



“USING THE PADMA RAIL LINK, I CAN EASILY COMMUTE FROM MY HOMETOWN TO DHAKA CITY EVERY DAY!”

Built with 90% BSRM steel, the journey of the Padma Rail Link Project begins

PROPELLING NATION'S PROGRESS

BSRM building a safer nation

Falling reserve, bad loans worrying

Rehman Sobhan suggests further import curbs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The falling foreign exchange reserves and the ever-rising defaulted loans are very concerning for the economy, and the government should respond fast to avoid a looming crisis, eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said yesterday.

The reserve is falling continuously, and if it continues to fall below \$10 billion, the situation will be worrying and the IMF may not be able to help Bangladesh in that case, he said.

“Although I did not believe that the foreign exchange reserve may fall below \$30 billion, it has already come down to \$18 billion, which was \$45 billion



“Defaulted loan is now an in-built practice in the business model.”

Forum at its office in the capital. Given the falling reserve, the government should introduce import

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

previously,” said Prof Rehman, also chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Bangladesh's economy is still better than that of Sri Lanka, considering the former's higher remittance and export earnings capacity, but the government should not think that Bangladesh is unlikely to experience such a dire situation, he said.

He was speaking at an event titled “Conversion with Professor Rehman Sobhan” organised by Economic Reporters

Khaleda Zia should be sent abroad

Opines medical board, says her treatment options here exhausted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The medical board formed for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's treatment yesterday said there was nothing more they could do for her in Bangladesh and advised sending her abroad for better treatment.

“We have done all that we can with whatever we have,” Shahabuddin Talukder, chief of the medical board, told journalists at a press briefing at the Evercare



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A Palestinian mother tries to flee an area with her child following an Israeli airstrike on the Soussi mosque in Gaza City yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Compromise with BNP not possible

AL tells US team; BNP says free, fair polls can't be held under this govt

STAR REPORT

The Awami League has told the visiting US pre-election assessment mission that no compromise can be worked out with the BNP violating the constitution. The BNP, however, said that no credible election is possible under the AL government.

The ruling party has also told the US delegation that the BNP has “blocked the space” for making any compromise or adjustment.

“They wanted to know whether it is possible to reach a solution through ‘compromise and adjustment’ with the BNP. We replied that there must be a space for that. The BNP

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Hold dialogues to avoid confrontation

Eminent citizens urge major political parties to reach consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A political consensus through dialogues is now urgently needed to avoid possible violence in the days ahead, said eminent citizens at a dialogue yesterday.

Citing the fact that major political parties are at odds over the upcoming national polls, several of them opined that all should join the dialogue with an open mind and that the government should take steps to hold the talks.

The Hunger Project in collaboration with Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujon) organised the dialogue at the Cirdap Auditorium in the capital.

Political scientist Prof Rounaq Jahan said nobody disagrees that a dialogue between the two major parties should be held.

Political parties must reach a consensus so that the lives and livelihoods of the leaders and activists of the party defeated in polls are not affected afterwards, she said.

“We need to change the political culture. Considering that it might be neutral, the caretaker government system was introduced after a lot of hard work. But we saw how it was made partisan,” said Prof Rounaq, also a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

She said the parties cannot agree to talks but they agree on lawmakers getting duty-free cars, special allocations for the development work in their constituencies, and other benefits.

Nobody in power wants to quit, she added.

Shujon Central Coordinator Dilip Kumar Sarkar said people expect a free, fair, participatory, and peaceful national election but the existing political situation is not conducive to participatory polls.

The Awami League and its allies want polls under a partisan government in line with the constitution while the BNP and other parties want polls under a neutral

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Israel lays total siege to Gaza

Calls up 300,000 army reservists as it readies for possible ground assault

AGENCIES

Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip yesterday and cut off utility supplies as it kept bombing targets in the crowded Palestinian enclave in response to the Hamas surprise assault.

Reeling from the Islamist group's unprecedented ground, air and sea attacks, Israel has counted over 800 dead and launched a withering barrage of strikes on Gaza that have killed 560 people there.

The skies over Gaza were blackened by plumes of smoke from deafening explosions as Hamas kept launching rockets as far as Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, where missile defence systems fired and air raid sirens blared.

Hamas — whose militants surged into Israeli towns on

Saturday, spraying gunfire at civilians and dragging off about 100 hostages — yesterday claimed that Israeli air strikes had killed four of the captives.

Death toll rises to 800 in Israel; 560 killed in Gaza

It also threatened to kill hostages if the air strikes on Gaza continues.

The Israeli military said it had called up an unprecedented 300,000 reservists for its “Swords of Iron” campaign and was imposing a total blockade of the Gaza Strip, signs it could be

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Nowhere to go

Gazans wait for ‘worst’ Israeli assault

REUTERS, Gaza

As Israel's military sent phone messages telling Palestinians to leave some areas of Gaza after Saturday's deadly Hamas raid, Mohammad Brais did not know where to seek safety from an assault that residents expect to be the worst they have ever faced.

“Where should we go? Where should we go?” the 55-year-old father asked.

He had fled his home near a possible front line to shelter at his shop — only for that to get hit in one of the hundreds of air and artillery strikes already pounding Gaza.

Palestinians are preparing for an offensive of unprecedented scale on

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Kiwis thump the Netherlands

REUTERS

New Zealand roared to a second successive victory at the World Cup as they beat the Netherlands by 99 runs in Hyderabad on Monday, with Mitchell Santner taking five wickets.

Will Young, Rachin Ravindra and Tom Latham all cracked half-centuries for New Zealand.

The Netherlands lost a couple of early wickets chasing 323 and had some hope when Colin Ackermann (69) was at the wicket, but their target proved too steep and they folded for 223 in 46.3 overs with spinner Santner taking 5-59.

New Zealand built a good platform with Devon Conway (32), Young (70), Ravindra (51), Daryl Mitchell (48) and Latham (53) all firing and although the Dutch responded they leaked runs late on and let the 2019 runners-up post 322-7 in 50 overs.

The Dutch spin-pace duo of Aryan Dutt and Ryan Klein earlier started with three straight maiden overs after they won the toss and elected to bowl although Young and Conway quickly broke the shackles to get New Zealand back on track.

The aggressive Conway looked to accelerate and holed out to Bas de Leede in the deep off Roelof van der Merwe, but Young was patient and reached his sixth half-century before carting Colin Ackermann for a massive six in the 22nd over.

He continued to milk the runs off the Netherlands

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan, seen here talking with chief selector Minhajul Abedin, was in jovial mood at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala yesterday where the Tigers will play their second match of the World Cup against England today.

PHOTO: EKUSH TAPADER

Tigers calm before intense clash

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dharamshala

Bangladesh are set for a much steeper hurdle in their second World Cup match against England in Dharamshala today following a convincing six-wicket victory over Afghanistan at the same venue.

Ahead of facing one of the tournament heavyweights, the travelling Bangladeshi journalists covering the ICC World Cup in India were looking to get insights on team strategy — especially from captain Shakib Al Hasan who was yet to officially face the Bangladesh media so far in the prestigious tournament.

However, it was Bangladesh spin-bowling coach Rangana Herath who arrived at the pre-match press conference.

On the contrary, rubbing salt in the wounds of their Bangladeshi counterparts, the travelling English media were privileged enough to have interacted with some England players, including captain Jos Buttler during the official presser.

As Herath spoke to reporters, Shakib, on the other hand, was busy inspecting the Dharamshala pitch with

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Let's support Bangladesh

#EveryFanIsPriceless

PM reiterates commitment to holding fair polls

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her commitment to holding the upcoming general election in a free and fair manner as visiting State Secretary for International Development Cooperation at the Swedish Foreign Ministry Diana Janse called on her at her office.

The Swedish state secretary also said her country wants to see a free, fair, and inclusive election in Bangladesh, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told a press briefing after the meeting.

At the meeting, both leaders expressed satisfaction over the excellent relations between Bangladesh and Sweden.

Hasina said the Ukraine-Russia war should be stopped, and the money saved from ending the war should be channelled towards the welfare of mankind.

"Sanctions should not be placed on the transportation of food grains," she said.

The Swedish state secretary also said her country wants to see a free, fair, and inclusive election in Bangladesh.

The premier said inflation, commodity prices, and goods transportation costs have gone up due to the war and sanctions.

She, however, said Bangladesh did not have a food crisis as local agriculturists are playing a great role in increasing food production.

Meanwhile, the Swedish state secretary praised Hasina for sheltering over 1 million displaced Myanmar nationals and said her government wanted dignified repatriation of the refugees.

The Swedish state secretary also said the Matarbari deep sea port will be a game changer for the development of Bangladesh.



Diana Janse, state secretary for international development cooperation at the Swedish foreign ministry, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

AFGHANISTAN QUAKE

Rescuers search for survivors

Taliban put death toll at 2,400; Pakistan, Iran, China offer relief aid

REUTERS, HERAT

Rescue workers yesterday scrambled to pull out survivors, and the dead, from beneath the rubble two days after the northwestern city of Herat and its surroundings were struck by the deadliest earthquakes to rattle Afghanistan in years.

The Taliban administration said at least 2,400 people were killed and many more injured in the quakes, which were among the world's deadliest this year after tremors in Turkey and Syria, in which an estimated 50,000 people were killed.

Neighbours Pakistan and Iran have

offered to send rescue workers and humanitarian aid, while China's Red Cross Society offered cash relief aid. A technical team from Iran has arrived in the area, Mullah Janan Sayeeq, spokesman for the Ministry of Disaster Management, said during a press conference.

"I ask all countries, to help us in this crucial time," said Sayeeq. He said that rescue operations are ongoing, adding that people are still trapped under rubble in two villages and teams are working to pulled them out.

The spokesman of Herat's governor, Nissar Ahmad Elyias, told Reuters that more than a dozen villages around Herat

were also affected.

Many buildings in Herat city were relatively unaffected, but the mediaeval minarets of its famous mosques sustained some damage, photographs on social media showed.

"Many of our family members have been martyred, including one of my sons, and my other son is also injured," Herat resident Mir Ahmed told Reuters at a hospital that was treating many survivors. "Most of the people are under the rubble."

Hemmed in by mountains, Afghanistan has a history of strong earthquakes, many in the rugged Hindu Kush region bordering Pakistan.

Khaleda Zia should be sent abroad

FROM PAGE 1

Hospital, where the BNP chief is receiving treatment.

"Water has accumulated in madam's [Khaleda] stomach, the lungs are infected, and there is a slow bleeding in her stomach. She has received four bags of blood this time around. The condition is complex and difficult.

"Madam [Khaleda] has been taken to the CCU [coronary care unit] from the cabin. When is a patient taken to the CCU from the cabin? When the patient is critical and when there is every chance of collapse," he said.

FM Siddique, a member of the medical board, lamented that it is hard for them to take that a patient is gradually deteriorating before them when there is a cure for the disease. "Time has not run out yet."

He said the former prime minister

is not getting proper treatment and is receiving temporary fixes.

She needs an immediate liver transplant and the facilities for that are not available in Bangladesh, he said.

"As per the medical board's unanimous decision, I want to convey to all concerned that there's still time to treat her with transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) and also to transplant her liver at any advanced multidisciplinary centre abroad. Perhaps, we still have this option to improve her condition," the doctor said.

He said TIPS was immediately needed to stop water from accumulating in her stomach and chest, and halt the internal bleeding. "TIPS is a life-saving procedure which is not available in Bangladesh."

Another medical board

member AKM Mohsin said liver transplantation cannot be done in Bangladesh due to the lack of required setup, equipment, and manpower. "One or two livers were experimentally transplanted here," he added.

On October 1, citing legal grounds, the government turned down the plea from Khaleda's family to allow her to go abroad for better treatment.

The 78-year-old is suffering from various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, kidney, lung, heart, and eye issues.

Since her conditional release in 2020, the BNP chief has been receiving treatment at the hospital under the medical board and at home.

On August 9, Khaleda was admitted to the Evercare Hospital after becoming seriously ill at her Gulshan home.

Hold dialogues to avoid confrontation

FROM PAGE 1

election-time government. Dhaka University Prof Robaet Ferdous said people fear that violence and bloodshed await.

Shujon Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said Bangladesh is going through a transition period and a dangerous time and that it was high time the parties sat for talks.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar said dialogues for peace are held even during wars. "No dialogue is effective if the parties are uncompromising."

"The changeover after 1/11 [January 11, 2007] came following the lack of consensus among political parties," he added.

Justice MA Matin, a former judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said people panic every five years when the election nears. There should be a law on the transfer of power with provisions that the new

government cannot arrest and sue opposition leaders in the first year of the government's tenure, he said.

He said the joint declaration of three alliances that were then waging a movement against HM Ershad said all problems would be solved only through dialogue. "But politicians seem to have forgotten that."

Former BNP MP Harunur Rashid said every problem can be solved through dialogue. "If anyone says 'With whom we will sit for talks?' it means he or she is dodging the responsibility."

He said if the ruling party tried to hold a one-sided election, the crisis would deepen.

Nagarik Oilka Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the atmosphere for dialogue does not exist and that the prime minister should quit.

AL MP Nahim Razzaq said, "We can't deny that it's a tough situation.

We need a solution. For that, we have to sacrifice something...."

He said that since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is leading the government, he is hopeful of a dialogue. Discussions are needed for a permanent solution, and if that happens, it would be a milestone.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said the election system is broken and it has virtually turned into a selection system. Nepotism is widespread. "We need a complete overhaul of the system."

Among others, Chief Coordinator of Gono Sanghati Andolon Zonayed Saki, local governance expert Prof Tofail Ahmed, Socialist Party of Bangladesh Assistant General Secretary Razequzzaman Ratan, Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh leader Akbar Khan, eight representatives of Shujan from eight divisions also spoke at the programme.

Falling reserve, bad loans worrying

FROM PAGE 1

restrictions on luxury goods, and set a priority as to what goods can be imported in the current situation, said Prof Rehman, a former member of the advisory council of the caretaker government in 1991.

"Will we bring eggs, food, or BMW cars? I do not see any ban on bringing BMW cars, though the duty is high on the vehicle. Time has come to tighten import restrictions further," he said.

'DANGEROUS TERRITORY'
He also warned against bad loans, saying defaulted loan is a big problem for the banking sector, which began in the 1980s when two financial institutions sanctioned loans without analysing the business viability to create a capitalist society.

Later, the two institutions – Shilpa Bank and Shilpa Rin Sangstha – went bankrupt. Now, the entire banking system is plagued by the problem as banks allow rescheduling progressively, he said.

As a result of non-payments, poor people's money is accumulating in the hands of the rich, he noted.

"It is not only a matter of economic inefficiency; it is also a serious injustice," he said, adding that defaulted loans have already reached a "dangerous territory".

"Defaulted loan is now an in-built practice in the business model," he said, adding that bad loans continue to rise as businesspeople and people in politics are out to help each other for mutual benefits.

FALLING REMITTANCES

The macroeconomic indicators were doing quite well for many years riding on high export earnings and remittance.

However, some indicators felt pressure in recent times as the Russia-Ukraine war escalated fuel and food prices on the international market, said Prof Rehman, also former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

On the other hand, remittance earnings dropped although a large number of migrants went abroad in recent months.

"It is contradictory," he said, adding that the reason behind this contradiction is that remittance is coming to the country through hundi instead of the official channel.

This process facilitates money laundering, and the potential forex earnings are not adding to the reserve. Instead, they are accumulated outside the country and, subsequently, the local currency gets devalued.

However, unlike many other economists, he does not support the market-based exchange rates to address this.

"I do not agree with the opinion of market-based exchange rate," he said, citing examples of India and China that did not float their exchange rate.

BAD DEALS FOR POWER
He appreciated the government's move to enhance power generation capacity, but said the distribution channel is still not up to the mark due to the absence of a comprehensive plan.

"Rental power plants were justified for a few years, but their existence for 15 years has created all the problems. The problem lies in the agreements that were made between the government and power suppliers in the private sector," he said.

The profitability was in-built for the private sector and the risk was borne by the government by giving them the assurance of buying power in the name of paying capacity charges, he noted.

As a result, many entrepreneurs with no experience in power generation secured contracts by using their political clout and built power plants, although the distribution system did not receive enough investments.

"The result is the government is paying capacity charges even without using any power," he said.

Kiwis thump

FROM PAGE 1

bowlers in the company of the in-form Ravindra, but ballooned a shorter one from Paul van Meekeren straight to De Leede at mid-on.

Ravindra, who hit a rapid century in the win over defending champions England, backed that effort up with a steady fifty but fell after reaching his milestone as he edged Van der Merwe off his legs to captain Scott Edwards.

Mitchell and skipper Latham kept the score ticking briskly but their dismissals slowed things down before Santner struck an unbeaten 36 from 17 deliveries as New Zealand plundered 50 runs from the last three overs.

Ninth-grader hacked to death on her way to school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A ninth grade schoolgirl was hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

Rakia Sultana Riya, 14, daughter of Abdur Rashid from the upazila's Batajor area, was a student at Batajor BM High School.

A year ago, Riya got married to Ripon Mia, an expatriate worker living in Saudi Arabia, said Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station, quoting family.

"After a few days of their marriage, Ripon left for Saudi Arabia. After he left, his parents started abusing Riya mentally and physically, forcing her to return home. Since then, she had been staying at her father's house," the OC added.

Yesterday around noon, when Riya was going to school, criminals waylaid her and attacked her with sharp weapons, leaving her critically injured. She was taken to the Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex, where the doctors declared her dead. Informed, police sent her body to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

No case was lodged and no one was arrested as of writing this report in the evening. The victim's family points fingers at her in-laws for the killing, said the OC.

'Smuggler's' body found in river with 68 gold bars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Border Guard Bangladesh yesterday recovered a suspected smuggler's body with 68 gold bars from Mathabhanga river near the border area of Chuadanga.

The deceased was identified as Miraz Hossain, 22, son of Yeasin Ali from Nastipur village in Darshana upazila.

BGB-6 came to know that two smugglers crossed the Mathabhanga river near border pillar 80/1-R with gold, about 25 yards inside Bangladesh, but one smuggler drowned in the water and the other smuggler got out of the river and managed to flee inside Bangladesh.

The BGB-6 team recovered the body from the river with 68 gold bars, according to a release.

The body will be handed over to the family after completing the legal procedure, added the release.

Tigers calm

FROM PAGE 1

head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the duo was engaged in a long chat.

Bangladesh convincingly won their campaign opener against Afghanistan, but there is a possibility that they could opt for a different strategy against the defending champions today.

Having opted to field five specialist bowlers on Saturday, with Mahmudullah Riyad fitted to sneak in a few overs if needed, did not backfire. But against a vastly superior side in England, the think-tank would consider the safety net formed through an extra bowling option.

Hathurusingha was seen talking to Sheikh Mahedi Hasan ahead of yesterday's optional training session, and it won't be a surprise if the off-spinning all-rounder eventually makes the cut to the playing eleven.

The mood in the Tigers camp appears relaxed. Taskin Ahmed, Liton Das and Shoriful Islam opted to rest at the team hotel instead of partaking in training, while the likes of Tawhid Hridoy, Musfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah and Mahedi were seen batting at the nets against Hasan Mahmud, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Nasum Ahmed and a few net bowlers.

Shakib, though, was present but remained an exception as the ace all-rounder skipped practice and was seen in a jovial mood, smiling and chatting with the coaches and the members of the team throughout the training session.

The Bangladesh skipper perhaps wanted to keep himself fresh before a high intensity match, and focus more on his tactical input to the think-tank. Shakib will certainly hope his troops repeat the tenacity and the overall body language which was on display against the Afghans.

REQUIREMENTS

YOUR NID

NOMINEE'S INFO

NOMINEE'S PHOTO



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

ঘরে বসেই
ব্যাংক
অ্যাকাউন্ট
খুলুন



PI a PUBALI BANK apps

• Individual • Shopkeeper (with or without Trade Licence) | Both for Conventional or Islamic Banking | No charges in Transactions

Rallies, demos bring Dhaka to a standstill

People suffer as AL, BNP hold events, workers block roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters, especially children, elderly persons and patients, suffered in gridlocks amid intense heat as political programmes caused massive traffic congestion in the capital and its exit points yesterday.

While Dhaka city north Awami League's "Peace and Development Conference" at Gabtoli was scheduled to start at 3:00pm, processions from different wards of DNCC began as early as 12:00pm, blocking the entire bus terminal.

Around 4:00pm, a long queue of stranded vehicles heading towards Dhaka reached as far as Hemayetpur. Inside the city, vehicles on Mirpur road and several others stood still till 4:30pm.

Similarly, BNP staged a demonstration in front of its Naya Paltan office, demanding unconditional release of Khaleda Zia and her proper treatment abroad.

Their rallies and gatherings blocked roads in Motijheel, Gulistan and Secretariat areas. Hundreds of vehicles were seen standing still for hours in these completely gridlocked roads.

Besides, a fire at SA Paribahan office in Kakrail and demonstration of RMG workers at Shyamoli, blocking the Mirpur Road, further intensified the crisis.

Sharmin Islam, who was out shopping with her child, said, "I waited in an autorickshaw for more than an hour. Then, I left it and walked for an hour and took another CNG. After moving slowly for a couple of minutes, I was again stuck in a huge tailback."

"All vehicles were so crammed on the road that I could not even move out from the CNG. My son has already become very sick."

DU student Rubayet Islam said, "It will take at least three hours to reach my home. Tomorrow is my exam and when I reach home, I'll be too tired to prepare for it. Why should we suffer for political interest of few people?"



Rallies of Awami League and BNP brought the capital to a standstill yesterday, leaving scores of vehicles stranded on roads. Meanwhile, demonstrations by RMG workers added to the misery of commuters.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON, COLLECTED



Will pour uranium on BNP leaders' heads

Quader on those who want to shut down Rooppur power plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned that they will pour uranium on the heads of BNP leaders if they want to shut down Rooppur power plant.

He said the BNP leaders including its Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and standing committee member Moyeen Khan are envious of the progress and development that the Rooppur Power Plant promises for Bangladesh.

"They have announced to shut down Rooppur [power plant]... Two shipments of uranium have already arrived in the country from Russia. We will pour uranium over those who want to shut it down, including Fakhrul, Moyeen Khan, Gayeshwar, Abbas, and Rizvi... Whoever crosses the limit, we will calm them down by pouring uranium on their heads instead of beating them with sticks," he said.

He was speaking at a rally of Dhaka north city unit AL at Gabtoli. The polls will certainly be held next January under any circumstances, he added. "The quarterfinal will be played in November, semifinal in December and voting will be held in January."

"Games will be played against vote rigging; games will be played in Chattogram, Barishal, Rajshahi and Sylhet. A red card will be shown, if anyone commits a foul," he said.

There will be consequences

Fakhrul on govt not letting BNP chief seek treatment abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If something happens to Khaleda Zia due to lack of proper treatment abroad, there will be dire consequences, warned BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

"We would like to make it clear that if there is any threat to the life of our leader Begum Khaleda Zia, the people of this country will never forgive this despicable looter government," Fakhrul said.

Speaking at a rally, the BNP leader alleged that the government pushed the BNP chief near death by deliberately keeping her confined to an uninhabitable room while she was in prison.

As part of the party's countrywide programme, BNP's Dhaka south and north city units arranged the rally in front of its Nayapaltan central office, demanding that the government allow Khaleda to go abroad for advanced treatment.

The party will also observe a token hunger strike across the country, including Dhaka, on October 14 to mount pressure on the government to let Khaleda go abroad.

Earlier in the day, the medical board formed at Evercare Hospital for Khaleda's treatment recommended to urgently send her to a multidisciplinary facility abroad, as there are now no treatment options available for her in Bangladesh.

Maternity leave for workers now 120 days

UNB, Dhaka

The Cabinet yesterday in principle approved the draft of Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Act, 2023, increasing the maternity leave to 120 days from 112 days (16 weeks).

The approval came from the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city.

"Now a female worker can avail 16 weeks as maternity leave — eight weeks before the birth of a baby and eight weeks after the birth. But the leave has been made 120 days in the draft law," said Cabinet Secretary Md Mahbub Hossain while briefing reporters at the Bangladesh Secretariat after the meeting.

A woman can enjoy the leave at her convenient time before or after the delivery, he said.

'BRI lacks accountability'

Speakers tell event on China's investment initiative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China's funding and capital investments under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) lack accountability, said Ali Riaz, political scientist and distinguished professor at Illinois State University, at a seminar yesterday.

He was speaking at a panel discussion on the regional effects of China's BRI at a session called "The Dragon's Domain: BRI after a Decade" at the Bay of Bengal Conversation seminar organised by the Centre for Governance Studies in Dhaka.

Riaz said the investment China is making is destructive in nature, and there is no accountability in its policies.

"The countries who received aid under the BRI have infrastructural development at the core of their development. The massive amount of corruption we have seen in many of these cases has led to crony capitalism," said Riaz.

Meanwhile, Smruti S Pattanaik, research fellow at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis in India, argued that the larger share of blame lies with the countries taking the financing and not figuring out how to pay it back.

She said the agreements are not transparent, and people remain unaware of the interest rates, so there is a debate about this debt trap.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Rab director general's wife dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dilruba Khurshid Baby, wife of Director General of Rab M Khurshid Hossain died at her Gulshan residence yesterday afternoon.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, confirmed it to The Daily Star.

"We came to know from the family members that she has been sick for a long time. The family members suspected that she died either due to stroke or heart attack," he said.

FRAMING WOMAN WITH YABA

File criminal case against DNC official

Directs court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) to file a criminal case against its official for framing a woman in a false yaba recovery case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mosharraf Hossain issued the order asking Ahsanur Rahman, an additional director of DNC, also the case's investigation officer, to file the case within seven days against Sheikh Md Sajjad Hossain.

Sajjad framed one Swapna Akhter, a resident of Khilkhet, in the case.

The magistrate relieved Swapna from the charges and said CID will investigate the case.

According to the prosecution, it was alleged that Sajjad along with seven others went to the house of Swapna around 8:00pm on February 16 last year and seized 1,000 yaba tablets.

Following the seizure, Sajjad filed a case against Swapna with Khilkhet Police Station.

Later, Ahsanur Rahman, an additional director of the DNC, was assigned to investigate the matter. After getting charge of investigation, Ahsanur interrogated all the raiding forces and witnesses. They told him that they knew nothing about the matter.

The IO also found that the recovery of yaba tablets was false and fabricated and it was just to frame Swapna with an intent to harass her.

ARSON CASE

15 BNP, JP men get 4yrs in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced 15 leaders and activists of BNP-led 20-party and Jatiya Party, including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Habibur Rahman Habib to four years' imprisonment in a case filed over torching vehicles and preventing police from discharging their duties in Bhatara on January 4 in 2015.

BNP Vice Chairman Mohammad Shahjahan, Assistant Secretary of BNP Central Executive Committee Shamimur Rahman Shamim, and former Jatiya Party lawmaker Ahsan Habib Linkon are among the convicts.

According to the case statement, a group of BNP leaders and activists vandalised vehicles and prevented cops from discharging their duties during a political programme.



Even though the rail gate has descended, vehicles continue to ply through this crossing. Such reckless activities persist even after numerous accidents occurring at rail crossings. The photo was taken near Khilgaon Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

No chance of sanctions ahead of national polls

Says Shahriar Alam

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam yesterday reiterated that there is no possibility of any punitive measures by any country against Bangladesh before next election.

"Not at all," he told reporters when his attention was drawn about media reports on possibilities of economic sanctions on Bangladesh.

He urged the media to judge things based on merit and facts, discussing with officials of the relevant countries, as a vested group might capitalise on such fear.

He talked to reporters at State Guest House Padma after his meeting with Swedish State Secretary for International Development Cooperation Diana Janse.

KALIGHAT POST OFFICE IN SREEMANGAL

A century-old legacy of connecting lives

MINTU DESHWARA

The first post office in the country's tea garden area quietly approaches its centenary in Sreemangal's Moulvibazar.

The Kalighat Post Office, founded in 1923, is nestled between the lush greenery of a picturesque tea garden, and has been a steadfast presence in the lives of the local community for a century.

Nipen Paul, the general secretary of Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union central committee, said tea planting in this region began in 1840 in Kodala, Chittagong, and the first commercial tea garden was established in 1854 at Malnichara, Sylhet.

During that time, British officials managed the tea plantations and reached these remote areas via Kolkata or Assam.

In those days, the primary mode of communication between those residing in Sylhet



PHOTO: STAR

and their loved ones in the UK was the exchange of letters through the postal service.

A letter dispatched from the Sylhet region to the UK would often undertake a journey lasting

well over a month, if not longer.

So, the "Kalighat Post Office" was established in 1923, under the supervision of the Postal Department in Chattogram. It found its place on the opposite side of the James Finlay Tea Company's Kalighat tea garden Hospital.

The code of this century-old post office is 3212.

Pranesh Goala, the UP chairman of Kalighat, said, "After its inception, this post office became the sole source of communication with the outside world for not just British officials, but also tea workers who came to Sylhet from various Indian provinces."

"In today's era of mobile

phones and computers, letter exchanges have dwindled, but this century-old post office, the first in the tea industry, remains a proud centenary monument."

According to Abdul Matin, the acting postmaster of Sreemangal Post Office, more post offices have been set up in the tea industrial region since Kalighat's establishment, but it still retains a unique significance as the first of its kind.

Presently, a sub post master and a postman work at the local post office, who mainly remain occupied handling revenue related works of the postal department.

The World Post Day was celebrated yesterday.



To-Let
Spacious 3 bedroom apt beside Dhaka Bank and DCC market with built in wardrobes, attached bathrooms with geysers. Granite top kitchen, pantry, balcony, maidsroom and carpark. Professionals preferred. Road 7, Gulshan 1. Contact 01799236011 D-128

FOR SALE
DUTY FREE SHOP & BONDED WAREHOUSE
ALL LICENCES FOR DUTY FREE SHOP & BONDED WAREHOUSE WITH ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN CHITTAGONG PORT FOR SALE/TRANSFER. ONLY GENUINE WEALTHY REPUTED INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONCERN TO CONTACT DIRECTLY.
01711428171, 01711563208
PORTLAND SERVICES LTD

KPJ Specialised Hospital launches 'Liver Clinic'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialised Hospital in Gazipur has started a "Liver Clinic" on its premises in collaboration with Dr Rela Institute and Medical Centre, Chennai, India.

This initiative looks to ensure international standard treatment of liver diseases in Bangladesh.

A memorandum of understanding

was signed between the centres yesterday in this regard at KPJ Specialised Hospital, a 250-bed multidisciplinary tertiary healthcare center located at Kashimpur, Gazipur.

The establishment of the facility is being patronised by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust and KPJ Healthcare Berhad, Malaysia, said senior officials of the hospitals at an event.

BRI lacks accountability

FROM PAGE 3
Shruti said the countries can invest the funding in sectors that can help generate the money needed to pay back the loan.

Vali Golmohammadi, assistant professor at Tarbait Modares University in Iran, said there are geopolitical concerns regarding BRI because China seeks to define the objectives of the initiative based on its own narrow interests.

Xia Liping, professor at Department of Diplomatic Studies at China Foreign

Affairs University, claimed China to be a friendly neighbour and strategic partner. "If the BRI was not good for other countries, there wouldn't be so many countries signing up."

Aamna Khan, a doctoral candidate at Jiin University from China, said the problems occur because of domestic issues rather than the investment itself.

"Governments should be transparent and keep their national interests in mind," she opined.

BANDHU, NHRC 9 transgender entrepreneurs get grants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine transgender entrepreneurs were awarded business grants by Bandhu Social Welfare Society and the National Human Rights Commission yesterday at the capital's NHRC conference hall for their exceptional entrepreneurial drive.

Presided over by Shale Ahmed, executive director at Bandhu, the event was addressed among others by Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman, NHRC; Dr Md Moktar Hossain and Dr Saima Khan.

PRAYER TIMING
OCTOBER 10
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'We must seek a lasting solution'

LGRD minister on problems centring birth, death registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There should be a lasting solution to address the inconveniences related to birth and death registration that people often encounter, said Local Government Minister Tazul Islam yesterday.

He was speaking at a meeting held yesterday night at the local government department with LGRD secretary Mohammad Ibrahim as its chair.

At the meeting, Tazul suggested that establishing district-level birth registration offices could help address problems locally.

The minister had previously sought insights into the issues faced by officials at the Birth and Death Registration Office.

They outlined difficulties related to resources and manpower shortage. They explained that a surge in birth registration applications occurs in November and December due to school admissions, including requests for age adjustments and school transfers, which significantly increases their workload.

Moreover, they mentioned that there was a proposal in the fiscal year 2015-2016 to provide registers at the district level, but it faced complications and was not effectively implemented.

Additionally, they highlighted the importance of increasing the workforce and creating technical positions within the organisation to address these challenges.

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ
গাজীপুর-১৭০৩
www.spcl.org.bd
নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে স্টপাকারে জমাকৃত ওয়েস্টেজ ও বায়ুভর্তি বর্জ্য
মালামাল বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এসপিবিএল এর নির্দিষ্ট স্থানে স্টপাকারে জমাকৃত ওয়েস্টেজ ও বায়ুভর্তি বর্জ্য মালামাল সর্বোচ্চ ২(দুই) বছর মেয়াদে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। মালামালের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা ও শর্তাবলী সম্বন্ধিত সিডিউল এসপিবিএল এর গাজীপুর কার্যালয়ের অর্থ ও হিসাব বিভাগ এবং ঢাকা লিয়াজো অফিস, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সংলগ্ন ভবন-১, ৮ম তলা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ১০/১০/২০২৩ হতে ২৫/১০/২০২৩ তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাকেজে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে প্রতি সেট ৫০০.০০ টাকা মাত্র মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক্রয় এবং নির্ধারিত বাস্তব ক্রয়কারীর মারফত জমা করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত তারিখ এবং সময় অনুযায়ী অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে গাজীপুর কার্যালয়ে উপস্থিত দরদাতা/ক্রেতাপণ বিক্রয়তত্ত্ব মালামাল পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন। করপোরেশন কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ মকবুল হোসেন
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (স্থানীয় ক্রয়-বিক্রয়, পিসিপিডিএইচ)
ফোন-৯২০৫২৩১

জিডি-১৫৫৯

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Govt. Brojomohun College, Barishal
College Road, Barishal
Website: www.bmc.gov.bd

Memo No. cedp/bmc/otm/2023-24/01 Date: 10/10/2023
e-Tender Notice 01/2023-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following packages:

Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
885107	Renovation & Refurbishment of Classrooms & Seminar Room	26-Oct-2023 13:00	26-Oct-2023 14:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches up to 25-Oct-2023 16:00. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

10/10/2023
(Prof. Dr. Mohammad Golam Kibria)
Principal
Govt. Brojomohun College, Barishal
Phone: 0431-64793
e-Mail: principalbmccollege@gmail.com

GD- 1563

World Health Organization
Bangladesh
VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

- National Professional Officer (Health Financing) / TNP

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District-Panchagarh.
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.7700.000.17.001.23-2745 Date: 05/10/2023
Invitation for Tender (Works)
e-Tender Notice No: 10/2023-24

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works below under LGED, District: Panchagarh

Sl No.	Package No, Name of Scheme & Tender ID No	Procurement Method	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing and Opening Date & Time
01	[CW-200/RCIP/PAN] Improvement of Panchagarh-Atwari RHD road at Fakier hat to Magura UP road via Shipaipara High School road. at Ch.0.00m-7500m=7500m under Sadar Upazila, District: Panchagarh (Road ID-177733024) Total cost of Salvage Materials: 1,81,146.00 Tk) [Tender ID: 881302]	OTM	08-Nov-2023; 16:00	09-Nov-2023; 13:00
02	[CW-201/RCIP/PAN] Improvement of Mirjapur R&H (Busstand hat)-Kismat hat GC via Baraoula hat Road at Ch. 0.00-10735m under Atwari Upazila, District: Panchagarh (Road ID-177042009). Total cost of Salvage- Materials: 17,85,922.00 Tk. [CW-201/RCIP/PAN] [Tender ID: 881303]	OTM	08-Nov-2023; 16:00	09-Nov-2023; 13:00

This is online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited through online from any registered bank's branches upto specified date & time mentioned in the e-GP system. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

05.10.23
(Md. Mahmud Jaman)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Panchagarh
Telephone No: 02589-941088
xen.panchagarh@lged.gov.bd

GD- 1560

Bangladesh Krishi Bank
Head Office
Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department
83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
Tender Notice

Memo No. HO/Procure-9(27)part-4/2023-2024/475 Date: 05/10/2023
Sealed Tenders are invited from the importers/distributors/suppliers for Supply of A4 Offset Paper, Legal Offset Paper and A3 Offset Paper for Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

01.	Procurement entity name	: Bangladesh Krishi Bank
02.	Invitation for	: Supply of A4 Offset Paper, Legal Offset Paper and A3 Offset Paper for BKB, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.
03.	Invitation Ref No.	: 09/2023-2024 Dated 05/10/2023
04.	Procuring Method	: Open Tendering Method (as per PPR-2008)
05.	Budget & source of fund	: Own Fund.
06.	Tender last selling date	: 25/10/2023 up to 12.00 pm
07.	Tender closing date & time	: 26/10/2023 at 2.30 pm
08.	Tender opening date & time	: 26/10/2023 at 3.00pm
09.	Name & address of the office selling tender	: Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department (2 nd floor), Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Had office, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
10.	Receiving tender document	: Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department (2 nd floor), Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Had office, 83-85 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
11.	Price of tender document	: Tk. 1000/- (One thousand) only (Non refundable)
12.	Amount of tender security	: Tk. 30,000/- (Thirty thousand) only (Refundable) as pay order from any schedule bank in favour of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
13.	Eligibility of Tenderers	: 01. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods as Supplier shall be 3 (three) years from the date of publication of the tender notice in the newspaper. 02. The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of Goods at least one (1) Contract successfully completed within the last 3 (three) years from the date of publication of the tender notice in the newspaper, with a value of at least Tk. 10,00,000/- (Ten Lac). 03. The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) or Balance in Current/Savings Account of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 16,00,000/- (Sixteen Lac) from any scheduled bank within the last 3 (Three) months from the date of publication of the tender notice in the newspaper.
14.	Brief description of goods	: Supply of 3500 Reams A4 Offset Paper (80gsm), 350 Reams Legal Offset Paper (80gsm) and 35 Reams A3 Offset Paper (80gsm) for BKB, Head Office, Motijheel, Dhaka.
15.	Name & Designation of official inviting tender with address	: Md. Abdus Samad Deputy General Manager, Procurement and Employees' Welfare & Transport Department (2 nd floor), Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Head office, Dhaka.
16.	Contract details of official inviting tender	: Phone: 02-223383535 E-mail: dgmsd@krishibank.org.bd Web Site: www.krishibank.org.bd
17.	Special Instructions	: The procuring entity reserves all the right to accept or reject any or tenders or to reduce the scope of the requirements for concerned procurement without assigning any reason whatever. Tenders will be opened in presence of the tenderer/representative (if any). The tender notice will also be found in BKB's website.

যত অনিয়ম যত আচরণ, সব পথ করা কষ্ট
সবাই তখন সুন্দর হবে, মানুষেরা হবে কষ্ট।
-আনজীর লিটন

Sd/-
(Md. Abdus Samad)
Deputy General Manager

GD-1561

Strike spells misery for Ctg commuters

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Jalal Uddin went to Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area in Chattogram yesterday morning as he was supposed to travel to Chandanaish upazila for work, but to his surprise he saw no public bus leaving from the makeshift bus terminal.

After asking around, he found out that a strike has been imposed on the southern Chattogram routes along with Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts.

Like Jalal, hundreds of passengers got stuck due to the sudden strike enforced by the transport owners and workers' organisations.

Their demands included prohibiting buses from operating without route permits and stopping three-wheelers and human hauliers from operating on highways.

Although the strike was called for two hours from 10:00am to 12:00pm, passengers said no bus

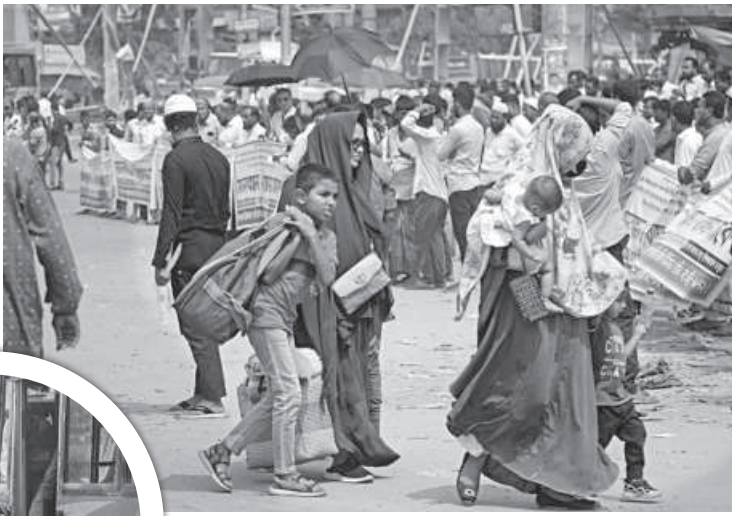


PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

had left since morning, and they had to suffer at the makeshift terminal waiting for buses for hours under the scorching sun.

Bahaddarhat bus terminal was shifted to Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge area temporarily under a tripartite agreement between Chattogram Development Authority, Chattogram Metropolitan Police,

and the terminal management committee on August 23, 2011.

It was shifted to the outskirts of the port city to ease traffic congestion, said CMP and CDA sources, adding that the bus terminal was supposed to be re-shifted to Bahaddarhat area in 2014, but has yet to be done.

There are no waiting facilities for passengers in the current makeshift terminal, so passengers suffer on a regular basis.

However, transport leaders

claimed that their strike was a pre-declared and well-circulated one.

"We have informed the media about the strike and sent press releases to them," said Mohammad Musa, general secretary of Arakan Sarak Paribahan Shramik Union.

"Buses without permits regularly operate on 20 routes of Chattogram, Bandarban, and Cox's Bazar," he added.

"We have informed the high officials of police and BRTA about illegal vehicles operating on different routes and the risks of three-wheelers operating on highways, but they are yet to take action against it," said Mrinal Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Shramik Federation (East Zone).

He said this at a human chain organised by the transport organisations in the area.

Asked about the demands of transport leaders, Amir Khasru Bhuyan, assistant director (general) of BRTA, Chattogram, declined to comment on the issue.

CDA chairman Jahurul Alam could not be reached for comment.

DENGUE OUTBREAK 10 die, 2,660 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 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 10 deaths, six were reported in the capital.

At least 2,660 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 1,096 lives this year and nearly 2,26,224 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to the DGHS data, 8,820 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

A total of 2,16,308 patients have so far been released from hospitals across the country this year.



AL factional clash leaves 30 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Around 30 people were injured during a clash between two factions of Awami League in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila yesterday. Ahead of the 12th National Election, the AL organised a training workshop for 420 members from Chhatra League, Jubo League, and Swachhchasebak League at Nandail upazila parishad auditorium at 10:30am.

Kabir Bin Anwar, the co-chairman of AL's election coordination committee, was slated to be the chief guest, but the event was canceled due to clashes.

Local sources reported that before the programme could commence, clashes erupted between supporters of incumbent lawmaker Anwarul Abedin Khan Tuhin and former MP and AL Nandail upazila unit president Abdus Salam.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by firing five rounds of tear-gas shells, said Md Rasheduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Nandail Police Station. Additional police have been deployed in the area, he added.

Contacted, Tuhin said a group of people equipped with sticks and sharp weapons led by Aminul Islam Sahan, secretary of AL Nandail upazila unit, attacked his followers at the programme venue.

Sahan denied the accusations and said Salam and his supporters had not been invited to the programme. So they were waiting by the roadside near the venue to speak with the chief guest regarding the matter.

According to Sahan, the clash erupted when Tuhin's supporters attacked them, and in response, some AL activists intervened to protect them.

Due to the clash, traffic movement on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway was disrupted for over two hours causing sufferings to hundreds of passengers.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়
কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর
খামারবাড়ি, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫
www.dam.gov.bd



তারিখঃ ০৯/১০/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং- ১২.০২.০০০০.০০২.১১.২২১.২৩.৯৩৮

কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের ১৭/০৯/২০২৩ তারিখের ১২.০০.০০০০.০০২.১১.০০১.২৩.৪৭১ নং এবং ০৯/১০/২০২৩ তারিখের ১২.০০.০০০০.০০২.১১.০০২.২৩.১২০ নং স্মারকের মাধ্যমে প্রায় ছাড়পত্র অনুযায়ী কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর, খামারবাড়ি, ঢাকা'র রাজস্বখাতভুক্ত নিম্নোক্ত পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য পদের পাঠে বর্ণিত শর্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিম্নে উল্লিখিত হতে অনলাইনে <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd/dam> অথবা <http://dam.teletalk.com.bd> এবং ওয়েবসাইটে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। অনলাইন (online) ব্যতীত কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জা.বে. স্কেল ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	বয়স	পদ সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা ও অধিভুক্ততা	সামান্য জেলা কোটায় যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই
(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)	(৬)
০১.	স্টাফ অফিসার-কাম-কম্পিউটার অপারেটর গ্রেড-১৩ স্কেল: ১১,০০০-২৬,৫৯০/- (১টি স্থায়ী ও ০২টি অস্থায়ী)	১৮-৩০ বৎসর	০৩টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) স্টাফ অফিসার হওয়ার এবং বাৎসরিক সর্বনিম্ন গতি (প্রতি মিনিটে) যথাক্রমে ৮০ ও ৫০; (গ) কম্পিউটার টাইপিংয়ে ইংরেজি ও বাংলায় সর্বনিম্ন গতি (প্রতি মিনিটে) যথাক্রমে ৩০ ও ২৫ শব্দ থাকিতে হইবে।	ফরিদপুর, ঝাংগাছড়ি, নাটোর, গাইবান্ধা, পঞ্চগড়, মাগুরা, নড়াইল, কুষ্টিয়া, বরিশাল, ঝালকাঠি, বরগুনা, পটুয়াখালী ব্যতীত সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন। (তবে এতিম এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন)
০২.	কম্পিউটার অপারেটর গ্রেড-১৩ স্কেল: ১১,০০০-২৬,৫৯০/- (স্থায়ী)	১৮-৩০ বৎসর	০১টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অনূর্ন্বিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; (খ) কম্পিউটার অপারেটর টেস্টে উত্তীর্ণ।	
০৩.	হিসাব রক্ষক গ্রেড-১৪ স্কেল: ১০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/- (স্থায়ী)	১৮-৩০ বৎসর	০১টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্যে অনূর্ন্বিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের সিজিপিএ-তে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রিসহ কম্পিউটার চালানায় দক্ষতা;	
০৪.	অফিস সহকারী-কাম-কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাক্ষরিক গ্রেড-১৬ স্কেল: ৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/- (অস্থায়ী)	১৮-৩০ বৎসর	৭০টি	(ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) কম্পিউটার টাইপিংয়ে ইংরেজি ও বাংলায় সর্বনিম্ন গতি (প্রতি মিনিটে) যথাক্রমে ২০ ও ২০ শব্দ থাকিতে হইবে।	
০৫.	গাড়ী চালক (ভারী) গ্রেড-১৫ স্কেল: ৯,৭০০-২৩,৪৯০/- (স্থায়ী)	১৮-৩৫ বৎসর	০১টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে জুনিয়র ড্রাইভার সার্টিফিকেট বা অটম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সসহ ভারি যানবাহন চালানায় পারদর্শী।	
০৬.	গাড়ী চালক (হালকা) গ্রেড-১৬ স্কেল: ৯,৩০০-২২,৪৯০/- (স্থায়ী)	১৮-৩০ বৎসর	০২টি	(ক) কোনো স্বীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে জুনিয়র ড্রাইভার সার্টিফিকেট বা অটম শ্রেণি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ; (খ) বৈধ ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সসহ হালকা যানবাহন চালানায় পারদর্শী।	
০৭.	অফিস সহায়ক গ্রেড-২০ স্কেল: ৮,২৫০-২০,০২০/- (৩৫টি স্থায়ী ও ৪০টি অস্থায়ী)	১৮-৩০ বৎসর	৭৫টি	কোনো স্বীকৃত বোর্ড হতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ।	মানিকগঞ্জ, গোপালগঞ্জ, রাজবাড়ি, ঝাংগাছড়ি, রাঙ্গামাটি, রাজশাহী, পাবনা, নাটোর, লালমনিরহাট, পঞ্চগড়, খুলনা, ঝিনাইদহ, মাগুরা, কুষ্টিয়া, মেহেরপুর, ঝালকাঠি, পিরোজপুর, বরগুনা জেলা ব্যতীত সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন। (তবে এতিম এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী কোটায় সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন)

০২। নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাবলী আবেদন ফরম পূরণ এবং পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে অবশ্যই অনুসরণ করতে হবেঃ

- ০১/১০/২০২৩ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমা বিজ্ঞপ্তির ৩ নং কলামের বর্ণনা অনুযায়ী হতে হবে। তবে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র-কন্যা এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ১৮-৩২ বছর। বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিত প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। তবে সকল চাকরিত প্রার্থীকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের বিদ্যমান বিধি-বিধান এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রান্ত বিধি-বিধান কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- লিখিত/মৌখিক/ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল সন্দেহজনক প্রশ্নের মূল কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং পূরণকৃত Application Form সহ সত্যায়িত এককপি ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড়া জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দার প্রমাণ হিসেবে ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি এবং আবেদনকারী মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা হলে আবেদনকারী যে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা এ মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/পৌরসভার মেয়র/কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদনকারীকে তার সর্বশেষ অর্জিত শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতার বিষয়টিও উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা/পুত্র-কন্যা হিসেবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটায় চাকুরির জন্য আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ৩১/০৮/২০২৩ তারিখের ৪৮.০০.০০০০.০০২.১৯.০০৪.১৮.১৯ নং পরিপত্রের নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের website (<http://bfffwt.gov.bd>) ও বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট এর website (<http://bfffwt.gov.bd>) তে প্রকাশিত সমন্বিত তালিকা এবং বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কল্যাণ ট্রাস্ট হতে প্রকাশিত টিআইএমএস এ প্রকাশিত বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার নামই বৈধ/স্বীকৃত মুক্তিযোদ্ধা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার জন্ম তারিখ ৩০ মে ১৯৫৯ অর্থাৎ ১৯৭১ সালের ৩০ নভেম্বর তারিখে ১২ বছর ০৬ মাস কিংবা তার পূর্বে হতে হবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

০৩। আবেদনপত্র পূরণ সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলীঃ

ক. পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ <http://dam.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ করবেন।

আবেদনের সময়সীমা নিম্নরূপঃ

(i) Online- এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান শুরুর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২৫/১০/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সকাল- ১০:০০ টা।

(ii) Online- এ আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ১৪/১১/২০২৩ খ্রিঃ বিকালঃ ০৫:০০ টা।

উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে User ID প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র Submit-এর সময় থেকে পরবর্তী ৭২(বাহাতর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে SMS এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি জমা দিতে পারবেন।

খ. Online আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থী তীর রস্কিন ছবি (সেইফ ৩০০xপ্রস্থ ৩০০) pixel ও স্বাক্ষর (সেইফ ৩০০xপ্রস্থ ৮০) pixel স্ক্যান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে Upload করবেন। ছবির সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 100kb ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ 60kb হতে হবে।

গ. Online আবেদনপত্রে পূরণকৃত তথ্যই যেহেতু পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রমে ব্যবহৃত হবে, সেহেতু Online- এ আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পূর্বেই পূরণকৃত সকল তথ্যের সঠিকতা সম্পর্কে প্রার্থী নিজে সতর্কতা নিশ্চিত করেন।

ঘ. প্রার্থী Online- এ পূরণকৃত আবেদনপত্রের একটি প্রিন্টকপি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো প্রয়োজনে সহায়ক হিসেবে সংরক্ষণ করবেন এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় এককপি জমা দিবেন।

ঙ. SMS প্রেরণের নিয়মাবলী ও পরীক্ষার ফি প্রদানঃ Online-এ আবেদনপত্র (Application Form) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষর Upload করে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা সম্পন্ন হলে কম্পিউটারে ছবিসহ Application Preview দেখা যাবে। নির্ভুলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করা প্রার্থী User ID, ছবি এবং স্বাক্ষরসহ একটি Applicant's copy পাবেন। যদি Applicant's copy তে কোন তথ্য ভুল থাকে বা অস্পষ্ট ছবি (সম্পূর্ণ কালো/সম্পূর্ণ সাদা/মোলা) বা ছবি/স্বাক্ষর সঠিক না থাকে তাহলে পুনরায় আবেদন করতে পারবেন। তবে আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পরে আর কোন পরিবর্তন/পরিমার্জন/পরিবর্তন গ্রহণযোগ্য নয় বিধায় আবেদন ফি জমাদানের পূর্বে প্রার্থী অবশ্যই উক্ত Applicant's copy তে তার সাম্প্রতিক তোলা রস্কিন ছবি, নির্ভুল তথ্য ও স্বাক্ষর সংযুক্ত থাকা ও এর সঠিকতার বিষয়টি পিক্তিফ কপি ডাউনলোডপূর্বক নিশ্চিত করে রস্কিন প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন।

Applicant's কপিতে একটি User ID নম্বর দেয়া থাকবে এবং User ID নম্বর ব্যবহার করে প্রার্থী নিম্নোক্ত পদ্ধতিতে যে কোন Teletalk pre-paid Mobile নম্বরের মাধ্যমে ০২ (দুই) টি SMS করে ১-৬নং ক্রমিকের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা এবং Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ২৩/- (তেইশ) টাকাসহ (অফেরতযোগ্য) মোট ২২৩/- (দুইশত তেইশ) টাকা ৬নং ক্রমিকের জন্য পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা এবং Teletalk এর সার্ভিস চার্জ বাবদ ১২/- (বার) টাকাসহ মোট ১১২/- (একশত বার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) ৭২ (বাহাতর) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে জমা দিবেন। বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ্য, "Online-এ আবেদনপত্রের সকল অংশ পূরণ করে Submit করা হলেও পরীক্ষার ফি জমা না দেয়া পর্যন্ত Online আবেদনপত্র কোন অবস্থাতেই গৃহীত হবে না"।

SMS এর নিয়মাবলীঃ

প্রথম SMS:

DAM<space>UserID লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: DAM ABCDEF

Reply: Applicant's Name, Tk-223/- or 112/- will be charged as application fee. Your PIN is xxxxxxxx. To pay fee Type DAM<Space>Yes<Space>PIN and send to 16222.

দ্বিতীয় SMS:

DAM<space>Yes<space>PIN লিখে Send করতে হবে 16222 নম্বরে।

Example: DAM YES xxxxxxxx.

Reply: Congratulations Applicant's Name, payment completed successfully for DAM application for xxxxxxxx User ID is (ABCDEF) and Password (xxxxxx).

চ. প্রবেশপত্র প্রাপ্তির বিষয়টি <http://dam.teletalk.com.bd> ওয়েবসাইটে অথবা কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তরের ওয়েবসাইটে www.dam.portal.gov.bd এ এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল ফোনে SMS-এর মাধ্যমে (শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে। Online আবেদনপত্র প্রার্থীর প্রাপ্ত মোবাইল ফোনে পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত ব্যবহারি যোগাযোগ সম্পন্ন করা হবে বিধায় উক্ত নম্বরটি সার্বজনিক সচল রাখা, SMS পড়া এবং প্রাপ্ত নির্দেশনা তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অনুসরণ করা বাঞ্ছনীয়।

ছ. SMS-এ প্রেরিত User ID এবং Password ব্যবহার করে পরবর্তীতে রোল নম্বর, পদের নাম, ছবি, পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও জেনার নাম ইত্যাদি তথ্য সংবলিত প্রবেশপত্র প্রার্থী download পূর্বক Print (স্কেন হলে রস্কিন) করে নিবেন। প্রার্থী এই প্রবেশপত্রটি লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময়ে এবং লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হলে ব্যবহারিক মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময়ে অবশ্যই প্রদর্শন করবেন।

জ. শুধুমাত্র টেলিটক প্রি-পেইড মোবাইল ফোন থেকে প্রার্থীগণ নিম্নবর্ণিত SMS পদ্ধতি অনুসরণ করে নিজ নিজ User ID এবং Password পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন।

(i) User ID জানা থাকলে: DAM<space>Help<space>User<space>User ID. Send to 16222.

Example: DAM HELP USER ABCDEF & send to 16222

(ii) PIN Number জানা থাকলে: DAM<space>Help<Space>PIN<Space>PIN No & Send to 16222. Example: DAM HELP PIN 12345678 & Send to 16222

ঝ. বিজ্ঞপ্তি পত্রিকা ছাড়াও কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়, কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর খামারবাড়ি, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫ এর নোটিশ বোর্ড ও ওয়েবসাইটে (www.dam.gov.bd বা <http://dam.teletalk.com.bd>) দেয়া যাবে অথবা QR code স্ক্যান এর মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র রাষ্ট্রীয় মোবাইল অপারেটর টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল অথবা <https://alljobs.teletalk.com.bd/dam> ওয়েবসাইটে সরাসরি প্রবেশ করেও বিজ্ঞপ্তি পাওয়া যাবে। নিয়োগ পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও অন্যান্য তথ্য ওয়েবসাইটে নোটিশ বোর্ড হতে জানা যাবে।



ঞ. অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে কোন সমস্যা হলে টেলিটক নম্বর থেকে ১২১ অথবা alljobs.query@teletalk.com.bd বা dd.abd@dam.gov.bd ই-মেইল যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। এছাড়া টেলিটকের জবপোর্টাল এর ফেসবুক পেজ <https://www.facebook.com/alljobsbdteletalk> এ মেসেজ এর মাধ্যমে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

(Mail/মেসেজ এর Subject-এ Organization Name: DAM, Post Name: * * *, Applicant's User ID ও Contact Number অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।

ট. ডিক্লারেশন প্রার্থীকে অনলাইন আবেদনপত্রের ডিক্লারেশন অংশে এই মর্মে ঘোষণা দিতে হবে যে প্রার্থী কর্তৃক আবেদনপত্রের প্রদত্ত সকল তথ্য সঠিক ও সত্য। প্রদত্ত তথ্য অসত্য বা মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে অথবা কোন অযোগ্যতা ধরা পড়লে বা কোনো প্রভাষণ বা দুর্নীতির আশ্রয় গ্রহণ করলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অকলম করলে, পরীক্ষার পূর্বে বা পরে এমনকি নিয়োগের পরে যে কোনো পর্যায়ে প্রার্থী বাতিল করা হবে এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর বিরুদ্ধে আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাবে।

** শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে Online এ আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও আবেদন ফি জমাদান করতে পারামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

মোহাম্মদ এমর্শাদুল হক
(উপসচিব)

(উপপরিচালক, কৃষি বাসায় উন্নয়ন শাখা)

সদস্য-সচিব
বিভাগীয় নিয়োগ/পদোন্নতি/উচ্চতর গ্রেড প্রদান কমিটি
কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর
ফোন : ০২-৫৫০২৮৬৯৭



Mosharraf Karim



Nazia Haque Orsha



Chanchal Chowdhury



Shobnom Bubby



Ziaul Faruq Apurba

WHO WILL BE CROWNED the best actors in OTT?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards is going to honour the best of OTT contents released in 2022. In the second iteration of the grand event, 8 artistes were nominated in the popular category—the Best Actor (male and female).

The voting lines closed on September 14, after tough competition between the contestants. Let us have a look at the list of the artistes who had a neck-to-neck competition in the race. Afran Nisho was nominated for two projects—*Redrum* (as Rashed Chowdhury) and *Kaiser* (as Kaiser). The actor's powerful acting and experimental looks in both projects mesmerised the audience, since fans were confused as to which of his excellent roles to vote for!

Last year's winner in this category, Chanchal Chowdhury, has proved that his acting prowess in every role has thrived in all media of entertainment. His power-packed performance in *Karagar* took his career



Mehazabien Chowdhury



Afran Nisho



Tasnia Farin

to new heights. His much-deserved nomination in the show has got fans excited for yet another potential crowning.

Ziaul Faruq Apurba made his OTT debut with the web-film *Mayashalik*, essaying the role of a calm and polite

character Ovi, suffering from clinical depression. Another well-deserved nomination in the popular category is Mosharraf Karim, for his performance in *Tin Shoroter Golpo*.

The talented women in this category have put forth the performances of

their lifetimes to earn the nominations. Mehazabien Chowdhury's performances in the projects *Redrum* and *Sabrina* were nominated this year. The actress marked her OTT debut with *Redrum*, which earned her accolades for her bold character as Neela. In

Sabrina, she was seen in a completely different avatar.

Nazia Haque Orsha's brilliant performance as the titular *Sabrina* earned her the nomination in this category. She managed to bring life to the unforgettable character.

Breaking out from her conventional roles in Dhallywood, Shobnom Bubby surprised everyone after playing the earthy Aboni in *Taan*. She left an emotional impact in the heart of audiences, while perfectly melding into the role.

Tasnia Farin earned the Best Actor (Female) award with immense love and appreciation from both the audience and jury, for her debut performance in *Ladies and Gentlemen* last year. This year, she has been nominated for her mature performance as Maha in *Karagar*.

The grand occasion will be held on October 21 through a lavish ceremony, celebrating the best of OTT. While only two brilliant artistes will be able to flaunt the trophies of Best Actor and Best Actress, all of the nominations deserve praise for helping to uplift the OTT industry as a whole.

NEWS

China's influence may challenge sovereignty

FROM PAGE 12

Commissioner Jeremy Bruer and UK High Commissioner Sarah Cooke also spoke at the session, moderated by CGS Executive Director Zillur Rahman.

Haas said the US believes in the international rules-based system, freedom of navigation, democracy, human rights, diversity and prosperity in the region.

The Indo-Pacific region is home to more than half of the world's population and nearly two-thirds of the world's economy. Half of all global trade passes through the region's waters.

The global powers are competing for influence in the region. China is going ahead with its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) while the US has its Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS).

Many other countries also have their own strategies. Bangladesh has recently launched its Indo-Pacific Outlook.

The US envoy said, "As we chart our course through the coming decades in the Indo-Pacific, we must not lose sight of the evolving nature of the People's Republic of China's influence."

He said the BRI, along with the Chinese expansive maritime ambitions, have signaled a new epoch in the dynamics of this region. "This brings us to the most pressing strategic challenge to our vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific: authoritarian powers trying to alter the fundamental rules of the road in international affairs."

"We must approach this juncture with unyielding vigilance," he said.

Haas said Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a wake-up call to the world and demonstrates that the democratic values cannot be taken for granted, rather they must be defended.

He said the US does not seek conflict or cold war, but wants to promote the vision of a free, open,

secure, and prosperous world.

"We believe we can only truly fulfill these visions when we apply those principles domestically as well.

"What we can't allow is for the strategic challenge from authoritarian powers — powers whose actions would snuff out the sovereignty and autonomy of the nations that make up this region, and who would shut down that prosperity and diversity — to go unmet."

Haas said "competition" in the Indo-Pacific is not about forcing countries to choose, but about offering an alternative vision based on respect, prosperity, and partnership.

"Through deliberate, multilateral endeavours, we seek to create an environment that is conducive not only to growth, but also to sustainable and inclusive prosperity, to security, and to the protection of sovereignty that extends to all Indo-Pacific nations, be they large coastal states or small islands."

The US ambassador said there are many more examples of democratic economies taking off than those of the nations thriving under autocracy or under the shadow of their more powerful neighbours.

"We encourage Bangladesh to recognise the importance of these principles in its own past as it develops its own outlook," he said.

Canadian High Commissioner Lilly said the Indo-Pacific cannot be secure without addressing the Rohingya crisis that's affecting not only Bangladesh but the entire region.

It's important to hold the Myanmar junta accountable and continue the humanitarian assistance for the Rohingya, she said.

The British and Australian envoys said their countries will support Bangladesh for successful graduation from LDC and address the Rohingya crisis.

Israel lays total siege to Gaza

FROM PAGE 1

planning a ground assault there to defeat Hamas.

In a further sign of Israel's rapid shift onto a war footing, a cabinet member from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party said it could set up a national unity government joined by opposition leaders within hours.

Israeli truck convoys were seen moving tanks to the south near the Gaza border.

"We are in control of the communities [attacked by Hamas]," said military spokesman Daniel Hagari, cautioning that some "terrorists" may remain after about 1,000 militants had swarmed into the region on the Jewish Sabbath.

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would impose a "complete siege" on the long blockaded enclave and stressed what this meant for its 2.3 million people: "No electricity, no food, no water, no gas — it's all closed."

Palestinians in the impoverished coastal territory braced for what many feared would be a massive Israeli ground attack aiming to defeat Hamas and liberate the hostages.

Netanyahu has warned Gaza civilians to get away from all Hamas sites, which he vowed to turn "to rubble".

The Israeli PM told mayors of

southern towns hit by the surprise assault that Israel's response would "change the Middle East".

Tensions have spiked as Israel's arch-enemy Iran and their Lebanese ally Hezbollah have praised the Hamas attack, although Tehran rejected any role in the military operation.

"The military operation is still continuing," Hossam Badran, a Hamas official, told AFP from Doha, adding that "there is currently no chance for negotiation on the issue of prisoners or anything else".

The United States has pledged "rock solid" support for Israel and said it would send munitions and military hardware to its key ally and divert an aircraft carrier group to the eastern Mediterranean.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday expressed deep concern about recent events in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, saying the situation could escalate into a wider conflict in the Middle East.

China, expressing deep concern, said it opposes actions that escalate the conflict.

The Arab League said its foreign ministers will hold an "extraordinary meeting" on Wednesday to discuss "Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip".

Meanwhile, in a surprise move, the EU yesterday halted development aid payments to the Palestinians and said it was placing 691 million euros (\$728

million) of support "under review".

Yesterday, the Israeli army said its soldiers had "killed a number of armed suspects" who had crossed the border from Lebanon and that Israeli helicopters were striking targets in the area.

A local Lebanese official told AFP Israel was shelling the southern border area while Hezbollah denied involvement in clashes or "any infiltration attempt" into Israel.

Among the hostages Hamas took back into Gaza were children and a Holocaust survivor in a wheelchair, Israeli officials have said.

Up to 250 bodies were strewn across the site of a music festival in a Negev desert kibbutz, mostly young people, and charred car wrecks were piled up in a sign of the panicked rush to escape, while other revellers were feared to be among the hostages.

"They butchered people in cold blood in an inconceivable way," said Moti Bukjin of the Zaka religious volunteer group which helped collect the human remains.

Beside Israelis, foreign or dual nationals have been reported killed, abducted or missing by countries including Brazil, Britain, Cambodia, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Paraguay, Thailand, Ukraine and the United States.

The situation was also dire inside

Gaza, which has been blockaded by Israel since Hamas assumed control there 15 years ago.

Air strikes have levelled residential tower blocks, mosques and the central bank. More than 120,000 people in Gaza have been displaced, said the United Nations.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank have rallied in support and clashed with Israeli security forces, leaving 15 Palestinians dead since Saturday.

Anti-Israel activists have demonstrated in Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan and elsewhere while security was stepped up around Jewish temples and schools worldwide.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian embassy in Dhaka yesterday said Palestinians have every right to resist oppression, violence and racist practices of the illegal Israeli occupation.

"The Israeli government must refrain from bombing civilians, including women and children in Gaza, and inciting violence and tensions in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and especially around religious sites," the embassy said in a press release.

The spiralling conflict has sent shock waves around the world amid fears of a wider escalation, sparking a surge in oil prices on fears of tightening supplies.

Nowhere to go

FROM PAGE 1

the tiny, crowded enclave, exceeding previous bouts of destructive warfare that they fear will leave survivors destitute, without homes, water, electricity, hospitals or food.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant warned that the price Gaza would pay "will change reality for generations" and Israel was imposing a total blockade with a ban on food and fuel imports as part of a battle against "animals".

The death toll in the Gaza Strip rose to 560 yesterday, the health ministry in the Palestinian enclave said, as Israel pounded Hamas targets for the third consecutive day.

Gaza has no protected shelters designated for times of war. The densely populated enclave's 2.3 million residents, many of them refugees descended from people who fled or were expelled from their homes during fighting when Israel was founded

in 1948, have endured repeated bouts of war and air strikes before.

They expect this one to be worse.

"It doesn't need much thinking about. Israel suffered the biggest loss in its history so you can imagine what it is going to do," said a resident of Beit Hanoun on Gaza's northeastern border with Israel.

Families began stockpiling food as soon as Saturday's attack began but fear that despite Hamas assurances supplies will run low.

With Israel cutting off electricity supplies into Gaza, a looming fuel shortage means private generators as well as the enclave's own power station, which is still providing about four hours of energy a day, will struggle to function.

Electricity shortages mean residents cannot recharge phones, so are cut off from news of each other and from events, and are unable to pump water into rooftop tanks.

At night the enclave is plunged into total darkness, punctuated by the blasts of air strikes.

Gaza health ministry officials said hospitals were expected to run out of fuel, needed to power lifesaving equipment, in two weeks.

Air strikes have damaged and blocked streets, making it harder for ambulances and rescue vehicles to reach bomb sites according to residents and medics. The civil defence said it could not cope with so many bomb sites, and asked for foreign rescue teams to help it save survivors trapped under rubble.

The Beit Hanoun resident said the bombardment of streets seemed like preparation for another Israeli ground offensive, like the ones he watched rolling into Gaza from the roof of his house in 2008 and 2014.

Recorded phone messages and social media posts issued by Israel's

military warning residents to quit some Gaza areas added to residents' fears.

Despite the danger, the 45-year-old was pleased by Hamas' raid into Israel he said, requesting anonymity for fear of Israeli reprisals.

"We are afraid but still we are proud like never before," he said, adding: "Hamas wiped out entire Israeli army battalions. It crushed them like biscuits".

Standing outside his ruined shop, near wrecked houses where three entire families were killed, Brais said he just hoped for an end to Gaza's endless cycle of destruction.

"Enough. We had enough. I am 55-years-old and I spent those years going from one war into another. My house has been destroyed twice," said Brais. "Everything is gone," he said, looking at the wreckage of his shop.

Hamas carried out yrs-long campaign to fool Israel

REUTERS

A careful campaign of deception ensured Israel was caught off guard when the Palestinian group Hamas launched its devastating attack, enabling a force using bulldozers, hang gliders and motorbikes to take on the Middle East's most powerful army.

Saturday's assault, the worst breach in Israel's defences since Arab armies waged war in 1973, followed two years of subterfuge by Hamas that involved keeping its military plans under wraps and convincing Israel it did not want a fight.

While Israel was led to believe it was containing a war-weary Hamas by providing economic incentives to Gazan workers, the group's fighters were being trained and drilled, often in plain sight, a source close to Hamas said.

This source provided many of the details for the account of the attack and its buildup that has been pieced together by Reuters. Three sources within Israel's security establishment, who like others asked not to be identified, also contributed to this account.

"Hamas gave Israel the impression that it was not ready for a fight," said the source close to Hamas, describing plans for the most startling assault since the Yom Kippur War 50 years ago when Egypt and Syria surprised Israel and made it fight for its survival.

"Hamas used an unprecedented intelligence tactic to mislead Israel over the last months, by giving a public impression that it was not willing to go into a fight or confrontation with Israel while preparing for this massive operation," the source said.

Israel concedes it was caught off guard by an attack timed to coincide with the Jewish Sabbath and a religious holiday. Hamas fighters stormed into Israeli towns, killing 700 Israelis and abducting dozens. Israel has killed more than 500 Palestinians in its retaliation on Gaza since then.

"This is our 9/11," said Major Nir Dinar, spokesperson for the Israeli Defence Forces. "They got us." "They surprised us and they came fast from many spots - both from the air and the ground and the sea."

Osama Hamdan, the Hamas representative in Lebanon, told Reuters the attack showed Palestinians had the will to achieve their goals "regardless of Israel's military power and capabilities." In one of the most striking elements of their preparations, Hamas constructed a mock Israeli settlement in Gaza where they practiced a military landing and trained to storm it, the source close to Hamas said.



Palestinians inspect the destruction in a neighbourhood heavily damaged by Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City's Shati refugee camp early yesterday. Egypt has been in close contact with Israel and Hamas to try to prevent further escalation in fighting between them and ensure the protection of Israelis taken hostage by Hamas members, two Egyptian security sources said yesterday.



Hamas-Israel war slams door ON US-IRAN THAW

AFP, Washington

Through quiet diplomacy with Iran, US President Joe Biden's administration had strived to keep a lid on Middle East troubles. That bet came crashing down with Saturday's massive offensive by Hamas against Israel.

Iran's clerical leadership openly supports the group, who control the blockaded and impoverished Gaza Strip, and hailed the sneak attack that inflicted the deadliest blow on Israel in decades.

The Biden administration has engaged in cautious talks with Iranian officials, mostly taking place out of public view in Gulf Arab states, and reached an agreement last month that freed five Americans.

While making limited headway on the key issue of Iran's nuclear

program, US officials have alluded to tacit understandings with Tehran to turn down the temperature.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security advisor, told a September 27 event that Iranian-backed attacks in Iraq have stopped "for now" and pointed to a de facto truce in war-ravaged Yemen, where Tehran backs Houthi rebels.

"The Middle East region is quieter today than it has been in two decades," Sullivan said, while cautioning that the situation could change and listing Iran's nuclear program and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as festering issues.

Less than two weeks later, Hamas launched its surprise attack against Israel, leaving US diplomats scrambling to try and contain the outbreak of violence from spreading in the region.

The rival Republican Party has gone on the attack against Biden over the violence, pointing to the deal to free prisoners, which required the transfer of \$6 billion in Iranian oil revenue frozen in South Korea to an account in Qatar.

There is no evidence the money went to Hamas. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said "not a single dollar" has been dispensed.

But beyond the money, experts said offensive showed the limitations of Biden's approach with Iran.

"The deal with Iran was not just about prisoner release, but establishing some kind of a process that could potentially de-escalate the conflict between the two states," said Ray Takeyh, a fellow for Middle East studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Palestinian state 'most reliable' solution: Russia

AFP, Moscow

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said yesterday that creating a Palestinian state was the "most reliable" solution for peace in Israel and that fighting terrorism alone would not ensure security. He spoke during a press conference with the head of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, who visited Russia after the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas launched a massive surprise attack on Saturday. Creating a "Palestinian state that would live side by side with Israel... is the most reliable path to solve (the conflict)," Lavrov said. "We cannot agree with those who say that security can only be ensured through a fight with terrorism." He said Moscow was "deeply concerned that hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians have died and that the Gaza Sector has been declared a target for Israeli retaliation." Lavrov said Russia -- in the midst of its almost 20-month long Ukraine offensive -- had "serious questions" about Western policy on Israel. "They say that (fighting) should be stopped immediately, that Israel should destroy the terrorists," Lavrov said.

GAZA STRIP More than 123,000 displaced: UN

AFP, Jerusalem



More than 123,000 people have been displaced in the Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the conflict between Hamas and Israel, the United Nations said yesterday. "Over 123,538 people have been internally displaced in Gaza, mostly due to fear, protection concerns and the destruction of their homes," said the UN's humanitarian agency, OCHA. More than 73,000 are sheltering in schools, OCHA said, some of which have been designated emergency shelters. Israel has launched hundreds of strikes on Gaza since Saturday, when Hamas fighters launched deadly attacks in Israel. Adnan Abu Hasna, a spokesman for UNRWA, said he expected the numbers to rise further.



Central Reserve Police Force personnel help people disembark from an Indian Air Force helicopter after they were rescued from Lachen, an inaccessible area due to flash floods caused by a lake burst, at Mangan Helipad in Sikkim, India yesterday.

UKRAINE REGION UN alarmed by Russia's 'mass' passports move

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations yesterday voiced deep concern over Moscow's "mass conferral" of Russian passports in Ukrainian territory it controls and denying essential services to people who refuse them.

The UN human rights office, OHCHR, said residents who do not take up Russian citizenship were being denied access to essential public services and were at greater risk of arbitrary detention. "One and a half years after the Russian Federation's full-scale armed attack on Ukraine, we continue to bear witness to blatant and unabated violations of human rights," said UN deputy human rights chief Nada Al-Nashif.

Congress supports nationwide caste census

Says Rahul Gandhi; five Indian states to vote in key polls in November

AGENCIES

India's Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said yesterday the party's working committee has unanimously decided to support the idea of caste census in the country and announced that party chief ministers in Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan are considering it.

"Caste census is a very progressive, powerful step for emancipation of poor people. It is an 'X-ray' needed for new paradigm and development in country," Rahul said.

"The PM is incapable of doing caste census. 3 out of 4 Congress CMs are from the OBC category. Out of 10 BJP CMs, only one is from the OBC category. The PM doesn't work for the OBCs but works to distract them from main issues," Rahul alleged.

"PM Modi's charge that demand for caste census is an attempt to divide people is nothing but distraction," he added. He claimed that most INDIA parties

support the idea of caste census. "If someone has different opinion, we are flexible, not fascist," he said.

Earlier, addressing party leaders at the CWC meeting, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge raised the demand for conducting a nationwide caste census to ensure social justice and rights to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in accordance with their population, while noting that the BJP is silent on this matter, reports TNN.

Meanwhile, five Indian states will elect new legislatures next month, an independent election panel said yesterday, beginning a process of regional polls ahead of national elections due next year, reports Reuters.

The elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram are expected to give an indication of voter mood, especially in the heartland states which are key to fortunes of BJP.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Office of the Director
National Institute of ENT
Tejgaon, Dhaka



Memo No: NIENT/Admin/Tender(Diet & Washing)/2023-2024/ 1388

Date:09/10/2023

Invitation for Tender

KEY INFORMATION				
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
2.	Agency	Department of Health Services		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	Director, National Institute of ENT		
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5.	Invitation for	Procurement of Goods (Diet for Patient & Washing of Linen Cloths)		
6.	Invitation Ref No	NIENT/Admin/Tender(Diet & Washing)/2023-2024/1388		
7.	Date	09/10/2023		
8.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9.	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Revenue)		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10.	Organization Code	1270208		
11.	Organization Name	National Institute of ENT Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.		
12.	Tender Publication Date	10/10/2023		
13.	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	19/11/2023 during office hours		
		Date	Time	
14.	Tender Closing Date and Time	20/11/2023	11.00 AM	
15.	Tender Opening Date and Time	20/11/2023	12.00 PM	
16.	Name & Address of the office (s)			
	(a) Selling Tender Document	Office of the Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka		
	(b) Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Director National Institute of ENT Tejgaon, Dhaka & Office of the Deputy Police Commissioner (North), Tejgaon Division (North) Shamoly, Dhaka (west to shamoly shishu park)		
	(c) Opening Tender Document	Office of the Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
17.	Eligibility of Tenderer	The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 3 years of general/overall experience in the supply of similar goods to the Govt./semi gov./autonomous Institute/Hospital under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Certificate Must be submitted along with supplying document The Tenderer shall have a minimum of 2 years of specific experience in the supply of related services to the Govt./semi gov./autonomous Institute/Hospital under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Certificate Must be submitted along with supplying document Other requirement described in the Tender document		
18.	Brief Description of Goods	Diet for Patient & Washing of Linen Cloths ites		
19.	Pkg. No	Identification of Pkg	Tender Security (Tk.) (refundable)	Price of Tender Document (Tk)
	GR-11	Supplying of Diet for Patient	2,50,000/-	1000/-
	GR-12	Supplying of Washing of Linen Cloths	60,000/-	1000/-
				Deposit on Code No. 1-2711-0000-2366 by treasury challan (with CTR) in favors of Director, National Institute of ENT, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
20.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Md. Zakaria Sarker		
21.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director, National Institute of ENT		
22.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Tejgaon, Industrial Area, Dhaka		
23.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: Phone 8878155, Fax No: 8878150		
24.	Authority is not bound to accept the lowest tender/rate. Authority may cancel the whole tender/part of the tender without assigning any reason.			
25.	Terms and conditions of the tender and other information will be available with the schedule.			

Note: If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working Day will be applicable for the same respectively.

(Prof. Dr. Md. Zakaria Sarker)
Director
National Institute of ENT
Tejgaon, Dhaka.

One PK down, how many more to go?

We must rectify the system that protects money launderers

In a landmark judgment, a Dhaka court has finally sentenced PK Halder to 22 years in jail for money laundering and the possession of illegal wealth. In a country where money launderers are essentially given free rein to do as they please, we welcome the verdict against a man who has swindled at least Tk 3,500 crore out of the country over a decade – and left four non-banking financial institutions (NBFI) in ruins in the process. We also wholeheartedly agree with the observation of the court that money launderers are the enemies of the country and the nation. The question, however, remains: why are we doing so little to name, shame and take action against them? As we draw the curtains on the crimes of one man, we must ask, how many more PK Halders are out there looting state institutions and funnelling money through various nefarious means right under the noses of our regulators?

There can be no denying that PK Halder – despite his cunning and ingenuity in amassing such huge amounts of wealth illegally – was not an exception. An estimated \$12-15 billion is smuggled out of the country every year, according to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). Meanwhile, the Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a Washington DC based think tank that focuses on illicit financial flows, suggests that the amount of money lost annually to deliberate trade misinvoicing could exceed \$14 billion by 2030. Over the past decade, despite numerous promises and policy changes, there has been a glaring lack of substantial progress in curbing money laundering. Lists of defaulters have failed to materialise, investigations have been stalled, and wings of investigators have been clipped. In fact, money launderers with political ties have been protected and pampered by the powers that be, time and time again. In the process, the integrity of our financial system has been severely compromised.

The consequences of unchecked money laundering are not merely financial. It erodes public trust in institutions, and the wealth syphoned off through money laundering could otherwise have been invested in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and other areas that would benefit our society as a whole. In essence, as the court has highlighted in its verdict, it is a betrayal of the people and the nation.

Effective anti-money-laundering measures require a concerted effort from all stakeholders – government agencies, law enforcement, financial institutions, and the judiciary. It is imperative that our government takes immediate and decisive action to rectify the situation. This includes strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing inter-agency cooperation, and ensuring that justice is swift and severe for those involved in money laundering.

The sentencing of PK Halder is a step in the right direction. But we must now begin the more difficult task of identifying and addressing the regulatory failures, inefficiencies and collusions that facilitated such huge sums of money to leave the country undetected in the first place. It should serve as a catalyst for comprehensive reform and a renewed commitment to eradicating money laundering from our society.

Judiciary must be above politicisation

We need concrete actions, not mere acknowledgements

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan has recently said that the judiciary and the courts of the country should be above any manner of politicisation. Speaking at an event on Sunday, he also said that, during his tenure, he is going to work on making the judiciary corruption-free, modernising the system, and making it accessible to the general public. There can be no denying the importance of a free and impartial judicial system in upholding people's right to justice in a democratic system.

His predecessor, former Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, had also stressed how the courts have to be kept at a safe distance from political ideologies and rifts, adding that independence of the judiciary is essential for establishing participatory democracy, the rule of law, and the rights of the weaker sections of society. Sadly, our legal system has long been afflicted with a number of ailments, including systemic flaws, legal loopholes and the corrupt interplay of money and power. As we have seen time and again, our courts are not immune to such influences, which impede the pursuit of justice.

While we feel hopeful by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan's assertion that a judicial administration should be independent, transparent and congruent with the idea of social justice, we look forward to seeing some meaningful actions following his remarks. After all, words are only good on paper – no change will come unless effective measures are put in place to stamp out corrupt and partisan elements from our judicial system. To this end, mechanisms to ensure judicial accountability must be strengthened so that everyone involved with the justice system – ranging from investigating officers to prosecutors to even judges – is transparent and impartial in performing their duties. Our judiciary should be equipped to withstand any and all influence, no matter where it is coming from, and treat every citizen equally under the law of the land. The state, too, must work to this end, help uphold the constitution and ensure that the judiciary faces no disruption and interference from the executive branch. The judiciary must strive to become a beacon of hope for those who seek justice, especially the ordinary people.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Caution needed to manage RNPP

We are now known as the 33rd nation to use nuclear fuel to meet our energy demands. However, the world has seen nuclear disasters in countries much more developed and better equipped than Bangladesh. Although the technology has improved significantly, reducing the risk of such explosions on nuclear sites, I hope we will be fully prepared to prevent any accidents.

Nusrat Jahan Arbi
Madhupur, Tangail

Soft openings, hard politics



OF MAGIC & MADNESS

Badiuzzaman Bay
is assistant editor at
The Daily Star.

BADIUZZAMAN BAY

As the political landscape heats up in anticipation of the general election, the ruling Awami League seems to be pulling out all the stops. One outcome of this strategy is: a term mostly used by businesses to slowly roll out products or services is now part of our politics, or more specifically, electoral politics.

Meet soft openings.

On October 7, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina soft-launched the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Reportedly, about 90 percent work of the extension has been completed, with it slated to be fully operational at the end of next year after the completion of systems integration and calibration. Although some services are already available, and more will be before it opens, the terminal is still a year or so away from being passenger-ready. So why has the inauguration been brought forward?

You could say this is how soft or partial openings work. Corporations, by testing a new offering with a select group of customers, use the opportunity to improve their product and assess possible responses to a hard launch on a larger scale. But the actual reason in this case, according to a *Prothom Alo* report published last week, is the approach of the general election.

Besides the third terminal, the Awami League government has a host of other mega projects – either nearly complete or nearly ready for a phased roll-out – lined up for launches during October. The objective is more celebration than inauguration. First among them was the official handover of the first batch of uranium to the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant on October 5, which marked a historic moment for Bangladesh as it became the 33rd nation in the world to be using nuclear fuel. The plant itself, it should be noted, is still some distance away from being in a position to supply energy to the national grid.

In the coming days, we are about to see the inauguration/celebration of the commencement of train services on the Dhaka-Bhanga rail route via Padma Bridge (October 10), extension of the Dhaka metro rail from Agargaon to Motijheel (October 29), and opening of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under the Karnaphuli



Besides the third terminal, the government has a host of other mega projects – either nearly complete or nearly ready for a phased roll-out – lined up for launches during October.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

river in Chattogram (October 28). Some 140 bridges and 12 overpasses will also be launched simultaneously on October 22. The Chattogram-Cox's Bazar railway route is another possible entrant in this list.

These inaugural ceremonies seem strategically timed to precede the potential announcement of the election schedule in the first week of November, after which any launch of development projects would be considered a violation of the electoral code of conduct. Clearly, Awami League wants to use the vibe generated by these launches to soft-launch its own election bid. The hope is that these impressive projects, covering various sectors including energy, transportation, and infrastructure, will create a sense of accomplishment and optimism among party loyalists and undecided voters, if there are any. The ruling party also intends to position BNP's ongoing movement for the government's resignation as a sign of its failure and lack of moral

justification, juxtaposing this with its own developmental successes, thereby trying to shift the narrative.

At the soft launch of the third terminal, the PM seemed more than willing to share her government's achievements as well as an ambitious vision to build the next international aviation hub in Bangladesh. It was almost as if she was reading from

battle will be fought and won eventually, with both parties locking horns on the streets and sizing each other up, BNP with its newfound determination and a growing and increasingly emboldened supporter base and Awami League with its bottomless arsenal of legal and administrative tools. At a recent press conference, the prime minister blasted those casting doubt on the present

their next election manifesto. Expect to hear similar gloating and pledging in the other events as well. There is little doubt that the ruling party's achievements in infrastructure and development will once again be the key flank of its re-election bid.

This is, however, unlikely to deter BNP which is apprehensive, perhaps not without reason, of any talk of development from its rival as it sees it as a ruse to deflect attention from the more critical issues of concern, such as the ever-shrinking space for democratic practices in Bangladesh, disenfranchisement, astronomical prices of commodities, etc. It is especially concerned about the government's suppression of its protests and harassment of party activists. By all indications, BNP may intensify its one-point street movement in October, making it a critical month for the opposition as well.

Meet hard politics.

If past trends hold, this is where the

electoral system – surprisingly to some who had expected a more conciliatory tone amid all the pressure from Bangladesh's Western allies for a free and fair election. There was no hint of any dialogue on the issue of election-time government either.

How do you juxtapose this uncompromising approach with the apparent positivity surrounding the soft openings? Any show of confidence on the part of the government seems to belie deep-seated tensions about how effective those grand events and gestures will really be in swaying voters or ensuring its continued grip on power. Regardless of what happens in the coming months, however, Awami League appears set on pursuing a mix of soft and hard approaches while BNP, in the absence of alternatives, is left to pursue hard approaches only.

It is a high-stakes political showdown that will ultimately be decided at the ballot box, if a fair and participatory election can indeed be held.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Our unsung health heroes



Dr Lamisa Rahman
is working on health systems and
universal health coverage as a
research associate at the Brac James
P Grant School of Public Health.

LAMISA RAHMAN

In the remote corners of Bangladesh, where access to healthcare is a distant dream for many, there are unsung heroes quietly making a difference. These are the Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs), individuals who dedicate themselves to providing essential healthcare services, often facing immense challenges.

For a bit of a background: in 1978, Bangladesh committed to achieving "Health for All" by 2000 through Primary Health Care, as per The Declaration of Alma-Ata. However, by 1996, it became clear that the efforts to achieve these goals were falling short due to limited access to primary healthcare services in rural areas and insufficient community engagement. To address these challenges, the government initiated a bold plan in 1996, establishing Community Clinic (CC) to bring healthcare to approximately 6,000 rural citizens. And CHCPs are the lifeline of these community clinics.

The selection of CHCPs is a rigorous government-led process, involving written exams at government colleges and viva assessments at the Civil Surgeon's office. This guarantees that only qualified and dedicated individuals are chosen for this vital role. They undergo three months of basic training provided by the

government, which equips them with the skills and knowledge necessary to provide essential healthcare services to their communities. But CHCPs are not just healthcare providers; they are community members themselves, deeply invested in the wellbeing of their neighbours. They work tirelessly to provide a range of essential healthcare services to their communities, including primary healthcare, antenatal care, postnatal care, adolescent counselling, Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) sessions, referral of serious patients, registration of new couples, maintaining health records of children under the age of five, and providing family planning counselling.

CHCPs serving in the challenging landscapes of Bangladesh must also grapple with a unique set of obstacles. Those we interviewed operate in hard-to-reach areas, often in wards or unions that are not easily accessible. The rugged terrain, characterised by hills, rivers, and/or dense forests, presents formidable challenges to healthcare access. As one CHCP aptly put it, "During monsoon, reaching some villages becomes nearly impossible. But we can't let that deter us; people depend on us for their healthcare needs."

In these remote areas, local residents

often approach CHCPs, requesting specific medicines regardless of medical necessity. "Local people come to us, mention the name of a medicine, and ask us to provide it, whether they need that type of medicine or not. If we do not provide it, they blame us," shared one CHCP. Refusing these requests can lead to blame falling on the CHCPs, adding an emotional burden to their already challenging roles.

CHCPs are not just healthcare providers; they are community members themselves, deeply invested in the wellbeing of their neighbours. They work tirelessly to provide a range of essential healthcare services to their communities, including primary healthcare, antenatal care, postnatal care, adolescent counselling, maintaining health records of children under the age of five, and providing family planning counselling.

Furthermore, CHCPs are often compelled to take on tasks beyond their training. Despite lacking vaccination training, they are tasked with EPI coverage. This responsibility forces them to make difficult choices, such as temporarily closing the CC or calling in additional staff to manage both roles

simultaneously.

In flood-prone regions with inadequate road infrastructure, a CC may be forced to shut down for up to six months. Floodwater renders the roads impassable, preventing CHCPs from reaching the CC and community members from accessing essential healthcare services. Infrastructure, particularly the rudimentary road network, also becomes treacherous during the monsoon season. "Addressing road, electricity, and infrastructure issues will help me serve 30-40 patients daily," stated another CHCP, underscoring the importance of overcoming these hurdles to improve healthcare accessibility.

In the hill tracts, CCs lack basic facilities such as toilets and tube wells, leaving both service providers and receivers struggling. Safety concerns loom large as well, with no nearby localities, leaving CHCPs vulnerable.

Financial struggles are another harsh aspect of life for many CHCPs, making it challenging to meet their own needs, let alone provide continuous healthcare services.

Community engagement faces hurdles, with CC committee meetings often seeing low attendance unless there's compensation or food provided. "Our community group is good, but the problem is that people do not want to come to the meetings," one CHCP observed. This sentiment reflects the challenge of community engagement in these remote areas.

Still, in the words of one CHCP, "We face hardships, but we keep going because we know our communities depend on us." Their service in the face of adversity is a testament to their strength and the criticality of the role they play in delivering healthcare to the farthest reaches of Bangladesh.

All that went right for Bangladesh against Afghanistan



Madiha Athar Khan is a technical writer at Optimizely, and an art enthusiast leading the Art for Soul movement. She can be reached at madiha1923@gmail.com

MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

On Saturday, Bangladesh won their first match in the men's ODI Cricket World Cup for the third year in a row: against Afghanistan in 2015, in 2019 against South Africa, and this time against Afghanistan. Bangladesh has started their World Cup 2023 journey with a convincing win. Tuning out all off-the-field buzz, the Tigers presented themselves as a cohesive unit to complete their largest win by deliveries remaining as they met the target score of a meagre 157 runs with 92 balls left.

was the most economical bowler (at 2.77 runs per over), as his deliveries provided virtually no room for the Afghan batters to play attacking cricket. Mounting pressure saw the opposition make poor choices of shots, which the Bangladeshi fielders took proper advantage of. Throughout Afghanistan's batting innings, Bangladeshi bowlers maintained a high level of discipline in their line and length, capitalised on the regular wickets, and prevented any partnerships from

his innings of 57. Najmul Hossain Shanto remained not-out at 59.

The Afghan team is a strong opponent in T20 cricket and many of their star players have regular outings in franchise cricket. This means that they have better control over the T20 format. To excel in ODI cricket can be an opportunity as much as it can be a challenge. In the 20-over format, there is barely any room to breathe – from the get-go, one has to play attacking cricket. In contrast, the 50-over game lets one settle in, read the pitch, and take their time to find the rhythm of the field and the purchase that bowlers are getting from it. ODIs also allow a player who has not been in form the time to get their groove back. But the mental pressure and stamina involved in dominating a whole day's match cannot be equated with the skills that the



Bangladesh will look to make the most of their momentum as they prepare for the next match against the defending World Cup champion, England.

PHOTO: AFP

Their previous best was 52 balls remaining against the Netherlands.

Afghanistan's openers got off to a relatively good start, on a pitch that was considered to be suitable to bat on after Bangladesh won the toss and chose to field. Shakib led from the front by bringing himself onto bowl in only the sixth over. Indeed, the pitch turned out to be good for spin as, by the end of the day, both Mehidy Hasan Miraz and Shakib Al Hasan shared six wickets between themselves. In his second over, Shakib provided the first breakthrough for Bangladesh by returning opener Ibrahim Zadran to the dugout. The score was 47-1.

There were quite a few bowling changes which possibly raised eyebrows but ultimately resulted in the right outcome. Shakib brought himself on for a second spell in the 13th over and this time, too, he picked up a wicket in his second over. Afghanistan added 36 runs before Rahmat Shah was caught out by Liton Das off Shakib's bowling, just when a partnership seemed to have been building. From then on, Bangladesh kept chipping away at the Afghanistan batters, making sure they never got comfortable. Still, at 112-3, it seemed possible that the Afghans would go on to put up a fighting total. However, seven wickets were wrapped up by the Tigers for only 44 runs. Miraz – who later became Player of the Match –

emerging. Mustafizur Rahman, Shoriful Islam, and Taskin Ahmed all provided good support to the spinners and picked up wickets.

Bangladesh's run chase was a frill-free affair, as the team did just what was needed to secure their first victory in this World Cup. As we have seen in the recent past, there is a lack of stability in the Tigers' top order and this continued as both Tanzid Tamim and Liton Das fell in quick succession. This being Tanzid's first World Cup, it is naturally a daunting situation for him. Moreover, this was only his sixth international match, which arguably explains why he seemed a bit nervous on the pitch and attempted a few too many shots. And while Liton Das had a spectacular 2022, he has found it difficult to regain his rhythm since his injury. However, Miraz was seen to play all across the batting order and has scored runs consistently. His form, coupled with Najmul Hossain Shanto's terrific run of 2023, provides a lot of mettle in Bangladesh's top order. Together, these two built a partnership of nearly 100, which meant that the Tigers were almost across the finish line. Even though Afghan bowlers barely had any runs to defend, their fielders let them down. They have the lowest catch efficiency of all the teams playing in this World Cup and, to reinforce that status, the Afghans dropped Miraz twice in

Afghans have mastered. They are great hitters of the ball, can score runs quickly, and have a fighting spirit (with a decent bowling lineup). But an ODI match allows the teams a comfortable enough stretch of time to shift momentums back and forth between two opponents. When the game is not going in one's favour, it becomes a big test of perseverance and patience to see through the rough patch till the team can play freely. Afghanistan can have a better journey ahead, as they look to break their 13-match losing streak with this World Cup by focusing on the less exciting aspects of the game: rotating the strike, building partnerships, and holding on to catches.

Bangladesh will look to make the most of their momentum as they prepare for the next match against the defending World Cup champion, England. Regardless of the strength of the opposition, if the Tigers play confident cricket and rely on their strengths, they can prove to be a challenge for any opponent. They have two inform players in Shanto and Miraz, with the latter building a good foundation to be a worthy all-rounder successor to Shakib. The Tigers' pace attack has also matured, and there are good options in Nasum Ahmed and Mahedi Hasan if an extra spinner is needed who can also add batting depth to the lower-middle order.



VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

A youth scavenging for mental wellness



Afia Jahin is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

AFIA JAHIN

To be honest, it doesn't feel right for me to write about mental health wellness. Not that I never feel mentally or emotionally (yes, those are separate aspects of one's psychological wellbeing) ill. I mean, do I burn out "easily"? Do I struggle to find time to process my emotions due to a work schedule that feels all-consuming? Or feel inadequate for not being able to do my job and regulate my emotions in a productive way? Do I feel happy, but always fail to hold on to that feeling for longer than a half hour? Do I try to convince myself that the concept of perpetual happiness is a scam, and that we, as humans in a suffocatingly capitalistic system, are not supposed to even be able to feel happy that often? Do I feel like I'm burdening someone if I share too much with them of what's going on in my head, because they, too, are struggling – as are we all? Yes to everything.

But it is with these thoughts of acknowledgement that the curtain draws on me dealing with my own mental health. Not that I haven't tried to go further. Every few months, when it does get Very Bad, I will scour every women's group on Facebook for resources, therapist reviews, online consultations, etc. Each time, I will decide on a therapist, with my primary requirement being a relatively cheap session fee. In fact, it is the session fees of most therapists which act as a primary deterrent to seeking help for the mentally ill. In Dhaka, you will be hard-pressed to find a mental health professional charging a fee-per-hour of less than Tk 1,500. While this may not be too much in the current economic climate, it is far from pocket change for students and young adults who may require multiple sessions a month. And with this hurdle in place, many go without booking a visit at all, fearing that their hard-earned money may go to waste if the therapist is not a good match for them. This brings us to the issue of patient-therapist compatibility.

In every instance of a decision to get help, I am reminded of the countless negative experiences

encountered by strangers and my close ones when seeking professional mental health treatment.

When a friend of mine had gone to a therapist during her school days, for example, the professional ended up revealing to her parents all that she had unburdened. Needless to say, that led to even more worries on her family's end and put my friend off of seeking help again for years to come. In another instance, last year, one therapist (who does all his "marketing" on social media) was alleged to have asked multiple of his young female patients out on coffee dates. He continues to practise and be preachy. There are also well-meaning therapists who prescribe religion as a tool to better one's state of mind. But while this is an approach to mental wellness that works for many people, isn't it best to seek religious guidance and mental health help from the respective experts in each field? Moreover, if religious advice is what a particular therapist will offer, they should advertise their services as such instead of springing it on patients who are looking for a more general evaluation of their mental health.

It is perhaps due to such gaps between what patients need and what Bangladeshi therapists can offer that many young people turn to mental health content on social media as an accessible alternative. A few years ago, this only consisted of nutshell posts on Facebook or Instagram condensing lifestyle articles from experts. But now, with the advent of TikTok, mental health awareness is more mainstream than ever. The minute-long bites of footage – ones made by therapists, psychologists, or wellness coaches in the West – have solidified the usage of many mental wellness terms in young people's vocabulary. Look no further to understand why "gaslighting" became Merriam-Webster's word of the year in 2022, or how every negative action may be described as being "toxic."

Because there is now so much mental health knowledge available

to us per scroll, it is easier than ever for one to recognise (not diagnose) the symptoms of their specific mental or emotional illness, if any. But on the flipside, many TikToks on the mental health trend are basically serious mental illnesses condensed into a few minutes of quirky video. And most of these are made by content creators (not professionals or experts of any sort) to be shareable, rather than educational. Being thus exposed to unfiltered misinformation on something as personal and impactful as one's mental health, younger netizens run the risk of worsening their situation. Such content coming from experts and influencers on the same platform/s can easily mislead viewers to weigh both on the same scale, which is highly problematic and may mislead them further.

The simple fact is that, especially in Bangladesh, mental health is not prioritised enough by authorities or individuals. Even though the current youth population is already making strides in destigmatising mental illness – by openly discussing their mental health and forgoing the shame their predecessors learned to associate with it – the country's medical community must do more to actually meet their needs. Not only do we need more mental health professionals at government-run medical facilities, they must also evolve to adequately help younger Bangladeshis who are eager to improve their mental health.

Lastly, as difficult as it may be for those around them to sympathise with someone who suffers invisible mental health issues, in this country, it is close to impossible for said sufferer to seek the professional help they require. It is overwhelming enough to have a mental health issue. But the inaccessibility of proper counselling and treatment, coupled with all manner of conflicting information spewed by influencers on social media, could very well make their issues seem insurmountable to a mentally ill individual. To say nothing of the fatigue that comes with confronting one's own mental illness. Simply being aware of it, without having access to the resources to treat it, can be debilitating for many. On this World Mental Health Day, I'd like us all to realise this: if someone we know is always complaining about how unhappy they are, chances are that this is all they can afford or bring themselves to do.

CALLING ALL READERS!

Have things to say? Want your opinions about current events to be published in *The Daily Star*? Send us an article between 400-500 words, along with your author bio and a headshot.

Write to us: opinion@thedailystar.net

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | 24 Noted seamstress | short | 22 Tel Aviv native |
| 1 Dinero | 26 Enjoys Osaka | DOWN | 24 Friendly relationship |
| 5 Tennis star | 28 Ocean off Cal. | 1 Labrador explorer | 25 Australia's area |
| 10 "The Tempest" sprite | 29 Ticked off | 2 Concert site | 27 Filmmaker Burns |
| 12 Ohio city | 31 Copy | 3 Temptress | 28 Trattoria choices |
| 13 Hall of Fame catcher | 32 Obtain with deceit | 4 That lady | 30 Symbol of wisdom |
| 14 Planting bases | 36 Bit of glitter | 5 "Apollo 13" org. | 33 Drain cover |
| 15 Bimary digit | 39 Cat breed | 6 "I Wanna Love You" singer | 34 Flat |
| 16 Argue noisily | 40 | 7 Folding craft | 35 Bring to bear |
| 18 Snarl | Soundrelated | 8 Popular aquarium fish | 37 Cartoonist Thomas |
| 20 Ventilate | 41 Head out | 9 Added pages | 38 Merriment |
| 21 Toenail treatment, for short | 43 Stand | 11 Anarchic | 42 Last part |
| 23 Came together | 44 – alia | 17 Blushing | |
| | 45 Map area | 19 Rte.-suggesting muscle, for system | |
| | 46 Shoulder | | |

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

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS





England hope for a better showing

SPORTS REPORTER from Dharamshala

The poor outfield of the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamshala was the focal point of both Bangladesh and England's pre-match press conferences on Monday ahead of their crucial World Cup clash today.

Bangladesh's spin bowling coach Rangana Herath downplayed the concerns regarding the outfield condition, saying he "was happy with it". However, from England's perspective, it appeared to be a big issue with their skipper Jos Buttler not shying away from labelling it as "poor".

Both teams have an interesting history in World Cups, with two wins for each in the four meet-ups between the two.

On pen and paper, defending champions England are the outright favourites for today's clash. However, England skipper Buttler still stayed guarded.

"We've had some excellent games against Bangladesh, a very good team and we respect every team that we play. And in World Cup matches, you expect really tough opponents and tough fixtures," said Buttler at the pre-match press conference yesterday.

The game against the Tigers will be a crucial one for England, especially after a massive nine-wicket defeat to 2019 runners-up New Zealand in their opener saw their net run-rate take a plunge.

"Both teams have only played one match, so we're very confident as a team. We know we can play better than we did in the last game and we look forward to putting in a good performance tomorrow," Buttler was confident of putting in a better display today.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, are brimming with confidence after beginning their World Cup campaign with a comprehensive six-wicket win over Afghanistan at the same venue two days ago. Meanwhile, England's former World Cup-

shwapno.com

HIT A SIX!

GRAB A MASSIVE DISCOUNT 6%

Use code WCwithShwapno & enjoy a 6% discount on all your World Cup essentials at shwapno.com

Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz's (R) promotion to the top-order has paid dividends for the Tigers in recent matches. Meanwhile, England's Sam Curran has become a key figure for the Three Lions with the new ball, picking up wickets in the Powerplay.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Liton backed to bounce back

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dharamshala

>> Past results suggest that England are overwhelming favourites in their match-up against Bangladesh as they have won 19 of their 24 ODIs against the Tigers, who have clinched five matches.

>> When it comes to World Cup encounters, it's an even two-all tie between England and Bangladesh. The Tigers managed to pull off a memorable victory to knock England out of the tournament in 2015 and got the better of the Three Lions in 2011.

>> Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, with 17 matches each, have played the highest number of ODIs against England. Mahmudullah Riyad sits second with 16.

>> Shakib and Mushfiqur have featured in all four contests against England in World Cups since the first meeting between the two teams in 2007.

>> Jason Roy's 121-ball 153 in the 2019 World Cup is the highest individual score amongst batters from both teams, while Shakib's 119-ball 121 in the same match is the best score by a Bangladesh batter in a World Cup match versus England.

>> Shakib, with 20 wickets in 17 matches, leads the wicket-takers' chart in England-Bangladesh contests. England leggie Adil Rashid is just one wicket behind having played only seven matches.

>> Bangladesh's in-form batter Najmul Hossain Shanto needs 33 runs to reach 1000 ODI runs.

>> Jonny Bairstow will be playing in his 100th ODI today.

>> In the five completed ODIs played in Dharamshala in the past 10 years, four of the matches have been won comfortably by teams batting second.

Despite having cruised to a six-wicket victory against Afghanistan in their World Cup opener, Bangladesh will have their work cut out against a somewhat wounded England in Dharamshala today.

The opening pair's ability to deliver a decent start is still a concern for the Tigers after Liton Das and Tanzid Hasan both failed against Afghanistan while chasing a paltry target at the same venue.

While young Tanzid may be given the benefit of the doubt for being a newbie on the international circuit, the team management will undoubtedly be hoping for his experienced opening partner to fire soon.

Liton - who had been a prolific run-getter for Bangladesh last year but only averages 23.40 in 18 games so far in 2023 - sat out the Tigers' optional training session yesterday; possibly to focus on his mental game ahead of the high-voltage encounter against the defending champions.

That the stylish right-hander has been lacking in confidence was

evident in his batting approach against the Afghans on Saturday. Eventually, he brought his downfall as he charged down the track to seamer Fazalhaq Farooqi, only to get an inside-edge which resulted in getting him bowled after a subdued 18-ball 13.

The Tigers team management, however, are keeping their faith in Liton intact. Bangladesh spin-bowling

Given the strength of the bowling unit in comparison to Afghanistan, the English pace unit, led by Mark Wood, Sam Curran, and Chris Woakes, will undoubtedly pose a stronger threat to the Bangladesh frontline batters.

England bat deep and, more often than not, stay in pole position to score big and at a brisk pace, irrespective of opponents. Herath stated the need for "proper partnerships" upfront - similar to the 131-run stand by Liton (61) and Tanzid (84) against Sri Lanka in team's first and penultimate World Cup warm-up match - that would lead to a big total against a side who began their title defence with a humbling defeat against New Zealand.

Liton's talent is undeniable, but his lack of consistency is something he would like to improve considerably. With plenty at stake for him and Bangladesh in the apex event, it is now or never for Liton to rise to the occasion with a statement knock and make his presence felt on the grandest stage; like he did against the West Indies in the 2019 edition.



Aussies need mindset shift against spin: Finch

REUTERS, Bengaluru

Australia's batsmen lacked aggression against India's world-class spin attack during Sunday's six-wicket defeat by the hosts in their World Cup opener and they must change their mindset to be more effective, former captain Aaron Finch said.

A spin-heavy attack of Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Ravichandran Ashwin collectively took six wickets and gave away 104 runs in 30 overs to dismiss five-times champions Australia for 199, before India sealed victory after a nervy start.

Finch, part of the Australian team who won the 50-overs trophy in 2015 and led them to Twenty20 World Cup success in 2021, said they should not have allowed the trio to bowl how they wanted to on a helpful Chennai wicket.

"Part of it comes down to how India bowled spin, but we also need to look at the way Australia batted," Finch, 36, wrote in a column for the ICC website.



"There was a clear plan among the group to be proactive, to try to limit dot balls and rotate strike against what they knew would be a world-class group of spinners.

"There was a bit of a lack of aggression from the Australian batters. They will be disappointed by the intent they showed and the fact that they weren't able to put any pressure back on India.

"It needs a mindset shift, to look to be on the front foot a little more and take some calculated risks."

Finch said the defeat was not "fatal" as Australia prepare to face South Africa on Thursday.

"The mood around Australia is still optimistic. With a nine-game group stage, you can afford a little slip-up here and there and it's not fatal,"

Finch said. "In the Twenty20 World Cup, we found that losing one game is enough and the margins are so fine.

"Here you can cope with a couple of losses, you just don't want them to be too big for net run rate."



পূর্বাচল মেরিন সিটি

পূর্বাচল রাজকীয় পরিবেশিত, স্মার্টি ককার উপযোগী জেভি প্রুট।

0196 999 98 98

New Zealand's Mitchell Santner produced an all-round display against the Netherlands in the World Cup at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday. The left-hander's 17-ball 36, laced with three fours and two maximums, gave the Kiwis a boost in the latter stage of their innings and saw them finish with 322 for seven in 50 overs. Santner then registered the first fiver of this World Cup with the ball in hand to see New Zealand to a comfortable win.

PHOTO: AFP

Gill to miss Afghan game

AFP, New Delhi

India batter Shubman Gill has not recovered from dengue fever and will miss his team's second World Cup match against Afghanistan, officials said Monday.

Gill sat out the hosts' six-wicket victory against Australia in Chennai on Sunday and will stay back in the southern Indian city "under the supervision of the medical team".

"Team India batter Shubman Gill will not be travelling with the team to Delhi on 9th October 2023," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement.

Rohit Sharma's India, one of the favourites to win the World Cup, will face Afghanistan at New Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

The team will then leave for Ahmedabad for the hotly-anticipated fixture against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday.



winning skipper Eion Morgan called Bangladesh "a tricky side" when he interacted with the media yesterday.

According to Morgan, the relatively less experienced campaigners stepping up for Bangladesh is a good sign.

"Look, historically, when they won games, they looked up to their bigger players. But one of the positives against Afghanistan was that their youngsters stood up. The likes of [Najmul Hossain] Shanto and [Mehedi Hasan] Miraz really took the pressure off," Morgan, who saw his side out of the 2015 World Cup at the hands of the Tigers.

Morgan also hailed Shakib's leadership qualities, mentioning that it could be a big factor for the Tigers against the defending champions today.

"Normally, [in Bangladesh's case] it's left to the more experienced players as it was a tricky chase [against Afghanistan]. It was pretty similar to the game between India and Australia where the two experienced players took the responsibility and won the game. That will help the like of Shakib's performance and his leadership in tomorrow's [today] game if they continue to stand up," he said.



What to WATCH

T SPORTS AND GTV
ICC Cricket World Cup
Bangladesh vs
England

Live from 11:00 am
Star Sports 2 and 3
Pakistan vs Sri Lanka
Live from 2:30 pm

Jamal hopes Tigers reach semifinals

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh football team's captain Jamal Bhuiyan said he hopes, like everyone else, that the cricket team will reach the semifinals in the World Cup.

The poster boy of Bangladesh football, while speaking at a press conference at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday, also hoped that the cricketers will reciprocate fans' expectations.

"I'm sure everyone here wants that Bangladesh team reaches the semifinals at least. Everyone will be happy and proud if they can reach the final," Jamal told reporters when asked of his expectations of the cricket team.

The midfielder, who currently plays in an Argentine club, has recently joined the squad for a few training sessions. The team will leave for Maldives for a FIFA World Cup prequalifying match today and will host the Maldivians in the reverse fixture next week. "We support any Bangladesh team. We hope for the best from the Bangladesh team and hopefully they can do the best for us," the football team captain said.

Bangladesh cricket team will play their second match of the World Cup against defending champions England in Dharamshala today after having opened their account with a six-wicket victory against Afghanistan three days ago.

SRI LANKA'S THEEKSHANA boost against Pakistan

PAKISTAN-SRI LANKA STATS

● Pakistan boast a clear numerical dominance overall, having won 92 of 156 matches. 59 games went in Sri Lanka's favour, while one game ended in a tie and four yielded no result.

● Their World Cup encounters paint a completely polarised image, with Sri Lanka yet to win against Pakistan after seven matches in the format. Their 2019 fixture was washed out.

● In matches played on Indian soil, Pakistan lead Sri Lanka 4-3 after seven games.

● Sri Lanka emerged victorious by a slim two-wicket margin in their last meet, in the recently concluded Asia Cup.



REUTERS, HYDERABAD

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana is set to play Tuesday's World Cup match against Pakistan after recovering from a hamstring strain, assistance coach Naveed Nawaz said on Monday.

Theekshana sustained the injury during

the Asia Cup last month and missed their comprehensive defeat by South Africa in their tournament opener in New Delhi on Saturday.

"I think he should be available for this game," Sri Lanka batting coach Naveed Nawaz told reporters.

"Obviously, we didn't want to take a risk with him in the first game and didn't want to

go against the advice of the medicals."

Sri Lanka arrived with a depleted attack after fast bowler Dushmanta Chameera and spin all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga were ruled out of the World Cup with injuries.

In New Delhi, South Africa racked up a record 428-5 exposing their bowling limitations.

With Theekshana back to lead their spin attack, Nawaz said they would have a proper plan against Babar Azam's side.

"Somebody will have to come up and take wickets up front and take wickets in the middle overs as well. We have a plan under our belt for that," he said.

"With Mahesh Theekshana coming in, I think our bowling attack is going to be a little bit stronger as well."

Pakistan began their campaign beating the Netherlands but would face stiffer challenge against 1996 champions Sri Lanka.

Head coach Grant Bradburn said they would bank on the insider's knowledge provided by team director Mickey Arthur, who coached Sri Lanka between 2019 and 2021.

"We have a secret weapon, if you like, in Mickey Arthur, who has coached them before," Bradburn told reporters.

"We had our scouting meetings and video meetings this morning, and Mickey was a very, very handy addition to those meetings to be able to add in some intricate points around their batters and bowlers."



Ibrahim Nesar no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Ibrahim Nesar, a former FIFA referee and deputy chairman of the Referees' committee of Bangladesh Football Federation, passed away at a hospital in Dhaka in the early hours of Monday.

Nesar had been in life support at the hospital for the last few days after battling with cancer for five years.

He was 62. Nesar left behind a son, a daughter and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Azad Rahman, the chairman of the Referees' Committee, informed that the late referee was laid to rest at the Faridabad Graveyard in Gendaria in the afternoon after his first namaz-e-janaza was held at the BFF premises and a second one in front of his house in Gendaria.

Nesar had started his refereeing career in 1987 and hung up his whistle in 2007. He had officiated in international matches from 1999 to 2004. He was appointed as a member of the Referees' Committee, where he had been working as a deputy chairman till his demise. He had also worked as a match commissioner of the BFF.

Booters shrug off controversy to embark on 'the two most important matches'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national football team will want to leave behind their off-field distractions as they leave for Maldives today to play the first match of a two-legged World Cup pre-qualifier on Thursday.

The build-up to the crucial matches against their South Asian rivals have been marred by the suspension of five players, who were initially suspended by Bashundhara Kings over disciplinary issues and later excluded from the national team over the same issue.

Three of those five players - goalkeeper Anisur Rahman Zico, defender Topu Barman, forward Sheikh Morsalin - are regular starters in the national team and played key roles in the team's run to the semifinals of the SAFF Championship in India in June this year.

Zico had been adjudged the goalkeeper of the tournament while Morsalin was the spark in the attacking line, with his two goals helping the team register 3-1 wins against Maldives and Bhutan.

Cabrera, who decided not to include those players, feels he has players ready to step up in absence of those three.

"This is an unexpected situation, unfortunately. The team was doing very well in June and in September but we

have to make sure that the team is not affected by the absence of other players," Cabrera said at a press conference at the Bashundhara Kings Arena following a lengthy training session yesterday evening.

The coach included defenders Hasan Murad and Shakil Hossain and midfielder



Jayed Ahmed for the first time in the senior squad, all of three having taken part in the recent Asian Games campaign. Cabrera believes the good work that his team has done in recent times, including the run to the semifinals of the SAFF Championship and the two draws at home against Afghanistan last month, will not be tempered by the off-field issues.

"It will definitely be a very tough playoff," Cabrera said. "Both the teams

have played each other four times, if I'm not wrong, in the last two-three years. So it's a very exciting situation and moment for everyone. You can feel it in the dressing room."

While Bangladesh have played two friendly matches since the SAFF Championship, Maldives have not played a single match since June, reportedly due to financial issues. Whether this will be an advantage for Bangladesh or not can only be gauged after the two matches but skipper Jamal Bhuyan was confident his team can return with a good result.

"These are the two most important matches of this year. We were in a similar situation five years ago when we played against Laos. We will try to get the best result in Maldives and a positive result in Dhaka too," Jamal said, adding that he believes the performance of

Faisal Ahmed Fahim and Mitul Marma in the Asian Games will help them step up for the Maldives matches.

The second match will be held at the Bashundhara Kings Arena in Dhaka on October 17, with the winners on aggregate to advance to the group-stage of the World Cup Qualifiers. The losers, meanwhile, will play another two-legged playoff to qualify for the group stage of Asian Cup Qualifiers.



City win 'gives Arsenal belief'

AFP, London

Gabriel Martinelli says Arsenal's inherent belief will be boosted by beating champions Manchester City as Mikel Arteta's men seek to go one step further than last season.

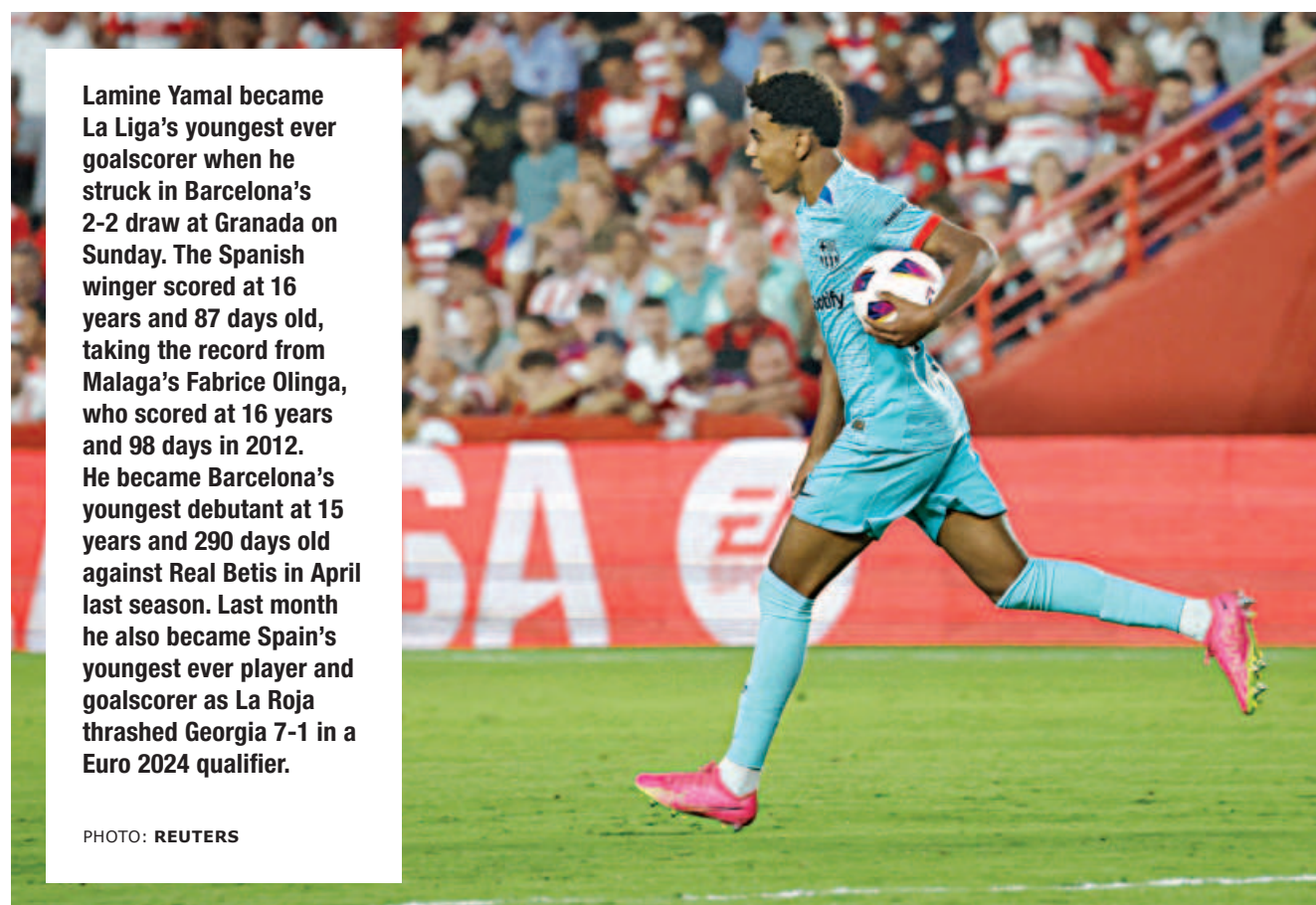
The Gunners looked set to win their first Premier League title in nearly two decades in 2022/23 before Pep Guardiola's side reeled them in to win a third straight title.

But on Sunday Arsenal beat City in the league for the first time since 2015, building on their Community Shield shootout triumph against the treble winners. Martinelli, introduced as a half-time substitute after three weeks out with a hamstring injury, hit a late winner that deflected in off Nathan Ake to seal a 1-0 victory.

"We know how hard it is to play against them," the 22-year-old Brazil international said. "It was a great performance from the team and a great win."

"Of course (it gives us more belief we can win this season's title). We are Arsenal and we are always believing about the title. "To win against a big side like them is great and we just need to carry on."

Arsenal are unbeaten in eight league matches and are second in the table behind Tottenham on goals scored. "When you play for Arsenal you have to always believe and this is what we do," Martinelli said, as the club target their first Premier League title since 2004. "We play for Arsenal and we always believe we can win the titles."



Lamine Yamal became La Liga's youngest ever goalscorer when he struck in Barcelona's 2-2 draw at Granada on Sunday. The Spanish winger scored at 16 years and 87 days old, taking the record from Malaga's Fabrice Olinga, who scored at 16 years and 98 days in 2012. He became Barcelona's youngest debutant at 15 years and 290 days old against Real Betis in April last season. Last month he also became Spain's youngest ever player and goalscorer as La Roja thrashed Georgia 7-1 in a Euro 2024 qualifier.

PHOTO: REUTERS

2030 WORLD CUP FIFA to 'mitigate environmental impact'

REUTERS

FIFA will take measures to "mitigate the environmental impact" of the three-continent 2030 World Cup, world soccer's governing body said.

FIFA last week named Morocco, Spain and Portugal as hosts of the 2030 tournament, while Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay will also host the opening matches to mark the tournament's centenary.

The decision to host the tournament across three continents attracted criticism from climate activists, who cited emissions related to the additional travel required.

On its website, FIFA highlighted the fact that just three games would be played in South America, adding: "Morocco, Portugal and Spain will be the hosts of the FIFA World Cup 2030."

"Therefore, for 101 games, the tournament will be played in a footprint of neighbouring countries in close geographic proximity and with extensive and well-developed transport links and infrastructure."

Saudi submits letter of intent to host 2034 WC

REUTERS

Saudi Arabia announced it took the second step to bid for 2034 World Cup by submitting a letter of intent to host the event to world soccer governing body FIFA on Monday.

"Last week we announced our ambitions to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, and this official submission continues our journey to make the dreams of our people a reality," Yasser Al Mishal, President of the Saudi Arabian Football Federation SAFF said in a statement.

"We are extremely committed to presenting the most competitive bid possible that will also help unite the world through football," he added.

SAFF said that once they declared their intention on Wednesday to bid for the tournament, "over 70 FIFA Member Associations from across different continents have publicly pledged their support for the Kingdom."

Last week, FIFA named Morocco, Spain and Portugal as hosts of the 2030 World Cup, with Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay hosting the opening matches to mark the tournament's centenary.



SOUTHWESTERN REGION

Padma rail link to open new horizon

PM to inaugurate 82km Dhaka-Bhanga section today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long awaited rail line via the Padma Bridge is set to open today and is expected to help improve the southwest's rail connectivity with the rest of the country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the 82km Dhaka-Bhanga section at a programme at the Mawa station at 11:00am.

She is expected to take a train from Mawa to Bhanga with accompanying dignitaries and join a rally, organised by Faridpur district Awami League, at Kazi Abu Yusuf stadium there, sources said.

Bangladesh Railway is implementing the Padma Bridge Rail Link project to build a 169km rail line from Dhaka to Jashore via Padma Bridge at a cost of Tk 39,246.8 crore.

Most of the project's funding has come in the form of Chinese loan.

The entire line, up to Jashore, is scheduled to be completed by next June.

It has already created scopes for bringing the Barishal division under the rail network, and once the entire line is completed, travel time to the south-western region via rail would be considerably shortened.



BR is planning to start commercial operation on Dhaka-Bhanga section from next month by changing the routes of three trains, BR Director General Quamrul Ahsan said.

The schedule for the trains will be introduced on November 1.

Quamrul said they are planning to operate the Khulna bound Sundarban Express and the Benapole-bound Benapole Express via the Padma Bridge. The two trains are now being operated via the Bangabandhu Bridge.

He further said they were also planning to extend the route of Modhumoti Express up to Dhaka via Padma Bridge. It currently operates from Rajshahi to Bhanga.

Meanwhile, a special BR committee has proposed fares on the Dhaka-Bhanga route, which is much higher than the bus fares.

The seven-member committee, led by BR's Chief Commercial Manager (east) Nazmul Islam, proposed Tk 350 as fare for non-AC seats and Tk 667 for AC seats.

The fare is Tk 250-300 in non-AC buses, while it is Tk 400-500 in AC buses.

Even though the distance from Dhaka to Bhanga is around 80km, the committee in its proposal said the route length was 353km after counting the 23km elevated section of the line. The "pontage", the toll levied for the building or repairing of bridge, for the Padma Bridge was also counted.

The committee counted the 6.15km Padma Bridge as 154km and 23km elevated section as 155km, making the total commercial length of the route 353km, sources said.

The fare proposal is now pending with the railways ministry for approval.



Thousands of BNP activists and supporters gathered near the BNP office in the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday during the party's rally, demanding the release of its chief Khaleda Zia to send her abroad for better treatment. Story on Page 3. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

INDO-PACIFIC REGION

China's influence may challenge sovereignty of nations

Says US ambassador

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Unchecked Chinese influence may challenge the sovereignty and strategic autonomy of the Indo-Pacific nations, US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas said yesterday.



"This, in turn, could precipitate instability and impede the prosperity we collectively seek," he said at a session on the last day of the three-day conference titled Bay of Bengal Conversations.

The event was organised by the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) at a city hotel.

Canadian High Commissioner Lilly Nichols, Australian High

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

US-China ties impact 'destiny of mankind'

Xi tells top US senator Chuck Schumer

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday that China-US ties would impact the "destiny of mankind", as he met with a group of American senators in Beijing.

"How China and the United States get along with each other in the face of a world of change and turmoil will determine the future and destiny of mankind," Xi said as he met Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer at Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Schumer is the latest high-level American official to go to China as Washington seeks to ease tensions with Beijing, leading a six-person delegation.

"I have said many times, including to several presidents, that we have 1,000 reasons to improve China-US relations, but not one reason to ruin them," Xi said, adding China-US ties are "the most important bilateral relationship in the world".

Schumer, in turn, told Xi that "our countries, together, will shape this century".

"That is why we must manage our relationship responsibly and respectfully," he said.

Earlier China's top diplomat Wang

Yi said he hoped Washington and Beijing could manage their differences "more rationally".

Meeting with Schumer at Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, Foreign Minister Wang told the senate delegation he hoped their visit would help the two sides "manage existing differences more rationally, helping the relationship between the two countries return to the track of healthy development".

Wang also said he hoped they would "more accurately understand China" after the trip, which he said comes as the world is in a "turbulent period of change".

"The crisis in Ukraine has not yet subsided, and warfare has reemerged in the Middle East," he said.

"All these various challenges need to be addressed by the international community, and China and the United States should play their due roles," Wang said.

Schumer, in turn, thanked the Chinese delegation for their hospitality, noting there were several issues of "great concern" he was seeking to raise during his visit.

He said "a level playing field for American business and workers" was his delegation's "number one goal".



ROHINGYA CAMP

2 Arsa men killed in 'gunfights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two Rohingya, members of the Myanmar-based armed group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), were killed in separate "gunfights" at a refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday, police said.

The deceased are Sakibul Hasan alias Sanaullah, 33, of Camp 2 West, and Ahmed Hossain, 36, of Irani Pahar in Camp 5, said Additional Deputy Inspector General Mohammad Iqbal, commander of 14 Armed Police Battalion (APBn).

Both were active members of Arsa and identified as "Jimmadar", he said.

In the gunfights between rival groups, Sanaullah was shot dead at Balurmath while Ahmed was killed in the Irani Pahar area, the police official said.

The bodies have been sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsies and drives are underway to arrest the culprits, said the additional DIG.

US economist wins Nobel for work on gender gap

AFP, Stockholm

The Nobel prize in economics was awarded to American economist Claudia Goldin yesterday for research that has helped bring understanding to the role of women in the labour market.

The 77-year-old Harvard professor, who is the third woman to be awarded the prestigious economics prize, was given the nod "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes," the jury said.

The Nobel is a "very important prize, not just for me, but for the many people who work in this field and who are trying to understand why there is so much change, but there are still large differences" in pay, Goldin told AFP in a telephone interview after the announcement.

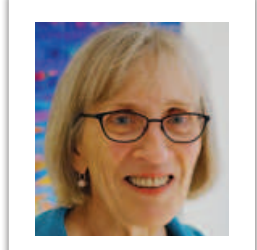
By studying the history of women in the United States workforce, Goldin demonstrated factors that have historically influenced, and in some cases still influence, the supply and demand for women in the labour force, the jury explained.

"She has demonstrated that the sources of the gender gap change over time," Nobel committee member Randi Hjalmarsson told a press conference.

Hjalmarsson added that while Goldin had not studied policy, her work had provided an "underlying foundation" that had different policy implications around the world.

Globally, about 50 percent of women participate in the labour market compared to 80 percent of men, but women earn less and are less likely to reach the top of the career ladder, the prize committee noted.

The Nobel prize in economics has the fewest number of women laureates, with just two others since it was first awarded in 1969. They were Elinor Ostrom in 2009 and Esther Duflo in 2019 - and Goldin is the first woman to receive the prize as the sole laureate.



Claudia Goldin

METRO RAIL Agargaon-Motijheel part to open October 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opening of the Agargaon-Motijheel section of the country's first metro rail service has been rescheduled from October 20 to October 29.

ABM Amin Ullah Nuri, secretary of the road transport and highways division, confirmed it to The Daily Star yesterday.

"The date has been changed due to the prime minister's busy schedule... We just got the new date, but the venue [of the ceremony] and other related issues [regarding the programme] have not been settled yet," he said.

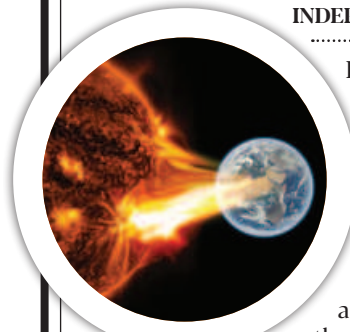
On August 20, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader told reporters that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate the Agargaon-Motijheel section of the metro rail on October 20.



Firefighters battling a fire that broke out at the SA Paribahan head office's parcel delivery depot in the capital's Kakrail yesterday around 10:10am. The blaze came under control within 45 minutes and was fully doused around 2:30pm. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Biggest ever solar storm identified using ancient tree rings

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Researchers have identified the biggest ever solar storm - when the sun emits huge bursts of energy - using ancient tree rings.

The event happened 14,300 years ago, according to the analysis of ancient tree rings found in the French Alps.

This radiocarbon spike was caused by a massive solar storm, the experts said, adding that a similar storm today could potentially wipe out satellite systems and cause massive electricity grid blackouts, costing billions of pounds.

The academics argue it is important to understand solar storms to protect future communications and energy systems and help build resilience against their effects.

For the study, an international team of researchers, including from the University of Leeds, measured radiocarbon levels in ancient trees on the eroded banks of the Drouzet River, near Gap, in the Southern French Alps.