes through a gust of dust on the old Dhaka-Narayanganj Road in the capital's Shyampur. Dhaka's air quality regularly ranks among the world's worst, due to traffic, construction, and industrial pollution. The photo was taken yesterday.

91pc Bangladeshis prefer democracy

Says a global survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For 91 percent Bangladeshis, it is important to live in a democratically governed country, found a survey by Open Society Foundation, a New York-based private funder of independent groups working for justice, democratic governance, and human rights.

Also, 63 percent believe the rise of China on the global stage will have a positive impact on the economy of Bangladesh, while 14 percent believe otherwise.

The survey report titled "Open Society Barometer: Can Democracy Deliver?" was released on Monday, with responses from 36,000 people over a representative group of 30 countries around the world.

According to the findings of the study conducted between May and July this year, younger people hold the least faith in democracy.

Just 57 percent of respondents from the age group of 18-35 think democracy is preferable to any other form of government, compared to 71 percent of older respondents.

But 86 percent of global respondents said they want to live in a democracy, while only 20 percent believe that authoritarian countries can deliver "what citizens want".

Besides, 72 percent of the respondents across the globe, including 88 percent from Bangladesh, believe that human rights have been a "force for good" in the world, and 71 percent agree that "human rights reflect values that I believe in".

In Bangladesh, 18 percent of the respondents said they struggled to feed themselves and their families every day in the past year, while 15 percent experienced it every week and 11 percent every month.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

How bankrupt a political party can be to harbour jealousy towards development projects under the Awami League Government that have significantly improved people's lives?

OBAIDUL QUADER
Awami League general secretary on BNP



ARREST OF EMPLOYEES OF MOBILE SERVICE OPERATORS

They used to steal, sell data to scammers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Detective Branch (DB) of police has arrested eight people of a racket for stealing personal information, including fingerprints, of SIM card users and selling them to scammers and various groups to be used for criminal purposes.

The racket, comprising sales representatives (SR) and customer care officials affiliated with two SIM card operators, used to make data packages of individuals combining the fingerprints, personal information and the status of Mobile Financial Service (MFS) of their SIM card.

They used to sell this package of information to MSF fraudsters and criminal groups at Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,000 each, using a Facebook page named "Digital Service Pro", Junaed Alam Sharker, additional

deputy commissioner of the cyber and special crime division of DB police, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said police uncovered this cybercrime following an investigation launched to detect some unusual online activities.



The probe led to the arrest of the racket, he added.

According to DB, the data thieves, to execute their scheme, adopted a unique technique.

When a customer visited the SR for a new SIM card or SIM replacement or services, they were asked to clean their fingers on a soft silicon-like object.

Police said by doing this, the service seekers inadvertently

left their fingerprints there. Then the SR applied "glue guns" to preserve the individual's fingerprint on that surface.

Police said the customer care officers were responsible for gathering personal details, including MFS information, National ID (NID) number, and address of the person whose fingerprint the SR collected.

This data, including all personal information and fingerprints, was then put on social media platforms as a bundle for sale.

According to DB, the racket used to activate new SIMs using these information and sell those to various criminal groups, helping them hide their identity.

They, according to DB, would also make a package on MSF-activated SIMs and sell those to groups who scam people by calling or online.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

DENGUE OUTBREAK 15 dead, 2,944 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

At least 2,944 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services.

Dengue has so far claimed at least 767 lives this year and nearly 157,172 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS data, 9,988 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

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

There is no vaccine or drug that specifically treats dengue, which is common in South Asia during the June-to-September monsoon season.

Tk 24,000cr purchase proposals gets cabinet nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved 14 proposals to purchase various essentials, including wheat, soybean oil, fertilisers and green energy, worth about Tk 24,000 crore.

The cabinet committee on purchase during a meeting chaired by Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal approved the proposals.

As per one proposal, the government will import 3 lakh tonnes of wheat from Russia under a government to government (G2G) agreement for about Tk 1,033 crore, at Tk 34.43 per kg.

A food ministry official said the imported wheat will cost \$313 per tonne this time whereas it was \$430 per tonne a year ago.

The committee yesterday approved three proposals for the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) including purchase of 3.30 crore litres of soybean oil from Malaysia.

The soybean oil will be imported from Brizo Marine SDN BHD by local agent Sena Edible Oil Industries Dhaka at a total cost of Tk 433.62 crore, at Tk 155.93 per litre.

Besides, Bashundhara Multi Food Products Ltd will purchase 50 lakh litres of soybean oil for TCB from local market for Tk 79.92 crore, at Tk 159.85 per litre.

Also, 6,000 tonnes of lentils will be purchased

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

CONSERVING FORESTS

Involve indigenous groups: JS body

UNB, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change recommended involving the indigenous community in conserving forests, biodiversity, and combating climate change, by utilizing their valuable experience and knowledge.

The 40th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee took place at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Chairman Saber Hossain Chowdhury presiding.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various topics, including damages to biodiversity in the Sundarbans, a report on the haor ecosystem, air pollution, and illegal sand extraction. Additionally, concerns were raised about illegal establishments on St Martin's Island, said a press release.

The committee underscored the importance of implementing researcher Sirajul Hossain's report on biodiversity loss in the Sundarbans and the haor ecosystem.

In an effort to protect reserved forest areas, the meeting called for stronger measures to curb illegal sand extraction.

Directives were also issued to take necessary precautions against environmental polluters, especially within different types of hotels, motels, resorts, and other establishments on St Martin's Island.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Md Shahab Uddin, Deputy Minister Habibun Nahar, and secretaries from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.



Loose part of a barricades, set around an area claimed for a beautification project on Dholaipar intersection, is risky and may lead to accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Interest of youths in politics has declined: Haas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi youths' interest in politics has significantly declined, said US Ambassador Peter D Haas yesterday.

He attributed this decline to factors such as political violence on university campuses, nepotism, corruption, a lack of confidence in political leadership, a culture that restricts them from casting their votes in elections, and limited freedom of speech.

The US envoy made these remarks while inaugurating a campaign "Amio Jitte Chai" at a city hotel.

Approximately 200 young representatives from across the country participated in the National Youth Conference, where the campaign was launched.

Recalling the crucial roles played by youths in the 1952 Language Movement and the 1971 Liberation

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Abdur Rouf passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdur Rouf Chowdhury, a businessman and social worker, died yesterday at the age of 75.

He breathed his last while undergoing treatment at Thakurgaon District Hospital.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, a host of relatives and friends.

Abdur Rouf is the father of Abu Bakar Siddique, an environmental journalist.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Thakurgaon after Zohr prayers.

Fulfill unkept

FROM PAGE 5

Obaidul Quader and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir have highlighted the fear of communal violence ahead of the upcoming elections.

“Their fear is not unfounded. Incidents of attacks on minorities tend to escalate during election periods,” he said.

Dasgupta lamented the lack of progress in implementing the promises outlined in the ruling party's election manifesto, including the establishment of the Minority Protection Act and the National Commission for Minority Affairs.

91pc Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 3

In contrast, 46 percent respondents said they faced no struggle to eat in the past year, according to the study.

The survey said 58 percent – majorities in 22 out of the 30 countries polled – are worried that political unrest in their countries could lead to violence in the next year. In Bangladesh, that figure rises to 70 percent.

It also revealed that 84 percent respondents think lending countries should help those struggling with debt by cancelling, reducing, or renegotiating repayment conditions.

Meanwhile, 75 percent want high-income countries to increase overseas aid, and 71 percent believe they should compensate low-income countries for economic losses due to climate change.

In Bangladesh, 88 percent of respondents agreed that high-income countries should take the lead on compensating low-income ones for economic losses caused by climate change.

Respondents consider climate change a major concern alongside poverty and inequality,, with 70 percent being anxious that it will affect their lives next year.

Corruption is seen as the biggest national problem across the world. In Bangladesh, 62 percent

respondents said they trust national politicians to work in their best interests.

According to the study, migration is highly visible but of low concern. In Bangladesh, which is the second largest refugee-hosting country in the world, 83 percent respondents believe countries should open up more safe and legal routes for refugees. The figure falls to 58, 55, and 39 percent in the US, UK and Germany respectively.

In Bangladesh, 85 percent agree that lower-income countries should have more of a say in global decision-making, but the figure drops gradually to 68, 50, 49, 45, 33, and 29 percent in India, China, the US, the UK, Germany, Japan and Russia respectively.

Interest of

FROM PAGE 3

War of Bangladesh, the US diplomat emphasised the importance of engagement of today's youths in the democratic process.

He also emphasised the need for political parties to uphold democratic principles and encouraged youths to engage in non-violent politics.

Awami League presidium member Kazi Zafarullah and BNP standing committee member Selima Rahman also addressed the event.

They used to steal

FROM PAGE 3

They would also activate MSF services on the newly activated SIMs and sell those to people, who would use those for illegal transactions.

“The racket was activating at least 100 SIM cards daily using preserved fingerprints, which were then sold to criminal gangs,” said ADC Junaed.

On Monday, during a targeted operation, detectives successfully apprehended eight individuals from Dhaka, Rangpur, and Kurigram, he said.

The arrestees are Md Masud, 22, the ringleader and SR of a mobile operator, and his associates Imon Hossain, 25, Sohail Rana, 36, Md Shakil, 25. They all worked as assistant SRs of the operator.

The other arrestees are Al Amin Mia, 26, and his brother Arafat Rahman, 23, both of whom worked in a customer care centre of a mobile operator, and their associates Mehedi Hasan (24) and Nure Alam (24).

Detectives recovered 800 individuals' fingerprint details, 110 activated SIM cards, a glue gun, two computers, three finger scanners, and an app used for collecting personal details.

Interestingly, none of the arrested individuals possessed expertise in online technology.

The mastermind, Masud, discontinued his studies after completing HSC, while his associate, Mehedi, did the same after SSC.

ADC Junaed said that the racket had been active for the past year, and sold out thousands of SIM cards.

“Primary evidence suggests that the racket had established a robust network across the country,” he said.

He said that so far lower-tier officials of the SIM operators were found in the sale of individuals' personal information, but they would also investigate involvement at higher levels.

He said letters would be sent to the SIM operators and the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission regarding this criminal activity.

The SIM operators should enhance security

measures to prevent such unauthorised access to individuals' full NID details and increase vigilance at customer care and sales points, he added.

“Our drive is underway to arrest more members of the racket,” he said.

50 years

FROM PAGE 5

while being taken to hospital due to delay in crossing the river, he said.

Ratan Haldar, a trader, said they have to pay Tk 1,000-1,500 more per truck to bring goods, due to the absence of a concrete bridge.

Rabindranath Roy, chairman of Mulia Union, said some 8,000-10,000 people cross the river every day and 60,000 people in 15-20 villages around the river are deprived of a concrete bridge over the Kajla river.

Biswajit Kumar Kundu, executive engineer of Narail Local Government and Rural Development (LGED), said there is a plan to build a 400-metre long bridge over the river and the construction work of the bridge will begin soon after getting approval.

If rivers die, we can't

FROM PAGE 5

The speakers also demanded that the administration take the necessary actions to bring the rivers back to life, such as publishing the list of river occupiers and increasing monitoring of the rivers and its environment.

Presided over by ALRD president Shamsul Huda, the event was also addressed by additional divisional commissioner Md Anwar Hossain,

director of Local Government Farid Ahmed, and executive engineer of Water Development Board, Md Akhlak Ul Jamil, among others.

Dr Khalid Mahmud, associate professor of Department of Irrigation and Water Management at Bangladesh Agricultural University, presented the keynote paper, while Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela, moderated the event.

Tk 24,000cr

FROM PAGE 3

for TCB from local market for Tk 58.11 crore, at Tk 96.85 per kg.

The committee also approved three proposals to buy 420 megawatts of electricity produced by different solar and wind power plants in the country.

At yesterday's meeting, the purchase committee also approved import of 1,00,000 tonnes of muriate of potash (MOP) fertiliser from Canada at \$323 per tonne.

Besides, a total of 70,000 tonnes of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) at \$526 per tonne and Triple Superphosphate (TSP) at \$389.75 per tonne will be purchased from Morocco.

The committee also approved three proposals for runway improvement at Jashore, Syedpur and Rajshahi airports, to appoint consultant for Hatirjheel-Demra four-lane highway project, and for an infrastructure development project of Bangladesh Power Development Board.



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

141-142 Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208
Phone : PABX 8870422 (Extn: 103 & 107); Website: www.aust.edu

FACULTY SEARCH

Applications are invited for the following posts:
i) **Lecturer (Grade-II) in Bangla** and ii) **Lecturer (Grade-II) in Mathematics** under the Department of Arts & Sciences.
Details can be obtained from the website.
Candidates are advised to apply through online form (downloaded from www.aust.edu) and send to regr@aust.edu with cc to vc@aust.edu with full CV, copies of published articles/papers, two recent passport-size colored photographs and attested copies of all certificates, mark sheets/transcripts, testimonials etc. on or before **21 September 2023**. One hard copy should also be sent to the Registrar. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview.



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

The only Bangladesh university where all teachers have foreign Master's or PhD degrees primarily from USA, Canada, UK & Australia



Enhance your English. Empower Yourself

Certificate in English Proficiency (CEP)

Fall 2023

The CEP is a recognized certificate course for improving your proficiency in English. The program focuses on productive and receptive skills, i.e. speaking, writing, reading, and listening, as well as the improvement of vocabulary and grammar. It also emphasizes the development of business and professional English. Certificates are awarded upon successful completion of the course.

Course Fee: Tk. 9,000 only
Deposit to: **North South University, A/C No.: 0096-0210000323**
NCC Bank Limited, Bashundhara Branch

Course Begins: **October 06, 2023**
Course Duration: **4 months**

Course Day: **Friday**
Course Time: **9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Admission Deadline: 03 October 2023

The CEP course is taught by highly qualified and experienced instructor
For more information, please contact:



Department of English and Modern Languages
Level 9, Room: NAC957, Plot 15, Block B, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Email: joynal.abedin@northsouth.edu, Tel: +88-02-55668200, Ext: 6145



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/23-24-T05

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide/ reputed organization/ distributors/ business partners/ agents for supplying desktop computer, IP phone set for North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Details of the items mentioned below:

Lot: 1- Core i5 desktop computer
Lot: 2- Core i7 desktop computer
Lot: 3- IP phone set

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on all working days till **October 4, 2023** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of “**North South University**” along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **October 5, 2023** by 2.15 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu



দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ (আইবিবি)

ডিআর টাওয়ার (১৩ তলা)
৬৫/২/২, বীর প্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর সড়ক (বঙ্গ কালভার্ট রোড), পুরানা পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
টেলিফোনঃ ৫৫১১২৮৫৭-৬০

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইনস্টিটিউটের ব্যাংকিং প্রফেশনাল পরিচর্যা জন্য ৫০ হাজার উত্তরপত্র শিখোকোড সম্বলিত (OMR শীটসহ) মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের জন্য আগ্রহী মুদ্রণ প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে তাদের প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক লেটার হেড প্যাড-এ একক দর ও মোট মূল্য উল্লেখসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের শিক্ষা বোর্ড/পাবলিক সার্ভিস কমিশন/ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে OMR শীট/OMR শীটসহ উত্তরপত্র সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে কাগজের নমুনা ও মোট উদ্ধৃত দরের ৫% আর্নেস্ট মানি ডিডি/শে-অর্ডার-এর মাধ্যমে অত্র ইনস্টিটিউটের অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। তাছাড়া কার্যাদেশপ্রাপ্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উল্লিখিত কাজের মোট মূল্যের ১০% হারে জামানত ১ (এক) বছরের জন্য (ফেরতযোগ্য) আইবিবির বরাবরে জমা রাখতে হবে। বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের দিন হতে ২৬-০৯-২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা)-এর মধ্যে উত্তরপত্রের নমুনা দেখা যাবে এবং টায় ৫০০/- মূল্যে টেন্ডার সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্র আগামী ২৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ তারিখ দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ইনস্টিটিউট কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাল্সে দাখিল করতে হবে। একই দিন দুপুর ২-৩০ মিনিটে দরপত্রদাতাদের (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) সম্মুখে দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে। ইনস্টিটিউট কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।



শেখ জাহাঙ্গীর হোসেন
সচিব, আইবিবি

GD-1412

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION (STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION) COMPANY MATTER NO. 283 OF 2023 IN THE MATTER OF:

An application under section 228 read with section 229 of Companies Act, 1994

**AND
IN THE MATTER OF:**

1. Taheri Flour Mills Limited
2. Mansur Engineering Works Limited.
3. Smile Food Products Limited

-----**Petitioners**

-VERSUS-
The Registrar, Joint Stock Companies & Firms and others.

-----**Respondents.**

The Shareholders, the creditors and the stake holders.
Taheri Flour Mills Limited
Registered Office: 188-A, Jubilee Road, Chattogram
Mansur Engineering Works Limited
Registered Office: 65, Nasirabad Industrial Area, Bayezid Bostami Road, Chattogram.
Smile Food Products Limited
Registered Office: 8/1, Nowab Yousuf Road, Naya Bazar, Dhaka-1100.
Notice Convening General Meeting
Take notice that by an order made on 17th August, 2023 the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh has directed to hold a General Meeting of the shareholders, the creditors and the stake holders of Taheri Flour Mills Limited, Mansur Engineering Works Limited and Smile Food Products Limited on 24.09.2023, 24.09.2023 and 21.09.2023 respectively.
Take further notice that an Extra Ordinary General Meeting of **Taheri Flour Mills Limited** shall be held at 188-A, Jubilee Road, Chattogram on 24.09.2023 at 9.30am and Extra Ordinary General Meeting of Mansur Engineering Works Limited shall be held at 65, Nasirabad Industrial Area, Bayezid Bostami Road, Chattogram on 24.09.2023 at 2.30pm and Extra Ordinary General Meeting of Smile Food Products Limited shall be held at 8/1, Nowab Yousuf Road, Naya Bazar, Dhaka-1100 on 21.09.2023 at 9.30am for the purpose of considering and if thought fit approving with or without modifications, the proposed Scheme of Amalgamation of Taheri Flour Mills Limited and Mansur Engineering Works Limited with Smile Food Products Limited in which you are requested to attend.
Take further notice that Register of Members and the Register of Transfer of shares of the company shall remain close from 30th August, 2023 to 21st September, 2023 (both days inclusive) and the copy of the Scheme of Amalgamation may also be seen at the office of the learned Advocate at Apartment No. B-06, Level-6, 117, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
Any member of the company entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his/her behalf.
The Instrument appointing a proxy duly signed by the member and stamped must be submitted at the registered office of the company at least 72 hours before the meeting.
This the 14th day of September, 2023



Mohammad Mahfuzul Hoque
Managing Director of
Taheri Flour Mills Limited
Mansur Engineering Works Limited.
Smile Food Products Limited

D-116

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur
Phone and Fax: 0661-61266, 01730-782807
E-mail: eemad@rhd.gov.bd
eemdrhd@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.5400.442.06.007.23-1562(21) Date: 13/09/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

| Sl No. | Tender ID | Name of work | Last selling date & time | Closing date & time | Opening date & time |
|--------|------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | 874087 (e-GP-03) | Maintenance of Pavement with seal coat including necessary repair works by Premix Bituminous Carpeting from Ch. 68+500 to 68+700, 70+640 to 70+760, 71+750 to 71+825, 72+560 to 72+660, 73+840 to 73+900, 74+780 to 74+880, 75+600 to 75+661, 76+720 to 76+870 & 77+680 to 77+920 of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Mawa-Bhanga-Barishal-Patukhali (N-8) National Highway under Road Division Madaripur during the year 2023-20224 | 01-10-2023 at 17:00 | 02-10-2023 at 14:00 | 02-10-2023 at 14:00 |

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal.
2. To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1413

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur
Phone and Fax: 0661-61266, 01730-782807
E-mail: eemad@rhd.gov.bd
eemdrhd@gmail.com

Memo No. 35.01.5400.442.06.007.23-1562(21) Date: 13/09/2023

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

| Sl No. | Tender ID | Name of work | Last selling date & time | Closing date & time | Opening date & time |
|--------|------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | 874087 (e-GP-03) | Maintenance of Pavement with seal coat including necessary repair works by Premix Bituminous Carpeting from Ch. 68+500 to 68+700, 70+640 to 70+760, 71+750 to 71+825, 72+560 to 72+660, 73+840 to 73+900, 74+780 to 74+880, 75+600 to 75+661, 76+720 to 76+870 & 77+680 to 77+920 of Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Mawa-Bhanga-Barishal-Patukhali (N-8) National Highway under Road Division Madaripur during the year 2023-20224 | 01-10-2023 at 17:00 | 02-10-2023 at 14:00 | 02-10-2023 at 14:00 |

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal.
2. To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Najmul Hasan
Personal ID: 601954
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Madaripur

GD-1413

If rivers die, we can't survive

Speakers tell workshop in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Specific and immediate efforts are required to save the rivers in Mymensingh, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

"If the rivers die, we cannot survive anyway, and all the developments will be futile," they said while addressing the daylong workshop titled, "Divisional Workshop on Rivers" held at a hotel in Mymensingh city.

Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) jointly organised the event on the concluding day of the three-day programme "Field Visit and Programme Plan".

All the rivers in Mymensingh region are in poor shape, with many in critical condition, like Sumeswari, they said.

Garbage disposal, manufacturing waste, encroachment, uncontrolled sand and stone extraction, and unplanned dredging are destroying the river's ecosystem and surroundings. Even the names of all rivers in Mymensingh division are not included in the list of rivers published on the National River Conservation Commission's website, mentioned the speakers.

They urged the Water Development Board to list all rivers in the country and this region, and reclaim the riverbanks from grabbers based on past records.

The participants said polluters should also be held accountable.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Two die in Noagaon road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two motorcyclists died and two others were injured yesterday in a road accident at Bijaypur intersection on Naogaon-Rajshahi regional highway in Manda, Naogaon.

The deceased were identified as Robiul Islam, 18, of Chandail village in Dupchanchia upazila of Bogura, and Roki, 25, of Hajirhat upazila of Natore.

Police and locals said, four friends were riding two motorcycles for sightseeing. Around 10:00am, the two motorcycles collided with the back of a van on regional highway at Bijaypur Bazar intersection. All four riding the motorcycles fell on the road, leaving Roki dead on spot.

The three others were taken to the upazila health complex where Robiul died.

Manda Police Station OC Mozammel Haque said the bodies were sent to Naogaon Sadar Hospital morgue.

50 years without a concrete bridge!

UNB, Narail

Residents of three unions in Narail Sadar upazila have not had a concrete bridge over the Kajla river in 50 years.

The residents of Mulia, Sheikhhati and Tularampur villages have to use boats to cross the 80-metre wide river to go to their respective destinations including Mulia Bazar and Narail district town every day.

Children, women and elderly people have to face immense sufferings while crossing the river.

Though the local representatives have pledged to build a concrete bridge on the river several times, no visible initiative has been taken yet.

Sujit Biswas, a resident of Mulia

village, said, "The distance from Mulia Bazar to Narail town is only five kilometres, but due to absence of a bridge, we have to travel 15-16 km more to reach the town. I don't understand why the bridge is not being constructed despite repeated assurances from the authorities concerned."

Romo Sheel, a resident of Debbhog village, said, "We have seen our ancestors crossing the river by boat and now we are doing the same. Who knows when this suffering will end."

Ramesh Saha, another resident of Debbhog village, said patients are the worst sufferers as they have to wait for a long time to cross the river.

A number of pregnant women died

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Woman found dead in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the hanging body of a woman from a hotel in Cox's Bazar town on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Jasmine Akhter, 25, of Joariyanala area of Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila, said police quoting the hotel's register book.

However, it could not be confirmed whether the victim's identity and address were true, said Mizanur Rahman, additional superintendent of police.

"On information, we recovered the body at around 11:00pm on Tuesday from the room no. 202 of Hotel Sea Gazipur. We suspect it was a suicide. Further investigation is underway to determine the cause of this death," he said.

Abdul Jabbar, a hotel employee, said the woman came with the hotel's security staff Forkan Ahmed on Monday afternoon. But she boarded on the room alone.

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45

JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:17 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

স্মারক সংখ্যাঃ ৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০২.২৭১৯.২০১৯-৮০১

তারিখঃ ২৯ ভাদ্র ১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ
১৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (যান্ত্রিক) পদে ১৪.০৯.২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ পরিবর্তিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী গ্রহণ করা হবেঃ

| ক্র. নং | পদ নাম | মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্দিষ্ট প্রার্থীদের রোল নামাধারসমূহ | | | | তারিখ ও সময় | স্থান |
|---------|-----------------------------|---|----------|----------|----------|--------------|---|
| ১। | সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (যান্ত্রিক) | ১৫০০০০১ | ১৫০০০০৬৯ | ১৫০০০০৭৫ | ১৫০০০০৮০ | ১৫০০০০৯৪ | ১৭.০৯.২০২৩খ্রিঃ রোজ ববিবার বিকাল ৩:০০মিঃ ভবন, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন |

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

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

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

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

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

স্বাক্ষরিত
১৩.০৯.২০২৩
আকরা মুজাম্মান
সচিব
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/৭১/২০২৩-২০২৪
জিডি-১৪১৪

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)
Gazipur-1703

International e-Tender

International e-Tenders are invited in 'The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd. (SPCBL)'s e-Tender site (<https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>) for procurement of the following items for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule. Necessary information is given below:

| SI No. | Tender No. | Name of the item | Date of publish | Last date and time for submission of e-Tender | Date & time for opening of e-Tender |
|--------|------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 01 | 06/2023-24 | Supply of 5,220 Reams Coated Gummed Paper with UV Fibres. | 14.09.2023 | 19.10.2023 up to 11:00am | 19.10.2023 at 11:15am |
| 02 | 07/2023-24 | Supply of 85,500 reams Non-judicial Stamp paper | 14.09.2023 | 19.10.2023 up to 11:00am | 19.10.2023 at 11:15am |

For more details, please visit/contact the followings:

Website : www.spcbl.org.bd

Cell No. : 01885512923, 01534002184

Telephone : +88-02-996695110-15

Fax : +88-02-996695772-3

E-mail : info@spcbl.org.bd

e-Tender site : <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>

Rashid Ahmed
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)
Phone: +88-02-996695103
E-mail: info@spcbl.org.bd

GD-1410

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
Administration Division
HQ. Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229

Invitation for Tender

File No: 30.31.0000.211.32.982.23-202(1) Date: 11/09/2023

| | 1 Ministry/Division | Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism |
|---|---|--|
| 2 Agency | Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB). | |
| 3 Procuring Entity Name | Director (Administration). | |
| 4 Procuring Entity District | Dhaka. | |
| 5 Invitation for | Showcasing Smart Bangladesh for 58 th DGCA Conference-2023 | |
| 6 Invitation Ref No | File No-30.31.0000.211.32.992.23-152, Date: 10/09/2023 | |
| 7 Procurement Method | Procurement of Non-Consulting Services. | |
| 8 Budget and Source of Funds | CAAB's own Fund | |
| 9 Tender No. | Admin-15/2023-2024 | |
| 10 Tender Publication Date | 11/09/2023 | |
| 11 Tender Last Selling Date and Time | 26/09/2023, 12:00 PM | |
| 12 Tender Closing Date and Time | 27/09/2023 11:00 AM | |
| 13 Tender Opening Date and Time | 27/09/2023 11:40 AM | |
| 14 Tender Document Selling Office address | Cash Section of Director (Finance), CAAB HQ, Dhaka. | |
| 15 Receiving Tender Document | Director (Admin).CAAB, H.Q, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229. | |
| 16 Opening Tender Document | Director (Admin).CAAB, H.Q, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229. | |

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

17 Eligibility of Tenderer (Documented evidence must be submitted)

i. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor/Management Contractor shall be 05 (Five) years. [Relevant Document must be submitted]

ii. The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least One Contract of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed over a period of 05 (Five) years each with a value of at least Tk. 44,00,000/- (Forty Four Lac) shall be required. [Relevant Document must be submitted]

iii. The required average annual turnover of the Tenderer shall be at least of the amount of Tk. 31,00,000/- (Thirty One Lac) in the last 3(three) years. (Relevant document from Bank to be submitted) [Statement(s) of Receipts, from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh, issued not earlier than twenty eight (28) days prior to the day of the original deadline for submission of Tenders].

iv. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 64,00,000/- (Sixty Four Lac) (Document must be submitted as per Form PSN-5).

18 Price of Tender Document (Tk)

2000.00 (Two Thousand Taka only) Non-refundable (15% VAT)

19 Tender Security Amount

The amount of the Tender Security shall be Tk. 2,00,000/- (Two Lac) from any schedule bank of Bangladesh as pay order/Bank draft (refundable) In favour of Chairman, CAAB.

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

নং-৩০.৩১.০০০০.০৫১.০৬.০০১.২৩ / ৪৩৫
তারিখঃ ১২ / ০৯ / ২০২৩ খ্রিঃ
সাইজ :- (৮ ইঞ্চি X ৪ কলাম.)Director (Admin)
CAAB, H.Q. Kurmitola, Dhaka.

GD-1409

এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগ্‌স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা
ঢাকা- ১২০৮

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিম্নোক্ত আইটেমগুলি প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করছেঃ-

| ক্রমিক নং | দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ | বিবরণ | পরিমাণ |
|-----------|---|--|-----------|
| ০১। | ইডিসিএল/ক্রয়/লোকাল/টেভার/২০২৩/৩৪৭ তারিখঃ ১৩/০৯/২০২৩ইং | Reagent for Gopalgonj (সিডিউল মোতাবেক) | ৬৩ প্রকার |

| সিকিউরিটি/ আর্নেট মানি | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতখ্যাপ্য) | দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ২.৫% | টাকা ৭৫০.০০ প্রতি সেট | ২৫/০৯/২০২৩ইং বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা | ২৫/০৯/২০২৩ইং বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা |

সকল কার্যবিবরণে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে।
উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভাট্টা রেজিস্ট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।
দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
প্রকিউরমেন্ট
পক্ষেঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

সাইজ- ৪" x ৪ কলাম

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Upazila: Sarishabari, District: Jamalpur
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.3985.000.14.001.2022-762 Date: 13/09/2023

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2023-2024
Open Tendering Method (OTM)

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

| SI No. | Tender ID No. | Package No. | Name of works | Type | Tender document last selling date & time | Tender proposal closing date & time | Tender opening (date and time) |
|--------|---------------|--------------------|--|-------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 870384 | EDC/JAM/SHA/W1.151 | Vertical Extension of 4 th Floor at Sarishabari Upazila Complex Administrative Extension Building under EDC Project Upazila: Sarishabari, District: Jamalpur. | Works | 01-Oct-2023 16:00pm | 02-Oct-2023 13:00pm | 02-Oct-2023 13:00pm |

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 branch up to 01-Oct-2023, Time 15:00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Zahidul Islam
Upazila Engineer
Sarishabari, Jamalpur
Email: ue.sarishabari@lged.gov.bd

GD-1408

Mehazabien steadfast after HAT-TRICK AWARDS

SHARMIN JOYA



The ‘Sabrina’ famed actress emphasised the fact that it is a positive sign that OTT arena is focusing on women-centric plots, however, silver screens need to take the attempt as well. “Audiences play a great role here, if they want to see quality work, they have to support when one of such kind is made.”

“Receiving any award is a token of appreciation from both audience and critics,” shared an excited Mehazabien Chowdhury, who recently took home three awards in just 24 hours.

She was recognised as the Best Actress in Meril Prothom Alo Awards, Channel i Digital Media Awards and Babisa Award (Bangladesh Binodon Shangbadik Shomity)—all for her stellar performance as Rokeya in Vicky Zahed’s *Punorjonmo* series.

“Rokeya is one of the most challenging and popular characters I have donned,” she said. “In the last three years, wherever I went, be it in or outside the country, people kept asking me about the next instalment,” quipped the actress, who added that she has never experienced this much hype for any other project.

Yet, Mehazabien’s personal favourite character is Tithi from *Chirokal Aaj*, which will always remain her personal favourite. “Tithi was the most difficult character I have played in my career,” asserted the actress.

Each individual artiste practices differently to prepare for their role. How does Mehazabien prepare? In response, the *Redrum* actress said, “For me, rehearsal is very important to get comfortable with the characters I am sharing the screen with, she shared. “Watching other people’s work personally helps me develop my acting skills. Also, travelling to different places, meeting new people and experiencing different cultures also leaves an impact. Thus, for me, travelling is also a way of learning.”

The television industry is going through a tough time as leading actors, such as Afran Nisho, Apurba and Mehazabien, have been busy with OTT and big screen projects. There are concerns about who will fill the void. “We have to be patient -- those who have moved to another medium should appreciate it, as it is for the betterment for our industry,” said Mehazabien. “Also, these names did not become popular overnight, they had to wait for over decades to reach this place. Let’s not rush, there are lot of potential faces who will take lead soon.”

The *Sabrina* famed actress emphasised the fact that it is a positive sign that OTT arena is focusing on women-centric plots, however, silver screens need to take the attempt as well. “Audiences play a great role here, if they want to see quality work, they have to support when one of such kind is made.”

Mehazabien also highlighted that gender discrimination is not only limited to the screens. “We are aware about male artistes getting more remuneration than women. If we look into international industries, I can mention examples where a male artiste left the project because his female co-actor was not being paid the equal wage. Thus, from the audience to producers, directors, and artistes-- all are associated with one another.”

Is that the reason why Mehazabien Chowdhury is yet to take on films? To that, she replied, “If people remember me through my roles, that will be enough for me. The medium is not that important, I am open to working in any medium as long as I get such role which I cannot say no to. If I need to wait, I don’t mind waiting for another ten years,” she concluded.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



‘Sholay’ actor Birbal, who worked in over 500 films, no more

Veteran actor Satinder Kumar Khosla, who was famously known as Birbal, passed away on Tuesday evening. According to Indian media, he breathed his last at a hospital in Mumbai. He was in his eighties at the time of his demise.

Jugnu, a close friend of Satinder, confirmed his passing to an agency.

Satinder is most renowned for his comedic roles. His unique appearance, characterised by a bald head and a thick mustache, made him easily recognisable. He collaborated in various films with Manoj Kumar, including *Upkar*, *Roti Kapda Aur Makaana*, and *Kranti*.

Pori Moni starrer ‘Maa’ to screen in UK



Aranyo Anawer’s *Maa* will be screened at the Relaks Radio Auditorium in London on September 16 and 17.

Previously, the film was showcased at 76th Cannes Film Festival, under the festival’s ‘marché du film’ (film market) category at the Palais de Festivals of Cannes theatre.

Yesterday, Aranyo Anawer announced the news at the Sommilito Sahitya O Sangskritik Parishad at The Art Pavilion in London.

Pori Moni starrer *Maa* was released in cinema halls on May 16. The film revolves around a woman called, Beena, who survived the Liberation War, while taking care of her six-month-old baby.

NEWS

JS passes it amid strong protests

FROM PAGE 1

Mukabbir said with this law, someone can be easily harassed.

“I can easily imagine how much this law is a threat to journalists,” he said, adding that this law is one of the most effective tools to suppress dissent, criticism, and free thought.

He said over the last four and a half years, the DSA has only been used for suppressing free thought and criticism of the government or the ruling party. And the journalists suffered the most. Their freedom of expression has been severely curtailed. This act empowers the police to enter homes and search and arrest people without warrants.

JP MP Fakhrul Imam said some amendments have been made, but journalists said that they are not satisfied. Freedom of speech, freedom of thought, and freedom of the press are ensured by the constitution. Any law against freedom of speech would be unconstitutional.

JP lawmaker Pir Fazlur Rahman said the DSA was controversial. But this new law too will stand in the way of free journalism and expression.

“Section 42 of this act provides the power [to law enforcers] to arrest without warrant. The act required special protection for journalists. There was scope to get the Press Council involved,” he added.

JP MP Shameem Haider Patwari said the constitution ensures freedom of thought, the press, and speech. Therefore, such a law is unconstitutional.

The new law kept the definition of

the offences the same as in the DSA. This law will lead to the media self-censoring more.

JP lawmaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said many have objected to section 42. All illegal sections including this one need to be removed.

Mujibul Haque, another lawmaker of the party, said journalists take up the pen for the country. There was an opportunity to involve the Press Council.

State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed said freedom of thought and freedom of expression are recognised by the constitution, but they are not unrestricted. The freedom does not allow violation of the rights of others.

He said the DSA was enacted in 2018 as it was required then. Now the cyber security law is being enacted because it is required now. There is no alternative to the Cyber Security Act to build a transparent, accountable, and secure “Smart Bangladesh”.

The bill was passed by a voice vote. **WHAT’S IN THE LAW**

The bill was placed in parliament for passing yesterday keeping offences under sections 17, 19, 27 and 33 as non-bailable. The offences are related to intrusion into key information infrastructure, damaging computers and computer systems, cyber terrorism, and hacking.

In the DSA, sections 18 (1) (b), 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 46 were non-bailable, but the new law makes them bailable.

Trials of the cases already filed under the DSA will continue under the act.

I’ll work to stamp out graft: CJ

FROM PAGE 1

media persons and will share views with them in order to reduce the backlog of cases ... and ensure justice for all,” said Justice Obaidul Hassan.

He said the backlog of cases would be reduced, corruption would be eradicated, and people’s faith in the judiciary would be deepened if all concerned work sincerely and perform their duties properly.

The new chief justice said he would talk to the media for the interest of the judiciary and for the development of the judicial system.

“The media is the mirror of the society. I need to talk to media persons on different issues,” he said.

Earlier in the day, Justice Obaidul Hassan told reporters at his SC office that lawyers with political affiliations must be more patient.

“I don’t think that the judiciary is being used politically. The judges are doing their duties. I want to tell my lawyer friends who are involved in politics to be patient on the court premises and respectful of each other. And if it is done, the heat of politics will not touch the judiciary.”

He said the alternative dispute resolution and mediation system should be used and some laws should be updated so that more cases could be disposed of and the backlog of cases could be reduced.

“I will not say that there is no lack of faith in the judiciary. But it has not come to this due only to the judges. There are some other factors,” said Justice Obaidul Hassan.

Global crisis won’t affect

FROM PAGE 12

Hasina, also leader of the House, said there is a crisis in the global supply chain for different commodities, including food, following the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

She said, “Amid this situation, the government has regularly been taking various steps at the national and international levels to ensure food security.”

The premier said Bangladesh has now become a role model on the global stage in the case of food security.

Hasina said the country’s food grain production was 328.96 lakh tonnes in 2008-09 fiscal year, which went up to 477.68 lakh tonnes in 2022-23 fiscal year.

1971 Genocide

Efforts to continue for recognition of the 1971 genocide, she said while responding to a query from AL lawmaker Anwer Hossain Khan from Laxmipur-1.

The PM said many countries demanded the recognition of genocide committed in their countries as International Genocide Day.

Later, the United Nations General Assembly on September 11, 2015, adopted a resolution through discussion to observe December 9 as the International Day for the Prevention of Genocide.

“Since December 9 has been observed as the International Day

for the Prevention of Genocide, the proposal to observe another international day on the same issue would not be rational,” she said.

She, however, said the foreign ministry, the Liberation War affairs ministry, the Liberation War Museum, and some members of the martyrs’ families are making efforts to get international recognition of the genocide that took place in Bangladesh in 1971.

The head of government said individuals and organisations working on genocide are also trying to get recognition of the genocide.

HIGHWAYS, BRIDGES

Responding to a question from Jatiya Party MP Hafiz Uddin Ahmed from Thakurgaon-3, the PM informed the House that around 854km of highways have been upgraded to four-lane, around 11,434km of highways was developed, while construction of 1,131 bridges (123,254m) have been completed through 431 projects under the Roads and Highways Department from 2009 to 2023.

In the current financial year, she said work is underway to upgrade some 574km of highways to four-lane, develop 4,634km of highways and construct 750 bridges (64,844m) under 131 projects.

The overall proposed investment in the economic zones has now reached \$26 billion, Hasina said while replying to a query from AL lawmaker Md Mamunur Rashid Kiron from Noakhali-3.

Take action against DC

FROM PAGE 12

Following the incident, the EC said as the 12th national election is nearing, officials of the administration should behave impartially, reflecting the meaning and underlying spirit of the constitution.

In the letter, the EC also said this is evident in different laws and articles, including those of 120 and 126 in the constitution and those of 5 and 91 (c) in the Representation of the People Order, and that the EC has jurisdiction over elections not only after announcement of the polls schedule but also at all times.

According to the letter, deputy commissioners usually perform

election duties as returning officers and carry out important duties to maintain law and order as district magistrates during elections.

“In such a situation, people should keep their faith intact in the government, democracy, the election system, and the Election Commission. It would be appropriate to withdraw Md Imran Ahmed from the duties of deputy commissioner and abstain him from any election-related duties in the next parliamentary election subject to verification of the incident,” it read.

At the same time, it is necessary to warn deputy commissioners of such comments, the EC noted in the letter.

Filmmaker Sohanoor no more

FROM PAGE 12

after his death news broke out, as stars like Shakib Khan, Moushumi, Emon Saha, Shahriar Nazim Joy, among many others, expressed condolences on social media.

“I don’t know what to say,” wrote Shakib.

“We talked just a few days ago. Some of you might not know this, but he gave me the name ‘Shakib Khan’.”

Sohan was born in Sylhet in 1966. He started his career as an assistant director to Shibli Sadiq in

1977. His first directorial film was named “Biswas Obiswas” in 1988, but he truly broke new ground after making “Keyamot Theke Keyamot” in 1993, starring Salman Shah and Moushumi.

Some of his notable works are “Amar Desh Amar Prem”, “Swajan”, “Amar Ghor Amar Behesta”, “Ananta Bhalobasha”, “Shami Chintai”, “Amar Jaan Amar Pran”, “Poran Joliya Jay Re”, “Koti Takar Prem”, “She Amar Mon Kereche” and “Lobhe Paap Paape Mrittu”.

Having served as the president of the Bangladesh Film Director’s Association and a member of the Bangladesh Film Censor Board, he was a highly respected name in the country’s film industry.

He was the reason that stars like Salman Shah, Shakib, Moushumi and Agun, among many others, became a household name in the industry.

Sohan’s body was taken to Tangail, his wife’s home town, last night. He will be laid to rest today beside her grave.

FLOOD DISASTER

Fears mount of surging death toll in Libya

REUTERS, Near Derna

Bodies were washing ashore in eastern Libya yesterday, swelling the death toll from a storm that swept whole neighbourhoods out to sea, with thousands already confirmed dead and many thousands more still missing.

The flood torrent, unleashed by a powerful storm on Sunday night that burst dams, obliterated around a quarter or the Mediterranean city of Derna. Whole multi-storey buildings were swept away with sleeping families inside.

The "sea is constantly dumping dozens of bodies", Hichem Abu Chkiouat, minister of civil aviation in the administration that runs eastern Libya, said. "We have counted more than 5,300 dead so far, and the number is likely to increase significantly and may even double because the number of missing people is also thousands," he added.

Tens of thousands of people had been made homeless, he said, adding that Libya did not have the experience to deal with the aftermath of such a disaster.

VIETNAM APARTMENT

Fire kills 56 people, 37 hurt

REUTERS, Hanoi

A fire at an apartment block in Vietnam's Hanoi has killed 56 people, among them children, and injured 37, police said yesterday.

The fire broke out during the night in a nine-storey building, home to about 150 residents, according to the official Vietnam News Agency, which said the blaze was contained by 2:00 am.

Television images showed firefighters equipped with hoses and ladders at the scene by night, while a column of thick, dark smoke billowed from the building by day.

Several of the victims were admitted to local hospitals with multiple injuries after having jumped from their windows to escape the fire, state media said, citing Vu Hoang Phuong of Hanoi Medical University Hospital.



In this pool photo distributed by Sputnik agency, Russia's President Vladimir Putin and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un visit the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Amur region, Russia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia will win against 'evil' in Ukraine

N Korea's Kim tells Putin; leaders discuss military matters, satellites

REUTERS, Vladivostok

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un yesterday told Russian President Vladimir Putin via a translator that he was sure that the Russian army and people would triumph against "evil", in what he cast as the West's imperialism in the war in Ukraine.

Before proposing a toast to Putin's health, the victory of "great Russia", Korean-Russian friendship and the health of all those present, Kim said he was confident Russia would win in what Moscow calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

"I am deeply convinced that the heroic Russian army and people will brilliantly inherit the tradition of victory, confidently demonstrate invaluable dignity and honour on the fronts of the special military operation," Kim said via a translator before raising a glass of wine.

"The Russian army and people will certainly win a great victory in the sacred struggle for the punishment of a great evil that claims hegemony and feeds an expansionist illusion," Kim added.

Both leaders discussed military matters, the war in Ukraine and possible Russian help for the secretive Communist state's satellite programme, according to Kremlin reporters.

At the opening of the meeting with Putin at the gleaming new space station, Kim said it was North Korea's unwavering position to further develop its traditional friendship and ties with Russia.

Putin said Russia would help North Korea launch satellites.

US and South Korean officials have expressed concern that Kim would provide weapons to Russia, which has expended vast stocks in more than 18 months of war in Ukraine. Moscow and Pyongyang have denied such intentions.

The choice to meet at Vostochny Cosmodrome was notable, as North Korea twice failed to launch reconnaissance satellites in the past four months.

Shortly before the summit, North Korea launched two short-range ballistic missiles from an area near Pyongyang, into the sea off its east coast.

DEADLY NIPAH VIRUS

Kerala shuts schools, offices

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's southern state of Kerala shut some schools, offices and public transport yesterday in a race to stop the spread of the rare and deadly Nipah virus, which has killed two people. An adult and a child were still infected in hospital, and more than 130 people have been tested for the virus, spread via contact with the bodily fluids of infected bats, pigs or people, a state health official said. "We are focusing on tracing contacts of infected persons early and isolating anyone with symptoms," said the state's Health Minister Veena George, who told reporters the virus detected in Kerala was the Bangladesh variant, which spreads from human to human with a high mortality rate but has a history of being less infectious. "Public movement has been restricted in parts of the state to contain the medical crisis," she said. Two infected people have died since August 30 in the state's fourth outbreak of the virus since 2018, forcing authorities to declare containment zones in at least seven villages in the district of Kozhikode. Strict isolation rules have been adopted, with medical staff being quarantined after contact with the infected. The first victim was a small landholder growing bananas and areca nuts in the district's village of Marutonkara, said a government official.

STATE SECRETS CASE

Imran Khan's jail remand extended

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan's jail detention related to charges of leaking state secrets was extended for another two weeks, his lawyer said yesterday.

The latest extension of the remand order will keep Khan in jail until September 26, lawyer Naeem Panjutha said in a post on X messaging platform. In the state secrets case, Khan is charged with making public contents of a confidential cable sent by Pakistan's ambassador to the United States and using it for political gain, according to a Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) document seen by Reuters.



Rescue workers carry a body recovered from the rubble of an earthquake-damaged house in Imi N'Tala village near Amizmiz, Morocco yesterday. The 6.8 magnitude quake that struck the High Atlas Mountains late on Friday killed at least 2,901 people and injured 5,530, according to the latest official figures.

PHOTO: AFP

China unveils 'blueprint' for Taiwan integration

CNN ONLINE

China on Tuesday unveiled a plan to deepen integration between the coastal province of Fujian and self-governing Taiwan, touting the benefits of closer cross-strait cooperation while sending warships around the island in a show of military might.

The directive, issued jointly by the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee and the State Council, vows to make Fujian a "demonstration zone" for integrated development with Taiwan, and the "first home" for Taiwanese residents and businesses to settle in China.

The document, hailed as a "blueprint" of Taiwan's future development by Chinese experts cited in state media, comes at a delicate moment in cross-strait relations as Taiwan gears up for its presidential election in January.

It also comes as China continues to ramp up military pressure on Taiwan, a vibrant democracy of 24 million people that Beijing's ruling Communist Party



claims as its territory — despite never having controlled it.

Ahead of Beijing's release of its integration plan, a Chinese aircraft carrier and around two dozen Chinese warships were spotted gathering in waters near Taiwan this week, according to Taiwanese authorities.

China has long taken a carrot and stick approach to Taiwan, threatening it with the prospect of military invasion while offering opportunities for business and cultural exchanges to those it believes are more amenable to Beijing's point of view.

Given the extent to which cross-strait ties have frayed in recent years, it remains unclear how receptive those in Taiwan will be to China's sweeping proposal.

Yesterday, Wang Ting-yu, a Taiwanese lawmaker from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, said the integration plan was "ridiculous."

"China should think about how it can take care of its bad debts, but not how it can conduct united front work against Taiwan," Wang said.

INDIA'S J&K

Army officers, cop killed in gunfight with terrorists

NDTV ONLINE

A colonel, a major of a Rashtriya Rifles unit of the army and a deputy superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police were killed in action during an encounter with terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said.

Colonel Manpreet Singh, Major Aashish Dhonchak and Deputy Superintendent of Police Himanyun Muzamil Bhat were killed in action during the gunfight. Colonel Manpreet Singh was the commanding officer of the 19 Rashtriya Rifles (19 RR) unit.

Rashtriya Rifles is the counter-insurgency force of the army that operates in Jammu and Kashmir.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা

Website: www.police.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.৪৩১.৩৬.০০২.২০২৩-২২৮৫

তারিখঃ ১৩ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩খ্রিঃ

অকেজো যানবাহন নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা'র অকেজো ঘোষিত বিভিন্ন ধরনের ০৩টি যানবাহন (সিঙ্গেল কেবিন-০১টি, জীপ-০১টি, কার-০১টি) 'যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে' নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিক, অগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট থেকে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। সিডিউলে বর্ণিত একটি অথবা একাধিক অথবা সকল গাড়ী ক্রয়ের জন্য দরপ্রস্তাব দাখিল করা যাবে।

অকেজো ঘোষিত গাড়ীর দরপত্র বিক্রয়, দাখিলের শেষ সময়, দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার সময় ও স্থান নিম্নরূপঃ

| ক্রমিক | অকেজো ঘোষিত গাড়ীর টেন্ডারের বিবরণ | দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | দরপত্র সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী ও গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা | দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান |
|--------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|
| ০১. | ১ম রাউন্ড | ০২/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১৬:০০ ঘটিকা | ০৩/১০/২০২৩ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা | এআইজি (এমটি অ্যান্ড ওয়ার্কশপ) বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা | ০৩/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সময় ১২:৩০ ঘঃ এআইজি (এমটি অ্যান্ড ওয়ার্কশপ) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা'র অফিস কক্ষ। |
| ০২. | ২য় রাউন্ড | ১৭/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১৬:০০ ঘটিকা | ১৮/১০/২০২৩ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা | ঐ | ১৮/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সময় ১২:৩০ ঘঃ এআইজি (এমটি অ্যান্ড ওয়ার্কশপ) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা'র অফিস কক্ষ। |
| ০৩. | ৩য় রাউন্ড | ৩১/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ ১৬:০০ ঘটিকা | ০১/১১/২০২৩ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা | ঐ | ০১/১১/২০২৩খ্রিঃ সময় ১২:৩০ ঘঃ এআইজি (এমটি অ্যান্ড ওয়ার্কশপ) পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা'র অফিস কক্ষ। |

দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ

০১। দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় ব্যতীত কোন দরপত্র/দরপত্র সিডিউলের ফটোকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

০২। সিডিউল মূল্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

০৩। বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

০৪। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত সকল অকেজো গাড়ী বিক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন না হওয়া পর্যন্ত টেন্ডার সূচি মোতাবেক টেন্ডার প্রক্রিয়া চলবে।

০৫। প্রথম তারিখের টেন্ডারে অবিক্রয়কৃত গাড়ী পরবর্তী তারিখের টেন্ডারে বিক্রয় করা হবে।

০৬। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

মোঃ আবু হাসান, বিপিএম-সেবা

বিপি-৭৫০৫১০৯০২১

এআইজি (এমটি অ্যান্ড ওয়ার্কশপ)

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা

ফোন নং-০২৫৫১০৭০৮

E-mail: aigmt_w@police.gov.bd

GD-1407

Punish dishonest poultry farms

Cases filed against them by the BCC must be disposed of quickly

It is encouraging to know that the Bangladesh Competition Commission (BCC) has filed cases against 10 poultry-related farms and organisations who, in collusion with each other, allegedly manipulated the egg market last month. As per primary findings, these companies increased the prices of their products by creating an artificial crisis and thereby destabilised the market. If they are found guilty under Section 15 of the Competition Act, 2012, they could be fined up to 10 percent of their three-year average turnover. All this is good news, and we hope the BCC will be able to bring these farms under some sort of accountability.

One may recall that, in August, the prices of a dozen (farmed brown) eggs shot up to Tk 180 from Tk 145 – an unprecedented hike. The TCB tells us that egg prices have increased 18.39 percent over a year. At a time when the high prices of other daily essentials were already putting many families into financial hardship, the sudden hike in egg prices came as a double blow for them. People who were mostly relying on this item as their daily source of protein had to cut down on consumption, or stopped buying it altogether. The prices only dropped after the Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection raided the markets to stop hoarders.

But the market remains unstable. Although currently a dozen eggs are being sold at Tk 150 at the retail level – which is quite high compared to a year ago – errant traders may raise prices again in the absence of proper monitoring by the relevant authorities. That is why, it is essential to take action against the actors responsible for manipulating prices which will also deter future perpetrators.

The BCC, which operates under the commerce ministry, is empowered by the Competition Act to probe and punish errant companies for violating relevant rules. It can also dispose of cases without going to a court. Therefore, nothing should stop it from holding dishonest traders – those orchestrating the price hike crisis in case of eggs and other essentials – accountable, and bringing some much-needed order in the market. It should also expedite the proceedings of pending cases it had filed against the companies last year. In other words, the BCC has the absolute power in this regard, which it must enforce. The goal should be to ensure that consumers’ interests are protected at all costs.

Dialogue vital to resolve differences

Ongoing uncertainties and undemocratic overtures a threat to people’s rights

Amid all the speculations and finger-pointing over “foreign interference” ahead of the next parliamentary election, it is imperative, now more than ever, that the thrust for building a reliable and sustainable system of holding elections comes from within – i.e. politicians themselves. We cannot be endlessly experimenting with the electoral system, or be held back by fear and uncertainties every time there is an election around the corner. This is a historic challenge, given how we have failed to build a reliable system even after 52 years of independence. And there is not much time left, with the election scheduled to be held mere months later.

Experts, at a recent event, have again reminded us how dialogue, between our political parties, still holds the key to any success in not only resolving their differences and holding a fair and inclusive election come January, but also in “fixing” our electoral system for good – so it can be immune to any internal or external pressures. Therefore, they must give dialogue a chance, and public interests rather than party interests must be the basis for said dialogue. Naturally, the first step in that direction should come from the party in power. It is only through such efforts that vital issues that currently remain unresolved, ranging from the nature of poll-time government to the role of institutions responsible for elections, can be solved. The resurgence of violence is another concern that one hopes such dialogues will help resolve.

As a recent survey has demonstrated, an overwhelming majority of our people (91 percent) still believe in democracy, despite the repeated failures of our democratic institutions. They still deeply care about their fundamental human, civil, and political rights. A fair election is a gateway to the realisation of these lofty goals of democracy. We urge politicians to take note of the aspirations of ordinary people, who, as things stand, have been deprived of their right to vote in a fair and peaceful environment for too long. Politicians must give them their voice back, and encourage them to get back to the polling booths.

New Message

To

Subject

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

Write to us: letters@thedailystar.net

The true purpose of literacy



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at Brac University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), and adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MANZOOR AHMED

On the UN-declared International Literacy Day observed on September 8, attention is turned to the status and progress of literacy rate, and platitudes are repeated. It does not leave the public and even policymakers much wiser about what should the aim of literacy be and how the aim may be reached. Attaining 100 percent literacy rate is pronounced by officials as the goal and a slow yearly progress in that direction is mentioned. What the hundred percent marker would really mean and what difference it would make in people's lives and for society remain fuzzy.

Per the official numbers revealed by the Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2022 of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), we have 74.4 percent literates among those aged 15 years and above. This is the age range used internationally for adult education rate. The comparable rate was 35.3 percent in 1991. These numbers suggest that the country's literacy rate has more than doubled in three decades.

The education authorities like to announce rates for other age ranges that seem to suggest a better performance in literacy. For example, the 2022 rate is claimed to be 76.8 percent for people aged seven and above. This number presumably includes the outcome of expanded primary education opportunities for children.

Brazilian educator Paulo Freire had famously said literacy was about reading the world, not just the word. Since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognised the right to basic education for all, the definition of literacy has evolved from mere “knowledge of the alphabet” to functional skills and conditions for use of the skills for realising one's human potential.

Literacy as a foundational skill for children's education is expected to be acquired in primary school. Youth and adults who miss out on primary education, as is the case in developing countries, need to be provided the means for catching up with the missed learning opportunities through alternatives such as adult education, life and livelihood skills development, and non-formal programmes. Worldwide experience has established that quality primary education that enables children to acquire literacy and numeracy skills is the best way to tackle in a generation (a duration of some three decades) the problem of illiteracy in the population. Experience has also shown that campaign-style short-duration “alphabetisation”



FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The current objectives and method of implementing literacy projects in Bangladesh don't seem to be working.

projects do not produce the desired outcome of literate adults who can acquire skills useful in their lives and continue further learning. Literacy for youth and adults have to be woven into meaningful learning opportunities relevant to their lives and work in a flexible and learner-friendly way.

On both fronts – quality primary education for children and flexible non-formal learning with literacy as a component for youth and adults – we have not yet managed to achieve the intended results. The National Learning Assessment carried out under the Directorate of Primary Education auspices has shown that the majority of children completing five years of primary education do not acquire functional competencies in reading and writing in Bangla and the four functions of arithmetic at a basic level. Since the 1990s, at least nine literacy projects have been carried out reaching a relatively small fraction of the potential youth and adult learners, and a tenth project was suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic. Education Watch studies and other educators have noted that these projects have been carried out as mechanical, “one size fits all” activities.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that these activities were carried out by the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) exactly the way a meaningful and result-focused programme for youth and adults should not have been conducted – in respect of content, duration, teaching method, learning assessment,

management and accountability. The content was focused on the mechanics of literacy, rather than relevant life and livelihood skills, with a uniform duration of six months for all, treating learners as children (rather than following andragogy principles for adult learning), and poor monitoring and accountability. The credibility and significance of literacy rates become

be more flexible and responsive to the learners' needs and circumstances than a government agency with its bureaucratic constraints and culture. An appropriate partnership model between the government and NGOs and community based organisations have not developed in the country. What we have now is contracts given to select NGOs for government-

questionable when seen in the light of primary education outcomes and the character of the literacy projects undertaken so far.

In a slight nod to the idea of meaningful literacy skills, BBS published the results of a survey on functional literacy skills in July this year. The functional literacy rate for seven-plus years in Bangladesh was found to be 62.92 percent. It was 60.77 percent for the internationally comparable 15-plus age range. The rates were determined by administering a literacy test calibrated to four varying levels of skills on a sample population. The four levels were: non-literate; familiarity with letters and ability to read some words; ability to read simple sentences; and ability at a more advanced level. Performers in the last two categories were considered functionally literate. The methodology and tools were developed by Education Watch for its literacy study in 2002 and also applied in Education Watch Report 2016. The reports found that the functionally literate adult population in Bangladesh was just over half of the population officially considered to be literate in the respective years. The BBS was urged to follow the “tested literacy” approach in reporting national literacy statistics, even if many developing countries do not do so.

Experience in Bangladesh and in other countries indicate that effective adult and non-formal learning are better undertaken by capable and dedicated NGOs, which are likely to

designated tasks.

BNFE Director Nuruzzaman Sharif said a five-year programme titled Non-Formal Education Development Programme (NFEDP) was being devised with the aim to cut illiteracy significantly. It is difficult to take this as good news for two reasons. First, a team of national experts worked on a comprehensive NFEDP in 2017-18 at the BNFE's behest, taking into account challenges and potentials as mentioned above. Decision-makers at the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education found it too radical for their taste, and it was shelved. Meanwhile, there have been frequent changes in the position of BNFE director-general, which is reserved for administrative cadre senior officers as a way station to other, more desirable postings. None of them has taken a serious interest or a lead in the proposed programme. Second, if there is an interest in the NFEDP mainly “to cut illiteracy rate,” then it betrays the purpose of meaningful literacy as a component of non-formal education and lifelong learning.

According to media reports, the secretary for primary and mass education, Farid Ahmed, said the government was no longer interested in implementing projects through NGOs. I would like to hope this means he admits that the current objectives and method of implementing literacy projects are not working, and a new partnership approach with NGOs will be followed to achieve the true purposes of literacy.

The modern dilemma of marital surnames



Tasnim Odrika is a biochemist and a writer. She can be reached at odrika02@gmail.com

TASNIM ODRIKA

Some time ago, while scrolling through my news feed, I came across someone I had been following for many years. But I couldn't recognise her name – at least not her last name. Then it struck me that she had recently gotten married, and therefore must have taken her husband's name. This person is someone I have observed over the years to have progressive views on most worldly topics, and hence, I felt a slight discomfort seeing her identity changed. Over the next few months though, I became accustomed to knowing her by her new name. Now I even find myself struggling to recall her maiden surname.

A wife taking her husband's name after marriage is a tradition – initially being a requirement by law in many cultures – that can be traced back to the historical practice of transferring property upon marriage. In the past, women transitioned from being members of their parents' family to being identified as part of their husbands' ownership, according to Laurie Scheuble, a sociologist at Pennsylvania State University. They would hence give up their father's

surname and adopt their husband's.

Now, whether this is just a tradition that one still follows for the sake of it, or a harmful remnant of the past that has become so deeply embedded in our society that we don't even seem to question it, is an open debate. The historical root of this convention, though, is based on the concept of marriage as a transaction involving the exchange of women for goods. The practice of adopting the husband's surname upon marriage reflects societal and cultural beliefs about women's lives, seen as dependent and interconnected. Consequently, women carry labels that signify their affiliation either with their fathers or their husbands. In contrast, men generally retain their names throughout their lives, illustrating a sense of social and cultural autonomy.

The historical relationship between taking a surname and ownership becomes even clearer if one takes a look at the history of slavery in the US. Black slaves were often assigned the surnames of their White owners during slavery – a practice that served to identify them as the property of

those owners.

In the present-day context, I have been particularly interested in understanding why one might want to give up their last name. Many feel that sharing the same name fosters a sense of closeness and reinforces the idea of being a cohesive family unit. Others may not question this practice and simply follow it, often because it

A person's name is an important part of their identity. It carries personal, cultural, familial, and historical connections. It's important to remember that, at the end of the day, adopting one's husband's surname is only a tradition and there are still many cultures that don't follow this convention.

has been deeply ingrained in societal norms for centuries.

From afar, the family unity theory seems to hold some ground. But it quickly falls apart when you raise the question: why there aren't more men taking their wives' last names. According to a 2018 study at Portland State University, less than three percent of men, in a pool of 877 being surveyed, opted to take their wife's last name upon marriage. And then if

a husband does take on the wife's last name, what they are really taking on is her patronymic surname.

A woman's ability, or rather inability, to pass on her name through her lineage is another can of worms. For women who do decide to keep their surname, after having a child, the child usually ends up having a patronymic surname; and the woman's name and legacy are lost to obscurity once more. This practice also makes it difficult to trace a woman's ancestry, compared to a man's.

A person's name is an important part of their identity. It carries personal, cultural, familial, and historical connections.

It's important to remember that, at the end of the day, adopting one's husband's surname is only a tradition and there are still many cultures that don't follow this convention. In countries like Greece, Italy or France, women cannot legally change their surnames after marriage and are bound by law to keep their maiden names.

Neither forcing a surname nor forcefully taking away the choice to adopt your significant other's name can be the way forward. Two individuals should have the freedom to choose to adopt each other's name after marriage if they want to, be it the man adopting the woman's name or vice versa. They can even get creative and create a whole new surname by either hyphenating both their surnames or combining the two. After all, traditions can evolve too.

‘Bangladesh should prioritise its national interests above all’

Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), discusses the ongoing diplomatic activities of the country in an exclusive interview with Naimul Alam Alvi of The Daily Star.

How would you assess the recent diplomatic activities in Bangladesh, starting with the visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, then the G20 Summit, and finally the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron?

The visit of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to Bangladesh, the first by a Russian foreign minister in many years, was a difficult one, as Russia has been isolated by many countries following its invasion of Ukraine. Lavrov made a number of controversial statements during his visit, but Bangladesh managed to navigate these challenges relatively well.

Then Bangladesh attended the G20 Summit in New Delhi as an invited guest. It was an opportunity for us to participate in a high-profile global agenda, and to have direct bilateral meetings with a number of heads of states. However, in the meetings that were held, besides hoping for increased cooperation for regional stability, nothing important regarding Bangladesh was discussed – that we know of. So, I would consider that the bilateral engagements at the G20 Summit were fairly routine.

Besides that, Bangladesh was invited and joined the new Global Biofuel Alliance. However, no details on how this alliance will work and how Bangladesh can benefit from it have so far been available. The G20 Summit covered a wide range of issues and agenda, such as climate change, multilateralism, infrastructure development, and macroeconomic risks and measures. It also covered quite a lot on digital infrastructure. These are important to us because many points in the G20 declaration are issues that Bangladesh has interest in.

There was a lot of euphoria in Bangladesh about the photographs that emerged, showing US President Joe Biden taking a selfie with our prime minister. I consider this to be a regular gesture of diplomatic nicety. It does show that it was a happy occasion. But I would not give it any political mileage.

However, there was a big deviation from the 2022 G20 Bali Summit, where Russia's invasion of Ukraine was directly mentioned and condemned. This aspect was completely omitted in this year's declaration. The other major factor in the 2023 G20 New Delhi Summit is that the African Union has been declared as the new permanent member of G20. This inclusion brought in a wide number of countries' interests into the G20 process. So, we can hope that Africa will be adequately represented in the next G20 Summit in Brazil.

On the sidelines of the G20 Summit, there was a declaration of an economic corridor named India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). What would be the implications of such a corridor, particularly for Bangladesh?

This is a fairly extensive multimodal connectivity initiative to link railways, ports, energy lines, digital linkages, and green connectivity. It's estimated that if this is implemented, trade distance between India and Europe will be reduced by 40 percent. However, the concept paper they released isn't very detailed. This seems to be a multi-trillion-dollar project, but we don't yet know how it will be financed or implemented. So this is still a fairly aspirational concept. However, they declared that there was a working committee and within two months they would reveal a working paper with detailed information. We should not assume how it will affect Bangladesh at this point.

Although it's not stated, we can assume that the IMEC is being developed as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). We know that all South Asian countries except India are signatory to the BRI. So, India has enthusiastically joined the IMEC initiative. If IMEC is completely implemented, it can emerge as a big challenge to the BRI. It can potentially bring significant

geostrategic and geo-economic shifts in the region and the global order.

How important do you think the French president's visit was to Bangladesh?

Macron's visit was fairly significant. First of all, this is the first Bangladesh visit by a French president in 33 years. This seems to be in response to the invitation from our prime minister when she visited France in 2021. However, France also has significant strategic, economic and trade interests in Bangladesh.

If we analyse the joint statement by Bangladesh and France, there are a number of strategic indications. France has been showing increased interest in this region since they declared their Indo-Pacific strategy in 2020. France is advocating to consider them as not just a foreign player in the Indo-Pacific region, but as a resident power as they have four sovereign territories in the Indian Ocean. With two major global powers competing for influence in South Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, France is indicating that they want to emerge as a third power to create an alternative space in the region. This visit is a part of their Indo-Pacific push.

France has direct trade interests in Bangladesh as well. Our first-ever satellite, Bangabandhu-1, was manufactured by a French company. Now they want to manufacture our second satellite. Bangladesh has agreed to buy 10 Airbus planes from France, which is a big purchase. France also wants to sell Rafale fighter aircraft to Bangladesh. Perhaps this was also considered during the visit. Overall, trade between Bangladesh and France was an important agenda for the French president's visit.

What do you think is the reason behind Bangladesh's growing geopolitical importance?

Bangladesh is a key maritime nation. We are a Bay of Bengal country and an



Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman

Indian Ocean country. Our geological location is significant in today's geopolitics. Bangladesh has been growing its ties with two emerging global powers – India and China. China has already proven themselves as a major power in the world. And our neighbour India has become a major power in Asia. So, through our colocation with these two major powers, our geopolitical importance has increased.

Besides, we have been on a path of great economic development over the last decade. So, we are also attractive as an emerging big market. However, currently our economy is greatly faltering. We have gone to the IMF for a loan. I'm afraid our economic leverage has diminished.

What should be Bangladesh's stance in this situation?

Bangladesh should prioritise its national interests above all, and try to maintain geostrategic neutrality as much as possible. It is important for us to navigate a complex geopolitical landscape. The international system is in a flux, and we need to take note of the rapid changes that are taking place around us. Although limited in scope, Bangladesh has declared its Indo-Pacific Outlook. We should further deepen our understanding of the Indo-Pacific and incorporate it in our strategy.



For some fans of Bangladesh cricket, the team's harrowing defeats in international matches do cause emotional exhaustion and a feeling of helplessness.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

Dealing with a consistently inconsistent Bangladesh



Madiha Athar Khan is a technical writer at Optimizely and an art enthusiast leading the Art for Soul movement. She can be reached at madiha1923@gmail.com.

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

In the Asia Cup, Bangladesh started off by losing poorly to Sri Lanka, but came back strongly and convincingly against Afghanistan to proceed to the Super Fours. While Afghanistan have less experience than most in the Asia Cup, they are certainly not a team to be taken lightly, as they further exhibited by nearly knocking Sri Lanka out of the tournament by chasing 292 in 37.1 overs. Bangladesh followed up the big win by succumbing to yet another harrowing defeat – this time against Pakistan – where they did not manage to score even 200 runs for the second time in this tournament. Still, the most optimistic among us relied on the consistent inconsistency of Bangladesh and hoped to see them make a comeback against Sri Lanka. That was not to be the case as Bangladesh fell 21 runs short of the target.

To put things into perspective, Iran data from Cricinfo Statsguru to visualise Bangladesh's win percentage by year since 2007. This dizzying image could also represent how Bangladesh plays in a given match. On Saturday against Sri Lanka, after the first innings, 258 seemed like an achievable target. Bangladesh started the chase well, scoring 55 runs in 11 overs without losing a wicket. From there, they fell to 84-4. Some stability was provided by the middle order as the youngster, Towhid Hridoy (who averages 40.18 in 13 matches, at a strike rate of 89.29, and has four 50s) scored 82 and seemed

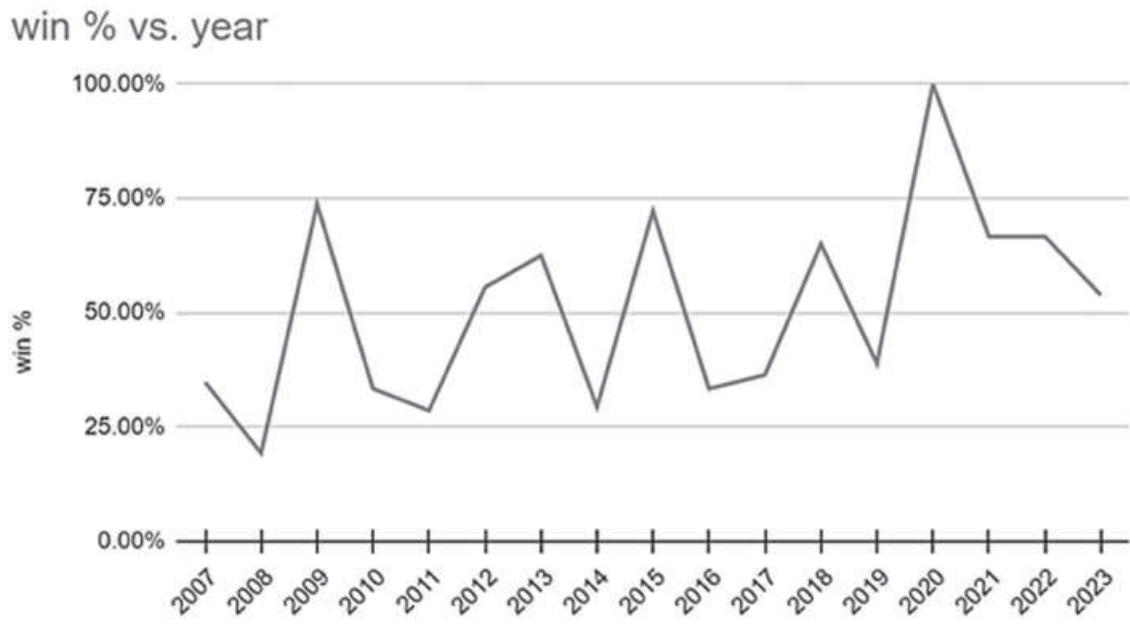


Figure 1: Bangladesh's ODI win every years since 2007. In 2020, Bangladesh played only three ODIs and won all three of them.

Bangladesh's cricket journey seemed impossible and the numbers validated my feelings. It seems like the fate of the Bangladesh team's performance is determined by a pendulum swinging at free fall. It echoes many of our feelings as we are dumbfounded by some of the decisions taken by the team and management. While a sport is not a hard science – a level of unpredictability is inherent and contributes to the beauty of the game – things should not be so confusing or mysterious.

If we follow the examples of our neighbouring cricket nations, it is easier to find the strategies

crucial member of the coaching staff. Nevertheless, there are other areas that could use a lot of improvement. Even when our batters are batting well, we woefully struggle to increase the run rate or hit sixes. Our batters' attempts to attack usually result in wickets falling. Sometimes we struggle to continue momentum: an entire batting unit will collapse when one wicket falls. We are also not the best at shifting momentum back in our favour.

Another important thing to note is the number of ODI matches Bangladesh have played every year. It is no secret that you

An important thing to note is the number of ODI matches Bangladesh have played every year. It is no secret that you want to play as much as possible, to get better at the game. Here, too, there is no consistency. Ideally, Bangladesh should aim to play at least 15-20 matches every year.

victories against top nations and a convincing ODI series win against India as recently as in December 2022. But the harrowing defeats in between prove to be too much disappointment for many Bangladesh fans. For some people, it causes emotional exhaustion and a feeling of helplessness. There are those who stop watching cricket altogether because the highs and lows become unbearable. For others, watching cricket feels like a part of their identities. They remind themselves that wins and losses are inherent parts of the game, and it's actually enduring optimism that helps them deal with the heartbreaks.

For most people, the love for the sport does not disappear simply due to poor or inconsistent performance. For the players too, I imagine, it's hard to shake off the previous day and start on a clean slate, because there isn't one. We are all impacted and moulded by the journey we have been through. Things need to change, and there are better people out there to say what those changes should be. Then there's the rest of us, strapped to our couches, remote at the ready, unsure of what to expect. We can only rely on the lack of consistency and watch the story unfold.

played vs. year

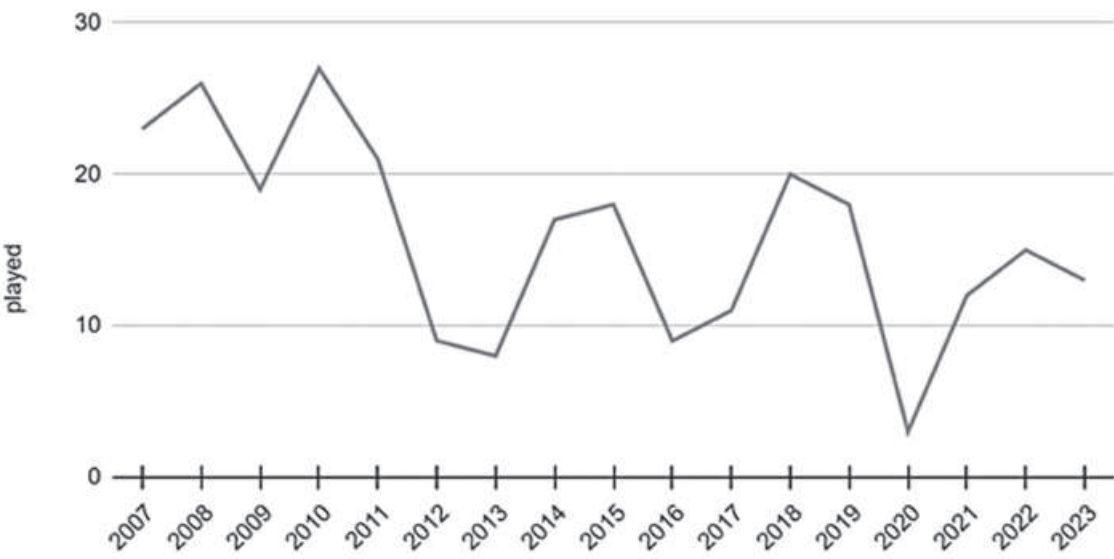


Figure 2: A visual representation of how many ODIs Bangladesh have played every years since 2007.

to have found the rhythm of the pitch. An important partnership was formed with Mushfiqur Rahim at the other end, but he failed to increase the run rate as he got out just as he seemed to want to go after the bowler. There were glimmers of hope till the end as the tailenders showed some courage, but it was really just a matter of time till Bangladesh were bowled out.

Finding a pattern in

that define their approach to the game. It is difficult and certainly beyond my capacity to predict what can induce more stability in Bangladesh's trajectory. There are many complex factors at play, such as infrastructure, strong focus on and competitiveness of school-level and domestic competitions, making data-informed decisions, and sports psychology. Most people will say that talent is not the issue.

want to play as much as possible, to get better at the game. Here, too, there is no consistency. Ideally, Bangladesh should aim to play at least 15-20 matches every year. It is also worth mentioning that this is the format we have gained the most success in. The best year in the last decade, 2015 (72.2 percent match wins), saw us playing 18 matches.

In a nation as cricket crazy as Bangladesh, there is inevitably

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

The occult thrills of ‘The Centre’

Review of Ayesha Manazir Siddiqi’s ‘The Centre’ (Gillian Flynn Books, 2023).

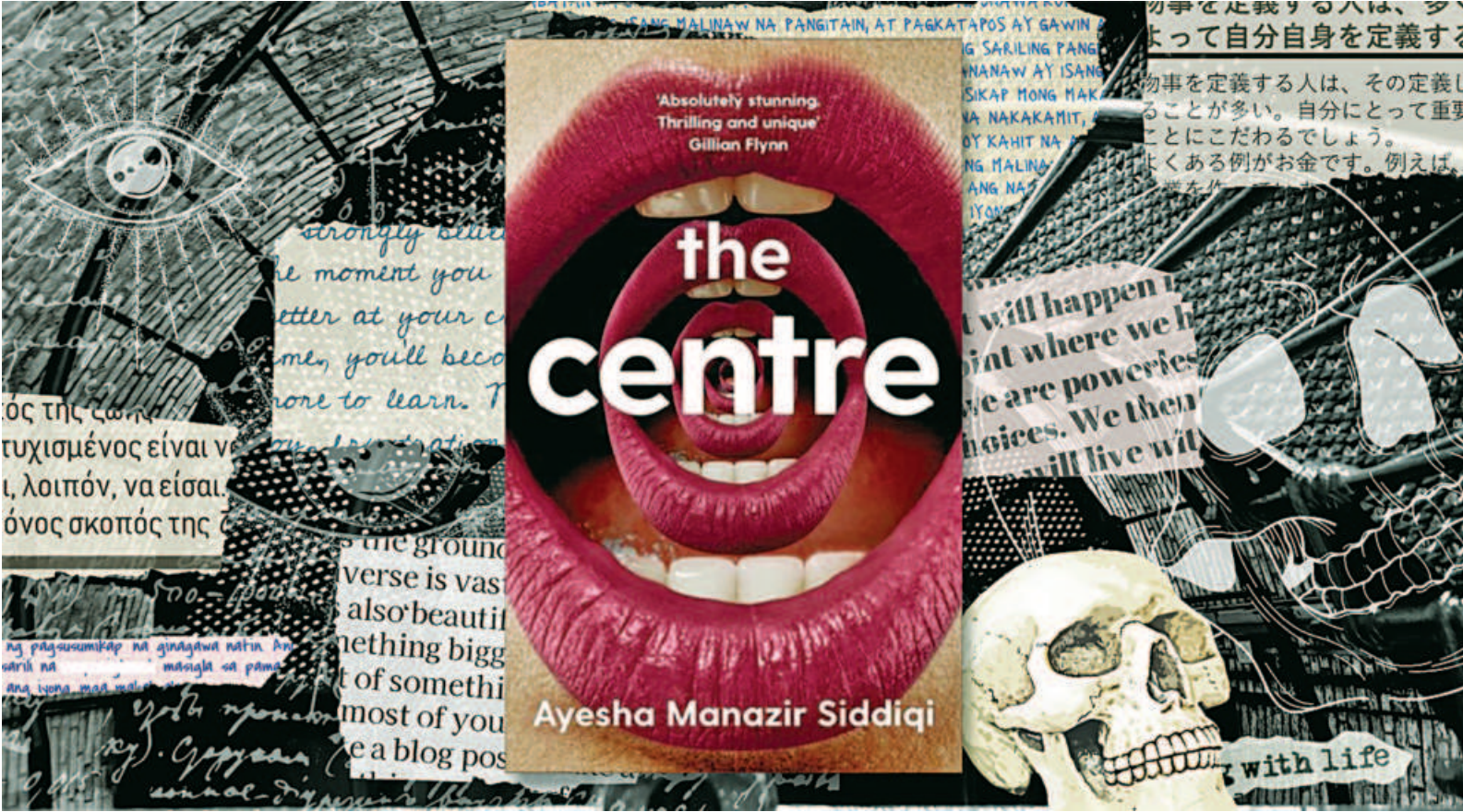


ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

SHAHRIAR SHAAMS

Rarely does a book arrive, a debut no less, that feels as inventive and accomplished as Ayesha Manazir Siddiqi’s *The Centre*. Her novel is built on the crossroads of interpretation and ownership, of the power of language and of those privileged enough to reclaim it. In this regard, Siddiqi’s novel is a contemporary reckoning of our often tenebrous relationship with the others’ tongue. Unfortunately, the novel’s all too visible flaws also cloud much of its muster.

Anisa Ellahi, an unremarkable subtitler of Bollywood films, meets Adam, a polyglot, at a seminar on “Translation verses Adaptation”. She is fascinated with the many languages he seems to know, which is a stark contrast to his otherwise mediocre personality. As they begin to date and their relationship progresses, Anisa invites Adam to her home back in Karachi and Adam, to impress her, becomes fluent in Urdu practically in days. Refusing to believe Adam’s obviously untrue excuses, she is made aware of the Centre’s existence—a secret, invite-

only, language-learning centre which claims to make its learners fluent in 10 days. Wishing to better her career, Anisa enrolls for German with Adam’s recommendation. Yet, as she gets involved in the Centre, she is slowly immersed into the organisation and its dark secrets.

Siddiqi’s novel, so far, is tantalisingly smooth. In Karachi, we see Anisa’s family parading around the urdu-speaking white boy to their friends and how a shopkeeper, upon noticing Adam’s urdu, had “shook his head and spoke at length about what an

honour it was to have someone from the west learn our language”. These are instances where the novel excels most. The vestiges of such colonial humiliation and our modern-day co-opting of these are shown with great humour. Yet, at the same time, the story takes some jarring turns, which seem unnecessary in the first place. When Adam explains that he had to give up his phone while at the Centre.

Anisa asks, “But you texted me loads...”, to which Adam explains that it was his friend Brian who replied to her texts. But won’t a couple, who have been with each other for a considerable amount of time travel to meet one’s parents in Pakistan, see through this?

A great deal of why the novel was partly an unpleasant experience for me was down to the author’s insistence in commentary through her narrator. While her anxieties are relevant and, above all, true, they come packaged with the smell of complacently “aware” rich people, the “trustafarians” in the author’s language, who have the *luxury* to be aware and duly stop short of making any structural change or change in their behaviour beyond this awareness, rendering this generosity meaningless. When Anisa lies to her best friend Naima about the real cost of attending this elite Centre (because the latter comes from a poor background), she recognises what she has done and says: “Maybe, through these small erasures, which we tell ourselves are ‘polite’ or whatever, we’re covering up a vast network of structural inequality.” But what is the point of owning up to this, when she continues with the lie? Anisa’s narration, on the whole, veers on the cloyingly casual (one could easily edit out the numerous “whatever” and “stuff”—filler words I fail to see as being part of Anisa’s voice). It is remarkable that a book on how the elite often

use language to bar or play on the disadvantaged (in the later chapters of the book, the readers would see how literal that is, in the case of the Centre), can itself be a subtle example of this.

Siddiqi’s clever premise also does not go much beyond the vagueness of the Centre’s all-encompassing power, which for all its plans of world domination, does not explain how it intends to do this with merely language labs. Arjun, one of the founders, even says, “We have the best scientists overseeing the process, neutralising all potential toxicities.” Yet the book shows all of them working in their house, akin to a DIY project. Anisa’s swift infiltration into the Centre, too, is worryingly unbelievable. Her chemistry with Shiba, who runs the Centre, undoubtedly works but one wonders here too how unrealistic and suspiciously convenient this is for the story.

Siddiqi’s novel is quite enjoyable when she deals with the politics of the text, when instead of numerous pages of Anisa’s boring complaints about her friend’s relationship, we see more of the “magic language school,” which I presume is what readers are *really* interested in. The novel is full of great lines such as “And prayer, I think, can be a bit like translation. There’s a cosmic geometry to it.” Or, “Did you see their faces when you said that thing about translation as colonialism? They were practically salivating. You’re basically a dominatrix now.”

The Centre, discounting some of its weaknesses, is smart, fresh, and full of suspense. Siddiqi and her debut novel deserves all the attention and perhaps more.

Shahriar Shaams has written for Dhaka Tribune, The Business Standard and The Daily Star. He is a fiction editor at Clinch, a martial arts themed literary journal. Find him on twitter @shahriarshaams.

THE SHELF

When all else fails, satirise

STAR BOOKS REPORT

This week, the Daily Star Books compiles a list of satirical fiction for our readers to feast on. In sociopolitical climates rife with crackdowns and censorship, satire takes on the burden of giving a voice to matters that cannot be spoken about otherwise. Although media literacy seems to be on the decline, owing partly to the spread and rising influence of disinformation on social media, we maintain that the practice of reading, writing, and interpreting satire remains an important implement in the literary tool belt.

THE CHAIR
Jose Saramago
Verso, 2012

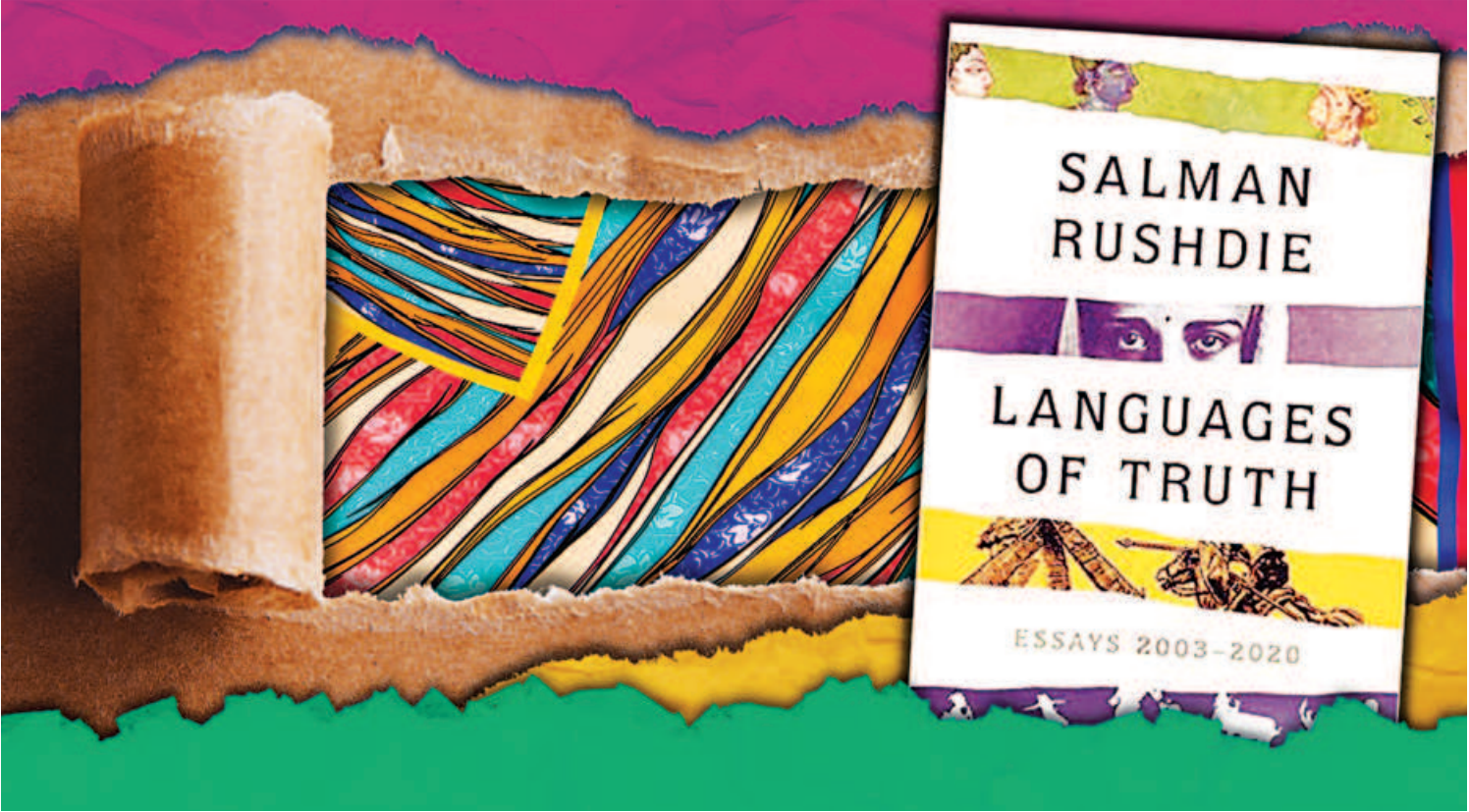
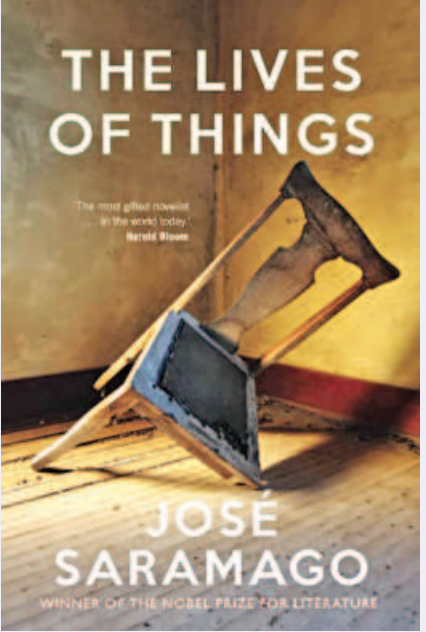
Jose Saramago’s *The Lives of Things* is a collection of six short stories touching upon tales of dictatorship, power, and corruption told through, essentially, the lives of inanimate objects. The first of the short stories, “The Chair”, is a biting, though slow-burning, satirical tale and political allegory concerning the fall of the former Portuguese prime minister, António de Oliveira Salazar. Told nearly entirely as a tableau of a wooden chair that is in the process of falling after imperceptibly being eaten away by beetles, the story reaches its climax as the dictator takes a seat and the chair beneath him inevitably breaks down. “The Chair” thus captures the essence of political satire, a creeping but sturdy line of defence against repression and censorship, mocking the powers that be. As the imminent death and consequent fall of the dictator

approaches, foretelling great changes to come, Saramago writes, “Let us go to the window. What do you think of this month of September? We have not had such weather in a long time.” What better short story to read in a rain-drenched, wood-rotting September in Bangladesh?

DEATH CONSTANT BEYOND LOVE
Gabriel García Márquez
Atlantic Magazine Archive

In Rosal del Virrey, a barren village where, ironically, no roses grow, Marquez sets his own short political satire. Senator Onesimo Sanchez, campaigning for reelection, is the only person in the village who wears a rose in his lapel as he parades around making false promises to the villagers in order to secure his reelection. “We will no longer be foundlings in our own country, orphans of God in a realm of thirst and bad climate, exiles in our own land,” Sanchez swears. “We will be different people, ladies and gentlemen, we will be a great and happy people.” His obviously false campaign slogans are promptly labelled a “circus” by Marquez’s narrator. In the end, the politician dies of his illness as was foretold at the beginning of the story, though mired in a scandalous affair. Marquez’s is a story of corruption, solitude, and death, rife with elements of deceit and artifice that often become an inevitable part of political satire.

Compiled by Amreeta Lethe. To read the rest of this list, go to Daily Star Books and The Daily Star websites.



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

A paean to storytelling

Review of Salman Rushdie’s ‘Languages of Truth’ (Random House, 2021)

NAJMUS SAKIB

Following the trails of *Imaginary Homelands* (Penguin Books, 1992) and *Step Across The Line* (Modern Library, 2003), comprising essays written and lectures given by Salman Rushdie between 2003-2020, *Languages of Truth* is Rushdie’s third collection of nonfiction works and is as a delectable read as its predecessors if not more.

Languages of Truth opens with the essay titled “Wonder Tales” in which Rushdie probes deeply into the nature of fiction and the paths literature can and should tread on while ruminating on its past history and where it is headed. “Wonder Tales”, perhaps the finest essay pertaining to literature he ever penned down, is a paean to the art of storytelling—a homage to the blending of the real with the surreal, of the natural with the supranatural, a tribute to the immense power of the fictionality of fiction and the imaginativeness of the imagination, an ode to the power of fiction to tell truths better than blunt truths are capable of.

Rushdie sees us as storytelling animals who need stories to sustain the soul. To him, story is the unnatural means we use to talk about human life, our way to reach the truth by making things up. Asgard and Valhalla, Olympus and Mount Kailash are not merely imaginary mythical lands, embedded therein are our deepest thoughts about our own natures and our doubts and fears as well.

Rushdie has always been in favour of the use of the fabulous to reach the truth, to reach the real through the unreal has been the cornerstone of almost all of his works till date. The amalgamation of fact and fiction to explore reality has been the most favourite trope of Rushdie’s almost half a century long literary career and it is no wonder that he is a staunch supporter of the use of the surreal.

From *Grimus* (Random House, 2003) to *Victory City* (Random House, 2023), Rushdie’s fascination with the wonder tales is palpable in everything he writes. The influence of myths and legends is so apparent in almost all of his works that it doesn’t come as a surprise that someone, who has drawn so much from that inexhaustible cornucopia of myths and legends and the wonder tales of the East and the West, would be so enamoured by them.

Human nature is complex, capacious and contradictory in its manifold manifestations and Rushdie is confident to sing along with Whitman—“Very well then I contradict myself.” Rushdie rejoices in the protean power of literature to be able to sing the song of contradiction and complexity, to be able to celebrate our ability to be, simultaneously, both yes and no, both this and that.

Rushdie has often remarked ruefully on the present plight of India and likes to compare it with the past India, with the past Mumbai where he grew up. He believes that

India in his childhood days was a harmonious place; religious zealots were not running riots back in his days and he seems to believe that he lived in a truly secular India which is now backsliding into a Hindu majoritarian state devoid of the secular ideologies held high by its founding fathers.

In an essay on his friend Christopher Hitchens who staunchly supported Rushdie on all fronts after the infamous fatwa, he writes movingly and reminisces about Hitchens’ last birthday whilst likening his late friend to Voltaire. Like his friend the late Christopher Hitchens, Rushdie too is a polymath of the highest order. Profound and sharply well articulated in his idiosyncratic and penetrating prose, almost every page of *Languages of Truth* exudes Rushdie’s sharp wit, brilliant humour, and incisive erudition.

A panoply of disparate essays ranging from Cervantes and Shakespeare to Vonnegut and Marquez, from Beckett to Roth, from Hamzanama to Salgado, from defending the freedom of artists to vehemently censuring censorship, from myths to musings on the pandemic—*Languages of Truth* presents some of the very best writings of Rushdie which do not fall in the flank of fiction. It would be a Herculean task anyway to put his best fictional works inside a single binding.

Najmus Sakib studies Linguistics at University of Dhaka and is a master at the school of self-loathing. Reach out to him on X at @sakib221b.

Pakistan look to match-winner Zaman against SL

AFP, Colombo

Pakistan bowling coach Morne Morkel on Wednesday said injuries to their premier quicks is a big blow ahead of a must-win Asia Cup match but a “fantastic opportunity” for up-and-coming talent.

Naseem Shah has been ruled out of the team’s final Super Four match – effective semi-final – against Sri Lanka in Colombo on Thursday, with Pakistan Super League star Zaman Khan coming in as replacement.

Naseem and fellow quick Haris Rauf were injured in the team’s previous Super Four clash of the 50-over tournament, a prelude to the upcoming ODI World Cup.

“A big blow, picking up those little niggles, but in this same sort of thing what a fantastic opportunity for the guys coming in,” Morkel told reporters.

“After going down against India, it’s a must-win game for us come tomorrow and I’m quite



Both Brazil and Argentina registered victories in their World Cup Qualifying fixtures on Tuesday to occupy the top two spots in the CONMEBOL region. While Argentina had a fairly comfortable job dispatching Bolivia at the high altitude of La Paz, thanks to goals from Enzo Fernandez (R), Nicolas Tagliafico and Nicolas Gonzalez, with Lionel Messi left unused, Brazil had to wait till the 90th minute before confirming victory through a Marquinhos header against Peru in Lima. Both teams have six points from two matches each, with Brazil leading the table on goal difference.

PHOTO: AFP



With a win-percentage of 59, Pakistan have a clear edge in terms of overall head-to-head results after having emerged winners in 92 of 155 outings. Sri Lanka won 58 times, while one game ended in a tie and four yielded no results.

Asia Cup records, however, stand heavily in favour of Sri Lanka as they boast an impressive win-percentage of 71.4, based on 10 victories in 14 fixtures.

The numbers are almost equal after 41 matches played in Sri Lanka as the hosts won 20 against Pakistan’s 18. Three encounters provided no result, two of which were staged in Colombo.

The last time Sri Lanka played Pakistan at home, they won by 165 runs in Hambantota in 2015. In their previous Asia Cup meeting -- in the 2014 edition’s final in Mirpur -- Sri Lanka secured a five-wicket victory.

excited to see the new guys stepping in, to see their character, to see how they respond.”

Zaman flew in from Pakistan and is already a popular name in national cricket after his heroics in this year’s PSL for champions Lahore Qalandars.

The 22-year-old is expected to make his ODI debut in a high-pressure match.

Shaheen Shah Afridi leads the Pakistan pace attack that rattled India in the Asia Cup group match, which was washed out after just innings.

But Shaheen and company took a hammering in their last meeting with India, who posted 356-2 in a match played across two days due to rain.

Critics have pointed at Pakistan’s lack of quality spinners, a major drawback on turning Sri Lankan wickets, but Morkel insists the slow bowlers remain ready to perform.

Rain could once again play spoilsport in Colombo today, with 93 percent chances of rain during the day and 48 percent during the night, as per Accuweather. Pakistan, however, will hope for the match to be completed as even a sharing of points will see Sri Lanka go through due to superior net run-rate.

What are Tigers’ focus areas in NZ series?

SPORTS REPORTER

With Bangladesh already out of the Asia Cup despite having one game left to play against India on Friday, the emphasis would shift to making the most of their remaining assignments, mainly the New Zealand series at home, ahead of the upcoming World Cup in October.

The Tigers have recently found it difficult to attain balance owing to injuries but what areas would the team management look at to find those that fit their World Cup plan? The need for an all-rounder may still be prioritised going forward.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan had expressed that he believes quite a few players, who are already ensured of a place in the World Cup squad, may be rested. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) cricket operations chairman, Jalal Yunus, told the media present at Sri Lanka on Tuesday that the head coach had already made plans on who to be rested.

The aspect of resting the fast bowlers also came up during Jalal’s interactions with the media. Since Ebadot Hossain’s injury forced him out of the World Cup squad, the remaining four front-line pacers may be rested as Tigers look for precautionary measures ahead of the marquee event.

“We have not made a decision regarding who will be rested, but we do have backup options if the pacers are rested,” a member of the selection panel informed yesterday.

The bigger focus would be the performance of the batters following batting collapses in Asia Cup. While the openers lacked runs – barring Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who played as a makeshift opener – the middle-order already bolsters the best available options in Shakib Al Hasan, Tawhid Hridoy and Mushfiqur Rahim. It is the lower



middle-order which has been the other big area in the batting department that needs improvement. However, balancing a team is where all-rounders also come into the equation.

While resting too many players could affect the balance of the side in the upcoming New Zealand series at home, two seasoned campaigners – Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad – may return to the side. Mahmudullah last played for the Tigers against England at home and although he does not fit the profile of a genuine all-rounder, his bowling has often balanced the team combination. Sources have claimed that Mahmudullah is slated for a return, and thus the team management can gauge available options.

No. 7 and 8 in the batting order have been key areas of concern in the Asia Cup. With Miraz playing as an opener, Shamim Hossain and Afif Hossain have failed to make their mark with the bat in the tournament while they do not provide a solid bowling option.

Meanwhile, the likes of Mosaddek Hossain, Mahedi Hasan and Soumya Sarkar could also present options with the ball. In absence of a genuine pace bowling all-rounder, with Mohammad Saifuddin rehabilitating from an injury, it remains to be seen if Soumya’s medium-pace bowling could see him get a nod ahead of the showpiece event in India.

The opening slot may need a backup opening option, in case Tamim Iqbal’s injury remains a concerning issue going into the World Cup. Shakib had spoken about finding one or two players in the coming series who could fit the team.

Thus, apart from veterans like Tamim or Mahmudullah finding their feet before the World Cup, and given no further injury setbacks, only one or two other positions will be on the team management’s agenda ahead of Bangladesh’s seventh World Cup mission.

Afghanistan bring back Naveen

SQUAD

Hashmatullah Shahidi (captain), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Riaz Hassan, Rahmat Shah, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Nabi, Ikram Alikhil, Azmatullah Omarzai, Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Abdul Rahman, Naveen-ul-Haq

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan recalled fast bowler Naveen-ul-Haq in the 15-man World Cup squad announced Wednesday, but allrounder Gulbadin Naib was dropped despite recent good performance.

Naib, 32, led Afghanistan in the last World Cup held in England four years ago where the team lost all nine matches and he was sacked.

But the medium pacer took seven wickets in the last three ODIs, including 4-60 against Bangladesh in the Asia Cup encounter in Lahore last week.

Naveen played the last of his seven ODIs against Ireland in January 2021.

Hashmatullah Shahidi leads the squad that has four changes following a two-match loss in the Asia Cup and a 3-0 series wipe out against Pakistan in Sri Lanka.

Besides Naib, also out are Karim Janat, Sharafuddin Ashraf and Suliman Safi.



England batter Ben Stokes smashes one during his record-breaking 182-run knock off 124 deliveries against New Zealand during the third ODI at The Oval in London yesterday. The innings featuring 15 fours and nine sixes helped Stokes set the highest individual ODI innings by an English player, beating the previous record of 180 runs by Jason Roy against Australia in 2018 as England posted 368 all out in 48.1 overs.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan speaks to his teammates following a training session in Colombo yesterday, the day after reaching the Sri Lanka capital following a three-day leave for a visit to Dhaka. Bangladesh, already out of contention for the Asia Cup final, will play their last game on Friday against India, who have already booked a final spot.

PHOTO: BCB

Mushfiqur to skip India game

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim will be skipping the Tigers’ third and final Super Four game of the ongoing Asia Cup against India on Friday due to personal reasons, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) informed in a media release yesterday.

The Tigers are already out of the tournament following India’s 41-run win against Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Mushfiqur, who had flown back to the country for the birth of his second child, was granted an extension of leave. “Mushfiqur has informed us that his wife is still recovering, and he needs to be by her side and with their children at this time,” BCB cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus was quoted as saying in the media release.

This might open up a chance for Anamul Haque Bijoy, the other wicketkeeper alongside regular Liton Das. Bijoy is yet to feature in a game in this Asia Cup but with the India game now a dead rubber, Bangladesh may look to experiment.



Global crisis won't affect food security

PM tells JS



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday that the country's food security remains intact despite the ongoing international crisis.

She was replying to a query from Awami League MP Md Shahiduzzaman Sarkar from Naogaon-2 constituency during the question answer session chaired by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

In her scripted answer, Hasina said Bangladesh has already attained self-reliance on food. The government has been working intensively to maintain self-sufficiency in food.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A yard of Bakolia Government High School covered with stagnant water and trash in Chattogram. The assistant headmaster of the school said the yard remains under water almost the entire rainy season, making it a breeding ground for mosquitos. He said they have written to the higher authorities many times over the last 15 years for a solution. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Take action against DC of Jamalpur

EC writes to cabinet secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday wrote to the cabinet secretary to take action against Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner Md Imran Ahmed after verifying the authenticity of his speech seeking votes for the ruling Awami League.

In the letter, the EC has recommended that Imran be removed from his duties as deputy commissioner and obstructed from discharging any election-related responsibilities in the next national election.

The EC issued a letter, signed by Assistant Director (public relations) Ashadul Haque, in this regard.

According to the EC, it has been reported in different media recently that speaking at an event in the presence of local MP Mirza Azam, Jamalpur DC Imran urged people to re-elect the AL government to continue the ongoing development work.

At the same time, he also hoped that MP Azam would be a minister after the next polls. The video clip of his speech has gone viral on social media, the letter said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

RUNAWAY BOY IN PLANE

Caab withdraws 10 officials, opens probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has withdrawn 10 officials after a 12-year-old boy managed to board a plane dodging all security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early Tuesday.

A five-member probe body has also been formed to investigate the incident, Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said yesterday.

Group Captain Abu Saleh Mahmud Mannafi, member (security) of Caab, will lead the probe body and legal steps will be taken after getting the report, the Caab chief said.

The boy managed to evade all checks and board a Kuwait-bound plane at HSIA early Tuesday.

The runaway from a Gopalganj madrasa had no passport, ticket or boarding card. He was discovered only because he got on a completely sold-out flight.

He was later handed over to the Airport Police Station.

Caab in a press release yesterday said, "By giving false information and mixing with the groups of passengers ... the boy managed to get inside the aircraft avoiding the attention of the duty staff. Such an incident at an important place like an airport is unexpected, undesirable, and sad."

Azizul Haque Mia, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station, yesterday told The Daily Star that the boy was handed over to his uncle Md Yusuf who took him to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

CLIMATE FINANCE TARGET

Wealthy nations fall short on promises

Vulnerable countries like Bangladesh bear brunt: ODI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wealthier nations, who are historically responsible for climate change, are failing to meet the international climate funding obligations they agreed on in Copenhagen in 2009, leaving vulnerable countries like Bangladesh and communities to escalating climate impacts.

In the Copenhagen summit in 2009, developed nations committed to meet a target of providing \$100 billion a year for climate finance – but they failed to meet the target in the last 11 years.

Despite the need for \$4 trillion by 2030 to cap the temperature rise within 1.5 degrees since the pre-industrial era, all but eight developed countries missed the \$100 billion financing target every year to date.

Only eight developed countries out of 23 currently pay their fair share of climate finance to fund, said the report titled "Fair Share" by Overseas Development Initiative (ODI) and Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance.

The eight developed countries are Norway, France, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The UK, which came under fire earlier this year for attempting to walk back on its climate finance commitments, provided only two-thirds of its fair share.

In 2020, the target should have been reached, but provision and mobilisation amounted to \$83.3 billion.

The climate finance gap between 2011 and 2020 totalled \$409.8 billion.

In 2021, the US provided \$9 billion for climate finance, \$34 billion less than it was supposed to.

The US has the largest shortfall for adaptation finance, missing its fair share goal by \$14 billion.

None of Australia, Spain, Canada and the UK met their fair share either; they should be providing an additional \$500 million to \$1 billion each.

"It's a total failure of responsibility by developed countries who bear historical responsibility for climate change," said Laetitia Pettinotti, ODI research fellow and lead author of the report.

The failure to meet the climate finance goal can be attributed to developed countries collectively, and this failure has far-reaching

"Rather, it is not a priority for them to address the risks and vulnerabilities of the lives and nature of the least-developed countries. This is a sheer example of climate injustice."

M Zakir Hossain Khan
CEO, Change Initiative

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

India's SC cracks down on 'media trials'

Wants guidelines in 3 months

NDTV ONLINE

India's Supreme Court has taken strong exception to 'media trials' - referring to "biased reporting (that) gives rise to public suspicion the person has committed an offence" - and directed the Union Home Ministry to prepare guidelines for police to follow during press briefings in relation to criminal cases.

The ministry has three months to prepare a detailed manual.

The top police officers of each state and the National Human Rights Commission have been directed to submit suggestions to the home ministry within a month and the next hearing will be in January, a bench led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said yesterday, underlining the need to sensitise police personnel.

"Administration of justice is affected by 'media trials'. Need to decide at which stage (of investigation) details should be disclosed. This is a very important issue because it involves interests of victim and accused. It also involves the interest of the public at large... media report on crime-related matters involves many aspects of public interest," the court said.

"At a basic level... fundamental right to speech and expression is directly involved in the context of both the media's right to portray and broadcast ideas and news... but we should not allow 'media trial'. People have the right to access information. But, if important evidence, is revealed during the investigation, the investigation can also be affected," the court argued.

The top court was hearing a petition relating to a 2017 instruction on the same subject; the court then had asked the government to frame rules for police briefings keeping in mind the rights of the accused and the victim, and to ensure those of both sides are not prejudiced or violated in any way. The court had then given six weeks to produce a draft report.



Filmmaker Sohanor no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned director Sohanor Rahman Sohan, famous for his hugely popular film "Keyamot Theke Keyamot", passed away at the capital's Crescent Hospital yesterday.

He was 57.

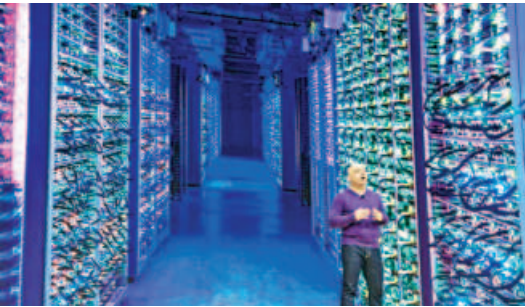
The news of his demise was confirmed by producer Khorshed Alam Khasru.

It comes after Sohan's wife, Priya Rahman, passed away on Tuesday at their house, in her sleep. It is reported that Sohan fell critically ill after the incident, and was taken to the hospital yesterday after he did not wake up from his sleep. He was declared dead by doctors at 6:40pm. He is set to have suffered a stroke.

The entire film fraternity was shocked with grief

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

AI using vast amounts of water



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Artificial intelligence is using gallons upon gallons of water.

Microsoft alone used more than 2,500 Olympic-sized swimming pools of water in its data centres last year. The latest numbers are leading to yet more questions about the sustainability and environmental dangers of the growth of artificial intelligence and related technology.

Artificial intelligence requires vast computing resources, undertaking deeply complex calculations on behalf of people around the world. AI systems tend to be run in the cloud rather than on individual people's computers, meaning that companies running them must operate vast server farms to deal with the queries of their users.

Those server farms in turn need to pump in water to cool themselves down, because of the heat generated by those computers. That has long been a concern for environmentalists, but the sharp growth in artificial intelligence has led to even more use.



Members of Libyan Red Crescent Ajdabiya work in an area affected by flooding, in Derna, Libya, in this social media image released on Tuesday. The floods have left more than 5,000 people dead. Story on page 7.

PHOTO: REUTERS

6 Bangladeshis feared dead in Libya floods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least six Bangladeshis are feared dead in Libya's Derna after storm Daniel and subsequent flood hit the North African country's eastern part recently, said the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli.

Rasel Miah, first secretary (labour wing) at the Bangladesh mission, said they learned about the deaths of six from other Bangladeshis over the phone.

An unspecified number of Bangladeshis are still missing, he said, quoting the expatriates.

Around 100 Bangladeshis were believed to be residing in Derna when the disaster struck, he said.

"The city is over a thousand kilometre away from Tripoli and power cuts have made communication difficult," the official said in a WhatsApp call.

He said they could not ascertain how the Bangladeshis died and the embassy did not receive the dead bodies.

Meanwhile, the mission in a Facebook post yesterday said four of the deceased have primarily been

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3