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Get antipoverty goals back on track:



The media must do more to protest CSA



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Being average is perfectly fine

AL won't let BNP

take control of

the capital

As the BNP plans to intensify its movement for polls under

a non-partisan administration, the Awami League and law

enforcement agencies are determined to keep the capital

The government will allow the BNP and its allies to hold

peaceful programmes like rallies and processions but will

not permit programmes like blockades and sit-ins that

might lead to violence or end up paralysing the city, said

Ruling party leaders said the BNP announced several

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

under their control.

## **BNP** aiming for endgame before polls schedule

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Opposition BNP plans to take its movement to a climax before the announcement of the election schedule, party

Formal electioneering will kick off after the announcement of the polls schedule. So, BNP wants to achieve its goal before that, as the party fears that the government may try to imprison its leaders and activists through quick disposal of the cases against them in the coming months.

Secondly, the party also worries that the government may entice some BNP leaders into joining the election to make it look inclusive.

"The formal electioneering will start soon after the announcement of the election schedule. Therefore, it will be difficult for our movement to gain momentum at that time. So, before that, we will have to force the government to accept our demand for holding the election under a nonparty interim government," said a BNP standing committee member, wishing to remain unnamed.

The Election Commission has already hinted that the polls schedule will be unveiled in November, and the general election will be held in early January.

Keeping these in mind, BNP has announced a series of protest programmes,

including road marches, starting today. These programmes will continue till October 3.

Party insiders these through programmes, they seek build momentum before launching the final phase of their one-point movement to unseat the government and force it to install an interim administration.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders say, the cases filed against the opposition leaders and activists are being disposed of quickly. They fear some of their seniors may be convicted before the national election so they cannot participate in the polls.

"The government plans to keep the opposition leaders and workers in prisons so that they can't take part in the movement for a neutral government,"

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a rally recently.

Another senior leader said the government may lure

some opposition leaders into the election. Referring to former BNP lawmaker Ukil Abdus Sattar, the BNP leader said the government will surely make such an attempt in the upcoming election too.

We must wage the movement on such a scale that the Election Commission keeps from announcing the polls schedule. If we can pull that off, the door will open for negotiations to hold the polls under a caretaker government," he said.

Ukil Sattar was elected in the 2018 election from



A BRTC bus plying the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, as Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation launched its bus service on the expressway's Uttara-Farmgate route on a trial basis yesterday morning. Story on page 12.

## Now inspectors too want promotions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The

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for a neutral

Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir

General

government

With the general election a few months away, inspectors of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and police stations adjacent to the capital yesterday demanded promotions like their higher officials got through creation of supernumerary posts.

The government has recently created 342 supernumerary posts for the promotions of top police officials like additional inspector generals, deputy

inspector generals, and superintendents

The tenure of these supernumerary (officials who hold the position and perform the same duties after their elevation) will be one year from the day of the creation.

In a meeting with Home Minister Āsaduzzaman Khan yesterday, the inspectors demanded that they be promoted through the creation of supernumerary posts.

Majharul Islam, general secretary of the Bangladesh Police Association, claimed that the meeting was fruitful.

He said their demands included promotion of police inspectors to the 6th grade after 10 years of service, automatic grade changes in their

rank badges after the same time, and promotion to the supernumerary rank if they are not promoted within 10 years. Similar proposals were put forth for sub-inspectors.

He added that they also demanded a prompt resolution to the issue of upgrading the rank badges of SIs and inspectors. They also sought gradual promotion of constables after preparing a list of those who would pass the departmental examination. Earlier in the day, OCs

from 50 police stations in the DMP and from surrounding districts held a meeting at the DMP conference room.

In the meeting, DMP Commissioner Khandker Golam Faruq said law and order in the capital is now stable because the DMP is working as a team, and "Team DMP" is ready

to face any situation in the future, reports UNB. He added that all police officers should perform their duties with

professionalism to maintain law and He asked them to give more importance while executing arrest

warrants, investigating theft and work. robbery cases, as well as recovering stolen vehicles and drugs.

#### Action to be taken if any DC shows bias: CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Habibul Awal vesterday the commission does not want the deputy commissioners to have any bias while discharging their duties.

Speaking to reporters at the EC office in the capital's Agargaon,

he said the commission will definitely take necessary checkpoints in the city. action if it finds any DC working with any bias. He said the government

recently removed the Jamalpur DC after the EC requested the cabinet secretary to withdraw him.

Speaking at an event on September 11, in the presence of local MP Mirza Azam, Jamalpur DC Imran Ahmed urged people to reelect the AL government for the continuation of the ongoing development

The next day, the EC SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

#### road marches and rallies outside the capital but the AL is not worried about those. They believe that the main thrust of the BNP's movement will be Dhaka-centric so that the capital gets isolated from the rest of the country. The AL will not allow the streets of the capital to go into the hands of the BNP activists and that is why AL high-ups are keeping a close eye on the opposition's capital-centric programmes, the AL leaders said.

According to party insiders, the ruling party will not confront the opposition on the streets as it does not want any untoward incidents before the polls, slated for They said law enforcement agencies will deal with

the BNP if it goes for any "violent programmes". They said the AL will

hold rallies with the theme "peace and development" to counter the BNP's programmes in the capital and to show off AL's strength. Sources

enforcement said they have been asked not to obstruct any peaceful programmes of the BNP and its allies but take action only when the opposition goes for programmes like blockades and sit-ins. In the days to come,

police will be intensifying the monitoring of hotels, inns, the entrances to the capitals, and opposition activists and party leaders. They will set up

According to sources. police already made a list of leaders and activists of the BNP and its allies who

have outstanding arrest warrants against them. They said the police would round them up if the BNP and its allies go for "violent" programmes. "We will be on the streets until the next election and we

will not allow anyone to hold any programme in the name of a movement that may lead to violence," AL praesidium member Abdur Razzaque told The Daily Star.

"We will guard the capital so that no unwanted situation arises due to the BNP's programme. We will not allow the BNP to take control of Dhaka and isolate the capital from the rest of the country," he added.

As AL's MPs and nomination seekers are now in their own areas for campaigning, Dhaka city units (North and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

The ruling

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for January

#### **BANKING SECTOR**

### **Female** workforce rises but slightly

Their number in top, mid-level posts also up, shows BB data

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

The number of women bankers has gone up slightly over the last three years, after it saw a drop during the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

As of June this year, 16.32 percent of the bank employees are women, up from 16.28 percent a year ago, according to data from Bangladesh Bank.

Similarly, proportion of female

bankers at the top-level and mid-level posts has increased, albeit at a slower pace, while the primary level's entry has decreased slightly, according to Gender Equality Report of Banks and Financial Institutions released by the central

cement

"The rising participation of women in the banking sector in Bangladesh reflects two things -- a higher level of tertiary education by female students and the overall



Unloaded from a fishing trawler, hilsa being taken to the wholesale market at Uthan Majhir Ghat of Chattogram's Anwara upazila yesterday. Fishers say they are not getting good catches this year compared to previous years. The national fish was selling for Tk 15,000 to Tk 60,000 per maund depending on size.

#### Stop using labour law to harass **Prof Yunus Amnesty urges** authorities here

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday authorities that Bangladesh must stop weaponising labour laws and immediately their harassment and intimidation of the Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Prof Yunus, chairman of the board at Grameen Telecom, is accused of employment-related violations and criminal case in Bangladesh under the Labour Act 2006. Three other board members, Ashraful Hasan, Nur Jahan Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan, face the same charges, it said.

The ongoing trial is just one of more than 150 cases filed against him after the ruling Awami League

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

#### SP demoted over land grabbing, misconduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A superintendent of police was given departmental punishment on allegations of land grabbing and professional misconduct, demoting him to a lower pay grade for the next two years.

Md Salah Uddin Talukdar, commandant In-Service at Training Centre in Jamalpur, was "stringent" departmental punishment on various allegations for his deeds when he was working as an additional superintendent of police at PBI in Mymensingh, according to a home ministry notification signed by its senior secretary Mostafizur Rahman.

During his tenure at the PBI in 2015-16, he installed a barbed wire fence around a piece of land in the Fulbaria area that had been used by some local farmers. He later bought the land in his and his wife's names without permission from concerned

Moreover, when a Mymensingh court tasked him with overseeing the investigation of a case filed by one Yunus Ali, he interrogated the plaintiff at his bungalow, which is considered misconduct, according to the notification.

On July 4, 2022, a departmental case was filed against the police official, who was also served a showcause notice. But he couldn't submit any satisfactory answers before the probe body, the notification added.

#### Bosnia charges six suspects with war crimes

AFP, Sarajevo

Six former Bosnian soldiers and policemen were charged yesterday with war crimes against Serb detainees at a camp near Sarajevo during the 1992-1995 civil war that killed nearly 100,000 people.

They include Zijad Kadric, 72, who was described by witnesses as the commander of the camp in Visoko, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) northwest of the capital Sarajevo.

**Hundreds of civilians were detained** here for around eight months in 1992, according to prosecutors.

The six are accused of "acts of torture, inhuman treatment, pillaging and physical and mental abuse" in the Visoko region, "in systematic and continuous



Rescue teams assist in relief work in Libya's eastern city of Derna yesterday following deadly flash floods. A week after a tsunami-sized flash flood devastated the Libyan coastal city of Derna, sweeping thousands to their deaths, the international aid effort to help the grieving survivors slowly gathered pace.

FLOOD-RAVAGED LIBYA

## UN warns of disease threat in Derna

AFP, Derna

The UN warned yesterday that disease outbreaks could bring "a second devastating crisis" to Libya a week after a huge flash flood shattered the coastal city of Derna, sweeping thousands to their deaths.

Local officials, aid agencies and the World Health Organization "are concerned about the risk of disease outbreak, particularly from contaminated water and the lack of sanitation", the United Nations said.

The flash flood that has killed more than 11,000 people and left thousands more missing came after the war-scarred North African country was lashed by the hurricanestrength Storm Daniel on September 10.

Tens of thousands of traumatised residents are homeless and badly in need of clean water, food and basic supplies amid a growing risk of cholera, diarrhoea, dehydration and malnutrition, UN agencies

Libva's disease control centre banned citizens in the disaster zone from drinking water from local mains, warning that it is

Rescue teams from several European and Arab countries kept up the grim search of smashed buildings, crushed cars and between rocks".

The waters submerged a densely populated six-square-kilometre (2.3-squaremile) area in Derna, damaging 1,500 buildings of which 891 were totally razed, according to a preliminary report released by the Tripoli government based on satellite images.

One bereaved Derna resident, Abdul Wahab al-Masouri, lamented what has become of his city.

"We grew up here, we were raised here... But we've come to hate this place, we've come to hate what it has become," he said.

"The buildings, the neighbourhood, the villagers, the sheikhs... the wadi has returned to the state it was 1,000 years ago. People live in caves, the city looks dead, barren, there is no life left.'

Bulldozers cleared roads from caked mud, including at a mosque as a foul smell permeated the air and a woman prayed for the children and grandchildren killed by the flooding.

Amid the chaos, the true death toll remained unknown, with untold numbers swept into the sea.

Soldier Hamza al-Khafifi, 45, described to AFP finding unclothed bodies washing up

#### US prisoners fly out of Iran in swap deal

**REUTERS,** Doha

Five US detainees flew out of Iran yesterday in a swap for five Iranians held in the US under a rare deal brokered by Qatar between the arch enemies that also unfroze \$6 billion of Tehran's funds.

 $A\,Qatari\,plane\,took\,off\,from\,Tehran$ carrying the five with two of their relatives, shortly after the US and Iran received confirmation that the funds had been transferred to accounts in Doha, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters.

Iran's Press TV said two of the five Iranians to be released in the exchange had landed in Doha. There was no independent confirmation, though Iranian officials had said three of those to be freed by the US were not returning to Iran.

The funds' release triggered an exchange sequence agreed after months of talks between the United States and Iran, who are at odds over Tehran's nuclear ambitions and other

The five Americans with dual nationality are due to fly to Doha and then on to the US "They are in good health." an Iranian official briefed on the process said.

#### Mason picked up by 'plainclothes' men

Family claims DB men took him away based on a 'complaint'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Benapole

A 24-year-old man was picked up in Jashore early yesterday, allegedly by 10-12 men in plainclothes who introduced themselves as members of the Detective Branch (DB) of police.

His father, Asaduzzaman, lodged a complaint with police following the incident.

Jihad Hossain, 24, was picked up from his house in Alamnagar Madhyapara area of Jashore's Sadar upazila around 2:00am, said Abdur Razzak, officerin-charge of Kotwali Police Station, quoting the complaint.

Jihad, a mason by profession, was awoken by some men who were yelling his name outside his home around 2:00am, the complaint read.

When Jihad and his father got out to see who they were, 10-12 individuals dressed in white introduced themselves as DB members.

They said there was a complaint against Jihad and then proceeded to dragging the 24-year-old into a white microbus before driving off.

Meanwhile, when contacted, Jashore DB Police Sub-Inspector Mofizul Islam said no one by the name of Jihad was detained and that the complaint filed by his father was being investigated.

#### Two poachers arrested

UNB, Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested two poachers with 6.5kg venison in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat.

The arrestees were identified as Shawkat Sardar, 37, son of Mongla upazila, and Sheikh Hekmat Ali, 39, of Rampal upazila.

Babul Akter, inspector of Bagerhat district police's media cell, said, "Acting on a tip-off, police arrested two poachers in the Gilatola Bazar area. A motorcycle carrying 6.5kg venison was seized from them at that time."

"A case has been filed against them with Rampal Police Station under the Wildlife Protection and Preservation Act. The two accused have been sent to Bagerhat Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court,' added the officer.

#### Fifth-grader 'raped'

UNB, Rajshahi

A fifth-grade schoolgirl was raped in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi on Saturday, according to a complaint. The criminals also tied her 10-year-old brother to a tree and gagged him before committing the

heinous crime, said the case filed with Tanore Police Station later that night. The incident came to light Sunday night, when

police sent the girl to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital for medical attention. According to the case statement, the girl,

her brother, and students of Chak Rahmat Government Primary School went to a field at Salbari Sallapara village, half a kilometre away from her house, to cut grass on Saturday.

At one stage, locals Jony, 32, son of Manirul Islam, and Ali, 36, son of Abul Kalam, appeared

They raped the girl in turns after tying her brother to a tree. Locals later rescued her at night. Abdur Rahim, officer-in-charge of Tanore rapists.

#### Stop using labour law

assumed power in 2008, Amnesty

"Amnesty International believes that initiating criminal proceedings against Muhammad Yunus and his colleagues for issues that belong to the civil and administrative arena is a blatant abuse of labour laws and the justice system and a form of political retaliation for his work and dissent," Amnesty said in a statement.

'Muhammad Yunus' case is emblematic of the beleaguered state of human rights in Bangladesh, where the authorities have eroded freedoms and bulldozed critics into submission," said Agnès Callamard, secretary general of Amnesty International.

She said the abuse of laws and misuse of the justice system to settle vendettas is inconsistent and incompatible with international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Bangladesh is a state party," she said.

"It is time for the government to put

#### US military asks for help finding its lost stealth jet

AFP, Washington

A stealth-capable US fighter jet vanished on Sunday -- not from prying eves but rather from the American military, prompting an unusual call to the public to help locate the missing multimillion-dollar plane.

After what authorities labeled a "mishap," a pilot flying an F-35 in the southern state of South Carolina on Sunday afternoon ejected from the craft.

The pilot survived, but the military was left with an expensive problem: it couldn't find the jet, leading Joint Base Charleston to ask for help from local residents.

"If you have any information that may help our recovery teams locate the F-35, please call the Base Defense Operations Center," a post from the base read on X, formerly known as Twitter.

an end to this travesty of justice."

The statement said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has publicly attacked Prof Yunus on many occasions. In 2011, she accused him of "sucking blood from the poor" and in 2022 she suggested that he should be dropped in the Padma river for "trying to block the funding" of the Padma bridge project. Most recently she said "many Nobel laureates are now in prison" and that "the law will take its course" suggesting that Prof Yunus could also be imprisoned, it added.

The unusual speed at which the trial against Prof Yunus is proceeding stands in stark contrast with other labour rights-related court cases in Bangladesh. This includes the fires at the BM Container Depot in 2022 and the Hashem Foods Factory in 2021 where almost 100 factory workers were killed due to the employer's alleged negligence and non-compliance with safety standards, the rights watchdog

In both cases, the company owners

faced no known criminal liability and evaded accountability by paying paltry compensations. Occupational safety of workers remains a distant prospect with conservative estimates from the Safety and Rights Society, an NGO working to improve working conditions in Bangladesh, recording more than 4,700 worker deaths between 2013 and

"The Bangladesh government's relentless smear campaign against Muhammad Yunus shows the willing to go to set an example through the hounding of an 83-year-old Nobel

"Those violating labour rights must undoubtedly be held accountable. However, rather than misusing labour laws and criminal justice to harass Muhammad Yunus, the authorities should focus on combatting extensive threats to labour rights such as unsafe factories which continue to claim the lives of thousands of workers in

2022, it said.

desperate lengths the current regime is

laureate," Callamard said.

Bangladesh."

#### Action to be taken

sent a letter to the cabinet division, seeking his removal. It also said he must not be given any electoral duties. On September 14, the government

transferred Imran to the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment. "At the same time, all deputy

commissioners have been asked to stay alert. This has been done in the interest of the upcoming election, the confidence of the people, the EC and the government," the CEC said. He added that the EC has the

before the announcement of the election schedule. DCs usually perform the role of returning officers during national

jurisdiction to send such letters even

The CEC also said the commission is monitoring the situation ahead of the upcoming 12th parliamentary polls, likely to be held in the first week of January next year.

The CEC declined to comment when sked whether anvone can seek votes.

When his attention was drawn to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina seeking votes when going anywhere as part of state activities, the CEC said, Now everyone ... be it BNP or Awami league ... is talking about the election. Everyone is talking from their own point of view. But if the prime minister says, 'You will not vote for anyone but me', then the EC can definitely intervene. Now everyone is asking for votes. The commission has not analysed the situation thoroughly.

Talking about the recent workshop arranged by the commission, Habibul said that EC believes in transparency. Election Commission, political parties as well as government have different responsibilities in the election.

"Following the discussions [at the workshop], there can be a sense of responsibility for all."

#### Female workforce rises

higher participation of female employees in the formal sector in Bangladesh compared to its neighbours," said Atiur Rahman,

former governor of Bangladesh Bank. The work environment in the banking sector is also better as the central bank has introduced a favourable gender policy and takes action if there is a complaint of noncompliance, he said.

'The pay structure in this sector is quite satisfactory with reasonable scope of career uplift."

However, the rate of increase still remains low due to perhaps a low level of recruitment as a whole in the banking sector for its sluggish growth, as not all banks are performing well in terms of returns on investment due to higher non-performing assets and governance weaknesses, added Rahman.

"Some banks, of course, are doing well and providing regular circulars for recruitment.'

Besides, Rahman said the earlier normal growth momentum in January-June 2020 must have been truncated due to the severe slowdown in businesses during the Covid-19 period.

The employment, however, started gaining pace with the post-Covid recovery of the economy.

#### The BB data showed that the ratio of women employees had fallen to 15.80 percent in 2021, down from

18.67 percent the previous year. Humaira Azam, managing director and chief executive officer of Trust Bank Limited, said although the number has increased overall, it still

has not gone up in the key positions. "There is a lack of support from the upper-level colleagues to flourish in

the banking sector," she added. Echoing the same, Sayema Haque Bidisha, a professor at Dhaka University's economics department, said the country has managed impressive economic growth in recent years but participation of women in high- and middle-skilled job market has not increased in keeping with the

In addition, very few women usually get the scope to promote themselves to policymaking levels, she said.

infrastructural dedicated to women is not also adequate, which has created a major roadblock to increasing women's participation in banking jobs, Bidisha

The total number of employees in banks stood at 199,506 as of June this year, of which 32,567 are females, as per Bangladesh Bank data.

## BNP aiming for endgame

FROM PAGE 1

BNP. He resigned from parliament on December 11 last year, and then successfully contested the election as an independent candidate with backing from the Awami League.

Another senior BNP leader said that this time the political situation is different as there is an immense pressure on the government from the international community for holding the election in a free, fair and inclusive manner. Also, people are angry over the rising prices of essentials.

"The intensity and frequency of the ongoing movement will increase in the coming days. One thing is for sure, this time there will be no lopsided election and we will do our best to ensure that,"

said Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP.

The party boycotted the January AL won't let BNP 2014 election over the demand for a caretaker government, and take control unsuccessfully tried to resist the polls. It joined the 2018 election, which was marked by widespread allegations that voting took place the night before the election day in some places. Since then, the demand for polls under an apolitical interim administration came to the fore again.

Ahead of the 12th parliamentary election, the opposition party launched its one-point movement on July 12, and has since been holding various programmes, including sit-ins at the entry points of Dhaka on July 29.

#### Green group sues Australian minister over coal's impact

AFP, Sydney

risks of coal mining.

Activists launched court action accusing Australia's environment minister of failing to protect the Great Barrier Reef and other treasures from the climate

They allege the minister, Tanya Plibersek, has unlawfully refused to act on "a large volume of expert and scientific evidence of climate risk". The case focuses on applications

to extend coal mining operations

into the 2040s at two sites in New South Wales state owned by MACH Energy and Narrabri Coal Operations. Both coal mining firms have joined the minister in defending the case.

The mining extension applications are in the final stages of the state and federal approvals process.

The Environment Council of Central Queensland, which is bringing the case at the Federal Court in Melbourne, argued it was unlawful for the minister to refuse to act on the "climate science".

The council said it wrote to Plibersek last year asking her to re-consider a number of coal mining proposals because of their link with global warming and the likely "significant impact" on environmental treasures such as the Great Barrier Reef.

FROM PAGE 1

South) have been asked to remain alert in case the party has to deal with the BNP on the streets.

Thana and upazila units near Dhaka city have also been asked to support the city units, said sources. the party president's

Dhanmondi office, AL secretaries will hold a meeting today with leaders of Dhaka city units and top leaders of associate bodies to decide the next course of action for the ruling party.







• Individual • Shopkeeper (with or without Trade Licence) | Both for Conventional or Islamic Banking

No charges in Transactions

## 55pc girls harassed by peers: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adolescent girls are most often assaulted by their friends and classmates, says a report from Educo Bangladesh, which was shared yesterday.

The findings of the report titled, "Prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) on adolescent girls and its consequences in Bangladesh" were revealed at an event, "Silent suffering: GBV's impact on adolescent girls in Bangladesh".

Around 881 adolescent girls from Dhaka, Mymensingh, and Thakurgaon participated in this study, commissioned Educo International Bangladesh and conducted by H&H Research and Consultancy.

As per the report, over 55 percent of respondents said their peers and classmates were primary offenders when it comes to gender-based violence, while 41 percent blamed their neighbours and 29 percent accused their family members.

Around 54 percent of respondents considered early marriage as the worst type of gender-based abuse. Besides, 39 percent of respondents said they have experienced emotional or psychological abuse, while 32 percent said they were subjected to physical abuse.

Additionally, over 38 percent of respondents revealed their reluctance to to an uncertain future for them, said share incidents of gender-based violence

with anyone, underscoring the need for a safe environment for disclosure.

Overall, 71.4 percent of the adolescent girls said their liberty and mobility were hampered due to family and religious restrictions, and social barriers.

More alarmingly, half of the respondents were not aware of GBV-related laws.

Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, said, "Apart from physical and mental abuse of children, online abuse is also on the rise due to excessive use of devices...'

> **Gender-based violence** has a serious physical and mental impact on girls and such trauma can lead to an uncertain future for them.

> > ABDUL HAMID Country director of Educo Bangladesh

Stressing the fact that gender equality is in the constitution, he said it is important to train people who are responsible for implementing the laws. Additionally, awareness raising and community involvement are key to ending early marriages.

GBV has a serious physical and mental impact on girls. Such trauma can lead SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being greeted by Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Muhammad Imran and Permanent Representative to the UN Muhammad Abdul Muhith at JKF International Airport, New York on Sunday night. The premier is in the US to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

#### **DU SPORTS QUOTA** 49 athletes selected for admission

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has selected 49 sportspersons for admission to the 2022-23 undergraduate academic session under the reintroduced sports quota.

The athletes include national men's cricketer Towhid Hridoy, women's team cricketer Nahida Akhter, national team footballer Sheikh Morsalin, women's Ritu footballer Porna

Chakma, and many others. DU authorities The issued a notice in this regard yesterday, signed by Prof Abdul Bashir, chief coordinator of the Arts, Law and Social Sciences Unit.

Under the sports quota, the sportspersons get the opportunity to be admitted University Dhaka without taking part in the

admission test. The notice also asked the individuals to collect subject choice form from the dean's office of the Faculty of Arts and submit

ATTACK ON COPS

13 pro-BNP

lawyers get

bail

anticipatory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday

granted anticipatory bail

to 13 pro-BNP lawyers, including two party leaders, for a period of eight weeks

in a case filed for attacking

police during an agitation

programme in Old Dhaka

However, the HC directed

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45

JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

on September 12.

**SEPTEMBER 19** 

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## MOHAKHALI DENGUE HOSPITAL

# A ray of hope for critical patients

DIPAN NANDY

Dhaka North City Corporation on July 12 transformed the Covid-19 dedicated 500-bed Mohakhali Hospital into a specialised facility exclusively for treating dengue cases, as the country has been grappling with the most severe outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease in its history.

This move aimed to provide the care that critical dengue patients urgently need in a city overwhelmed by the rising number of cases and deaths.

Since its rebranding as a "Dengue Dedicated Hospital", the facility has witnessed an influx of patients arriving not only from within Dhaka but also from neighbouring districts.

As many as 7,186 patients sought treatment at the hospital's outdoor facilities in the first 18 days of September alone, with 1,603 requiring admission. Seven patients have succumbed to the disease within the hospital's walls during this time frame.



July 12 into account, the hospital has attended to 24,441 patients in its outdoor facilities, admitting 5,090 of them. However, 35 have lost their lives in their battle against dengue here. This number could have been much higher if not for the 45 ICU beds of the hospital, according to patients and

are currently admitted in this too didn't receive any allegations facility, with 18 of them requiring

professionals, including dedicated doctors, nurses, and support staff, are working tirelessly round the clock to manage the influx of patients. There are 87 medical officers for the facility and a good number of specialised doctors and nurses, said the hospital authorities.

While visiting the hospital As of yesterday, 312 patients yesterday, this correspondent regarding doctor shortage from SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### Dengue claims 17 more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 17 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquitoborne disease.

Of the 17 deaths, 10 were reported in the capital.

At least 3,084 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Dengue has so far claimed at least 839 lives this year, and nearly 170,768 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS data, 10,032 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

A total of 159,897 patients have so far been released from hospitals across the country this year.

Hospitals, especially in Dhaka, are struggling accommodate the to

# If one takes the numbers from ICU support. The healthcare SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Pedestrians struggle to find a way ahead as vendors occupy a significant portion of the footbridge at the capital's Farmgate. The photo was taken yesterday.

#### MJF condemns rape, murder of girl in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation has strongly condemned the murder of a seven-year-old girl in Chattogram.

The victim was killed, reportedly after being raped, allegedly by a 21-year-old man on Sunday. Police have already arrested the man following the incident. In a press release issued yesterday, Shaheen

Anam, executive director of MJF, expressed he deep concern regarding the murder and rape. She said this tragic incident underscores the

urgent need for enhanced protection of children, both within their homes and in the wider community.

This also reflects the absence of justice for the rape victims.

In many cases, even when perpetrators are identified, there is often no guarantee that they will face the appropriate punishment, reads the

It is frequently observed that these offenders manage to secure bail, exploiting legal loopholes or using their financial influence.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra, a total of 292 children were murdered during January-July this

The victims were aged between 5 and 12, and of them, 68 were below 6 years.

But only 103 cases were filed. MJF strongly urged authorities to establish child protection measures in high-risk areas,

particularly among low-income families, where parents are often forced to leave their children SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

#### 27 organisations demand release of Adilur, Elan Their detention will

further damage country's

'reputation', they say STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven organisations, including the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), yesterday demanded the release of rights defenders Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan, urging the withdrawal of charges against them.

In a joint statement, they expressed concern over their convictions, adding that detaining them will further damage Bangladesh's "already compromised international reputation".

On September 14, a Dhaka court sentenced Adilur, secretary of Odhikar, and Elan, director of the organisation, to two years in prison.

This was in relation to a case filed against them for disseminating "a distorted report and doctored images" regarding the police action during the Hefajat-e-Islam rally in Motijheel on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Kyrgyzstan; Bytes for All,

Pakistan: Centre for Human

Rights and Development,

Mongolia; Civil Society

Defence of Human Rights,

Pakistan; Human Rights

Measurement Initiative,

New Zealand; International

Legal Initiative Public

Foundation, Kazakhstan;

Informal Sector Service

Center, Nepal; Karapatan

Kazakhstan International

Rights and Rule of Law;

Cambodian League for the

Promotion and Defense of

Human Rights; Maldivian

National Center Against

Human Rights Advocates;

People's Watch, India;

Solidarity for Participatory

Democracy, South Korea;

Philippines; ThinkCentre,

Afghanistan:

Philippines;

Network:

Mongolia:

People's

Association

Kazakhstan:

Alliance of

Human

the sentencing of Adil Mancha, India; Bir Duino,

and

Network,

Alliance

Bureau

Democracy

Violence.

Philippine

PhilRights;

"Dignity",

Rehabilitation

#### Foyez Baksh's death anniv today

STAR REPORT

Today is the 16th death anniversary Foyez Baksh Bhuiya, prominent



businessman and social worker in Lalmonirhat. said a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held after the Asr prayers at his residence "Jahanara Shahebpara, Manzil". Storepara Jame Mosque, and Station Jame Mosque in Lalmonirhat. On behalf of the family members, his eldest son Dr Md Lutfor Rahman, and third son AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiya (Zinna) requested all to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

it with the prescribed fee

during office hours within

opportunity are: Ariful

Islam, Prantik Nawrose

Mahfizul Islam. Shakib

Shahriar, Ashraful Islam

Deepa Khatun, Riya Akhtar

Shahriar Shakib,

Nahida Akhtar,

Dhaka

Shikha, Mishti Rani Saha, basketball,

**Embassy of Sweden** 

Among other cricketers

given the

next Wednesday.

#### | 13 pro-BNP lawyers | A ray of hope

surrender before the lower court concerned within eight weeks.

The bench comprising Justice Md Jahangir Hossain and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury issued the order following a petition filed by the accused lawyers seeking anticipatory bail from the court.

Earlier in the day, the appeared petitioners before the High Court bench with their bail

The case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in the capital against 66 people on the charge of attacking police in front of the Dhaka Metropolitan September 12.

people were injured during petition.

secured the admission

are: Anisur Rahman Ziko,

Sheikh Morsalin, Md.

Meraj Hossain, Ritu Porna

Chakma, Nilufa Yeasmin

who take part in athletics,

swimming, roll ball, kho

archery,

Other sports persons

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/ ARCHIVIST

The Embassy of Sweden is seeking a candidate for the position as Administrative Assistant/Archivist.

The position forms part of the Development Cooperation Section and reports to the Head of Develop

ment Cooperation Section. The Administrative Assistant/Archivist also assists the Administrative Section with admin tasks. The Embassy has a staff of more than thirty-five persons. The duties of the Embassy involve working to implement bilateral development cooperation with Bangladesh, promoting political

relations and trade between both countries, and providing consular, visa and other migration services. For details of the job roles and responsibilities, please visit https://proedge-asso.com/careers

wushu,

boxing,

volleyball, guideline.

Nila, and Rehena Akhter.

and Halimatul Sadia.

Footballers

kho.

badminton,

49 athletes selected

a clash between pro-BNP FROM PAGE 3 the accused individuals to lawyers and the police in

the area. The clash erupted when the BNP-backed lawyers organised a procession on Johnson Road, defying restrictions.

According to both police and BNP sources, seven law enforcement officers and 16 pro-BNP lawyers were wounded during the confrontation. Among those granted

anticipatory bail yesterday are BNP Joint Secretary General AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and its Law Secretary Kayser Kamal, AKM Ehasnur Rahman, their lawyer, told The Daily

Abedin presented Sessions Judges' Court on arguments on behalf of the accused lawyers during Reportedly, at least 23 the hearing of the bail

shooting, karate, handball,

hockey, judo, and taekwon-

DU authorities used to

admit students under sports

quota till 2003. However,

in 2004, the sports quota

of criticism as irregularities

had been found during

admission. In July this year,

DU authorities resumed the

sports quota and formed a

was scrapped in the wake

do were also selected.

Senior lawyer Zainul

patients and their attendees.

Among the critical patients in the ICU was one Lima Akhter, a 35-year-old housewife from Mirpur.

Miraj Hawaladar, her nephew, said doctors at Mirpur General Hospital referred Lima to the dedicated dengue facility after her condition deteriorated. "My aunt was in the Mirpur hospital for three days. She has been in the ICU since last night," he said.

Akhter from Lucky Manikganj, another ICU patient, initially spent two days at a local hospital before being referred to Mohakhali facility, said her nephew Sumon. "Her situation is improving although she isn't out of danger yet," he added.

Alamgir from Gazipur is yet another critical patient in the ICU, whose deteriorating condition prompted his transfer from Gazipur Chandina Hospital after a three-day stay.

FROM PAGE 3

Their

May 5-6, 2013.

In their statement,

Forum Asia praised Adil

and Elan's work at Odhikar,

a watchdog organisation

dedicated to documenting

civil and political rights

have resulted in the

documentation of various

human rights violations

in the country, including

cases of extrajudicial

killings, torture, enforced

violence against women

Since 2013, Odhikar's

Adil and Elan, have

faced relentless judicial

harassment following the

publication of a report

that documented the

extrajudicial killings of

61 individuals during an

overnight crackdown on

Adil and Elan, has been

subjected to various smear

campaigns and criticisms

for their human rights

This is crucial to

advocacy over the years.

The statement further said Odhikar, along with

particularly

disappearances,

and minorities.

employees,

protests.

abuses in Bangladesh.

"His platelet count was getting dangerously low. Then we were advised to move him to Dhaka from the local hospital. So, we did. But he's still not out of danger," said his vounger sister Panna.

Contacted, Dr AKM Hossain Khan, acting director of the hospital, said the number of dengue patients are rising this month. "Mainly critical patients with platelet deficiency, shock syndrome, and low blood pressure are being referred

"We have a sufficient number of staffers. If needed, the number of beds will be increased," he

#### 55pc girls harassed

Abdul Hamid, country director Educo Bangladesh.

Adolescent who face abuse do not complain, despite having opportunity, due family obligations and social barriers. This

compels them to take drastic steps like suicide, mentioned speakers.

Nasima Akhter Jolly, secretary of National Girl Child Advocacy Forum; gender expert Sheepa Hafiza; and Dr Md Anwar Hossain, professor of social work department at Jagannath University, also spoke at the event.

#### not only affects them psychologically, but also

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile. many these retailers said they are "unaware" of the government's price cap on onions, potatoes and eggs.

Contacted, Shahinur Alam. assistant director of the Tangail Consumer Rights Protection Directorate, said most shopkeepers are claiming

"So we are campaigning at all the kitchen markets of the district with loud speakers regarding this,"

are conducting regular drives at the kitchen markets and fining traders for selling goods with inflated prices," he added.

MJF condemns rape

Association;

Foundation

Legal

After a decade of The Philippines; Banglar

unwarranted harassment, Manabadhikar Suraksha

27 organisations demand

rights

efforts

and

Mary

conviction,

and

and Elan sends a chilling

message to all human

Bangladesh and beyond,

Bacalso, executive director

of FORUM-ASIA, said

in the statement, "This

with the 25th anniversary

of the UN Declaration of

Human Rights Defenders,

symbolises a blatant

attempt to stifle dissent,

undermine fundamental

freedoms of expression

criminalise the vital work

undertaken by human

rights defenders. These

actions starkly contradict

the core principles of

democracy and the rule of

The signatories are Asian

Forum for Human Rights

and Development (FORUM-

Rights and Development

ASIA); Cambodian Human

AWAZ

Centre for Development Pusat KOMAS, Malaysia;

Services; Balay Alternative Task Force Detainees of the

Development of Mindanaw, Singapore; and Women's

Pakistan:

Advocates for

association, and

the statement reads.

defenders in

Aileen Diez-

coinciding

authorities concerned to society organisations to perpetrators as per law.

safeguarding children from potential predators, the policies children, MJF also urged children MJF also urged the the government and civil

ensure punishment for take up programmes to raise awareness among Stressing on enacting parents, guardians and to protect teachers to protecting from

#### Govt cap fails

STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA

(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 442 OF 2023

An application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC)

Notice is hereby given in the effect that an application under

was moved before High Court Division of the Supreme Court of

Bangladesh by the petitioner for Confirmation of the alteration

of the object clause by way of addition of sub-clause 7(a) under

Clause III in the object clause of the Memorandum of

Association of the Company namely "JMI LPG & Petroleum Limited." The Hon'ble Company Judge Mr. Justice Md. Riaz

Uddin Khan has admitted the said application on 11.09.2023

and Hon'ble court directed the petitioner to publish notices within 3 weeks and also to file an affidavit in compliance within

2 weeks thereafter i.e. on or before 15th October, 2023. Any

person interested in the said application may appear before the

Hon'ble Court. A Copy of the said application may be obtained

from the undersigned on payment of charges

Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994

that they were not notified

IN THE MATTER OF:

Companies Act, 1994.

IN THE MATTER OF: JMI LPG & Petroleum Limited

the government's decision.

he added.

"Besides, the magistrates

-----Petitioner

- Respondent

#### Dengue claims 17 more lives

large number of patients

FROM PAGE 3

unsupervised.

press release added.

pain, and vomiting, health officials said.

suffering high fever, joint diseases, they added.

The government has dengue, which is common thrives in stagnant water.

taken initiatives to limit the in South Asia during spread of mosquito-borne the June-to-September monsoon season when the There is no vaccine or Aedes aegypti mosquito, the drug that specifically treats carrier of the deadly virus,

Date: 17.09.2023

Professional qualifications

Degree in Business Administration or equivalent

Min. 3 years of experience working in similar roles in international organizations, Embassies, large non-governmental or private sector

Fluent written and spoken English and proficient in Bangla

Excellent IT skills, especially high proficiency in MS Office

Ability to initiate and work independently, as well as have the capacity to meet deadlines with a high level of quality and accuracy level of quality and accuracy
Excellent interpersonal skills. We seek someone who is flexible, and who can organize and plan their
work and is able to work well in a team and respect individual differences.

Take advantage of this career opportunity and apply with a motivation letter (maximum 400 words), your resume and three professional references from former managers to eos@proedge-asso.com by 5 October 2023

Receipt of application will not be acknowledged. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview.



Local e-Tender is invited in The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.(SPCBL)'s e-Tender site (https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd.) for procurement of the following item for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule. Necessary information is given below:

submission of e-Tender 18/10/2023 upto 11.00 AM Publish 19/9/2023 18/10/2023 at 11.15 AM 04/2023-2024 Sodium Hydroxide Flake (Caustic Soda).

For more details, Please visit/Contact the followings:

Cell Telephone E.mail

https://spcbletender.bb.org.bd.

General Manager (Local Purchase & Sales) Phone: 02996694399

Memo No. 46.02.1831.000.14.171.23-935

401831-02

(Goods)

GD-1436

#### Sodium Hydroxide Flake(Caustic

www.spcbl.org.bd. 88-01534002184/01911064896 Website

Local e-Tender for supply of 72,000 kgs

e-Tender site

02996694110-15(Ext:173 & 180), 02996694399 info@spcbl.org.bd

(Md. Mokbul Hossain)

Md. Abu Hanif Dider, Advocate, Supreme Court, (Room No.3008) Annex, Supreme Court Bar Association Annex Building Bhaban, Shahbag, Dhaka.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Upazila: Damurhuda, District: Chuadanga

www.laed.gov.bd

"শেখ হাসিনার মলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্তি" Date: 14 /09/2023

#### Invitation for Tender (OTM) e-Tender Notice No. 01 /2023-2024

e-Tenders are invited for 03 (Three) Nos. Packages in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following

works under LGED, Damurhuda, Chuadanga. Upazila Engineer, Upazila: Damurhuda, Dist: Chuadanga Procuring entity & code Procuring entity district Chuadanga Invitation for Procurement method Source of funds UGDP-LGI UGDP-JICA Development partners Program name (code) 17-09-2023 Tender publication date Time: 4.00pm 08-10-2023 Tender last selling date 09-10-2023 Tender closing date Time: 3.00pm 09-10-2023 Time: 3.00pm Tender opening date Description of work: Tender Package Name of works Tender last selling Tender ID Tender closina Tender opening (date & time) (date & time) (date & time) INF-2021-22-872161 দামুড়হদা উপজেলার অন্তর্গত বিভিন্ন 08 October-2023 09 October-2023 09 October-2023 401831-01 প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ে প্রাষ্টিকের বেঞ্চ 16:00 15:00pm 15:00pm (উঁচু-নিচু) সরবরাহ। (Goods) দামুড়হদা উপজেলার অন্তর্গত বিভিন্ন INF-2021-22 872165 08 October-2023 09 October-2023 09 October-2023

মাধ্যমিক বালিকা 872167 INF-2021-22-08 October-2023 09 October-2023 09 October-2023 কাপাসডাঙ্গা 401831-03 বিদ্যালয়ে কমনক্রম ও এটাস্ট টয়লেট 15:00pm 15:00pm বি.লু.: Tender ID- 872167 (Construction) কাজের ক্ষেত্রে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (OTM) অফিসিয়াল Estimate এর চেয়ে ১০% এর অধিক বা কম মূল্যে দাখিলকত দরপত্র

সিলিং

প্রতিষ্ঠানে

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during the office period

সরবরাহ।

গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and online 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 banks branches up to 09 October-2023, 01.00pm. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

> Md. Abdur Rashid Upazila Engineer Damurhuda, Chuadanga

Email: ue.damurhuda@lged.gov.bd

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD

Ferry Division, Topkhana, Sylhet Phone: +8802-996631429 Email: eefdsyl@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 362

GD-1434

Notice for e-GP Tender(s)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of Works/Goods and related service of RHD, Ferry Division, Topkhana, Sylhet: e-Tender ID No. 872683 to 872693, 872695, 872697, 872699 to 872706 and 875012 total 22 (twenty-two) e-Tenders. These are online Tender(s), where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. For further information, visit e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

> 111039/00/2016 Mazedul Hossain ID No. 602319 Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD Ferry Division, Sylhet

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chattogram City Corporation Tiger Pass, Chattogram www.ccc.org.bd

মূজিৰ W শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Dated: 17/09/23

Memo No. 26.46.11.1600.001.31.02/26

#### e-Tender Notice-CCC/APP/xen-04/2023-24

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 of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be denosited online through any registered hank hranches up to 02-10-2023 at 12:00

Porta	il nave to be deposited	cnes up to 02-10-2023 at 12:00.			
S.L	S.L. No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date &	Last date &
No				time of selling	time of
1				documents	submission
					documents
1	ccc/xen-	Construction of Broken slab	871125	27-09-2023	27-09-2023
1	4/rev/W-11/8	Pathantuly to Barek Building on		12.00	14.00
1		Sheikh Mujib Road at 28 No.			
		Pathantuly Ward.			
2.	CCC/xen-	Earthwork Excavation of Bashonti	874016	02-10-2023	02-10-2023
1	4/rev/w-11/7.	School to Jele Para Drain, Sadhu		12.00	14.00
1		Chy Rd. drain, Bosar Colony drain,			
1		Kajir Dighi Coaaton factory Drain,			
1		College Road Bonik Para Drain at			
1		11 No Ward			

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)

CCC/PRD-63/23-24 (6"x4) GD-1439

Engr. Jashim Uddin **Executive Engineer** Chattogram City Corporation

#### Jica resumes sending volunteers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

After seven years, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Programme resumed operations in Bangladesh this month, marking its 50th anniversary.

It was suspended following the July 2016 Holey Artisan attack, which killed 22, including 7 Japanese worked for Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

Seeing the security situation improving, Jica brought back the JOCV, a cooperation scheme operated as part of the Japanese Official Development Assistance by Jica. Through this programme, Japanese citizens volunteer in partnered countries and use their skills and expertise to contribute towards social and economic development. Since 1973, Jica has dispatched 1,284 volunteers to Bangladesh.

#### **BCL LEADER MURDER** Nine held with firearms in Pabna

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna** 

Police have arrested nine individuals in connection with the murder of BCL leader Tafsir Ahmed Mona in Pabna.

Law enforcement officers also seized three firearms from their possession during the operation conducted from Sunday to early yesterday, said Munshi Akbar Hossain, superintendent of Police in Pabna, at a press conference at his office.

Tafsir was shot dead on June 17 near Lokhmikunda market in the Ishwardi upazila of the district.

The arrestees are Manik, 36, Chaman Hossain, 38, Rajib, 20, Fasiul Alom Anik 27, Shahin Sardar, 28, Ariful Islam, 32, Monirul Islam, 34, Amzad Hossain Obujh, 37. and Mahafuzur Rahman Kala. 35.

According to police, all of them are affiliated with various organisations associated with the ruling Awami League.

Tafsir's family members claimed that the motive behind the murder was rivalries over a sand extraction business. They also alleged that the perpetrators were engaged in the same business



Rain or shine, life goes on... Amid midday heat, four tea workers walk to another part of the Lakkatora tea garden in Sylhet after finishing work at one location as part of their daily routine. The photo was taken yesterday.

ONION, POTATO, EGG PRICES IN TANGAIL

# Govt cap fails to tame it

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail** 

The government's price cap on onions, potatoes, and eggs have failed to bring down the runaway prices in Tangail, just like elsewhere in the country, as shopkeepers have not complied with the decision.

The government on Thursday set the price of onions at Tk 64 to Tk 65 a kg. But the price of the spice ranged from Tk 75-Tk 78 a kg in Tangail markets.

People had to pay Tk 45-Tk 48 for a kg of potatoes, while the cap was set at Tk

Only a few shops were selling an egg for Tk 12 in compliance with the order, while most were demanding Tk 13 or more.

Grocery store owners in several kitchen markets of Tangail in Park Bazar,

City Bazar, Chhoy Ani Bazar, Amin Bazar, Baby Stand Bazar, Sabalia Bazar, Bailla Bazar, Notun Bus Stand Bazar and Meser Market said they bought goods from the wholesalers at prices higher than the cap set by the government.

They said they would reduce the prices if they are lowered at wholesale level.

Meanwhile, wholesalers, seeking anonymity, said it is not possible to bring down the price of these goods without increasing the supply.

One of the wholesalers said they are procuring half the quantity of potatoes than they normally do, which is why the price is rising.

Several potato traders like Abu Saveed. Abu Taher and Siddique Hossain of Park Market, the largest wholesale market in the town, said they sell local varieties of potato for Tk 50 per kg.

Meanwhile, onion traders Borhan Ali. Abdul Halim and Akter Hossain of the same market said they are selling the spice for Tk 70 (at wholesale level), while eggs are being sold for Tk 11.

As the price is high at wholesale level, retail traders of the kitchen markets, including Farid Miah, Sankar Pal, Helal Uddin and others, have said it is impossible for them to comply with the government's cap.

Citing the wholesalers, they claimed that they would have to buy the products with inflated prices at least till this

"The equation is simple. If we can buy goods from wholesalers at low prices, we can sell them to consumers at low prices," said Abu Hanif, a retail trader.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## **LALMONIRHAT HOSPITAL** Ambulance, gifted by India, lies idle for 2yrs

A life support ambulance, gifted by India, remains unused and has been left under the open sky on the Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital premises for nearly two years due to the lack of a driver.

The ambulance was handed over to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital on December 22, 2021 and has been lying idle since. Speaking to The Daily Star, Ramjan Ali, the

hospital's superintendent, said the ambulance cannot be used as there is no driver. Several letters were given to authorities

concerned for the appointment of drivers, but there has been no recruitment till now, he said. "We accepted the ambulance as a gift from

India and we thought that we would get a driver as well," he added. Three years ago, the hospital had two drivers for

two ambulances. One went into retirement while the other driver, Shusil Chandra, has been ill for the past one year.

After Shusil fell ill, one of the ambulances is being driven by Alamgir Hossain, the hospital's cook, the superintendent said.



Contacted, Alamgir said as he has a driving licence, he was driving the ambulance on the hospital authorities' request.

Meanwhile, hospital staffers alleged that many important parts of the ambulance were stolen and some dishonest hospital employees were involved

Asked about the theft, Superintendent Ramjan said, "I have no information about it. I will look into the matter."

During his two-day visit to Bangladesh on March 26 and 27, 2021, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the gift of 109 life support ambulances to improve the quality of health services and deal with the Covid-19

The government set the price of onions at Tk 64 to Tk 65 a kg. But the price of the spice ranged from Tk 75-Tk 78 a kg in Tangail markets. Besides, people had to pay Tk 45-Tk 48 for a kg of potatoes while the cap was set at Tk 35-Tk 36.

#### **Transport Office University of Dhaka**

Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Phone: 9670531, 9661920-59/4316 (Off) Fax: 88-02-9667222 Email: vcoffice@du.ac.bd registrar@du.ac.bd নং-প/

Name of supply



ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ ফোনঃ ৯৬৭০৫৩১, ৯৬৬১৯২০-৫৯/৪৩১৬ (অ) ফ্যাব্রঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৬৬৭২২২ ই-মেইলঃ vcoffice@du.ac.bd registrar@du.ac.bd

> ০৩ আশ্বিন/১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ ১৮ সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

> > Place where detailed

#### **Transport Office University of Dhaka**

Invitation for Tender (National) Last date of sale Last date of

		,	tender documents	submission of tender documents	opening of tender documents	information will be found		
I	01.	Tender Ref. No. 31959 Tp/Otm/2023 Supply, installing, testing &	03/10/2023 Up to Office Hour	04/10/2023 Up to 12.00 Noon	4/10/2023 12.30pm	du.ac.bd Or		
		commissioning of new addition spare parts & related services for the Bus No-Dhaka-Metro-Sha-11-0066	'	Sp 10 12:00 110011	12.000111	Notice Board at the Transport Office, University of Dhaka		
	STATE NA							

300000 Transport Manager University of Dhaka

Date & time of

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



SI No.

GD-1437

Office of the Inspector General Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka

#### Invitation for e-Tender

Memo No. 44.01.0000.453.07.311.23/2929

through any registered bank's branches.

Date: 18 September 2023

For the financial year 2023-2024, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following item.

I	SL Description		Tender ID	Online tender notice publication	Online tender closing	
I			No.	date & time	date & time	
I	1.	IED Jammer	875503	19-Sep-2023 12:00	17-Oct-2023 12:30	
I	2.	Wide Terrain Searching Tool	875509	19-Sep-2023 12:00	17-Oct-2023 12:30	
ı						

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal an 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

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Muhammad Ullah, BPM, PPM

BP-7605116336 AIG (Equipment) For Inspector General Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka Tel: 9585304, Fax: 55101641 E-mail: aige\_t@police.gov.bd

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

শেখ হাসিনার দিন বদলে. সমাজ সেবা এগিয়ে চলে

শারক নম্বঃ ৪১.০১.০০২৩.০০০.১৮.০০১.২৩.৮৫৯

০১ মন্ত্রণালয়

সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় ৩/২০, হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

www.dss.dhakadiv.gov.bd

#### সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) মালামাল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তরাধীন ঢাকা বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়ের দাগুরিক ক্রয়কার্য সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) নিম্লে উল্লেখিত ক্যাটাগরী (কাজ) ও সময়কাল (মেয়াদ) এর জন্য নিমিন্তে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভ্ক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহবান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না। সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে ঢাকা বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়ে মালামাল সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয়ে এতদ্বারা নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচেছ।

আবেদনকারীগণকে প্রতি ফরমের জন্য নগদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যে আবেদন ফরম ক্রয় করে ক্রয়ের মানি রিসিট, বিজ্ঞপ্তির উল্লিখিত প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি এবং তালিকাভূভির ফি বাবদ পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর তফসিল-২ এর বিধি ৫৩ (৩) (ঙ) মোতাবেক ঢাকা বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়ের অনুকলে শ্রেণীভিত্তিক ৫০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা ও সাথে ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্স বাবদ (১৫+১০) = ২৫% সর্বমোট (৫০০০+১,২৫০) = ৬,২৫০/- (ছয় হাজার দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে প্রমাণক সংগ্রহ করে (ট্রেজারী চালান মূলকপি) অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

: সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।

02	বিভাগ	- 1	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর।
00	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তা	:	পরিচালক, বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।
08	বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিষয়	:	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM) এর মাধ্যমে বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ঢাকার মালামাল সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তকরণ।
00	আবেদনপত্র বিক্রয় শুরুর তারিখ		২০-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ
06	আবেদনপত্র বিক্রয় শেষ তারিখ	:	২৬-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ
०१	আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ এবং বাক্স বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	1	২৭-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
ob	দরপত্র আহবানের উদ্দেশ্য	:	ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভ্জিকরণ।
do	বাক্স খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	1	২৭-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৩,০০ ঘটিকা।
20	আবেদন করম বিক্রয়ের স্থান	:	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
22	আবেদনপত্র জমার স্থান	1	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
25	আবেদনপত্র খোলার স্থান	:	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।
70	আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে	1	ক) সকল গ্রুপে সরবরাহকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে ১০টি গ্রুপে অন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানে মালামাল সরবরাহের প্রমাণকস্বরূপ ক্রয়াদেশ/অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ এর সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে (যদি থাকে)। খ) সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত সকল আবেদনকারীর প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজ নামে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর প্রত্যয়নপত্র, ভ্যাট ((VAT) ট্যাক্স (TAX) রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদ ও হালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেন্সী সনদপত্র (বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে বিগত ০১ মাসের মধ্যে দাখিল করতে হবে। গ) অথবাইজড পারসনের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। ঘ) আবেদনকারী সদ্য তোলা ০১ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙ্গিন সত্যায়িত ছবি দাখিল করতে হবে। ৬) সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের শ্রেণী আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

১৪। মালামাল ধরণ অনুযায়ী গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক বিবরণঃ	and the second s
মালামাল/যন্ত্রাংশ সরবরাহের বিবরণ	মালামাল সরবরাহের স্থান
গ্রুপ- ক) অন্যান্য মনিহারী মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ক) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- খ) কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- খ) বিভাগীয় ক্রীড়া ও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের বিভিন্ন কাজ ও মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ভ) কম্পিউটার ও আনুষ্যঙ্গিক মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- চ) বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ভ) আসবাবপত্র মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ভ) অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- বা) তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- বা) তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০, হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকায় সরবরাহ করতে হবে।

১৫। অন্যান্য শর্তাবলীঃ

ক) আবেদনপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন আবেদনপত্র বিক্রি করা হবে না।

খ) আবেদনপত্র ডাকযোগে বিক্রয় বা গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

গ) নির্বারিত সময়ের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ঘ) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে ডকুমেন্টের ফটোকপি হিসেবে দাখিলকৃত সকল কাগজপত্রাদি ১ম শ্রেণীর অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।

ঙ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সংখ্যক/সকল সংখ্যক আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

চ) তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে দরপত্র আহবান কাজ প্রদানের কর্তপক্ষ নিশ্চয়তা প্রদান করবেন না।

ছ) আবেদনের সাথে ৫০০০/- টাকা ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণের কোড নং-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-তে ট্রেজারী চালানের জমা দিতে হবে। জ) আবেদনের সাথে ৭৫০/- টাকা জ্যাট (VAT) বাবদ কোড নং-১-১১৩৩-০০১০-০৩১১- তে ট্রেজারী চালানের জমা দিতে হবে। ৰা) আবেদনের সাথে ৫০০/- টাকা আয়কর (TÁX) বাবদ কোড নং-১-১১৪১-০০১৫-০১১১- তে ট্রেজারী চালানের জমা দিতে হবে।

> মোহাম্মদ মোজাম্মেল হক পরিচালক **☎** 02-83022932

জিভি-১৪৩৮

GD-1432

The audience seems to be impressed by the story, songs and acting. Many have been excited by how they could not believe how they were seeing Bubly on-screen. I've

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Mahfuz

acting.

Ahmed's

ZAREEN NAWAR

Since her debut in 2001 with the drama Shesh Belay, Chayanika Chowdhury has been a household name in Bangladesh's showbiz industry. Moreover, in a maledominated industry, she has carved her own mark as a courageous woman, stepping into the silver-screen with films like Bishwoshundori and Prohelika. She drops by The Daily Star to talk about her illustrious career of 22

What can you tell us about your feelings when you look back at your body of work thus far?

As I think about how far I have come in the industry today, I feel a sense of rejuvenation. I tend to ponder ever single day about how I can make my coming days or years worthwhile. When I think about my struggles and the kind of insults I have had to overcome, I cannot help but think that I am where I am today because of the people who tried to offend me. I, in fact, want to thank those very people for bringing me here today.



Who are the ones who have supported you throughout your career?

was given my first platform thanks to Mujibur Rahman of Light and Shadow. It was a massive opportunity for me, I would've never realised my own capabilities had I not been given that support. I want to thank Anjan Chowdhury,

Ajay Kumar Buru and Jamal Hossain for **Prohelika**. I have people like Tamalika Karmaker, Mahfuz Ahmed, Imdadul Haq Milan and Faria Hossain including the teams I have worked with so far to thank, for my career.

Your second film 'Prohelika', has been very successful. What kind of reviews have you been getting? "Your *Prohelika* is wonderful", is the first thing I have been hearing from people. The audience seems to be impressed by the story, songs and acting. Many have been excited by how they could not believe how they were seeing Bubly on-screen. I've heard 'fantastic comeback' being used to describe Mahfuz Ahmed's acting, and the cinematography is again something that people seemed to love. Lastly, many viewers confessed that they noticed how they should not judge something based on looks only.

How was directing your first film 'Bishwoshundori', compared to

The first child is and always will be special and it is something that I should not compare other creations with. I can, however, admit that I was able to overcome a few of my mistakes whilst directing the second film. So, I basically learned much from my first one. I tried to do everything perfectly with Prohelika. The outpour of love I received following its release has been miraculous. It competed with Shakib Khan and Nisho's films around Eid, even my producer was hesitant about releasing it when we did. *Prohelika*'s performance ultimately delighted all of us, and I could go ahead with its release because I was confident about my

When you were directing 'Prohelika', did you feel like you were experiencing a new challenge at any point?

We had to shoot an elevenminute-long sequence in one go. We might have rehearsed it three or four times, but it had to be done in one take. We didn't even need to film it a second time. It was an exciting challenge. The underwater shots were beautiful, but demanding as well.

#### I am nervous about 'Khufiya': Badhan



The highly anticipated trailer for the Netflix film Khufiya, directed by Vishal Bhardwaj, was unveiled yesterday. This marks the Bollywood debut of actress Azmeri Haque Badhan, and it's already creating quite a buzz in the industry.

Khufiya unfolds as a gripping espionage thriller, where the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) is confronted with the haunting presence of a mole within its ranks.

"I am nervous about 'Khufiya' at this moment. The reason is that I have acted alongside an actress like Tabu. Most of my scenes are with her. The audience has high expectations, and this anticipation has made me anxious. One thing that feels good, sharing screen with Tabu, is like a dream come true. This is a great achievement for me," said Badhan to The Daily Star.

#### European Film Festival commences in Bangladesh



seven-day European Festival has begun encompassing films from Bangladesh and Europe. The festival commenced the screening of the Dutch movie Mally Can Fly at Bangladesh

Shilpakala Academy's National Theater in Dhaka,

Film screenings will take place at Alliance Française, Shilpakala Academy, Institute of Modern Languages (IML) of Dhaka University and Dutch Club, until September 23.

Outside Dhaka, exhibitions are also being held at Khulna University, Varendra University (VU) in Rajshahi and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University in Mymensingh.

## NEWS

#### AL leader killed, 17 hurt

trying to establish his supremacy in

On the other hand, Chalibhanga Union Parishad Chairman Humayun Kabir is not a supporter of the MP.

Followers of Quaiyum and Humayun locked into a clash with local weapons yesterday morning over taking control of the local sand business.

Nizam, who rushed to the spot after learning of the incident, was fatally struck by a harpoon allegedly thrown by the followers of Quaiyum.

Later, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died while undergoing treatment, according to police and family members.

Ten other people who sustained shotgun pellet wounds and injuries caused by harpoon attacks were

of DMCH Police Outpost, told this

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Meghna Police Station Delowar Hossen said they have detained five persons for quizzing and no case has been filed in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, in Narsingdi, at least seven people were injured in another harpoon attack during a clash between two AL factions in the Chardighaldi area of the Sadar upazila also over establishing supremacy.

The clash broke out between the followers of the incumbent Chairman of Chardighaldi Union Parishad (UP) Delowar Hossain Shahin, and former chairman of the UP and vicepresident of the union unit AL Abu Mansur.

According to locals, Shahin,

the Bijoy Sarani ramp, the first BRTC

bus paid toll at 11:50am and reached

Highways Division Secretary ABM

Aman Ullah Nuri inaugurated the

"We have launched this service on

an experimental basis. Buses will

operate from 7:30am every day. The

service will continue as long as there

year, the High Court enhanced

her punishment to 10 years after

bus service on Manik Mia Avenue.

Earlier, Road Transport and

Speaking to reporters, he said,

Kawla near the airport at 12:05pm.

FROM PAGE 12 undergoing treatment at the same also former General Secretary of Many countries faced a similar lawmaker Selima Ahmed, has been hospital, Bachchu Miah, in-charge Madhabdi upazila unit Chhatra situation due to the war, they said. League, was forced to stay out of the area due to his rivalry with Abu

> When he and his supporters tried to enter the Chardighaldi area, the Mansur-led group obstructed them, which led to a clash between the two

> factions Both Shahin and Mansur blamed each other for the clash.

> Talking to The Daily Star. Abdul Aziz, officer-in-charge (OC) of Madhabdi Police Station, said, "We came to know that several people were injured in the clash that took place around 6:00am. We are looking into the matter, but we have vet to receive any written complaint from

> Our correspondents from Cumilla and Brahmanbaria contributed to

> increases. Passengers can travel from

Farmgate to the airport by paying the

current BRTC bus fares, the secretary

airport trip has been fixed at Tk

35 and the 17km Khejur Bagan-

Jasimuddin Road trip at Tk 40. There

is no scope for charging extra fares as

tickets will be sold under e-ticketing

expressway has been set at Tk 160.

The toll for buses using the

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had

system, BRTC sources said.

The fare for a 15km Khejur Bagan-

added.

#### 24 personalities

FROM PAGE 12

Later, most of the countries could keep the inflation within a tolerable level by strictly implementing their monetary policies, taking austerity measures, and managing the market, they added.

"We are noticing that Bangladesh has so far been unable to tame the inflation," the statement said, adding that the government has failed to effectively manage the market.

There is an allegation that syndicates at different stages in the supply chain, from production to retail level, are controlling the prices, but the government bodies concerned cannot rein them in, they said.

Describing the situation unacceptable, the eminent citizens said if needed, the government should involve the society and take prompt steps to overcome the situation and control the prices of essentials, including meat, lentil, onion, egg, and potato, to reduce the sufferings of the people.

The signatories to the statement include Sultana Kamal, former adviser to a caretaker government, Rasheda K Choudhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, Ramendu Majumdar, cultural personality, Sarwar Ali, trustee of Liberation War Museum, Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University, Khushi Kabir, rights activist, Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist- Christian Oikya Parishad, and Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University.

#### DMP probe body FROM PAGE 12

to the DMP commissioner tomorrow [today]. If necessary, he may later forward it to the inspector general of police," the official added.
On September 9, ADC Harun

and some other police officials took the two Chhatra League leaders to Shahbagh Police Station around 9:00pm and tortured them for about an hour, BCL leaders alleged.

A week ago, DB Chief Harun Or Rashid alleged ADC Harun was assaulted first by the president's Assistant Personal Secretary Azizul Haque at the Birdem Hospital that evening. "This should be investigated too," he said.

Azizul's wife, Sanjida Afrin, also an ADC of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, gave The Daily Star a similar account of the Birdem Hospital incident.

#### China hits out at German FM's 'dictator' Xi comment

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday lashed out against German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock for calling President Xi Jinping a "dictator", branding the comment "an open political provocation" that was "extremely absurd".

Beijing is Berlin's top trade partner but Germany published a new policy in July to contend with a more "assertive" China after months of wrangling within the government over its strategy.

Baerbock, who has pushed for a more hawkish line, made the remarks in a Fox News interview on September 14 during a visit to the United States.

war, she said: "If Putin were to win this war, what sign would that be for other the Chinese president? So therefore stance.

Ukraine has to win this war."

China said yesterday it was "strongly dissatisfied" and that it had made "solemn representations to the German side through diplomatic channels".

"(The comments) are extremely absurd and are a serious infringement of China's political dignity and an open political provocation," foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said at a daily news conference.

Berlin's new China policy marks a fine balance between the two differing positions in its coalition government, calling Beijing a "partner, competitor, systemic rival".

Baerbock, of the German Greens, has pushed for a harder line against While talking about the Ukraine China and for a greater emphasis on human rights, while Chancellor Olaf Scholz, a Social Democrat, dictators in the world, like Xi, like has backed a more trade-friendly

#### Bangladesh at bottom

Engineering and Technology (Buet). He said solar energy is not the only option. "We need to think about green hydrogen."

Prof M Shamsul Alam, senior vice president of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, said energy has now become an import-dependent sector. "There is no energy security as the

government is finding it difficult to pay the import bills [primary fuels] due to a lack of US dollars."

He said the government is doing business and also fixing energy prices which is contradictory.

"The government is making

predatory profits. The sector needs a strong and independent regulatory body," Shamsul observed.

Shafiqul Alam, energy finance analyst at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said the government is going to build three LNG storage regasification units (FSRU) to increase the storage capacity of imported LNG.

"If the government cannot utilise the facilities fully, it will have to pay capacity charges to the regasification units," he added.

Speaking at the event, State Minister for Planning Shamsul Alam said people in Germany get sunlight for only two to three hours every day.

"But they have built huge buildings, especially in schools and colleges, with photovoltaic glasses to produce electricity. We have built buildings using glass. Why don't we use such photovoltaic glasses?"

Md Rafiqul Islam, joint secretary (planning) at Energy and Mineral Resources Division, said the government has increased the local gas production and has taken up an exclusive programme to boost the

production further. "It is not true that the government only depends on imports. If we don't import LNG, industrial growth will become stagnant," he added.

Sanem Executive Director Prof Selim Raihan moderated the event.

#### Bus ride smoother than ever After entering the expressway via

FROM PAGE 12 They expressed content as they

FROM PAGE 12

the Secretariat.

with the pandemic.

graft case.

reached their destinations in a reasonably short time. Gias Uddin said that people like

him, who don't own a car, were not

being able to take advantage of the expressway until yesterdav. "A Farmgate-airport trip by road would usually take a person around two hours. But the time has now come down to just about half an hour

with the launch of the BRTC bus

will be passengers." service via the expressway," he said. Yesterday, eight double-deckers

Huq briefed reporters on the issue at

jail on February 8, 2017, after

being sentenced to five years'

Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust

On October 30, the following

He said more buses will operate on opened the airport-Farmgate section this route if the number of passengers of the expressway on September 2. operated on the route from 11:25am. Govt extends suspension by six months

dismissing her appeal. Khaleda was freed from jail on The former prime minister was convicted by another special court March 25, 2020, after the government in Dhaka in the Zia Charitable suspended her jail sentence for six Trust corruption case on October months. She was released during a 29. 2018. She was sentenced to time when the world was grappling seven years' imprisonment by the The BNP chief landed in court.

In another development, Khaleda was taken back to a cabin at the imprisonment by a special court in Evercare Hospital from the coronary care unit (CCU) around 11:30am yesterday, said her personal physician AZM Zahid Hossain.

CCU at 1:30am as per the advice of her medical board," he told The Daily

Zahid added that the medical board, consisting of local and foreign physicians, held an emergency meeting around 11:30pm on Sunday. The board decided to move her to the

from multiple health complications, including arthritis, diabetes, kidney issues, liver problems, and heart diseases for a long time, according to the board.

"Khaleda Zia was moved to the

The BNP chief has been suffering

#### ISRAELI RESTRICTIONS

#### Palestinians' access to healthcare hindered: WB

INTERNATIONAL

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's restrictions and rising fiscal constraints in the Palestinian territories are severely impacting the economic conditions of Palestinians and hindering their access to timely life-saving healthcare, the World Bank said yesterday.

In a report titled "Racing Against

Time", the World Bank said that overall the Palestinian economy performing below potential, with per capita income expected to stagnate.

Poverty in the Palestinian territories was on the rise, with one out of four Palestinians living below the poverty line,

the Washington-based global lender said. Israel's restrictions on movement and trade in the occupied West Bank, the blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and the divide between the two Palestinian territories were among several factors that had put the Palestinian economy at high risk, the report said.

"The fiscal constraints weigh heavily on the Palestinian health system and particularly on its ability to cope with the

mounting burden of non-communicable diseases," Stefan Emblad, the World Bank's director for the West Bank and Gaza, said in a statement released with the report.

The restrictions, including "a lengthy, bureaucratic regime of permits", often makes it hard to provide timely life-saving healthcare to Palestinians, he said. Access to outside medical referrals for

treatment of cancers, heart diseases, and maternal and child birth conditions are significantly affected due to physical administrative constraints, statement said.

"The situation is particularly critical in Gaza, which suffers from a more limited

health system capacity and where patients struggle to get needed medical exit permit applications on a timely basis," it said.

"Research figures show that the nearblockade of Gaza has had an impact on mortality, as some patients do not outlive the length of the permit process."

Thousands of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip cross annually into Israel for medical treatment unavailable in the impoverished Palestinian territories.



Riot police officers fire tear smoke shells to disperse demonstrators protesting against the arrest of five people, who police said were carrying weapons while wearing camouflage uniform, in Imphal, Manipur, India yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

#### **PAKISTAN SC Proceedings** shown live on TV for first time

**REUTERS**, Islamabad

Proceedings from Pakistan's Supreme Court were broadcast live yesterday by state television for the first time, giving an unprecedented view into the workings of an institution that has historically had a huge impact on the country's politics.

The move marks the beginning of the tenure of new Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa as Pakistan's top judge.

Isa, 64, was sworn in as chief justice on Sunday after he became the most senior judge of the court on the retirement of his predecessor Justice Umar Ata Bandial. Isa's first move as the top judge was to open proceedings for live broadcast.

"It is a majority consensus decision to telecast live," Isa said at the start of proceedings shown live by staterun broadcaster Pakistan Television. Previous attempts to broadcast proceedings live had been blocked by the court.

The broadcast was shown uninterrupted by all major Pakistani

Adding to the interest of the proceedings was the nature of the case, which pertains to legislation that curtails the discretion of the chief justice to take up any legal matter directly, commonly known as suo moto action, and his powers to entrust cases to his fellow judges.

# Get anti-poverty goals back on track

UN chief urges world leaders at the SDG summit in New York

AGENCIES

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday called on world leaders to get the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a universal goal to end poverty in all its forms by 2030 - back on track as the world's biggest diplomatic gathering kicks off.

The UN General Assembly opened its 78th session with the SDG Summit in its New York headquarters.

Addressing world leaders, Guterres called for \$500 billion in investment a year to get the SGDs on track, reports Anadolu news agency.

"The SDGs aren't just a list of goals. They carry the hopes, dreams, rights and expectations of people everywhere," Guterres said. "A promise to build a world of health, progress and opportunity for all. A promise to leave no one behind. And a promise to pay for it...It was — always — a promise to people."

He said that only 15 percent of the targets are on track and that many are going in reverse.

He also called for an effective debtrelief mechanism that supports payment suspensions, longer lending terms, and lower rates for developing countries.

"At the halfway point to the SDG deadline, the eyes of the world are on you once again," Guterres said.

World leaders will seek this week to salvage stalled global targets to fight in recent years by the Covid pandemic and economic headwinds.

"It's time to take a hard look at how badly we are off track," said John Gilroy, climate and sustainable development lead for the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations.

Ireland and Qatar are co-facilitators of the political declaration due to be adopted at the summit in New York, reports

"There's kind of a somber tone and that's appropriate," Gilroy told a think-tank discussion on the SDGs last week.

Nearly half of targets in the 17 goals are moderately or severely behind schedule, said a UN assessment released earlier this year. The political declaration released this month warned that achievement of the SDGs was "in peril" and that hunger and malnutrition were on the rise.

"At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we are alarmed that the progress frequent storms are aggravating hunger on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline," the declaration said.

The UN this month also released research in collaboration with 95 developing nations that found 72 of issues such as hunger, poverty and climate them reported an increase in planetchange that have been knocked off course heating emissions since 2019, and only one in five cut poverty levels – key

metrics in the SDG agenda.

Other goals include expanding access to clean water and fighting gender

When laying out the SDGs eight years ago, officials could not anticipate the pandemic and economic pressures that have sent interest rates skyrocketing and curbed countries' ability to borrow, Achim Steiner, head of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), told reporters last week.

> countries defaulting back "to a kind recovery-growth trajectory that rightly focuses on jobs and incomes and also on managing the crisis but actually also locks us in to pathways that will ultimately exacerbate inequality,' he said.

The growing effects of climate change are also hampering progress to meet key goals, researchers say.

Rising temperatures and more and making it harder for people to access healthcare and clean water, said research released this month by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Climate is the "linchpin" for social justice issues facing the world, said Jean Su, energy justice program director at the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental

nonprofit.

#### **GOVERNMENT DATA** 1 in 10 Japanese are older than 80

AFP, Tokyo

More than 10 percent of Japanese people have crossed 80 years or older for the first time, new official data showed, as the nation faces a rapidly greying population. Government data released on Sunday, ahead of "Respect for Aged Day" national holiday yesterday, also showed that the share of Japan's population at 65 or older expanded to a record 29.1 percent from 29.0 percent a year ago. The level compared with second-ranked Italy's 24.5 percent and third-ranked Finland's 23.6 percent. "Japan has the highest percentage of elderly population in the world," the ministry said. For decades, Japan has seen its population shrink as young people delay marriage largely due to unstable jobs and economic difficulties

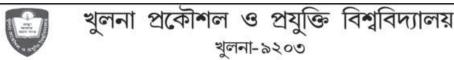
#### Thaksin eligible for parole in Feb

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand's former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra could be released on parole as early as late February, having already had an eight-year prison sentence commuted to one year following his return from self-exile, a senior corrections official said yesterday. "After serving six months of his sentence, Thaksin will be eligible for parole for prisoners older than 70 or those who are ill," Corrections Department Deputy Director General Sitthi Sutivong, told Reuters. The corrections department makes an assessment for each case and there is no petition process for parole in these cases, he said. Thailand's most famous politician made a dramatic homecoming last month, 15 years after he entered self-exile, having been ousted by a military coup in 2006.



building of the Russian-installed local authorities, which was damaged by recent shelling in the course of Russia-Ukraine conflict in Donetsk, Russiancontrolled Ukraine yesterday. Inset, men walk along a street covered with debris caused by the shelling. PHOTO: REUTERS



নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বখাতের আওতায় নিম্নবর্ণিত পদসমূহে বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় বেতন ও অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুবিধাদিসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন ক্ষেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা
শক্ষক ঃ			
21	অধ্যাপক, বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	&\$\$\$00-98800/-	১টি
21	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	@0000-9\$200/-	১টি
৩।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	@0000-9\$200/-	
81	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	@0000-9\$200/-	ঠটি
œ١	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইভাস্ট্রিয়াল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এভ ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	@0000-93200/-	ঠটি
ঙা	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, বিশ্ভিং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এভ কম্ট্রাকশন ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	@0000-9\$200/-	১টি
91	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, এনার্জি সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	@0000-9\$200/-	১টি
bri	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইনস্টিটিউট অব এনভাইরনমেন্ট এন্ড পাওয়ার টেকনোলজি	@0000-9\$200/-	১টি
क्रा	সহকারী অধ্যাপক, ইলেকট্রনিক্স এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ*	vee00-69070/-	১টি
201	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে), আরবান এভ রিজিওনাল প্লানিং বিভাগ	occoo-64020/-	ঠটি
221	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে), ইনস্টিটিউট অব ডিজাস্টার ম্যানেজমেন্ট	occoo-64070/-	১টি

\* চিহ্নিত পদে Data Science/Artificial Intelligence/IoT/Cyber Security বিষয়ে উচ্চতর ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার

প্রতিটি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.kuet.ac.bd/career) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং– ১ হতে ৮-এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ৩৫০ টাকা, ক্রমিক নং- ৯ হতে ১১-এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ২৫০/- (দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা অত্র ৰিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের হিসাব বিভাগে নগদ জমা দিয়ে জমা রশিদ অথবা জনতা ব্যাংক লিঃ এর যে কোন শাখা হতে বিবিধ তহবিল, কুয়েট, খুলনা এর অনুকূলে ইস্মুকৃত পে অর্ডার (যা জনতা ব্যাংক লিঃ, কুয়েট শাখা হতে পরিশোধযোগ্য) আবেদন পত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ০১/১০/২০২৩ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে আবেদন পত্র রেজিস্টার দপ্তরে জমা দেয়া যাবে/পৌছাতে হবে। ডাক বিভাগের বিলম্বের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির শুন্য পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে, এর ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ

> (প্রকৌশলী মোঃ আনিছুর রহমান ভূঞা) খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

## **EDITORIAL**

## The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

#### Break the cycle of pre-election violence

#### Ruling party must discourage violent confrontations

With a national election only a few months away, it is expected that the country's political atmosphere would heat up, that barbed remarks would be exchanged between political rivals. But what we neither expect, nor want, yet are forced to watch, are violent tactics to intimidate opposition parties as they take to the streets to convey their demands to the government. Sadly, such violent engagement has become an inseparable part of our electoral culture, despite repeated calls for dialogues and negotiations to resolve political differences. We saw the latest episode of such violence on Sunday, when BNP men on their way to a road march were intercepted and assaulted, and their vehicles vandalised.

According to media reports, several vehicles carrying members of Chhatra Dal and Swechchhasebak Dal were attacked at three different locations on the Natore-Bogura highway. In one of those incidents, a number of Chhatra Dal activists were beaten and hacked indiscriminately, and the microbus carrying them was set on fire, according to witnesses and local BNP workers. Prothom Alo reported that three activists were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital due to critical injuries. BNP has alleged that Awami League was behind the attack, which the latter has refuted. Local police and firefighters could not clarify the matter, even though there is a photo showing a local AL leader searching a vehicle earlier on Sunday morning, per our report.

We are familiar with this pattern, however. Since BNP started to hold demonstrations to push their agenda in the run-up to the upcoming general election, we have witnessed how their street programmes were routinely intercepted by ruling party men, mostly ending up in violent clashes, sometimes with the involvement of the law enforcement itself. This is totally unacceptable. We condemn these attacks on the BNP for exercising its constitutional right to hold demonstrations.

That said, we also urge political leaders across the aisle to put more efforts into finding a way to engage and negotiate with each other. It's time they broke the cycle of violence and took up the path of dialogue, instead of trying to force their way through street mobilisations. The uncompromising attitudes of major political parties are jeopardising any chance of having a free and fair election. All parties must come together to find a middle ground to overcome the ongoing political stalemate.

#### **CDA** must answer for incompetence

#### Its unplanned and ineffective undertakings are making Chattogram unliveable

The continued public sufferings caused by the unplanned development activities of the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) are quite unacceptable. According to a report by Prothom Alo, the state-run organisation has not only failed to play the role expected of it, but also plunged the city with its inefficient handling of projects. The CDA's primary responsibility was to plan and implement housing projects for residents as well as prevent unplanned urbanisation, something that it failed to do. Instead, over the years, it has overextended its mandate by focusing on various infrastructure development projects such as drainage development, building flyovers and elevated expressways, constructing flats, etc. - which was not even its job in the first place. The question is, why did the CDA forget its roles and responsibilities?

For instance, the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) used to deal with the city's waterlogging problem before the CDA, six years ago, took over this task. It was partly because of its lack of experience in this regard that a megaproject it undertook in 2017 to prevent waterlogging - spending Tk 5,790 crore – failed to make an impact. In fact, waterlogging took a severe turn this monsoon, submerging the city at least 12 times following heavy rains and tidal water. Moreover, none of the 25 projects undertaken by the CDA over the last 15 years could be completed on time, which eventually multiplied the costs of the projects. Moreover, it reportedly cut down 16 hills to construct a link road through the city, and also did not pay heed to the suggestion of transport experts not to build unnecessary flyovers in Chattogram. There are many such allegations against this organisation that demonstrate its chronic failure to discharge its duties properly.

Evidently, the CDA has done more damage than good to the health of the port city – at massive costs to taxpayers. It is time the higher authorities held it accountable by making its management answer for their incompetence and failures. Otherwise, making Chattogram a liveable city will remain a far-fetched dream.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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#### The perils of overprotective parenting

Helicopter parenting, a term coined to characterise parents' constant presence in their children's life, has become all too common. Our children require space to develop, make errors, and learn from them. We deny children the opportunity to develop independence and resilience when we constantly hover over them. Furthermore, helicopter parenting can cause stress for both parents and children. Parents must strike a balance between being protective and allowing their children to experience the world freely. In a world where adaptation and problem-solving abilities are required, we should raise children who are self-assured and capable of making decisions.

Jarin Tasnim Meem Akij College of Home Economics

# The media must do more to protest CSA



TANIM AHMED

in the run-up to the elections, was hardly surprising. Oddly enough, it fits a strange pattern that goes back 20 years. Before delving into a discussion around this new menace against press freedom, let us explore this pattern.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 intended to control the communications infrastructure, providing sweeping powers to the government. This law allowed the government to tap any phone or track its location for as long as it wanted, based on its suspicions. The law was enacted a few months before a national election.

When the outgoing BNP regime enacted the ICT act in 2006, as one of its last acts in office, it was most likely to provide what it hoped would be a puppet caretaker government with an instrument to apprehend undesirable elements. For all intents and purposes, at least as far as BNP was concerned, the election was all but won with a malleable president duly installed to head the caretaker government. That government fell apart, some would say specifically because the president was overly malleable.

The ICT act set a precedent for the government of the day to control online content and criminalise free expression of thoughts. Its rather nebulous Section 57 strived to define an offence but left much to interpretation, basically allowing the government to criminalise online content at its discretion.

The following Awami League government amended that act in 2013, in the run-up to the 2014 election, and turned it into an even more potent weapon to clamp down on dissent. The amendment allowed the government to make arrests without warrant and made cases under certain sections, including Section 57, non-bailable. In the aftermath, Section 57 gained much notoriety and went on to inspire a level of fear that could only be compared to that of the infamous Section 144 from the Pakistan (Language Movement?)

The ICT Act was retired to be replaced by the more potent Digital Security Act. Very similar to BNP's ICT Act, the DSA was passed during the last days of the Awami League government in office in 2018, just before the election and without much discussion in parliament or outside. The DSA allowed arrests without a warrant solely

The timing of the Cyber Security Act, on the basis of suspicion. Evidently intent on criminalising expression and controlling online content, or rather dissent, the DSA's widespread use saw much criticism within the media.

More recently, and yet again leading up to another general election, the Cyber Security Act is set to replace the DSA with nominal concessions, essentially remaining the same beast as its predecessor but with the added potential to be used against whistleblowers.

consistent pattern The introducing these laws in the run-up to elections suggests that this phenomenon is not merely

from any single outlet on this issue. None of the outlets in Bangladesh has consistently covered any of these laws for even a week. In short, for all its talk and posturing, the media has hardly campaigned against these laws.

As any seasoned campaigner would agree, it takes weeks, months, and sometimes years of relentless harping of these issues to generate a critical mass that impels authorities towards remedial action. That has been all but absent in popular news media. It may well be that, considering the current climate of iron-handed intolerance, such coverage would bring down further wrath from the powers that be. But there are smarter ways of circumventing this, too. News outlets need not publish critical stories or about the injustices derived from these laws.

Short of a designated CSA or DSA corner on the website or the printed newspaper, one could simply introduce a "seal" for news items that have been impacted or affected by the law in question. A simple "CSA seal" on top of every report would suffice. Every report that refrains from divulging

the story's credibility among readers.

Another measure could be a public editor speaking on behalf of the people at regular intervals. This public editor, employed by the news outlet but independent of the outlet's editorial oversight, would look out for the interests of the readers and write on the shortcomings of that news outlet - such as partial stories for fear of reprisals due to laws that criminalise free speech. The public editor could be the news outlet's own mechanism to hold itself to account on behalf of the public. The recent fiasco over disinformation through pro-government op-ed's begs a candid confession from news outlets, which has not been forthcoming. This is the kind of thing that the public editor would presumably take up and comment on.

In these difficult times, when trust and confidence in news outlets are ebbing, not least due to laws of the state, it is no longer enough to just cover the news and hope that readers will be happy. Readers are already flocking to independent analysts and commentators who spew all kinds of



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAN

coincidental. It also suggests that successive regimes have enacted such laws at a critical juncture, most likely to be able to use them, or abuse them, over the impending uncertainty that elections bring about.

However, another pattern, or the lack thereof, emerges from a cursory perusal of periodicals and newspapers. Editors and journalists have held meetings and discussions every time these laws were passed. Citizens, civil society groups, and activists have held rallies and demonstrations against these acts of legislation. These laws are often the centre of discussion when a certain extreme instance of abuse comes to light and duly makes it to the headlines over several days. But there has not been any sustained campaign

being sued under the provisions of this law would carry this seal. This would serve two purposes. First, it would keep this issue alive and readers would be reminded that the news industry lives under the spectre of a law that threatens and criminalises free speech. out on record the number of stories "CSA seal" would indicate to the reader that the news outlet in question is admitting to its readers that it is not being able to be fully transparent, so far as a particular story is concerned. As opposed to a seal of quality, this seal would indicate the contrary: that the story is not complete, thus increasing

the full details of a story to keep from vitriol. It used to be that initial interest in such commentary would wane and readers would flock back to traditional journalistic platforms. It used to be that the alternatives would be clear: one being a source of authentic, meaningful, and balanced reporting and another offering a skewed point-It would keep the campaign alive for of-view. But this is not possible months, if not years. It would also anymore, thanks to the climate of selfcensorship and fear. Hence, readers do that are affected by the law. Second, a not have the benefit of a convincingly better alternative. It is becoming increasingly imperative for legacy outlets to find avenues to tell readers that they are being as responsible and truthful as possible. It is imperative that news outlets subject themselves to ever stronger, more exacting standards of journalism in order to remain credible.

## Rising tides, sinking chalkboards



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TASFIA TASNEEM AHMED

One issue that often gets drowned out in the cacophony of discussions surrounding climate change is how the crisis is affecting our children and their education. According to Save the Children and Unicef, children are among the most affected by extreme weather events - like tidal surges, cyclones, flooding and desertification all caused by climate change. Approximately 20 million Bangladeshi children are already significantly exposed to climate threats, and 12 million kids who live near and along river systems face the increased risk of fatal flooding. And strong cyclones frequently affect another 4.5 million children living in the coastal region.

Climate change affects children and their education through several channels. First, economic challenges due to climate-related impacts may force families to prioritise immediate needs over educational expenses, lowering school enrolment rates. This feeds the cycle of inequality and constrained opportunity. Child labour may also go up due to climate changeinduced poverty, as nearly half of the

labouring population is dependent on the climate-sensitive agriculture sector.

Second, both children and teachers will be exposed to illnesses such as malaria, typhoid, dengue fever and water-borne infections, which would further disrupt educational plans. Research shows that 58 percent of human infectious diseases may be aggravated due to climate change. Furthermore, students will frequently get sick during school assemblies or in the middle of class due to heatwaves. The changing climate negatively affects the hygiene of students as well, amid a prevalent shortage of sanitation facilities. Further damage to the facilities and scarcity of water will especially worsen attendance rate and academic performance of girls.

Climate change may have a negative effect on children's emotional wellbeing too. The lack of a sense of security arising from increased disasters will hamper cognition and motivation to learn. According to a Unicef report, 70 percent of respondents were anxious about climate change and

crisis will also give rise to gender-based violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse and trauma, which in turn will create deep scars on the mental health of children

Extreme weather phenomena like floods, cyclones, and storms could disrupt school operations, damage infrastructure, and cause displacement of students and teachers. All this would lead to interrupted learning and decreased attendance. A total of 25,430 educational institutions are situated in disaster-prone areas, according to Bangladesh Education Statistics. According to a survey conducted in 2019, 19.49 percent of institutions, after the most recent disaster, were unable to recover from the loss of buildings, 18.78 percent from the loss of furniture, 18.09 percent from the loss of doors and windows, 12.86 percent from the loss of sanitation facilities, and 11.56 percent from the loss of connecting roads.

Disruption roads communication systems caused by severe weather events leads to a detrimental effect on schooling. According to the Bangladesh Disasterrelated Statistics 2021, 369,865 children missed school at different times due to disasters during 2015-20. Among them, 56.60 percent did so due to disruption of communication systems and 24.17 percent because of damage to school infrastructure.

Extreme weather like high temperatures will also hinder outdoor enjoyment, sports, and school

its repercussions for the future. This assemblies. Consequently, students will miss out on a variety of schoolbased collective and community learning opportunities.

Adapting schooling to climate change requires a multifaceted approach that considers both the immediate challenges and longterm impacts of shifting climate patterns. Strategies such as climateresilient infrastructure, digital learning resources, community-based education, early warning systems, teacher training, raising awareness, conducting disaster preparedness drills, and long-term planning will bear fruit.

The effects of disasters and changing climate must be taken into account while choosing school designs. "Climate-smart interventions' need to be put in place, to achieve energy efficiency, water safety and food security. In this context, collaboration between government agencies, NGOs international organisations, and local communities holds immense importance.

As we stand at the crossroads of the climate crisis, Bangladesh must act swiftly to safeguard its primary education system. The resilience of a nation lies not only in its ability to withstand environmental challenges but also in its capacity to nurture the minds of its youth. By prioritising a climate-resilient education system, Bangladesh can set the stage for a brighter and more sustainable future for its children and generations to come.



Men must also engage as active allies in the fight for gender equality.

PHOTO: TASLIMA AKHTER

## The costs and consequences of biases against women



Nine out of 10 people in the world hold fundamental biases against women that span across regions, income levels, and cultures, according to the recently released UN Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) by the UN Development Programme.

The sobering statistics in the index provide critical insights into the state of gender equality worldwide and demand our immediate attention. In Bangladesh, the index also reveals challenging statistics. Despite commendable strides towards gender equality in recent decades, entrenched discriminatory beliefs and practices continue to stifle women's access to resources and opportunities. This results in unequal access to education and jobs, limited participation in decision-making, and a persistent gender wage gap.

Bangladesh finds itself at a critical juncture, where the need for transformative action to challenge these norms has never been more pressing. So how can we redefine gender-biased norms and achieve true equality in Bangladesh?

#### The persistence of gender bias

Bangladesh has demonstrated a firm commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, evidenced by its gender-responsive policies and budgetary allocations. Indeed, gender equality is firmly cemented in the constitution of Bangladesh. Yet, disparities persist.

Women spend eight times more time on unpaid care work than men and, according to the Labour Force Survey 2022, only 42 percent of working-age women participate in the labour force, often earning less than men, while only 13 percent of women own land.

Disturbingly, as per BBS data, 54 percent of women have experienced physical and sexual abuse at least once in their lifetime, and according to a recent study by Dhaka University and UNFPA, the preference for a son is still prevalent among parents in Bangladesh, with some choosing to undergo sex-selective abortion.

why does gender discrimination persist despite efforts by the government and other stakeholders? The crux of the issue seems to rest on deep-rooted social norms and biases that policies alone cannot dismantle. These norms need a fundamental shift, starting with attitudes.

The GSNI highlights a troubling reality. Over 99 percent of people in Bangladesh hold at least one bias against women, with 69 percent believing that men make better political leaders and 88 percent thinking that men are more capable business executives and are deserving of greater job opportunities. Even more concerning, over 99 percent of women hold biases against their own norms is therefore essential not

STEFAN LILLER

gender, perpetuating the very norms that hold them back. Understanding the root causes of gender bias

At the heart of gender bias in Bangladesh lie norms undervaluing women's rights and capabilities. The roots of these are complex and intertwined with historical, cultural, social, and economic factors. Patriarchal norms still dictate men as primary decision-makers and breadwinners, while relegating women to subordinate roles. Child marriage persists, limiting girls' access to education and economic opportunities, reinforcing

traditional gender roles. Gender disparities in

At the heart of gender bias in Bangladesh lie norms undervaluing women's rights and capabilities. The roots of these are complex and intertwined with historical, cultural, social, and economic factors. Patriarchal norms still dictate men as primary decision-makers and breadwinners, while relegating women to subordinate roles. Child marriage persists, limiting girls' access to education and economic opportunities, reinforcing traditional gender roles. Gender disparities in the labour market and social norms discouraging women's participation contribute to and perpetuate this inequality.

labour market and social norms discouraging women's participation contribute to and perpetuate this inequality. Despite improved education access, women's economic prospects remain limited due to perceptions limiting their involvement in the public sphere. Balancing family and work is a challenge, which hinders economic independence. Political corporate leadership in Bangladesh remains male-dominated, limiting women's influence.

#### The economic and political case for gender equality

The GSNI highlights the close link between gender norms and other development indicators such as health outcomes and environmental sustainability. Challenging these

only for gender equality but also for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For Bangladesh to prosper economically and politically, embracing gender equality is nonnegotiable. The McKinsey Global Institute pinpointed a staggering \$28 trillion potential boost to the global GDP by 2025 if women played an identical role in the economy to

Notably, countries with women at the political helm tend to prioritise crucial public goods - like education and infrastructure - championing just immediate progress but fostering profound social transformation. An illustrative case is the US Congress, where female legislators consistently eclipse their male peers in legislative productivity and securing resources for their constituencies. For Bangladesh, the path is clear: investing in women is not just ethically right, it is an economic and political imperative.

#### Addressing discriminatory social

Genuine progress requires us to challenge entrenched beliefs and empower women to thrive as equal partners in Bangladesh's development journey and progress. Addressing these deep-seated norms requires a coordinated and whole-of-society approach. To create lasting change, we must adopt a proactive strategy that begins with nurturing the minds of future generations through gendersensitive education that fosters critical thinking and reshapes societal perceptions. Moreover, engaging with local communities grassroots organisations, including religious groups, is crucial to cultivate progressive attitudes towards women's rights. Social media can be a potent tool to challenge stereotypes and biases, amplifying women's voices, and advocating for their rights.

But advocacy alone won't cut it. We must enforce existing laws and close legal loopholes. Sensitising law enforcement about gender issues is essential for effective implementation.

Promoting women in leadership and ensuring equal pay is vital. Policy reforms and parental leave incentives can alleviate the unpaid care burden on women, while encouraging men to share responsibilities. Innovative and inclusive policy solutions tailored to diverse women's needs must be developed and adequately financed.

Women cannot achieve all this alone; men must also engage as active allies in the fight for gender equality. Challenging discriminatory beliefs benefits everyone, as traditional expectations of masculinity often challenge men's own well-being. Promoting positive masculinity and debunking traditional stereotypes will foster an environment where men can actively empower women.

The 2023 GSNI is a call to action an opportunity for Bangladesh to continue evolving towards a brighter, more equitable future. Together, we can build a society where every individual, regardless of gender, can contribute to making Bangladesh and the world a better place for future generations.

## I am. We are.



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

#### RUBANA HUQ

ended; many conversations have drenched my texture, where many secrets have made it in through the cracks and dried up. I am a wall with many stories. My chapters are inked with revenge, abuse, and bias. I have a line drawn all around me, so that I remain five feet of concrete and serve my limited purpose. I cannot take a step or bend to breathe. The protective line around my existence, my Lakshmana rekha, is not just myth; it's a constant metaphorical reminder of limits and rules set for me.

I am Rassundari Devi, who learned to read and write at the age of 26, wanting to respond to the letters from my son. I stole a sheet from my husband's copy of *Chaitanya* Bhagavata, hid it in the kitchen, compared the palm leaves on which my son had practised handwriting, compared the letters with the sheet, and finally learned the language. I wrote on the walls of my kitchen and then published my story in 1876: Amar Jibon. Don't wash my walls, ever. The akshara, the scratches, the scribbles are all mine.

I am Draupadi from the Mahabharata, disrobed in an open court as a result of being offered as a wager in a dice game; I am Joan of Arc, dying from the "purifying flames." I am the Shrew, the Katherine of The Taming of the Shrew, who was once rich, witty, and lashed out at suitors. I was berated for my temper and tongue, diminished to being an obedient wife after being subjected to hunger and thirst. I now call the sun the moon, if my husband desires. I accept this as I realise that I am in a status quo of an identity which defines who I have become. I no longer need to be Tamed.

I am Wisława Szymborska, a Polish poet, who only wrote "I don't know" to respond to every question being asked. I did not know my own name, my age, why I dug the burrow, how long I had been hiding, why I bit my finger, and whether my village existed or not. I just knew that I was a mother and I knew my children. My poem "Vietnam" was about me being only a mother, a childbearing machine.

I am Cecelia Payne, the English scientist who wasn't given a degree by to migrate to the US to get my first PhD in Astronomy from Radcliffe. However, my dissertation was reviewed and I was dissuaded from concluding that the composition of stars was predominantly of hydrogen and helium, as that contradicted the consensus of male astronomers. Later on, I won my battle as I was acknowledged by the same astronomer, Russell. Nevertheless, instead of me, he is often credited for the thesis.

I am Ana Orantes. I was burned to death by my ex-husband in 1997 after I had appeared on a television show and described decades of abuse by him. After my death, I thought that the Machista was done for. But it was only the other day that I ended up being the kiss that Rubiales forced onto Hermoso (of Spain women's national football team) to celebrate "his" win. Till date, I am being claimed

I am a wall where many wars have as "consensual" while Hermoso is sticking to #SeAcabo ("It's over"). Is it really over for Spain?

I also go by the name of enfranchisement. It was only in 1971 that the Swiss women won me, the right to vote, in federal elections; it was only in 1918 that Canada passed a legislation allowing suffrage to female citizens, yet excluding Asian-Canadian and Aboriginal women, who only won the right to vote in the 1940s and 1960s, respectively. Women in Greece started to vote from 1952. Japanese women won the right to vote in 1945; French women won me in a well-bred woman. I also caused 1944 while in the US, I was celebrated internal bleeding and indigestion. I

KNOT SO TRUE where self-determination is a lost cause for women, who are still trying to make it to lands which promise them better. I am Populism that allowed Duterte and Bolsnaero to incorporate gibes about rape in their political rant. I allowed Salvini, the prominent figure in the Italian government, to use sexual slurs to insult female politicians.

I am the four pairs of shorts that the four female footballers of Tentultala Super Queen Football Academy in Khulna got beaten up for. Apparently, I am forbidden. Even with long, black stockings coming all the way up to their thighs, I am not supposed to be worn by the sportswomen. So far, the athletes have been given assurance of safety measures, while I hang to dry on their laundry lines at home. After all, with all the threats of acid attacks on the footballers, I should not be risked being worn, right? After all, I am also the corset, which caused breathing difficulties for women in the Victorian era, but was a sign of



ARTWORK: MANAN MORSHED

by all the women in 1920 through the am the crinoline, made of steel hoops 19th amendment to its constitution.

I am the prison that hosted women who needed permission to open bank accounts, rent apartments, start businesses, apply for passports, and last but not the least, seek permission to leave me even when have gradually changed; my iron bars have now been relatively weakened by the Crown Prince's vision to build a modern economy where women make up a substantial percentage of the workforce. I am now warming up to Justin Bieber, BLACKPINK, and Bruno Mars headlining while humans mingle freely in public spaces. Yet, I am still the partitions which divide workplaces for men and women. When, indeed, will they finally issue another fatwa declaring me illegal? I truly can't wait for my own demise.

I am the border that is supposed to be impervious to eager feet, yearning to cross over to freedom. I have gone through years of starvation, war, and terror that ultimately culminated to a new peak in August 2021 as the Taliban took power. Two-thirds of those who live within my territory depend on humanitarian assistance,

to compliment the puffed shapes of the women's gowns, and caused deaths to thousands of women while their dresses caught fire. Those who disallowed me then were known as "loose women."

I am Apathy, too, who impacts the sentence was over. I used to be every UN General Assembly, and Cambridge University, which led me the place where women couldn't makes SDG 5 look limp. And yet, I drive for the longest time. Things am the woman who is expected to know everything, from juta shelai to Chandipath.

So, stop asking me what my family situation is every time I apply for a job; stop asking me if there's anything in my life that will affect my personal situation in the next year-and-a-half; stop asking me during an interview if I am averse to a high-pressure role, because I am going to rise above your boundaries and not be etched as an expected tragedy in the memories of all the newsrooms in the world.

Today, I am Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old who died a little over a year ago in police custody for not complying with the dress code in force for women in Iran. I don't want the bland. I want brighter and shorter. Today's no more about wearing just the blacks, browns, or greys.

Take your hands off my body, State. That's not too much to expect, right?

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Office of the Executive Engineer **Education Engineering Department** Lakshmipur District

#### Invitation for e-Tender (IFT)



Tender Notice No. e-GP/EED/Lakshmi/2023-2024/01,

	The e-I	e e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ( <u>http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</u> ) for the procurement of following works:						
	SI	Package No.	Tender	Name of tender	Type	Tender document last	Tender closing &	
П	No.		ID No.		method	selling/downloading	opening	
						(date & time)	(date & time)	
	01.	Rev/Fur/SHED/	868225	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture at Kadir	NCT, LTM	Date: 02.10.2023	Date 03.10.2023	
		2023-24/G01		Panditer Hat High School under Kamalnagar		Time: 12:00pm	Time: 12:00pm	
				Upazila in Laksmipur District.				
П	02.	Rev/Fur/SHED/	868226	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture at	NCT, LTM	Date: 02.10.2023	Date 03.10.2023	
		2023-24/G02		Joypura S. R. M. S. High School and College		Time: 12:00pm	Time: 12:00pm	
				under Ramganj Upazila in Lakshmipur District.				
	03.	Rev/Fur/SHED/	868227	Manufacturing and supplying of furniture at Ziaul	NCT, LTM	Date: 02.10.2023	Date 03.10.2023	
		2023-24/G03		Hoque High School and College under Ramganj		Time: 12:00pm	Time: 12:00pm	
			Upazila in Lakshmipur District.					
П	04.	Rev/Fur/SHED/ 868229 Manufacturing and supplying of		Manufacturing and supplying of furniture at Abdul	NCT, LTM	Date: 02.10.2023	Date 03.10.2023	
	2023-24/G04 Hadi College under		Hadi College under Ramgati Upazila in		Time: 12:00pm	Time: 12:00pm		
				Lakshmipur District.				
	05.	Rev/Fur/SHED/	868230	68230 Manufacturing and supplying of furniture at K. S.		Date: 02.10.2023	Date 03.10.2023	
	2023-24/G05 Public High School under Rajpur Upazila in			Time: 12:00pm	Time: 12:00pm			
	Lakshmipur District.							

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender Proposal will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit, e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sraboni Chakraborty Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department E-mail: ee\_lax@eedmoe.gov.bd

# Being average is PERFECTIYEINE

**CERTIFIED AVERAGE** 

ZABIN TAZRIN NASHITA

Nowadays, the word "average" is only wanted if it's in mathematics. For individuals, being average is considered synonymous with

being unremarkable, giving the word a bad rap.

As children, we're taught that no matter what we do, we should strive to excel at it. It's a great teaching, undoubtedly, as it instils ambition within us. It's our ambition that tells us to dream big, aim for the moon, and actually reach it.

But a reality we're often not prepared for is that sometimes, we may fall short of the mark. Sifting through biographies of extraordinarily talented people doesn't really prepare us for how difficult the journey to greatness really is. The idea of becoming an astronaut is glamorous as a child, but learning all the physics along the way can be gruelling, especially if you don't have an exceptional aptitude for it.

The basics come easy to many earlier on, helping them stand out from the crowd fuelling their ambitions. As the going gets tougher, they find that their peers have not only caught on, but they might have even outrun them by miles. Whether it's gifted kid burnout syndrome or the big-fish-little-pond effect makes little difference at this point.

The fact of the matter is, the much-dreaded word "average" becomes a reality many of us have to accept here. We're ill-equipped to swallow such a bitter pill – the realisation that maybe Hogwarts is real, we just didn't get the acceptance letter.

Despite it being completely out of our hands, being average-looking is also often seen as undesirable. We think that looking average makes us unnoticeable, and maybe even less likely to be successful when it comes to romance. A person who doesn't entirely fit into the conventional

A person who doesn't entirely fit into the conventional beauty standards may not be immediately perceived as extremely attractive to everyone. But it doesn't negate the fact that these standards are nothing but a social construct, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Someone's style, confidence, humour, or other traits are what draws us to them most of the time.

beauty standards may not be immediately perceived as extremely attractive to everyone. But it doesn't negate the fact that these standards are nothing but a social construct, and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Someone's style, confidence, humour, or other traits are what draws us to them most of the time.

Truth be told, being average is not the curse we think it is. Data tends to gather around the central value anyway, which means that most people are actually average. Let's take the idealised scenario that you're average at everything. The upside? You're not particularly bad, you're about as good as most people at literally everything.

Maybe you find out you're average at the thing vou desperately want to pursue. Well, you may not be the best in your field, but it doesn't mean your life is over. You can reach your goal with some effort, and enjoy doing something you always wanted. An average person can also strive for excellence, even if they have to work harder at it than the gifted ones.

So, if you're someone who's struggling with accepting your averageness, I hear you and you're definitely not alone. If the earlier words didn't help you, remember that the average side characters rarely get saddled with the dangerous task of saving the world from near-invincible villains, and can have fun in the wholesome filler episodes instead. And they're just as beloved to us as the main characters for their unique quirks and lovable personalities.

Find Zabin at zabintn@gmail.com

# Bangladeshi activists join Global Climate Strike

Among the attendees were organisations such as **YouthNet** for Climate Justice, Climate Network Bangladesh. **Action Aid,** the Local Conference of **Youth (LCOY)** Bangladesh, 350.org Bangladesh, and many others.

USRAAT FAHMIDAH

On September 15, hundreds of young climate activists across Bangladesh organised climate strikes across the country. Organised by various environmental groups and youth movements, the climate strike held in Bangladesh is a part of the Global Climate Strike organised by Fridays for Future. This year's Global Climate Strike marks the fifth anniversary of the movement started by climate activist Greta

The strike unfolded simultaneously in 25 districts, including Dhaka, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Tangail, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Noakhali, Bandarban, Barisal, Jhalokati, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Bagerhat, Narail, Mymensingh, Netrokona, and Gaibandha.

In Dhaka, the climate strike was held outside the National Press Club. The strike the area outside the National Press Club turned into a sea of colourful banners and combat the climate crisis. "The placards as climate activists from diverse era of new fossil fuels is backgrounds joined. A stretch of the over. Our future depends road was filled with these young activists on leaving them in the chanting powerful slogans like "Fund our ground," added Sohanur future," "We want Justice," and "Save our in a press release.

Rifat Anik, an organiser representing attendees Stories of Change, shared, "It was truly inspiring to witness the overwhelming presence of young individuals. Strikes of this nature play an important role in raising awareness, particularly among the climate generation."

Sohanur Rahman, executive coordinator of the YouthNet for Climate Justice, said, "We cannot afford to add more fuel to the

The rally urged an end to the financing Usraat Fahmidah is a highof fossil fuel projects, a transition towards

started at 9:30 AM, and within half an hour renewable energy sources, and an increase in climate finance to

> Among organisations such as YouthNet for Climate Climate Justice, Network Bangladesh,

Action Aid, the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) Bangladesh, 350.org Bangladesh, and many others.

school graduate.

## Leisure time is not wasted time

RAFID KHANDAKER

Have you ever felt guilty for not being productive enough? Maybe you went out with your friends or just slept in the entire day. Perhaps you just wanted a day off. Whenever this happens to me, I can't help but feel the shackles of capitalism tugging on me to work

more. And it gets very difficult to not feel like I've just wasted my time doing all these things that I love, discouraging me from doing them again. But is this a healthy way to live? And does leisure time always equate to wasted time? I don't think so, and here's why.

Firstly, resting is an integral part of productivity. Our bodies and minds are not meant to constantly function in work mode. Taking off days is just as important as days where you work all day

because the former fuels you and re-energises you for the latter. If you're working constantly without a break, you'll be too spent to provide the best output in whatever you're doing. Not to mention, your body will not be able to take it, causing seemingly unprecedented illnesses. As a result, your work will be sub-par, which may lead to you working more, scrapping the entire project, or even missing out on opportunities.

Furthermore, even if someone were to discard the idea that leisure can be productive, is labour the entire point of life? Are we meant to toil away every day trying to climb up our career ladders with no regard for the things we actually enjoy? These are becoming increasingly relevant questions today as there's a push now to monetise even our hobbies. While there is nothing wrong with earning money from something you enjoy, creating pressure for people to do the same is not the way to go, as often it can suck the enjoyment out of the hobby and reinforce the idea that if it's not making money, it's not worth doing.

Hustle culture has normalised such ideas, lauding the benefits that an intense work environment brings. Many point towards the immense economic success of countries such as South Korea and Japan, owing much of it to their extreme work culture. However, despite the benefits this has brought, it has also led to a myriad of issues, such as high suicide rates, mass social seclusion, and alarming mental health conditions among civilians. The flowery picture painted by hustle culture enthusiasts is not what it seems to be, and this toxic obsession over working hard is bound to bring forth many such hidden detriments.

We need to stop denigrating leisure as a waste of time or something to feel guilty about. It is an important aspect of a healthy life, both physically and mentally, one that will not only increase our enjoyment of life but also improve our productivity. Therefore, we should instead treat it as a complement to working and not as a substitute to it, so that we can all achieve our ideal work-life balance.



ILLUSTRATION: ANISUR RAHMAN

# DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, ASHWIN 4, 1430 BS

T Sports Bashundhara Kings vs Maziya Live from 4:00 pm Sony Sports 2

AC Milan vs Newcastle United Live from 10:45 pm PSG vs Dortmund Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday) **Sony Sports 1** 

**UEFA Champions League** Young Boys vs RB Leipzig Live from 10:45 pm Shakhtar Donetsk vs Porto Live from 1:00 am (Wednesday)

# City begin title defence as CL bids adieu to group stage

AFP, Paris

Manchester City begin their defence of the Champions League on Tuesday when the group stage kicks off in the last season in its current format as Europe's elite club competition gets ready for a radical change.

Unveiled by UEFA in 2021 at the height of the crisis which saw a group of 12 clubs announce a breakaway Super League before promptly abandoning the project, the newlook Champions League will begin next

It will see the number of clubs involved in the competition proper increase from 32 to 36, with all participants going into a single league in which teams will play eight games -- up from the current six -- in what is known as the "Swiss system".

This is therefore the last campaign, after two decades, in which the Champions League will begin with a group stage featuring eight sections of four teams, with the top two in each advancing to the last 16.

It is hard to imagine Swiss side Young Boys or Serbia's Red Star Belgrade making a big impact alongside Pep Guardiola's City and RB Leipzig in Group G.

City should stroll through to the last 16, racking up goals in the process, and they

Sakib courts

controversy

Bangladeshi cricketer was

embroiled in controversy Monday

over misogynistic social media

posts condemning working women,

just days after making a brilliant

Bowler Tanzim Hasan Sakib took

the wicket of India captain Rohit

Sharma with only his fourth delivery

in international cricket when the

neighbours met in the Asia Cup on

Friday, before holding his nerve in

the final over to secure victory for

20-year-old, though, turned to scorn

from women's rights activists and

feminists after his misogynist social

rights are not ensured," Tanzim

posted on Facebook last year. "If

the wife works, the child's rights are

not ensured. If the wife works, her

ruined. If the wife works, the veil is

ruined. If the wife works, society is

Bangladesh's economic growth in

attitudes remain widespread in the

majority Muslim country.

mostly staffed by women.

human being," she added.

player apologise.

Journalist

star he is!"

told AFP.

But conservative patriarchal

In another post, Tanzim warned men that their sons would not have a "modest" mother if they married

"a woman who is accustomed to free

mixing with her male friends in a

backlash, with Paris-based feminist

writer Jannatun Nayeem Prity

pointing out that the Bangladesh

team jerseys were made in factories

"I feel sorry for you that you don't

Writer Swakrito Noman described

consider your mother a normal

the comments as "deeply offensive"

in a widely-shared Facebook post,

demanding the Bangladesh Cricket

Board (BCB) question Tanzim and the

added Monday: "The status of such

a distorted form of misogyny is

unacceptable. No matter how big a

The BCB said it was investigating.

We are looking into the matter," its

cricket operations chief Jalal Yunus

matches in his short senior career,

after helping Bangladesh win the

Under-19 World Cup in 2020.

"The issue came to our attention.

Tanzim has played 12 first-class

Mejbaul

Haque

The comments provoked a

"If the wife works, the family is

Women form the vast majority of the workforce of the garment factories that have driven much of

"If the wife works, the husband's

media posts came to light.

elegance is damaged.

ruined.'

recent years.

university".

The resulting adulation for the

AFP, Dhaka

international debut.

Bangladesh.



begin as favourites to retain a trophy they won in June by beating Inter Milan 1-0 in the final in Istanbul.

Asked about City's chances of retaining the title, Guardiola told reporters: "It'll be easier. The most difficult to win is the first one. It is incredible for us but it is just one.

However, Guardiola said his players should not feel at ease, adding: "Tomorrow is the first step. We will try and get the first three points. It's important the players don't

feel relaxed."

So who can stop a strong and confident City this time around?

It probably will not be the champions of Switzerland or Serbia, or a Leipzig team who lost their star defender, Josko Gvardiol, to City during the close season.

Record 14-time winners Real Madrid are always contenders in the Champions League, although Carlo Ancelotti's team find themselves in a difficult group

alongside Napoli, Braga and newcomers

Bayern Munich have reinforced in attack with the signing of Harry Kane, while Paris Saint-Germain have lost Neymar and Lionel Messi but kept Kylian Mbappe and strengthened around him.

Both of their seasons will be defined, as ever, by their performances in the Champions League.

Arsenal will hope to make an impression on their return to the Champions League for the first time since 2016/17, while Saudi ownership has propelled Newcastle United back into the competition after two decades

However, they find themselves in a section along with PSG, AC Milan and Borussia Dortmund.

UEFA might have been less inclined to change the format of the Champions League format if their competition featured groups like that more often.

"It's hard and challenging but I think there's some great European games for us to experience and great places to visit for our supporters," said the Newcastle manager Eddie Howe after the draw.

His team begin away to seven-time European champions Milan on Tuesday.

were rested considering the World Cup,

one that would be a long tournament.

Chief selector Minhajul Abedin was

quoted in a media release saying that the

series "provides us with an opportunity to

take a look at some other players." It could

### **Kings start AFC Cup mission at** Maziya today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings will look to continue their perfect record against Maldivian opponents when the fourtime Bangladesh Premier League champions take on Maldivian champions Maziya S&RC in their first group stage match in Male today, with the match scheduled to kick off at 4:00pm Bangladesh time.

Bashundhara Kings have played in three editions of the continent's second-tier club competition and each time had the better of their Maldivian counterparts once against TC Sports and twice against Maziya. As they begin another AFC Cup journey after falling to Sharjah FC in AFC Champions League pre-qualifiers, Kings are looking forward to extending their record while getting off to a positive start in a bid to qualify from the group stages for the first time.

Kings' coach Oscar Bruzon said he was not considering his side to be ahead of the Maldivians while admitting the Mohun Bagan are the strongest of the

"I don't think we are ahead of Maziya," the Spaniard told a pre-match press conference in Male yesterday.

"I feel Mohun Bagan are the favourites in the group because of their previous experience and the investment and history plus the home crowd. But right now every team has three points," Bruzon added.

The long-standing coach of Kings also felt that the AFC Cup returning to its old format of home-andaway matches in its final edition gives every team a fair chance of progressing.

Kings' captain Robson Robinho feels they would be up against a good opposition today.

"We played against Maziva before. It's a big team with good players. Tomorrow we have a big fight because they are hungry to win," the Brazilian said.

Odisha FC are the other club in the group and they would host Mohun Bagan in Bhubaneshwar in the other match of the group today.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

The New Zealand team had their first training session in Mirpur yesterday ahead of their three-match ODI series against Bangladesh, starting from September 21.

## Riyad's chance to stake a claim

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Bangladesh's World Cup plans appear to be getting patched up as each day

Following a disappointing end to the Asia Cup, the return of Mahmudullah Rivad for the ODI series against New Zealand at home -- the Tigers' last assignment before the World Cup -- raised questions about the value of the team management's plans laid out before the World Cup.

Riyad was dropped following the series against England in March this year after his failure to produce the goods with the bat. His fielding had also come under scrutiny, even from the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon.

Even though Riyad managed a 96-ball 77 in the second ODI against India to help Bangladesh to a series win in December last year -- the last series the Tigers played before hosting England -- the 37-yearold's fitness issues meant that these sporadic successes with the bat were not enough when weighed against his overall contributions. And that ultimately led him to not finding a place in both the home and away series against Ireland and the home series against Afghanistan at home this year.

He was consequently left out of the Asia Cup, the biggest assignment in terms of World Cup preparation.

Meanwhile, Afif Hossain was also dropped after the England series. His runs in the Dhaka Premier League proved to be important enough for him to earn back a place during the Afghanistan series in July. However, performances in the Asia Cup saw him excluded from the upcoming series against New Zealand.

The curious aspect of the two



aforementioned players being dropped is that they both appeared to be fighting for the same spot. If the team management had agreed on Riyad's frailties in recent times, why are they now playing the veteran just ahead of the World Cup?

If fearless cricket was the motto of

series selection was that the key players

the side, and the team management had frequently pitched the merits of backing players, why has Afif been dropped after just two poor performances in the Asia

BCB's explanation for the New Zealand

be surmised as an attempt at finding backup options. However, the opportunity for Riyad and Soumya Sarkar, despite the lack of clarity of plans from the board, is a big one. Mushfigur Rahim was the one who

originally took on the number six spot, playing the role which was Riyad's With Afif and Shamim Hossain

not being able to capitalise on the opportunities recently, media reports have suggested that there were discussions in board meetings about the balance of youth and experience in the side, and some board directors have advocated for Riyad's return.

Thus, despite all the pessimism regarding Riyad, he may very well head to the World Cup if he performs up to expectations. There has been a shift in the stance but if the likes of Mahmudullah and Soumya had already been in the plans, the team management could have made their return more convincing by testing them in the big assignments ahead of the World Cup.

However, for Riyad and Soumya, the New Zealand series provides the perfect launchpad ahead of the World Cup. The chaotic process of the BCB, which did not meet their own requirements when tested, showed a familiar pattern emerging -- that Bangladesh often clamour for experience not because veterans have done well, but because BCB has not been a good judge of skillsets needed, both in case of the younger stars and the experienced ones.

## **Booters look for** positive start

ANISUR RAHMAN from Hangzhou

Though the curtains of the 19th Asian Games will rise on September 23, the football playing against cross-border rivals Myanmar at the Xiaoshan Sports Centre Stadium at 2:00pm Bangladesh time.

The Bangladesh team were fully focused in training yesterday, crossing the deadline of a one-and-a-half hours at the Dianzikeji University Stadium ahead of today's opening

Standing on the gallery of the beautiful stadium, Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera shouted instructions to his players to switch their respective positions in off-theball situations before conducting a session on how to utilise set-pieces.

"Just pray for us so that we can perform well," was the feedback of winger Rabiul Hasan on way back to the team bus.

While Cabrera declined to speak to the media, assistant coach Hasan Al Mamun Rakib Hossain were the architects of senior briefed about the match.

"Some of our players were in Thailand (with U-23 squad) and joined the team just the day before our departure. Besides, we Reza and Jafar Iqbal to prove that they are could add only two senior players instead not less important.

of three as some players from Bashundhara Kings and captain Jamal Bhuiyan could not join due to club commitment," Mamun said. "With these young players, we are looking event gets underway today, with Bangladesh to gain international experience. Against strong sides like Myanmar, India and China, it will be a test for our boys as to how they perform in line with our plan." Mamun, however, said they would

take on Myanmar, ranked 29 places above Bangladesh, analaysing whatever information they have.

"We have studied the tactical side of Myanmar, who must have also studied us. We observed the way they play and their key players. The players know that if we can produce a good result, the group will open up for us. Apart from top two teams from

each group, four best third-place finishers will also advance to the next round," added

Though forwards Sheikh Morsalin and team's good performance in recent past, the assistant coach believes it is time for other forwards like Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Suman



Cristiano Ronaldo arrived in Tehran to take part in his first AFC Champions League match for Saudi Pro League's Al Nassr against Persepolis at the Azadi Stadium today. Upon his first-ever arrival in Iran, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner was presented with a Persian rug as a gift at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport on Monday.





#### **FARMGATE-UTTARA** Bus ride smoother than ever

Say many passengers after BRTC buses use expressway for 1st time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alauddin Hossain endures long tailbacks during his daily commute but his yesterday's experience was completely different.

"I couldn't just believe that I reached the airport area from Farmgate on a bus in just about half an hour," said an elated

The resident of Farmgate said the BRTC bus service made his commute much easier.

Bangladesh Corporation Transport (BRTC) yesterday launched the bus service on the Uttara-Farmgate via the Dhaka Elevated Expressway on a trial basis.

Like Alauddin, many other office goers were happy to avail the bus service as it helped them cut their travel time significantly.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



To make room for the Dhaka Elevated Expressway, this part of Hatirjheel has been filled up near the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel. The expressway will link Shahjalal International Airport and the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. The airport-Farmgate section of the expressway has been opened recently. The photo was taken yesterday.

#### KHALEDA'S JAIL SENTENCE Govt extends suspension by six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

government extended suspension of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's jail sentence by six more months with the same two conditions as before - she would not be



able to go abroad and she has to receive

treatment in the country. With this, her jail sentence has been

extended eight times. A notification, signed by Mohammad

Abu Sayed Mollah, deputy secretary (Jail-2 section) of the Security Services Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, was issued on September 12. The government released the BNP

chief after suspending her jail sentence as per Section 401 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On September 10, the law ministry sent a file to the home ministry suggesting the suspension of Khaleda's jail sentence and extending the release period for another six months.

On the same day, Law Minister Anisul SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

#### TORTURE OF 2 BCL MEN

## DMP probe body report due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In its report likely to be submitted today, the police probe committee, tasked with investigating the torture of two Chhatra League leaders at Shahbagh Police Station, may recommend actions against at least five police officers, including suspended ADC Harun and Inspector Golam Mostafa.

The three-member probe body of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police recorded statements from all people related to the incident, including additional deputy police commissioners Harun-or-Rashid and Sanjida Afrin, President's Personal Secretary Azizul Haque, two injured BCL men, and staffers of Birdem

Hospital, sources in the probe body said. The committee also collected footage of the incidents.

"We've worked hard to produce a comprehensive report. We hope to submit it tomorrow [today]," Shahen Shah, additional deputy commissioner (New Market Zone), told The Daily Star

Also speaking to this newspaper, DMP Joint Commissioner Biplab Kumar Sarkar said an independent and impartial investigation has been conducted to unearth the truth.

"The probe report is to be submitted SEE PAGE 6 COL 4 **USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY** 

## Bangladesh at bottom in S Asia

Says Sanem; use of alternatives to LNG can save \$39.6b or 9.17pc of GDP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian countries, Bangladesh produces the lowest amount of renewable energy against total power generation capacity, according to an analysis by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling

Bangladesh's renewable energy usage stands at only 1.90 percent against Pakistan's 6.8, Sri Lanka's 22.22

and India's 30.2 percent. This was revealed at a roundtable "Exploring Sustainable Energy Pathways: Focusing on Costeffectiveness and Green Budget". The event was organised by Sanem at a city hotel yesterday.

Presenting the keynote paper at the discussion, Sanem Senior Research Associate Israt Hossain said, "Bangladesh can save at least \$39.6 billion or 9.17 percent of its GDP by 2030 if it uses alternatives to LNG."

The government intends to decrease its reliance on domestic natural gas due to the depleting gas reserves. That's why it is increasing imports of LNG and other fossil fuels, reads the paper.

Addressing the event, experts said that the government neglected the renewable energy potential, which is why the country has less than two percent power generation capacity

"There is no doubt that we neglected the renewable energy potentials. We

from this source.

"The government is making predatory profits. The sector needs a strong and independent regulatory body."

PROF M SHAMSUL ALAM Senior Vice President, Consumers' Association of Bangladesh

need to enforce power cuts when the electricity demand rise. But we have sunlight which is a very good source of renewable energy," said Prof Ijaz Hossain, dean of the engineering faculty at Bangladesh University of SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

#### 24 personalities voice worries at high inflation

Urge govt to take steps to tame prices of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-four eminent citizens have expressed concern over inflation and high prices of essentials, including eggs and potatoes.

In a statement yesterday, they said prices of food items have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of the ordinary people. They hoped that the government would take effective measures to bring the situation under control.

Over the last one year, inflation has risen to an unbearable level, they said.

In August, prices of daily commodities increased by 12.54 percent and the overall inflation stood at 9.9 percent, they said, referring to government data.

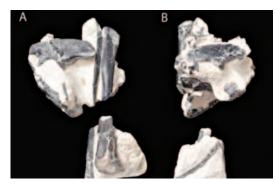
"In this situation, it has become difficult for the low-and middle-income people to lead their lives," they said.

Especially, an increase in the prices of egg and meat can result in less protein intake which may have an impact on people's nutrition balance in the long run, they further said.

The eminent citizens said the Bangladesh government blames it on the Russia-Ukraine war while traders claim that the US dollar crisis is making the situation worse.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

#### Chicken-sized dinosaur species discovered



INDEPENDENT ONLINE

The fossil of a new species of plant-eating dinosaur has been discovered on the Isle of Wight suggesting Europe had its own family of small herbivorous dinosaurs distinct from Asia and North America.

The preserved remains are of a dinosaur called vectidromeus insularis, which was the size of a chicken but juvenile so might have grown much

It is the second member of the hypsilophodont family to be found on the island off the south coast of England.

These noble, bipedal herbivores would have existed about 125 million years ago and lived alongside tyrannosaurs, spinosaurs, and

The discovery was made as part of research carried out jointly by the universities of Portsmouth and Bath.

#### Ukraine claims gains on south front

Downs swarm of Russian attack drones, missiles; Chinese FM visits Russia for security talks

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday its forces had recaptured small clutches of land from Russian forces along the southern front and near Bakhmut, regions where Kyiv's troops have focused their slow-moving counter-offensive.

Kyiv launched its bid to wrest back territory controlled by Moscow in June, after stockpiling Western-supplied weapons and recruiting assault battalions. Its efforts have focused on the war-battered town of

Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region, as well as several points along the frontline in the south, towards Crimea. 'Two square kilometres (0.77 square miles) were

liberated in the Bakhmut sector," Deputy Defence

Minister Ganna Malyar said on state media. Her announcement came one day after Kyiv said its forces had retaken Klishchiivka, a village south of Bakhmut. Malyar also said Ukrainian forces had clawed

back 5.2 square kilometres in the south. Ukraine said yesterday its air defence systems had downed a swarm of attack drones and nearly 20 cruise

missiles in Russia's latest aerial barrage overnight. Meanwhile, Russia hit out at Ukraine at the International Court of Justice yesterday, as the two warring countries squared off in a legal case over Moscow's claim that "genocide" in eastern Ukraine was a pretext for last year's

Moscow's representative, Gennady Kuzmin, said Ukraine's case that Russia "abused" the United Nations Genocide Convention as a reason to launch its war against its neighbour in February 2022 "couldn't be further from the truth".



Abul Miah, 55, tending to his cucumber plants in Kandigaon union of Sylhet's Sadar upazila. Farmer families across the upazila are happy as the yield this year is good and the vegetable is being sold at a wholesale price of Tk 50-55 per kg. However, Abul claimed he could have had better yield if it weren't for excessive rain this season. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

#### AL leader killed, 17 hurt in factional clashes

STAR REPORT

An Awami League leader was killed and at least 17 others were injured in two separate incidents of factional clashes among ruling party men in Cumilla and Narsingdi districts yesterday.

Cumilla, Swechchhasebak League leader was killed and at least 10 others were injured in a clash between two local AL groups over "controlling sand trade" in the district's Meghna upazila.

The deceased was identified as Nizam Sarker, 40, president of the Swechchhasebak League's Chalibhanga union unit and brother of union chairman Humayun Kabir.

According to locals and witnesses, ever since Meghna upazila was included under the Cumilla-2 constituency, Zilla Parishad member Abdul Quaiyum, who is a follower of Cumila-2

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1