



Dhaka footpaths, a money-spinner for extortionists

Ruling party leaders, cops, hawkers' associations get cuts

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and HELEMUL ALAM

On the footpath next to the General Post Office (GPO) in the capital, Soheli Howlader sells children's clothes from a small table.

He sits on a stool beside the table, roughly 5 feet long and 3 feet wide, and runs the business by paying Tk 150 to the ruling party and hawkers' association leaders every day. He also has to pay another Tk 150 a day to the security guards and for electricity.

When sales peak in the month of Ramadan and in the days before Puja, the "rent" jumps to Tk 250.

"All of us who have set up shops on the footpath pay these men," said Soheli.

There are around 100 such shops on the footpath adjacent to the post office, and as these correspondents asked around whether it would

- Around 5 lakh hawkers in Dhaka city
- Daily footpath 'rent' Tk 100-Tk 300 a day
- Tk 30,000 a day extorted from GPO area alone
- City corporation's rehab programme fails

be possible to "rent" space, a leader of the vendor community named Monir Hossain said, "Bookings are already closed for this year. For next year, you will have to make a one-time payment of Tk 1.5 lakh, and then pay Tk 150 each day."

A space big enough for a stool and a table can be bought permanently for Tk 8-10 lakh, depending on how close it is to the GPO gate.

Monir, who according to locals is a ruling party supporter, assures that shopkeepers make a profit of at least Tk 300 a day, and the space is worth the investment.

Footpaths and roadsides in the city's busiest places like Gulistan, Farmgate, and Motijheel, are illegally occupied, and a lot of money changes hands every day to keep the system in place, according to sources in the hawkers' community.

This worsens congestion in the areas and makes pedestrians suffer.

Contacted, Enamul Haque, councillor of Ward-13, said political leaders, hawkers' associations, and the law enforcers receive a cut.

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Commuters waiting at the edge of a platform of the Kamalapur Railway Station for the Jayantika Express, which operates on the Dhaka-Sylhet-Dhaka route, yesterday afternoon. The train, which was supposed to arrive at 11:15pm, was at least an hour late, causing sufferings to passengers who had reached the station much earlier in the morning.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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Traffic jam mars Eid journey north

10 trains run behind schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People have started leaving the capital for the Eid-ul-Azha holidays and many suffered yesterday due to traffic snarl-ups on Dhaka-Rangpur highway and train delays.

There was a gridlock on Dhaka-Rangpur highway between Bangabandhu Bridge east toll plaza and Rasulpur in Tangail for about 10 hours. Traffic flow normalised around noon yesterday.

At least 10 trains departed Kamalapur Railway Station late. The delays were between half an hour and four and a half hours.

BENAZIR'S ASSETS Confiscate 8 flats, 77 bighas of land

Court orders authorities

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed and his family members' 77 bighas of land, eight flats, and shares in two firms.

The properties include 75.8 bighas in Bandarban on which a farm was built; 1.2 bighas in Rupganj of Narayanganj; three kathas in Dhaka's Gulshan; two flats in Badda; and six flats in Adabor.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HC postpones NRBC Bank's AGM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court postponed NRBC Bank's annual general meeting slated for today, following a writ petition alleging irregularities at the bank.

The HC also instructed the Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission (BSEC) to show cause as to why it should not be directed to send a number of its senior officials as

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It's humiliating to stand in an iron-cage dock

Yunus says after court hearing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

It is humiliating for an innocent citizen to stand in an iron-cage dock during a court hearing, said Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

"I have been facing a lot of harassment ... it will

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HC grants Poton bail in morning, SC stays in afternoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday morning granted bail to former lawmaker Kamrul Ashraf Khan Poton and four others in a Tk 582 crore corruption case.

However, the Supreme Court chamber judge stayed the bail order in the afternoon.

Justice M Enayetur Rahim, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, stayed the order till July 22. The apex court chamber judge passed the order following a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission challenging the HC order.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the HC bench of Justice ASM Abdul Mobin and Justice Md Mahmud Hassan Talukder granted ad-interim bail to Poton, also owner of Poton

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363 foreigners currently in Bangladesh jails: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told parliament yesterday that no one is being kept in the country's prisons "unlawfully".

He said this in response to a question from independent MP Mohammad Huchamuddin Chowdhury from Sylhet-5.

In response to another question from Awami League MP Farida Yasmin, he said 363 foreign nationals from 16 countries are detained in the country's jails. He said 212 Indian citizens were detained in the jails of Bangladesh. Among them, 11 were prisoners, 53 were inmates and 148 were released.

There are also 114 Myanmar nationals detained in Bangladesh jails. Besides, seven from Pakistan, six each from Nigeria and Malaysia, four each from China and Belarus, two each from Cameroon and Peru and one each from the US, Botswana, Georgia, Tanzania, Malaya and Angola are in country's prisons.

The minister also said 994 displaced Myanmar citizens have been arrested in murder and arms cases from August 25, 2017 to May 31, 2024.

Two road accidents in an hour leave three dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons were killed in two road accidents in the capital's Gabtoli area within an hour yesterday morning.

A motorcyclist and his co-rider were killed as a truck hit their bike from behind in front of a restaurant in the area around 5:30am, said Mofizur Rahman, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Shafiqul Islam, 44, the driver, died on the spot while Abul Hasan, 38, succumbed to his injuries at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

The driver fled with the truck after the accident.

In another accident, a helper of a bus driver was killed as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit him while he was crossing a road in front of a market adjacent to the Gabtoli bus terminal around 6:30am.

Babul Ali, 50, died at National Institute of Neurosciences Hospital.

The auto-rickshaw driver, Haider, was arrested in this regard.



These illegally set up power connections on footpaths not only cause losses but also consumes a chunk of the available power in the capital. Despite load shedding being a constant menace in the city, such activities continue unabated. The photo was taken in the Purana Paltan area recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CATTLE MARKETS

High supply, higher price

Traders fear loss due to low customer presence

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Despite a large number of sacrificial animals being on sale at all 16 cattle markets in Dhaka, the prices are still quite high.

Meanwhile, the number of customers is very low even four days before Eid-ul-Azha.

Cattle traders, who faced huge losses last year due to a significant drop in prices two days ahead of Eid, are passing days anxiously fearing losses due to the low customer presence.

"I'll have to sell my land to pay off debts if I face losses again this year," said Md Badhon, who has faced losses of Tk 5 lakh in the last three years.

He said they have brought 10 bulls to Diabari cattle market, priced around Tk 1 lakh each.

"Demand for small sized bulls is good, but supply is very low, for which I am expecting some profits this year," he added.

Jamal Hossain, who brought four bulls to the Diabari cattle market from Kushtia, echoed him.

Meanwhile, in the Kachukhet cattle market, Abul Kashem brought 40 bulls.

"I had to take a Tk 8 lakh loan to bring the cattle to the capital. I haven't had much sales yet," he said.

Many farmers did not raise bulls



this year due to last year's loss, he added.

These correspondents also saw a similar situation at Gabtoli cattle market.

The number of big sized bulls at the market was lower due to losses made by traders last year.

"I have brought 10 big sized bulls, priced between Tk 5 lakh and 7.5 lakh, including five that went unsold last year," said Nurul Islam, a trader from Sirajganj, adding that last year he faced a Tk 5 lakh loss.

Musa Ibrahim, owner of Everest Dairy and Agro Farm at Dakkhin

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Yunus being tried like any other person

Says law minister; SCBA president claims the Nobel laureate facing harassment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus is being tried the same way as any citizen of the country who breaches the law.

"But what he [Yunus] is saying is untrue and insulting to the people of Bangladesh," he said while talking to journalists after a meeting with a European Union delegation at the conference room of the law ministry.

Various countries consider tax evasion cases as important and that's why Dr Yunus has been sued, he said.

"The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against Prof Yunus. I told them [EU delegation] about that case, which is pending before a court..."

"I informed them that there was another tax evasion case against him. He [Yunus] paid tax after losing another tax evasion case," he said.

The minister also said discussions on the Labour Law, Artificial Intelligence Law, Data Protection Law and Cyber Security Law

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2 mayors pledge prompt removal of sacrificial waste

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two Dhaka mayors yesterday pledged to dispose of sacrificial animal waste promptly on Eid day.

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam made the promise at the induction ceremony of 32 new dump trucks and eight compactor trucks for waste management in the capital's Gabtoli.

"Last year, we disposed of all sacrificial animal waste within eight hours. This year, we will do the same work within six hours," he said.

Mentioning that all preparations have been made, the mayor said more than 10,000 workers will work to remove the waste during Eid.

He also requested people to keep sacrificial waste in a specific place.

Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh has assured to clear sacrificial waste within 24 hours.

He made the announcement during a media interaction following the inspection of the National Eidgah ground yesterday.

"We will remove all sacrificial waste within 24 hours, like last year. We will also start the removal of the makeshift cattle markets on the night before Eid," said Taposh.

Action if extra fare charged during Eid

Warns DMP, provides guidelines for vehicles transporting cattle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday warned that action will be taken against any transport service if they collect extra fare from passengers during Eid journey.

Munibur Rahman, additional commissioner (traffic), issued the warning during a press briefing at DMP Media Centre.



DIRECTIVES

- Buses must pick up or drop off passengers at terminals
- Passengers should remain in terminal before boarding
- Buses leaving Dhaka must not carry extra passengers
- No unfit or unlicensed buses permitted to operate

He also provided guidelines for vehicles transporting cattle ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Munibur said long-haul buses must only pick up or drop off passengers at designated bus terminals in Dhaka. Passengers should remain inside the terminal before boarding the buses.

Also, long-distance buses leaving Dhaka must not carry extra passengers or goods, and cannot carry passengers on the roof.

No unfit or unlicensed buses are permitted to operate, he said.

The traffic pressure on roads increases

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Budget too Dhaka-centric

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year prioritises Dhaka at the expense of other districts, experts said at a programme yesterday.

"If we concentrate on development projects and budget on Dhaka and neglect the rest of the districts, it will not benefit the people," said Amanur Rahman, director of CARE Bangladesh. He also said the proposed budget does not prioritise green and balanced urbanisation.

He was speaking at a press conference titled "Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25: Review of BIP", organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners at the capital's BIP conference hall.

Amanur said the government should increase budget allocations for districts with low per capita income.

"If we allocate more funds to these districts, people will not feel the need to move to Dhaka. Development in coastal and other remote areas will reduce Dhaka-centric migration," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of investing in government hospitals, educational institutions, and other critical infrastructure at the district level.

BIP President Adil Mohammed Khan, said "We need a specialised budget that reflects allocations for each district."

He said the government has taken a positive initiative to introduce the district budget, but the failure to apply it is disappointing.

"Implementing a district budget could expose

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



From left, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury at an event celebrating the birthday of King Charles III at a city hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

85,113 to perform hajj this year

All pre-hajj flights end

RASHIDUL HASAN

Finally ending all uncertainty, almost all intended pilgrims have gone to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj this year.

Through the operation of the last hajj flights of Flynas from Dhaka airport around 6:00pm yesterday, the outgoing hajj flight operation of this year came to an end.

The month-long flight operation began on May 9.

This year, a total of 85,180 Bangladeshis were registered to perform hajj. Of them, 85,113 have gone to Saudi Arabia through 217 flights of Biman, Saudia and Flynas, said Abdul Maleq, assistant hajj officer at the Hajj Office.

Of the total pilgrims, 4,482 people went to Saudi Arabia under the government hajj management.

However, 51 intended pilgrims failed to go to Saudi Arabia for

various reasons -- including sickness and personal reasons, said Bazlul Haque Biswas, an official of Ashkona Hajj Camp.

Biman carried 40,903 pilgrims in 105 flights, Saudia carried 30,021, and Flynas carried 14,189 pilgrims, according to Dhaka's Ashkona Hajj Office.



This was the first time that immigration formalities for all hajj pilgrims at the Saudi airport were completed in advance at the Dhaka airport.

"This was the smoothest ever hajj management in the recent

history of Bangladesh. All credit goes to the sincere joint efforts of the religious affairs ministry, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh and other related organisations," HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim told The Daily Star.

Hajj management was not easy, as there were lots of challenges and uncertainty, he added.

After beginning the hajj operation, the religious affairs ministry expressed concerns at different times that several thousand pilgrims might not be able to go to Saudi Arabia due to mismanagement and lack of sincerity among private hajj agencies.

"Due to the strong and repeated vigilance of the ministry, all that uncertainty was resolved," said Matul Islam, additional secretary of the religious affairs ministry.

Hajj will be observed on June 15 this year.

Dev projects not at cost of environment

Urge speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon yesterday urged the authorities to plan and implement development projects while keeping existing trees and greenery intact as much as possible.

It also demanded immediate action to recover and protect waterbodies and the creation of a "blue network" connecting waterbodies with rivers.

Bapa organised a discussion on the importance of the environment in sustainable urbanisation and unveiled a proposal booklet at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Bapa Vice President and architect Iqbal Habib presented the main article while scholars and activists discussed how to ensure sustainable urbanisation, focusing on waterbodies, greenery and open spaces.

Discussants proposed a tree census and a database of roadside trees to control tree felling in the name of development. They proposed a policy to ensure tree plantation.

"Due to encroachment and pollution, Dhaka's waterbodies and greenery have decreased alarmingly. Before taking any development project, a proper Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Mitigation Plan must be done and stakeholders should be informed about these," said Iqbal Habib.

Conduct drives against loan defaulters

JP lawmakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reserved seat MP Salma Islam yesterday in parliament demanded that the government initiate a drive against loan defaulters and money launderers.

While participating in the general discussion on the proposed budget, Salma said, "A section of money launderers and bank looters have brought the country to the brink of destruction."

Salma, also Jatiyo Party co-chairperson, said although the small fish are sometimes punished but the big ones remain safe. "They rescheduled loan payments in different phases, showing influence. As a result, their names do not appear as loan defaulters," she said.

Another JP MP, Golam Kibria, said action should be taken against those responsible for the financial crisis, money laundering and corruption.

Time to intensify movement for democracy: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

Stating that all opposition parties are now united against the current government, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the ongoing movement for the restoration of democracy will be intensified soon.

Speaking at a discussion, he also said the Awami League government is now the main enemy of the opposition parties as it has destroyed all institutions of the country.

He said their party is talking to all the leftist and right wing parties to make their ongoing movement a success.

"I am very happy to say that in this movement, no political party was in favour of this government, no one supported them... This is a great success of the movement. No one went to the so-called polls [on January 7], except the Jatiyo Party," he said.

Masuma Khan Majlis no more

CITY DESK

Masuma Khan Majlis, wife of late Zakaria



Khan Majlis, and mother of late Mahnaz Khan Majlis and Demir Khan Majlis, passed away yesterday.

She was the youngest daughter of Abu Yousuf Lutful Kabir and Sofia Khatun of Mia Bari, Ghorasal, and the youngest sister of late Khairul Kabir, Ahmadul Kabir, Nurul Kabir, Munira Nuruddin and Anwarul Kabir (Shamim Kabir).

She left behind her son, daughter-in-law Tasneem Zakaria Teena, son-in-law Shahinawaz Adil, grandchildren Maisha, Simia and Dayem to mourn her death. Her namaz-e-janaza will be held today after the Zohr prayers at Azad Mosque, Gulshan. Later, she will be taken to her ancestral home in Ghorasal for burial.

Action if extra

FROM PAGE 3

significantly one to two days before Eid when most service workers leave Dhaka, he said.

He also said vehicles transporting cattle must go to city corporation-approved markets and load or unload the animals within the market premises.

Cattle-carrying vehicles must display a sticker banner indicating the designated market, he added.

High supply, higher Yunus being tried

FROM PAGE 3

Meherul Islam, a lessee member of Barabari cattle market in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that cattle farmers have been waiting for hours to sell at their expected rates.

Only 20-25 percent of the supplied cattle have been sold, he said, adding that around 6,000 cattle are supplied every day.

Sohrab Hossain, 60, a cattle farmer from Char Jorgachh area in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said he brought two cows, but could only sell one.

"I sold a cow for Tk 65,000 as I needed the money for my family, but a month ago the price of

this cow was Tk 70,000," he said.

In Pabna, prices of sacrificial animals are still very high at cattle markets, including Sharatnagar Haat, Ekdanta Haat, and Chatmohar Rail Bazar Haat, even though there is no scarcity of cattle.

Mojibar, a buyer at Sharatnagar Haat, said, "I have a budget of Tk 90,000 to Tk 1 lakh. Unfortunately, I am unable to get the expected animal according to my budget. Traders are asking for Tk 1.10 lakh to Tk 1.20 lakh for a small cow, which is too high for my budget."

(Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Pabna contributed to the report)

FROM PAGE 3

took place at the meeting with the delegation.

"They wanted to know when the Labour Law would be passed. I told them that we want an end to the complaint filed against us with the International Labour Court. We have done enough work on the law. We are also working on amending it. We asked them to support us at their governing body meeting next November," he said.

The law minister also said many questions have come from their countries about Yunus' trial process.

"I told them that he [Yunus] violated the rights of the workers. There was a case against him to this effect and he has been sentenced. Besides, 108 workers sued him personally. Some of them withdrew their cases after he assured them of compensation," he said.

Meanwhile, Supreme

Court Bar Association President AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon told reporters at a briefing on the SC premises yesterday that Yunus is being harassed with cases one after another, and this harassment should stop immediately.

"Many say that Prof Yunus has won the Nobel Prize... as if it were his offence to win it. He did not award it to himself. The committee concerned gave him the prize," he added.

"Dr Yunus was put in an iron cage in a Dhaka court, which was very insulting to him. Where does this end?" he said.

"We don't know how to honour a respected person. There is no democracy, human rights, or rule of law in the country. People cannot exercise their right to vote. The country is not being governed in accordance with the constitution," the SCBA president said.

Budget too

FROM PAGE 3

corruption, which might be the reason as to why it is not being followed," he said.

Adil recommended creating a district-wise masterplan to improve the lives of people.

BIP Vice President Syed Shahriar Amin said, "We need detailed plans and clear budget allocations for each sector. The budget should serve everyone."

BIP Joint Secretary Tamzidul Islam said the government needs to prioritise planning to ensure effective use of the budget.

HC grants

FROM PAGE 3

Traders, and four others for six months in the case around 11:00am.

The bench also issued a rule asking the state and ACC to explain why they should not be granted regular bail in the case.

The HC bench issued the bail order and rule following a petition filed by the five accused seeking bail.

The case was filed against them on November 26 last year on charges of misappropriating 72,000 tonnes of government-imported urea fertiliser, valued at Tk 582 crore, during transportation, the ACC lawyer said.

PRAYER TIMING

JUNE 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
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JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

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3. **One Permanent Lecturer Post (Special Education Department, Intellectual Disability):** Candidates must have Bachelor of Education (Honors) and Master of Education degrees in Special Education from a recognized university.
4. **One Permanent Lecturer Post (Curriculum and Instructional Technology Department):** Candidates must have Bachelor of Education (Honors) and Master of Education degrees in Curriculum and Instructional Technology Education from a recognized university.

The candidates of all subjects must have first divisions or GPA minimum 4.25 out of 5.00 in SSC and HSC examinations. They must have first class or CGPA minimum 3.50 out of 4.00 in Bachelors (Hons.) and Masters Degrees from recognized university. One of the approved condition of S.S.C./H.S.C. Examination may be relaxed to those who obtained first position/achieved highest CGPA in both Bachelors (Hons.) and Masters degree. Candidates having a Ph.D. in the relevant field and research publication(s) in a quality journal may get preference. Candidates already in service will have to apply through proper channel. Relevant notes and conditions apply. (For details, see the Dhaka University Website)

Eight copies of application in the prescribed form along with attested copies of mark sheets, certificates, experience certificates, and a Pay Order of Tk. 750/- payable to the Registrar should reach the Director, Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka on or before 30.07.2024.

GD- 994

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

Applications in prescribed form obtainable from the Registrar, University of Dhaka, are invited from the nationals of Bangladesh for filling up the following posts of Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka.

Assistant Professor: Pay Scale of Tk. 35,500-67,010/- (National Pay Scale 2015).

Educational Qualifications:

02 (Two) vacant permanent Assistant Professor Post: Candidates must have Bachelor of Education (Honours) and Master of Education degrees in Educational Administration/BA (Honours) and MA degrees in Bangla. Candidates must have at least 03 (three) years of teaching experience at a university or, at least 02 years as post doctoral research or at least 06 (six) years research experience as a research officer or an equivalent position in a reputed research organization. Candidates with a Ph.D. should have at least 01 (one) year of teaching experience at a university. Applicants must have at least 03 (three) research publications in the indexed/quality journal with DOI (Digital Object Identifier). Article published in predatory journals will not be accepted. Relevant notes and conditions apply. (For details, see the Dhaka University Website)

Candidates must have a first class/a minimum CGPA 3.50 out of 4.00 in both Bachelors (Hons.) and Masters Degrees with a first division/a minimum GPA 4.25 out of 5.00 both in SSC and HSC examinations. Requirements for either the SSC or HSC examinations may be relaxed for the candidates who have obtained the first position/the highest CGPA in both Bachelor (Hons.) and Master degrees.

Eight copies of application in the prescribed form along with attested copies of mark sheets/grade sheets, certificates, experience certificates, and a Pay Order of Tk. 750/- payable to the Registrar should reach the Director, Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka on or before 30.07.2024. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

GD- 993

Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS)
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000

Date: 30-06-2024 ১১:০৬:২০২৪

Invitation for Tender (National)

Sl. No.	Name of supply	Last date of sale of tender documents	Last date of submission of tender documents	Date & time of opening of tender documents	Place where detailed information will be found
01	Tender Ref. No. CARS/STIP-367/OTM/2024 Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of online and offline UPS Battery, CCTV Camera Set, Tools and AC Accessories, Conference System Delegate unit, Ceiling Fan for different laboratory at CARS	10-07-2024 Up to office hour	11-07-2024 Up to 10.30am	11-07-2024 11.00am	www.cars.du.ac.bd or Notice Board at the CARS University of Dhaka

Director
Centre for Advanced Research in Sciences (CARS)
University of Dhaka

GD-995

বঙ্গমাতা শেখ ফজিলাতুন্নেছা মুজিব বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

ঢাকা, ১৯৯২

ই-মেইল: registrar@bsfmstu.ac.bd, ওয়েবসাইট: www.bsfmstu.ac.bd

Ref: 37.01.0044.521.64.002.23 Date: 10.06.2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are hereby invited in the National e-gp portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the works stated as below:

Tender ID	Package No	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
997646	37.01.0044.521.64.002.23	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Computer and Related Service for Database Lab, Microprocessor & Microcontroller Lab at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, BSFMSTU, Jamalpur	30-Jun-2024 16:00	01-Jul-2024 14:00

This is an online tender notice, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal is required. Tender security will be deposited online at any branch of registered banks. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Haim 10.06.2024

Md. Humayun Kabir
Chairman, Dept. of CSE
BSFMSTU, Jamalpur.
Phone: 02223-377524
e-mail: cse@bsfmstu.ac.bd

GD- 987

Where did the vessel go?

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

An old oil tanker has been missing from a shipyard in Gazaria of Munshiganj for 24 days.

The vessel, T Teknaf, went "missing" on May 18 after it was brought to the shipyard of Three-Angle Marine Limited for repairs around a year back.

The shipyard authority and the vessel's owner filed counter complaints with Gazaria Police Station in this connection on May 29 and May 30 respectively, accusing each other.

"The owner has not been paying the bill of Tk 30 lakh issued for the vessel's repairs for around a year. We have no reason to take the ship away. On May 18 night, the vessel's owner took it away, and later filed a complaint to defame us. So, we have filed a Tk 100 crore defamation case against the vessel's owner," claimed Mozammel Haque, general manager (operations) of Three-Angle Marine Limited.

Contacted, the vessel's owner Mottaqim Salam, also deputy



A recent photo shows the oil tanker at the shipyard. The vessel, however, has been "missing" since May 18.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

managing director of Bengal Electric Ltd, said, "The shipyard authority billed us Tk 11.36 lakh for the repair. When we went to pay the bill, we found that the ship was not in the shipyard.

So, we lodged a complaint with the police. We have information with video footage that the shipyard authority dismantled the vessel between May 1 and May 18 and sold the parts across

the country." "Both parties filed separate complaints in this connection. We are continuing our investigation," said Md Rajib Khan, officer-in-charge of Gazaria Police Station.

KALURGHAT BRIDGE New walkway to open before Eid

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

The newly constructed walkway of Kalurghat Bridge in Chattogram is set to open to the public before Eid-ul-Azha.

The repair work of the bridge is also nearing completion.

"The construction work is 98 percent completed. We now have to finish the railing work," said Zishan Dutta, bridge engineer of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone).

The renovation work of the bridge began in August last year at a cost of Tk 55 crore. While it was supposed to be completed within three months, the work got delayed, causing sufferings to commuters.

Around 10 lakh people from Boalkhali, Patiya and Rangunia have no alternative to cross Karnaphuli river without using



the bridge.

The Roads and Highways Department launched a ferry service next to the bridge while the bridge remained closed to the public to ease commuters' sufferings to some extent.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Oman lifts visa restrictions for Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After eight months, the Oman government has lifted temporary visa restrictions on several categories for Bangladeshi nationals.

The exempted visa categories include all official visas, family visas, visitor visas for Bangladeshi nationals living in GCC countries, and visas for engineers, doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants, investors, and high-income tourists, said a note issued by the Omani Embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

The note also stated that from now on, the local embassy will receive and process all applications and related documents in coordination with the Royal Omani Police authority.

The embassy note further assured that both authorities concerned in Oman and Bangladesh are working towards lifting the ban on work visas, which is in progress.

Mentionable, in October 2023, the Omani Royal Police imposed a temporary ban on all categories of visas, except for official purposes, for Bangladeshi nationals in a bid to review their overall migration policy.

Erosion fear grips 1,000 families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Nearly a thousand families on the bank of the Padma river in Daulatdia union under Rajbari's Goalanda upazila are passing days in fear of erosion.

The 2.5-kilometre stretch of the river bank between Daulatdia Ferry Ghat's Terminal 6 and 7 is particularly affected, according to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

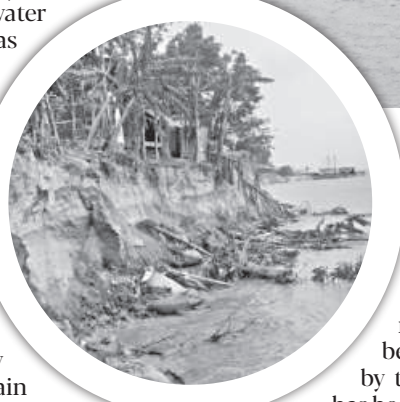
Locals said the water level of the river has risen significantly since Cyclone Remal.

BIWTA has been dumping sand filled geo-bags on the river bank to prevent erosion. However, many areas still remain vulnerable, including Sattar Member Para, Bahir Char, Majid Sheikh Para, and Bepari Para, among others.

Nearly 1,000 families dwell in these areas.

BIWTA sources said it is not possible to conduct erosion prevention drives in full swing due to limited allocation to this end.

Kashem Khan, a member of Daulatdia Union Parishad, said, "All the families are spending sleepless nights in fear of losing



their lands and homesteads to river erosion, as it is likely to exacerbate in the monsoon. A road has already been devoured by the river. BIWTA has been dumping geo-bags, but it is inadequate to prevent erosion."

Siddique Pattadar, 30, a resident of Sattar Member Para, said, "The river's erosion worsened recently after the cyclone. Now the river is just across the yard from my house. If the situation worsens further, it will entirely engulf my homestead."

Several other locals, including Chobeda Begum, 45, Hazrat Ali Mondal, 70, and Hashem Mondal, 45, echoed him and urged local

authorities to take prompt steps to this end.

Jyoti Bikas Chandra, UNO of Goalanda upazila, said he has informed higher authorities in this regard.

Md Salahuddin, manager of Daulatdia office of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation, said they have requested BIWTA to construct another alternative ghat to minimise erosion between terminals 6 and 7.

Risab Ahmad, assistant engineer of BIWTA in Aricha, said, "We have dumped at least 8,000 geo-bags in the river bank areas since May 8. However, due to limited allocation, we are unable to do more at this point. If we get an allocation, more geo bags will be placed at the erosion sites."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Superintendent
Naogaon District Jail
www.prison.naogaon.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.64(0).129.04.044.24-2630 Date: 12.06.2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
1	998514	Procurement of Dietary Articles Under Package-2 for the period July/2024 to December/2024	12-June-2024 11:00:00	26-June-2024 12:30:00
2	998515	Procurement of Dietary Articles Under Package-11 for the period July/2024 to December/2024	12-June-2024 11:00:00	26-June-2024 12:45:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

12.06.2024
Md. Nazrul Islam
BJ-02679200185
Jail Super
Naogaon District Jail
02587747313
E-mail: naogaondistrictjail@gmail.com

POST-POLLS VIOLENCE EC directs Sylhet DIG to take action

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Election Commission has directed the deputy inspector general (DIG) of police in Sylhet range to take legal action against those involved in the recent post-polls violence that left seven people injured in Madhyanager upazila, Sunamganj.

The commission came up with the directive in a letter signed by its Deputy Secretary Md Aair Rahman on June 10.

The Daily Star got a copy of the letter yesterday. "You [DIG] are requested to inform the Election Commission about the legal measures taken against those involved in the incident [attack]," said the letter.

Election to Madhyanager Upazila Parishad was held on June 5.

Two days later, at least seven people, including a defeated chairman candidate Saidur Rahman, were injured in an attack allegedly by the supporters of his rival candidate Abdur Razzak Bhuiyan, who was elected as upazila chairman.

The clash ensued near Saidur's residence at Datiapara village.

Later, Saidur's son filed a complaint with the EC, alleging that local police were working in favour of Razzak, also elder brother of another DIG.

However, local police officials denied the allegation. Contacted earlier, Razzak claimed that his followers first came under attack by Saidur's men.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahatali, Chattogram-4202
+88(031)-659604, ccs@br.gov.bd

বিদ্যুৎ ডিক্রেট রেল ভ্রমণ না করে উন্নয়নে সহায়তা করুন

Notice No: 54.01.1543.335.08.019.24 Date: 13/Jun/2024

Invitation for Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Railways
2	Agency	Bangladesh Railway
3	Procuring entity name	Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahatali, Chattogram
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present
5	Procuring entity district	Chattogram
6	Invitation for	Tender (Goods) (Sample Lot)
7	Invitation Ref No.	54.01.1543.335.08.019.24
8	Date	11/Jun/2024
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (ICT)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	GOB: 4127101
11	Development partner (if applicable)	Not applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable
14	Tender Package No.	54.01.1543.335.08.019.24
15	Tender package name	Procurement of 1200 Nos. Solid Wheel for MD-52 M Bogies for Indonesia Coaches (MG), Drawing No. 01.1-L.10000, Part No. L10010000
16	Invitation for Tender Ref No.	54.01.1543.335.08.019.24
17	Tender publication date	Tuesday, June 11, 2024
18	Tender last selling date	Sunday, August 4, 2024
19	Tender closing date and time	Monday, August 05, 2024 & 12:00pm
20	Tender opening date and time	Monday, August 05, 2024 & 2:00pm
21	Name & address of the office(s)	Address(s)
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahatali, Chattogram-4202
	-Selling tender document (others)	1. Controller of Stores (East), Central Railway Building, Chattogram 2. Controller of Stores (West), Rail Bhaban, Rajshahi and 3. Senior Assistant Controller of Stores, Kamलगar, Dhaka
	-Receiving tender document (principal)	Office of the Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway Pahatali, Chattogram-4202
	-Receiving tender document (others)	1. Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram, Court Road, Chattogram-4000 2. Office of the Police Commissioner, 360 CDA Avenue, Chattogram
	-Opening tender document	Office of the Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahatali, Chattogram-4202
22	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Name/Address Date Time Pre-tender meetings shall not be held
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
23	Eligibility of tenderer	(1) Tenderers or goods and related services from the following countries are not eligible. Those countries who have no commercial/bilateral relation with Bangladesh Government. (2) As potential tenderers, except those who have been recorded for Poor Performance and Debarred from participating in Public Procurement under the Procuring Entity, are eligible
24	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of 1200 Nos. Solid Wheel for MD-52 M Bogies for Indonesia Coaches (MG) Drawing No. 01.1-L.10000, Part No. L10010000
25	Brief description of related services	Transportation, Handling, Insurance, and all other related Services
26	Tender document price	BDT 3,000.00 (only to be paid to Code No. 1422328 through A-challan to the FA&CAO (East), Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram (Code: 1510321132285).
27	Location and estimated date of completion of works	Pahatali, 180 days from the date of opening L1C
28	Type of payment for tender price	Cash
29	Type of payment for security amount	Bank Guarantee/Pay Order
LOT INFORMATION		
	Lot No.	Identification of lot Location Tender security amount in USD Completion time in weeks/months
30	1	Procurement of 1200 Nos. Solid Wheel for MD-52 M Bogies for Indonesia Coaches (MG), Drawing No. 01.1-L.10000, Part No. L10010000 Pahatali, Chattogram USD 14,000.00 26 weeks
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
31	Name of official inviting tenderer	Farid Ahmed
32	Designation of official inviting tenderer	Chief Controller of Stores
33	Address of official inviting tenderer	Office of the Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahatali, Chattogram-4202
34	Contact details of official inviting tenderer	Phone: +88 (031)659604, Email: ccs@br.gov.bd
35	Note	a) Tender documents may be obtained from the office of the undersigned as well as from Controller of Stores (East), Central Railway Building, Chattogram, Controller of Stores (West), Rail Bhaban, Rajshahi from 9:00am to 4:30pm (Sunday to Thursday), and from Senior Assistant Controller of Stores, Kamलगar, Dhaka from 9:00am to 4:30pm (Saturday to Wednesday) & from 9:00am to 11:00am (Thursday). b) Tender Security must be submitted in favour of the Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer (East), Bangladesh Railway, Chattogram in the shape of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee issued by any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in case of Foreign Tenderer's Security may be submitted from Foreign Bank but that must be endorsed by a Schedule Bank in Bangladesh. c) Tenderer/Representative (if any) may present at the time of opening the Tender. d) If the tenderer fails to understand any condition of the tender document clearly, they may contract with undersigned during office hours. e) If the offer remains closed or any other unavoidable circumstances arise on the last date of closing of the tender documents or on the last date of submission/Opening of the tender, the following working day shall be deemed as the last date of selling & next working day shall be the last date of submission/Opening of the tender. f) Tenders may be submitted by hand, by post or by courier, before last time/date of the submission. Otherwise, tender shall be directly rejected. g) Tender opening, evaluation, awarding and debriefing shall be according to the provisions of the PPR, 2008. h) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

১৩ জুন ২০২৪
Farid Ahmed
Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahatali, Chattogram

A delicious assortment of OTT projects this Eid

In the Shihab Shaheen directorial, Sabila Nur and Apurba—a popular TV pair—will be seen together on OTT for the first time. Alongside the dynamic duo, Imtiaz Barshon will also take on an important role.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

While there were few noteworthy offerings last Eid-ul-Fitr for OTT, this upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, platforms have arranged for a lineup of web-series and films that are sure to entertain.

This Eid marks the OTT debut of two popular faces, Tahsan and Tanjin Tisha, who are aiming to win over audiences. With a mix of action, crime, thrillers, and rib-tickling comedies, get ready to binge-watch this Eid's content while enjoying scrumptious meals.

Golam Mamun (Hoichoi)

After the success of its predecessor *Baker Moddhye Agun*, Hoichoi introduces its spin-off series, *Golam Mamun*. Streaming on Hoichoi from June 13, the series centers around fierce ACP Golam Mamun (played by Ziaul Faruq Apurba), as he navigates a gripping murder-mystery that he is entangled in himself.

In the Shihab Shaheen directorial, Sabila Nur and Apurba—a popular TV pair—will be seen together on OTT for the first time. Alongside the dynamic duo, Imtiaz Barshon will also take on an important role.

Golam Mamun, a noted police officer, races against time to clear his name amid a series of brutal murders. The plot plunges into chaos when, in search of an elusive address at midnight, Golam Mamun is ambushed by a mysterious assailant in an eerie apartment. Upon waking, he realises his name is linked to a murder. Did he really commit the crime, or is he being framed? Find out today.

Baaji (Chorki)

Chorki's much-awaited web-series, *Baaji*, features the on-screen reunion of Tahsan and Mithila after a long time. This series also marks Tahsan's debut in the world of OTT, where he plays the role of a cricketer, while Mithila portrays a journalist.

"Earlier, cricketers used to bet their lives on cricket, and now betting rules their lives," the trailer cleverly infers. The web-series delves into the lives of cricketers as betting begins to crumble their world. Tahsan plays Abir, a noted cricket player for the Golden Dreams team. Despite his brilliant skills, he continues to underperform in matches.

His name becomes embroiled in three spot-fixing scandals as he consistently fails to deliver, prompting Mithila's character, a journalist, to investigate the allegations against him and try to unmask his true nature. A murder occurs in their hotel. Is Abir behind it all, or will he rectify his mistakes and prove his love for the sport?

Baaji will be available for streaming on Chorki on June 16. Directed by Arifur Rahman, the suspense drama also features Mim Mantasha, Manoj Pramanik, Nazia Haque, Orsha, Shahadat Hossain, Partho Sheikh, Tasnuva Tisha, and Abrar Athar, among others.

Poison (Depto Play)

The gorgeous Tanjin Tisha makes her OTT debut in Sanjoy Somadder's crime thriller web-film *Poison*. Released on June 10, the film revolves around the life of Rupa Mirza (played by Tanjin Tisha).

Poison delves into Rupa's life as she achieves stardom and earns awards for her performance, only for her celebration to turn sinister. As the night progresses, secrets and past grievances emerge among the guests,

revealing hidden faces and true intentions. The storyline takes a dark turn, exploring themes of greed, old wounds, and rising corpses, making for a gripping narrative.

The film features a talented ensemble cast including Abu Hurayra, Tanvir, Tiger Robi, Rawnak Ripon, Abdullah Al Sentu, and AK Azad Shetu, among others.

Female 4 (Bongo)

Kajal Arefin Ome's *Female 4*, which revolves around the residents of Dhaka's Battery Goli, will premiere on the OTT platform Bongo on Eid day, June 17.

Earlier instalments of the tele-fiction series used to premiere on television. However, the makers decided to elevate the popular comedy project into a web-film for this upcoming release.

The web-film stars Ziaul Hoque Polash, Marzuk Russell, Saraf Ahmed Zibon, Pavel, Shimul Sharma, Shiblu, and Iresh Zaker, among others. The world of Battery Goli descends into chaos as a mysterious lady appears, inciting madness and sparking fights between two rival gangs.

Diljit Dosanjh to appear on Jimmy Fallon's show



Diljit Dosanjh is having a stellar year, earning accolades for his roles in Imtiaz Ali's Netflix film *Amar Singh Chamkila* and Rajesh A Krishnan's heist movie *Crew*.

The star recently collaborated with Sia and shared the stage with Ed Sheeran. His performance at Coachella turned heads, proving he's unstoppable.

The multi-faceted actor-singer is now set to make his first appearance on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

Diljit shared the news on social media, expressing excitement about his upcoming appearance on the American show, stating, "Panjabi is here as this week's guest on Jimmy Fallon's show," with his track *GOAT* playing in the background.

He hinted at showcasing traditional bhangra on the international show.

iScreen to feature 'Aam Kathaler Chhuti' before Eid

One of our leading OTT platforms iScreen has surprises for Eid, including streaming last year's award-winning film *Aam Kathaler Chhuti*.

The film directed by Mohammad Nuruzzaman, portrays a tumultuous childhood and has been well-received by cinephiles since its release.

In celebration of Eid-ul-Azha, *Aam Kathaler Chhuti* will be released as premium content on iScreen on June 15 at 3pm.

Based on Sharif Uddin Sabuj's short story *Moinma Bhai Bolla Rashi* and adapted into a screenplay by the director, the film features performances by Jubair, Lyon, Arif, Halima Tanjil, and Fatema.



NEWS

Batters yet to pull their weight

FROM PAGE 12
20-ball 40 against the Lankans and followed it up with a vigilant 34-ball 37. He is the only batter to have an average strike-rate greater than 100 so far for the Tigers and has batted for more than a run-a-ball in both matches.

The top-order continues to be one of the major headaches for the Tigers, more so because it includes skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who hasn't been able to snap out of his miserable run, averaging 14.2 in his last 10

innings at a strike-rate of 86.1. With the pitches in Dallas and New York being significant limiting factors in batting, the move away from the USA could not have come at a better time for Bangladesh batters who will hope that the surfaces in the West Indies will allow them to bat with more freedom.

The Tigers will also take confidence from the fact that they have gone through the most difficult phase in the group with minimal damage as they have a win and a loss against relatively

superior sides (Sri Lanka and South Africa) and have Netherlands and Nepal, both of whom are lower down in the rankings, up next.

A win against the Netherlands will put Bangladesh in a favourable position as far as qualification to the Super 8s is concerned as it will allow the Tigers to have progression to the next round in their own hands. With Sri Lanka and Nepal on one point each, Bangladesh, who have two, have the Netherlands as key competition for qualification.

Mujib's time in Kolkata was vital

FROM PAGE 12
When police charged at protesting students, Mujib would step in without batting an eyelid and put himself up as a shield between the batons charged mercilessly and the hapless protesters. He was the first among the student leaders who rushed to do famine relief work and try dousing the communal conflagration.

On each occasion, when the going got tough, or even life-threatening, Mujib got going, without fail.

No biography of Mujib is complete without shedding light on his Kolkata stay.

It is this part of his life that India's acclaimed filmmaker Goutam Ghose has focused on in his 63-minute documentary "Mujib in Calcutta". It tells the story of the college years of the man who rose to become Bangabandhu and then the father of the nation after Bangladesh was liberated through a nine-month war.

"This period was very important for Mujib's political upbringing," stated Goutam during a tete-a-tete with The Daily Star during his recent visit to Dhaka.

So popular was Mujib with the students at the then Islamia College of Kolkata, later renamed Maulana Azad College, that none went against him when he was simultaneously involved with student politics as well as the Muslim League, said the director who has delved into the details of his life in Kolkata.

The documentary will also include Mujib's first-ever Kolkata visit in 1934 for medical treatment and his historic speech at a public meeting at the Brigade Parade Ground in the city on February 6, 1972, soon after his return from prison in Pakistan, Goutam said.

The documentary got the go-ahead after Mujib's eldest daughter and Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina watched it on April 26. It was originally titled "Kolkatay Bangabandhu", but Hasina suggested changing the title and recommended "Mujib in Calcutta", citing her logic that during his life there, he was not known as Bangabandhu yet, Goutam said.

His documentary vividly recreated the memories of Mujib's Kolkata life as his camera captured the Islamia College campus, Mujib's politics as the general secretary of the college's student union, his room no-24 of Baker Hostel, Alimuddin Street, Park

Circus and the Muslim League office where Mujib had spent his time.

The Indian director, critically acclaimed for films like "Padma Nadir Majhi", "Antarjali Jatra", "Moner Manush", "Sankhachil", "Ma Bhumi", "Paar" and "Kaalbela", said Mujib's years in Kolkata was an important period for the sub-continent as well.

"During that period, Mujib was involved in relief work during the famine of 1943. He was witness to Hindu-Muslim riots and the great Calcutta killings. He saw the flight of Subhas Bose from India and used to listen to Bose's speeches from Singapore on the radio," the director continued.

Goutam had to face hurdles in making the documentary due to a lack of authentic and recorded information. He relied heavily on Mujib's "Unfinished Autobiography", Sheikh Hasina's book "Sheikh Mujib Aamar Pita", interviews with Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana and with Mujib's friend, 101-year-old Nihar Chakraborty, to make the documentary.

"In our country, the main problem is the [lack of] archival material for making such a documentary. We have no picture or video of that time when Bangabandhu was in Kolkata. Moreover, it's a political documentation about Bangabandhu when he started his political life.

"Had Sheikh Hasina not preserved Bangabandhu's autobiography, a vital chapter of history would have been lost and people would have never known the history of that period," said the filmmaker, adding that Hasina must be credited for "unveiling an important slice of history."

"But when I started research on the topic, I was fortunate to have found Nihar Chakraborty, who was Bangabandhu's contemporary. He is the only living person who witnessed Bangabandhu's Kolkata life and was involved with the student movements with him."

Goutam said that according to Nihar, Sheikh Mujib was an amiable person who used to go all out to help his friends and never considered religion, caste and creed when choosing them.

The director said the documentary on Mujib was important for him for two reasons. "First, I was young during the Bangladesh Liberation War, and then I was present at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata in 1972, hearing his historic speech, and secondly

my ancestors were from Faridpur [Bangabandhu's home district]."

He added, "I've been making the documentary as my responsibility to history. I wanted to apprise the young generation of the political upbringings of Bangabandhu."

The duration of the documentary was at first only half an hour, but it became longer with the addition of interviews of Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana.

Jointly funded by the Bangladesh government and an Indian NGO named "Friends of Bangladesh", the documentary has no character. The director himself describes the history of that time, where footage of some historical places of Kolkata related to Bangabandhu and footage of the Liberation War are shown.

Goutam said he was in Dhaka to screen the documentary to Hasina and get her green signal.

"I felt the documentary should not be brought to public domain without her prior approval. The PM saw and loved it. She thanked me, and I told her it was my responsibility."

Replying to a question about when the documentary might be released, he said it depends on the Bangladesh government.

St Martin's to start

FROM PAGE 12
be used for emergency passenger transportation with necessary security arrangements provided by the Coast Guard, said Yamin.

The island, home to about 10,000 people, is accessible only by vessels. The locals depend on trawlers for supplies.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said, "The Arakan Army is fighting against the Myanmar government. The war has been going on for quite some time... One or two bullets hit trawlers or our patrol boats. We still don't know who fired those shots."

"We contacted them [Myanmar authorities], but they could not confirm anything," he said.

Mujibor Rahman, chairman of St Martin's Union Parishad, said stocks of food are running out.

Prices of essentials have gone up and they will run out of rice within two to three days, he told The Daily Star.

He said he requested the deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar to send food and other essentials to the island by sea trucks using alternative routes.

Losses estimated at over Tk 7,000cr

FROM PAGE 12
recovery and aid distribution."

"This time, the embankment and fisheries have experienced major damages," he told reporters at a dialogue on government preparedness for natural disasters.

The fisheries sector experienced significant losses as the cyclone affected 38,083.89 hectares of farms, including of fish, shrimp, and hatcheries.

Over 1,191.03 kilometers of paved, brick, and dirt roads were damaged.

The housing infrastructure was heavily impacted, with 45,521 homes destroyed and another 226,583 partially damaged.

Agriculture was also hit hard, with crops on 35,602.44 hectares completely destroyed, resulting in a loss of Tk 410.71 crore. Additionally,

crops and seedlings on 59,795.09 hectares were partially damaged, causing a further loss of Tk 301.77 crore.

At least 98 bridges and culverts were destroyed, incurring a loss of Tk 125 crore, while 3,123 bridges and culverts were damaged partially causing losses of over Tk 659.54 crore.

Eighteen primary schools were destroyed, amounting to a loss of Tk 5.35 crore. Additionally, 929 primary schools were affected, resulting in damages worth Tk 12.91 crore.

One hundred secondary schools were destroyed, causing a loss of Tk 2.47 crore, and 578 were partially damaged, causing a loss of Tk 11.42 crore.

Embankments were also severely impacted. About 232.01 kilometers were destroyed, costing Tk 83.54 crore,

while 413.80 kilometers were damaged partially, leading to a loss of Tk 103.06 crore.

➔ **Embankments: Tk 186cr**

➔ **Forestry, afforestation, nursery: Tk 65cr**

➔ **Education sector: Tk 39cr**

➔ **Religious establishment: Tk 14cr**

➔ **Tube well: Tk 10cr**

➔ **Agri, non-agri industries: Tk 646,8,000**

Source: Draft estimation by Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

AL leader knew about his murder

FROM PAGE 12
a meeting beside the Bhangra expressway.

Local sources said Mintu had a rivalry with Jhenaidah-4 (Kalgani) lawmaker Azim.

Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of the DMP, yesterday confirmed these developments.

The investigation officer is interrogating Mintu on issues like why Babu's mobile phone was with him and why he did not share murder information with the law enforcers or the victim's family, said the DB chief.

Harun said, "The IO will let Mintu go if he can answer properly, or else lawful action will be taken."

In response to a query of political leaders' involvement in the killing, the DB chief said district AL Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Babu is on remand and General Secretary Mintu was detained for interrogation.

"There is also evidence about some others' involvement. No one, including those who gave instructions and those who planned the murder of Azim, will be spared," he said.

He further said, "I also want to say that no innocent person will be harassed at anyone's instigation."

In another development, Azim's daughter Mumtaz Ferdous Doreen yesterday met Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at the Secretariat and demanded justice for her father's killing.

After the meeting, Doreen told reporters that she heard that attempts were being made to get those arrested in connection with the murder freed.

She said she requested the minister not to stop the probe under any pressure.

Doreen said she heard that arrestee Babu had a meeting beside the Bhangra expressway regarding financial transactions. "I want to know the name

of the people who gave the money. Why did they do it?"

Asaduzzaman said her father was killed and it was only natural that she would seek justice.

Asked whether there is any pressure, the minister said, "Who will put pressure on us? There is no pressure. The probe is underway properly."

DB chief Harun said, "The higher authorities don't exert any pressure on us. Because they [authorities] know that all DB teams investigate cases properly and identify the real culprits even if they are at home or abroad. There is no question of harassing any innocent person."

Meanwhile, human chains were formed at different points of Jhenaidah, demanding punishment of MP Azim's killers. There was a demonstration in Jhenaidah too against the detention of Mintu.

[Our Jhenaidah correspondent contributed to this report.]

Merchant ship hit in Red Sea off Yemen

Says security firm

AFP, Dubai

A merchant ship issued a distress call after being struck in the Red Sea off Yemen, a security firm said yesterday, in what appeared to be the latest attack by Iran-backed Houthi rebels.

The ship was hit about 68 nautical miles southwest of the rebel-held port city of Hodeida, maritime security firm Ambrey said.

The company "assessed the vessel aligned with the Houthi target profile at the time of the incident", it said.

Houthis, who are at war with a Saudi-led coalition after ousting the government from Sanaa in 2014, have launched drone and missile attacks on shipping since November.

They say they are harassing the vital trade route as an act of solidarity with Palestinians during the Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip.



Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli airstrike on Zibqin in southern Lebanon yesterday, amid ongoing cross-border tensions. Hezbollah fired big barrages of rockets at Israel yesterday and vowed to ramp up its attacks in retaliation for the Israeli strike which killed a senior Hezbollah field commander.

PHOTO: AFP

Form electoral pact against far right

France's Macron asks rival parties ahead of snap polls

REUTERS, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday urged rival parties on both sides of the political centre to join him in forging a democratic alliance against Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) in upcoming snap legislative elections.

In what amounted to a campaign speech just days after his shock call for an election, Macron acknowledged making mistakes, saying the French had expressed their indignation but felt they were not being heard.

The election would provide clarity, Macron said. He called on "many of our compatriots and political leaders who do not recognize themselves in the extremist fever" to "build a new project ... a coalition to govern, a coalition to act in the service of the French and for the republic".

He pledged to take a firmer hand in questions of immigration, security and justice, arguing that a far left prone to anti-Semitism would be too "lax," while the extreme right would bulldoze France's constitutional rule of law.

In a dig at the leader of the conservative Republicans party, Macron decried political horse-trading over the last few days, saying "the mask has come off" some parties seeking to forge "unnatural alliances."

Child victims of war spiked in 2023

UN report warns amid Gaza, Sudan crises

AFP, United Nations

Violence against children in armed conflicts reached "extreme levels" in 2023, particularly in Gaza and Sudan, according to a forthcoming UN report obtained by AFP on Tuesday.

The United Nations' annual "Children in Armed Conflict" report placed the Sudanese army as well as the rival Rapid Support Forces (RSF) on the blacklist for "the killing and maiming of children, and for attacks on schools and hospitals."

Also added to the blacklist were Hamas and the armed wing of Palestinian Islamic Jihad for the October 7 incident, as well as the



disregard for child rights, notably the inherent right to life," the report said.

The conflict in the Middle East has led to a 155 percent increase in grave violations against children, the report said.

The UN verified that 43 Israeli children were killed in Israel and the West Bank during the October 7 attack, and a total of 47 Israeli children were abducted by Hamas and other Palestinian groups.

The report also confirmed the deaths of 2,141 Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip in 2023, with 2,051 killed between October 7 and December 31.

Over 23,000 reports of grave violations against children -- 3,900 Israeli children and 19,887 Palestinian children -- by all parties to the conflict had yet to be verified.

"It will take a long, long time to verify," said the UN official.

Israel reacted angrily when the news of its inclusion on the blacklist was leaked last week, with the country's UN ambassador Gilad Erdan saying he was "shocked and

disgusted by this shameful decision."

As for Sudan, it has seen "a staggering 480 percent increase in grave violations against children" against children from 2022 to 2023, the report said.

The RSF paramilitary force was listed for recruiting children and for "rape and other forms of sexual violence against children," as well as attacks on schools and hospitals.

"I am appalled by the dramatic increase in grave violations," Guterres wrote in the report, also noting a rise in ethnically motivated attacks and mass displacement of children in Sudan.

Covering some 20 conflict zones worldwide, the report includes the killing, injuring, recruitment, kidnapping and sexual violence against children.

It verified 30,705 "grave violations" committed last year, including during the offensive in Gaza.

The Russian army and "affiliated armed groups," remained on the blacklist for killing 80 children in Ukraine in 2023 and injuring 339.

INDIA'S JAMMU & KASHMIR

Police blame Pakistan for strife that killed 12

Dozens injured over the last three days

REUTER, Srinagar

Police in India's territory of Jammu and Kashmir yesterday blamed arch rival Pakistan for a spurt in militant attacks that killed 12 people and injured dozens over the last three days, just weeks after a large turnout for general elections.

Pakistan claims the Himalayan region, which has been roiled by militant violence since the start of an anti-Indian insurgency in 1989 that killed tens of thousands, although violence has waned in recent years.

"Our hostile neighbour wants to damage our peaceful environment," Anand Jain, police chief of Jammu, told reporters in a reference to Pakistan, which India has accused of stoking violence in the region for decades.

A spokesperson for Pakistan's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters. It has denied such claims in the past, saying it has given only political and diplomatic support to the insurgency.

Gun battles in the area on Tuesday killed two militants and a paramilitary soldier while injuring a civilian and six security personnel, authorities said.

The incidents came two days after nine Hindu pilgrims were killed and 41 injured when militants attacked a bus taking

them to a Hindu shrine on Sunday, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was sworn in for a third term.

The latest violence has prompted criticism of Modi by opposition parties demanding action against the perpetrators.

"Unless we talk to our neighbours we will not be able to solve the problem," Farooq Abdullah, a former chief minister of the region, told news agency ANI.

The sudden rise in violence comes after the region's director general of police, R R Swain, said the number of local militants was dropping, although 70 to 80 foreign militants continue to be active.

"We are moving from resident terrorism to foreign terrorism," Swain said last week.

Ties between the neighbours have been frozen since India ended the special status of Jammu and Kashmir state in 2019, splitting it into two federally administered territories.

On Monday, the leaders of the nuclear-armed rivals engaged in diplomacy on X as Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his elder brother and former three-time prime minister Nawaz Sharif posted congratulations to Modi for his third term.



Mahathir denies corruption


AGENCIES

Malaysia's former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has denied engaging in corruption, saying he earned his money from his salary during his decades-long political career and most of it is "now gone".

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Mahathir, who is under investigation by the country's anticorruption agency, hit out at current Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim over remarks that implied that he had used his time in office to enrich himself and his family.

Mahathir also accused Anwar of targeting his two eldest sons, Mirzan Mahathir and Mokhzani Mahathir.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in January ordered Mirzan Mahathir to declare all his assets in and outside the country as part of an investigation following revelations contained in the so-called Panama Papers, reports AFP.



Cumilla City Corporation

Cumilla
cocc.portal.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.17.19.50.024.00.32.2023.1832 Date: 12/06/2024

Tender Notice No. 13/2023-2024

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID Number	Method of tender	Tender documents last selling date	Tender closing date & time
1.	977191 977192 977193 977194	OTM	01-July-2024 17:00	02-July-2024 12:00
	977195 977196 977197 977198			
	977199 977200 977201 977202			
	977203 977204 977205 977208			
	977209 977210 977211 977212			
	977213 977215 977216 977217			
	977218 977219 977220 977221			
	977222			

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


To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited on line through any registered banks branches up to 17.00pm on 01.07.2024.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from E-mail: se@cocc.gov.bd Or Call to +88028165714.

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

Signed
G. P. Chowdhury
Chief Engineer
Cumilla City Corporation

GD-998



BANGLADESH HOUSE BUILDING FINANCE CORPORATION

Common Service Department
Head Office, 22 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000

Reference: HB/HO/CS/Recruitment of Security Guards- 1004

e-Tender Notice

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

e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the work	Last Date and Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date and Time
998099	HB/HO/CS/Recruitment of Security Guards-1004	Security Guards Services for Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (BHBFC).	04-July-2024 Time : 13:30	04-July-2024 Time : 14:30

This is an online tender where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online in any e-GP registered Banks' Branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-998

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

When the powerful prey on the vulnerable Alleged abuse of power by Benazir must be investigated

In what can only be described as a gross abuse of power, ex-IGP Benazir Ahmed allegedly used his position to intimidate and coerce members of a Hindu community out of their land—their primary source of income—for a fraction of its worth in his hometown in Gopalganj. The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), which is currently investigating Benazir, has so far found Benazir and his family to have bought at least 613.41 bighas of land in different districts, including 605.77 bighas in Gopalganj and Madaripur that once belonged to minority communities.

A recent report by this daily has revealed disturbing details of how the former police chief engaged Taimur Islam, an inspector of a police station, to acquire the farmland to build his resorts. The Daily Star spoke to at least 40 people in Machkandi, Bairagitol and Patikelbari villages of Gopalganj Sadar and Borokhola village in Rajoir, who insisted that they would have never sold their land at reduced prices had it not been for direct and indirect threats from Benazir's people. Those who refused to sell initially were targeted by using other tactics, from blocking access to their land to filling them up with sand, ultimately forcing them to part with their property. According to locals, Benazir also engaged several police and Rab officials to supervise the construction work of one of his resorts until he went into retirement in 2022.

The ACC has confirmed that he procured and built most of his assets while he headed Rab and police. It is terrifying that a man constitutionally mandated to protect citizens would use his power so blatantly against vulnerable populations for his own gains, leaving them helpless to seek recourse from the law. After all, he was the law. That he used members of the law enforcement agencies to do his dirty work for years on end points to a bigger crisis within state institutions—one where checks and balances as well as systems of accountability have long ceased to exist.

It goes without saying that this case demands a thorough and transparent investigation. Those responsible, from Benazir to those who facilitated his actions, must be held accountable and the victims compensated financially for the loss suffered. And while it is commendable that the ex-IGP is finally being investigated for his crimes and corruption, we cannot help but wonder how it is possible that he carried out these unlawful activities under the nose of the administration with such impunity.

How many more officials, tasked with protecting the public, are doing the same right now? How many more such helpless communities have been terrorised into selling off their land? The government has the responsibility to prevent any kind of abuse of power by those it has employed and empowered. It also has a duty to protect the rights of vulnerable communities, which includes safeguarding their land.

DU admission woes must end

Why must freshers suffer so much to pay fees?

It's a wonder why university freshers would need to stand under the blistering sun for three days just to enrol into the very institution they have been accepted to. This is exactly what happened during the just-concluded admission process at Dhaka University (DU). Students said they had to struggle with a slew of tedious and repetitive steps just to pay their fees, going from one building to another and waiting in queues for hours on end. Surely, one of the country's top educational institutions could've thought of a better, easier alternative?

Amid the lack of coordination among DU's offices, some 6,000 admission-seekers only had three days, beginning on Monday, to complete the whole process. Unsurprisingly, these many people standing in lines, desperate to finish all procedures, will lead to delays, sufferings, and utter chaos.

This process, in this day and age, seems truly ancient. Reportedly, students had to pay the admission fees online, but then take the receipt to their respective department, which handed them a pay slip to deposit a development fee at the nearby Sonali Bank branch. Accomplishing this after trudging in line for hours did not bring relief, as they had to bring back the pay slip and get their documents signed from the department head, who by then likely left the premises. This whole process had to be repeated for paying the dorm fees.

When the country is striving for digitalisation, is this how a university, recently ranked as the best in Bangladesh, should be operating? Apparently, the admission committee had requested department heads to ensure that students could pay all fees online, but the latter ignored the call. Some heads weren't even aware of the request, such is the level of dysfunction and mismanagement. According to a professor, from the 90s till now, the admission process has remained the same, pointing to the DU's lack of progress, while the vice-chancellor himself has admitted to the dismal coordination.

We urge the DU authorities to address the ordeal students have to go through annually just to get admitted. This issue can easily be solved through the use of digital platforms and proper coordination among university bodies, and we hope to see just that next year.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Historic meeting between North & South Korean leaders

On this day in 2000, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung met North Korean leader Kim Jong-il in a summit that marked the first meeting between heads of the two countries, helping earn Kim Dae-jung the Nobel Peace Prize.

We need humility, not hubris, to turn the economy around



THE OVERTON WINDOW

Eresh Omar Jamal
is deputy head of editorial and opinion at The Daily Star.
His X handle is: @EreshOmarJamal

ERESH OMAR JAMAL

While a privileged minority, sitting in their high castles, continue to enjoy a larger and larger share of the fruits of "development," it is becoming obvious that the vast majority are increasingly struggling. Worryingly, economic growth is slowing down. On April 2, the World Bank revealed that it projects Bangladesh's real GDP growth to remain relatively subdued at 5.6 percent in the current fiscal year and 5.7 in the following year, lower than the average annual growth rate of 6.6 percent over the decade preceding the Covid-19 pandemic. Similarly, the IMF, for a second time, revised down Bangladesh's growth forecast for the current fiscal year to 5.7 percent in its World Economic Outlook report released on April 16.

On May 20, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) released its periodic data projecting that the economy grew by 5.82 percent in the outgoing financial year, which is far less than the initial projection of 7.5 percent made in the budget speech for FY24 and the revised projection of 6.54 percent made in a meeting of the coordination council in December—but is much closer to the World Bank and IMF's projections.

This raises a very critical question: why were the government's projections so far off and why couldn't it come up with more accurate estimates like the World Bank and IMF? Given that government officials often outright refuse to accept reputed organisation's data—without presenting their own evidence to counter it—it is perhaps time for the authorities to get down from their high horses, particularly in light of their own poor record of coming up with correct estimates.

Be that as it may, some economists have even questioned the BBS projection of GDP growth based on the fact that there is "no positive indicator" to explain it currently. For example, even though BBS data shows the agriculture sector this year recorded a growth similar to last year, the industry sector, which accounted for more than one-third of the country's GDP, grew at 6.6 percent in FY24 compared to 8.37 percent in FY23. And a large part of that had to do with the import of industrial raw materials and machinery being affected by the dollar crisis, and energy price hikes having substantially increased industrial production costs for businesses.

Unfortunately, there wasn't much



PHOTO: BIPOLOB CHAKRABORTY

the government could do in that regard, as it had to take certain policy measures to try to rein in inflation which, on the flipside, was bound to negatively affect growth. However, as a Centre for Policy Dialogue survey in partnership with the World Economic Forum (WEF) found, 67.6 percent of respondents complained about high levels of corruption as another major problematic factor for doing business. So, the government should have tried to reduce corruption, which could automatically improve our business environment and perhaps encourage more businesses to set up.

Meanwhile, persistent inflation has been weighing on private consumption growth, and combined with rising interest rates and financial sector vulnerabilities, the World Bank expects investor sentiment in Bangladesh to dampen. Consequently, it believes that an efficient resolution framework for non-performing loans (NPLs) is urgently needed. However, since most of our banking sector issues are somehow tied up with political considerations, the government till now has shown no sign of mustering up the political will or courage to

result, the country is failing to make the most of its demographic dividend.

Even among those who have jobs, the majority are seeing their wage growth being significantly lower than the inflation rate for more than two years. According to BBS figures, wage growth remained below the inflation rate for the 26th consecutive month in March.

The combination of these factors has prompted some to ask whether Bangladesh is entering a period of stagflation—a phenomenon that combines slow growth, high unemployment and inflation. But that does seem a bit premature, as the economy is still growing, albeit at a slower rate, and unemployment is still not exceedingly high—even though the official unemployment figures are clearly too good to be true.

However, the cost-of-living crisis is a serious problem which is drastically reducing the standard of living for most people. The erosion of purchasing power has already led to around five lakh people falling into extreme poverty between FY2022-23 and FY2023-24, according to the World Bank. Unless things turn around quickly—which does not look

by the ultra-rich, many of whom, according to media reports are now running for or occupying government offices at different levels.

With their wealth surging, most policymakers and politicians have become oblivious to the current economic sufferings of the mass people. As a result, policies have been insufficient at addressing the crisis. In fact, many government policies nowadays are no longer formulated with the aim of easing the ongoing crisis, but to continue filling the pockets of vested interests, at the expense of the majority and the country's economy as a whole.

In other words, the rich and the powerful are in the process of slowly killing the golden goose that they have been benefiting from. This can cause social unrest while the share of the benefits that the oligarchs fight over could decrease, leading to more infighting. Since both these factors could destabilise the economy further, one could only hope that common sense (in the oligarch's self-interest even) prevails before we get to that dangerous tipping point—but how wise is it to expect humility, from where there has only been hubris?

Don't children have the right to privacy?



Laila Khondkar
is an international development worker.

LAILA KHONDKAR

At the registration desk of a private hospital in Dhaka, an employee loudly asked for personal information, including phone number, address, etc., of everyone who came to take service there. At that moment, it occurred to me that many people do not understand the importance of privacy protection in our society. This becomes more evident when we observe attitudes of adults towards children.

Children have the right to privacy. According to the article 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, "No child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation." Unfortunately, awareness about this is very low in Bangladesh.

Nowadays, people of all ages use the internet for education, work, communication, and entertainment. Social media has also become a part of many people's lives. This has positive aspects, but child protection

and privacy are at risk.

Children can be harmed in many ways in the online world. One of these is the production, distribution, and use of images and videos of child sexual abuse. Online "grooming" is another serious issue, where abusers harm children after gaining their trust. Apart from this, children get information on various negative topics including militancy, drugs, and suicide through the internet.

Besides, many parents post on social media about their children's likes and dislikes, achievements and problems in academic and other domains, almost regularly. Disclosure of children's personal information including location, name, date of birth, and school name puts them at risk. Anyone with malicious intentions can misuse this information to cause different types of harm.

And who keeps track of how the children feel about parents sharing their everyday lives with the rest of the world without their consent? Children are not property of the parents that they can treat them in whatever way

they want. Children are individuals with rights and their own sense of dignity.

It is the responsibility of parents to guide children to stay safe online. They should also ensure that none of their behaviour puts the child at risk. Dr Victoria Nash, Director of the Oxford Internet Institute, provided some advice for parents to keep children safe online:

Children should enable privacy settings on social media. They need to know where their information is going and how it is being used. Even if a picture or video is deleted from the internet, it can still be viewed, or someone may have already taken a screenshot. Children need to be reminded of this. Parents have to know what apps, games, and social media platforms their children are using.

Besides, parents have to consider whether their posts will cause their children to feel ashamed, embarrassed, anxious, or upset in the future. Can it harm their children? It is important to take care that no one can know about the daily routine from the posts. Geotagging (through which the physical location of a person can be derived from the internet) needs to be stopped. Privacy settings will be such that posts can only be seen by trusted friends and family members. They should be told not to share the posts.

Online activities mirror real life in most cases. If parents spend time with their children, listen to them actively,

and know about their lives including their interests and friends, they will be able to provide appropriate guidance and support to children for staying safe in the real and online world.

Helping children develop social and emotional skills, making them confident, asking them to use devices in open areas of the house, setting time limits for device usage can be done by any parent. It does not require much technical knowledge.

It is the responsibility of the state to formulate and implement the necessary laws and policies for child protection online. In Bangladesh there is a need to harmonise laws relevant to protecting children online, which includes Children Act 2013 (amended 2018), Information and Communication Technology Act 2006 (amended 2013), Digital Security Act 2018, and Pornography Control Act 2012.

Internet service providers, mobile phone companies, and all those involved in information and communication technology must consider the best interests of children with utmost importance while developing products and providing services. States should hold them accountable for their actions and non-actions.

It is our responsibility to ensure that using the internet is a positive experience for children, that it contributes to their development and empowerment, and that children are not put at risk because of parents and other adults' actions.

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Celebrating the best of BENGALI SHORT FICTION

Review of 'The Penguin Book of Bengali Short Stories' (Penguin UK, 2024), edited by Arunava Sinha



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

SHAHRIAR SHAAMS

Bengali literature has had a rich history of prose, beginning more or less in the early 19th century under the colonial Raj. Calcutta's presence as the British Empire's capital in the colony shaped much of these works and Arunava Sinha is right to claim that "Bengali fiction has always been written in a time of turmoil." The cultural upheavals of 19th century Bengal, the political crises of the early 20th century, the famines, the partitions (of both 1905 and 1947), the violent language protests, the Bangladesh war of independence—all of this had coloured and moulded the

trajectories of Bengali literature.

In a new anthology helmed by Arunava Sinha, *The Penguin Book of Bengali Short Stories*, the veteran translator and editor of Bengali fiction takes on the task of curating a set of stories, a showcase of Bengali short-fiction through the ages. Though he claims in his introduction that these are "the personal choice of someone who found these stories worthy of full-bodied reading..." the reader would find a representative bunch that highlights much of Bengali history with minimal bloat.

It is not Arunava Sinha's first attempt, having edited *The Greatest*

Bengali Stories Ever Told (Aleph Book Company, 2016) before. The present collection does seem to overcome the few faults its predecessor had, such as the exclusion of writers from Bangladesh. The present anthology is far more encompassing, putting on display the Bengali ghost story, the detective fiction (featuring, of course, Byomkesh), the stories of Bengali war-times, of hunger and the cruelty of caste. We have tales of modern love and anguish in the city, and of the illustrious village-life in the delta.

Fittingly, the anthology starts with Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore's story, "Dead or Alive" is an eclectic look at the

oeuvre of the poet, a ghost story that seeks to answer questions of familial bonds. Kadambini, who returns from the dead, finds that her presence has changed how her loved ones view her. "Humans fear ghosts, ghosts fear humans too," Rabindranath says, "they occupy opposite banks of the river of death."

The beautifully constructed "Dead or Alive" is concise in action and deeply moving. Arunava Sinha decides to follow it up with a heart-wrenching story of low-caste life in Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's "Paradise of the Wretched". In Sarat's story, the reader finds an untrammelled prose that vividly captures the dreams and despair of those cursed to be born off low-caste.

Standouts in the anthology includes Bibhutibushan's black-comedic "Drobomoyee's Sojourn in Kashi," where an elderly woman is sent to live with a religious nut, and Buddhadeva Bose's "A Life," where a schoolteacher's life, as he plans to write a dictionary, is shown with the breadth and richness of a novel. But perhaps the best of the collection can be found in Jibanananda Das's "Women" and Ashapura Devi's "Deceiver and Deception". In the former, the writer documents a day in the life of a bored couple Hemen and Chapola: "...his face was a replica of his paunch. Chapola's face was no different from Hemen's—dreams or imaginativeness never seemed to have encroached on their visages." Their visit to friends, a couple with their own problems, soon descend into a violent conversation of jealousy, self-worth, and marriage. Das's story should be a required reading for any serious writer, wishing to portray the complex, dreary lives of young cityfolk.

The other, in Devi's story, the author takes the reader on a whirlwind of trickery. While nothing seems to happen on a surface level, the intrinsic

desires of the characters, the form of a husband who comes home to find his wife might be dead, bring about the dark truths that are usually best left unsaid.

The inclusion of writers from the "other" Bengal, that is here in Bangladesh, has surely made this anthology more worthwhile and lasting, yet the selection is noticeably patchy, as only six writers have made it (most of these translations, as noted in the credits, have been taken from a single book: *The Book of Dhaka*, an anthology of stories set in Dhaka by Bangladeshi authors). It is still commendable that Sinha includes writers such as Akhtaruzzaman Elias, whose story "The Raincoat" is a fantastic play of anxiety, as a man wears a raincoat belonging to his brother-in-law (who had joined the freedom fighters), goes out into the pouring rain of war-time Dhaka and tries to make it back alive. But Sinha also decides to include, in the same vein, stories such as "The Weapon", a saccharine tale of poverty and crime.

Perhaps, the biggest omission is Kazi Nazrul Islam, without whom any talk of Bengali literature is incomplete and one-sided. Nazrul had been a poet and revolutionary, but his works of prose too had passion and intellectual rigour. The addition of so many novelists whose best works weren't short-stories show that Arunava Sinha selected these writers on the basis of their strength and place in Bengali Literature, therefore it is quite puzzling why he chose to leave out Nazrul.

Still, Arunava Sinha's anthology is a vastly enjoyable read and displays the richness and genius of the Bengali short story.

Shahriar Shaams has written for Dhaka Tribune, The Business Standard, and The Daily Star. He can be emailed at shahriarshaams@gmail.com. Find him on X: @shahriarshaams.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION

Rising from the ashes

Review of 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder' (Penguin Random House, 2024) by Salman Rushdie

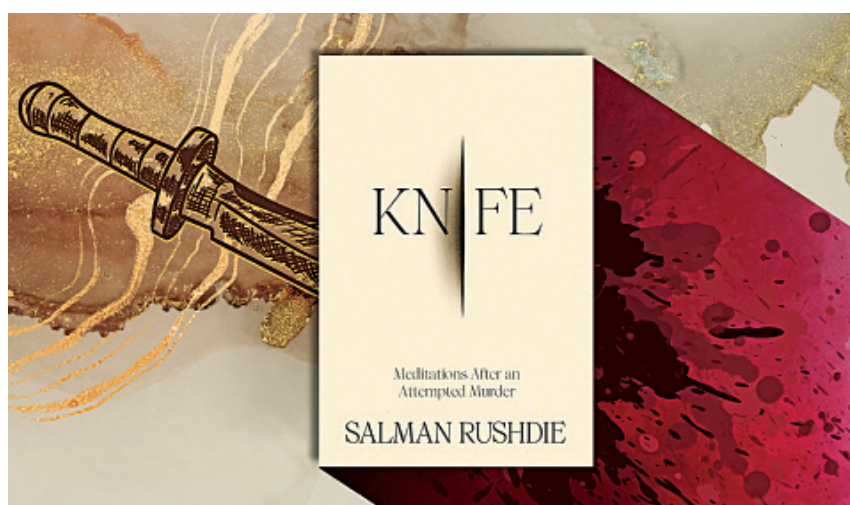


ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

ZERTAB QUADERI

The literary world was shaken on August 12, 2022, when the news of Salman Rushdie being stabbed on stage in upstate New York started to pour in. Ironically, he was all set to talk about his involvement in a project to create a refuge in the USA for those writers who are not safe in their country. I have a few fans of Rushdie in the family so it was natural for me to exchange text messages with them as I kept one eye (ironically, again) on the TV, trying to gulp down the latest on this incident. As images of a helicopter and a stretcher being carried inside kept playing, I was anxious (like multitudes of others, I'm sure) about whether he would make it or not. Keeping his religious sentiments or lack thereof aside, Rushdie is one of the greatest authors of our times with an unparalleled sense of humour, keen observation, boundless imagination, and a sharp voice for satire. He's a wordsmith par excellence with the gift of crafting the funniest words and puns in English and Urdu. Therefore, it came as a slight relief when, on the next day of the attack, the news came that he was alive—although he was likely to lose an eye and the use of his left arm.

After being stabbed 15 times in different parts of his body, it was a miracle that he lived to tell the tale in his latest book, *Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder*. At its core, the book is a cathartic process that helps the author take stock of what ensued, recognise it, come to terms with it (somewhat), and use it to put the past behind and begin a new chapter. It is a testament to Rushdie's resilience, determination, and steel-strong willpower to use his talent and intellect to claw his way back into regular life. An emotional and personal account, *Knife* is a recounting of the 77-year-old author's account of what went on just before, during, and after the horrific incident.

The book is also a standing ovation to the people, especially his wife, immediate family members, doctors and other members of the medical profession, and friends from the writers' community and

otherwise, who sat, stood, and slept by him and literally held him through this difficult stage to nurture him back to life. Rushdie shares chunks of his personal life, dedicating one full chapter to his wife, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, an American poet, author, photographer, and visual artist. He describes lovingly and in his usual humorous way where and how they met and how their relationship blossomed. *Knife* is coming to terms with a new reality for both Eliza and Rushdie. An emotional rollercoaster, it traces the upheavals in their lives and how they overcome the trauma and anger to live a life of peace and love.

Besides his marital bliss, Rushdie shows glimpses into his past turbulent relationship with his father, touches upon the famous fatwa, and shares his close relationship with his sister, nieces, and sons. For someone who has mostly read his works of fiction, it's hard to imagine what the author is like in real life. *Knife* gives a good portrayal of him—he's just like any other human being who's concerned about his Ralph Lauren suit at the time of the attack. Never before have I seen the man behind the works of award-winning fiction like I've done here.

Detailed depictions of Rushdie's physical and psychological suffering during his hospitalisation and rehabilitation, the loss of his freedom of movement, and his dependence on

others are heart-wrenching, but the pain for the reader is a bit dulled through the dry humour—which is his forte; he does make us smile even through the worst pain imaginable. However, when it comes to the loss of his eye, it's an agony he can't get over and in his words, it's "an absence with an immensely powerful presence". The silver lining in all this is the miraculous recovery of his left hand through rigorous and painful hand therapy, proving that where there's a will, there's a way.

Rushdie is unapologetically himself in *Knife*. He reaffirms his belief in not believing in any religion and voices his strong opinion on a politicised and weaponised religion that causes more harm than good. By the end of the book, we see him as a strong man who revisits the place of the attack in a new Ralph Lauren suit, is not afraid to speak out, is determined to stay true to his way of storytelling with grit and gumption, and is very much basking in the love of his wife and family. He promises that the knife attack will not change his writing style or make it appear weak or smell of defeat. Through this book, Rushdie rises from the ashes like a phoenix from a life-threatening 27 seconds, once again free to do what he does best while his attacker languishes in prison.

Steering away from the memoir a little, we recently got a further glimpse into

Rushdie's mode of thinking especially in light of the ongoing carnage in Palestine. As has been widely reported in various news sources including *The Guardian*, Rushdie has added his two cents on the genocide in Palestine and the student protests across in Western university campuses. He justifies the "emotional reaction" to the situation but questions the viability of a Palestinian state "right now" under the Hamas leadership, which, in his opinion, would lead to a "Taliban-like state" under the tutelage of Iran. Being the subject of an extremist's brutal attack himself, we may try to understand his apprehension and aversion toward another potential terrorist/religious fundamentalist nation. However, his opinion that the terrorist organisation Hamas should be mentioned in the university campus protests because "that's where this started" comes across as a bit off-key. October 7, 2023 was not when it started. And there's plenty of debate on who created the Taliban in the first place but that's a story for another day.

In *The Guardian* piece, Rushdie mostly walks the middle path when he opines that student demonstrations are okay as long as other students are not made to feel unsafe. He is sympathetic to the Palestinians and their cause but feels that not enough voices are being raised against Hamas. In my opinion, this is not the time to issue "safe" statements. The horrific and exponentially increasing statistics in Palestine cannot be compared to anything that we have witnessed since the persecution of the Jews almost a century back. We expect a stronger opinion from writers, artists, musicians, film makers, actors, poets, or someone who practises any form of art and has the weapon (not necessarily a knife) to make their voices count. Keeping the art separate from the artist is our job.

Zertab Quaderi is an SEO English content writer and social media marketing consultant by day and a reader of fiction and nonfiction books by night. In between, she travels and dabbles in watercolour painting.

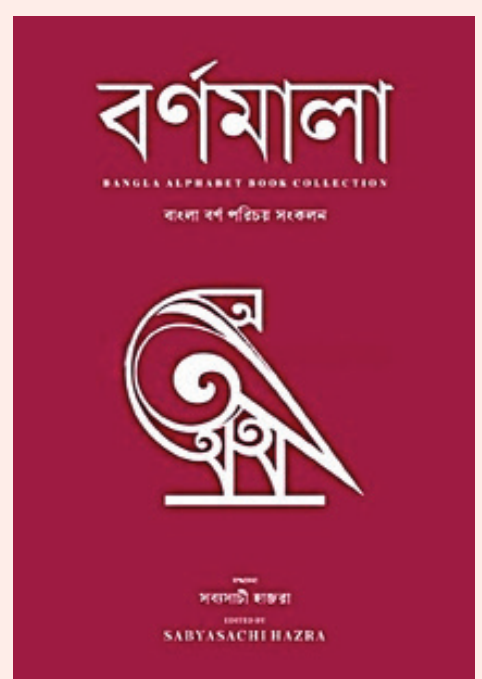
What we're reading this week

MAISHA SYEDA,
Sub editor, Star Books and Literature
Adjunct Lecturer,
North South University

Bornomala: Bangla Alphabet Book Collection

Sabyasachi Hazra (ed.)
Kobi Prokashoni, 2014

I came across this book when I went to an exhibition titled "Primer to Press" by Sabyasachi Hazra. The book was launched there, the collection edited by Hazra himself. It assembles eight selected primers of Bangla language dating from 1849 to 1948. The book is a rich collection of specimens, and, as a whole, a well-researched testament to the evolution of Bangla letters over the years. It boasts an impressive analysis of the practice of printing and publishing used in Bangla primers and is great to have in collection for those interested in the linguistic history of Bangla lettering.



A do-or-die contest for Kiwis

AGENCIES

Following a stunning 84-run defeat against Afghanistan in their tournament opener, New Zealand now face a challenging task as the Kiwis need to win their remaining Group C matches in order to progress to the Super Eight.

That challenge for the Kiwis, who now stutter at the bottom of the five-team table, starts against co-hosts the West Indies at the Brian Lara Stadium in Trinidad today.

"This is essentially like a knockout game. We have got to give it everything we can," New Zealand coach Gary Stead said.

"We have to win three games. We have to win them well," Stead said, adding that he may tinker with his line-up, but will resist making vast changes.

Meanwhile, with two wins in as many games, the Windies find themselves in a comfortable second position in the group, following Afghanistan. But the co-hosts will certainly be wary of a slip, especially having survived a scare of their own in their opening game when they laboured to a five-wicket win over Papua New Guinea.



Zampa first to 100

Australia leggie Adam Zampa led the rout of Namibia in their nine-wicket victory in a Group B game of the T20 World Cup in Antigua on Tuesday. Zampa returned figures of 4-12 as he became the first Australian man to reach 100 T20I wickets. The win also saw Australia secure a Super Eight spot.

Frequent opening slot rejig yet to bear fruit

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on the Netherlands in a vital T20 World Cup game at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent on Thursday where adaptation would be key for the distraught top-order batters. For Bangladesh, however, it would come in various forms, with team combinations also forcing them to adapt to different batting lineups.

Form troubles at the top guide the Bangladesh team management towards such changes. Earlier in March this year, head coach Chandika Hathurusingha was asked about whether they were finding stability at the top and about the then opening pair of Soumya Sarkar and Liton Das in the Sri Lanka T20Is.

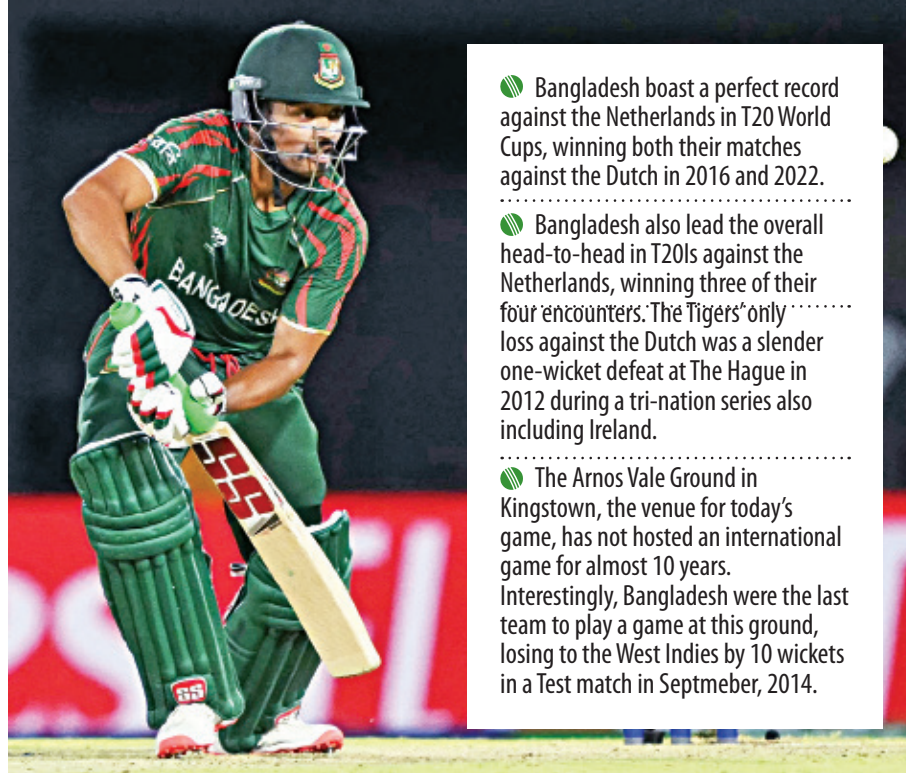
"It's not about this pair but correcting what we have done wrong in the past. Because if something was working, I don't think they would have made so many changes," was Hathurusingha's reply to The Daily Star's query during a press conference.

In a nutshell, many batters have been tried in combinations, but consistency has been lacking. In Monday's South Africa fixture, team combination or opener Soumya's form concerns kept him out of the side while the Tigers unfurled another opening pair as skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto came out to open.

For Shanto, it was an opportunity to find some meaningful time and form at the crease, which he could not capitalise in a chase that was not steep.

The thing to watch for, in terms of playing eleven-wise, is what Bangladesh feel is the best combination against the Dutch. Jaker Ali Anik played the last game but did not keep wickets. Given the form of the rest of the batting unit, bar Towhid Hridoy and Mahmudullah Riyad, most of the others have experienced a difficult time of late.

The team management would have



● Bangladesh boast a perfect record against the Netherlands in T20 World Cups, winning both their matches against the Dutch in 2016 and 2022.

● Bangladesh also lead the overall head-to-head in T20Is against the Netherlands, winning three of their four encounters. The Tigers' only loss against the Dutch was a slender one-wicket defeat at The Hague in 2012 during a tri-nation series also including Ireland.

● The Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, the venue for today's game, has not hosted an international game for almost 10 years. Interestingly, Bangladesh were the last team to play a game at this ground, losing to the West Indies by 10 wickets in a Test match in September, 2014.

to focus on playing to their strengths, but where does that strength lie in the batting unit? The last T20I played at the Arnos Vale Stadium was in 2013 and there is no certainty that Bangladesh and Netherlands will play on a better batting surface in West Indies compared to what it was in USA.

Bangladesh have used three different opening pairs within the last six matches, and seven pairs within a year. It is surprising that they had a century opening stand in their last game of the three-match T20I series against USA and are having to change plans so soon. It also gives an idea of the inconsistency at the top, but it may also be a matter of putting trust in players.

Bangladesh batters have always dealt with slower or lower wickets. A better wicket may even see Soumya come in after being overlooked in the last game. If Shanto is to open, it leaves room for middle order to be bolstered. It may not have worked with Jaker against South Africa, but it will once again be up for discussion after that tight match ended in a disappointing loss.

Form inconsistency starts from the very top. It could also be from the top that the tone is set for better batting effort. Netherlands bowling has been up to mark in this mega event and Shanto and Tanzid Hasan Tamim would have to find an answer.

SHORT CORNER



Alcaraz, Nadal named in Spanish Olympic tennis team

French Open champions Carlos Alcaraz and Rafael Nadal have been named in the Spain team for the 2024 Olympic Games, the Spanish tennis federation (RFET) announced Wednesday. World number two Alcaraz last weekend won his first Roland Garros title on the clay in Paris, where the Olympic tournament will take place from July 27 to August 4.

India coach rues 'injustice'

India coach Igor Stimac condemned what he called an "irregular" goal in a 2-1 defeat at Qatar that ended his team's World Cup 2026 qualifying hopes, saying: "It shouldn't happen." The loss in Doha on Tuesday dashed India's dreams of reaching the third round of Asian qualifying for the World Cup for the first time.

Ten Hag to remain as Man Utd boss

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag will remain in the job for next season and has entered into talks with the Old Trafford club over a contract extension despite the team's lowest ever Premier League finish of eighth, British media reported. Ten Hag's contract runs until the end of next season, with the club having the option of extending it a further 12 months.

Shakib drops to fifth as Nabi rises to top

Veteran Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi is the big winner in the latest ICC Rankings update, with the 39-year-old rising to the No.1 spot on the list for all-rounders following his recent two-wicket haul against New Zealand in Guyana. Previous No.1-ranked player Shakib Al Hasan dropped four rungs to fifth as a result of the major shake-up at the top.

Read full stories on The Daily Star website



Mohammedan Sporting Club players take a selfie after clinching a record third Dhaka Premier Division Women's Cricket League with a 46-run win against Rupali Bank Krira Parishad at the BKSP-3 ground on Wednesday. Disha Deepak Kasat scalped a fiver as Mohammedan, unbeaten in the league with nine straight wins, bundled out Rupali Bank for 203 for 10 in 45.5 overs while defending a 250-run target.

PHOTO: BCS

Junior hockey teams eye Asia Cup berths

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh men's and women's U-21 hockey teams left for Singapore last night to take part in the Junior AHF Cups starting from June 14 with an aim to secure berths in next month's Junior Asia Cups in their respective events.

Bangladesh, reigning champions in men's Junior AHF Cup, have been placed in Pool A along with Thailand, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Singapore while Pool B features Oman, Chinese Taipei, China, Hong Kong, Iran and Kazakhstan, with four semifinalists advancing to the next edition of Junior Asia Cup.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh women's U-21 team, who are going to participate in this tournament for the second time, will have to battle against Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Sri Lanka as top four finishers will qualify for Women's Junior Asia Cup.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

tournaments but could not play any warm-up matches.

"Our target is to defend the title as we have prepared well for more than one month. It could have been better with a couple of practice matches but we are optimistic as the players came into the camp just after the Dhaka Premier League," said men's team's assistant coach Hedayetul Islam Razib on the eve of the teams' departure.

Women's team manager Tariquzzaman Nannu informed that they would try to arrange a couple of practice matches in Singapore.

"Bangladesh beat Sri Lanka and played well against Hong Kong in 2019 while the girls also performed well against Chinese Taipei and Indonesia in another five-a-side tournament. So we are hoping to finish among the top four," Nannu told The Daily Star.



Stream ICC T20 World Cup Exclusively on Toffee

Toffee, the country's leading digital entertainment platform, is bringing the carnival of cricket to the Bangladeshi cricket frolics once again as the T20 World Cup is already on its way. With 20 participating nations for the first time in history, the world is experiencing cricket invading an unconquered land, the USA being a co-host with an old fix of this format. West Indies, Bangladesh has exclusive digital broadcasting rights to this event, so Toffee is the only digital platform in Bangladesh that will be streaming the ICC T20 World Cup matches, offering access to this major sporting event for the people of Bangladesh.

Toffee is accessible from any mobile network, not just Banglalink users. This inclusivity ensures that all cricket fans in Bangladesh will enjoy the T20 World Cup and the future major ICC events broadcast on Toffee.

Toffee will also exclusively stream major cricket events in 2024 and 2025, including the ICC Men's and Women's T20 World Cups and the ICC Men's Champions Trophy. Fans can look forward to 71 men's and 95 women's matches from 20 nations to watch live on Toffee.

Sports and entertainment consumption habits have changed drastically among the people of this country over the last few years. Mobility is on the rise, so people need entertainment that is personalized and on the go. With the help of Ookla's certified fastest 4G internet of Banglalink, the digital operator's homegrown digital entertainment platform, Toffee is leading this development.

Toffee has already established itself as the premier destination for high-quality live streaming of major sporting events in the country. It has attracted over

50 million viewers across Bangladesh who have enjoyed live streaming of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Asia Cup Cricket 2023 and ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023. During the FIFA World Cup in 2022, more than 30 million people enjoyed the matches on Toffee. Specifically, the final between Argentina and France had 15 million viewers, capturing one-third of the Bangladeshi audience.

In the last year of 2023 alone, during Asia Cup Cricket 2023 and ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2023, Toffee generated one billion minutes of premium cricket views, which reflects cricket lovers' faith in this OTT platform. Matches of this T20 World Cup 2024 are when people are way to work in the morning or back from work in the evening. So, all the matches can be enjoyed uninterrupted on Toffee while commuting.

When asked about his experience, a young viewer named Sajid, who enjoys watching cricket on Toffee, shared, "From my university days to my current corporate life, I am always on the move. As life gets busier, finding time to sit and watch content becomes increasingly difficult. But as a cricket fanatic, I can't imagine missing any matches. Thanks to Toffee, I can catch my favorite live cricket matches on the go, all on one platform, without any hassle and while multitasking."

Toffee has been popular among senior and marginalized citizens for its user friendly interface and versatile content library suitable for people from all socio-economic backgrounds.

With the DO 1440 initiative, Banglalink is the innovative force behind Toffee's success as Banglalink's commitment to providing premium digital experiences every 1440 minutes of a day.



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CYCLONE REMAL Losses estimated at over Tk 7,000cr Around 4 lakh people affected in 20 dists, shows ministry data

BAHARAM KHAN

Cyclone Remal has had a devastating impact on 20 districts, affecting 3,83,815 people and causing damages worth over Tk 7,000 crore, according to documents of the disaster management and relief ministry.

The cyclone claimed 18 lives and injured 2,503 people, and heavily impacted fisheries, roads, and housing.

The damage to the fisheries sector amounts to Tk 2,241.65 crore; while that to roads amounts to Tk 1,012.04 crore; and housing infrastructure to Tk 2,051.84 crore.

Md Mohibur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, at an event in the secretariat yesterday, said, "The government has so far estimated the losses caused by Cyclone Remal at Tk 7,000 crore. The overall damage report will be handed over to the prime minister tomorrow [today] to facilitate the next steps in

FINANCIAL DAMAGES

- Fisheries: Tk 2,241cr
- Housing: Tk 2,051cr
- Roads: Tk 1,012cr
- Bridges, culverts: Tk 748cr
- Agriculture: Tk 712cr

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Arshdeep Singh celebrates with Suryakumar Yadav one of his four wickets, which helped India restrict USA to 110 for 8 in their T20 World Cup match in New York yesterday. Yadav later scored 50 not out as India won by seven wickets to seal a Super 8 berth.

PHOTO: AFP

Batters yet to pull their weight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Batting will be at the forefront of Bangladesh's agenda after consecutive underwhelming efforts going into their T20 World Cup Group D fixture against the Netherlands at the Arnos Vale Stadium in Kingstown today.

Bangladesh almost made a meal of their 124-run chase against Sri Lanka in their two-wicket win in Dallas and were on the wrong end of the results, falling short by four runs, when they had to chase 113 against South Africa in their second match in New York.

While the bowlers delivered excellent efforts in both matches, the batters, with the exception of in-form Towhid Hridoy, have largely misfired and failed to pull their weight.

Hridoy, Bangladesh's top run getter with 77, played a match-winning

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Mujib's time in Kolkata was vital for his political upbringing

Goutam Ghose tells *Star*
about his documentary

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The 1940s was a tumultuous period in Kolkata politically and economically. The man-made famine of 1943, the Hindu-Muslim riots and the great Calcutta killings ravaged the socio-economic fabric of the society in east and west Bengal – the effects of which are still felt.

Then there was Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's great escape from India and the partition of the subcontinent.

All these events left a lasting imprint on the young mind of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his formative years as a student and a political activist.

Mujib spent only five years in Kolkata from 1942 to 1947. But his experiences as a student activist in that short time contributed to shaping his political thoughts and vision of an inclusive economic and secular political culture.

The one lasting thread running through his stay in Kolkata was his raw courage in the face of adverse situations.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



St Martin's to start getting supplies from today

Island almost out
of essentials

MOKAMMEL SHUVO,
Cox's Bazar

Two trawlers from Teknaf will sail for the St Martin's today with essentials to ease the food crisis on the island, said Yamin Hossain, additional district magistrate of Cox's Bazar, yesterday.

The Coast Guard will provide security for safe transportation of the essentials, he said after an emergency meeting of officials at the deputy commissioner's office.

Operation of passenger and cargo vessels on this route remains suspended after several vessels were fired upon from Myanmar since last Thursday. This led to shortage of food and other essential supplies in the island.

Within a day or two, a vessel from Cox's Bazar's BIWTA jetty will make regular trips to the island to keep it supplied, the additional district magistrate added.

If needed, trawlers from Bholachar in Teknaf will

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Gaza ceasefire plan hangs in balance

Hamas seeks changes; Blinken says some
proposals unworkable; 38 more Palestinians
killed in Israeli strikes

REUTERS, Cairo

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday that Hamas had proposed numerous changes, some unworkable, to a US-backed proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, but that mediators were determined to close the gaps.

The proposal outlined by US President Joe Biden envisages a truce and a phased release of Israeli hostages in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the offensive.

At a press conference with Qatar's prime minister in Doha, Blinken said some of the counter-proposals from Hamas administering Gaza had sought to amend terms that it had accepted in previous talks.

"Hamas could have answered with a single word: Yes," Blinken said. "Instead, Hamas waited nearly two weeks and then proposed more changes, a number of which go beyond positions that it had previously taken and accepted."

The US has said Israel has accepted its proposal, but Israel has not publicly stated this.

Izzat al-Rishq from Hamas' political bureau said its formal response to the US proposal was "responsible, serious

- Israel, Hamas committed war crimes in Gaza: UN inquiry
- Lebanon's Hezbollah fires barrages of rockets at Israel
- Gaza death toll rises to 37,202

and positive" and "opens up a wide pathway" for an accord.

Hamas also wants written guarantees from the US on the ceasefire plan, two Egyptian security sources said.

Major powers are intensifying efforts to halt the conflict in part to prevent it spiralling into a regional war, with a dangerous flashpoint being the escalating hostilities on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Lebanon's Hezbollah militia, backed by Iran, fired barrages of rockets at Israel yesterday in retaliation for the killing of a senior Hezbollah field commander. Israel said it had in turn attacked the launch sites from the air.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK CASE Efforts on to arrest 15 fugitive convicts including Tarique PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday that 15 convicts in the August 21 grenade attack case, including BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, are absconding and efforts are on to arrest them.

"Out of the 49 convicts, 34 were arrested," she said in response to a question from Farida Yasmin, Awami League MP from a reserved seat, during the question-answer session.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the session was held at the beginning of the day's sitting.

"Among the convicts, 19 were sentenced to death and 19 to life imprisonment, and the rest got different jail terms," said Hasina, also leader of the House, adding that Dhaka's Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the judgment on October 10, 2018.

She said Interpol issued red notices against convicts Maulana Tajuddin, Harris Chowdhury, and Ratul Ahmed Babu alias Ratul Babu, who are now abroad.

Two cases – one under the penal code and another under the Explosive Substances Act – were filed over the grenade attack on AL's anti-terrorism rally on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

The PM said two charge sheets were filed against 52 people in the cases.

She said that out of the 52 charge-sheeted accused, three were executed in other cases before the verdict was declared.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Kuwait fire kills 49 Indian workers Dozens injured

AFP, Kuwait City

A fire in Kuwait killed 49 people, all Indian nationals, when it ripped through a building housing nearly 200 foreign workers yesterday, the government said.

The blaze, which broke out in the six-storey building south of Kuwait City around dawn, also left dozens injured, the health ministry said.

Flames engulfed the lower floors as black smoke poured out of the upper-storey windows, unverified images posted on social media showed.

The interior ministry revised the death toll up to 49, from 35 earlier, after forensic teams scoured the charred building.

"The number of deaths as a result of the fire in the workers' building... has risen to 49," the ministry said.

The official Kuwait News Agency quoted Health Minister Ahmed al-Awadhi as saying hospitals had received 56 people injured in the fire in the Mangal area, which is heavily populated with migrant workers.

The building, whose exterior was blackened with soot, housed 196 workers, according to information given to the interior minister by their employer.



Workers trying to douse the fire that ravaged through Gartex Garments Ltd warehouse, in the City Gate area in Chattogram, yesterday morning. Six firefighting engines later brought the blaze under control around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

AL leader knew about his murder but kept mum Say investigators

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Investigators have found evidence that Saidul Karim Mintu, general secretary of Jhenaidah Awami League, knew about MP Anwarul Azim Anar's murder before it was made public.

Mintu learnt about the lawmaker's killing and even got the photos on May 16, but did not inform the law enforcers or the victim's family of the matter.

The detectives got the information by interrogating Kazi Kamal Ahmed Babu, relief and social welfare affairs secretary of Jhenaidah AL, and analysing his mobile phone records.

Even Babu, who is now on a seven-day remand, told the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police that he gave his phones to Mintu and shared information of the murder with him.

Over phone, Babu communicated with Amanullah alias Shimul Bhuiyan, the coordinator of the murder. Amanullah and Babu in their earlier statements said they exchanged photos of the murder via WhatsApp and held

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