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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 6, 2023



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIII No. 255

ASHWIN 21, 1430 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABIUL AWAL 20, 1445 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00

# Bangladesh joins nuclear energy club

Putin terms Dhaka a tested friend;  
Hasina says it's a day of great pride

STAR REPORT

Marking the historic moment Bangladesh became the 33rd nation to be a user of nuclear fuel, Russian President Vladimir Putin termed the Rooppur power plant a symbol of strong bilateral ties between Dhaka and Moscow.

"Both countries have interests in this project, and it will have a huge contribution to Bangladesh's energy and economic security," he said while addressing the uranium handover ceremony at the plant site in Ishwardi yesterday.

Putin joined the ceremony from Moscow via a video link while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina attended the event virtually from the Gono Bhavan.

Adorned with flags of the Russian Federation and Bangladesh, the plant

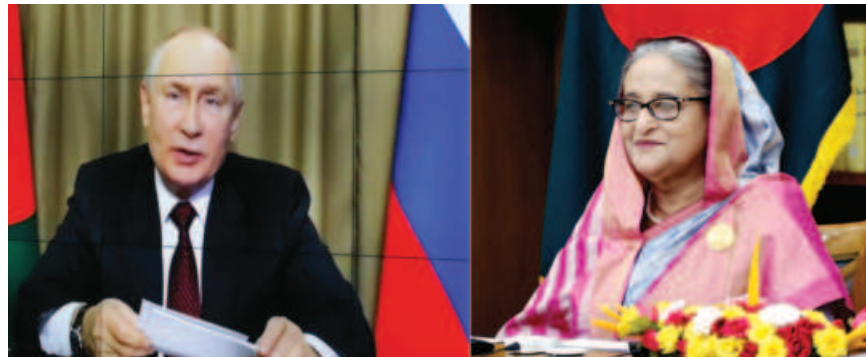
adding, "Sheikh Hasina successfully and with dignity is carrying forward her father's tasks."

Congratulating Bangladesh, he said, "The flagship project meets the interests of both countries and promotes the further deepening of mutually beneficial cooperation."

In her speech, Hasina said, "... the nuclear power plant is another step towards building Smart Bangladesh."

She said the plant has been designed and built keeping in mind natural disasters. She also mentioned that Russia promised to take back the spent fuel.

"We will use nuclear energy to protect peace," she said, expressing her firm commitment to elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide and to the implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, BSS reports.



**"Both countries have interests in this project, and it will have a huge contribution to Bangladesh's energy and economic security."**

Russian President Vladimir Putin



**"The nuclear power plant is another step towards building Smart Bangladesh."**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

site wore a festive look as Bangladesh officially received the first batch of the fuel for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant from the project's Russian contractor Rosatom.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), joined the ceremony through video conference.

Terming Bangladesh a tested friend and development partner, the Russian president said the relations between the two countries are based on mutual equity and respect, BSS reports.

Putin said Russia and Bangladesh established ties more than 50 years ago. "At the beginning of the 1970s, the Soviet Union had extended support to East Bengal in its struggle for independence and rebuilding the newly independent country."

Russia is one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh.

Putin also recalled last year's celebration of the golden jubilee of the diplomatic relations between the two countries and Bangabandhu's historic visit to Moscow.

"Bangabandhu's visit to Moscow was a historical milestone for building ties between the two countries," Putin said,

She said it was a day of great pride and joy for the people of Bangladesh.

"Due to the relentless efforts of the Awami League government, Rooppur nuclear power plant is becoming a success today [Thursday] through the adoption of nuclear fuel."

The PM said her government enacted the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Act and established an independent Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority. The BAERA has ensured safety at every level of the plant by maintaining close liaison with the IAEA, she added.

She said the Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Limited (NPCBL) has been formed through a separate legislation to manage the power plant.

Hasina said the goal is to generate power from the first unit of the plant in 2024 and from the second unit in 2025.

At the outset of the ceremony, a documentary on the manufacturing and delivery of the uranium fuel assembly was screened.

The power plant's Project Director and Managing Director of the NPCBL Md Shawkat Akbar made an introduction to the plant and Science

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LENDING RATE HIKE

## Too little, too late to tame inflation?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After criticisms over its seeming inactivity in reining in the spiralling inflation, the central bank, it appears, has jolted into action, coincidentally, when the IMF staff mission is in town for its first review of the \$4.7 loan programme.

The mission expressed concern about the prolonged high inflation in Bangladesh when many countries around the world have managed to bring down their price levels.

A few hours after the meeting on Wednesday, the Bangladesh Bank announced hiking the policy rate -- which is the rate that is used by the central bank to implement or signal its monetary policy stance -- by 75 basis points to 7.25 percent. This made borrowing by banks from the central bank costlier.

And yesterday, it raised the lending rate to 10.7 percent.

"While those are good decisions, they have been

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## Rain triggers traffic chaos in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incessant rain yesterday pounded Dhaka and other parts of the country, causing city dwellers to suffer and disrupting traffic.

In the capital, traffic was crawling on many streets since the afternoon and it got worse in the evening during the rush hour. Many were seen stranded for hours at different parts of the capital. Amid the pouring rain, some walked and waded through stagnant water to get home.

"Coming out of my Karwan Bazar office around 8:30pm, I found vehicles stuck on the road. I could not avail any transport to go home. So, I started walking in rain," said Alamgir, a resident of Mirpur-10.

The Met office said the rain, which was caused due to the low pressure over Bangladesh, is likely to continue for one or two more days.

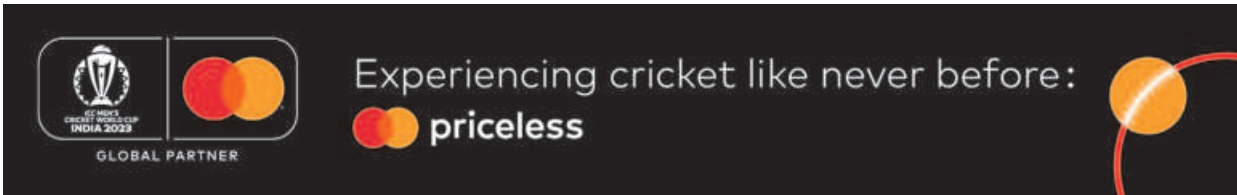
"Rain is likely to continue in Dhaka and northern areas of the country tomorrow

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Defending champions England did not stand a chance yesterday with New Zealand securing a whopping nine-wicket victory in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 opener in Ahmedabad, courtesy of two unbeaten centuries from Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra. Conway and Ravindra ran riot at the Narendra Modi Stadium, stitching together a 273-run unbeaten stand -- the fourth-highest in World Cups.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## New Zealand humble holders England

REUTERS, Ahmedabad

New Zealand steamrolled defending champions England by nine wickets in the opening match of the ICC ODI World Cup yesterday, demonstrating again their knack of punching above their weight in showpiece events.

Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra smashed rapid unbeaten centuries to set up New Zealand's successful pursuit of a 283-run victory target, which came with 13.4 overs to spare.

It was a rematch of the heart-stopping 2019 final at Lord's in which England were declared winners via a now-scrapped boundary countback rule after the contest had ended in a tie.

Electing to field on Thursday, New Zealand's bowlers restricted their opponents to 282-9, a modest total considering the firepower in England's usually formidable batting lineup.

England's batters did not really fire but Joe Root (77), Jos Buttler (43) and Jonny Bairstow (33) provided some resistance.

However, England could not string together enough partnerships and kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Matt Henry claimed 3-48 for New

Zealand, while their three spinners shared five wickets on a hot afternoon at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

All 11 England batters made double figures -- the first time any side have managed that in ODIs -- but it was a patchy batting display overall.

New Zealand lost Will Young for nought in the first over but Conway, who made a career-best 152 not out, and Ravindra immediately turned the heat back on England with their free scoring.

The left-handers appeared to be competing with each other to reach the 50-mark -- both getting there in 36 balls in the end.

Conway brought up his hundred in 83 balls. Ravindra, meanwhile, who collaborated in an epic unbroken 273-run partnership with Conway, took one delivery fewer to notch up his maiden ODI hundred in his memorable World Cup debut.

New Zealand rested regular captain Kane Williamson (knee) and fast bowler Tim Southee (thumb) to give them more time to recover from surgery, while England rested Ben Stokes, who is nursing a minor hip injury.

## Opener misses the fans

AL-AMIN

It was not an ideal start to a World Cup in India after all the hype and expectations.

The absence of an opening ceremony that was supposed to add spice to



the global showpiece event and a very thin attendance at the 1,32,000-capacity Ahmedabad Stadium, named after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, made the opening game between holders England and runners-up New Zealand look like yet another one-day fixture at someplace.

There were a few English and Kiwi fans among the few thousand spectators,

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## Poet Asad Chowdhury no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter, eminent poet, radio and television personality, journalist and cultural activist Asad Chowdhury died at the Lakeridge Health Oshawa hospital in Ontario, Canada yesterday.

He was 80.

A recipient of the Bangla Academy Literary award in 1987 and the Ekushey Padak in 2013, Asad was born into an illustrious family from Barishal's Mehediganj upazila.

He studied at Dhaka University and began his career as a lecturer in Bangla language and

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The Mirpur Road is packed with vehicles near Shyamoli amid the pouring rain yesterday evening. City dwellers endured severe traffic, triggered by incessant rain, since the afternoon and it got worse during the rush hour when the intensity of rain increased.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## I'm not worried, committed no crime Says Prof Yunus at ACC office



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday said he had not committed any crime and he is not afraid.

Talking to reporters at the Anti-Corruption Commission, he said, "I came here as I was asked to present my statement regarding the case. This is a legal issue. My lawyer will give you the details."

Walking out of the ACC office, his lawyer Abdullah Al Mamun said the money laundering and embezzlement case against Prof Yunus was motivated, baseless, and it was "filed to demean Professor Yunus".

During the ACC interrogation, Prof Yunus categorically refuted the allegations, saying that they were not based on facts.

During the quizzing, Prof Yunus said in accordance with the contractual agreement, Grameen Telecom paid the workers Tk 25.22 crore which is the subject of embezzlement allegations, Mamun told reporters.

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## 10-YR RECORD RAIN Major parts of Rajshahi city go under water

ANWAR ALL, *Rajshahi*

Much of Rajshahi city was flooded between Wednesday night and yesterday afternoon as the metropolitan area witnessed its highest single-day rainfall in the last decade.

Streets and houses in low-lying areas, including the Padma residential area, Uposhohor Housing Estate area, Terokhadia area, and Rajshahi University campus, have been submerged, resulting in public suffering.

A video that went viral on social media showed locals plying a boat on the waterlogged streets of Bornali intersection. While others posted photos of people catching fish that

**The city recorded 245.8mm of rain in the last 24 hours till 1:00pm yesterday, which is almost the same amount of rainfall (254mm) in the entire month of September, said Rohidul Islam, an observatory officer at the local Met office.**

got washed away from overflowing ponds in the city.

This correspondent found Laxmipur, Kazihata, and Ghoshpara areas, where waterlogging is almost unheard of, were inundated.

The city recorded 245.8mm of rain in the last 24 hours till 1:00pm yesterday, which is almost the same amount of rainfall (254mm) in the entire month of September, said Rohidul Islam, an observatory officer at the local Met office.

According to the local Met office, previous instances of highest single-day rainfall were 111.6mm on July 21, 2021, 107mm on July 13, 2017, and 99mm on September 1, 2013.

The Met office considers 44-88mm as “heavy rainfall” and 89mm and above as “very heavy rainfall”.

“Excessive rain has caused waterlogging, but if there is no more rain tomorrow, the rainwater will recede quickly,” said Selim Reza, deputy chief conservancy officer of Rajshahi City Corporation.

“We have a quality drainage system. However, due to careless garbage dumping, the sewers got blocked in some areas. The problems have been identified and addressed,” he added.



PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

## What’s still missing from DHAKA’S FOOD SCENE?

FARIHA AMBER

The restaurant industry of Dhaka can safely be regarded as the most widespread entertainment option in town. Over the past few years, various types of restaurants have mushroomed in every corner and alley of the city, from busy dim sum houses to quiet cafes.

So, surely you won’t be disappointed in a food venture in Dhaka – but is that really the case?

Amid the endless array of options, what is Dhaka still lacking in terms of its food scene?

Although options for eating out are varied, Dhaka still lacks various cuisines, or the complete offerings from such. Think back, how many names can you list if you are looking for proper Moroccan or Indonesian cuisine in the city? Not many.

Simultaneously, many well-renowned franchises are yet to step into Dhaka – when do we finally get to smell Starbucks and McDonald’s in the local streets? While this gap may be questionable from a diner’s perspective, a restaurateur knows exactly why this is.

“The lack of diversity of food in Dhaka can be attributed to the market not being big enough to cater to such needs. In effect, certain ingredients are hard to source, and the limited purchasing power also makes it difficult for us to scale up,” pointed out Ashfaq

Rahman Asif, Managing Director of a chain of restaurants, including Tarka.

While the lack of international cuisine persists, something more concerning is the unavailability of food from different parts of our own country. Bangladesh is a diverse melting pot of cultures, with wholesome food speckled throughout, and Dhaka being the central hub ought to have a representation of this. Even so, one can only list down a handful of places that serve Bengali cuisine from all over the country.

To a great extent, restaurants of Dhaka also lack authenticity. While different options are popping up, such as South Asian and Mexican, a true food connoisseur will be able to tell the vast gap that persists in authenticity. “Although our options are increasing, authenticity is still lacking. There is an evident touch of Bengali twist in the food to match our acquired taste, but this snatches away the true essence of the cuisine,” remarked a frustrated customer and avid foodie, Maisha Tabassum.

Apart from food options and availability, thousands of restaurants in Dhaka still lack consistency. You are

regularly going to your favourite Italian bistro in town, and suddenly, one day your choice of pasta tastes different – with the reason being the chef has changed.

This can be one cause, but in general, restaurants in Dhaka struggle to keep up consistency in terms of taste and quality that they initially start with. This also expands to the quality of service restaurants offer. In most cases, after the hyped-up opening, it is not long before things take a downward spiral.

Not only that, restaurants in Dhaka are yet to be truly innovative. “When the Dhaka crowd seems to be liking something, it is only a matter of time before others start replicating the idea to produce their own. There have been many examples over time, most recently waffles on a stick! So, although we ace in terms of quantity, not so much when it comes to originality,” opined Ashik Ur Rahman Uday, Food Blogger at Alonetimeating and Founder of Bangladesh Eats.

Although there are still many shortcomings to overcome, which shall be conquered in due time, Dhaka’s food scene continues to be one of the liveliest industries abuzz with foodies.



## Too little, too late

FROM PAGE 1  
taken a little late,” said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank’s Dhaka office.

Inflation averaged 9.43 percent in the first nine months of 2023 and in the first three months of fiscal 2023-24 it averaged 9.75 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

But BB was rather inert in taking the initiative to bring down inflation. For example, the Federal Reserve of the US and the European Central Bank kept hiking policy rates in their fight against record inflation throughout last year and this year.

“It would not be right to expect that inflation will now come down. But, inflation may not accelerate further after this,” Hussain added.

As per the new decision of the central bank, banks now can add a 3.5 percent margin with the reference rate, also known as SMART, which is the six-month moving average rate of treasury bills.

In September, the SMART was 7.2 percent and this rate will be applicable for October, too.

Banks can now add 3.5 percentage points to 7.2 percent to take the lending rate to 10.7 percent. The previous interest margin was 3 percent, so the lending rate was 10.2 percent.

For pre-shipment credit and agriculture loans, banks can add 2.5 percent as an interest margin with SMART, up from 2 percent previously. Bankers may feel discouraged from disbursing loans because their liquidity management cost will rise due to the hike in policy rate, Hussain said.

He, however, said that it is a matter of seeing how much credit can be reduced due to the hike in policy rate. “The interest rate is still controlled by the central bank and this is not a market-based interest rate,” he added.

The policy rate will have to be raised gradually for several months in a bid to tame the inflation rate and stabilise the exchange rate, said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

“We welcome the central bank move to tackle the inflation,” said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank.

## Opener misses the fans

FROM PAGE 1  
painting their faces with their national colours and rooting for their teams. But the partisan home supporters were largely missing in action.

The last time a World Cup took place in the sub-continent in 2011, where India were co-hosts alongside Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, a grand opening ceremony took place in Dhaka.

This time around, with India hosting the ICC flagship event all alone, the Captains’ Day event took place in Ahmedabad on Wednesday instead of an opening ceremony.

The no-show of spectators, who are considered the soul of the game, was mainly due to the hosts not featuring in the curtain-raiser.

This is the second time in World Cup history that the home side did not play the opening game since the 1996 edition jointly hosted by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Incidentally, in that World Cup, England and New Zealand featured in the opening game; and that too in Ahmedabad.

A low attendance in the opening game is disappointing from a

perspective that there were not many home fans to cheer a quality cricket game involving two fiercely competitive teams, who were part of the best-ever World Cup final in the tournament’s history at Lord’s in 2019.

However, it does not necessarily mean that the Indian fans who are very passionate about the game have suddenly gone on strike. They will turn up in droves when India launch their World Cup campaign against Australia in Chennai on October 8.

India not playing the opening game as hosts might have something to do with other pressing issues, but it also underlines the fact that the decision deprived the global audience of all the festivity and fanfare normally associated with the opening game of the mega event.

Although there was little fanfare and festivity in the stands, fireworks were in abundance in the middle with New Zealand making a mockery of England’s 282 for nine.

The Blackcaps eased to 283 with nine wickets in hand and 13.4 overs to spare, with opener Devon Conway and one-down Rachin Ravindra

hitting unbeaten centuries on their World Cup debut.

Conway struck an imperious 152 off 121 balls that contained 19 fours and three sixes. Young all-rounder Rachin struck an equally impressive 96-ball 123 laced with 11 fours and five sixes. The pair added 273 runs for the unbroken second wicket after opener Will Young was dismissed for a duck in the second over of the innings.

The win gave New Zealand a perfect start to their quest for a maiden World Cup glory after two successive final defeats, including a heart-stopping loss against England four years ago when England won on boundary counts after the scores were tied both in 50 overs and in the Super Over.

Earlier, Joe Root scored the first half-century of the tournament to give England something to defend. But it was never enough considering the high standards they have set over the past four years and the Blackcaps only resorted to the English aggressive batting style to take some sort of revenge for their Lord’s defeat.

how he favoured clarity and precision.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of the noted poet, Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste and valiant freedom fighter.

In her condolence message, she said poet Asad Chowdhury will be remembered through his creative works and conveyed deep sympathies to the bereaved family members.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Nugget mosque in Ontario’s Scarborough after Jumah prayers and his body will be kept there for half an hour for the public to pay their final respects. He will then be buried in Duffin Meadows cemetery in Ontario’s Pickering city.

Asad left behind two sons and a daughter, who live in Canada, along with a host of relatives and admirers.

## Bangladesh joins

FROM PAGE 1  
and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman delivered the welcome address.

Director General Alexey Likhachev of Rosatom, the nuclear energy corporation of Russia, also spoke at the event.

Congratulating Bangladesh, IAEA DG Grossi said the plant would help develop Bangladesh through environment-friendly power generation.

Andrei Petrov, first deputy director general of Rosatom, on behalf of Putin handed the prime minister

at the Gono Bhaban a certificate of fuel delivery. Rosatom DG Likhachev handed over a model of the fuel assembly to Minister Yeafesh at the plant site.

Rosatom is building the 2,400MW power plant, and its first unit, with a 1,200MW capacity, is set to be operational next year.

The first batch of the nuclear fuel (uranium rods) reached Bangladesh on a special cargo plane from Russia on September 28. It was transported to the plant site on September 29.

[Our Pabna correspondent also contributed to this report]

## I’m not worried

FROM PAGE 1  
“According to the ACC team, the contractual agreement was fake. I argued that a contract that has been agreed upon by two parties and approved by the High Court has legal acceptability.”

“As per the terms of the contract [between the workers and Grameen Telecom] bank accounts were supposed to be opened within seven days, and it was done within the deadline.”

The directors’ permission for opening the bank accounts was obtained over the phone first and then in a Zoom meeting, he added.

Asked about the ACC allegation that the process was not proper, the lawyer said it was clearly the result of misunderstanding.

While entering the ACC office, Mamun said, “After receiving the notice from the ACC, my client has come here to present his statement, showing utmost respect for the law.”

Prof Yunus, the chairman of Grameen Telecom, along with two other accused, Nazmul Islam and Ashrafur Hasan, the current and former managing director of the company, respectively, presented their statements at the ACC office from 10:00am to 10:50am.

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan on May 30 filed the case accusing Prof Yunus and 12 others of embezzling Tk 25.22 crore meant for

## PM to brief media on UNGA session today

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address a press conference this afternoon on her recent visit to the US to join the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The press conference will begin at Gono Bhaban around 4:00pm, PM’s Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said in an emergency release yesterday.

Hasina returned home from London on Wednesday after wrapping up her 16-day official visit to the US and the UK.

During her stay in New York from September 17 to 22, the premier attended the 78th UNGA session and other high-level side and bilateral events.

From September 23 to 29, Hasina attended a reception accorded to her in Washington DC by the Bangladeshi expatriates in the United States and visited the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC.

The prime minister reached London from Washington DC on September 30.

In London, from September 30 to October 3, she attended a reception hosted by the Bangladeshi community and held several courtesy calls with some dignitaries.

## Teenager killed in ‘BSF firing’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

A teenager, who was allegedly shot by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Moulvibazar’s Kulaura on October 1, has died from his injuries at a hospital in Sylhet.

Three days after being shot, Ferdous, 14, son of deceased Mahmud Ali of Lalarchak border area under Sharilpur union, died at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in the early hours of Wednesday, said Abdus Salek, officer-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station.

Quoting locals, Abdus Salek said Ferdous was allegedly shot by patrolling BSF men when the teenager went near the barb-wired fence of the Lalarchak border in the afternoon on October 1.

Later, relatives rescued him and took him to the hospital.

The body has been kept at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for a post-mortem.

## Final session of parliament begins on Oct 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The final session of the 11th parliament will begin on October 22 ahead of the next general election likely to be held early January 2024.

President Md Shahabuddin yesterday summoned the 25th session of the parliament exercising the power bestowed upon him as per Clause (I) of Article 72 of the Constitution.

Proceedings of the 25th session of the parliament will begin at 4:00pm, said a release from the parliament secretariat.

Prior to the session, the business advisory committee of parliament will hold a meeting with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair. The committee will set the duration and business of the session.

The last session is likely to be brief, with three to four sittings, sources at the parliament secretariat said.

The 11th parliament is going to fulfil its five-year term on January 29, 2024, as it went into the first session on January 30, 2019.



DENGUE OUTBREAK  
9 die, 2,617 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

Of the nine deaths, five were reported in the capital.

At least 2,617 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,055 lives this year and nearly 2,16,864 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS data, 9,265 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country yesterday morning.

A total of 2,06,544 patients have so far been released from hospitals this year.

‘Ensure quality education’  
President urges all to shun coaching business

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin yesterday asked all concerned to shun coaching business to improve the standard of education in the country.

A section of people along with some teachers are directly or indirectly making profits from coaching centres..., said the president at a programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka, marking “World Teachers’ Day”.

He urged the government, ministry, teachers, parents, and all concerned to work together to check question paper leaks. Necessary steps should be taken to make the teaching method compatible with the international standard, the president said.

“We want every student... to become well educated so that they can contribute to the advancement of the country at national and international levels,” he mentioned.

The president said the students are failing to get admission to medical, engineering, or public universities despite securing GPA-5.

He congratulated all the teachers, who were awarded for their contributions to education. A documentary on “World Teachers’ Day 2023” was screened on the occasion. Seven teachers were felicitated on the occasion.

FARMERS BANK SCAM  
Verdict on October 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed October 30 to deliver the judgement against four accused, including Farmers Bank’s former audit committee chairman Mahbubul Haque Chisty alias Babul Chisty, in a case filed over laundering Tk 160 crore from the bank.

The three other accused are Babul Chisty’s wife Ruzi Chisty, son Rashedul Haque Chisty, and Farmers Bank’s former first vice-president Masudur Rahman Khan.

Of them, Babul Chisty and Rashedul Chisty are now in jail while Masudur Rahman and Ruzi Chisty are on bail in the case.

Judge Syed Arafat Hossain of the Special Judge’s Court-4 of Dhaka set the date.



A road on the east side of Ad-Din Hospital in Moghbazar is undergoing drainage system maintenance for a while. However, there seems to be no safety measures in place, and may lead to an accident. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SHISHU BIKASH KENDRA AT DMCH  
Helping children thrive

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Young parents Parul and Mijan became concerned when their only child, 16-month-old Aytullah, was having trouble standing up or sitting down – activities that kids his age would easily perform.

They later discovered that Aytullah developed motor skills disorder at birth due to inadequate oxygen supply to his brain during delivery, which made it difficult for him to perform age-appropriate activities.

“About 3-4 months ago, we took him to different clinics in Shariatpur, but the doctors couldn’t diagnose the problem. Later, we visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital’s Shishu Bikash Kendra, where the doctors were finally able to identify Aytullah’s case,” said Parul.

Aytullah did not cry for about two hours after birth, an indicator that his parents and doctors had failed to address. This in turn affected his cognitive stimulation and IQ.

“The doctors have instructed us to perform some exercises and drills. We will know more about ways to help him after several other tests and observing his behavioural changes,” she added.

Sheuli Akhter, 27, had a similar experience. Her six-year-old son Ismail’s speech was delayed, which led to poor communication skills. Sheuli took Ismail to the centre and discovered that the boy had oral-motor problems.

Speech delays may lead to many other problems, including poor listening skills. Oftentimes, Ismail

failed to communicate his wishes, which led to aggression towards others, especially family members, mentioned Sheuli.

Ismail is currently under treatment at the Kendra. Meanwhile, his mother has enrolled him in music and recitation classes and is also facilitating oral exercises advised by experts.

**Most parents are mainly concerned about their children’s physical growth and often fail to address lapses in their cognitive development. The situation is prevalent in both marginalised households and high-income families due to a lack of awareness.**

DR TOSHIBA RAHMAN  
In-charge of Shishu Bikash Kendra at DMCH

Active since 2009, the Kendra started its journey as a small centre on the DMCH premises. Currently, 34 such centres are operational around the country. The one at DMCH is open Saturday through Thursday from 8:00am to 2:30pm.

Most parents are mainly concerned about their children’s physical growth and often fail to address lapses in their cognitive

development. The situation is prevalent in both marginalised households and high income families due to a lack of awareness, said Dr Toshiba Rahman, in-charge of Child Development Center and Neurology Clinic at DMCH.

“Children with intellectual disabilities show several symptoms leading to Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Hypothyroidism. Some children have seizures that damage nerves immediately, but the parents do not understand it,” she said.

At the Kendra, every child is assessed for a maximum 3-4 hours to evaluate their behaviour to determine and facilitate the treatment they require, she mentioned.

Children’s neurological, cognitive, intellectual, and learning disabilities are thoroughly checked before suggestions and advice on behavioural modification, therapy, and schooling are given to parents, said Afroja Begum, child psychologist at the Kendra in DMCH.

“We not only treat the children but also ensure that they are enrolled into special schools to ensure the care they need. We have a network of such institutions,” she added.

The earlier the problem is identified, the faster efforts can be made to address and solve it, she mentioned.

The Kendra usually serves 10-12 children every day, aged between 45 days and 10-year-old. The services are facilitated free of charge for every child with an entry fee of Tk 10, she added.

EC secretary ‘misbehaves’ with journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commission Secretary Jahangir Alam allegedly misbehaved with journalists when the latter were performing their duties at the commission yesterday.

The EC secretariat officials held a meeting with all election commissioners to brief the status of preparation for the 12th national polls.

Before the meeting, television journalists went to collect footage and Jahangir misbehaved with them, said reporters present there.

Saidur Rahman, president of Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy, said, “This is an obstacle to independent journalism.”

He said CEC Kazi Habibul Awal telephoned the secretary and told him to brief journalists after the meeting but he did not.

Jahangir refuted the allegations and said he was not rude to journalists. Asked about not holding a briefing, Jahangir said, “This was a matter between me and the CEC.”

PRAYER TIMING		OCTOBER 6			
Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-45	12-30	4-15	5-53	7-30	
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

Law’s there, proper implementation not

TIB on Bangladesh’s progress in ‘second cycle’ of UN treaty against corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite having strong laws in place, Bangladesh’s progress has been unsatisfactory in implementing the “second cycle” of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) treaty.

Transparency International Bangladesh said this yesterday while sharing a report titled “Civil Society Report on the Implementation of Chapter II (Prevention) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in Bangladesh” at a press conference at its Dhanmondi office.

TIB said Bangladesh has a strong legal and institutional framework and an independent Anti-Corruption Commission to fight graft.

However, the provision requiring government approval in filing cases against public officials stated in the “Government Employment Act-2018” has compromised the ACC’s operational autonomy, it said.

Reviewing 14 articles and 11 sub-articles among the 19 articles of UNCAC chapters, TIB said those are “largely implemented” when formulating laws, rules, and regulations.

However, only three articles and three sub-articles scored “moderate,” and the rest scored “low” when implementing and enforcing the laws.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said ACC falls under UNCAC’s article-6 (preventive anti-corruption body or bodies) because it fights corruption and receives sufficient budget.

However, many ACC commissioners and top officials have political and bureaucratic biases and lack proper skills and training to investigate financial corruption, he said.

The report also noted progress in developing public sector employment laws, including codes of conduct, conflicts of interest, and asset declaration. However, public officials’ assets are not

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Top narco, arms dealer held in Teknaf: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the top drug and arms dealers in Cox’s Bazar, Zafrul Islam Prakash used to smuggle 40 to 45 lakh pieces of yaba pills every month from a neighbouring country.

Zafrul, who also goes by the name Babul Member, has a gang of 20 to 25 armed persons who assist him in his criminal activities, which include extortion, gold smuggling, illegal sand extraction, cattle smuggling, and razing hills.

He is accused in at least nine cases, including some for murder and smuggling.

The Rapid Action Battalion said this after his arrest. The Rab-15 arrested Zafrul, 42, from the Katakhal area in Teknaf with 55,000 pieces of yaba, two firearms, and ammunition in the early hours of yesterday.

“In primary interrogation, Zafrul admitted that he has several fish projects and has amassed huge assets, including luxury flats, trucks, and land worth around Tk 50 crore in Cox’s Bazar,” Khandaker Al Moin, Rab’s legal and media wing director, told a press conference in Dhaka.

The Rab official said Zafrul is a close aide of notorious Rohingya criminal Nabi Hossain, who operates a gang in refugee camps and Cox’s Bazar and is involved in extortion and smuggling.

Zafrul became involved in smuggling in 2005. He used to bring in drugs from Myanmar and supply them to different parts of the country.

In 2017, he met Nabi and became more involved in drug, arms, and gold smuggling. Nabi’s syndicate members assisted Zafrul in smuggling products through the Naf river. In return, Zafrul used to supply food and arms to Nabi, who used to remain hidden on floating boats in the river.

In 2001, Zafrul got admitted to the chemistry department at Chittagong University but stopped studying there after a year. He completed his BA degree from a local college in 2003.

In 2021, he became a union parishad member.



ATTACK ON BERNICAT’S CONVOY  
Prime accused gets bail a day after arrest

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Mohammad Ishtiaque Mahmud, the prime accused in a case filed over the attack on former US ambassador Marcia Bernicat’s convoy in August 2018.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Nurul Huda Chowdhury passed the order after detectives produced Ishtiaque, brother-in-law of Sujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder, also the case’s complainant, before the court with a forwarding report.

In the report, police said they arrested Ishtiaque following an order from the court on Wednesday. So, police appealed to the court to confine him to jail until the trial is completed.

The defence lawyer told the court that their client did not know about the case while eight other accused secured bail from different courts earlier.

On Wednesday, another Dhaka court accepted a supplementary charge sheet against nine people in the case.

The nine include Ishtiaque and Naimul Hasan Rasel, president of Mohammadpur unit of BCL. Now, all nine accused – Ishtiaque, Rasel, Firoz Mahmud, Mir Amad Hossain Akash, Sazu Islam, Razibul Islam Razu, Shahidul Alam Khan Kajol, Siam and Oli Ahmed Jony – are on bail.



RMG workers of JK Fashion block Begum Rokeya Sarani in Shewrapara area of Mirpur yesterday morning, protesting the factory’s closure and demanding two months’ unpaid wages. The blockade resulted in severe traffic congestion in nearby areas, affecting offices and schoolgoers. Additional police were deployed at the spot to bring the situation under control. The workers left the area following police assurance to look into the issue.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



## KALNI RIVER EROSION

## Over 300 families at risk

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

More than 300 families are at risk of becoming homeless due to erosion of the Kalni river in Ajmiriganj upazila of Habiganj.

The erosion has reached the doorsteps of many people's homesteads, while acres of agricultural lands are also being devoured.

Many have lost everything and taken refuge in the homes of their relatives, while others resorted to take shelter in khas land.

Pirojpur village in the upazila has been the most affected. Visiting the area recently, this correspondent found many villagers setting up bamboo fences to protect their homes from erosion.

Harun Mia, 55, a farmer in the village, said he was well-off until 15 years ago, when 112 decimals of his land was devoured by Kalni, along with 1.5 acres of agricultural land. He then relocated and rebuilt his house on 42 decimals of land.

"I had everything -- my house, cow shed, paddy storage room. Kalni took it all," Harun said.



Three years ago, this village, along with several others in the vicinity, was again affected by erosion, with 200 families losing their homes to the river. In the last six months alone, 15 families lost their homes.

"If this continues, all of Pirojpur will be lost to the river at some point," said Dhalai Mia, a resident.

"We have urged authorities to take measures, but no visible steps have been taken yet," said Mahub Mia, another resident.

Shamim Hasnain Mahmud, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Habiganj, said a recommendation on preventive measures has been made and is awaiting approval.



Despite protests by students, guardians and locals, a wholesale kitchen market is being constructed on land of Tangail Girls' High School.

PHOTO: STAR

## School or market?

Kitchen market being built on school premises

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A wholesale kitchen market is being constructed on land of Tangail Girls' High School, ignoring protests by the school's students, their parents, and locals.

Visiting the school in Tangail town recently, this correspondent found the boundary wall on the west side of the school to be demolished already for the market's construction.

The students and their parents protested the construction inside the school by holding meetings, gatherings, and human chains.

They alleged that Kudrat E Elahi Khan, president of the school's management committee and vice-president of Tangail district unit AL, is building the market inside the school compound.

Earlier, the district administration organised a public hearing on the school premises, where students, guardians, and civil society

representatives demanded a stop to the construction. Later, the work remained halted for a few days before being resumed recently.

"The school's managing committee has decided to build the four-story building, where a market will be accommodated on the first



two floors and classrooms and halls will be on the top two floors," said Jahangir Hossain, headteacher of the school.

He mentioned that the school has about 1,100 students. "We need to increase classrooms and build a hall. The municipality approved the building's design, and allotment of

shops has begun at Tk 20 lakh."

Students said if shops are built on school compound, their safety and movements will be at risk.

"It is incomprehensible how a kitchen market is accommodated inside a girls' school. No matter who is behind this, we will not allow them to do this," said Mehernigar Hossain Tanmoy, a former student of the school and publicity secretary of the central unit of Awami Mohila League.

"To protect the school, we want the president of the managing committee and the headteacher to resign," said Shohidul Islam, parent of a student.

Contacted, Kudrat E Elahi said the market is being built for the interest of the institution.

Kaisarul Islam, deputy commissioner of Tangail, said, "The administration has not given any permission to construct the market. Necessary measures will be taken in this regard."

## Law's there, proper

FROM PAGE 3

disclosed, and recruitment exam questions get allegedly leaked, the report said.

It also said there are some provisions to ensure transparency in political funding, donations, and election financing, but the legal framework is not robust enough.

Also, while Bangladesh has the Disclosure of Public Interest Information (Protection) Act-2011, it is rarely enforced and awareness is low.

The TIB report termed the Public Procurement Act-2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008 a sound legal and institutional framework,

but said the nexus between procuring entities and contractors facilitates corruption in public procurement.

The Money Laundering Prevention Act-2012 states that "laundered money is subject to confiscation by the state" and Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit is authorised to lead and coordinate the process, but there are concerns about the growing illicit flight of money and little progress in bringing it back, it added.

Corruption has compromised people's lives from personal to societal and state levels, reaching "critical" situations at times, said TIB Trustee

Board Chairperson Sultana Kamal.

The UNCAC, adopted in 2003, came into force in 2005. Bangladesh acceded to it in 2007, and its first review cycle was held in 2011.

The government is expected to develop a "self-assessment" report on the second cycle, which is currently underway.

## Fate of case now

FROM PAGE 5

identify the mechanical error during the incident," the official said.

"We have learned that the plant authority appointed a BSC engineer in the plant last month. During the incident, diploma engineers had been running the plant," the official added.

Earlier, a probe committee formed by Chattogram District

Administration said the factory had been operated by unskilled manpower.

Sheema Group, a mid-level heavy industry company, which owns Sheema Oxygen Plant Limited, claimed that the plant's licenses were up-to-date. However, both the explosives department and Department of Environment confirmed that the licenses expired last year.

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**Corrigendum-02**

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the tender notice for International Competitive Tender for SCADA Maintenance with Capacity Building of DESCO personnel for 3 (three) years against Tender No.: ICT-35/2023, vide memo no. 27.24.0000.021.07.035.23.902, dated: 10/08/2023 is hereby revised as follows:

	Tender Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
12		October 18, 2023 4:00 PM	October 19, 2023 12:00 Noon	October 19, 2023 12:30 PM

All other contents of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.

Memo No: 27.24.0000.021.07.035.23.1097  
Date: October 05, 2023

Engr. Mohammad Kamruzzaman  
Superintending Engineer (P,I&T), DESCO

শিল্প সংকলিত সৃজনশীল মানবিক বাংলাদেশ

**গণজাগরণের শিল্প আন্দোলন**

অপ্রতিরোধ্য অগ্রযাত্রায় শিল্প নিয়ে পৌঁছে যাবো আমরা উন্নতির শিখরে

**জাতীয় আলোকচিত্র প্রতিযোগিতা - ২০২৩**  
"উন্নয়নের বাংলাদেশ"  
আলোকচিত্র আহ্বান

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমির আয়োজনে ও চারুকলা বিভাগের ব্যবস্থাপনায় "উন্নয়নের বাংলাদেশ" শীর্ষক আলোকচিত্র প্রতিযোগিতা ২০২৩ আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। দেশের সাম্প্রতিক উন্নয়নযুগে যে নান্দনিকতা সূচ্যমান তাই তাকে বিশ্ববস্তুর করে নির্মিত আলোকচিত্র আগামী ২০ অক্টোবরের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। প্রদর্শনীতে অংশগ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি ও নিয়মাবলী একাডেমি এবং [www.shilpakala.gov.bd](http://www.shilpakala.gov.bd) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

<https://forms.gle/M65RWRsYTQqka5KBA>

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GD-1538

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পথ্যের দরপত্রের সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলীর মূল্য বাবদ ৭৫০/= (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা ও অন্যান্য দরপত্রের সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলীর মূল্য বাবদ ৪৫০/= (চারশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ খাতে সরকারী কোষাগারে (সোনালী ব্যাংক, কুলাউড়া শাখায়) জমাদানপূর্বক ঢালানের মূলকপি ২৫/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১:৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অত্র কার্যালয়ে জমাদানপূর্বক সিডিউল ও শর্তাবলী সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ২৬/১০/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়ে অত্র কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে দাখিল করিতে হইবে এবং ঐদিন ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হইবে।

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা  
কুলাউড়া, মৌলভীবাজার

জিডি-১৫৪২



## Concerns as another elephant 'killed' in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

The forest department recovered the body of a wild elephant from a paddy field in the hilly area of Sherpur's Jhenaigati upazila yesterday.

Md Makrul Islam, Rangtia range officer of the forest department, said they recovered the body of the adult male elephant after being informed by locals.

In the last five months, corpses of two wild elephants have been recovered in the same area.

Locals said the elephant might have died after it came in touch with an electric wire trap, set up to protect crops from wild animals. However, forest officials said the exact cause of death will be known after a post-mortem. The animal will be buried next to the spot where it was found.

In a quest for food, herds of wild elephants have been visiting the paddy fields in the area for the past few days. Local residents have also been trying to chase away elephants in various ways to protect their crops.

Meanwhile, leaders of local environmental organisations have expressed concerns over the deaths of at least two wild elephants in the area.

Expressing concern over the incident, Sherpur Bird Conservation Society President Sujoy Malakar and Sabuj Andolan President Md Abul Kalam Azad demanded that those involved in the killings be brought to justice.

## Body of Sust student recovered from a mess

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police recovered the body of a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) from a student mess in Sylhet yesterday morning.

The mess was located close to the main gate of the university.

Arif Miah, a student of the 2020-21 academic session of the sociology department, was from Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj.

Azbahar Ali Sheikh, deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, "We are primarily suspecting that he died by suicide. But we have to wait for the autopsy report to have a clear answer."

Dr Md Qumruzzaman Chowdhury, proctor of the Sust, said, "Informed by other students, I went to the spot with police around 6:00am. Police recovered his body and sent to hospital where his autopsy was done." He said the student's family members have arrived in Sylhet to receive the body.



PHOTO: STAR

### FATIKCHHARI UPAZILA IN CTG

# Forest land grabbed for cattle farm

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A portion of protected forest land in Sarta area under Chattogram (north) forest division in Fatikchhari upazila has been occupied illegally.

More than one acre of the forest land is being used to build a cattle farm, felling hundreds of trees to turn the land barren.

Officials of the forest department confirmed that they visited the area and found evidence to this end.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent observed that a shed for rearing cattle has been built on the illegally occupied land. Besides, encroachers have made an access road through the forest and also prepared to build more structures.

Locals alleged that Mohammed Mazher, owner of Sayeed Agro of the upazila, is leading the occupation.

Seeking anonymity, a woman from the area, said, "The encroachers have

been constructing structures in this forest since last February but officials of the forest department have not yet taken any action in this regard."

Mohammed Mazher, however, claimed that he built the cattle farm in the forest mistakenly.

"We built some structures on this land after some locals sold it to us as khas land. However, we have stopped the construction work there after being informed by the forest department," he said.

Saiful Alam, ranger of the Chattogram North Forest Division, said, "We seized some bricks from the land and are working to file a case against the grabbers."

Grabbing forest land and cutting trees of forest to build structures is a punishable offense under the Forest Act 1927.

SM Kaiser, divisional forest department official of Chattogram North Forest Division, said he was not aware of this encroachment as the field

officials did not inform him about it.

"However, I will take legal action against the encroachers and conduct raids to evict the illegal structures from the forest land soon," he added.

According to a study by the Department of Geography and Environment at Dhaka University, the green cover of Chattogram city has gone down from 68.34 percent in 1990 to 36.51 percent over the last 30 years.

The Chattogram (north) forest division revealed that 13,130 acres of the division's 1,40,000 acres of forest land have been occupied by grabbers.

"No one could have constructed such structures openly in the forest land if forest officials had performed their duties properly," said Mohammad Kamal Hossain, former professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chittagong University.

Building of structures in the forest is not only depleting forest area but also threatening the biodiversity, he added.

### SITAKUNDA PLANT BLAST

## Fate of case now depends on tech report

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

The fate of a case filed over the deadly blast inside Sheema Oxygen Limited in Keshabpur area of Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila now depends on the final technical report by experts, said investigators.

Industrial Police (IP) of Chattogram has been waiting for the report by experts of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet).

Police officials said they will wrap up the probe after taking the findings of the experts from the fire service, Cuet, and explosives department.

"As the issue is critical, we need the experts' statements or their findings to reach a concrete decision. That's why we assigned Cuet teachers to investigate the issues and are waiting for their opinion," said Nadira Noor, additional superintendent of police at IP-3 Chattogram.



FILE PHOTO

An explosion during refilling of cylinders inside the oxygen plant on March 4 evening left seven persons, including four factory workers, dead and more than 25 others injured.

A case was lodged on March 6 with Sitakunda Police Station by Rokeya Begum, wife of a deceased worker, saying deliberate negligence had triggered the deadly accident.

Police arrested the plant's director Parvez Uddin Santu in the case on March 14. However, he walked out of jail on bail a few days later.

Meanwhile, the explosives department submitted its report saying that the blast took place following a technical fault, but could not mention whether it was due to negligence of the factory owner, said police sources.

An IP official said, "Explosives department submitted their report saying they found nothing but technical fault. Since the plaintiff's complaint and circumstantial evidence indicate negligence of the factory authority, we are focusing our investigation on that point."

"Both the main operator and two of his assistants were killed in the blast, so it's tough to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



### ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড

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### Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies

## University of Dhaka



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Required Qualifications and Other Information	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum bachelor's degree in any discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.50 or 2<sup>nd</sup> class/division at all level of education.</li> <li>Those who require equivalence certificate or migration certificate must submit their document(s) before admission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PMDM Written Test 2022-2023 (July-December) of the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka will be held on Friday, 17 November 2023 at 10.00 am.</li> <li>An applicant with a degree from UGC unapproved program of any university is not eligible to apply for admission.</li> <li>The application fee is BDT. 1200. The application form must be collected and submitted by 10 September 2023-11 November 2023.</li> <li>For detailed information, please visit our office between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday-Thursday (Room No. 6081, Arts Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000) &amp; between 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm on Friday-Saturday (Lecture Theatre Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000).</li> <li>For further information, please call 01918864314, 01632881948, 01760010744; E-mail: idmvsdu@gmail.com, idmvs@du.ac.bd; Web: www.idmvs.du.ac.bd</li> </ul>

Director  
Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies  
University of Dhaka

GD-1540



### বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

## University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

website : www.ugc.gov.bd



### Invitation for Tender

**IFT Ref. No. 37.01.0000.112.99.002.23**

**Date: 06/10/2023**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2	Agency	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC)
3	Procuring Entity Name	Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka.
4	Address of the Procuring Entity	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, UGC Bhaban, Plot # 18/A, Block # E, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
5	Invitation for	Supply and Installation of Access Control System and Related Works and Services to UGC Building, Agargaon, Dhaka.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	37.01.0000.112.99.002.23
7	Publishing Date	06/10/2023
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
8	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) / National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
9	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB Funds
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
10	Tender Package No.	37.01.0000.112.99.002.23/23-24
11	Tender Package Name	<b>Supply and Installation of Access Control System and Related Works and Services to UGC Building, Agargaon, Dhaka.</b>
12	Selling Tender Document	Finance & Accounts Division, UGC Bhaban, Plot # 18/A, Block # E, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
13	Tender Last Selling Date	Up to 22/10/2023 (during office hours).
14	Tender Closing Date and Time	23/10/2023 at 12:00 Noon (Tenderer can submit from the date of publication of this document)
15	Tender Opening Date and Time	23/10/2023 at 12:05 PM.
16	Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, UGC Bhaban, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
17	Opening Tender Document (place)	Office of the Secretary, UGC Bhaban, 4 <sup>th</sup> floor, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. (Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening meeting)
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
18	Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(a) At least 03 (Three) years' experience of supplying of similar goods to Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous Organizations.; (b) Satisfactory completion of at least 02 (Two) contract(s) of supply and installation of similar goods and related services [OTM] within the last 03 (Three) years, with a total value of at least Tk. 30,00,000.00 (Thirty Lakh). Tenderer must submit work completion certificate with tender document.
19	Brief Description of Goods	<b>Supply and Installation of Access Control System and Related Works and Services to UGC Building, Agargaon, Dhaka.</b>
20	Brief Description of Related Service	N/A
21	Submission of Tender	(a) The original copy of the tender document shall be submitted in an envelope (containing price schedule etc. in standard tender forms prescribed by the CPTU & properly superscripted stating the name of package. (b) The tender document shall be written in English or Bangla language. (c) The tenderers shall submit valid Trade License, E-TIN and VAT certificate, recent Bank Solvency Certificate, valid income tax clearance certificate etc. as required by the PPR-2008.
22	Price of Tender Document (nonrefundable)	Tk. 1,000/- (One Thousand Taka Only).
23	Tender Security Amount (refundable)	The amount of the Tender Security shall be Tk. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand) only in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-order/Bank Guarantee in favour of the Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh.
24	Performance Security Amount (refundable)	10% of the contract price in the form of Bank Draft/ Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee.
25	Tender validity time	120 (One Hundred Twenty) calendar days from the submission date of tender.
26	Time for completion of supply	120 (One Hundred Twenty) calendar days from the signing date of contract/as per schedule of TDS
27	The period of validity of the warranty	12 (Twelve) months from the date of acceptance of the goods and related services.
28	The procuring entity reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantities of the goods and reserves the right to reject all tenders or accept any tender in a part or in a full without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

GD-1537

**Dr. Ferdous Zaman**  
Secretary  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh





Pictures from previous iterations of the festival.



PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

# 12 days of theatrical bliss

## Ganga Jamuna festival to kick off today

**A total of 145 teams from Bangladesh and India will participate, including children and young performers.**

### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The curtain will rise on one of Bangladesh's grandest theatre festivals, today. The 12-day-long Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Mohila Samity will feature a variety of plays, recitals, musical and dance acts, and street theater.

The cultural festivity will bring together the union of two neighbouring countries, India and Bangladesh, as they celebrate the amalgamation of two rich cultures and perform the stories which celebrates nature and human being.



A total of 145 teams from Bangladesh and India will participate, including children and young performers. Organised by Ganga



Jamuna Shangskritik Porshod, the event will run at the National Theatre Hall, Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), and Dr Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium of Mohila Samity. The inaugural ceremony will take place at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today. Eminent cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar will inaugurate the event at the National Theatre Hall of BSA. Additionally, around 4000 artistes will attend the event this year.

State Minister of Cultural Affairs K M Khalid will grace the occasion as the chief guest, while eminent cultural personalities, including Asaduzzaman Noor, Mamunur Rashid, and Liakat Ali Lucky, will be present as the speakers of the inaugural ceremony.

The welcome address will be delivered by the Secretary of the Festival Committee Akhtaruzzaman, and the event will be

moderated by the convener of the Festival Committee, Ghulam Kuddus.

The first day of the festival will feature *Meraz Fokirer Maa* by the troupe Theatre, written and directed by Abdullah Al Mamun. Another play, *Bhogoban Paliye Gecche* by the troupe Batighar, written and directed by Muktonil.

Under the direction of Manas Koiri, the play *1971*, based on Humayun Ahmed's play, will be staged at the Studio Theatre Hall.

Some other notable plays that will follow in the later dates are Aranyak Natyadal's *Nankar Pala* at Experimental Theatre Hall on October 7, Dhaka Theatre's *Ponchonari Akhan* on October 11 at Experimental Theatre Hall in BSA. Nagorik Natya Sampradaya's *Antarey Bahirey Chitrangada* on October 13 at Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium of Mohila Samity.

Besides some troupes including Mohakal Natya Shamproday, Prachyanat, Faridpur-Bagerhat Theatre, Theatre troupe Batighar, Dhaka Padatik, amongst others, would be performing as well.

From the Indian plays, theatre enthusiasts can watch *Odhora Madhuri* by Ajker Projonmo at Experimental Theatre Hall on October 10. Onik projajona's *Bhalobasha* will be staged at Studio Theatre Hall on October 14.

The daily cultural segment on the open stage is scheduled from 4 pm to 6:30 pm, followed by theater performances starting at 7 pm. Tickets for the theater shows can be obtained via the BD Tickets website or purchased directly from the venue's counter starting at 4 pm. The festival will run until October 17.

## BTS' Jungkook to release first solo album 'Golden'



Jungkook, is set to release his debut solo album titled *Golden* next month, as announced by his group's agency, BigHit Music.

Scheduled to hit the music scene on November 3, *Golden* will comprise 11 tracks, each reflecting Jungkook's "golden moments" as an individual artiste. The album's title is a nod to his widely recognised nickname, "golden maknae", which translates to "golden youngest". This moniker was affectionately given by fans to acknowledge Jungkook's exceptional talent and versatility as the youngest member of BTS.

The agency emphasised that through this upcoming album, Jungkook aims to express his unique identity and artistic style without any reservations.



## Arijit-Salman make up after 9 years

Salman Khan and Arijit Singh, two prominent figures in the Bollywood industry, seem to have finally buried the hatchet, marking the end of a bitter feud that spanned 9 years.

This reconciliation came to light when a video surfaced on Wednesday, showing Arijit Singh leaving Salman Khan's Mumbai residence. The intriguing aspect of this development has ignited speculation among fans about a potential collaboration between these two titans of the Indian entertainment industry.

The feud between Salman Khan and Arijit Singh has its roots in a rather public spat that occurred during an award ceremony in 2014. Following this incident, Arijit Singh found his songs systematically removed from Salman Khan's film projects.

# NEWS

## BNP unveils fresh programmes

FROM PAGE 12

is listening to her, he added. "In such a situation, the premier should step down from office and hand over power to a non-party neutral government to pave the way for a credible general election."

Fakhrul alleged the government was trying to hold another one-sided election by force to cling on to power. "But the people will not let that happen ... Our leaders and activists will not leave the roads until democracy is re-established in the country."

He said, "This road march is the last one outside the capital. After this, everything will be organised in Dhaka ... Dhaka must be toppled."

"I am urging the law enforcement to not open fire illegally and to not file false cases or torture people ... [The government must] resign peacefully as there is still time. There will be no election under Sheikh Hasina's government or the existing election commission. It will have to be under an impartial caretaker government."

"We haven't declared any tough political programme due to Durga Puja being observed this month. After that, however, the people will decide your [the government's] fate."

The road march, which was from Cumilla to Chattogram via Noakhali and Feni, started at the Kala Kachua Khandkar Food Gallery ground in Cumilla's Burichong upazila around 10:30am and ended in Chattogram around 9:45pm.

ATTACK

At least 10 vehicles of the BNP leaders and activists were vandalised by AL men on the Cox's Bazar-Chattogram Highway in the port city's Chandanaish upazila.

The attack took place in front of Gachbaria College gate when the BNP activists from Bandarban, Cox's bazar, Satkania, and Lohagara were heading to Chattogram for the road march.

Confirming the attack, Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Chandanaish Police Station, said, "Local miscreants attacked the motorcade at 3:00pm. On information police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control."

He, however, refused to make any comment on the attackers' identities.

Local sources said Alamgir Islam, president of Chandanaish upazila BCL, and its General Secretary Marzadul Islam led the attack.

Contacted, Alamgir said they did not attack the motorcade and instead the BNP activists attacked general students of Gachbaria Government College.

"They were returning from college after giving exams and the BNP people thought they were Chhatra League activists as a Chhatra League banner was at the main entrance [of the college]..."

"On information, Chhatra League activists rushed to the spot to save the students," he said, adding, "We even saw BNP members smashing public vehicles ... so we obstructed them."

At least 10 people were injured after the motorcade of Hasna Jasim Uddin Moudud, wife of late BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed, was attacked allegedly by ruling party activists in Noakhali's Companiganj upazila.

Abdul Quader, president of Companiganj upazila AL, and its General Secretary Mizanur Rahman Badal could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

Pranab Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, said, "If any complaint is filed regarding the attack, we will take legal action after investigation."

## Norwegian author

FROM PAGE 12

he said in a statement.

Fosse has spoken extensively of his recovery from alcoholism and a struggle to overcome social anxiety, and the role played by religious faith.

"It's possible to free oneself from alcoholism, but it's hard to transition from a life governed by addiction to one led by something other than alcohol," Fosse said in a Norwegian Salvation Army interview in 2021.

"My conversion (to Catholicism) and the fact that I am a practicing Catholic, has helped me," Fosse said at the time.

The 64-year-old is the fourth Norwegian and the first since 1928 to

win the Nobel Prize for literature, this year worth 11 million Swedish crowns (about \$1 million).

"I was surprised but at the same time, in a sense, I wasn't," he told Swedish public broadcaster SVT yesterday. "I've been part of the discussion for ten years and have more or less carefully prepared myself for ten years that it could happen."

Past winners of the literature prize include Colombia's Gabriel Garcia Marquez and American John Steinbeck, alongside singer songwriter Bob Dylan and Britain's Second World War prime minister Winston Churchill.

## Quader finds nothing wrong

FROM PAGE 12

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent meeting with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan in Washington DC, Quader said, "Don't you [journalists] understand what I said? No one knew for a week about the meeting with the US security adviser. So, I wasn't wrong when I said a lot has been happening behind the scenes."

"There were some talks when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter took a selfie with Joe Biden. That did not happen publicly. Reaching an understanding behind the scenes means bilateral relations between the two countries is improving or is in good state. That's what I meant," the AL leader said.

Regarding the negative comments

made by some people about the expression -- "behind the scenes", Quader said if anyone wanted to take it negatively, it was up to them.

"People at public rallies like these expressions... that's why some expressions like 'toley toley', 'khela hobe' are used."

About Bangladesh's relationship with China, the AL general secretary said, China has a role to play in Bangladesh's development activities. "We can't deny this. We are taking their help."

The minister said rumours and propaganda has become rampant. "According to rumours, the US-Bangladesh relationship has deteriorated. Such rumours and misinformation have spread widely," he added.

## Rain triggers traffic chaos

FROM PAGE 1

[today]. Rain may decrease from Saturday and the situation may improve by Sunday and Monday," meteorologist Bazlur Rashid told The Daily Star.

Traffic jams were reported at Farmgate, Panthapath, Bijoy Sarani, Banani, Mohakhali, Karwan Bazar, Banglamotor, Shahbagh, Shyamoli, and Dhanmondi.

Vehicles were seen stuck at the Farmgate exit ramp of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway. A correspondent of this newspaper

boarded a BRTC double-decker in airport area around 5:30pm. It took the bus only 12 minutes to reach the Farmgate exit ramp, but it got stuck there for over an hour. Angry passengers got off and started walking.

City dwellers said CNG-run auto-rickshaws charged passengers exuberantly. In many areas, vehicles and rickshaws went against traffic creating further congestion.

In Mymensingh city, many areas went under knee- to waist-deep water.

## Flash floods hit 3 northern dists

FROM PAGE 12

The water level however quickly fell below danger marks later in the afternoon, said Lalmonirhat WDB Executive Engineer Shunil Kumar.

"Waters may rise again tonight [Thursday]. But there is no possibility of severe flood in this region this time," Shunil told The Daily Star yesterday.

Badiar Rahman, 65, a farmer from Gokunda area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said, "A flash flood suddenly hit the area and deluged our homes Wednesday afternoon. Our houses are still 2-3 feet underwater."

A large amount of standing paddy and vegetable crops in Teesta char areas have been submerged.

If the floodwater does not recede within the next 2-3 days, the crops will get damaged, said Biplab Kumar

Mohant, a local agriculture officer.

In Rangpur, houses, livestock, plants, and agricultural lands were inundated after a flood protection embankment collapsed in Gangachara upazila early yesterday.

"My home has been washed away as soon as there was a breach in the embankment. We demand immediate repair of the embankment. Otherwise, several thousand people in our area will become homeless," said Masud Miah of Ichli Char area under the upazila.

Although the Teesta was flowing below the danger level, locals feared that the flood situation may worsen in case of further torrential rainfall and an onrush of water from upstream.

Teesta was rising till early

yesterday but started receding hours later, said locals.

All 44 gates of Teesta barrage have been opened to deal with the excessive rush of water from upstream, said Rabiul Islam, executive engineer of WDB in Rangpur.

WDB officials and local people's representatives were seen evacuating people living on the riverbanks on Wednesday.

"I've cultivated paddies on around 10 bighas. My crops have almost ripened. But all of my paddies will go underwater if water rises again," said Abdul Alim, a farmer of Bagerhat village under Rangpur's Gangachara upazila.

[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Dinajpur contributed to this report.]



## UN Green Climate Fund pledges reach \$9.3b

REUTERS, Berlin

The United Nations' Green Climate Fund (GCF) has pulled in \$9.3 billion in pledges from 25 countries to help vulnerable countries cope with climate change, the fund's facilitator said yesterday.

With global temperatures rising, world leaders have been looking to boost support for climate action amid mounting criticism over a lack of urgency to respond to risks.

The GCF was set up under UN climate change negotiations to help channel money needed by poor states to meet their targets to reduce carbon emissions, develop cleaner energy sources and adjust to a warming world.

It is seeking contributions to fund projects in climate-vulnerable counties over 2024-2027, aiming to exceed the \$10 billion it raised in its last three-year round.

Some 75 percent of the contributors increased their pledges compared with the last replenishment round, with Germany, Britain, France and Japan the biggest backers.



Members of Indian Army try to recover trucks buried at the area affected by flood in Sikkim in this image released by the Indian Army yesterday. At least 14 people were killed and 102 were missing after heavy rains caused a Himalayan glacial lake in northeast India to burst its banks, the worst such disaster in the region in more than five decades.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Fresh violence reported in India's Manipur Two houses torched

TNN, New Delhi

At least two houses were torched in Manipur's Imphal West district on Wednesday night in a fresh outbreak of violence.

Several rounds were also fired in the incident which happened at around 10:00pm in New Keithelmanbi area. While the accused were able to flee the spot, the incident triggered tension in the area.

Security forces and fire services personnel brought the blaze under control.

A mob of women who gathered in the area following the incident was prevented by the security forces from proceeding further.

## Sept was hottest on record Says EU climate monitor

AFP, Paris

Last month was the hottest September on record by an "extraordinary" margin as the world flirts dangerously with breaching a key warming limit, the EU climate monitor said yesterday.

Much of the world sweltered through unseasonably warm weather in September, in a year expected to be the hottest in human history and after the warmest ever global temperatures during the Northern Hemisphere summer.

September's average surface air temperature of 16.38 degrees Celsius (61.5 degrees Fahrenheit) was 0.93C above the 1991-2020 average for the month and 0.5C above the previous 2020 record, the Copernicus Climate

Change Service (C3S) said in a report.

Temperature records are normally broken by much smaller margins closer to one-tenth of a degree.

The report said the figure was "the most anomalous warm month" in its dataset going back to 1940 and around 1.75C hotter than the September average in the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period.

"We've been through the most incredible September ever from a climate point of view. It's just beyond belief," C3S director Carlo Buontempo told AFP.

"Climate change is not something that will happen 10 years from now. Climate change is here."

The unprecedented September temperatures "have broken records by an extraordinary amount", added C3S

deputy director Samantha Burgess.

Global average temperatures from January to September were 1.4 degrees Celsius higher than 1850-1900, almost breaching the 1.5C warming goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement, C3S reported.

That threshold was the more ambitious target of the accord and is seen as essential to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change.

The January-September average global temperature was 0.05C higher than the same nine-month period in 2016, the warmest year recorded so far.

The El Nino phenomenon -- which warms waters in the southern Pacific and stokes hotter weather beyond -- is likely to see 2023 becoming the hottest year on record in the next three months.

## 'Want to achieve parity'

### Says India on decision to reduce Canadian diplomats amid row

TNN, New Delhi

India's external affairs ministry yesterday said that India asked Canada to downsize its diplomatic presence in New Delhi as it wants to achieve "parity" with Ottawa, adding that "discussions on the matter are under way". The remarks, made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, come amid an ongoing diplomatic row between the two countries. It also comes amid New Delhi suspending the visa services to Canada and calling for a reduction of Canadian diplomatic staff in India. Addressing the press briefing yesterday, Bagchi said, "Given the much higher presence of diplomats or diplomatic presence here and their continued interference in our internal matters, we have sought parity in our respective diplomatic presence. Discussions are ongoing on the modalities of achieving this". On being asked if the reduction in the number of Canadian diplomats could see a decrease in the number of visas issued by the Canadian High Commission in India, Bagchi said, "It's up to the Canadian side... our concerns are related to ensuring parity in diplomatic presence".

## 'The Donald Trump show is over'

### Says NY AG at civil fraud trial

AFP, New York



New York Attorney General Letitia James hit back at Donald Trump on Wednesday over his virulent attacks on the \$250 million civil fraud suit she brought against him, saying she will "not be bullied." "The Donald Trump show is over," James told reporters after the 77-year-old former president left court at the midpoint of Wednesday's proceedings. Before leaving, Trump rallied against James and complained that the "rigged" trial with a judge "run by the Democrats" was keeping him off the presidential campaign trail.



A car passes by power lines downed by the high winds from Typhoon Koinu in Taiwan's southern Pingtung County yesterday. Typhoon Koinu grazed the southern edge of Taiwan, blanketing the region in torrential rain and bringing record-breaking winds of more than 340 kilometres an hour to an outlying island.

PHOTO: AFP

## Chinese firm sold satellites for intel to Wagner group Says report

AFP, Paris

Russian mercenary group Wagner in 2022 signed a contract with a Chinese firm to acquire two satellites and use their images, aiding its intelligence work as the organisation sought to push Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to a document seen by AFP.

The contract was signed in November 2022, over half a year into Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in which the Wagner group under its founder Yevgeny Prigozhin was playing a key role on the battlefield.

The satellite images were also used to assist Wagner's operations in Africa and even its failed mutiny in June which has led now to the de facto break up of the group followed by the death of Prigozhin and other key figures in an air crash in August, a European security source told AFP.

According to a contract seen by AFP written in English and Russian and signed on November 15, 2022, the company Beijing Yunze Technology Co Ltd sold two high resolution observation satellites belonging to the Chinese space giant Chang Guang Satellite Technology (CGST) to Nika-Frut, a company then part of Prigozhin's commercial empire.

The over \$30 million (235 million yuan) price was for the satellites themselves and additional services.

The contract also provides for the provision of images on demand, which allowed Wagner to obtain satellite pictures both of Ukraine and areas in Africa where its mercenaries were active including Libya, Sudan, Central African Republic and Mali, the European security source told AFP.

## Concern grows over Iranian teen's metro assault

AFP, Paris

Western governments on Wednesday expressed concern after an alleged assault by Iranian security forces had reportedly left a teenager in a coma, with Germany's top diplomat dubbing the incident "intolerable".

A rights group also called for an international investigation into the confrontation on the Tehran metro, just over a year after the death in custody of Mahsa Amini who had been arrested for allegedly violating the strict dress rules for women.

Armita Garavand, 16, was attacked on Sunday by female police officers, according to the rights group Hengaw. Authorities claimed she "fainted" due to low blood pressure, denying any involvement of security forces.

## Dozens dead in attack on Syria military academy

AFP, Beirut

More than 60 people were killed yesterday in a drone attack on a military academy in Syria's Homs, a war monitor said, revising a previous toll.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor with a vast network of sources in Syria, reported "more than 60 dead, including military personnel and at least nine civilians", and dozens more wounded.

A military statement carried by official news agency SANA said that "armed terrorist organisations" targeted "the graduation ceremony for officers of the military academy in Homs", a government-held city in central Syria.

The statement said there were "a number of deaths, both civilians and military, and dozens of wounded", some critically, including officers and their families.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

According to the military statement, the attack with "explosive-laden drones" took place "immediately



after the ceremony ended".

The general command of the army and the armed forces decried the "cowardly... unprecedented" attack and said it would "respond with full force... to these terrorist organisations wherever they are", according to the statement.

Syria's 12-year-long war broke out after President Bashar al-Assad's repression of peaceful anti-government demonstrations in 2011 escalated into a deadly conflict that pulled in foreign powers and global jihadists.

The conflict has killed more than 500,000 people and driven half the country's pre-war population from their homes.

# বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন

চট্টগ্রাম

[www.bsc.gov.bd](http://www.bsc.gov.bd)

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## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনের নিম্নে উল্লেখিত শূন্য পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে অনলাইনে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। পূরণযোগ্য পদের নাম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অন্যান্য তথ্যের বিবরণ নিম্নরূপঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম ও বেতনস্কেল (বিএসসি'র বেতনস্কেল-২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা (২৯-১০-২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখে বয়স)	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
০১।	উপ-মহাবাহুবাহুপক (জাহাজ মেরামত) বেতন স্কেলঃ টাকাঃ ৫২২০০-৭৪৩৪০/-	১টি	৪০	প্রথম শ্রেণীর কম্পিউটার সািটফিকেট (মোটর) এবং উক্ত সািটফিকেট প্রাপ্তির পর সন্মুখগামী জাহাজে ও বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।
০২।	উপ-মহাবাহুবাহুপক (কার্গো সুপারভিশন এন্ড অপারেশন) বেতন স্কেলঃ টাকাঃ ৫২২০০-৭৪৩৪০/-	১টি	৪০	প্রথম শ্রেণীর কম্পিউটার সািটফিকেট (ডেক) এবং উক্ত সািটফিকেট প্রাপ্তির পর সন্মুখগামী জাহাজে ও বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা। অথবা দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর ন্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রিসিং সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ৮ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা।

### আবেদন সন্ক্রান্ত নির্দেশনাবলি

আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া  
এ বিজ্ঞপ্তির অধীনে আত্মীয় প্রার্থীগণকে বিএসসি'র নিজস্ব অনলাইন জব পোর্টালের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। সে লক্ষ্যে [www.job.bsc.gov.bd](http://www.job.bsc.gov.bd) এই ওয়েবসাইটে বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করে অনলাইনে রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্যক্রম এবং পরীক্ষার ফি জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। আবেদনকারীদের মধ্যে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে এসএমএস নোটিফিকেশনের মাধ্যমে নিয়োগ সন্ক্রান্ত পরীক্ষার সময়, স্থান ও সংশ্লিষ্ট অন্যান্য বিষয়ে যথাসময়ে অবহিত করা হবে।

অনলাইনে আবেদন ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদানের শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়  
অক্টোবর ০৮, ২০২৩ সময়ঃ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা।

অনলাইনে আবেদন ও পরীক্ষার ফি জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়  
অক্টোবর ২৯, ২০২৩ সময়ঃ রাত ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।

আবেদন সন্ক্রান্ত তথ্যাদি  
বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশনের নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা, ২০২৩ এর বিজ্ঞপ্তি, অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র পূরণের নিয়মাবলি, পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানের নিয়মাবলি ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি বিএসসি'র নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে [www.bsc.gov.bd](http://www.bsc.gov.bd) এ পাওয়া যাবে।

আবেদন ফি  
ক্রমিক ১ ও ২ নম্বর (উপ-মহাবাহুবাহুপক) পদের জন্য ৬০০/- (ছয়শত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)  
লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকে পরীক্ষা/সাাক্ষ্যকারের সময় অবশ্যই বর্ণিত সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।  
(ক) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রঃ (খ) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রঃ (গ) প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্রঃ (ঘ) স্থানীয় ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাপরিকল্প সনদপত্রঃ (ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র (NID) (চ) C.D.C (Continuous Discharge Certificate)ঃ (ছ) প্রথম শ্রেণীর কম্পিউটার সািটফিকেট (ডেক/মোটর)ঃ ইত্যাদির মূল সনদপত্র এবং (জ) সম্পত্তি তোলা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রবিন ছবি মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সঙ্গে আনতে হবে।  
এছাড়া, অনলাইনে পূর্বকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্ট কপিসহ উপর্যুক্ত সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত) লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় বাছাই কমিটির কাছে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

প্রার্থীদের বয়সসীমা  
বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত ২৯-১০-২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রার্থীর বয়স অনধ্ব ৪০ (চল্লিশ) বছর হতে হবে। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এস.এস.সি/সমমানের পরীক্ষার সািটফিকেটে লিপিবদ্ধ জন্ম তারিখ প্রকৃত জন্ম তারিখ হিসেবে গণ্য হবে এবং বয়স সন্ক্রান্ত কোনো (Affidavit) এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

শর্তাবলী  
১) নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় (লিখিত-মৌখিক)/সাাক্ষ্যকার-এ অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদেরকে কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।  
২) জিপিএ তে ফলাফল প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীদের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার ক্ষেত্রে বিভাগ/শ্রেণী নির্ধারণের জন্য এতদবিধিতে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারিকৃত পরিচয় অনুসরণ করা হবে।  
৩) কোন তথ্য গোপন করে বা ভুল তথ্য প্রদান কবে চাকুরিতে নিয়োগপ্রাপ্ত হলে কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর নিয়োগাদেশ বাতিল করা হবে এবং তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।  
৪) সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরীতে প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথার্থ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে; কোন অগ্রিম কপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।  
৫) বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদসংখ্যা ব্রহ্ম-বুদ্ধি বা বাতিল/প্রত্যাহারের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সারেক্ষণ করে। তাছাড়া, নিয়োগ সন্ক্রান্ত যে কোন বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত হলে গণ্য হবে।  
৬) আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ, বাছাই এবং নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত হলে গণ্য হবে। এ বিজ্ঞপ্তি আর্থিক/সম্পূর্ণ পরিবর্তন/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সারেক্ষণ করে।

### সত্যায়িতকৃত

নিয়োগ সন্ক্রান্ত বিষয়ে কোনো পক্ষের সাথে কোনো প্রকার যোগাযোগ এবং আর্থিক লেনদেনের তথ্য পাঠও গেলো তা প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য করা হবে এবং তাত্ক্ষণিক প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সচিব

বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন  
বিএসসি ভবন, সন্টগোলা রোড, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-১৫৪১



## A mockery of data security

### Failure to protect sensitive NID data shows government incompetence

With yet another incident of data leak coming to the fore, it seems those tasked with keeping our digitised data secure may not be aware of how to do their job. The latest case of data breaches reveals a rather perilous situation: personal details of nearly 55 million citizens who have been issued the smart national identification (NID) card are currently available on Telegram, an instant messaging service. According to our report, there is a channel on Telegram where a bot can provide all the details of a smart card holder enlisted on the national NID server when their 10-digit number is entered. The wing apparently learned of the matter on Tuesday, and found that the leak occurred through one of the 174 organisations that use the NID server. The authorities have yet to figure out who are behind the channel, and are apparently trying to get it shut down.

It is astounding to think that the safety of sensitive private information can be compromised to such extent, exposing millions of citizens to all kinds of threats, not to mention violating their privacy. The data includes names of card holders, names of their parents and spouses, photos, phone numbers, birthdates, permanent and present addresses, etc, all of which are up for grabs by anyone with an ill motive – be it identity theft or murder – without the fear of getting caught.

But what is more distressing is the nonchalance with which such data breaches are being dealt with. That our government web portals are not equipped to properly safeguard data is not news anymore. This year alone, we have learnt of quite a number of breaches into websites hosted by different government agencies, police stations, and even a state-owned bank and the national flag carrier. Yet, despite heavy criticism, there seems to be little effort by those in charge to address the vulnerability by employing stronger, more effective security measures.

Is the safety of our personal data a joke to the authorities? Or do they simply not understand the concept of data security? Given the frequency with which citizens' personal information is being exposed, both situations seem likely. This state of affairs is absolutely unacceptable – a mockery of the government's much-publicised mission to build a "Smart Bangladesh." It's time the government actively invested resources into making all state portals/websites secure. It must prioritise the safekeeping of the citizens' personal information.

## A tragedy that exposed inequalities

### Chattogram authorities must help slum fire victims to rebuild lives

We are saddened to learn of the plight of the 50 families living in a slum near Amin Colony in Chattogram, which was burnt to ashes by a fire on Wednesday morning. According to our report, the fire started around 6am, and although no one died, it ravaged everything within their houses before it was doused about two hours later. Apparently, firefighters faced difficulties accessing the slum due to narrow access roads. Evacuation also became a challenge as the slum was surrounded by fences and sidewalls, with the only entry/exit points being near two warehouses, which also caught fire.

On the face of it, the horrors that the survivors faced are a reminder that tragedies, especially fire-related ones, don't discriminate based on one's socioeconomic status. While such incidents have come to be expected in congested cities like Chattogram and Dhaka – with the country in general witnessing a massive increase in fire incidents, from 12,182 in 2009 to 24,102 in 2022 – the same happening in slums bears a special significance. It adds a layer of injustice which deserves to be recognised. Slums, and such places, are a testament to the inequality that plagues our society. These communities, characterised by inadequate housing, limited access to basic services, and precarious living conditions – as exemplified by the narrow access roads and shared electric lines in the Chattogram slum – are left utterly vulnerable in the face of a fire, which serves as a double blow for them. The stories of the families of Mohammad Hasan, who endured the fire just before his wedding, or Sumi Akhter, who escaped with flames nipping at her heels, show how victims from underprivileged backgrounds suffer disproportionately.

It is, therefore, important to recognise the larger societal implications of such tragic events. We urge the authorities to help the Chattogram slum fire victims to rebuild their lives. They must prioritise the well-being of the poor and marginalised in our society, provide better and safer housing for them, and ensure that they are properly supported through our social safety net programmes.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Dhaka needs affordable housing

The housing crisis in Dhaka city is impacting a significant portion of its residents. Almost 30 percent of the population bears substandard living conditions, often lacking basic facilities like clean water and sanitation. Property prices in Dhaka have surged by at least 20 percent in the past year, while people's average income has not. Policymakers and urban planners must take immediate and coordinated action. Subsidised housing for low-income families, stricter regulation of real estate prices, and investment in affordable housing infrastructure are urgently needed.

**Kowshik Podder**  
North South University

# ‘Secret deal has been struck, nothing to worry about’

## Is that how democracy works for us?

### THE THIRD VIEW

**Mahfuz Anam**  
is the editor and publisher  
of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM



In a democracy, the heads of the government – both presidents and prime ministers – are the subjects of the most media coverage and the targets of most of its criticism. In Bangladesh's case, while the former is more than true, the latter is non-existent. Such is the state of our press freedom. What makes this phenomenon more disheartening is that there is no law that says the media cannot criticise the PM. Still, we have enchained ourselves to self-censorship, perhaps subconsciously remembering what Idi Amin once said when asked about press freedom in his country, "There is freedom of speech, but I cannot guarantee freedom after speech."

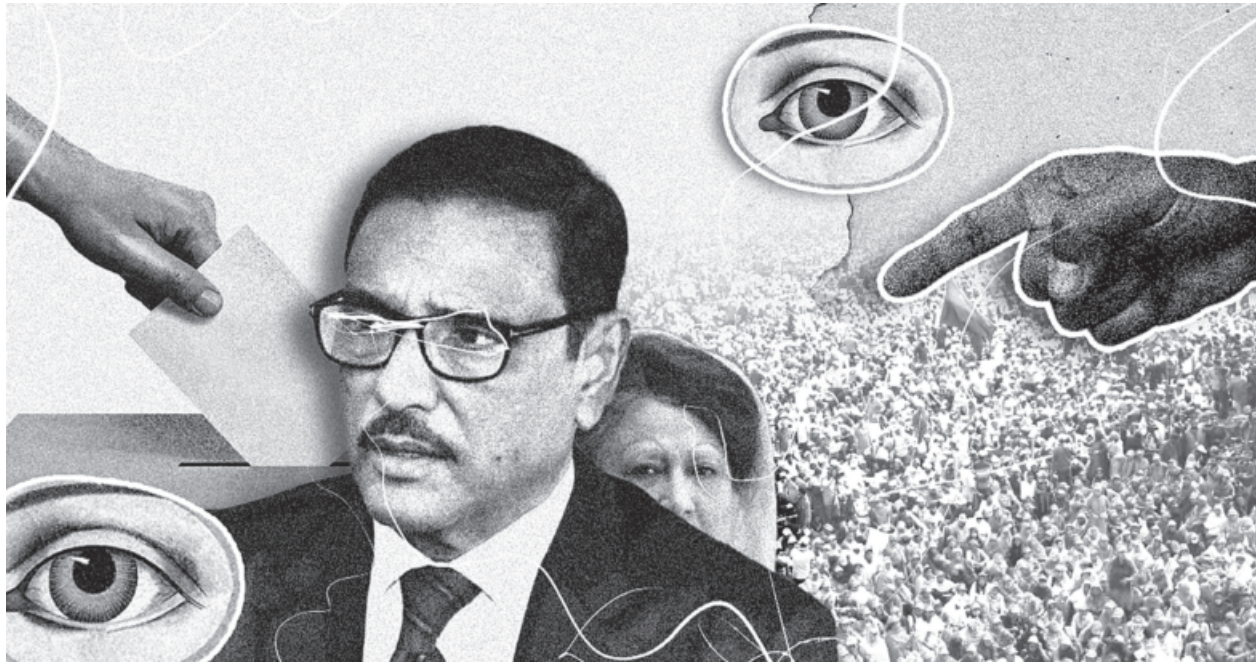
The promptness and severity with which some social media critics of our PM have been jailed has created an atmosphere of intimidation. The existence of laws like the ICT, DSA, CSA, etc, the misuse of defamation and other laws, and the collective demonisation of independent media by the pulpits of power and their cacophonous resonance from a domesticated media have taught us better.

It is against this backdrop that we raise a question about a remark made by the prime minister, last Tuesday, about the BNP chief's treatment abroad. Our PM said, "...she is 80 years old, at this age death is imminent; and she is also sick, so why this hullabaloo? No amount of crying will help this situation..." (own translation from the original in Bangla).

By this, did the PM mean that, as Khaleda Zia is 80 years old, we should stand back and see her wither away? Don't we believe that it is the Almighty who decides when a person's time comes to make the Eternal Journey? Is it not the practice in every country, culture and religion to extend all possible help to save a person's life? Whether a person will live beyond 80 or not is not our decision to make. Our duty is to try our best and do everything in our power to save the person's life. That's what civilisation is all about. One may have hundreds of reasons to despise their opponent, but such public comments can only further fuel hatred.

Our PM made another statement on Monday, in which she said, "Democracy must continue in Bangladesh at any cost. In no way should the undemocratic forces assume power."

We support her wholeheartedly on this score. It is a point of Bangladesh's pride that, however flawed it may be, we continue to practise democracy and have made significant economic progress while remaining within its broad framework. But is the PM's government and her party working to strengthen it? Did her continuous



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

rule for the past 15 years – 20 years if we count her first term – enjoying unrivalled power and undisturbed tenure (no hartals or disruptions) – consolidate democracy? Did this unfettered rule, never before enjoyed by any other party or even military dictator, strengthen any of the institutions of democracy, such as the parliament, judiciary, media and statutory bodies, that ensure accountability and rights?

While the PM reiterated her commitment to democracy, her party's secretary general and roads and transport minister, Obaidul Quader, remarked in a public meeting on Tuesday, "Where is the sanction? Where is the visa policy? Secret negotiations have been completed so there is nothing to worry about." "Sanction" and "visa policy" point to the secret negotiations with the US. He further said, "The US needs Delhi. Delhi is there, we are there." This implies that the second party in the secret deal must be India. So, according to the secretary general of the ruling party, a secret deal has been worked out with the US and India so that the AL will have "nothing to worry about."

This implies, based on the words of the ruling party secretary general, as Delhi supports it, AL will continue to be in power. What else can "nothing to worry about" mean? And what does this say about our sovereignty and dignity as a country and a people? About the independence of our government, since its continuance in power is apparently determined by our neighbour? What does this say about the relevance of our elections?

Where does all this leave us, the voters? In the 2014 election, 153

the AL secretary general is referring to when he says "*khela hobe*" ("The game is on")? It seems our election is all set to be an example of "match-fixing" rather than of "fair play."

Election season in a democracy is when power changes hands from the government to the people. Theoretically, it is an occasion when the people once again feel empowered. Tragically, this is not the case for Bangladesh.

If we analyse how the government is oppressing the opposition under a legal guise, it becomes evident that the "level playing field" does not exist for them. Whatever other records this government may have set, nothing compares to the use of court cases to victimise the opposition. According to sources at the BNP office, around 1.12 lakh cases have been filed implicating 39.78 lakh BNP leaders and activists since 2009. In addition, there are "unnamed accused" whose number exceeds those of the named. (The latter category is used by police to implicate anybody at whatever stage of an investigation, to extort bribes.) Even if we disregard 50 percent of these – taking into account possible exaggeration – nothing can explain this amount of lawsuits except political victimisation.

According to a September 20 report by *Prothom Alo*, Habib un Nabi, joint secretary general of BNP, has 450 cases against him; Saiful Alam, past president of Jubo Dal, has 350 cases against him; Jahangir Hossain, leader of the youth wing of BNP, faces 317 cases; Sultan Salahuddin, president of Jubo Dal, has 315 cases against him; Amanullah Aman, adviser to the BNP chairperson, is facing 250 cases; and 180 cases have been made against

who is more than 80 years old, has four cases against her, one of which is for arson – specifically for setting fire to a bus. Appearing in court for each case can easily take up the whole year. Most of these cases are 5-10 years old and have remained dormant for most of the ruling party's tenure. Now that the election is approaching, suddenly, these cases are acquiring a new life, with police becoming too eager to "serve the law."

We don't need any other statistic but the above example of cases against the biggest opposition to prove that all claims by the government and Awami League about holding a free and fair election is far from credible.

Our chief election commissioner (CEC) said on Wednesday that he is not worried about the "legitimacy" of the elections and is determined to hold "a lawful election." That is precisely what we are afraid of. Again, in 2014, as many as 153 MPs were "elected" uncontested. These so-called elections were legally "correct." But were they morally and ethically so? Was it an exercise in democracy? How do you think 9,19,65,167 felt when they could not cast their votes, for which they had waited five years?

Yes, we must have a "lawful election," but it must also be a "credible election" – credible to the voters and not simply to the winning party. By far, the most important aspect of an election is the "free and unfettered expression of the public will." Ensuring this is the most important task of the Election Commission, not only the formal compliance with the law. The CEC must be conscious of democratic, moral and ethical aspects of an election, not just the legal ones.

## Neglecting public health literacy will cost us

**Mohammad Aminul Islam**  
is senior lecturer of media studies  
and journalism at University of  
Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).



MOHAMMAD AMINUL ISLAM

Let's imagine that you have a university degree and are proficient in both English and Bangla. Right now, you are on a trip to Nepal, perhaps in a mountainous village very close to the Himalayas, where Nepali and Hindi are widely spoken, but English is not. Sitting at a small eatery, while enjoying the natural surroundings, you suddenly feel a pain in your stomach. You realise that the medicine you need is in your hotel room. There is no clinic, medical centre or hospital nearby. When some kind individuals do come in your aid, you see that they cannot speak a word of English or even feel your distress from the symptoms you are displaying. Thus, despite having a high level of

functional literacy, you are unable to access necessary medical care.

This is quite similar to what people with inadequate or low health literacy experience at hospitals. They struggle to understand the signs, instructions and recommendations in a clinical setting. They find the language of healthcare providers to be alien to them.

Today, health issues are more complex than ever, and even individuals with a decent level of traditional literacy may face difficulty in dealing with their bodies, serious illnesses, unfamiliar medical terms and information, navigating healthcare facilities, and conducting self-care.

But the issue of poor health literacy

is not merely at the individual level. Rather, it has social, political, economic, and environmental dimensions. The high prevalence of inadequate health literacy causes health disparity in terms of access to and use of healthcare services. Several studies indicate that inadequate health literacy levels cause a severe economic burden on the national healthcare system, organisations' outputs, and individual pockets.

In our current complex informational, socio-political and environmental ecology, traditional literacy is not enough. What we need now is public health literacy. Recent studies and empirical experiences indicate that limited health literacy is a public health challenge in many countries around the world. An individual with limited health literacy often fails to benefit from available resources as they have a poor understanding of their health, illness and treatment, resulting in an increased risk of being hospitalised and high medical costs. Scientists also argue that the tendency to adhere to medical and public health recommendations is very low among people without adequate health literacy.

During the recent Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing dengue crisis, we have seen how people tend not to adhere to public health recommendations. The cost of such ignorance has been very high in terms of national interest and disease prevention and control.

Along with investing resources in traditional literacy, it is high time to adopt national policies and programmes to improve health literacy among the common people of Bangladesh. Educational programmes should be made available through schools, colleges, universities and mass media. Hospitals and clinics should design and use carefully crafted communication materials, targeting the needs of different groups. In partnership with the government, private hospitals and donor agencies, a dedicated organisation can be established to improve health literacy in the country. Moreover, mobile apps and patient portals may be created to improve the availability of healthcare information and resources. We must recognise limited health literacy as a public health problem and treat it as such.





ILLUSTRATION: REHNUMA PROSHOON

ATTACK ON RADHAPADA ROY

When poets cry



NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Aasha Mehreen Amin  
is joint editor at The Daily Star.

AASHA MEHREEN AMIN

The attack on 80-year-old poet Radhapada Roy in Kurigram has only added to the list of reasons why many Bangladeshis feel ashamed of being perceived as the citizens of a country where communal elements are gaining ground. We can only wonder how a poet so revered – an author of at least 100 spiritual poems – could be beaten up with a bamboo stick when he had simply been fishing at a nearby pond in the morning. How did these goons muster up the audacity to attack an elderly man? And more importantly, why did they even do so?

Radhapada has said, while in hospital being treated for his injuries, that one of his attackers had quipped, “Nothing will happen if I beat a Hindu poet.” The greatest tragedy is that Radhapada knew who his attackers were – they were men from a nearby village. One of them had gotten into an argument with the victim several months ago. It is therefore also puzzling why the attackers decided to assault the elderly poet so many months after the incident.

But we should own up to what has been happening in independent Bangladesh. We cannot be sure whether Radhapada’s assault was part of any ploys to lay blame on a particular political party, or a random attack triggered by previous events. But it seems clear that Radhapada being a member of a minority community gave the attackers the audacity to commit such a reprehensible crime – because they thought they would get away with it.

The attackers’ sense of infallibility is a consequence of an insidious movement that has been going on for a long time, and that is to change the identity of Bangladesh from a nation historically known for its religious harmony and tolerance for diversity, to one where negative communal ideas can thrive and

even be encouraged for political expediency.

We have already seen how other poets, baul singers and, generally, members of minority communities have been threatened and attacked, with their homes destroyed and lives left in tatters. Ramu, Nasirnagar, Cumilla, Narail, Sunamganj – the list of places where communal attacks have taken place is endless. In almost all cases, there has been deafening silence and incredible apathy from the police, the majoritarian community, and the state in general.

Thus we, Bangladeshis, have watched helplessly as bigots have successfully erased the work of writers and poets from school textbooks, citing their last names, and as baul singers have been arrested and imprisoned for their spiritual songs. Everything has become a question of “hurting religious sentiments” (of the majoritarian population) and “an attempt to tarnish the image of the country,” or just plain “anti-state.” These are the phrases that are used to take away (using draconian laws) the freedoms of citizens for simply expressing a different point of view. Even poetry and song – mediums that convey our deepest emotions and represent our very souls – are being labelled as dangerous or sacrilegious.

In this pre-election period, it will not be surprising to see instances of bigotry as political parties try to affiliate themselves with religious groups in hopes

**We should own up to what has been happening in independent Bangladesh. We cannot be sure whether Radhapada’s assault was part of any ploys to lay blame on a particular political party, or a random attack triggered by previous events. But it seems clear that Radhapada being a member of a minority community gave the attackers the audacity to commit such a reprehensible crime – because they thought they would get away with it.**

This tacit tolerance of bigotry over the years has nurtured ideologies that are diametrically opposite to the founding principles of our nation. They are contradictory to our syncretic culture. Our freedom fighters fought with their lives and limbs to safeguard this harmonious existence and free us from the shackles of the racial and religious discrimination clamped onto us by a foreign regime. But it did not take long for intolerance and hatred for “the other” to pull us back, especially when consecutive governments decided to hold hands with groups that were explicitly against the pluralistic spirit of our independent nation, allowing them to spread their tentacles all over the country.

of expanding their voter base. As we have seen already, many new religion-based parties have cropped up to challenge the existing ones. These alliances – and the popular response of looking the other way when blatant acts of violence against minority communities take place – will further erode the syncretic culture we are so proud of as Bangladeshis.

Unfortunately, Bangladesh is changing and is in danger of moving further away from the ideals of the Liberation War. We can no longer just pay lip service to the spirit of the war through ritualistic observations of days. It’s time we took a deep look into ourselves and ask: who have we become?

Assange may be in the dock, but it is journalism that’s on trial



THE OVERTON WINDOW

Fresh Omar Jamal  
is a freelance journalist.

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

During the 78th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 18-22 in New York, Brazilian President Lula Da Silva and Honduran President Xiomara Castro called on the US and the UK for the release of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. To the applause of world leaders, Lula said, “Preserving press freedom is essential... A journalist like Julian Assange cannot be punished [for] informing society in a transparent and legitimate way.” Yet, it is these same world leaders – many of them, at least – who are often found to be involved in the persecution of journalists.

the Ecuadorian embassy in London – in clear violation of numerous international laws and treaties.

So, why take such a risk? What is Assange’s crime that the CIA contemplated risking an international outcry to destroy just one publisher and journalist?

According to Pilger, Assange’s crime was that “he broke a silence.” Pilger claimed that “no investigative journalism in my lifetime can equal the importance of what WikiLeaks has done and the public service it has provided in calling rapacious power to account.” A bold claim, indeed.

But he is not the only respected

the world have been increasingly doing so. This case in particular could set the most important precedent for extraterritorial prosecution of media across the globe.

Additionally, if Assange is prosecuted for publishing leaked classified documents, every single media outlet is at risk of prosecution for doing the exact same thing. The Obama administration, for example, explored for years whether it could criminally charge Assange and WikiLeaks for publishing classified information, only to decide that it could not do so given the press freedom guarantee of the US Constitution’s First Amendment. There would be no way to differentiate a traditional media outlet such as *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post* from an entity like WikiLeaks without involving the government and the courts in the formulation of a legal definition of what qualifies as a part of the press. And would we really want that, given



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

From the very beginning, the Assange case has been fraught with many inconsistencies and controversies.

The US itself is often considered – and frequently claims – to be a world leader, particularly when it comes to upholding and defending human rights and freedom of expression. Which again makes its persecution of Assange all the more ironic and especially dangerous.

From the very beginning, the Assange case has been fraught with many inconsistencies and controversies. One doesn’t have to be a legal expert to realise that the Swedish, UK, US and other authorities have handled the Assange case differently time and again. It almost seemed as if some powerful force was out to get him no matter the cost, and was willing to bend or break all the rules to do so.

In fact, according to legendary journalist John Pilger, a plan was conceived as early as 2008 by the cyber counterintelligence assessment branch of the US Department of Defense with the aim to destroy “the feeling of trust that is Wikileaks’ centre of gravity.” After 2008, endless information has come to light showing how some of the most powerful organisations in the world have been out to get Assange. The most outlandish among these is the fact that senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials during the Trump administration’s tenure had discussed abducting and even assassinating Assange, while he was still within the confines of

human rights defender to have made such a claim. Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Glenn Greenwald once described WikiLeaks as being “one of the very few, if not (the) only, group effectively putting fear into the hearts of the world’s most powerful and corrupt people.” Other famed individuals such as Noam Chomsky, Slavoj Zizek, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Maguire have vehemently applauded Assange for his journalistic achievements.

Yet, aside from the injustices that have been perpetrated against Assange, the case against him and WikiLeaks is much more important for what it might entail for press freedom itself. From Amnesty International to Human Rights Watch, from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) to the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Reporters Without Borders (RSF), all the important organisations have condemned the prosecution of Julian Assange, denouncing its devastating impact on journalism and on the public’s right to know.

Firstly, the very notion that the US can indict and demand the extradition of a foreign journalist is extremely dangerous. It means that sovereignty has no value. And, of course, there is no reason why other countries or governments wouldn’t follow suit. In fact, many authoritarian governments around

the numerous risks that could arise from such a scenario?

This is why even the editors and publishers of *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel*, and *El Pais* – not all of which are fans of Assange – have said in a letter that his “indictment sets a dangerous precedent, and threatens to undermine America’s First Amendment and the freedom of the press.”

But, as things stand, Assange’s extradition to the US might be imminent. His legal team has filed a final application for appeal, the last option available in the British courts. If accepted, the case could proceed to a public hearing in front of two new High Court judges. If rejected, Assange could immediately be extradited to the US, where he will stand trial for 18 counts of violating the vague Espionage Act, and face charges that could see him receive a 175-year sentence. As RSF said in a statement on June 8, “The historical weight of what happens next cannot be overstated.”

Therefore, regardless of one’s personal feelings towards Assange or his organisation, WikiLeaks, it is high time for anyone who believes in the importance of press freedom and of protecting journalism to realise that, while Assange sits in the dock, journalistic rights and press freedom are truly the ones under trial and in grave danger.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS

1 Home of the Buccaneers

6 Fancy dos

11 Shark’s home

12 Sports spot

13 1994 Disney film

15 Ready to go

16 Coffee, in slang

17 Notice

18 In the cards

20 Pesto herb

23 Jazz bits

27 High point

28 Singer Billy

29 More original

31 Drunken

32 Common dice roll

34 Tack on

37 Day in Tijuana

38 Turn bad
- 41 2003 Disney film

44 Carved gem

45 “Tiny Bubbles” singer

46 Work byproduct

47 Oilcan part
- DOWN

1 Young ones

2 Massage target

3 Come together

4 Buddy

5 Zoo resident

6 Goose’s mate

7 Noah’s boat

8 Floral rings

9 Writer Rice

10 Cooking mint

14 Unconscious

18 Repairs

19 Mustard city of
- France

20 Prohibit

21 King Kong, for one

22 Put in stitches

24 Egg – yong

25 Turkish topper

26 Cunning

30 Very popular

31 Chin covers

33 Compete

34 Rudiments

35 Poker variety

36 Rotunda

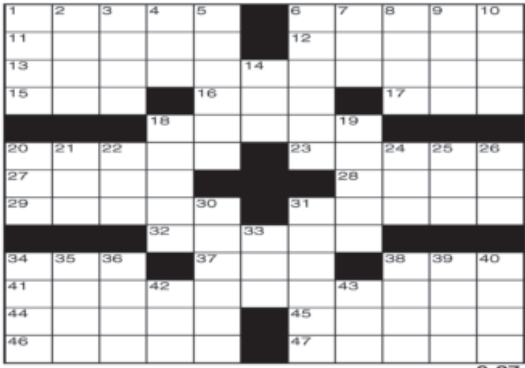
38 Nevada city

39 Honolulu’s island

40 Easy run

42 Pot fill

43 Jazz style



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS



BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT





## ‘United’ Bangladesh begin WC preparation in Dharamshala

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh team took part in its first training session in Dharamshala yesterday ahead of the Word Cup opener as the players try to put the chaotic buildup to the tournament in the rearview and take the field as a united unit.

The Tigers are now in Dharamshala after their two warm-up games in Guwahati, where they defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets and lost to England by four wickets.

They are now preparing for their first game in the tournament against Afghanistan on October 7.

But the talks before the match is not just centred around on how the team will tackle Afghanistan’s deadly spin attack as there is still concern about how the team will cope up with the off field controversies before the tournament.

However, the Bangladesh Cricket Board’s (BCB) cricket operations chairman Jalal Yunus, who flew to India yesterday to join the Bangladesh contingent, told reporters in Dhaka before his departure that the team is united despite the drama following the World Cup squad announcement.

“Once they (cricketers) put on their jerseys, they



aren’t thinking of anything else. They are focused on the tournament and the matches coming up. They are very spirited and the team-spirit is high. So there is no problem regarding that,” Jalal said.

“I had been with the team before and during the Asia Cup as well. They are focused and they are very much united and only focused on matches. They aren’t bothered at all, I have talked to them quite a number of times [since the team’s departure]. They are looking forward to a very exciting cricket match [against Afghanistan],” he added.

The team received a big boost on the day as skipper Shakib Al Hasan returned to the nets session. He earlier didn’t take part in either of the warm-up games after suffering an ankle sprain during a training session.

In the warm-up games, young opener Tanzid Hasan and Mehedi Hasan Miraz came good with the bat.

Bangladesh are without their most experienced opener Tamim Iqbal. Hence two of the three options for the opening slot scoring runs in both warm-up games is a reassuring sign for the Tigers.

“Tanzid is very good and he is still young. We are still not expecting a lot of things from him. He has just started his international career and he is a very promising cricketer,” Jalal felt.

The World Cup in India is likely to be a high-scoring affair and Jalal believes Bangladesh have enough firepower in their squad to achieve big totals.

“We are a capable team and are capable of big chases. Of course, everyone will not score all the time. But if four to five batters turn up and we get one or two good partnerships, it’s sometimes enough.”



Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi looks all set for their World Cup opener against the Netherlands at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad today. With Naseem Shah missing the showpiece event due to injury, Pakistan will hope for Shaheen to be at his very best.

PHOTO: AFP

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## ‘Young boys of 2019 have now become men’

AFP, Hyderabad

Pakistan coach Mickey Arthur said that the young players that represented the country in the last World Cup in 2019 have now matured as he hopes his team will have two wins under their belts before they face old rivals India in the eagerly-awaited World Cup blockbuster.

The 1992 champions face the Netherlands first up in Hyderabad on Friday followed by Sri Lanka at the same venue four days later.

Pakistan will then lock horns against India in Ahmedabad on October 14 in front of 132,000 fans in the world’s biggest cricket arena.

“It’s going to be an unbelievable spectacle,” said Arthur on Thursday.

“I can’t wait for it, personally. Hopefully, we’ve got two wins under the belt before we get to Ahmedabad.”

Arthur praised world number one ODI team India.

“India are playing some fantastic cricket, but so are we,” said Arthur. “I just think it’s going to be a great game. I can’t wait for it, personally.”

Pakistan will hope to overcome a poor show in the recent Asia Cup where they suffered a 228-run rout at the hands of India and lost by two

wickets against Sri Lanka.

They also went down in both World Cup warm-up games against New Zealand and Australia, also in Hyderabad.

Arthur said his team will, however, be focused on the Netherlands rather than India.

“We’re not getting too far ahead of ourselves,” said Arthur. “First of all, the boys love being in India,

a second World Cup to add to Pakistan’s 1992 triumph.

“I felt in 2019 we were very, very close,” said Arthur despite Pakistan failing to reach the semifinals.

“These young boys have now become men and have another four years’ experience.

“Look, they’re a very close group because they’ve played together for so long. They know each other backwards. They’re not only teammates, but they’re generally friends as well.”

The pitch at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad is known for high scores with New Zealand chasing 346 and Pakistan compiling 337 in a chase of 352 against Australia in the warm-ups.

“It looks an incredibly good wicket,” said Arthur. “The wickets we had for the warm-up games were brilliant and this pitch looks no different. It looks like a very, very good one.”

Arthur also played down concerns over the lack of form of opener Fakhar Zaman and spinning allrounder Shadab Khan.

“I think form comes and goes,” said Arthur. “The quality of these players that we have in those positions is undoubted. It’s about making sure they are in a good space mentally, and then just hopefully that they click tomorrow.”

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which is fantastic.

“The pressure of a World Cup is always massive. But I think our boys are in a really good place.”

Pakistan appointed Arthur in April this year for a second stint, doubling up on his job with Derbyshire in the English county championship.

He vowed to complete the unfinished business of winning

### SCORES IN BRIEF

#### ENGLAND VS NEW ZEALAND

##### ENGLAND:

282 for nine in 50 overs (Root 77, Buttler 43; Henry 3-48, Phillips 2-17)

##### NEW ZEALAND:

283 for one in 36.2 overs (Conway 152 not out, Ravindra 123 not out; Curran 1-47)

##### RESULT:

New Zealand won by nine wickets

Player-of-the-match:  
Rachin Ravindra

New Zealand opener Devon Conway smashed the first ton of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in the Blackcaps’ nine-wicket drubbing of defending champions England at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday. Conway’s fifth ODI ton saw him score an unbeaten 152 and he was well complemented by fellow left-hander Rachin Ravindra, who also rose to the occasion to bring up his maiden ton. Ravindra also remained unbeaten on 123 as the Blackcaps chased down England’s 283-run target with 82 deliveries to spare.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Netherlands are yet to beat Pakistan after six ODIs.

The two sides are set for a third meet in the ODI World Cup.

The 1992 World Cup champions will play their first ODI on Indian soil after over 10 years. Since then, Pakistan have played four T20Is in India during the 2016 T20 World Cup.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam is the highest run-getter in ODIs between the two teams, having scored 222 runs in three innings.

Pakistan’s Fakhar Zaman and Netherlands’ Bas de Leede boast the highest individual scores for their respective teams. Fakhar’s run-a-ball 109 and De Leede’s 120-ball 89 – both came up in the bilateral series played in Rotterdam last year.

Logan Van Beek is the Netherlands’ highest wicket-taker since 2019, scalping 34 wickets in 25 matches in this period.



## India-Pakistan the bigger rage?



STAR SPORTS DESK

The greatest cricket carnival began yesterday with defending champions England taking on New Zealand at the biggest cricket stadium in the world in a country that arguably has the largest fanbase of the sport.

However, as England skipper Jos Buttler and the Blackcaps’ stand-in captain Tom Latham made their way out to the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, they did not get a raucous reception with most of the 132,000-capacity arena empty.

Even the few present at the stadium were mostly looking forward to another game – the most-anticipated clash of the tournament between hosts India and archrivals Pakistan at this venue on October 14.

With the tradition of holding an opening ceremony bucked for the first time in many years, the vibe hardly had any difference from how it remains during the opener of a bilateral series.

Jyoti Malhotra, wearing a sari in the Indian tricolour, told AFP she was just “so excited” to be at the match.

But the big game she is looking forward to is the tournament’s blockbuster clash between arch-rivals India and Pakistan.

“I’m still looking for an India-Pakistan ticket,” she said. “I’ll be here for the final, hopefully India-Pakistan.”

With seats already all sold out, the fans have been turning to the black market and touts, with tickets for a normal stand costing 2000 rupees (\$24) shooting up more than 25 times in cost to as much as 50,000 rupees (\$600).

Fan Zubair Ahmed said if he could, he would go. “It’s the most loved match in the world,” he said. “The kind of emotions that flow when India win are so great, I can’t explain it in words.”

## Saikat begins historic journey

AGENCIES

Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat of Bangladesh made his World Cup debut as the reserve umpire yesterday when England and New Zealand clashed in Ahmedabad in the tournament’s opening match.

The 46-year-old, the first Bangladesh umpire to appear in the World Cup, will stand in five World Cup matches as an on-field umpire, including a group stage encounter between Australia and New Zealand on October 28.

“Being the first Bangladeshi to officiate in the World Cup, I have the same feeling. I hope it will not be the last, but first of many,” Sharfuddoula had said before the tournament.

Sharfuddoula, who has officiated in 106 international matches to date, is one of 16 umpires for the prestigious tournament and one of four from the ICC Emerging Umpire Panel.



পূর্বাচল

মেরিন সিটি

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## Lewy risks Clasico absence with injury

AFP, BARCELONA

Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski could miss the first Clasico of the season against Real Madrid on October 28 after spraining his ankle in Wednesday's Champions League win over Porto.

Lewandowski came off in the first half and faces up to a month out, according to reports in Spain. Substitute Ferran Torres scored to give Barcelona a hard-fought 1-0 win at Porto.

Barcelona gave no indication how long the Poland international would be sidelined, but said he "will be out of action until the injury heals."

He will be unavailable for Sunday's trip to Granada in La Liga, and faces a race against time to return against Madrid at the end of the month.

He is also expected to be ruled out of Poland's Euro 2024 qualifiers against the Faroe Islands and Moldova.

Lewandowski was hurt in a challenge with Porto defender David Carmo, and joins Pedri, Frenkie de Jong and Raphinha on the treatment table at Barcelona. The 35-year-old has scored six times in 10 games for Barcelona this season, with five of those goals coming in the league.



Newcastle United defender Dan Burn celebrates with his teammates after scoring his team's second goal during their 4-1 victory over French giants PSG in the Champions League at St James' Park on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## GUARDIOLA delighted with Alvarez's huge impact



AGENCIES

Holders Manchester City struck twice in the final minutes through Julian Alvarez and Jeremy Doku to beat hosts RB Leipzig 3-1 on Wednesday and rebound from successive domestic defeats to take control of Champions League Group G with maximum points.

Alvarez curled his shot from the edge of the box into the top corner in the 84th minute and then set up Doku in stoppage time for their third goal as City, who had lost to Newcastle United in the EFL Cup before their league loss to Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday, moved up to six points from two games in top spot.

Coach Pep Guardiola hailed the huge impact from Julian Alvarez.

The City boss said he has no doubts about his quality after playing his part in last season's treble as well as helping Argentina to the World Cup in a remarkable individual season.

But with the good form of John Stones, Rodrigo, Kevin De Bruyne and former captain Ilkay Gundogan in midfield last season, Alvarez has been patient for his opportunity.

And he has been in outstanding form this season with five goals and four assists already and made a big contribution as a 79th minute substitute in Germany.

"When a player is a world champion with Argentina and plays in the starting XI for Argentina, it's because he is a good player," Guardiola said.

"Last season he arrived in a moment when we had John, Rodri, Kevin, Gundo and it was working well and he didn't get many minutes but he never complained and look what happened now.

"When you have this positivity and go there, make three runs, two or three crosses, make an outstanding goal again - it's not the first time he scored this type of goal.

"In 10, 15 minutes the impact was huge. To have these players on the bench with this mentality is really important."

## Enrique's tiki-taka exposed

REUTERS, PARIS

While Paris St Germain have had a clear playing style this season, the French champions looked completely lost when it came to dealing with Newcastle United's high-intensity pressing in their 4-1 defeat at St James' Park on Wednesday.

The result left PSG with three points from two games in the Champions League Group F, and with questions to answer about their character and lack of a 'Plan B'.

PSG started with an extremely offensive system - Manuel Ugarte and Warren Zaire-Emery the only two proper midfielders behind the attacking quartet of Kylian Mbappe, Goncalo Ramos, Ousmane Dembele and Randall Kolo Muani.

They could not handle Newcastle's fury and were quickly overwhelmed.

"They put us in difficulty in the midfield, yes, where we were outnumbered. It was not easy," said defender Lucas Hernandez, who scored PSG's goal in the second half.

PSG returned to the dressing room trailing 2-0, having only threatened through Dembele early on and clearly needing more control in midfield.



While the situation should have prompted Enrique to make adjustments at halftime it was the same 11 who started the second half, and PSG conceded another goal in the 50th minute.

PSG enjoyed almost 70% possession but were unable to create dangerous opportunities and made several big errors, with Marquinhos' woeful clearance leading to Miguel Almiron's opener.

"I am responsible for this result," Enrique said, without giving a fuller explanation.

While he praised the players' attitude, the front four failed to press while Ugarte was never in the mix in the midfield, with only Zaire-Emery rising to the occasion.

"I don't know where the problems are but we are going to look into it to improve," Zaire-Emery said.

PSG's next Champions League fixture is against AC Milan at the Parc des Princes and Hernandez said they had to "learn from our mistakes".

"We're all aware of our role to play," he added. "And it's up to us to show it on the pitch, not in front of the cameras and microphones."

## Kabaddi's Asiad run ends with win

SPORTS REPORTER FROM HANGZHOU

Bangladesh's men's kabaddi team ended another fruitless Asian Games campaign with a 45-29 victory against Thailand in their last Pool A match on Thursday at Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre.

Bangladesh finished third following two wins in four matches, behind Pool winners India and group runners up Chinese Taipei who advanced to the semifinals.

### Nu May finishes last

Nu May Marma of Bangladesh finished eighth out of eight competitors in the women's kata event at the Linping Sports Centre Gymnasium yesterday.

Nu got 36.30 points, falling 3.5 points short of Indonesian Krisda Putri Aprilia, who sealed the fourth and final position to advance to the semifinals.

Meanwhile, a stomach upset prevented Mohammad Hasan Khan from participating in the men's kata event, according to officials.

### Cricketers brace for India clash

During the 2014 Incheon Asian Games, Bangladesh had to quit from the semifinal after a coin toss decided their outcome against Sri Lanka. Nine years later, the 2010

gold medallists find themselves in the last four stage as they take on Asiad debutants India today.

The match is scheduled to start at 7:00am (Bangladesh time) at Zhejiang University of Technology Pingfeng Cricket Field, where eight players underwent around ninety minutes of training session while the others were given rest to recover following a nerve-racking two-run win over Malaysia.

Opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy believes that win helped them to assess the wicket and hoped that his side will not repeat a top-order batting collapse.

"The wicket is a bit slow and a turning one. Tomorrow it may be different... but we will play accordingly," said Joy, adding that there are several players from the 2020 U-19 World Cup-winning squad who are confident to perform well against India.

India, meanwhile, had a more than two-hour training at the same ground. Asked whether Bangladesh could pose the hardest challenge, India captain Rituraj Gaikwad said, "I think every team competing in the tournament are difficult team to face because T20 cricket is such a format where any team can win on a given day.

"You saw Malaysia gave a tough fight to Bangladesh and Nepal and Hong Kong did the same to us and Pakistan, respectively."

## Tharushi to receive Rs. 10 mln from SLC

AFP, Colombo

Teenager Tharushi Karunarathna, Sri Lanka's only gold medallist so far at the Hangzhou Asian Games, received a congratulatory telephone call from the country's president and cash from the cricket board.

After the 18-year-old won the women's 800m on Wednesday in Hangzhou, President Ranil Wickremesinghe telephoned the runner to convey the nation's gratitude.

"President Wickremesinghe expressed the pride felt by the nation for her extraordinary success on the international stage and conveyed his best wishes for her future endeavours in sports," his office said in a statement.



Sri Lanka's cricket board, the richest sporting body in the country, said it was gifting her 10 million rupees (\$31,000).

Karunarathna's gold was Sri Lanka's first in athletics at the Asian Games since 2002, when they won two.

## 2030 WORLD CUP Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay get automatic places

AFP, LAUSANNE

Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay will all be given automatic qualifying spots for the 2030 World Cup for hosting the three opening games of the tournament, FIFA confirmed on Thursday.

World football's governing body announced on Wednesday that Morocco, Portugal and Spain will jointly host the 2030 showpiece but the opening games will be played in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay to celebrate the tournament's centenary.

In its original announcement, FIFA only confirmed that Morocco, Portugal and Spain would automatically qualify, but on Thursday it confirmed that the three South American nations would also be spared qualifying.

It means that in a tournament that will have already expanded from 32 teams to 48 teams for the 2026 finals, "three of the six places" attributed to the South American zone in 2030 will be taken, a FIFA spokesman said.

A South American team will also have the chance to qualify in a playoff with a team from another continent.



The guaranteed berth for 2030 is especially good news for Paraguay which has failed to qualify for the last three World Cups.

Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay were originally candidates alongside Chile to host the tournament but eventually stood aside in return for the right to host the first three matches and celebrations for the centenary of the World Cup, which was first played in Uruguay's capital Montevideo in 1930.

## Alcaraz feels 'ready' for Shanghai

AFP, SHANGHAI



Shanghai Masters top seed Carlos Alcaraz said Thursday he was ready for the tournament and would change what he did wrong in Beijing, where he crashed out of the China Open this week.

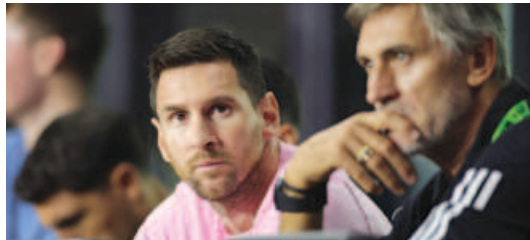
The world number two said he had been "out of my mind" during his semi-final match against Jannik Sinner in the Chinese capital, which the Italian won 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Asked on Thursday how he would avoid cracking under pressure again in Shanghai, where he is the favourite in Novak Djokovic's absence, the 20-year-old said he had to "do my homework".

"I have just one day to practise and then the tournament is going to start, but... I feel ready, and I'll change what I did wrong in Beijing," he told reporters at a press conference.

Sinner went on to claim the China Open title, and could well end up facing Alcaraz again in Shanghai. "I wasn't surprised at all," the Spaniard said of Sinner's win. "I know the capacity of Jannik. I know his level. He's one of the best in the world right now and he can beat anyone."

It is Alcaraz's first time at the Shanghai Masters, with the event called off for the last three years because of the Covid-19 pandemic.



## Messi called up for qualifiers despite injury

AFP, BUENOS AIRES

Argentina have called up Lionel Messi for their upcoming South American World Cup qualifiers despite him being on the injured list at his club Inter Miami.

Messi missed Inter's 4-1 defeat to Chicago on Wednesday as he continues to struggle with his fitness - he has played just 37 minutes for the club since September 3.

The 36-year-old has missed Inter's last three games and five of their last six.

Argentina host Paraguay on October 12 and then travel to play Peru five days later in CONMEBOL qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

Messi's Miami team-mate, 21-year-old winger Facundo Farias, has been called up to the national team squad for the first time.





## BNP unveils fresh programmes till Oct 18

At least 10 hurt in attack on its road march from Cumilla to Chattogram

STAR REPORT

BNP yesterday announced a series of fresh programmes, including a rally in Dhaka, to press home its demand for an election under a non-partisan interim administration.

It made the announcement during its road march at Chattogram city's Kazir Dewri Naval Chattar area. The march started from Cumilla.

The programmes will include a rally and procession in the capital and other districts on October 9. There will then be a students' convention on October 12, a mass hunger strike on the 14th, a youth convention on the 16th, and a mass rally on October 18th – all in Dhaka.

New programmes will be announced at the Dhaka rally. At least 10 people were injured and 25 vehicles vandalised as Awami League workers allegedly attacked the BNP road march on the Cox's Bazar-Chattogram Highway in Chandanaish upazila and in Noakhali's Companiganj upazila, said opposition leaders.

Opening the march at Cumilla town's Kala Kachua, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "She [Hasina] put in a lot of effort to cancel the visa policy and get rid of sanctions but they [the US] didn't pay any heed to her."

The country's people nor the international community

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BNP leaders and activists pour into Kalakachua area of Cumilla's Burichang upazila yesterday before the start of a road march to Chattogram. The party organised the programme as part of its one-point movement demanding resignation of the government and general elections under a non-party neutral administration.

PHOTO: STAR

## Quader finds nothing wrong in his comment

Says 'reaching understanding' means US-Bangla ties improving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said he was not wrong when he said "an understanding has been reached behind the scenes".

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, made the comment while exchanging views with journalists at the secretariat.

Speaking at a rally in Savar on Tuesday, the AL leader said, "America needs Delhi. Delhi is there, so are we. No enmity with anyone, only friendship. Sheikh Hasina has struck a balance with regard to relations with everyone. No more worries. Election will be held in time."

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## Norwegian author Jon Fosse wins Nobel in literature

REUTERS, Stockholm

Norwegian author and dramatist Jon Fosse won the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable," the award-giving body said yesterday.

Born in 1959 in Haugesund on Norway's west coast, Fosse is best known for his dramas, though his writing spans poetry, essays, children's books and translations.

His work "touches on the deepest feelings that you have, anxieties, insecurities, questions of life and death," Swedish Academy member Anders Olsson said.

"It has a sort of universal impact of everything that he writes. And it doesn't matter if it is drama, poetry or prose, it the same kind of appeal of basic humanism," Olsson said.

Fosse, seen as a long-time contender for the prize and among this year's favourites in the betting odds, said he was "overwhelmed and somewhat frightened" by the award.

"I see this as an award to the literature that first and foremost aims to be literature, without other considerations,"

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Jon Fosse

## UKRAINIAN VILLAGE 51 killed as Russian missile hits cafe, shop

Zelensky denounces 'Russian terror', seeks more air defences

REUTERS, Kyiv

A Russian missile slammed into a cafe and grocery store in a village in northeastern Ukraine yesterday, killing at least 51 people as they held a memorial service, Ukrainian officials said.

The cafe and shop were struck and reduced to rubble early in the afternoon in Hroza village in the Kupiansk district of the Kharkiv region, regional governor Oleh Synchubov said, adding that many civilians had been there at the time.

Officials posted footage of dazed-looking rescue workers clambering through smouldering rubble. Some photos showed bodies lying alongside slabs of concrete and twisted metal, and others showed rescue workers carrying away bodies.

Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said

residents of the village of about 330 people had been holding a memorial service in the cafe that was hit, and local officials said they had been sitting down to a meal.

The attack was the deadliest in the Kharkiv region since Russia's invasion more than 19 months ago, a spokesperson for the Kharkiv regional military administration told Ukrainian public broadcaster Suspilne.

President Volodymyr Zelensky, who was attending a summit with European leaders in Spain, said that "the Russian terror should be

stopped".

"Now we are talking with European leaders, in particular, about strengthening our air defence, about strengthening our soldiers, about giving our country protection from terror," he said in a post on the Telegram messaging app.



## 2 ASIs closed over ex-ACC official's death in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two assistant sub-inspectors of Chandgaon Police Station were withdrawn from their duties yesterday in connection with the death of former ACC official Sayed Mohammad Shahidullah, who died in police custody on Tuesday night.

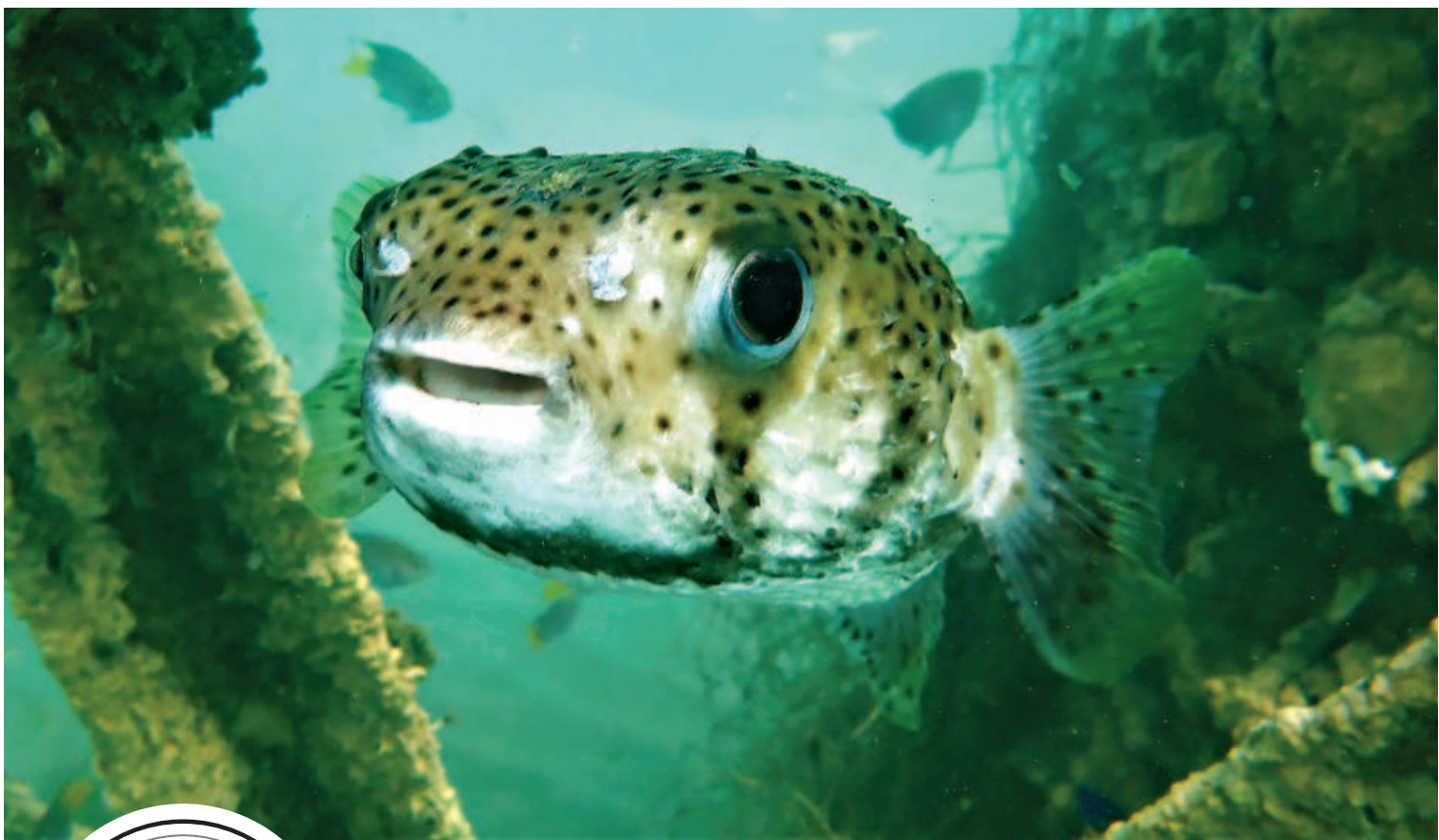
Chattogram Metropolitan Police closed the two police officials – Md Yousuf Ali and Md ATM Sohul Rana – and attached them to CMP Dampara Police Lines, said CMP Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-PR) Spina Rani.

MA Masud, additional commissioner (admin and finance), signed the order.

ASIs Md Yousuf and Md ATM Rana arrested Shahidullah and brought him to Chandgaon Police Station on Tuesday night.

Shahidullah, a former ACC deputy director, died in police custody the same night after cops allegedly

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**PORCUPINE WITH FINS ...** A spot-fin porcupinefish, known as Shojaru maach in Bangla, spotted in the Bay of Bengal in Saint Martin's Island. It's found in tropical and subtropical waters around the world. It's usually mistaken as the nearly-identical spotted puffer fish as both species swallow water to inflate themselves in the face of danger. However, porcupine fish have scales that are modified into spines, which they use, along with toxins secreted from its body, to ward off predators. As a matter of fact, the toxins make them poisonous for humans as well. Though spot-fin porcupinefish populations are not considered threatened, they are regular victims of fishing for the pet trade, while their bodies, after killed, are also used to as souvenirs in many parts of the world.

PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

## NID DATA LEAK EC points finger at several public, private organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission suspects that personal information of smart NID card holders was leaked from several organisations that have access to the NID server.

AKM Humayun Kabir, director general of the EC's NID wing, yesterday said information might have been leaked from several public and private organisations.

Officials are not sure how many people's data have been leaked.

Speaking to reporters at his office, Humayun said the NID server services to some suspected organisations have been temporarily suspended and a two-member committee has been formed to find out how and from where information was leaked.

His comments came amid reports of sensitive personal information of smart NID card holders being available in a Telegram channel since Tuesday.

The NID server has information of about 12 crore voters, of whom around 5.5 crore have smart NID cards.

A Telegram bot provides people's names, gender, parents' names, phone numbers, addresses, photos and other

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## World's tallest wooden tower to be built in Australia

CNN ONLINE

Western Australia may soon be home to the world's tallest wooden building, after authorities in Perth green-lit plans for a 191.2-metre-tall (627-foot) "hybrid" tower constructed using mass timber.



Perth's Metro Inner-South Joint Development Assessment Panel (JDAP) approved Grange Development's proposal for the skyscraper, currently dubbed the C6 building, which would stand nearly twice as high as the current record holder.

The developers say 42 percent of the proposed tower will be constructed from timber, with the columns and core made of reinforced concrete.

If completed, the high-rise will surpass the world's tallest timber-concrete hybrid building, the Ascent tower in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which stands at 25 stories or 86 metres (284 feet), according to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

The proposed structure, located on Charles Street in South Perth, will also be taller than the forthcoming hybrid timber Atlassian Headquarters in Sydney, which is poised to claim the record from Ascent but is yet to be completed.

## Flash floods hit 3 northern dists

Heavy rains, onrush of water from upstream inundate low-lying areas

STAR REPORT

Vast tracts of low-lying areas in three northern districts have been inundated due to an onrush of water from upstream and torrential rainfall.

As such, the flood-affected people in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, and Rangpur face significant losses due to the submersion of their homes as well as croplands.

What makes matters worse is that there is a chance of heavy rainfall in the northern region and adjoining upstream parts of Bangladesh in the next 24-48 hours.

"As a result, the Dharla, the Dudhkumar, the Upper Karatoa, the Upper Atrai, the Punarvaba, the Kulikh, the Tangon, the Isamoti Jamuna, and the Jamuneswari rivers may rise rapidly at times during this period," according to a weather bulletin from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC)

"There is a chance of heavy rainfall in the northwestern region and adjoining upstream parts of Bangladesh in the next 24-48 hours. As a result, the Mohananda, the Little Jamuna, the Karatoa, the Atrai and the Gur rivers may rise rapidly at times during this period," said last morning's FFWC bulletin released at 9:00am.

In Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, low-lying areas of 21 unions have gone underwater, said locals and officials of the Water Development Board (WDB).

Teesta water started rising Wednesday noon after the Chungthang Dam in India's northeastern Sikkim collapsed. Teesta water crossed danger levels at different points of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat between Wednesday night and yesterday morning.

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