

DU, other

quotas in government jobs.

University too staged protests.

question, Prime Minister

DU CORRESPONDENT

universities

Tensions flared up at Dhaka University late last night as hundreds of students came

out of their dormitories to protest what they said was a "disparaging comment" by

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina regarding

Jagannath University, Rajshahi University,

Chittagong University, and Comilla

They gathered on campuses and took out processions around 11:00pm, chanting

"Tui ke? Ami ke? Razakar, Razakar! [Who

Earlier, in response to a journalist's

Hasina said, "Why do they have so

much resentment towards the freedom

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar!]."

Students at Jahangirnagar University,





MUHARRAM 8, 1446 HIJRI



16 PAGES: TK 15.00

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 15, 2024

REGD. No. DA 781 VOL. XXXIV No. 173 ASHAR 31, 1431 BS www.thedailystar.net

PM'S OUOTA REMARK TEESTA RIVER PROJECT Late-night **India should** protests rock

implement it if we're to get water

Says PM, vows to continue zero tolerance for corruption

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she wants India to implement the Teesta project and this is to ensure Bangladesh gets water from upstream.

She said, "The Teesta project is a longstanding issue. We will have to implement the Teesta project. China has made an offer and conducted a feasibility study. India also has made an offer. India will also conduct a feasibility study, and then we will accept the one that will be rational

"But I will give priority to India for the project as India holds back the Teesta water. If we want to realise [share of the Teesta] water, India should implement the project. If they complete the project, they will provide everything that is required for the project. This is diplomacy. There is no hide-and-seek about this, and it's simple and clear."

Hasina said this while responding to a question from a journalist at a press conference at the Gono Bhaban on her recent visit to China. She said Chinese President Xi Jinping mentioned assistance in four ways: grants, interest-free loans, concessional loans, and commercial



A bloodied but defiant Donald Trump, the Republican US presidential candidate, is being rushed off stage by US Secret Service agents after being grazed by a bullet during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. PHOTO: UNB/AP

Take steps in 24hrs or face tougher demo Protesters tell govt

STAR REPORT

PHOTO ON PAGE 12

The quota protesters yesterday urged the president to convene an emergency parliamentary session within 24 hours to reform the quota system in public service.

Otherwise, they said, they will go for an all-out movement to press home their

They came up with the ultimatum in a memorandum they submitted to President Mohammad Shahabuddin around 2:40pm.

Earlier, the protesters marched towards the Bangabhaban, defying police

In the memorandum, they said they want a law to reform the quota system, SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

We can't do anything [about quotas] until the issue is resolved in court. It is the reality.



Prime Minister SHEIKH HASINA

loans. China agreed to provide Bangladesh money equal to \$2 billion through the four ways, report UNB and BSS. China also agreed to build the 9th Bangladesh-China Friendship

Bridge for free, she said, coming down heavily on those criticising the outcome of her trip.

"Are these things nothing? They are mentally ill and these are the outcome of their illness," she said. **QUOTA SYSTEM REFORMS**

Hasina said, "The executive authority has nothing to do [about quotas in public service] right now ..."

Hinting at the protesters, she said those who are waging the movement do not abide by the laws or follow the court, they do not SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Trump survives assassination bid

Urges Americans to 'stand united'; Biden, world leaders condemn shooting at rally

AGENCIES

Donald Trump vesterday called on Americans to stand united after he was injured in an assassination attempt - a shocking incident that opened a dark new chapter in an already polarised US

The 78-year-old former president was hit in the ear at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, while the shooter and a bystander were killed and two spectators critically injured in the worst act of US political violence in decades.

"In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United," Trump said in a statement on his Truth Social network, adding that Americans should not allow "Evil to win"

The Republican added that it was "God appening" and that he would "FEAR NOT". The gunman has been identified as

20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, about an hour's drive from the rally site, according to an FBI statement early yesterday.

His motive remains unknown. US media later reported that the gunman had explosives in his car.

The Wall Street Journal and CNN said that explosive materials were found in a car belonging to the shooter, which was reportedly parked near the campaign event venue in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Authorities identified a rally attendee who was shot and killed as Corev Comperatore, 50, of Sarver, Pennsylvania, who Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro told reporters was killed when he dove on top of his family to protect them from the

"Corey was an avid supporter of the alone who prevented the unthinkable from former president, and was so excited to be there last night with him in the SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

The man who shot Trump

AGENCIES

The identified 20-year

Thomas **MatthewCrooksofBethel** Park, Pennsylvania as the suspect in Saturday's attempted assassination of former US president Donald Trump at a

campaign rally. The suspect was shot and killed by the Secret Service seconds after he allegedly fired shots toward a stage where Trump was speaking in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The FBI said it was working to determine a motive for the attack, in which one rally attendee died and two other spectators were critically injured. Trump was shot

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Congratulations



Our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Mesbah Uddin Khan, Managing Director of Windy Apparels Ltd. (Sister concern of Windy Group), for receiving the National Export Trophy 2021-22 under the Gold Category from Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He is a visionary leader and the founder of Windy Group. His thoughts, creativity, foresightness, professionalism, honesty and integrity paved the roads for achieving such an outstanding reward.

We sincerely hope for the continuity of his leadership in the future and for the sustainable growth of Windy Group.

Best Regards, All members of the Windy Family





'Tk 400cr peon' is **Jahangir BFIU freezes** his, wife's bank accounts PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

At a time when graft allegations against government officials are making the headlines, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shared a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7







In recognition of outstanding contribution to the export of electrical & electronics products

Walton has been honored with the **National Export Trophy (Gold)**



Director & Former Chairman of Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC, S M Nurul Alam Rezvi received the National Export Trophy 2021-2022 (Gold) from the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. State Minister for Commerce Ahasanul Islam Titu MP and the ministry's Parliamentary Standing Committee Chairman Tipu Munshi MP were also present.

NATIONAL EXPORT TROPHY 2021-2022 GOLD



Popular Jute Exchange Limited has been awarded with 'National Export Trophy 2021-2022 Gold' for being the highest Raw Jute exporter of Bangladesh. Heartiest congratulations to our Managing Director, Kabir Ahmed (CIP) for

being honored with 'National Export Trophy 2021-2022 Gold' on behalf of all the members of the company. Special thanks to Export Promotion Bureau & Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh.



APBn member shot in Ukhiya Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A member of the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) was shot in a gunfight with criminals at a refugee camp in Ukhiya upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The attackers were members of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), the Myanmar-based armed group that dominates the area, said police.

Shahraj, 25, a constable at Madhurchhara Police Camp under the 14 APBn, is undergoing treatment at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

The incident took place in the F-block of the Madhurchhara 4-Extension camp, said Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police Mohammad Iqbal, also the commander of APBn-8.

The attackers were members of the Arakan **Rohingya Salvation Army** (Arsa), the Myanmarbased armed group that dominates the area, said police.

Additional DIG Iqbal said nine APBn members were on security duty in the F-block of Madhurchhara.

"At one point, 30 to 35 miscreants entered the camp and started firing indiscriminately at the APBn members. The APBn members also fired back in self-defence. At one stage, the criminals escaped," the police official said.

APBn member Shahraj suffered bullet wounds in his right thigh and right-hand finger, Iqbal added.

After the gunfight ended, Shahraj was rescued and brought to Ukhiya Upazila Health Complex before being shifted to Cox's Bazar District Sadar Hospital for better treatment,

The police operation is ongoing to arrest the criminals involved in the incident, the police official added.



Children playing in the waterlogged playground of the Buet Staff Quarters yesterday afternoon. Even two days after Friday's torrential rains, the water is yet to clear, exposing the dismal state of the city's drainage system. Such polluted water can cause several diseases, especially of the skin. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TRUMP ASSASSINATION BID

Violent US rhetoric comes 'home to roost'

AFP, Milwaukee

The attempted assassination of Donald Trump by a gunman at his Pennsylvania rally has confirmed the worst fears of public figures warning that an escalation in incendiary political rhetoric on all sides could lead to bloodshed.

US lawmakers and analysts have been voicing concern since the 2021 US Capitol riot that increasingly bellicose campaign language was becoming a worrying contusion on the US body politic ahead of November's presidential election.

The danger was vividly illustrated in 2022, when then-House speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband was attacked with a hammer by a far-right conspiracy theorist who wanted to hold the Democratic leader hostage and "break her kneecaps."

The political affiliations of Saturday's Biden." shooter, identified as 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, were not immediately but analysts and politicians immediately pointed the finger at extreme political discourse.

"For weeks Democrat leaders have been fueling ludicrous hysteria that Donald Trump winning re-election would be the end of democracy in America," House Republican Majority Leader Steve Scalise, who was seriously wounded in a mass shooting at a congressional sports event in 2017, said on X.

"Clearly we've seen far-left lunatics act on violent rhetoric in the past. This incendiary rhetoric must stop."

Senior Trump campaign aide Chris LaCivita assailed the language of "leftist activists, Democrat donors and even Joe supporters.

While Ajamu Baraka, Green Party candidate Jill Stein's running mate in 2016, suggested Democratic rhetoric might have led the gunman to see it as his patriotic duty to eliminate an existential threat to the nation."

"The chickens have really come home to roost," he posted on X.

What none of the three acknowledged was that Trump himself has been a major architect of the coarsening in US political discourse in recent years.

Many of Trump's targets in Congress and the government -- from Republican Senator Mitt Romney to retired top government scientist Anthony Fauci have disclosed having to take on private security after threats from Trump's

KP Sharma Oli Nepal's new PM

AFP, Kathmandu

president appointed Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli as prime minister for a fourth time yesterday, after his communist forged a coalition government with the centre-left Nepali Congress.



"President Poudel has appointed KP Sharma Oli as the new prime minister of Nepal," Kiran Pokharel, press adviser to President Ram Chandra

Poudel, told AFP. Oli, 72, who heads the Communist Party of Nepal- Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), will be sworn into office today, Pokharel added.

His predecessor and former coalition government ally, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, lost a vote of confidence on Friday, barely 18 months after taking office. Dahal was forced to step down after Oli's party withdrew its support.

Former councillor found dead

UNB, Naogaon

A 47-year-old former councillor, who remained missing since Friday, was found dead in a water body at Patichara in Patnitala upazila of Naogaon district yesterday.

The deceased, Mizanur Rahman, was a former councillor of Ward 9 under Najipur municipality.

Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Patnitala Police Station, said farmers spotted Mizanur's body floating in Saligram Buridah waterbody in the morning and informed the police.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Naogaon Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Mizanur remained missing since he left home Friday afternoon, said his family members.

Man arrested for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a 40-year-old man in Netrakona early yesterday on the charge of raping a schoolgirl. A Netrakona court subsequently sent Ujjol Mia

from Paboi village in Mohanganj to jail, police said. The girl's mother had lodged a rape case with Mohanganj Police Station on Saturday.

Quoting the case statement, Md Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the girl, a fifth-grader, returned home from school on Wednesday afternoon.

As she was home alone, Ujjol entered the house and raped her. When the girl started screaming, Ujjol fled the scene, threatening her not to disclose

The girl was taken to Netrakona General Hospital for a medical test, said the OC.

India should implement it if we're to get water of freedom fighters don't get quota was a peon and now he has Tk 400 "This was "This was

know the constitution or have any idea how a government runs.

"Yes, they are meritorious, but they will have to have ideas about these matters.

"We can't do anything [about quotas] until the issue is resolved in court. It is the reality. They'll have to accept this reality," she said.

She said, "No one says anything as long as they [protesters] continue their peaceful movement. But if they go for anything else, like attacking police and their vehicles or other things, the law will take its own course."

Hasina said the government abolished the quota system after a movement. "But what is the result of this abolishment seen today?"

Mentioning that women had joined the movement in 2018, she said only two females in the last BCS exam qualified for foreign services and four for police.

Defending district-based quotas and quotas for marginalised communities, the PM said some districts have been deprived after the abolishment of the quota system. Not a single person got a job in police service from 23 districts, she added.

"Why do they have so much anger against the freedom fighters?" she said, adding, "If the grandchildren benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?"

QUESTION LEAK Hasina asked journalists to find out those who passed the government recruitment exams with the help of leaked question papers.

Mentioning that action would be taken against those who got benefits from question paper leaks, she said, "Why would we not take action? They have no right to work. But who will find them? If they [those who leaked the questions] name any person that they have sold the questions to and if it can be proved, then we will see.

"He who pays a bribe, and he who takes a bribe are both criminals. Those who leak question papers and those who buy them are both criminals. But who will figure it out? Journalists should try to find that out ... then we will take action," she added.

CORRUPTION Responding to a question on corruption, she said, "I will not spare the corrupt people no matter whoever they are or whatever position they have as I started the drives against corruption. I don't even consider who are close or who are not."

Hasina said she has taken action against a former peon of her home who had amassed Tk 400 crore.

"He worked in my house. He

crore. He can't go places without a helicopter. It's true. How did he make so much money?"

She said she does not think that drives against corruption would harm the image of her government and reiterated her commitment to pursue "zero tolerance" for corruption.

Without mentioning any name. she said trials of some corruption cases have also been criticised, even though the accused committed corruption and misappropriated money of workers.

ON JÓURNALISTS Replying to a question about journalists' access of information, the PM said gathering information is one thing and stealing files is another.

'A negotiation was going on for buying vaccines. One of my officers was working round the clock. The officer left the room for a while leaving the important files. A journalist of a renowned newspaper entered the room and stole the documents, and my officer caught

the journalist," she said. Then the journalist went into the bathroom and hide the documents in her sari ... the file was taken out. And it seems there was no crime committed."

Later the journalist was awarded for stealing the file, Hasina added.

"This was not the first. The $FROM\ PAGE\ 1$ journalist was earlier captured at the ministry of shipping and later freed after signing a bond. But later the journalist became a heroine and

world-famous," she said. TRUMP ASSASSINATION BID

Hasina condemned the assassination attempt on former US president Donald Trump and termed the attack "unfortunate".

"It is really regrettable. He is a presidential candidate. We definitely condemn it"

"It is our question as to why such an incident took place in a civilised country, like the USA which is the pioneer of democracy," Hasina said.

She noted that the Republican Party did not blame the US government for the attack and President Joe Biden also condemned the attack.

"If such an incident took place in Bangladesh, the government would have been blamed," she said.

On the Rohingya issue, Hasina said she sought China's cooperation in resolving the crisis.

She noted that the Chinese president thanked Bangladesh for its humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas and reiterated China's commitment to supporting their repatriation.

Trump survives

community," Shapiro said, adding, "Political disagreements can never, ever be addressed through violence."

US President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said he had ordered a review of how the man carrying an AR-15-style rifle managed on Saturday to get close enough to Anthony shoot from a rooftop at Trump, who as a former president has lifetime protection by the US Secret Service. Earlier, the 81-year-old Democrat

had called the attack "sick" and spoke to Trump afterwards. He also cut short a weekend at his vacation home and flew back to Washington to deal with the crisis.

Biden was scheduled to deliver remarks on the incident at 1.30 pm (1730 GMT) yesterday, the White House said.

Trump's wife Melania said the gunman was a "monster," who had attempted to silence her husband's "laughter, ingenuity, love of music, and inspiration."

World leaders also condemned the attack, with the Kremlin yesterday morning saving there was no place for violence in politics.

In scenes that will haunt an America already traumatised by gun violence and political upheaval, Trump clutched his ear and fell to the ground after shots rang out at the rally on Saturday.

Secret Service agents immediately surrounded him and bundled the former president off stage, as he raised a fist in defiance, with blood streaked across his ear and face.

Trump said afterwards that he was "shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear" and heard a "whizzing sound."

shooter, reportedly registered Republican, was believed

to be working alone Meanwhile, FBI officials yesterday said the suspected gunman was

acting alone and used an AR-style rifle purchased legally to shoot at the former US president, adding that they had no indications of any mental health issues with the suspect. The FBI officials, in a call with

reporters, said the investigation was at an early stage and that they had not yet identified an ideology associated with the suspect. They said finding the motive behind the shooting was one of their priorities.

A video published by US outlet ΓMZ shows the alleged assailant lying on his belly on a sloping rooftop and aiming a rifle. A quick succession of gunshots is heard followed by screams from off-camera Trump supporters

His father Matthew Crooks told CNN that he was trying to establish "what the hell is going on", and would not comment until he spoke to law

enforcement.

The shocking incident inevitably raised questions about security, and how a presidential candidate could be targeted by a gunman around 150 meters away despite a huge Secret Service detail.

US Secret Service spokesman Guglielmi false" claims that it had refused additional protection for Trump ahead of the rally, saving that the agency had in fact recently added resources for him.

The FBI said in a news conference early yesterday that it was "surprising' the gunman had been able to get off so many shots before he was spotted and "neutralised" by counter-snipers.

After multiple witnesses said they saw the gunman before the shooting and alerted authorities, Butler police said they had "responded to a number of reports of suspicious activity".

A local prosecutor yesterday said it was "surprising" that a shooter was able to position himself on the nearby rooftop to take his shot. "I do know we had some law

enforcement in that building, which is even more surprising that he was able to get up there," said Butler County district attorney Richard Goldinger. Trump's narrow escape has also

sparked conspiracy theories and fingerpointing by Republicans, as an already tense run-up to the elections becomes increasingly febrile.

Possible Trump vice presidential pick J.D. Vance said Biden's "rhetoric' nad "led directly" to the Trump attack.

The attack happened days before the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee where Trump will be formally anointed as presidential candidate. Trump said he looked "forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin."

"I was going to delay my trip to Wisconsin, and The Republican National Convention, by two days, but have just decided that I cannot allow a 'shooter,' or potential assassin, to force change to scheduling, or anything else. Therefore, I will be leaving for Milwaukee, as scheduled,' Trump wrote on his Truth Social site

vesterday He said he would be leaving in the afternoon.

Trump was treated in hospital and could later be seen walking unaided from his plane, though his wounded ear was not facing the camera in video footage posted by his deputy communications director. The New York Times reported that he was staying the night in New Jersey.

The United States has a history of political violence. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963 while President Ronald Reagan was shot but survived an assassination attempt in 1981.

The man who shot Trump

State voter records show that Crooks was a registered Republican. The upcoming November 5 election would have been the first time Crooks had been old enough to vote in a presidential race.

Crooks lived about an hour away from where the shooting took place in Butler. The Federal Aviation Administration vesterday said that it closed the airspace over Bethel Park for 'special security reasons." When Crooks was 17 he made a \$15 donation to ActBlue, a political action

committee that raises money for leftleaning and Democratic politicians, according to a 2021 Federal Election Commission filing. The donation was earmarked for the Progressive Turnout Project, a national group that rallies Democrats to vote. The groups did not immediately respond to a Reuters

request for comment. Crooks' father, Matthew Crooks, 53, told CNN that he was trying to figure out what happened and would wait until he spoke to law enforcement before speaking about his son.

A video published by US outlet TMZ on Saturday showed that a gunman, suspected to be Thomas Matthew

Crooks, lying on his stomach on a rooftop with a rifle in hand. "The guy has longer brown hair, and

he seems to be wearing a grey shirt/ khaki pants -- and as you can see, he's carefully trying to pinpoint a target from afar before pulling the trigger," TMZ reported. The man is not shown firing in the published footage. But a quick

succession of gunshots is heard followed by screams from people offcamera.

"He's turning this way, be careful guys," a man is heard saying. "Somebody got shot," another voice

says. "He's right there, laying down." "Dude, that's exactly why we need... Trump here," another man is heard

"Secret Service don't (mess) around," another man says. A second video published by TMZ

shows shaky footage of the same rooftop and a blurred body. "You can see the guy there," a person off-camera says. "I think they hit him ...,

he looks dead."

Another video posted by a TikTok user shows Trump touching his right ear just after multiple bangs are heard. In the same frame, a security force

sniper, positioned on a roof behind the Republican presidential candidate, is seen taking aim with a rifle mounted on a stand.

AFP did not independently verify the videos, and it is unclear whether the sniper fired the weapon. Trump then crouches down behind

the lectern as Secret Service agents

move in around him. Screams are heard in the crowd. He is later escorted off stage by agents.

Thomas Crooks graduated in 2022 from Bethel Park High School, according to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. He received a \$500 "star award" from the National Math and Science Initiative, according to the newspaper.

A 2022 graduation ceremony video cited by the New York Times shows Crooks receiving his high school diploma to some applause. Video from that ceremony posted online shows Crooks with glasses in a black graduation gown and posing with a school official. Reuters could not immediately verify the authenticity of

identification to the site of the shooting

identify social media accounts or other online postings by Crooks. Meta, Law enforcement officials said on Saturday that Crooks carried no

and had to be identified using other

"We're looking at photographs right now and we're trying to run his DNA and get biometric confirmation," Kevin Rojek, FBI special agent in charge, said during a press briefing.

USA Today reported that dozens of law enforcement vehicles were stationed outside a residence listed at the address on Crooks' voter registration record. Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were on the scene and a bomb squad was at the residence, USA Today reported.

Today, the perimeter of the residence was guarded by yellow police caution tape. An Allegheny County Police vehicle was parked outside. "It's insanity that anyone would

do this," Dan Maloney, a 30-year-old resident from the area was quoted as saying by USA Today. Reuters could not immediately

the parent company of Facebook attending the rally. and Instagram, did not immediately respond to questions on whether the platforms had removed any accounts related to the suspect.





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The anti-quota protest is a nonpolitical agitation. But BNP and their collaborators are trying to turn the movement into an antigovernment agitation and they are instigating the movement making statements and comments.

OBAIDUL QUADER Road Transport and



Anyone can file a lawsuit if aggrieved. If the investigation reveals no merit to the case, it can be automatically cancelled, regardless of whether it takes **24 hours or 24** days.

> ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL Home Minister



It's a "sub judice" issue and the ongoing protests lack justification. The government has always been sympathetic towards students, which

is why the quota system was abolished. However, many problems have arisen following that.

HASAN MAHMUD Foreign Minister



The government cannot do anything on the quota reform issue until the **Supreme Court** process is totally completed. There is no chance to change the High Court order by protesting on the streets.

> MOHAMMAD ALI ARAFAT State Minister for Information



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17 JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45



A playful moment suddenly takes a dangerous turn, as while trying to throw something at his friend, a student trips over and falls onto a busy road. An accident could have occurred with a bus rapidly approaching him, but the driver managed to break just in time, narrowly averting a tragedy. A moment of carelessness on the road can turn tragic if footpaths or nearby foot-bridges are not used. The photo was taken in the capital's Science Lab area recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

five percent indigenous quota in first and second-class government jobs. The protestors against quota systems are creating inequality through their movement, said Alik Mree, convener of Adivasi Quota Sangrakkhan Parishad, during a press conference held on Dhaka University premises. After the cancellation of the quota in 2018,

the number of

of the hills and

plains entering

jobs has fallen

government

drastically.

indigenous people

"Our living standard is completely different from others. We have had to grow up fighting adversity from birth. So, we think our demand for the restoration of the five percent quota is completely logical and we want to see its implementation as soon as possible," he said.

"The constitution provides special opportunities for the

backward people of the country. After the cancellation of the quota in 2018, the number of indigenous people of the hills and plains entering government jobs has fallen drastically," he also said.

'Quota is a constitutional right. Various policies and laws of the state could not play an effective role in protecting the living standard and developing the rights of indigenous people. Rather, it has increased oppression and deprivation of indigenous people," he said.

DELAYED MONSOON

Dengue may spike in Aug or Sept

Fear experts, call for central action plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dengue cases might start to increase during August September, as this year's outbreak will get delayed due to the monsoon starting late, said experts at a programme yesterday.

However, they said, the outbreak may not be as intense this year compared to last year.

They made the remarks at a discussion, titled "Reasons for failure to control dengue and what to be done", organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba).

At the discussion, Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of Directorate General of Health Services, said local government and the health department must work together to control dengue. Suggesting the launch of a mosquito-borne disease, he said

Dengue death toll 48 Total number of patients 4,566 **383** still undergoing treatment Number of recovered patients 4,135 155 more hospitalised yesterday

national strategy to control the

SOURCE: **DGHS**

such a strategy was prepared a few days ago. But it needs to be updated, he added.

Kabirul Bashar, professor Zoology at Jahangirnagar University, said, "Dengue may be prevalent in the country in August or September. This year's dengue outbreak may not be the same as last year.'

Rumana Huque, teacher of economics at Dhaka University, financial pressure also increases for a dengue patient, as both dengue tests and treatments cost quite a lot of money.

If a dengue patient takes treatment at a government hospital, it may cost them Tk 35,000 to Tk 40,000, and it may cost Tk 60,000 to Tk 65,000 on average at a private hospital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DB arrests mastermind of certificate forgery gang

UNB, Dhaka

The Detective Branch of police arrested the mastermind of a criminal gang who used to sell forged academic certificates.

The arrestee is Abu Zafar, 31. He sold the fake certificates of two private

Cyber and Special Crime Department (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted a drive on Friday and arrested Zafar, said DMP additional commissioner Harun-or-Rashid yesterday.

Harun, also the DB chief, said IT experts, a former teacher and an office assistant of a private university may have been involved in this racket.

On May 26, a case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard.

HC questions legality of 40pc quota for children of BR employees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of a provision to keep 40 percent quota for the children of Bangladesh Railways employees in BR.

The court issued a rule asking the government to show causes why the section 3(1) and (2) of the Bangladesh Railway Non-Cadre Recruitment Rules, 2020 that contains the provision should not be declared unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice SM Masud Hossain Dolon issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Rokonuzzaman.

He submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on May 26 to the HC saying that the Bangladesh Railway has purposefully framed the rules by fixing the 40 percent quota for the children of its employees for their own benefits which is contradictory to the circular issued by the Ministry of Public Administration in 2018 regarding cancellation of quotas and articles 27, 29 and 31 of the constitution.

Due to preservation of 40 percent quota for jobs in 14th to 20 grades in the railways, there will be discrimination against others, the petitioner said. Rokonuzzaman himself moved the petition

while DAG Tushar Kanti Roy represented the state.

VACCINE FOR LIVESTOCK JS body to look into tender graft

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a threemember sub-committee to investigate alleged corruption in the tender process to purchase vaccines for the fisheries and livestock department. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries

and Livestock Ministry formed the sub-committee at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. SM Rezaul Karim, an Awami League lawmaker and

chief of the parliamentary watchdog, presided over the meeting. MP BM Kabirul Haque was made convener of the sub-committee. The other members are AL MP Nur Uddin Chowdhury Noyon and independent MP Moshiur Rahman Mollah Shajal.

The investigation committee was asked to submit its report before the main committee within 15 working days, BM Kabirul Haque told The Daily Star. "Today was our first meeting. We are yet to go through all the documents related to the alleged corruption in the tender process," he said.

Kabirul said, "What we have heard is that there were some irregularities in the tender process as the due procedure was not followed during the tender floating."

The committee also recommended the ministry to suspend the Department of Livestock's ongoing recruitment process, as the decision regarding the quota system in government jobs is pending before the

In the meeting, the committee was briefed about the activities of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock and its subordinate agencies and institutions.



Posters, advertising for hostels or coaching centres, remain nailed or pasted on trees along Mirpur Road in the capital. This blatant disregard for nature not only damages the trees but also is an eyesore. Later, these plastics end up in city drains, further adding to the waterlogging woes. The photo was taken near Dhaka City College recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Need master plan

Civil society representatives yesterday demanded

that all construction works under "further

development projects" at Jahangirnagar

University be stopped until the formulation of a

chancellor, dean of Arts and Humanities faculty,

dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

faculty, chairman of Fine Arts department, the

university's technical management committee,

alongside the convener of JU's waterbody

A copy of the letter was also sent to the secretary

In the letter, they feared that the university

Activists Sultana Kamal and Khushi Kabir,

administration may start further construction

work without finalising the master plan, which

Bela Chief Executive Sveda Rizwana Hasan.

TIB Executive Director İftekharuzzaman, Bapa

General Secretary Alamgir Kabir, and BIP President Adil Mohammed Khan, among others,

extreme poverty

govt's key goal

secretary during event

Secretary Md Tofazzal Hossain Mia yesterday.

Whiteley,

Bangladesh is playing a leading role in the global efforts

to alleviate poverty, said Prime Minister's Principal

chief guest at a workshop at Agargaon in the capital.

of Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, funded by the

A primary goal of the government is to eradicate

Ambassador to Bangladesh, said despite

Bangladesh's progress over the past five decades,

the prevalence of extreme poverty remains

scathingly high in certain regions, like the haor

PKSF Chairman M Khairul Hossain moderated

European

He came up with the remarks while speaking as

The event was organised by PPEPP-EU project

Says PM's principal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

European Union.

and coastal areas.

the workshop.

extreme poverty, he added.

A letter, signed by 10 civil society representatives, was sent in this regard to the vice

for further dev

projects at JU

Demand civil society

members

master plan.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

management committee.

of education ministry.

may incite the students.

Eradicating

signed the letter.

Expat stabbed to death in Jashore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by a group of robbers at her residence in Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Ferdousi Begum, 42, wife of Altaf Hossain. She is an expatriate who returned from Spain about a year ago with her family for her son's wedding, said Nishat Al Nahian, additional superintendent (Navaran circle) of police in Jashore.

Altaf had returned to Spain after the wedding, while Ferdousi and her 12-year-old daughter stayed back.

According to police and relatives, some robbers had entered their house through the kitchen window around Sensing their presence, Ferdousi confronted them. The

robbers attacked Ferdousi, stabbing her multiple times. She died on the spot. They also attacked Jannatul with sharp weapons,

leaving her critically injured. She was taken to Jashore General Hospital.

"The robbers have taken some gold ornaments and other valuables. We are trying to identify and arrest them," the officer added.

'TORTURE OF WOMAN' 2 UP members sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday sent two union parishad members to jail in a case filed for allegedly torturing a 25-year-old woman in an arbitration over a theft charge in Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar upazila.

They are Ishaq Molla, a member of Ward 6 of Bishnupur Union, and Hossain Miah, a former member of Ward 8 of the same union.

Hasan Jamil Khan, inspector (investigation) of Bijoynagar Police Station, said the two were arrested from Bishnupur village on Saturday night after a video of beating a woman went viral on social media.

Jamil said a few days ago, a village police's wife was accused of theft and beaten up by some people, including Ishaq and Hossain.

As the video spread on social media, police detained former and present UP members, said the police official.

Two killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Two persons died in accidents on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur's Kaliakoir yesterday.

A man died after his motorcycle collided with a bus in the upazila's Sutrapur area around 9:00am.

The deceased is Jihan Farhad, 45, of Samantapur in Gazipur, said Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Nawjor Highway Police Station.

Meanwhile, the driver of a covered van died after he lost control over the steering and ploughed into a food cart in the upazila's Nawjor area around 2:00pm.

Two others, a woman aged around 38 and a child aged seven, were injured. The deceased and the injured could not be identified immediately, said OC Abu Siddique of Basan Police Station.



২২ বর্ষের চতুর্থ সংখ্যা

প্রকাশিত হয়েছে স্টলে খোঁজ নিন/গ্রাহক হোন

প্রতি কপি 放 টাকা বার্ষিক চাঁদা (সডাক)8০০টাক এজেপী ও পুরাতন সংখ্যার জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন

দম্পাদকীয় যোগাযোগ উচ্চতর গবেষণা কেন্দ্র কক্ষ ২০৪ (টিএসসি সংলগ্ন) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন : ০১৮১৭-০৫৭৭৮০ ০১৬২০-২৩৫৬৬১

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Ref: ER/LP/LT/e-GP: 20/2024

ERL/LT/e-

Tende ID

1001812

Govt canal grabbed for fish farming



S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A section of local influential people allegedly grabbed a portion Mahendranagar Canal on government's land in Nakhenda area of Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila for a fish farming project.

The canal flows through 8-9 bighas of land owned by Railway and Bangladesh Water Development Board, adjacent to the Teesta-Kurigram rail route, and falls into the Teesta river. It is a source of water for irrigation on more than 1,000 acres of agricultural lands in Nakhenda area.

flow of water, causing inundation of the agricultural lands, leaving more than 100 farmers in trouble, alleged locals.

said they have Farmers complained in writing to all the my own 22 bighas of land. I did not departments concerned but no occupy the canal on government steps have yet been taken in this land. Besides, I have never used my

They alleged that Altaf Hossain of Nakhenda China Bazar area, who is the younger brother of an additional superintendent of police in Dhaka, illegally occupied the canal and stopped its water flow for his fish farm on both sides of the Kurigram-Teesta rail route.

"This in turn is causing waterlogging on our arable lands. We are unable to protest as Altaf is very influential," said Sarwar Bepari, a farmer.

Abul Kashem, another farmer, said, "We have not been able to cultivate our lands. Also, we are The grabbers stopped the canal's living amid fear after submitting a written complaint against Altaf

> Contacted, Altaf Hossain refuted the allegations against him.

"I built a fish farming project on

brother's influence," he claimed.

Manjurul Haque, surveyor of Railway's Divisional Estate Office under Lalmonirhat Divisional Railway, however, said Altaf Hossain did occupy the canal for his fish farming project.

The railway owns half of the canal's land, and red flags have been placed there demarcating the boundary, he added.

Rakibul Hasan, executive engineer of BWDB, said the canal will be recovered soon, adding that boundary pillars have been installed to demarcate it.

"The encroacher has been asked to vacate the canal. If he does not comply, the railway authorities will take legal action," said Purnendu Dev, divisional estate officer of Lalmonirhat Divisional Railway.

Khadiza Begum, UNO of Rajarhat upazila, said she will inspect the site and take necessary measures to keep

Caught after fleeing 130km

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After stealing a Suzuki Gixxer motorcycle in Netrakona, Rubel and Zunaved rode around 130 kilometres yesterday morning to reach Sarail in Brahmanbaria, confident that they had evaded the law enforcers. They parked the stolen motorcycle

at a roadside shop and were enjoying snacks when police zeroed in on their location following a phone call to 999 by the motorcycle owner, Mahbub

Station, led by Sub-inspector Pankaj Das, positioned themselves on the a black motorcycle passing their And then the chase began. Sensing

danger, the thieves sped up to flee. As the police van intercepted them about

selling date & time

Eastern Refinery Limited

rth Patenga, Chittag

e-Tender Notice

Procuring entity details: Md. Tariq Hossain, Manager (Purchase), Phone: 880-02 3333, 01261-70 (382) Email: managerlp@erl.com.bd
These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted through National e-GP Portal https://www.eprocure.gov.bd and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required. The fees for downloading

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

Generator, Model: CAT D-3608, Serial No. 6MC-548, Specification: 4 stroke, 8 cylinder, Inline diesel Engine

ments from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any reg

100 yards away, Zunayed got off the bike and ran, while Rubel managed to momentarily evade arrest by speeding up through a gap.

'We then started chasing again. After some time, the thief drove his bike down a narrow road where the police van couldn't follow. I took a ride on an individual's bike and continued the chase," said SI Pankaj. SI Pankaj said, "Rubel then

abandoned the bike near a shop and started running. I screamed for help so that locals could stop him. Rubel A patrol team from Sarail Police then jumped into a waterbody but got arrested 11:30am." "The thieves couldn't imagine

highway near Kuttapara and minutes they would be tracked down even later spotted two individuals on after fleeing from Netrakona and reaching Brahmanbaria," he told The Daily Star. According to the SI, the chase and arrest ordeal lasted for 30 minutes, covering about one and a half kilometres.

Date: 14/07/2024

Tender closin

daughter

upazila, Brahmanbaria.

Shahabuddin Shah, 40, July 13, said police.

General Hospital.

mother Shahabuddin took the girl to a secluded spot near Jagannathpur around 5:00am and raped her. She demanded justice.

Md Hasan Jamil Khan, arrest Shahabuddin.

Dengue may spike

president of

speech, Dr Lenin Chowdhury,

Poba, said, "From 2000 to

2018, dengue was confined

to only a few major cities,

including Dhaka. Since 2019,

dengue has spread across the

"Within this time, it was

Presenting the keynote comprehensive central action

Man accused of raping 9-yr-old

UNB, B'baria

A father has been accused of raping his 9-year-old daughter in Bijoynagar

has been on the run since the incident occurred on The girl was admitted to

the Brahmanbaria 250-bed

inspector (investigation) of Bijoynagar Police Station, said they are trying to

plan to control dengue. But it

started a little late, delaying

the dengue outbreak, he said, adding, "Forty-eight people

have died of dengue so far

this year. The number can

increase in the coming days."

This year the monsoon

was not done," he said.

When protector

management plant. But instructions," he claimed.

Asked why municipality is dumping waste in open spaces and waterbody, Biplab Hathazari municipality, space to dump the waste.

up a waste management plant. "We are working they don't heed to our to buy land to establish a plant. But we are facing a shortage of funds.

He also admitted they established the existing landfill without getting Muhuree, secretary of the permission as they had no



Ref No: 46.207.014.24.02.129.2024

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২৬/২০২৪-২০২৫

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer Zone-02, Dhaka.



শেৎ হাসিনার মুলনীতি

গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Dated: 11/07/2024

Corrigendum-2

S.L. No	Tender ID	Name of works	Previous Last Selling date and Time	Previous Tender Closing date & Time	Revised Last Selling date and Time	Revised Tender Closing date & Time
02	Tender ID- 993282, Ref No: 46.207.014.24.06.246.2024 Date: 05.05.2024 Package No-	Development & construction work of road & drain at Basabo Madartek Main Road (Atish Dipankar Road to Nandipara Bridge) of ward 04 under zone 02 DSCC	11:30	11-Jul-2024 12:30	18-Jul-2024 13:30	18-Jul-2024 14:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

signed/

(Md. Harunur Rashid) Executive Engineer Zone -2 (Khilgoan) Dhaka South City Corporation

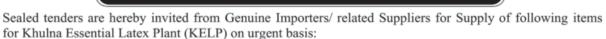


executive

ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208





S.L	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender	Last date of
No.			Schedule	Closing & opening
01.	EDCL(KELP)/PUR/ RM/LT/2024/272 Dt. 14/07/2024	Raw Material for Male Latex Condom: 01. Black Ink Cartridge (V-401-D) 02. Make up Fluid Cartridge (V-701-D) 03. Make up Fluid Cartridge (V-705-D) (Details as per Tender Schedule)	Tk. 750.00/set Non-refundable	Closing: 25/07/2024 at 12.00 PM Opening: 25/07/2024 at 12.30 PM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The Tender will be accompanied by a amount of Earnest Money mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay order from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of " Essential Drugs Company Ltd" without which the Tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason

General Manager Procurement Deptt.

(5Inchix4 Colum)

For: Managing Director.

When protector turns polluter

Hathazari municipality dumping waste in canal; landfill set up next to waterbody without permission

SIFAYET ULLAH, Chattogram

The Sundari canal in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila is facing a severe environmental crisis due to indiscriminate dumping of garbage by the municipality.

As the state agency, who is the custodian of the canal, has been dumping household wastes for years, a portion of the canal has already turned into a narrow drain, obstructing the waterflow of this

The landfill, adjacent to the canal, was established in 2013 without obtaining environmental clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE).

The canal, around 5km in length, started from Jangalchari and ended at Subedar Pukur area under the upazila.

This correspondent visited the spot on Saturday and observed that a huge amount of plastic packets of chips, biscuits and several types of single use plastic (SUP) were lying along the banks on both sides of the canal.

Sultan Ahmed, a resident of the Madhyakhil area near the landfill, said, "It is unbearable for me and my family to stay

home when the bad smell spreads after the municipality dumps the garbage."

Mansur Alam, a resident of the Rangipara area, regularly cultivates crops using water from the hilly canal.

"Sometimes the canal water turns black during discharge of untreated wastewater from the landfill into the waterbody," he

A protected forest, around 50 acres, is located near the landfill. Due to dumping garbage next to the forestland, some trees have already died.

Anwarul Islam, forester of the Hathazari Forest Office, said he verbally urged officials of the municipality to take measures to shift the landfill.

According to the Environmental Conservation Act, filling a canal (waterbody) is a punishable offence.

Nur Hasan Sajib, an assistant director of DoE, Chattogram, who has been transferred to Noakhali recently, confirmed that the municipality is using the land as a landfill without obtaining permission from DoE

"We asked the authorities several times SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

It's tough to notice Sundari canal amid the piles of waste dumped next to one of its banks. Hathazari municipality has set up a landfill next to it without permission and continues to dump household waste there. A portion of the canal has already been turned into a narrow drain, obstructing its waterflow.



REMAL AFTERMATH

207 schools need urgent repair

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

At least 207 educational institutions, including schools, colleges, and madrasas in Patuakhali, are in dire need of urgent repair after sustaining significant damages in Cyclone Remal.

Although these institutions Rangabali upazilas. sought financial assistance worth a total of Tk 15 crore from the roof of our school. Now it is not government through the district possible to conduct classes amid upazila. vet been made.

their academic activities, with many remaining closed since the cyclone lashed the coastal belt of the country on May 26-27.

The cyclone also damaged 6,082

houses completely and 31,364 ones partially in the district, affecting around 3.38 lakh people.

Of the damaged educational institutions, 49 are in Kalapara, 42 in Galachipa, 34 in Sadar, 29 in Dasmina, 22 in Baufal, 16 in Mirzaganj, 8 in Dumki, and 7 in

education office, no allocation has monsoon without having the roof repaired. As such, 200 students are As a result, these institutions unable to continue their studies. have been struggling to carry out I applied to the district education office for assistance, but no money has been allocated yet," said Subal Chandra Sheel, headteacher of Chalitabuniya Junior Secondary School in Sadar upazila.

Md Ashraf Uzzaman, headteacher of Menhajpur Haqqani Secondary School in Kalapara upazila, echoed his concerns.

"In Kalapara upazila, 4 colleges, 12 schools, and 25 madrasas sustained damages worth around Tk 1.5 crore in the cyclone. I have informed the higher authorities in this "The cyclone blew away the tin regard," said Moniruzzaman Khan, secondary education officer in the

Contacted, Md Mojibur Rahman, district education officer in Patuakhali, said a letter was sent to the higher authorities on May 30 seeking an allocation of Tk 15 crore for necessary repairs to 207 institutions in the district.

So far, no allocation has been received, he added.

KURIGRAM, SIRAJGANJ

Flood situation improves slightly

STAR REPORT

The ongoing flood situation in Kurigram and Sirajganj districts has improved to some extent as floodwater has started to recede.

In Kurigram, water levels in the Brahmaputra, Dudhkumar, and Dharla rivers have begun to decrease, leading to a reduction in flooding in many affected areas.

As of yesterday, the water levels of Dudhkumar and Dharla had fallen below the danger level, while the Brahmaputra's water level, although reduced, remained above the danger level, said Rakibul Hasan, executive BWDB sources.

engineer of the Bangladesh Water Development Board in Kurigram.

'Although most areas are still inundated, the flood situation is expected to improve further as the Brahmaputra's water continues to recede," he added.

Many flood victims who had

sought refuge in shelters and embankments have started returning to their homes since Saturday.

In Sirajganj, the Jamuna river was flowing 8cm below the danger level at Kazipur Point and 19cm above the danger level at Sirajganj Hard Point as of yesterday noon, according to

"Water levels have been reducing at all points over the past three days. Although the Jamuna is still flowing above the danger level at Sirajganj Hard Point, we expect it to come down below the danger level in the next two to three days," said Md Nazmul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of the Water Development Board in Sirajganj.

However, most areas remain inundated, and residents have yet to return to their homes from shelters and higher grounds.

"If the Jamuna's water continues to recede, it will take around a week for floodwater to be removed from the affected areas," the BWDB official noted.



সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION **Election Commission Secretariat**

Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2nd Phase) Nirbachan Bhaban (floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No. 17.14.0000.240.07.171.2024.2239 Date: 14 July, 2024 Purchase and Upgradation of Network Equipment for Data Centre and Personalization Centre Package Title Invitation Number 17.14.0000.240.07.171.2024/1916 13 June, 2024 Issued on

> Addendum-01 of Invitation for Tenders (IFT) Existing Invitation for Amendments (Contents to be read as)

SL No. of IFT	Tenders (IFT)	Invitation for Tenders (IFT)
15. Tender Last Selling Date and Time	15 July, 2024 Time: 04:00 P.M.	30 July, 2024
	16 July, 2024	Time: 5:00 P.M. 31 July, 2024
16. Tender Closing Date and Time	Time: 11:00 A.M.	Time: 11:00 A.M.
17. Tender Opening Date and Time	16 July, 2024 Time: 11:30 P.M.	31 July, 2024 Time: 11:30 A.M.
বিঃ দ্রঃ দরপত্র দলিলের সংশোধনী প্রকল্প কার্যালয় হ	তে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।	

Abul Hashat Mohammad Sayem Brigadier General Project Director IDEA Project (2nd Phase) Election Commission Secretariat



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Public Administration Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy

Publication Section



Shahbag, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Rsearch Article

Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy is inviting Research Articles for the upcoming issue (July-December 2024) of Bangladesh Journal of Administration and Management (BJAM). Articles should be based on the following research areas/fields in Bangladesh context:

- Public Administration and Public Policy;
- Development Policy, Plan and Programme of the Government; Development Administration and Development Economics;
- Liberation War and Public Administration; BCS Administration Academy's Training: Impact and Evaluation Study;
- Performance Appraisal of the Civil Servants; Digital Transformations of Governance: Bangladesh Perspective;
- Smart Bangladesh: Roles of Civil Servants and Government Organizations;
- Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) in Public Service; 10. Capacity Development of the Civil Servants;
- Innovation and Service Simplification in Government Organizations: Focusing
- on Artificial Intelligence (AI); Human Resource Development: Focusing on Civil Servants;

Reforms in Civil Service, related Laws & Rules.

Articles should not exceed 6000 words including an abstract containing 250 to 300 words. Manuscripts should be submitted as MS Word file with Times New Roman font (font size 12) and Harvard Referencing system should be followed. An article must have a separate title page which will include the name(s) of the author(s), the e-mail address, brief CV of author(s), cell phone number of author(s) and a non-publication declaration of the article. The author(s) will have to submit a similarity check report generated automatically through Turnitin Software. The successful author(s) of selected article(s) will be entitled to have remuneration according to the Publication Policy of the Academy.

Interested academics, researchers, professionals and practitioners are requested to send the article through e-mail to the address publicationofficer@bcsadminacademy.gov.bd or publicationsection1987@gmail.com following a printed copy sent to the address of the Academy by 07 August 2024 within office time.

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শ্মারক নং-জেলা/হাস/শের/২০২৪/২০৩৭

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সুপারিনটেনডেন্ট এর কার্যালয় ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর sherpur@hospi.dghs.gov.bd



তারিখঃ ১৪/০৭/২০২৪খ্রি

২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর এর আর.এম.ও কোয়ার্টার, বাউন্ডারী ওয়াল, সোকওয়েল এবং পিট অপসারণ এর নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতহারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মস্ত্রণালয়ের স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগের নির্মাণ অধিশাখার স্মারক নং- ৪৫,০০,০০০০.১৫৬,০৬,০৪১.১৯-৪৭ অরিখঃ ২৭ ছানুয়ারী, ২০২১খিঃ এবং বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগের নির্মাণ অধিশাখার স্মারক নং- ৪৫.০০,০০০০.১৫৬.৯৫.০১১.২৪-২৬৭ তারিখঃ ১০ জ্বন, ২০২৪খিঃ মোতাবেক মনুমোদন প্রদান করায় পিপিএ-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ একং সর্বশেষ জানুয়ারী, ২০২৩ সংশোধনী এর আলোকে স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগের জরাজীর্ণ স্বাস্থ্য স্থাপন/ভবন অপসারণের লক্ষ্যে ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর এ অত্র হাসপাতালের প্রস্তাবিত "বর্জা ব্যবস্থাপনা প্লাউ" টি নির্মাণ এর লক্ষ্যে লে-আউট এরিয়ায় বিদামান আর.এম.ও কোয়ার্টার, বাউভারী ওয়াল, সোকওয়েল এবং পিট অপসারণের লক্ষ্যে নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য আগ্রহী নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে নিম্লে বর্ণিত ছকের শর্তাধীনে গালাসহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

>	মস্রণালয় ও বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়। স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ।
٤	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী	তক্সবধায়ক, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর।
0	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	২৫০ শয়া বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাডাল, শেরপুর।
8	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান	২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর এর আর.এম.ও কোয়ার্টার, বাউভারী ওয়াল, সোকওয়েল এবং পিট নিলামে বিক্রয় ও অপসারণ
0	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি	উনুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)
6	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইনেঙ্গধারী যে কোন ব্যক্তি/ব্যবসায়ী প্রতিষ্ঠান (বিস্তারিত তথা দরপত্র তফসিলে পাওয়া যাবে)।
٩	দরপত্র দলিল প্রান্তির/বিক্রয়ের স্থান	তত্রবেধায়ক এর কার্যালয়, ২৫০ শয়্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর।
ь	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	১৫/০৭/২০২৪ইং হইতে ২৮/০৭/২০২৪ইং পর্যন্ত সরকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সকাল ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
ъ	দরপত্র দলিল এর মূল্য	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞন্তি পত্রিকার প্রকাশের পর ১০০০/-(এক হাজার) (অফোতযোগ্য) টাকা ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ কোন্তে তত্ত্বাবধারক, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর এর অনুভূলে সোনালী ব্যাহক শেরপুর শাখায় চালানের মাধ্যমে জমা দিয়ে চালানের মূলকপি সহ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজয লেটার হেভ প্যান্তে তত্ত্বাবধারক, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর বরাবর আবেদনের মাধ্যমে নিলাম দরপত্র দলিল ক্রর করা যাইবে।
30	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	পুলিশ সুপার, শেরপুর ও তন্ত্রাবধায়ক এর কার্যালয়, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল শেরপুর এ রক্ষিত বাজে
22	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	২৯/০৭/২০২৪ইং তারিখ সকাল ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
25	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৯/০৭/২০২৪ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকায় তত্ত্বাবধায়ক এর কার্যালয়, ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর।
30	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ) টাকা।
78	ভরুতুপূর্ণ শর্তাবলী	হালসনের ট্রেড লাইসেল, ১ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের রঙ্গিন ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/ভোতীর আইভি সনদ, ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে আয়ক্ত পরিশোধিত সনদ ও তেরো ডিজিটের ভাটি সনদ। উল্লেখ্য সকল সনদপত্র সমূহের ফটোকপি ও ছবি ১ম শ্রেণী গেজেটেভ কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যান্তিত ইউতে হইবে এবং নামযুক্ত সীল থাকিতে হইবে। অন্যান্য শর্তবিলী দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।
30	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	সংগ্রাহক সন্ত্রা কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যাতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।



২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেলা সদর হাসপাতাল, শেরপুর

GD-50

GD-49

TRUMP assassination attempt How it unfolded





1:00pm ET

Rally grounds at Butler Farm Show grounds opens to Trump supporters, more than four hours before Trump was scheduled to speak. Fans immediately begin pouring in.



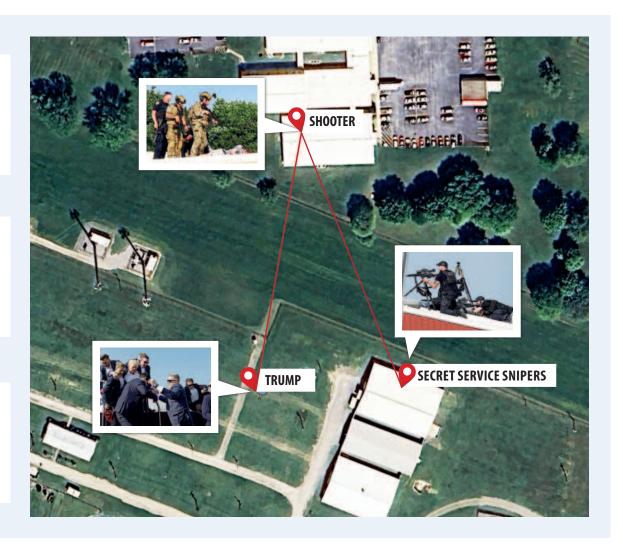
4:11pm ET

Former GOP Senate candidate Sean Parnell makes opening remarks by attacking the Biden administration, to cheers from



6:15pm ET

Trump takes to the stage and is shot moments after he begins speaking, with gunshots ringing out as he says the words: "Take a look at what happened."



Trump rally shooting reshapes US election

AFP, Milwaukee

A bloodied candidate, his fist raised in defiance after surviving an assassination

It is still early to know what impact the attempt on Donald Trump's life will have on the 2024 White House race, but the image of the former president as he was rushed from the stage of a rally in Pennsylvania has already taken on iconic status.

The great disrupter whom many see as the clear and present threat to democracy and the rule of law has himself become a victim and survivor -- of the ultimate act of political violence.

Pennsylvania's Democratic junior senator, Fetterman, yesterday cautioned the attack should not become "an opportunity for politics might play out."

Yet the dynamics of the Republican Party's national nominating that Trump would be "greeted as a kind of convention, starting today in the Midwestern city of Milwaukee, are sure to be transformed along with the campaign more broadly, as Trump seeks to make political capital from his ordeal.

An often divisive figure but a canny campaigner with unswerving political instincts, Trump took the high ground yesterday as he called for Americans to stand together in "not allowing evil to win."

He might have expected a ticker-tape parade anyway in Milwaukee, but his brush with death ensures near-mythic status among the 50,000 expected attendees there who already see the Republican tycoon as

their warrior and champion.

Plastered on front pages around the world and spreading virally on social media, the image showing Trump's raised fist against the backdrop of an American flag flying above him will be worth more than even the most lavish ad campaign.

Election messaging is about contrasts and, seizing the moment, Trump demonstrated courage and fortitude that voters are certain to compare with weeks

disastrous headlines about President Joe Biden's frailty.

Crucially, the attack plays into Trump's grievance narrative about Democrats being out to get his support base and his insistence that he is taking the slings and arrows - literally, now -- so

that they don't have Discussing impact of the shooting on the convention, Democratic

former White House strategist David Axelrod predicted on CNN

Meanwhile, the Republican's adversaries are likely to find criticizing the former president a trickier proposition.

Biden has been taking the fight to Trump recently, in an aggressive effort to present his predecessor as a threat to democracy.

It is a message that could fall on deaf ears, though, against a target who barely escaped with his life in an act many will see as akin to domestic terrorism.

The Biden campaign said it was "pausing all outbound communications and working to pull down our television ads as quickly as possible," multiple media outlets reported, in response to the assassination attempt.

Biden also postponed a trip to Texas. On the Democratic upside, the attack on Trump solves a more immediate problem for Biden.

The president has been lambasted for his lackluster debate showing against Trump last month in Atlanta, when he struggled even to finish sentences, let alone articulate a clear case for four more years.

Suddenly, days of painful splash headlines for the Democrat have been relegated to the inside pages or swept away entirely, as the parties argue over whose political rhetoric is most to blame for fomenting violence.

Biden's opponents within his own party may also find it hard to mount a serious challenge to his candidacy without appearing nakedly opportunist at a time of national crisis.

In terms of ramifications for the vote itself, it seems obvious that Trump would receive some kind of boost from Americans angered by the shooting, and the anti-Trump rhetoric that many Republicans say contributed to it.

But the longer-term benefit might be more to do with juicing turnout than converting agnostics, according to veteran pollster Frank

"In the end, voters will settle down and return to their candidate of choice. The people who move towards Trump out of sympathy will probably move back," he posted on X.

"But what happened in (Pennsylvania) will definitely impact the final vote, guaranteeing that every Trump voter will actually vote."

Luntz believes the participation gap could be worth up to two points nationwide, with a more accentuated boost in Pennsylvania, a crucial swing state that Biden needs to defend if he is to have any hope of prevailing

'This doesn't guarantee that Trump flips Pennsylvania. But the long and winding road for Joe Biden just became even longer and windier," Luntz added.

Russia blames Biden admin for attack

REUTERS, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday said it did not believe the US administration was responsible for Saturday's assassination attempt on US presidential candidate Donald Trump, but that it had created an atmosphere that provoked the attack.

Trump was shot in the ear during a rally in Pennsylvania, in an attack now being investigated as an assassination attempt. The attacker was shot dead and law enforcement officials said they had not yet identified a motive.

"We do not believe that the attempt to eliminate and assassinate Trump was organised by the current authorities," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"But the atmosphere around candidate Trump ... provoked what America is confronting today."

His comments ecnoed those of some of Trump's Republican allies, who immediately pinned the blame on Biden.

"After numerous attempts remove candidate Trump from the political arena - using first legal tools, the courts, prosecutors, attempts to politically discredit and compromise the candidate it was obvious to all outside observers that his life was in danger," Peskov said.

He added that there were no plans for Putin to call Trump now.

PREVIOUSSHOOTINGS OF US LEADERS





AFP, Washington

RONALD REAGAN (1981)

President Reagan was shot and seriously wounded as he left an event at the Hilton hotel in Washington. The attacker was John Hinckley Jr, who was granted unconditional release in 2022.

Reagan spent twelve days in the hospital. The incident boosted Reagan's popularity, as he displayed humor and resilience during his recovery.

GERALD FORD (1975)

President Ford was left unscathed in two separate assassination attempts by women in September 1975, both in California and within a span of just 17 days.

JOHN F. KENNEDY (1963)

Riding in his motorcade with his wife Jackie, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas by Lee Harvey Oswald.

The Warren Commission investigating the assassination concluded in 1964 that Lee Harvey Oswald, a former marine who had lived in the Soviet Union, had acted alone.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (1933)

As president-elect, FDR was the target of an assassination attempt in Miami, Florida. He was unharmed, but Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak was killed in the attack.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1912)

Like Trump, Teddy Roosevelt was running for the White House as a former president when he was shot in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY (1901)

President McKinley was shot and killed by anarchist Leon Czolgosz in Buffalo, New York.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1865) Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, a well-known actor and Confederate sympathizer, while watching a play called

"Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington.

Take steps in 24hrs or face tougher demo

keeping five percent quotas for members of underprivileged communities and those with special needs.

When the procession reached Gulistan intersection on the way back from Bangabhaban around 3:15pm, Dhaka University student Nahid Islam, an organiser of the movement, announced, "If the president doesn't convene an emergency session within 24 hours, we'll announce

tougher programmes. A 12-member delegation of the protesters submitted memorandum to Major General Mohammad Adil Choudhury, military

secretary of the president,

said Joynal Abedin, press court settles the issue, Nahid reports BSS.

"Don't force us to call any programmes that cause public sufferings. Take an initiative within 24 hours," Nahid said, adding, "It's still unclear to us what the government's stance is. They've the authority to reform the quota system, has been our consistent demand."

He said the boycott of classes and exams will continue until their demand is met.

About Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comments and rail lines. that the government cannot

secretary of the president, said the government order that abolished the quotas for first- and second-class government jobs and its reinstatement later is a sub judice matter.

"But our demand is for a rational reform of the quotas for government jobs in all grades. Only the executive branch do that."

Students universities and colleges, along with jobseekers, have been demonstrating against the quota system for over two weeks, occupying key city intersections, highways

The protests began take any initiative until the after the High Court on

2018 government circular abolishing the quotas was illegal, effectively reinstating the quota system.

The government appealed against the decision, and the Supreme Court on July 10 issued a status quo on the HC order.

The government's 2018 circular abolished the quota system for first and second class jobs in the wake of massive reform quota protests.

Then too, the students asked for its reform, not abolition.

Before that, 56 percent of government jobs had been reserved for candidates from

various quotas.

Of them, 30 percent were for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren; 10 percent for women; 10 for people from underdeveloped districts; five for members of indigenous communities; and one for persons with disabilities.

At 11:00am yesterday, as part of their pre-announced programmes, thousand students started the march from Dhaka University.

They broke through barricades near the High Court and then at Zero Point in Gulistan. They carried the national flag, placards and posters, and chanted different slogans in favour of

their demand.

Police kept water cannons and riot vehicles ready when the protesters held a sit-in at Gulistan.

Students Jagannath University; Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University; seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University; along with private universities and National University took part in the procession.

Meanwhile, students in others districts, including Raishahi. Chattogram, Cumilla, Narayanganj and Patuakhali also handed over memorandums to respective deputy commissioners for submitting to the president.

seen gathering in the Zero Point area, chanting proruling party slogans.

At Rajshahi University, several hundred students took out a procession from the campus and blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway a

hundreds of protesters were

'Tk 400cr peon' is Jahangir FROM PAGE 1 at the Sudha Sadan.

personal anecdote yesterday. While talking about the alleged corruption of a former PSC driver, Abed Ali, who amassed crores of taka by selling question papers for government jobs, the premier informed that she has taken action against a former peon office aide) of her residence

Although the PM, at a ress conference at the Gono Bhaban, did not mention the name of her peon, The Daily Star learnt that the person is Jahangir Alam.

who had amassed Tk 400

According to sources, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit recently froze the bank accounts of Jahangir and his wife, Kamrun Nahar, for 30 days due to suspicious transactions under the Money Laundering Prevention Act,

The BFIU also asked banks and financial institutions to provide it with updated bank statements of the couple and the companies owned by them.

Jahangir, hailing from Chatkhil of Noakhali, worked as a personal aide to the prime minister during her first two tenures from January 2009 to December 2018.

Prior to that, Jahangir was the Awami League president's personal aide when she stayed

Jahangir was dismissed at the beginning of the PM's third term in January 2019. Despite losing his job,

Jahangir continued misuse his former position, prompting the Minister's Office to issue a circular to media, warning about his illegal activities. The circular, issued on

the PMO has no connections with Jahangir and urged people to take assistance from law enforcement agencies i needed. Sources revealed that Jahangir, known for his

December 6, 2023, also said

influence in local politics and charity work, even traveled by helicopter to visit his in-laws in Maijdee Court. He was denied the AI nomination for the Noakhali-1

constituency in both the 2018 and 2024 national elections. yesterday's briefing, the prime minister questioned accumulated such wealth, referring to his extravagant

helicopter trips. "How did he make so much money?' Jahangir used influence to get his brother elected chairman three times in Khilpara union of Chatkhil

and helped one of his followers, Mohammadullah, get elected as Chatkhil municipality mayor, according to local

Late-night protests rock DU, other universities from the halls and gathered organisers of the quota Meanwhile, there was calling students to join in. fighters?" the

grandchildren of the freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, should the Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?" For over two weeks, students of different

universities and colleges have been demonstrating for reforms to the quota system in government jobs.

At DU, students marched

in front of the Raju Bhaskarjo.

Students from Hall, Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Shamsun Nahar Hall, and Rukayyah Hall were among the protesters.

They chanted "Chaite gelam odhikar, hoye gelam and Shahbagh and Sheraton Razakar [Asked for rights and became a Razakar]".

Nahid Islam, one of the

protests, said they did not call for any gathering and that the students came out of their dorms spontaneously.

Meanwhile, Chhatra League activists, armed with sticks, gathered at several points around the campus, including Madhur Canteen, intersections.

Some protesters were also seen carrying sticks.

strong police presence in Shahbagh, Chankharpool, and Nilkhet areas as of filing this report at 3:15am today.

A student said activists of Chhatra League tried to stop them from joining the protests at many dorms. Asif Mahmood, another coordinator of the anti-

quota protests, alleged he

was attacked in front of Bijoy

Ekattor Hall when he was

The agitating students started returning to their dorms around 1:45am, and most of them had left by 2:30am.

Students of Chittagong University also took to the streets on their campus, during which BCL leaders and activists reportedly attacked them and injured four to five people.

Later, BCL activists were

little after midnight. At Jagannath University,

seen chanting slogans inside the campus around 11:40pm

SALTONYOURWALLS?

Protect with a smart solution



Efflorescence affects 70-80 percent of homes in Bangladesh. Salinity issues typically arise during or after the rainy season in our country. Once the problem arises, conventional methods of addressing efflorescence involve labour-intensive and temporary fixes. Typically, homeowners resort to breaking the affected plaster and reapplying a new layer.

Maintaining building surfaces during the rainy season is a significant challenge in Bangladesh. The monsoon's relentless rains not only test the resilience of structures but also put their aesthetic appeal at risk. Efflorescence, a common issue in this region, exacerbates these challenges, making it difficult to preserve the beauty and durability of

walls.

PRIYAM PAUL

Efflorescence occurs when water-soluble salts present in building materials, such as bricks and plaster, dissolve in water and migrate to the surface. As the water evaporates, it leaves behind white, powdery deposits, giving walls a neglected and aged look. More importantly, efflorescence indicates underlying moisture issues that can compromise the structural integrity of buildings over time.

Efflorescence affects 70-80 percent of homes in Bangladesh. Salinity issues typically arise during or after the rainy season in our

Once the problem arises, conventional methods of addressing efflorescence involve labour-intensive and temporary fixes. Typically, homeowners resort to breaking the affected plaster and reapplying a new layer. This process is not only cumbersome but also expensive, requiring significant time and

Repainting walls or covering efflorescenceaffected areas with furniture or tiles are other common solutions. However, these approaches merely mask the problem without addressing the underlying moisture issues, leading to recurrent efflorescence and ongoing maintenance costs.

One unique solution provided by Asian

Paints Bangladesh Limited is Hydroloc, which is designed to combat efflorescence without the need to break and replace existing plaster. This simple penetrative coating infiltrates the small pores in the plaster, neutralising the salinity inside the structure and forming a protective barrier that prevents salt build-up on the surface, ensuring long-lasting protection and aesthetic appeal.

In conclusion, homeowners invest effort and care in decorating their homes to reflect their unique style and maintain pristine living spaces. Efflorescence disrupts this by tarnishing wall paints and compromising aesthetic appeal. By choosing the right solution, homeowners can safeguard their homes' beauty and structural integrity.

HOW EFFLORESCENCE FORMS IN WALLS Rain _ Water Water rotting entering brick joists and stone trim Efflorescence forms



EDITORIAI

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A waterlogged Dhaka is a policy failure

Sincere efforts by relevant authorities vital to address this issue

Monsoon brings new images and stories of sufferings every year, as did Friday's heavy rains in Dhaka. Two particular stories that seem to have stuck with many social media users involve the deaths of four individuals in electrocution and how several areas in DSCC remained submerged even 36 hours after the rain had stopped. For many, the first was a painful reminder of a similar tragedy in Mirpur last year. It too involved four people, including three of a family who died after being electrocuted on a waterlogged street. The second story comes with a side dish of irony, as it reminded many of a lofty promise by the DSCC mayor about ensuring swift drainage of rainwaterwithin 15 minutes no less. Promises, as one quipped, do die fast in Bangladesh.

But these are not just stories of sufferings but also of persistent policy failure. Unfortunately, those in charge of making sure these sufferings and disruptions do not occur can apparently say or do anything and get away without facing consequences. Over the past four years, more than Tk 730 crore has been spent by the two city corporations of Dhaka-Tk 370 crore by DNCC and Tk 360 crore by DSCC—to address this waterlogging problem. But despite the spectacular lack of effects of their initiatives, there has been no accountability whatsoever for the authorities and officials concerned.

The city corporations officially took over canal and drain management from Dhaka WASA on December 31, 2020. It was meant to streamline efforts to mitigate waterlogging. It did not happen, and as a result, the situation remains as dire as before. The city's drainage system continues to be weakened by poor design, weak maintenance, and ongoing road construction activities. Much of the drainage network remains clogged by waste, making it very hard for the rainwater to flow into rivers. Two city corporation officials, speaking anonymously, also acknowledged the failure of efforts to declutter the canals, canal-drains, and box culverts.

Dhaka currently has a network of 2,211 kilometres of drains, with 961km in the south and 1,250km in the north. True, ensuring the smooth function of such a big network is a big task, but there is no alternative to improving the capacities of the city corporations to properly maintain it. But even that will not be enough. Given the unregulated growth of Dhaka, experts have stressed the importance of a master plan to restore all the canals and waterbodies, and preventing their encroachment by unscrupulous entities. Addressing improper waste disposal is also critical. But most importantly, Dhaka's persistent waterlogging problem cannot be resolved without the sincerity of the relevant authorities.

Why are students still dying on roads?

RSF data paints alarming picture of road safety

Six years after the nationwide road safety movement that was sparked by the deaths of two high schoolers, nothing seems to have changed in terms of the safety of commuters, including students. According to the Road Safety Foundation (RSF), in the last five and a half years since 2019, some 34,478 people were killed in road crashes. Of them, 5,619 were studentsmaking up 16.29 percent of all victims. While all such avoidable deaths are tragic, student fatalities are of particular concern considering their young age, their importance for the nation's future, and their starring role in the 2018 movement and subsequent acquiescence by the government. But as statistics show, they continue to be victimised as before.

Following the movement, we heard the authorities make numerous promises about improving road safety. Committees were formed, new laws and regulations were passed, and many crores of taka were spent in various projects. All of that evidently came to naught, with thousands perishing on roads every year. As per RSF data, 2,641 (47 percent) student victims were between the ages of 5-17, while 2,978 (53 percent) were between 18-25. Moreover, 1,534 (27.3 percent) of them were pedestrians. The fact that vehicle drivers were often reluctant to aid victims even after having hit them is another worrying

The reasons RSF has identified as responsible for these incidents-including faulty roads and vehicles, lack of knowledge about safe road use, and reckless driving, including by student bikers—are well-known, which makes the glaring lack of results from government initiatives that much painful. According to a *Prothom Alo* report, over 600,000 vehicles are still operating without fitness certificates. One of the promises made after the 2018 movement was the removal of such vehicles from roads. How are so many of them still operating, then?

Clearly, the first thing we need at this stage is accountability for the failure of those behind such promises and initiatives. When a person dies in a road crash, it is not just the driver or vehicle owner who shares responsibility for it, but the system that protects or enables them is responsible, too. Over the years, we have seen how undue benefits and exemptions have been extended to transport associations. This needs to change. The authorities must go tough on those allowing unsafe vehicles and breaching other rules. They should also run awareness campaigns in educational institutions considering the vulnerability of students.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Twitter publicly launched

Co-founders Jack Dorsey, Evan Williams, and Biz Stone publicly launched their online microblogging service Twitter (currently known as X) on this day in 2006. Within the following decade, it gained more than 300 million users.

AUTOMATIC PRICING FORMULA FOR DIESEL

BPC can no longer cry wolf about losses



Until very recently, the prices of liquid

fuels such as diesel, octane, petrol and kerosene were fixed administratively

by the government. There were always

misgivings among the general public

that the government is arbitrarily

fixing the prices. Even though there

was a formula of sorts, it was never

revealed to the public. What transpired

was that the administratively set prices for a long period were in favour of

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

(BPC), the state-run company that imports, distributes and markets oil.

During this period, the international

crude oil price was very low, so the

BPC made a hefty profit. Consumers

felt they were being deprived of the

principle was that diesel, being a

common person's fuel, must be

subsidised, while petrol/octane, being

a rich person's fuel, must be taxed. As a

result, for a long time, diesel was much

cheaper than petrol. The BPC used

this cross-subsidy to manage its books.

The problem started when compressed

natural gas (CNG) was introduced and

thousands of vehicles moved away

from petrol. Moreover, the low price

of diesel prompted consumers to opt

for diesel vehicles. The cross-subsidy

was no longer working for BPC as

demand for petrol started to fall and

the consumption of diesel started to

the BPC when oil prices skyrocketed

as a result of the Ukraine-Russia

war. The financial burden became

so heavy that huge subsidies had to

be provided by the government to

balance BPC's books. The government

finally decided that it would no longer

subsidise diesel, so the diesel price was

increased from Tk 80 to Tk 110. This

had an immediate negative impact on

economic activities. Consumer prices

of foodstuff shot up, leading to an

inflation rate of over nine percent that

hike, the global oil price started to fall,

but the government did not bother

to reduce the domestic oil price.

When consumers started clamouring

for a reduction in energy prices, it

Soon after the massive diesel price

The situation became untenable for

increase at a rapid pace.

hasn't come down.

For a long, long time, the pricing

benefits of low oil prices.

Dr Ijaz Hossain is former dean of engineering Engineering and Technology (BUET).

IJAZ HOSSAIN

pricing, diesel has become a taxed already been felt with rising inflation. the BPC has to pay back. Therefore, the energy ministry in support of keeping the diesel price high is to prevent smuggling to India. At one time, the price differential was so high that a substantial quantity of diesel got smuggled to India. With the new

It is customary for the government product, the impact of which has to provide funding as loans, which The argument often furthered by in the annual accounting, debt servicing will show up as an expense. These projects are justified with the reason that they would help the BPC manage its operations better and thus save money, or at least the costs would be fully recovered. There



VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

The government understood it had to do something, and after much dilly-dallying, it introduced the socalled "automatic pricing formula" for petroleum products in March this year.

A comparison of diesel prices in six South Asian countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—reveals that Bangladesh has the second cheapest diesel price (Bhutan has the cheapest). However, a nearly Tk 108/litre price is a break from the old philosophy that diesel, the most important liquid fuel for developing countries, needs to be subsidised to foster the country's economic growth. India introduced the market-based pricing mechanism a long time back. Diesel price in India is high because of two taxes imposed on it: first, the federal government's excise duty, and second, the state government's VAL.

Whether diesel should be taxed or subsidised is a contentious issue. Some economists believe that since it is imported, it should not be subsidised. while another group believes it should responded by a nominal reduction, be subsidised especially for irrigation. which angered the public further. After the initiation of automatic

automatically set price, the differential is not high enough to encourage smuggling, given the associated risks and costs involved.

BPC has a tendency to show that it is incurring losses and often claims that it needs funds for development projects. The company has undertaken several such projects, of which the second refinery is the biggest. Among the significant projects undertaken by the BPC in the recent past are: i) a second refinery; ii) Bangladesh-India friendship pipeline to carry diesel; iii) Parbatipur-Siliguri transboundary pipeline; iv) a 238km pipeline from Chattogram to Godnile, Narayangani with an extension to Fatullah (8.29km), and Cumilla to Chandpur (59.23km) for diesel; v) a 17km pipeline for jet fuel from Pitalganj to Kurmitola; vi) HUKM onshore and offshore pipeline under single-point mooring (SPM) system for imported crude and refined petroleum oils from carrying vessels to ERL storage; and vii) a smart fuel distribution monitoring system (SFDMS) to modernise and streamline A longer version of this article is the fuel distribution process.

are, however, situations where these projects are inordinately delayed or face bottlenecks; the second refinery is a case in point. In such cases, the investment cost becomes a burden for

Another oft-raised issue is the subsidy provided to the BPC when diesel was sold at a price lower than the international price. It is important to note that if a subsidy has been provided, there is no justification for that expense to be shown in the BPC's books as an outstanding amount.

Following the introduction of the new pricing formula for petroleum products, there is no way that the BPC can lose money, because it is a costplus formula. The imported costs of petroleum products as well as the cost of delivery borne by the distribution companies as well as the BPC: financing and operation costs are all fully recovered. On top of that, there is the BPC's margin, which should cover development costs.

available on our website.

How our RMG industry empowered women



Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

RMG NOTES

Over the past few decades, Bangladesh has emerged as a global hub for the ready-made garment (RMG) industry. The sector has played a pivotal role in transforming the socioeconomic landscape of the country. At the heart of this transformation is the empowerment of women, who make up the vast majority of the RMG workforce. A report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) reveals that, as of 2020, our RMG sector employs around 32 lakh women. This sector's growth has created numerous job opportunities for Bangladeshi women, contributing to their economic empowerment while also playing a vital role in the growth of the economy

The RMG industry has provided lakhs of women, particularly from rural areas, with their first formal employment opportunities. This shift from informal, often agricultural work, to formal employment in garment factories has had profound implications for their economic status and independence.

Earningaregularincomehasallowed women RMG workers to contribute to their household finances, often making them primary breadwinners. This financial independence has given

them decision-making power within their families and communities. These women now have the means to invest in their children's education, healthcare, and better living conditions, leading to a positive cycle of development and improved quality of life.

Employment in the garment sector has also facilitated skills development. Many women enter the industry with little or no formal education. Through on-the-job training and experience, they acquire valuable skills in sewing, quality control, and production management. Some factories also offer literacy programmes and vocational training, further improving their capabilities and future employment prospects.

Beyond economic benefits, the RMG industry has been instrumental in fostering social empowerment of women in Bangladesh. By stepping into the workforce, women have challenged traditional gender roles and norms that often confined them to domestic duties. The presence of women in factories has gradually shifted societal perceptions of women's roles as well. As more women work outside home, the acceptance of women as economic contributors has increased.

Working in the garment industry has also facilitated greater social mobility for women. Employment has enabled women to move from rural areas to urban centres, exposing them to diverse cultures and ideas. This exposure has broadened their horizons, increased their awareness of rights and opportunities, and inspired many to pursue further education and

> The RMG industry has provided lakhs of women, particularly from rural areas, with their first formal employment opportunities. This shift from informal, often agricultural work, to formal employment in garment factories has had profound implications for their economic status and independence.

career advancements.

However, this growth is not without challenges. Workers often face issues such as stagnated wages, long working hours, and challenging working conditions. These challenges have also sparked advocacy and efforts to improve labour rights and working conditions in the industry. Indeed, the rise of the garment sector has led to the growth of labour unions and advocacy groups fighting for workers' rights. These organisations have been instrumental in negotiating better wages, improving working conditions, and ensuring compliance with the labour law. Women workers have played a crucial role in these

movements, often leading protests and strikes to demand fair treatment.

The Bangladesh government, along with international bodies and NGOs, has taken steps to address these challenges. The government had to take initiatives such as the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh and the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety to improve factory safety standards following the Rana Plaza disaster in 2013. Additionally, programmes aimed at promoting fair wages and gender equality in the workplace have been introduced, further supporting the rights of female

garment workers. Women's increased economic participation has contributed to community development. As women invest in their families and communities, there is a noticeable improvement in areas such as health, education, and infrastructure. Empowered women are more likely to participate in community decisionmaking processes, advocating for issues such as clean water, sanitation,

and better schools. I truly believe that Bangladesh's RMG industry is a testament to the transformative power of employment in empowering women and lifting them out of poverty. While challenges remain, the strides made in economic and social empowerment, skills development, and advocacy for rights are undeniable. As the industry continues to evolve, it holds the potential to further enhance the lives of crores of women, driving not only the economic growth, but also social progress and gender equality in Bangladesh.

NGOs can help citizens learn to use the RTI Act

are chairman and assistant director (RTI), respectively, of Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB). They can be reached at rib@citech-bd.com.

SHAMSUL BARI and RUHI NAZ

Recently, there has been a areas. perceptible increase in government advertisements promoting the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009, particularly on television. This is welcome news, indicating government recognition of the citizens' role in advancing good governance. The RTI Act was adopted, as enunciated in its preamble, to empower citizens to monitor the work of public offices by seeking relevant information on how they do their jobs. However, this is a complex task, as citizens must first understand the law's myriad possibilities to use it effectively.

Regrettably, there is still a significant lack of awareness about the full potential of the RTI Act. Due to its extensive nature, promoting its use through simple awareness sessions and advertisements is proving to be a challenging, if not impossible, task. The slogans used in ads, such as "Information is power," "Know your rights, ask for information," and "Access to Information is a citizen's right," may not resonate with the people. They require assistance in understanding the reasons for seeking information in the first place. Most individuals believe that information is only necessary for specific purposes and should be sought as and when required. Few realise that the law's primary objective is not to serve citizens' personal information needs, but to promote the larger public interest. They also need help in identifying specific goals for using

Despite the challenges, significant progress has been made over the last 14 years. Many citizens have learnt to use the law to check, for example, if the government's social safety net programmes for those in need are reaching them properly; if school scholarships are reaching the students in full and not being truncated by school authorities; if free medicine at public clinics for people in need is not being sold to others; if contractors are not cheating on construction materials, etc. This progress, largely due to the support of many NGOs, is a testament to the potential of citizen engagement in governance. To maintain this momentum, there is a need to expand the focus and areas of interventions. Government advertisements and efforts of the Information Commission alone cannot achieve this. Citizens need practical support to identify issues and process RTI applications, a role that only NGOs can effectively fulfil.

To help citizens identify issues of common interest likely to benefit from RTI interventions, we consulted citizen groups in different parts of the country engaged in utilising the RTI law. Based on that, we devised a list relating to key public interest sectors in governance. We cite them here as an indicative list to provide a base for further additions. Experience gained in using them will likely lead to higher engagement regular maintenance, repair, and

RTI interventions in the education

- Information on resource **procurement** management of schools/colleges to ensure they are properly and justly utilised.
- Information relating to fair recruitment and promotion of teachers and staff.
- Information on the functioning of management committees and the mechanism to assure their accountability, e.g., teachers' appointments, management of school funds, etc.
- Information related to admission practices, levying examination fees,

RTI interventions in the health

- Information relating to the management system of hospitals/ clinics, e.g., availability of doctors at
- Attendance of medical staff and their maintenance of time schedules. Procurement of medicines and medical equipment.

Information to check if healthcare services and resource distribution are available for all, including the disadvantaged.

Roles and duties of hospital

culverts and other infrastructure.

 Measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the tendering

· Measures to reduce corruption and mismanagement in the provision of public services, e.g., appointment of rightful candidates at public services is ensured, and unlawful transfers/ promotions are avoided.

intervention on public

Information on the bidding or tendering process, selection of suppliers, contract awarding processes, monitoring mechanisms progress, and management.

Information undertaken to reduce corruption and prevent wastage of public funds, e.g., avoidance of repeated extension of project completion period.

RTI intervention in social welfare programmes

 Measures taken to ensure just and equitable selection processes of rightful beneficiaries of specific services, e.g., pensions for old age, widow benefits, etc.

Information on how specific programmes, e.g., social safety net programmes, are implemented and coordinated at all levels. Measures to reduce corruption in the disbursement of funds under safety net programmes.

RTI objectives for infrastructure development

· Information on measures taken for efficient project implementations infrastructure



administration accountability.

•Cleanliness of hospital/clinic premises and toilets, how they are managed, and checking on the roster of duties.

· Information on the list of free services and free medicines and whether their availability is prominently displayed.

RTI interventions on local government

· Information on budgeting and expenditure on local development justifications projects, undertaking such projects, their progress, and who is responsible for monitoring and ensuring people's participation.

Information on how effective public service deliveries are and whether access to such public service

is ensured for all citizens. Measures to ensure fair implementation and distribution of development projects and resources.

Measures taken to ensure levels in more sensitive governance reconstruction of roads, bridges,

development and to corruption and avoid project delays. Information on who is specifically

accountable for such infrastructure's maintenance, repair, reconstruction. and operation. Clearly, this is a preliminary

and indicative list of issues related to limited sectors. However, they provide a basis to move forward. It must be noted, however, that identifying issues and transforming them into RTI requests are two different things. Experience has shown that ordinary citizens need support in both areas, more particularly in the latter regard. A few NGOs in the country have provided them so far as a part of their mission, though finding funds for them is not easy. Hopefully, they can continue to do so until the law strikes deeper roots. In a country where the more knowledgeable and educated section of society has largely remained aloof from using the RTI law, it is not difficult to understand the fate of the RTI Act in Bangladesh without NGOs' role in keeping it moving.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

DOWN

ACROSS

 Members of the force 5 Archaeologist's find Bean-bearing tree Find darling

12 Houston player 13 Praline nut

14 Fetters **16** Child **17** Egg layers **18** Spends time at the

21 Ram's mate 22 Is fearful of

mirror

23 Intended **24** Peaceful

26 Poker prize 29 Apply hastily **30** Dressed in

31 Cereal grain **32** Laundry problems **34** Impassioned

37 Detail map **38** "Tomorrow" musical

40 Halt

41 Whirl of water

39 Suspicious

6 Keats work 7 Ridiculed 8 Intelligence **9** Secret store 11 Finishes

15 Sports injuries

19 Tear

3 Louvre location

4 Before long

5 Keg need

20 Have lunch **22** Retro style

1 Kidney-shaped nut 2 Gas pump number 23 Atlas page 24 Bison's home

25 Hidden **26** Self-assured

27 Stubborn 28 Irritable

29 Couch **30** Diminished

33 Floor piece 35 2016 Olympics host **36** Slangy agreement

SATURDAY'S ANSWERS



New British Prime Minister Keir Starmer delivers his speech outside Number 10 Downing Street, following the results of the general election, in London, Britain on July 5, 2024.

A litmus test for UK's Labour Party

is director of Equality in Diversity CIC, secretary at the United Nations Association Luton, board member of Squared Housing Association, and policy adviser on UK Financial Services Regulation.

Brig Gen (retd) Dr M Sakhawat Hussain

is former election commissioner of Bangladesh and senior fellow at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University (NSU). He can be reached at hhintlbd@yahoo.com.

DAVID CHEESMAN and M SAKHAWAT HUSSAIN

was a political earthquake. The Conservative Party was almost wiped out. In the previous election in 2019, the Conservatives won a comfortable majority, with 365 seats, well above the 326 needed to form a majority. Labour, with only 203 seats, was humiliated. It was predicted that the Conservatives would be in power for the next 10

Instead, Conservatives threw their majority away. After losing his seat in 2024, Sir Brandon Lewis, a former Conservative justice secretary, accused his own party of giving the nation a "clown show" of self-indulgent infighting and posturing. There were three prime ministers in 2022 and one of them, Liz Truss, wrecked Britain's international reputation for Though disgusted with the financial competence. She broke Conservatives, voters consistently another record by becoming, at say they have little faith in any ceven weeks Britain's shortestwho frequently cited Liz Truss as may work to Labour's advantage. their reason for wishing to remove the Conservatives, took their revenge in this election by voting her out.

The 2024 election was marked by a steely determination on the part of the electorate to eradicate the Conservatives. There was no sign of great enthusiasm for the alternatives. Knowing this, Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer ran an exceptionally cautious campaign. The two main opposition parties, Labour and Lib Dem, took advantage of the national mood by concentrating their efforts on the seats they believed they could win. In the constituencies where either Labour or the Lib Dems polled second to the Conservatives in 2019, they did not actively campaign against each other. The results indicate ruthless tactical voting by the electorate, with the Lib Dem vote falling and the Labour vote rising in potential Labour gains and vice versa in potential Lib Dem gains. This confirms that many people voted for parties they did not support in order to kick out the Conservatives. This strategic campaigning won the Lib Dems 72 seats, their best result since 1923, and Labour 412 seats, their best since 1997.

The Conservatives were also fighting on the right. In 2019, the Reform UK Party entered into an election pact under which they would not stand against sitting Conservative MPs but Nigel Farage, the Reform leader, said at the beginning of the recent campaign that the Conservative Party was unfit to rule and his party should replace them. Reform's main manifesto commitment is for tougher immigration policies. The party only won five seats, but they received 15 percent of the national vote and many Labour and Lib Dem candidates won by sailing through the split in the Conservative/Reform vote. Some

The 2024 UK general election Reform Party so that they can emulate the success of Marine Le Pen's National Rally Party in France. Others argue that British elections are always won from the centre and so appeasing Reform Party voters would take them to the fringes of the far right, making them unelectable.

Though they commanding majority in the House of Commons, Labour's electoral support is therefore wafer thin. Few people in the UK electorate have strong party loyalties today. The Labour leadership is acutely aware that, if the Conservatives can throw away a majority, so can they. At around 60 percent, turnout was the lowest for 20 years. This reflects disillusion rather than apathy. politicians to make positive serving prime minister. Voters, change. Such low expectations

> The single most important foreign policy issue for Britain is the war in Ukraine, though Gaza has taken a big space in public domain. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is widely regarded as an existential threat to UK sovereignty. On his first day as prime minister, Starmer spoke to **Ukrainian President** Volodymyr Zelensky.

minister, Starmer set himself the task of managing expectations, stressing that change cannot come quickly. Instead, he stressed a change in tone. His government would bring back the ethos of public service and show that 'politics can be a force for good." If that message comes through, the electorate may trust them enough to give them a second chance at the next election to complete their task. As a demonstration of his commitment to action, he held his first Cabinet meeting on Saturday, July 6, less than 24 hours after becoming prime minister.

In his first speech as prime

The new government will focus on domestic policies, restoring the National Health Service, which the new Health Secretary has described as "broken," improving care services and education, increasing the number of affordable homes, and sorting out local government finance. Their main area of domestic vulnerability is probably immigration. The Reform Party prominent Conservatives believe outflanked the Conservatives on they should become closer to the this issue. If Labour finds itself on conflict or reconciliation?

the defensive about immigration at the next election, Reform might do the same for them.

The single most important foreign policy issue for Britain is the war in Ukraine, though Gaza has taken a big space in public domain. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is widely regarded as an existential threat to UK sovereignty. On his first day as prime minister, Starmer spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. A key factor in Labour's crushing defeat in 2019 was the contempt many traditional Labour voters had for Starmer's predecessor, Jeremy Corbyn. In doorstep interviews, they consistently said that they perceived him to be an unpatriotic pacifist who was not committed to NATO and could not be trusted to defend Britain.

Pacifism brings few votes and keeping Corbyn away from the military machine helped the Conservatives win many Labour seats in 2019. This line of attack failed in 2024. Starmer has restored Labour's credibility as a party of serious government by promising to increase defence spending, confirming unwavering support for NATO and taking a leading role in confronting Russia. Labour must maintain these commitments if it wishes to remain electable.

By contrast to Ukraine, Labour's position on Gaza is an electoral liability. Corbyn has been expelled from the Labour Party but he is back in Parliament as an independent MP, along with four other independents who stood with him on a platform of solidarity with Gaza. All constituencies with substantial Muslim populations saw a fall in support for Labour, in protest against Starmer's refusal to condemn Israel's aggression against Palestine. This cost Labour two of its most prominent shadow cabinet ministers who lost their seats to independents on the Gaza ticket. As a reminder that Palestine is a progressive issue not just a Muslim concern, Starmer's own majority was cut by 18 percent by a Jewish independent standing in support of Gaza. Andrew Feinstein is the South African son of a Holocaust survivor. He who was an MP for the African National Congress under Nelson Mandela. His wife is a Bangladeshi.

Given the fragility of Labour's vote, it cannot afford to alienate Muslims and progressives who have traditionally been among its strongest supporters. The Labour manifesto commits the party to recognising a Palestinian state "as a contribution to a renewed peace process," but without stating when this might happen. Given the domestic pressures, recognition of Palestine could be done quickly and at no cost if Labour is serious about rebuilding trust in politics.

We do not know what lasting changes the 2024 electoral earthquake will make to Britain's political landscape. That will depend on the performance of the Labour Party in office and the direction the Conservatives take when they select their new leader. The question remains: will the new prime minister contribute to the international politics of



Last year, the director announced that he would be directing the web-series 'Adom', based on a real-life incident. "We have completed shooting the series and the postproduction. Since the plot is sensitive, we are taking time before bringing it to the screens.

SHARMIN JOYA

Beginning his television journey with The *Life of Jalil* in 2019, he went on to elevate the industry with hits like the *Punorjonmo* series, Chirokal Aaj, Kaykobad, and Irina, among many others. His directorial OTT projects Redrum, The Silence, and Ami Ki Tumi -- are some of the remarkable ventures in his career. This Eid-ul-Azha, two of his directorial smallscreen projects were released-Tithidor and Hajot. Tomorrow, his short film Ekti Khola *Janala* will be released on Binge. The director dropped by The Daily Star to share insights on his way of direction, and spilled the beans on his future projects.

"If I am asked about my direction philosophy, I'll say that I have always remained honest with myself," shared the director. "During the initial stage of my career, many suggested that I should make popular genres such as comedy, however, I have always wanted to make gothic, dark, and psychological works, for which I had to wait. My never-compromising nature brought me where I am today."

Vicky attempts to reach the audience's

mind in a way that brings some discomfort, and lingers for a long time. This Eid-ul-Azha, *Tithidor,* featuring Mehazabien Chowdhury and written by Jahan Sultana, left many audiences in tears, and especially the female audience could find a connection with Tithi, portrayed by Mehazabien. With no commercial elements in it, no thrill, and telling a linear story, Vicky succeeded. However, for a male

director, it is difficult to justify the portraval of female psychology. How did Vicky cope with this? -- "This project is very close to my heart for two reasons. The character of Tithi reflects one of my close acquaintances, and I have seen closely how she suffers in her life and faces many criticisms, such as

being single in her mid-

30s. Due to her skin tone and texture, she was even bullied. Yet, she wins all the challenges and smiles amidst all her pain. Secondly, our executive producer Masudul Mahmud Ruhan ended his life last May, which was shocking for us. Through this story, I wanted to say that suicide is not the solution and there are people who, despite numerous struggles, give life a chance; because once it is gone, there is no coming back."

Vicky's experimental project *Tikit*, was released on Chorki earlier this February. Unlike his other projects, this one didn't engage viewers that much, and the director shared the reason behind this. "I wanted to try black comedy for the first time, and it was more of satire, which didn't work for me; however, I have no regret since I got to experiment."

"We have not yet revealed the protagonist of *Ekti Khola Janala*. He shares a resemblance

to a notorious criminal, who is alleged to have eaten raw human liver after digging them up from graveyards. This is a short film, and also one of my favourite types of projects."

Vicky's landmark Punorjonmo reached such heights that to date, wherever he goes, people ask about a spin-off possibility. For the readers, he spilled the beans: *Hajot* is the prequel of the

Punorjonmo universe. Since Rafsan Haque's character has reached the mass audience, this time we plan to make it larger than life. Hence, for that, we need time to create something

Last year, the director announced that he would be directing the web-series *Adom*, based on a real-life incident. "We have completed shooting the series and the postproduction. Since the plot is sensitive, we are taking time before bringing it to the screens."

Recently there has been a rumour that Afran Nisho and Vicky Zahed are set to collaborate for a silver screen project. To that, Vicky responded, "Nothing has been finalised, as of yet. We are in the initial planning stages. I do believe that the audience deserves our collaboration on the big screens, but only time



Dhallywood stars support Shakib Khan's new business venture

Pori Moni, Mim, Dighi, Puja Chery, and Keya Payel have solidified their positions in Dhallywood. They recently united at a press conference to support Shakib Khan's latest venture, Aponjon.

Held at a five-star hotel in Gulshan on last Saturday, the actresses stood cheerfully by Khan as he unveiled the Aponjon logo, representing his business initiative aimed at supporting small

Actor Eamon, the executive director of Remark, also attended. With this venture, Shakib Khan is expanding his influence beyond the film industry, making significant strides in the corporate world to benefit small traders in the country.

'Padatik' to premiere simultaneously in **Bangladesh and India**



much-anticipated Srijit Mukherji directorial film, Padatik, based on the life of legendary Bengali filmmaker Mrinal Sen, is set to premier in India and Bangladesh on the same day.

Produced on the occasion of the centenary of the iconic filmmaker Mrinal Sen, the biopic features Chanchal Chowdhury in the lead

role. He portrays Sen in both his youth and later years, while Korak Samanta plays the teenage Sen.

The film is set for an August 15 release in West Bengal and Bangladesh, coinciding with India's Independence Day.

Chanchal described the role as particularly challenging due to Sen's distinctive personality.

NEWS

The poor priced out of fresh veggies

Farmgate, and Karwan Bazar kitchen markets echoed the same.

This has left the poor and the lowincome group to make do with the lowquality, stale vegetables.

vegetables Low-quality often exhibit signs of spoilage such as wilting, discolouration and a lack of flavour, making them less desirable for consumption.

Thanks to the sudden spike in demand for stale vegetables, even their prices have increased by Tk 10-15 a kg in the capital's kitchen markets.

"How will we survive if stale vegetables become dear?" said Ramii Ali, a rickshaw driver who buys lowquality vegetables from the Farmgate

kitchen market. Food inflation stood at 10.42 percent

in June, the third straight witness double-digit figures.

If the prices rise the way they have, Ramii might have to cut out vegetables from his diet, "Vegetables were the last option we had," he said.

Bablu Miah, who sells low-quality vegetables near the Ibrahimpur kitchen market, acknowledged that the prices have surged by Tk 10-15 a kg within one

He sells brinjal at Tk 80-100 per kg, whereas the fresh ones are selling at Tk 00-140 per kg.

The long beans at his stall cost Tk 80-100 per kg; the fresh ones are selling for Tk 100-120 in the kitchen markets.

Bablu is selling stale spiny bitter gourd for Tk 80-90 per kg, whereas the highquality ones cost Tk 100-120 per kg.

He is charging Tk 70-80 a kg for the low-quality sponge gourd at his stall,

The vegetable wholesalers though maintain they have no other option but to give in to the law of demand and

"We used to bring vegetables from Manikganj but due to the continuous rains, all vegetable fields are submerged," said Mohammad Yeasin, a vegetable wholesaler at Karwan Bazar.

So the prices have gone up, he added. Nowhere was this more evident than in the case of green chilli, whose price have surged by as much as Tk 100 a kg in a week. Green chillies are now selling

for Tk 240-320 per kg. "We only received 20 kg of green chillies from Rangpur three days ago - we are now mostly dependent on imported green chillies," said Selim Hasan, a green

chilli trader at Karwan Bazar.

Alcaraz retains in June, the third straight month to whereas the fresh ones can be found at witness double-digit figures. whereas the fresh ones can be found at Tk 120-130 a kg. Wimbledon in style

the men's and women's game.

But he had no answers in the Centre Court sunshine as the electric Alcaraz pounded him from the back of the court and treated the crowd to an array of his trademark drop shots.

Alcaraz seized the initiative in a first game of breathtaking quality lasting 14 minutes, taking advantage of his fifth break point.

The Spaniard settled quickly into his routine on serve and went up a double break when Djokovic doublefaulted in the fifth game.

The shellshocked Serbian, playing in his 10th Wimbledon final, held serve to love to close the gap to 5-2 but dumped the ball into the net to hand the Spaniard the first set.

Alcaraz was immediately on the front foot in the second set, forcing a break in the first game and fending off pressure on his own serve to take a 2-0 lead.

A Djokovic backhand into the net in the seventh game handed Alcaraz another break point and a double fault put the defending champion 5-2 up and on the cusp of a two-set lead.

The Centre Court crowd, including Catherine, Princess of Wales, looked on in disbelief as their hopes for a titanic tussle evaporated.

Djokovic fended off another of clutch of break points early in the third set to stay alive and showed signs that he was finding his range. But the Spaniard carved out

three break points in the ninth game, arrowing a passing shot past his stranded opponent to move 5-4 Alcaraz stepped up to serve for

the championship but squandered three match points, missing a straightforward drive volley as Djokovic broke for the first time in the match.

But he recovered his composure quickly as the set went to a tie-break. Djokovic went wide with a forehand to give Alcaraz a 5-3 lead and the Spaniard won the title with

his fourth championship point. The result means Djokovic has still not beaten a top-ten player this year and has yet to win a title.

The Serbian will now turn his attention to the Paris Olympics as he seeks to win gold for the first time.

Frauds, criminals get govt jobs due to question leaks

Syed Abed Ali, who was arrested on July 8, mentioned the names of many others involved in the question-leak syndicate.

The HC bench said Abed Ali is not as powerful as those like (former IGP) Benazir Ahmed. "But those who are behind the leaks and sale of question papers are powerful.

"Does the investigating agency have the power to arrest them? If there is no power of arrest, then the order shall be made accordingly.'

DAG Shaifuzzaman said that around five lakh candidates participate in public examinations every year.

Of them, around 20,000 pass and then around 2,000 give the viva. Therefore, what the petitioner is

saying, regarding real merit not being recognised, is incorrect, he added.

The HC bench then said it is easier for candidates to pass if they have the question papers beforehand.

It adjourned the hearing for a week and asked the DAG to place a statement before it regarding the government's position on the issue at the next hearing.

BENAZIR ISSUE

During the hearing, the HC bench said Benazir Ahmed has left the country. "He must have had some channels. It was heard that he left through the airport. Was there no police officer there who knew Benazir? How did he get out of the country?'

DAG Shaifuzzaman, however, said there was confusion regarding his whereabouts

Three ex-bank

FROM PAGE 12

sentenced to five years; and Azmal, to seven years in jail each, ACC Public Prosecutor (PP) Abul Kalam Azad told the Daily Star.

"The court also ordered the convicted to return the embezzled money."

According to the case statement, the convicted worked together to embezzle over Tk 2.59 crore from Rupali Bank's Mahasthangarh Branch using pay orders between April 6 and April 9, 2017.

After the discrepancy in the accounts was found, the bank conducted an internal investigation, which followed a case filed by Habibur Rahman, the bank's deputy general manager at the time.

Univ teachers

FROM PAGE 12

themselves since July 1, and the introduction of a separate pay scale for public university teachers. While holding a four-hour sit-in at

the university premises. Sheikh Mashrik Hasan, general secretary of Jagannath University Teachers' Association, said, "We've decided to continue the movement until our demands are met. All teachers are in agreement. Although we held a meeting with a government representative on Saturday, we did not get any hopeful outcomes.

He said teachers will return to classrooms as soon as their demands are fulfilled. Meanwhile,

the Inter-University Officers' Federation, which had joined the work abstention over the pension scheme, also decided to continue their movement.

Saturday, the teachers representatives discussed demands with AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader. After the meeting, the teachers said the meeting "went well".

Quader said there was confusion regarding the "Prottoy" pension scheme to be effective from July this year, but it would be in force from July next year.

Hamas 'pulling out'

described the area as "a sandy 14-square-kilometre (5.4-square-mile) agricultural land, where people are left out in the open with little to no buildings or roads".

"The claim that people in Gaza can nove to 'safe' or 'humanitarian' zones is alse", said Lazzarini on social media site X. Israel said it had targeted Deif, the

head of the Al-Qassam Brigades, as well as Rafa Salama, a brigade commander. in a strike on Saturday.

30pc quota a right of FFs' descendants Islam Tushar and six other children should not be taken so lightly equating

three months from the date of receipt of this order.

The court, however, said the government can change, reduce or increase the ratio or percentage of the quotas in public jobs, if necessary, and can fill the vacant posts from the general merit list if any quota in government recruitment is not fulfilled.

"We noticed that several writ petitions were filed to maintain the quota reserved for freedom fighters, by different freedom fighters and their children, and in all writ petitions, this hon'ble court clearly held that the 30 percent quota reserved for freedom fighters and their children should strictly be maintained.

.. Since the Appellate Division has already settled the matter and affirmed the judgment and order of the High Court Division with the modification as quoted above, the same is binding upon us as well as all authorities of the state machinery as per articles 111 and 112 of our constitution and violation of the same is contemptuous," said the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Khizir Hayat in the 27-page verdict.

On June 5 this year, the bench declared illegal the circular, issued by the public administration ministry on October 4, 2018, which cancelled the quota system in government jobs, as it was issued without lawful authority.

The court delivered the verdict after a writ petition was filed by Ohidul

of freedom fighters challenging the legality of the circular.

The circular said that in the case

of direct recruitment to the posts of

9th grade (formerly class-1) and 10th to 13th grades (formerly class-2), the appointments should be made based Protesting the HC judgment on June students staged demonstrations

at different educational institutions, including Dhaka University. They took to the streets on July 1, demanding the reinstatement of the 2018 circular. Students intensified their protests across the country since July 4 as the Appellate Division of the Supreme

Court did not stay the HC verdict following a government petition. The protesters are carrying on demonstrations, demanding reforms of the quota system through the

formulation of a law "Quotas reserved for the freedom fighters and affected women were introduced absolutely recognition to the freedom fighters for their heroic contribution to the nation, which has also been extended to the children and grandchildren of the freedom fighters, a clear recognition

"Thus, it cannot be said to be a mere policy of the government as the same is absolutely given as recognition to the freedom fighters for their heroic contribution for emancipation of Bangladesh, which cannot be and

that the freedom fighters have achieved.

with other citizens of the republic.

"The heroic contribution of the freedom fighters, and suffering and pain sustained by the freedom fighters and their offspring during the nine months of our Liberation War and after August 15, 1975, to till 1996 -- 21 years

cannot be ignored, and the nation must have the highest regard to the freedom fighters, and anything is done derogatory or taken away the right and privilege should be treated as illegal and unconstitutional. "Such constitutional and legal right

of freedom fighters, their children, and grandchildren and others -- districts, omen, physically challenged persons, tribes, minor races, and ethnic groups are not being inconsistent with articles 28(4) and 29(3)(a) of the constitution, and the same cannot be taken away by the stroke of a pen as policy decision of the government," the HC said. The freedom fighters are pride of

our nation. Thus, we are of the view that during the period of August 15, 1975, to 1996, the freedom fighters, their children and grandchildren have been suffering socially, economically and politically, which makes them one of the nost backward sections of the citizen of this country," the HC judges observed. They further said the respondents

(the government) may take necessary steps by making rules or guidelines to ensure participation of backward sections of the citizen in the recruitment process of the government.

T SPORTS Lanka Premier League Kandy vs Dambulla Live from 3:30 pm Colombo vs Galle Live from 8:00 pm

100m is a challenge and an honour: Imranur

Imranur Rahman is set to become the first overseas-based sprinter and overall, the third overseas-based athlete to represent Bangladesh in the Olympics. The 31-year-old British-Bangladeshi, who won gold in the 60m event in the 2023 Asian Indoor Championships, spoke to The Daily Star's Anisur Rahman and shared his excitement for the July-August's Paris Games and how he is preparing for the event. Here are the excerpts:

The Daily Star (DS): Since Bangladesh's first appearance in the Olympics in 1984, track and field athletes have represented the country in every edition through wildcards. You will be continuing that tradition this year. How are you feeling after getting this opportunity?

Imranur Rahman (IR): It's an incredible honour to represent Bangladesh on the world's biggest stage. The wildcard entry is a recognition of the hard work and dedication I've put into my sport, and it's a great opportunity to showcase my abilities and make my country proud.

DS: How have you prepared to compete against the world's top sprinters?

IR: Preparation has been intense and focused. I've been working closely with my coach on refining my technique, improving my start and building my stamina. I've also been studying my competitors to understand their strengths and strategies, which will help me perform at my best.

DS: The 100m event is considered the most attractive and prestigious event in the Olympics. How do you view it?

IR: The 100m event is indeed prestigious and highly competitive. It's often the highlight of the track and field events because it showcases the fastest athletes



a tremendous challenge and an honour and I'm excited to see how I measure up against the best.

DS: So far. 17 track and field athletes have competed in the Olympics from Bangladesh and none of them have made it past the preliminary round. Are you hoping to become the first?

IR: It's a significant challenge, but I'm focused on giving my best performance. While breaking past records would be a tremendous achievement, my immediate goal is to perform to the best of my abilities and see where that takes me.

DS: You hold he national record in the 100m event, 10.11 seconds. Do you think it improving my timings and I want to set

in the world. Competing in this event is would be enough to qualify for the semifinals?

> **IR:** My personal best of 10.11 seconds is competitive, but the Olympics feature the fastest sprinters in the world. While it's possible that my best could qualify me for the semifinals, it will depend on the competition on the day. I'll focus on executing my race plan and hope for the

> **DS:** You have been steadily improving your timing in the 100m race. In 2021, you clocked 10.32 seconds, then 10.29 seconds in 2022 and 10.11 seconds in 2023. Are you hoping to surpass it in Paris?

> **IR:** I've been working hard to continue

a new personal best at the Olympics. However, every race is different and it's challenging to predict exactly how I will perform. I'll aim to deliver my best effort and hope it translates into a new record. But this is an if, something I cannot

DS: This year, you have only competed in the 60m event but you are going to compete in the 100m sprint in Paris. How difficult will it be for you to make that switch?

IR: Switching from the 60m to the 100m does present some challenges, particularly in terms of endurance and race strategy. However, I've been training specifically for the 100m, focusing on maintaining my speed over the longer distance. It will be a test, but I feel prepared.

DS: Apart from you, four other athletes from archery, shooting and swimming are going to take part from Bangladesh. What is your expectation from them in the Olympics?

IR: I have great respect for my fellow athletes and their dedication. Competing in the Olympics is a significant achievement in itself. I hope they perform to the best of their abilities and gain valuable experience. Each of us will strive to make Bangladesh proud in our respective disciplines.

Nadal to face Borg!

AFP, Paris

In the world of fantasy tennis, pitting Nadal against Borg may seem everyday but in the real world it has never happened before.

Sadly, although obviously given the age difference, fans at the ATP event in Bastad next week will not be watching the two kings of Roland Garros - Rafael Nadal and Bjorn Borg with 20 French Open titles between them.

Instead Nadal will be up against Leo Borg, the 21-year-old son of the long-retired former world number one, now 68.

"It was crazy because we were looking when they did the draw and my name just popped up against Rafa," said Borg, currently ranked 467 in the world. "I'm feeling very excited and it's going to be a great match."

According to his ATP biography, Borg has never watched a single point of his father's storied career which included six French Open titles and five successive Wimbledons.

Instead he credits Nadal as one of the reasons he turned to tennis as a child, making Friday's practice session together all the more special.

"It was a very good practice and of course he's been my idol since I was very young, so it's going to be a very special moment in my career," Borg said. "But I'm looking forward to that and I'm feeling

really, really excited." Borg's only ATP Tour match win last year was in Bastad against Elias Ymer.



Bielsa far from satisfied

REUTERS

Uruguay needed a late equaliser and penalties to beat Canada in Saturday's Copa America thirdplace playoff match, with coach Marcelo Bielsa saying the South American side had performed well below their level.

Uruguay, ranked 14th in the world, were on the verge of a shock defeat to the 48th-ranked Copa America debutants before Luis Suarez scored a stoppage-time goal to force a penalty shootout, which Bielsa's side won 4-3.

It wasn't a great performance. The draw at best, was barely deserved. I think that the opponent head coach's decision to prioritize physical aptitude instead of usual starters was more successful," Bielsa told reporters.

"I went with the usual starters in spite of them being weary. There were ups and downs. The chances created by both teams were even, but in all truth, we didn't play well.

"Regarding this third place, I do think Uruguay is one of the three best teams of this tournament. Even if this tournament came after long seasons and the tiredness affects players, I thought that given our roster, we could have played a bit better than what we showed."

Bielsa's counterpart Jesse Marsch said he was proud of the progress the team had made in a short period, adding: "The players are disappointed in the way that we gave the match away.

Records that fell at Euro 2024

AFP, Berlin

As the Euro 2024 came to a close on Sunday night with the final between Spain and England, here is a look back at some of the records that fell over the last month at Euro 2024.

Lamine Yamal: Youngest player and scorer

Spain teenage sensation Lamine Yamal made history in his country's opening game against Croatia by becoming the youngest player ever to appear in a European Championship game at the age of 16 years and 338 days.

In doing so he beat the previous record held by beat Poland's Kacper Kozlowski, who was 17 years and 246 days old when he appeared at Euro 2020.

Yamal, of Barcelona, then claimed another piece of history by becoming the youngest player ever to score a goal at the Euros in Spain's 2-1 semi-final win against France, at the age of 16 years and 362 days.

Pepe the oldest player

At the other end of the scale, Portugal defender Pepe claimed the record for the oldest player ever at a European Championship when he took to the field in his team's opening game against the Czech Republic at the age of 41.

He was 41 years and 130 days old by the time he appeared in the quarter-final against France -- an age at which almost every footballer has long since retired.



previous mark set by Hungary goalkeeper Gabor Kiraly, who was 40 years and 86 days old when he played against Belgium

at Euro 2016. Modric the oldest scorer

Luka Modric became the tournament's



The Porto centre-back passed the oldest goalscorer when he netted in Croatia's final game, a 1-1 draw against

> Modric was 38 years and 289 days old, breaking the record set by Austrian Ivica Vastic in 2008 by 32 days.

Croatia were eliminated in the group

stage, meaning that game is set to also go down as Modric's last ever at the tournament.

Ronaldo's sixth Euros

At 39, Cristiano Ronaldo had been hoping to claim the oldest goalscorer record for himself, but he failed to add to his all-time tournament best tally of 14 goals on Portugal's run to the quarterfinals, notably missing a penalty against Slovenia in the last 16.

Ronaldo did, however, claim other records. Having first appeared at the tournament in 2004, Ronaldo competed at an unprecedented sixth European Championship in Germany, and has now made a total of 30 appearances, at least seven more than any other player.

The fastest goal for Bajrami

Albania's Nedim Bajrami netted the fastest ever goal at a European Championship when he put his side ahead after just 23 seconds in their opening game against

Bajrami pulverised the previous Euros record for the quickest goal of 67 seconds by Dmitri Kirichenko of Russia against Greece in 2004.

However, his team went on to lose the game 2-1.

Merih Demiral of Turkey later scored the second-fastest goal by finding the net against Austria in the round of 16 after just 57 seconds.

'We have the best spin attack in the world'

Bangladesh's women's side are slated to play the Asia Cup in Sri Lanka, scheduled to begin on July 19, with an eye on the upcoming T20 World Cup at home in October. The Tigresses, however, have a lot to work out in the meantime as they suffered a slump in recent times, with batting being their main concern in series losses to Australia and India at home. Head coach *Hashan* Tillakaratne talked about how the Tigresses can recover from this slump, and use their spin advantage and their target in the Asia Cup during an interview with *The Daily Star's Abdullah Al Mehdi*. The excerpts of the interview are as follows:

The Daily Star (DS): How do you see the DS: Do you feel the team is sufficiently side going into the Asia Cup and how will the tournament help for the upcoming T20 World Cup at home?

Hashan Tillakaratne (HT): It's a good sign to have youth and experience on your side given leg-spinners and in women's cricket, batters that the T20 World Cup is around

the corner. This [Asia Cup] is a very good tournament for assessing ourselves and if we play well, we have every chance of winning the Asia Cup.

DS: There were batting mishaps in the last few series. Did you address the issues with the batters?

HT: Quite a few players are pushing for their places in the side. Obviously, everyone wants to play in the World Cup

and there is a bit of fear of failure. That's one of the reasons that often they look like they are negative and fearful of playing their shots. We have spoken about it -- about how they can free their minds. We haven't seen their true talents yet but we want them to go out there and express themselves.

equipped in the spin department, especially with three leg-spinners in the ranks?

HT: I feel we have the best spin bowling attack in the world right now. We have three to four are usually vulnerable to leg-spin.

> many. Our spin bowling coach Dinu [Dinuka Hettiarachchi] has done a lot for them. Subcontinent surfaces are slow and low and no matter how much effort you put in, they always

We are very fortunate to have so

tend to help spinners. spinners are genuine turners of the ball and the condition would support them.

DS: The spin dependency sort of backfired in the last two series against Australia and India. What's your take on it?

HT: I don't think the plans backfired. We had our chances in both the series. We missed chances badly because we fielded poorly against both India and Australia. The bowlers were spot on and they created opportunities.

DS: Has fielding improved? HT: Fielding has improved and fitness levels

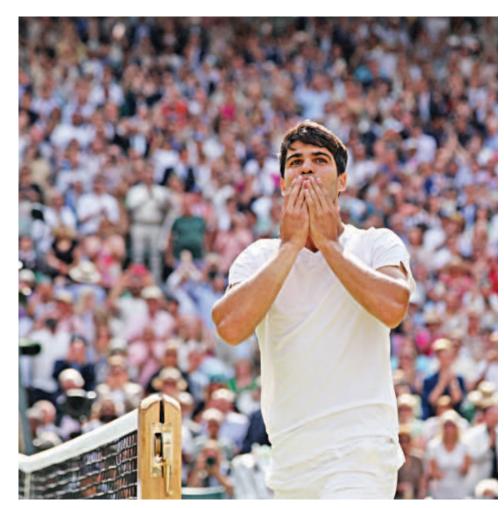
have gone up. Right now, I will give them seven out of 10 in terms of fitness.

DS: Bangladesh failed to win a game in the last four T20 World Cups. Do you feel it's Bangladesh's best opportunity this time?

HT: Yes, right now we are in a very good shape and I have a lot of faith in them. We are in good shape to progress to the last four. In the last three to four global tournaments, the players were not ready as they were still learning the trade and developing. They have played a lot of cricket since then and we have won games outside the country (The Tigresses have won an ODI and a T20I against South Africa in December last year). Victories gave them massive experience and they have started to believe that they are capable of beating any side in the world.

DS: Does the burden of expectations sometimes weigh high on skipper Nigar Sultana Joty?

HT: Yes, lots of pressure on her since she is one of our top batters. Sometimes she has to take the side out of trouble and consolidate. So there are lots of things she has to do along with keeping wickets and managing expectations. She is very capable and understands her game well. We are fortunate to have someone like her.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates after retaining his Wimbledon crown by defeating Serbia's Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) in the men's singles final at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in London, Britain yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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Alcaraz retains Wimbledon in style

AFP, London

Carlos Alcaraz overpowered seven-time champion Novak Djokovic in straight sets to retain his Wimbledon title on Sunday in a brutal statement that the new era of men's tennis has arrived.

The Spanish third seed produced a performance combining awesome power with delicate touch to win 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (7/4), collecting the fourth Grand Slam of his young career.

Alcaraz equals the Open Era record for most Grand Slams won at the age 21 or under, joining Boris Becker, Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander.

And he is just the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon back to back. Djokovic, 37, who had knee surgery just weeks ago, was aiming to win a 25th Grand Slam -- which would have been a record in



Students of Dhaka University dormitories came out in droves around 11:00pm yesterday to protest against a comment Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made on quotas at a press conference last afternoon. The photo was taken around 1:00am. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

30pc quota a right of FFs' descendants Savs HC in full text of its judgment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court, in the full text of its judgment, has justified the provision for keeping 30 percent quota for freedom fighters' children in government jobs in the light of two previous verdicts -- one delivered by this court in 2012 and another by the apex court in 2015.

The court also observed that this privilege has become legal and a vested right of freedom fighters, children, grandchildren as sufferings over 21 years (August 15, 1975, to 1996) made them "most backward section of citizens".

The HC also directed the government to restore and maintain the quotas for "districts, women, physically challenged tribes, minor people, races, and ethnic groups and others, if any," and to publish a notification in this regard as soon as possible preferably within SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Frauds, criminals get govt jobs due to question leaks

HC expresses concerns at hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed concerns over the incidents of question paper leaks, saying frauds and criminals have managed government jobs, like in the Bangladesh Civil Service, thanks to

"Many have taken advantage of the

question paper leaks, which cannot be accepted," the HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Quader and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu said during the hearing on a writ petition.

"It is very painful for us as it deprives meritorious candidates of jobs."

Murad Bhuiyan, executive director of Sarda Society, a human rights organisation, recently filed the petition with the HC, seeking its order to conduct a judicial probe into question leaks.

In the petition, he said the maximum

punishment for those involved should be life imprisonment.

"A judicial committee should be formed to find those who became cadres between the 24th and 45th BCS exams with the help of leaked questions by people like Syed Abed Ali [an arrested former driver of a Public Service Commission chairman]. The committee

should be asked to publish the list." Saying it is a matter

of concern that BCS exam questions are repeatedly leaked. the HC bench asked why those who are in the Public Service Commission are unable to stop "If they can't [stop it], they are

incompetent."

Terming the

repeated BCS

questions leaks

concerning, the HC

asked why the PSC

is unable to stop it.

Deputy Attorney General SK Shaifuzzaman told the HC that a case has been filed over the BCS question leak incidents, and police are investigating it.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

PENSION SCHEME ROW

Univ teachers to press on with work abstention

Says meeting with govt representatives ended in 'stalemate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public university teachers continued their work abstention yesterday demanding the reinstatement of their previous pension scheme.

The decision was taken at a virtual meeting of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association

This meeting was called to discuss Saturday's conversations between teachers and government representatives, which they termed as "fruitless"

"As our demands have not been met, we've decided to continue with our movement," Professor Akhtarul Islam, the president of the association, told The Daily Star. This means the suspension of classes, exams, and other

academic activities, which have been in effect for around two weeks, will continue. Yesterday, the teachers at most of the 35 public universities staged sit-in demonstrations on their campuses, demanding the cancellation of the new

"Prottoy" pension scheme and the reinstatement of their previous scheme. They have also been demanding a super grade for SEE PAGE 10 COL 6 ATTACK ON MILITARY CHIEF

Hamas 'pulling out' of Gaza truce talks

AFP, Palestinian Territories

A Hamas official yesterday said the group is pulling out of Gaza truce talks, following an Israeli strike that targeted the Hamas's commander Mohammed

"Commander Mohammed Deif is well and directly overseeing" the operations of the Hamas military wing, the official told AFP. Israel staged a huge bombing raid on a camp for displaced people in southern Gaza on Saturday that it said was an attempt to kill Deif.

Another senior official from the Iranbacked Islamist group, which has been fighting a nine-month-long war with Israel in the Gaza Strip, said Hamas was withdrawing from ceasefire talks because of Israeli "massacres" and the country's attitude in negotiations.

The health ministry in the Hamasrun Gaza Strip said at least 92 people had been killed, more than half of them women and children, and 300 wounded

in a strike on the Al-Mawasi camp. Ismail Haniveh, Hamas's Oatarbased political chief, told international mediators of the "decision to halt negotiations due to the occupation's (Israel) lack of seriousness, continued policy of procrastination

obstruction, and the ongoing massacres against unarmed civilians", the official

Talks mediated by Qatar and Egypt, with US support, have for months tried but failed to bring a halt to the war in the Gaza Strip.

Top Hamas official says military chief Deif 'fine' after Israeli strike

At least 92 were killed in Saturday's strike in an Israelidesignated 'safe zone'

Death toll in Gaza reaches 38,584

Al-Mawasi, where the health ministry said dozens had been killed, had in May been declared a safe humanitarian zone by the Israeli military and civilians ordered to evacuate to it. However, there have been multiple deadly incidents there blamed on Israeli strikes.

Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA,

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RUPALI BANK Three ex-bank officials jailed over Tk 2.59cr embezzlement

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Three former Rupali Bank officials, along with three of its clients, were sent to jail yesterday over the embezzlement of Tk 2.59 crore from the bank's Mahasthangarh Branch in Bogura seven years ago.

They are former branch Jobayenur manager Rahman, former senior Ishrat Jahan officers Mahatab Uddin, and bank clients Azmal Hossain, Jahidul Islam, and Mosharof Hossain.

The accused present in court when they were given different jail terms in the verdict pronounced by Judge Md Shahidullah of the Special Judge Court of Bogura in the afternoon.

Jobavenur sentenced to 27 years; Ishrat and Mahatab were SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Spain substitute Mikel Oyarzabal celebrates after sliding in for an 86th-minute winner to earn his team a 2-1 Euro 2024 final victory over England on Sunday and a record fourth European crown. England had levelled through a Cole Palmer strike after Nico Williams put Spain ahead in the second half but Luis de La Fuente's side made a stunning late comeback to win all seven games they played in the tournament.

The poor priced out of fresh veggies

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

The prices of almost all vegetables have crossed the Tk 100-mark, piling pressure on the poor and the low-income segment already battling with a cost of living crisis for the past two years.

		Yesterday	Last week
kg (E	Bitter gourd	Tk 120-140	Tk 80-100
ABLE per kg)	Brinjal	Tk 100-140	Tk 80-100
	Long beans	100-120	Tk 80-100
M M	Spiny bitter gourd	Tk 100-120	Tk 80-90
	Bottle gourd	Tk 100-120	Tk 60-80

From brinjal to bitter guard, long beans to spiny bitter gourd, from sponge gourd to bottle gourd, all now cost upwards of Tk 100 a kg after prices shot up by Tk 20-30 in

a week because of the monsoon. Nasir Uddin, a fresh vegetable trader at Ibrahimpur kitchen market, said his sales have decreased by one-third due to the price hike.

"I am known for selling fresh vegetables. For the last few days, due to the price hike, many of my customers have been unable to buy fresh vegetables," he said.

Many other vegetable traders in the capital's

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1