



PHOTO: TITU DAS

Finding courage through self-defence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

The BSCIC Industrial City field in Barishal city took on a very different look last Saturday.

While hundreds of children and teens from 30 wards under the Barishal City Corporation gathered at the field at around 4:00pm to participate in a self defence training programme, many spectators also formed a crowd.

Organised by Unicef in collaboration with the youth and sports ministry, the initiative aims to bring one lakh children and adolescents in Bangladesh under self-defence skills training.

As a part of this initiative, a four-day workshop – where participants will learn seven basic self defence techniques – was organised in the city.

According to officials, about 80 percent of the participants were girls and five percent were children with disabilities.

Sanjida, 13, came to attend the

workshop with her mother Lucky Begum from Ward-1 area. "I came here to learn how to defend myself," said a confident Sanjida.

Rimi, a sixth grader from Kawnia area, echoed her.

Speaking to this correspondent, many participants said they enjoyed the session as they learnt the techniques well.

Md Shahin, the instructor, said it is important for children and teenagers to know these self defence techniques so they can protect themselves from sudden danger or untoward situations.

Mitun Sharma, communication officer of the project, said this initiative aims to reach 12 city corporations and 25 districts across Bangladesh. A total of 2,700 children and adolescents will be trained in four districts and one city corporation under Barishal division.

Subarnarekha, a non-government organisation, is implementing the training at field level.

One dies of Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh reported one Covid-19 death in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. The death was reported from a government hospital in the Dhaka division.

So far, the Directorate General of Health Services has reported seven Covid-related deaths this year.

According to DGHS, 68 new cases have been reported in the last 24 hours and the total number of confirmed cases is now 20,47,620, while the infection rate now stands at 5.30 percent.

DGHS data shows the number of fatalities currently stands at 29,484, taking the overall fatality rate to 1.44 percent.

Due to a sudden rise in infection rates from the beginning of this year, the government decided to administer Covid-19 vaccines again. In a press release, DGHS said the new type of Covid-19 JN.1 infection has increased in several countries.

Man dies of electrocution in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A man died of electrocution while attempting to steal a rural electricity transformer in Noakhali's Companiganj on Sunday night.

Police recovered the body of the unidentified deceased in Habibur village of Sirajpur union.

Companyganj Police Station Inspector Md Abdus Sultan said around 10:00pm, the man attempted to open the transformer and got electrocuted. They found his body on the ground.



PHOTO: STAR

TANGAIL HOSPITAL

Illegal structure sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Doctors and staffers of 250-bed General Hospital and Sheikh Hasina Medical College Hospital in Tangail formed a human chain yesterday, protesting construction of an illegal commercial structure on hospital premises.

Locals also joined the protest. Demanding the structure's immediate removal, the protesters alleged the hospital's management committee of violating rules to allocate space for constructing the one-storey commercial building.

Although the director general of health department did not permit the allocation of space for shops inside the hospital, a 750-square-foot area was allocated to one Sheela Ansari during the committee's November 13 meeting.

The 12-year allotment agreement enabled the construction at the

hospital entrance spending Tk 11.25 lakh, for a monthly rent of Tk 20,000.

The protesters sought the intervention of higher authorities of health department and local administration.

"This illegal construction is not permitted by health ministry. It will narrow down the hospital yard



and severely disrupt activities here, including movement of patients and ambulances," said Dr Mokhlesur Rahman of the general hospital. According to several protesters, a

few politically influential individuals took bribes to allocate the space without proper permission.

Khandaker Sadiqur Rahman, deputy director and superintendent of the general hospital, said a proposal to allocate space for the shop was presented at the committee's meeting.

"I informed them that this requires permission from director general of health department. The committee, however, went on with the allotment without permission," he mentioned.

The health minister, health secretary and the director general of health department have been informed of this, he added.

"The allotment was made as it is within the committee's jurisdiction and does not require approval of the director general of health department," claimed lawmaker Sanowar Hossain, also president of the committee.

Hawkers, police clash

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fire to bring the situation under control, but no one sustained bullet injuries.

"Five policemen were injured from brickbats thrown by hawkers," he added.

Contacted, CCC executive engineer Chaiti Sarbabidya said, "We were conducting drives to evict hawkers from roads and footpaths, but they obstructed the drive and

started hurling brickbats." "We were compelled to instruct police to open fire to disperse them," she added.

Meanwhile, Miran claimed former CCC mayor AJM Nasir Uddin and former CCC administrator Khorshed Alam Sujon had earlier permitted hawkers to do business between 3:00pm and 11:00pm on working days and between 10:00am and 11:00pm on

holidays.

Following a CCC census conducted a couple of years ago, it was decided that the port city's total 9,885 hawkers will be given ID cards from CCC to run businesses in designated locations, he said.

"Now these 9,885 hawkers have become unemployed," he added.

CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury could not be reached for comments.

Trapped through TikTok

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In Sabrina's tiny house, her nine-month-old boy was found crying for his mother.

His grandmother, Sharmin, wiped tears while clinging to her phone. She keeps her phone around all the time, hoping it might ring any moment with information for her missing daughter.

Her ailing husband remained silent, the weight of poverty heavy on his shoulders.

Across town, Sejuti's mother, a homemaker, shared her despair. "We don't even know where to seek help to know about

my daughter." **TIKTOK AND TRAFFICKING** This is not the first case where traffickers targeted girls on Tik Tok.

In February last year, a Bangladeshi girl named Tumpa Akter was killed in India's Gujrat after being trafficked.

The abductors targeted her through Tik Tok

Using Tik Tok to single out girls first came to light in June 2021, after Bangladeshi law enforcers arrested over two dozen people.

Police then said these gangs have trafficked

several hundred girls using the platform.

The gang members targeted girls from low-income families, who often posted videos online, luring them with invitations to parties or false promises of jobs in call centres, sales, and service centres.

Ultimately, these girls were transported to border districts, where they were confined and subjected to sexual harassment, and then trafficked to India and other countries.

(*Names of victims and their family members have been changed to protect their identities.)

It's about saving our

FROM PAGE 3

for Policy Dialogue, said GI has legal, historical, anthropological, and commercial implications. "It is also about protecting our heritage," she said.

"As India claimed the GI tag of Tangail sari, we will now have to think about the market size of India. They can sell the saris at a comparatively lower price than us. No matter how much quality product we produce, we will not be able to sell the products at lower prices than them," said Fahmida.

"If our workers do not get the return from the market due to this, they will lose interest in their profession," she added.

While speaking on the recent debate over the name "Tangail Sari of Bengal", Shwetaree Majumder, IP attorney and managing partner of Fidus Law Chambers, India, said India did not use the word "Tangail" as a geographical location but rather used the word as a trade name and such practice is approved by the GI act of India.

"Nothing is preventing Bangladesh from applying for the GI tag of Tangail Sari, Bangladesh can apply for a joint registration of GI tags of Tangail Sari, or apply for a registration of its own," she said.

"West Bengal is defining Tangail as a type of sari while you are defining it as a geographical location. So, these are two different products, and two different GI tags will be provided for those and they can co-

exist," she added.

Silmat Chishti, founder of Nobo Design Pvt Ltd and MD of Bangladesh SME Corporation Ltd, moderated the discussion.

Chisti feels that not much has been seen in the media to understand the issue of this specific GI product or the process.

Munira Emdad, proprietor of Tangail Sari Kutir, and Raghunath Basak, president of Tangail Sari Byabshayee Shomiti, also spoke at the event.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)
30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon Dhaka-1208
www.cmsd.gov.bd

3rd CORRIGENDUM
IFT No: CMSD/GR-2311/CT/2023-24/Proc.2/12 Date: 18.12.2023
Procurement of "Meningitis & Influenza Vaccine"

The above mentioned IFT published in The Daily Star and The Daily Juganton on 19.12.2023 and subsequently amended on 30.01.2024 & 06.02.2024 is hereby amended again as below:

Section II : Tender Data Sheet	Existing Entries	Amended Entries
ITT Clause 36.1 Bid Closing Date and Time	14-02-2024 11-00 A.M	19-02-2024 11-00 A.M
ITT Clause 42.2 Bid Opening Date and Time	14-02-2024 11-30 AM	19-02-2024 11-30 AM
Last Selling Date	13-02-2024 04-00 P.M	18-02-2024 04-00 P.M

All other terms and conditions of the IFT will remain unchanged.

Mohammad Hasan Arif
Director
Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD)

GD-254

31st CHATTOGRAM International TRADE FAIR 2024

Chief Guest
Mr. Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury MP
Hon'ble Minister for Education, GOB

Inaugurator
Mr. Ahasanul Islam (Titu) MP
Hon'ble State Minister for Commerce, GOB

Special Guest
Mr. M. A. Latif MP
Hon'ble Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping

Guest of Honour
Mr. Mahbulul Alam
Hon'ble President, FBCCI

Chaired by
Omar Hazzaz
President, CCCI

Date & Time
Thursday
15th February 2024
at 4.00 P.M.

Venue
Railway Pologround
Chattoagram.

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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of all concerned that a meeting of the Board of Directors of Reliance Insurance Limited was held on February 12, 2024 at 2:30 P.M. by using Virtually Digital Platform. The following decisions were taken in the said meeting.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Decisions
1.	Recommendation of Dividend for the year ended December 31, 2023	25% Cash Dividend
2.	Date and Time of 36 th Annual General Meeting	March 31, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. (BST)
3.	Record Date	March 06, 2024
4.	Venue of 36 th Annual General Meeting	Hybrid system at Lakeshore Hotel (La Vita Banquet Hall), House: 46, Road: 41, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212. (In compliance with BSEC Letter No. BSEC/ICAD/SRIC/2024/318/09, dated January 16, 2024).
5.	Audited Financial Information :	
	a. Net Profit After Tax (Million Taka)	2023 690.18 2022 615.93 2021 587.81
	b. Earnings Per Share (Taka)	6.56 5.86 5.59
	c. Net Asset Value Per Share (Taka)	66.85 62.62 62.86
	d. Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (Taka)	4.84 6.60 7.96

Notes:

- EPS increased mainly due to increase in premium and investment income.
- NAV per share increased due to increase in retained earnings and also increase of market value of investment in securities. NAV per share for the year 2021 & 2022 has been restated.
- NOCFPS decrease due to increase of reinsurance payment.
- Shareholders whose names would appear in the Register of Members of the Company on the Record date shall be entitled to dividend and attend the 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- The Company has requested the shareholders to update their e-mail addresses through their respective Depository Participant (DP). The Company will forward the Annual Report 2023 in soft form to the e-mail addresses of the Shareholders available in their beneficial owner (BO) accounts maintained with the Depository. The Company has also requested the shareholders to update their respective BO account with 12 digits e-TIN, BO account address, mobile number etc. through their respective DPs before the Record Date.

By order of the Board

Sd/-
Mohammad Mamunur Rashid
Company Secretary

Dated: February 12, 2024
Dhaka