



DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2024

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIV No. 135

JAISHTHA 21, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILQAD 26, 1445 HJURI

16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



Mexico elects Sheinbaum as first woman president

P7



Break the syndicates, not the dreams of migrants

P8



England begin T20 World Cup defence today

P11



Why tech workers must reskill, upskill in the age of AI

P10

Power, agriculture to drive up subsidies

REJAUl KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

The subsidies and incentive expenditures in the upcoming budget are going to be more than that of the current fiscal year.

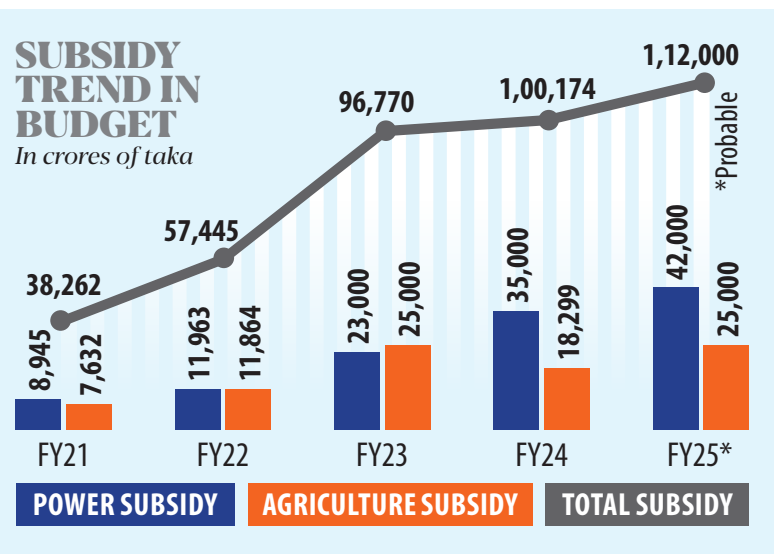
The subsidies are mainly increasing in the power, energy, and the agriculture sectors.

Even though the government plans to raise power tariffs four to five times a year, the highest subsidy allocation is likely to go towards the electricity sector.

Finance ministry officials said the increased subsidy allocation was largely due to the arrears in the power and agriculture sectors.

In the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on July 1, the subsidy allocation is likely to be Tk 1,12,000 crore, up from Tk 1,00,174 crore in the outgoing fiscal year.

Of the sum to be set aside for 2024-25, the power sector is likely to get Tk 42,000 crore. The government has earmarked Tk 35,000 crore for 2023-24.



Before 2021-22, the subsidy allocation for the power sector was between Tk 7,000 crore and Tk 9,000 crore.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the main reason

behind the rising subsidy allocation in FY25 is the higher energy prices in the international market and elevated capacity payments.

He said the government has planned to increase power tariffs. SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



An elderly woman wades through knee-deep water in Sylhet city's Shahjalal neighbourhood yesterday afternoon. Due to the overflowing of rivers, overnight rains and mountain torrents, many areas in the city have gone under water, affecting at least 15,000 families. Due to the flooding, locals have been facing a shortage of food and clean water. Story on page 12. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

PM likely to visit India on June 21

She may tour China on July 9



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit New Delhi and Beijing in June and July to deepen Bangladesh's ties with Asia's two leading economic powers.

The prime minister will likely pay an official visit to New Delhi on June 21-22 and to Beijing on July 9-12, a senior Bangladeshi official told UNB.

The last bilateral engagement between Modi and Hasina was during the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

17,000 workers' fate up in the air

Even with clearance, they could not go to Malaysia

JAMIL MAHMUD

Despite getting emigration clearance, around 17,000 aspirant migrant workers could not fly to Malaysia before the May 31 deadline due to alleged mismanagement in the recruitment process.

Their fates now hang in the balance.

"If the government wants to compensate the workers, it should return the exact amount they had to pay throughout the process, which could be higher than the government-fixed cost."

Prof CR Abrar

Under the existing labour migration situation, the recruitment process for these workers had started much earlier and each had to pay hefty sums to secure jobs in Malaysia.

Many had to travel to Dhaka from other districts for different purposes, including pre-migration medical tests.

Some even made sure to be present at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital on Friday, the day of the deadline.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Inflation hits seven-month high

Higher food prices largely to blame

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Inflation, fuelled by higher food prices, climbed 15 basis points to 9.89 percent in May from 9.74 percent a month earlier, figures from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics showed yesterday.

This is the highest rise on the Consumer Price Index in seven months.

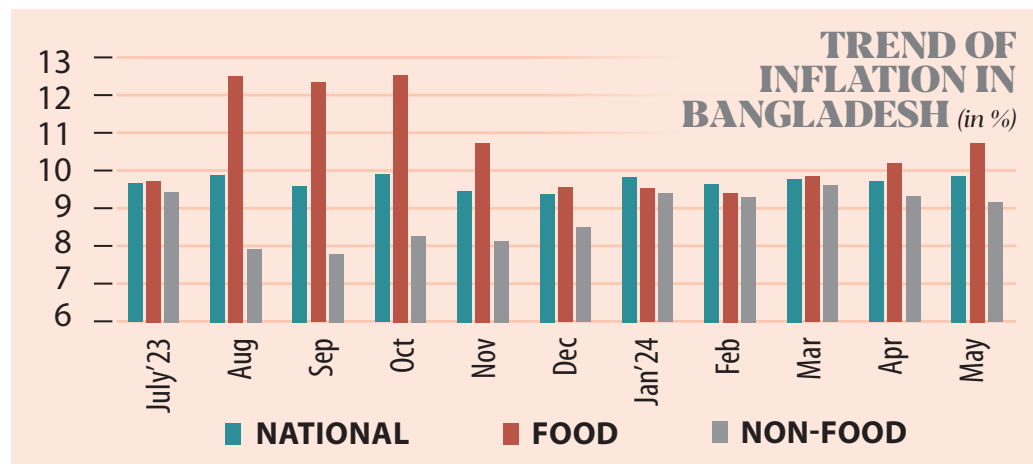
Food inflation surged 54 basis points to 10.76 percent from 10.22 percent while non food inflation slipped 15 basis points to 9.19 percent from 9.34 percent in April.

In fiscal 2022-23, the average inflation rate was 9.02 percent, far higher than the average of 6 percent in recent years.

The Consumer Price Index grew by an average of 9.73 percent in the first 11 months of fiscal 2023-2024, which was 8.64 percent during the same period a year ago, BBS data showed.

"The persistent high inflation is continuously pushing the low-income groups against the wall," said Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



CUSTODIAL DEATH

Victim's family 'leaves home fearing reprisal'

Says neighbour; police form probe body

STAR REPORT

The family of the woman, who died in police custody in Jashore on Sunday morning, padlocked their home and moved to a relative's home after the incident, said a neighbour.

Afroza Begum, 40, died hours after being picked up by Abhaynagar police from her Nawapara village home. Her family accused police of torture.



Afroza Begum

Visiting Afroza's house yesterday, our Benapole correspondent found it locked.

Her neighbour Nurul Islam Hawladar said the family moved to a relative's house fearing reprisals from police.

The Daily Star could not reach Afroza's husband Jalil Mollah and their two sons, Munna Mollah and Sabbir Molla, for comments as their phones were

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A train whizzes past fruit sellers who have placed themselves right on the lines near the Airport Railway Station, putting not only themselves but also their customers at risk. Multiple trains frequently pass through the station, opposite the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Fresh areas in Sylhet flooded after heavy rain

Over 6 lakh people stranded in 761 villages

MINTU DESHWARA

The flood situation in Sylhet has further worsened owing to incessant rainfall since yesterday and the subsequent onrush of water from upstream, resulting in immense public sufferings.

As a result, fresh areas in the district, including a large part of the city, were inundated yesterday.

The newly inundated areas in the city include - Jatarpur, Mendibagh, Jamtala, Taltala, Sheikghat, Kalapara, Majumdarpara, Laldighipar, Dargamoholla, Munsipara, Hawapara, Nayorpool, Sonarpara, Baluchar, Mirer Maidan, Police Lines and Sagardighirpar.

With the further deterioration in the flood situation, around six lakh people from 761 villages under 10 upazilas remain marooned, said Sheikh Russel Hasan, deputy commissioner of Sylhet.

Many roads have been submerged, snapping communications at many places.

The ground floor of the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital has been inundated, said its Director Brig

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Benazir's abuse of power a cause for grave concern

Says TIB, demands action against those who abetted, protected the former IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday expressed grave concerns over accumulation of substantial illegal wealth by a former police and Rab chief.

In a statement, it said the misuse of power by those who are in top positions creates "Frankenstein-like figures" such as Benazir Ahmed, former inspector general of police, and it makes questionable the state's mechanism to hold people accountable.

The graft watchdog demanded legal action against those who abetted and protected the power abuser and fair compensation for those whose land was grabbed.

According to media reports, the land in most cases was acquired by the former IGP through intimidation. Many of the landowners belong to minority

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

12kg LPG cylinder now costs Tk 1,363

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A standard 12kg LPG cylinder will now cost Tk 1,363, down by Tk 30 from Tk 1,393, according to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

BERC at a press briefing said the new price came into effect from 6:00pm yesterday.

According to the new rate, a kilogramme of bottled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) will be sold at Tk 113.55 at the retail level, down by Tk 2.53 from the previous Tk 116.08.

This adjustment follows a rational scale across various LPG cylinder sizes, ranging from 5.5kg to 45kg, addressing the need for a proportional price revision across different consumer segments.

Furthermore, the price for "auto gas", the LPG variant used in motor vehicles, has also been lowered to Tk 62.53 from Tk 63.92 per litre.

LPG prices marketed by the state-owned LP Gas Company will remain unchanged. This exception is attributed to its local production and the company's minimal market share, which is less than five percent.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

This makeshift bridge over the Ramchandrapur canal in the capital's Mohammadpur is the only way for the locals to get to Bosila from Chandrima Model Town. A handful of bamboos are holding up the rickety structure. The photo was taken yesterday.

Cowhide price fixed at Tk 55 per sqft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday set the price of salt-cured cowhides at Tk 55-60 per square foot (sqft) in the capital and Tk 50-55 per sqft outside the capital.

Last year, the price was Tk 50-55 per sqft in Dhaka and Tk 47-52 per sqft outside the capital. The decision was made at a meeting at the secretariat to fix rawhide prices ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, when millions of cattle are sacrificed by the country's Muslim community as a part of their religious duties.

Eid-ul-Azha accounts for nearly half of the rawhides collected annually, providing key raw material for the billion-dollar export-earning leather and leather goods industry in Bangladesh.

Mohiuddin Ahmed Mahim, chairman of the Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leathergoods and Footwear Exporters' Association, announced the new rates with State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Tito at the meeting.

According to the new rates, the lowest price per piece of cowhide has been fixed at Tk 1,200 in the capital and Tk 1,000 outside the capital.

Meanwhile, the price of castrated goat hides has been fixed at Tk 20-25 per sqft while the price of goat hides has been set at Tk 18-20 per sqft across the country this year.

Around 1.7 crore animals are expected to be sacrificed across the country during this year's Eid-ul-Azha. Of the number, 55 lakh are cows and buffalos while the rest are castrated goats, goats, sheep, and other animals.

17,000 workers' fate up in the air

FROM PAGE 1

The reason for them not being able to go is yet to be known.

Against this backdrop, the expatriates' welfare ministry has been trying to reopen the Malaysian labour market and has planned to meet the Malaysian high commissioner in Dhaka on Wednesday to discuss the next course of action for these workers.

Labour migration expert Prof CR Abrar said those responsible for creating an uncertain situation for the aspirant migrants need to be identified first and then punished.

He said many of these workers have left their occupations to get a job in Malaysia, while many others have sold their assets to arrange migration costs.

"There are associated costs that the workers will have to incur in case of their ultimate failure. We're not considering those."

Pointing at the government's compensation plan, Abrar said if the government wants to compensate the workers, it should return the exact amount they had to pay throughout the process, which could be higher than the government-fixed cost.

Malaysia resumed hiring Bangladeshi workers in 2022 after a four-year suspension over allegations of irregularities in the recruitment process.

Briefing reporters at his office on Sunday, Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury, state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment, said as

of May 31, the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training granted emigration clearance to 4,93,642 workers.

"Of them, 4,76,672 could leave for Malaysia by the deadline, meaning around 16,970 individuals were unable to go."

He added that a six-member probe body will, in the next seven days, investigate why workers with valid visas could not go to Malaysia, and will ensure that those responsible are brought to book.

The ministry's Secretary Ruhul Amin said they were planning to return the money to those who could not go.

After signing an MoU on labour cooperation with Malaysia in 2021, the Bangladesh government set a maximum of Tk 78,990 as migration cost.

However, Bangladesh Labour Force Survey-2022 said the average recruitment cost for jobs in Malaysia was Tk 3.40 lakh.

Shariful Hasan, head of BRAC's migration and youth initiatives programme, said the situation was similar when Malaysia had stopped issuing visas in the past, putting a number of workers' future into uncertainty. However, no acceptable solution was found back then and the workers were also not compensated, he added.

"We don't have good examples in this regard," he said, adding,

the government should first assess the situation and then arrange compensation for the workers.

Malaysia announced the May 31 deadline in early March for 14 of its source countries, including Bangladesh.

However, the Bangladesh government responded in May and arranged some additional flights for the workers, which also turned out to be insufficient.

It also requested the Malaysian authorities to extend the deadline, but they did not respond.

Malaysia has been an attractive destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers, who prefer it over some traditional markets in the Gulf due to various factors, including higher wages.

According to the Labour Force Survey-2022, on an average a Bangladeshi migrant worker earns Tk 28,822 a month in Malaysia, and Tk 24,957 in Saudi Arabia.

Last year, Malaysia was Bangladesh's second-largest overseas job market after Saudi Arabia.

Ali Haider Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said they will work with the government so that the workers do not have to face losses.

"We will also assist the government-formed probe body investigating the issue," he told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

Power, agriculture to drive up subsidies

FROM PAGE 1

several times, but the sector will require more subsidies as more power plants, including Rooppur nuclear plant, are ready to produce electricity.

"If the old and inefficient power plants are not phased out, the overall capacity charges will increase, which will deepen the subsidy burden," he told The Daily Star.

The recent mission of the International Monetary Fund also questioned the huge subsidy allocation in the power sector.

However, it is not possible to withdraw subsidies immediately from the power sector as it will hurt the economy. The government plans to increase power prices over the next three years so that the subsidies can be withdrawn, said finance ministry officials.

The subsidy for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) for FY25 is likely to be Tk 7,000 crore, which is Tk 6,000 crore in the current fiscal year.

The agriculture subsidies were between Tk 5,000 and Tk 7,500 crore until FY21, but it has been on the rise since. In FY23, the allocation was Tk 25,000 crore and it rose to Tk 25,000 crore this fiscal year before it was revised downwards to Tk 18,000 crore.

It is likely to be Tk 25,000 crore next year.

The government usually provides subsidies to the export sector in the form of incentives to businesses. In the current fiscal year, Tk 9,025 crore

was set aside, and it is likely to reduce to less than Tk 7,000 crore, according to the officials.

This is because due to Bangladesh's impending graduation from the group of least developed countries, subsidies will eventually be phased out since World Trade Organisation rules don't allow developing and developed countries to give direct cash aid to exporters.

"We are thinking about the alternate measures in this regard, which will be incorporated in the new export policy," said an official.

Remittance subsidy in the upcoming budget will be unchanged at Tk 6,200 crore, while food subsidy will increase to Tk 7,000 crore from Tk 6,900 crore.

SOCIAL SAFETY NET

Even though economists suggested increasing the allocation for social safety net programmes so that people can cope with higher inflation, the budget in the area is likely to be lower.

Funds equivalent to about 2.5 percent of the GDP are likely to be allocated for social safety net schemes against 2.52 percent currently. However, the allocated amount may increase to Tk 1,32,000 crore from Tk 1,26,272 crore.

The government may increase the number of beneficiaries by around four to five lakh. However, the allowance per person may remain the same, according to officials.

Yet, the allowance may increase for

the beneficiaries in two major groups: senior citizens, and widows, deserted, or destitute women.

In the case of senior citizens, a person will get Tk 600 per month and widows, deserted, or destitute women will get Tk 550 per month.

A top finance ministry official said they would reform the social safety net distribution system in FY25 before expanding the programmes.

In a circular recently, the ministry said all funds for social programmes must be disbursed through the mobile financial service (MFS) account registered with the national ID card of the beneficiaries. This must be ensured by June 30, 2025, it said.

At present, allowances under many schemes are paid via MFS, but often not to the registered accounts of the beneficiaries, which leaves room for irregularities.

The government provides social safety net benefits through around 130 programmes.

Analysts question whether some programmes are truly benefiting the poor. They also say a huge amount is being wasted due to corruption in distribution.

The finance ministry has asked all ministries to submit reports detailing who is receiving the allowances and the goals of the programme.

Based on the reports, the ministry will prepare a report as per the recommendations of the World Bank and the IMF.

Inflation hits seven-month high

FROM PAGE 1

Development, a non-profit institution.

Following the pandemic, the coping capacity of the low and fixed-income groups has fallen significantly, which forced them to cut spending on basic needs, he said.

"Now, they are perplexed. It is a big challenge for the government to protect them."

In the budget for fiscal 2024-2025, scheduled to be announced on June 6, the government should keep enough measures to support these groups, he said.

Echoing his words, Prof Selim

Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem), said the new budget should concentrate on expanding social safety net programmes as much as possible for the next year.

Referring to a new study, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) recently showed that food inflation in rural areas remained around 15 percent in December, much higher than the official food inflation rate of 9.41 percent.

"The stubborn inflation trend indicates that the monetary policy isn't working properly. Inflation

has just maintained its upward trend," said Mujeri, a former chief economist of the central bank.

Bangladesh Bank has tightened the policy rate repeatedly in recent times to tame high inflation.

"But the situation has taken such a turn that it is not possible to bring down inflation, using the monetary tools alone," he said.

Since March last year, inflation has stayed above 9 percent, BBS data shows.

In order to ensure a smooth supply chain in the commodity market, the government will have to focus on fiscal policy, along with the monetary policy, said Mujeri.

Fresh areas in Sylhet flooded

FROM PAGE 1

Gen Dr Mahbubur Rahman Bhuiyan.

Even the classes and exams at the medical college were suspended due to the flood, said Principal Shishir Ranjan Chakraborty.

Mamun Ahmad, a resident of Laladighirpar area of Sylhet city, said, "Floodwater has entered my house. The whole area has been inundated."

Sadek Hossain, a resident of Jamtala in the city, said, "My house has gone under knee-deep water. All the furniture and household items

have been submerged."

Mahbub Alam, an attendee of a patient at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said, "We were staying at the hospital's ground floor, as we did not get a bed. We had to shift to the balcony of the first floor as the ground floor got flooded."

Yesterday, Surma was flowing 13cm above the danger level near Sylhet city at 3:00pm, and Kushiara was flowing 48cm above the danger level at Amalshid point under Zakiganj upazila at 6:00pm, according to

the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

Some 214mm of rainfall was recorded in Sylhet in 24 hours till 6:00pm, said Dipak Ranjan Das, executive engineer of the BWDB.

Heavy rain may continue in the region for the next few days, said Sylhet Meteorological Office Assistant Meteorologist Shah Mohammad Sajib Hossain.

"If the heavy rains continue, the flood situation will keep worsening," said Dipak.

Celesty posed as mastermind's wife

FROM PAGE 12

killing, said sources in the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

After recording her statement for around four hours, the court sent her to jail.

Mahfuzur Rahman, investigating officer of the abduction case and also a senior assistant commissioner of DB, produced her before the court yesterday.

Celesty told investigators that at least 10 people took part in the killing mission.

The case was filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on May 22. Celesty was remanded by DB for 10 days in two phases.

She was arrested on May 23, eight days after she along with Amanullah returned home from India.

Azim went to Kolkata on May 12 and stayed the night at his friend Gopal Biswas's house. He went out the following day saying that he would visit a doctor.

On May 22, India and Bangladesh police confirmed that the Jhenaidah-4 lawmaker was killed on May 13.

'PROVIDE INFO ON SUSPECTS' BANK ACCOUNTS'

Yesterday, the IO applied to another Dhaka court seeking its order to provide him with the bank account information of 10 suspects, including Aktaruzzaman, who is believed to have fled to the US after the murder.

The nine others are Amanullah, his nephew Tanvir Bhuiyan, Celesty, Siam Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Faisal Ali Saji, Chelsi Chery, Taj Mohammad Khan, and Md Jamal Hossain.

The court granted the prayer and asked the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit to provide the bank account information to the investigator.

Amanullah and Tanvir are now in DB custody, while Siam is in Nepal police custody. Jihad Howlader, who dismembered the lawmaker's body, is in West Bengal CID custody.

In another development, a Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Siam, accused of dumping the lawmaker's body.

Md Mahbulul Haque, additional

chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka, passed the order after the IO of the case filed a prayer in this regard.

In the application, the IO said Siam was arrested in Nepal. If an arrest warrant was issued against him, it would be easy for the authorities concerned to bring him back home.

The court also asked the authorities concerned to send a copy of its order to Nepal police through Interpol.

Siam went to India via Nepal. He returned to the Himalayan country after the killing of the lawmaker. He assisted hitman Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan in the murder, said investigators.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Azim's daughter Mumtaz Ferdous Doreen said she secured an Indian visa.

She said she would travel to Kolkata for giving DNA samples to be checked against the suspected body parts of the MP, which was recovered from the septic tank of the Kolkata flat on May 28.

Doreen, however, did not confirm when she would leave for India.

Victim's family

FROM PAGE 1

apparently switched off.

According to the family members, police tortured Afroza and framed her in a drug case as they failed to pay Tk 2 lakh in bribe for her release.

Refuting the allegation of torture, police claimed that they detained the woman with 30 yaba tablets.

Jashore police yesterday formed a three-member committee, led by an additional superintendent of police, to investigate the allegations and the death.

Two rights organisations yesterday expressed grave concern over Afroza's death and demanded fair and neutral probe into the incident and appropriate legal action against those responsible.

Speaking to journalists on Sunday, deceased's son Sabbir, a ninth-grader, said a police team, led by Assistant Sub-Inspector Silon Ali of Abhaynagar Police Station, went to their home around midnight on Saturday.

"Bring out all that you have," Sabbir quoted Silon asking her mother.

"As my mother replied that she had nothing, a female police constable frisked her and found nothing. Then the ASI started beating her up in front of me. At one stage, she fell to the ground. He then tied a lock of my mother's hair to a ceiling fan and tortured her," Sabbir said.

His elder brother Munna said the

police team went to their house at the instigation of some locals and detained her mother on false charges of possessing yaba pills.

"The ASI and some other police personnel tortured my mother and then took her away around 1:00am on Sunday," he said.

He said police demanded Tk 2 lakh in bribe for his mother's release. "As we could not pay the money, they tortured her to death."

Munna said they went to the police station on Sunday morning and found her mother in a bad condition.

Police took Afroza to the upazila health complex upon the family's request.

"They returned to the police station with my mother without doing any of tests the duty doctor recommended," he alleged.

As Afroza's condition deteriorated, she was taken to Jashore General Hospital where doctors declared her dead around 11:30am on Sunday.

Hasib Ali Hasan, a doctor at the hospital, said the woman was brought dead. An autopsy was conducted, he added.

Police filed a drug case against the woman on Sunday morning.

ASI Silon claimed that the allegations made by Afroza's family were false and baseless.

Akikul Islam, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station, said police detained Afroza with 30 yaba

tablets and kept her in the lock-up.

She fell ill in the morning and died on the way to a hospital, he said.

The OC claimed that police did not torture her.

FAIR PROBE DEMANDED
Rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) in a statement yesterday said the allegations brought by Afroza's family were very serious.

Torture of a person in police custody is illegal and also a manifestation of unprofessional behaviour, it added.

The allegation of demanding bribe by police after an arrest has become a regular phenomenon, the rights body said.

ASK demanded a judicial enquiry into the death.

Another rights platform Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) said police's statement regarding Afroza's death is merely a procedural statement, which is not at all acceptable or credible.

Torturing a woman after tying her lock of hair to a fan, showing her arrested with 30 yaba tablets after failing to find anything during frisking and interrogation, and demanding Tk 2 lakh in bribe for her release is the manifestation of immorality on the part of police personnel, it added.

MSF demanded an impartial investigation into the custodial death, and justice and accountability for such incidents.

Enjoy Your Golden Years with
SENIOR CITIZEN PUBALI DEPOSIT SCHEME (SCPDS)

- ✓ Any Bangladeshi individual aged 59 years and above can open account under this scheme.
- ✓ Attractive Interest Rate [6 months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]

পূবালী ব্যাংক পাবলিক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Open your Account from anywhere

PI a PUBALI BANK apps

For details visit www.pubalibangla.com or contact nearest branch, sub-branch or Islamic banking window | No charges in Transactions

243 women, girls faced violence in May

Says mahila parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 243 women and girls faced violence in May, according to a report prepared by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Of them, 62 -- including 40 girls -- were raped. Additionally, 20 women -- including 12 girls -- were gang-raped. Two were killed after rape and one died by suicide afterwards, mentioned the report based on information taken from 16 national dailies.

In this time period, 22 girls faced sexual violence while seven women, including six girls, faced sexual harassment. Meanwhile, five women were tortured for dowry, and two of them were killed.

A total of 46 women, including seven girls, were killed due to various reasons, while 22 women and girls died mysteriously.

The period also saw 20 women, including five girls, die by suicide.



A young girl floats a paper boat into the water. Her face lights up with joy as the little boat drifts away. In many rural areas such activities are still popular. The photo was taken yesterday in Khulna's Phultala area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Air pollution linked to antibiotic resistance: Saber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said air pollution is linked to antibiotic resistance.

The minister said 1.7 million people die every year across the globe due to antibiotic resistance or AMR.

"The linkages between these two issues [air pollution and AMR] are very important from a health perspective. It's not just about the environment; it's also about public health," the minister said.

He was speaking at an event, titled "Save Your Breath: Policy Dialogue on Clean Air Imperatives".

USAID and Shakti Foundation organised the programme at a city hotel marking World Environment Day.

Notably, a 2018 research published in The Lancet Planetary Health claimed that fine particulate matter (PM2.5), often found in air pollution, contributes to antibiotic resistance.

The research also projects the alarming toll of premature deaths caused by antibiotic resistance linked to PM2.5.

Speaking as the chief guest, Saber termed air pollution a silent killer and mentioned that his ministry has now formulated rules to identify and tackle both indoor and outdoor air pollution.

He stressed the need to identify exact sources of air pollution and suggested potential partnerships for funding and technology.

Lawmaker Nahim Razzak, convener of the Climate Parliament Bangladesh, cited a lack of coordination as the main reason for urban mismanagement. He urged combined efforts from all stakeholders to combat climate change and environmental issues.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

682 hajj pilgrims in a bind as funds stuck in bank

RASHIDUL HASAN

A total of 682 hajj pilgrims are facing uncertainty about traveling to Saudi Arabia this year as their flight tickets have not been booked.

Around Tk 13 crore for the tickets has been deposited to Premier Bank, but the bank is yet to release the funds.

The religious affairs ministry yesterday said these pilgrims may not reach Saudi Arabia on time. It also wrote to Premier Bank twice, urging the bank to release the funds by May 27, but to no avail.

In a letter yesterday, the ministry warned Premier Bank that it would be held responsible for any hindrance in sending the pilgrims.

Matiul Islam, additional secretary to the ministry, told The Daily Star that the pilgrims are now worried about missing their flights.

The first hajj flight was on May 9, and the last one is scheduled for June 12.

The ministry reported that the negligence of two hajj agencies

primarily caused this issue.

Akbar Hajj Group initially planned to send 428 pilgrims but later withdrew.

These pilgrims were then transferred to Shikdar Air Travels, which also later declined to send them. Subsequently, they were moved to Al Risan Travel Agency.

The funds for these pilgrims are held in Premier Bank's Mohakhali branch, while Al Risan Travel's account is with Islami Bank's Uttara branch. Despite requests to transfer the money to Islami Bank for ticket purchases, Premier Bank has not acted.

Al Risan Travel Agency sought help from the ministry, which first contacted Premier Bank in March and again on May 26, directing the transfer by May 27. However, Premier Bank has not responded, said Matiul Islam.

Seeking anonymity, an official from Premier Bank's Mohakhali branch stated that Tk 6 crore was released on May 30, allowing for the purchase of air tickets for 318 pilgrims.

He said they are working to release the remaining funds soon.

BANGLADESH-JAPAN JOINT PPP PLATFORM

2 more projects dropped

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Two more development projects to be implemented following a public-private partnership module under Bangladesh-Japan joint initiative have been dropped.

The projects are expansion of Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway and the upgrading of Nabinagar-Manikganj-Paturia Highway into an expressway.

The decision came at the sixth Bangladesh-Japan Joint PPP Platform meeting held in Dhaka on March 18 this year, shows its minutes.

With the two, five projects have been dropped from the government-to-government initiative, which had created hopes of receiving huge investments from Japanese companies.

The development came at a time when most of the other projects under the initiative could not make significant progress over the last six years due to multiple problems.

Most of the projects were included in the list without carrying out any studies. So, when the studies were done, the projects were found not to be viable for PPP, leading to their exclusion from the list, officials said.

Besides, some Japanese companies involved in the process needed more engagement, they added.

However, a new project for building two

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

PROJECTS DROPPED SO FAR

- Expansion of Ctg-Cox's Bazar Highway
- Upgrading Nabinagar-Manikganj-Paturia Highway into expressway
- Multi-modal transport hub at Airport railway station
- Inland container depot at Gazipur's Dhirasram
- MRT Line-2

ON VERGE OF WITHDRAWAL

- Outer ring road around Dhaka

PROJECTS THAT REMAIN

- Multi-modal transport hub at Kamalapur station
- Tora Bridge on Dhaka-Aricha highway, 2nd Bhairab Bridge
- Operation, maintenance of Hsia third terminal
- Ctg Sewerage Project

Ensure departure of 16,970 workers to Malaysia: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the state minister for expatriates' welfare to facilitate the departure of migrant workers to Malaysia who missed the May 31 deadline.

She also urged an investigation into why workers with valid visas couldn't obtain tickets to Malaysia, sources revealed.

During an impromptu discussion after a formal cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office, it was discussed that despite clearance from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, 16,970 migrant workers were unable to travel to Malaysia before the deadline.

Additionally, the premier announced plans to establish 12 new border haats to enhance trade with India during her upcoming visit to New Delhi. She also instructed for an increase in relief materials for cyclone Remal affected districts, said Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain.

Furthermore, the cabinet decided to revert to the previous office hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm, effective from the first working day after Eid-ul-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MEETING DECISIONS

- Govt offices to return to 9:00am-5:00pm
- Shahbagh Police Station to be relocated
- 12 more border haats to be established

Bring Happiness

Up to 100% Cashback

0% Interest On cash EMI

EXCHANGE OFFER 20,000

eco+ LG Haier

eco+ Haier HITACHI LG SAMSUNG Whirlpool

Bring Happiness

Up to 100% Cashback

0% Interest On cash EMI

EXCHANGE OFFER 20,000

CMCH to get specialised burn unit soon

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

A longstanding demand for a specialised and modern burn unit in Chattogram is finally being addressed. The National Economic Council approved a Tk 284.76 crore project on May 9 to construct a specialised burn and plastic surgery unit at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The project, funded jointly by the Bangladesh and China, with contributions of Tk 104.93 crore and Tk 179.83 crore respectively, is set to be completed by June 2026.

Rajib Palit, deputy director of CMCH, said the project will start soon.

On February 24, nine individuals sustained burn injuries following a gas cylinder explosion at the Rohingya camp in Noakhali's Bhashan Char. Among them, three-year-old Russell succumbed to his injuries due to the lack of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) facilities at the burn unit.

Such incidents are not uncommon in CMCH, so the project to upgrade the burn unit has been a welcome development.

Dr Rafiq Uddin Ahmed, head of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit at CMCH, emphasised the inadequacy of the current

30-bed unit. "The existing facilities are insufficient to accommodate the patients," he said. "It is a crying need to make the CMCH burn unit well equipped with adequate facilities to treat burn patients from across Chattogram division."

The new 150-bed unit will include outpatient and indoor departments, an



PROPOSED DESIGN

emergency department, 10 ICU beds, 20 HDU beds for male and female patients, and five HDU beds for children.

CMCH director Brig Gen Taslim Uddin said the feasibility study has been completed and the construction work is expected to begin in August.

A Chinese delegation is scheduled to visit for a meeting on June 8 to discuss the primary design of the building with the health minister, he said.

Fake doctor held over rape charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

A doctor impersonator was arrested on Sunday night in a case filed over raping a college student in Chatkhil upazila of Noakhali.

The arrestee is Nur Hossain Palash, 45.

The 18-year-old victim's mother filed a case with Chatkhil Police Station Sunday night, said Muhammad Imdadul Haque, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The victim, a college student, reported the incident to the Chatkhil upazila nirbahi officer (UNO). Then, UNO Ehsan Uddin directed her to file a complaint at the local police station and ordered the OC to take action in this regard.

Later police arrested Palash. Chatkhil Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate Akib Osman sealed his chamber for various violations.

The victim was taken to Noakhali General Hospital.

2 more projects dropped

FROM PAGE 3

bridges -- Tora Bridge on Dhaka-Aricha highway and the second Bhairab Bridge -- was included in the initiative.

Following an agreement signed between Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA) in Bangladesh and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport, and Tourism of Japan in 2017, Japanese companies will invest under the initiative without taking part in any bidding.

At the platform's first meeting in December 2017, Bangladesh's PPPA sought multi-billion dollar support from Japan for 18 infrastructure projects.

But Japanese companies showed interest in investing US \$6.4 billion in six projects -- a multi-modal transport hub each at Kamalapur and Airport Railway stations; an inland container depot at Dhirasram in Gazipur; the improvement of Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway; the outer ring road around Dhaka; and Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line 2.

Three projects on

the list -- multi-modal transport hub at Airport Railway Station, the inland container depot, and MRT Line 2 -- were withdrawn earlier.

During the sixth platform meeting, it was decided to delist two more.

The Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway was supposed to be expanded under the initiative and a sub-working group (SWG) -- led by Marubeni Corporation -- was selected for the work. The project's feasibility study was also done. But during the fifth platform meeting in October 2022, a representative of Roads and Highways Department said JICA would provide a loan for a separate project undertaken to remove bottlenecks at five points on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway.

Implementation of the project will be faster if it is done with a JICA loan instead of PPP. Besides, it will eliminate the risk of design uniformity and synchronisation, said the RHD representative.

The issues were also discussed in the sixth platform meeting and a

representative of Marubeni Corporation suggested carrying out a study about the possibility of a PPP modality for the operation and maintenance of this road after project completion.

Given the situation, the meeting decided to delist the project and said the discussion regarding operation and maintenance following the PPP module may continue between RHD and the SWG.

Regarding the Nabinagar-Manikganj-Paturia highway project, an RHD representative said this project is not viable in terms of traffic projection as there was a significant drop in traffic on this highway following the opening of Padma Bridge.

As the SWG agreed to the RHD's proposal, the meeting decided to delist the project.

Another project for constructing Dhaka Outer Ring Road is also on the verge of withdrawal from the initiative, as RHD disagreed with a Japanese company's proposal to implement only one of the three parts of the road.

The decision concerning the withdrawal of the project from the platform shall be decided after RHD and Road Transport and Highways Division discuss it with MJIT, according to the meeting's minutes.

Regarding the Kamalapur Multi-Modal Transport Hub project, it was decided that Bangladesh Railway and SWG will continue to work with the stakeholders to fulfil the conditions to move forward with the project in line with proposed schedule.

Regarding Chattogram Metropolitan Sewerage Project, the meeting decided that the SWG concerned will carry out a risk assessment on property connections, and next decision will be taken based on the findings.

In connection with the project for operation and maintenance of the third terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, the meeting decided that Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and the SWG concerned will continue discussions regarding the schedule and key contractual terms.

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিমিটেড
গাজীপুর-১৭০৩।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ১৬/২০২৪ তারিখ-০৩/০৬/২০২৪ ইং

টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

করপোরেশনের প্রকৌশল বিভাগের স্যামিটারী, প্রাণি, বিবিধ নির্মাণ, সেরামত ও সরবরাহ কাজে ২০২৪-২০২৫ ও ২০২৫-২০২৬ অর্থ বছর তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য উপযুক্ত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন অগ্রাধী টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদন ফরমসহ নিম্নোক্ত ও শর্তাধীন স্বাক্ষরিত সিডি/সিডি প্রিন্টিং টাঙ্ক ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত টাকা মাত্র) মূল্যে (অফেরযোগ্য) নিজস্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাকে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে করপোরেশনের গাজীপুরে প্রধান কার্যালয়ের অর্থ ও হিসাব বিভাগ এবং ঢাকায় সিরাজগঞ্জ অফিস, ১ম ফ্লোর ভবন, ৭ম তলা, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, মহিলা বিজ্ঞানিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০ হতে ০৪/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ হতে ২৫/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ রবিবার হতে বুধসপ্তাহের সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৪-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত অফিস কর্মদিবসে জমা করা যাবে। ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং করপোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লিমিটেড, গাজীপুর বরাবরে ডাকযোগে বা কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস মাধ্যমে সীলমোহরকৃত আবেদন ২৬/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সৌহার্দে হবে অথবা একই তারিখ ও সময়ে মধ্যে গাজীপুরে প্রধান কার্যালয়ে নির্ধারিত বাস্তব সরাসরি জমা (ড্রপ) করা যাবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না। আবেদনকারীদের সামনে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) প্রাপ্ত সকল আবেদন ২৬/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখে সকাল ১১.০৫ ঘটিকায় গাজীপুরে প্রধান কার্যালয়ে খোলা হবে। অসমর্থ, শর্তাধীন আবেদন বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। করপোরেশনের স্বার্থে কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোনো বা সকল আবেদন বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

(মোঃ সাকুমজামান)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক
(বাংক নোট, উৎপাদন বিভাগ ও প্রকৌশল বিভাগ/ইনচার্জ)
ফোন : ৯৯৬৬৯২১০-১১৫/এক্সটেনশন-১০৭/২৬৮

GD- 928

বিশেষ সংস্থা অধিত্ব থাকায় শর্তাধীন ইংরেজিতে লেখা

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives
Local Government Division
Urban Development-2
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka
www.lgd.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

No. 46.00.0000.107.14.006.23-87 Date: 2nd June, 2024

General Public Notice for Procurement Opportunity

Invitation to a Market Assessment Conference for Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services Project (LGD Component)

The Government of Bangladesh has signed a Financing Agreement with International Development Association (IDA) for financing US\$200 million for Urban Health, Nutrition and Population Project. The project will be implemented by two implementing agencies: (1) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and (2) Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. The Local Government Division (LGD) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives will implement the "Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services Project" with the help of IDA financing of US\$ 100 million. The main goal of the project is to develop appropriate systems and capacities of LGD, City Corporations and Municipalities for delivering public health preventive services such as vector (mosquito) management and control, outdoor medical waste management, mitigating air and sound pollution in city life and climate change effects on public health, behavior change communications to promote healthy lifestyles and creating awareness as well as community-driven interventions for addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Under the project, the implementing agency (LGD) will procure goods and services to achieve the above goal. The major procurement items are: (i) equipment for establishment of a biological laboratory (main laboratory and training laboratory) for vector analysis and management including an insectarium; (ii) equipment and testing materials/chemicals for public health laboratory (i.e., food testing laboratory); (iii) equipment for vector (mosquito) management, collection of adult mosquitoes and control; (iv) equipment for air and sound pollution detection and control; (v) personal protection equipment; (vi) Insecticide/pesticide for vector control; (vii) 1 incinerator, 1 autoclave and 1 chemical treatment plants (1set); (viii) ICT/MIS equipment (such as: computer, laptop, printer, main server, backup server); (ix) office furniture; (x) Service provider for outdoor medical waste management; (xi) training firms for arranging foreign and local training/tours; and (xii) study/research on mosquito biology and research on dengue vaccine.

Procurement under the project will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, November 2020 (the "WB Procurement Regulations") and the provisions stipulated in the Legal Agreement, Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD) and the procurement plan. The project will be subject to the World Bank's Anticorruption Guidelines, dated October 15, 2006, and revised in January 2011 and July 2016. The evaluation of bids/proposals and contract signing procedure shall follow the Public Procurement Rules, 2008 of Bangladesh and the WB Procurement Regulations.

It is planned that the procurement of large packages for goods and services for the project will commence very soon. As part of designing a fit-for-purpose Project Procurement Strategy for Development (PPSD), the LGD proposes to conduct market engagement to understand market context and get the right suppliers/ service providers.

To this end, the Local Government Division hereby invites interested suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers for a 1.5-hour Market Sounding Conference for each category from 10:00 am on 27 June 2024 at the Conference Room, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Dhaka.

The objectives of the conference are twofold: (1) to relay general information of the project to, suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers, present details of the project components, details of procurement strategy including selection methods, proposed contract models, expected procurement packages and implementation arrangements; and (2) to receive feedback from the suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers on procurement approach and strategy, contract implementation challenges, procurement risks and mitigation measures, suitability and sustainability of the proposed procurement design, and any other information deemed necessary for the successful implementation of the Project. These consultations are part of procurement preparation and to develop fit for purpose PSD to achieve value for money based on market engagement and the market information.

The LGD strongly encourages potential suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers to participate in this process and to use the meeting as an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments/feedback regarding this upcoming project procurement opportunities. To help developing a better understanding of the market, please email us the filled-up Market Survey Form available at the website [www.lgd.gov.bd] while confirming your attendance in the conference.

To confirm your attendance and submission of the filled-up Market Survey Form, please email [urbandev2@lgd.gov.bd] by 12:00 PM on 26 June 2024.

Name: Mohammed Tanvir Azam Siddiquee
Designation: Joint Secretary, Local Government Division & Project Director
Improvement of Urban Public Health Preventive Services Project
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
Tel Pho: 8802223355561
E-mail: tanvirazam21@gmail.com

GD- 934

Ensure departure

FROM PAGE 3

Azha, replacing the current timing of 9:00am to 4:00pm. The shift to the shorter hours was initially implemented from November 15, 2022, to conserve electricity.

Moreover, the cabinet approved the relocation of Shahbagh Police Station to facilitate the implementation of the Swadhinata Stambha project at Suhrawardy Udyan in Dhaka.

The station will be relocated opposite to the Hotel Intercontinental.

Mahbub said the relocation of Shahbagh Police Station is necessary due to the construction of the Swadhinata Stambha (Independence Monument) project. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs proposed its removal in yesterday's cabinet meeting.

Ministry officials requested to relocate the police station to the building where Sakura Restaurant and Bar is situated, according to sources.

According to sources, despite repeated attempts by the Liberation War ministry, the home ministry did not take any initiatives to move the police station.

Moreover, Dhaka South City Corporation opposed the relocation of the police station. Meanwhile, the cabinet approved the final draft of the "Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation Act, 2024" and the "National Biosafety Policy-2024".

Furthermore, the cabinet endorsed the draft agreement between Bangladesh and Mongolia on mutual exemption of visa requirements.

Air pollution linked

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Adil Mohammed Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, identified a lack of policy implementation, un planned industrialisation, urban sprawl, and inefficient transportation systems as major causes of air pollution.

Dhaka University Chemistry department Prof Abdus Salam presented on Dhaka's Air

Quality Landscape, and Labiba Rahman of Shakti Foundation delivered the welcome address.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam, Rajuk Chairman Siddique Rahman Sarkar, and BRTA Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder also spoke at the event's last session.

Anjali Kaur, deputy assistant administrator of the Asia Bureau at USAID, also spoke.

UGC bans future

FROM PAGE 5

from UGC. We look forward to resolving the issue, adhering to their recommendation through the syndicate," she told The Daily Star.

CMU VC Prof Ismail did not respond, despite repeated attempts via phone calls and texts.

However, Bidduth Barua, the university's spokesperson and deputy director of the university's Planning and Development department, said, "We did not violate any rules of the university act."

The officer, however, admitted that the university had relaxed some criteria while appointing staffers on an ad-hoc basis but claimed there were no policy violations.

Regarding UGC's ban on future recruitment, he said, "We abide by the decision taken by the university syndicate. The

meeting, scheduled after this Eid, will decide what to do about the UGC's recommendation."

পণিত বিভাগ
এ এক সুখিনুর হুমায়ুন পণিত ভবন
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ফোন ১০০০, ফ্যাক্স
ফোন ১ (ফোন) ১ (ফোন) ৯৯৬৬৯২১০/১০৭
ফ্যাক্স (ফোন) ১ ৯৯৬৬৯২১০/১০৭
ই-মেইল: math@du.ac.bd

Department of Mathematics
A F Mujibur Rahman Ganit Bhavan
University of Dhaka
Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh
Phone (02) : (FP) 966691/1463/7071
Fax (D.U.): 880-2-55167810
E-mail : math@du.ac.bd

টেভার বিজ্ঞপ্তি (উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি)

মেমো নং DU/OTM/23-24/পণিতঃ ০৩ তারিখঃ ২০ জুন ২০২৪ খ্রিস্টাব্দ
০৩ জুন ২০২৪ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

ক্রম নং	কাজের নাম	টেভার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	টেভার বন্ধ হওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	টেভার খোপার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
১।	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পণিত বিভাগের জন্য ২টি High Performance Brand PC এবং ১টি Projector সরবরাহ।	১০/০৬/২০২৪ইং অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	১১/০৬/২০২৪ইং সকাল ১০.০০টায়	১১/০৬/২০২৪ইং সকাল ১০.০০টায়	পণিত বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

উন্মুক্ত কাজের সিডি/সিডি মূল্য ২,০০০/- টাকা (অফেরযোগ্য) দরপত্র জমা বিক্রয় খাত, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, জনতা ব্যাংক, টি.এস.সি. শাখায়, একাউন্ট নং ৩৬০০০৩৯২ হতে জমা দিয়ে উন্মুক্ত অফিস হইতে দরপত্র দলিল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

GD- 929

(অধ্যাপক ড. মোঃ শহীদুল ইসলাম)
চেয়ারম্যান
পণিত বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১৫ স্বতন্ত্র সাজোয়া কোয়াল্ডান
হাটহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম

তারিখঃ ০২ জুন ২০২৪

১। এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অধিকারিত জমা জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ১৫ স্বতন্ত্র সাজোয়া কোয়াল্ডান, হাটহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম এর সার্বিক তত্ত্বাবধানে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজ সম্পন্ন করা হবে। অগ্রাধী টিকাদার/ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক	কাজের বিবরণ	মন্তব্য
১।	সদর দপ্তর ২৪ পদাতিক ডিভিশন এর ২৩.০১.৯২৪.০৮৮.০১.০১৪.০২.৩০.০৫.২৪ (ক্রমিক/১৩০২ তারিখ ৩০ মে ২০২৪) সারক মূল্য স্ট প্রিশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকরণে হাটহাজারী ফিল্ড কার্যালয় রেলের উন্নয়ন/রক্ষনাবেক্ষণ/সংস্কার এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যয় নির্বাহে বাবদ বিভিন্ন সামগ্রী ক্রয়/নির্মাণ	
২।	দরপত্র গ্রহণে ইজুক টিকাদার/ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ ০৩ জুন ২০২৪ হতে ১১ জুন ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে অধিনায়ক, ১৫ স্বতন্ত্র সাজোয়া কোয়াল্ডান, হাটহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম হতে উন্মুক্ত কাজের পৃথক পৃথক তফসিলি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।	
৩।	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী টিকাদার/ব্যবসায়ী কর্তৃক দ্রব্য সামগ্রীর মূল্য নির্ধারণ পূর্বে আপাতী ১২ জুন ২০২৪ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে ১৫ স্বতন্ত্র সাজোয়া কোয়াল্ডান, হাটহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত টেভার বাস্তব জমা দিতে হবে। উন্মুক্ত মে উক্ত তারিখেই ১৩:০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে ক্রয়ের পরিচালনা পর্যদ কর্তৃক দরপত্র খোলা হবে।	
৪।	উন্মুক্ত কাজের বিল প্রাপ্তি বিধি মোতাবেক পরিশোধ করা হবে।	
৫।	টিকাদার/ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ কর্তৃক প্রাপ্তি হারে ভ্যাট ও আয়কর (VAT/IT) প্রদান করতে হবে।	
৬।	উন্মুক্ত মে, দ্রব্য সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের পরিচালনা পর্যদ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।	

অধিনায়ক
১৫ স্বতন্ত্র সাজোয়া কোয়াল্ডান
হাটহাজারী, চট্টগ্রাম

জিডি-৯৩১

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka South City Corporation
Office of the Project Director
Dhaka City Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DCNUP)
Level 10, West Block, Room -919
Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka-1000

"e-Tender Notice" (Addendum 01)

Memo No: 46.207.014.09.10.282.2024/451
e-tender are invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Project Director, DCNUP, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of:

Sl	Tender ID, Ref No	Description of items	Start Date & Time	Last Selling Date and Time		Tender Closing Date & Time	
				Previous	Amended	Previous	Amended
01	Tender ID: 986468, Ref. No. 46.207.014.09.10.282 2024, Date: 24.04.2024	Works: Improvement and Construction works of Mayor Sheikh Taposh Bridge (Loharpool)-Contract Package No. DCNUP/W-03/KAC	27-May 2024 15:00 BST	26-June 2024 16:00 BST	30-June 2024 11:00 BST	27-June 2024 12:00 BST	30-June 2024 13:00 BST

N.B : Please see the details of addendum in the tender documents on the e-GP portal.
This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and offline/hard copy(s) will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Rajib Khadem)
Project Director, PIU,
Dhaka City Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DCNUP)
Dhaka South City Corporation
Tel. 880-2223350461
e-mail: pddcncupdscc24@gmail.com

DSCC/PRD/522/2023-2024

GD- 926

PRAYER TIMING
JUNE 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



These bricks were shaped and left to dry before placing them in the furnace. However, in the aftermath of Cyclone Remal, most of the bricks turned into clay due to incessant rain. Now, workers are extracting the ones that have preserved their shape. The photo was taken the Doarika area of Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

UGC bans future recruitment at CMU

Says VC recruited 6 staffers violating rules

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The University Grants Commission recently banned any recruitment at Chittagong Medical University (CMU) after finding out about violation of recruitment policies by the university's administration while appointing six staffers.

A three-member UGC probe committee found the irregularities and recommended the ban.

The commission, which oversees university regulations, approved the recommendation and, on May 12, instructed CMU to take further action, said UGC Secretary Ferdous Zaman.

"Based on the investigation report, we sent a letter to the university authorities to take further measures following the recommendations. They will inform the commission

after taking the necessary steps," he added.

According to university sources, CMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Ismail Khan appointed Md Alauddin, Md Misbah Ibne Hakim, Kazi Musfiqus Salehin, Md Abdullah Al Noman, Badiul Alam, and Muhammad Anik Al Hossain to several posts under Grade-9 pay scale on an ad-hoc basis.

However, while working as temporary staffers [before making their posts permanent], they were given salaries and benefits of Grade-7 officers without syndicate approval.

The UGC investigation team confirmed the allegations, saying ad-hoc appointments in public universities are banned.

UGC deemed those appointments unconstitutional, a violation of citizens' rights, and in contradiction of Chittagong Medical University

Act 2016.

The commission then recommended cancelling the appointments and recovering the salaries and benefits paid from February 1, 2022, to February 6, 2023.

The committee also advised the university to amend the Minimum Prescribed Qualification (MPQ) for recruiting teachers and staff to comply with government directives and inform the commission after implementing necessary initiatives.

Until then, the university authorities were instructed not to make any new recruitments, UGC said.

CMU Registrar (acting) Hasina Khan declined to comment, citing it as an "internal matter".

"We received such a letter

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Attack on forest officials condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday sent a letter to the chief conservator of forests, expressing concern over a recent attack on forest officials in the Kaliakair area of Gazipur.

The letter, sent by Bela's lawyer advocate S Hasanul Banna of the Supreme Court, demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in the incident.

On May 30, in the Chandra Beat of the Kaliakair Range in Gazipur, seven forest officials and employees were injured in an attack by around 30 miscreants, while trying to prevent forest land encroachment and tree felling.

The letter says around 30 miscreants cut down trees and built structures on government-reserved forest land. When forest officials intervened, they were attacked by the encroachers.

Additionally, the letter also highlights past incidents where forest officials were attacked and even killed by encroachers.

It mentioned deaths of Maheshkhali Forest Range Officer Mohammad Yusuf Uddin on August 7, 2020, and another forest officer in Cox's Bazar, Sazzaduzzaman, on March 31, this year.

Bhutan reduces fees for tourists from Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bhutan has reduced the Sustainable Development Fees (SDF) for Bangladeshis to US \$15 per night for Bangladeshi tourists from US \$100.

Bhutanese Department of Tourism issued a notification towards this end, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The US \$15 SDF is equivalent to that of the Indian tourists who had been enjoying the reduced SDF previously.

Under the new policy, 15,000 Bangladeshi tourists can travel Bhutan with the reduced fees of US 15 per year.

The MOFA statement yesterday said Bangladesh and Bhutan enjoy a special relationship, which has been further consolidated under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in recent years.

The visa policy has come into effect from June 2, 2024.



পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং: পাববি/সংস্থাপন/২৮২/১৮৩৭

তারিখ: ৩০ জুন ২০২৪ ইং

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের জন্য স্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে জনকর্ম নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

অনুষ্ঠান	বিভাগের নাম, পদের নাম, বেতনস্কেল ও গ্রেড	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
মানবিক ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান	(১) লোক প্রশাসন বিভাগ সহযোগী অধ্যাপক (৫০০০০-১১২০০) (গ্রেড-৪)	০১টি	ক) কোন পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে লোক প্রশাসন বিষয়ে সনদ ৩য় মাস্টার্স উভয় পর্যায়ে মেট্রিক পর্যায়ে সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। খ) এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি প্রত্যেকটি পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম সিলিপি ৫ ৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ৩.৫০ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে প্রথম বিভাগ থাকতে হবে। গ) কোন পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ২.৫০-এর কম / ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়। ঘ) সফলত বিয়ে পিএইচডি ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে ০৭(সাত) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা, কমপক্ষে তিনটি স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের থিসিস গবেষণা পরিচালনা (Supervision) এর অভিজ্ঞতা ও সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ০৪(চার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতাসহ শীকৃত (referred) জার্নালে বিদ্যমান সফলত উত্তর ০৫(পাঁচ)টি প্রকাশনা যার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে প্রকাশিত অন্তত ০৩(তিন)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে। অথবা সফলত বিয়ে এমফিল ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীদেরকে পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পর্যায়ে কমপক্ষে ০৮(আট) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা, কমপক্ষে দুইটি স্নাতকোত্তর পর্যায়ের থিসিস গবেষণা পরিচালনা (Supervision) এর অভিজ্ঞতা ও সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ০৪(চার) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতাসহ শীকৃত (referred) জার্নালে বিদ্যমান সফলত উত্তর ০৫(পাঁচ)টি প্রকাশনা যার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে প্রকাশিত অন্তত ০৩(তিন)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে। অথবা যে সকল সহকারী অধ্যাপকের উচ্চতর ডিগ্রি নেই তাদের ক্ষেত্রে ১২(বারো) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ০৫(পাঁচ) বছরের শিক্ষকতার সক্রিয় অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে এবং বিদ্যমান সফলত উত্তর ০৪(চার)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে যার মধ্যে সহকারী অধ্যাপক পদে প্রকাশিত অন্তত ০২(দুই)টি প্রকাশনা থাকতে হবে।
	(২) ফার্মেসি বিভাগ প্রভাষক (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০) (গ্রেড-৯)	০১টি	১. ফার্মেসি বিভাগের জন্য ফার্মেসি বিভাগ হতে বি.ফার্ম এবং এম.ফার্ম ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে এবং পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগের জন্য পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ হতে ০৪(চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক (সনদ) এবং স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। ২. স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০-এর মধ্যে সিলিপি ৫ ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত হতে হবে অর্থাৎ পরীক্ষার ফলাফল অপেক্ষমান থাকাকালে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ৩. এসএসসি/সমমান এবং এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ৫ ৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ন্যূনতম সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে ১ম বিভাগ থাকতে হবে।
ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ও প্রকৌশল	(৩) পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ প্রভাষক (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০) (গ্রেড-৯)	০৩টি	১. ইলেকট্রিক্যাল, ইলেকট্রনিক এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রনিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগ হতে ০৪(চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক এবং স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। ২. স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০-এর মধ্যে সিলিপি ৫ ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত হতে হবে অর্থাৎ পরীক্ষার ফলাফল অপেক্ষমান থাকাকালে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ৩. এসএসসি/সমমান এবং এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ৫ ৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ন্যূনতম সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে ১ম বিভাগ থাকতে হবে।
	(৪) নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ প্রভাষক (২২০০০-৫৩০৬০) (গ্রেড-৯)	০২টি	১. নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগ হতে ০৪(চার) বছর মেয়াদি স্নাতক এবং স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে। ২. স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০-এর মধ্যে সিলিপি ৫ ন্যূনতম ৩.৫০ থাকতে হবে। সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক ও স্নাতকোত্তর উভয় পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণি থাকতে হবে। প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত হতে হবে অর্থাৎ পরীক্ষার ফলাফল অপেক্ষমান থাকাকালে আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। ৩. এসএসসি/সমমান এবং এইচএসসি/সমমান পরীক্ষায় সিলিপি ৫ ৫.০০ এর মধ্যে ন্যূনতম সিলিপি ৪ ৪.০০ অথবা সনাতন পদ্ধতিতে ১ম বিভাগ থাকতে হবে।

*** উপর্যুক্ত শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে পরিসংখ্যান এবং নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগে প্রভাষক পদে ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৩ ইং তারিখের পাববি/সংস্থাপন/২৮২/১৮৩৭ স্মারকসূত্রে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী ইতোপূর্বে যারা পরিসংখ্যান এবং নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগে প্রভাষক পদে আবেদন করেছেন, তাঁদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই। তবে কোন প্রার্থীর যদি উক্ত আবেদন প্রেরিত তথ্যাদি অপসারণ করা হয়েছে তাহলে, তবে তাঁর অপসারণের তথ্যসহ ০৮ (আট) স্টেট আবেদনকারী জমা দিতে হবে; সেক্ষেত্রে কোন বাবেক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার প্রয়োজন হবে না।

শর্তাবলী ১

- আবেদনকারী দায়িত্ব শেষ তারিখ ২৭ জুন ২০২৪ ইং। সকল আবেদনকারী রেজিস্ট্রার, পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, রাজাপুর, পাবনা বরাবর উক্ত তারিখের (২৭ জুন ২০২৪ ইং) মধ্যে (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৯:০০টা থেকে ৪:০০টা) কেবলমাত্র ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনের জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট (www.pust.ac.bd)-এ প্রদত্ত ফরমেটে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদনকারীর সাথে নিম্নোক্ত তথ্যসহ আবেদন করা হবে:
 - সত্যতা যাচাই করার জন্য ০৩ কপি স্বাক্ষরিত ছবি (খ) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা সফলত সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (গ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/ জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (ঘ) অভিজ্ঞতা (বেতনস্কেলসহ) সফলত সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (ঙ) প্রকাশনা ও গ্রন্থসংগ্রহ সফলত সকল সনদের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি (যদি থাকে বা প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) (চ) বাবেক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।
 - সকল পদের প্রার্থীদের জন্য ০৮ (আট) স্টেট আবেদনকারী জমা দিতে হবে।
 - মূল আবেদনকারীর সাথে নিজ ত্রিকানা সখলিত ১০/- (দশ) টাকার ডাকটিকিটসহ ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
 - শীকৃত জার্নাল বসতে ISSN নম্বর সখলিত Peer Reviewed গবেষণা জার্নাল অথবা ISBN নম্বর সখলিত গবেষণা পুস্তক/ জার্নাল বুক হবে।
 - বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের আবেদনকারী লেখা হবে এবং বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রয়োজনীয় সংখ্যক প্রকাশনার অতিরিক্ত ০২(দুই)টি (প্রথম গবেষণা হিসেবে একটি ও সহযোগী গবেষণা হিসেবে একটি) প্রকাশনার জন্য ০৬(ছয়) মাস এবং আরও অতিরিক্ত ০২(দুই)টি (প্রথম গবেষণা হিসেবে একটি ও সহযোগী গবেষণা হিসেবে একটি) প্রকাশনার জন্য আরও ০৬(ছয়) মাস রোয়াত সুবিধা পাবেন এবং সর্বোচ্চ ১(এক) বছর রোয়াত সুবিধা প্রাপ্য হবেন।
 - ডাকটিকিট প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
 - জটিল/অসম্পূর্ণ এবং বিশদ প্রাঙ্গণ আবেদনকারী সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
 - প্রত্যেক প্রার্থীর তাঁর প্রার্থিত পদের নাম নামের উপর স্পষ্ট করে লিখতে হবে।
 - প্রাঙ্গণ দরখাস্তসমূহ গ্রাহ্যিক বায়হিচের পর কেবলমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে লিখিত পরীক্ষা/মৌখিক পরীক্ষা এ ডাকা হবে। এর জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
 - পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়-এর অন্তর্ভুক্ত জনতা বাবেক পিএমটিএ-এর যে কোন শাখা হতে সকল পদের প্রার্থীদের ৬০০/- টাকার (ছয়শত) বাবেক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আবেদনকারীর সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। আবেদনকারী বাবেক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার নং, টাকার পরিমাণ ও তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
 - কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল কিংবা সংশোধন করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

অধিকতর যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন/ বিভাগীয় প্রার্থী/ পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে এতদসংশ্লিষ্ট অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের আবেদনকারী দোয়া হবে এবং বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন কর্তৃক পদের আবেদন সাপেক্ষে কর্তৃপক্ষ বিজ্ঞাপিত পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস বা বৃদ্ধি করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram.
Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project.
Invitation For Tender of outsourcing 2023-24 FY

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
2	Agency	Forest Department, Bangladesh, Dhaka.
3	Procuring Entity Name	Mohammad Belayet Hossen, Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram.
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not Applicable
5	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram.
6	Invitation for	Supply of Service Provider through outsourcing.
7	Invitation Ref No	Tender No.39/ctg-CFD/outourcing/Operating costs/2023-24
8	Date	02/06/2024
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM): National Competitive Tender (NCT)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB Budget, Government of Bangladesh
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	Not applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram.
13	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	
14	Tender Package No.	Tender No.39/ctg-CFD/outourcing/Operating costs/2023-24
15	Tender Package Name	Supply of Service Provider through outsourcing.
16	Tender Publication Date	On or after 03/06/2024
17	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	19-06-2024 upto 5:00 PM (Office time)
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	20-06-2024 at 01:00 PM (Noon)
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	20-06-2024 at 2:00 PM
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Sadar Range, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram, Nandankanan, Chattogram.
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	Not Applicable
	Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram, Nandankanan, Chattogram.
	Opening Tender Document	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram, Nandankanan, Chattogram.
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram, Nandankanan, Chattogram, 09 June 2024, 11.00 AM
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tenderers will be the firms having five (5) years general experience of service provider supply through outsourcing. Tenderers shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the Applicable Law. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have fulfilled its obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. Tenderers shall have up-to-date license Factory and Establishment Inspection Directorate and a bank account certificate of minimum 01 (one) year with any Scheduled Bank under the name of "Employee Social Security Fund". The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of similar nature, complexity and methods/technology completed of minimum BDT. 21.50 (Twenty one Lakh Fifty thousand) only under 01 (one) contracts within the last five (5) years. Years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. Others Eligibility are mentioned in Tender document.
23	Brief Description of Services	Supply of Service Provider for the (i) Boatman (10 nos), (ii) Malli (02 nos), (iii) Loskor (01 nos).
24	Price of Tender Document (TK)	TK. 1,000/- (One thousand) only. (Non refundable)
25	Lot No	Identification of Lot
	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk) (Refundable)
	Work Start & Completion Time in days	
01.	Supply of Service Provider through outsourcing.	Different Range/Beat/SFNTC/SFPC of Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram & any other place of Forest Department, Bangladesh.
		BDT 85,000/- (Eighty five Thousand) only.
		01 July 2024 to 30 June, 2025
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Mohammad Belayet Hossen
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Divisional Forest Officer
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram, Nandankanan, Chattogram.
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 02333-351469, e-mail: dfcoastalctg@gmail.com
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

(Mohammad Belayet Hossen)
Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Chattogram.
Phone: 02333-351469
e-mail: dfcoastalctg@gmail.com

GD-925

GD-927

৩০/০৬/২০২৪
রেজিস্ট্রার

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
পাবনা।

There is a huge market for Bangla films, we need to utilise it: GOUTAM GHOSE



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

“Perception used to change with new technologies, and new perception is required for new technologies. I hope that a transformation will occur in Bangla movies,”

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Bangla cinema is currently evolving, with constant experiments rejuvenating it, according to acclaimed filmmaker Goutam Ghose.

In an interview with The Daily Star during his recent visit to Dhaka, for the purpose of his documentary film made on the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Goutam discussed the golden era of Bangla films, their present and future, the difficulties Bangla film productions face, as well as his own vision.

The director, widely known for his films like *Padma Nadir Majhi*, *Antarjali Jatra*, *Moner Manush*, *Sankhachil*, *Ma Bhumi*, *Paar* and *Kaalbela*, stated that the international standard of Bangla films has declined.

“Experiments in Bangla cinema are commonplace— young directors in both Dhaka and Kolkata are trying to make new types of movies with new dimensions in form and content. However, it’s not nearly as much as it used to be in the old days,” said the filmmaker.

Comparing Bangla movies to the cinemas of South India and Maharashtra, Goutam opined that the latter are performing better.

“Perception used to change with new technologies, and new perception is required for new technologies. I hope that a

transformation will occur in Bangla movies,” the director said, stressing the need for collective efforts by both West Bengal and Bangladesh for the betterment of Bangla cinema, and diversifying its market.

“We don’t know proper marketing and how to conduct business,” Goutam remarked, citing this as the primary reason for Bangla films’ underperformance.

“The number of Tamil-Telugu speakers is far fewer than the Bangla audience, but they invest Tk 100-200 crores in a movie, and easily get a return on their investment,” said the director, adding, “Tamil-Telugu speakers all over the world watch their movies in cinema halls. Their films are being released in halls across North America, Europe, Japan, Southeast Asia, etc.”

“Directors of Kerala are doing well,” he said, mentioning Payal Kapadia, who won the Grand Prix award at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. “On the contrary, Bangalis across the globe don’t watch Bangla movies; they watch pirated versions, or prefer television and OTT platforms”.

Regarding his upcoming projects, the acclaimed director said his first Indo-Italian cinema is ready for release. “It is a trilingual fiction film with English, Hindi and Italian narratives. I am also working on a joint venture between Bangladesh and India,” he said.

Speaking about his legendary film *Moner Manush*, Goutam explained, “I made the film because I felt the need to tell Lalon’s story. In this intolerant society, someone like Lalon is very much needed.”

The director further revealed his plans to make a film about the partition history of India and Bangladesh. He believes that although the countries have been divided politically and geographically, there are several topics they can collaborate on.

“Due to a political crisis, India and Pakistan were divided. Was there any referendum in this regard? That political crisis led to suffering of countless people. Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah’s two-nation theory did not stand the test of time, and birth of Bangladesh has proved it,” he said.

The 74-year-old legend humbly described himself as a common person who has worked in the film industry for a long time. “Since I have taken a lot from society, I always feel a commitment towards it. Social contexts have repeatedly come up in my films, as have social and political aspects.”

Goutam concluded by saying he is not an ambitious person at all, and wants to erase three words from the dictionary—Star, VIP and celebrity. “I have an objection regarding these three words.”



Tahsan-Mithila starrer ‘Baaji’ to premier this Eid

A recent post on Chorki’s Facebook page has ignited widespread speculation, featuring an image of a cricketer in a yellow jersey, helmet, and holding a bat, with the intriguing caption, “Who is coming to Chorki?”

The OTT platform has confirmed that the upcoming series will feature singer-turned-actor Tahsan Khan in the lead role. While Tahsan has graced television screens numerous times, *Baaji* marks his OTT debut. Rafiath Rashid Mithila will be seen alongside Tahsan in this series.

Directed by Arifur Rahman, the story revolves around the impact of betting on cricket. In *Baaji*, Tahsan portrays the role of a cricketer, while Mithila portrays a journalist.

Chorki is expected to release the first seven episodes of the series during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

‘Padatik’ wins big at New York Indian Film Festival

After screenings at the London Indian Film Festival and the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), Srijit Mukherji’s *Padatik* has now won the Best Screenplay Award at the 2024 New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF).

Srijit posted the good news on social media, congratulating the team on this achievement. He also personally shared the news with Chanchal Chowdhury.

Chanchal Chowdhury told The Daily Star, “This is a big achievement for the film. We have worked really hard for this film, and when I heard the news, I was really happy.”



NEWS

Grameen Bank counsel sharpens barbs

FROM PAGE 12

the Packages Corporation Limited owners, including Prof Yunus, of taking financial benefits from Grameen Bank.

The two lawyers appeared before the media and made statements after Prof Yunus on Sunday commented that appearing in the iron cage in connection with a case is part of his cursed life.

Yesterday, Masud told reporters that when Prof Yunus was the managing director of Grameen Bank, he gave a loan to Packages Corporation Limited, owned by Prof Yunus and his family, and waived the interest of the loan in violation of the law.

He said Yunus Centre in an explanation presented “false information” about the establishment of Grameen Bank.

“A research project on microcredit was undertaken by Chattogram University under the leadership of Dr Muhammad Yunus in 1976 when he was a teacher at the economics department. The project was financed by the Chattogram University and it was participated by its students under the leadership of Dr Yunus.

“The agriculture ministry named the project as Grameen Bank Project and sent it to Bangladesh Bank. The government gave Tk 100 crore to the project for eliminating poverty in fiscal year 1978-1979. Dr Muhammad Yunus was appointed as a salaried project director. The project was turned into Grameen Bank in 1983 under the leadership of Prof Yunus,” Masud said.

Not a single word in the Grameen Bank’s complaint submitted to the ACC is fabricated, he said, adding,

“If the allegations are false and if he is innocent, let him prove it in court.”

Prof Yunus’s lawyer Abdullah-Al-Mamun denounced the accusations, saying a vested quarter is jealous of his client’s global outreach and popularity.

Prof Yunus has made great sacrifices for Grameen Bank, he said.

Replying to Masud’s accusation, he said the lawyer made the statement in such a manner as if Grameen Bank created Prof Yunus.

“It is as if the son was born before the father. The microcredit project created by Muhammad Yunus under the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983, was named as Grameen Bank Project. Prof Yunus applied to the government to turn the project into a complete bank. The government directed him to give all his properties and capital to Grameen Bank and accordingly he did everything under section 37(1) of the Grameen Bank,” he said.

At a press release earlier on May 30, Yunus Centre said the allegations that Prof Yunus and his family financially benefited from the loan given to Packages Corporation Limited is totally false.

The owners of Packages Corporation, including Prof Yunus and his family, offered to give the printing press for the use of Grameen Bank without any financial benefits, it said.

“The bilateral agreement signed between Grameen Bank and Packages Corporation makes it very clear that owners of Packages would not take any kind of financial benefits from Grameen Bank, such as, share of profit, rent on the land, building and machinery, any fee of any kind during the tenure of the management

contract with Grameen Bank,” said the press release.

It said the objective of Grameen Bank was to reduce the cost of printing materials of Grameen Bank, ensure quality printing and timely delivery of all printing materials. Owners just literally handed over the printing plant to Grameen Bank free of cost, it added.

“Packages Corporation received working capital loans from Grameen Bank through its donor-funded window called SVCF (Social Venture Capital Fund). This loan money cannot reach the owners of the Packages Corporation under the Agreement. And it did not.”

It said Grameen Bank’s price fixing committee used to work strictly on pricing. The price fixed by the committee was always much lower than the market price.

The release further said the total loan received by Packages Corporation over a period of 25 years was less than Tk 10 crore. These are internal financial transactions within Grameen Bank network of projects and companies. Any loan given to Packages has no way to reach the owners as per the agreement.

“It will remain within the Grameen Bank system – between Grameen Bank and its project, or a social business company designated by Grameen Bank.”

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Whatever arrangement Grameen Bank made with Packages Corporation, it was made by Grameen Bank authorities. In several board meetings of Grameen Bank, the issues related to the contract were discussed. The board enthusiastically cooperated in the implementation of the agreement, said the release.

Proteas thump SL

FROM PAGE 12

By contrast Sri Lanka’s score was their lowest total in all T20 cricket.

Kagiso Rabada (2-21) and left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj, who took two wickets in two balls on his way to 2-22, also struck after Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga won the toss.

Opener Kusal Mendis (19) and veteran all-rounder Angelo Mathews (16) were the only batsmen to pass 15.

Sri Lanka were bowled out with five balls to spare when last man Nuwan Thushara was run out for one of four ducks in the innings.

Fast bowler Ottneil Baartman, making his World Cup debut, started the collapse when, with his first ball, he had Pathum Nissanka caught in the deep before Nortje dismissed Kamindu Mendis in similar fashion.

Maharaj then struck twice in the ninth over as both Hasaranga, stumped by Quinton de Kock and Sadeera Samarawickrama, clean bowled by a quicker delivery, fell for nought to leave Sri Lanka 32-4 before Charith Asalanka survived the hat-trick ball.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Nortje, in the first match at a Long Island ground built specially for this tournament, returned to dismiss Mathews in his last over.

Benazir’s abuse of power

FROM PAGE 1

communities, the statement read.

To do this, Benazir used members of his own organisation and other government organisations.

Termining such abuse of power by the top-ranking officer of a law enforcement agency outrageous, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said, “Under such circumstances, there is no alternative to ensuring exemplary punishment of the accused and his aides, and fair compensation of those who were forced to sell their land.”

Citing media reports, he said Benazir, who is under investigation in connection with corruption, fled the country after withdrawing a large amount of money from banks.

Iftekharuzzaman said such a controversial person leaving the country with his family without anyone noticing raises suspicion that there might be people colluding with him and the graft investigation is just an eyewash.

He said, “It is evident that a section in power protected him before and is doing so now. Bring the former police chief to book will not be enough, his aides will also have to face the music.”

He mentioned that Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, also road transport and bridges

minister, said the government has the information of those involved in corruption.

Then how a high-ranking police official could indulge in such corruption, Iftekharuzzaman added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

Releasing the names of the corrupt and ensuring accountability is imperative to demonstrate the government’s commitment to zero tolerance against graft. Otherwise, the public perception of such commitments to be farcical will become true, the TIB executive director added.

642m voters cast ballots in election

FROM PAGE 12

results from votes cast in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Postal votes, which are paper ballots, are mostly cast by troops serving outside their home constituencies or officials away from home on election duty.

This year, postal votes were also offered to voters over 85 years of age and people with disabilities to allow them to vote from home.

Kumar said the majority of postal

votes would be counted before the completion of EVM vote counting and the process could not be changed at this stage of the election.

The INDIA alliance also urged the EC to ensure the “safe movement” of voting machines and their verification before and after the counting process, which Kumar said had been accepted.

Opposition parties have in the past accused the commission of bias in favour of BJP on issues such

as violations during the campaign - charges the EC denies - but have not challenged the counting process or election outcomes.

Some opposition leaders and watchdogs have also claimed, without evidence, that EVMs can be manipulated. The EC has rejected those accusations and courts have endorsed EVMs.

Kumar said one key learning for future elections would be to hold polls at least a month earlier to avoid extreme heat.

Kumar said one key learning for future elections would be to hold polls at least a month earlier to avoid extreme heat.



Palestinian sisters Samar and Sahar cry as they search for their missing mother Amira Al-Breim at the rubble of a house hit in an Israeli strike, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

More than half of Gaza structures damaged

Says UN after preliminary satellite data analysis

AFP, Geneva

Some 55 percent of all structures in the Gaza Strip have been destroyed, damaged or possibly damaged since the Israeli offensive began in the Palestinian territory eight months ago, according to preliminary satellite analysis by the UN.

The analysis showed more than 137,000 buildings affected, UNOSAT, the United Nations satellite analysis agency, said on X, formerly Twitter.

The estimate is based on a satellite image taken on May 3, and compared with images taken in May a year earlier, last September, and on October 15.

The fresh satellite image was also compared to images taken during several dates in November, then again during the first months of this year, UNOSAT said.

"According to satellite imagery analysis, UNOSAT identified 36,591 destroyed structures," the agency said in a statement.

In addition, it said it had seen "16,513 severely damaged structures, 47,368 moderately damaged structures, and 36,825 possibly damaged structures for a total of 137,297 structures".

The analysis showed more than 137,000 buildings affected: UNOSAT

"These correspond to around 55 percent of the total structures in the Gaza Strip and a total of 135,142 estimated damaged housing units," it said.

UNOSAT said the image comparisons showed the governorates of Deir Al Balah, in the centre, and Gaza, in the north, had suffered the worst damage between April 1 and May 3.

Comparing satellite images on those dates indicated that an additional 2,613 structures had been damaged in Deir Al-Balah, while another 2,368 had been damaged in Gaza governorate in just over a month.

Within Deir Al-Balah, the Nuseirat municipality suffered the greatest number of newly damaged structures during that period, at 1,216, UNOSAT said.

The agency stressed that the findings were still part of a preliminary analysis, which had yet to be validated in the field.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), has described images from Jabalia as horrific. Thousands of displaced people had no choice but to live amid the rubble and in destroyed UNRWA facilities, he said in a June 1 post on X.

More than 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive, according to Gaza health officials.



People inspect a damaged building amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces in Houla village near the border with Israel, southern Lebanon yesterday. Hezbollah said yesterday it had launched a squadron of drones towards the headquarters of the Israeli military's Galilee formation.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexico elects Sheinbaum as first woman president

REUTERS, Mexico City

Claudia Sheinbaum won a landslide victory to become Mexico's first female president, inheriting the project of her mentor and outgoing leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador whose popularity among the poor helped drive her triumph.

Sheinbaum, a climate scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, won the presidency with between 58.3 percent and 60.7 percent of the vote, according to a rapid sample count by Mexico's electoral authority. That is set to be the highest vote percentage in Mexico's democratic history.

The ruling coalition was also on track for a possible two-thirds super majority in both houses of Congress.

WAYANAD CONSTITUENCY IN INDIA

Exit poll predicts massive slump in Rahul's vote share

TNN, New Delhi

In a bitter-sweet prediction for India's Congress party, an exit poll carried out by the VMR-Manorama News has suggested a massive erosion in Rahul Gandhi's vote share in the recently-concluded election in Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency.

The exit poll has predicted a clean sweep by the United Democratic Front (UDF), which has an alliance with the Congress, in the Lok Sabha election in Kerala. It has predicted 16 seats for UDF and two seats for the LDF while it's neck and neck race in two seats.

The exit poll has predicted that if Rahul had secured 64 percent vote in 2019, his vote share will come down to 50 percent this time.

Interestingly, BJP will have to settle without any seat this time too as per the prediction. As per the exit poll, results in Alathur and Kannur could go either way. The exit poll has predicted BJP will come second in two constituencies Thiruvananthapuram and Pathanamthitta.

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi said "The INDIA Opposition bloc is hopeful that the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha election will be 'completely opposite' to exit poll predictions that have predicted another big victory for the BJP-led NDA."



Looking to apply for Italy work visa?

Follow the right visa application process



VFS Global is the only authorised service provider for Italian work visas in Bangladesh and continues to work with the Italy Embassy to make the visa application process smoother, despite the growing number of applications.



H.E. Antonio Alessandro
Ambassador
Embassy of Italy in Dhaka

We are proud to host the largest workforce from Bangladesh in continental Europe. While we promote legal migration, I wish to underline the importance of the visa application process. VFS Global (www.vfsglobal.com) is our only authorized external service provider. Please beware of fraudulent entities charging fees for scheduling appointments. Appointments are free and available through the prescribed channel communicated by VFS and the Embassy.

Applicants using forged documents and counterfeit working permits must be aware that their application will be rejected. Their behaviour affects our decision-making timelines for genuine applicants. Those who pay illegal brokers will not get the visa and should hold the broker accountable for that. Unethical recruitment must stop as it should have no place in Bangladesh-Italy migration.

Do take a note of these pointers to save yourselves from fraudulent entities trying to trick visa applicants into giving money or sharing personal information:

- 01 VFS Global does not sell visa appointments.
- 02 VFS Global has no role or influence on the decision of your visa application.
- 03 VFS Global does not work in association with any third-party entities.
- 04 www.vfsglobal.com is the only official website for visa appointment booking.
- 05 VFS Global never asks you to share your personal information on social media, emails, SMS, or calls.
- 06 VFS Global is neither involved in job placement nor immigration-related services.

To assist you, VFS Global operates visa application centres in 3 cities across Bangladesh: Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet.

For any queries, or for assistance with your application, please contact:

Email: info.itbd@vfshelpline.com

Helpline: (+88) 09606 777666, and (+88) 09666 911384

Website: <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/bgd/en/ita/contact-us>

VFS.GLOBAL The world's largest outsourcing & technology services specialist for governments and diplomatic missions worldwide

22 Years Since Inception	67 Client Governments	151 Countries of Operation	3,415 Application Centres	Over 287,000 Applications Processed	Over 135,000 Biometric Enrollments	Over 12,500 Employees	131 Nationalities	Caes
-----------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------	------

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

No end in sight to custodial deaths

Strict measures needed to ensure police accountability

We are outraged to learn of yet another case of custodial death in the country. This time, the victim is a 40-year-old woman from Abhaynagar upazila in Jashore. Her family alleges that local police implicated her in a false drug case and brutally tortured her, leading to her death. Police, however, claim that they detained her for illicit drug possession and deny the allegations of torture. Regardless of who is right, the fact remains that a person died in police custody, and it is a grievous blow to law enforcement that cannot be taken lightly.

According to a report by this daily, a team of Abhaynagar police led by Assistant Sub-Inspector Silon Ali detained the victim, Afroza Begum, right outside her house in the early hours of Sunday. Her ninth-grader son said he saw his mother being searched by a female constable, who found nothing. Then ASI Silon started torturing Afroza before police took her away at around 1am. Her elder son also said police had demanded Tk 2 lakh for her release. The Abhaynagar OC, however, claimed that police had found 30 yaba pills on Afroza, and later a case was filed against her.

Besides the allegations of torture and falsifying evidence, there seems to be a case of neglect in addressing Afroza's medical needs as well. Her elder son said they found her in a bad condition when they visited her at the police station in the morning. Police apparently took her to the upazila health complex, but brought her back without running the tests recommended. Hours later, when Afroza's condition deteriorated, police again took her to the upazila complex, and then to Jashore General Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Unsurprisingly, police are denying any responsibility, saying the victim's family is making false accusations.

But what possible reason could there be for the family to do so? Equally importantly, will there be a fair investigation to get to the bottom of the incident? Over the years, we saw how such cases were often followed by perfunctory probes that hardly brought any satisfactory results. What happened to the young man who allegedly died by suicide in police custody in Habiganj in December last year? What happened to the Jubo Dal leader in Thakurgaon who died hours after being detained by police in April? The glaring holes in the case of Sultana Jasmine, who died in Rab's custody in March last year, also raised a lot of questions.

We keep asking these questions but there are seldom any satisfactory answers. Convictions in such cases are even rarer. Clearly, there is a lack of accountability pervading our law enforcement forces and institutions, which is totally unacceptable. Custodial torture—whether resulting in deaths or not—is a betrayal of public trust, and it must not be tolerated. We demand a proper investigation into the death of Afroza Begum and all such cases by an impartial and independent body.

Insane prices taking food off the plate

Govt must bring down prices of essentials

It is vital to ask—and seek a solution to—why and for how long local consumers will have to spend more on food compared to those in comparable countries. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has recently said that prices of essentials here have surged to such an extent that for many they have become luxury items. We cannot agree more. In 16 countries where GDP per capita is higher than that of Bangladesh, consumers are spending less on food, according to the CPD. The list includes Brazil and Colombia, where the average annual expenditure on food per person in 2022 was \$882 and \$874, respectively, compared to \$924 in Bangladesh. There are also the sanction-hit Iran, war-ravaged Iraq, and crisis-ridden Sri Lanka, among other countries.

If Bangladesh is doing so well economically—as politicians often like to claim—why is it that people are having to spend so much more on food than in countries that are going through serious difficulties and upheavals? In fact, Bangladesh has been experiencing higher inflation for nearly two years now, exceeding inflation rates in many developed and developing economies. And the burden of it has been disproportionately shared by poor and low-income households.

Having analysed the daily prices of 34 essential food items in Dhaka from January 1, 2019 to May 19, 2024, the CPD found that price increases ranged between 10 percent and 310 percent. For example, the price of coarse rice, consumed mostly by the poor, has increased by 30 percent. Similarly, the price of lentils has gone up by as much as 95 percent since January 2019. Prices of unprocessed and processed flour have been going up in Dhaka since before the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war. And all types of soybean oils are pricier in Dhaka's market compared to the international market. The huge difference in these prices and others does not make any sense, with the CPD rightly calling on the government to investigate the alleged involvement of big importers and business groups in price gouging.

We strongly second that call. As we have been repeating in this column, the government must find out why domestic prices are not decreasing in line with pricing trends on the international market, and take effective steps to check inflation. The people—particularly the poor—can no longer afford for it to fail in that regard.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Dunkirk evacuation ends

On this day in 1940, following a massive rescue effort that included civilian boats, the withdrawal of Allied troops trapped at Dunkirk, France, was completed on this day during World War II; more than 300,000 soldiers were saved.

Break the syndicates, not the dreams of migrants



Kallol Mustafa
is an engineer and writer who focuses on power, energy, environment and development economics. He can be reached at kallol_mustafa@yahoo.com

KALLOL MUSTAFA

Thousands of Bangladeshi workers have been unable to go to Malaysia because they did not get a plane ticket even after completing all the procedures, including obtaining a visa by spending several times more than the prescribed fee. On Friday, several hundred workers waited for hours at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to catch flights, but most of them could not do so.

In fact, no reliable information is available on the exact number of workers who failed to go to Malaysia. According to an estimate of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), this number is 5,953. Bangladesh government's Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) says that this number is 31,000. And according to the information of the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, this number is about 55,000.

The Malaysian government had earlier announced on March 21 that the labour market for migrant workers will be closed on May 31. This means that the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and Baira had 70 days to make arrangements for aspirant migrant workers to go to Malaysia. But having not taken proper initiative in time, thousands of workers could not finish this journey. Due to the flight crisis, those who were able to go had to pay several times the actual airfare. Fares increased from Tk 20,000-25,000 to more than Tk 100,000.

The government does not have to spend money to send workers abroad. The workers arrange the money by themselves, often by taking loans or selling property, or by contacting brokers, and then through hard work, they send US dollars back to the country. Thus, the government enjoys the hard-earned dollars of these migrant workers at almost no cost. In return, the minimum obligation of the government should be to ensure that these workers can go and work abroad for a fixed fee without being harassed. But it appears that the government is not interested in taking even these minimal responsibilities, as a result of which thousands of workers are being cheated and exploited by local and foreign interest groups, including

recruiting agencies.

According to a memorandum of understanding signed between Bangladesh and Malaysia in December, 2021, a Bangladeshi worker who wants to travel to Malaysia and work there would need to spend no more than Tk 78,990 for the passport, health check-up, registration, welfare, insurance, identity card, clothing, and recruitment agency fees. Malaysian employers were supposed to pay for



On Friday, several hundred workers waited for hours at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to catch flights, but most of them could not do so.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

the plane ticket and visa.

In practice, as reported by *The Daily Star*, a syndicate of 100 Bangladeshi recruiting agencies holds monopoly control over sending workers to Malaysia, and this has increased the cost for aspirant migrant workers. If any agency wants to send workers to Malaysia, it has to send them through this syndicate. Recruiting agencies have to pay huge sums of money to syndicate leaders to become members of the syndicate. The agencies, in turn, recoup that money from migrant workers.

The agencies that are part of the syndicate get a huge amount as "syndicate fee" against each worker, and a part of this money goes to those controlling the Malaysian syndicate. Even though the looting of migrant workers in this way is an open secret, there has been no initiative from the

government to break this syndicate.

And why would it take any initiative?

According to a report by *Prothom Alo*, several Bangladeshi parliamentarians and their relatives, along with some political leaders of the ruling party, are part of this syndicate. Notables among the members of the syndicate are Awami League MP (Feni-2) Nizam Uddin Hazari's Snigdha Overseas Limited; Jatiya Party MP (Feni-3) Masud Uddin Chowdhury's 5M International; Ahmed International of Dhaka-20 MP Benjir Ahmed; Orbitals Enterprise of Kashmeri Kamal, wife of former finance minister and current MP for Comilla-10, AHM Mustafa Kamal, and Orbitals International of Nafisa Kamal, AHM Mustafa Kamal's daughter.

On one hand, the workers are forced to go to Malaysia by spending several times more money due to the monopoly of the syndicate which exists

experts held some high-level officials in both governments responsible for this situation and called for an immediate end to this exploitation.

It is noteworthy that, although the UN issued a statement on the plight of Bangladeshi migrant workers in Malaysia, no action was taken by the Bangladeshi government—the principal beneficiary of the remittances

These syndicates should no longer be tolerated. Recruiting agencies engaged in fraudulent practices in sending workers abroad should be stopped immediately.

sent by the migrant workers—to address the sufferings of the workers.

Malaysia has long been an attractive destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers. Although the government beats the drum of economic development, the reality is that there is a dire shortage of good wage employment in the country. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' "Labour Force Survey-2022," a Bangladeshi migrant worker earns Tk 28,822 a month in Malaysia on average compared to Tk 24,957 in Saudi Arabia, making Malaysia more attractive for Bangladeshi workers compared to traditional markets in the Gulf.

However, the Bangladesh-Malaysia migration has been marred by irregularities and exploitation in the past, which has prompted Malaysia to shut its door on Bangladeshi workers on multiple occasions. According to a *Prothom Alo* report, Malaysia's labour market was closed in 2009 due to allegations of irregularities in sending workers by creating syndicates. Then the market opened at the end of 2016, and was closed again from September 2018 due to allegations of syndication, corruption and irregularities. After four years of closure, the Malaysian labour market reopened for Bangladeshis in 2022. The syndicate was created once more. It is in this context that Malaysia announced that it will no longer take workers from some countries, including Bangladesh.

These syndicates should no longer be tolerated. Recruiting agencies engaged in fraudulent practices in sending workers abroad should be stopped immediately. The workers who could not go to Malaysia even after paying several times more money this time should be compensated properly and the recruiting agencies and relevant government authorities should be made accountable.

Inequity in education is holding us back



EDUCATING EDUCATION

Dr Rubaiya Murshed
is lecturer (on study leave), Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, and recent PhD from the University of Cambridge.

RUBAIYA MURSHED

They called him *boigyanik* (scientist) Gias. He was the son of an honest hardworking farmer growing up in a small village in Cox's Bazar—salt-farms and paddy fields all around, with the sea just 35 kilometers away. He was the eldest of eight siblings, and his thirst for knowledge was unmatched. He was interested in science. It was the early 80s, and a young boy in a village school had little resources to satisfy his yearning to learn. The teachers couldn't do much either. The boy learned the harsh lesson that having an immense curiosity and passion for knowing wasn't enough. Still relentless, he opened a science club in his village.

That little boy, whom I later got to know as my eldest brother-in-law, never got the opportunity to learn science like I did living in Dhaka. I imagine countless more children like him, growing up across rural areas in Bangladesh. I wonder how many of them dream of someday becoming scientists, writers, professors, doctors, or engineers. With sadness, I then wonder, how many of their dreams will be broken soon because we have not been able to ascertain equity in our educational provisions.

Inequality and inequity remain harsh realities in Bangladesh. The

truth is that talent in Bangladesh is in no way limited to the mega cities like Dhaka, but opportunities, in many instances, are limited. If we are to truly ever graduate from our lower-middle income status, we need to first and foremost channel our efforts towards increasing access to the same standard of education across rural and urban areas by investing in education in our villages. We need to support children from poorer socio-economic backgrounds and marginalised populations.

It's not that children from these backgrounds don't shine. The point is that not enough get the support they need and those who do make it to the other side are exceptions, not examples. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but the reality is that not everyone has that support, and this is where we need to play a role through education. We need to determine what helps children to achieve intergenerational mobility, that is, what helps them to move beyond the struggles their parents faced.

We also need to be careful of the inherent bias and elitism in our ideas. We think and say things like "Not everyone should go to university, not everyone needs a Masters" without assuring that anyone and everyone

can if they want to. Yes, it doesn't make sense for scores of students to go for a Masters or PhDs if they're ultimately not going into academia, but this thought is biased until we can assure that anyone and everyone—regardless of their background—can pursue these paths if they want to. Otherwise, it's just another elite filtering where the privilege of being born in a city

It's not that children from these backgrounds don't shine. The point is that not enough get the support they need and those who do make it to the other side are exceptions, not examples.

or into a stronger socio-economic background with more exposure to networks and connections plays a dominant role.

Privilege is power but it's a responsibility too. This is where it gets tricky. Privilege shouldn't lead to entitlement. However, it is also unjust if every achievement of someone privileged is labelled to be a result of their background, hence belittling the person's own talent or hard work. Yes, privilege plays an important role in the person being able to leverage their talent but we must remember that not all privileged make a difference in the world. Just like not everyone with privilege gives proper credit to their fortune, to how it helped. Of course, there are also those who use their

privilege and connections unethically to achieve their goals, often not even realising that they are robbing someone else's rightful place to make space for themselves. These wrongful practices are, sadly, rampant and evident all around us. No, this is not privilege—it's the misuse of privilege. There's a difference.

Equity is an attempt to make the playing field as equal as possible. This is why many educationists abroad have also been contending for "weighted grades" in assessing students so that we can account for socio-economic background factors. To this effect, demanding adjustments to the quota system at the university level and beyond, as argued by our youth who took to the streets in 2018, is a rightful demand.

Quotas are meant to bring balance and we have several quotas that are arguably unnecessary. For instance, quotas for children of university faculty members. These children already have the intergenerational advantage of growing up in homes where their parents are teachers. This quota is often even harmful because the children of faculty members face prejudice if they end up, on their own merit and without quota, as faculty members—they rarely escape conjectures that they didn't earn their place. Instead, we need quotas for children of farmers from rural villages, for bright enthusiastic children from families where they would be the first to go to university. Our classrooms need this variation. We can only truly prosper if we prosper together and so, we need to ascertain the representation of voices from all walks of life. What's stopping us?

Why recognising unpaid care work is important



Shaheen Anam is the executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

SHAHEEN ANAM

On April 23, 2023, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in an Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting, instructed the Planning Commission to find a way to include the work that women perform within the household, commonly referred to as “unpaid care work,” into the calculation of the GDP. This instruction speaks of her commitment towards gender equality and appreciation towards the contribution of women for their labour, irrespective of whether they get paid or not.

What is unpaid care work? It is the work that women perform at home, behind closed doors, which remains mostly unseen and invisible. Their work is considered household work, something that women are “supposed to be doing.” However, this work is productive as well as reproductive, and critical to the wellbeing of the family and society. Apart from taking care of children and the elderly, cooking, cleaning, washing, and fetching water, women are involved in economically productive activities such as looking after poultry, livestock, preservation of seeds, and other agricultural work.

The primary reason to recognise this work comes from the concept of “dignity of labour,” and for families to realise the importance of this work and accord it the respect that it deserves. Women, by and large, are responsible for the health, hygiene, food security and over all wellbeing of the family. Making their work visible and giving it formal recognition will raise their status as families will become aware of their contribution, and there is hope that it will result in reduction of discrimination, domestic violence, and early marriage. There is a possibility that formal recognition will have an impact in elevating women’s position in the family.

The progress of women in Bangladesh is a well-recognised fact today. Thousands of women have attained a level of social, political and economic empowerment. However, not being a homogenous group, this progress has not benefited all women equally. Differences in



VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

class, ethnicity, education, income and physical features has determined their level of empowerment. Although our aspiration is to have all women get an education, acquire skills, and become part of the labour force, the reality is that millions of married rural women will not seek jobs outside their homes. They will work within their households and carry out unpaid care work, or at best get involved in home-based enterprise.

For years, economists have argued that unpaid care work cannot be included in the GDP as it is out of the System of National Accounts (SNA), because their product is not in the “market.” Remaining out of the

SNA means such contribution remains economically invisible. However, advocates for recognition of unpaid care work have launched campaigns and research which has resulted in a number of positive initiatives from government and NGOs.

A number of important studies related to unpaid care work have been carried out in the last few years. Manusher Jonno Foundation commissioned the Centre for Policy Dialogue

would be around Tk 15,000.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics carried out a Time-Use Survey with support from UN Women to gather evidence of women’s work. The survey revealed that women on average spend seven times more time on care work than men. It also revealed that women use about 25 percent of their daily time on unpaid care work including cooking, cleaning, washing, and taking

is not accorded the importance and dignity it deserves, “care crisis” will continue as it remains firmly in the “informal” economy. Feminist economists have long argued that productive work that is not accounted for in Systems of National Accounts, nor as part of the GDP of a country, is invisible work.

Evidence from studies above and across the globe shows how gendered care work still is. As per research conducted by Oxfam International in 2020, women carry out 76.2 percent of global unpaid care work, dedicating 3.2 times the hours that men do, totalling 12.5 billion hours every day. The researchers estimated that the annual monetary value of women’s unpaid care at a conservative \$10.8 trillion, which is three times of what Microsoft, the world’s biggest company, is worth.

Valuation of care work is necessary to give recognition to the contributions of family caregivers. It also provides means to compare the private contributions of family caregivers with public expenditures on care, and the ways in which contributions are counted and valued. Additionally, it demonstrates how unequal these contributions are. It makes family care work visible and brings to light the inequality in men’s work compared to women’s work.

Given the evidence we now have, there should be no obstacle to take concrete steps towards formal recognition of unpaid care work and its inclusion in the GDP. Researchers have come up with a formula using the replacement method to evaluate and count its monetary value. The Satellite Accounts System has been used in a number of countries across the world successfully as a parallel GDP. This will bring to public and private attention the contribution of women to the family and society and create a positive image about them.

Development plans of government must include care work as an integral part of the care economy and allocate resources accordingly. Gender Responsive Budgeting is a positive step towards women’s economic empowerment. However, much more policy support is required to reduce women’s care work burden to give them options and choices for decent employment or to be homemakers. The 4 R’s commonly used by advocates—Reduce, Recognise, Redistribute and Reward—is a pathway towards women’s social and economic empowerment.

It is time to make women’s work in all its dimensions visible, valued and accorded the respect it deserves.

(CPD) in 2013 to undertake a study titled “Evaluation of Women’s Work” with a sample size of 13,000 women. The study revealed that on average, a female member of a household undertakes 12.1 non SNA activities, the corresponding figure is only 2.7 for a male member. However, the most stunning finding of the study was that if women’s unpaid work were to be monetised, it would amount to 2.5 or 2.9 times higher than the income of women received from paid services. For example, if a woman received remuneration of Tk 5,000 per month for her work in a garments factory, the corresponding amount for a woman’s unpaid work, if monetised,

care of children and the elderly, etc. On the contrary, their male counterparts only spend 3.3 percent of their daily time on such tasks. It was also found that the workload of women increases by over 151 percent with marriage, but for men, the percentage is 78 percent.

A more recent study conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) reveals that women’s unpaid care work, if calculated, was worth Tk 5.3 trillion, which is equivalent to almost 15 percent of the GDP. According to the study, women get only 1.2 hours for paid employment while men get 6.1 hours.

Researchers argue that as long as care work

Taking our startup ecosystem to the next level



Waseem Alim is a co-founder of Chaldal.

WASEEM ALIM

The role of startups in driving economic growth and societal change is undisputed in developed economies—Apple, Facebook, Tesla were all once startups. Startups are vehicles through which people come together to develop a scalable innovation. While the world is adopting self-driving cars and AI assistants, Bangladeshis seem skeptical about the prospects of these ventures.

This is starkly visible in investments in local startups. In 2023, Bangladeshi startups secured \$73 million, with 71.18 percent coming from foreigners, while India received over \$11 billion. Before analysing this gap, it’s important to understand why startups need investment in the first place.

Startups in Bangladesh are applying new technologies to add efficiency to age-old processes—from reducing fuel imports, fighting climate change to cutting food waste and improving healthcare. The startups working on education have made it easier for students in remote villages to access quality coaching through internet-enabled phones. By streamlining payments, bKash has accelerated the flow of commerce and added significant value to the life of every Bangladeshi.

These breakthroughs require dedication from some of our smartest citizens. Startups also need to collect data and run experiments to fine-tune their ideas, which require investment with no guaranteed success. Entrepreneurs must recruit talented individuals and take on the risk of building these systems, some of which can take a long time and many smart people.

The mechanism of startup investments, successful globally, differs from investing in established

businesses. Startup ecosystems drive economic progress, but individual startups are high-risk, high-reward bets, unlike bonds or real estate. It is easier to gauge a building’s progress than a startup’s technology. Venture capitalists (VC) specialise in evaluating these businesses and estimating their success probability, but the Bangladeshi VC sector is just getting started.

Bangladeshi entrust banks with nearly all the country’s capital, and the banking sector prefers lending to traditional businesses over investing in startups or VC funds. This terrible capital allocation strategy leads to many non-performing loans. The value of collateral depends on the country’s economic prospects, which in the 21st century is driven by technology—the top-performing companies of the last decade have been tech firms. Our banking sector is living in the past.

In the past two years, the forex crisis and election uncertainty have severely impacted late-stage funding in Bangladesh. Top companies are starving for capital as their strategy depended on an evolving ecosystem. Since foreign VCs have shied away due to country concerns, so have local investors. The lack of late-stage activity will eventually hurt early-stage companies and restrain the ecosystem from flourishing.

If we truly commit to SMART Bangladesh and believe the startup ecosystem can transform the economy, we need a coordinated effort from different actors. One impactful government initiative has been Startup Bangladesh, which has mobilised youth and driven local funding. However, we risk losing momentum if others don’t act urgently.

“Exits” have been instrumental in galvanising local investments in other countries. For any investor, a key consideration is how they will eventually sell-out of their investment. For example, the sale of Skype to Microsoft in 2011, Estonia’s first exit, created a chain reaction that led to one of the fastest-growing GDPs in history. Since then, Estonia, a country with less population than Mirpur, has produced a dozen unicorns and at least two decacorns—companies valued at over \$10 billion each.

The lack of exits is holding back Bangladesh. Unlike in the valley, where successes like Uber or OpenAI created thousands of millionaires, the success of bKash has not yet unleashed the funding landscape here. We are left in a chicken-egg limbo where startups cannot scale due to lack of capital, and capital avoids the ecosystem because of lack of role models and exit opportunities.

Exits happen in two forms: (i) sale of the company or (ii) listing the company in a public stock exchange or IPO, both of which return money to early investors. In Bangladesh, the number of purchasers is limited for now, but our consumer-driven economy is bound to make Bangladeshi startups attractive acquisition targets for international giants. Nevertheless, sale of the company is suboptimal. Yahoo had offered to buy Facebook in 2006 for \$1 billion—had Mr Zuckerberg accepted, he would not have created the \$1.2 trillion in value for his shareholders. Creating that kind of value requires pursuing an IPO and a courageous, almost fanatical, commitment to the vision.

Bangladesh Bank was visionary in establishing a fund for startup loans in 2021, but it has not had the desired impact since the banking sector did not pursue it aggressively. The central bank needs to create guidelines allowing banks to participate in the “upside” of startup investments, achievable through the use of warrants, which are common in the global venture debt industry. Powerful incentives such as reduced repo rates or lower forex purchase rates should also be linked to startup investment quotas.

The number of investments by SEC-licensed VCs has also been negligible, and there is a talent gap among these investors. The prospects are improving as there are many early-stage startups now. The skill shortage should be addressed by attracting international talent and providing training to high-potential candidates. The VCs need to collaborate with international agencies since a lot of impact funds are being mobilised for startups. Regulatory bodies need to act as catalysts and move faster. If the target is to drive \$1 billion in startup investments per year, the government

should contribute 20 percent.

The issue of IPOs must be addressed because without exits, it will be impossible to maintain motivation across the value chain. Bangladesh needs to send a clear message that we are self-sufficient for late-stage funding. India, Indonesia and China have been aggressive in creating new rules for startup listings and it is time that we took a similar stance. Increasing the strength of the local funding environment will automatically attract more foreign investors.

Finally, the startup ecosystem members need to collaborate

vigorously. Founders should realise that macro and policy matters must align to unleash the ecosystem. Mentorship and policy advocacy have to become part of the Bangladeshi founder DNA.

The startup ecosystem has developed almost organically so far. To reach the next level, it requires a coordinated master plan. Success hinges on collective act of courage from capital allocators, regulators, and founders to enact a uniquely transformative story that makes Bangladesh a beacon of technological and entrepreneurial success.

SYLHET CITY CORPORATION
Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet.
www.scc.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মুদ্রানীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No: 46.07.0000.018.99.025.19.1903 Date: 02/06/2024

e-Tender Notice-25/2023-24

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.	
2.	Agency:	Sylhet City Corporation.	
3.	Budget and source of Funds :	Local Government COVID-19 Response and Recovery Project, Sylhet City Corporation financed by World Bank.	
Tender ID No		Name of the work	Last Date of Tender Submission
994789 (OTM)		(1) Upgrading of RCC Road at Chandi Point to Fokirpara Mosjid, Ch. 00-528m. (2) Upgrading of RCC Road at Burhan Udden Road to Poshim Murad Pur (Purbo Muktirchok), Ch. 00-610m	27/06/2024
994801 (OTM)		Upgrading of RCC Road at Srirampur Front Road, Ch. 00-750m.	27/06/2024
994819 (OTM)		Installation of Energy Efficient Street Lighting System for Ward no 28-42 (15 wards).	04/07/2024
4.	Name, Designation & Address of PE	Engr. Md. Ali Akbar Superintending Engineer Sylhet City Corporation. +8802 9966 40486	
5.	This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the web site: www.eprocure.gov.bd		
6.	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.		
7.	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)		

GD-924 Superintending Engineer
Sylhet City Corporation.



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

Why tech workers must reskill, upskill in the age of AI

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) across various sectors is not just a trend but a transformative force reshaping the future of work in the modern world. In this rapidly evolving technological landscape, the need for reskilling and upskilling has become paramount. As AI continues to advance, it is essential for tech workers to embrace continuous learning to remain relevant and competitive.

ZARIF FAIAZ

The AI-driven transformation of the job market

AI is revolutionising the job market by automating routine tasks and creating new opportunities that require advanced skills. According to the World Economic Forum, by 2025, 85 million jobs may be displaced due to the shift in labour division between humans and machines.

However, this same transition is expected to generate 97 million new roles that are better suited to the evolving landscape. These new roles will demand a workforce proficient in AI, machine learning, data analysis, and other emerging technologies.

The necessity of reskilling

Reskilling involves learning new skills to transition into different job roles, which is crucial as AI takes over more traditional tasks. For instance, customer service roles are increasingly augmented by AI tools that handle initial queries, necessitating workers to learn how to manage AI systems and address complex issues that require human intervention.

Similarly, in financial services, employees are now required to understand and leverage AI to make better investment decisions, as highlighted by an IBM report stating that nearly 70% of financial services leaders believe significant upskilling is necessary in 2024.

The importance of upskilling

Upskilling, on the other hand, enhances existing skills to improve performance in current roles. This is particularly important as AI tools become integral to daily operations.

A study by MIT found that workers using

AI tools like ChatGPT reported a 37% increase in productivity, demonstrating how AI can significantly augment human capabilities. In healthcare, for example, professionals are using AI to speed up medical diagnoses, allowing them to focus more on patient care and complex decision-making.

Bridging the skills gap

The rapid advancement of AI has exposed a significant skills gap in the workforce. Many organisations struggle to implement AI effectively due to a lack of skilled personnel. According to a survey by Boston Consulting Group, 66% of executives are dissatisfied with their progress in scaling AI initiatives, primarily due to this skills gap. Addressing this gap requires comprehensive training programs that focus on both reskilling and upskilling.

Benefits for individuals and organisations

For individuals, reskilling and upskilling offer several advantages. Workers equipped with the latest skills are less likely to be displaced by automation and are more likely to be hired and promoted, leading to higher job security and career advancement opportunities. Engaged employees who are continuously learning and growing tend to have higher job satisfaction and morale. Additionally, workers with new or enhanced skills can command higher salaries and have access to better job opportunities due to their broader range of expertise.

For organisations, having a skilled workforce enhances productivity and innovation. Skilled workers are more efficient and can leverage AI to drive innovation, which is crucial for maintaining a competitive edge in the market.

Furthermore, organisations that invest in their employees' development tend to have higher retention rates. The LinkedIn

Workplace Learning Report found that opportunities for learning and development significantly influence job satisfaction and retention. By providing targeted training programs, organisations can bridge the skills gap, ensuring they have the necessary talent to implement and scale AI effectively.

Fostering a culture of continuous learning

Creating a culture of continuous learning is vital in an AI-driven world. This involves not only providing formal training but also encouraging on-the-job learning and mentorship. AI itself can play a role in this by offering personalised learning experiences and identifying skill gaps through data analysis. For example, AI can create customised training programs tailored to an individual's role and career aspirations, enhancing the learning experience and effectiveness.

Social and economic implications

The benefits of reskilling and upskilling extend beyond individual and organisational gains to broader social and economic impacts. The World Economic Forum's initiative to prepare one billion people for tomorrow's economy by 2030 highlights the global urgency of this issue. By equipping the workforce with the necessary skills, we can ensure inclusive growth and mitigate the risks of technological unemployment.

The imperative for tech workers to reskill and upskill in the age of AI is undeniable. As AI continues to transform the job market, staying ahead of the curve through continuous learning is essential. Embracing this change and investing in skill development will enable both individuals and organisations to thrive in the dynamic landscape shaped by AI.

Top tips for data protection in the workplace

In today's digital age, safeguarding personal data at the workplace is more crucial than ever. With the increasing threat of cyberattacks and stringent data protection regulations, businesses must adopt comprehensive measures to protect sensitive information. Here are some top tips to enhance data protection in your organisation.

Secure data storage

Data breaches can be costly and damaging, but proper data handling and storage can mitigate these risks. The average cost of a data breach in 2021 was \$4.24 million, according to IBM's Cost of a Data Breach Report.

Ensuring that all personal data is stored securely is a fundamental step in data protection. Simple measures such as locking physical documents in cabinets and using strong passwords for digital files can significantly reduce the risk of unauthorised access. For highly sensitive information, additional steps such as encryption should be taken.

Implement a clear desk policy

A clear desk policy minimises the risk of sensitive information being left unattended. This policy requires employees to store paperwork, notes, and other documents securely when not in use. It prevents unauthorised access and fosters a culture of organisation and responsibility. For instance, leaving sensitive documents on desks can lead to data leaks, especially in shared office spaces.

Develop a remote/hybrid working policy

With the rise of remote and hybrid

work, it is essential to have a clear policy on handling personal data off-site. This includes using two-factor authentication for accessing company systems and ensuring that personal devices used for work are secure.

The trend of remote work has seen a significant increase, with a 2020 Gartner survey revealing that 82% of company leaders worldwide plan to allow employees to work remotely some of the time. Securing mobile devices and educating staff on the proper handling of data when working remotely is essential.

Regular data backups

According to the Data Protection Benchmark Study by Veeam, 58% of organisations face significant data loss issues due to inadequate backups.

Regularly backing up your data to secure locations is crucial. This ensures that, in the event of a cyberattack, fire, or flood, you can still access critical information. Both physical and cloud-based backup solutions should be considered to provide redundancy and quick recovery options.

Limit access to data

Not all employees need access to all data. Implementing role-based access controls ensures that only authorised



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

personnel can access sensitive information. This reduces the risk of internal data breaches and helps maintain data integrity. Categorising data and limiting administrative privileges are effective ways to enhance data security. For instance, the 2018 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report found that 34% of data breaches involved internal actors.

Employee training

Data protection is everyone's

responsibility. Regular training sessions can help employees understand the importance of data security and the best practices to follow. This can significantly reduce the risk of accidental breaches and ensure that all staff are aware of their roles in maintaining data protection.

Use encryption

Encrypting sensitive data both in transit and at rest adds an extra layer of security, making it difficult for

unauthorised users to access the information. Encryption is particularly important for protecting high-value data and is a key component of a comprehensive data protection strategy.

Monitor and update security measures

Cyber threats are constantly evolving, so it is vital to keep your security systems up to date. The Equifax breach, which affected over 143 million people, highlights the importance of timely updates and proactive security measures. According to a 2021 report by Check Point Research, cyberattacks increased by 50% year over year, underscoring the need for continuous vigilance. Regularly reviewing and updating your data protection plan helps address new vulnerabilities and threats.

By implementing these best practices, organisations can significantly enhance their data protection measures, ensuring compliance with regulations and safeguarding against potential breaches. A proactive approach to data security not only protects your organisation but also builds trust with clients and employees.

JOBS SPOTLIGHT



MetLife Bangladesh
Digital Support Associate

Deadline: June 6

Eligibility:

• Bachelors/Masters degree from any reputed university.

Minimum experience: 2 years

BRAC

Deputy
Manager,
Events and
Design



Deadline: June 8

Eligibility:

• Graduate degree preferably in Social Science, Fine Arts, Graphics Design, Film & Media, or a related field.

Minimum experience: 4 years

International Rescue Committee

Manager, Ethics and Compliance



Deadline: June 5

Eligibility:

• Bachelor's degree in Finance/Law/Management.

Minimum experience: 2-5 years

British Council

Administrative
Officer



Deadline: June 6

Eligibility:

• A degree or diploma in Business Administration, Management, Office Administration, or a related field.

Minimum experience: 5 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



QUOTE OF THE DAY



"The most important investment you can make is in yourself."

WARREN BUFFETT

It is the biggest achievement in my life because I never thought I would bid farewell to the game in such a majestic way.

Bangladesh raider
Arduzzaman Munshi

We had done a one-hour study on how to play and how to catch Ghanshyam (Roka Magar). We succeeded as we did not allow Ghanshyam to perform.

Bangladesh catcher
Roman Hussain

We had the best defenders – Ziaur Rahman and Roman Hussain – who successfully caught their best raider [Ghanshyam Roka Magar] on most occasions. I was happy with the performance of the boys throughout the tournament since we could not display such consistent performances in previous three editions.

Bangladesh coach
Abdul Jalil



Bangladesh captain Arduzzaman Munshi carries a flag on the back of a teammate following the hosts' 45-31 points victory against Nepal in the final of the Bangabandhu International Kabaddi Tournament at the Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was a bittersweet occasion for the 38-year-old Munshi, who called time on his 15-year international career with a player of the final performance, which helped Bangladesh win the title for the fourth consecutive time.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

RECORD \$11.25M ON OFFER AT T20 WC

- International Cricket Council (ICC) have announced a record-breaking prize fund of \$11.25 million USD for the Men's T20 World Cup 2024.
- The winners will receive the highest amount (at least \$2.45 million) in the tournament's history.
- The runners-up will earn at least \$1.28 million, while the losing semi-finalists will take home \$787,500 each.
- Teams that do not advance past the second round will receive \$382,500 each, and those finishing between ninth and 12th place will get \$247,500 each.
- Teams ranking from 13th to 20th place will each earn \$225,000. Additionally, every team will receive an extra \$31,154 for each match won, excluding the semifinals and finals.



Nepal to host SAFF Women's C'hip 2024

SPORTS REPORTER

Nepal was declared hosts for the 7th SAFF Women's Championship yesterday, which is scheduled to be held on October 17-30 later this year.

This will be the Himalayan nation's third time hosting the tournament and they were chosen over Bangladesh, the defending champions, and Bhutan, who were also in contention.

"Considering everything, Nepal was the more suitable option. That's why we chose Nepal," said SAFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal adding that Bangladesh were not considered due to the unavailability of their main venue - Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) women's committee chairman Mahfuza Akhter Kiron also gave the same reasoning for not getting the tournament's hosting rights.

"When we bid for the SAFF Women's Championship, we had the BNS in mind. But the venue's renovation is not yet complete and SAFF didn't want to take the tournament outside Dhaka due to expenditure, so we were not considered," said Kiron.

Helal also said, "SAFF is not comfortable hosting matches at Bashundhara Kings Arena due to the lack of control over the venue," and also added that the Bir Shrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium was not up to standard to stage FIFA tier-1 matches.

BANGLADESH go down fighting

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh women's football team put up a much improved performance against Chinese Taipei but still ended up on the losing side, suffering a 1-0 defeat in the second and final FIFA friendly match at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday.

Smarting from a 4-0 drubbing at the hands of Chinese Taipei in the first match, the SAFF Champions showed their character in the second match against a side that is 100 places above them in the FIFA rankings.

Coach Peter Butler made four changes in the starting eleven, the most notable of them was his decision to drop captain Sabina Khatun in favour of forward Shamsunnahar Jr.

He also brought in defenders Shamsunnahar Sr and Anai Mogini and midfielder Swapna Rani in place of Masura Parvin, Sumaya Matsushima and Shaheda Akter Ripa, switching to a 4-4-2 formation from the first match's 3-5-2.

Sabina, who has been an indispensable part of the team since making her debut in 2010, was taken off after the first half in the first match and came off the bench in the dying minutes in yesterday's game.

The British coach said that he respected Sabina's contributions as a player but also hinted that age may be catching up with the 30-year-old booter.

"I think Sabi [Sabina] looked tired the

other day. I'm trying to help her. I think she's an integral part, moving forward with this group. She's a good girl. She has had a distinguished career which I fully respect. When you get older, sometimes your legs don't do what your brain tells you to do," said Butler.



In the match, Chinese Taipei dominated the first 20 minutes of the game, taking the lead in the 17th minute by utilising a mistake from Bangladeshi defender Anai Mogini.

Anai failed to clear a cutback from the left side of the box and unmarked Su Yu-Hsuan, who scored a hat-trick in the first match, brilliantly placed the ball to the far post, beating goalkeeper Rupna Chakma.

After conceding the lead, Bangladesh started playing better, had more control

of the ball and launched attacks through both flanks. But forwards Shamsunnahar Jr and Tahura Khatun were not able to reach most of the crosses due to their height disadvantage compared to the Chinese Taipei defenders.

The ball remained in the Chinese Taipei half for most of the second half as the pair of Monika Chakma and Munki Akther controlled the midfield while Ritu Porna Chakma and Swapna Rani made encouraging runs through both flanks but the hosts equalise.

Overall, the Bangladesh coach was satisfied with his team's performance in the match.

"I made a few changes looking back at the previous match where I thought we played well for 15-20 minutes, lost it for about a 20-minute spell when we conceded three goals, that obviously cost us," Butler said.

"So, today's [Monday] plan was building blocks - 15 minutes, 15 minutes, 15 minutes - don't play the game, play the clock and let's build confidence. We conceded again after 15 minutes, but I was delighted with the way they came back, the attitude they shown.

"I thought the girls were outstanding tonight. We didn't have a lot of chances in the first 40 minutes, but I thought in the second half we grew into the game and really dominated possession. I think if anybody's critical of that tonight, they don't understand football."

De Minaur breaks 20-year hoodoo

REUTERS, Paris

Alex de Minaur broke a 20-year Australian hoodoo at the French Open on Monday as the 11th seed battled from a set down to stun fifth seed Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, and 6-3 and advance to his first Roland Garros quarterfinal.

De Minaur became the first man from his nation to reach the last eight at the claycourt Grand Slam since Lleyton Hewitt in 2004, with the victory on Suzanne Lenglen seemingly aided by Medvedev's mid-match blip due to a foot problem.

Former Paris quarter-finalist Medvedev had lost only twice in eight previous meetings with De Minaur and drew first blood with a break in the third game but the 28-year-old was pushed hard in the next before extending his lead.

After Medvedev wrapped up the opening set with little fuss, he shrugged off a string of superb winners from De Minaur's racket at the start of the second set.

But Medvedev surrendered the second set tamely with an unforced error after taking a medical timeout for blisters on his foot midway.

With the momentum shifting, the 25-year-old De Minaur blazed to a 5-1 lead en route to winning the third set before he traded breaks with Medvedev early in the fourth and pulled away shortly after for a famous win.



Nepal return with high hopes

AGENCIES

With the game against the Netherlands at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas on Tuesday, Nepal will be making a return to the T20 World Cup scene after having made their maiden and only appearance in the mega event in 2014.

Both sides will be desperate to get a win, given that their next matches will be against much more superior sides in South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

Netherlands are coming to the tournament after their tragic tri-series loss to Scotland and Ireland in May. However, they did win their most recent outing, the T20 WC warm-up game against Sri Lanka.

On the other hand, Nepal were unlucky way before the commencement of the tournament as their spirited bowler, Sandeep Lamichhane's US visa application was rejected for the second time.

However, Nepal will hope to shrug off the loss of Lamichhane and make their return to the T20 World Cup after 10 years a memorable one. It was, however, not a very happy outing for the Asian side as they had lost all three of their World Cup matches.

Now Rohit Paudel and his army will have to play their cards and focus on shifting their losing momentum and start their campaign on a positive note. They have recently lost their warm-up game to Canada.



England batter Jonny Bairstow plays a reverse sweep with Liam Livingstone watching from behind the stumps as the defending champions prepare in their bid to become the first team to retain the T20 World Cup title with their opening group game against Scotland in Barbados today.

PHOTO: ENGLAND CRICKET

Hopeful of retaining title, England face Scotland first

AGENCIES

Rain prevented England from getting a good preparation, and the defending champions may once again have to beat the weather, as well as Scotland, when they begin their T20 World Cup campaign in Barbados today.

England were frustrated by rain during their recent four-match warm-up series against Pakistan, with two of those games washed out without a ball being bowled while the other two were won convincingly by Jos Buttler's men. There are concerns heading into tomorrow's opener in Bridgetown, too, with heavy showers part of the forecast.

England possess a mix of talent and an experienced pool of players. Ahead of their opening game, batter Harry Brook backed the Three Lions to retain their title in the USA and the West Indies this time around.

"Everybody's really excited. We fancy our chances. We've got a very good side, good squad depth around T20 cricket and we're confident we can bring it home again," Brook said ahead of the game as quoted from Sky Sports.

Brook is back in England colours after pulling out of the Test tour to India earlier this year to spend time with his grandmother, Pauline, who fell ill in January and sadly passed away the following month.

Her death also saw Brook skip the IPL before returning to action in the County Championship in April, after a three-month break in which he made major efforts to improve his fitness.

"Obviously, it wasn't in great circumstances, but I just tried to train as hard as possible, trying to lose a bit of weight and trying to get a bit leaner," said the 25-year-old Yorkshireman.

At the Kensington Oval, which provided a two-paced wicket for the Namibia-Oman game on Sunday evening, the Buttler-led England will be overwhelming favourites to win in what will be their first-ever encounter against the Scots in the shortest format.

The venue also holds a special place in the hearts of England players and fans as it is where they were first crowned champions 14 years ago by defeating Australia by seven wickets in the final.

Meanwhile, Scotland, playing their third successive T20 World Cup, may not be as strong as their more well-favoured opponents but they still have high expectations after winning all six of their qualifiers to make it to the mega event.

They will also hope for their knack of punching above their weights in opening matches of the T20 World Cup to continue - Scotland beat began the 2022 T20 World Cup in grand fashion, stunning two-time World Champions West Indies in Hobart and also defeated superior-ranked Bangladesh in their opening fixture of the 2021 T20 World Cup.



**WITH BSRM FASTBUILD
YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS**



**COMPLETE
GUIDANCE APP FOR
HOME BUILDING**



Download on the
Google Play
App Store

Proteas thump SL in Group D opener

AFP, New York
South Africa beat Sri Lanka by a comfortable six-wicket margin in the teams' opening Group D match of the T20 World Cup in New York yesterday.

Proteas fast bowler Anrich Nortje took a remarkable four wickets for just seven runs as Sri Lanka were bowled out for just 77 — their lowest T20 total. But South Africa lost early wickets as they too struggled to time the ball before the big-hitting Heinrich Klaasen (19 not out) saw them to victory with 22 balls to spare. Quinton de Kock scored a team-high 20.

Nortje's figures, from his maximum four overs, were the best by a South African at a T20 World Cup, surpassing his own 4-10 against Bangladesh in Sydney two years ago.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



South Africa pacer Anrich Nortje (L) celebrates the dismissal of Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis in the first Group D match of ICC Men's T20 World Cup at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York yesterday. Nortje's remarkable four-wicket haul helped the Proteas bundle out the 2014 champions for a lowly 77, paving the way for a six-wicket victory.

PHOTO: AFP

Celesty posed as mastermind's wife to rent flat

Court sends her to jail after confessional statement

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Celesty Rahman went to Kolkata and posed as the wife of Aktaruzzaman, alleged mastermind of MP Anwarul Azim Anar murder, to rent the flat where the lawmaker was killed.

The two jointly prepared the lease document for the flat in Kolkata's New Town on April 25.

Celesty went to the flat on April 30 with Amanullah, the alleged hitman, and started staying there. She was given the responsibility to welcome the lawmaker on his arrival at the flat.

During the gruesome murder, she heard the sounds of Azim's body being dismembered, she said in her confessional statement made before a Dhaka court yesterday.

In her statement, Celesty disclosed details of the suspects and also gave a brief description of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Anti-Ershad movement hero no more



Shafi Ahamed (1961-2024)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former student leader and politician Shafi Ahamed passed away at a hospital in the capital yesterday evening after suffering cardiac arrest. He was 62. Ahamed was a key figure in the anti-autocracy movement, which eventually led to a mass uprising in 1990 that deposed military dictator Ershad.

His relative, Gazi Mozammel Hossain, also the education affairs secretary of Netrakona district unit Awami League, confirmed the news of his death.

"Shafi Ahamed was sleeping at his residence in the capital's Uttara this [Monday] afternoon. He suffered a heart attack in his sleep. He was rushed to a private hospital in Uttara,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Over 1m forced to flee Gaza city of Rafah

UNRWA says they live in 'unspeakable' conditions; 40 more Palestinians killed as Israel continues offensive

AGENCIES

Forced displacement has pushed over a million Palestinians away from the Gaza city of Rafah, the United Nations Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA) said yesterday.

Thousands of families now shelter in damaged and destroyed facilities in the city of Khan Younis, where the agency is providing essential services despite "increasing challenges", UNRWA said, adding: "Conditions are unspeakable".

Since early May, Israel's military has been carrying out what it says is a limited operation in Rafah to root out Hamas fighters and dismantle infrastructure used by the Palestinian group that runs Gaza.

The Israeli military has told civilians to go to an "expanded humanitarian zone" some 20 km (12 miles) away.

Many Palestinians have complained they are vulnerable to Israeli attacks wherever they go, and have been moving up and down the Gaza Strip in the past few months.

Doubts were growing yesterday about a plan for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal outlined by US President Joe Biden as heavy fighting raged for a third day since his White House address.

An Israeli government spokesperson quoted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as saying that US President Joe Biden, in advancing a plan to wind down the Gaza offensive, had published only some of the details.

"The war will be stopped for the purpose of returning hostages and then we will proceed with other discussions," spokesperson David Mencer quoted Netanyahu as saying, in what appeared a reiteration of Israel's refusal to call off the offensive against Hamas entirely before the group is destroyed.

But for now, the bombardments and combat showed no sign of easing in the Gaza offensive soon entering its ninth month that has devastated the Palestinian coastal territory of 2.4 million people, reports AFP.

Yesterday, the Israeli military said that over the past day its forces had struck "over 50 targets in the Gaza Strip". Gaza hospitals reported at least 19 people killed in overnight strikes.

Israel's offensive in the Gaza has killed at least 36,479 Palestinians and wounded 82,777 since October 7, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said yesterday. Forty Palestinians have been killed and 150 wounded in the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

- » Doubts grow over Gaza truce plan
- » Egypt rejects Israeli presence at Rafah crossing
- » Death toll in enclave rises to 36,479

Grameen Bank counsel sharpens barbs against Prof Yunus

Yunus' lawyer bins 'false claims'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameen Bank's Chief Legal Adviser Masud Akhter yesterday said Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus deceived 1.05 crore members of the bank and misappropriated their money, a claim Prof Yunus's lawyer vehemently denied.

"He is talking about curses. He has deceived 1.05 crore members of Grameen Bank. He has used and misappropriated their money for personal gains. Their curse has fallen upon him," he told reporters at a press briefing on the Supreme Court premises.

At a separate press briefing later in the day at the same place, Prof Yunus's lawyer Abdullah-Al-Mamun said there is no scope for embezzling Grameen Bank depositors' money under the rules of the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983, under which the bank was established.

The developments come after Grameen Bank went to the Anti-Corruption Commission, accusing



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

642m voters cast ballots in election

Says India EC, dismisses opposition concerns over ballot count

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Election Commission (EC) said yesterday a record-breaking 642 million voters cast their ballots in the general election that concluded on June 1 and dismissed opposition concerns over how the votes would be counted.

The seven-phase vote — the world's largest — began on April 19 and was held in scorching summer heat in many parts of the country, with temperatures rising to nearly 50 degrees Celsius (122°F) in some north and northwestern regions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking a third consecutive term and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led alliance is projected to win a big majority, TV exit polls said on Saturday, ahead of the counting today.

"We have created a world record of 642 million proud Indian voters. This is a historic moment," Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar told reporters.

Although the 2024 turnout is higher than the 612 million voters who cast their ballots in 2019, it is about one percentage point lower than the 67.4 percent turnout five years back.

Turnout among 968 million registered voters was possibly lower in the initial phases because there was no single major issue to draw voters out in the heat, analysts said.

Kumar said the vote-counting process had been in place for decades and was "very robust".

"All work will be done transparently. If someone still tries to do something wrong, strict action will be taken," he said.

His comments on the vote-counting process came a day after the opposition INDIA alliance, led by Rahul Gandhi's Congress party, urged the commission to follow norms during counting.

The alliance of two dozen parties petitioned the EC to stick to its old system of completing counting postal votes before declaring

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



STATE SECRETS CASE

Ex-Pak PM Imran Khan acquitted

REUTERS, Islamabad

A High Court in Pakistan yesterday acquitted jailed former prime minister Imran Khan from a conviction on charges of leaking state secrets, his lawyer and his party said, but Khan will remain in prison for now due to a conviction in another case.

Khan, 71, was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a lower court on charges of making public a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington in 2022.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who was Khan's foreign minister during his tenure from 2018-2022, was also acquitted of the charges.

"Thank God, the sentence is overturned," a spokesman for legal affairs from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, Naeem Panjutha, said in a post on the X social media platform.

Despite the acquittal, Khan will remain in prison, having also been convicted in another case relating to his marriage to his third wife, Bushra Khan, contravening Islamic traditions.

Khan said on May 30 that February's national election was stolen from his party, describing it as the "biggest robbery of a public mandate".

Khan, speaking in the Supreme Court via video link from Adyala jail in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, said he was being held in solitary confinement.

His remarks were the first to be heard in open court since he was jailed in August.



A Palestinian man carries the body of a young relative, killed by an Israeli airstrike the previous night, during preparations for a funeral outside the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

'Drug dealer' shot dead in 'gunfight' with BGB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A suspected drug dealer was shot dead in a reported gunfight with members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Ramu upazila, Cox's Bazar, early yesterday.

The incident took place in the Maricha area under Garjania union around 5:00am, said BGB Public Relations Officer Shariful Islam, in a statement.

The deceased was identified as Nezam Uddin, of the Khurushkul area under Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila. He walked out of jail six months ago after getting bail in a murder case, the release said.

According to the statement, around 150-200 drug smugglers, led by Nezam, opened fire at a BGB patrol team from Battalion II (Naikhongchhari) in Maricha.

When BGB troops returned fire in self-defence, the smugglers were forced to fall back and flee the scene.

Afterwards, at least 98 cartons of