



## Fear forced Hindus to sell their land to ex-IGP Benazir

SHARIFUL ISLAM and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI, back from Gopalganj

A cluster of shanty-like homes belonging to Hindus are accessible only by a makeshift bamboo bridge over a roadside canal at Patikelbari village of Gopalganj Sadar upazila. The rickety structures declare the financial constraint of the 100 or so Mitra family.

The current generations of the Mitras were never rich, but they were never this destitute either. They had over 27.5 acres of farmland, enough to support them "fairly well."

All that changed about four years ago - they were forced to sell all but five acres of their farmland to former police chief Benazir Ahmed.

"If I begin to tell my story, I would not be able to fight back my tears," said Swarup Maitra, 55, one of the Mitras who had to give in to Benazir's extraordinary power and great appetite for poor people's land.

The former top cop, now said to have left the country although there is no

official confirmation, is currently being investigated by the Anti-Corruption Commission for amassing huge wealth while in office.

Benazir, who faces a US sanction for his alleged involvement in extrajudicial killings when he was Rab chief, allegedly employed two tactics to acquire land: direct intimidation and indirect pressure.

The ACC has so far found that he and his family bought at least 613.41 bighas of land in different districts, including 605.77 bighas in Gopalganj and Madaripur that once belonged to Hindus, a religious minority.

He built most of his assets, including an eye-catching resort called Savanna Eco Resort and Natural Park in his hometown of Gopalganj, when he headed Rab (January 2015 to April 2020) and police force (April 2020 to September 2022).

In Gopalganj, Benazir engaged Taimur Islam, an inspector of a police station, to acquire the vast swath of over 600 bighas of farmland.

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PHOTO: NAIMUR RAHMAN

An aerial shot of Savanna Eco Resort and Natural Park in Gopalganj. The property, owned by former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed and his family, has been attached following a court order over graft allegations against the ex-top cop. The photo was taken last week.



## PM likely to visit India in September

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who returned from New Delhi on Monday after attending the oath taking ceremony of her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi, is likely to visit India again in September, according to sources.

According to sources in the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi, Hasina's trip to Delhi on June 21-22 was being talked about, but since she just returned from India, her next visit Delhi would be delayed.

Hasina had a meeting with Modi at the Rashtrapati Bhavan after his swearing in on June 9. She also invited Modi to visit Bangladesh.

Some Indian media indicated that Modi may visit Bangladesh by the end of this month. But sources in the Bangladesh High Commission said they were not aware of this.

Hasina is likely to visit Beijing on July 9-12.

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### COMPLEX, TEDIOUS ADMISSION PROCESS

## Gruelling 3 days for DU freshers

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

An excited Imran Hossain reached Dhaka University from Chattogram earlier this week to secure his admission to the prestigious institution.

But he had no idea about the tedious admission process he would have to go through. He said the guidance he received from the university authorities was inadequate and he spent two days waiting in queues and going from one building to another in the scorching heat.

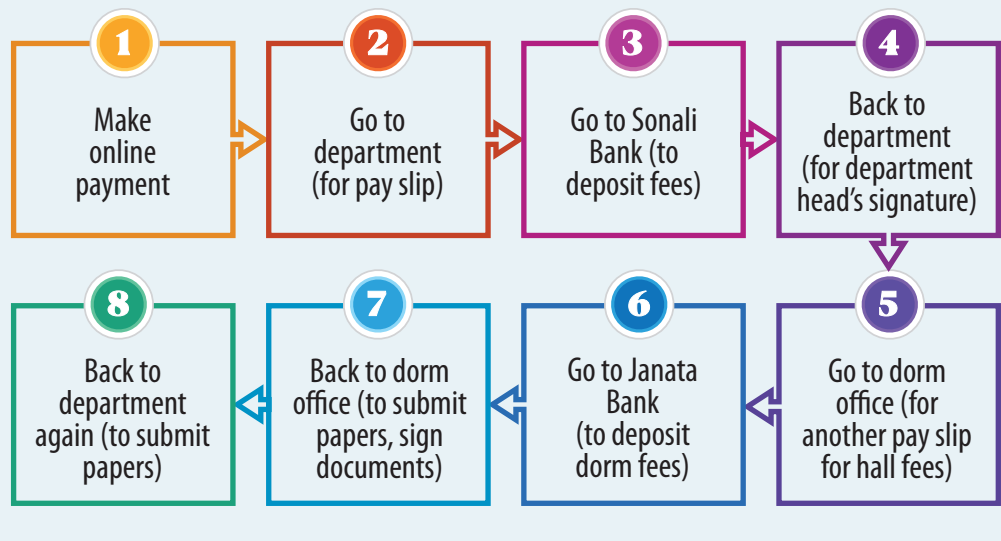


"The process is very complex and takes a lot of time and energy. I am exhausted," Imran told The Daily Star.

On June 9, he paid online the admission fee of Tk 7,830. The next day, he went to the business faculty around 10:30am with a printed copy of the receipt and started waiting for his turn.

When he submitted the receipt two hours later, the officials handed him a pay slip to deposit a development fee of Tk 5,000 to

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## How could an IGP possess so much wealth?

Questions HC about Benazir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday expressed astonishment at the amassing of huge wealth by former IGP Benazir Ahmed.

"Irregularities and corruption of a government official are being discussed and criticised at home and abroad. How could an inspector general of police become the owner of so much wealth? We are stunned," the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Khazir Hayat Lizu said during the hearing on a writ petition regarding the construction of eight bridges in Jashore.

Three government engineers, including the chief engineer of the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), appeared before the HC bench yesterday to explain their positions on the construction of the bridges as per its previous directive.

The HC told the engineers that they must work in the interest of the country and that the court would look into the irregularities if they committed any.

It also directed the authorities concerned to complete the construction of the bridges in next six months maintaining the appropriate height clearance in accordance with relevant rules, petitioner's lawyer M Shamsul Haque told The Daily Star.

Iqbal Kabir Zahid, an adviser to Bhairab River Reform Movement, filed the writ petition with the HC following a report run by Bangla daily Prothom Alo on June 11 last year under the headline "River Killing" due to low-height bridges in Jashore.

Following the petition, the HC on November 27 last year directed the officials concerned to maintain appropriate height clearance of the bridges as per the Inland Waterway and Embankment Construction Control Rules, and to submit a report to this court through an affidavit.

## Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman made new army chief



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman, chief of general staff of Bangladesh Army, has been promoted to general and appointed as the chief of army staff.

He will be serving as the army chief for three years from June 23, according to an ISPR press release.

Waker, who took over as chief of general staff (CGS) on January 1, 2024, will succeed General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed.

Waker was commissioned in the Corps of Infantry on December 20, 1985.

Having an illustrious career of more than three and a half decades, Waker brings with him a huge experience. His key staff appointments include staff officer at an infantry

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## Hunter Biden found guilty on gun charges

REUTERS, Wilmington

US President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden was convicted by a jury yesterday of lying about his drug use to illegally buy a gun, a verdict Democrats may seize upon to counter Donald Trump's claim of a justice system weaponized against him.

A jury in Wilmington, Delaware, federal court found him guilty on all three counts against him, making Hunter Biden the first child of a sitting US president to be convicted of a crime.

A verdict of the 12-member jury must be unanimous on each count.

The trial followed the May 30 criminal conviction of Trump, the first former US president to be found guilty of a felony and the Republican challenger to Joe Biden, a Democrat, in the November 5 election.

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Buses pick up and drop off passengers obstructing traffic on the Airport Road in the capital's Kuril area. This not only puts bus passengers at risk but also causes tailbacks. The photo was taken around 1:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## DISCARDED CYLINDER 1 dies, 40 fall ill after inhaling toxic gas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and at least 40 others became sick after being exposed to toxic gas in the capital's Adabar Beribadh area early yesterday.

The gas quickly spread across the neighbourhood after workers at a scrap metal shop broke open an old and discarded cylinder around 3:00am, police said.

According to victims, around 200 residents of 30 homes at Shyamoli Housing (2nd Project) rushed out onto the street after experiencing severe breathing difficulties during their sleep. Many were seen vomiting.

During a visit to the spot yesterday afternoon, this correspondent noticed partially burnt and dried-up tree leaves near the shop.

A senior fire service official said it was ammonia gas. Ammonia is a colourless highly irritating gas with a sharp odor.

The victims were taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital (SSMCH) and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

One of them, Kabir Hossain, 45, from Lakshampur's Ramganj upazila, died at the DMCH.

According to the emergency unit staff at SSMCH, the first victim with breathing difficulties and eye irritation came in at 4:00am and within 15 minutes, over a hundred people with similar complaints arrived.

"Most of them needed oxygen support. Initially, we

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Speakers at a roundtable titled "Health Expenditure: A Critical Challenge in Ensuring Health Care in Bangladesh," jointly organised by Civil Society Forum (CSO) and The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Syed Ashfaqul Haque gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Syed Ashfaqul Haque, former executive editor of The Daily Star, and his wife Tania Khondoker in a case filed over the death of Preeti Urang, a teenage domestic worker who fell from their flat in Dhaka's Mohammadpur in February this year.

Ashfaqul has been in jail since his arrest on February 6, the day Preeti fell and died. He and his wife were previously denied bail three times by the lower court.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Hasan and Justice Fahmida Quader delivered the bail order after holding a hearing on a High Court rule on the matter.

The HC also observed that remand should not be used as a tool by the police. It also said the court should not grant police remand just because they ask for it.

Besides, the court said the petitioners (Ashfaqul and Tania) were taken on remand twice but the police could not get any additional information from them.

Ashfaqul's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Ashfaqul will come out of jail once the jail authorities receive the written copy of the verdict.

On April 22, the HC bench issued a rule asking the state to explain in

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# Eid journey may not be hassle free

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Roadside cattle markets and unfinished road expansion work, alongside closing all the garment factories on the same day, are likely to cause suffering to Eid holidaymakers, particularly the north-bound people.

Unfit vehicles breaking down and road crashes on highways, which usually see a rise during Eid rush, may intensify their sufferings.

Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated on June 17. Highway Police identified 118 congestion prone stops on different highways; of them, 35 lead to the north.

Meanwhile, trains heading for northern destinations are likely to be delayed due to ongoing works on the east and west sides of Bangabandhu Bridge.

The situation will worsen once pressure of passengers increases manifold following closure of offices and factories.

During an Eid preparatory meeting on May 30 at BRTA headquarters, officials said there are over 200 roadside cattle markets across the country, which often cause traffic congestion.

Besides, the speed of vehicles that carry sacrificial animals is relatively slow, which causes traffic congestion, officials told the meeting headed by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader.

Md Shahabuddin Khan, additional inspector general of highway police, said there are 202 cattle markets beside the highways, of which 60 are very important.

They have already talked to district police and the market authorities to keep the nearby roads congestion-free, he added.

Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, said they are expecting a huge passenger pressure from June 13 to 15.

He said it's almost certain that the highway from Nabinagar to Chandra will see huge traffic congestion on Saturday, the day all garment factories will be closed.

A huge number of garment workers will add to the chaos, he said. Besides, many city buses will hit the streets to serve the passengers, intensifying the problem, he added.

Shahabuddin Khan said they always request garment authorities to close factories in phases but more than 80 percent of factories will close on the same day.

"This time, we have asked the factory owners, particularly BGMEA, to arrange transport at their factories so that workers can get into home-bound vehicles from there," he said.

Mosharref Hossain said the expansion work of Dhaka-Rangpur Highway from Elenga to Hatikumrul is still underway, which may cause traffic congestion, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Waliur Rahman, project director of the road expansion works, said vehicles breaking down near Bangabandhu Bridge was the main reason behind the congestion in the last Eid rush.

## REASONS FOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON ROADS

- 200 roadside cattle markets
- Garment factories closing all in one day
- Unfinished road expansion works
- Unfit vehicles breaking down on roads

## REASONS FOR SUFFERING ON RAILWAYS

- Ongoing dev work on Bangabandhu Bridge east and west stations
- Lack of capacity of single line on Joydebpur-lshwardi route
- Speed, weight restrictions on the bridge

At least 83 events of vehicle breakdowns, road crashes, and similar incidents took place near Bangabandhu Bridge in six days during the Eid rush, he said.

The road from Elenga to Bangabandhu Bridge will be used as a one-way road once the pressure of vehicles intensifies and in that case, a nearby road will be used as a bypass road for the vehicles heading for Dhaka, he added.

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## VOTER LIST HC asks for list of Rohingyas included in it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought a list of Rohingyas, who have been made Bangladeshi voters illegally across the country.

The officials concerned including chief election commissioner; LGRD secretary; secretary at the EC and registrar general of birth and death registration have been asked to submit the voter list of Rohingyas by August 8 to the court.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque passed the order during hearing of a writ petition filed by a local voter of Cox's Bazar.

Petitioner's lawyer Mohammad Siddique Ullah Miah told reporters that the Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar have no right to become voters in Bangladesh. But many of them have illegally become Bangladeshi voters, which is a threat to security, he said.

## DNCC issues birth certificates to 49 Rohingyas Registrar general seeks answer; mayor refutes allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-nine Rohingyas have recently been issued birth certificates by the health department of Dhaka North City Corporation.

It was informed in a letter given on June 5 to DNCC's chief executive officer from the Office of the Registrar General of the Birth and Death Registration Branch of the Local Government Department.

The Special Branch (SB) of Bangladesh Police has informed about the birth registration of 49 Rohingya citizens, said the letter.

These illegally registered birth certificates have been suspended from the BDRIS system.

The letter also says the registrars and registration assistants who were in charge while issuing those birth certificates, should appear at the registrar general's office within five working days and give an explanation. If not, action will be taken against them as per law.

The secretary of the organisation, Mohammad Masud Alam Siddique, wrote a letter to the chief health officer of DNCC on Sunday in this regard.

When asked about this, DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said birth registration numbers given by the registrar general's office have been verified and not a single one was issued by DNCC.

He said those who were involved in the illegal

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## RIISING MEDICAL EXPENSES

# The poor sink deeper into poverty: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The poor are getting poorer due to increasing out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

An overhaul is needed in the health sector, they added, demanding a strong political will to make health services more responsive to the public's needs.

They made the remarks at the roundtable titled "Health Expenditure: A Critical Challenge in Ensuring Health Care in Bangladesh", jointly organised by The Daily Star and Civil Society Forum (CSO) at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

In a keynote presentation, Sayed Rubayet, convener of the CSO Forum, said Bangladesh has the highest out-of-pocket health expenditure -- 73 percent -- among

neighbouring countries.

He added that over 8.6 million people in the country were pushed below the national poverty line due to out-of-pocket payments in 2016.

Due to the sorry state of country's health care, Bangladeshis accounted for 57.5 percent of medical tourists in 2019 alone, said Rubayet, also the country director of Ipas Bangladesh.

Number of Bangladeshi medical tourists surged by 83 percent from 2017 to 2019, he added.

Echoing Rubayet, Mohammad Mainul Islam, professor of Population Science Department at Dhaka University, said education and health are fundamental sectors requiring increased investments.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Overhaul of health sector
- Political will
- Increased investments
- Utilisation of allocated budget
- Health insurance for all

## No market at Anwara Park Atiqul tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam has assured that no market will be built on Anwara Park in the capital's Farmgate area, following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's instructions.

"At a meeting with the prime minister, she was informed about the plan to build a market on park. She instructed that no market will be built on the park. The Prime Minister's decision is final," Mayor Atiqul said at a rally held in front of the DNCC building, organised by the park protection committee yesterday.

"The prime minister emphasised that the Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL) do not need income from the market; they are already earning income from passengers," he added.

The mayor expressed his support for the movement and announced that authorities had already been informed of the prime minister's direction.

The Public Works Department owns the park, while DNCC maintains it. Since 2018, a section of the park has been used by DMTCL as a project office and storage for metro rail construction materials. DMTCL reportedly aims to construct a commercial plaza on the park grounds now.

The rally saw solidarity from at least 30 organisations.

## Every village will be under civic amenities: PM

### Hasina provides 18,566 more houses to homeless as Eid gift



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is working to ensure civic amenities for all the rural people.

"We'll bring every village under the coverage of civic amenities and the people of every village will enjoy those," she said.

The premier said this while handing over 18,566 more houses among the homeless and landless families across the country under Ashrayan-2 project.

She opened the distribution of the houses along with ownership documents through a videoconference from her official residence Gono Bhaban, connecting to Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat, Eidgaon upazila of Cox's Bazar, and Char Fashion upazila of Bhola.

Talking about the cyclone Remal-hit people, Hasina said thousands were affected by the cyclone. The government has already prepared area-wise lists of the houses which were completely or partially damaged, she said.

She said the government will construct new homes in case of completely damaged houses, and will extend support to reconstruct the partially damaged houses.



Demanding that Anwara Park in Farmgate is not turned into a market, a group of people formed a human chain in front of the DNCC building in Gulshan-2 yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



**A seller showcases litchis at Kalitola Market in Dinajpur. The sale of litchis, a popular seasonal fruit, has gained momentum despite high prices attributed to low production due to bad weather. The prized Bedana variety from the north is being sold at Tk 1,000 to 1,500 per 100 pieces. The photo was taken recently.** PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

### Two boys go missing in Ctg canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Two children reportedly went missing after they fell into the Chaktai canal near the sluice gate in the Chaktai area of Chattogram city yesterday.

"We heard that two boys, both around 10, went missing when they were swimming in the canal around 3:30pm," said Jasim Uddin, assistant director of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defence.

### Syed Ashfaqul

FROM PAGE 3

eight weeks why the couple should not be granted bail in the case filed by Preeti's father over her death caused by negligence.

The court also granted ad-interim bail to Tania for six months that day.

Deputy Attorney General Yasmin Bithi opposed the bail petition. The full text of the HC order is yet to be released.

Preeti, 15, from Moulvibazar, died after falling through an opening at Ashfaqul's eighth floor flat around 8:00am on February 6. Police took Ashfaqul and Tania into custody within hours of the incident.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
JUNE 12  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 'Exam results don't determine life's outcome'

Speakers stress overhaul of education system

STAR REPORT

Outcomes of exams are determined not only by students' preparation, but also by family, society, schools, the education system, and management, said speakers at an event yesterday. They also stressed the need to address existing issues in the education system concurrently, while attending a conference held at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) in Dhaka for students who did not pass their Secondary School Certificate examinations.

Titled "Challenged Students Convention", the event was organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), which brought together 200 students who faced challenges in passing their exams, along with their parents and teachers.

Addressing students, author Muhammed Zafar Iqbal said, "You are not a liability, you are the asset of this country. Maybe you failed today, but one day you'll outshine others."

Author Anisul Hoque said, "Exam results don't determine life's outcome. I hope that everyone here today will take their failure as a new challenge and move forward."

Economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said the primary reason many students drop out is the lack of opportunity to study at home.

"If we cannot improve the quality of education, it will be impossible to achieve any national goals," he added. Nurul Islam Nahid, former education minister, said, "We need to take initiatives to increase stipends for students, especially for those facing economic hardships."

"Besides, we must ensure adequate compensation to attract talented individuals to the teaching profession to ensure quality education," he said.

Former Education Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan proposed nationalising schools to ensure uniform standards and adequate resources. He also urged authorities to provide teachers with a conducive working environment and better benefits like pensions.

Eminent artiste Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu urged authorities to initiate dialogues among students, parents and teachers to pinpoint reasons for student's failure.

Other recommendations included bolstering teacher recruitment, providing education for minorities in mother tongue, raising awareness on child labour and preventing child marriage, implementing mid day meal programmes, and strengthening school monitoring mechanisms.

## 11pc of population at risk

FROM PAGE 5

These initiatives, implemented through the Directorate of Public Health and Engineering, aim to establish 10,65,000 arsenic free water sources by 2025.

Solutions include deep tube wells, piped water supply systems, rainwater storage, and solar-powered pond sand filters. These efforts are expected to reduce the arsenic contamination risk by 5-6 percent by 2025.

Besides, in response to a question from Faridunnahar Laili, a lawmaker from the reserved women's seats, the minister discussed plans to expand the Dhaka Mosquito Control Department.

The government has revised the department's organisational structure and is planning to establish a full-fledged Dhaka Mosquito Control Directorate.

This expansion will include the creation of new manpower, the purchase of machinery and standard insecticides, and the establishment of a permanent lab for mosquito pest testing, he said.

## The poor sink deeper

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Institute of Health Economics at DU said the country needs a health budget of 12-15 percent, but it is currently receiving only five percent.

Yet, the allocated amount is mostly not spent. He identified three reasons why the allocated budget could not be spent. "One is bureaucratic, the second is our weakness at the facility level and inefficient administration, and the third is the lack of training for our service providers," he said.

Mentioning the manpower crisis within the health sector, he said the process of appointing such a large number of personnel is critical, bureaucratically complex, and lengthy.

"We need to reconstruct our existing facilities and appoint more personnel to justify an increased budget," he said.

He also sought to reform the existing procurement and auditing policies, stating that they were faulty and corrupt.

Prof Farhana Dewan, co-convenor of CSO Forum and president of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, said, "Most doctors do not want to work at the community level. We need to introduce a system where those who do not want to work at the community level are removed from their jobs."

Makduma Nargis, vice-president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, "We have faults in our medical system, and due to these faults, the health sector could not see a reform."

She called for a strong monitoring system to ensure that budget allocations are spent properly and that health services are provided according to standards.

Advocating for an urgent need in the health sector, Shams El Arifeen, senior scientist at icddr'b, said, "We need to understand the need for reform first, and it should be implemented at the policy level. The reform should be carried out politically, not bureaucratically," he added.

Kishwar Imdad, country director of Marie Stopes, suggested the introduction of health insurance for all to reduce out-of-pocket expenditures and ensure proper utilisation of the budget.

Ahmed Ehsanur Rahman, a scientist at icddr'b, recommended bringing private medical services under regulation to reduce such expenditures.

## DNCC issues

FROM PAGE 3

activities mentioned the addresses of the DNCC areas like Mirpur and Mohammadpur.

"We will reply to the letter with our explanation shortly," he said.

"If we find the involvement of any DNCC official or employee, we will definitely take action against them," he said.

On May 26, a letter was given to the Registrar General of Births and Deaths from the Special Branch of Bangladesh Police.

In that letter, it is said 102 individuals obtained Bangladeshi passports with birth certificates from different parts of the country illegally. The permanent addresses mentioned in those passports were found to be incorrect during investigation.

The letter also mentioned that those persons collected the birth certificates with the help of syndicates of brokers, dishonest officials and employees, local public representatives, and so on.

Those who got the birth certificate are Rohingyas, citizens of Myanmar. The letter requested to take action against those involved in these activities.

"We will take necessary action against the accused after investigation."

## Eid journey

FROM PAGE 3

**RAILWAYS** BR will launch its special train service from today for people who bought advance tickets since June 2.

Delays in schedules of trains connecting the capital with the north-western regions have been common over the last few years due to a lack of capacity on the single line, alongside speed and weight restrictions on the existing railway at Bangabandhu Bridge.

The situation deteriorates when the pressure of passengers intensifies before Eid day, and this situation may recur this year too.

Contacted, Asim Kumar Talukder, general manager (west) of BR, said development works are ongoing at two stations on both sides of Bangabandhu Bridge.

So, they have to operate trains through two lines instead of four lines, which causes delays of more than half an hour for every train heading for northern destinations.

At least 54 trains, including 42 intercity trains, operate between Dhaka and northern districts, showed BR documents.

**There are three reasons why the allocated health budget could not be spent. One is bureaucratic, the second is our weakness at the facility level and inefficient administration, and the third is lack of training for our service providers.**  
PROF SYED ABDUL HAMID  
Institute of Health Economics, DU

**IRONCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line Project, Khulna, Bangladesh  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
NT No. IRCON/943/BD/KHU-MON/TENDERSALE-SCRAP/176/2024-02 Dt. 11.06.2024  
Open Tender in single packet bid system invited on prescribed forms from bonafide firms/companies/having financial capacity for execution of the work for "Sale of Scrap Steel lying at Digraj Store in connection with Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line Project".  
Estimated Cost of work : BDT 38,19,133.80  
Earnest Money Deposit : Tk 3,82,000/- (BDT Three Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Only) by Pay Order  
Completion Period : One (01) month  
Cost of Tender Document : Tk 5,000/- (Pay Order in favor of Ironcon International Limited)  
Last Date & Time for Bid Submission : Dt. 02.07.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs. Opening at 15.30 Hrs.  
For further details and updates, Bidders may visit IRCON office, House No. 411, Road No. 4, Sonadanga R/A, Phase-2, Khulna-9100, Project Manager/KMRR.P Ironcon International Ltd.  
Contact No. 01783965380, email at kmprb@bd9043@ironcon.org

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**UCEP Bangladesh**  
**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**  
UCEP Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified candidates to fill the following vacant positions at UCEP Institute of Science & Technology (UIST):

Name of positions	No. of vacancies	Job locations
Principal	04	Chattogram, Dhaka, Gazipur & Rangpur
Chief Instructor - Electrical Technology/Computer Science & Technology	08	
Junior Instructor/Instructor - Electrical Technology /Computer Science & Technology	08	
Officer, Career Counselling and Employment Support	04	

For details, please visit <https://jobs.ucepbd.org> or [www.bdjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com). The last date for applying is June 29, 2024.  
Applications without requisite qualifications and experience will not be considered.

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**  
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Argargon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
Phone: 02-22218331-31, Website: [www.pksf.org.bd](http://www.pksf.org.bd)

**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**

Memo no: 53.23.0000.001.03.023.24.3512 Date: 11 June 2024

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) was established by the Government of Bangladesh for poverty alleviation through employment generation. PKSF invites Tender in sealed envelopes from competitive tenderers for "Procurement of Medicine under PPEPP-EU Project of PKSF" under Package No: PKSF/PPEPP-EU/2023-2024/GD-06 of PPEPP-EU Project of PKSF financed by European Union (EU).

The tender document including specification for "Procurement of Medicine under PPEPP-EU Project of PKSF" should be submitted using prescribed "Tender Document", which can be collected from PKSF during office hours from 12/06/2024 to 08/07/2024 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of BDT. 1000/- (Taka One Thousand) only in cash.

Tender documents should be submitted at the office of PKSF by 2:00 pm on or before 09/07/2022 Tender documents will be opened at 2:30 pm on 09/07/2022 in presence of the tenderers or their representatives.

Interested suppliers are requested to visit the link: <https://pksf.org.bd/tender/> for detail tender notice and instructions regarding the tender procedures.

PKSF reserves the rights to accept or reject any or all the bid documents without showing any reason whatsoever.

Deputy Managing Director-1

**World Health Organization Bangladesh**

**VACANCY NOTICE**

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

- **NPO (Divisional Coordinator) / TNP**

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>  
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified *female candidates* are highly encouraged to apply.

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

**INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Department of Life Sciences, SELS**

- Assistant Professor

**Facilities & Protocol**

- Deputy Director

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## India to focus on solving border issues with China

Says FM Jaishankar

REUTERS, Mumbai

India will focus on finding solutions to the border issues with China that has long strained ties between the neighbouring countries, Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar said yesterday after assuming charge for a second straight term.

India and China share a 3,800 km (2,400 mile) border - much of it poorly demarcated - over which the nuclear-armed nations also fought a war in 1962.

They have engaged in a military standoff since July 2020 when 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed in the worst clashes in five decades. "With Pakistan, we would want to find a solution to the issue of years-old cross-border terrorism. That cannot be the policy of a good neighbour," Jaishankar said.



People walk towards a devastated building at Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City yesterday. The medical facility, the largest in the Gaza Strip, was reduced to rubble after an Israeli operation in March, the WHO said. PHOTO: AFP

## SNAP POLLS French right-wing leader backs Le Pen alliance

AFP, Paris

The leader of France's main right-wing party yesterday said he backed an alliance with the far right of Marine Le Pen in snap legislative elections, triggering a crisis within his own party and fury from the government.

The stunning announcement by the Republicans (LR) leader Eric Ciotti in a lunchtime television interview is the first time in modern French political history that a leader of a traditional party has backed an alliance with the far right National Rally (RN).

President Emmanuel Macron called the polls on June 30, with a second round on July 7, in a gamble after the RN scored more than double the number of votes of his centrist alliance in EU elections.

## ISRAEL'S FREEING OF HOSTAGES

# Gaza civilian killings could be war crimes: UN rights office

AGENCIES

The UN human rights office said yesterday the killings of civilians in Gaza during the Israeli operation to release four hostages, and also armed groups' holding of captives in densely populated areas, could amount to war crimes.

Israel said the operation, accompanied by an air assault, took place on Saturday in the heart of a residential neighbourhood in central Gaza's Nuseirat area where Hamas had kept the hostages in two separate apartment blocks.

The operation killed more than 270 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, reports Reuters.

"The manner in which the raid was conducted in such a densely populated area seriously calls into question whether the principles



of distinction, proportionality and precaution - as set out under the laws of war - were respected by the Israeli forces," Jeremy Laurence, spokesperson for the UN human rights office, said.

Laurence added that the holding of hostages in such densely populated areas by armed groups was "putting the lives of

Palestinian civilians, as well as the hostages themselves, at added risk from the hostilities."

"All these actions, by both parties, may amount to war crimes," he said.

Meanwhile, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) has suspended the delivery of aid to Gaza via a temporary US military

pier in order to assess the security situation, a spokesperson said Monday.

Stephane Dujarric linked the move to the Israeli hostage rescue operation over the weekend, reports AFP.

"World Food Programme colleagues tell us that we are temporarily pausing operations at the floating dock until a thorough assessment of the security situation is conducted to ensure the safety of our staff and our partners," said Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general.

"We've all seen what happened in Gaza over the weekend. We've seen some of the media reports. We've also taken note of very public statements by the US Central Command that the floating pier had not been used in the operation by the Israeli forces regarding the hostages," he said.

## 4 US instructors stabbed in China

White House expresses deep concern

AFP, Beijing

A suspect has been arrested over the stabbing of four American college teachers in northeastern China, police said yesterday, with Beijing describing the attack as an "isolated" incident.

The four were on an academic exchange and worked as instructors at Iowa's Cornell College, which said they were wounded in a "serious incident". White House expressed "deep concern" about the stabbing incident.

The attack took place on Monday in a public park in Jilin province, where police confirmed they had arrested a 55-year-old man. "The suspect, named Mr Cui, was arrested the same day (as the attack)," the local police said.

Beijing confirmed that "four foreign teachers" had been attacked. "All the wounded were taken to hospital... and received proper treatment. None of them are in danger of losing their life," spokesman Lin Jian told reporters.

"The police preliminarily judged that the case was isolated. Further investigation is underway." "China... will continue to take relevant measures to effectively protect the safety of all foreigners in China," he said.

## China urges greater BRICS role as Western sanctions mount

REUTERS, Beijing

China has urged the BRICS bloc of nations to take on greater responsibilities and establish itself as being inclusive to the world, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said yesterday, in the wake of Western sanctions and trade restrictions imposed on the country.

Many Chinese companies have faced Western sanctions over their support for Russia's war in Ukraine, and the European Commission is set to announce tariffs this week on Chinese EVs in a bid to protect European carmakers.

This week, the Group of Seven wealthy democracies is expected to send a tough warning to smaller Chinese banks to stop helping Russia evade Western sanctions, Reuters reported, citing sources.



## Russia destroyed half of Ukraine's power generation

Says Zelensky, urges allies to supply more air defence systems

AFP, Berlin

Russian strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities have destroyed half of its electricity generation capacity since winter, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday.

Months of Russian strikes have caused severe energy shortages in Ukraine, leading to scheduled power outages and blackouts.

"As a result of the strikes of Russian missiles and drones, nine gigawatts of capacity have already been destroyed. The peak of electricity consumption last winter was 18 gigawatts. So half now doesn't exist," Zelensky told a conference in Berlin.

Zelensky also urged allies to supply more air defence systems, saying: "It is missile and bomb terror that helps Russian troops advance on the ground."

"Air defence is the answer," he said. Ukraine's state power operator said it was extending scheduled outages around the country because of increased consumption.

"Today... the period of application of hourly outage schedules throughout Ukraine has been extended -- restrictions will be imposed from 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm," Ukrenergo said in a statement.

The company had announced outages on Monday between 4:00pm-10:00 pm and had said outages would continue between 2:00pm-7:00pm yesterday.

"The reason is that consumption continues to grow. At the same time, due to extensive damage, Ukrainian power plants cannot produce as much electricity as before the attacks," the company said.

Zelensky said the strikes showed Russian President Vladimir Putin was trying to "hone the practice of destroying energy facilities" including connections between the Ukrainian and European energy systems.

Ukrenergo chairman Volodymyr Kudrytsky said last week that it could take "years" for Ukraine to restore its full generating capacity.



PHOTO: AFP

Protesters hold placards during a protest near the US embassy in Manila, Philippines yesterday, to call on leaders of the Group of 7 (G7) to deliver climate finance to developing countries in anticipation of the 50th G7 Summit on June 13 in Italy.

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**  
হেড অফিস  
৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।  
সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট  
নং- ০৮১/সিএডি/২০২৪-  
জুন ১২, ২০২৪

**ভ্যালুয়ার ফার্ম নিয়োগের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

০১।	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটির নাম	সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি., হেড অফিস, বিভিন্ন অফিস ভবন (সেভেল-৮), ৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
০২।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	পাবলিক প্রকিউরিং বিধিমালা (পিপিআর)-২০০৮ অনুসরণে উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (Open Tendering Method)-এ।
০৩।	তথ্যবিশেষ উল্লেখ	বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর নিজস্ব তথ্য।
০৪।	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর স্থায়ী সম্পদ (Land, Building & Vehicle) মূল্যায়ন।
০৫।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও জমা গ্রহণের তারিখ	সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি., হেড অফিস, বিভিন্ন অফিস ভবন (সেভেল-৮), ৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
০৬।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	সর্বশেষ ২৭/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৩০/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	৩০/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা, স্থান: সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি., হেড অফিস, বিভিন্ন অফিস ভবন (সেভেল-৮), ৮, রাজউক এডিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০। সকল দরদাতা/সরদাতার প্রতিনিধির (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
০৯।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	(ক) স্থায়ী সম্পদ ভ্যালুয়েশনের কাজে ন্যূনতম ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা; (খ) ভ্যালুয়ার ফার্ম-কে অবশ্যই Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) কর্তৃক নিবন্ধিত চার্টার্ড একাউন্ট্যান্ট ফার্ম হতে হবে; (গ) আর্নেস্ট মানি ৩৫,০০০.০০ টাকা (শেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন তরফদারি ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ডার; (গ) এছাড়া, দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাদি।
১০।	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি. কর্তৃক কেউ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। অনিবার্য কারণ বশত টেন্ডার খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্য হিসেবে একই সময়ে টেন্ডার খোলা হবে।

(মুহাম্মদ ফাইদুর রহমান)  
ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

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## Acute suffering as gas crisis hits hard

### It's another wake-up call for the energy sector

We are worried about the weeks-long gas crisis that followed the shutdown of an LNG regasification terminal in Cox's Bazar's Moheshkhali after being damaged by Cyclone Remal. According to a report, the crisis has plagued many households, factories, and vehicles running on compressed natural gas (CNG). For many residents in Dhaka and elsewhere, cooking has become a daily struggle. The situation is no better for the industrial sector, where factory closures and operational disruptions have resulted in significant economic losses and job insecurity for thousands of workers. Meanwhile, CNG filling stations have been overwhelmed with long queues of cars and auto-rickshaws. The power supply in rural areas has worsened as well.

Reportedly, the crisis will continue for some more time as the damaged LNG unit—which reduced our LNG supply by almost half, and was taken to a dry dock abroad for repairs—is not expected to be back for another two weeks. That means more outages, more disruptions, and more sufferings. The Moheshkhali unit is one of the two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) in Bangladesh that convert LNG, or liquefied natural gas, back to gas before supplying it to the national grid. While the present crisis has again brought into focus the country's poor LNG import/supply infrastructure—it was only recently that we commented on the risk of surplus LNG regasification capacity as well as gas compressor stations lying idle amid insufficient supply—it also exposed deeper systemic issues surrounding our energy policy.

At the heart of it is the over-reliance on imported LNG amid dwindling local gas reserves. As experts have repeatedly said, a short-term, small-scale dependence on LNG import is reasonable, but tying it with our long-term energy future is not sustainable. Yet this is what the government has been doing, and doing rather badly as it cannot pay for the import thanks to the dollar crisis. What we need to focus and indeed invest more on is diversifying our energy sources so as not to be so vulnerable to economic and natural shocks like Cyclone Remal. That, right now, should start with exploring local gas, including the 48 gas wells that the government flagged for exploration in three years. We should also invest more on renewable energy sources which haven't yet got the traction they deserve.

So, while we call on the government to do everything necessary to address the present gas crisis, we should also keep an eye on the future. Exploring and extracting local gas must be a priority going forward, and the national budget must reflect that priority before it is passed. The government should also work on our vulnerable energy supply/distribution infrastructure, which is seldom discussed despite the sufferings it caused in recent years.

## Rehabilitation must come before eviction

### DSCC drive against Harijan families raises alarm

We are outraged by the Dhaka South City Corporation's (DSCC) recent eviction of multiple families at the Miranzilla Harijan Colony in Bangshal. The way these vulnerable and marginalised members of our society have been made homeless, without any proper rehabilitation plans, sets a dangerous precedent that could have alarming impacts.

The sweeper colonies in the city are like ancestral homes for the Harijan community and others, who were mostly brought here during the British period. Generations grew up in these colonies, doing the same cleaning jobs for pitiable wages, which means almost none of them can save up enough to enjoy a comfortable retirement, release themselves from the grips of poverty, or leave the colonies. Therefore, the DSCC cannot just write off those no longer employed by the city as "illegal residents". Besides, how can the DSCC justify expanding a kitchen market by evicting marginalised people who have no other place to call home?

Ironically, a DSCC official has told this daily that the kitchen market expansion decision was taken in 2016; they are just implementing it now. This means that the DSCC had eight years to rehabilitate the now-evicted Harijan families but did nothing. How does this feudalistic attitude, reclaiming their land without any consideration for the gravity of the situation of the Harijans, align with the idea of a social welfare state?

While we understand that the decentralisation and development needs of the city would ultimately drive the relocation (or migration) of many families and communities, such actions should not take place in a haphazard manner. The higher authorities must come up with a long-term plan for the communities likely to be evicted as the city corporations increasingly reclaim their land for development or commercial purposes. In the meantime, immediate steps should be taken to rehabilitate the evicted families of the Miranzilla Harijan Colony. These communities also need special allocations under the social safety net to reduce their vulnerability from extreme poverty, job loss, or old age. The state must steer them out of poverty so that they do not have to live in constant fear of eviction or at the mercy of others.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### Election of Boris Yeltsin

On this day in 1991, Boris Yeltsin was easily elected president of Russia (then part of the Soviet Union) in the republic's first direct, popular election, and he was president of independent Russia until the eve of 2000.

## EDUCATION IN FY2024-25 BUDGET

# A futile debate achieving little



**Dr Manzoor Ahmed**  
is professor emeritus at BRAC University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network, adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), and associate editor of the International Journal of Educational Development.

Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

**MANZOOR AHMED**

For the past 15 years since the Awami League government took over, there has been pre-budget discussion every year about the need for increasing the miserably low public expenditure for education and health. And then the proposed annual budget paid little heed to the plea for a change in priorities, causing frustration and disappointment. The proposed FY2024-25 budget has been no different—it follows the same pattern.

The new budget can be described as a "crisis response" one that the government has prepared in the face of the formidable challenges of unabated inflation, economic slowdown, revenue shortfall, dwindling foreign exchange reserves, and a rising annual debt burden. Allocations have been tightened for every sector, while there is a nominal increase in the total budget from the previous one and a high level of deficit financing. There is, therefore, no expectation of any significant increase in education and health allocations as borne out by the proposed budget. Nor is there an indication of any shift in strategy and priority responding to long-standing issues in education and human development, which have been periodically raised by educationists and concerned citizens.

Out of a Tk 7,97,000 crore budget, education allocation is Tk 94,710 crore or 11.88 percent of the budget and 1.69 percent of GDP. Allocations proposed for sub-sectors of education are: Tk 44,108 crore for secondary and higher education; Tk 38,819 crore for primary and mass education; and Tk 11,783 crore for technical and madrasa education. The education allocation for the outgoing fiscal year was Tk 88,162 crore or 11.5 percent of the budget and 1.76 percent of GDP. The revised budget was, however, reduced to Tk 74,597 crore. The proposed education budget is only nominally higher than the allocated amount for the past year, which is actually a reduction if the inflation of over nine percent is counted.

Noteworthy is the fact that the education sector is not able to use all of the funds allocated for it in the outgoing financial year. As much as



VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

Tk 14,000 crore will not be spent, as the revised allocation indicates. It is difficult to make a case for increased budget when the fund available cannot be fully utilised.

As this author as well as other education activists have often pointed out, the education authorities—the two ministries—have to make a case for public investment priorities in education and be persuasive about it. When the national budget fails to give due recognition to the needs and priorities of a vital sector such as education, it is as much the failure of the education ministries as it is of the finance ministry, who presents the budget on behalf of the government.

It is not, but should have been, in the public domain what the two ministries asked for in respect of increasing allocations and whether any innovative thinking found a place in their budget submission. There was no opportunity for public discussion when the budget proposals by the two education ministries were being formulated. There hasn't been a great receptivity on the part of the two education ministries, the political

leadership and the administrative decision-makers regarding the civil society education advocates' pleas for re-thinking the needs for 21st century education. There is rhetoric aplenty about Smart Bangladesh and a smart new generation, but the serious and holistic planning and systematic efforts for achieving results have been lacking.

have put forward an agenda for re-imagining education for the 21st century through their advocacy, such as Education Watch reports. This agenda includes moving towards a greater and genuine decentralisation of education governance; attracting talented people to the teaching profession and keeping them there; a major initiative to widely

Educationists have argued that the various initiatives taken by the two ministries have been fragmented, partial and treating the symptoms of diseases rather than the roots of problems. These initiatives have not been based on a holistic and coordinated sector-wide effort to achieve well-articulated medium- and long-term educational objectives. Cases in point are the introduction of the new curriculum and student assessment without preparing the ground; the sub-sector activities such as the series of primary education development programmes (PEP5 or the fifth round is supposed to be under consideration now); the decision again to shift Classes 6 to 8 from secondary to primary schools (after several failed attempts since 2010 Education Policy was announced); various largely ineffective and frequently re-formulated teachers' training projects; and token efforts towards building a decentralised, responsive and accountable system of school education.

Academics and researchers

and effectively apply the blended approach (merging tech-based and teacher-supported learning); building partnerships between government and non-state actors; and establishing a permanent education commission to guide and monitor education system changes. These could be the components of an education sector plan and a 10-year megaproject for education. All of these would lay the ground for equitable, quality and inclusive school education for all children, thus building the foundation for an education system fit for a higher middle-income and eventually a developed country. Such a sector plan would demand larger resources and efficient use of the resources.

The annual budget is not the instrument for a major overhaul of the education system. It can, however, reflect and help prepare the ground for a transformative change, if such a change is envisaged by the policymakers. The new budget, as the ones of past years, following a much trodden path, has not helped a move in this direction.

## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

# Ending child labour needs decisive interventions



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**FATARAZ ZAHAN**

Child labour, a global problem, is a narrower concept of working children. In terms of national and international laws, child labour is unlawful. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 160 million child labourers worldwide (as of 2020)—63 million girls and 97 million boys—most of whom are engaged in agriculture, followed by service and industrial sectors, as well as in domestic labour. The majority of them are from the Asia-Pacific region. Nevertheless, the number of children engaged in labour worldwide decreased by 85 million between 2000 and 2020, according to ILO.

Bangladesh has also significantly reduced child labour, but there is still work to be done to completely eradicate the practice. This progress has been facilitated by a number of international agreements that set out legal guidelines and frameworks for action, including the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (C182) and the ILO's Minimum Age Convention (C138). Over the past 20 years, there has been a noticeable improvement in the rate of child labour reduction. The National Child Labour Survey 2022 finds that Bangladesh has 39.96 million children (51.79 percent boys and 48.21 percent girls) aged five

to 17 years. Out of the entire child population, 3.54 million are working children. The report also highlights their involvement in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, wholesale, retail, and transport. Some 60.8 percent of them are employees, and 99 percent of them informally employed. Despite government initiatives, child labour is still a common practice especially in the rural region of Bangladesh.

However, the government has put in place some measures to lessen child labour, like raising the minimum working age and offering children training and education opportunities. The National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010 was aimed at addressing the deep-rooted issue of child labour by implementing a comprehensive strategy. The policy was a big step in the right direction towards solving the problem. Its main objectives are to enhance the legal system, provide access to education, and end dangerous kinds of child labour. The National Child Labour Elimination Action Plan (NPA) is another initiative that aims to operationalise the policy by providing strategies for intervention and clearly defined targets.

Socioeconomic conditions, poverty, limited access to education, and

deeply ingrained cultural norms have normalised the idea of children contributing to family income through labour. These contextual factors necessitated a targeted and multifaceted approach to address child labour effectively. There have been numerous international organisations, governments, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working towards the goal of ending child labour for

**Socioeconomic conditions, poverty, limited access to education, and deeply ingrained cultural norms have normalised the idea of children contributing to family income through labour. These contextual factors necessitated a targeted and multifaceted approach to address child labour effectively.**

decades. Most Bangladeshi children have low-income parents who engage in a range of risky occupations. These kids' physical and emotional health are in danger due to the nature of their jobs, and their basic rights to an education and a healthy upbringing are being infringed. It also has an impact on children's physical and emotional well-being as well as their access to education.

Numerous reports, including those from local NGOs and the ILO, claim

that child labour is still common in a number of industries, including manufacturing, household work, and agriculture. The inadequate monitoring and evaluation of the National Child Labour Elimination Policy has drawn criticism. The policy's poor implementation, monitoring and evaluation have been attributed in large part to a lack of resources, a lack of enforcement, and low stakeholder awareness. The strategy received praise for its emphasis on social security and education, but it has not been enough to solve the underlying issues that lead to child labour in Bangladesh. Because of this, the government has been pushed to step up efforts, such as by tightening the enforcement of labour laws, expanding access to social services and education, and collaborating with civil society organisations.

It is important to note that while the government is dedicated to protecting children, only comprehensive action can have a beneficial effect on reducing or eliminating child labour at all societal levels. National action is, therefore, crucial. However, in order to behave in complete accordance with reality, all relevant factors such as the social, political, cultural, and economic conditions must be taken into account. In addition, a strong child sensitivity approach and the use of multiplier measures are required. Beside our social safety net programmes, it is also necessary to formulate new social policies to improve these conditions.

Lastly, poverty and child labour are inextricably linked, and as long as we ignore or do not recognise child labour as a structural reality of the economy, it will be difficult to eliminate child labour from the supply chain.



# How to break the curse of losing heartbreaking matches



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MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

Bangladesh is a seasoned customer of heartbreaking finishes. As a Bangladeshi fan, all that could have gone in our favour naturally becomes glaringly obvious and sharpens the pain of losses in tight matches, such as the one against South Africa. Bangladesh lost the match by four runs—runs that were denied to the team due to a faulty decision by the on-field umpire. As the umpire raised his finger to Mahmudullah's dismay, the ball raced behind him to the boundary. He immediately reviewed the decision and successfully overturned it, but because of a rule of the game, the ball was deemed a dead ball and those four runs ultimately became the margin by which Bangladesh lost the game. That fact is salt to the wound for Bangladeshis as much as it is a consolation prize. Fans can look to moments like this to convince themselves that we nearly did it and lost it for something that was out of our control.

Sidharth Monga's insightful match analysis of the game, "The Bangladesh SA thriller that you think you saw, but TV didn't fully show" on ESPNcricinfo sheds more light on the uncontrollable factors that did not go in Bangladesh's favour. He talked about the three full tosses that Maharaj bowled in the last over—deliveries that arguably should have helped Bangladesh score the required 10 runs. With Mahmudullah on strike and six to defend from two balls, Maharaj attempted to bowl a yorker. He was *wind* of all things that made the difference. It picked up just then behind Maharaj and turned the ball into a full toss instead of the attempted yorker. This became the batter's advantage and Mahmudullah was perfectly placed to

finish the match with one winning shot. But as Monga says, "What made Maharaj miss his execution also helped him." The same wind resisted the trajectory of Mahmudullah's shot, holding it just long enough in the air to not clear the boundary. The knife in the wound twists.

The only solution for Bangladesh to escape what feels like the curse of losing heartbreaking and close matches is to be so good that these factors no longer make a difference. I cannot say with certainty, but I am sure that other teams like ours who are often nearly there but not quite enough find a plethora of examples where if only things were slightly different, they would emerge victorious. The goal has to be to become a team that displays indomitable spirit and is so capable that they are largely always in control of the game. I doubt that achieving this high standard of cricket exempts a team from facing the short end of the stick in times of uncertainty. It's just that the team's performance would then be so strong that small factors no longer have much sway in defining the outcome of the game.

When it comes to factors within the team's control, the batters' weakness against the short ball stands out. Both Shanto and Shakib got out to similar deliveries in the same fashion where they did not seem to have any idea of how to execute a shot against a short ball. The two players' years of experience vary greatly, and yet they seemed to have the same approach. This can be an example of the fact that when problems emerge in the team—which is only fair and expected—it is allowed to persist instead of



PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh lost to South Africa by four runs—runs that were denied to the team due to a faulty decision by the on-field umpire.

being addressed with a strategy in place to overcome the weakness.

The Bangladeshi bowlers maintained excellent discipline throughout the first innings. They made the most of the early breakthroughs and did not falter in line and length even when the partnership grew after the fourth wicket. They pulled it back nicely towards the end of the innings with Mustafiz bowling a stunning last over that

gave away only four runs. The bowlers seem to be in much more harmony with each other than the batters of the team. The bowlers' performance is that of a cohesive unit where if one has a bad over, they do not let the momentum get away from them. The captaincy was also commendable in terms of backing players who bowl expensive overs such as Rishad, who came back after bowling three overs for 28 runs to get the

wicket of David Miller.

Bangladesh is experienced in playing and winning low-scoring T20 matches, but sadly the support of the batters is sorely missed. Surely, there cannot be an easier target to chase in a T20 match than 114. As always, Mahmudullah Riyad continues to be the most dependable asset of the team and has perhaps been its true leader without ever donning any feathers.

## A serious book for serious times

A review of *My Golden Bengal: Views and Voices from Civil Society* by René Holenstein



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GEOF WOOD

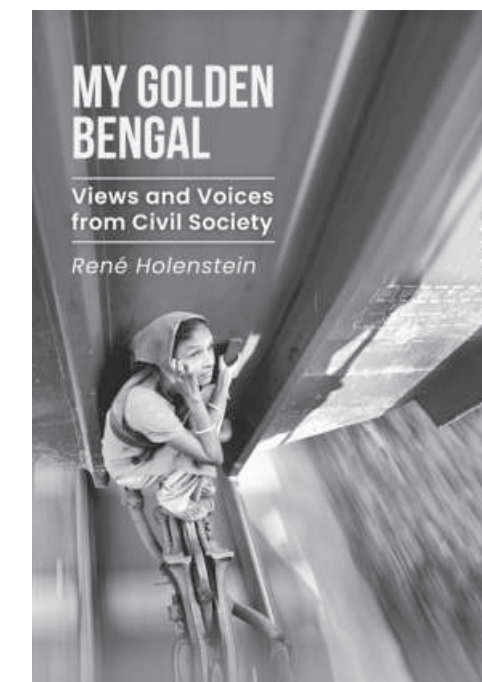
A remarkable gathering of informants have been interviewed in recent years by René Holenstein, a recent ambassador for Switzerland, who returned to Bangladesh in May 2024 to launch this book in the company of most of them. It is a testimony to his period in office here that he explored the country with affection and detail, and listened well to people in the villages as well as leading figures representing concerned academics and lawyers, and activists from many parts of the civil society. As a collection of their testimonies, *My Golden Bengal: Views and Voices from Civil Society* (published by UPL) combines recollections from the liberation struggle which outline the hopes for a distinctive national mission reflecting Bangalee socio-cultural traditions in contrast to those of the dominant, oppressing partner in the flawed postcolonial experiment that was Pakistan. It is never a bad idea to be reminded of the trauma of that struggle, especially in its final episode of crackdown. It took the lives of Bangladeshis to atone for the catastrophic mistake of a rushed exit via Partition.

With this backdrop, ambivalence is soon displayed in this volume. A sense of disappointment that the hopes and dreams of a generation quickly descended into contestation as desperate people and groups fought for their family livelihoods by whatever means possible in the knowledge that the young state was unable to come to their rescue. Perhaps the legacy of chaos left by departing forces from Pakistan and then India could have been highlighted more as the context within which inexperienced leaders wrestled for control and stability. While struggles against a common enemy can unite, things can also rapidly fall apart. And it is often observed that campaigning and voice is not always the best qualification for governing.

The author has to manage this balance between recording the views of his interlocutors and providing his own interspersed analysis that respects those accounts rather than challenging or re-interpreting them. This is what makes the book unique in a sense, because it is not a single author's account in effect. The "data" is presented in its raw form and then has to be woven into a narrative. It is a navigation between a range of views and voices, to use the book's subtitle.

These views progress to the present, reflecting on the challenges now evident in society. Of course, there is a consensus that the violent coup in August 1975 was a betrayal

of all that had been fought for, no matter that it occurred within a sense of letdown. And a further consensus of no sympathy for the period of military rule which followed up to the end of 1990, 15 years later. By this route, most of the interlocutors reach the similar point of a country faced with a prospect of unfinished dreams under the conditions of a tarnished democracy. A familiar set of criticisms emerge of hopes dashed. These amount to the imperative for a continuous need for struggle to realise ambitions, originally promised. The common theme emerges as vigilance across all sectors of Bangladeshi life, whether it is the persistence of child marriage, widespread rent-seeking and corruption enabling the megarich,



the absence of openly competitive politics and voting, the pervasiveness of violence both as a means of that competition and as perpetrated upon women, freedom of speech, shrinking of space for civil society to exercise its accountability role, or free riders escaping civic duty to pay taxes—and the list goes on, as frequently covered by this newspaper.

But the need for vigilance is not the only theme. The question of glass half full or half empty emerges. Achievements are observed. Not least from outside the state, from among the NGOs and from among business. One of

the interlocutors offers the sobering thought that it could have been much worse. This comment sets up the development/democracy discussion towards the end of the book, akin perhaps to the paradox debate. This is a sharp reminder that many societies globally have historically developed with deeply flawed governance systems—not least the UK during the 19th century. And of course, some still do, as in China with its autocratic development

**The author has to manage this balance between recording the views of his interlocutors and providing his own interspersed analysis that respects those accounts rather than challenging or re-interpreting them. This is what makes the book unique in a sense, because it is not a single author's account in effect.**

model. With his development background, it would have been interesting if the author could have coaxed a little more in this regard from his impressive list of interlocutors. It would have certainly connected Bangladesh to the literature on the developmental state. And perhaps a sharper conclusion could then have been offered referring to another literature about lost opportunities when governance in both senses of accountability and competence falls short of the needs of development, and the correlation between rising inequalities and dangers to the body politic, which renders "leave no one behind" as a hollow joke.

These missing parts leave one with a sense of widespread collusion in the "good enough governance" position, which delivers some development through cascading paths of patronage, rather than as a matter of citizen rights and entitlements, just keeping the society on the right side of fragile stability. But such collusion does not come from most interlocutors, but rather from a wider set of global observers. The participants in this book can be distinguished by the feeling that their collective job has not yet been done. And the author has allowed this sentiment to be expressed. But perhaps uncomfortably, this leaves us with the hanging question—should this responsibility be passed down the generations to youth, or should the seniors remain on the barricades having both less to lose and less to gain personally? A final altruistic gift, albeit risky, to the future of that youth.

This book should be read widely, and it would certainly enhance its value to society if it appeared in Bangla, not just German followed by English. A serious book for serious times, but also intensely readable.

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Rugged rock
- 5 Captain of fiction
- 9 Espresso layer
- 10 Isaac's mother
- 12 Jacket part
- 13 Intent look
- 14 Greed
- 16 Butter unit
- 17 Month in Marseilles
- 18 Wooden grid
- 20 "Silkwood" star
- 22 Stately trees
- 23 French landscape painter
- 25 Choir voice
- 28 Words on a November sticker

### DOWN

- 1 Neckwear
- 2 Fix
- 3 From the U.S.
- 4 Telescope pioneer
- 5 Useful skill
- 6 Bowler, e.g.

- 7 Mideast area
- 8 Malia's dad
- 9 Smackers
- 11 Toast start
- 15 Whim
- 19 Visitor to Oz
- 21 Bus. sch. course
- 24 Like type that doesn't fit
- 25 Capital of Ghana
- 26 Behind
- 27 Quiz show fodder
- 29 Asian island
- 30 Too much
- 31 Plow pioneer
- 33 Resort spots
- 37 Designer Wang
- 39 Pharaoh's symbol



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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LAW OPINION

# Who has paralysed the postwar rule-based world order?



**Israel and its allies justify the Gaza invasion as a form of aggressive self-defence to annihilate a target group wholly or partially in the same way the US-UK invented pre-emptive self-defence to justify the Iraq invasion. Neither form of self-defence exists in international law and the UN Charter, yet, they have exercised this self-made self-defence with impunity.**

MRAFIQUL ISLAM

The heinous tragedy and torment of Gaza continues unabated. The outrage of international public opinion, overwhelming support of states in the UN General Assembly, unprecedented Security Council binding resolution, and the Secretary-General's repeated warning of an apocalyptic situation warranting immediate cease-fire and uninterrupted access of humanitarian assistance have so far gone unheeded in this world order. This failure is not to the wonderment of those who are familiar with the excessive exceptionalism of the leader of this deceptive rule-based order and rampant bias for allies.

There are pressing embryonic flaws in the genesis of the postwar world order, based on international law, absolutely dominated by Eurocentricism. Originating in the heartland of Europe, this order encapsulates Anglo-American imperial ambitions, values, ideals, and vocabularies as the foundation of its legal rationality. Colonial narratives propagated this order as neutral and civilised to be adhered as universal and valid for the rest of the world. It is this pervasive idea of westernisation of the order that has de-legitimised the values and expectations of non-western and non-ally states contrary to the principle of sovereign equality of states as the foundation of international legal order. The derisory treatment of non-western states making them peripheral reflects an inherent orientalist superiority complex to gerrymander the elusive virtues of the order. For its very survival and continuity in a multi-

cultural plural world, the postwar mono-cultural 'order' has patronised the emergence of an ego-centric 'power-cult' and alliance for economic strangulation/sanction and military coercion on those deemed inimical to the hierarchical power. Since the 1990s, the US led western allies have established military superiority through NATO in the absence of their cold war rival, the USSR and Warsaw Pact.

The history of the so-called rule-based world order is littered with instances of disorderly and unlawful powerplays condoned to camouflage the impunity and unaccountability of the powerful perpetrators. The atrocities committed in Gaza is yet the latest manifestation of this (dis)order. In May 2024, the US State Department has submitted a Report to the Congress on the use of US weapons by Israel in Gaza commissioned by President Biden. The Report reveals that Israel may have violated international law for being 'inconsistent' with the US and Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law protecting non-combatant civilians, women, and children. Unsurprisingly, the US has been sending new arms to Israel despite Rafah invasion. This is how successive US administrations have been pursuing their belligerent foreign policy and providing blanket armed protection to Israel. This US policy has mismanaged and stultified the Middle East peace process. This State Department Report 2024 is likely to be shelved with no action whatsoever as happened with similar past reports.

The British Parliament launched the Sir John Chilcot Commission to investigate the justification of the

UK's participation in the Iraq war. The Chilcot Report of 6 July 2016 found that Prime Minister Blair's decision to go on war was based on flawed and fabricated intelligence and unfounded assumptions. Similarly, the House of Commons' International Commission of Inquiry on Libya Report of 16 September 2016 revealed that Prime Minister Cameron's decision to invade Libya through NATO was neither lawful, nor successful and that he lied/misled the House by asserting that the Libyan operation would be limited to only civilian protection, while the Libyan regime change was his hidden agenda. Nothing has happened to the war mongering western leaders who repeatedly infringed Article 2(4); the prohibition of the use of force in international relations, a governing principle of the UN Charter and peremptory (jus cogens) norm with hierarchically superior status in international law. They remained unaccountable for their crimes of aggression that destroyed Iraq and Libya; rather they were rewarded. Tony Blair was appointed on 7 June 2007 as special representative of the Quartet of international powers to negotiate a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians and David Cameron is the incumbent British Foreign Secretary overtly determined to supply arms to Israel.

The present contemptuous state of the world order is largely attributable to the US-led unipolar world without the USSR since the 1990s. It led US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to arrogantly assert, 'we are the indispensable nation' in pursuit of 'asserted multilateralism', backed by unilateral military intervention when

necessary to protect its geopolitical and geostrategic interests beyond the reach of international law and the UN – an exceptionalist state indeed. In interstate conflicts so far, the US is the only state that dropped atomic bombs in Japan, chemical weapon agent orange in Viet Nam, and cluster bombs in Afghanistan. Recently, US lawmakers initiated a bill, the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act 2024, for sanction and visa restriction on key ICC prosecutorial officials involved in seeking arrest warrants against Israel leaders for committing war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. Such US threats and bullying tactics against international judiciaries are common in the face of every adverse judgement. The US undermined the International Court of Justice when lost in the Nicaragua case in 1987 and has hamstrung the WTO Appellate Body for decisions made against US for trade-rule violations.

The US declined to be party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and campaigned to destabilise the ICC. Its American Service Members Protection Act 2002 prohibited US cooperation with the ICC and granted the President to 'use all means necessary and appropriate to bring about the release' of US nationals or allies if detained by the ICC. The US concluded bilateral treaties with Israel, among others, preventing the surrender to the ICC of any US national guilty of international crimes. In 2002, the US threatened to veto the renewal of all UN peace-keeping missions unless its troops committing crimes were granted immunity from ICC prosecution. The Security Council granted this immunity for 12-months and renewed once. The US demand for immunity ceased in 2004 after footages of US troops' degrading and dehumanising treatments of Iraqi prisoners in the Abu Ghraib jail went viral worldwide. In 2020, the US imposed sanctions on senior ICC officials for launching investigations into alleged war crimes committed by US and allies' troops in Afghanistan and denied visa to the ICC Chief Prosecutor to interview repatriated US marines served in Afghanistan to find out whether war crimes were committed. While the US praised the ICC for issuing arrest warrant against Putin, the US/UK are reportedly persuading the ICC not to issue arrest warrant against Netanyahu. Talking about allies, in 2023 the Australian Federal Court found a Victoria Cross recipient soldier committing war crimes in Afghanistan in 2009-10, 2012, who has appealed the decision. An Australian whistleblower has been jailed in May 2024 for revealing confidential information on alleged war crimes committed by Australian soldiers in Afghanistan.

The legal equality of all sovereign states was conceived as the enforcer of international obligations to respect each other. This ideological basis of the world order is being routinely eroded by a pervasive tendency to reduce international legal obligations subservient to 'power'. This power-

driven defiance has become tormenting for states not enamoured with this hierarchical power. This is how the predatory power of the US-led coalition has disrupted, depleted, and paralysed the effectiveness of the world order for peaceful co-existence of states since the end of the cold war. Instead of being benevolent leaders, the post-cold war leaders displayed their cold war confrontationalist agenda to retain hegemonic control over the world and opted to confront world affairs in their own way through sheer force and rendered their legal obligations to eclipse under the shadow of 'power'. The rule-based postwar world order has turned into a rule of the jungle-based order led by the US. This systemic dysfunctionality has caused an extraordinary confidence crisis in the world order, experiencing spiraling recourse to power as a means of resolving interstate disputes like the Ukraine war in defiance of their assumed duty to the peaceful settlement of disputes under international law and the UN Charter (Art 33). The growing strategic partnership between Russia/China and their allies shows the ominous sign of besetting the world order into cold war hostilities once again.

It is in this context of the world order that Israel's savage and deadly invasion of Gaza needs to be understood. Israel and its allies justify the Gaza invasion as a form of aggressive self-defence to annihilate a target group wholly or partially in the same way the US-UK invented pre-emptive self-defence to justify the Iraq invasion. Neither form of self-defence exists in international law and the UN Charter, yet, they have exercised this self-made self-defence with impunity. The UN inaction in implementing the Security Council mandatory ceasefire resolution despite its authority to resort to sanctions and armed action against the defying state mandated in Articles 41-42 of the UN Charter, procrastinating ICJ proceedings, ICC trepidation in issuing arrest warrant against Israeli war leaders, hypocritical western threat against Rafah attack amid relentless arms supply to Israel, and whispering opposition of the Arab states are indicative that 'might' determines 'right' and 'power' prevails over 'justice' – as the hallmark of the postwar world order. One promising outcome of the Gaza crisis is the transcending galvanisation of bottom-up international public outrage, waging a consciousness-raising campaign that is storming the corridor of power for seismic reform in the prevalent world order. To them, the US sermon of human rights, freedom, fairness, and democracy sounds increasingly hollow and self-defeating on the face of its persistent paradoxical and lawless actions in global problems. Any claim that this order is 'rule-based' is far-fetched and pretentious.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT

## SHIPBREAKING YARDS need to be environment friendly

ATIQR RAHAMAN

The shipbreaking industry implies an industry that processes (e.g., separates and stores) old and discarded steel, copper metal materials, serviceable parts and machineries, fittings, furniture, and other materials in a shipyard or any convenient place. Importing and dismantling ships can generate foreign exchange revenue for the home country and potentially boost economic growth. Bangladesh is making a significant contribution to the global shipbreaking market through resource recovery.

Article 18(A) of the Bangladesh Constitution states that the state shall protect the environment and safeguard the natural resources, among others. The purpose of this constitutional provision is to protect the environment in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has ratified the Hong Kong Convention (HKC) in 2023, and the convention provides guidelines for

stricter environmental safety standards for shipbreaking industries.

Some domestic laws have been enacted for shipbreaking to ensure environmental protection. For instance, the Bangladesh Ship Recycling Act, 2018, the Shipbreaking and Recycling Rules, 2011, the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997, the Environment Court Act, 2010, the Accidents Act, 1855 and many other related laws. The main objective of these laws is to outline regulations for safe and environment friendly recycling of ships, address environmental concerns, and ensure worker safety.

Unfortunately, due to lack of enforcement of laws, shipbreaking industry engenders huge pollutants and thereby degrades the environment. Furthermore, according to the International Labor Organisation (ILO), the shipbreaking industry is one of the most dangerous in the world. Every year, many workers



die by suffocation due to explosions, poisonous gases, and falling iron sheets while cutting ships in the traditional way in these yards. Ships imported for breaking

contain black oil, asbestos, harmful paints, and various chemical, while shipbreaking produces unrecyclable iron powder. Many old toxic ships are also bought by the

owners in Bangladesh; the owners of the shipbreaking industry buy those ships at a low cost and these ships are not safe for the environment. Indeed, the shipbreaking industry owners do not maintain any safety procedures. Thus, the shipwreck industry causes terrible damage to the environment as well as to human health.

The shipbreaking industry is playing a significant role in the economy, but that should not be the case at the cost of environmental degradation and worker insecurity. The industry cannot be considered as safe in any way in the present context. By implementing mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and other necessary measures, Bangladesh can ensure that the shipbreaking industry contributes to a sustainable future, protects the environment, protects workers' health, and generates economic benefits.

*The writer is student of law, University of Asia Pacific.*

## Umpire's call sparks call for change

SPORTS REPORTER

Experts as well as fans have called for change in ICC's law relating to the ball being dead after the umpire signals out after such an incident proved crucial in Bangladesh's four-run loss to South Africa in a T20 World Cup fixture in New York yesterday.

On-field umpire Sam Nogajski was in the thick of things as it was his decision to signal Mahmudullah out in the 17th over which sparked the whole incident and seemingly cost Bangladesh the match.

Mahmudullah was given out lbw by Nogajski after the right handed batter failed to make contact with an in-swinging length ball from Otneil Baartman. The ball, which clearly looked to be going down the legside without disturbing the stumps, brushed off Mahmudullah's front pad and rolled down to the boundary.

The umpire raised his finger and upon a player review, Ball Tracking revealed that the delivery was indeed missing the stumps. Despite the successful review, Bangladesh were left ruing the four leg byes which were not added to their tally owing to ICC's ruling on such situations.



As per the ICC law, once the umpire gives a decision, the ball is deemed dead and runs gathered during that phase will not be considered.

If the umpire had not given him out, Bangladesh would have had four leg byes added to their total.

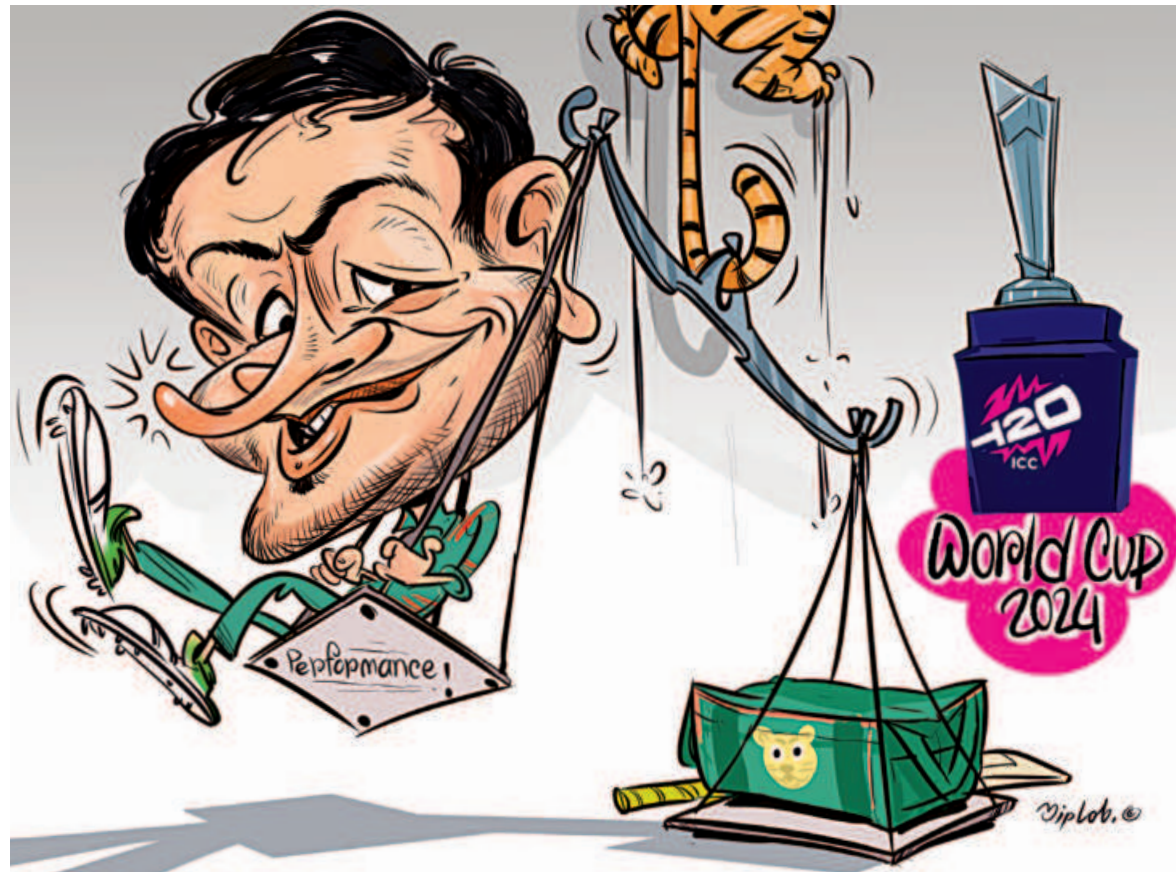
Former New Zealand pacer and renowned commentator Simon Doull criticised the umpire's lbw decision, brought forth the gravity of the implications the ruling has on games and called for a change.

"Just imagine this happens in the final and let's say India are on the wrong end of that in a final," Doull told Cricbuzz yesterday.

"There's got to be something changed in the way the system works because that was a howler, an absolute howler. It was a poor decision and it was never hitting the stumps and he [the umpire] had just thrown his finger up so quickly like a gunslinger.

"We've got to say that they've made some great decisions, there's been some very good umpiring throughout the tournament but that one wasn't and the result should've been four leg byes.

"Let's say that happens in the final ball of the T20 World Cup and one team loses on a really poor decision. There's got to be some way of changing this because it is happening more often than not. Every time, I have this question brought up pre-tournament or before an ICC event, they're like we can't do anything about it and it's not going to be significant in the course of a game. Well, it is significant and it will be in the course of a game. It is now costing games and we can't have it."



## TIGERS NEED SHAKIB to make his experience count

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

Marginal calls, full tosses not being put away or the general inconsistency of Bangladesh top-order were all cause for concern in Bangladesh's loss to South Africa in New York in a hard-fought contest on Monday. But the situation would not have gotten so desperate had Bangladesh's key player Shakib Al Hasan left a mark on the game coming in at number four in what was another crucial T20 World Cup game for the Tigers.

Shakib's stay at the crease lasted just four deliveries before he was holed out at mid-wicket, unable to connect a pull shot against Anrich Nortje. Shakib's soft dismissal saw South Africa back in the hunt.

Naturally, following the game there was scathing criticism regarding Shakib's performances.

Shakib's last fifty in the format came before the 2022 T20 World Cup in Australia, during the tri-nation series in New Zealand also involving Pakistan.

He has not enjoyed the best of circumstances leading up to this edition. Bar a match-winning bowling performance against Zimbabwe recently, his all-around performances against both Zimbabwe and then in the three-match T20I series against USA in Texas have been missing.

His troubles with the bat have been evident in the two World Cup matches so far. If it was expected that he would take control of the South Africa game, Shakib failed to live up to expectations. Now if Bangladesh are to advance to the next round and trouble opponents in the Super Eight, Shakib's

contribution would be crucial.

"If he wants to play in front of Towhid Hridoy in the middle order, he has to play with a cooler head and take responsibility. We can see that these are not 200 run wickets, so it becomes easier for an experienced player like Shakib," his mentor Nazmul Abdeen Fahim told The Daily Star.

"If he can control the game, it will be better for everyone since the top-order is not doing well. Of course, you can't match expectations all the time, but you have to do it on and off," added the veteran coach and analyst.

Shakib's bowling has perhaps

been a bigger concern. It was Bangladesh's most expensive bowler against Sri Lanka and bowled just one over against the Proteas, the first time in his career that it happened. It also upsets Bangladesh's bowling plan, especially with spin likely to be decisive in the West Indies.

"He has a very important role because there are only two specialist spinners in the side. He has to bowl in Powerplay and if he can't fulfil that, Bangladesh's bowling strategy suffers. At times it's important for spinners to bowl

in Powerplay and then also key in middle overs. If he can't bowl, we have to go to Mahmudullah but you can't always expect him to perform even as he [Mahmudullah] did excellently against South Africa," Fahim said about Shakib's bowling.

Shakib now has a chance to make it count on surfaces offered in West Indies and gain momentum against lower-ranked opponents in Netherlands and Nepal.

Fahim expects Shakib – the leading wicket-taker in the tournament's history but is yet to get a wicket in this edition – to get more turn.

"Given the immediate



**If Shakib can control the game, it will be better for everyone since the top-order is not doing well. Of course, you can't match expectations all the time, but you have to do it on and off.**

Nazmul Abdeen Fahim  
Esteemed coach

## Can USA slay another giant?

STAR SPORTS DESK

The Group A fixture of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup between Asian powerhouse India and co-hosts USA on Wednesday at the Nassau County Cricket Stadium in New York is set to be the first ever international match between the two teams.

Aside from it being a landmark game, the outcome of the match bears significance given the context of the group as the winner get to seal their entry into the Super Eight.

While this match was deemed a total mismatch ahead of the marquee event, with former champions taking on an associate nation, USA have shown that they are no pushovers.

The tournament opener saw the co-hosts earn bragging rights over neighbours Canada, but very few expected them to produce one of the biggest upsets in history in their next outing against Pakistan – stunning the 2009 winners following a Super Over contest to garner attention in a country where the attention to cricket is yet to gain traction, leading to players like Saurabh Netralvakar and Aaron Jones becoming overnight household names.

USA skipper Monank Patel said "beating Pakistan was a big achievement" but it was apparent that the so-called minnows had their feet on the ground.

"Before the tournament I said that we want to focus on one game at a time, and our focus will be on playing against India now," Monank said after his side's monumental win over Pakistan, whose campaign took a nosedive after India defeated them in a thriller at the same venue.



by fellow quick Arshdeep Singh, all-rounder Hardik Pandya finding some sort of form following a forgetful Indian Premier League campaign has been the surprising positive aspect.

On the batting front, keeper-batter Rishabh Pant has flourished but the likes of star batter Virat Kohli



Although the possibilities of bad weather intervening today remain slim, if it happens, it will mean elimination for Pakistan and Ireland as well.

India, on the other hand, even though the men in blue can't complain about how the results have gone in their favour so far, they are yet to fire as a collective unit.

While ace pacer Jaspit Bumrah has played to his reputation, backed

-- tournament's all-time leading run-scorer -- T20 specialist Suryakumar Yadav and Shivam Dube, who made the cut in to the side on the back of IPL exploits, will be desperate to stamp their authority.

However, finding batting form for the big shots will be a challenge due to the playing conditions in store, with Nassau County producing several low-scoring affairs, increasing the likelihood of yet another upset.



## Kroos hoping for 'cheesy' career end with Euro win

AFP, Herzogenaurach

Germany veteran Toni Kroos is hoping to sign off from his club and national career with a dream victory on home soil in Euro 2024 -- and admitted on Tuesday the prospect was almost "a bit too cheesy".

Kroos, who won the 2014 World Cup with Germany and most recently lifted the Champions League for a sixth time after Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Borussia Dortmund in June, is set to retire after the European Championship.

Kroos stepped down from international duty after Germany's last-16 Euros exit to England in 2021 but answered a call from manager Julian Nagelsmann to return in February this year.

Speaking on Tuesday at Germany's Euros training base in the Bavarian village of Herzogenaurach, a "hungry" Kroos said he would not have come back if he did not believe in a sentimental ending.

"That ending would be a bit too cheesy, with the Champions League and the European Championship, but I'll take it. I want to win the tournament this summer," Kroos said.

Germany face Scotland in Munich on Friday in the tournament's curtainraiser.

## China survive WC qualifying scare

AFP, Hong Kong

China squeezed into the third and final round of Asian qualifying for the 2026 World Cup despite suffering a 1-0 defeat at South Korea on Tuesday, with Indonesia also progressing.

Paris Saint-Germain's Lee Kang-in scored just after the hour in Seoul for South Korea, who were already into the next qualifying phase as group winners.

The damaging loss left China's World Cup hopes hanging by a thread, but Thailand failed to take advantage as their dreams of progressing fell agonisingly short.

They needed to beat basement side Singapore by three goals in Bangkok to leapfrog China into second place in Group C of the second qualifying phase, but the Thais could only win 3-1.

In contrast to the crushing disappointment in Bangkok, Indonesia celebrated reaching the third qualifying round for the first time with a 2-0 home victory over the Philippines.

Indonesia joined Iraq in advancing out of Group F, with Thom Haye and Rizky Ridho the goal-scoring heroes on the night in Jakarta.

Elsewhere, coach Hajime Moriyasu warned Japan that the final qualifying round will be "a completely different level" after thrashing Syria 5-0 to go through with a 100 percent record.

Syria were left to sweat on a place in the next phase.

North Korea need just a point at Group B bottom side Myanmar later Tuesday to leapfrog Syria and progress.

In a dead rubber in Group I, Australia thrashed Palestine 5-0 in Perth with Portsmouth's Kusini Yengi scoring twice, one from the spot. Both sides were already into the next phase.


Like Japan, Australia had maximum points in the second phase and did not concede a goal in six games.



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# 49 migrants die as boat sinks off Yemen: IOM

AFP, Dubai  
A boat carrying more than 200 migrants sank off Yemen, leaving at least 49 dead, mostly women and children, in the latest disaster on the perilous migration route from Africa, a UN agency said yesterday.

"At least 49 migrants have died and 140 others remain missing after a boat" carrying 260 people capsized off the southern province of Shabwah on Monday, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said.

It said 31 women and six children were among those confirmed dead, adding that 115 Somali nationals and 145 Ethiopians were initially on board the vessel before it sank.

"Search and rescue operations are ongoing despite significant challenges due to a shortage of operational patrol boats," the IOM said.

The boat departed from Bossaso in Somalia at around 3:00 am (0000 GMT) on Sunday amid a "recent rise in migrants from the Horn of Africa travelling to Yemen," the UN agency said.

Each year many tens of thousands of migrants from the Horn of Africa set off across the Red Sea in a bid to reach the oil rich Gulf, escaping conflict, natural disasters or poor economic prospects.

In 2023 alone, the IOM observed more than 97,200 migrant arrivals in Yemen, it said.

In April, two boats sank off the coast of Djibouti just two weeks apart, leaving at least 62 dead, according to the UN agency.

The IOM said yesterday it had recorded 1,860 migrant

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A bull being brought down from a truck at Sagarika Cattle Market, one of the biggest markets in Chattogram city. As Eid-ul-Azha draws nearer, sales of cattle in the city are slowly gathering momentum.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## No competitive politics left in Bangladesh

Yunus tells Reuters



REUTERS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has turned into a "one-party" state as the ruling party stamps out political competition, Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus, a pioneer of the global microcredit movement, said in an interview.

An election in January won Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina a fourth straight term, but it was boycotted by the main opposition party, whose top leaders were either jailed or in exile ahead of the polls.

Prof Yunus, who helped to lift millions from poverty

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## It's service charge, not extortion

### Home minister says about transport leaders collecting money on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said they prevent extortion on highways and that what transport leaders collect from vehicles was "service charge".

"Leaders of the transport sector give us a list of how much service charge will be collected at which places. If not followed, they asked [police] to take action. We prioritise that list," the minister said yesterday.

He, however, said, "We think the service charge should be taken from a specific place. Police face an awkward situation as the service charge was not collected from a specific point and many think it is extortion."

The home boss made the comments in response to a reporter's query after he joined a discussion marking the 19th founding anniversary of Highway Police in Bangladesh Police Auditorium at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

According to transport leaders, the "service charge" is taken as operational costs of different transport associations. In Dhaka, the charge is Tk 80 and Tk 70 outside Dhaka.

Osman Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation, who spoke at the discussion as a special guest, criticised the extortion on roads and operation of three-wheelers, including auto-rickshaws, on highways.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

# Hamas accepts UN-backed Gaza truce plan

## US cites 'hopeful sign'; 40 more Palestinians killed as Israel steps up strikes across enclave

REUTERS, Cairo

Hamas accepts a UN resolution backing a plan to end the Israeli offensive in Gaza and is ready to negotiate details, a senior official of the Palestinian group said yesterday in what the UN Secretary of State called "a hopeful sign".

But Qatari and Egyptian mediators have not received formal replies from Hamas or Israel to the UN-backed truce proposal, an official close to the talks told Reuters, and both sides suggested yesterday the plan fit their clashing goals, raising doubt whether any genuine headway towards a deal had been made.

Discussions also touching on post-offensive plans for Gaza will continue over the next couple of days, Blinken said in Tel Aviv after talks with Israeli leaders.

Blinken met Israeli officials yesterday in a push to end the eight-month-old offensive that has devastated Gaza, a day after President Joe Biden's proposal for a truce was approved by the UN Security Council.

Ahead of Blinken's trip, Israel and Hamas both repeated headline positions that have scuttled previous rounds of truce mediation, while Israel has pressed on with assaults in central and southern Gaza.

Biden's proposal envisages a ceasefire and phased release of hostages in exchange for

Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the offensive.

Yesterday, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri, who is based outside Gaza, said it accepted the ceasefire resolution and was ready to negotiate over the specifics.

This required a formula stipulating the total withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and a swap of hostages held in Gaza for Palestinians jailed in Israel, he told Reuters.

Blinken said the Hamas statement was "a hopeful sign" but definitive word was still needed from the Hamas leadership inside Israeli-besieged Gaza. "That's what counts, and that's what we don't have yet."

After Blinken left for Jordan, a senior Israeli government official said the published proposal would enable Israel to achieve its war goals. Blinken, speaking later in the day at a conference in Jordan on the humanitarian response for Gaza, announced \$404 million in aid for Palestinians and called on other donors to also step up.

Meanwhile, the offensive raged on in Gaza yesterday as Israeli forces stepped up strikes on its southern city of Rafah a day after four soldiers were killed in an ambush claimed by Hamas.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

- Mediators yet to get formal response from Hamas, Israel on truce proposal
- Discussions on post-offensive plans for Gaza to continue: Blinken
- Gaza death toll now 37,164

## CONSTABLE KILLING

### Police knew about shooter cop's mental illness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police were aware of the mental illness of the constable who shot dead a colleague and injured another man, Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun told reporters yesterday.

Since the incident happened near several foreign diplomatic missions in the capital's Baridhara on Saturday, police officials maintained that they were not aware of constable Kawsar Ali's mental health issues.

While IGP Mamun was talking to reporters at Rajarbagh Police Lines, a journalist mentioned that Kawsar was earlier treated at a hospital for mental health issues.

The IGP replied, "We deployed him again after a doctor said he was fully fit for the job. We will be more cautious [in the future] about any deployment."

According to Kawsar's family members, he had mental illness and received treatment for it

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

# Police detain Jhenaidah AL general secy

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Multiple leaders of Jhenaidah Awami League were aware of MP Anwarul Azim Anar's murder before the government's announcement.

The leaders even exchanged images of the murder with the planner and the hitman.

Investigators claimed to have the information by interrogating and analysing the mobile phone record of Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, relief and social welfare affairs secretary of Jhenaidah AL, now on a seven-day remand with the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Meanwhile, a DB team picked up Saidul Karim Mintu, general secretary of the district AL, from the capital's Dhanmondi for interrogation in connection with the killing of the Jhenidah-4 lawmaker.

A DB source confirmed it, but no official confirmation was available.

Mintu, who was a former mayor of Jhenaidah Sadar municipality, had a conflict with Azim over influence in the party politics, said local sources.

Azim wanted to be the secretary of the district AL while Mintu tried to secure the AL ticket for Jhenidah-4 (Kaliganj) in the last national election, they added.

Mintu's elder sister Dipti Rahman told The Daily Star last night that they heard about the detention of her brother.

"We are trying to find out what happened. My brother is not involved in any murder, but it is now being framed for political reasons."

Investigators said Babu was very close to Mintu.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan gestures to the dressing room during his unbeaten 53 in their Twenty20 World Cup Group A match against Canada at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York yesterday. Pakistan restricted Canada to 106 before chasing down the target with seven wickets and 15 balls to spare to register their first win of the campaign.

PHOTO: AFP

## Not all is lost for Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh team reached Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday for their final two group matches of the ongoing T20 World Cup as they will face the Netherlands on June 13 before taking on Nepal on June 16 at Kingstown.

Bangladesh suffered an agonising four run defeat against South Africa in their second Group D game of the ongoing T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York on Monday but the Tigers still possess a very good chance of making it beyond the group stages of mega T20 event.

Having played in all of the previous eight editions of the T20 World Cup, Bangladesh had very little to show for as their biggest achievement in the mega

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**PENDEKAR ENERGY (L) LTD ("PEL")**

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ("RFEOI")**

NEPC Consortium Power Ltd ("NEPC") is a private company incorporated in Bangladesh, which owns a Barge Mounted 110 MW Diesel Engines Power Plant at Haripur, Narayanganj, Bangladesh. NEPC is a wholly owned subsidiary of PEL, joint venture between **Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd ("EPH")**, **Malaysia and Aljomaih Energy and Water ("AEW")**, Saudi Arabia, leading international independent power producers which own and operate a diversified portfolio of power generation assets in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

PEL wishes to invite prospective applicants to express their interest in participating the tender exercise as stated below:

TENDER NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION
HO-NEPC-2024-004	Tender Name: Tender for the Sale of a Barge Mounted 110 MW Diesel Engines Power Plant in Bangladesh.

Prospective applicants who are interested to participate in this RFEOI are required to state their interest through a company letter head stating their interest and providing the complete information as stated below via email to [nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy](mailto:nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy) by **30th June 2024**.

Information to accompany the RFEOI:

1. Name of applicant (company name)
2. Country of incorporation
3. Authorized contact person with contact details
4. Company Profile (if any)

The expression of interest along with the information provided therein, will be reviewed & evaluated to determine the Responsive Applicants. PEL will only issue invitation via email to the Responsive Applicants to participate in the Tender. The complete information on the Tender and related documents shall be attached with the invitation email.

Any inquires related to the above RFEOI shall be directed to: [nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy](mailto:nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy)