



\$250m budget support from WB in Nov

Govt confident it fulfilled 12 conditions for funding

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh is expecting another \$250 million in budget support from the World Bank after the government fulfilled the conditions laid out for the funding.

The budget support will come under the Bangladesh First Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Credit (DPC), the first in a series of two credits that the Washington-based multilateral lender has planned to help the country "build a stronger fiscal and financial sector to sustain growth".

The funds were supposed to arrive last fiscal year but due to the government's inability to fulfil the 12 conditions the WB has tagged it was held up.

Finally, the government has implemented those and sent the progress report to the WB for releasing the funds. The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials informed with the proceedings.

If the WB is satisfied with the progress, the funds would be released by November, they said.

The Recovery and Resilience Development Policy Credit series supports a wide programme of fiscal and financial sector policies set out by the government to enhance macroeconomic stability and sustain growth. Abdoulaye Seck, the WB country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, told The Daily Star.

The programme began in 2021, setting "an ambitious target" for the adoption of the Bank Company Act as part of a broader financial reform plan.

"The publication of the 2022 Financial Stability Report and amendment of the Bank Company Act are substantial steps in this process. We are reviewing the legislation to assess how it can contribute to reducing vulnerabilities, as well as steps required to support its implementation as part of a broader reform plan."

The appraisal and subsequent board consideration of the Recovery and Resilience DPC is predicated upon positive assessment of all agreed reforms and evidence of adequate macroeconomic framework, Seck added.

One of the development objectives of the DPC is tariff modernisation as it is critical to reach the growth and poverty reduction objectives of the 8th five-year plan and to ensure continued market access in the

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Construction of the Kalia Bridge over the Nabaganga river in Narail's Kalia upazila is yet to be completed. The first deadline for completion expired in June 2019. Officials attributed the delay mainly to a design flaw. Residents of the upazila still use trawlers and ferries to travel to Narail town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

EC plans longer gap between schedule and election day

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is planning to keep more time between the announcement of the national polls schedule and the polling day, so that it can complete its work more smoothly.

The commission is mulling a gap of 60 to 70 days between the two dates, up from a gap of 40 to 52 days kept during the last two elections.

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Canada suspects India link, Delhi denies

Each nation expels a diplomat in tit-for-tat moves; US, Australia express 'deep concern'

REUTERS, New Delhi

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said authorities were "actively pursuing credible allegations" linking New Delhi's agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader, a concern India dismissed as "absurd".

The spat deals a fresh blow to diplomatic ties that have been fraying

for years, with New Delhi unhappy over Sikh separatist activity in Canada. It now threatens trade ties too, with talks on a proposed trade deal frozen last week.

Each nation also expelled a diplomat in tit-for-tat moves, with Canada throwing out India's top intelligence agent there while New Delhi responded

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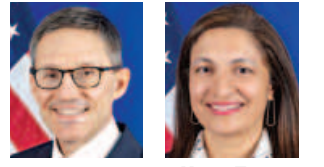
US reiterates need for free, fair polls

2 of its officials hold talks with Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two top US officials yesterday again highlighted the importance of free and fair elections, and protecting democracy, human rights and the freedom of expression.

They made separate



Chollet Uzra Zeya

statements after meeting Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday.

US State Department Counsellor Derek Chollet in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, wrote, "We discussed our cooperation on economic development and climate change and the importance of protecting freedom of expression and democracy."

Earlier in May, the US announced a visa policy that said it would deny visas to those who would be found involved in vote rigging and intimidation over national polls in Bangladesh.

In December 2021, Washington imposed

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With parked staff buses taking up the fast lane of Panthapath-Tejgaon Link Road, vehicles are caught in a long tailback near the Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel. Commuters suffer due to such snarl ups in the area. The photo was taken around 1:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

TANZIM'S MISOGYNISTIC POSTS BCB parrots player's defence, says he is sorry

SAKEB SUBHAN

Four days after screenshots of Bangladesh pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib's misogynistic social media posts went viral, Bangladesh Cricket Board faced the media yesterday, but could only offer what amounted to a mere apology on the player's behalf.

As of late last night, Tanzim himself did not apologise directly for the posts that questioned the right to employment and freedom of at least half the country's population.

Moreover, in the course of yesterday's press conference, BCB Cricket Operations Committee Chairman Jalal Yunus's words raised doubts about whether the sport's national governing body indeed understood the extent of the problem and damage Tanzim's posts caused.

"About the posts on women, he

[Tanzim] said 'I take responsibility for this' ... He said, 'My mother is a woman; I can never be a misogynist'."

Jalal was repeating what Tanzim had supposedly said during a "discussion" with BCB officials regarding the posts.

The cricket operations chairman said Tanzim told them he did not make the posts to hurt anyone, and that if his posts did hurt anyone, "he was sorry for that".

He also said they would monitor Tanzim's activities from now on, and that they had

cautioned him. In that, there was a tacit admission that there was no monitoring of a young cricketer's activities on social media thus far - a cricketer who came under BCB's wing at a tender age.

In September 2022, Tanzim said in a post on Facebook that women

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DOLLAR MANIPULATION BB asks 10 banks to explain

MD MEHEDI HASAN

The Bangladesh Bank has asked 10 banks' managing directors why their treasury heads should not be penalised for their involvement in dollar rate manipulation this year.

The letter, which was issued on Monday, comes after BB did not accept the banks' previous clarification on the allegation of charging more than the declared rate for the dollar.

"Your bank's treasury head cannot avoid their responsibility in the case of foreign exchange transactions at a higher rate than the declared rate," it said.

Subsequently, the lenders will have to explain to the central bank within five working days from the date of issue of the letter why action should not be taken against their treasury heads as per section 109 (7) of the Bank Company Act 1991.

The section states the banking regulator can impose a maximum fine of Tk 1 lakh for violations.

The banks are Social Islami, Al-Arafah Islami, Mercantile, Modhumoti, Midland, Brac, Exim, Premier, Shahjalal Islami and Trust.

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ইন্টারন্যাশনাল ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন (IFC) বিশ্বব্যাপক গ্রুপ আয়োজিত এসএমই ফাইন্যান্সিয়ার অফ দ্য ইয়ার-এশিয়া ক্যাটাগরিতে গ্লোবাল এসএমই ফাইন্যান্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড ২০২৩-এ শীর্ষস্থানীয় প্রতিবেশ অ্যাওয়ার্ড লাভ করেছে ইউনাইটেড কমার্শিয়াল ব্যাংক পিএলসি। এ গৌরবময় অর্জনের জন্য আমাদের সকল গ্রাহক ও সহকর্মীদের জানাই শুভেচ্ছা।

SME Financier of the Year - Asia

Promote community clinics in developing world: PM

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon development partners, including multilateral financing institutions, to extend their support for community-centric health services in the developing world.

"On our part, Bangladesh stands ready to share our insights and expertise with those interested," she said.

The prime minister said this while speaking at the plenary session of the high-level side-event on "Sheikh Hasina Initiative of Community Clinics: Innovative Approach to Achieving Universal Health Coverage Inclusive of Mental Health and Disabilities" held at UN Headquarters in New York.

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JOURNO NADIM MURDER Prime accused secures bail from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has granted six months' ad-interim bail to suspended UP chairman Mahmudul Alam Babu, the prime accused in the murder case of journalist Golam Rabbani Nadim.



Mahmudul Alam

Nadim, who was the Jamalpur district correspondent of Banglanews24.com and also the Bakshiganj upazila correspondent of Ekattor TV, died on June 15, a day after being attacked allegedly by supporters of Mahmudul.

On June 17, Nadim's wife, Monira Begum, filed the case with Bakshiganj Police Station against 22 named and 20-25 unnamed persons.

Mahmudul, the then chairman of Sadhurpara Union Parishad in Bakshiganj upazila, who is now in jail, was named as the main accused.

The HC bench of Justices Md Jahangir Hossain and Md Showkat Ali Chowdhury granted bail to Mahmudul on Monday in response to

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PHOTO: LS ARCHIVE/SAZZAD IBNE SAYED



The bustling spice market of CHAWKBAZAR

RBR

The wholesale spice market of Chawkbazar is not a fancy, spice souk you see in the Middle East; it is a messy place, with extremely narrow, mucky lanes snaking through filth. Even manoeuvring a rickshaw is a challenge on these roads which are further piled up with sacks of assorted spices, herbs used in Ayurveda and Unani, and of course dry fruits from all over the world.

Yet, the sights and sounds of the Chawkbazar spice market exude an energetic spirit that draws you to it; there is a distinct look in its haphazard mess.

Nazrul Store, situated at the corner of one such lane, alone has a stock of over 600 types of spices and culinary herbs along with ayurvedic products. As you enter the store, with a makeshift storage loft, a heady smell of dried amloki, bahera, and hortoki hits you.

A bag full of mace -- the warm, burnt,

orange colour of which entices you to pick a handful. The green cardamoms -- whose light and fresh aroma make you want to get a bag full. Sacks of icy pink crystals of palm sugar, boxes of black sultanas, and green raisins in pale jade hue, dried figs, and Sakura plums; the place is stacked with a wide range of products.

Strangely, a plastic bag full of dried Maryam phul or Rose of Jericho as it is called, which is believed to ease childbirth gets your attention. This flower is not easily available in Dhaka; finding it in this market is like a big discovery you can say.

"We opened the store in 1998. It has been 25 years! We supply retailers all over the country. Herbal, homoeopathic and ayurvedic products, and regular spices -- we sell it all in raw and ready-to-use form," says Ronny, the store manager, who goes by his first name only.

The unique store boasts a rich collection. Even the rare and sought-after agarwood, a fragrant dark resinous wood used in making incense sticks, perfume, and small carvings, is found here. One hundred grams of agarwood is sold for Tk 10,000 here in

this store.

"These days, our business for raw products is slow as the market is saturated with powdered Ayurvedic medicines. People introducing themselves as 'Kobiraj' have started operating in every locality. Unfortunately, most people prefer the powdered forms over raw ingredients as they are easy to use," Ronny adds.

"In my opinion and experience, these powders are bogus. In Ayurveda, the usage of herbs in the right portions is paramount. You need to study the subject to make them. A street vendor can't do the same," Ronny further explains, emphasising that the cleanliness of herbs is another issue to be taken seriously when using the powder form.

Agreeing with him, a customer chips in that triphala or chirota powder does not have the same effect as the raw dried fruits, soaked overnight, does.

In these times of price hikes the wholesale spice market at Chawkbazar, is an option to try out. It has fine-quality culinary spices to flavour food. You just have to brave the traffic to experience the vibe there and buy bags full of spicy, tangy, and piquant goodies!



\$250m budget support from WB in Nov

FROM PAGE 1

context of graduation from the least-developed country bracket.

Accordingly, one of the conditions was to get the National Tariff Policy with reduced tariffs and a simplified tariff structure approved by the cabinet. That was done on July 16, and the commerce ministry has published the gazette on it.

The National Tariff Policy would bring down the average nominal protection rate on imports from 29.6 percent at the end of fiscal 2020-21 to 25 percent this fiscal year.

Another condition is the roll-out of the A-Challan system for at-source income tax withholding in all tax zones across the country. So far, it has been done on a limited scale.

Once fully implemented, it is expected to boost the National Board of Revenue's income tax and domestic value-added tax collections to Tk 244,200 crore in fiscal 2023-24.

The DPC supports public procurement efficiency by expanding the use of electronic government procurement (e-GP), a system which has already contributed to estimated annual government savings of \$1.1 billion, according to the project document.

"Expanding the use of e-GP in emergencies such as pandemics and natural disasters will enable time-critical delivery of services, with greater transparency," the WB said.

Subsequently, the government was asked to enact the Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) Act to consolidate the responsibilities and authorities of the BPPA.

The bill was passed in the parliament this month.

If this condition is implemented faithfully, then the average procurement lead time using a GP system would come down to 50 days

this fiscal year, the WB said.

Another major task from the WB for this budget support was amendments to the Bank Company Act to strengthen the supervisory framework in line with good international practice. The parliament approved the amendment on June 21.

The Department of National Savings has already adopted an automated system to link the issuance of the general provident fund and the contributory provident fund instruments to national identity cards.

If implemented properly, the net sales of savings instruments will come down to Tk 200,000 crore this fiscal year.

The WB has also asked the central bank to issue corrective action plans for undercapitalised banks and the finance ministry to issue a

circular with strengthened corporate governance for state banks in line with international good practice.

Another condition is the enactment of the Secured Transactions Act to pave the way for granting bank loans by mortgaging movable assets as collateral and establishing a notice-based security interest registry for movable assets.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal placed the bill in the parliament on June 20.

The WB has called for the adoption of the Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan, which includes retrofitting the built environment to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

It has also called for increasing renewable energy generation capacity to 1,000 megawatts by the end of this fiscal year. This has been achieved, according to finance ministry officials.

BB asks 10 banks to explain

FROM PAGE 1

"Those banks imposed higher dollar rates on their clients than their declared rates," said Md Mezbahul Haque, the central bank spokesman.

M Reazul Karim, the MD and chief executive officer of Premier Bank, acknowledged the receipt of the letter. The bank will respond within the stipulated time, he told The Daily Star.

"We were forced to open LCs [letters of credit] at a high dollar rate in an emergency case -- this was conveyed to the central bank before," said Mati Ul Hasan, additional managing director of Mercantile Bank.

Selim RF Hussain, the Brac Bank MD and also the chairman of the Association of Association of Bankers, Bangladesh (ABB), declined to comment on the matter.

This, however, is not the first time the central bank has taken this

position against banks on allegations of dollar manipulation by banks.

Last year, it sought explanations from 12 banks: Dutch-Bangla, Prime, City, Southeast, Brac, Standard Chartered, NCC, HSBC, Mercantile, Dhaka, United Commercial and Bank Asia.

The BB then asked Dutch-Bangla, Southeast, Prime, City, Brac and Standard Chartered to transfer their treasury heads to the human resources department. The central bank later walked back on this decision.

Since last year, the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers Association and ABB have been fixing the dollar rate on unofficial direction from the central bank.

On August 31, the two organisations decided to enforce a uniform exchange rate from September: they decided to buy a dollar at Tk 109.5 and sell at Tk 110.

Adieu, giant of Bangla cinema

FROM PAGE 12

began experiencing breathing problems around 10:00pm. His wife Shahana Begum rushed him to the hospital. By the time they reached, he had passed away and the doctors declared him dead upon receiving him.

Born on August 26, 1946, Zaki was known as more than a filmmaker. He was also a scriptwriter, actor and author.

After completing his education in Pune Film School from 1973 to 1976, he came back and made the popular film "Ghuddi", starring Suborna Mustafa and Raisul Islam Asad with Shafiqul Islam Swapan behind the camera.

The film's song "Abar Elo Je Shondha", sung by Happy Akhand and written by Kawsar Ahmed Chowdhury, gained widespread popularity along with the film itself.

In 1980, he was given the National Film Award for Best Screenplay for "Ghuddi", and then went on to make films like "Lal Benarasi" and "Ayena Bibir Pala".

In the late 90s, he also served as the chief executive of Bangladesh Television.

In 2021, he was honoured with the prestigious Ekushey Padak.

Though Zaki could not keep up with his former self due to old

age complications, his passion for filmmaking was far beyond his ailments' reach.

Besides making some telefilms in recent years, he also finished working on two films "Aparajeyo Eka" and "Krantikal" (a Ghuddi sequel), which are yet to be released.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud in a condolence message yesterday said the multifaceted director, storyteller, screenplay writer, actor, and writer Syed Salahuddin Zaki will forever be remembered and cherished through his works.

State Minister for Culture KM Khalid has expressed deep sorrow at Zaki's death, reiterating how this stalwart of cinema will be forever remembered through his works.

After his son and daughter return from Canada, Syed Salahuddin Zaki will be given his final respects at Central Shaheed Minar from 11:00am to 12:00pm on September 21.

After Zuh'r prayers, his namaz-e-janaza will be held at Taqwa mosque in the capital's Dhanmondi at 1:30pm.

He will then be taken to Channel i office for a final tribute, before being laid to rest in his parents' grave in Azimpur cemetery.

EC plans longer gap between schedule and election day

FROM PAGE 1

Top EC officials said widening the gap would give officials concerned more time to scrutinise nomination papers, complete the process of withdrawal of candidacies and dispose of appeals against scrapping of nomination papers.

EC sources said the commission is planning to announce the schedule for the 12th Jatiya Sangsad polls by the first week of November.

Increasing the time gap between the polls schedule and the election day would also allow the maximum number of foreign observers to monitor the elections after the Christmas vacation, said EC officials.

"The commission is holding discussion on how it can keep more time between the announcement of the polls schedule and the voting day," Election Commissioner Brig

Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan told The Daily Star.

The EC plans to give four to five days to returning officers to scrutinise nomination papers. Usually, the

NATIONAL POLLS	SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED	POLLING DAY	GAP OF DAYS
11th (2018)	November 8	December 30	52
10th (2014)	November 25, 2013	January 5, 2014	40
9th (2008)	November 2	December 29	58
8th (2001)	August 19	October 1	44
7th (1996)	April 27	June 12	46
6th (1991)	December 15, 1990	February 27, 1991	71

officers get just one day to do the job.

During the 2018 national elections, a total of 3,056 nomination forms were submitted.

The commission is likely to give at least seven days for settling the appeals against scrapping of

nominations by returning officers. The chief election commissioner and the four other commissioners hear the appeals. The appellants are allowed to have lawyers.

"If the returning officers have more time, it will help them perform their duties more efficiently. Having more time for disposing of appeals against scrapping of nomination papers means the officials will be in no haste to make decisions," said Ahsan Habib.

He said that the EC would announce the polls schedule only after making final decisions on these issues.

Asked when the EC will declare the polls schedule, he said, "We will announce the schedule in due time. We are making sincere efforts to ensure that the elections are participatory."

Officials, however, said if the time gap between the announcement of the schedule and the voting day is increased, the EC will have to keep an eye on law and order for an extended period.

REQUIREMENTS

YOUR NID

NOMINEE'S INFO

NOMINEE'S PHOTO



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WHO praised govt's efforts for healthcare development

Says Momen

AGENCIES

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Monday said World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised the Bangladesh government's measures for overall development of the health sector.

Momen said this at a media briefing on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daily engagements on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly session in New York, reports BSS.

He said the community health clinics are an innovation of the PM from where people are getting over 30 medicines free of cost. "The community clinic has helped reduce child and mother mortality

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Monday. The premier is in the US to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

PHOTO: PTD

Former BNP leaders at the helm of Trinamool BNP

Shamsher M Chowdhury chairperson, Taimur Alam secretary general



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP leaders Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and Advocate Taimur Alam Khandaker have been elected as the chairperson and secretary-general respectively of the Trinamool Bangladesh National Party (BNP).

Soon after joining the party, they became the top leaders of the party which got registration from the Election Commission on February 16.

After being elected, the diplomat turned

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

LABOUR COURT Yunus sued in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A case was filed against Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, founding chairman of Grameen Krishi (Agriculture) Foundation, and five others with Rangpur Labour Court yesterday.

The other accused are Nurjahan Begum, chairperson of board of directors of Grameen Krishi Foundation, Shamsud Doha, its acting managing director, and board members Imamus Sultan, Ratan Kumar Nag, and Shahjahan.

Farukul Islam, senior farm manager (retired) of Grameen Krishi Foundation, filed the case, said Shamim Al Mamun, a lawyer for the complainant.

He said the case was filed against the six for not paying Farukul wages, gratuity and earned leave.

In the case, Farukul also demanded compensation, alleging that he was coerced into retirement.

Mamun also mentioned that the foundation owed Farukul Tk 9.75 lakh.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

'She keeps looking for Afia all day'

Younger sister being treated at same hospital bed where older one passed away; 97 children died so far

DIPAN NANDY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Last week, two sisters -- Afia Anjum and Tasnia Tasnim -- were pedalling their bicycle through streets; their youthful spirits undeterred by a slight fever that failed to keep them grounded.

However, things changed for the worse pretty soon. That night, Afia was rushed to Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute after being diagnosed with dengue. She passed away last Friday while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Before the grieving father, Md Alamgir Hossain, could hardly begin to process the loss of his elder daughter, he found himself facing the challenge of saving her younger daughter Tasnia, 6. She too had to be hospitalised with dengue. Today, she lies in the same bed where her sister, Afia, 8, had taken her last breath.

Alamgir struggled to hold back tears while talking to The Daily Star. "My younger daughter searches for Afia all day despite having a fever. She is yet to know about her sister's demise as we informed her that Afia is receiving treatment in a different

ward," he said.

"Due to bed crisis, we had to admit Tasnia to the very same bed that held Afia's lifeless body just moments earlier," he added.



Deceased Afia, left, with her sister Tasnia, who is also admitted to the same hospital with dengue.

This tragic story of Afia and Tasnia is just one among many amid a growing health crisis as the country is grappling with the worst dengue outbreak in its history. This

time, the mosquito-borne disease has emerged as a formidable threat to the little ones. The nation has already witnessed the loss of 97 children's lives to dengue this year.

According to the DGHS, at least 32,705 children, aged below 15 years, were hospitalised with dengue, constituting 21 percent of the total number of dengue cases reported this year.

Meanwhile, seven more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, while 3,027 more were hospitalised.

During a visit to the Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute yesterday, this correspondent observed the facility's dedicated dengue corner was stretched to its limits, accommodating 106 patients, while the 10-seat Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) remained fully occupied.

"The hospital always has a crisis of beds in the dengue corner and PICU," said Abdul Hakim, the facility's public relations officer.

He disclosed that 17 children have so far died while undergoing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

“

It takes 48 hours for the situation to become critical for adults, while children only have 24 hours, which is why we suggest hospitalisation as quickly as possible.

HM NAZMUL AHSAN
Associate professor of
Suhrawardy Medical
College and Hospital

'Shocked, appalled'

Section of eminent citizens on international groups' support for Adilur, Elan

STAR REPORT

A section of eminent citizens has expressed concerns over "evil and biased" activities of some local and international quarters centring the conviction of Odhikar secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and director ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

They came up with the concerns in separate two statements yesterday.

"We are deeply shocked and appalled at the outpouring of support from different global bodies, including a resolution by the European Parliament, for Adilur Rahman and one of his associates, who have been handed two-year jail term after being found guilty of manufacturing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Piles of seized pick-up vans, cars, and CNG-run three-wheelers left to decay on a footpath of Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital. Such mindless action not only obstruct pedestrian movement, but also can lead to accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AL leader Riaz relieved of party activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South Awami League office secretary Mohammad Riaz Uddin has been relieved of all party activities over allegations of breaking party discipline.

Dhaka South AL general secretary Humayun Kabir confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

"Riaz has also been provided with a show cause notice. He has to give his reply within 15 working days," Kabir added.

The development comes following allegations of sexual harassment and financial misconduct against Riaz, who was also president of the governing body of Sher-e-Bangla Girls' High School

In a notice issued by the Dhaka Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

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Eastern univ holds seventh convocation

CITY DESK

The seventh convocation of Eastern University was held at Bashundhara International Convention City in the capital yesterday.

In the convocation, a total of 3,109 students graduated from fall semester of 2019 to the spring semester of 2023 and 10 students with the highest CGPA from four faculties of the university achieved gold medals.

Professor Emeritus Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and former chairman of University Grants Commission, spoke at the ceremony as the convocation speaker.

Deputy Minister of Education Mahibul Hasan Chowdhury presided over the event. Chairman of board of trustees of the university, Mohammad Ali Azzam, and VC Prof Dr Shahid Akhtar Hossain were also present.



Defying ban, three-wheelers continue to ply Dhaka-Barishal highway. These slow-moving vehicles often escalate the risk of accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Stop entry of illegal arms

FROM PAGE 5

The committee also suggested taking steps to recognise rubber produced in Bangladesh as agricultural products and to review the report of a sub-committee formed to resolve the dispute between the Mro

and Tripura communities and Lama Rubber Industries.

The committee expressed disappointment that the construction of the Rangamati Medical College building could not begin on time and advised the concerned ministry to

expedite the project work.

Committee members CHT Affairs Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, Dipankar Talukdar, ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, Bashonti Chakma, Noman Al Mahmud, attended the meeting among others.

Will urge govt

FROM PAGE 5

The DG said, "We conducted drives for a month to bring down the egg prices but were not able to do so. Therefore, we started importing eggs even though it would affect our poultry industries."

Later in the afternoon, the DG held a meeting with Bogura's deputy commissioner, superintendent of police, potato traders and cold storage owners.

He directed them to take effective measures so that potatoes are sold at government-set prices.

According to the DAE Bogura, there are 42 cold storages in Bogura and their capacity to store potatoes is over 3 lakh tonnes.

She keeps looking for Afia

FROM PAGE 3

treatment at the hospital. Furthermore, the hospital grapples with the arrival of a constant influx of new cases, with anywhere between 12 to 20 children being admitted daily, he added.

Among the young patients battling dengue was 13-year-old Raisul Islam Arnab, who had been suffering with a high fever for the past few days.

Sharing their ordeal, Arnab's mother Saima Begum said, "Arnab was initially admitted to the general ward as there was no seat in the dengue corner. We got a place at

the dengue ward today [yesterday]."

Abdur Rahman, father of 5-year-old Sadman Abdullah, echoed the same.

"Sadman has had a high fever since Thursday. But we couldn't secure a seat until he tested positive on Saturday," he added.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said the dengue variant has changed this time... Besides, even after recovering, people are getting ill suddenly." He stressed on collective efforts to eliminate Aedes mosquitoes.

body and eye pain, children first experience nausea and/or coughing."

"It takes 48 hours for the situation to become critical for adults, while children only have 24 hours, which is why we suggest hospitalisation as quickly as possible."

Professor Mujibur Rahman, former head of medicine department at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said, "The dengue variant has changed this time... Besides, even after recovering, people are getting ill suddenly." He stressed on collective efforts to eliminate Aedes mosquitoes.

Media resorts

FROM PAGE 5

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

Fakhrul also said, "Today the media is divided. On one hand, there are beneficiaries of this dreadful government, and on the other, some are struggling to reinstate democracy and freedom of speech... Many of them do not have jobs today, and many media outlets are closed for the 'crime' of telling the truth."

He criticised the government, saying, "The state is no longer a state. It has now become a factory of suffering. They have destroyed the soul of Bangladesh."

"Today, national leader Khaleda Zia is seriously ill, and Tarique Rahman is leading from exile. Let's remove this monstrous government and establish a democratic state," the BNP leader added.

People suffer

FROM PAGE 5

chairman of Baliakandi Union Parishad, said, "People continue to suffer as the road reconstruction remains at a standstill for an extended period. We raised the issue during a meeting with the upazila parishad chairman, where the contractor's representative pledged to resume work within a month."

"If the work is not completed in the next couple of months, we will demand a re-tender, canceling the existing contract with the contractor," he added.

Contractor Habibul Alam could not be reached for comments despite multiple attempts.

Khondkar Rahat Ferdous, engineer at LGED in Baliakandi, assured that the contractor had provided assurances to expedite the road development projects.

Shamsher resigned from BNP in 2015 and then joined Bikalpadhara Bangladesh before the 2018 election. Bikalpadhara joined the last parliamentary election as an electoral alliance of Awami League. Shamsher wanted to contest from the Sylhet-6 constituency but withdrew himself just before the election.

In response to a question about whether his current party resembled the "king's party", he explained that it was established with the aim to depoliticise the

Former BNP leaders at the helm of Trinamool BNP

FROM PAGE 3

country. "We are not the king's party. We are a pro-people party," he said.

Barrister Nazmul Huda founded the Trinamool BNP. He was a minister in both 1991 and 2001 in Khaleda Zia's government. He later cut ties with the BNP and joined the BNP, but the party later expelled him.

Later, he founded the Trinamool BNP. Before the 11th parliamentary election, the Trinamool BNP applied for registration with the EC, but the commission did not register them. They later moved to court, and the EC registered the Trinamool BNP on the orders of the High Court.

A few days after the party was registered, Nazmul Huda died. His daughter, Antara Selima Huda, later

DMP probe body gets 3 more days

FROM PAGE 5

Star yesterday, Anwar Hossain Naeem, one of the injured BCL leaders, said the police probe body had taken his statement on September 13. He expressed his frustration at the prolonged delay in submitting the probe report.

"If they continue to delay and their report fails to adequately address the actual incident, we may consider filing a case," he added.

ADC Harun and other police officers allegedly took the BCL leaders to Shahbagh Police Station at 9:00pm on September 9 and tortured them for nearly an hour.

A week ago, DB Chief Harun Or Rashid alleged ADC Harun was assaulted first by the president's APS Azizul Haque at the Birdem Hospital that evening.

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

Speaking with The Daily

Star yesterday, Anwar Hossain Naeem, one of the injured BCL leaders, said the police probe body had taken his statement on September 13. He expressed his frustration at the prolonged delay in submitting the probe report.

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Shocked, appalled

FROM PAGE 3

and packaging disinformation and outright lies in a report to serve the agenda of radical religious force, Hefazat e Islam," said a statement signed by 27 eminent citizens.

A large number of people from minority communities came under attacks after the last BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government assumed state power in 2001. One year later, a group of rights activists appeared before the High Court to bring the perpetrators to justice. But Adilur Rahman, the then deputy attorney general, opposed the move, said the statement.

"We did not see these supposed bodies raise their voices in the same way when ultra-radical groups, those who joined the May 5 rally and were defended by Adilur in an Odhikar report as typical social organisations, went on the rampage against minorities in at least 32 districts between 2013 and 2015 to halt the war crimes trials," it said.

"We urge the foreign actors to abstain from inciting known radicals, emboldening radical forces, and endangering minority groups by protecting biased bodies like Odhikar and echoing extreme beliefs. Instead of depending on biased sources, we ask such agencies to check information from multiple sources," the statement read.

"Recurrence of these activities would only undermine the credibility of these global bodies and expose their double standard."

The statement's signatories include Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad general secretary Advocate Rana Dasgupta, Liberation War Museum trustee Sawrari Ali, Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee president Shahriar Kabir,

and eminent cultural activists Nasiruddin Yusuf and Ramendu Majumder.

In a separate statement, some 155 eminent citizens said vested quarters, acting as patrons of anti-liberation and communal forces in Bangladesh, are spreading propaganda against the court verdict convicting Adilur and Elan.

"We urge all people with conscience to remain alert against the evil activities of the vested quarters," the statement added.

The citizens who signed the statement include: Professor Khondker Bazul Hoque, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Anupam Sen, Prof Abul Barak Alvi, Artist Hashem Khan, Artist Rafiqun Nabi, Prof Mahfuza Khanam, Prof Zeenat Huda, Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, Dr Pran Gopal Datta, Cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharjee and Journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul.

On September 14, a Dhaka court sentenced Adilur and Elan to two years in prison in a case filed over disseminating "a distorted report and doctored images" regarding the police action during a Hefazat rally in Motijheel on May 5-6.

UGC suspends

FROM PAGE 5

was established to oversee colleges, enhance curricula at both graduate and postgraduate levels, elevate educational quality, and improve teacher proficiency.

The order also referred to section 8(l) of the act, which states, "All recognised teaching of the university in connection with the conferment of degrees, diplomas, and certificates shall ordinarily be conducted by the colleges, schools, and centres either alone or cooperatively, or in cooperation with the university, or in cooperation with any institution of any other university approved in this regard by the Academic Council."

বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান
BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

No. 20.08.0000.200.45.001.23-356 Date: 18 September 2023

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) under the Ministry of Planning is inviting applications from bonafide Bangladeshi nationals for filling 03 (three) Vacant posts of **Post-Doctoral Fellow**.

Name of the Post and Scale of Pay (NPS 2015)	Minimum Qualifications
Post-Doctoral Fellow (for a fixed period of up to 3 (three) years).	The candidate must have a recent Ph.D. degree in Economics/Agricultural Economics/Health Economics/Demography or a related field from a reputed university. S/he must be able to initiate and carry out high quality research independently.

NPS 2015 Tk. 35500-67010/- with admissible allowances.

Application forms can be downloaded from the website of the Institute (www.bids.org.bd). Completed application forms are required to be submitted electronically to pdfellow2023@gmail.com by 22 October 2023. Applicants are not required to send publications or certificates electronically or by post at this stage. An electronically generated acknowledgment receipt of the application will be sent to the applicant. If the applicant does not receive the acknowledgment in two days, it may be sent directly by post to the **Secretary, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, E-17, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.**

Candidates already in service should apply through the proper channel.

The authority reserves the right to accept and reject any or all applications or this appointment process without assigning any reason. BIDS is an equal opportunity employer. Women and those from ethnic minority groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Binaayak Sen
Dr. Binaayak Sen
Director General
BIDS, Dhaka

GD-1445

WHO praised

FROM PAGE 3

rates," he said. Momen said the government has made a commitment to hold a free and fair election, adds UNB. "It requires utmost sincerity from all, irrespective of their political background and views, for a free, fair and violence-free election. We want to set an example that we can do it," he said.

He said the EC is constituted under a law, and the prime minister does not appoint election commissioners.

The election commissioners can't be terminated even if the president or the prime minister wants. The EC can suspend, terminate or punish any government employee in case of irregularities, he added.

In reply to another question, the foreign minister said Bangladesh has a warm relationship with the US.

Noting that a friend can give advice to another, he said, "We have accepted many of their advice as well. We said

if the advice is objective, we'll definitely accept it."

Citing an example, Momen said the US expressed concern over the Digital Security Act, saying that it was being misused to some extent. "So, we worked on it... We're working together."

He said the US announced the new visa policy against those who undermine the election.

"This is good for us. Because, we want all to join the election, and the polls to be free and fair. So, the US is working with us. We're working very closely on these issues," he said.

AL leader

FROM PAGE 3

Education on September 15, it was mentioned that Riaz resigned from his position at the school's governing body.

For the remaining term, the additional district commissioner (Education and ICT) has been appointed as the acting president.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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নং: ২৭.০২.০০০০.০২২.২৪.০০১.২২-৩০ তারিখ: ১৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ খ্রিঃ

৫ম জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষার প্রস্তুতিমূলক প্রশিক্ষণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জ্বালানী দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বিধিমালা-২০১৬ এবং জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষা প্রবিধানমালা-২০১৬ অনুযায়ী বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী ব্যবহারকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে জ্বালানীর দক্ষ ও সশ্রদ্ধী ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করতে জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষক দ্বারা জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনার বাধ্যবাধকতা রয়েছে। এ কার্যক্রমের সফল বাস্তবায়নে স্রেডা দেশে পর্যাপ্ত সংখ্যক জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষক তৈরীর লক্ষ্যে জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষা পরিচালনা করে থাকে। এরই ধারাবাহিকতায় ৫ম জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষার প্রস্তুতির জন্য স্রেডা ৭ দিন ব্যাপী প্রশিক্ষণের আয়োজন করতে যাচ্ছে। উক্ত প্রশিক্ষণে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের কাছ থেকে আবেদন আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

২. আগামী ০২ অক্টোবর ২০২৩ খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অনলাইনে আবেদন সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। উল্লেখ, জ্বালানী নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের উপযুক্ততা ও প্রশিক্ষণের জন্য আসন সংখ্যা ইত্যাদি বিজ্ঞেনায় প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহ থেকে স্রেডা কর্তৃক যাচাইয়ের মাধ্যমে যোগ্য প্রশিক্ষণার্থী মনোনীত করা হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য সম্বন্ধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি, অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী জানতে ভিজিট করুন www.sreda.gov.bd ওয়েবপেজ।

অনলাইন আবেদন ফর্মের লিংক: <https://forms.gle/dPLOZnP1kH2conUc7>

স্বা/=
(সোঃ আব্দুল্লাহ আল মামুন)
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GD-1444

Set up breastfeeding corners at workplaces Says HC in full verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday released the full text of a verdict underscoring the need for setting up "infant feeding centres" at all relevant establishments and public places, including RMG factories, within a reasonable period of time.

Every garment factory, having a strength of more than 40 female workers, should set up breastfeeding corners, the HC observed.

"A child needs to be breastfed for two years. Needless to observe that many of such lactating mothers are engaged in services or businesses, either in government or in the private sectors. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that necessary arrangements should be made at all such relevant establishments and public places including shopping malls, bus terminals, train stations, steamers, or launch ghats to enable the mothers to feed their children as and when necessary without going through hassle or agony", the HC said in the full text of verdict.

The HC delivered the verdict on this issue on April 2 this year, following a writ petition filed by Advocate Ishrat

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Three boys, holding kites made from used polythene bags, race against the wind as the country welcomes autumn. The photo was taken yesterday in Sylhet Sadar's Umairgaon area.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR

NAT'L UNIV MAIN CAMPUS UGC suspends undergraduate admissions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission has suspended the admission process for undergraduate (honours) programmes for the 2022-2023 academic year at the National University's main campus.

An office order issued by UGC yesterday directed NU authority to halt all activities, including on-campus student admissions, for the undergraduate programmes.

Furthermore, UGC has asked NU authority to explain their decision to admit students to the on-campus undergraduate programme within five working days.

The commission made this decision on Monday, as mentioned in the office order, after finding that NU authorities were violating the National University Act of 1992.

On July 20, NU authorities published a circular on their website for student admissions to the undergraduate programmes in LLB, BBA, Tourism and Hospitality Management, and Nutrition and Food Science at its main campus in Gazipur.

Citing the 1992 act, the order stated that the university

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Will urge govt to import potato if prices not stable Says DG of Consumers' Right Protection

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

AHM Shafiquzzaman, director general of Directorate of National Consumers' Right Protection (DNCRP), yesterday said it would urge the government to import potatoes if traders do not bring down the prices.

"If potato prices aren't stable in two or three days, I will request the government to open the border [for import]," he said.

The DG was talking to journalists after the DNCRP raided R&R Potato Cold Storage Limited in Shibganj upazila of Bogura in the morning.

During the raid, three potato traders were detained on charges of hoarding potatoes and selling them at higher prices.

The DG visited Bogura to find out why potatoes were not being sold at the set price cap, according to the DNCRP officials.

On September 14, the government fixed the price of potatoes at Tk 35-36 a kg, after prices were going beyond the reach of the poor and the low-income demographic at Tk 42 to Tk 45 a kg.

The DG also said, "Talking to farmers, traders, and the cold storage owners we got to know that the price of potatoes in the market was so high since middlemen stocked them in excess in the cold storage."

He said farmers spend Tk 12 to 13 to produce one kg of potatoes and another Tk 5 to store the item in cold storage till December. The government has fixed the price of potatoes at Tk 27 from the cold storage, but the potato prices were still high in the markets.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Media resorts to self-censorship because of govt Alleges Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

B N P
Secretary
General
Mirza



Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that because of the current government's fascist attitude, journalists feel impelled to resort to self-censorship.

He voiced his concerns over the state of democracy and freedom of the press in Bangladesh, saying, "It's a shame, and it hurts to see some media personalities and owners speaking in favour of this terrible government."

He was addressing the golden jubilee celebration organised by a faction of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

TORTURE OF 2 BCL MEN DMP probe body gets 3 more days to submit report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-member probe body formed to investigate torture of two BCL men at Shahbagh Police Station allegedly by ADC Harun-or-Rashid and other law enforcers has been given three more days to complete their inquiry.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Media and Public Relation) KN Roy Niyati of Dhaka Metropolitan Police confirmed the development yesterday.

Earlier in the day, the probe body sought seven days from the DMP Commissioner, said joint commissioner (operations) Biplob Kumar Sarkar.

It would be the probe body's second deadline extension. The committee, led by Deputy Commissioner for Operations Abu Yusuf, was initially given a two-day deadline. It was later extended by five days after they failed to complete the report on time.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Stop entry of illegal arms through CHT Says JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on CHT Affairs Ministry yesterday recommended that the law enforcement agencies take strong measures to ensure that no illegal weapons enter the country through the three hill districts ahead of the national election.

The parliamentary watchdog came up with the suggestion in its 15th meeting with its chairman Md Dabirul Islam in the chair at the national parliament.

The committee also held a discussion on the law and order situation and post-flood rehabilitation activities in Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

It stressed the need for maintaining law and order in the CHT through coordination with the local public representatives, superintendents of police and deputy commissioners of the three districts.

"We must put an end to the use of illegal weapons in order to hold a free and fair election," Md Dabirul Islam, chief of the parliamentary watchdog, told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Three Idols vandalised in Faridpur temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Faridpur

Unidentified miscreants vandalised three idols of Hindu gods and goddesses, constructed for the upcoming Durga Puja at Tambulkhana Durga temple under Sadar upazila in Faridpur, early yesterday.

Mithu Nag, president of Kaijuri Union Pooja Celebration Committee, said the incident took place around 1:00am.

On information, Md Salauddin, superintendent of police (Sadar circle), Liton Dhali, Faridpur Sadar UNO, and MA Jalil, officer in charge of Faridpur Kotwali Police Station visited the temple.

Liton Dhali told The Daily Star that the temple was unguarded and there were no grilles.

They have advised the temple committee to install CCTV cameras and grilles. The upazila administration will help in this regard, he assured.

OC Jalil said they are looking into the incident and trying to identify the perpetrators.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad in a statement yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the perpetrators.

Its leaders also threatened to wage a tough movement if miscreants are not arrested immediately.



Vehicles ply a pothole-ridden road clogged with rainwater in Baliadangi, Rajbari. Such a situation has been prevailing for three years. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

BALIAKANDI IN RAJBARI People suffer for roadwork delay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

For the past three years, thousands of commuters in Rajbari's Baliakandi upazila have been enduring significant hardships due to prolonged delays in the reconstruction of two critical roads.

The repair of the 12.3km Baliakandi-Mrigi road commenced under

Rural Connectivity Development Project (RCIP) of the Local Government Engineering Department on September 30, 2020. Initially slated for completion by April 30, 2022, the project had an allocation of approximately Tk 15.55 crore.

Despite securing the contract for the Baliakandi-Mrigi road development, contractor Mir Habibul Alam, hailing from Uttar Bargacha in Natore, has failed to meet the stipulated time frame.

In a similar vein, reconstruction of the 4.535km Baliakandi-Magchami road, extending from Talpatti of Baliakandi upazila headquarters through Meghchami to Madhukhali, also started under the same project on

September 30, 2020, was slated to be completed by April 30, 2022.

Contractor Mir Habibul Alam was responsible for this road as well, but had failed to finish the works.

The reconstruction timelines for both roads have been extended multiple times, further exacerbating the situation.

With no alternative roads to reach the upazila and district headquarters, and markets, we face immense difficulties due to the road's current condition.

RASHIDA BEGUM
Resident of Narua village

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw both roads in a deteriorated state, rendering safe vehicular movement nearly impossible. The road surfaces were riddled with potholes, as the brick layer had been stripped away. Moreover, rainwater was seen accumulating on the roads.

"The Baliakandi-Magchami road is vital for locals. Unfortunately, due to reconstruction delays, we have endured substantial inconvenience over the past three years. During the dry season, dust plagues us, and in the monsoon, the road becomes waterlogged and muddied," said Liton Sheikh of Amtola area in the upazila.

Rashida Begum, a resident of Narua

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of Principal
Munshiganj Polytechnic Institute
Mirkadam, Munshiganj
E-mail: mpiprincipal@gmail.com
www.munpoly.gov.bd
Tel: 02-997731725

Ref. No. 57.03.5659.300.18.076.23-456 Date: 18/09/2023

Invitation for e-Tender

Invitation for e-Tender to be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following goods

Sl	Tender Id	Package No.	Description	Tender publishing date & time	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1	874945	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-01	Supply of Civil Modern Equipments Construction and Testing Lab (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 14:00	05-10-2023 14:00
2	874967	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-02	Supply of Civil Modern Equipments Geotechnical lab (4112304)			
3	874972	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-03	Supply of Civil Modern Equipments Materials testing lab (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
4	874973	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-04	Supply of Computer Modern Equipments Soft ware Lab (4112304)			
5	874974	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-05	Supply of Computer Modern Equipments (IOT Lab) (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
6	874975	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-06	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments (Electrical Machine Lab) (4112304)			
7	874976	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-07	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments (Electrical High Voltage & Testing Lab) (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
8	874977	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-08	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments (Electrical Circuit Lab) (4112304)			
9	874978	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-09	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments Lab-1 (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
10	874979	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-10	Supply of Electrical Modern Equipments Lab-2 (4112304)			
11	874980	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-11	Supply of Electronics Modern Equipments Lab-3 (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
12	874982	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-12	Supply of Mechanical Modern Equipments (Machine shop-1) (4112304)			
13	874983	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-13	Supply of Mechanical Modern Equipments (Machine shop-2) (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
14	874984	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-14	Supply of Mechanical Modern Equipments (Lathe Machine shop) (4112304)			
15	874985	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-15	Supply of Mechanical Modern Equipments (CNC Machine shop) (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
16	874986	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-16	Supply of Refrigeration and Air conditioning Modern Equipments Lab-1 (4112304)			
17	874987	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-17	Supply of Refrigeration and Air conditioning Modern Equipments Lab-2 (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
18	874988	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-18	Supply of Refrigeration and Air conditioning Modern Equipments Lab-3 (4112304)			
19	874989	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-19	Supply of Refrigeration and Air conditioning Modern Equipments Lab-4 (4112304)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
20	874990	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-20	Books & Magazine (3211127)			
21	874991	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-21	Supply of Printing & Stationery (3255105)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
22	874992	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-22	Supply of Cleanliness Materials (3211102)			
23	874993	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-23	Supply of Chemical (3256102)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
24	874994	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-24	Supply of Raw materials (3256105)			
25	874995	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-25	Supply of Playing and Goods (3256107)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
26	874996	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-26	Supply of Office Equipments (4112310)			
27	874997	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-27	Supply of Educational Materials (4112312)	21-09-2023 9:00	05-10-2023 16:00	05-10-2023 16:00
28	874999	MPI/Rev/23-24/PG-28	Supply of Furniture (4112314)			

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
The fees for selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to scheduled date and time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd, +8809609112233, +8801762625528, +8801762625529).

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GD-1441

**PRAYER
TIMING**
SEPTEMBER 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:40	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30
JAMAAT 5:15	1:15	4:45	6:10	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Putin, Xi to meet in Beijing in Oct

REUTERS, Moscow

President Vladimir Putin will meet China's Xi Jinping for talks in Beijing in October, Russia said yesterday. Putin's first known trip abroad since an arrest warrant was issued against him over the deportation of children from Ukraine.

Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of Russia's Security Council, said Russia and China should deepen cooperation in the face of the West's attempt to contain them both. He was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that the talks in Beijing would be "thorough", at a meeting in Moscow with China's top diplomat, Wang Yi.

Putin will attend the third Belt and Road Forum after an invitation by Xi during a high profile visit to Moscow in March.

Days before that visit, the ICC issued a warrant for Putin's arrest on suspicion of illegally deporting hundreds of children from Ukraine.



Migrants seeking asylum in the United States try to cross a razor wire fence deployed to inhibit the crossing of migrants into the United States, near a border wall on the banks of the Rio Bravo River, on the border between the US and Mexico, as seen from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on Monday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Libya orders journos out of flood-hit city after protests

REUTERS

Officials in eastern Libya ordered journalists out of Derna yesterday, the morning after demonstrators staged a rally and torched the home of the ousted mayor in fury over the authorities' failure to protect the city from floods.

Hichem Abu Chkiouat, minister of civil aviation in the administration that runs eastern Libya, told Reuters by phone the decision to banish journalists from the city was unrelated to the protests there overnight.

"It is an attempt to create better conditions for the rescue teams to carry out the work more smoothly and effectively," he said. "The large number of journalists has become an impediment to the work of rescue teams."

Monday's mass demonstration was the first reported in the city since it was hit by the worst natural disaster in Libya's history a week earlier. Communications links to the city, which had functioned despite the flood, were shut down yesterday morning.

Thousands of people were confirmed killed and thousands more are still missing from the September 10 flood.

Russia using genocide 'lie' as pretext to destroy

Kyiv tells World Court; drone attacks on Ukraine kill two, Lviv warehouses set ablaze

REUTERS, The Hague

Ukraine told the UN's highest court in The Hague yesterday that Russia justified war against Ukraine by invoking "a terrible lie", namely that Moscow's invasion was to stop an alleged genocide.

"The international community adopted the Genocide Convention to protect; Russia invokes the Genocide convention to destroy," Ukraine's representative Anton Korbynich told judges.

He called on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to decide that it has jurisdiction to hear the case fully and eventually rule that Russia must pay reparations for invading under a false pretext.

"Can a state use false allegations of genocide as a pretext to destroy cities, bomb civilians and deport children from their homes? When the Genocide Convention is so cynically abused, is this court powerless? The answer to these questions must be 'no'," Korbynich said.

On Monday, Russia urged the ICJ, also known as the World Court, to throw out the case, claiming Kyiv's legal arguments were "hopelessly flawed". Ukraine brought the case before the ICJ, also known as the World Court, days after the Russian invasion on February 24 last year.

Kyiv argues Russia is abusing international law by saying the invasion was justified to stop an alleged genocide in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine says there was no risk of genocide in eastern Ukraine, where it had been fighting Russian-backed forces since 2014, and that the genocide treaty does not allow an invasion to stop an alleged genocide.

The hearings, set to run until September 27, will

not delve into the merits of the case, but will instead focus on legal arguments about jurisdiction. The convention defines genocide as crimes committed "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such".

Meanwhile, Russia struck three industrial warehouses in a drone strike on the western Ukrainian city of Lviv early yesterday, causing a huge fire and killing at least one person, local officials said.

Russian forces also shelled the southern city of Kherson, killing a policeman and wounding two civilians on a trolleybus, the head of the city's military administration said.

"In the morning, a 49-year-old police sergeant was killed by Russian artillery fire in Kherson," Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said.

In Lviv, fire fighters tackled a blaze after three industrial warehouses were hit in an attack at around 5:00 am, emergency services said.

Photos released by the State Emergency Service of Ukraine showed huge flames lighting up the sky above the burning warehouses.

Lviv mayor Andriy Sadovyi said the body of a man who worked at one of the warehouses had been found under the rubble.

Sadovyi said the warehouses stored windows, household chemicals, and humanitarian aid.

"I want to emphasise that these are ordinary industrial warehouses. Nothing military was stored there," regional governor Maxim Kozitsky said on the Telegram messaging app.

He said Russian forces had launched 18 drones in the attack and that 15 had been shot down, including seven that were directly over the Lviv region.



EGYPT SPY OPERATION French journalist arrested over report

AFP, Paris

France was accused of an "unacceptable" attack on press freedom yesterday after a journalist was arrested for reporting on leaked documents that claimed French intelligence was used to target civilians in Egypt.

Investigative website Disclose published a series of articles in November 2021 based on hundreds of secret documents.

It said they showed how information from a French counter-intelligence operation in Egypt, codenamed "Sirli", was used by the Egyptian state for "a campaign of arbitrary killings" against smugglers operating along the Libyan border.

Yesterday, journalist Ariane Lavrilleux's home was searched and she was arrested for questioning by agents of the DGSI, France's domestic intelligence agency, Disclose announced on X (formerly Twitter).

It denounced an "unacceptable attack on the secrecy of sources" -- a view quickly backed by the Society of Journalists and Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

"We fear that the DGSI's actions will undermine the secrecy of the sources," RSF said.

Lavrilleux's arrest was confirmed to AFP by a source close to the case.

"I am appalled and worried about the escalation in attacks on the freedom to inform, and the coercive measures taken against the Disclose journalist," said Virginie Marquet, lawyer for Lavrilleux and Disclose.

"This search risks seriously undermining the confidentiality of journalists' sources," she said, adding that Lavrilleux had "only revealed information of public interest".



Miners and members of Bulgaria's trade unions attend a protest demanding for a clear and secure energy future of Bulgaria in front of Bulgarian Parliament in Sofia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

INDIAN PARLIAMENT

Govt presents bill to reserve 3rd of seats for women

REUTERS, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government yesterday moved a bill to reserve one-third of seats in the lower house of parliament and state assemblies for women, reviving an old proposal that is expected to boost his party's standing among women.

The contentious legislative proposal has been hanging for decades due to opposition from some heartland political parties and needs the approval of both houses of parliament and a majority of state legislatures to become law.

Its revival comes months before general elections are due by May 2024 when Modi seeks a third term. Analysts say the chances of the bill getting passed in parliament have brightened as opposition to it has shrunk over the years.

It is the latest in a series of moves by the government that the ruling nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has projected as "pro-women".

"There have been many debates in the past regarding women's reservation...and I appeal to lawmakers to support the bill," Modi said in parliament during a five-day special session which began on Monday.

"We want more and more women to join the development process of the country," Modi said before his law minister presented the bill to lawmakers.

Women account for almost half of India's 950 million registered voters but make for only 15 percent of parliament and about 10 percent of state legislatures, pushing the world's largest democracy to the bottom of the global list on gender parity in legislatures.

55 Chinese warplanes detected around Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

Dozens of Chinese warplanes were detected around Taiwan in a day, the self-ruled island's defence ministry said yesterday, as it called on Beijing to stop its "provocative actions".

The latest sorties came a day after China flew 103 warplanes in the 24-hour window from Sunday to Monday morning around Taiwan, which the island's authorities said was a "recent high" number.

The ministry said China flew 55 aircraft and sailed seven naval vessels around the island from Monday to yesterday morning.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory to be seized one day, and has ramped up diplomatic and military pressure on Taipei in recent years.

Yesterday, Taiwan's ministry accused China of carrying out "provocative actions" that were leading to "rising tensions and deteriorating regional security".

Around half of the 55 warplanes detected crossed the so-called median line of the Taiwan Strait that separates the island from China, and entered its ADIZ, Taipei said.

MYANMAR RIVER Dozens feared missing after boat sinks

AFP, Yangon

A boat carrying around a hundred passengers sank on a river in northern Myanmar yesterday morning, local media reported, with dozens feared missing. The vessel sank around 10:00 am (0330 GMT) on the Chindwin river in Mingin township in Sagaing region, local media reported. Media quoted a source close to the local transport minister as saying a search operation had begun and the number of missing people was being tallied. A pro-junta Telegram channel also reported a boat had sunk in Mingin township, without giving details. A junta spokesman has been asked for comment. Sagaing is a hotbed of resistance to the military's 2021 coup, with anti-coup fighters clashing regularly with junta troops.

Biden says 'I get it' on age issue

AFP, New York

Joe Biden, America's oldest ever president, said Monday he understood a focus on his age but that he was running for re-election because Donald Trump wanted to "destroy" US democracy. The 80-year-old usually avoids the age issue but addressed it during a fundraiser at a Broadway theatre in New York, saying his experience helped him deal with crises like Ukraine and Covid. "A lot of people seem focused on my age," Biden said. "I get it believe me, I know it more than anyone." He added: "I'm running because democracy is at stake, because in 2024 democracy is on the ballot once again. And let there be no question: Donald Trump and his MAGA Republicans are determined to destroy American democracy." The Democrat added that he would not "bow down" to "dictators" and accused Trump of doing so to Russian President Vladimir Putin.



Syria's Assad to visit China tomorrow

AFP, Damascus

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad will visit China from tomorrow, his office said, his first trip to the allied country since before the Syrian civil war broke out more than 12 years ago.

China will be the third non-Arab country Assad visits since before the conflict, which has killed more than 500,000 people, displaced millions and battered the country's infrastructure and industry.

"In response to an official invitation" from Chinese President Xi Jinping, Assad and his wife "will visit China starting Thursday", the presidency said in a statement.

"The visit includes a number of meetings and events" in Beijing and Hangzhou, the statement said, adding Assad would be accompanied by "a political and economic delegation".

Newspaper Al-Watan said Assad was expected to attend opening of Asian Games on September 23.

Skirmish with J&K rebels over after eight killed Says India

AFP, Srinagar

India said yesterday that a weeklong battle between its soldiers and suspected rebels in Kashmir had ended with eight people killed.

The battle started last Wednesday when militants ambushed and killed two soldiers and a police officer who were patrolling the Gadole forests in the disputed territory.

Over the following days, three more soldiers were found dead after they went missing during the protracted firefight.

The Indian army deployed helicopters and drones and launched bombs into the forests while pursuing the attackers.

Police officer Vijay Kumar said two militants were killed in the battle including Uzair Khan, a local commander of the Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH REGION

Azerbaijan begins anti-terror ops

Says its objective is to restore 'constitutional order'; Armenia condemns

REUTERS, London

Azerbaijan launched military action in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, a step that could presage a new war in the volatile area but which Baku said was necessary to restore constitutional order and drive out Armenian military formations.

Karabakh is internationally recognised as Azerbaijani territory but part of it is run by breakaway ethnic Armenian authorities who say the area is their ancestral homeland. It has been at the centre of two wars - the latest in 2020 - since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

It was not clear whether Baku's actions would trigger a full-scale conflict dragging in neighbouring Armenia or be a more limited military operation. But there were already signs of political fallout in Yerevan where Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan spoke of calls for a coup against him.

The fighting could alter the geopolitical

balance in the South Caucasus region, which is crisscrossed with oil and gas pipelines, and where Russia - distracted by its own war in Ukraine - is seeking to preserve its influence in the face of greater interest from Turkey, which backs Azerbaijan.

Loud and repeated shelling was audible from social media footage filmed in Stepanakert, the capital of Karabakh, called Khankendi by Azerbaijan, yesterday.

The Karabakh separatist human rights ombudsman, Gegham Stepanyan, said that two civilians had been killed and 11 people injured as a result of strikes by Azerbaijan's military.

In a statement announcing its operation, Azerbaijan's defence ministry spoke of its intention to "disarm and secure the withdrawal of formations of Armenia's armed forces from our territories, (and) neutralise their military infrastructure".

It said it was only targeting legitimate military targets using "high precision weapons" and not civilians as part of what it

called a drive to "restore the constitutional order of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

Civilians were free to leave by humanitarian corridors, it added, including one to Armenia, whose prime minister, Pashinyan, said the offer looked like another attempt by Baku to get ethnic Armenians to leave Karabakh as part of a campaign of what he called "ethnic cleansing", an accusation Baku denies.

Ethnic Armenian forces in Karabakh said Azerbaijani forces were trying to break through their defences after heavy shelling, but that they were holding the line for now.

Armenia, which had been holding peace talks with Azerbaijan, including on questions about Karabakh's future, condemned what it called Baku's "full-scale aggression" against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and accused Azerbaijan of shelling towns and villages.

"Driven by a sense of impunity, Azerbaijan has openly claimed responsibility for the aggression," Armenia's foreign ministry said in a statement.

Armenia, which says its armed forces are not in Karabakh and that the situation on its own border with Azerbaijan is stable, called on members of the UN Security Council to help and for Russian peacekeepers on the ground to intervene.



Promote community

FROM PAGE 2

The event was organised by Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, and Malaysia.

She mentioned that community-based primary health care is key to achieving Universal Health Coverage.

"As an emerging voice of the Global South, Bangladesh would champion this issue as a possible avenue for meaningful international partnership," she said.

Hasina also shared her vision with five priorities for the community clinics.

They are:

To make community clinics serve as gatekeepers at the grassroots to prevent huge out-of-pocket payments for health services;

To enable community clinics to provide enhanced digital health and diagnostic services, especially for NCDs; To further develop the capacity of community clinics to address growing climate-induced health crises, like dengue outbreaks;

To improve screening and treatment facilities for mental health and neurological disorders so as to provide accessible services to those affected and their families; and,

To use community clinics as the primary building block for a robust data-driven health and nutrition programme.

Hasina said that there

are now nearly 14,500 community clinics operating across the country. They are designed to act as a one-stop centre for health, family planning, and nutrition-related services.

The community clinics are playing a critical role in reducing infant, child, and maternal mortality, she said.

She mentioned that around 3,000 community clinics offer facilities for skilled birth attendance. On average, there are 9.5 to 10 million visits to the community clinics every month. Among the service seekers, almost 80 percent are women and children.

The premier said that community clinics have become the local hub for universal immunisation. They played a crucial role in securing Covid-19 vaccination coverage.

She mentioned that the community clinics act as a referral point for emergencies and complicated cases to higher medical facilities.

The service providers are equipped with the internet and digital devices to record health data. They also engage in communication on social and behaviour change for health and disability-related issues, she added.

"In 2018, our parliament passed the Community Clinic Health Support Trust Act to further streamline operations and funding modalities," said Hasina.

BCB parrots player's defence, says he is sorry

FROM PAGE 1

being gainfully employed deprived their husbands and children of their rights, and brought ruin to family and society.

More recently, he said in a post that if one married a woman habituated to "free mixing" addas, he would be depriving his children of a modest mother.

These were the two posts that went viral after Tanzim, an Under-19 World Cup winner in 2019, bowled superbly on his ODI debut to help deliver a consolation win against India in the Asia Cup on Friday.

He has deleted both posts, but not before those garnered hundreds of comments expressing approval and support. A national cricketer may thus have influenced many others to follow a line of thinking that, according to the BCB, he has now apologised for.

The BCB is a signatory to the International Cricket Council's anti-discrimination policy, in which the sport's global governing body says that

all of its members should "not at any time offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage, vilify or unlawfully discriminate between persons based on their race, religion, culture, colour, descent, nationality, ethnic origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital status and/or maternity status".

The cricket board also has a code of conduct that contracted players must abide by. Although Tanzim is not yet on the list of those players, a BCB official, preferring anonymity, said a player comes under the code of conduct once he or she plays for the national cricket team.

This code of conduct includes instructions on how to conduct media interactions and what he can or cannot say publicly, according to the BCB official.

But the BCB apparently does not think his indiscretions warrant a public apology, nor any kind of official censure. Jalal said they would definitely take action if Tanzim did

something like this again.

"He said he was sorry. He said he would refrain from making such posts in the future," Jalal said. "As he has admitted his mistake... he said a big thing - he is not a misogynist. He said 'My mother is a woman; how can I be a misogynist?'"

Tanzim's surge to fame and national popularity apparently increased people's scrutiny of his activities, and the BCB moved to address it only after that scrutiny caused an uproar that refused to die down.

That they then chose, not once but twice, to parrot one of the most transparently disingenuous defences against the charge of misogyny, that one can't hate women because their mother is a woman (as if there are exceptions to that reality), is a disservice to women, obviously, but also to Tanzim.

A mitigating factor in Tanzim's discriminatory speech can be that he is just 20 years old and therefore not yet quite hardened enough to be immune to

bigoted influences.

But what of the apparently wise old heads in the BCB? Have they provided him any guidance since the time he came under their guardianship as an impressionable mid-teen?

The cricket operations that Jalal oversees involve both men and women cricketers. By choosing to make excuses for Tanzim, what message is he sending to the women cricketers who have arguably brought more plaudits for the nation than their male counterparts?

The BCB had an opportunity to set an emphatic example yesterday against discrimination and misogyny.

They could easily have pointed out the error in Tanzim's assertions - he lives and plies his trade in a country that earns a chunk of its foreign currency through a majority-female workforce in the RMG sector, a country that prides itself on women empowerment, and one that has been led by women for the past 32 years.

They could have arranged

for Tanzim to make a public apology on the platform where his posts brought out similarly misogynistic echoes.

The governing body could also have made a statement about the fact that he is a role model, and as such the "freedom of speech" argument offered does not hold. As a national cricketer, who earned the blue check beside his name because of his status, Tanzim has a greater responsibility than the ordinary social media user.

That BCB's policy and code of conduct implementation is failing the cricketers and the nation at large was exemplified by a more senior national cricketer, Mehedi Hasan Miraz. The all-rounder, who has been part of the national team for the last seven years, posted on Facebook in defence of Tanzim yesterday evening, before deleting it a short while later.

If Mehedi, who has played 146 matches and is talked about as a future captain, does not know better than

to inflame sentiments with his social media presence, what hope was there for Tanzim or others of his scant experience?

There is precedent for taking action in such cases. England bowler Ollie Robinson, having taken seven wickets in his debut Test in 2021, was banned for eight matches after racist and misogynistic tweets from a decade ago resurfaced. In taking the action, the England and Wales Cricket Board sent a strong message of zero tolerance against hate speech. The BCB missed that opportunity yesterday. Instead, they chose to talk about how mothers cannot birth misogynists.

The BCB missed that opportunity yesterday. Instead, they chose to talk about how mothers cannot birth misogynists.

That is true to an extent. Misogynists are not born; they are shaped by the ills of society and the indifference of those in power, and unfortunately, the BCB yesterday played its part to that end.

Canada suspects India link, Delhi denies

FROM PAGE 1

by giving a Canadian diplomat five days to leave.

Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen was "an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty", Trudeau told the House of Commons in an emergency statement on Monday.

He was referring to Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, shot dead outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a large Sikh population, three years after India had designated him as a "terrorist".

Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent, so-called state of Khalistan in India's northern state of Punjab, the birthplace of the Sikh religion, which borders Pakistan.

"The government of

India needs to take this matter with the utmost seriousness. We are doing that, we are not looking to provoke or escalate," Trudeau told reporters yesterday.

India's foreign ministry said yesterday it had given the Canadian diplomat five days to leave the country, without disclosing his name or rank.

"The decision reflects the government of India's growing concern at the interference of Canadian diplomats in our internal matters and their involvement in anti-India activities," it said in a statement.

The ministry had summoned Cameron MacKay, Canada's high commissioner, or ambassador, in New Delhi to notify him of the move, it added.

Earlier, New Delhi

urged Ottawa to take action against anti-Indian elements in Canada.

"Allegations of the government of India's involvement in any act of violence in Canada are absurd and motivated," it said, adding that similar accusations made by Trudeau to Prime Minister Narendra Modi had been "completely rejected".

The United States and Australia expressed "deep concern" over Canada's accusations, while Britain said it was in close touch with its Canadian partners about the "serious allegations".

Trudeau said he had raised the matter directly with Modi on the sidelines of G20 summit in New Delhi on September 9 and 10, and had urged his government to co-operate with Canada to resolve it. Modi, in turn, conveyed

strong concern to Trudeau over recent demonstrations in Canada by Sikhs calling for an independent state.

Canada has the largest population of Sikhs outside the Indian state of Punjab, with about 770,000 people reporting Sikhism as their religion in the 2021 census. Khalistan is an independent Sikh state whose creation has been sought for decades. A Sikh insurgency killed tens of thousands of people in India in the 1980s and early 1990s before it was suppressed by tough security action.

However, New Delhi has been wary of any revival, with a particular focus on small groups of Sikhs in Australia, Britain, Canada and the United States, who support the separatist demand and occasionally stage protests outside its embassies.

US reiterates need for free, fair polls

FROM PAGE 1

sanctions against Rab and seven of its officials for alleged human rights violations. It also refrained from inviting Bangladesh to the Democracy Summit that year and in 2023, creating a strain on the bilateral relations.

Over the last year and half, numerous visiting US officials and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas repeatedly stressed the need for free and fair elections against the backdrop of the two previous polls marred by irregularities.

The foreign ministry in a statement yesterday said Momen and Chollet discussed democracy,

human rights and the elections.

Momen told Chollet how Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina played a critical role in restoring democracy and human rights from previous "autocratic regimes".

He said there had been a rise in terrorist activities, militancy, deterioration of human rights and a fake voters' list during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, adding Bangladesh returned to stability and saw a notable socio-economic development after Awami League came to power again.

The minister told the US officials that the Bangladesh government is committed

to holding a free, fair and neutral election. Thus, it formed an independent and strong election commission.

"This Election Commission already fairly conducted local government elections and proved their capacity," he told Chollet.

Momen thanked the US for providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh and sought its further support for their quick repatriation.

Derek Chollet lauded Bangladesh for its socio-economic development and sheltering the Rohingyas.

While speaking to Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on the UNGA sidelines, Uzra

Zeya, US under secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, reiterated the importance of free and fair elections and the freedom of expression in Bangladesh.

After the meeting, she yesterday posted on X saying she had a productive conversation with the foreign secretary of Bangladesh.

"Appreciated meeting again to discuss the importance of free and fair elections, freedom of expression, and continued humanitarian support for [the] Rohingya [refugees] and communities that host them."

Advertisement for Bangladesh Shilpakala Akademi. Includes logo, name, address (Sengunbagicha, Ramna, Dhaka), website (www.shilpakala.gov.bd), and a detailed list of courses and fees. The list includes courses like 'সংস্থান নাম', 'সংগ্রহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান', 'বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস', etc. with corresponding fees and durations.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A ray of hope amid grim statistics

Mohakhali dengue hospital shows the importance of proper medical facilities

Amid a dengue outbreak of unprecedented scale, it is heartening to see the medical pushback afforded by the repurposing of what was once a dedicated Covid hospital in Mohakhali, Dhaka. The Dhaka North City Corporation converted the 500-bed hospital into a dedicated dengue one on July 12. Since then, according to a report by this daily, it has been performing commendably, providing treatment to a total of 24,441 patients in its outdoor facilities while admitting 5,090 of them. Thus, it has become a lifeline for many patients in critical condition, who are arriving not only from within Dhaka but also from neighbouring districts.

This year, dengue has already cast a long shadow over Bangladesh with a staggering toll of 839 lives claimed and nearly 170,768 individuals infected so far – a grim reality that shows little sign of improving even as we reach the end of the traditional peak period. These numbers are not mere statistics. They represent the pain and suffering of families affected by this relentless mosquito-borne disease across the country. The transformation of the Mohakhali hospital was a much-needed response to this scenario.

Critical patients with platelet deficiency, shock syndrome, and low blood pressure are mainly referred here, thanks to its bed sufficiency and its arsenal of 45 ICU beds – which have been instrumental in saving lives. Unlike most public hospitals, it is also quite well-staffed, with some 87 medical officers and a good number of specialised doctors and nurses working around the clock to treat patients. Their commitment as well as the relatively effective management of resources have been an example worth emulating at this critical time.

However, this is still just one hospital, and we need all hospitals in the country, especially in cities outside Dhaka, to be equipped to accommodate the influx of patients and treat them properly – something they are struggling to do. Asking them not to refer dengue patients to hospitals in Dhaka – as the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has recently done – does not help in the absence of proper treatment opportunities in local hospitals. Besides the struggles for sufficient medical facilities, another major problem this year – and in recent years as well – has been the government's consistent failure to limit the spread of dengue.

Unfortunately, since there is no vaccine or specific drug to treat dengue, our primary defence against it still lies in effectively containing its spread and providing timely care, and we must urge the authorities to ensure they deliver on both these fronts. The current outbreak is a stark reminder of the pressing need to invest in and strengthen our public healthcare system. Building additional dedicated facilities, increasing the number of medical professionals, and enhancing resources to deal with diseases like dengue are critical steps going forward.

Redirect focus to renewables

Why is Bangladesh so far behind its neighbours in green energy use?

It is quite disheartening, not to mention concerning, to learn that Bangladesh ranks the lowest among all the South Asian countries in terms of using renewable energy. A recent study by Dhaka-based think tank South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem) reveals that the share of renewable energy in Bangladesh's total power generation capacity stands at a measly 1.90 percent. By contrast, Pakistan's renewable energy usage stands at 6.8 percent, Sri Lanka's at 22.22 percent, and India's at 30.2 percent.

Energy experts in the country believe the government is neglecting our renewables potential – and we cannot help but agree. At a time when the world is moving away from fossil fuels and transitioning to renewables, Bangladesh is doing the exact opposite. According to the Sanem research, the government is increasing LNG and other fossil fuel imports to meet the national demand and reduce dependency on our depleting domestic gas reserves. Leaving aside the question of its environmental impacts, how is that a rational financial decision, given the economic challenges we are currently facing? Our foreign exchange reserves have alarmingly dropped under \$22 billion (as of September 14, 2023) thanks to our rising import bills and less-than-expected earnings from exports and remittances.

So instead of putting more pressure on our dwindling forex reserves, the government ought to explore and invest in renewables, which will help us not only transition to clean energy but also cut down the debilitating air pollution in the country. Take solar power, for example. Sunlight is a natural resource that Bangladesh has in abundance. The government can make use of this resource not just by setting up new facilities, but also by ensuring effective utilisation of the existing solar panels in the country.

The government has set an ambitious plan to generate 41GW of solar power by 2041, as well as a target of meeting 40 percent of our national demand with clean energy by 2041, as per the Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP). But given the state of things at the moment, it is evident that no effective plan is in place to reach these goals. The relevant government agencies need to redirect their focus and formulate an action plan that will help us become a clean energy country sooner than later. Renewables are the future, and the government needs to put in concerted efforts if it wants to meet its own goals.

Correcting the dollar's price is the only medicine we need



OPEN SKY
Dr Birupaksha Paul is a professor of economics at the State University of New York at Cortland in the US.

BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

A good doctor usually does not prescribe too many medicines. Once, the maharaja of Cooch Behar was suffering from various ailments. He invited the noted doctor of the time, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy from Kolkata, to prescribe him medicines. Dr Roy saw the patient and left a single piece of advice for the maharaja: quit smoking as soon as possible. The ruler was not amused by the doctor's suggestion. Nor was he satisfied to see that no medicines had been prescribed. However, he eventually recovered from all ailments simply by abandoning his habit of smoking, all while no other medicines were needed.

Economic policymaking often works this way. A single, sensible policy can make a motley of weird prescriptions totally redundant. The wrong exchange rate – simply the undervaluation of the US dollar or an artificial overvaluation of the Bangladeshi taka – is the single culprit behind the country being pushed to the edge of the forex reserve crisis. Our forex reserve, which peaked at \$48 billion in August 2021, has come down to as low as around \$21 billion in September 2023. The figure by August should have been at around \$60 billion, had the reserve maintained its normal growth trend observed since 2009. Moreover, the trend of workers' migration has seen an uptick recently, but this is not reflected in the recent remittance inflow, which was awfully low last month. This is nothing more than a result of the egregiously low valuation of the dollar. Russia's attack on Ukraine is responsible for this decay.

Both the finance ministry and Bangladesh Bank (BB) must be serious about averting the reserve crisis, no matter how they wish to downplay the matter on the surface. This is not only about poor growth in remittances, but also three other worrisome developments that threaten the country's economic stability: 1) forced squeezing of imports, which retards industrial growth; 2) lacklustre performance of exports; and 3) the unprecedented collapse in financial accounts, which has dehydrated the balance of payments and drained forex reserves. The single practice of fixing the dollar's price is responsible for these many ailments.

The finance ministry's peanut-sized incentive on remittance has proven

to be worthless, and has actually weakened our already beleaguered fiscal capacity. Remittance senders do not want any sort of grace from the ministry. Rather, they need to get a fair value of their hard-earned money. On the one hand, the ministry wants to look like it's helping BB with the incentive. On the other hand, the ministry is also forcing BB to print more notes to fill up its own revenue gap. These are unnecessary for and harmful to the proper functioning of a market economy.

Various sources suggest that the dollar's price is close to Tk 120 in the street market, while the central

police or the intelligence department to chase down hundi or money-changing agents is a complete waste of energy on the government's part. But this hunt will never end if the Bangladesh Bank keeps picking the wrong exchange rates. The central bank governor should coordinate with researchers, economists, and market experts to take knowledge-based actions, rather than employing the police to chase down petty margin-makers who have, in fact, been created due to BB's market-unfriendly dollar prices.

In the central bank's last monetary policy announcement in June, the governor vowed to make the exchange rate market-based. But the governor seems to be depending on oxygen provided by the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (BAFEDA) to set the exchange rate. This reflects the lack of confidence that breeds policy hypocrisy. BB seems to be afraid of standing on its own feet. Hence, its claim of policy independence is

of suggestions on exchange rates. But recent activities do not shine a light of reliability on BAFEDA's exchange rate recommendations. The underpricing of the dollar is pushing our overall financial position from bad to worse, without any sign of recovery.

There are three reasons why BB is not catching up with the actual price of the dollar: 1) fear of inflation; 2) fear of excessive volatility of the exchange rate; and 3) the typical mentality of making taka's depreciation equivalent to the economic weakness of the regime. The theory suggesting that a higher dollar price will stoke inflation further through the import channel is partly true. But the main inflation, which makes the poor suffer the most, is originating from the high prices of necessities, which do not relate to import channels as much. Inflation remains stubbornly high because of incorrect policy rates and fiscal incapacity. The finance ministry failed to collect taxes from the superrich and resorted to making the central bank print extra notes. This



VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI

bank is offering only Tk 109.5 to remitters. This obviously fails to convince the migrant wage earners to send their money through the official channel, which is financially punitive and still bureaucratic. As rational economic agents, wage earners resort to hundi, which is comparatively more rewarding, faster, and more accessible. But why do policymakers find remitters' use of hundi unpatriotic? Why should migrant workers be responsible for paying out of their pockets for incorrect rates manufactured by policymakers?

Losing almost Tk 8 per dollar naturally does not make any sense to migrant workers. Engaging the

flimsy. It has incorporated the fixing of interest rates with treasury bill rates, which are mainly controlled by the finance ministry, indicating that the country's central bank cannot operate independently.

If BAFEDA can fix the exchange rates and the finance ministry can fix the interest rates, do we really need a separate institution like BB? Instead of fighting for independent policymaking based on knowledge and research, BB is making its job unnecessarily complex. Our central bank could outsource some of the tasks which its own machinery or manpower cannot support, and BAFEDA can be a secondary source

has made inflation furious through the multiplier.

Second, any rate that is surrendered to the hands of the market will be subject to volatility in the initial months, but the price will settle over time and make the economy safer than before.

Finally, relating the taka's weakness to the weakness of the economy is a fundamentally flawed exercise. Rather, a market-based rate will increase both exports and remittance inflow, which will be the protagonists in terms of improving Bangladesh's balance of payments, and eventually bring the forex reserve back to a comfortable position.

We are not on track for 2030 climate targets



POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Dr Saleemul Huq is director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and professor at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

SALEEMUL HUQ

Back in 2015, three essential global agreements were adopted with targets set in 2030. We are at the halfway point of this time frame; if we review the current situation, the progress is not good.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change was adopted at the 21st UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in December 2015. Two main commitments were agreed upon: 1) keep global temperature below two degrees Celsius, and if possible, below 1.5 degrees Celsius; and 2) provide developing countries with \$100 billion a year, starting from 2020, to tackle climate change impacts through mitigation and adaptation.

Unfortunately, with only seven years to go, neither of these commitments are on track to be fulfilled. Global temperature has already exceeded 1.2 degrees Celsius, and this is now clearly causing losses and damages. At the same time, the promise of \$100 billion annual funding has failed to materialise even in 2023.

There will be a formal stocktake of the situation at the forthcoming COP28, to be held in Dubai in November this year, but it is already quite evident that progress has been very slow and needs to be accelerated significantly to reach the 2030 deadline.

Meanwhile, countries adopted the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Sendai, Japan, to develop national disaster risk reduction strategies by 2030. This goal has made some progress in a number of countries, but unfortunately most nations are still lagging behind and will need to accelerate their activities considerably to achieve the target.

The third and perhaps most comprehensive and important agreement of 2015 was the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted at the United Nations. This agreement is the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed upon back in 2000 and meant to be achieved by 2015.

There has been a recent review of the SDGs' status, and there will be a review meeting in New York later in September. But we already know that we are way behind in achieving all the 17 goals. At the current rate of progress, it is predicted that most of the goals will not even be achieved by 2050, let alone 2030!

Hence, it is imperative that in 2023, we go back to the drawing board and rethink how to improve our performance.

The first thing we need to acknowledge is that treating all these aspects separately, at both global and national levels, is counterproductive as they are all linked together.

The second thing we need to recognise is that even though all the targets are essential, we have to prioritise the most important ones and focus on achieving a few goals at least, rather than failing to achieve any of them.

In my view, the priority should be the nexus of development, climate change and disaster reduction, as addressing these is crucial for most developing countries.

Disaster risk reduction is primarily to do with hydro meteorological events such as floods and cyclones, which will get worse with climate change. So, DRR and adaptation to climate change go together. At the same time, the risks of disasters related to climate change have the potential to set back

development achievements.

In the case of Bangladesh, this means that different ministries and other stakeholders that have been working in isolation need to find ways to work together more effectively.

For example, DRR is under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief; climate change adaptation is under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and development is under the purview of the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. The civil society and the private sector also work in an isolated manner.

The good news, in the case of Bangladesh, is that we do not need to start from scratch, as we already have an SDG coordination body under the Prime Minister's Office. It has excellently mapped jurisdictions for different ministries against each of the SDG. At the same time, civil society organisations have also been brought under the umbrella of each SDG, coordinated by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The next opportunity for us will be to build on this foundation and take it to the next level through the ninth Five Year Plan, which is currently being prepared. Bangladesh is now in an excellent position to create a truly multidisciplinary and cross-cutting plan, using which we can effectively address development, climate change and disaster risk reduction.



ILLUSTRATION: BIPOB CHAKROBORTY

With the new airport terminal comes greater responsibilities



A CLOSER LOOK
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TASNEEM TAYEB

The fact that a 12-year-old has managed to breach at least five layers of security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) comes as no surprise – despite leaving related authorities scrambling to find answers – since security has never been a strength of our airport authorities. One might remember the people passing security with firearms, or a plane being hijacked, albeit with a toy gun.

In 2016, the United Kingdom – for the right reasons – raised concern about the security system at Dhaka airport, and suggested preparing a work plan to ensure a “sustainable security system.” The lapses found by a delegation of the UK aviation safety agency were such that the UK even warned of adverse impacts on Dhaka-London flights if the situation did not improve.

And then, on February 24, 2019, the hijacking of a plane unfolded, and red flags were raised about the inadequate security systems at HSIA. It was suggested that since it was a toy gun, the metal detectors did not detect it. But what about the other security checks? State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali said that the hijacker had crossed all the required security checks at the domestic terminal of the airport, before boarding the Dubai-bound Biman flight. An obvious question, how did he manage to smuggle the toy gun inside the aircraft then? Interestingly, the hijack was attempted

the very day the prime minister had visited Chattogram and both the airports were on VVIP high alert.

On March 6 that year, actor Ilias Kanchan managed to pass the first security checkpoint at HSIA before self-declaring that he was carrying a firearm in his laptop case.

Although security interventions have been installed at HSIA – including full body X-ray scanners, explosives detection systems, and dual-view X-ray machines – the recent breach of security by the young boy has once again brought to the fore the loopholes in the entire system. While this boy was not carrying any firearm or explosive, he did not even have a passport. The question remains, how can an individual without a passport board an international flight? What kind of security measures do we have in place that allow for such incidents?

Such an incident occurring weeks before the partial inauguration of the much-awaited third HSIA terminal poses portents for the security management team, and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) in general.

The third terminal is set for partial inauguration on October 7, when 12 of the 26 boarding passages are expected to be operational. The entire terminal is expected to be usable by the end of 2024, and once fully completed, is expected to serve more than 12 million passengers annually. The current annual capacity of the first and second terminals is about 8

million. Given that airport security is struggling to facilitate the existing capacity, the security team needs a significant revamp, and a watertight strategy should be in place post inauguration of the third terminal.

Gold and drug smuggling remains a major headache for Dhaka airport, with news of seizures making regular headlines. Data from the National Board of Revenue suggests that in 2022 alone, more than 52,195 kg of gold, worth Tk 44,366 crore, was smuggled into the country. The authorities should, therefore, have a plan in place to counter a possible rise in such crimes with the new terminal’s launch, as more passengers mean higher risk of smugglers taking advantage of said passengers. Unfortunately, in such cases, airline crew and even pilots have been found to be involved, so vigilance has to be even more stringent and all-encompassing.

However, money and resources must not be pilfered to tighten the security system. While new resources and workforce is required to ensure uninterrupted and flawless security, the investment and procurement processes should be optimised and strictly monitored to root out any possibility of corruption. While Biman has been responsible for ground handling for domestic and foreign aircraft, given the airline’s shameless legacy of corruption, it might be wiser to choose a different handler for the new terminal.

While the new terminal will open new windows of opportunity for the country’s civil aviation sector, it will also enhance the risks, including those relating to national security and smuggling. Only a facelift of HSIA will not improve its reputation in the international space. It is the service and security that will speak volumes about the airport’s efficiency and trustworthiness.

Karma is Novak Djokovic



BEYOND THE DUGOUT

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RAIYAN BINTE RAFIQ

With Novak Djokovic, there is a recurring sense of destiny – almost a cosmic force of “what goes around, comes back around.” As Daniil Medvedev secured his place in the US Open final, it was evident that the same fate was once again at play. This highly anticipated rematch harked back to the US Open 2021 final, where Medvedev, defying all expectations, clinched his maiden grand slam thwarting Djokovic’s historic quest to win all four grand slams in a single year. This time, however, different forms of pressure emerged. But since pressure is a privilege for Novak Djokovic, he adeptly embraced it.

To understand karma’s role here, one must delve into Djokovic’s intricate relationship with the crowd in New York. From the onset of his career, he found himself on shaky ground with local supporters. In 2008, after defeating the American Andy Roddick, the then 21-year-old suggested in his on-court interview that the crowd would be against him due to Roddick’s accusations of Djokovic feigning injuries. This statement did not sit well with the audience, initiating a two-decade long relationship marked by its fair share of highs and lows.

Then in 2011, Djokovic faced the poster boy of tennis, Roger Federer in the semifinals. At match point down, he delivered an audacious return. To celebrate, Djokovic raised his arms wide open, almost as if to say, “Support the other guy all you want, but I will win this match.” He saved three match points and eventually won the match. Federer in his post-match interview attributed Djokovic’s shot to “good luck.” Eight years later, this came back to haunt Federer at Wimbledon 2019. Djokovic once again faced three championship points and executed his return with surgical precision. The message was clear: it was no luck; it was a mastery of skill. He went on to win the title and to celebrate, Djokovic sat down, plucked a blade of grass and nodded his head in a manner reminiscent of his iconic 2011 moment.

In 2015, Djokovic found himself facing Federer in the final once more. The crowd that evening was unforgiving. Every error he made was met with exuberant cheers, as if it was the final point. Even when Djokovic encountered an unfortunate slip resulting in a cut to his elbow, the spectators did not waver in their enthusiasm. When he ultimately triumphed, his celebration was not one of relief but rather of conviction. He looked directly at his box, pointed at himself and then pointed back at his team.

Throughout his career, there have been many moments that have defined Djokovic, not just as a player but as a human being. Outbursts of emotions, racquet-smashing incidents, and occasional tantrums are all facets of his personality that he has fully embraced. Despite being often referred to as a machine due to his unflinching dedication and commitment to the sport, it is these moments that reminds us that beneath the veneer of a flawless tennis player lies an imperfect man. He has his flaws which are frequently magnified in headlines. Yet, it is precisely these imperfections that set him apart from other players. In his unique way, he remains true to himself, regardless of what the public think about him. The public opinion and controversies however do affect him, as he has openly acknowledged. But over time, he has learned to reconcile with them and continue on despite the noise around him. And the noise, packed with negative energy, continues on. Whenever he attempts to adopt a more amiable persona, the narrative often claims that he is trying too hard; whenever Djokovic refrains from doing exactly that, the narrative shifts and elicits comparisons to why Nadal and Federer might be more beloved.

In 2021, the pressure was paramount, and Djokovic faltered. He cried into his towel and broke

down in the middle of the final set of the match. The burden of history bore relentlessly. His remarkable run that year marked the first time a player had won all three slams in a row from the outset and a win would have secured a record twenty-one grand slams marking the most any men’s singles player had won at that time.

However, Daniil Medvedev was also running high in confidence and that confidence outweighed Djokovic’s desire. On a court where he had been regularly vilified, he was suddenly greeted with an unprecedented outpouring of affection. This display of love was something he was unfamiliar with, for he had learned to harness the hate as fuel. Yet ironically, on that very night as positivity fueled around him, he could not handle it. He lost.

determined expression on his face. It was a testament to the power of his mentality, which is undoubtedly the cornerstone of his victory. Yet, once he made his way to his box, he succumbed to a torrent of emotions. In the comforting embrace of his mother, he released the emotions he had held in for a year.

In June, fate answered Djokovic’s call again and he lifted the Roland Garros, cementing his status as the only male singles player with 23 slam titles. It was a poetic reply as this was the very court where Nadal had claimed victory fourteen times.

Two weeks ago, as Djokovic landed in New York, having won two out of three slams, the pressure of pursuing a calendar grand slam had lifted. However, a different kind of pressure loomed – the need to reaffirm himself, having been denied entry into the US for the past season for reasons akin to his situation in Australia.

In the semifinals, he confronted America’s rising star, Ben Shelton, with the unforgiving crowd at Flushing Meadow solidly behind their fellow countryman. Shelton’s exuberant celebrations at every point began to get on Djokovic’s nerves.



Novak Djokovic celebrates after defeating Daniil Medvedev in the 2023 US Open men’s singles final. PHOTO: AFP

In 2022, he faced more challenges that have been widely documented. He was deported from Australia for breaching border rules and not being vaccinated against Covid-19. His absence opened the field and Rafael Nadal secured his 21st grand slam in the very court where Djokovic had won the most. Nadal then went on to win French Open, taking his tally to 22. From having the chance to lead the race, Djokovic was thrown off the course. He had to catch up and

So, when he emerged victorious, he staged a playful imitation of Shelton’s celebratory ritual – picking up an imaginary phone, answering it, and theatrically hanging up. It was in many ways a move signalling his readiness to challenge the status quo. By now, one can say that Djokovic has wholeheartedly started to embrace the role of the occasional villain. He understands that in the theatre of sports, there are moments when the hero and the antagonist share the same stage, and he is unafraid to play either role.

Djokovic’s journey to becoming the Novak Djokovic that he is today, was far from an overnight transformation; it required years of unflinching determination and uncompromising effort. He works exceptionally hard, sometimes even too hard. He is a perfectionist, constantly refining every aspect of his game to improve. He reads his opponents like a book and then translates the lessons onto the court. However, the best version of tennis he plays is when he is fuelled by something greater than just the motivation to win. It’s his ceaseless desire to prove people wrong that makes him become unbeatable. When he is against the wall, he jumps the highest. Many admire him for that, myself included. There is a certain allure in witnessing someone who does not always conform to other’s expectations. That is probably why he has now ventured into a place where no one has ever been, the summit of the sporting world, transcending tennis.

In last weekend’s final, the crowd once again embraced Djokovic and his name reverberated through the ground. This time he prevailed, defeating the same opponent who had bested him two years ago with somewhat of a similar score line. This marked his 24th grand slam title. It was a fitting culmination – game, set, and perhaps a touch of karma – a mix of what makes him Novak Djokovic.

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
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e-Tender Notice

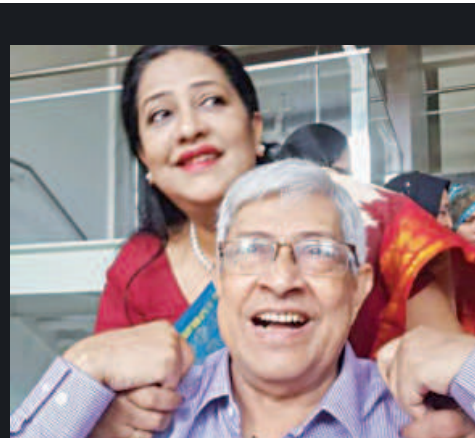
e-Tender are invited in The National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj for the procurement of

SL No	Tender ID # & Package No	e-Tender Description	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1	876786, 02/e-GP/Mundiv/2023-2024	Supply, Installation & Commissioning for ETC Toll Management System (Piloting Basis: April-December 2023) at Dhaleshwari & Bhanga Toll Plaza at Jatir Pita Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Mohasarak (N-8: Expressway) under Munshiganj Road Division, Munshiganj During the year of 2023-2024	03/10/2023 17:00	04/10/2023 09:20	04/10/2023 09:20

- The above tenders are online Tenders. Where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-Gp portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National E-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branch.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National E-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dewan Abul Kashem Mohammad Nahin Reza)
ID No-602143
Executive Engineer, RHD
Munshiganj Road Division.

'Ghuddi' stars reminisce SYED SALAHUDDIN ZAKI



Ghuddi actress Suborna Mustafa also expressed her grief and recalled her time with the director. She shared with The Daily Star, "He was a man dedicated to his work. Even at his elderly age, he continued working without ever sparing a thought on taking a break or quitting."

Syed Salahuddin Zaki was a multifaceted creative force in the world of entertainment and media, leaving an indelible mark as a director, scriptwriter, actor, and author. Leaving a void in the film industry, the director passed away yesterday at 11:53 pm, at United Hospital in Gulshan.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

His artistic journey commenced with a remarkable achievement in 1980, when he clinched the prestigious National Film Award for Best Dialogue for his inaugural directorial venture, *Ghuddi*, starring Raisul Islam Asad and Suborna Mustafa.

This early recognition was merely a glimpse of the talent that would go on to shape his prolific career in the film industry. Over the years, Zaki produced a series of memorable films, including *Laal Benarasi* and *Ayna Bibir Pala*, showcasing his prowess as both a visionary director and a storyteller.

Renowned actor Raisul Islam Asad, a multiple National Film Award winner,

owes a significant part of his success to director Zaki, who played a pivotal role in shaping his career. The celebrated actor made waves in the industry with his remarkable performance in the film *Ghuddi*. Asad also collaborated with the esteemed director on *Ayna Bibir Pala*.

Their connection, however, extended beyond the silver screen, with numerous shared experiences during their time in Dhaka Theatre and the tumultuous days of the Liberation War. As the news of the director's passing reverberated, Raisul Islam Asad shared his heartfelt sentiments with The Daily Star.

"I find myself at a loss for words, utterly speechless. It's nearly impossible to fathom a world without Zaki *bhai*," said Asad. "Although we understand

that, by the laws of nature, everyone must ultimately depart from this world, certain losses remain inconceivable. I've lost someone dear to my heart."

He continued, "It's impossible to encapsulate his essence adequately in words. I could talk about him endlessly. He was a visionary, a man of unparalleled artistic sensibilities. His passion for the arts knew no bounds. His entire world revolved around cinema, drama, and art."

After completing his studies in Pune, India, Zaki returned to Bangladesh and later on, joined Dhaka Theatre. Their bond deepened during the Liberation War when they were first introduced. Post-independence, they spent numerous years side by side in Dhaka Theatre. Asad fondly recalls those years

as a period of growth, understanding, and learning.

"Countless memories flood my mind today, from our time in various drama circles before our Dhaka Theatre journey. However, the memories we created within the folds of this theatre troupe are the most cherished. Can they ever truly fade away?" he mused.

Asad highlighted one of their remarkable collaborations, the film *Ghuddi*, which stands as a cinematic masterpiece. "Suborna Mustafa and I shared the screen in the film, an enduring cinematic production in Bangladeshi film industry. The movie soared to great heights. Yet, beyond my on-screen role, I served as his assistant for an extended period. Even if I had never ventured into acting, I would have gladly remained by his side as an assistant."

It's a twist of fate that Asad never anticipated. "I was never meant to be an actor. It was all Zaki *bhai*, because of him, I stepped into this realm. His unwavering belief in me propelled me into acting. Sometimes, I ponder how different my life would have been if not

for Zaki *bhai*'s influence. It's quite likely that I might never have pursued acting at all."

Ghuddi actress Suborna Mustafa also expressed her grief and recalled her time with the director. She shared with The Daily Star, "He was a man dedicated to his work. Even at his elderly age, he continued working without ever sparing a thought on taking a break or quitting."

Suborna continued, "I was just 14 when I first met him regarding a production. Since then, he has been a friend, a brother and a guide for me. My father used to know him even before I met him."

"I only got to know him better after he joined Dhaka Theatre. It was then that he asked me to be a part of *Ghuddi*," the actress said.

"My heart weighs heavy today. Just a few days ago, he was doing well as he returned home from the hospital and resumed his work. Now, he left us so suddenly and for good."

Suborna Mustafa conveyed her prayers and condolences for Syed Salahuddin Zaki's family.



NEWS

Dhaka had better address

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religious minorities.

It deplored the sentencing of Odhikar leaders Adilur Rahman Khan and ASM Nasiruddin Elan. It urged that the ruling be immediately and unconditionally quashed and registration of the rights body be reinstated.

It also asked the government to "guarantee the conditions for free, fair and participatory elections in 2024".

Most notably, the resolution said that the "Everything But Arms (EBA) enhanced engagement process remains ongoing with Bangladesh owing to its serious violations of international conventions" and that the EU "is concerned that the Odhikar case is a regrettable step back, bearing consequences as to whether EBA preferences [should] continue to apply to Bangladesh".

Under the EBA, Bangladesh has been accessing duty-free facilities for its exports to the 27-member bloc for the last two decades. In 2022-23, Bangladesh's export to the EU was \$25 billion out of the total \$55.55 billion.

The GSP facility was scheduled to expire when Bangladesh graduates from LDC. However, the EU extended the GSP period until 2029, which would help smooth graduation,

especially against the backdrop of the pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war that slowed the global economy.

Analysts say the European Parliament's resolution is "qualitatively different", especially as it talks about EBA. It is a "credible threat", they said.

Prof Raihan said the US, whose close ally is the EU, has taken action to ensure free and fair elections in Bangladesh. After the sanctions against Rab in 2021, Washington announced the new visa policy in May this year, saying that it would deny visas to those involved in election rigging and intimidation. There appears to be an alignment between the US and the EU.

"So, the perception that the EU does not mix up business with politics may not be right this time. Bangladesh should not ignore the credible threat," he said.

He said if not immediately, the EU may consider GSP suspension after the elections if it thinks that the rights situation has not improved.

In that case, Bangladesh's exports will face competitiveness from other countries, including India and China.

"Once the GSP is suspended, it will take years to reinstate," he said.

The US suspended the GSP facility in 2013 after the Rana Plaza disaster and is yet to reinstate it, he reminded.

Obaidul Haque, an associate professor who teaches European Affairs at the Department of International Relations of Dhaka University, said Bangladesh had continuously ignored the warnings from Washington on human rights issues. That ultimately led to the sanctions on Rab.

"There might be consequences if the government ignores the European Parliament's warnings too," he said.

At a time when global polarisation is happening fast, the whole world will be looking at Bangladesh's next elections, he said.

The US and the EU are diversifying their engagements and businesses. They are eager to come up with support for infrastructure development as part of their Indo-Pacific policies.

Obaidul said they don't want an ally that lacks democratic and human rights values. Bangladesh needs to engage with the EU, instead of getting confrontational, and make the required corrections.

The experts believe that the rights lobbyists perceive that there is a lack of democratic values and the judiciary lacks credibility. The government needs to work on this to clarify and correct where necessary.

This govt will be forced to step down

FROM PAGE 12
small processions.

Speaking as the chief guest at the rally, Abbas called upon the government to stop the oppression of the people.

Pointing to the comment made by a deputy commissioner that the BNP cannot be handed over power, Abbas said, "Who are you to say this? The people will decide."

He alleged that the government damaged the electoral system.

"Why is the Awami League government now afraid to hold elections under the caretaker government? Because they will be defeated."

Criticising Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Abdus Salam, convener of BNP's Dhaka (south) city unit, said, "Just a few days ago, she said she won't go to America,

but she is now there."

He said if the BNP comes to power, Hasina will be accused in hundreds of cases and she will have to stay in jail.

Claiming that the government is afraid of sending Khaleda abroad for better treatment, Salam said, "The negligence in her treatment will be exposed if she goes abroad."

The BNP held another rally in Gazipur's Tongi yesterday.

Speaking at the event, BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said, "Our one-point movement is progressing towards a successful ending."

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, another party standing committee member, said they will continue their movement until Hasina resigns.

Over 100 Rohingyas detained for fleeing camps

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detainees, 40 were sent back to their camps, and 61 were taken to Ukhiya Police Station for quizzing.

"If no criminal charges are found against their names, they will also be sent back to their camps," the OC said.

The operation followed a meeting of the National Committee on Security and Management of the Displaced Rohingyas Citizens of Myanmar Sheltered in Bangladesh held recently.

The meeting made some decisions, including strengthening law enforcement supervision and surveillance to ensure that registered Rohingyas living in camps cannot leave at will.

In view of that decision, police have started a special operation.

Govt to buy 2m bags of iv fluids

FROM PAGE 12

additional director general (Planning and Development) under the Directorate General of Health Services told The Daily Star that civil surgeons and divisional directors were instructed to be in the field to check market manipulation by unscrupulous IV fluid traders.

The country has seen a huge surge in demand for injectable saline, an essential part of dengue treatment, due to the soaring number of patients in Dhaka and beyond.

AL rolls out new programmes

FROM PAGE 12

Tongi and Dhaka (north) city AL at Kafrul in the capital.

On the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the party will organise a doa mahfil at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue on September 28.

Marking the birthday of AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the party will hold a discussion at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre on September 29.

Krishak League will hold a farmers' rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram national mosque on September 30, while the AL will

arrange a rally in Chattogram's Mirsharai on October 4.

Unveiling the programmes, Hanif called upon the leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies to actively participate in those.

The AL leader alleged that the BNP wants to divert the people's attention by telling lies in the name of democracy.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Abu Ahmad Mannafi, president of Dhaka south city AL, said they will stay on the streets in Dhaka until the election day as the BNP wants to foil the polls. "We will not let the BNP take control of the streets."

Passerby now

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most wanted criminals. Emon topped the list.

Following the publication, Emon fled to India but the Indian police arrested him and handed him over to Bangladesh authorities.

Based on Emon's information, police recovered a revolver and 33 bullets from a market in the capital's Rayerbagh on March 16, 2008.

Later, an arms case was filed against him and the police submitted a charge sheet against Emon on April 5, 2008.

A Dhaka court in 2015 sentenced Emon to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment in the case.

US wanted to know

FROM PAGE 12

for them.

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan said a suspect in the murder of the labour leader has been arrested and that reform to the labour law is underway.

The meeting discussed the revival of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) status of Bangladesh, which was suspended in June 2013 after the Rana Plaza building collapse citing poor labour and workplace safety.

Faruque yesterday demanded duty-free market access of Bangladeshi garment items, made from the imported American cotton, to the US markets.

The BGMEA said local suppliers have improved workplace safety in line with the recommendations from the international buyers' forums Accord and Alliance. It sought cooperation from the USTR so the American businesspeople procure more RMG products from Bangladesh.

Faruque expressed concern that the Bangladeshi garment suppliers are being affected due to the Russia-Ukraine war although the country is not directly involved in the war.

Brendan Lynch, acting assistant USTR for the South and Central Asia, led the visiting delegation to the meeting.

The team is touring Bangladesh for holding the seventh round of meetings under the Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum Agreement (Ticfa). The meeting is set to begin in Dhaka today.

Stand against Russia

FROM PAGE 12

as Russia's deputy ambassador to the United Nations sat without expression.

"This is clearly a genocide. When hatred is weaponized against one nation, it never stops there," he said.

He accused Russia of using both energy and food as a way to pressure the world, after Moscow ended a UN-backed agreement to let ships of grain sail out of Ukraine.

"The aggressor is weaponizing many other things, and those things are used not only against our country but against all of yours as well."

'NAKED AGGRESSION'
Zelensky earlier appeared for a speech by US President Joe Biden who issued his own warning against complacency.

Putin -- who did not come to New York -- is expecting that the world "will grow weary and allow it to brutalize Ukraine without consequence," Biden said.

"But I ask you this: If we abandon the core principles (of the UN Charter) to appease an aggressor, can any member state in this body feel confident that they are protected? If we allow Ukraine to be carved up, is the independence of any nation secure?" Biden said.

"We must stand up to this naked aggression today to deter other would-be aggressors tomorrow."

Biden won applause from the chamber when he called for Ukraine's territorial integrity, but several prominent world leaders decided to miss this year's UN session, including from China, and allies Britain and France.

Zelensky is also meeting leaders less friendly to Ukraine's cause, including Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who has said previously that Ukraine shared blame for the war and faulted the billions of dollars in Western military aid to Kyiv.

Kings crash at Maziya

SPORTS REPORTER

Bashundhara Kings' perfect record against Maldivian clubs ended in disastrous fashion as they were handed a 3-1 defeat in the season's first AFC Cup fixture away at Maziya S&RC in Male yesterday.

The four-time Bangladesh Premier League champions suffered their first defeat in Male despite dominating the game with better ball possession, passing and attempts.

Playing with five foreign players against six of Maziya, Kings saw their centre-forward Dorielton Gomez waste a number of early opportunities before a 35-yard thunderbolt from Vojislav Balabanovic unlocked Kings' goal in the 15th minute. Maziya doubled their advantage against the run of play with Hassan Nazeem scoring with a volley from the top of the box.

Ali Fasir scored the third goal in the first minute of stoppage time before Mohammad Ibrahim scored a consolation goal two minutes later.

The charges of Oscar Bruzon will host Odisha FC in their second match at the Kings Arena on October 2.



Pacer Lockie Ferguson, who will be leading New Zealand in their upcoming series against Bangladesh, and left-arm quick Trent Boult gear up in the nets on Monday ahead of the first of the three ODIs against the Tigers at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Eight including Nasir charged by ICC

AFP, Abu Dhabi

Eight cricket players and officials including Bangladesh's Nasir Hossain have been charged with breaching anti-corruption rules in an investigation into match fixing in the Abu Dhabi T10 event, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on Tuesday.

"The ICC, on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), has charged eight players and officials for breaching different counts of the ECB anti-corruption code for participants for the T10 League," cricket's governing body said in a statement.

"The charges relate to the 2021 Abu Dhabi T10 Cricket League and attempts to corrupt matches in that tournament — these attempts were disrupted," it added.

Apart from Nasir Hossain, the ones charged include team co-owners Krishnan Kumar Chaudhary and Parag Sanghvi.

The multiple charges against the group include match fixing, offering sums of money to players to engage in corruption and failing to cooperate with the ICC investigation. Six of those charged, including Chaudhary and Sanghvi, have been provisionally suspended for their alleged conduct and have two weeks to respond.

Booters lose against Myanmar

SPORTS REPORTER from Hangzhou

Bangladesh Olympic football team's bid to make it to the Round of 16 for the second time in a row was dealt a huge blow with a 1-0 defeat against Myanmar in their opening match of the Asian Games at the Xiaoshan Sports Complex Stadium in Hangzhou yesterday.

With India and China being the two other teams in the group, Bangladesh had targeted at least a point against their cross-border rivals, however, an own goal from Murad Hasan saw their hopes dashed.

Bangladesh were deprived of an equaliser in the stoppage time of the second half with Suman Reza's header coming off the crossbar after Kyrgyz referee Abdyltaev had overlooked a Bangladesh claim for a handball inside the Myanmar box in the 88th minute.

"I think we should have won the match because we created more chances. We hit the post while a clear penalty was not awarded to us but we had to concede the goal due to our mistakes," captain Rahmat Mia said after the match.

"We created three to four open chances, but we could not take those home unfortunately and it was bad luck for us," said Rahmat, one of the players who also plays for the senior team also.

Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera applied the same playing style that he uses with the senior team. The relatively inexperienced Bangladesh side had a comparatively better first half to deny Myanmar, who dominated with better ball possession and attacks. However, Bangladesh's defence, marshalled by Rahmat, Murad, Shakil Hossain and Issa Faisal, negotiated the dangers solidly.

But as Bangladesh defence looked a bit tired in the second half, Myanmar forwards got past both full-backs a few times before substitute Khun Kyaw Zin Hein forced debutant Murad to divert his low cross into the Bangladesh net in the 67th minute after Rabiul Hasan lost the ball in the midfield.

Bangladesh will play their second match against India, who were thrashed 5-1 by China in the day's other match, tomorrow.

Will batting woes find a fix ahead of World Cup?

SPORTS REPORTER

"Our batting [has] deteriorated in the last six months. It is going downwards, so we have to rectify quickly," skipper Shakib Al Hasan had remarked after the Super Four game against Sri Lanka. Bangladesh assistant coach Nic Pothas, who looks after the batting side of things, joined the Tigers in a two-year contract and his first assignment was the series against Ireland in England. As far as Shakib is concerned, the appointment of Pothas is yet to bear fruit.

Bangladesh's batting had turned a leaf in recent times with more aggression in the middle-over phases. However, Tigers' failure in reading game scenarios have often come under the microscope. This time, with the World Cup at the doorstep, head coach Chandika Hathurusingha will be absent due to a family emergency for the first two games against New Zealand at home. Pothas would have to ensure the Tigers carry confidence before heading to the World Cup.

"Chandika Hathurusingha would not be here for the first two ODIs as his wife is having a surgery. He will arrive on September 25th and join the team on the 26th. We have appointed Nic Pothas as interim coach," cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus told the media on Tuesday.

Since Pothas' arrival, the top

three in the batting order has averaged just over 26. Count out the fine form Najmul Hossain Shanto has been carrying, and the picture would look gloomy. Many have been tried in the opening slot and the lower middle-order, specifically the number seven and eight, average over 14 with seven players featuring in that period.



While Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan and Tawhid Hridoy have found runs, it is some of the younger players who have not lived up to their potential. Shamim Hossain and Afif Hossain have been dropped from the New Zealand series. With the New Zealand series being a step towards World Cup selection, would there be improvement in decision-making in the right time? With most of the World Cup squad already being put in a cotton wool,

the series would be important for finding backup options alongside veterans such as Tamim Iqbal and Mahmudullah Riyad returning to form.

Given how batters struggled against the bit of mystery spin of Maheesh Theekshana in Asia Cup, or how they attempted shots that do not go with match scenarios, a lot more work surely would be needed.

Pothas himself had identified after the Pakistan match that Bangladesh made it easier for the Pakistan seamers by trying to go after them.

"Yes, we need improvement in that area, but if it was that easy, everybody would be doing it," he had said.

On a flat batting wicket, when batters throw away the advantage of winning the toss and batting first, it is likely that the message has not gotten across.

Pothas originally had been earmarked as a wicket-keeping specialist and was part of the Bangladesh U-19 team's coaching staff in March this year for a one-off assignment in Abu Dhabi. He, however, was appointed assistant coach for the national team a month later to also look after the batting. It remains to be seen whether the South African's new role as interim coach brings any luck.

Tuchel backs Nagelsmann for Germany job

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Thomas Tuchel on Tuesday backed the rumoured appointment of the man he replaced in the dugout, Julian Nagelsmann, for the Germany job.

German media reported earlier on Tuesday that Nagelsmann was on the verge of being named coach of the men's national team following the sacking of Hansi Flick, just nine months out from Germany hosting the European Championship.

Nagelsmann has been out of work since being sacked in March by Bayern, with Tuchel brought in to replace him.

"Why not?," said Tuchel, speaking at a pre-match press conference ahead of Bayern's Champions League match against Manchester United on Wednesday, when asked about Nagelsmann's possible appointment.

"Julian has the quality and (if) the DFB has decided for him, that's the most important requirement."

"There's been a decision and influence things positively."

German tabloid Bild reported that Nagelsmann, 36, will take the reins on a deal which will run to the end of Euro 2024.

Flick became the first Germany coach in history to be dismissed from his post after his side slipped to a 4-1 friendly loss against Japan earlier in September.

Flick's men also failed to get out of the group stage at the World Cup in Qatar last year.

Germany have lost four of their six matches since then, as they prepare to host Euro 2024.

Pressure mounts on Ten Hag as Bayern clash looms

AFP, Manchester

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag is starting to feel the heat from frustrated fans of the Red Devils after a disastrous start to the season has left hopes of Premier League glory already looking forlorn.

For the first time in the Premier League era United have lost three of their opening five games and face a daunting task to open their Champions League campaign away to Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Ten Hag had been sheltered from criticism in the early weeks of the campaign as supporters concentrated their anger towards a series of off-field issues.

Despite the fans' desire to see them gone, the Glazer family appear to have put a process to sell the club on hold.

Brazilian winger Antony has been given a leave of absence to fight domestic abuse allegations made by his ex-girlfriend.

Meanwhile, United decided Mason Greenwood had no

future at Old Trafford last month despite abuse charges against the 21-year-old being dropped.

Ten Hag was credited for returning United to the Champions League by finishing third in the Premier League last season and ending the club's six-year trophy drought by winning the League Cup. However, he was the target for a chorus of boos when he substituted new signing Rasmus Hojlund midway through the second half of Saturday's 3-1 home defeat to Brighton.

The Dutch coach tried to spin that moment into a positive show of support for Hojlund, who was making his home debut after a £64 million (\$79 million) move from Atalanta. The Dane has only recently returned to fitness and Ten Hag could ill afford to

lose another key player by forcing him to play 90 minutes too soon.

But United's bet on the 20-year coming good in the long run could face a backlash should they be undone by Harry Kane in Germany.

Despite their need for a striker, United never tested Tottenham's



resolve for the England captain, who instead joined Bayern in a 100 million euro (\$110 million, £86 million) deal.

Kane has hit the ground running with four goals in as

many starts, while Hojlund is yet to find the net for United.

Despite domestic dominance which has seen Bayern win the past 11 Bundesliga titles, the club judges itself on its performances in the Champions League.

Since winning in Lisbon in 2020, Bayern have been eliminated at the quarter-final stage of the Champions League for three straight years.

These early eliminations led to the exits of former managers Hansi Flick and Julian Nagelsmann. Current Bayern boss Thomas Tuchel, who took over from a sacked Nagelsmann who had won eight from eight in the Champions League, is aware that making it at least to the semis is considered par for the course in Munich.

While this understanding is not new for Bayern or indeed any of the handful of modern superclubs where domestic success is assured, the big money addition of Kane makes winning now a necessity.

Bellingham ready for 'real' Madrid debut

AFP, Barcelona

Jude Bellingham scored for Real Madrid on his debut, and in four of the five matches which have followed, in a superb start to life in the Spanish capital for the former Birmingham boy.

The England midfielder has five goals in five games in La Liga, taking the Spanish top flight by storm after his 103 million euro (\$110 million) move from Borussia Dortmund this summer.

Real Madrid boast a 100 percent record for their opening raft of domestic games, but their season begins in earnest with the start of the Champions League this week.

Bellingham, 20, is set to make his 'second' debut for Los Blancos against Union Berlin on Wednesday at the Santiago Bernabeu, in the competition they value above all others. The record 14-time European champions were thrashed 4-0 by Manchester City in the second leg of last season's semi-final, 5-1 on aggregate, with Bellingham's purchase in part a response to that stinging defeat.

Madrid have started reducing minutes for their veteran players in midfield — Luka Modric and Toni Kroos — while allowing Bellingham, Eduardo Camavinga, Aurelien Tchouameni and Fede Valverde more opportunities.

Bellingham adds to the tougher core Madrid sport this season, shorn of



Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema, who departed for a new adventure in Saudi Arabian football in the summer.

Facing a Bundesliga side in Europe, Bellingham should feel comfortable — although it has become clear that he has already made himself at home.

In his first appearance at the hallowed Bernabeu the England international nearly blew the stadium's new roof off with a last gasp 95th minute strike to earn Madrid a narrow win over Getafe in a derby on September 2.

Wearing the No 5 on his back in tribute to Zinedine Zidane, Bellingham has quickly become a fan favourite at Madrid.

Celebrating his goals with his arms open wide, as if to share his joy with the supporters, they have instantly taken to him in a way which never happened with Welsh winger Gareth Bale.



AL rolls out new programmes to counter BNP

Rallies to be held in Dhaka, other districts from Sept 23 to Oct 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will hold programmes in the capital and other districts from September 23 to October 4 apparently to counter BNP's demonstrations on the streets.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif announced the programmes after a joint meeting yesterday.

This development comes a day after BNP unveiled a series of rallies and road marches, starting yesterday, to press home its one-point demand -- resignation of the government and national polls under a non-partisan administration.

The issue of BNP's 15-day programme was discussed at the joint meeting between AL secretaries, leaders of Dhaka city units and top leaders of the party's associate bodies. The meeting was held at the AL president's Dhanmondi office, said meeting sources.

As part of the AL's programmes, a rally will be held at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram national mosque on September 23. Dhaka (north) city AL will organise a rally in Uttara and Dhaka (south) city AL a rally at Jatrabari on September 25.

On September 27, Gazipur city AL will hold a rally at

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WELCOMING AUTUMN ... When "sharat" starts in the month of Ashwin, it's almost like the clouds descend as Kans grass flowers, known as Kanshful, spread through the lands. Against the blue sky, the flowers sway with the autumn winds, providing an amazing spectacle for all. The photo was taken at Khulna's Dumuria upazila area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



SYED SALAHUDDIN ZAKI (1946-2023)

Adieu, giant of Bangla cinema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak recipient, national award winner and eminent filmmaker Syed Salahuddin Zaki passed away at United Hospital in the capital's Gulshan on Monday.

He was 77. The news of his demise was confirmed by Channel i's Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar.

According to Zaki's colleagues, he suddenly

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REMINISCING ZAKI - PAGE 10

This govt will be forced to step down

Mirza Abbas tells BNP rally in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas yesterday urged people to get ready to oust the government from power through movement in the coming days.

Addressing a rally in Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital, the BNP leader said he was there to ask the residents of Keraniganj to join its ongoing one-point movement demanding the resignation of the Awami League government.

"We will create such a situation across the country that this government will be forced to step down. Prepare yourselves for that day," said Abbas while speaking at the rally ahead of a procession in front of party's Jinjira office.

The rally, organised by Dhaka district BNP, began around 3:00pm with offering of prayers for the quick recovery of BNP Chairperson Khaleeda Zia.

From 2:00pm, BNP leaders and activists started gathering at the venue in

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Passerby now on life support after murder suspect attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals fired at and stabbed a suspect in the film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area on Monday night.

Their knife and gun attack on Tariq Sayeed Mamun, 54, also left two people injured.

Bhuban Chandra Shil, 55, a lawyer, was passing the area on a motorbike when a stray bullet hit his head. He is on life support. Jaysree Rani, a sister-in-law of lawyer Bhuban, said Bhuban hails from Noakhali and lives in a hostel in Arambagh.

"We came to know about him getting shot from police," she said. Pedestrian Ariful Haque was tabbed.

Mamun got out of jail on bail about three months ago. He had been in prison for 26 years.

Sources said Mamun was returning to his Tollabagh home from a bar in Moghbazar and when the car he was travelling in reached BG Press area, seven to eight criminals on motorbikes intercepted the vehicle.

Mamun got out of the vehicle amid the hail of bullets and ran but the criminals chased him down and stabbed him in the neck and back, said Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station.

Mamun was taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday but police did not disclose where he was yesterday.

Police officials suspect that the attackers are loyal to top listed criminal Sanjidul Hassan Emon, who is now serving a 17-year sentence and is also an accused in the Sohel Chowdhury murder case.

Mamun was once Emon's partner in crime, they said, adding that they had a fall out after Mamun got out.

Talking to reporters at his office, Harun-Or-Rashid, chief of Detective Branch of DMP, said Emon appeared before a court on September 12 where he met Mamun. Emon threatened him then.

"Within a week, Mamun was attacked. Mamun is under our watch. We talked to him. Initially, it is believed that Emon might have had the attack carried out," he said.

The government on December 27, 2001, published a list of 23

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

TACKLING DENGUE Govt to buy 2m bags of IV fluids from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to purchase 2 million bags of IV fluids, or injectable saline solution, to address the market shortage of this essential medicine used to treat dengue patients.

According to a health ministry official, a direct procurement proposal to buy 1.2 million bags of sodium chloride and 800,000 bags of glucose saline will be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today.

Hossain Ali Khandaker, additional secretary of the health ministry told The Daily Star that as part of this purchase, they already received a consignment of 300,000 saline bags from India.

Prof Ahmedul Kabir,

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Dhaka had better address Europe's concerns

Experts say European Parliament's resolution on rights issues a credible threat to exports

PORIMOL PALMA

The European Parliament resolution on rights issues in Bangladesh adopted last Thursday is a warning for Dhaka before the EU takes actions that will hurt Bangladesh, said economists and international relations analysts.

They said Europe's concerns over human rights, democracy and civic rights are not new, but they now align with the US's.

Analysts said instead of ignoring and confronting them, Bangladesh should strengthen its engagement with the EU and address the genuine concerns that the EU has.

"I think the European Parliament resolution has heightened the level of risks. If they are not happy with the upcoming elections, they may consider suspending the GSP [Generalised Scheme of Preferences] facility," said Prof Selim Raihan of the Economics Department at Dhaka University and executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM).

The resolution adopted on September 14 expressed concern at the "deteriorating human rights situation" in Bangladesh and called on the government to restore a safe and enabling environment for NGOs, human rights defenders, activists, and

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Analysts say that the European Parliament's resolution is "qualitatively different", especially as it talks about EBA. It is a "credible threat".

Over 100 Rohingyas detained for fleeing camps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police yesterday detained 101 Rohingyas for fleeing the refugee camps in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar.

They were held near Ukhiya Degree College next to the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway between 11:00am and 1:00pm, said Sheikh Mohammad Ali, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station.

Police have started strict surveillance to prevent the refugees from fleeing the camps.

"Many Rohingyas leave camps dodging security personnel. Later, at a convenient time, they attempt to trespass into foreign territory. The police have started a special drive since September 16 to prevent that from happening," the OC added.

Ukhiya police and Armed Police Battalion conducted the first joint drive.

On Monday, police detained 113 Rohingyas and later handed them over to the camp authorities.

Among yesterday's

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US wanted to know about Shahidul murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) yesterday wanted to know from the BGMEA leaders about the progress in the labour leader Shahidul Islam murder case and the labour rights situation in the garment sector.

The delegation enquired about the issues at a meeting with the leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association at its headquarters in the capital's Uttara, the association said in a statement.

Shahid, president of the Gazipur unit of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation, was beaten to death outside Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd in Tongi on the night of June 25.

The USTR, the chief trade negotiating body for the American government, also wanted to know about trade unionism, progress in the reform to the labour law and the minimum wage for garment workers.

The government earlier this year formed a wage board for apparel workers to recommend a fresh minimum wage

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Mohammad Zafar Sheikh ran his small grocery store in Mohammadpur Krishi Market in the capital for 26 long years. However, it all went up in flames when the market was ravaged by a fire on September 14. From the ruins, Zafar managed to salvage a few products yesterday. He sat in front of his burned down shop and sold as much as he could, earning around Tk 1,100, to remind himself that he could, perhaps, restart his life.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Stand against Russia 'genocide'

Zelensky tells UNGA

AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a wartime trip to the United Nations yesterday urged the world to stand firm against Russia's "genocide," as he told skeptical developing nations they had a stake in Kyiv's victory.

Taking the rostrum of the UN General Assembly in his trademark military fatigues, Zelensky renewed an invitation for world leaders to join a "peace summit" to end the war on Ukraine's term.

"For the first time in modern history, we have the chance to end the aggression on the terms of the nation which was attacked," Zelensky said in a speech met with applause led by Western nations but many empty seats.

"This is a real chance for every nation -- to ensure that aggression against your state, if it happens, God forbid, will end not because your land will be divided," he said, but with sovereignty upheld.

Zelensky lashed out at Russia for what Ukraine says is the deportation of thousands of children. The practice has led the International Criminal Court to issue a warrant for the arrest of President Vladimir Putin of Russia, which says it is taking war orphans into foster care.

"Those children in Russia are taught to hate Ukraine, and all ties with their families are broken," Zelensky said,

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