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## 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 insiders say.

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 say that through these programmes, they seek to 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

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**"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."**

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir  
BNP Secretary General



PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

**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

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 of police.

The tenure of these supernumerary posts (officials who hold the same 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 Asaduzzaman 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 order.

He asked them to give more importance while executing arrest warrants, investigating theft and 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 Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday said 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 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 re-elect the AL government for the continuation of the ongoing development work.

The next day, the EC

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## AL won't let BNP take control of the capital

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

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 under their control.

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 sources.

Ruling party leaders said the BNP announced several 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 January.

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 in law 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 party activists and leaders. They will set up checkpoints in the city.

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

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**The ruling party will not confront the opposition on the streets as it does not want any untoward incidents before the polls, slated 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, the 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 bank yesterday.

"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

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**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.**

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## Stop using labour law to harass Prof Yunus

Amnesty urges authorities here

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International yesterday said that authorities in Bangladesh must stop weaponising labour laws and immediately end 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 faces a criminal case in Bangladesh under the Labour Act 2006. Three other board members, Ashrafur 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

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## 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 at In-Service Training Centre in Jamalpur, was given “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 authorities.

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 show-cause 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 a systematic and continuous manner”.

## Stop using labour law

FROM PAGE 1

assumed power in 2008, Amnesty added.

“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



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.

PHOTO: AFP

## 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 hurricane-strength 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 have warned.

Libya’s disease control centre banned citizens in the disaster zone from drinking water from local mains, warning that it is “polluted”.

Rescue teams from several European and Arab countries kept up the grim search for bodies in the mud-caked wasteland of smashed buildings, crushed cars and

uprooted trees.

The waters submerged a densely populated six-square-kilometre (2.3-square-mile) 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 on the coastline where “bodies were stuck between rocks”.

## 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 issues.

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.

## Female workforce rises

FROM PAGE 1

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 non-compliance, 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.

## BNP aiming for endgame

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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,”

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 times.

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

The infrastructural support dedicated to women is not also adequate, which has created a major roadblock to increasing women’s participation in banking jobs, Bidisha said.

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.

## 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, officer-in-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 there.

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 Police Station, said police were trying to arrest the rapists.

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

AFP, Sydney

Activists launched court action yesterday accusing Australia’s environment minister of failing to protect the Great Barrier Reef and other treasures from the climate risks of coal mining.

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.

## AL won’t let BNP take control

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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.

At 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.

AFP, Washington

A stealth-capable US fighter jet vanished on Sunday – not from prying eyes 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.



### REQUIREMENTS



YOUR NID



NOMINEE'S INFO



NOMINEE'S PHOTO



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# 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 by 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 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 to an uncertain future for them, said

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

PHOTO: PID

## 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 team cricketer Towhid Hridoy, women's team cricketer Nahida Akhter, national team footballer Sheikh Morsalin, women's footballer Ritu Porna Chakma, and many others.

The DU authorities 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 to Dhaka University 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

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## 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.

If one takes the numbers from



PHOTO: STAR

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 authorities.

As of yesterday, 312 patients are currently admitted in this facility, with 18 of them requiring ICU support. The healthcare

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 yesterday, this correspondent too didn't receive any allegations regarding doctor shortage from

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## 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 mosquito-borne 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 to accommodate the

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## 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 her 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 press release.

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 year.

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

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## ATTACK ON COPS

### 13 pro-BNP lawyers get anticipatory bail

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 on September 12.

However, the HC directed


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**PRAYER TIMING**

**SEPTEMBER 19**

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION





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.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## 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







## 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 Obuih, 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.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## 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 35-Tk 36.

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 Sayeed, 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 Friday.

"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.

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

S DILIP ROY

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 with it.

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 situation.

**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.**

<b>Transport Office</b> <b>University of Dhaka</b> Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Phone: 9670531, 9661920-59/4316 (Off) Fax: 88-02-9667222 Email: <a href="mailto:vcoffice@du.ac.bd">vcoffice@du.ac.bd</a> <a href="mailto:registrar@du.ac.bd">registrar@du.ac.bd</a> নং-প/		 <b>পরিবহন অফিস</b> <b>ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়</b> ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ ফোনঃ ৯৬৭০৫৩১, ৯৬৬১৯২০-৫৯/৪৩১৬ (অ) ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮-০২-৯৬৬৭২২২ ই-মেইলঃ <a href="mailto:vcoffice@du.ac.bd">vcoffice@du.ac.bd</a> <a href="mailto:registrar@du.ac.bd">registrar@du.ac.bd</a> তারিখঃ ০৩ আশ্বিন/১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ ১৮ সেপ্টেম্বর/২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ			
<b>Transport Office</b> <b>University of Dhaka</b> <b>Invitation for Tender (National)</b>					
Sl No.	Name of supply	Last date of sale tender documents	Last date of submission of tender documents	Date & time of opening of tender documents	Place where detailed information will be found
01.	Tender Ref. No. 31959 Tp/Otm/2023 Supply, installing, testing & commissioning of new addition spare parts & related services for the Bus No-Dhaka-Metro-Sha-11-0066	03/10/2023 Up to Office Hour	04/10/2023 Up to 12.00 Noon	4/10/2023 12.30pm	<a href="mailto:du.ac.bd">du.ac.bd</a> Or Notice Board at the Transport Office, University of Dhaka
 <b>Transport Manager</b> University of Dhaka					

<b>Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh</b> Office of the Inspector General Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka <b>Invitation for e-Tender</b>				
Memo No. 44.01.0000.453.07.311.23/2929			Date: 18 September 2023	
For the financial year 2023-2024, e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) for the procurement of the following item.				
SL	Description	Tender ID No.	Online tender notice publication date & time	Online tender closing date & time
1.	IED Jammer	875503	19-Sep-2023 12:00	17-Oct-2023 12:30
2.	Wide Terrain Searching Tool	875509	19-Sep-2023 12:00	17-Oct-2023 12:30
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 ( <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> ) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd">helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</a> ).				
 <b>Muhammad Ullah, BPM, PPM</b> BP-7605116336 AIG (Equipment) For Inspector General Bangladesh Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka Tel: 9585304, Fax: 55101641 E-mail: <a href="mailto:aige_t@police.gov.bd">aige_t@police.gov.bd</a>				

শেখ হাসিনার দিন বদলে, সমাজ সেবা এগিয়ে চলে।		<b>গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার</b> সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় ৩/২০, হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ <a href="http://www.dss.dhakadiv.gov.bd">www.dss.dhakadiv.gov.bd</a>		
স্মারক নম্বরঃ ৪১.০১.০০২৩.০০০.১৮.০০১.২৩.৮৫৯		তারিখঃ ৩ আশ্বিন, ১৪৩০ ১৮ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২৩		
<b>সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) মালামাল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>				
সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তরীয় ঢাকা বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়ের দাপ্তরিক ক্রয়কার্য সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) নিম্নে উল্লিখিত ক্যাটাগরী (কাজ) ও সময়কাল (মেয়াদ) এর জন্য নিম্নে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ 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 যাচ্ছে। আবেদনকারীগণকে প্রতি ফরমের জন্য নগদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্যে আবেদন ফরম জমা করে ক্রয়ের মানি রিসিট, বিজ্ঞপ্তির উল্লিখিত প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি এবং তালিকাভুক্তির ফি বাবদ পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর তফসিল-২ এর বিধি ৫৩ (৩) (ঙ) মোতাবেক ঢাকা বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়ের অনুকূলে 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 সজ্ঞা কর (ট্রেজারী চালান মূলকপি) অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে স্ব-স্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।				
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়	:	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়।	
০২	বিভাগ	:	সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর।	
০৩	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তা	:	পরিচালক, বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।	
০৪	বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিষয়	:	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM) এর মাধ্যমে বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ঢাকার মালামাল সরবরাহের লক্ষ্যে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ।	
০৫	আবেদনপত্র বিক্রয় শুরু তারিখ	:	২০-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ	
০৬	আবেদনপত্র বিক্রয় শেষ তারিখ	:	২৬-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ	
০৭	আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ এবং বাজ্ঞ বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৭-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।	
০৮	দরপত্র আহবানের উদ্দেশ্য	:	টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ।	
০৯	বাজ্ঞ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৭-০৯-২০২৩খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১০	আবেদন ফরম বিক্রয়ের স্থান	:	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।	
১১	আবেদনপত্র জমার স্থান	:	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।	
১২	আবেদনপত্র খোলার স্থান	:	বিভাগীয় সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ৩/২০ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা।	
১৩	আবেদনপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করতে হবে	:	ক) সকল গ্রুপে সরবরাহকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে ১০টি গ্রুপে অন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানে মালামাল সরবরাহের প্রমাণকস্বরূপ ক্রয়দেশ/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 সলভেন্সি সনদপত্র (বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে বিপত ০১ মাসের মধ্যে দাখিল করতে হবে। গ) অথরাইজড পারসনের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। ঘ) আবেদনকারী সদ্য তোলা ০১ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রব্বিন সত্যায়িত ছবি দাখিল করতে হবে। ঙ) সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের শ্রেণী আবেদনপত্রে উল্লেখ করতে হবে।	
১৪।	মালামাল ধরণ অনুযায়ী গ্রুপ ভিত্তিক বিবরণঃ	মালামাল/সজ্ঞাংশ সরবরাহের বিবরণ গ্রুপ- ক) অন্যান্য মনিহারী মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- খ) কম্পিউটার সমগ্রী সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- গ) ফিটিং ও ফিক্সার মেয়াদ। গ্রুপ- ঘ) বিভাগীয় ক্রীড়া ও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের বিভিন্ন কাজ ও মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ঙ) কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- চ) বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ছ) আসবাবপত্র মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- জ) অফিস সরঞ্জামাদি মালামাল সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ঝ) তথ্য যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ। গ্রুপ- ঞ) অন্যান্য যন্ত্রপাতি ও সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।		
১৫।	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলীঃ	ক) আবেদনপত্র খোলার তারিখে কোন আবেদনপত্র বিক্রি করা হবে না। খ) আবেদনপত্র ডাকযোগে বিক্রয় বা গ্রহণ করা হবে না। গ) নির্ধারিত 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 ব্যতিক্রমে যে কোন সংখ্যক/সকল সংখ্যক আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। চ) তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে দরপত্র আহবান কাজ প্রদানের কর্তৃপক্ষ নিশ্চয়তা প্রদান করবেন না। ছ) আবেদনের সাথে ৫০০০/- টাকা টিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণের কোড নং-১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬-তে ট্রেজারী চালানের জমা দিতে হবে। জ) আবেদনের সাথে ৭৫০/- টাকা ভ্যাট (VAT) বাবদ কোড নং-১-১১৩৩-০০১০-০৩১১-তে ট্রেজারী চালানের জমা দিতে হবে। ঝ) আবেদনের সাথে ৫০০/- টাকা আয়কর (TAX) বাবদ কোড নং-১-১১৪১-০০১৫-০১১১-তে ট্রেজারী চালানের জমা দিতে হবে।		
জিডি-১৪৩৮		 <b>মোহাম্মদ মোজাম্মেল হক</b> পরিচালক ০২-৪১০২২৭১২		





“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.”

**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 male-dominated 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 years.

**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.



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 just 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 ‘Prohelika’?**

The first child is and always will be special and it is something

## 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



A seven-day European Film Festival has begun encompassing films from Bangladesh and Europe. The festival commenced with the screening of the Dutch movie *Mally Can Fly* at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy’s National Theater in Dhaka, on Sunday.

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

**FROM PAGE 12**

lawmaker Selima Ahmed, has been trying to establish his supremacy in the area.

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

undergoing treatment at the same hospital, Bachchu Miah, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost, told this newspaper.

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 vice-president of the union unit AL Abu Mansur.

According to locals, Shahin,

also former General Secretary of Madhabdi upazila unit Chhatra League, was forced to stay out of the area due to his rivalry with Abu Mansur.

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 yet to receive any written complaint from any side.”

[Our correspondents from Cumilla and Brahmanbaria contributed to this report.]

## Bus ride smoother than ever

**FROM PAGE 12**

They expressed content as they 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 yesterday.

“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 service via the expressway,” he said.

Yesterday, eight double-deckers operated on the route from 11:25am.

After entering the expressway via the Bijoy Sarani ramp, the first BRTC bus paid toll at 11:50am and reached Kawla near the airport at 12:05pm.

Earlier, Road Transport and Highways Division Secretary ABM Aman Ullah Nuri inaugurated the bus service on Manik Mia Avenue.

Speaking to reporters, he said, “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 will be passengers.”

He said more buses will operate on this route if the number of passengers

increases. Passengers can travel from Farmgate to the airport by paying the current BRTC bus fares, the secretary added.

The fare for a 15km Khejur Bagan-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 system, BRTC sources said.

The toll for buses using the expressway has been set at Tk 160.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had opened the airport-Farmgate section of the expressway on September 2.

## Govt extends suspension by six months

**FROM PAGE 12**

Huq briefed reporters on the issue at the Secretariat.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25, 2020, after the government suspended her jail sentence for six months. She was released during a time when the world was grappling with the pandemic.

The BNP chief landed in jail on February 8, 2017, after being sentenced to five years’ imprisonment by a special court in Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

On October 30, the following

year, the High Court enhanced her punishment to 10 years after dismissing her appeal.

The former prime minister was convicted by another special court in Dhaka in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case on October 29, 2018. She was sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment by the court.

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

“Khaleda Zia was moved to the CCU at 1:30am as per the advice of her medical board,” he told The Daily Star.

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 CCU.

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

## 24 personalities

**FROM PAGE 12**

Many countries faced a similar situation due to the war, they said.

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 as 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.

## Bangladesh at bottom

**FROM PAGE 12**

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.

## 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.

While talking about the Ukraine war, she said: “If Putin were to win this war, what sign would that be for other dictators in the world, like Xi, like the Chinese president? So therefore

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 China and for a greater emphasis on human rights, while Chancellor Olaf Scholz, a Social Democrat, has backed a more trade-friendly stance.



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



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



PHOTO: REUTERS

# PAKISTAN SC Proceedings shown live on TV for first time

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

World leaders will seek this week to salvage stalled global targets to fight issues such as hunger, poverty and climate change that have been knocked off course in recent years by the Covid pandemic and

The UN this month also released research in collaboration with 95 developing nations that found 72 of them reported an increase in planet-heating emissions since 2019, and only one in five cut poverty levels – key



Rising temperatures and more frequent storms are aggravating hunger 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

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 this 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.



PHOTO: REUTERS

# খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

খুলনা-৯২০০

## 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।

এরমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন স্কেল (২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা
<b>শিফট ৪</b>			
১।	অধ্যাপক, বায়োমেডিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৫৬৫০০-৭৪৪০০/-	১টি
২।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৩।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৪।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৫।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৬।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, বিজ্ঞ ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স ম্যানেজমেন্ট বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৭।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, এনার্জি সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৮।	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক, ইনস্টিটিউট অব এনভায়রনমেন্ট এন্ড পাবলিক টেকনোলজি	৫০০০০-৭২০০০/-	১টি
৯।	সহকারী অধ্যাপক, ইলেকট্রনিক্স এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ*	৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-	১টি
১০।	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে), আরবান এন্ড রিজিওনাল প্লানিং বিভাগ	৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-	১টি
১১।	সহকারী অধ্যাপক (সহযোগী অধ্যাপকের বিপরীতে), ইনস্টিটিউট অব ডিজাস্টার ম্যানেজমেন্ট	৩৫৫০০-৬৭০১০/-	১টি

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

প্রতিটি পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.kuet.ac.bd/career](http://www.kuet.ac.bd/career)) হতে সগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় ক্রমিক নং- ১ হতে ৮-এ ও উল্লিখিত পদের জমা ৩৫০ টাকা, ক্রমিক নং- ৯ হতে ১১-এ উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ২৫০/- (দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার বিধি অনুসরণ করা হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় আবেদনকারীর নাম, পদ, জমা দেয়ার তারিখ, আবেদনকারীর স্বাক্ষর ও মোবাইল নং উল্লিখিত করে আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়া হবে। আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার সময় আবেদনকারীর আবেদনপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। আগামী ০১/০১/২০২০ হতে ০২/০১/২০২০ তারিখ বিকাল ৫-০০ টার মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তরে জমা দেয়া যাবে/পৌছাতে হবে। ডাক বিভাগের বিলম্বের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ দায়ী থাকবে না। নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্য পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি হতে পারে, এর ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

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



## 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 Swechhchasebak 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 in a mess 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

letters@thedailystar.net

## 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  
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TANIM AHMED

The timing of the Cyber Security Act, 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?) period.

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

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.

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



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

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

the full details of a story to keep from 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. It would keep the campaign alive for months, if not years. It would also put on record the number of stories that are affected by the law. Second, a "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

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-of-view. But this is not possible anymore, thanks to the climate of self-censorship and fear. Hence, readers do 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 change-induced 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 well-being 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

its repercussions for the future. This 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 to roads and communication systems caused by severe weather events leads to a detrimental effect on schooling. According to the Bangladesh Disaster-related 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

assemblies. Consequently, students will miss out on a variety of school-based collective and community learning opportunities.

Adapting schooling to climate change requires a multifaceted approach that considers both the immediate challenges and long-term impacts of shifting climate patterns. Strategies such as climate-resilient 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.







# Being average is PERFECTLY FINE

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 you 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.

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## 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 Thunberg.

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

started at 9:30 AM, and within half an hour the area outside the National Press Club turned into a sea of colourful banners and placards as climate activists from diverse backgrounds joined. A stretch of the road was filled with these young activists chanting powerful slogans like “Fund our future,” “We want Justice,” and “Save our Future.”

Rifat Anik, an organiser representing 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 fire.”

The rally urged an end to the financing of fossil fuel projects, a transition towards

renewable energy sources, and an increase in climate finance to combat the climate crisis. “The era of new fossil fuels is over. Our future depends on leaving them in the ground,” added Sohanur in a press release.

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 is a high-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.

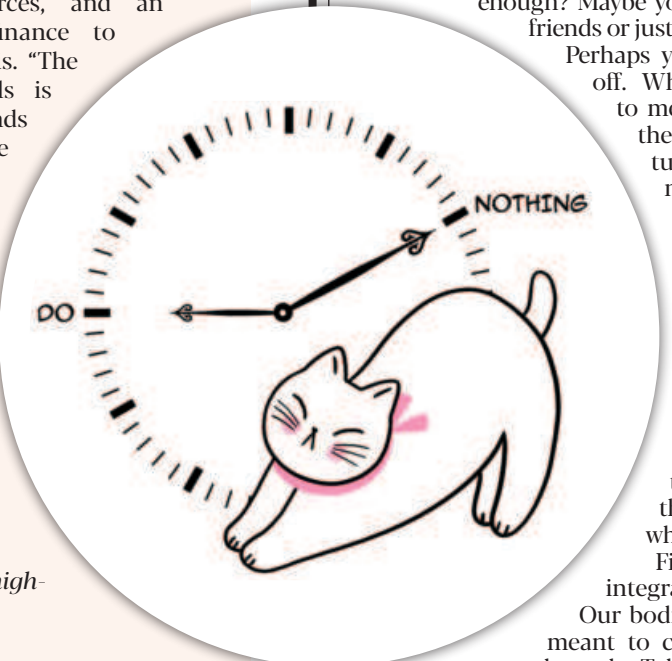
Hustle culture has normalised such ideas, lauding the benefits that an intense work environment brings. Many point towards the immense economic success of countries such as South Korea and Japan, owing much of it to their extreme work culture. However, despite the benefits this has brought, it has also 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

ILLUSTRATION: FAISAL BIN IQBAL





# 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 new-look Champions League will begin next year.

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



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 Union Berlin.

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 away.

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.



## Kings start AFC Cup mission at Maziya today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings will look to continue their perfect record against Maldivian opponents when the four-time 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 group.

“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-and-away 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 Maziya 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 Bhubaneswar 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.



## Sakib courts controversy

AFP, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi cricketer was embroiled in controversy Monday over misogynistic social media posts condemning working women, just days after making a brilliant international debut.

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 Bangladesh.

The resulting adulation for the 20-year-old, though, turned to scorn from women's rights activists and feminists after his misogynist social media posts came to light.

“If the wife works, the husband's 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 elegance is damaged.

“If the wife works, the family is ruined. If the wife works, the veil is ruined. If the wife works, society is ruined.”

Women form the vast majority of the workforce of the garment factories that have driven much of Bangladesh's economic growth in recent years.

But conservative patriarchal attitudes remain widespread in the majority Muslim country.

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 university”.

The comments provoked a backlash, with Paris-based feminist writer Jannatun Nayeem Prity pointing out that the Bangladesh team jerseys were made in factories mostly staffed by women.

“I feel sorry for you that you don't consider your mother a normal human being,” she added.

Writer Swakrito Noman described the comments as “deeply offensive” in a widely-shared Facebook post, demanding the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) question Tanzim and the player apologise.

Journalist Mejbaul Haque added Monday: “The status of such a distorted form of misogyny is unacceptable. No matter how big a star he is!”

The BCB said it was investigating.

“The issue came to our attention. We are looking into the matter,” its cricket operations chief Jalal Yunus told AFP.

Tanzim has played 12 first-class matches in his short senior career, after helping Bangladesh win the Under-19 World Cup in 2020.

## Riyad's chance to stake a claim

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

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

Following a disappointing end to the Asia Cup, the return of Mahmudullah Riyad 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-year-old'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



forementioned 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 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 Cup?

BCB's explanation for the New Zealand series selection was that the key players

## Booters look for positive start

ANISUR RAHMAN from Hangzhou

Though the curtains of the 19th Asian Games will rise on September 23, the football event gets underway today, with Bangladesh 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 match.

Standing on the gallery of the beautiful stadium, Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera shouted instructions to his players to switch their respective positions in off-the-ball 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 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 could add only two senior players instead

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 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, analysing 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 Mamun.

Though forwards Sheikh Morsalin and Rakib Hossain were the architects of senior team's good performance in recent past, the assistant coach believes it is time for other forwards like Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Suman Reza and Jafar Iqbal to prove that they are not less important.



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.

PHOTO: REUTERS





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 Alauddin.

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

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday launched the bus service on the Uttara-Farmgate route 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.

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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.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

KHALEDA'S JAIL SENTENCE

Govt extends suspension by six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended the 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 (I) 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

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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 Assistant 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 last night.

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

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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

Among 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 (Sanem).

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 titled "Exploring Sustainable Energy Pathways: Focusing on Cost-effectiveness 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 from this source.

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

**"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

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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.

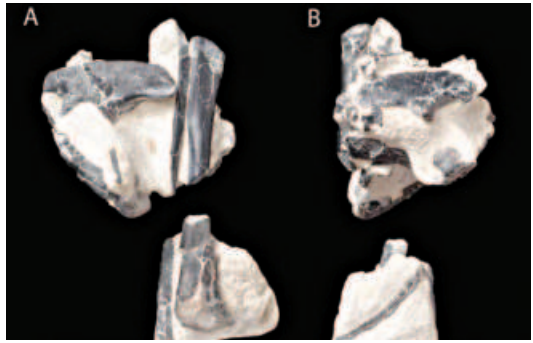
"In this situation, it has become difficult for the low-and middle-income people to lead their lives," they said.

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.

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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 larger.

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 iguanodonts.

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 invasion.

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.

In Cumilla, a 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 the Meghna upazila was included under the Cumilla-2 constituency, Zilla Parishad member Abdul Quaiyum, who is a follower of Cumila-2

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