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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 Maitra 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

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 eve-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 Gopalgani, 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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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 Bhaban 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

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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

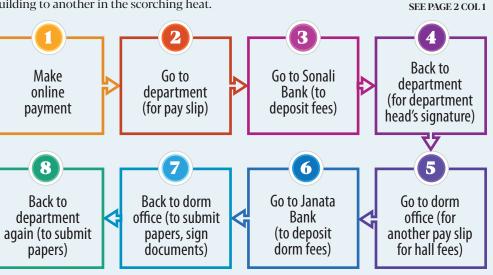
the guidance he received from the university authorities was inadequate and he spent two building to another in the scorching heat.



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

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 days waiting in queues and going from one deposit a development fee of Tk 5,000 to



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 Khizir 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.

Wakerwascommissioned 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.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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.

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

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 Lakshmipur'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

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Govt approves price for 40MW power import from Nepal

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has agreed to buy 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal at Tk 8.17 per unit, including transmission cost, under a five-year agreement.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase yesterday approved the price, ending a long negotiation over hydropower import from the Himalayan nation via India.

Mahmudul Hossain secretary (coordination and reforms) of Cabinet Division, said Nepal will get \$0.640 per unit while India will receive 0.0595 rupee as trade margin.

He said the transmission cost that India would get has not been mentioned in the summary of the However, a Power Division official

said Bangladesh will pay \$0.697 per unit (Tk 8.17), including power price, transmission charge, and trade margin. He said the transmission charge

would vary from time to time. SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PHOTO: COLLECTED

A 200-metre long queue of students in front of the Sonali Bank branch on Dhaka University campus. The photo was taken on Monday.

Two teachers of St Scholastica's Girls' School sued for sexual abuse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Two teachers of St Scholastica's Girls' School and College in Chattogram city's Patharghata area have been sued for sexually abusing a fifth-grade schoolgirl for over a year.

The accused are Rakib Uddin, 35, who teaches fourth grade, and Surjit Pal, 33, who teaches fifth

Of the duo, Rakib was detained last night for interrogation, confirmed Obaidul Haque, officerin-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Earlier in the day, the 11-year-old victim's mother filed the case with Kotwali Police Station, said Atanu Chakraborty, assistant commissioner (Kotwali Zone) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

"We've accepted the case and received some screenshots of messages sent by the teachers to the victim as supporting evidence. We've launched an investigation into the allegations of sexual abuse brought against the teachers."

According to the case statement, the 11-yearold had been sexually abused by both teachers for

Since 2023, the two teachers have sexually harassed and molested the girl on several occasions. Whenever she tried to resist them, they reprimanded her in class and threatened to fail

in the project.

over the last one week.

AN OFFENCE

or business work

The Daily Star.

he said.

Masud Alam denied his involvement

"Never in my life did I commit any

misdemeanor. After joining as the SF

of Madaripur, I never visited the area

where Benazir sir's project is located.

did not go there even if it was necessary,

Rab Additional SP Shaheda did not

Former IGP Nur Mohammad said

"That would be an offence," he told

Government officials can buy land,

but in keeping with the regulations and

with legitimate income. In Benazir's

case, it must be seen whether this was

followed and what is the source of the

money, said Nur, who was an Awami

League lawmaker in the previous term.

Benazir did not respond to our calls and text messages on WhatsApp.

Benazir refuted the allegations of

and intimidation is impractical as it is

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's home

district and the project area is adjacent

to her constituency," he said.
In addition to his land, the ACC has

so far discovered that Benazir and his

All his bank accounts have since been

frozen, although ACC investigators say a

Lt Gen Waker-Uz-

buying land through intimidation.

In a Facebook live on April 20,

Purchasing land through coercion

respond to our calls and text messages

senior police officials cannot engage

members of the police for their personal

Gruelling 3 days for DU freshers

Sonali Bank's branch on campus.

Imran went to the branch at the administrative building around 12:30pm, only to find a queue of over 300 people. He could not pay the fee until four hours later.

"I did not even have lunch for fear of failing to make the payment," he said. Imran then went to his department

to submit the pay slip and other documents, but was told to come back the next day "because the documents that I submitted require signatures from the department chair."
Around 9:30am yesterday, he went

to the department and collected the papers. He was then asked to submit the papers to the dormitory office. Upon submitting the papers at the Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall, he got another pay slip for depositing Tk 2,500 to Janata Bank.

Im ran went to the bank's TSC brancharound 10:30am and saw a queue stretching to the Bangla Academy gate, around 300 metres from the bank.

After several hours, he deposited the money and rushed back to his dorm and submitted the payment slip, but hundreds of others were still in the

"The dorm office told me to leave the slip and other papers and come back

between the dorm, faculty, and bank, and hopefully, the process will end

Imran is one of around 6,000 freshers who have been suffering because of the lack of coordination among different offices on campus.

Besides, the mere three-day window, starting Monday, for the admission of such a large number of students is causing the long queue.

The admission committee had earlier requested the department heads to make sure students could pay the dorm and development fees online, but the department heads did not show interest, said a member of the

But three department heads from the social sciences and arts faculties said they were not informed of the

This correspondent talked to at least 50 freshers and their guardians, and all of them expressed disappointment that the payments could not be made

A man who came to the campus from Rajshahi for the admission of his daughter said he had been staying at a relative's home for the last few days and spending hours on campus.

"Almost everything is done online these days. But we are having to the next day. I spent two days shuttling queue under the sun. The process is next year," he said.

slow, complex and bureaucratic and it is because the officials involved are not too eager to make it simple and fast," said the father who works at a government department and is not willing to disclose his identity.

Nur Jahan, who was in a queue near the administrative building in the afternoon, said it was difficult for her and her daughter to spend hours under the glaring sun. "I let her stand in line and went to get some water for her. We could become sick from this ordeal."

Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, who teaches international relations, said, "When we got admitted in the early 90s, we faced such hassles. But it's 2024, and the admission process has not changed much. It means the university has not progressed institutionally.

Moreover, the administrative officers and employees do not behave well with the students, he said. Contacted, DU Vice Chancellor Prof

ASM Maksud Kamal said there is a lack of coordination between the admission authorities and heads of departments and institutes.

"The university has started making the process online, but I am not sure why the entire system is not online. I took charge a few months ago and I hope that this problem will not be there

Fear forced Hindus to sell their land to ex-IGP lakh after Benazir's men filled it up with

"About four years ago, Taimur asked us to sell the land. As we refused, he said that Benazir had already acquired all the surrounding land and would make sure that we cannot access our land," Swarup told The Daily Star.

Eventually, they had to sell their three bighas of land for Tk 3.8 lakh per bigha, nearly half the market price. With the little money shared among his three brothers, there was no way they could buy any farmland elsewhere.

Another victim of Benazir's allegedly forceful land acquisition is Swarasati Roy, 60, from Borokhola village in Rajoir of Madaripur. Having forced to give up her 31 decimals of land, her only livelihood means, she now works at other people's homes to earn a living.

and threatened that Benazir would take and the proceeds from the sale of a cow.

She and her day labourer son now live on a five-decimal homestead, their

Others, including Apurba Maitra of Patikelbari village of Gopalganj, were targeted with clever tactics.

in two plots, growing rice on one plot and watermelon on the other.

large pipes through his land to sandfill the ex-IGP's Savanna Eco Resort and Natural Park project site. The plot

Benazir engaged members of the police and Rab for his personal project as well. Locals said that until he went into retirement in 2022, several police and Rab officials were tasked with supervising the construction work of Two sub-inspectors -- Bachchu Miah and Shahjalal -- were seen at the site most of the time by locals.

sand. What would I do back home? So I

came to India," he told The Daily Star by

phone from Thakurnagar, West Bengal.

RAB-POLICE MEMBERS AT RESORT

Benazir's then staff officer Masud Alam, who later became Madaripur police super, also visited the site frequently, sometimes even negotiating the land purchase, locals said.

Rab Additional SP Shaheda Sultana would also visit the site.

NO ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE Savanna Eco Resort and Natural Park was built on a portion of the purchased land at Machkandi and Bairagitol villages. There are several upscale cottages having architecture replicating the Masai houses of the African Savanna.

For land development at the site, Benazir's men dug up a huge pond spanning about 30 bighas of land in Bairagitol and brought the sand and soil from there, locals said.

According to its website, there is a farm within the resort, several ponds, a swimming pool, boat ride facilities, play zones for children, a country club, a helipad and other facilities.

family have shares in 19 companies, two savings certificates, 22 bank accounts and 10 BO accounts. large sum of money has been withdrawn by the time the freeze order could take

Biplob Baul

resort

government has since taken over the

Rahman, assistant Mahfuzur director of Gopalganj environment office, said the resort was built with a temporary site clearance, but it does not have the final environmental clearance.

road there to facilitate local people's transport. But locals cannot use it anymore, as the resort authorities set up a huge iron gate, allowing only the resort-goers to use it.

"We learned that locals cannot use the road. Our job is to build roads. The local administration can take steps so that people can use the road," said SM Jahidul Islam, engineer of LGED in Gopalganj Sadar.

highway police station, denied that he

Shaheb "Benazir went retirement two years ago. The villagers did not lodge any complaint to the local MP, union parishad chairmen and members. I do not know why they are bringing such allegations now.

sometimes called him, asking him to verify the land document, and he simply obliged.

trees. During the time, IGP's staff officer occasionally called me and I used to visit him. Masud Shaheb can tell everything as he was later made the SP of Madaripur to look after the project. He did everything. They are senior officers, they know everything," Taimur told The Daily Star by phone.

Bachchu Sub-inspectors Shahjalal did not pick up the calls or

Earlier, Bachchu admitted to daily Prothom Alo that he supervised the "obeyed the orders" of his supervisors.

FROM PAGE 1 brigade. School of Infantry and Tactics and Army Headquarters.

Zaman

He commanded an infantry battalion, the only independent

infantry brigade of Bangladesh Army, and an infantry division. Waker was a distinguished instructor at School of Infantry and Tactics, Non-commissioned Officers'

Academy and Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training. He also served as the military secretary at the Army Headquarters. Prior to taking over as the CGS of Bangladesh Army, Waker had been the

Sheikh Hasina at the Armed Forces Division under the Prime Minister's Office. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Command and Staff College,

principal staff officer of Prime Minister

Mirpur and Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK. He has a master's degree in defence studies from National University of

Bangladesh. He also completed Master of Arts in defence studies from King's College, University of London. As the head of the Armed Forces

Division, Waker was directly involved in the UN Peacekeeping Affairs of Bangladesh Armed Forces. He was also nominated as a Gender

Champion and Gender Advocate of Bangladesh for UN Peacekeeping Affairs. As the principal staff officer, he

also headed the Bangladesh National Authority for Chemical Weapons Convention as chairman.

completed two tours of duty as observer and staff in UNAVEM (Angola) and UNMIL (Liberia) respectively.

Under the Blue Helmet, Waker

He had the rare privilege of commanding the National Victory Day Parade for three consecutive times.

He was awarded the coveted Army Medal of Glory" (SGP) and "Extraordinary Service Medal" (OSP) for his remarkable contributions to the

Waker was a keynote speaker in different seminars and symposiums at home and abroad.

Hunter Biden found guilty on gun charges

Trump, convicted on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to cover up a sex scandal, accuses Democrats of pursuing that case and three other criminal prosecutions to prevent him from regaining power in his rematch with Joe Biden.

Congressional Democrats have pointed to cases including the Hunter Biden prosecution as evidence that Joe Biden is not using the justice system for political or personal ends, having said last week he would not pardon his son if convicted.

The Hunter Biden case was brought by US Department of Justice Special Counsel David Weiss, a Trump

Weiss has also charged Hunter Biden

with three felony and six misdemeanor tax offenses in California, alleging he failed to pay \$1.4 million in taxes between 2016 and 2019 while spending millions on drugs, escorts, exotic cars and other high-ticket items.

Hunter Biden has pleaded not guilty for September 5 in Los Angeles.

Biden's ex-wife, former girlfriend and sister-in-law, who gave firsthand accounts of his spiraling addiction in

messages, photos and bank records that they said showed Biden was deep in the throes of addiction when he bought the

to those charges. A trial is scheduled The Delaware trial included

prosecution testimony by Hunter the weeks before and after he bought the gun in October 2018.

Prosecutors also showed text

gun and knowingly broke the law by answering "no" to being a drug user on a government screening form.

Biden's lawyers sought to show he was not using drugs when he bought the gun and did not intend to deceive because he didn't consider himself a drug user when he filled out the form.

The defense called Hunter Biden's daughter, Naomi Biden, who testified that her father seemed to be doing well when she saw him shortly before and after he bought the gun.

The sentencing guidelines for the gun-related charges against Biden are 5 to 21 months, but legal experts say defendants in similar cases often get shorter sentences and are less likely to be incarcerated if they abide by the terms of their pretrial release.

nations the Netherlands and Nepal.

Meanwhile, things could get a bit

tricky for Bangladesh if they go on to

lose any one of their last two group-

stage games as then the Tigers will have

to depend on the results of some other

they suffered against the Proteas, the

Tigers will now need to grind harder

and adapt to the different conditions

in the Caribbean in order to avert any

upset in their upcoming matches and

have a smooth sailing into the Super

Shrugging off the close defeat

fixtures going in their favour.

Not all is lost for Tigers

event came 17 years ago when they beat hosts West Indies in their tournament opener – the only time they beat a Testplaying nation before the Sri Lanka win in this edition — in the inaugural

edition of the T20 World Cup in 2007. However, things are looking positive for the Tigers this time around. The Najmul Hossain Shantoled Bangladesh, who were rocked iust ahead of the T20 World Cup as they hit the nadir in the shortest format following a shocking 2-1 series defeat against the USA, have made a

commendable turnaround result-wise. Thanks to a two-wicket win over

Sri Lanka in their tournament opener and a closely-fought game against the Proteas, Bangladesh are now second in the five-team group. With two points in two matches, Bangladesh remain just behind group leaders South Africa, who have all but confirmed their spot in the Super Eight with six points from three wins in as many games.

Bangladesh, who also have a positive net run-rate of 0.075, will now need to do what is expected of them in the final two group games – beat associate

1 dies, 40 fall ill after inhaling toxic gas

"Deceased Kabir is a cousin of one Civil Defence, said they reached the

"It was ammonia gas," said the officer, who has training and

experience in working with toxic gases.

Two to three years ago, Taimur said she was not the real owner of the land it anyway. Eventually, she caved, and had to accept only Tk 2 lakh for the land she bought 20 years ago with loan money

last remaining piece of land.

The man had 10 kathas of farmland

Suddenly one day, Benazir's men laid

Swarup Maitra Swaraswati Roy

that fell within Benazir's project was automatically filled with sand. "We failed to grow anything for two years. At one point, we were compelled

to sell the land to Benazir," said Apurba, who now works as a day labourer. Like them, several hundred people in Gopalgani Sadar and Madaripur's Rajoir upazilas were forced to sell their

family land. During a two-day visit to Machkandi, Bairagitol and Patikelbari villages of Gopalganj Sadar and Borokhola village in Rajoir, The Daily Star spoke to at least 40 people. They all said they would not have sold their land if it were not for the terror induced in their hearts by the very thought of Benazir

CLEVER TACTICS According to locals, Benazir first bought a piece of land in the area in 2016-2017. The floodgate had since opened as the mighty cop went on a land acquisition spree, with Inspector Taimur Islam intimidating the poor and mostly Hindu villagers to sell their land.

Benazir's men would fly drones and

make a map, marking various plots in

white and red, presumably to determine

which land to target, said Tarun Baul of Bairagitol village. He recalled that Taimur would eventually approach the targeted land owners and say, "You know Benazir and how powerful he is. If you decline to sell your land, he would surely take it anyway. You will lose both your land and

the money. If you agree to sell, I will help you get a handsome price." When someone refused to sell their land, Benazir would buy the surrounding land and block the entry to the land in the middle. This would ultimately force people to give in, said Sanjay Baul of Bairagitol village whose 30 bighas of family land were "forcefully acquired" by Benazir in 2018-2019.

"Two locals left for India with their families after selling their land to Benazir," said Biplob Baul. One of them is Pranshanta Baul, 40,

who left the country along with his wife and four children about a year ago. "I was compelled to sell my 51

decimals of agricultural land at Tk 2

Tarun Baul

Until June 3, people could visit it for an entrance fee of Tk 100. The

A few years ago, the LGED built a

OBEYED THE ORDER' Taimur Islam, officer-in-charge at a

intimidated anyone to sell their land.

Victims said they never had the heart to seek legal redress against Benazir. Taimur said Benazir's staff officer

"I was tasked with planting some

respond to the text messages.

PM likely to visit FROM PAGE 1 old gas cylinder a few days ago. When Her China visit was underscored after workers were trying to break open the

Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen met her recently. Wen reiterated China's commitment to boosting investment in Bangladesh and enhancing bilateral relations. Hasina is likely to join the 79th

construction work at the resort site on instructions of senior officials. He defended his action, saying he only

modernisation of the army.

struggled to tackle the situation. We

gave first aid to many while some were admitted. Four are still undergoing treatment at the hospital," said a hospital staff. Imran Ali, manager of Shyamoli Housing (2nd Project), said, "My wife,

two children and I were sleeping in our

tin-roofed home when suddenly, we

started having difficulty breathing and our eyes started burning. "We rushed to the lane in front of our home where many people had already gathered. Many were vomiting while some complained of palpitations," said Imran, who along with his family, had

treatment at SSMCH. Abdur Rahman Tuhin, deputy manager of Smart Technology BD Ltd, said all 20 staff members of their firm lived near the scrap shop, and they all

of the staffer. Kabir stayed with him on Monday night. He fell seriously ill and later died," Tuhin added.

Adabar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahbubur Rahman, said Kalu, the owner of the metal scrap shop, had fled the area after the incident, but police detained him in the morning. "Kalu told police that he bought a very

leaked, causing the gas inside to spread to the surrounding area.' The OC said experts at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) were examining the cylinder to determine the type of gas.

Fakhruddin, senior station officer at

the Mohammadpur Fire Service and

Meanwhile,

Mohammad

cylinder at the shop early yesterday, it

spot around 4:00am when the gas was still leaking from the 25-30kg cylinder.

session of the UN General Assembly, which will begin on September 10. She is also likely to attend the BIMSTEC summit in Thailand in October, according to diplomatic sources.



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.

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.

Éid-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

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

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-Ishwardi 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

RISING MEDICAL EXPENSES

The poor sink deeper into poverty: speakers

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overhaul of health sector

Increased investments

Health insurance for all

Utilisation of allocated budget

Political will

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 remarks at roundtable "Health titled Expenditure: Critical Challenge in Ensuring Health Care in Bangladesh", jointly organised by The Daily Star and

No market at

Anwara Park

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

North

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

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

emphasised that the Dhaka

Mass Transit Company

Limited (DMTCL) do not

need income from the

market: they are already

The mayor expressed his

support for the movement

and announced that authorities had already

been informed of the prime

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

The rally saw solidarity om at least 30

from

organisations.

The Public Works

"The prime minister

committee yesterday.

earning income

minister's direction.

passengers," he added.

"At a meeting with the

Hasina's instructions.

Atiqul tells rally

Dhaka

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 8.61 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 healthcaré,

Bangladeshis accounted for 57.5 percent of medical tourists in 2019 alone, said Rubayet, also the country director of Bangladesh.

Number 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

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Every village will be under civic amenities: PM

investments.

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



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 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 Kaligani 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 the government will construct new

homes in case of completely damaged houses, and will extend support to reconstruct the partially damaged houses.

Syed Ashfaqul

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

Haque gets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

bail

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.

February this year.

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.

lawyer Ashfaqul's 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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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; 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 Siddique Mohammad Ullah Miah told reporters that the Rohingays 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

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



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.



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

Preeti. 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



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.



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

11pc of population at risk

implemented through the Directorate of Public Health and Engineering, aim to establish 10,65,000 arsenic-free water sources

include deep tube wells, piped water supply systems, rainwater storage, and solar-powered pond sand filters. These efforts are

a question from Faridunnahar Department.

expected to reduce the revised the department's FROM PAGE 3

arsenic contamination risk by 5-6 percent by Besides, in response

Laili, a lawmaker from the reserved women's seats, the minister discussed plans to expand the Dhaka Mosquito Control

The government has

organisational structure activities mentioned the and is planning to establish a full-fledged Dhaka Mosquito Control Directorate.

expansion will This 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 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-convener at CSO Forum and president of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, said, "Most doctors do not want to work at the community

Estimated Cost of work:

ost of Tender Document

learn earn!

Name of positions

Chief Instructor - Electrical Technology

Junior Instructor/Instructor - Electrical

Officer, Career Counselling and Employ

Technology /Computer Science & Technology

Computer Science & Technology

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, vicepresident 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 that budget ensure allocations are spent properly and that health services are provided according to standards.

Advocating for an urgent need in the health sector, Shams EI 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.

There are three reasons why the

not be spent. One is bureaucratic,

administration, and the third is lack

of training for our service providers.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. IRCON/9043/BD.KHU-MON/TENDER/SALE-SCRAP STEEL/DIGRAJ /176/2024-02 Dt. 11.06.2024

Open Tender in Single packet bid system invited on prescribed forms from bonafid

irms/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).

BDT 38,19,133.80

One (01) month

ast 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, Roan No. 4, Sonadanga R/A, Phase-2, Khulna-9100, Project Manager/KMRLI

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

For details, please visit <u>https://jobs.ucepbd.org</u> or <u>www.bdjobs.com</u>. The las date for applying is June 29, 2024.

Tk. 5,000 /- (Pay Order in fa

Contact No. 01783965380, email at kmprlbd9043@ircon.org

allocated health budget could

the second is our weakness at

PROF SYED ABDUL HAMID

Project Manager/KMRLP

UCEPBangladesh

Chattogran

Gazipur

Rangpur

Institute of Health Economics, DU

the facility level and inefficient

Shishir Moral, a special correspondent at the Bangla daily Prothom Alo, said usually over 20 percent of health budget allocation

are embezzled.

Mentioning that most out-of-pocket expenditures when buying medicines, he advocated strengthening Essential Drugs Company Limited and asked CSO organisations to negotiate with the government to prevent further increases in medicine prices.

Esrat Jahan, a regional inclusive health specialist in South Asia, said the budget does not address the health issues of physically challenged people, even though 42 percent of them are suffering from chronic illness.

multidisciplinary approach to address the needs of these people.

While delivering welcome speech, Golam Mortaza, editor at The Daily Star Bangla, said the country's healthcare service will reach an standard acceptable only when the country's ministers and high-level government officials receive treatment government hospitals.

The event was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous of The

DNCC issues

addresses of the DNCC areas like Mirpur and Mohammadpur.

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

we find 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

mentioned that those persons collected the birth certificates with the help of syndicates of brokers, dishonest officials and employees, local public

with birth certificates from different parts of the country

illegally. The permanent

addresses mentioned in

those passports were found

to be incorrect during

investigation.

Those who got the birth certificate are Rohingyas, citizens of Myanmar.

representatives, and so

The letter requested to take action against those involved in these activities.

Landslide risk

FROM PAGE 5

"Over the years, hundreds hills completely or partially destroyed across the division. The issue of hill conservation has long been in talks, but no initiative has been taken," she added.

Narayan Saha, former head of the forestry environmental science department at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology,

said unsustainable use of land and rampant hillhave been cutting are two major behind reasons landslide vulnerability in Sylhet.

AKM Rafiqul director of DoE, Sylhet Divisional Office, "We have adopted zero tolerance against those razing hills illegally. We will take necessary action against the accused after investigation."

Eid journey

FROM PAGE 3 RAILWAYS

She called for an inclusive 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 half an hour for every weight restrictions on the existing railway at Bangabandhu Bridge.

deteriorates when the pressure of passengers intensifies before Eid day, and this situation may

recur this year too.

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

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

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



Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 02-222218331-31, Website: 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



INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, **BANGLADESH (IUB)**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Life Sciences, SELS

Assistant Professor

Facilities & Protocol

Deputy Director

Purchase & Procurement Department

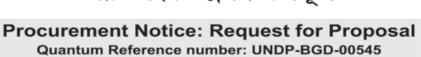
Procurement Officer

Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 25, 2024

For detailed information and to apply, please visit: http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub or scan the QR code



United Nations Development Programme জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is seeking proposals from interested firms for the following requirement:

Contracting a firm for the smart transformation of PFM (Public Finance Management) related services of LGIs (Local Government Institutions) under a2i project of UNDP Bangladesh.

Proposals may be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the procurement notice. For learning more against RFP, pre-proposal meeting link & submission documents through quantum platform, please visit the below link:

https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=20866

Deadline for submission of proposal is at 4:30 p.m. (Bangladesh Local Time), 24 June 2024.

For any technical query, please write to us through bd.procurement@undp.org mentioning the reference no: UNDP-BGD-00545 in the email subject line within 13 June 2024.







Visiting different areas in Sylhet recently, this correspondent observed that numerous hills were razed to pave way for construction of houses. The photos were taken in the city's Chamelibagh area. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Landslide risk looms large

Illegal hill razing continues unabated in Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA, from Sylhet

Threat of landslides during monsoon looms large in Sylhet as illegal razing of the district's hills continues unabated.

On June 10, three of a family were killed in Sylhet as a mudslide buried their house, raising concerns about such incidents recurring in the coming days.

Environmentalists alleged that culprits have long been cutting down hills illegally in the region, while the Department of Environment continues to remain largely

Visiting different areas in Sylhet recently, this correspondent observed that numerous hills were razed to pave way for construction of houses.

"Over 30 percent of Sylhet's hills have been razed in the last two and half decades. At present, there are 1,875 hills in the four districts under Sylhet division, encompassing an area of 4,811 acres," said Md Badrul Huda, assistant director of DoE in the district.

"In the last six months, 19 individuals and institutions were fined a total of Tk 1,13,77,313 during nine drives against illegal hill cutting in Sylhet. Also, 11 cases were filed against 39 accused," he added.

However, Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon's Sylhet unit, alleged that at least 50 percent of the hills in Sylhet have

A section of government officials and local influential people have been abetting the hill destroyers in exchange for bribes, he alleged.

Thousands of low-income families are living amid risk across different hills in Howladarpara, Akhalia, Peermahalla Brahmanshmashan Jahangirnagar, Tarapur Tea Garden, Baluchar, Airport Road, Khadimpara, Khadimnagar, Jonaki. Islampur Majortila, and Monglirpar areas of Sylhet city, and also in different areas of Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts, he added.

"The hill area in Majortila is now

- DHAKA

been destroyed, far higher than the DoE's a bustling hub of soil trade. Hills are continuously being razed to extract soil, while the loose earth gets washed away in rain and runs off to waterbodies, causing siltation. This must be stopped," said AH Arif, a Sylhet city resident.

> Saheda Akhter, coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association's Sylhet unit, said, "According to the land survey data in 1956, there were 1,025 hills in six upazilas of Sylhet district, and hundreds of others in three other upazilas. Also, in different places it was claimed that there were a total of 1,900 hills across Sylhet division. However, there is no exact information in this regard."

AL MP seeks black money investment in stock market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League MP Noor Mohammed from Jamalpur-1 demanded in parliament yesterday that the government allow investment of black money in the stock market.

He made this demand during a general discussion on the proposed budget for fiscal 2024

He said as the stock market has been at a low point for the last two months, allowing black money to be invested will help in the share market's recovery.

Noor requested the finance minister to reconsider the proposed 25 percent tax on imported cars for MPs, particularly for new MPs.

Meanwhile, Nilufar Anjum, a lawmaker from Mymensingh-3, highlighted the high unemployment rate among educated youth and requested a temporary allowance for them before they secure jobs or start businesses.

11pc of population at risk of arsenic contamination Says LGRD minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

LGRD Minister Tazul Islam informed parliament yesterday that 11 percent of the country's population is at risk of arsenic contamination.

Citing the 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Unicef, he confirmed this statistic during a question-answer session with Awami League MP from Noakhali-2, Morshed Alam.

The minister highlighted various government projects aimed at protecting the public from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



GD-980

Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited Road Transport & Highways Division

House-04, Road-21, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230. www.dhakabrt.gov.bd



Memo No. 35.06.0000.010.07.002.24-468

The Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for "Selection of a Consulting Firm to perform the consultancy service for Operational Design and Business Model (ODBM) for Dhaka BRT Company Limited", vide REOI Memo No. 35.06.0000.010.07.002.24-316, dated: 25/04/2024 is hereby amended as follows:

REoI Ref.	Title	Original Text	Amended Text
Sl. No. 7	EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 24/06/2024, Time: 15:00 hrs BST	Date: 27/06/2024, Time: 15:00 hrs BST
Sl. No. 8	EOI Opening Date and Time	Date: 24/06/2024, Time: 15.00 hrs BST	Date: 27/06/2024, Time: 15:00 hrs BST
Sl. 12 (V)	CONSULTANT ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION	Consulting firms who have previously engaged in the technical assistance (TA) phase of the project are ineligible to participate in this consultancy to avoid potential conflicts of interest.	Consulting firms who are engaged in the preparation of RFP related to the said Procurement are ineligible to participate in this consultancy service to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
All other tern	ns and conditions shall remain	unchanged. This corrigendum will be an	integral part of the published REOI.

Deputy General Manager E-mail: dgmmaint.dbrtcl@gmail.com

Office of the Chief Engineer Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh Phone: 880-2-9670531, 9661920-9/4120

Fax: 880-2-9667222 E-mail: registrar@du.ac.bd vcoffice@du.ac.bc

মেমো নং :১০২২(২)/প্রকৌঃ

টেভার নোটি

প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ফোন: ৮৮-০২-৯৬৭৪৭৮১ (অফিস) <u>সারু: ৮৮-০২-৯৬৬৭২২২</u>

ারিখ ঃ ২৭ লৈট /১৪৩১ বঙ্গাণ

ক্র-মিক নং	কাজের নাম	টেভার ডকুমেন্টস বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	টেভার বস্থ বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	টেভার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সংগ্রহের স্থান
	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বীর মৃক্তিযোদ্ধা শেখ কামাল টাওয়ারে	২৬/০৬/২০২৪ অফিস	২৭/০৬/২০২৪	২৭/০৬/২০২৪	প্রধান প্রকৌশলীর দন্তর,
	Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) সরবরাহ কাজ।	চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত	দুপুর: ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত	দুপুর: ১২.৪৫ মিঃ	ডাঃ বিঃ।

নিৰ্বাচী পকৌশলী জোন-১ **छाका विश्वविमाालय**



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স ডেভেলপমেন্ট বিভাগ

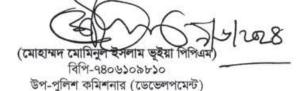
৩৬নং শহীদ ক্যাপ্টেন মনসুর আলী সরণি, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

শারক নং-০৭-২০১৯(ডেভেলপমেন্ট)/১৩৭৮

তারিখ-০৯-০৬-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।

নিলাম তফসিল বিজ্ঞপ্তি

- নিলাম তফসিল বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৩৮-৮২/০১/২০২৩-২০২৪খ্রিঃ।
- ডিএমপি'র রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইন্স ছুল এভ কলেজের (১০ তলা ভিত বিশিষ্ট) ভবন নির্মাণের লক্ষ্যে লে-আউটে পতিত বিদ্যমান একতলা সেমিপাকা ভবন ও অন্যান্য ছাপনাদি (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত নিলামকারীদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরযুক্ত খামে নিলাম তফসিল আহবান করা হলো।
- জামানতের টাকা
- ঃ উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশভাগ) হারে।
- কার্যসম্পাদনের সময় 81
- ৪ ১৫ (পনের) দিন।
- নিলাম তফসিল মূল্য 01 31
- ঃ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র নগদ (অফেরতযোগ্য)। নিলাম তফসিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ঃ ২৪-০৬-২০২৪খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন)।
- 91
- নিলাম তফসিল গ্রহণ/দাখিলের তারিখ
 ৪ ২৫-০৬-২০২৪খ্রিঃ (বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)।
- নিলাম তফসিল খোলার তারিখ
 - ঃ ২৫-০৬-২০২৪খ্রিঃ সময় বিকাল ১৫:০০ ঘটিকায়। যে সকল দপ্তরে তফসিল পাওয়া যাবে 🖇 (ক) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ডেভেলপমেন্ট), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা'র কার্যালয় (৫ম তলা, রুম
- নং-৫০৩), ডিএমপি সদরদপ্তর, ৩৬নং শহীদ ক্যান্টেন মনসুর আলী সরণি, রমনা, ঢাকা। (খ) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ওয়েলফেয়ার এন্ড ফোর্স), ডিএমপি, ঢাকা'র কার্যালয়,
 - রাজারবাগ পুলিশ লাইন, ঢাকা। (গ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী এর কার্যালয়, গণপূর্ত বিভাগ-১, ১৫, আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা।
- নিলাম তফসিল গ্রহণ এবং খোলার
- ৪ উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (ডেভেলপমেন্ট), ডিএমপি, ঢাকার কার্যালয় (৫ম তলা, রুম নং-
- ৫০৩), ডিএমপি সদরদপ্তর, ৩৬নং শহীদ ক্যান্টেন মনসুর আলী সরণী, রমনা, ঢাকা। অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা জামানতের টাকা যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার, পুলিশ কমিশনার, ডিএমপি, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে নিলাম দরপত্র তফসিলের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- নিলামকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তাদের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন, মূল্য সংযোজন কর নিবন্ধিকরণ, টিআইএন এর সত্যায়িত কপি ও ব্যাংক সলভেন্সির সনদপত্র অবশ্যই সংযোজন করতে হবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারীর তফসিল বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।



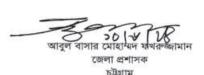
কমিশনারের পক্ষে ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, ঢাকা रकान-८४०१८८४, क्यांक-८४०१८८१ গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি,চউগ্রাম

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

2	মন্ত্রণাত	ায় / বিভাগ	: মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়।			
٦	সংগ্ৰাহ	ক সন্থার নাম	ঃ মহাপরিচালক, বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি, ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম।		াসক, চট্টগ্রাম।	
9	সংগ্ৰাহ	ক সত্তার জেলার নাম	ঃ চট্টগ্রাম।			
8	যে কা	জর দরপত্র	 ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি পরিচালিত চট্টগ্রাম জেলার শিশু বিকাশ কেন্দ্রের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য ও শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ। 			
œ	দরপত্র	নং ও তারিখ	ঃ বিএসএ/চট্টগ্রাম/২০২৪-৫৬, তারিখঃ ০৬/০৬/২০২৪খ্রিঃ			
৬	সংগ্ৰহ	পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত বাজেট (ও,টি,এম)			
٩	বাজেট	এবং তহবিল উৎস	: উন্নয়ন বাজেট			
ъ	দরপত্র	প্যাকেজ নং	: ০৩টি।			
8	দরপত্র	: ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি পরিচালিত চট্টগ্রাম জেলার শিশু পত্র প্যাকেজ নাম বিকাশ কেন্দ্রের নিবাসীদের "ক' গ্রুপ- খাদ্য (পচনশীল ও অপচনশীল), "খ' গ্রুপ- শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য "গ' গ্রুপ- বিবিধ আনুষ্ট্যিক মালামাল সরবরাহ।		ল), "খ' গ্ৰুপ-		
20			ন সময় পর্যন্ত।			
77	100 mm	দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ শত্র খোলার সময়	 ২৪/০৬/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা। ঐদিন বেলা ১২.১০ মিনিটে দরপত্রদাতা বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলা হবে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে 			
১২	দরপত্র দাখিল / গ্রহণ		: অতিরিক্ত জেলা প্রশাসক(শিক্ষা ও আইসিটি), জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম এর অফিস কক্ষ।			
১৩			নাদেশ শিশু			
\$8	 বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সিডিউল ক্রয়ের মূল্য নগদে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। 		ক স্বচ্ছলতা, আয়ক			
	গ্ৰুপ	সংক্ষিপ্ত বি	ারণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য	টেভার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	মন্তব্য
26	ক	খাদ্য (পচনশীল ও অপং	ननीन)	¢00/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	বাংলাদেশ শিশু
	খ	শিক্ষা,স্বাস্থ্য,প্রসাধনী ও	অন্যান্য	@00/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	একাডেমি,
	গ বিবিধ আনুষঙ্গিক মালাম		মাল	800/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	চট্টগ্রাম
১৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার : জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম। ঠিকানা					

GD- 977

- ক) পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮(সংশোধিতসহ) এ প্রদত্ত ক্রয় সংক্রাস্ত পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- খ) দরপত্র দাতা দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় দাখিলকৃত মূল্যের জামানত হিসেবে 'ক' গ্রুপে ৭৮,০০০/- টাকা, 'খ' গ্রুপে ১৫,০০০/- টাকা এবং 'গ' গ্রুপে ২৪,০০০/- টাকার পে-অর্ডার জেলা শিশু বিষয়ক কর্মকর্তা, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকুলে দাখিল
 - গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% পারফরমেঙ্গ সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
- 'গ' গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- দরপত্র ক্রয়ের তারিখ হতে দরপত্র খোলার তারিখের নির্ধারিত সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।
- ছ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

Apu aces as antagonist this Eid

In 'Writer', I play the role of a dangerous murderer, who is the overseer of a crocodile conservation project, but is actually a killer. I tried to bring a different look and feel to this

character.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Rashed Mamun Apu has carved a niche for himself in Bangladesh's entertainment industry with his compelling portrayals of negative characters in films like *Poran*, Damal, and Prohelika. Known for his strong presence on both cinema and OTT platforms, Apu is set to captivate audiences once again with his upcoming web-series Golam Mamun, premiering on June 13.

With several projects lined up for release after Eid-ul-Azha, including M Raahim's directorial Jongli, his career shows no signs of slowing down. Fresh from an enriching trip to Bulgaria for the screening of his film *Kath* Golap, Apu sat down with The Daily Star for an exclusive interview to discuss his recent experiences, upcoming projects, and future aspirations in the world of showbiz.

You recently visited Bulgaria. How was the experience?

I went to Bulgaria for a film festival, which featured my film Kath Golap. It was an incredible experience- meeting directors, producers, and artistes from a round the world.

I received a lot of positive feedback



from the expats. It was an unforgettable experience, and the affection from people is throughout the series. truly a treasured memory. What are your

expectations your regarding upcoming web-*Golam* series Mamun'? quite

optimistic about Shihab Shaheen directorial web-series. The director needs

introduction here. I play a negative character in this series as well. It was a

challenging role that provided me with a lot of new experiences. We shot in various locations during an intense heatwave.

How frightening is your character in 'Golam Mamun'?

It's quite terrifying. Everyone in the cast performed exceptionally well, and my character, though appearing intermittently, is very menacing. There are moments where my

had to portray various terrifying expressions

Is it true that your film 'Jongli' won't be released during Eid?

Yes, initially, I was told it would be released during the Eid festivities. However, now, it is slated for release a month after Eid. Jongli is a highly engaging film with a gripping plot. Viewers will see me in a very different role, and there is a big surprise in store for them.

Tell us more about your other upcoming film 'Writer'. When is the premiere?

In Writer, I play the role of a dangerous murderer who is the overseer of a crocodile conservation project but is actually a killer. I tried to bring a different look and feel to this character. I always strive to immerse myself deeply in each role so that it leaves a lasting impression on the audience. Initially, Writer was scheduled for release during Eid, but apparently, it has been postponed as well.

What are your plans for this Eid?

I will be in Dhaka for this Eid. Having just returned from Europe, I haven't made any specific plans yet. Honestly, the joy of Eid is something I associate with my childhood. Nevertheless, I still look forward to it. I wish all my fans and everyone else a joyous Eid in advance. May the happiness

Daniel Craig stuns with long hair in 'Knives Out 3' teaser

The knives are out, but the scissors are sheathed as Daniel Craig debuts a long hairdo in a first look from Rian Johnson's next mystery movie.

> Rian Johnson shared a photo marking the first day of shooting for Wake Up Dead Man, the third film in his Knives Out series, set for 2025. The image features Daniel Craig

as Detective Benoit Blanc in a three

Wake Up Dead Man will be distributed by Netflix as part of Johnson's USD 450 million two-sequel deal. The possibility of a thorough theatrical release for the film, by the streamer, is still uncertain.

Tanjin Tisha makes web-film debut with 'Poison'



Actress Tanjin Tisha makes her debut in a webfilm with Poison, directed by Sanjay Samaddar. The film, which premiered on June 10 on Deep Play, follows the tumultuous journey of a heroine named Rupa Mirza, played by Tisha.

Director Samaddar skillfully portrays a complex narrative, offering a raw look at a heroine's struggle for success in a ruthless industry.

Initially hesitant about taking on the lead role, Tisha confessed, "Becoming Rupa Mirza required thorough dedication. I hope the audience appreciates my performance and isn't disappointed."

The film also stars actor Abu Hurayra Tanvir as a struggling hero, marking his first collaboration with Samaddar and Tisha.

Poison is now available for streaming on

NEWS

PHOTOS

No competitive politics left in Bangladesh Police detain Jhenaidah AL general secy

than \$100 to the rural poor, angered Hasina with a 2007 plan to set up a political party.

The 2006 Nobel laureate accused the ruling Awami League of being involved in corruption, saying Bangladesh lacked a genuine political opposition. "Bangladesh doesn't have any

politics left," Prof Yunus, 83, said last week in his office in Dhaka. "There's only one party which is active and occupies everything, does everything, gets to the elections in their way. "They get their people elected

in many different forms -- proper candidates, dummy candidates, independent candidates from the same party," he added.

However, Law Minister Anisul Huq said he completely disagreed with Prof Yunus' comments.

"It's not only I who disagree, but the people of the country will also disagree," he told Reuters by telephone, calling the remarks an "insult" to the people of the country.

"Democracy is fully functional in this country," he added.

Nepal had asked \$0.700 per unit

while Bangladesh wanted to pay

\$0.500 during the negation on

"40MW power import for five years

Prof Yunus, an economist who won

Govt approves price for

40MW power import

2011 by Hasina's government, which said he had stayed on past the legal retirement age of 60.

about the film,

which was very gratifying. I also

had discussions about future projects with

several directors. Overall, it was a fruitful trip.

You travelled to several European

countries as well. How was the response

from the Bangladeshi diaspora there?

As Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister, Hasina has been credited with turning around the economy, though critics have also accused her of human rights violations and suppression of dissent.

The US State Department said January's elections were not free and fair while the British government's foreign office also condemned acts of "intimidation and violence".

At the time, the main opposition BNP denounced the exercise as a "sham" election, calling for its cancellation, Hasina's resignation and the formation of a non-party neutral government to hold a fresh

Just before the election, a court in Bangladesh had sentenced Prof Yunus to six months in prison for violations of labour law, which he

Although he is not in prison after securing bail in that case, Prof Yunus faces more than 100 cases regarding the violations and graft accusations,

Huq denied the accusations against Prof Yunus were false, however, adding, "He has gone to the highest court of the country, which found there was a case against him."

As an example, Huq cited taxes paid by Prof Yunus after the Supreme Court ruled against him in a taxevasion case, but declined comment on others as being sub-judice.

Prof Yunus' supporters say Hasina's government has sought to discredit him because he once considered setting up the political party, called "Citizens' Power".

Hasina, who denies the contention, called Prof Yunus a "bloodsucker" of the poor in 2011.

"Is it a crime for a citizen to try to make a political party?" Prof Yunus asked, saving he dropped the idea of such a party after just 10 weeks, on realising that he was not suited to politics.

Reviving a competitive political landscape in Bangladesh will be difficult, Prof Yunus said.

"Restarting will be very painful because we have brought it to a point where it has completely disappeared."

Hamas accepts

Israeli Army Radio said the soldiers died in an explosion in a building in Rafah's Shaboura neighbourhood. Hamas said it had ambushed troops by detonating explosives previously planted in the building.

killed and 84,832 have been injured in the offensive that began on October 7, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday. Some 40 Palestinians were killed and 218 injured in the previous 24 In Jordan, King Abdullah told

conference on the humanitarian response for Gaza that access for aid to its 2.3 million population, most of whom are now homeless, could not wait for a ceasefire or be subject to a political agenda.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi told the gathering on the Dead Sea that nations should force Israel to stop what he called the use of hunger as a weapon and remove obstacles to the distribution of humanitarian aid in Gaza.

arrested if any involvement is found during interrogation, they

Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of the DMP, vesterday said, "The killing took place in India. But the criminals are Bangladeshis. They came back after the murder. We are investigating whether they shared pictures of the murder after their return."

He also said, "We are also probing whether they [killers] got financial benefits from anyone by sharing the pictures.'

Meanwhile, detectives sent mobile phones of arrestees Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan, his nephew Tanvir Bhuiyan, Celesty Rahman, and Babu for forensic examination following a court order.

In the application to the court, detectives mentioned that Shimul, Babu, Tanvir, and Celesty exchanged information

killing Azim.

Apart from this, it is necessary to know whether any information related to abduction and murder, including photos and videos, has been deleted, it said.

According to detectives, lawmaker Azim was killed in a flat in New Town of Kolkata on May 13.

On May 18, his daughter informed the detectives about the lawmaker

In response to a query about Azim's involvement in smuggling. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said, "We have always been saying that the MP's constituency is a crime-prone area. We need to know what happened there. We are investigating, we will tell you everything after the probe.'

In another development, the preliminary forensic report has confirmed that the body parts Peninsula's poorest country has been among recovered from the septic tank of mired in civil war for a decade.

themselves through WhatsApp after Kolkata's flat on May 28 and the bones recovered near a canal in South 24 Parganas district are those

> Akhilesh Chaturvedi, inspector general of West Bengal CID, told media yesterday that they will now

49 migrants die

FROM PAGE 12

deaths and disappearances along the migration route since 2014, including 480 due to drowning.

The latest "tragedy is another reminder of the urgent need to work together to address urgent migration challenges and ensure the safety and security of migrants along migration routes," said agency spokesperson Mohammedali Abunajela.

Those migrants who successfully reach Yemen often encounter further threats to their safety. The Arabian

It's service charge, not extortion

In response, the home minister said the scope for extortion was widespread.

Extortion is taking place in many places, he said, adding, "We have repeatedly asked you [transport leaders] for a list of places from where you take the service charge, we will not allow any charge outside those

He said, "We have taken measures regarding the operation of Nasimon-Karimon on highways. We don't want

any illegal vehicles to run on highways. We are working to make the highways safe. Our Highway Police is working."

Talking to reporters after the discussion, the minister claimed that police "do not stop vehicles to extort".

"Our police personnel stop vehicles at different times to check their fitness. If they find a vehicle has mechanical issues or is carrying something illegal, they stop it. It is not extortion; it's part of their regular

Additional Inspector General of

Police Md Shahabuddin Khan, also the chief of Highway Police, said their goal is to ensure safety on roads. "Discipline on the highways should be

ensured by enforcing the law." Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, who presided over the discussion, said police will perform their duties to make this year's Eid journey safe and smooth. No vehicles carrying sacrificial animals would be stopped on roads without specific information.

Police knew about shooter cop's mental illness

in 2010. Meanwhile, a police team on

Monday night collected Kawsar's prescriptions and medicines from his village home in Doulatpur, Kushtia.

Contacted, his wife Nilufar Yasmin Sathi said, "He was supposed to come home on Eid. That's why I bought his medicines. Policemen came at night and took all the medicines."

Nilufar said she took some photos of the medicines and the documents, but the officers made her delete those from her phone.

officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said the police team visited the house to see if the family was okay. "We did not take medicines or prescriptions," he said.

Close to midnight on Saturday, Kawsar was on duty near the Palestine embassy when he fired 38 shots from his service SMT-9 submachine gun, killing constable Monirul Islam and injuring another man who happened to be there.

He was arrested later and a court placed him on a seven-day remand. STRESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

However, Mahbubur Rahman, IGP Mamun said, "Bangladesh Police is a professional force. They receive basic training on stress management from both experienced police officers and psychiatrists.' Before they are deployed, members

of the force are briefed about the job location and conditions, he said.

In the orientation course, recruits are briefed about the stress they may face at work, he added.

"If needed, we will enhance the training.'

[Our Kushtia correspondent contributed to the report.]

report of fiscal year 2022-23. increased over the last one year

under the tripartite agreement among Nepal Electricity Authority, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited, and Bangladesh Power Development

The agreed power import price from Nepal is lower than the price the BPDP has been paying for power from India's Adani Power Plant and the country's private power plants. The unit power price of Adani's

coal-fired Godda Power Plant was

Tk 14.02, independent power plants

Tk 14.62 and rental power plants Tk

12.52, according to BPDP's annual

The Power Division official said purchasing price of power has

mainly due to devaluation of taka. He said import of power from Nepal for the first time would boost Bangladesh's commitment increase the share of green energy in the gas and coal-fired energy mix for

Bangladesh has been interested in purchasing 500MW from Nepal.

power production.

Power from the Himalayan nation will be transmitted via the Nepal-India Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur Cross Border Transmission Line and the India-Bangladesh Barampur-Bheramara Cross Border Transmission Line, reports the Kathmandu Post.

On December 6 last year, the government approved the purchase of 40MW of power from Nepal using the power grid of India.

Mahmudul Hossain said the import of hydropower from Napal would start after the final agreement involving the three parties.

At least 37,164 Palestinians have been hours, the ministry added.

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 Subrahmanyam 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.

SNAP POLLS French rightwing 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.



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.

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

"The manner in which the raid



of distinction, proportionality Palestinian civilians, as well as 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 was conducted in such a densely holding of hostages in such populated area seriously calls into densely populated areas by armed suspended the delivery of aid to the operation by the Israeli forces question whether the principles groups was "putting the lives of Gaza via a temporary US military regarding the hostages," he said.

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

the hostages themselves, at added

Food Programme (WFP) has floating pier had not been used in

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 Meanwhile, the UN World US Central Command that the

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 is generally recognised as one of the safest countries in the world," Lin added. "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 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

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.

৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০। সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট

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জুন ১২, ২০২৪

ভ্যালুয়ার ফার্ম নিয়োগের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

07	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটির নাম	সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি., হেড অফিস, বিভিবিএল ভবন (লেভেল-৮), ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।	
०२।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	পাৰলিক প্ৰকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা (পিপিআর)-২০০৮ অনুসরণে উন্মুক্ত দরপত (Open Tendering Method)-এ।	
०७।	তহবিলের উৎস	বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি, এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।	
081	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলগমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি, এর ছায়ী সম্পদ (Land, Building & Vehicle) মূল্যায়ন।	
001	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও জমা গ্রহণের ঠিকানা	সেট্রাল একাউন্টস ডিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি., হেড অফিস, বিভিন্নিএল ভবন (লেভেল-৮), ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।	
०७।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	সর্বশেষ ২৭/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।	
091	দরপত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	৩০/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ৩,০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	
09.1	দরশুত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও ছান	৩০/০৬/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ৩.৩০ ঘটিকা, ছান: সেন্ট্রাল একাউন্টস ভিপার্টমেন্ট, বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি., হেড অফিস, বিডিবিএল ভবন (লেভেল- ৮), ৮, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০। সকল দরদাতা/দরদাতার প্রতিনিধির (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।	
o है ।	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	(ক) স্থায়ী সম্পদ ভ্যালুয়েশনের কাজে ন্যুনতম 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 (ফেরতযোগ্য) যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংকের পে-অর্ভার; (গ) এছাড়া, দরপত্র সিভিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাদি। 	
201	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১,০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরৎযোগ্য)।	

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

> (মুহাম্মদ ফাইদুর রহমান) ডেপুটি জেনারেল ম্যানেজার

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

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

Monday between 4:00pm-10:00 pm and had said

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.



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.



EDITORIAL

The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

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

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



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.

as a "crisis response" one that the government has prepared in the

face of the formidable challenges

of unabated inflation, economic

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

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

Noteworthy is the fact that the

percent is counted.

Out of a Tk 7,97,000 crore budget,

and concerned citizens.

revenue

shortfall,

slowdown,

The new budget can be described

is professor emeritus at BRAC University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network, adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), and associate $editor\ of\ the\ International\ Journal\ of\ Educational$

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

MANZOOR AHMED

leadership and the administrative have put forward an agenda for redecision-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 talented people to the teaching efforts for achieving results have been

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 profession and keeping them there; a major initiative to widely



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 education sector is not able to use formulated. There hasn't been a great all of the funds allocated for it in the receptivity on the part of the two outgoing financial year. As much as education ministries, the political

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 (PEDP5 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

Educationists have argued that 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 researchers in this direction.

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Ending child labour needs decisive interventions



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FATARAZ ZAHAN

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

Child labour, a global problem, is a 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

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 from local NGOs and the ILO, claim labour from the supply chain.

How to break the curse of losing heartbreaking matches



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MADIHA ATHAR KHAN

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 onfield 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. It 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

Bangladesh is a seasoned customer of 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



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 and Mahmudullah was perfectly placed to expected—it is allowed to persist instead of 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

A serious book for serious times

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



is a development anthropologist and author of several books and numerous journal articles, with a regional focus on South Asia. He is also emeritus professor of international development at the University of Bath, UK.

GEOF WOOD

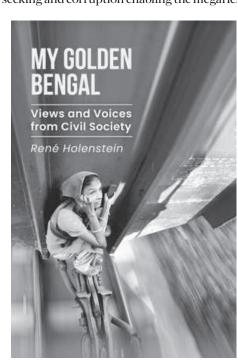
have been interviewed in recent years by René Holenstein, a recent ambassador for Switzerland, who returned to Bangladesh in May 2024 to launch this book in the company of most of them. It is a testimony to his period in office here that he explored the country with affection and detail, and listened 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

remarkable gathering of informants 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

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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 questionshould 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

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

32 Ornamental molding **34** Chopping tool 35 CBS series with spinoffs **36** Waiter's job **38** Foe 40 Rat's home 41 Biscotti flavor **42** Wipe off **43** Apertures **44** Earth tones **DOWN** 1 Neckwear 2 Fix 3 From the U.S. **4** Telescope pioneer

5 Useful skill

6 Bowler, e.g.

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

7 Mideast area

8 Malia's dad

9 Smackers

11 Toast start

19 Visitor to Oz

21 Bus. sch. course

24 Like type that doesn't

15 Whim

13 20 35 41 42

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 selfdefence with

impunity.

M RAFIQUL 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 Eurocentricism. Originating in the in Gaza commissioned by President heartland of Europe, this order Biden. The Report reveals that Israel encapsulates 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-

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

The history of the so-called rulebased 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 law, absolutely dominated by on the use of US weapons by Israel Anglo-American may have violated international law for imperial ambitions, values, ideals, and being 'inconsistent' with the US and Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law protecting noncombatant 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

cultural plural world, the postwar 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 Afghanistan to find out whether war with hierarchically superior status US praised the ICC for issuing arrest in international law. They remained warrant against Putin, the US/UK 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 investigate the justification of the unilateral military intervention when

necessary to protect its geopolitical driven and geostrategic interests beyond the tormenting for states not enamoured 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 peacekeeping 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 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 'asserted multilateralism', backed by reduce international legal obligations subservient to 'power'. This power-

defiance has with this hierarchical power. This is how the predatory power of the USled 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 confrontationist 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 preemptive 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 and peremptory (jus cogens) norwm crimes were committed. While the 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 consciousnessraising 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 selfdefeating 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.

> The writer is Emeritus Professor of Law, Macquarie University, Sydney,

LAW ENFORCEMENT

SHIPBREAKING YARDS need to be environment friendly

ATIQUR RAHAMAN

The shipbreaking industry implies an industry that processes (e.g., separates for shipbreaking to ensure environmental 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

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 Bangladesh. Bangladesh has ratified the

stricter environmental safety standards for shipbreaking industries.

Some domestic laws have been enacted 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 degrade the environment. Furthermore, provision is to protect the environment in according to the International Labor Organisation (ILO), the shipbreaking Hong Kong Convention (HKC) in 2023, industry is one of the most dangerous and the convention provides guidelines for in the world. Every year, many workers



die by suffocation due to explosions, contain black oil, asbestos, harmful paints, poisonous gases, and falling iron sheets and various chemical, while shipbreaking while cutting ships in the traditional way produces unrecyclable iron powder. Many in these yards. Ships imported for breaking 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

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JUNE 12, 2024, JAISHTHA 29, 1431 BS

NAGORIK TV AND STAR SPORTS 1 T20 World Cup Australia vs Namibia Live from 6:30 am India vs USA Live from 8:30 pm

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 hisdecision 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 inswinging length ball from Ottneil Baartman. The ball, which clearly looked to be going down the legside without disturbing the stumps, brushed off Mahmadullah'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.

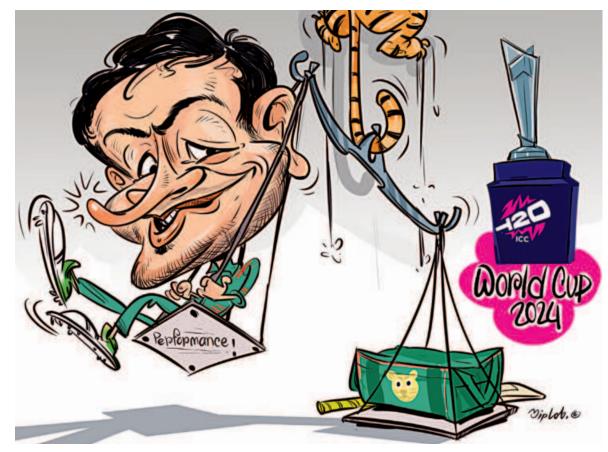
Former New Zealand pacer and renowned commentator Simon Doull criticised the umpire's lbw decision, brought forth the gravity of the implications the ruling has on games and called for a change.

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

"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 toporder 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 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 trination series in New Zealand also involving Pakistan

He has not enjoyed the best of circumstances leading up to this edition. Bar a match-winning been a bigger concern. He was oppositions bowling performance against Zimbabwe recently, his all-around performances against both Zimbabwe and then in the threematch T20I series against USA in career that it happened. It also

Texas have been missing. His troubles with the bat have been evident in the two World Cup matches so far. If it was expected South Africa game, Shakib failed

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 Abedeen Fahim told The Daily Star.

"If he can control the game, it will be better for everyone since the toporder 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

Shakib's bowling has perhaps

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.

immediate "Given

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

> Nazmul Abedeen Fahim Esteemed coach

Bangladesh's most expensive bowler against Sri Lanka and bowled just one over against the Proteas, the first time in his upsets Bangladesh's bowling plan, especially with spin likely to be decisive in the West Indies.

"He has a very important that he would take control of the role because there are only two in the competition as the only specialist spinners in the side. He to live up to expectations. Now if has to bowl in Powerplay and if Bangladesh are to advance to the he can't fulfil that, Bangladesh's next round and trouble opponents bowling strategy suffers. At times in the Super Eight, Shakib's it's important for spinners to bowl

[Netherlands], it should make him comfortable. I am hoping he would do better there since you can't just perform badly all of a sudden. There should not be this drop," he added.

Even as Bangladesh could cover for Shakib with the ball, the toporder troubles mean Shakib possessing a wealth of experience two players alongside India's Rohit Sharma to have played in all editions - will have to make his experience count and shelter the

SHORT CORNER

Lewy to miss Poland's Euro 2024 opener

Poland captain Robert Lewandowski will miss their Euro 2024 opener this weekend with a thigh injury, the Polish football federation's doctor said on Tuesday. Lewandowski, 35, suffered the injury in Monday's win in a friendly against Turkey and will be absent to face the Netherlands on June 16.

Afridi vows to reveal who 'spoiled' Pakistan team

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi said that he will reveal how the team was 'spoiled' by their own people but only after the ongoing T20 World Cup comes to an end. Afridi said this in an interview with a local TV channel in Pakistan where he was a guest alongside current Pakistan pacer Mohammad Wasim Jr.

Tickets for CR7's training session on offer for up to 800 euros

Tickets to watch Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo train with the national team in an open session on Friday at their Euro 2024 tournament base in Westphalia are on sale for as much as 800 euros (\$858.32). Ronaldo, the leading scorer in men's international football with 128 goals in 204 official matches, will be playing in his sixth Euros, having reached the final on his tournament debut

in 2004 and winning the competition in 2016.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website

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

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

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

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 Nethralvakar 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.

that we want to focus on one game at a time, and our focus will be on sort of form following a forgetful 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.

"Before the tournament I said by fellow quick Arshdeep Singh, allrounder Hardik Pandya finding some 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 Jasprit Bumrah has played to his reputation, backed



tournament's all-time leading runscorer -- 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.

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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

The IOM said yesterday it had recorded 1,860 migrant



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 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 SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

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

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 UNbacked Gaza truce plan

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

Mediators yet to get formal

offensive plans for Gaza to

Gaza death toll now 37,164

response from Hamas,

Israel on truce proposal

Discussions on post-

continue: Blinken

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 US 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

touching on 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 eightmonth-old offensive that has devastated Gaza, a day

was approved by the UN Security Council. Ahead of Blinken's trip, Israel and Hamas

both repeated hardline positions that have 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 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

after President Joe Biden's proposal for a truce 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 scuttled previous rounds of truce mediation, 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

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

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 Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun told reporters yesterday.

Since the incident happened near several diplomatic foreign missions 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 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

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, Narayangonj, 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

HO-NEPC-2024-004 Tender Name: Tender for the Sale of a Barge Mounted

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

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

'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.

TENDER DESCRIPTION

110 MW Diesel Engines Power Plant in Bangladesh.

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.

The Bangladesh team reached Saint Vincent and

the Grenadines on Tuesday for their final two group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not all is lost

for Tigers

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 agonosing four-run defeat against South Africa in their second Group D game of the ongoing T20 World Cup at the Nassau County International 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 SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Information to accompany the RFEOI:

1. Name of applicant (company name)

nepc.sales@edra-bd.energy by 30th June 2024.

2. Country of incorporation

the tender exercise as stated below:

TENDER NO.

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