



P11 Chhetri breaks Bangladesh resistance



P9 Tanzim is the victim of a sexist culture



P8 Are factory owners above the law?



P7 Pakistan to hold nat'l election in January

EU won't send full team to observe polls

Writes to EC, citing budget, uncertainty over meeting conditions at the time of polls

STAR REPORT

The European Union will not send a fully-fledged election observation mission for the upcoming national polls.

It communicated its decision to the Election Commission through a letter to the chief election commissioner on Wednesday.

"Based on the recommendations of the exploratory mission -- and taking into consideration the budget for EU Election Observation Missions for 2023/2024 -- High Representative Josep Borrell has decided not to deploy a fully-fledged EU Election Observation Mission," reads the EU letter.

"The High Representative's decision reflects the fact that, at the present time, it is not sufficiently clear whether the necessary conditions will be met at the point in time when the elections take place," reads the letter written by EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley.

The Daily Star has a copy of the letter.

The exploratory mission visited Bangladesh on July 6-22 to assess the advisability, usefulness, and feasibility of a fully-fledged election observation mission.

Whiteley, in the letter, also said the EU was exploring "other options to accompany the electoral process should these be welcome on the part of the Election Commission and Government of Bangladesh. I will be in touch with you as soon as possible in this regard".

The letter, however, did not elaborate on the phrases "necessary conditions" or "other options". The Daily Star could not reach the ambassador for comments.

The letter added that the EU will continue to encourage all efforts to ensure that the elections are free, fair, peaceful, and participatory.

Asked if the EU expressed any concern over the lead-up to the election, EC Secretary Jahangir Alam told reporters yesterday that the letter did not mention anything about it.

He said the EU ambassador sent the letter to the CEC through the foreign ministry.

Meanwhile, after an event yesterday, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam told reporters, "We will share details as soon as we are informed."

"Preparations for Bangladesh's national election will not be affected by EU delegation arriving or not."

The development comes amid uncertainty over the polls being participatory.

The ruling Awami League and opposition BNP are at odds over the polls-time administration.

The AL says the election will be held under the current



"Preparations for Bangladesh's national election will not be affected by EU delegation arriving or not."

State Minister for Foreign Affairs
Md Shahriar Alam

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Rickshaws navigate a submerged Tajmahal Road in Mohammadpur. The downpour last night overwhelmed the drainage system of many neighbourhoods and flooded streets. The photo was taken around 11:00pm.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

EU decision to dent nat'l election's credibility

Say politicians, local polls observers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union's decision to not send a fully-fledged election observation mission will negatively impact the coming election, politicians and local polls observers say.

The EU decision may discourage other international communities from sending their observers to Bangladesh, they believe.

Elections lose acceptability when there are fewer observers, Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader says.

The EU in a letter to the Election Commission and the government on Wednesday said it would not send a fully-fledged election observation mission as there were doubts that the necessary conditions would be met during the election.

The letter also mentioned budget constraints as a reason behind the decision, according to EC Secretary Jahangir Alam.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Climate fund stuck in Farmers Bank

The troubled bank could pay back only Tk 74cr of Tk 538cr deposit

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

The Bangladesh Climate Change Trust was supposed to get back in 2016 the Tk 538 crore, plus the accumulated interest, it deposited with the then Farmers Bank. However, it has so far received just Tk 74 crore after around seven years.

The Trust's wait to recoup its investment will get even longer as, in December last year, Farmers Bank, now renamed Padma Bank, got eight more years from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to pay back the money.

A source present at the meeting in December told The Daily Star that the bank had sought 15 more years to return the deposit, but the environment minister asked Padma Bank officials to return the amount by 2030.

Environment Minister Md Shahab Uddin declined to comment on the deadline extension. The Trust, which operates under the



"They were supposed to give us the total fund along with interest one year after the deposit."

Nurun Naher Hena, former MD of the Trust

environment ministry, made the fixed deposit with Farmers Bank in 2015 for one year, meaning the bank was supposed to repay the money in 2016, Trust officials said.

The money was deposited at the bank's Motijheel, Gulshan and Gulshan Avenue branches.

Including the 9 percent interest, the total due now stands at around Tk 827 crore, one official said.

The official, who is not authorised to speak to the media, said the bank has paid back Tk 74 crore over the last seven and a half years.

Apart from seeking to delay the payment by more than 20 years, the embattled bank wants to pay the amount at 6 percent interest, and not at 9 percent as originally agreed by both Farmers Bank and the Trust, officials said.

Nurun Naher Hena, former managing director of the Trust, said the bank was supposed to give them a repayment plan as per the meetings held

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

4 die from electrocution on flooded Mirpur street

Heavy rain floods Dhaka streets, grinds traffic to halt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including three of a family, died after being electrocuted in the capital's Mirpur last night as they came into contact with a live electric wire that fell on a waterlogged street.

The incident occurred near Mirpur Commerce College around 9:45pm, Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, told The Daily Star.

The victims were Mizan, 30, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, his wife Mukta, 25, seven-year-old daughter Lima, and another man named Anik, 20.

The couple's six-month-old son Hossain was injured in the incident and is under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rejoinder, our reply

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab), on August 28, sent a rejoinder to our report titled "Death of Passenger: Plane denied priority landing" published a day before.

In the rejoinder, Caab said: "(A) According to the statement of HSIAT tower controller, on August 26, at approximately 3:20am, flights EY230 and BG350 received clearance for landing by Air Traffic Control (ATC). At that time, there was a cargo plane at the take off point of the runway which was supposed to take off within two minutes. But the flight took four minutes due to operational reasons. As a result, the ATC tower was forced to keep waiting both the aircraft ready to land to ensure safe landing. Subsequently, within a gap of three minutes, flight EY230 landed safely at 3:33am and flight BG350 landed at 3:36am."

"(B) It may be mentioned that on information from BG-350 around 3:15am on August 26 that a critical

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



With the monsoon bringing life to the Buriganga, some locals are out fishing in the river near Kamrangirchar yesterday. Locals say they are getting some fish after the relocation of tanneries to Savar from Hazaribagh. There were hardly any fish in this part of the Buriganga due to release of toxic waste into the water body by tanners, they said.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

US pre-polls assessment team to fly in Oct 7

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A six-member US pre-election assessment mission will visit Bangladesh on October 7-13 to determine whether to send a small international election observation mission for the parliamentary polls due by January next year.

"The United States-funded International Republican Institute [IRI] and National Democratic Institute [NDI] will independently and impartially conduct a joint pre-election assessment mission in accordance with the NDI's Declaration of Principles for International Observers," US Embassy Spokesperson Bryan Schiller said in a statement yesterday.

The team will meet the Election Commission, government agencies,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

MORE NEWS	Revenue receipts rise 15% in Jul-Aug	Israel, KSA see progress on ties	Legal framework on Hindu marriage in Bangladesh
	PAGE B1	PAGE 7	PAGE 10

8th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, **Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi)**, the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members

Army chief leaves for China to attend 19th Asian Games

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed left Dhaka last morning to attend the 19th Asian Games in China and the Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs' Conclave (IPACC) conference in India.

He will observe various games and sports events, including the inauguration of the 19th Asian Games to be held in Hangzhou, China, on September 23 as the president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association, according to an ISPR press release.

There, the army chief will exchange views with the presidents and secretaries general of the national Olympic associations of different countries.

At the invitation of the Indian army chief, General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed will also attend the Indo-Pacific Army Chiefs' Conclave (IPACC) to be held in New Delhi from September 25-27.

The objective of the conference is to create an atmosphere of mutual trust, develop professional relations, and strengthen regional security arrangements by improving relations between the ground forces of friendly countries.

Belt, Road Initiative consistent with Sonar Bangla dream Says Chinese ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China's Belt and Road Initiative seeks no hegemony, no interference in other countries' internal affairs, and has no elements of expansion and plunder, said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen.

"It can be said that on the journey of Bangladesh's modernisation, the Belt and Road Initiative is most consistent with the Vision 2041 and Sonar Bangla dream, and is most suitable for Bangladesh's reality," he said.

The Chinese envoy was addressing a report-launching event at a city hotel yesterday, marking the 10th anniversary of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Bangladesh is the first South Asian country to have joined the BRI, a China-led global initiative to connect Asia, Europe and Africa. It was launched in 2013.

Yao Wen said the core spirit of the ancient Silk Road is peace

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

4 die from electrocution

FROM PAGE 1

OC Mohsin said the family was trying to cross the road. When they got electrocuted, Anik went to save them.

After intermittent rain all day, a heavy shower in the late evening inundated a large part of the capital, flooding streets and causing the traffic system to almost collapse.

Streets in Dhanmondi, Elephant Road, New Market, Mirpur, Banani, Eskaton, Green Road, Panthapath, Shewrapara areas were submerged.

Even Manik Mia Avenue and Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi-27 were waterlogged and gridlocked as late as 2:00am today.

Scores of vehicles were seen broken down on submerged streets.

Many took to social media to express their frustration over being stuck in traffic for hours on end or being unable to wade through waist-deep water on certain streets.

People, mostly returning home after work, were seen taking shelter in front of various offices, markets, and shopping malls. They had serious trouble finding transport home.

Akash Roy was on the way to his Uttara home from Farmgate. He was stuck near Bijoy Sarani for two hours. He then decided to go towards Shewrapara where his CNG-run auto-rickshaw broke down on a street under knee-deep water.

Hafiz Mollah, who went to Karwan Bazar to buy fish in the evening, got stuck there until around 11:00pm. While trying to return to his Mirpur home, he got stuck on Manik Mia Avenue for over an hour. Then he started walking.

The Meteorological Department recorded 113mm of rain from 6:00pm to 12:00am yesterday, said Omar Faruq, a meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Moderate to heavy rains are expected till today due to a low pressure in the northwest Bay of Bengal and surrounding areas, the meteorologist said.

Every day while going to work, I spot a frail, old man selling a bright-coloured traditional toy. He always wears the same clothes -- a tattered, faded brown long shirt and an old lungi. His regular place is on a road in Uttara Sector 1, sort of a blind corner that you cannot see while turning your car. His jaded appearance does not help to notice him in that busy lane, though he tries hard to draw your attention by spinning the toy he sells.



RBR

Nizamuddin, the old man, is 81 years old. He calls the toy "feska pakhi" in his colloquial tongue. Hung by a thread the magenta thin paper doll with a yellow-coloured head made of shola or Indian cork and a green palm leafy tail is joined by rusted old tin pieces. When you twist the tail and spin it, the doll makes a mild tinkling sound as it dances in the wind.

This toy is my *deshi* wind chime. I hang them among my balcony plants and watching the doll swirl in the breeze lights up my afternoons.

Nizamuddin's loss of muscle strength with age contributes to the curvature of his spine. He cannot stand at a stretch and needs to sit down to rest quite often. He takes the bus from Gazipur Chourasta to come to Uttara to sell his doll.

"My boss Nogendro makes these toys; the cost price of one such bird is about Tk 3.5. I sell them for Tk 10 and share the profit with him. I earn about Tk 150 to Tk 350 a day depending on my sales. In spite of the fact that I sell an artless local traditional toy, school children

do fancy my multi-coloured bird and I have a steady income except on a few bad days," he says. He wishes to gather Tk 3,000 someday and start his own business, then he would not have to share his profit. Such a modest wish to try and make his life better in this old age weighed deep on me.

With this meagre income, he supports his wife in the village and fends for himself. "I do not have a son, if I had one maybe he could help me in my old age. I have five daughters, though they are all married off but I still have to pay the dowry of my youngest. If I can start on my own then maybe the financial pressure on me would lessen," he says. His resilience and spirit for life humbled me. My complaints of how cruel my life is hold no ground in regard to Nizamuddin's. Standing under the



PHOTO: STAR

burning sun, vending a paper toy, and earning just a few hundred takas a day, he looks forward to saving and starting afresh at this advanced age.

I compared my despair with his enthusiasm and realised that happiness is a very simple emotion yet we turn it into a complex psychosocial struggle. I feel the grittiness and endurance of people like Nizamuddin fuel this 400-year-old city. His spirit is contagious and reflects the vivacity and dynamism of Dhaka, for this metropolis accommodates optimists like Nizamuddin, who lends his strength to the city, and pessimists like me, who negates the city.

Yet, Dhaka gives each one of us a reason to smile.

Worker crushed under iron sheet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A worker was crushed under an iron sheet at the Teesta Bridge construction site in Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila yesterday.

Habibur Rahman, 50, was hit on the head by a bridge girder's shutter that fell on him as he was working at the site around 12:00pm.

He died while being taken to a hospital, said Sundarganj Police Station OC KM Azmiruzzaman.

"If the death is found to have occurred due to negligence in safety measures, a case will be filed against the authority concerned," the OC added.

The local LGED office is constructing the 1.5km bridge connecting Gaibandha's Sundarganj to Kurigram's Chilmari.

Contacted, Sundarganj Upazila Engineer (LGED) Shamsul Arefin Khan said, "We've provided necessary safety gear to the workers, but they aren't in the habit of using them."

"We'll provide adequate compensation to the deceased worker's family to ease their suffering."

In a similar accident, another worker died at the site four months ago.

Teacher, daughter killed under falling tree branch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A female primary schoolteacher and her daughter were killed after a tree branch fell on them in Rangpur city yesterday.

The deceased are Krishna Rani Sarker, 36, wife of Brozen Sarker of Tulshirhat village in Gangachara upazila, and her daughter Rajoshree Sarker, 11.

Krishna was an assistant teacher at Nohali Government Primary School in Gangachara.

Borzen, along with his wife and daughter, were headed to Rangpur city from Gangachara on a motorcycle, said Rabiul Islam, officer-in-charge of Porshuram Police Station under the Rangpur Metropolitan Police.

When they reached the Chabbish Hazari area around 11:00am, the branch of an old tree beside the road collapsed on the bike, leaving them critically injured.

Locals took them to Rangpur Community Hospital, where Krishna and her daughter succumbed to their injuries hours after their admission.

Police handed over the bodies to the family without autopsy.

LIBYA FLOOD DISASTER Over 43,000 displaced

AFP, Derna

Libya's flood disaster, which killed thousands in the city of Derna, also displaced more than 43,000 people, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said yesterday.

A tsunami-sized flash flood broke through two ageing river dams upstream from the coastal city after the Mediterranean Storm Daniel lashed the area on September 10.

It razed entire neighbourhoods, sweeping untold thousands of people into the sea.

EU won't send full team to observe polls

FROM PAGE 1

government as per the constitution, while the opposition BNP demands a caretaker government, saying the elections under the current administration will not be free and fair.

The US and many other Western countries have repeatedly been stressing the need for free and fair elections.

The US even went on to impose visa restrictions on those it would deem involved in vote-rigging or intimidation.

On September 14, the European Parliament adopted a resolution expressing concerns over the "deteriorating human rights situation" in Bangladesh. It asked the government to "guarantee the conditions for free, fair and participatory elections in 2024".

The EU has sent polls observation missions to 15 countries, including Guatemala, Liberia, the Maldives, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, between 2021 and 2023, according to the EU website.

For the 2018 polls in Bangladesh,

the EU did not send a full mission, sending budgetary constraints. It, however, sent a fully fledged mission to observe polls in Pakistan that year.

The last time the EU sent a full election observation mission to Bangladesh was in 2008. At least 150 EU observers monitored the polls then.

"It is quite shocking that the EU has decided not to send an election observation team. This may be used by other foreign election observation teams as an excuse to not send observers," a diplomatic source said.

India-Canada

FROM PAGE 12

He had denied those charges, according to the World Sikh Organization of Canada, a nonprofit organisation that says it defends the interests of Canadian Sikhs.

The Indian government accuses Ottawa of turning a blind eye to the activities of radical Sikh nationalists who advocate the creation of an independent state to be carved out of northern India.

There were signs of a brewing crisis before Trudeau revealed the probe into Nijjar's death on Monday.

India Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed "strong concerns about continuing anti-India activities of extremist elements in Canada" in his meeting with Trudeau at the G20 earlier this month.

Canada had also suspended negotiations for a free-trade agreement with India, and last week its trade minister cancelled a trip to the country planned for October.

The affair could complicate US government overtures to India, which have seen both countries steadily upgrade their relations over recent years.

Washington views New Delhi as a key ally in countering Chinese influence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 1

patient is on board, the ATC tower informed the Duty Security Officer (DSO) to send a doctor to the assigned boarding bridge-4 for BG350 flight on an urgent basis. The DSO immediately informed the duty doctor in charge of the airport's health wing to go to boarding bridge-4 on an emergency basis.

"(C) The duty doctor rushed to boarding bridge-4 after receiving the news. As flight BG350 landed at 3:36am, the duty doctor entered the aircraft immediately. After examining the passenger -- Md Shahjalal -- in various ways, the duty doctor informed that the passenger is dead. The duty doctor spoke to the aircrew and found out that approximately two hours before landing of the flight, the passenger next to him (Shahjalal's close relative) informed the aircrew that Shahjalal is feeling unwell. The aircrew immediately gave CPR, oxygen to the passenger and checked him with a pulse oximeter as he was unresponsive, but the passenger's pulse and blood pressure were not detected. The passenger's close relative who accompanied him in the flight said that he was seriously ill for the last three to four months. The body was handed over to his family after the death certificate was issued by the duty doctor."

The rejoinder also said, "As a result of the published news, image of Caab as well as the country has been damaged in the international arena and has created confusion among passengers and the general public."

OUR REPLY

Before entering Bangladeshi airspace, BG350 communicated with Dhaka ATC and informed that there was a seriously sick passenger onboard, and that they would require a doctor and ambulance upon landing.

According to the Caab statement, BG350 contacted at 3:15am and landed at 3:36am, which implies the plane landed just 16 minutes after declaring emergency.

According to our sources, the cockpit crew of the Biman flight notified ATC about the sick passenger

around 3:00am, which means the ATC had plenty of time to get things sorted on the ground for the arriving flight.

Following a declaration of a medical emergency by a plane, it gets priority over all scheduled traffic and a doctor is supposed board the plane as soon as it reaches the gate. Passengers are not supposed to disembark until the patient is taken care of and taken off the plane.

But these were not done. A cargo plane was on the runway which could have been directed to vacate the runway. Flight EY230 should have been asked to hold, instead of BG350.

The Caab statement says, EY230 landed three minutes before BG350. By observing Flightradar24, it can be seen that BG350 was put on hold for landing and made to fly in circle at least once.

The rejoinder claimed that a doctor boarded the plane immediately after it reached the gate but according to our sources the plane reached the gate at 3:46am and the doctor arrived at 4:15am, almost half an hour later.

HSIA did not respond to the medical emergency declared by the cockpit crew in accordance with international standards and standard operating procedure for such cases.

We stand by our report.

US pre-polls

FROM PAGE 1

political parties, citizen observers, civil society and media organisations, and foreign diplomatic missions.

At the end of the visit, the delegation will issue a public statement outlining the positive trends, as well as areas of concern and offering practical recommendations.

The team is also likely to hold a series of briefings and consultations with relevant international stakeholders, policymakers in Washington DC supporting electoral integrity in Bangladesh.

The primary role of the mission is to provide independent and impartial information on election preparation and the electoral context, Bryan said.

New chief justice to take oath on Sept 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Obaidul Hassan will take oath as 24th chief justice on September 26.



President Mohammed Shahabuddin will administer the oath to him at Bangabhaban, Supreme Court Registrar General Md Golam Rabbani told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will not be present at the new chief justice's oath taking ceremony as she will be in abroad at that time.

Hassan, a senior judge of the Appellate Division, has been appointed as the chief justice on September 12. Current Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique will retire on September 25.

The appointment will come into effect from the day he takes oath of office.



This is actually a part of the Buriganga! One of the pillars, set up to mark the area of the river, now remains inside a rickshaw garage in Koylar Ghat area of the capital's Kamrangirchar. Even after installation of boundary pillars, acres of land along its two banks have been encroached and filled up. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'FRAMING' 2 IN FALSE CASE

Take action against nine DB men

Court asks IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court recently wrote to the inspector general of police, seeking actions against nine police officials of the Detective Branch who allegedly framed two men in a false case over possession of fake notes.

The IGP was asked to take departmental actions against the nine and inform the court within three months, read the letter, signed by Judge Tahsin Iftakhar of a Metropolitan Special Tribunal in Dhaka, dated September 13.

Belal Uddin, additional DIG (discipline and professional standard wing) at Police Headquarters, confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday that the PHQ has received the letter.

The nine are -- Sub-Inspector Dewan Uzzal Hossain, Inspector Tapan Kumar Dhali, Assistant Sub-inspector Ziaur Rahman, ASI Sohel Mahmud, ASI Abul Bashir, ASI Mominul Haque, ASI Nazmul Haque Prodhan, and constables Nayan Kumar and Golam Sarwar.

On January 24, the court of Judge Tahsin Iftakhar acquitted Hasan Majumdar, manager of a city hotel, and Sohel Rana, chef of the hotel, as charges brought against them could not be proved beyond doubt, according to the court documents.

The two were fighting a legal battle for six years to clear their names alleging that they were framed by the DB officials.

During a raid at Hotel Bondhu in the capital's Paltan on November 6, 2016, plainclothes detectives detained the two. The event was recorded in the hotel's security camera.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

The agonising wait of a daughter

Man on life support after being hit by stray bullet

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Bhuban Chandra Shil made a video call to his wife before leaving his office on Monday night, wishing to see their only daughter's face, but failed to do so as she was asleep.

Bhuban, a 55-year-old lawyer, lived in the capital for work, while his family stayed back in Noakhali's Maizdi.

Now, the shell-shocked daughter, Bhumika Chandra Shil, sits alongside her mother, Ratna Rani Shil, on a hospital staircase, waiting for her father to regain consciousness so that he can see her face once more.

Bhuban, who lived alone in a hostel in Motijheel's Arambagh area, was shot on his way back home from work that night.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bhumika with her father Bhuban who is currently on life support at a city hospital.

A stray bullet hit his head when he was passing the Tejgaon industrial area on a motorbike.

Criminals fired at and stabbed Tariq Sayeed Mamun, 54, a suspect in the film actor Sohel Chowdhury murder case, and one of their bullets hit Bhuban, according to police.

He was immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Bhuban was shifted to Dhanmondi Popular

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Legalise illegal high-rises, but with fines

JS body tells Rajuk



We asked Rajuk to legalise those [illegal] buildings. Rajuk can impose a specific amount of fine on the owners per square foot.

MOSHARRAF HOSSAIN
Chief of parliamentary watchdog

RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary standing committee on Housing and Public Works Ministry yesterday asked Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha to legalise the high-rise buildings that were constructed unlawfully and without monitoring.

The committee instructed Rajuk to examine if the foundations and designs of such buildings are in alignment with their height and legalise them after imposing a fine.

Many owners have raised the height of their buildings in the capital unlawfully. However, the authorities are unable to demolish these structures as people are already residing there.

Meanwhile, the people residing in those units have to live in uncertainty, said Mosharraf Hossain, an Awami League MP and chief of the parliamentary watchdog. "This is why we asked Rajuk to legalise those buildings. Rajuk can impose a specific amount of fine on the owners per square foot," he said.

According to meeting sources, the engineers of such structures will

be subjected to specific financial penalties as well.

The meeting also discussed the progress and future of ongoing projects under public works department; Rajuk; National Housing Authority; Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, and Gazipur development authorities; Housing and Building Research Institute, and directorates of urban development and architecture.

The overall activities of the Directorate of Government Accommodation were also discussed in the meeting.

The committee recommended taking necessary actions to hand over excavated canals to the Chattogram City Corporation for maintenance under the project, "Re-excavation, expansion, renovation and development of canals for waterlogging in Chattogram city".

Committee members Narayan Chandra Chanda, Bazlul Haque Haroon, Monowar Hossain Chowdhury, Anwarul Ashraf Khan, Syeda Zohora Alauddin and Farida Khanam attended the meeting.

US ready to extend support for 'free, fair, peaceful' polls

Says Peter Haas

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas yesterday said they are prepared to extend support to the declared goal of a "free, fair, and peaceful" election in Bangladesh.

He said their goal is not to interfere in the election but to support the goal that allows people to freely choose who they want to run the country.

"We speak out frequently in support of the goal," said Haas while speaking at Ambassador Talk Series on the occasion of International Day of Peace.

The US ambassador also said it is the collective responsibility of the entire world to make sure that conditions are in place in Myanmar so that the Rohingyas can return to their homeland with dignity.

He said the Rohingyas should not be punished for the action taken by Myanmar and they should be treated well without any discrimination.

Ambassador Haas laid emphasis on constant pressure on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

He was a mentor for journalists

Speakers on Bazlur Rahman; 3 get memorial award

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said the "Journalist Bazlur Rahman Memorial Award" will inspire journalists to bring the true history of the country's independence to light.

She made the remark while addressing the award ceremony as the chief guest. The event was held at the auditorium of the Liberation War Museum.

Three journalists -- two from the print media and another from the electronic media -- were awarded for best reporting on issues relating to



Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury addressing the "Journalist Bazlur Rahman Memorial Award" event yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

the Liberation War.

In the print media category, Amirul Rajiv and Rajib Nur were awarded for their articles published in The Daily Star and Samakal respectively. Habib Rahman of Jamuna TV was awarded in the electronic media category.

"Winning this award will inspire journalists. I appreciate their brilliant work. Their achievements will inspire our new generation to learn the real history of our Liberation War," said the Speaker.

Journalists should write more reports highlighting the significant events of the war.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Invest in Bangladesh

Momen urges Netherlands

BSS, New York

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has urged the Netherlands to invest in different sectors in Bangladesh as currently Dhaka ensures a high return against Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

He made the appeal at a meeting with the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Liesje Schreinemacher on Wednesday on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly in New York, according to a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

During the meeting, the two ministers discussed existing multidimensional cooperation between Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

They also discussed to further expand the existing arena of bilateral ties and trade relations between the two countries.

RIGHTS SITUATION

288 SC lawyers protest resolution of European Parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two hundred and eighty-eight lawyers of the Supreme Court in a statement have strongly protested the European Parliament's resolution on the human rights situation in Bangladesh, particularly in the case of Odhikar's Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

"We are deeply concerned with the resolution (of the European Parliament) as it is a blatant interference with the judicial system of an independent and sovereign country, which is unexpected and unwanted," the lawyers said in the statement.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun, a senior lawyer and convener of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad, signed the statement on Tuesday.

"The judiciary of Bangladesh has been working independently since November 1, 2007. The judiciary has no scope to be influenced by any authority after it has been separated from the executive. The remark made by the European Parliament through its September 14 resolution about the judiciary of Bangladesh is defamatory to our great independence and sovereignty..."

In the statement, they hoped that the European Parliament will withdraw its resolution. The SC lawyers, whose names were mentioned include Syed Rezaur Rahman, Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir, Dr Bashir Ahmed, Md Abdun Nur Dulal, Md Layekuzzaman Mollah, Md Motaheer Hossain Sazu, Azhar Ullah Bhuiyan, Jesmin Sultana, Md Ozi Ullah, Momtazuddin Mehedi, Shah Monjurul Hoque and ABM Noor-A-Alam Uzzal.



OPULENCE OF ORCHIDS... Flowers in bloom at the two-day Annual Orchid Show (September 22-23) organised by Bangladesh Orchid Society. The event is being held at Nasheman House CENC 2, Road 95, Gulshan 2.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Applications open for 7th Joy Bangla Youth Award

BSS, Dhaka

Application process for the seventh edition of the Joy Bangla Youth Award has begun.

According to the Facebook page of Young Bangla, launched on September 15, the deadline for youth led organisations to register for the award will continue till October 10.

Launched in 2015, under the platform Young Bangla, the six editions of the award saw as many as 153 youth led organisations honoured and recognised.

Date of the award event will be announced later.

Asif finds

FROM PAGE 5

“Many unemployed people are coming to me to learn how to produce the fruit. I have planned to produce the fruit on additional land as it is profitable. It is true that the market demand is still low, but it is gradually increasing. I am selling the fruit at local markets and also online,” he said.

Rakibul Alam, a local youth, said, “I learnt from Asif how to grow the plants. The fruit holds good prospect to become popular.”

“I bought two pieces of this new fruit from Asif. It is very delicious and many are crowding to visit his farm,” said Nasir Uddin, a local.

Azizur Rahman, deputy director of DAE in Narsingdi, said, “Like Asif, many are eager to learn about producing these fruits. Asif is a bright example for people of this area and his initiatives will surely find success.”

**APT. TO-LET
AT GULSHAN NORTH**

Full Furnished, 3 Bed, 4 Bath, 1 Family Room, Spacious Living-Cum-Dining at Road # 76, House # 20, Apt.# B-3, Gulshan-2.
For Foreigners Only

Contact:
01714002200



A 12-year-old male hippopotamus arrived at Chattogram zoo yesterday. He was sent from Dhaka zoo under an exchange programme and a female one from the same zoo will join him next week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

The agonising wait of a daughter

FROM PAGE 3

Hospital later that night, where he has been on life support for the past three days. During a visit to Popular Hospital yesterday afternoon, this correspondent saw Ratna and her recently SSC-passed daughter Bhumika sitting on the stairs, looking downhearted and hopeless.

Ratna, a high school teacher, is unsure whether her husband will be able to regain consciousness, and the doctors have given them no hope.

“Maybe there is no one as unfortunate as my husband. He was just passing by, and suddenly, he was shot in the head. Even the doctors cannot say if he will survive,” said Ratna while tears rolled down her face.

Bhuban worked as a legal consultant for Gumti Textiles Limited, a company with its office in Gulshan.

Plot for Sale

A plot on Sonargaon Janapath commercial road at Uttara Model Town is on sale. Further details will be shared in face to face meeting with potential buyers only. Interested real buyers are requested to **contact: 01841595708**. No broker or media will be entertained.

D-122

This correspondent tried to speak to Bhumika. However, she couldn't utter a word as she was still in shock. She just kept on praying for her father's recovery.

Despite assurances from Bhuban's employer that the expenses of his treatment would be covered, his family members are struggling to meet his highly expensive medical bills.

Ratna's brother, Tapas Majumdar, who has constantly been in touch with the doctors, said over Tk 50,000 is being spent daily to keep Bhuban on life support.

Stating that his brother-in-law has no savings, Tapas said, “We are currently paying the hospital bills by borrowing, but I don't see any possibility of getting a loan from anyone in the coming days. I'm not sure how we'll continue his treatment.”

Ratna expressed her

Take action against

FROM PAGE 3

A sub-inspector of the DB then filed a case against them with Motijheel Police Station under the Special Powers Act.

However, the first information report, prepared by the detectives, depicted a completely different story.

According to the FIR, the DB arrested the duo in the Fakirapool area around 4:15pm on November 6, 2016, while they were fleeing with fake bank notes worth Tk 25 lakh.

Hasan, however, alleged that the false FIR was written because he refused to give the detectives Tk 3 lakh in bribe during the raid.

The next year, Sub-Inspector Dewan Uzzal Hossain, one of the officers who conducted the raid and also the investigation officer of the case, pressed charges against Hasan and Sohel.

Acquitted accused

FROM PAGE 5

Later, the High Court sent the case proceedings against Saiful Islam alias Bilai Saiful to another trial court for retrial.

Ghulam Rabbani, the then managing director of KEPZ and a vital prosecution witness on both the historic Bangabandhu murder case and jail killing case, was shot by armed criminals at

Muradpur in Chattogram on April 11, 2004.

Rabbani died at a hospital in Bangkok on April 24, 2004. The case was then turned into a murder case.

The convicts in 2005 filed appeals with the HC challenging the lower court verdict. The government also filed two revision appeals with the HC in 2005.

Ex-cop gets life term

FROM PAGE 5

said Kafil Uddin, the court bench assistant.

On the charge of attempting to rape, he was given a 10-year jail term. He was also fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which, he has to suffer six more months in jail.

According to the case, Mizan forcibly picked up the girl and one of her friends in a car while they were visiting the city's Foy's Lake on July 12, 2011.

Later, he took them to a Chawkbazar hotel. After

confining her friend to a room, Mizan tried to rape the girl.

Sensing something was wrong, hotel staffers informed law enforcers, who saved the girls.

Following the incident, the girl's father filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station. During the incident, Mizan was in Chittagong on a five-day leave to testify in a case.

On April 30, 2023, a Chattogram court rejected his bail petition and sent him to jail.

Girl Shine

FROM PAGE 5

knowledge and skills to identify different forms of GBV and access support services when needed.

“My marriage was arranged with a boy from a well-off family just before my SSC exam. But I raised my voice against it, and I got the support of my teachers too,” said Meher Afroz, a student who regularly attends sessions conducted by Girl Shine.

Many others, like Meher, have also stood firm against early marriages in their respective communities.

The parents appreciate this programme as many of them believe it will help develop laidback regions like Ramu, mentioned Shamsher Uddin Mustafa,

project coordinator of YPSA.

“We've observed a reduction in domestic violence, a better understanding of gender equality, and more moral support from male caregivers once their daughters began attending our sessions,” said Rebecca Oketcho, deputy director (programmes) of IRC.

Umme Suraya Amin, upazila women's affairs officer, said, “After all, we all want to ensure that the girls are living the life they deserve and playing pivotal roles in advancing our societies towards sustainability.”

(Names of the girls have been changed for their protection)

US ready to extend

FROM PAGE 3

Myanmar, noting that the solution to the crisis unfortunately is not so easy.

He said they are also exploring the option of resettlement, but it offers very limited opportunity as it is meant for only the most vulnerable people.

The ambassador also highlighted the importance of holding people responsible for the genocide.

He appreciated Bangladesh's generosity in providing shelter to the Rohingyas; otherwise, he thinks the situation would have been far worse.

Eight killed in road

FROM PAGE 5

and a human hauler in Puskunir Par area under Shibganj upazila yesterday.

Both the victims — Khalesa Begum, 70, from Barik Bazar village, and Toton Horidas, 35, from Selinabad in Shibganj — were in the auto-rickshaw.

In Thakurgaon, a girl lost her life when an easy bike hit her while she was crossing a road in Rupganj village, Baliadangi upazila, on Wednesday afternoon.

Rafia Akhter, 6, daughter of Shahjahan Ali from the same village, died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Siraganj, a rickshaw-puller died and two others sustained injuries

as a truck collided with their three-wheeler on the Siraganj-Kazipur road in the Shahangasa bridge area, under Sadar upazila, yesterday.

Badsha Alom, 40, from Bogura died on the spot. The injured were admitted to Siraganj General Hospital.

Five hurt in BCL infighting at CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least five activists of Chhatra League were injured when two compartment-based BCL groups of the Chittagong University shuttle train clashed on the campus yesterday.

The groups, CFC, led by CU BCL vice president Sadaf Khan, and Sixty-Nine, led by CU BCL general secretary Iqbal Hossain Tipu, locked in clashes in front of Shah Jalal Hall, said witnesses.

Sadaf told reporters, “An activist of Sixty-Nine attacked an activist of our group over a trifle matter. Then, a clash broke out between the two sides. The accused earlier beat up a leader of our group.”

Tipu said, “We are trying to solve this matter.”

Contacted, Assistant Proctor Aruf Barua said, “We've called a meeting with senior leaders from both the groups regarding the incident,” he added.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avoid further violence.

He was a mentor

FROM PAGE 3

They should also write about the contribution of women to our independence, she added.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique presided over the programme. He said Bazlur Rahman was a mentor for journalists. He tried to uncover the reality of society through work, he added.

In 2008, the Liberation War Museum initiated the Journalist Bazlur Rahman Memorial Award, sponsored by the family and friends of the renowned journalist.

Rahman, who hails from Mymensingh, was conferred with Swadhinata Padak, Bangladesh's highest civilian honour, posthumously for his contribution to journalism in 2012.

He was the editor of

Daily Sangbad and the founder editor of the weekly Ekota, a mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

The veteran journalist participated in the Liberation War and also edited a magazine titled “Muktijuddha” during the period.

He was also the chairman of the country's reputed children's organisation — Khelaghar.

Among others, Liberation War Museum Trustee Dr Sarwar Ali and former Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor spoke.

Matia Chowdhury, Bazlur Rahman's wife and chair of parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, were also present.



প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
Fax: 88-02-55167810
E-mail: vcoffice@du.ac.bd, registrar@du.ac.bd
টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি (উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি)


মেমো নং: ৫৮৭(২)/প্রকৌঃ তারিখ: ২১/০৯/২০২৩ইং

ক্রঃ নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার বন্ধ বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
১।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শিল্পকলা ইতিহাস বিভাগ ভবনের বৈদ্যুতিক মেইন ক্যাবল লাইন পরিবর্তনসহ ভবনের বৈদ্যুতিক সংস্কার কাজ।	১০/১০/২০২৩ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	২১/১০/২০২৩ সময়- ২.০০টা	১১/১০/২০ইং সময়- ৩.০০টা	প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, ঢাকাবিঃ।
২।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সার পি.জে হাটপ ইন্টারন্যাশনাল হলের ২০টি কক্ষের বৈদ্যুতিক মেয়ামত ও সংস্কারকরণ কাজের প্রয়োজনীয় মালামাল সরবরাহসহ বৈদ্যুতিক ওয়ারিং কাজ।	১০/১০/২০২৩ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	২১/১০/২০২৩ সময়- ২.০০টা	১১/১০/২০ইং সময়- ৩.০০টা	প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, ঢাকাবিঃ।

উল্লেখিত কাজের সিডিউল মূল্য ১নং টা-৩,০০০/- টাকা (অসেরতথ্যে) জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি. শাখায় একাউন্ট নং- ৩৬০০০৩৯২ তে জমা দিয়া উল্লেখিত অফিস সমূহ হইতে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

এ কে এম আবু মুহা চৌধুরী
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী-বিদ্যুৎ, জোন-২
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-১৪৫৮



Office of the Bogura Paurashava
Phone No. 02589902705, E-mail: bograpaurashava@yahoo.com
Web: www.bograpaurashavabd.org
Memo No. Bog-Pou/Xen/2023-2024/322 Date: 21/09/2023

Invitation for Tenders
e-Tender (OTM) Notice No. 06/2023-2024
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the below schemes/Packages:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Scheme name	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	877567	Bog-Pou/ADP/23-24/58	Development of Altafunnesa Playground by Sand at Ward No-07 under Bogura Paurashava, Bogura.	02-Oct-2023 16:00	03-Oct-2023 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required.

The fee for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 16.00 on 02-Oct-2023. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

S. M Shafiqul Islam
Executive Engineer
Bogura Paurashava, Bogura

GD-1453



প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর অফিস
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
Fax: 88-02-55167810
E-mail: vcoffice@du.ac.bd, registrar@du.ac.bd
টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি (উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি)


মেমো নং: ৫৮৬(২)-৮/প্রকৌঃ তারিখ: ২১/০৯/২০২৩ইং

ক্রঃ নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার বন্ধ বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
১।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন স্থানে স্থাপিত বিভিন্ন শক্তির পাশ্প মটর চালানোর কাজে ব্যবহৃত মোটর কন্ট্রোল প্যানেল নষ্ট হয়ে গেলে তাত্ক্ষনিক পরিবর্তন কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য ১৩টি ওয়াটার পিউরিফায়ার সরবরাহ।	১১/১০/২০২৩ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১২/১০/২০২৩ সময়-২.০০টা	১২/১০/২০ইং সময়-৩.০০ টা	প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, ঢাকাবিঃ।
২।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ ভবনের বিভিন্ন ফ্লোরে ব্যবহারের জন্য ১৩টি ওয়াটার পিউরিফায়ার সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন কাজ।	১১/১০/২০২৩ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১২/১০/২০২৩ সময়-২.০০টা	১২/১০/২০ইং সময়-৩.০০ টা	প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, ঢাকাবিঃ।

উল্লেখিত কাজের সিডিউল মূল্য ১নং টা-৩,০০০/- ও ২নং টা-২,০০০/- টাকা (অসেরতথ্যে) জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি. শাখায় একাউন্ট নং: ৩৬০০০৩৯২ তে জমা দিয়া উল্লেখিত অফিস সমূহ হইতে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

এ কে এম আবু মুহা চৌধুরী
তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী-বিদ্যুৎ, জোন-২
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-১৪৫৭




Office of the Chief Engineer
University of Dhaka
Fax: 88-02-55167810
E-mail: vcoffice@du.ac.bd, registrar@du.ac.bd
Invitation for Online Tender (Open Tendering Method)

Memo No. 584(2)-14 Engg. Dated: 21/09/2023

1	Name of work	Supplying of 1 No. 40 HP & 2 Nos. 60 HP Sub-Mersible Pump Motor Set for 10 Nos. different Deep tube well of University of Dhaka.
2	Tender schedule price	5,500.00
3	Tender closing date & time	09/10/2023 Time: up to 12.00 Noon.
4	Tender opening date & time	09/10/2023 Time:12.30pm
5	Tender opening place	e-Tender Room, 1st Floor, Administrative Bldg. University of Dhaka.
6	Tender published on website	http://e-tender.univdhaka.edu

Akm Abu Musa Chowdhury
Superintending Engineer, Elec, Zone-2
University of Dhaka

GD-1456



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science & Technology University
Office of the Director
Planning, Development & Works
www.director.pdw@bsmrstu.edu.bd

Ref. No: BSMRSTU/R/PD&W/R/2023-24/861 Date-21/09/2023

e-Tender Notice


Sl. no	Tender Id	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	873922	Different Type of Tyre Purchases In BSMRSTU Campus	04-10-2023 Time 17.00	05-10-2023 Time 14.00	05-10-2023 Time 14.00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is require. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Tuhin Mahamud
Deputy Director
Planning, Development & Works.
BSMRSTU, Gopalganj-8100.

GD- 1461

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 22



Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-30 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two held over murder of trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narayanganj

Police yesterday arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the murder of a trader in Narayanganj's Siddhirganj on Tuesday.

Following tip offs, police teams raided Mizmizi and Al-Amin Nagar areas, and arrested Jubayer Hossain, 22 and Md Mridul, 20.

Both the arrestees are residents of Mizmizi Batanpara area, said SP Golam Mostofa Russel of Narayanganj district police at a press briefing.

The arrestees are accused in several other cases. A motorcycle used in the incident was also recovered from their possession, he added.

On Tuesday evening, Akkas Shikder, a 45-year-old vegetable trader of Mizmizi, was stabbed to death by four muggers on his way to a market in the capitol's Jatrabari.

"We are now trying to locate the two others involved in the crime," the SP said.

Eight killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed and two persons injured in road accidents during the last two days, according to reports from our local correspondents.

In Gazipur, a police officer died when a speeding pickup hit him in Kaliakair upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased, identified as Jamal Uddin, 56, served as a sub-inspector in the traffic division of the district police.

Md Zubair, inspector (operation) of Kaliakair Police Station, said Jamal was performing his duties in the Palli Bidyut area on the Dhaka-Tangail highway when the pickup hit him from behind, around 7:30am.

He was declared dead at Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar.

In Narayanganj, Bachchu Mia, a 55-year-old rickshaw-puller, died when a Dhaka-bound truck crashed into his three-wheeler, after hitting a road divider on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the Signboard area yesterday.

The accident occurred after the truck overturned as the driver lost control over the vehicle, said Inspector Md Shorfuiddin of Shimrail Police Outpost under Kanchpur Highway Police Station.

On Wednesday night, a Chattogram-bound truck ran over a woman, approximately 23 years old, and a 30-year-old man, while they were crossing the highway in the same area, according to witnesses.

The accident occurred around 10:00pm. The identities of the victims could not be known immediately. Police seized both the trucks but the drivers managed to flee.

In Chapainawabganj, two persons were killed in a head-on collision between a CNG-run auto-rickshaw

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Workers unload sand from a cargo docked at the bank of the Kirtonkhola in Barishal city's Rupatoli area yesterday. They usually make around Tk 700-800 per day for eight hours of work starting at 8:00am.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Ex-cop gets life term in attempted rape case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a former police officer to life term imprisonment in a case filed for attempting to rape a schoolgirl after abduction in 2011.

The convict -- Mizanur Rahman -- was the inspector of Kasba Police Station in Brahmanbaria. He was suspended after the case was filed.

Judge Ferdous Ara of Chattogram Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 delivered the judgement.

The court sentenced him to life term imprisonment on the abduction charge; it also fined him Tk 2 lakh, in default of which, he has to suffer one more year in jail.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

RAMU, CHAKARIA UPAZILAS IN COX'S BAZAR

Girl Shine: committed to preventing early marriage

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Jebunnessa*, a 15-year-old, has been admitted to the Severe Acute Malnutrition unit at Ramu Upazila Health Complex with her child, Afsan, a ten-month-old boy suffering from the same medical condition.

"My son had frequent fevers and diarrhoea, and his growth was very limited, which worried me. I also had difficulty breastfeeding him because I was malnourished myself," said the mother, who has been undergoing treatment since November last year.

Jebunnessa is not the only adolescent mother admitted to this unit. Many others, including Asma*, Firoza*, Sufia*, and Rani* and their children, are also being treated at the unit as they battle different forms of malnutrition.

According to Dr Tahmid Ashraf of the hospital, the aforementioned conditions are direct consequences of early marriages.

"Among the children admitted here, 10 to

12 percent are suffering from malnutrition, and each of their mothers was married off before they reached adulthood," he said.

Aside from the health risks and mortality, child marriage causes long-term

"We've observed a reduction in domestic violence, a better understanding of gender equality, and more moral support from male caregivers once their daughters began attending our sessions."

REBECCA OKETCHO

Deputy director (programmes) of IRC

consequences in the lives of the mothers. Early marriages not only cause early pregnancy and neonatal deaths due to malnutrition, but also contribute to increasing school dropout rates, limiting women's chances of becoming

economically independent, say experts.

Despite the government targeting to stop marriages of girls under 15 and reducing early marriages of those aged 15-18 by one-third by 2021 with the National Action Plan, around 72 percent of girls in Ramu are subjected to early marriage, the third highest among Cox's Bazar upazilas, says a study conducted in the same year.

Girl Shine, a USAID-funded programme, coordinated by International Rescue Committee in collaboration with Young Power in Social Action, began its journey in July 2022 with the goal of preventing early marriage.

The initiative aims to empower 600 adolescent girls and their caregivers in Cox's Bazar's Ramu and Chakaria through awareness and skills development.

The project plays a crucial role in enhancing the prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), by providing girls with the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

GHULAM RABBANI KILLING Acquitted accused gets life term following retrial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing Commodore Ghulam Rabbani, an aide-de-camp of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 2004.

Convict Saiful Islam alias Bilai Saiful was acquitted of the murder charge in the first trial but he was found guilty in the re-trial, said court sources.

Chattogram Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Md Robiul Alam delivered the verdict examining all the records and evidence, said public prosecutor Ashok Kumar Das.

During the verdict delivery, the accused was present at the court.

Earlier three convicts -- former general manager of Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) Abu Naser Chowdhury, and former chief security officer Humayun Kabir Chowdhury, and one Md Selim -- were given life term imprisonment in 2014.

In April, 2005, Naser and Kabir were sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a Chattogram court. The court had acquitted Saiful of the charges.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Survey of Bangladesh
Surveyor General's Office
Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
Phone: 08-02-8070080, Fax: 08-02-8170078
www.sob.gov.bd : info @ sob.gov.bd

No 23.08.0000.006.38.002.17-1579 Date: 21 September 2023

e-Tender Notice No.2/2023-24

e-Tender is invited in the Notional e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement as follows:

SL	Tender/Proposal ID	Description	Tender/Proposal Document Last selling/Downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
1.	875729	e-GP-38: Procurement of Cleaning Goods (Soap, Washing Powder, Toilet Tissue, Toilet Cleaner, Hand wash etc)	08-10-2023 16:00	09-10-2023 12:00

This is an online Tender, Where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the Banks registered in the e-GP System. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Mohammad Masudur Rahman)
Deputy Director (Admin.) (A.D.)
For: Surveyor General of Bangladesh

GD- 1460

Asif finds success in muskmelon cultivation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A youth in Narsingdi has found success in commercial cultivation of muskmelon, also known as "Sammam", an exotic fruit which originated in the deserts of East Africa and Middle East.

With his success, Ashraful Islam Asif of Nehab area in Panchdhona union has also inspired others to follow in his path.

Closely related to rockmelon or cantaloupe of Mediterranean region, muskmelon grows well in warm climates, usually during the dry season between April and June. Growers in Bangladesh, however, have successfully cultivated the fruit all year round.



Muskmelon grows between 500 grammes to 3.5 kilograms each, and has a yellowish exterior and a fleshy interior with an orange hue.

The fruit is rich in Beta-carotene, Folic Acid, Magnesium, Zinc, Copper, Vitamin-C and many other nutrients. It is an ideal fruit for health, said Mahmudul Kabir Bashir Komol, a resident medical officer at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Recently visiting Ashraful's plantation, this correspondent saw a good number of the yellow-coloured fruit hanging from scaffolding made of bamboo and nylon yarn.

"I learnt about cultivating the fruit from social media and invested Tk 35,000 for seeds, labourer, scaffolding, cow dung and insecticide. After the harvest, I have managed to sell the fruits at threefold profit. I have just planted 200 saplings this season. The plants produce a lot of flowers, but we have to cut off most of them and keep only two to three pieces to have a good harvest," Ashraful said.

Although the fruit is new in the local market, it is fetching good responses from customers. Each fruit is selling for Tk 180 to Tk 200 per kg, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT)

University of Dhaka
Dhaka-1000
Date: ০৬ আশ্বিন ১৪৩০
21 September 2023

Open Tender Method (OTM)

SL No	Name of Supply	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time	Place where detailed Information will be found
01	Ref. No.ISRT/OTM/23/691 "Supply of 12 th Generation Desktop Computer"	11-10-2023 Time: 10.30am	11-10-2023 Time: 10.40am	(https://www.isrt.ac.bd/) or Notice board at the ISRT, University of Dhaka

Director
Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT)
University of Dhaka

GD- 1455

প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
"খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অবকাঠামো ও প্রকৌশলিক কার্যক্রম সম্প্রসারণ" প্রকল্প।
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ।

Office of The Project Director
"Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of Khulna University of Engineering & Technology"
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203, Bangladesh.

Administrative Building (3rd Floor), Tel: (PABX) +88041-769468-75 Ext. 8248; Fax: +88041-774403; Email: pd-eiaa@kuet.ac.bd

Memo No.: KUET/EIAA/2023/09/1414 Date: 21/09/2023

E-Tender Notice

E-Tender will be invited in the National e-Gp System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Ref./Package No.	Description	Online Tender Notice Publication date	Online Tender Closing date
01	855588	KUET/EIAA/2023-2024/DW-1/GBV2	Construction of Green Boundary Wall at Out Side (South) and Inside of KUET (Phase-2)	21-September-2023	12-October-2023

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp Portal and no online/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and from e-Gp help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain)
Project Director
Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic Activities of KUET
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology
Khulna-9203.

GD- 1454

I would hack everyone’s accounts to make them watch ‘ANTARJAL’

Siam

I got to interact with Totto during the shoot for nearly two and a half months and our bond shines through, in the film. However, credit must also go to our director, Dipankar da, who involved his own dog and guided him.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

After a long wait, *Antarjal* is finally gracing theatres today, and Siam Ahmed, portraying the enigmatic Lumin, is all set to unlock the cryptic codes to our hearts with his captivating charm and endearing friendship with his pet, Totto.

Siam is over the moon as *Antarjal* achieves a significant milestone by premiering in 150 cinema halls across America and Canada, alongside 35 theatres in Bangladesh.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actor opens up about his encounter with the real-life Lumin and much more.

‘Antarjal’ will be releasing in 150 international halls. How excited are you?

For Bangladeshis living abroad, the prospect of watching local films on the big screen is always eagerly anticipated. This is a wonderful opportunity for expatriates to enjoy *Antarjal*, as they wouldn’t have to wait for reviews before catching it in their nearest theatres.



Poster of ‘Antarjal’

L u m i n ’ s sole family member is his pet Totto. What makes their bond so special?

Not everyone is blessed with family members. For Lumin, his closest friend and confidant is his faithful pet, Totto, who refuses to eat unless he returns home. Their connection is more than a conventional master-pet relationship.

I got to interact with Totto during the shoot for nearly two and a half months and our bond shines through, in the film. However, credit must also go to our director, Dipankar da, who involved his own dog and guided him through each scene. Nowadays, our cinemas don’t showcase scenes which cater to animal lovers. Through this film, we aim to relay the message that animals can be your best friends.

What was it like interacting with the real-life Lumin?

Initially, I had my doubts about him. We first met at a coffee shop, which he believed was the best spot for Wi-Fi. It took nearly an hour to understand his thoughts, as he was quite cautious about his privacy. But beneath the surface, he harboured dreams of reaching Nasa and then returning to Bangladesh to fulfill his other aspirations .

Once, I asked him several questions so that I could shape Lumin’s appearance. I inquired about his clothing choices and how he used to style his hair two-three years ago. He was curious about my questions, so, I explained the reason. He then checked his security and sent me 150 pictures of himself.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

He is quite an eccentric person . To this day, he texts me whenever he plans his next venture.

If you had the chance to hack anyone’s account, who would it be?

Ah, that’s an intriguing question! I had this idea for a promotional stunt where we would hack the social media accounts of ten specific individuals. Upon opening their accounts, they would see the message, ‘*Antarjal* coming to theatres on September 22.’ Unfortunately, my request was denied, but who knows what the future holds? We might just hack your account and make our presence known.

Amber Heard’s Hollywood comeback



Amber Heard, who recently faced a high-profile defamation lawsuit from her ex-husband Johnny Depp, is gearing up for her return to Hollywood with the release of the first trailer for *In the Fire*, a paranormal thriller, set in the 1890s. The film, described as a meditation on the extraordinary power of love, is set at the turn of the 20th century and features Heard as a strong-willed and independent woman.

Amber wrapped filming for the movie in March 2022, a few months before Depp secured a \$15 million defamation victory against her in a Virginia court.

Johnny Depp had sued Heard over her 2018 op-ed in The Washington Post, where she identified herself as a domestic abuse survivor.



Chris Evans hints at retirement from acting

The *Captain America* star doesn’t feel like returning to the set anytime soon, and the actor might have hinted at retirement from acting.

In a recent interview with GQ magazine, Chris Evans revealed that he has not filmed for any movie in 2023 and does not intend to return to sets, in the near future.

When asked if he would return for another Marvel film, Chris replied he would love to, but that he would ‘just maybe act a little bit less’ in the future.

NEWS

Climate fund stuck in Farmers Bank

FROM PAGE 1

with them in December last year. But they were yet to submit the plan.

“They were supposed to give us the total fund along with interest one year after the deposit,” said Naher, now the director general of the National Institute of Mass Communication.

Md Joynal Abedin, the incumbent managing director of the Trust, said the bank will inform them about their repayment plan after their board meeting.

“Once we are informed about their decision, our ministry will hold a meeting about the next course of action,” he said.

Faisal Ahsan, acting managing director of the bank, said they held the board meeting in July, but the payout plan was not on the agenda.

“We stick to our commitment that if the bank performs well, we will start paying back the dues,” he said.

Tarek Reaz Khan, who resigned as Padma Bank managing director on August 3, told The Daily Star earlier this year, “We sought 15 years to pay back the due. Recently, we paid Tk 5 crore. The payment will grow in line with the bank’s financial improvement.”

He said “a rumour-driven crisis” hit the bank recently, causing a fall of its deposits by Tk 187 crore in the 2022-23 fiscal year compared to the previous year.

In a special inspection in 2015,

Bangladesh Bank found gross violation of banking rules in disbursing loans by the Farmers Bank management. The central bank also found involvement of its former directors in sanctioning the loans. After the news hit headlines, people rushed to withdraw their deposits, crippling the bank’s ability to conduct its daily operations.

Ehsan Khasru, who was the managing director of the bank in 2016, did not return our requests for comments via phone and WhatsApp messages.

The sum was transferred to the bank when Kamal Uddin was environment secretary.

Contacted, Kamal, who is now heading the National Human Rights Commission, said they deposited the money with Farmers Bank as the bank offered the highest interest rate at the time.

“During my stint, I was happy receiving high interest which enabled the Trust to take up a number of projects. If we had declined the offer for highest interest, there would have been criticisms against us. The problem began after I left the ministry [in December 2016],” he said.

Preferring anonymity, Trust officials said that since 2018, they sent 14 letters and held several meetings with the bank to know the fate of their investment, but in reply they got nothing but mere assurances.

As per the Climate Change Trust Act-2010, the Trust can deposit 34 percent of its fund to various banks to earn interest so that it can fund projects aimed at creating resilience against climate change impact.

Since its inception in 2010, the Trust has received Tk 3,818 crore in government allocation till 2022, documents show.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said a proper investigation has long been overdue to explore on which ground and for whose benefit the climate fund money was invested in Farmers Bank.

“That the issue was a severe headache for not only the BCCT but also its parent ministry was amply evident when it was even discussed in parliament way back in 2018, though neither the fund nor the relevant ministries took any measures since to hold to account those responsible for this highly controversial investment when alternative credible options were not unavoidable,” he said.

“The fund and government have allowed themselves to be hostage to the scam-ridden bank and practically encouraged it to come up with this untrustworthy request for unprecedentedly long term grace, which is most likely to turn out to be a blatant design to close the matter by misappropriating the taxpayers’ money,” he added.

Convention on the Law of the Sea, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told a press briefing.

Momen said the rich countries are mainly responsible for carbon emissions, while the contribution of the developing countries is only 0.47 percent.

The foreign minister called upon the rich countries to fulfill their pledge to give \$100 billion every year to the climate fund.

“They should keep their promises,” he said.

The minister said Bangladesh has got a nominal amount of the money from the climate fund to overcome the loss and damage caused by the climate change.

Int’l watchdog puts Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

highlights five countries at risk of a sharp downturn in civic rights and freedoms.

This determination is based on data compiled by the international rights watchdog, which tracks the state of civic freedoms in 197 countries using input from research partners around the globe.

In addition to Bangladesh, the latest Watchlist includes Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, Senegal, and the United Arab Emirates.

“The harassment of human rights defenders and journalists, along with the repressive environment, has created a chilling effect in Bangladesh, leaving many fearful of speaking up. The international community must step up efforts to stand in solidarity with civil society, condemn these abuses, and

advocate for the opening up of civic and democratic space,” emphasised Benedict.

The statement noted that authorities have carried out mass arrests of BNP supporters participating in protests and have filed thousands of “fabricated” cases against them.

The rights group also criticised the Hasina-led government for escalating the harassment of human rights defenders, citing the jail sentences of rights activists Adilur Rahman Khan and Nasiruddin Elan for a ten-year-old report investigating extrajudicial killings.

The global rights watchdog stated that authorities have attempted to silence the media too by shutting down critical news outlets, prosecuting journalists under the draconian Digital Security Act, and

harassing and arbitrarily detaining journalists, as well as the families of journalists in exile.

It added that the new bill that passed in parliament to replace the Digital Security Act is equally repressive.

“We urge the government to immediately and unconditionally release the two human rights defenders from Odhikar, cease its harassment of activists and journalists, and ensure that all restrictive laws are revised, including the draft Cyber Security Act, in accordance with international laws and standards.”

These ongoing restrictions and attacks on civic space are inconsistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Bangladesh is a state party, the group noted.

Belt, Road Initiative consistent with Sonar Bangla dream

FROM PAGE 2

and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, learning from each other and mutual benefit. This spirit is a vivid image of China’s fine traditional culture, and it is also the core essence of today’s Belt and Road Initiative.

Over the last decade, the BRI has attracted the participation of more than three-quarters of countries and 32 international organisations worldwide, generated investments of about \$1 trillion, formed more than 3,000 cooperation projects, and lifted about 40 million people out of poverty, the ambassador said.

He said China has pledged \$40 billion for Bangladesh’s development under BRI.

Yao Wen said BRI can help increase Bangladesh’s real GDP by at least 2.1 percent and decrease extreme poverty by 1.3 percent.

The BRI also will generate additional 2.5-5.1 percent employment, he added.

Education Minister Dipu Moni and Prof Rashed Al Titumir of Dhaka University’s development studies department also spoke at the programme, among others.

Corrupt people, not AL, running the country

FROM PAGE 12

people’s voting rights, human rights, freedom of speech and press freedom.

“The incumbent government is trying to weaken the party [BNP] by jailing its leaders and activists by bringing false charges through the judiciary,” he said.

Urging the BNP activists to prepare a list of those who “stole votes” in the last two national polls in 2014 and 2018 and keep an eye on them in every village, Khosru said those who were involved in “vote rigging” must be identified.

“A list of those who stole votes should be prepared. It can include local government officials, Awami League leaders, members of law enforcement agencies and businesspeople.”

Meanwhile, BNP leaders and activists alleged that empty buses and trucks were parked at different points on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway to obstruct the convoy of the party men. Traffic police members also did not take any measures to keep the movement of traffic normal, they added.

Hundreds of BNP leaders and activists, carrying posters and banners, took position along the highway in different districts to welcome the convoy.

However, a lesser number of party men joined the Sylhet city rally compared to the Bhairab rally due to rain.

Referring to BNP’s one-point movement, BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said it was a “do or die” situation for the party.

Speaking at the Sylhet rally, Gayeshwar asked the party leaders and activists, “Will you observe hartals? Do we need to call hartals? Do we need to wage movement?”

The party men responded overwhelmingly in the affirmative.

Gayeshwar said the BNP has not enforced strikes yet, but the party hasn’t pledged that it will not call hartals again.

“Due to public demand, we will hold whatever programmes, including hartals and blockades, are needed to unseat the government,” he said.

Major economies should play due role

FROM PAGE 12

As a climate justice advocate, she said Bangladesh stands ready to align with any constructive move that advances the agenda.

She said they are working on Bangladesh’s second satellite, Bangabandhu II, as an Earth Observatory. “Bangladesh is willing to share its expertise with other vulnerable countries through South-South and triangular cooperation.”

Hasina mentioned that Bangladesh had reduced cyclone fatalities to single digits.

“We have one of the world’s largest community volunteer programmes comprising 65,000 coastal people.”

Bangladesh’s latest National Plan for Disaster Management has

adopted an integrated multi-hazard early warning approach, the premier said.

“We are using mobile technology to provide regular updates on weather forecasts.”

Thematic Ambassador of the Climate Vulnerable Forum Saima Wazed was present.

In another development, Hasina signed the Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction treaty, also known as the “Treaty of the High Seas”, to protect the world’s oceans and rivers from damage due to the fragile marine environment by overfishing and other human activities.

It was signed on Wednesday (New York time) under the United Nations

UNGA ADDRESS

Wage war on migrant trafficking

Says Italian PM

AFP, United Nations

Italy's prime minister on Wednesday urged the United Nations to launch a "global war without mercy" against migrant smugglers, after a surge of arrivals on the island of Lampedusa. Addressing the UN General Assembly, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said Italy was ready to lead efforts against the "slave traders of the third millennium." "Can an organization like this which reaffirms in its founding document the faith in the dignity and worth of human beings turn a blind eye to this tragedy?" she asked.

S Korea calls for UN to regulate AI

AFP, United Nations

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol yesterday warned world leaders about dangers of fake news and mishandling of artificial intelligence, calling for formation of a UN body to regulate the digital sphere. "If we fail to curb the spread of fake news resulting from the misuse of AI and digital technologies, our freedom will be at risk," Yoon told the assembly. "The market economy anchored in liberal democracy will be in peril, and our very future will be under threat," he added. Korea plans to host a global forum on AI, Yoon said, to discuss the creation of a regulating agency.

US must address nuke legacy

Says Marshall Islands

REUTERS, United Nations

The president of the Marshall Islands said on Wednesday his Pacific island nation was "cautiously optimistic" it could soon finalize a deal on future ties with the US, but repeated a call for Washington to address the legacy of massive nuclear testing in the 1940s and 50s. The Marshall Islands is one of three sparsely populated Pacific island nations covered by so-called Compacts of Free Association with the US. Under the deals, the US has responsibility for their defense, while gaining exclusive access to huge strategic swaths of Pacific.



Israeli security personnel inspect a car at the scene of what Israel's ambulance service says was an attempted ramming attack near Qalandia Checkpoint in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israel, Saudi Arabia see progress on ties

Iran accuses the kingdom of betraying the Palestinians through US-led effort

AFP, New York

Saudi Arabia and Israel voiced optimism Wednesday that they were moving closer to a historic normalization of ties as Iran -- their common foe -- accused the kingdom of betraying the Palestinians through the US-led effort.

US President Joe Biden is hoping to transform the Middle East -- and score an election-year diplomatic victory -- by securing recognition of the Jewish state by Saudi Arabia, the guardian of Islam's two holiest sites.

Meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Biden quipped that he had "Irish optimism" on securing a deal with Saudi Arabia.

"If you and I, 10 years ago, were talking about normalization with Saudi Arabia, I think we'd look at each other like, 'Who's been drinking what?'" Biden -- himself a teetotaler -- said of Israel and the strictly dry kingdom.

Netanyahu, who has had rocky relations with Biden, said he believed a deal was "within our reach" and credited him.

"I think that under your leadership, Mr. President, we can forge a historic peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia," Netanyahu said.

Biden has publicly criticized Netanyahu for overhauling Israel's judiciary, a step seen by domestic critics as undermining democracy, and alluded to the concerns again as he received him in New York rather than at the

White House.

Biden's relationship has been even worse with Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom the president once vowed to treat as a "pariah" over human rights.

US intelligence says the crown prince, known by his initials MBS, ordered a 2018 operation to kill and dismember journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a US resident.

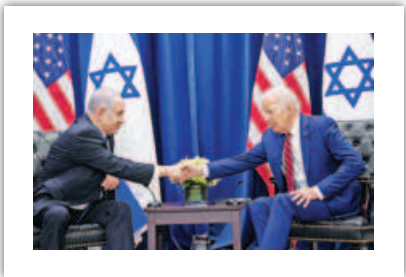
In an interview with Fox News, MBS said talks were moving forward with Israel, denying a media report that the process was suspended. "Every day we get closer," the prince said.

But he noted the kingdom was seeking more progress on ensuring the rights of the Palestinians, as Netanyahu's hard-right government continues to pursue controversial settlements in the occupied West Bank.

"For us, the Palestinian issue is very important. We need to solve that part," he said. "We need to ease the lives of the Palestinians." He also warned that Saudi Arabia was closely watching Iran, whose Shia clerical leaders are arch-foes both of the conservative Saudi kingdom and Israel.

Asked how the kingdom would react if Iran develops a nuclear weapon, MBS said, "If they get one, we have to get one."

Saudi Arabia has also been seeking security guarantees, including reportedly a treaty, with the United States in return for normalizing with Israel, the region's only nuclear weapons state -- even if an undeclared one.



Protesters affiliated to Nepal Teachers Association try to break through the police barricade during a protest against a plan to change the proposed School Education Bill that will empower the local authorities to transfer, recruit and define the teachers' terms of service instead of the federal government, near the parliament in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

INDIA'S MANIPUR

Many injured as protesters clash with police

NDTV ONLINE

Violence spiked once again in parts of India's Manipur valley, including state capital Imphal, as protesters clashed with police in multiple areas. Batons and tear gas shells were used and many people were injured, reports said.

The situation has been escalating since the arrest of five men, who were caught in uniform of security forces and carrying with sophisticated arms on September 16.

It led to widespread protests and demonstrations in the valley areas. Demanding the unconditional release of the detained men, a 48-hour lockdown was enforced in the Valley from Tuesday by the locals. Monday was the unofficial strike.

Yesterday afternoon, women demonstrators marched to police stations across five districts areas, demanding unconditional release of the detainees. If not, they demanded that they also be arrested.

At several places, angry protestors confronted the police and other security agencies. The police finally used batons and tear gas to disperse the crowds. Many are reported to be injured in the incident.

Beijing, Moscow must deepen co-op

Says China foreign minister

AFP, Beijing

Beijing's top diplomat told President Vladimir Putin that China and Russia must work to strengthen cooperation in the face of a "complex international situation", Chinese state media reported yesterday. Speaking at a meeting with Putin in Saint Petersburg, at which the Russian leader accepted an invitation to visit China next month, Wang Yi said the "world is rapidly moving toward multipolarity". "Economic globalization is progressing against headwinds, unilateral actions are unsustainable, and hegemonism is not popular," Wang said, according to an English readout by Beijing's Xinhua news agency.

Murdoch steps down as chair of Fox, News Corp

CNN ONLINE

Rupert Murdoch, the powerful right-wing media mogul who built and oversaw one of the world's most influential news empires, announced yesterday that he will step down as chairman of his companies, Fox Corporation and News Corp. "For my entire professional life, I have been engaged daily with news and ideas, and that will not change," Murdoch, 92, wrote in a memo to employees. "But the time is right for me to take on different roles, knowing that we have truly talented teams." As the leader of Fox and News Corporation, Murdoch has for decades commanded considerable influence in the Republican Party matched by only a select few.



MOVE TO COUNTER CHINA

US revives Cold War submarine spy program

REUTERS

On a windswept island 50 miles north of Seattle sits a US Navy monitoring station. For years, it was kept busy tracking whale movements and measuring rising sea temperatures. Last October, the Navy gave the unit a new name that better reflects its current mission: Theater Undersea Surveillance Command.

The renaming of the spy station at the Whidbey Island naval base is a nod to a much larger US military project, according to three people with direct knowledge of the plans: conducting the biggest reconstruction of America's anti-submarine spy program since the end of the Cold War.

The revival of the multibillion-dollar effort, known as the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System (IUSS), comes as China has ramped up military exercises around Taiwan, heightening concerns about a potential conflict over the democratically ruled territory, which Beijing wants brought under its control.

The IUSS revamp project has not previously been reported. It involves

modernizing America's existing network of underwater acoustic spy cables and retrofitting a fleet of surveillance ships with cutting edge sensors and subsea microphones, moves aimed at boosting the military's ability to spy on its foes.

The United States has agreed to sell Australia similar technology to help bolster allied defenses in the Pacific region.

The most innovative change in the Navy's ocean reconnaissance system is an investment in new technologies to miniaturize and globalize traditional maritime surveillance tools.

The original network of fixed spy cables, which lie in secret locations on the ocean floor, was designed to spy on Soviet submarines seven decades ago, the three people said.

The Navy's plan includes deploying a fleet of unmanned sea drones to listen for enemy craft; placing portable "underwater satellite" sensors on the seafloor to scan for submarines; using satellites to locate ships by tracking their radio frequencies; and utilizing artificial intelligence software to analyze maritime spy data in a fraction of the time human analysts would usually take.



Address IV saline crisis urgently

This should not have been an issue amid dengue surge

It is distressing to see how the crisis of intravenous (IV) saline, which helps maintain fluid balance in the body, has emerged as a headache for healthcare providers and dengue patients alike. This lack of an essential medicine is a problem that we could do without at a time when we are already struggling with the most severe dengue outbreak in the history of Bangladesh. Yet, thanks to a lack of timely interventions and inflated prices caused by the shortage, it has reached such a level that people in many areas have been reported to be shuttling between multiple pharmacies in search of IV saline.

The story of Khulna's Abdur Rob – a desperate father who, after failing to secure a single bag of IV saline for his ailing 13-year-old daughter at the local hospital's drug store and 14-15 other medicine shops, resorted to a middleman to manage one – is one such case that serves as a testament to the gravity of the situation. This is not an isolated incident, as our correspondents from various divisions tell us. The crisis has reached Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Barishal, Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Sylhet as well, with the demand far outstripping available supply. Although government hospitals have received timely if rationed provisions from suppliers, it is the private hospitals and pharmacies in and outside the capital where the crisis has hit the hardest. The government has initiated plans to import two million bags of IV saline from India and also asked six drug companies to increase saline production. But this may still not be enough to make up for the shortfall.

We must stress here that the IV saline shortage is not a mere inconvenience, but a life-threatening crisis, and not just for dengue patients but cancer patients and countless others who rely on this essential medical supply. The question is, why are the authorities failing to ensure sufficient supplies? The surge in dengue cases and consequent rise in the demand for medical supplies have long been predicted by experts. Any failure to prepare accordingly or respond properly to the crisis is, therefore, unacceptable. In recent weeks, we have also highlighted how the dengue surge has been overwhelming not just hospitals, public or private, but also the availability of essential services like ICU and HDU beds, leaving patients literally gasping for air.

This must be addressed. The authorities must be able to control the spread of the dengue virus but also, equally importantly, ensure that patients get optimal care across the country. This includes greater access to healthcare facilities as well as essential medical equipment and supplies.

An inspiring case of entrepreneurship

Structural obstacles for small enterprises need to be removed

Habib Khan's success story, as reported by this daily on Thursday, is a testament to the power of entrepreneurship amid slowing growth and rising unemployment in the country. Habib left his job to pursue a career in agriculture in his village in Tangail. Then, in less than two years, he transformed his ancestral land into a profitable farm specialising in premium agro-products. Thus, not only did he become self-reliant himself, his company now also employs 18-20 other individuals. Such efforts underscore the importance of entrepreneurship – especially the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) – for our economy as it continues to struggle to create new jobs.

Youth entrepreneurship, in particular, can be hugely transformative. It can provide financial independence, create employment for others, and support peers and communities through innovative business practices and initiatives. If run and supported properly, MSMEs can be a major driver of domestic production and foreign currency earnings. However, despite some positive initiatives from the authorities and relevant stakeholders across the spectrum – such as the iDea project, a2i, Startup Bangladesh Limited, and different incubators from private organisations – small entrepreneurs in Bangladesh face various challenges including limited access to finance, lack of mentorship, inadequate infrastructure, limited access to markets, unsupportive bureaucratic processes, fragmented strategies within the ministries, and societal pressures against entrepreneurship, as a UNDP study has highlighted. As a consequence, Bangladesh ranked 132nd out of the 137 member-countries in the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index 2020.

What we should take away from this reality is that entrepreneurship cannot thrive on its own. It needs nourishment, training, and a supportive climate. The authorities, therefore, should take steps to create a conducive environment for entrepreneurs across all sectors. Bureaucratic red tape must be eradicated, and unrestricted access to information, financing, logistics, and technical support must be ensured. They should also remain vigilant so that small enterprises are not overrun by large market competitors across the supply chain. Local entrepreneurs need easy-to-access networks both at national and international markets. Our education system and social structure should also internalise the process of innovation and nurture future entrepreneurs with proper training and encouragement.

To become an economic powerhouse, Bangladesh must redirect its focus from low skills to nourishing skills and innovative business practices. The government must develop a comprehensive entrepreneurship ecosystem and clear all obstacles to starting and running businesses so that success stories like that of Habib Khan become common all over the country.

Are factory owners above the law?



Kallol Mustafa is an engineer and writer who focuses on power, energy, environment and development economics.

KALLOL MUSTAFA

In Bangladesh, even though people often have to languish in prison for months without trial under minor defamation cases, it took only 10 days for Abul Hashem, the chairman of Hashem Foods Ltd, and his sons to get bail after 54 workers were killed in a deadly factory fire on July 8, 2021. The factory owner and his children were arrested on July 10, but all of them got bail by July 19, 2021. When the alleged perpetrators are powerful, can influence the investigation, and get bail quickly, justice might become uncertain. This is why, at the time, many observers expressed their doubts about whether or not justice would be delivered at all. It seems their concerns were justified because, two years after the incident, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police filed a charge sheet in court in which they had dropped the names of the chairman and his four sons.

However, four officials of the factory and two inspectors of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) have been accused of the irregularities found by the CID in the investigation, including non-compliance with the original design of the factory, production of unapproved products, expansion of the factory without permission, and lack of adequate fire safety measures. It is only right that the officials concerned of DIFE are named in the charge sheet for negligence. But the fact that the owner of the factory is not being held responsible for these serious irregularities and negligence is disappointing and totally unacceptable. The investigating officer of the case claimed that as the allegations against the owner and his four sons were not found to be true, their names have been left out of the charge sheet. But how can a factory owner *not* be involved in the irregularities of design, the construction of the factory, and installation of fire safety systems?

Of the irregularities mentioned in the charge sheet, there are some notable ones. Firstly, two flights of stairs were constructed even though three were approved in the design. Secondly, despite having the licence to only produce a mango juice product, the company produced many other



A woman holding up a photo of her teenage daughter who was killed in the Hashem Foods factory fire on July 8, 2021. The girl was one of at least 17 children (and 54 workers in total) who died in the fire.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

food products such as toast, puffed rice, candy, jellies, pickles, mango bars, and soft drinks. The factory was also expanded without permission and without installing proper fire safety systems. Workers would be surrounded by nets on each floor; stairwells used to be locked; combustible materials were kept on every floor of the accident-prone building; goods would be stockpiled on factory floors around flammable substances, and children were employed in violation of the labour law.

Could any of these irregularities and acts of negligence have been implemented by management-level employees alone, without the direct participation, decisions, and approval of the factory owner? Significant investment decisions are needed for design, construction, and expansion of a factory, and only the factory owners themselves can make these decisions. Managers and executives may even be left out of the discussion when these decisions are made. The job of executives or managerial employees at a factory is to properly implement the decisions of the owner/s. Moreover,

or any road, machinery or plant (or internal electrical system of a building) of an establishment is in imminent danger to human life or safety, they may, by an order in writing, address to the employer, prohibit its use until it is properly repaired or altered. Moreover, Section 53(3) of the Labour Rules, 2015 implies the responsibility of the owner in implementing safety measures. It states that "As per Section 61(2), if any owner fails to take certain measures directed by the inspector within the timeframe given by him/her, it will be considered a continuous offence i.e an offence being committed every day."

It is quite strange to think that no responsibility of the owner has been found for the deaths of 54 workers in the Hashem Foods factory fire, especially since it all happened due to a lack of safety violations as described by law in the first place. It is a sad reality that, from the last two decades, there is no precedent of factory owners being punished in any of the incidents of workers dying due to owners' negligence in ensuring workers' safety, not even after the Rana Plaza collapse or Tazreen Fashion factory fire, the devastation of

The responsibility of the factory owner is to ensure a safe working environment for workers, and the responsibility of government officials is to see whether the owner is complying with this requirement or not. If the owner does not ensure a safe working environment and if the government officials responsible for monitoring and supervision become corrupt and do not perform their duties properly, then the government's job is to impose appropriate fines and punishment so that more owners and officials do not seek profit through negligence and corruption.

Even though workers are being killed regularly in horrific industrial accidents due to the negligence of the factory owners of the country, the government seems uninterested in delivering a strict example for owners and supervisors. In fact, in the existing political settlement, our rulers do not have to answer to the poor, working-class majority of people, but only have to satisfy various local and foreign interest groups. This is why they have no interest in ensuring punishment for negligent employers and preventing workers' deaths.

It's not crazy to be car-free



Debra Efroymsen is executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing and is active in the international Carfree Cities Alliance.

DEBRA EFROYMSON

As the climate crisis grows ever more severe and destructive, we need strong actions to ensure climate justice. But instead, why do we continue to provide subsidies to fossil fuel use? These subsidies reached a new record in 2022, at \$13 million a minute, according to the International Monetary Fund. Yet, the burning of fossil fuels is the main cause behind the climate crisis.

Subsidising some of the world's wealthiest (and most damaging) corporations, while the poorest suffer the most from the climate crisis, is the epitome of climate injustice.

We absolutely must turn this situation around at the earliest. We must not accept paltry attempts at reducing greenhouse gas emissions while such subsidies continue. This includes, but cannot be limited to, demanding compensation for the damage the

climate crisis is causing; it must include halting such subsidies so that we can rein in the crisis before all hope of living on a habitable planet is lost.

In addition to stopping subsidies for fossil fuels, we must make serious inroads in decarbonising transport. And this won't happen through miracle technology, electric vehicles, or the chimaera of clean fuels. It would be insanely expensive to convert the world's fleet of automobiles to electric. And, in any case, much of our electricity still comes from burning coal. Supposedly "clean" vehicles still need to be manufactured using polluting processes. Pouring money into methods that allow the wealthy to continue their wasteful lifestyle while the poor struggle to fulfil their basic needs is one example of economic injustice.

What would be more just – and

what happens to be a great solution for decarbonising transport – is enabling and promoting walking, cycling, and pedal-powered rickshaws. If we reduced rather than increased the need for travel by focusing on decentralisation within cities as well as across the country, we could dramatically increase the percentage of trips that can be made on foot or by bicycle. We could further shift people's travel modes by rewarding those that are gentle on the environment and cause no GHG emissions, while making it less attractive to burn fuel to move about. Many urban trips are already quite short, but our incentive system rewards rather than discourages pollution.

Would promoting walking and cycling mean abandoning modernity? Of course not. The cities with the highest percentage of trips by bicycle are in Scandinavia and western Europe – modern, cosmopolitan, desirable cities with high quality of life.

We have no choice but to make rapid and dramatic changes in the way we live. We cannot afford to do so through false promises of technological breakthroughs. We must overcome our obsession with the mobility of people and goods. By doing so, we could

dramatically increase our quality of life: less congestion, less air pollution, fewer road crashes, more peace and quiet, stronger local economies, and more resilient and friendly communities.

This year, the Carfree Cities Alliance has declared the theme of World Car-free Day (September 22) to be "Justice in Motion." The theme refers to the many ways in which car-free cities promote climate, environmental, economic, health, spatial, and social justice. The very wealthy create the highest greenhouse gas emissions and pollution; they receive subsidies from the government in the form of road infrastructure; they occupy more space (including parking their cars for free, while vendors and beggars often must pay for the space they occupy); their vehicles pose the risk of injury or even death to others, as well as destroy the peace with their constant honking. Car-free cities would dramatically increase social equality while reducing many other problems related to injustice in our cities and our lives.

While seeking to decarbonise transport and dramatically reduce the threat of the climate crisis, how about also making our cities more habitable and more just?

Kazi Farms' response to The Daily Star's editorial

"The Daily Star published an editorial, 'Punish dishonest poultry farms', on September 14, 2023. It mentioned that the Bangladesh Competition Commission filed cases against 10 organisations which are accused of manipulating the egg market last

month. The editorial goes on to state: 'It (the Bangladesh Competition Commission) can also dispose of cases without going to the court', and that 'nothing should stop it from holding dishonest traders... accountable.'

We, Kazi Farms, are one of the accused companies. We have broken no laws. We are looking forward to a fair trial, during

which we will be able to show that there is no evidence against us. The Daily Star editorial suggested that the Bangladesh Competition Commission should punish us without a trial. Does The Daily Star no longer stand for rule of law?"

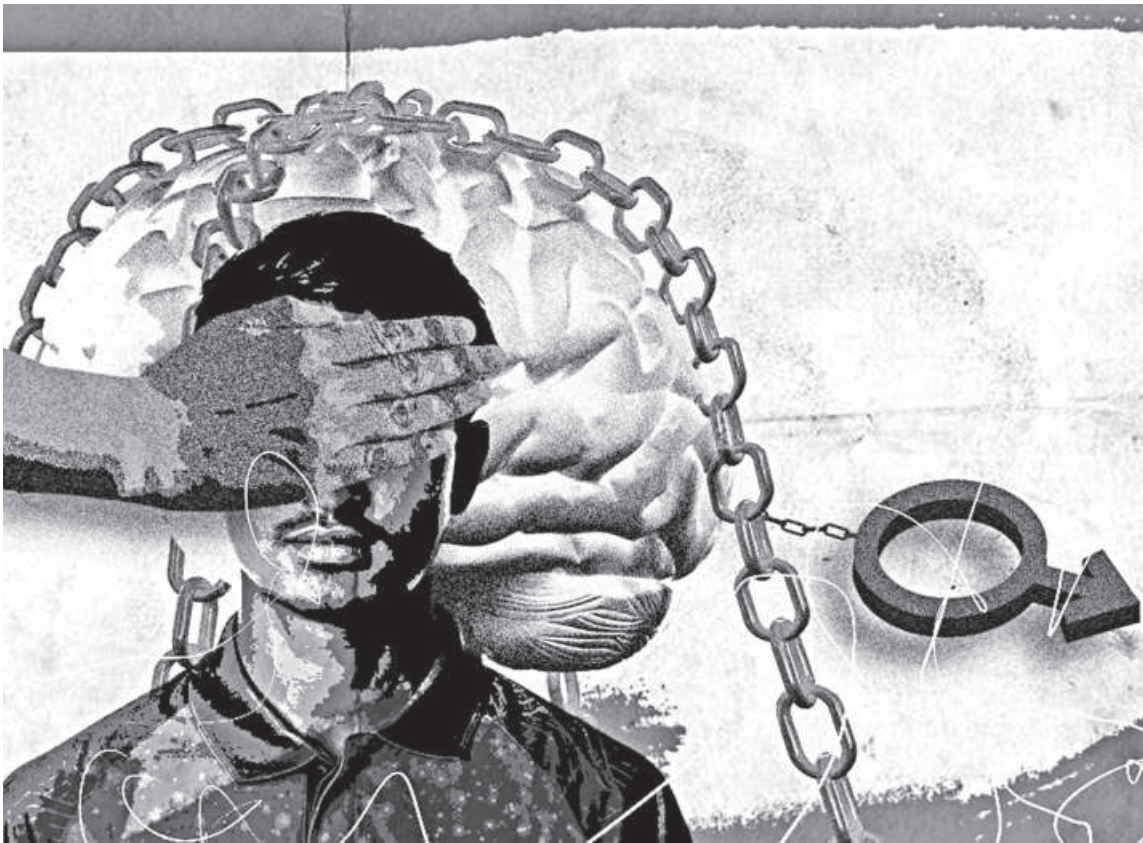
Our reply

We would like to make it clear that nowhere

in the editorial did we say that the 10 firms, against whom the Bangladesh Competition Commission has filed cases, including Kazi Farms, should be punished "without a trial." We clearly mentioned that "the BCC, which operates under the commerce ministry, is empowered by the Competition Act to probe and punish errant companies for violating

relevant rules." As such, it can dispose of cases on its own by holding trials like a civil court. In our editorial, we simply referred to this process and suggested swift disposal of such cases considering public interests.

As always, The Daily Star stands for the rule of law and the right to a fair trial for any accused individual or institution.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Tanzim Hasan Sakib is the victim of a sexist culture



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

The first time I saw cricketer Tanzim Hasan Sakib's social media posts, I laughed incredulously at the inanity of his declarations: that a working woman ruins the family and society. Apparently, the poor young man forgot that his country was being run by a woman; that practically everything would stop if women refrained from working outside the home. What would happen to education if all female teachers dropped out? What would happen to the highest remittance earner – the readymade garment industry – if all the female garment workers went on strike? What would happen to patients if all the female nurses and doctors decided to stay home? What would happen to all the formal and informal sectors that are filled with women if, suddenly, they disappeared?

Of course, one should not be too harsh on a 20-year-old who probably grew up being exposed to patriarchal definitions of the role of women – definitions reinforced by some religious clerics, some of whom base their sermons on spewing hateful tirades against women. In a society where outdated cultural practices are confused with religious piety, it is hard for boys (and girls) to accept (enlightened) concepts that seem to contradict regressive ideas in the garb of religious diktats. Which is why I am no longer angry at this young man and am trying my best not to judge those men who actually lauded, instead of condemned, his misogynistic statements in the viral posts. In fact, I feel sorry for Tanzim, who obviously has a lot of potential as a cricketer, but as a young person has been shortchanged by the society he lives in. Tanzim – who said in a post that men marrying women who are used to “free-mixing at *addas*” would be depriving their children of a “modest” mother – is a victim of the toxic masculinity prevalent in his surroundings.

Reminding Tanzim and the ardent supporters of these posts that we are living in the 21st century, a time when women working is an integral part of development, that even the most revered prophet of Islam (PBUH) had married a working woman who had her own business, may prove to be futile. Prejudice, after all, precludes logic or reason, and conveniently ignores

truth. Prejudice, moreover, is weaponised to brainwash human beings and control them. Religion, having the greatest influence on people, can be used and distorted to serve the purpose of certain groups to control and dominate others.

The biggest threat to patriarchy is women who have minds of their own, and therefore, they “must be controlled.” And, of course, it is the men who must exercise this control over women's bodies, minds and movement; whether they are wives, sisters, daughters, daughters-in-law, or women in

The biggest threat to patriarchy is women who have minds of their own, and therefore, they “must be controlled.” And, of course, it is the men who must exercise this control over women's bodies, minds and movement; whether they are wives, sisters, daughters, daughters-in-law, or women in general. Even the idolised mothers are not spared from the shadow of control. Otherwise, heaven forbid, they will start thinking independently and believing that they should be treated as equal human beings. Worse, if they start going out of the house and working, the very structure of society will break down and men will be rendered powerless.

general. Even the idolised mothers are not spared from the shadow of control. Otherwise, heaven forbid, they will start thinking independently and believing that they should be treated as equal human beings. Worse, if they start going out of the house and working, the very structure of society will break down and men will be rendered powerless.

The fear of being emasculated is the driving force behind male chauvinism, which is

unfortunately also internalised by many women who have been brainwashed by the system. Thus, women resign to giving up their education, their jobs, and their dreams in order to conform to the patriarchal society they live in. Usually, they don't have a choice. And when they become mothers they continue the legacy, turning their sons into entitled chauvinists who are then influenced by the male role models in their lives – fathers, older brothers, peers, religious clerics, and so on. The mothers of these entitled sons become mothers-in-law who unleash the legacy of patriarchy on their daughters-in-law – and the cycle goes on.

It is therefore hard to change people's mindsets, which have been formed through centuries of mind control; mindsets that are allowed to flourish even while the tide of progress is rising. I will be audacious enough to say that, in Bangladesh, while women have moved forward and become active drivers of development, the mindsets of the majority have stayed stagnant or even regressed into the dark ages.

Women are not allowed to reach their potential because they are constantly held back by archaic, sexist cultural perspectives that have been blended into religious narratives, making them almost impossible to be phased out. So when a misguided sporting star chooses to post sexist views that demean working women, they get overwhelming endorsement from like-minded men.

If I were to make Tanzim realise just how inaccurate those posts are, I would tell him to look around him and see who these working women are. I would tell him about Noorjahan Begum, who worked for more than 50 years as a cook because she had to fend for herself and her children after her husband remarried when she was still a teen. I would tell him about Rashida, who worked as a day labourer for years after she was widowed and had to raise her four children. I would tell him about Chameli, who saved up money from working as a domestic worker and bought two cows so that her husband, a farmhand who often refuses to work, could work them in the fields and sell them during Eid to buy food for their two daughters. I would also let him know of the thousands of women garment workers, bankers, lawyers, doctors, nurses, NGO workers, caregivers, and women in almost every sector he can think of, who go to work not only to financially support their husbands, parents, children, and in-laws, but also because they are equal citizens of an independent country and have the right to choose to work or not to work.

What makes freelancers thrive?

Farzana Noor Bindu
is an adjunct faculty member at the College of Business, Prairie View A&M University.

FARZANA NOOR BINDU

In recent times, a freelancing revolution has unfolded worldwide, allowing individuals to utilise their skills and expertise to earn independently. According to freelancing platform Fiverr, a staggering 78 percent of companies were projected to turn to freelancers instead of hiring more employees in 2023. The aftermath of the pandemic has facilitated the growth of freelancers thanks to flexible policies, while prevailing skill gaps have made their inclusion indispensable. As the demand surges for adept professionals in fields like software development, digital marketing and architecture, multinational enterprises are increasingly leveraging talented freelancers. This leads us to the pivotal question for Bangladesh, a nation endowed with a young demographic dividend: can it seize the opportunities presented by the freelancing surge?

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the unemployment rate among youths with secondary-level education stands at an alarming 29.8 percent. In 2018, the International Labour Organization ranked Bangladesh as the second-highest in educated

a contingent of approximately 650,000 freelancers, complemented by about 1,600 team-oriented freelancing entities. They earn around \$500 million each year. However, certain prevailing challenges faced by budding freelancers warrant attention.

While a host of free self-learning resources are accessible online (on platforms like YouTube) for acquiring freelancing skills, a majority of individuals still require a mentor to guide them to understand the process, sustain motivation, and attain high-level proficiency in multiple skills. Furthermore, with numerous students independently venturing into freelancing, there may be a lack of team-building skills, which is compounded by inadequate support from a closely-knit learning community.

Our freelancers struggle to adequately showcase their skills and communicate with clients on freelancing platforms like Upwork and Fiverr due to their limited proficiency in English. This is acting as a barrier, impeding their access to free courseware and other English-based platforms for learning. A considerable number of students lack access to high-speed internet, laptops, or smartphones, preventing them from fully benefiting from online learning resources. Furthermore, young people residing in remote areas may be completely unaware of the freelancing opportunities. Clearly, our nation is currently

broaden the reach and inspire a larger audience.

Institutions collaborating with ed-tech companies would allow youngsters to harness the extensive resources of massive open online courses (MOOCs), available to a wide audience. Universities like Harvard, Cornell, MIT and other platforms are well known for their online certification programmes in highly sought after skill areas. The government has a very critical role to play here. It should allocate funds for the digitalisation of local institutions as part of its Digital Bangladesh initiative. Policymakers must formulate well-defined policies that foster partnerships between the institutions and ed-tech entities.

Engagement with industry experts as consultants or board members is also essential, as they are well-versed in the ever-changing market dynamics. These individuals can conduct regular assessments to ensure the curriculum remains aligned with the evolving job market. At the same time, the institutions should focus on establishing a socially responsible alumni network and work towards assisting cohorts of students from disadvantaged backgrounds rise up the ladder within the next decade. Through a combination of corporate social responsibility funds and government support, universities can enhance their capacity, offer scholarships



VISUAL: EHSANUR RAZA RONNY

unemployment rate among 28 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. As per the Labour Force Survey 2016-17, amid an average annual GDP growth rate of 6.6 percent, the growth in job opportunities lagged significantly at a mere 0.9 percent per year. We can gauge a country's effective utilisation of its demographic dividend through two key aspects: the conversion of young individuals into skilled professionals via quality education, and ensuring employment for these skilled youths.

While the youth of Bangladesh are diligently striving to secure employment through freelancing and other avenues, experts assert that they lack necessary support from the existing system. This is where higher education institutions step in. The domain of higher education operates as a dynamic catalyst and should play a pivotal role in fostering the expertise, skills, and acumen vital for nurturing the foundations of an advancing economy. Presently, Bangladesh possesses

unprepared to seize this burgeoning opportunity. The time has come for higher education institutions to collaborate with both industries and the government through a set of initiatives.

These institutions should introduce micro-credentials as an established higher education model, granting students the autonomy to choose what and how they wish to learn. Micro-credentials are concise, targeted credentials intended to offer sought-after skills, knowledge, and practical experience. Moreover, stackable micro-credentials can serve as a route toward obtaining a certificate or even a complete degree, whether immediately or at a later stage. To this end, the institutions ought to enlist adept professionals capable of mentoring students in sought-after domains like software development, search engine optimisation, digital marketing, content creation, graphic design, and more. Partnering with influential social media content makers can

to students, and improve their infrastructure.

Higher education institutions can assume a central role in training students to embrace English as a Second Language (ESL) and effectively communicate in a business context. For this, they can collaborate with many well-known ESL platforms. The Chinese government promoted foreign language education in schools through its China Education Association for International Exchange. The Bangladesh government can work in a similar fashion with the institutions to develop a cost-efficient and effective language learning system throughout the country.

While it is easier said than done, every newly devised system has its pros and cons. Nevertheless, the moment has arrived for higher education institutions to heed this wake-up call and overhaul their current educational approach, prioritising a promising future for our youth.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Chatty bird
- 7 Rural spread
- 11 Large lizard
- 12 Massage target
- 13 Builder
- 15 Island off Naples
- 16 Trade
- 18 Browser button
- 21 Fervor
- 22 Ship's kitchen
- 24 French friend
- 25 Dapper fellow
- 26 Wide shoe letters
- 27 Zodiac sign
- 29 Travel aids
- 30 Cease
- 31 Phoenix team
- 32 Lassos

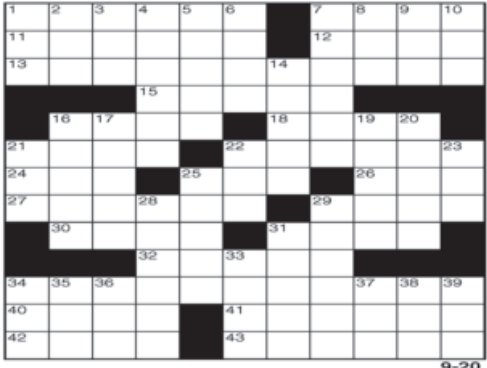
- 34 Squeezing snake
- 40 Tot's scrape
- 41 One way to shop
- 42 Printed matter
- 43 Oozed

DOWN

- 1 Snapshot, briefly
- 2 In the past
- 3 Use the track
- 4 Knave
- 5 Like draft beer
- 6 Diamond cover
- 7 Spa offering
- 8 Drama division
- 9 Seventeenth
- 10 Sea, to Simone

- 14 City-based
- 16 Convoy trucks
- 17 Jeans measure
- 19 Spotless
- 20 Maintains
- 21 Ray-gun sound
- 22 Neon or helium
- 23 "You bet!"
- 25 Train stop
- 28 Foundation garment
- 29 Brawn
- 31 Paris river
- 33 Debate group
- 34 Barracks bed
- 35 Need to pay
- 36 Disallow
- 37 Pointer
- 38 Low digit
- 39 Stop symbol

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.



SATURDAY'S ANSWERS

W	A	R	P	S	A	T	A	L	L
A	C	H	O	O	P	I	A	L	L
S	H	O	W	N	P	A	U	L	A
		E	I	R	E	A	L	P	
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L		
L	A	M	B		W	R	O	N	G
A	T	E	A	M		S	W	O	R
P	E	N	S	I	N		S	O	R
		E	X	I	T	R	A	M	P
J	O	G		E	X	E	C		
A	R	E	A	S		N	A	D	I
B	A	N	T	U		O	S	A	K
S	L	E	E	P		R	E	N	E



LAW OPINION

Third-party funding in arbitration

Such a time demands that the legislation adapt with the growing needs of the economy to propel Bangladesh into the territory of investments in arbitration proceedings and a favourable hub for conducting arbitration proceedings.

AKASH GUPTA AND JANANI SIVARAMAN

Third-Party Funding is funding process by which a third-party financier lends capital to a party in a suit in exchange for a percentage share of the probable award on the outcome of the case. Third-party funding is a mechanism through which individuals who cannot afford the high costs associated with litigation or arbitration, can gain access to justice. More recently, this mechanism has turned into an avenue for large corporations to place their capital as investments. In India, third-party funding has been gaining traction in the last few years due to its potential to level the playing field between parties to a dispute.

Like in most jurisdictions that follow the common law system, the doctrines of champerty and maintenance banned third parties from financing proceedings in India as well. Over the years, these principles have been nullified by Indian Courts over the course of various occasions. One of the most notable developments was the Supreme Court of India's judgement in the case of *Mr. G. A Senior Advocate* in 1954. The Court held that the rigid principles of champerty and maintenance are not applicable to Indian laws, and any agreement for third-party funding a proceeding is not against public policy and shall be permitted. The Law Commission of India in 2017 proposed that third-party should be permitted in India. The only stipulated

condition is that advocates representing the parties must not be funding the proceedings as the Bar Council of India has specifically barred advocates from accepting a fee based on the outcome of a particular proceeding.

The Delhi High Court in 2023 in the case of *Tomorrow Sales Agency Pvt. Ltd. v SBS Holdings* held that a third-party financier cannot be held liable for the adverse costs imposed on a party when it was not a party to the arbitral proceedings or the arbitration agreement. The Court went on to state that "third-party funding is essential to ensure access to justice". Further, the England and Wales High Court in the case of *Gulf Azov Shipping Co Ltd & Ors v Idisi & Ors* held that "public policy now recognises that it is desirable, in order to facilitate access to justice, that third parties should provide assistance designed to ensure that those who are involved in the litigation have the benefit of legal representation".

As for Bangladesh, the Contract Act 1872 clarifies that in cases where the consideration or object of any contract is forbidden by law, defeats the provisions of any other law or is fraudulent, it is held immoral or opposed to public policy. The doctrine of champerty falls under this scheme of public policy and hence renders third party funding agreements as void. While there is no express ban on third-party funding agreements, the economic and

social landscape having changed drastically over the years demands a shift in the policy with regard to third party funding. It can be argued that third party funding agreements upholds public policy, considering the benefits provided in financing claims for people who cannot afford bearing the high costs associated with litigation or international arbitration.

Since Bangladesh is one of South-Asia's fastest growing economies due to the rise of foreign direct investment, one inevitable consequence of this is the rise in claims with reference to contractual disputes. Such a time demands that the legislation adapt with the growing needs of the economy to propel Bangladesh into the territory of investments in arbitration proceedings and a favourable hub for conducting arbitration proceedings. The lack of express provisions regulating third party funding is preventing parties from entering this market due to lack of legal certainty. While countries like Singapore and Hong Kong have amended their respective laws governing arbitration to accommodate third party funding agreements, it is imperative for Bangladesh to follow suit for it to be the preferred location for resolution of international disputes.

The writers are Assistant Professor of Law and Student of Law, Jindal Global Law School, India respectively.

LAW LETTER

Legal framework on Hindu marriage in Bangladesh

Marriage is considered to be a sacrament or samskara according to Hindu shastra. In this write-up, different aspects of Hindu marriage will be discussed in light of Bangladeshi legislation, case laws, and customs. First, there are some ceremonies that must be performed for a Hindu marriage to be valid, such as saptapadi, i.e., seven steps by bride and bridegroom, and vivaah homa, i.e., invocation before the sacred fire. In *Amulya Chandra Modak v State* (1983), the man subsequently denied marriage that was performed only by exchanging garlands. The Supreme Court of Bangladesh held that there was no valid marriage due to the absence of the required ceremonies.

After independence, Bangladesh made no statutory laws exclusively dealing with Hindu personal law except the Hindu Marriage Registration Act 2012. Section 3(l) of the Act made the registration of Hindu marriages optional. However, non-registration in case of Hindu marriage is not an offence. Pertinent to note, in case of Muslim marriages, non-registration, while has no effect on the validity of the marriage itself, is still a punishable offence.

As per section 2(c) of the Act, Hindu marriage means all approved forms of Hindu marriages. It can therefore be argued that it is now immaterial



After independence, Bangladesh made no statutory laws exclusively dealing with Hindu personal law except the Hindu Marriage Registration Act 2012. It is therefore imperative that relevant issues be resolved through enactment of a single comprehensive legislation.

LEGAL AWARENESS

LEGAL LITERACY for rural women entrepreneurs

ARAFATUN NAHAR MOU

According to a report published by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) in 2020, the number of female-owned SMEs in Bangladesh was 2.8 million, which is around 24.6% of the total number of SMEs in the country. In this backdrop, it is essential for Bangladeshi rural women entrepreneurs to be well-versed in commercial law to make a positive contribution to the country's economic growth. There are a variety of financial resources available to them including loans and microfinance, as well as agricultural subsidies etc. However, to ensure that they take advantage of these opportunities to increase their employment and entrepreneurial prospects, it is also essential to ensure that they have a basic understanding of the legal framework of Bangladesh's commercial law. This article is intended to shed light on the fundamental aspects of the commercial law landscape in Bangladesh and provide guidance on topics that can be of help to rural women entrepreneurs conduct their business smoothly.

When it comes to business structures for rural women entrepreneurs, sole proprietorship looks like a simple, less complicated option. In comparison to alternative business structures, sole proprietorship has fewer requirements when it comes to compliance. For rural women entrepreneur starting their ventures, the essential steps include procuring requisite documentation, registering business with the pertinent regulatory bodies, and securing mandatory licences and permits.

It is paramount for rural entrepreneurs to possess a comprehensive understanding of the specific licences and permissions

requisite for their business operations, as well as the precise protocols for registering their enterprises. This is imperative to pre-empt any potential legal entanglements and to facilitate the seamless operation of their business endeavours. Providing training sessions on how to acquire a licence and how to register a business would be beneficial for rural entrepreneurs. Without such guidance, the rural entrepreneurs may not be able to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them, even with loans and various other support mechanisms.

We also need to ensure that the rural entrepreneurs understand the basic concepts of contracts as they often engage in different types of agreements including for selling and buying products, crafts, and commodities. Laws pertaining to contracts play an important part in protecting rights of all parties involved in these kinds of transactions.

The knowledge on how to obtain a Tax Identification Number (TIN) and Business Identification Number (BIN) is also crucial for the rural entrepreneurs to conduct their business smoothly in Bangladesh. Entrepreneurs also need to be fully aware of their rights and obligations, when it comes to microloans and the other financial services to make sure they get the most out of them.

Training in negotiation skills can equip women entrepreneurs in the villages with the capacity to resolve potential disputes, thereby obviating



the necessity for resorting to litigation. Such an initiative holds the promise of significantly enhancing the growth trajectory of their businesses. It can pose a significant challenge for individuals lacking access to education to grasp the intricate concepts of legal frameworks required for conducting business affairs. Offering them guidance in comprehensible and straightforward terms through effective training can serve as a valuable means to foster entrepreneurship within our rural communities.

The writer is an Associate at Farooq & Associates.

whether the saptapadi or vivaah homa are performed or not as the Act of 2012 overrides the decision of *Amulya Chandra Modak* case. According to the Hindu shastra, inter-caste marriage is not permitted in Bangladesh. But there are some regions where inter-caste marriage is practiced by custom. Since the Act of 2012 also includes Hindu marriage by custom as a valid marriage, it can also be argued that inter-caste marriage is also allowed per law in Bangladesh.

Child marriage is allowed under traditional Hindu law. However, marriage between a male and female who have not attained 21 and 18 years, respectively, is prohibited and punishable under the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 (CMRA). Section 7 of the CMRA prescribes punishment for contracting child marriage, which may extend to 2 years imprisonment or fine extending to 1 lakh taka, or both. Moreover, child marriage cannot be registered according to section 5 of the 2012 Act. Furthermore, polygamy in Hindu marriages is still allowed in Bangladesh, whereas polyandry is prohibited. In India, as per the Hindu Marriage Act of 1955, polygamy is prohibited. Though a wife cannot marry twice at the same time, after the death of her husband, she may remarry. Section 1 of the Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act of 1856 validates it. However, in such a case, the wife will not be entitled to the property of her deceased husband if she remarries.

And lastly, in case of dissolution of marriage, a Hindu marriage cannot be dissolved under any circumstances in our country. The idea and nature of marriage as 'indissoluble' remain in Bangladesh, though it has been made 'dissoluble' as a civil contract in India. A married woman can however seek separate residence and maintenance under the Hindu Married Women's Right to Separate Residence and Maintenance Act 1946.

As mentioned, Bangladesh does not have a codified Hindu marriage law like India. The problems as highlighted above arise because of this reason. It is therefore imperative that relevant issues be resolved through enactment of a single comprehensive legislation.

Abuzar Gifari

The writer is an LL.M. candidate at the University of Dhaka.

Chhetri breaks Bangladesh's resistance

SPORTS REPORTER *from Hangzhou*

India edged Bangladesh 1-0 in their Asian Games fixture at the Xiaoshan Sports Center Stadium in China yesterday, courtesy of an 85-minute penalty conversion by prolific striker Sunil Chhetri.

Bangladesh Olympic team will play their last match against group-toppers China, while India and Myanmar square off, but two defeats in succession has all but thrown the men in red and green out of the competition.

Javier Cabrera's team, though, still have a slim chance of qualifying for the round of 16 as four third-placed teams from six groups can advance as well.

India, on the other hand, were lucky to leave the field with a desperate win -- their fourth against Bangladesh in Asiad -- after having suffered a heavy defeat against China.

It was Bangladesh, boosted by the presence of eight national players, who comparably created better chances. But like it happened against Myanmar, Bangladesh forwards squandered several good chances while Rahmat Mia's committed the grave error with a foul inside the box.



"It's true that we missed five to six chances against Myanmar... but against India it was less. Honestly If we could do it [convert chances], we could have won the game," Bangladesh coach said.

Tigresses face Hong Kong

Medal aspirants Bangladesh's women's cricket team will begin their campaign today when they take on Hong Kong in a quarterfinals fixture at the Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng Cricket Field. The match will get underway at 12pm (Bangladesh time).

Bangladesh, who grabbed consecutive silver medals in 2010 and 2014, are eager to start on the right foot against Hong Kong.

The Tigresses "have been in good shape," as far as captain Nigar Sultana Joty is concerned. "We have prepared for one month in Sylhet for the Asian Games, played a few practice matches and also prepared ourselves here for two days. I think the team are focused on performing well," she said.

Meanwhile, both Pakistan and India moved into the semifinals after their quarterfinals matches were abandoned due to the rain.

Women booters up against mighty Japan

Bangladesh women's football team will make their Asian Games debut today, and that too against former world champions Japan at the Wenzhou Olympic Sports Center at 5:30 pm (Bangladesh time).

"We are playing the Asian Games for the first time and against a strong Japan. I want to have the blessing from the countrymen, so that we perform well against Japan," said captain Sabina Khatun.

Coach Saifur Rahman Titu pointed out the gulf of difference between two sides and said the match will provide a learning platform for the reigning SAFF champions.

"I have instructed the girls to not think about the outcome of the match," he said.



Nasum Ahmed, one of just three specialist bowlers in the Bangladesh eleven in their first ODI against New Zealand, reaped the benefits of a slow and low Mirpur pitch yesterday. The left-arm spinner took two wickets for 21 runs in the span of three deliveries before rain abandoned the match. Of the eight overs he bowled, 35 deliveries were dots.

PHOTO:FIROZ AHMED

Will the Mirpur-Bangladesh ROMANCE CONTINUE?

SPORTS REPORTER

The three-match ODI series against New Zealand in Mirpur provided Bangladesh the final opportunity to test a few cricketers and also gain rhythm as a unit before the ICC ODI World Cup in India next month.

In a bid to fix the existing areas of concern ahead of the World Cup, Bangladesh team management rested a total of seven regular starters, including skipper Shakib Al Hasan, for the series.

However, two experienced campaigners returned to the national fold. Tamim Iqbal played his first game in Bangladesh colours in the first ODI yesterday since quitting international cricket and then relinquishing ODI captaincy in July-August while Mahmudullah Riyad returned following a five-month gap.

While it would have been ideal to play a series just days before the World Cup on a true sporting surface, as it is expected to be in the mega event next month, it seems that the think tank had something else in mind.

Bangladesh, however, did seem to be on top before the game yesterday was eventually washed out. The play of taking the field with just three specialist bowlers -- pacers Mustafizur Rahman and Tanzim Hasan Sakib and left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed -- worked well as the visitors were struggling on 136 for five in 33.4 overs after stand-in skipper Liton Das elected to bowl on a typically slow and low Mirpur surface.



Mustafizur was the most successful bowler, picking up three wickets, while Nasum made life difficult for the Kiwi batters with some vicious turn and bounce to scalp two wickets in quick time.

Even though the hosts were able to dominate the New Zealand batters unfamiliar with such conditions, questions remained about whether the team management was once again focusing on getting the result, trying to gain a false sense of confidence -- something that had horribly backfired on the Tigers during the T20 World Cup in 2021.

Bangladesh's stand-in skipper Liton had mentioned that they were unable to practice ahead of the series due to rain. That meant any last-minute preparation for the Bangladesh batters ahead of the World Cup would have to come from this series. But unfortunately, the way the pitch behaved in the rain-interrupted game yesterday, it did not seem any different than what was on offer two years ago as batters could not aid from it.

It is not that sporting pitches in Mirpur have never been prepared, although the current weather conditions might have posed a challenge in this regard this time around.

With two matches still to go, it will be interesting to see whether the hosts opt for the same play or try to think beyond just getting stat-buffing wins and provide an apt opportunity for the players to prepare in conditions that might actually help them in the World Cup.

Cummins looks to 'get a few answers'

AGENCIES



Australian captain Pat Cummins said on Thursday he had fully recovered from a wrist injury and hoped to play all three one-day internationals against hosts India starting Friday.

While Cummins returns, Australia still won't have the services of pacer Mitchell Starc and all-rounder Glenn Maxwell for the first match in the northern Indian city of Mohali.

"I am feeling pretty good, pretty much 100 percent, and hope to play tomorrow and play all the games," Cummins told journalists.

Most of Australia's top players are also key members of different franchises in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament, and Cummins said they "have pretty good information" about the local conditions.

He said they hoped to try different team combinations and players against India to prepare for the all-important World Cup in India next month. "Hopefully we will get a few answers in the next few games," Cummins said.

Batting mainstay Steve Smith is also set to return from a wrist injury but opener Travis Head has been ruled out with a fractured hand that makes him doubtful for the World Cup.

"We want to strike the balance between getting used to these conditions, hopefully winning some games, but we also don't want to get to that first (World Cup) game and already be cooked," Cummins said.

India have rested captain Rohit Sharma and batting superstar Virat Kohli for the first two ODIs and the hosts will be led by KL Rahul in the absence of Sharma.

Bellingham rescues Real Bayern add to United's misery, Arsenal cruise on 'emotional' return

AFP, Paris

Jude Bellingham snatched a dramatic late winner for Real Madrid in their Champions League clash against Union Berlin on Wednesday, and Harry Kane was among the scorers as Bayern Munich beat Manchester United 4-3 in a heavyweight clash, while Arsenal began their campaign with a big victory.

In Madrid, Bellingham popped up from close range to score a 94th-minute winner as record 14-time European champions Real beat tournament debutants Union Berlin 1-0 in Group C.

The England international has started his Madrid career in stunning goalscoring form with six goals in six games for the club across all competitions.

"He has great qualities, it seems he's got luck too, because the goal is a rebound, but he was there, he arrives from deep, and he's more switched on than others, he's got that quality and he's taking advantage of it," said Real coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Meanwhile, in Munich, the



meeting between German champions Bayern and a struggling United side, a repeat of the 1999 final, was the biggest game of the opening round of matches in this season's competition and it did not disappoint.

Leroy Sane gave Bayern the lead

at the Allianz Arena with a shot that squirmed through the grasp of United goalkeeper Andre Onana, and Jamal Musiala set up Serge Gnabry to make it 2-0 just after the half-hour mark.

Rasmus Hojlund pulled one back



early in the second half with his first United goal, but shortly after Christian Eriksen was penalised for a handball in the box and Kane blasted in the resulting penalty.

Sane hit the post for the hosts before a crazy finish saw Casemiro

reduce the deficit again, substitute Mathys Tel score Bayern's fourth, and Casemiro nod in another at the death to make it 4-3.

"A crazy finish," Kane said after netting his fifth goal in six games for his new club.

Erik ten Hag's United team have now suffered three consecutive defeats in all competitions and lost four of their last five matches.

"After my mistake we lost control of the game. It's a difficult situation for us, for me," said Onana in reference to Bayern's first goal.

Elsewhere, Arsenal cruised to a 4-0 win over PSV Eindhoven in their first Champions League game since the 2016/17 season.

Bukayo Saka, Leandro Trossard and Gabriel Jesus all scored first-half goals in the rain in London and Martin Odegaard wrapped up the win after the break.

"It was a beautiful night after such a long time. It was great to see the atmosphere, the Champions League music. It was emotional before the game," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said.

Argentina stay at top

REUTERS

Reigning world champions Argentina strengthened their grip at the top of the FIFA world rankings in the latest list on Thursday, with the top five remaining unchanged after the international break.

Argentina, who dethroned Brazil at the summit in April, remained top after beating Ecuador and Bolivia in their 2026 World Cup qualifiers earlier this month.

Second-placed France, who lost to Germany in a friendly last week, retained second place followed by Brazil (third), England (fourth) and Belgium (fifth).

Portugal were the only team in the top 10 to climb a spot, moving up to eighth, while Italy dropped one place to ninth after a 1-1 draw with North Macedonia in a Euro 2024 qualifier.

Croatia (sixth), Netherlands (seventh) and Spain (10th) complete the top 10.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Major economies should play due role to avert crisis

PM tells summit in New York, signs treaty of high seas

BSS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the major economies of the world should be honest about climate change to avert the crisis.

"We expect the world's major economies to remain honest about climate change and do their fair share to avert the impending crisis," she said.

She made the remarks at a High-Level Thematic Session of Climate Ambition Summit on "Delivering Climate Justice: Accelerating Ambition and Implementation on Adaptation and Early Warnings for All" at ECOSOC Chamber in New York.

She went to New York on September 17 to attend the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

The premier said Bangladesh's experience demonstrated that investing in adaptation and early warning makes perfect sense.

"We hope our development partners will seize these opportunities to deliver climate justice," she said.

Hasina said Bangladesh has joined this session to lend support to two initiatives by the UN secretary general.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed pose for a photo with US President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden at a banquet at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on Tuesday evening. The president hosted the banquet in honour of the world leaders attending the ongoing 78th UN General Assembly.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BUSINESS

'Don't inject fresh money into economy'

Noted economist Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday advised Bangladesh Bank to stop pumping fresh money into the economy in order to rein in runaway inflation and tackle the current economic crisis.

In FY23, the government took a record Tk 98,000 crore in loans from the BB to run its operations, and a higher amount of such funds leads to inflationary pressure.

STORY ON BI

Corrupt people, not AL, running the country

Claims BNP, party leaders allege obstruction during road march in Sylhet

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury has claimed that the country is being run not by the Awami League government, but by corrupt government officials, law enforcers and businesspeople.

The BNP leader said this while speaking at a rally at the Alia Madrasa ground in Sylhet city after the party's Bhairab Sylhet road march ended yesterday evening.

The opposition party held the 160-km road march to press home its one-point demand -- resignation of the government and general elections under a non-party interim government.

The convoy of the BNP leaders and activists left Bhairab of Kishoreganj district at 11:30am. It reached Sylhet city around 7:45pm via Bishwa Road intersection in Brahmanbaria, Shaistaganj in Habiganj and Sherpur in Moulvibazar.

Addressing the rally at the madrasa ground, Khosru accused the government of taking away the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

KILLING OF SIKH SEPARATIST NEAR VANCOUVER

India-Canada row escalates

AFP, New Delhi

New Delhi yesterday said it is seeking the reduction of Canadian diplomatic staff in India and has stopped visa services, as a row over the killing of a Sikh separatist deepens.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has demanded India treat with "utmost seriousness" allegations that Indian agents played a role in the June murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar near Vancouver.

The fallout prompted tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions and a forceful denial from India, which said any suggestion it played a role in Nijjar's killing was "absurd".

The allegation has sent already strained relations between the world's most populous country and G7 member Canada to a new low.

"We have informed the Canadian government that there should be parity" in diplomatic presence, Indian foreign ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi told reporters.

"Their numbers here are very much higher than ours in Canada... I assume there will be a reduction."

New Delhi also said it had stopped handling visa applications in Canada, blaming "security threats" which they said were "disrupting" the work of their officials.

"For now, the security situation in Canada and because of Canadian government inaction, we have stopped visa services temporarily", Bagchi said.

Hours earlier, Canada's High Commission

said it would "adjust" diplomat numbers in India after "threats on various social media" against their staff.

"In light of the current environment where tensions have heightened, we are taking action to ensure the safety of our diplomats," Canada's mission said in a statement.

"As a result, and out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to temporarily adjust staff presence in India."

On Monday, Ottawa expelled a diplomat it described as the head of India's foreign intelligence service in Canada, prompting New Delhi to order a Canadian diplomat to leave.

The suspension of visas comes a day after India's foreign ministry said it was concerned for the safety of its citizens in Canada because of "politically-condoned hate crimes and criminal violence".

Nijjar was shot dead by two masked assailants outside the Sikh temple he presided over in Surrey, a suburb of Vancouver.

An activist for the creation of a Sikh state known as Khalistan, Nijjar was wanted by Indian authorities for alleged terrorism and conspiracy to commit murder.

He had denied those charges, according to the World Sikh Organization of Canada, a nonprofit organisation that says it defends the interests of Canadian Sikhs.

The Indian government accuses Ottawa of turning a blind eye to the activities of radical Sikh nationalists who advocate the creation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

2 cops held for snatching Tk 20 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested five people, including two police constables, in a case filed over the snatching of Tk 20 lakh in the capital's Paltan area.

The cops are Constables Mahub and Asif of Demra Police Line, said Paltan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Salahuddin.

Police also arrested Hridoy, Manju, and Sohel and managed to recover the stolen money in its entirety.

According to the case statement, two policemen in DMP uniform claimed there was a case against Md Azim, an employee of a private firm, before dragging him out of IFIC Bank's Paltan branch and taking him away on a motorcycle yesterday around 10:45am.

They later snatched Tk 20 lakh from him and dropped him off in front of Mugga General Hospital.

Abdullah Al Mamun, owner of the company, around 2:00pm went to Paltan Police Station and filed a case in this connection.

World's oldest wooden structure found in Zambia



AFP, Paris

Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest wooden structure ever discovered, dating from nearly half a million years ago, which suggests that our ancestors may have been more advanced than previously thought.

The exceptionally well-preserved wooden structure was found at Kalambo Falls in the north of Zambia near the border with Tanzania.

It dates back at least 476,000 years, well before the evolution of Homo sapiens, according to a study describing the find in the journal Nature.

The wood bears cut marks showing that stone tools were used to join two large logs to make the structure, which is believed to be a platform, walkway or raised dwelling to keep our relatives above the water.

A collection of wooden tools, including a wedge and a digging stick, were also discovered at the site.

The ancestors of humans were already known to use wood at this time, but for limited purposes such as starting a fire or hunting.

RIGHTS VIOLATION

Int'l watchdog puts Bangladesh on watchlist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global watchdog CIVICUS Monitor yesterday added Bangladesh to its watchlist of countries experiencing rapid declines in civic freedoms.

The Johannesburg-based civil rights group, dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society worldwide, accused the government of being willing to go to any lengths to crush dissent. This includes targeting supporters of the opposition BNP and attempting to silence activists and journalists through legal and other means.

"Bangladesh is going down a dangerous path," Josef Benedict, Asia Pacific researcher for CIVICUS, said in a written statement.

"We have seen the authorities ramp up repression of the opposition, activists, and critics with impunity. To ensure credible elections in January, the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina must respect fundamental freedoms, including the right to protest and speak freely, and ensure a safe and peaceful environment for all political parties to operate," he said.

The CIVICUS Monitor Watchlist, released to coincide with the 54th Session of the UN Human Rights Council from September 11 to October 13, 2023,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MOHAMMAD RIDWANUR RAHMAN

POISED TO PREY... A stork-billed kingfisher, identified by its bright red large bill and legs, on a tree in Katakhal of Rajshahi. The large kingfisher is found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Sri Lanka, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. It lives in well-wooded habitats near lakes, rivers or coasts. It perches quietly whilst seeking food, and is often inconspicuous despite its size. It is territorial and will chase away eagles and other large predators. This species hunts fish, frogs, crabs, rodents, and even young birds.

Rain spoils first ODI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh fielded a second-string eleven against New Zealand yesterday in a bid to gauge them ahead of the ODI World Cup in India next month but the first of the three-match ODI series was washed out due to incessant rain.

The game was reduced to a 42-over-a-side contest after the first rain-induced break. New Zealand reached 136 for five in 33.4 overs before rain halted proceedings again and the game could not be resumed further.

The Tigers, under the leadership of stand-in captain Liton Das, are missing a total of seven regular starters for the series, including regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan.

The match, however, was the first game for Tamim Iqbal in Bangladesh colours after stepping down from captaincy in August while another experienced campaigner, Mahmudullah Riyad, returned to the national fold after being dropped in March.

Bangladesh dominated yesterday, with Mustafizur Rahman removing Finn Allen and Chad Bowes early. Mustafizur also ended a 97-run stand between Will Young and Henry Nicholls before Nasum took two scalps to give Bangladesh back the momentum in the game.