



Pedestrians use a rope to stay on course as floodwater rushes across the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Feni's Lalpool area yesterday. Vehicles heading for Chattogram are seen crawling their way through. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Flash floods wreak havoc in 12 dists

Five killed, 10 go missing as vast areas inundated in Sylhet, Chattogram divisions



FAMILIES affected: 5.86 lakh
PEOPLE affected: 37 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flash floods induced by heavy rains and rush of water from upstream have caught millions of people off guard, giving them no time to evacuate their homes across Chattogram and Sylhet divisions over the last two days.

At least five people drowned and 10 others went missing as rivers burst their banks submerging vast swathes of land.

Railway communications in the two divisions were suspended yesterday and the authorities cancelled 26 trains.

The situation in Cumilla, Noakhali and Feni was particularly worrying as the Muhuri and Feni rivers kept swelling throughout yesterday.

All the major rivers in the northeastern and eastern regions were overflowing.

The other affected districts are Laxmipur, Brahmanbaria, Chattogram, Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.

It is likely that there will be less rain today and the level of water will begin to fall tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, according to Sarkar Uday Raihan, executive engineer at the flood forecasting centre.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Jt initiative needed to deal with floods

Chief adviser tells Indian envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday proposed a high-level collaboration between Bangladesh and India to manage floods and emergencies.

He put forward the proposal when Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma paid a courtesy call on him at the State Guesthouse Jamuna in the capital.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam briefed the media at the Foreign Service Academy after the meeting.

Yunus said Bangladesh and India share many rivers and high-level collaboration between the two countries would help dissemination of information fast and prompt decision-making.

The Nobel laureate also emphasised the need for the two countries working

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

NBR seeks bank details of 5 business tycoons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue yesterday asked banks to provide account details of the chiefs of five business giants who benefitted much during the Awami League rule of 15 years to scrutinise their tax compliance.

The revenue authority's Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) sought the details of Salman F Rahman, vice-chairman of Beximco; Nazrul Islam Mazumder, chairman of Nassa Group; Mohammed Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Group; Ahmed Akbar Khan, chairman of Bashundhara Group; and Mohammad Obaidul Karim, chairman of Orion Group.

The NBR sought information on term deposits, savings accounts, current accounts, loan accounts, foreign currency accounts, credit cards, lockers and vaults owned by the tycoons are their family members beginning July 1, 2015.

In a notice, the tax administration said its CIC has started a special inquiry

into the allegation of tax evasion by the persons who made a lot of wealth.

As such, the cell has prepared a list of tax dodgers based on specific information and by analysing media reports.

The move comes days after NBR's two field offices asked banks to provide

TYCOONS UNDER SCANNER

BEXIMCO VICE-CHAIRMAN
Salman F Rahman

NASSA CHAIRMAN
Nazrul Islam Mazumder

SUMMIT CHAIRMAN
Mohammed Aziz Khan

BASHUNDHARA CHAIRMAN
Ahmed Akbar Khan

ORION CHAIRMAN
Mohammad Obaidul Karim

account details of Chattogram-based businessman Mohammed Saiful Alam, the chairman of S Alam Group, and his family members, and the VAT Commissionerate Chattogram formed four teams to audit the VAT compliance of 18 concerns of S Alam Group.

The NBR said it would detect tax evasion through its special investigation into those who made huge wealth under the Income Tax Act 2023 and the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012.

The tax detectives also requested the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, the National Savings Directorate and the other related offices to provide information.

The CIC said its special investigations to hunt tax dodgers will continue.

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'Opening of dam gates sans notice inhuman'

Adviser Nahid blames India for flash floods here

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opening the gates of a dam by India without any prior notice is "inhuman", Information and Broadcasting Adviser Nahid Islam said yesterday.

He asked the neighbouring country to stop its "anti-people policy" towards Bangladesh, saying that India should change its approach so that the two countries can build fairer relations.

"We can see the upstream water coming in and causing a flood situation. India has

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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১৮ আগস্ট ২০২৪

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় ও এর অধীন দপ্তর/সংস্থার ডিশন, মিশন ও কার্যাবলীর সাথে সম্পর্কিত বিষয়াদি সম্পর্কে গবেষণার জন্য 'সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় গবেষণা মঞ্জুরি/অনুদান নীতিমালা ২০২২' এ বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন গবেষণাগারের নিকট হতে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। গবেষণার ক্ষেত্র, গবেষকের যোগ্যতা, গবেষণা প্রস্তাবের ধরন, কাঠামো, প্রস্তাব মূল্যায়ন, অনুমোদন, গবেষণার মেয়াদ, মঞ্জুরির পরিমাণ ও সাধারণ শর্তাবলি ইত্যাদি সম্বলিত নীতিমালা ও বিস্তারিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটের (www.moca.gov.bd) নীতিমালা ও প্রকাশনা সেবা বন্ডের নীতিমালা ম্যানুতে পাওয়া যাবে। উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও নীতিমালা অনুসারে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব আগামী ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে এ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব মহোদয় বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে। গবেষণা প্রস্তাবের আবেদন ফরম উক্ত ওয়েবসাইট থেকে ডাউনলোড করতে হবে। অগ্রহী গবেষণাগারকে গবেষণা প্রস্তাব প্রস্তুত ও দাখিলের পূর্বে 'সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় গবেষণা মঞ্জুরি/অনুদান নীতিমালা ২০২২' পূঞ্জানুপূঞ্জভাবে পাঠ ও অনুসরণ করার জন্য পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো।

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No bar to publishing Tarique's statements

Says HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for print, electronic and social media to publish and broadcast BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman's statements.

The HC bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Khairul Alam passed the order, scrapping its previous orders that banned publishing and broadcasting Tarique Rahman's statements in the media, and also lifted a rule issued in 2015 to this effect.

The HC bench's order came a day after writ petitioner and Supreme Court lawyer Nashreen

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Prof Golam Murshid passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Prof Golam Murshid, an eminent essayist and researcher, passed away in London yesterday, aged 84.

The Ekushey Padak recipient left behind his wife, a son, a daughter, and many relatives and well-wishers.

Prof Swarachish Sarker from the Institute of Bangladesh Studies at Rajshahi University confirmed the news of his death, citing Golam Murshid's wife, Eliza Murshid.

Born on April 8, 1940, in Barishal, Golam Murshid earned his master's degree in Bangla language and literature from Dhaka University.

He began his career at Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh before joining the Bangla department at Rajshahi University.

From January 1984 to 2003, he worked for the BBC Bangla Service. He also engaged in teaching and research at various universities, including Melbourne University in London, starting in 1991.

Golam Murshid was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2021 for his contribution to Bangla language and literature. He had earlier received the Bangla Academy Sahitya Puraskar in 1982. His notable works include Bangla Ganer Itihas, Biddhohi

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Over 500 patients, all of whom were injured during the recent mass uprising, are currently receiving treatment in government and private hospitals according to DGHS. Some are students, others blue-collar workers many of whom have lost their eyesight and even their limbs. The photo was taken at DMCH recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Shot during protests, they now stare at a bleak future

Medical bills burden families of the injured

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and AHMED DEEPTO

Asif Mahmud, a first-year electrical engineering student at Faridpur Polytechnic Institute, will probably never see the world through his own eyes again.

The 19-year-old's eyes were injured by shotgun pellets on July 18, during the anti-discrimination student movement in Narsingdi. On that day, his right eye was fully damaged, while the left one was in a critical condition.

Desperate to restore his eyesight, his family took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, National Institute of Ophthalmology & Hospital (NIOH), and Bangladesh Eye Hospital.

They spent around Tk 1.5 lakh, but in vain, with doctors still unable to tell whether Asif would ever be able to see again.

Just two days back, on Wednesday, he was released from Bangladesh Eye Hospital and returned home. Now, his family wants to take him to India for better treatment, but bearing the cost has become an immense challenge for them.

Like Asif, family members of numerous others who were injured during recent protests are concerned about bearing treatment costs.

The Daily Star visited three hospitals



— DMCH, NIOH, and National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) — in the capital in the last three days and spoke to 27 such families.

While many are struggling to cover the costs of treatment, others are taking loans to bear expenses.

Although treatment and medication at these three hospitals are free, they had to spend a significant amount of money on ambulances and other miscellaneous expenses.

According to Directorate General of Health Services, over 500 patients are currently receiving treatment in government and private hospitals.

Almost all the admitted patients are from low-income families. Some are students, others are from blue-collar working backgrounds, and some are the sole breadwinners from their families.

The interim government on Saturday decided to provide free treatment to those who were injured during the recent protests.

However, while hospital authorities provide certain medicines for free, many other medicines have to be bought from outside, said several family members of the injured.

Doctors also said that many patients need long-term treatment, as they were injured severely.

For instance, take the case of auto-rickshaw driver Shajib Khan. The 28-year-old who is the sole breadwinner of a four-member family, was shot in the right arm on July 19 in Badda. He also suffered wounds from shotgun pellets. Currently, he is admitted to Nitor.

Shajib had to undergo three surgeries, which have left his family with a huge financial burden.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

DMP appoints new OCs to 13 police stations

STAR REPORT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police has appointed new officers-in-charge at 13 police stations in the capital.

DMP Commissioner Md Mainul Hasan made the appointments in two separate orders on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The police stations are Dakshinkhan, Pallabi, Gulshan, Vata, Khilkhet, Ramna, Paltan, Badda, Airport, Mirpur Model, Tejgaon, Dhanmondi, and Uttara West.

On Tuesday, Muhammad Azharul Islam was appointed as OC of Shahbagh Police Station in an order, but the appointment was later cancelled on Wednesday.

Earlier, on August 12, the Police Headquarters in an order transferred 18 OCs of DMP to different police units outside Dhaka. Then again on August 18, PHQ in another order transferred 32 OCs of DMP to different police units outside Dhaka.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

LATHITILA RESERVE FOREST Govt to reassess controversial safari park project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Despite serious concerns from experts and activists over endangering the pristine biodiversity of Lathitila Reserve Forest in Moulvibazar, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council in November last year approved a project to build a safari park there.

The project was named 'Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, Moulvibazar (1st Phase)'.

However, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the interim government has decided to scrutinise the plan to build the safari park and formed a four-member committee on Wednesday to assess the impact of the project on the reserve forest's biodiversity.

The committee, headed by former chief conservator of forests Istiaq Uddin Ahmed, will submit its recommendations after assessment.

Other members of the committee are: Dr Mohammed Mostafa Feeroz, professor of Zoology of Jahangirnagar University; Farid Uddin Ahmed, former executive director of Arannayk Foundation; and Imran Ahmed, conservator of forests of the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Circle of the Forest Department.

Lathitila is a 5,141 acre, mostly hilly forest beat of Juri Forest Range under Patharia Hill Reserve. The transboundary forest is linked to the vast forestland of India and has been a reserved forest since 1920 under the Forest Act.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Students protest blaming India for flash floods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from several public universities yesterday staged demonstrations, rallies, and torch processions blaming India for the current flash floods in Bangladesh.

They also demanded fair water-sharing agreements with India.

They said the opening of the Dumbur dam upstream of the Gumti river in Tripura is the reason behind the sudden floods.

The universities include Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Islamic University, Barisal University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Begum Rokeya University, Jashore University of Science and Technology, and Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology, among others.

Meanwhile, India yesterday refuted claims of causing floods in Bangladesh.

The flood situation in eastern Bangladesh has not been caused by the release of waters from an Indian dam on the Gumti river in Tripura, said India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In DU, students of several educational institutions held a torch procession from the TSC around 7:00pm and marched through various roads on the campus.

During the procession, the students chanted slogans directed at India, including "Bharatiya agrashon rukhe darqao jonogon (People, stand against Indian aggression)", alongside other slogans.

In JU, a few hundred students, alongside some teachers, organised a torch procession under the banner of Anti-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Farzana Rupa, Shakil on four-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Shakil Ahmed, former head of news at Ekattor Television, and its principal correspondent Farzana Rupa on a four-day remand for interrogation in a murder case.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ahmed Humayun Kabir granted the remand after investigation officer Mohaiminur Rahman, a sub-inspector of Uttara East Police Station, requested a 10-day remand, according to Md Abu Nowsher, a court sub-inspector.

Earlier, a defence lawyer sought bail and opposed the remand prayer.

Witnesses reported that some lawyers verbally abused Shakil and Rupa in the courtroom.

Additionally, a lawyer allegedly struck Rupa on the head as she was being escorted to the lockup by police after the hearing.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

UN rep stresses journo's safety

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The safety and wellbeing of journalists anywhere in the world is of critical importance, especially for any country like Bangladesh that is going through a transition, said UN Secretary-General's Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric yesterday.

"It is important that journalists be allowed to do their work and that those who commit violence against journalists be held to account," he said in a briefing in New York.

Dujarric's comment came while he was responding to a query on the attacks on East West Media Group, owned by the Bashundhara Group, in Dhaka.

The journalist asked Dujarric for comment, mentioning that journalists are suffering from insecurity since newspaper offices of East West Media Group were attacked and vandalised on Monday afternoon, because the criminals involved

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Amid ongoing inflation, a large crowd gathers in front of this open market sale to purchase essential commodities at reduced prices. Each person is allowed to buy only five kilogrammes of rice and flour each at a time. The photo was taken on the Abdul Gani road in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ODHIKAR Refusal to renew reg illegal: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ruled in favour of human rights organisation "Odhikar," allowing it to seek renewal of its registration and receive foreign donations.

The court declared the government's previous decision not to renew its registration as illegal.

Odhikar, established in 1994, has been instrumental in documenting cases of enforced disappearances and supporting victims' families. It had applied multiple times since 2014 to the NGO Affairs Bureau for registration renewal but was repeatedly denied.

Odhikar filed a writ petition with the HC in 2022, challenging the Bureau's inaction.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Sashanka Shekhar Sarkar delivered the verdict, removing legal barriers for Odhikar's registration and fundraising efforts.

In a related case, the HC yesterday overturned a lower court's verdict that sentenced Odhikar's former Secretary, Adilur Rahman Khan, and current Director, ASM Nasir Uddin Elan, to two years' imprisonment under the ICT Act. The charges stemmed from allegations of publishing a "distorted report and doctored images" about a 2013 police crackdown on a Hejajat-e-Islam rally.

The HC bench of Justice Abdur Rob accepted their appeal, clearing both individuals of all charges.

Prof Golam

FROM PAGE 3
Ranaklanto: Nazrul Jiboni, Adhunikotar Abhigate Bangaramni, Muktijuddho o Tarpor, Bangla Bhashar Udbhab o Annyanno, Hazar Bochorer Bangalee Sangskriti, and Ashar Cholone Bhuli.

Govt to reassess controversial Safari Park

FROM PAGE 3
It is home to 209 species of unique fauna and 603 species of flora, including the northern pig-tailed macaque, hoolock gibbon, otters, Chinese pangolin, Asiatic elephant, fishing cat, and Indian leopard.

In 2020, the project's feasibility study and masterplan were initiated under the vested interest of Shahab Uddin,

former minister of environment, forest and climate change, and also lawmaker of Moulvibazar-1 constituency.

The Daily Star on July 3, 2021 published a report titled 'Greens worried as new safari park planned' on the concerns raised for the reserve forest.

The Transparency International, Bangladesh on August 7, 2021, urged

the government to revoke the plan. On August 26, a delegation of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association inspected the forest and commented that over 10,000 trees would have to be felled to implement the project.

However, on October 25, 2021, the ministry concerned went on to approve the plan.

Criticising the move,

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon at a roundtable urged the government not to advance with the plan.

On October 18 last year, eminent citizens and activists Sultana Kamal, Shamsul Huda, Khushi Kabir, Dr Itteharuzzaman, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Alamgir Kabir and Mokaram Hossain wrote a letter to the government not to approve the project.

Farzana Rupa, Shakil on four-day remand

FROM PAGE 3
The two journalists were arrested at Dhaka airport on Wednesday and later shown arrested in the murder case filed with the police station.

Anowar Hossain Aynal, a decorator, filed the case under Sections 302, 114, and 109 of the Penal Code, accusing 39 named and unnamed individuals,

including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, over the death of his brother

Fazlul Karim during anti-government protests in Uttara on August 5.

The case documents show that the duo's names were not listed in the FIR; they were arrested as unnamed suspects.

Ekattor Television terminated Shakil and Farzana on August 8.

Meanwhile, the Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM) called on authorities

to ensure the protection of Shakil and Farzana, emphasising their right to a fair trial and protection from judicial or police harassment.

"We urge the interim government to affirm its commitment to press freedom, ensuring that all journalists and media outlets can operate without fear of retribution or targeted campaigns stemming from their

journalistic pursuits," it said in a statement.

In addition, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) yesterday expressed deep concern over the arrest of the journalist couple.

In a letter to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, RSF Director General Thibaut Bruttin urged the interim government to release them immediately and ensure their safety.

Students protest

FROM PAGE 3
Discrimination Student Movement around 7:30pm. Later, they held a rally at the university Shaheed Minar.

During the procession, students were seen chanting similar slogans as heard in DU.

In RU, several hundred students, alongside teachers from different departments, under the same banner, brought out a procession and staged a rally at the university's main gate at 1:00pm.

Golam Kibria Chowdhury Mishu, coordinator of anti-discrimination student movement, said, "For the past 53 years, Indian government has been torturing Bangladesh in different ways."

Students from Islamic University in Kushtia and Barisal University held processions from their campuses and staged

rallies in nearby areas.

JnU students also staged a demonstration early yesterday at the university's main gate.

Students of SUST, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh University of Textiles, and Dhaka College also brought out protest programmes with similar demands in the last two days.

Besides, a seven-member delegation representing a faction of Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday submitted a six-point message to the Indian High Commission.

The demands include immediate closure of all dams opened towards Bangladesh within 24 hours.

Mohakhali ramp

FROM PAGE 5
which operates the expressway, told The Daily Star.

He said a very low number of vehicles usually use the ramp. So, one toll booth will be enough for the operations.

However, he could not say when the exit ramp at the FDC gate (Karwan Bazar) would be opened as one of the pillars there was torched.

No bar to publishing

FROM PAGE 3
Siddiqua Lina submitted an application before it saying that she would no longer run the petition upon which the HC issued the rule and ad-interim orders at different times.

"All the ad-interim orders passed in connection with the writ petition are hereby recalled (withdrawn) and vacated and the rule is discharged," the bench said.

Barrister Kayser Kamal appeared for Tarique Rahman during the court's proceedings yesterday.

Contacted, Advocate Nashreen Siddiqua Lina refused to make any comment about her decision for not running her petition.

Earlier on January 7, 2017, following the same

Unidentified arsonists torched the Banani toll booth on July 18 and the Mohakhali toll booth the following day amid the countrywide unrest, causing the suspension of services.

The authorities resumed operations of the expressway, except for the three ramps, from August 11. They resumed manual and limited operations of Banani ramp from August 15.

UN rep stresses jurnos

FROM PAGE 3
Speakers at the event stressed the vital role of media in exposing societal issues and contributing to national development.

They also said the media is not an enemy of the people, rather it serves as a mirror to reflect the flaws in the society.

They called for strict legal action against those responsible for the attacks.

On August 19, miscreants launched an attack on the East West Media Group Complex in Dhaka, which houses Kaler Kantho, Bangladesh Pratidin, Daily Sun, Bangladesh24.com, News24 TV, T Sports TV, and Radio Capital.

Shot during protests

FROM PAGE 3
"I have had no income for the last month. We have already spent Tk 45,000 for my treatment, of which we borrowed Tk 30,000. The surgery cost almost nothing, and the hospital is providing medicine. But still, some medicines and injections have to be bought from outside," said Shajib.

"Doctors said I will require another surgery, and another month to recover," he added.

A total of 142 injured protesters, including 47 students, are currently undergoing treatment at Nitor.

Officials at Nitor said 13 people who were shot lost their legs. One person also lost an arm. A total of 642 people were treated at Nitor from July 12 to August 14. So far, five people have died at the hospital after arriving with gunshot injuries.

Mozaffar Hossain, joint director of Nitor, told The Daily Star, "We've formed a committee to identify what kind of support is needed for the injured. Those injured in the anti-discrimination movement, including students, will receive support."

He said the medicines purchased from outside will be adjusted if the bills are submitted to the hospital.

Another patient at the facility, Mohammad Akash, 19, lost his left leg, as doctors had to amputate it.

While talking to The Daily Star, his father Dulal Miah said he was taken to five hospitals after he suffered bullet wounds in Narayanganj.

"Akash worked at a sweet shop. We borrowed Tk 3.5 lakh to send him to Saudi Arabia for work, but now most of that money has already been spent on his treatment. My son has lost his job and his leg, and now the whole family has become financially crippled," said Dulal.

Meanwhile, NIOH data shows that 740 patients received treatment at the hospital from July 17 to July 26 and August 4 to August 16. Of them, 610 were admitted to the hospital.

A total of 495 operations were completed at the hospital. Moreover, 366 people lost their vision in one eye, while 17 lost vision from both eyes.

Currently, 55 people are undergoing treatment at NIOH.

Monirul Islam, a farmer from Magura, suffered pellet wounds in his eye and other parts of his body on August 4 while protesting. He lost his left eye following a surgery at NIOH.

"The surgery and most medicines cost me nothing. But some expensive medicines are not in stock and have to be bought from outside," he said.

"However, I had to bear ambulance costs. Also, my relatives who are looking after me have certain expenses, and the longer I stay, the more they will have to deal with those costs. Doctors said they don't know how long I have to stay," he said.

Selina Khatun, mother of 16-year-old Selim who was shot at Gazipur intersection on August 5, was seen crying at NIOH.

"There is no improvement in my son's eye condition. My son and I are both construction workers. For his treatment, I borrowed Tk 25,000. But still, he hasn't gotten well. Where will I get the money for better treatment?" asked Selina.

She requested the government to send her son abroad for better treatment.

DMP appoints UN rep stresses jurnos

FROM PAGE 3
All these OCs earlier remained posted to different police stations in Dhaka for years.

Meanwhile, all the metropolitan commissioners, range deputy inspector generals, major posts in PHQ and different police stations, and superintendents of police in 10 districts have already been transferred. Also, on last Sunday, 63 police officers were promoted to the rank of supernumerary DIG, 10 got regular promotions as DIG, and 30 to the rank of SP.

The major reshuffle in the police force came following the ouster of the Awami League government on August 5.

Speakers at the event stressed the vital role of media in exposing societal issues and contributing to national development.

They also said the media is not an enemy of the people, rather it serves as a mirror to reflect the flaws in the society.

They called for strict legal action against those responsible for the attacks.

On August 19, miscreants launched an attack on the East West Media Group Complex in Dhaka, which houses Kaler Kantho, Bangladesh Pratidin, Daily Sun, Bangladesh24.com, News24 TV, T Sports TV, and Radio Capital.



Fajr	Zuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:30	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

নিলামে বিক্রয় হবে
কাজী ফার্মস এর একটি VOLVO Jeep (D-M-GHA-13-2055)
সম্পূর্ণ চালু অবস্থায় ইং ০২-০৯-২৪ (সোমবার) বাড়ী নং- ৩৫, রোড নং- ২, ধানমন্ডি ১২০৫ এ নিলামে বিক্রি হবে।
যোগাযোগ: ০১৭৯৯-৯৮৯৭৫৯, ০১৭৯৯-৯৮৯৯১৯

UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IOM UN MIGRATION

TENDER NOTICE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office in Cox's Bazar hereby announces the launch of the following tenders:

TENDER REFERENCE NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION
ITB/HCR/CXB/2024/011	FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FRAME AGREEMENTS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BORAK AND MULI BAMBOO

Interested and bona fide vendors are invited to participate in this INVITATION TO BID (ITB) by accessing and downloading the tender documents at the following web link:
<https://www.unhcr.org/Public/Notice/242315>

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
We would appreciate you informing us of the receipt of this ITB by sending an e-mail to TAREKM@UNHCR.ORG with a copy to SUVESGES@UNHCR.ORG as to:
- Your confirmation of receipt of this Invitation To Bid
- Whether or not you will be submitting a Bid

Bid to be submitted:
Bids should be submitted as per the guidance in section 2.6 of the ITB document via the URL below:
<http://etenderbox.unhcr.org>

Bid submission deadline: Thursday, 29 August 2024 - 14:00 hrs BST, Bangladesh time.

Please Note: As per the applicable Admin Instructions on procurement during COVID, please note that hard copy submissions are no longer accepted, only soft copies are accepted.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
বঙ্গুরা এফ-২ থেকে ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট।
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড।
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৭৭
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৭৮

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
বঙ্গুরা ডি-২ থেকে সেমি-ফোরব্রেকস ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের নির্মানাধীন ফ্ল্যাট।
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড।
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৭৮
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৭৬

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
লালমাটিয়া বি-২ থেকে এ ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ব্র্যান্ড নিউ ফ্ল্যাট।
ম্যাজিক ব্রিকস হোল্ডিংস লিমিটেড।
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৭৬
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৭৮

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges
Road Transport and Highways Division
Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA)
DTCA Building, Love Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208.
www.dtca.gov.bd

Corrigendum

Memo No: 35.02.0000.008.14.030.24-076 Date: 22.08.2024

Tender Package No:	Name of the Tender:
DTCA/CH/RRP/01	Procurement of 3 Lac Rapid Pass (FeiCa IC) Card and related service

Invitation Ref No: 35.02.0000.008.14.030.24-073 Issued on: 20/08/2024

Sl No	Description	Published as	Amended as
20	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	(d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be 21 Lac Taka.	(d) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 7 (Seven) Crore.

Md. Motasim Billah
Additional Executive Director (P&P) (Additional Secretary)
Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority
DTCA Bhaban, Love Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
Tel: +88-02-226603702

PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 88-02-222218331-33, 02-222218335-39; Website: <https://www.pksf.org.bd>

Vacancy Announcement

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization, was established by the Government of Bangladesh in 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. Since its inception, PKSF has been implementing various poverty-alleviating and employment-generating programs and projects through its Partner Organizations (POs) all over the country.

PKSF has been implementing a 5-year-long project titled 'Sustainable Microenterprise and Resilient Transformation (SMART)' jointly financed by the World Bank and PKSF since August 2023. The objective of the project is to increase resource-efficient and resilient green growth of the microenterprises (MEs).

PKSF hereby invites online applications from the eligible candidates for the following post under the SMART project:

Name of the Post	No. of the Post	Consolidated Monthly Salary (BDT)
Senior Program Manager (Enterprise Development-Footwear and Leather)	01	1,80,000/-

The employee will be recruited initially for one year with the opportunity for annual performance-based renewal during the project period. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements may submit online applications by **06 September 2024**. Please visit the PKSF Website (www.pksf.org.bd) for detailed job descriptions and instructions to apply.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal-opportunity employer. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process without assigning any reason whatsoever.

****Women are highly encouraged to apply.**

Deputy Managing Director

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program
(WeCARE), Phase-I: (RCMLIIP)
LGED-RDEC Bhaban, Level-03,
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.0000.981.14.011.21-824 Date: 22 August 2024

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works	On-line Tender Publication Date	On-line Tender Closing Date
1008980	WeCARE/LGED/CW-03	Improvement of One Growth Centre Market and 21.6 km Adjacent Roads at Seordah of Jhikargacha Upazila under Jashore District (World Bank Funded WeCARE Phase-I: LGED)	22-August-2024 at 15:00 AM	23-September-2024 at 14:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

The fees for the e-Tender Document Price have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to 5:00 PM of one day before the Closing Date.

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

(Momin Mozibur Hossain Shamaji)
Superintending Engineer & Project Director
WeCARE Phase-I: (RCMLIIP)
Tel: +88-02-44826234
E-mail: pd.wecare@lged.gov.bd

Six shot dead in Narsingdi clash

STAR REPORT

A clash between two rival groups left six people shot dead and at least 30 others injured in Raipura upazila of Narsingdi yesterday.

The deceased were identified as: Amir Hossain, 65; Badal Mia, 45; Junayed, 16; Firoza Begum, 35; Anis Mia, 30; and Siddiq Mia, 26.

Nuruddin Jahangir, in-charge of Raipura Upazila Health Complex, said the deceased were brought dead to the hospital at around 10:00am.

He also said several injured persons were referred to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital for better treatment.

Locals said the clash ensued between two groups – 'Alir Bari', led by Abdul Halim Master, and 'Baluchar Bari', led by Saheb Ali – in Saidabad village of Srinagar union under the upazila at around 3:00pm on Wednesday and then again yesterday morning.

Tension between the groups have been escalating over the past six months for establishing dominance in the area, with frequent attacks and counter attacks.

Police were yet to visit the scene till last reported.

Contacted, Safayet Hossain Palash, officer-in-charge of Raipura Police Station, said, "We are waiting for the army. We will only visit the spot with their support due to security concerns."

ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

Mohakhali ramp opens after a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway opened the entrance ramp at Mohakhali yesterday, over a month after the toll booth was torched during mass protests.

"We have made all necessary arrangement to open one of the five tollbooths at the ramp at 12:00pm today [yesterday]. We will collect toll manually," Captain (retd) Hasib Hasan Khan, manager (operations and maintenance) of First Dhaka Elevated Expressway Company Ltd (FDEE),

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

MURDER, VIOLENCE

Quader among 2,598 sued in 4 districts

STAR REPORT

Cases were filed against 2,598 people, including Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, over the last two days in four districts in relation to charges of murder and violence.

Of the them, 390 are named and the remaining are unnamed individuals, according to police.

In Faridpur, a murder case was filed against around 400 AL men, including Obaidul Quader, on charges of killing Shamsu Mollah, 62, a bus driver.

The victim's wife Meghla Begum filed the case with Faridpur's Kotwali Police Station on Wednesday night. Obaidul Quader is the sole named accused in the case, said police.

Hours after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled from the country on August 5, a group of people attacked the Kotwali Police Station. In retaliation, police opened fire on the attackers. At that time, Shamsu was shot dead.

In Sylhet, a total of six cases were filed in the last two days against around 2,000 people on charges of attacking protesters during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement between July 23 and August 4.

Of the cases, one was filed with Bishwanath Police Station on Wednesday night, while the five remaining cases were filed yesterday with a court.

A total of 382 people were named

accused in the cases, said police.

The named accused include – former foreign minister AK Abdul Momen, state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury; lawmakers Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury Nadel and Ranjit Chandra Sarker; Sylhet city mayor Anwaruzaman Chowdhury and SMP commissioner Md Zakir Hossain Khan.

Monirampur Police Station officer-in-charge Mollah Kabir Ahmed, sub-inspectors Tasmeem and Shaheen, among others, were made accused in the case.

Bazlur, a village doctor of Jaipur Bazar under Manirampur upazila, was picked up by police on February 17, 2015, and was shot dead allegedly by police on the same night, according to the case statement.

On the other hand, the same SP, another former OC of the same police station Ali Azam, sub-inspector Heron and former chairman of Monirampur Upazila Parishad Amzad Hossain, among others, were accused in the Anisul Islam murder case.

Anisul was shot dead on March 22, 2013, allegedly by police, according to the case statement.

In Savar, two separate cases have been filed against over 150 unidentified people in connection with the murder of three policemen at Ashulia on August 5.

Wives of two deceased policemen filed the cases with Ashulia Police Station.

In Pirojpur, six people, including former OC of Bhandaria Police Station Ashiquzzaman, were sued over extortion charges.

A local BNP leader filed the case on Wednesday afternoon.

[Our correspondents from respective districts contributed to the report]

Named accused: 390
Unnamed accused: 2,208

HIGH PROFILE ACCUSED

Obaidul Quader

Charge: Murder of bus driver

AK Abdul Momen

Charge: Attacking protesters

In Jashore, two cases were filed yesterday against 48 people, including six police officers, on charges of extrajudicial killing of a village doctor named Bajlur Rahman and BNP activist Anisul Islam.

Bazlur's wife Reshma Begum and Anisur's brother Munsur Ali separately filed the cases with the court, said police.

Jashore's former superintendent of police Anisur Rahman,

OVERCHARGING

Train passengers protest in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of passengers staged a protest on the railway tracks at Gazipur's Joydebpur Junction yesterday morning after being charged extra for train tickets, leading to a halt in train movement on the Dhaka-Mymensingh route.

Joydebpur Junction Station Master Hanif Ali said, "Due to irregularities at the ticket counter, an excited crowd gathered on the railway line and began protesting around 6:00am."

Protesters claimed that each ticket was overcharged by Tk 5 to Tk 10. The situation escalated when one passenger was overcharged, prompting other passengers to become agitated. This led to a collective protest by all passengers at the junction.

"Efforts are being made to bring the situation under control, but there is still a high level of tension at Joydebpur Junction," Hanif Ali told The Daily Star around 10:00am.

GRAFT, MONEY LAUNDERING

Mosharraf acquitted, Falu secures bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted former Health Minister and BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain in a case related to laundering over Tk 9.53 crore to the United Kingdom.

Judge Md Abul Kashem of the Special Judge Court-1 of Dhaka delivered the verdict, stating that the prosecution failed to prove the charges against Mosharraf.

Meanwhile, former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu secured bail yesterday in four separate cases, including a money laundering case, after surrendering before three different courts in Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Procurement Division

Directorate

Ministry of Food

16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka

Website: www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. 13.01.0000.091.47.002.2024.1023

Dated: 22/08/2024

e-Tender Notice (Phase-01)

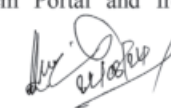
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following goods:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Tender	Schedule Selling and Tender Opening Date
1.	1009224 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 5,00,000 (Five lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest. (CHATTOGRAM SILO, CHATTOGRAM-5,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
2.	1009225 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 5,00,000 (Five lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (NARAYANGANJ SILO, NARAYANGANJ-5,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
3.	1009227 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 5,00,000 (Five lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (MONGLA SILO, BAGERHAT-5,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
4.	1009228 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 5,00,000 (Five lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (ASHUGANJ SILO, B-BARIA-5,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
5.	1009229 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 5,00,000 (Five lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (NARAYANGANJ CSD, NARAYANGANJ-5,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
6.	1009230 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 4,00,000 (Four lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 (HALISHAHAR CSD, CHATTOGRAM-3,00,000 & CHANPURGHAT LSD, BASHKHALI, CHATTOGRAM-1,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
7.	1009231 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 4,00,000 (Four lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (DEWANHAT CSD, CHATTOGRAM-4,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
8.	1009232 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 3,00,000 (Three lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (KHULNA CSD, KHULNA-3,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
9.	1009233 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 3,00,000 (Three lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (MAHESHWARPASA CSD, KHULNA-3,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
10.	1009234 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 3,00,000 (Three lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (MIRCADIM LSD, MUNSHIGANJ-3,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
11.	1009235 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (SAVAR LSD, DHAKA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
12.	1009236 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (DHAMRAI LSD, DHAKA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
13.	1009237 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (SONARGAON LSD, NARAYANGANJ-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
14.	1009238 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (BHAIRAB LSD, KISHOREGANJ-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
15.	1009239 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (DINAJPUR CSD, DINAJPUR -2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
16.	1009240 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (NILPHAMARI SADAR LSD, NILPHAMARI-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
17.	1009241 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (B-BARIA SADAR LSD, B-BARIA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
18.	1009242 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two e lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (DHARMAPUR LSD, CUMILLA -2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
19.	1009243 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (PABNA SADAR LSD, PABNA-100,000 & ISWARDI LSD, PABNA-1,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
20.	1009244 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (BOGURA SADAR LSD, BOGURA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
21.	1009245 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (SHANTAHAR LSD, BAGURA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
22.	1009246 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (KURIGRAM SADAR LSD, KURIGRAM-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Tender	Schedule Selling and Tender Opening Date
23.	1009247 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (THAKURGAON SADAR LSD, THAKURGAON-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
24.	1009248 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (PIRGANJ LSD, RANGPUR-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
25.	1009249 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (PANCHAGARH SADAR LSD, PANCHAGARH -2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
26.	1009250 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (LALMONIRHAT SADAR LSD, LALMONIRHAT-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
27.	1009251 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (GAIBANDHA SADAR LSD, GAIBANDHA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
28.	1009252 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (TANGAIL SADAR LSD, TANGAIL-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
29.	1009253 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (MYMENSINGH CSD, MYMENSINGH-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
30.	1009254 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (JAMALPUR SADAR (SHINGJANI) LSD, JAMALPUR-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
31.	1009255 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (SHERPUR SADAR LSD, SHERPUR-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
32.	1009256 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (NETROKONA SADAR LSD, NETROKONA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
33.	1009257 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (HABIGANJ SADAR LSD, HABIGANJ-1,00,000 & SHAYESTAGANJ LSD, HABIGANJ-1,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
34.	1009258 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (MOULOVIBAZAR SADAR LSD, MOULOVIBAZAR-1,00,000 & SHRIMANGAL LSD, MOULOVIBAZAR -1,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
35.	1009259 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (MOLLIKPUR LSD, SUNAMGANJ-1,00,000 & SHANTIGANJ LSD, SUNAMGANJ-1,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
36.	1009260 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (KUSHTIA SADAR LSD, KUSHTIA-2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
37.	1009261 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (JHINAIDAH SADAR LSD, JHINAIDAH -2,00,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
38.	1009262 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (BHOLA SADAR LSD, BHOLA-1,00,000 & BARISHAL SADAR LSD, BARISHAL-100,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.
39.	1009263 (Goods-OTM)	Procurement of 2,00,000 (Two lakh) Pieces 50 kg Capacity Cut Size B-Twill new Gunnies made in the year 2024 or latest (JHALAKATHI SADAR LSD, JHALAKATHI-50,000, PIROJPUR SADAR LSD, PIROJPUR-50,000, PATUAKHALI SADAR LSD, PATUAKHALI-50,000 & BORGUNA SADAR LSD, BORGUNA-50,000 Pcs).	Up to 17:00 PM/11-September 2024; Opening 9:30 AM/12-September 2024.

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

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



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Struggle for a secular Bangladesh will persist: ASHFAQUE NIPUN

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Personally, I think it's detrimental when those in power try to influence art, and artistes should resist such influence. Governments often use artistes as mouthpieces because of their widespread acceptance.

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK and SHARIF M SHAFIQ

When it comes to speaking out against injustice and oppression, there aren't many artistes who stand out as prominently as Ashfaque Nipun. Known for his active presence both online and on the ground, Nipun has been a vocal participant in various protests. His determination was evident during the quota reform movement, which later evolved into the anti-discrimination student movement and led to the dramatic fall of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's regime.

Why is political consciousness important for an artiste, and to what extent?

I believe neither the general public nor artistes can exist outside of politics. Whether you're a creator or a writer, your work reflects the socio-political reality around you.

However, not all artistes possess political consciousness, and I don't believe in imposing it on anyone. If a person's conscience doesn't awaken after witnessing the injustices and oppression around them, no amount of education or knowledge can instill it. It depends on an individual's sensitivity.

For creators, the biggest advantage is that their movies or web-series can reach a large audience. If the work reflects political or socio-economic realities, it resonates more deeply with people, which is exciting for us as creators. That said, there's a distinction between activism and art. If cinema becomes too politically charged, it ceases to be art. Great artistes strike a balance between the two.

How do you view an artiste's political engagement, especially when politics influences art?

Let me clarify: I strongly believe in an artiste's freedom of expression. If someone wants to create propaganda-based cinema, that's their right. The audience will decide whether to accept, reject, or hold the creator accountable

for it, and we must allow time to take its course.

If someone chooses to make a film against oppressive forces, they also have that freedom. However, they must be prepared to face the risks and accountability that come with it. Similarly, those who create propaganda-based cinema must accept the consequences if their work doesn't stand the test of time.

Personally, I think it's detrimental when those in power try to influence art, and artistes should resist such influence. This has happened not only during the former government's regime but also before. Governments often use artistes as mouthpieces because of their widespread acceptance.

Recent events show how the audience has discarded those who were comfortable during the previous government's tenure and who were associated with government propaganda. These artistes must now take accountability for their actions.

How do you perceive 'Mohanagar' as a viewer?

It's challenging for me to comment on *Mohanagar* purely as a viewer since I created the plot and characters.

This work addresses issues like police and state-sponsored oppression. As a creator, my goal was to bring these topics to light. Instead of analysing it from a viewer's perspective, I think it's more important to consider how the audience has related to it. People are interpreting *Mohanagar* in a certain way now, but their perceptions might change over the next 10 years. Ultimately, we must leave it to time.

We've heard about harassment related to works like 'Mohanagar'. Did any actors or artistes hesitate to join the project when you pitched the web-series?

When discussing the story, no one refused to work on it. I was able to make it with everyone I had initially thought of. The same goes for *Mohanagar 2*. In this regard, I am very fortunate. From



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

the actors to the producers and the entire cast and crew, everyone worked diligently on the production.

However, it wasn't just me; the actors also faced harassment for their involvement in *Mohanagar*. Yet, none of them refused to work on the sequel. Instead, everyone worked with even greater passion. The OTT platform associated with the project also fully supported us.

The iconic character of OC Harun in 'Mohanagar' was played by Mosharraf Karim. What made you think of him

for this role?

When I first conceived the story of *Mohanagar*, I couldn't imagine anyone else for the role of OC Harun other than Mosharraf Karim. This character is not a simple one; there's a duality in him. He might say one thing but think another. OC Harun is neither rigid nor plain and boring; he has a great sense of humour. Overall, I felt no one else would be more suitable for the role.

After the student-led mass uprising, we now have a new form of Bangladesh, and state reform is

underway. Do you think there might be communal pressure on art in the future?

As artistes, we have always spoken for a secular Bangladesh. The threat of communalism has been present for over 50 years. Regardless of which government comes into power, this struggle for a non-communal Bangladesh has always been there. We've seen the rise of JMB in 2001 and the attack on Chhayanaut. But we fought back, and this struggle will never end; it will always persist.

There's been discussion and criticism about artistes taking sides in movements. Some are accused of being opportunistic, speaking out in favour only after the determined fact. How do you view this?

This can be seen in two ways. First, someone might have been a beneficiary of the government before, but after witnessing the overall situation, their conscience may have awakened. Seeing the atrocities, they might no longer hold their previous position. Secondly, when they see the situation changing, they quickly jump off the boat and try to reach the shore.

People look up to the artiste community. Many are influenced and inspired by them. I would say the audience needs to understand which artistes speak for the people and which speak for power. The audience will decide this, and the youth understand it too. Where an artiste should speak for the masses but instead speak for power, the audience will reject them. This has become even clearer in this movement.

You can't fool people. The people of this country weren't waiting for an artiste's call to take to the streets. They went out on their own without waiting for a call from their favourite artiste or idol. From this, the artiste community should learn that if you stand with the people, they will stand with you; otherwise, they will cast you aside.

Translated by Mahiya Tabassum.

NEWS

Govt to form

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the identities of its administrators, and those responsible for establishing them.

In a press release, the NHRC yesterday said that The Daily Star's August 21 report titled "Inside the Aynagar," along with similar reports from various media outlets, has drawn its attention.

The NHRC expressed serious concerns and has taken suo moto (self-initiated) action, calling for comprehensive information about the Aynagar.

According to the reports, these secret detention cells held victims of enforced disappearance for days, months and even years in inhuman conditions during Sheikh Hasina's 16 year regime. These facilities are notorious for their complete isolation, with detainees unable to see any light from the outside world.

The NHRC requested the senior secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs to provide details regarding the current status of the Aynagar, its administrators, the identities and numbers of those detained, the legal grounds for their detention, and those responsible for establishing the cells, according to the press release.

The deadline for submitting the report has been set for September 25.

"In a democratic state, the physical and mental torture inflicted over the years in the 'Aynagar' is seen by the Commission as a severe violation of both constitutional and legal norms, as well as human rights. The damage caused to detainees due to indefinite detention is irreparable, and they are entitled to compensation," the NHRC said.

The notice states that the commission can only request reports from the government concerning allegations of disappearances or abductions by law enforcement agencies, whether initiated suo moto or based on complaints.

Due to the limitations of Section 18 of the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2009, the Commission cannot conduct its own investigations and must rely on government reports, which can sometimes take years to receive, it said.

The commission believes that this legal limitation leaves it in a helpless position and requires urgent reform.

Salman F Rahman

FROM PAGE 12
millions of taka by showing fake expenses in various sectors. Shahab also took bribes between Tk 80 lakh and Tk 90 lakh for transferring each forest officer, the complaint said.

He issued DoE certificates to various factories that pollute the environment with liquid waste and did not have the factories' effluent treatment plants inspected.

The documents said he took Tk 7 crore to sign a resolution of land which forced the then chairman of Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) to hand over a piece of land to the Climate Change Trust.

Shaon, former lawmaker from Bholra-3, is alleged to have amassed illegal wealth by misusing his power.

According to the complaint, he misappropriated funds from various projects in Lalmoan and Tazumuddin upazilas in 2021-2022 fiscal year. He embezzled Tk 6 crore, 260.39 tonnes of wheat, and 234.33 tonnes of rice allocated for Kabikha (Food for Work) and Kabita (Money for Work) programmes.

The anti-graft body also decided to investigate corruption allegations against former state ministers Nasrul and Palak.

TRAVEL BAN

The ACC yesterday sought travel



Shahab Uddin



Zunaid Ahmed Palak

bans on Harun or Rashid, former DB chief (Dhaka Metropolitan Police), and his wife Shireen Akter. The ACC wrote to the Special Branch of police to this end.

The decision came after the anti-graft body decided to probe allegations against him of acquiring crores of taka through various irregularities.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday issued a 60-day travel ban on Taqsem A Khan, the former managing director of Dhaka Wasa, in connection with graft allegations brought against him.

ACC Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the petition. In the application, Jahangir said Taqsem was trying to flee the country. So, a travel ban is needed to prevent him from leaving the country.

UN team arrives in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12
affairs, and the inspector general of police, said diplomatic sources.

"The purpose of this visit is to understand their priorities for assistance in promoting human rights," said UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in a statement.

Based on the discussions, the UN will sign an agreement with the interim government on the framework for investigation, according to a UN official.

This visit, which is taking place in response to a request from the interim government, will focus on discussing the process for investigating human rights violations in light of the recent violence and unrest, the statement said.

Once the details are finalised, a separate fact-finding team will be dispatched in the coming weeks to conduct the investigation, it added.

"They will talk to the victims, review videos of rights violation, talk to the government officials, witnesses

and whoever they need," the UN official said.

The mission will need six to eight weeks for the investigation and then it will submit a report, including recommendations for reforming security sector.

According to a primary UN report published on August 16, 650 people were killed in Bangladesh between July 16 and August 11 during the student-led protests and after the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5.

The reported death toll is likely an underestimation, as information collection has been hindered by restrictions on movement due to the curfew and the internet shutdown, it said.

The UN said the number of reported killings in revenge attacks since August 5 still remains to be determined. Those killed include protesters, bystanders, journalists covering the events and a number of members of the security forces.

A new reality for Hasina in India

FROM PAGE 12
to Bangladesh, choosing anonymity, told this newspaper that regardless of the law, the decision on whether or not Hasina will be extradited will ultimately be a "political call".

"The question to be answered is how strong are economic linkages between India and Bangladesh are, which will ensure that Hasina does not hang like an albatross by the neck of bilateral ties for the bigger interests of both countries," the career diplomat said.

Professor Sreeradha Dutta, a professor of international affairs at the OP Jindal Global University in India who has a long track record of research on Bangladeshi democracy, said that extradition will neither be an easy nor a quick process.

"Bangladesh can request extradition, but I believe it will become a long-drawn judicial process. Even if Bangladesh revokes her passport, that might have no implication for India. India will question the decision and its legitimacy," said Professor Dutta.

"Since a government politically opposed to Sheikh Hasina is the one prosecuting her, it might be perceived that she is fleeing political persecution and a threat to life. We have a history of looking after our friends," she added.

Another Indian diplomat who had worked in Dhaka in the 1990s said the dilemma for India is that while it needs to maintain ties with whoever holds the reins of power in Bangladesh, at the same time it should not be seen as abandoning a long-standing friend like Hasina.

There are enough linkages between the economies of Bangladesh and India to guard against any tectonic shift in the relations between the two countries, he added.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid, in an interview with Reuters on August 16, said if the country's home and law ministries decide, "we have to ask for her ... return to Bangladesh".

Responding to a question about the status of Hasina's stay in India, India's External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, told

a media briefing on August 16 that her entry into India was granted on short notice.

"Extradition and other such issues are consular matters that are discussed regularly at the consular level. I will update you on any new developments regarding this matter," he said.

INDIA'S HISTORY OF GRANTING ASYLUM

Sheikh Hasina had previously sought and obtained political asylum from India in 1975 after the assassination of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15. Hasina and Rehana escaped the bloodshed as they were in then West Germany.

Before being granted political asylum, they had taken refuge in the home of Bangladesh's ambassador to West Germany. Hasina returned to Dhaka on May 17, 1981, from India.

India is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.

But India has given shelter to many Pakistani refugees since 1947, while a huge number of refugees from Tibet came to India when Dalai Lama and his followers were being persecuted by Chinese authorities in 1959.

Many Bangladeshi refugees settled in Kolkata during the Liberation War in 1971, while many Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka settled in Tamil Nadu in 1980.

In 2022, Rohingya refugees from Myanmar fled to India, and India has been providing shelter to many, although without any strategy for refugees.

According to BBC Bangla reports, in 1975, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddique took political shelter in India, while in 1959 the Indian government provided asylum to Dalai Lama and his followers.

Mohammad Najibullah Ahmadzai, former president of Afghanistan, had to resign in 1992 and sought asylum in India, which was promptly granted.

In 2013, former Maldivian president Mohamed Nasheed was granted political refuge in the Indian High Commission in Male, while

the former king of Nepal, Maharaja Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah, along with his family members, took refuge status in India in 1950.

HASINA'S EXIT NOT ONE-OFF

Before thousands of people stormed her official residence, Hasina was flown to Hindon Airbase in Ghaziabad by a military aircraft on August 5.

At the time, she was no longer the prime minister of Bangladesh, as per the statements of Army Chief General Waker Uz Zaman, who announced to the nation that Hasina had resigned prior to her departure.

After landing at Hindon airbase, Hasina was transported to a safe house of paramilitary provided by the Indian government in Noida, Uttarakhnad province, at an unspecified date, according to sources.

The nature of Hasina's departure was not unique; other heads of state have recently set similar precedents in neighbouring countries.

The events that transpired in Bangladesh on August 5 bore striking similarities to those that occurred in Sri Lanka in July 2022 when former president Gotabaya Rajapaksa and prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksa were ousted following a mass movement.

After his fall, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, his wife, and two bodyguards fled to the Maldives by a military jet, and then he reportedly fled to Singapore.

The former Thailand prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted by a military coup in 2006 and exiled to Dubai for 15 years, dodging an eight-year prison sentence for corruption and abuse of power.

He returned to Bangkok for the first time in 15 years in August 2023 and was taken into custody and sentenced by the Supreme Court to eight years in prison. His eight-year sentence was later commuted to a year by King Maha Vajiralongkorn in September last year. Thaksin Shinawatra received a royal pardon last week after his daughter, Paetongtarn Shinawatra, 37, was elected as Thailand's prime minister.

55 govts use travel curbs on critics

Says report

AFP, Washington

At least 55 governments around the world are using travel restrictions as part of their repressive tactics against perceived political opponents, according to a report released yesterday.

Revoking citizenship, imposing travel bans, confiscating passports and denying consular services are among the methods used by authoritarian regimes to restrict the freedom of movement of people seen as a threat, according to Freedom House.

The report was compiled in part based on interviews with 31 people from Belarus, India, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Saudi Arabia who "experienced mobility controls firsthand."

The governments use at least one of these four methods in retribution for political activism or dissent, the US nonprofit dedicated to promoting democracy said.

Afghanistan's Taliban govt enacts 'vice and virtue' law

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have announced the codification of laws detailing rules of behaviour and lifestyle based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The 35-article law published in the official gazette on July 31 establishes prohibitions already generally known in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, but its enactment could allow for increased control of the population.

The justice ministry announced on its website on Wednesday that the law had been approved by the Taliban's supreme leader, the reclusive Hibatullah Akhundzada, who rules by decree from the southern city of Kandahar.

The white coat wearing personnel of the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice in charge of enforcing the law have been fixtures of Afghan streets since the Taliban swept to power in 2021.



Rescuers from Tripura Disaster Management Authority evacuate flood-affected people to a safer place following heavy rains at a village on the outskirts of Agartala, India yesterday. At least 10 people were killed after heavy rainfall in Agartala led to floods due to overflowing Gomati River, with over 34,000 persons being displaced, officials said.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Second aircraft carrier arrives in Middle East

Says US military amid fears of regional conflict; China urges citizens in Lebanon to leave 'as soon as possible'

AFP, Washington

The USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and accompanying destroyers have arrived in the Middle East, the US military said later on Wednesday, after the country's defense secretary ordered the strike group to accelerate its speed.

The carrier's arrival brings the number in the region to two - at least temporarily, as the Lincoln is to replace the USS Theodore Roosevelt - at a time of heightened fears of regional conflict following high-profile assassinations claimed by, or blamed on, Israel.

"USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), equipped with F-35C and F/A-18 Block III fighters, entered the US Central Command (USCENTCOM) area of responsibility," the military command responsible for the Middle East said on social media.

"The USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 3, is accompanied by Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 21 and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 9," it added.

The Pentagon said on August



11 that US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had ordered the Lincoln to "accelerate its transit" to the Middle East, after directing its deployment to the region at the beginning of the month.

Fears of a major escalation have mounted since Hezbollah and Iran vowed to respond to twin killings blamed on Israel late last month.

An Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs killed a top Hezbollah commander, Fuad Shukur, shortly before an attack

in Tehran blamed on Israel killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh.

Meanwhile, China yesterday urged its citizens in Lebanon to leave "as soon as possible", according to an embassy statement.

"Recently, the situation on the Lebanese-Israeli border has continued to be tense, and security circumstances in Lebanon are severe and complex," China's embassy in Beirut said.

Assam plans law for Muslim marriages, divorces

AFP, Guwahati

Indian authorities in Assam state have introduced a bill that would require Muslims to register their marriages and divorces, with the chief minister claiming the measure will help stop child marriage.

The bill is seen as a state-level step towards the government's proposed common civil code of law, which is bitterly opposed by Muslim activists as an attack on their faith.

India's 1.4 billion people are subject to a common criminal law, but personal matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance are governed by varying rules based on traditions of different faiths.

In Assam, it is already mandatory for other religions to register marriages with civil authorities.

Assam's state government, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), said the bill would be tabled during the next state assembly.

Cases against Hasina so far cross 50

FROM PAGE 2

minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former AL MPs Md Saiful Islam and Talukdar Mohammad Towhid Jung Murad, and former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were among the accused.

Utara West resident Zakiullah Bahar, 56, filed another case against Hasina and 32 others over the death of 12th grader Abdullah Bin Jahid in the Airport area on August 5.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mainul Islam ordered the Airport Police Station chief to register it as an FIR.

The third case in the capital was filed by Mohammadpur resident Rabiul Khan Hillol against Hasina and 67 others over the killing of Shahriar Hossain Rokon, 23, on July 19.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury ordered Mohammadpur Police Station to investigate the case.

Another murder case against Hasina and 78 named accused and 450 to 500 unnamed people was filed at Mohammadpur Police Station in connection with the killing of a truck driver in the Beribadh area under Mohammadpur in the capital on July 20.

Meanwhile, a murder case against Hasina and 147

others in Dhaka yesterday was filed at Adabor Police Station. The victim, a garment factory worker, was shot on August 5 and died two days later.

In Narsingdi, a case was filed against Hasina, Quader, Asaduzzaman, Mamun and 78 others over the killing of businessman Azizul Islam during the student-led movement on July 19.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court directed the local police chief to register it as an FIR after recording the statement of the plaintiff and victim's father Almach Mia.

Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul and 76 others were sued over the abduction and killing of a union-level BNP leader named Shah Alam Sujon in Bogura's Shibganj upazila in 2018.

Advocate Abdul Wahab, also the general secretary of upazila unit BNP, filed the case with a Bogura court which directed local police to investigate it.

The other accused include Hasina's former press secretary Nayeemul Islam Khan, Ekattor TV Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief Mozammel Babu, its former principal correspondent Farzana Rupa, and ex-IGP Benazir Ahmed.

Stop teachers' harassment

FROM PAGE 12

The 66 organisations include Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Ain o Salish Kendra, Steps Towards Development, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, BRAC, Women for Women, Care Bangladesh, Karmojibi Nari, Jatiyo Sramik Jote, Concern Worldwide, IEED, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Nijera Kori, Manusher Janno Foundation, Dhaka YWCA, Palli Daridro Bimochon Foundation, Oxfam GB, Action Aid Bangladesh, The Hunger Project Bangladesh, Awaj Foundation, PRIP Trust, ADD Bangladesh, World Vision, Campaign for Popular Education, Nagorik Uddyog, National Council of Disabled Women, SARI, BAWSE, Nari fortnightly Anannya, ACD Rajshahi, Brotee, Nari Maitree, WAVE Foundation,

Equity and Justice Working Group, Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra, Nari Uddug Kendra, Jatiya Nari Sramik Jote, Sammilita Samajik Andolon, Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra, Jatiya Nari Jote, Shakti Foundation, BPW Club, Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Acid Survivors' Foundation, Nari Mukti Sangsad, Sheva Nari O Shishu Kallyan Kendra, DRRRA, Amrai Pari Paribarik Nirjaton Protirodh Jote (We Can), Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Bangladesh Dalit Forum, Dipto, A Foundation for Development, Aparajeo Bangla, BLAST, Turning Point Foundation, Center for Men and Masculinities Studies, Save the Children, Ovijan, Adivasi Nari Network, Disabled Welfare Society, Nari Oikko, and Pallima Mahila Parishad.

"India firmly believes that no issue can be solved on a battlefield. We support dialogue and diplomacy for the quick restoration of peace."

Says Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Ukraine conflict

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, লজিস্টিক্স শাখা				
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১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।		
২	সংস্থা	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ।		
৩	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহবান করা হলো	অর্ডন্যান্স প্রবাসী ক্রয়/সরবরাহ।		
৪	দরপত্র আহবানের সূত্র	৪৪.০২.১২০৫.০১০.০৩.২৫১.২৪/০৪/কিউ		
৫	তারিখ	২২ আগস্ট ২০২৪।		
৬	ক্রম পদ্ধতি	জাতীয় উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।		
৭	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নম্বর	U-40		
৮	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	২৩ আগস্ট ২০২৪।		
৯	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	০৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪।		
১০	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	০৫ সেপ্টেম্বর তারিখ ১১৫৫ ঘটিকা।		
১১	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	০৫ সেপ্টেম্বর তারিখ ১২০০ ঘটিকা।		
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।		
১৩	দরপত্রের দলিলাদি গ্রহণ ও খোলা	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।		
১৪	প্রাক-দরপত্র সভা (ব্রিফিং) স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ২৮ আগস্ট ২০২৪ইং ১৩০০ ঘটিকা (ব্রিফিং)।		
১৫	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	ক। হালনাগাদ ক্রেডিট লাইসেন্স ও আয়কর সনদপত্র এবং ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র। খ। টেন্ডার মুদ্রার সমপরিমাণ অর্থের ব্যাংক সলভ্যান্সি এবং ক্রেডিট সুবিধার সনদপত্র। গ। সর্ফিশিট কাজে ০২ বৎসরের ঠিকাদারীর যোগ্যতা সনদপত্র। ঘ। প্রস্তুতকারকের (Manufacturer) সনদপত্র। ঙ। জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ছায়াছবি।		
১৬	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	২,০০০/- টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য ও নগদ মূল্য।		
১৭	প্যাকেজ এবং লটারি পরিচিতি			
১৮	লটারি নম্বর	সর্বমুখ্য বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের জামানত
১৯	U-40/A	সুতি মোজা কালো	৭২,০০০ জোড়া	৩,৬০,০০০/-
২০	২০২৩-২০২৪	অর্থ বছরে বা তৎপূর্বে বিজিবিত্তে চুক্তিকৃত প্রবাসী সরবরাহে ব্যর্থ/অসমাপ্ত থাকলে দরদাতা অযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে।		কিউ এন্ড অর্ডন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর
২১	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী ও ফোন নং	পরিচালক, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ফোনঃ ৯৬৫০০০১-২৩৭২		৯০ দিন
২২	সম্মত সত্তা যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।			

GD-240

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh						
Local Government Engineering Department						
Office of the Executive Engineer						
1012, CDA Avenue, Sholashahar						
District: Chattogram						
www.lged.gov.bd						
Memo No. 46.02.1500.000.99.002.24-4128				Date: 22/08/2024		
e-Tender Notice No-06/2024-25						
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.						
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches.						
Sl No	Package No	Name of Works	Tender ID	Procurement Method	Last Date & Time of Selling Documents	Last Date & Time of Submission Documents
1	LGED/Cht/VRRP/Re-hab/23-24/W-168	Rehabilitation of Padua Rajarhat - Kamalachari GPS - RHD Bridge Ghata (Khurushia Abdul Hamid Road) Road from Ch. 4000m-6580m; Upazila: Rangunia, District: Chattogram. (Road ID: 415704013) (Salvage Cost: Tk 840796.24)	1006479	OTM	11/09/2024 17:00 BST	12/09/2024 13:00 BST
2	LGED/GOB/M/CTG/23-24/RW-147	Rehabilitation of Charati-Khoderhat-Moulavir Doka-Bazalia-Bomang Hat-Noya hat Road (From RHD #129) Road from Ch. 13119m-16978m; Upazila: Satkania, District: Chattogram (Road ID: 415822010)	1008114	OTM	11/09/2024 17:00 BST	12/09/2024 13:00 BST
3	LGED/GOB/M/CTG/23-24/RW-143	Widening of Napura Bazar to Shekherkhil UP (Darussalam Madrasa) Road. (Elahi Box-huzur Rd.) from Ch. 00m-2705m; Upazila: Banskhal, District: Chattogram (Road ID: 415083006)	1008125	OTM	11/09/2024 17:00 BST	12/09/2024 13:00 BST
4	GCP-3/ctg/SWM-71R	Maintenance of Time Bazar To Monkir Char Natun Bazar Road by BC at Ch: 00-4830m; Upazila: Banskhal, District: Chattogram (Road ID: 415082003)	1008338	OTM	11/09/2024 17:00 BST	12/09/2024 13:00 BST
5	e-Tender/ PEDP4/CTG/CT/2023-24/W/1422	Major Maintenance of (1) SADAR GHAT BOYS GPS (2) DAKKHIN MADAR BARI GPS under PEDP4	1004899	OTM	17/09/2024 17:00 BST	18/09/2024 13:00 BST
6	LGED/Cht/VRRP/Re-hab/24-25/W-171	Rehabilitation of Monsoria Bazar To Banskhal Eco Park Road.(Bamerchara Road) Road from Ch. 00m-3240m; Upazila: Banskhal, District: Chattogram (Road ID: 415084073) (Salvaged Materials Cost: Tk 1504048.00)	1006953	OTM	17/09/2024 17:00 BST	18/09/2024 13:00 BST
7	CDWSP/CTG/SIT A/W-04	Widening & Strengthening of Komor Ali Bazar - Kumira RHD (KY Steel Mill) Road via Brickfield, Muradpur, Mahmudabad, Basbaria (Habib Ahmed Chowdhury Road) by BC at Ch. 0 - 6000m ; Upazila: Sitakunda, District: Chattogram (Road ID: 415862002) (Value of Recovered Material Tk=1265389.00)	988938	OTM	22/09/2024 17:00 BST	23/09/2024 13:00 BST

(Md. Hasan Ali)
Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
District: Chattogram
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GD-243

Flood victims need urgent support

Govt must intensify efforts to save lives, reach out to those most at risk

We're worried about the worsening flood situation in the eastern and southeastern regions of Bangladesh where vast swathes of land have been submerged over the last few days, laying bare the vulnerability of even areas previously deemed protected from large-scale flooding. The floods, submerging 357 unions across eight districts as of Thursday afternoon, left more than 4.4 lakh families stranded and a total of three million affected, as per an estimate. Moreover, at least three people died and two went missing on Thursday. These numbers are set to rise should the downpours and swelling of rivers by the onrush of water from India continue. Against this backdrop, the urgency of improved, coordinated response to ensure the safety of flood-hit communities cannot be overstated.

Among the eight districts affected, the situation in Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali, Chattogram, Khagrachari, and Moulvibazar is particularly distressing. The situation in Feni—especially in Chhagalnaiya, Phulgazi, and Parshuram upazilas—has been described as unprecedented, with nearly every house inundated. This has caused a massive humanitarian crisis. The municipal towns are unrecognisable under the deluge. Roads remain impassable, and the call for speedboats and helicopters to expedite rescue efforts has gone largely unanswered. While the interim government is doing the best it can, ongoing aid and rescue efforts have caused frustration among local residents.

In Khagrachari, the situation has been equally troubling. Continuous rain and runoff from the hills have submerged over 100 villages across the nine sub-districts of Khagrachari, making this the worst flood recorded since 1988. In this and other hilly districts of Chattogram, there is the added risk of widespread landslides. Many fear that deadly landslides similar to those in 2017 may occur, with people living on the hillsides or slopes being urged to relocate to safer areas or shelters. The inadequacy of shelters and relief efforts, exacerbated by the difficulty of reaching remote areas, has emerged as another concern in flood-hit areas. Equally troubling has been the disruption in communications and power supply—with several areas entirely disconnected—further isolating the vulnerable populations.

Amid this situation, one development with the potential for a flare-up in Bangladesh-India relations has been the release of waters from an Indian dam likely intensifying flooding in Bangladesh. Although India's ministry of external affairs refuted claims of causing the flooding on our eastern borders, Bangladesh's information adviser has categorically blamed it for opening the dam without any prior warning, depriving Bangladesh of the chance to prepare accordingly. The sheer intensity of flooding in areas like Cumilla and Feni does lend credence to the allegation of dam-barrage opening on India's part. India's water sharing policy has long caused consternations in Bangladesh, and we hope the latest development serves as a clarion call for equitable water-sharing arrangements to be made urgently.

Experts say the situation may improve within two-three days, but until then the dual assaults of heavy rain and onrush of water from India will likely cause further damage. So we urge the government, security forces on duty, and all public representatives including student volunteers to further intensify their efforts to help the affected communities. We must all stand together to ensure that they receive the aid and support they so desperately need. Communications and power supply in the flood-hit areas must also be restored urgently.

Stop extortion in transport sector

Bringing discipline in this vital sector is paramount

It is disturbing to know that soon after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, BNP-affiliated transport leaders have emerged on the scene and taken control of major transport organisations across the country. According to a *Prothom Alo* report, the offices of Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association and Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association, from where the transport sector used to be controlled by Awami League leaders, are now under the control of their BNP counterparts. Similarly, BNP men have taken control of almost all other transport organisations, bus terminals, and workers' unions.

Understandably, the main objective behind their push is to get their hands on extortion money. Reportedly, every year, around Tk 2,000 crore is collected by the transport owners' and workers' associations through extortion across the country. While about Tk 70 is collected openly from each bus or truck every day, there are various other fees, including "gate pass" fees or membership fees, that are collected from transport operators as daily, monthly, and sometimes one-time donations. According to a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) study published in March, politically connected individuals or groups, traffic and highway police, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) officials, transport organisations, and staffers of municipalities or city corporations all get a share of this money, which shows how pervasive this culture of extortion has been.

Unfortunately, the transport sector is just one example where BNP-linked men are taking control of important public sectors. After the fall of Awami League, we have seen how BNP-affiliated people have been trying to assert their control in every other sector, such as the health sector. Recently, we have also seen how groups claiming allegiance to the BNP have been trying to take control of slums and footpaths in the city. This tendency must stop urgently.

Extortion is one of the key reasons for the chaos and lawlessness in the transport sector, so the interim government must find a sustainable solution to this problem. The transport organisations, including powerful owners' and workers' associations, must be represented by honest individuals who can save this sector from the crippling influences of corruption and irregularities, which have led to our roads becoming one of the most dangerous in the world. Reform of state institutions was a major goal of the student-led mass movement; and to attain that goal, politicisation of vital public sectors including transport must stop.

Strengthen the chief adviser's hands

Some actions are having contrary effects

THE THIRD VIEW

Mahfuz Anam
is the editor and publisher of
The Daily Star.



MAHFUZ ANAM

Honestly, we had all lost hope about democracy, rule of law, good governance, accountability of public institutions, corporate governance, integrity in the leadership, free media, etc in Bangladesh. The only way forward was sycophancy and corruption. Options were "lick or fill," meaning either lick their feet or fill their pocket.

Students and citizens together have totally and unbelievably changed the scenario. They have forcibly opened all the doors that were firmly shut but for the lackeys. Suddenly, we are able to breathe again and dream again. But dreams are just as beautiful as they are fragile. Events are taking place that are likely to make the fulfilment of our dreams more difficult than they ought to be. There are occurrences that are unnecessarily raising questions about the interim government and creating doubts about its efficacy. These are happening both within the system and outside.

We start with the police. If any state institution contributed to bringing down the old regime, it was police. They were used by the then ruling Awami League as its own extension, but they later became a Frankenstein and implemented their own agenda. As the saying goes, "Old habits die hard," so now that the police are operating under the new regime, they are doing so in the very same way that they did before: abuse the law in implementing it.

Two journalists, former employees of Ekattor TV—not the best example of objective journalism—were picked up at the airport, handed over to the Detective Branch (DB) of police, and later charged with murder and placed on remand for four days. What law did they break? A murder charge? Their names were not in the original FIR, but were included later under the category of "unknown" miscreants (a most dangerous practice and one that should be scrapped immediately. Police can always add new names as investigation reveals). Even if they were big supporters of the discredited regime, they did not break any established law. The way to handle

them is to criticise their journalism and expose their partisanship, but they cannot be jailed without specific charges of breaking the law.

Vandalising media establishments, TV stations—the latest incident occurring at the East West Media Group—deserve our condemnation. The policies of these establishments may have been unethical, one-sided and devoted to serving the fallen government, but their voices still cannot be forcibly shut. However



The East West Media Group's office in Bashundhara Residential Area, Dhaka was attacked on August 19, 2024.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

blatant and unethical their journalism may have been, they cannot be subjected to physical attacks, arrests and intimidation.

These actions are creating fear among journalists, raising the question as to whether we are returning to the old ways with the victims changing—instead of pro-BNP journalists, the victims are now the pro-Awami League journalists. We must not repeat past mistakes.

Then there was the incident at the court premises where former AL minister Dipu Moni was not protected by the police sufficiently to prevent pro-BNP lawyers from assaulting her. Police cannot avoid responsibility for this failure. But also, these partisan lawyers broke their own professional ethics and denigrated the court and their own profession.

We find it very worrying, the way murder charges are being slapped on former ministers, AL leaders, MPs, former judges, scholars, lawyers and, as mentioned above, on journalists without any proof. The approach seems to be "charge first, prove later." Too many murder cases are piling up against the former PM, which is already giving it an air of witch hunt. The more cases pile up, the less will be its credibility. A few well-founded cases that are supported by strong evidence is good enough to hold the former PM to account. But the way it is happening is already raising questions. What we are seeing is that cases are being filed with courts against the former prime minister, some AL leaders, some judges, lawyers, scholars—persons like Muntassir Mamoon, Shahriar Kabir, former Justice Enayetur Rahim, politicians Hasanul Huq Inu, and Rashed Khan Menon (who was

corruption, banking fraud. Each time such murder cases are being filed, the legal process is coming under question.

Our law adviser has written volumes criticising such laws and practices. We expect him to remove such misuse of laws and ensure more credibility for the whole process.

Then there are other types of events that are increasing our worry about mob rule and people taking up law in their own hands. We really need to think about some of the incidents that have happened recently: i) forcibly entering the Secretariat and compelling the cancellation of remaining HSC exams; ii) forcing the interim government to grant promotions in bureaucracy and various government bodies; iii) forcing the removal of teachers from various posts in different campuses; iv) forcing the interim government to change appointments and dictating choices; and v) political parties competing to occupy critical posts in this transition period.

All the facts mentioned above are of great embarrassment to the interim government, and they are, however moderately, eroding public confidence. Part of what's happening can be accepted as unavoidable. When a powerful and long-standing government suddenly falls, there is a power vacuum, and both those with genuine grievances and the opportunists who try to take advantage of the power shift create situations like the ones mentioned above. Every day, there are demonstrations in front of the Chief Adviser's Office with endless demands, which are mostly self-serving rather than of national interest.

Prof Yunus's government is here only because of the love and respect he enjoys from the people, and especially from the students who spearheaded the latest uprising. They toppled the Sheikh Hasina government and opened up a whole world of possibilities. It's these possibilities that we must all work to try to bring to fruition. We are standing at the doorstep of a new Bangladesh. But we are also standing on very slippery grounds. It is slippery because we are a divided lot at the moment with the cronies of the old regime, power-hungry opportunists, and vested groups—especially those who looted the state coffers and our banks—waiting for a chance to subvert the interim government. This along with many of the advisers lacking experience in the governance process make the slippery grounds even more so.

As Prof Yunus said, let us not take a wrong step and miss the opportunity. In some cases, we seem to be doing so.

To protect free speech, get rid of oppressive laws

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SINHA IBNA HUMAYUN

The Cyber Security Act (CSA), 2023 is widely accepted as a draconian spin-off of the Digital Security Act (DSA), 2018. Hastily passed a few months before the Parliamentary Election of 2024, the CSA carries the same repressive watermarks of the DSA, which was also passed just before an election. The purpose of this law is widely recognised as suppressing the free press and freedom of speech. As a nation in transition, Bangladesh must repeal the CSA to safeguard the rights of its citizens.

All but the most loyal supporters of the Awami League would agree that during its reign, Bangladesh suffered a massive decline in freedom of speech. The World Press Freedom Index ranked Bangladesh 165th out of 180 countries in the 2024 report, placing it at the bottom among South Asian nations, only above Afghanistan. While many factors contributed to this decline, one of the main suppression tools was the CSA and its predecessor.

National and international media, activists, and legal experts strongly opposed non-bailable offenses which existed in the DSA. Unfortunately, the same spirit continued in the CSA, as any offence booked under sections 17,

19, 27 and 33 of the act were declared to be non-bailable.

Section 4 of this act restricted the possibility of anyone criticising the government, even outside of Bangladesh. Unilateral power is given to the Director General of National Cyber Security Agency in section 4, to remove or block any content with the assistance of BTRC.

Section 21 outlines a five-year jail term and/or a Tk one crore fine for any statement, conspiracy, or negative criticism against the Liberation War, the father of the nation, the national anthem, and the national flag, allowing law enforcement to package any form of criticism against the government as anti-state or anti-government and prosecute ruthlessly. Section 25 further doubles down on so-called conspiracies to spread propaganda and falsehoods that affect the image and reputation of the country. The wording of this clause was purposefully kept vague to allow arbitrary interpretation.

Section 42 grants police absolute authority to search bodies, places, confiscate, and arrest without showing any cause or warrant. The former ruling government has been

heavily criticised for using this clause as a major fear tactic. Many journalists have refrained from saying or writing anything against the government out of fear of police harassment and brutality.

The extent to which the CSA strangled rights and voices is astonishing and disproportionate. When the law of the land allows accused individuals to get bail for serious offenses, such as loan default, cheque fraud, and land grabbing, how can authorities detain someone without bail for something as harmless as a Facebook post? This law intentionally targets journalists, netizens, and ordinary citizens, tarnishing freedom of speech, expression, and investigative journalism. No authority, either private or public, should be allowed such unchecked power to search, detain, or punish people.

Although the previous regime is gone, the law remains in force, and many of its victims are still behind bars. Between October 2018 and September 2023, 4,520 people were charged in 1,436 cases. The Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) traced identities of the accusers in 859 cases and found that the former ruling party activists filed 263 of them, suing 887 people.

Victims who have been unjustly detained, tried, and convicted should be immediately released. Independent judicial investigation should be conducted and personnel who were involved in framing innocent citizens must face the law.

The CSA must be repealed, and

the interim government must form an impartial committee consisting of legal experts, journalists, cyber security experts, and activists to draft a new act. The new act should only focus on cybercrimes such as fraud, theft, hacking, or any action that compromises national cyber security. Any online activities of anti-state or anti-national nature can always be addressed under penal code and other existing laws. Speech, online activism, and all forms of journalistic and creative expression must be excluded from the scope of the future cyber law.

For the first time in many years, there is an environment where publishing an article or a Facebook status doesn't make us feel scared. Online news portals are posting materials and incriminating evidence that were practically impossible just a few weeks ago. Television and print media have also come out of their shells, deviating from their once established party lines. These are steps in the right direction, but the fruits of freedom should not appear circumstantial in the long term; they should be structural.

Years of faulty laws have strangled citizens' voices, to an extent that self-censorship has become our second skin. The youth of the country have obviously spoken, and leveraging on that, the existing legal system should be modified so that the common Bangladeshi can speak freely, too. We must dispel the oppressive legal instruments of the past and enact better laws, so that future governments cannot senselessly prosecute its own citizens, much like the last one did.

'It's been most challenging to reach those marooned in Feni'

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, discusses the severity of the floods, challenges of rescue efforts in Feni and next steps of the interim government in addressing this unexpected national crisis in an interview with Sushmita S Preetha of The Daily Star.



is a risk of loss of life, which we must avoid. Right now, we are taking urgent measures to rescue people; the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is sending boats, the army is there, a lot of volunteers are working; but then again, they are faced with difficulty in accessing places where people are trapped.

Excessive rain and hillside runoff are causing the flood. But many are also speculating that the situation has worsened because a dam in India's Tripura has been opened. What is your take on this?

This is not a matter of personal opinion. It is a government-to-government matter. There has been a lot of rain, and as a result, some dams have been opened on the Indian side. What we are trying to figure out is whether we were told before the [Tripura] dam was opened. We may not have a treaty on this particular river, but there are international treaties—such as the no-harm principle,

principle of cooperation—on how to manage transboundary or shared resources between countries. Our chief adviser is set to speak with the Indian prime minister and raise these concerns.

The other issue is, why do we only have agreements on eight rivers when we share so many rivers with India? The chief adviser will address what happened in this particular instance, but he will also discuss and prioritise how to prevent such things from happening in the future.

The climate threats should be taken as an opportunity to start the dialogue and reach an agreement for basin-wide river management. The challenges include involving all basin countries within the framework of existing agreements, getting the consent of the upper riparian countries that are naturally placed in advantageous positions, and adhering to the principles, norms and processes prescribed in the 1997 UN convention as none of the riparian countries is party to it. And of course, an effective dispute resolution mechanism

has to be put in place.

How is the shuffling of the local government going to affect disaster and relief management?

A local government is, of course, of tremendous help in such situations. Even though there has been a reshuffling in local government, it is not that it has collapsed. Someone from each of those local government offices has been appointed as the administrator. And during disasters, as you also know, one institution may be tasked with the primary role, but all

institutions must come together and give their all. To ensure that all departments and ministries can work effectively and urgently together, the disaster management ministry, along with the ministries of fisheries and livestock, agriculture, health, etc, is taking coordinated efforts at the field level as well as the national level.

The adviser for disaster management and relief, who could not go earlier because of bad weather, went to Feni yesterday. He may not have been able to visit the remote areas, but he will oversee the coordination from a

What we are trying to figure out is whether we were told before the [Tripura] dam was opened. We may not have a treaty on this particular river, but there are international treaties—such as the no-harm principle, principle of cooperation—on how to manage transboundary or shared resources between countries.

Flooding has taken a dire turn in the country within a very short time. Feni, in particular, has not faced such a critical situation in living memory. What's the latest update from the ground?

We are hearing the same thing on the ground. There has been flooding in Feni before, but never to such an extent. Feni locals are not used to such terrible flash floods, neither are government and non-government authorities. Now we are hearing that water is coming into the city as well, which is a matter of great concern. The most challenging aspect has been reaching remote areas and carrying out rescue operations. On Wednesday night, there was no electricity or mobile network, so the rescue mission became very difficult. We could not restore electricity as there was the risk of electrocution. Most of the rescue operation has to be conducted during the day, so the situation really is severe in those areas.

What immediate measures are the interim government taking to help the affected communities?

There is enough relief to provide immediate support, as per government data. But the real issue, as I said before, is accessing the affected people. One of the demands coming out of the flood-affected areas has been to use helicopters to rescue those who are marooned, but we are not able to do so because the weather is still quite treacherous, so helicopters still cannot reach those areas. There is also a demand that helicopters be used to provide relief; even that is not possible at the moment because 1) there is too much water, and 2) when you drop relief from a helicopter, people rush towards it and there



Feni locals are not used to such terrible flash floods, neither are government and non-government authorities.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

nearby area.

Besides Feni, there are other districts such as Cumilla, Khagrachhari, etc, which have also been affected by the flash floods. What steps are you taking there?

The situation in Feni is particularly bad, so we are giving our utmost attention there. But local government agencies, ministries, and the army have all been instructed to do their due diligence in other affected areas, and they are being deployed in the places where the embankments have not broken yet, and to ensure that they are ready with whatever is necessary to tackle the situation. Every area is getting attention, but we are particularly worried about Feni because the communication system there has broken down completely.

Many have also questioned the government's poor river conservation and management initiatives amid the increasing intensity and frequency of floods in the country.

Yesterday, we discussed in a meeting that in many areas, water is not receding because of the arbitrary way in which embankments, bridges and/or culverts have been constructed. Since this is a flash flood, when the rain lets up, the rainwater is supposed to recede quickly. There may be river erosion at that time. However, when the water recedes, there must be no obstruction. So, the bigger concern as to whether we have done adequate river management keeping in mind how flood-prone we are was discussed, though the immediate focus is now on rescue and rehabilitation. I have long been saying that our rivers are losing navigability. We have to address these wider concerns in the long run.

LAW REFORM FOR GENDER EQUALITY

From where we left off...



Dr Taslima Yasmin is associate professor at the Department of Law in the University of Dhaka. She can be reached at taslima47@yahoo.com.

TASLIMA YASMIN

As we speak of reform across all sectors today, it has become important to revisit and address the various forms of inequalities that have become ingrained at almost all levels of our society. As the glorious history of the very birth of our country owes it to the students' united voices, it is them who are once again inspiring us when the nation is at a crossroads. The spirit of the student-led mass movement was by all means fairness and equality. Hence, it is the right time to revisit the recommendations that women's rights advocates in Bangladesh have proposed time and again, demanding some law and policy reforms that are meant to remedy the age-old inequalities against women, but which have failed to see the light of day in the past decade.

laws on sexual violence is even more crucial now in view of the horrific Kolkata rape incident. It is unacceptable that our law remains so outdated that the rape of a child bride as young as 13 years old still cannot be considered as rape when the perpetrator is her husband—no matter how brutal the rape is or whether it causes the child's death. It is also unthinkable that because an adult offender used sharp objects to penetrate a child—as her body is incapable of penile-vaginal intercourse—his charge might simply be of an "attempt to rape" or "sexual assault" instead of "rape" due to the vague legal definitions.

Another demand from the women's rights activists that has remained largely ignored, despite several advocacy attempts, is the

of such legislation and related legal reforms. However, other than a token inclusion of a non-functional sexual harassment provision in the Labour Rules in 2022, no substantive steps have been taken to install a robust sexual harassment prevention and protection mechanism at workplaces and educational institutions. This was a crucial demand that found even stronger grounds when Nusrat was murdered in her madrasa premise, but

of the reality on the ground and overlook the need to evaluate whether there is an actual necessity of a new law on the subject. The result is several overlapping laws and policies creating a rather weak premise for ensuring justice to women. The key stakeholders, on whom the ultimate enforcement of the law depends, are also often not consulted with when laws are drafted.

For instance, the Dowry Prohibition Act,

sexual assault cases. The amendment, which increased the maximum punishment for rape to death sentence, carried no impact on the existing injustice against rape survivors. Rather, the same amendment introduced mandatory DNA test to be done for all cases under the law, paving the way for further stretching the already delayed investigation process in rape cases.

While the problematic laws exist, seeking justice for rape and other forms of sexual violence is far more difficult, resulting in the extremely low rate of conviction in rape cases. Key barriers to such a delayed justice process have been identified time and again in the past several years raising alarms on issues such as the lack of witness protection mechanism, rape survivors having to battle with misogyny, and harmful stereotypes during investigation and trial, corruption, lack of effective legal aid, politically biased and largely inefficient public prosecution system, and so on. Nevertheless, other than removal of the provision relating to character evidence from the Evidence Act, no visibly effective steps have been taken to address the obstacles that make the process of seeking justice extremely gruelling for rape survivors.

Also, there is a lack of any systematic evaluation to monitor the newly enacted laws' progress, and it is commonly left for the activists at the end, to point out the apparent inconsistencies in the law that are blocking its implementation—including the crucial gap in budget allocation.

No doubt, these deep-rooted clogs in the justice system and the legal loopholes that have remained unheeded for years cannot be mended overnight. But as Bangladesh renews its pledge for equality and non-discrimination, what we can now hope for is a stronger political commitment to take the first and most crucial step towards meaningful reform for women's right to justice. Now is the time.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

our voices did not reach the lawmakers, and the educational institutions and workplaces still remain largely indifferent to sexual harassment incidents.

Undeniably, laws that are discriminatory should be amended and new laws should be passed where effective legal protection is lacking. However, in Bangladesh, passing of a new law to address some form of gender inequality is often presented as the only solution to a crisis, be it domestic violence, dowry violence or child marriage. Such new laws or changes in the law pledging to ensure equality for women are generally uninformed

1980 was repealed in 2018 only to be replaced with an almost identical law with few minor additions. There is no explanation as to why the legislature opted for a new dowry prohibition law without simply amending the already existing one. Rather, the 2018 law missed the opportunity to address the critical gaps that existed in the previous law, which were seemingly problematic for victims of dowry violence in getting effective relief under the law. This is also the case for the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000, which was hurriedly amended in 2020 in the face of public outrage triggered by a series of

Perhaps scrutinising our laws on sexual violence is even more crucial now in view of the horrific Kolkata rape incident. It is unacceptable that our law remains so outdated that the rape of a child bride as young as 13 years old still cannot be considered as rape when the perpetrator is her husband—no matter how brutal the rape is or whether it causes the child's death.

One of the most critical recommendations for such a reform proposal has been regarding the vague and outmoded laws and practices around rape cases. Perhaps scrutinising our

call for an anti-sexual harassment law for all workplaces and educational institutions. Time and again, several organisations, activists and legal researchers have proposed drafts

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Public Administration
Sarkari Karmachari Hospital, Fullbaria, Dhaka
www.skh.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Public Administration
Agency	: Sarkari Karmachari Hospital (SKH)
Procuring Entity Code	: N/A
Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
Expression of Interest for selection of	: Individual Consultant (National) (Time-Based)
EDI Ref. No	: 05.87.0000.015.007.023.24-496
Date	: 22.08.2024

KEY INFORMATION
Procurement Sub-Method : Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC)

FUNDING INFORMATION
Budget and Source of Funds : GOB

PARTICULAR INFORMATION
Program Name : Procurement of Service of Doctors in various Departments of Sarkari Karmachari Hospital.

Scheme Name : N/A

EOI Closing Date and Time : EOI shall be submitted on or before 12/09/2024 at 12:00 pm in a sealed envelope delivered to the undersigned and be clearly marked Request for Expressions of interest for Selection of (Title of Service for Applied Post)”. Contact address with email and mobile number of the applicant should be written on the left side of envelope. Necessary documents in support of education qualifications, experience and skills have to be submitted with prescribed format of application stipulated with Request For Application (RFA).

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

Title of Service	No of Position	Minimum Educational Qualification	Minimum Experience	Duties and Responsibilities	Brief Description of Assignment
Junior Consultant (Pathology)	1	FCPS/ MD/M. Phil/DCP degree in Pathology	At least 06 (Six) months Working Experience after Post graduation Degree in the respective field	They will perform the duties of a junior consultant in his/her respective department as like all other gov./Private Hospitals in Sarkari Karmachari Hospital as per directives of the concern authority	Please see RFA for details
Junior Consultant (Radiology)	3	FCPS/MD/M.Phil/DMRD/MCPS degree in Radiology			
Junior Consultant (ENT)	2	FCPS/MS/DLO/MCPS degree in ENT			
Junior Consultant (Dentistry)	1	FCPS/MS/Diploma degree in Dentistry			
Junior Consultant (Maxillofacial Surgery)	1	FCPS/MS Degree in Oral Maxillofacial Surgery			
Junior Consultant (Ophthalmology)	2	FCPS/MS/DO/DCO/MCPS degree in Ophthalmology			
Junior Consultant (Anesthesiology)	2	FCPS/MD/DA/MCPS degree in Anesthesiology			
Junior Consultant (Physical Medicine)	1	FCPS/MD degree in Physical Medicine			
Junior Consultant (Cardiology)	5	MD/FCPS/D Card degree in Cardiology			
Junior Consultant (Casualty)	1	FCPS/MS/MCPS degree in General Surgery			
Junior Consultant (Emergency)	1	FCPS/MD/MCPS in Medicine/ MD in Critical Care Medicine			
Junior Consultant (Respiratory Medicine)	1	FCPS/MD/DTCD degree in Respiratory Medicine			
Junior Consultant (Neonatology)	2	FCPS/MD degree in Neonatology			
Junior Consultant (Blood Bank)	1	FCPS/MD/DTM in Transfusion Medicine			
Junior Consultant (Neurology)	2	FCPS/MD degree in Neurology			
Junior Consultant (Nephrology)	2	FCPS/MD degree in Nephrology			
Junior Consultant (Gastroenterology)	2	FCPS/MD degree in Gastroenterology			
Resident Surgeon (Casualty)	2	FCPS/MS/MCPS degree in general surgery			

Medical Officer: 58 M.B.B.S from any BMDC recognized medical college
At least 01(One) year working experience in his/her respective department as like all other gov./ Private Hospitals in Sarkari Karmachari Hospital as per directives of the concern authority

Dental Surgeon: 2 BDS from any BMDC approved medical college
01(One) year working experience in his/her respective department as like all other gov./Private Hospitals in Sarkari Karmachari Hospital as per directives of the concern authority

Other Details (If applicable)
1. A copy of the terms of reference (TOR), Request for application (RFA) and necessary forms may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours and any time from the website of Sarkari Karmachari Hospital (www.skh.gov.bd) within the stipulated date.
2. For any clarification about the application procedure, please contact to this mobile number: 01750-247078

Association with foreign firms is : Not applicable

Ref No	Phasing of services	Location	Start Date	Completion Date
01.	Single: Time Based	Dhaka	October, 2024	September, 2025 (Renewable)

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS
Name of Official Inviting EOI : Md. A. Razaque Sarker
Designation of official Inviting EOI : Director General, Sarkari Karmachari Hospital, Fullbaria, Dhaka
Address of official inviting EOI : Sarkari Karmachari Hospital, Fullbaria, Dhaka
Contact details of official inviting EOI : Phone: 02-223386708, 02-223357727
Email: geh@mopa.gov.bd
The Procuring Entity Reserves all the right to accept or reject all EOI

(Md. A. Razaque Sarker)
Additional Secretary
Director General
Sarkari Karmachari Hospital
Email. geh@mopa.gov.bd



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর
ptcrangpur.police.gov.bd

স্মারক নং: ১৫৩১/পিটিসি

তারিখ: ২২/০৮/২০২৪

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২৪-২০২৫

The Public Procurement Regulation-2006/2008 & 2010/2016 (সংশোধন) মোতাবেক চলতি ২০১৪-২০১৫ অর্থবছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর/২০২৪ হতে ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪) এর রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে নি: পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেকর্ডনং ২০০৮ (সংশোধিত) মোতাবেক নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে নিলামক্রমে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/পুলিশ বিভাগ।
০২.	সংস্থা	: পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর।
০৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	: কমান্ড্যান্ট, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর।
০৪.	সম্প্রদায়িক সত্তার জেলা	: পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর।
০৫.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত পদ্ধতি (OTM)
০৬.	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক খাত	: বাজেট বাজেটের আওতায় বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের বাজেট।
০৭.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	: ২২/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ।
০৮.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	: পরিকল্পিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হতে ২৩/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৪/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৪/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রখোলা বা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১১.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	: কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর।
১২.	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	: ১। কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর। ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, রংপুর।
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৫/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বেলা ১০.০০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	দরপত্রাদারের যোগ্যতা	: (ক) ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সুলভিকারী জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি (খ) হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (গ) টিআইএন নম্বরসহ হালসন পর্যন্ত আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদ (ঘ) মূল্য সংযোজন করে নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র (ঙ) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসিলকৃত ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র (চ) পুলিশের মালামাল সরবরাহ কার্যে অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেট দরপত্র দিল্লি ক্রয়ের সময় উল্লেখিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র দিল্লি সরবরাহ করা হবে এবং উক্ত কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি অথবা ই-দাখিল করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, কার্যক্রম প্রদানের পূর্বে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র সম্পর্কে তদন্ত/সত্যতা যাচাই করা হবে।

ক্র.	কাজের বিবরণ	পরিমাণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারতথ্যে)	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
ক.	মঙ্গল ডাল (শেঁশ, উন্নতমানের ছোট দানা বিশিষ্ট) ও প্রতি ১০ গ্রাম ডালে কমপক্ষে ৬০০টি দানা থাকতে হবে। রেশন স্টোরে রাখার সময় অসুযোগী ৩.৫০, ৪.০০ ও ৫.৫০ কেজি ওজনের মানসম্মত স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকেট সরবরাহ করতে হবে। প্যাকেটের গায়ে স্পষ্টভাবে পণ্যের ওজন, উৎপাদনের তারিখ ও মেয়াদ উল্লেখিত তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।	০১ (এক) কোয়টিরে ১৫,০০০ কেজি (আনুমানিক)	৭৫০/- প্রতিটি	৬০,০০০/-	আক্টোবর/২৪ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২৪ পর্যন্ত
খ.	ডোজা স্যানিটাইজিং সলিউশন (কপট/ডাল/সমন্বিত) ৫.০০/২.০০/১.০০/০.৫০ লিটার প্রান্তিক কন্টেইনারে (বিএসটিআই কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত) ডিটামিন "এ", "ডি" ও "ই" সমৃদ্ধ এবং ডোজা তেলের বোতলে প্রদর্শিতব্য প্রতীক "সঠিক পুষ্টি ও সুস্থ জীবন" থাকতে হবে।	০১ (এক) কোয়টিরে ১৫,০০০ লিটার (আনুমানিক)	৭৫০/- প্রতিটি	৭৫,০০০/-	
গ.	চিনি (১ এবং ২ কেজি প্যাকেট আকারে)	০১ (এক) কোয়টিরে ৯,৫০০ কেজি (আনুমানিক)	৭৫০/- প্রতিটি	৫০,০০০/-	
ঘ.	পোলো ও এর চাল (কার্লিঙ্গা/চিনিগুড়া) সরবরাহ	ফোর্স অনুপাতে কেজি	৫০০/- প্রতিটি	৫,০০০/-	
ঙ.	গম পেয়াই (৫.০০, ২.০০ ও ১.০০ কেজি ওজনের স্বচ্ছ পলিপ্যাকেট সরবরাহ করতে হবে। প্যাকেটের গায়ে স্পষ্টভাবে পণ্যের ওজন, উৎপাদনের তারিখ ও মেয়াদ উল্লেখিত তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।	০১ (এক) কোয়টিরে ৬০,০০০ কেজি (আনুমানিক)	৭৫০/- প্রতিটি	২৫,০০০/-	
চ.	পুরাতন চটের বস্তা ও সিনথেটিক বস্তা (৫০ ও ৩০ কেজি ওজনের) বিক্রয়	(স্টোরে যে অবস্থায় আছে) ডেড স্টক অনুযায়ী	৫০০/- প্রতিটি	১০,০০০/-	
ছ.	জ্বালানী কাঠ (চোরাই করা চকনা আম কাঠ) সরবরাহ	ফোর্স অনুপাতে কেজি	৫০০/- প্রতিটি	৫,০০০/-	
জ.	কুণি	পোচ-আনোসেড (চাল, গম ও চিনি)	৫০০/- প্রতিটি	১০,০০০/-	
১৬.	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ				

ক) দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলি দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে খ) দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৬০ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বদল থাকবে। গ) দরপত্রের উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে। ঘ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। ঙ) রেশন সামগ্রী কোয়ার্টার ভিত্তিক/মাসিক চাহিদার ভিত্তিতে সরবরাহ করতে হবে।

নো: আবুল কালাম আজাদ
পিপি-৭০৯৯০২০৮৫৪
অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি (ডিআইজি পদে পদোন্নতি গ্রাভ) (প্রশাসন)
কমান্ড্যান্ট এর সাময়িক দায়িত্বে
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, রংপুর
ফোন: ০৫২১-৬২২৯৬, ফ্যাক্স: ০৫২১-৫২১৫৪
E-mail: cmdptergp@police.gov.bd

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
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স্মারক নং-উ:জে:স্ব:কম/লামা/দরপত্র/২০২৪-২০২৫/৮৫৩

তারিখ: ২১/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"The Public Procurement Act-2006 ও বিধিমালা ২০০৮, সংশোধিত আইন ও বিধিমালা ২০১৯" মোতাবেক, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলার লামা উপজেলায় ৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স/ ইউনিয়ন স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ কেন্দ্র/ কমিউনিটি ক্লিনিক/ স্যাটেলাইট ক্লিনিক/ ইপিআই কেন্দ্র/ অন্যান্য স্বাস্থ্য সেবা প্রতিষ্ঠানের রোগী/ সেবা গ্রহীতা/ সেবা দাতাগণের জন্য ২০২৪-২০২৫ইং অর্থ বছরে পথ্য ও খাদ্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ, লিঙ্গেন বৌতকরণ/পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্নতা সামগ্রী এবং ষ্টেশনারি সরবরাহ/মনিহারি সরবরাহের নিমিত্ত বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/লভ্রীর নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত ছকে সীলগালাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	: স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় (স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ)
২	সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান	: স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
৩	বাজেট/তহবিলের উৎস	: টি (রাজস্ব)
৪	সম্প্রদায়িক কর্তৃপক্ষ	: উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা, লামা, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা।
৫	দরপত্র ক্রয় ও সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র
৬	দরপত্র প্যাকেজের নাম	: ১। হাসপাতালের রোগীদের জন্য পথ্য ও খাদ্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ, ২। ষ্টেশনারি ও বিবিধ সামগ্রী সরবরাহ, ৩। লিঙ্গেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ
৭	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	: উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লামা, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা।
৮	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	: উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, লামা, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা।
৯	অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী/কাজের বর্ণনা	: বিস্তারিত সিডিউলে বর্ণিত (প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে শর্তাবলী মতে)।
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সময়সীমা	: ২৫/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ১৫/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত, দুপুর ২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র জমাদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৬/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল-১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৬/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল-১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়। দরপত্রাদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।
১৩	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্রাদি দাখিল করিতে হইবে	: হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়নপত্র ও ভাটি নিবন্ধিকরণের প্রত্যয়নপত্রের ফটোকপি এবং ব্যাংক সচ্ছলতার সনদপত্রের (মূলকপি)।
১৪	দরপত্রের মূল্য পরিশোধের নিয়ম	: উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা, লামা, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা বরাবর সোনালী ব্যাংক, লামা শাখায় চালান মূলে ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ কোডে জমা করে উপজেলা হিসাবরক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার প্রতিস্বাক্ষরিত করে চালান কপি জমা দিতে হবে।

প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা	দরপত্রের বিবরণ ও ধরণ	বাৎসরিক প্রাক্কলিত মূল্য (সম্ভাব্য)	কোড নং	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারতথ্যে)	বায়নার/জামানতের টাকা পে-অর্ডার/ ব্যাংক ড্রাফট
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য কমপ্লেক্স, লামা, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা।	পথ্য	৩৫,০০,০০০/-	৩২৫২১০৪	৭৫০/-	৬০,০০০/-
	মনিহারী বিবিধ প্রব্যাদি সরবরাহ	৭,০০,০০০/-	৩২৫৫১০৫	৪০০/-	১০,০০০/-
	লিঙ্গেন সামগ্রী বৌতকরণ	১০,০০,০০০/-	৩২১১১০২	৫০০/-	১৫,০০০/-

বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ
ক। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র অফিসের নোটিশে বর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময় ও স্থানে দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলা হবে।
খ। বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী সিডিউলের সহিত সংযুক্ত থাকিবে।

(ডা. এমিৎ মারমা)
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা
লামা, বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা।

GD- 236

Opening duo resilient but Tigers' task toughens

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh bowlers and fielders toiled under the Rawalpindi sun yesterday as Pakistan batters ensured the visitors would have their work cut out for them on the second day of the first Test.

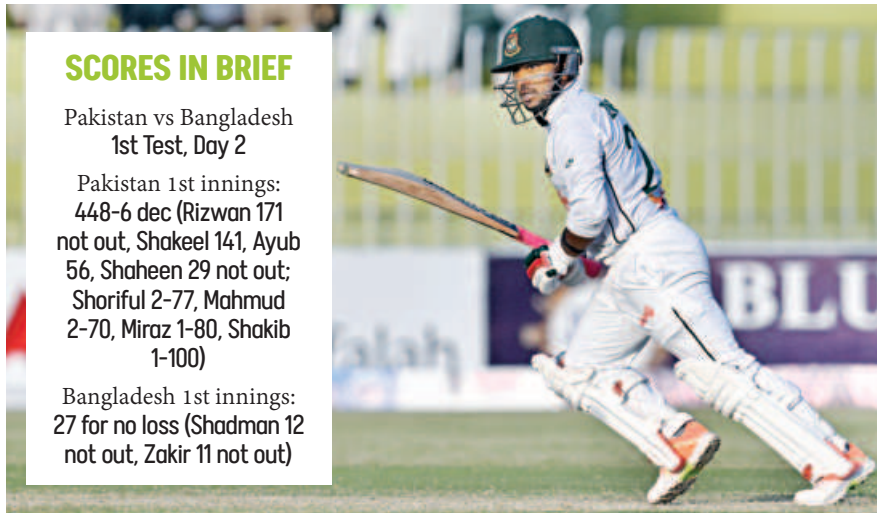
The visitors picked up just two wickets, having bowled 72 overs on day two as Pakistan rode on Saud Shakeel's 141 and Rizwan Hossain's unbeaten 171 to post 448 for six before declaring.

In reply, the Tigers reached stumps at 27 for no loss as Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam saw out a tricky 12-over period. Bangladesh will certainly take heart from their short vigil at the crease on the day but will be knowing full well that any slip in concentration can prove disastrous.

Batting form, or lack thereof, especially in the red-ball format has seen the Tigers suffer on a regular basis. In the last series against Sri Lanka at home, Bangladesh regularly lost wickets to false shots, not quite being able to apply themselves.

Batting coach David Hemp was impressed by the opening duo's effort.

"We are really pleased with how they



SCORES IN BRIEF

Pakistan vs Bangladesh
1st Test, Day 2

Pakistan 1st innings:
448-6 dec (Rizwan 171 not out, Shakeel 141, Ayub 56, Shaheen 29 not out; Shoriful 2-77, Mahmud 2-70, Miraz 1-80, Shakib 1-100)

Bangladesh 1st innings:
27 for no loss (Shadman 12 not out, Zakir 11 not out)

negotiated the last 12-over block. It can be a challenging time when you have to bat in the last hour of the day's play, especially when you have been in the field all day. The manner in which they played, positive footwork and still looking to score even though you want to be as disciplined and as tight as you can," Hemp said at a press

conference yesterday following the day's play.

The surface looked pretty flat and provided plenty of run-scoring opportunities. Talks of whether 20 wickets could be taken by a team had also begun. Hemp acknowledged that the surface is good enough to not deteriorate

too much, informing that the plan is to carry on batting throughout the third day.

"From our point of view, it was a good declaration [from Pakistan]; an attacking declaration which I would expect. So it didn't catch us by surprise. For us, it's about batting tomorrow and then see where we are going into day four and five.

"There is still a lot of cricket to be played. So the priority for us is to make sure we bat the day tomorrow and see where we are at. If we are in a good position then can we go past Pakistan or at least get as close as possible. We did see the odd ball grip a bit. But from a distance, it did seem like a batting wicket and I think it will remain that way for a couple of days anyway," Hemp said.

Bangladesh pacers did not manage any reverse swing, an aspect of the game Pakistan revel in. Hemp felt that they have to wait and watch, knowing reverse swing can change the trajectory of the match.

"We will see what happens tomorrow [today] but from our point of view, we didn't think the conditions were such to help with reverse swing," he added.

Jaker, Saif hit tons against Pak Shaheens

SPORTS REPORTER

Jaker Ali and Saif Hassan struck brilliant hundreds for Bangladesh 'A' against Pakistan Shaheens on the third day of the second four-day match at the Islamabad Club Cricket Oval on Thursday.

After the first two days saw no action due to rain and a wet outfield, the match officially commenced on the penultimate day with Bangladesh 'A' being sent to bat. Jaker smashed an unbeaten 136 while Saif made 111 to steer the visitors to 346-6 at stumps.

Saif and Jaker got together when Bangladesh 'A' were struggling on 77-4 and shared a 131-run partnership for the fifth wicket to bring relief to the tourist camp.

The partnership ended with Saif departing soon after completing his eighth first-class ton, falling to Mehran Mumtaz (2-69).

Jaker then put up a 131-run stand for the following wicket with Mahidul Islam Ankon (39), during which the wicketkeeper-batsman completed his fourth first-class hundred.

Ankon got ran out late in the day as Jaker remained unbeaten alongside Tanzim Sakib (0) at stumps.

Earlier, the opening four-day match of the two-match series ended in a draw at the same venue.

'Girls upset' but preparation in full swing

SPORTS REPORTER

Women's wing head of Bangladesh Cricket Board Habibur Bashar insisted that even though the girls are upset about missing out on playing the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup on home soil, it won't hamper their preparation for the global tournament.

"Everyone has the desire to play World Cup on home soil. Most of the girls had the same dream. So, they are a bit upset about it. Of course, we will miss playing on home condition," Bashar told reporters in Mirpur on Thursday.

International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday that the ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup has been moved out of Bangladesh because of travel advisories from governments of a number of the participating teams due to the current situation in Bangladesh.

The tournament will now take place in the UAE with BCB continuing to host the event. The tournament will take place across two venues in the UAE -- Dubai and Sharjah -- from October 3 to 20.

Although the venue of the global meet has been changed, BCB is trying hard to give the girls adequate preparation before they compete against England, South Africa, West Indies, and Scotland

in Group B of the marquee event.

As part of the preparation, the cricketers reached Rajshahi on Thursday to feature in the 13th Women's National Cricket League 2024-25 where eight divisional teams will compete in the T20 format, beginning on Saturday.

"The preparation isn't being hampered much. We were taking preparation keeping the World Cup in mind. We made arrangements for one-to-one training for the girls. Our local coaches were there. The coaching staff are also

here. The NCL is part of our preparation," Bashar said.

Apart from that, BCB is mulling to send the national team to Sri Lanka under the 'A' team banner following the WNCL before they leave for the UAE for the World Cup.

"The wickets in Rajshahi are good. We want girls to play on good and sporting wickets. The monsoon is going on but there is less rain in Rajshahi. We will also get two venues. We will have to finish the tournament in a fixed time. As this is going to be a part of our World Cup preparation, so we decided to hold the matches in Rajshahi.

"We will send our 'A' team to Sri Lanka after the league. That will also be our part of preparation... Those, who will be in our World Cup plan, we will make the 'A' team with them," he said.



AFC Challenge League Kings, East Bengal in same group

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings have been drawn in Group A of the inaugural AFC Challenge League along with outfits from India, Lebanon, and Bhutan.

The draw of the AFC Challenge League was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

West Zone of the AFC Challenge League will see 12 teams, split into three groups, competing in a round-robin league with three group champions and the best runners-up among three groups advancing into the quarterfinals of the third-tier club competition in Asia.

Along with Bashundhara Kings, East Bengal of India, Nejmeh SC of Lebanon and Paro FC of Bhutan will play the Group A matches between October 26 to November 2 in Thimphu.

Bashundhara Kings had earlier played the now-defunct AFC Cup four times, getting eliminated from the group stages three times while once the tournament was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, Kings have completed registrations of 34 players, including five foreigners, for their upcoming domestic season. Romanian coach Valeriu Tita is expected to arrive early next month as the club management is likely to decide on the date for the start of the club's pre-season.

Fumble proves costly as U-20s fall to Nepal

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh struggled to recover after a costly fumble by goalkeeper and captain Mehedi Hasan Srabon led to the first goal in their 2-1 defeat to Nepal in a SAFF U-20 Championship fixture in Lalitpur yesterday, coach Maruful Haque said.

The defeat in the second match -- mirroring their losses to Nepal in 2015 and 2017 -- meant Bangladesh finished as Group A runners-up, and they now face a strong possibility of encountering the reigning champions in the semi-finals as India need a draw against Maldives in today's encounter to become Group B champions.

However, Maruful remains optimistic about going all the way in the tournament.

"We lost to Nepal, but we have not lost the championship. If we want to become champions, we have to beat everyone, and we have no choice but to face any team in the semi-final," said Maruful at the post-match conference.

With both teams having already secured semi-final berths, Bangladesh adopted a counter-attacking strategy at ANFA Complex with the objective of at least securing a draw to

overtake Nepal in the points table.

However, the home side took the lead in the 17th minute after the advancing goalkeeper Mehedi failed to intercept Nepal's clearance in midfield, leading to forward Samir Tamang snatching the ball from his feet and slotting into open net.

One minute later, Bangladesh conceded again, with Niranjana Dhami doubling the lead with a near-post finish from Abinash Syangtan's low cross.

"Our plan was to allow them to come into the attack in the first 10 minutes, as Nepal needed to score if they wanted to become group champions, but conceding the first goal brought the players' morale down and they could not bounce back for the rest of the match," said Maruful, adding that even world-class goalkeepers concede goals in such a manner.

Trailing by two goals, coach Maruful showed urgency with his substitutions, bringing on forwards Mirajul Islam and Asadul Molla in the 32nd minute. Bangladesh pulled one back when Mirajul converted from the spot in the 43rd minute after being tackled but failed to cash in on the momentum later.



Leverkusen eye repeat after 'magic' title triumph

AFP, Donaueschingen

Bayer Leverkusen are vowing to achieve great things again this season after an unprecedented unbeaten league and cup double last campaign.

Leverkusen kick off the 2024-25 Bundesliga campaign at local rivals Borussia Muenchengladbach on Friday.

Xabi Alonso's side have been tipped by many to become the first side other than Bayern Munich to win back-to-back German top-flight titles since Jurgen Klopp's Borussia Dortmund in 2012.

Bayern have spent big and Dortmund and RB Leipzig have had impressive summers but that does not scare Leverkusen in their pursuit of a successive title.

Speaking with AFP at Leverkusen's pre-season training camp in the Black Forest village of Donaueschingen, forward Nathan Tella said: "There's no reason why we can't defend the title."

"We've seen Bayern do it for so many years. Why can't we do something similar to that?"

"There's no limit to what we can achieve. Last year, no one believed in us, and at the end of the season, we were undefeated champions.

"Being a part of this team, anything is possible."

Tella's bullish statements are a far cry



from even a season ago, when the club was still derided as 'Neverkusen' for failing to win a league title despite five second-place finishes.

Much of Leverkusen's success last season, including their run to the Europa League final, was set up by late goals from a side who did not know they were beaten.

Leverkusen's summer training base was at the same venue from where Spain's triumphant Euro 2024 campaign just a month earlier launched.

Asked if Leverkusen could benefit from a bit of La Roja's magic this season, Tella

said his side did not need any external assistance.

"No, we have our own magic to be fair. Last season, it was him," Tella said, pointing at Leverkusen's midfield maestro Florian Wirtz.

Despite attention from some of Europe's biggest clubs, Leverkusen held onto Wirtz this summer, as well as the remainder of their squad.

Perhaps most importantly, coach Alonso has committed to stay on for at least another season despite interest from several of his former clubs including European giants Liverpool, Real Madrid, and Bayern.

Financial advantages aside, Bayern's long dominance of the Bundesliga has been underpinned by a constant desire to get better, even when the club is already at the top.

Despite a barnstorming campaign where the club broke through for their first Bundesliga title, Leverkusen were not resting on their laurels.

Alonso, a serial winner during his playing career, set the tone in pre-season training, saying last year's incredible level "probably wouldn't be enough" this season.

"We have many fundamentals," the coach said. "We need to add something, update it, incorporate other elements. We have to evolve and improve."

PAPON the loose cannon

Nazmul Hassan Papon recently stepped down as the president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) after spending 12 years at the post. Bangladesh cricket reached some sporadic highs in his tenure but overall, his administration was blighted by allegations of nepotism, corruption as well as sub-par performances over long periods for the men's and women's national teams. Papon's tendency of stirring up controversy with his words, pulling back the curtain on the national team dressing room and bringing up matters which would have been better left untold, made him a colorful figure in the country's cricket. But his loose mouthed nature only added to the chaos, turning a bad situation even worse. Following are a few of his most controversial remarks:



"Mushfiq's father, Miraz's aunt... beat up someone in some village or so, I had to solve all of that from abroad. These [claims] are a shock to me."

Papon said regarding the players' protest over pay-rise in October 2019.

"I was really surprised to see they chose to bat because it was decided the day before [that we would bowl if won the toss]. Both coach and captain said they would take fielding. It was decided. Then when I saw we won the toss and chose to bat, that was the first shock for me."

Papon on Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque's decision to bat first against India during the pink-ball Test in November 2019 in Kolkata.

"Our main focus is the next World Cup, not this one. You can't change everything overnight. We are planning long-term and trying to prepare a squad for the next World Cup. Even if the upcoming World Cup does not go well for us, I won't be disappointed."

Papon said this, in September 2022, about Bangladesh's short-term and long-term plans regarding the T20 World Cup in the following month and the one in mid-2024.

"This is not a healthy dressing room, this I can guarantee you. This thing [rift between Shakib and Tamim], it's not that I have not tried to sort it out. I have spoken with both of them and I felt that it will not be easy to settle the issues [between them] at the moment. This is my observation."

the former board president opening up a can of worms, quite unprovoked, when he told the media in February last year that there was a rift between Tamim Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan.

"These are rumours. When I was with the team, I neither said nor heard about this. Some people are saying that the atmosphere in the dressing room is not good. I don't know, I haven't seen anything like that."

Papon taking a U-turn a few days later.

"I'm not the same person I used to be. I have not been with the team for the last three-and-a-half years.... I am voluntarily staying detached from the team."

Papon said in July this year, on mending his ways of meddling with the team, following the T20 World Cup.

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REVOCATION OF RED PASSPORTS

A new reality for Hasina in India

PARTHA PRATHI BHATTACHARJEE
and ZYMA ISLAM

After the interim government revoked all diplomatic passports yesterday, questions have now arisen as to how long Sheikh Hasina can stay in India and whether she faces a possible extradition.



Hasina, the former prime minister of Bangladesh, fled to India after being forced to resign in the face of a student-led mass uprising on August 5.

According to the Indian visa policy, Bangladesh citizens holding diplomatic or official passports are eligible for visa-free entry and a stay of up to 45 days.

As of yesterday, Hasina has already spent 18 days in India.

She does not hold any passport other than the diplomatic passport issued in her name, according to government sources.

The cancellation of her diplomatic

passport and its associated visa privileges may put her at risk of extradition.

The extradition of Hasina, who is facing 51 cases, including 42 for murder, falls within the legal framework of the extradition treaty signed between Bangladesh and India.

TREATY AND POLITICAL REALITY

According to the treaty signed in 2013 and amended in 2016, "extradition may be refused if the offence for which it is requested is an offence of a political character."

It also says that certain offences — like murder — "shall not be regarded as offences of a political character" for the purposes of the treaty.

However, one of the grounds for refusal of extradition is if the charges being pressed have not been "made in good faith, in the interest of justice".

A former Indian High Commissioner

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel pump fists during their 240-run fifth-wicket partnership, which helped the hosts post a formidable total of 448 for six before declaring the first innings against Bangladesh in the first Test at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium yesterday. Bangladesh, in reply, were 27 for no loss at the end of second day's play. Story on Page 11.

PHOTO: AFP

Menon arrested in Gulshan

He is facing several cases over killings during protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party and key leader of the Awami League-led 14-Party Alliance, was arrested in Dhaka yesterday while facing charges related to deaths during the recent uprising.

Menon, a former MP who had also served in ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's cabinet, was picked up from his home in Gulshan around 5:15pm, one of his relatives told The Daily Star.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police also confirmed Menon's arrest in a message in the evening, saying he was shown arrested in a case filed on Wednesday at New Market Police Station. The charges in the case are related to murder

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS

Salman F Rahman, 3 ex-ministers, MP to face ACC probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday decided to launch investigations into graft allegations against Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and four others.

The four others are Md Shahab Uddin, former forest and environment minister; Nasrul Hamid, ex-state minister for power and energy; Zunaid Ahmed Palak, former state minister for posts, telecommunications, and information technology; and ex-Awami League MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon.

"Whoever is corrupt, be it a politician or a government official, we will take action ... If the allegations are proved, action will be taken," ACC Secretary Khorshedha Yasmeen told reporters at her office yesterday.

Salman F Rahman, also the vice-chairman of Beximco Group, is accused of stock market fraud and embezzlement of thousands of crores of taka from shareholders through deception, according to a complaint.

He misused his influence to obtain around Tk 36,000 crore in loans from public and private banks, embezzled funds, and laundered thousands of crores of taka abroad, said the complaint.

The investigation will begin today, ACC sources said. Shahab Uddin, forest and environment minister 2019-2024, is accused of misusing his power to acquire illegal wealth.

The documents said in "SUFAL" project, a five-year project involving Tk 1,502 crore financed by the World Bank, he and his son took 10 percent commission from contractors and embezzled



Salman F Rahman Nasrul Hamid

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

RECENT VIOLENCE

UN team arrives in Dhaka

Holds talks on scope of probe with foreign secy

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

On the first day of a weeklong visit to Bangladesh, a three-member UN delegation held discussions yesterday regarding the scope of the investigation into the human rights violations that took place in the country from July 1 to August 15.

Led by Rory Mungoven, chief of the Asia Pacific region at the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the delegation arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning and met Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

The team, staying in Dhaka until August 29 for initial discussions, will also meet the advisers to the ministries of home, law, environment, information and communication technology and religious

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Truce hopes fade as Gaza fighting rages

Israeli tanks push deeper into enclave; 22 more Palestinians killed in strikes

AGENCIES

Hopes were dwindling yesterday for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, where fighting raged despite pressure from the United States on Israel and Hamas to reach an agreement.

Israeli forces pressed deeper into areas of the central and southern enclave and battled with Hamas fighters, as Palestinian health officials said that Israeli strikes had killed at least 22 people across the enclave.

The new escalation comes hours after US President Joe Biden pressed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the urgency of sealing a deal for a truce in Gaza and the release of hostages, the White House said.

Months of on-off talks on a ceasefire have circled the same issues, but Israel and Hamas have stuck firmly to their demands.

In the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya, a strike on a house killed 11 people, while another killed six, including a local journalist, in a house in Al-Maghazi camp in the central Gaza Strip, medics said. Five others were killed in separate strikes in the south.

The Israeli military said its forces had intensified their operations in Deir Al-Balah, in central Gaza, and Khan Younis, in the south, dismantling dozens of military structures, locating rockets, and killing Hamas fighters, over the past 24 hours.

- » Biden presses Netanyahu for a truce
- » New mass exodus in Gaza's Deir el-Balah
- » Death toll in enclave rises to 40,265

SAGAR RUNI CASE

Editors' Council demands swift trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Editors' Council yesterday demanded a swift trial in the Sagar Runi murder case to ensure justice.

A statement signed by the council's President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud called for the immediate filing of the charge sheet to expedite the charge framing in the case.

According to the statement, on February 11, 2012, the journalist couple — Sagar Sarwar, news editor of Mochra Television, and Meherun Runi, ATN Bangla's senior reporter — were murdered in their rented house in the capital's West Rajabazar.

The court has so far extended the time to submit the investigation report of this case 111 times, noted the Editors' Council in the statement.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

ENERGY SECTOR

Govt to scrap provision for fixing prices sans hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisers to the interim government yesterday decided that prices of electricity, gas, and fuel will no longer be increased or decreased without public hearings.

In their third meeting, the advisers decided to repeal Clause 34 (ka) of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Act-2003.

The clause introduced last year allowed the government to set energy prices in special circumstances, bypassing the regulatory body and public input.

Under this provision, the previous government fixed energy prices multiple times without holding public hearings.

The decision was made to promote public engagement in the matter, according to a press release.



NATURE'S ARTISANS

A female Baya weaver, locally known as Babui pakhi, inspecting a nest woven by a male in the port city. Considered artisans of nature, these weaverbirds are found in grasslands, cultivated areas and scrubs across the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. Baya weavers are best known for their intricately constructed hanging nests woven from leaves, which are found mostly on thorny trees or palm fronds near or over waterbodies where predators cannot reach them. These nests are pieces of art and engineering and built by the males to woo female mates. The males spend days collecting grass and twigs and weave the nests one grass blade at a time. Once built, they wait for the female suitors to inspect their work and choose. Sometimes, if two females choose the same nest and male, they fight among themselves to establish their place. When a female chooses a nest and male, the couple then join hands to further build the nest and raise a family. After they birth their chicks and lead them into adulthood, they abandon the nest and start all over again.

PHOTO: MONJUR MORSHED

Stop teachers' harassment

Samajik Protirodh Committee urges govt, civil society, parents of students to take note

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 66 women's, human rights, and development organisations, yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent incidents of harassment and insults of teachers, including female teachers, by some students at different educational institutions.

The committee in a statement urged the government, civil society and guardians to pay special attention to the matter on priority basis.

It also urged the students to refrain from such "uncourteous and audacious" activities.

On behalf of the committee, Fauzia Moslem sent the statement to the media. The committee said it has been observed that students are forcing headmasters, principals or vice chancellors of educational institutions to resign.

The students are not even refraining from assaulting them physically and the female teachers are not being spared from such harassments, reads the statement.

In some cases, students were being used to pursue personal vengeance. The committee said it is ashamed, sad and worried about such incidents.

"Such incidents are not acceptable at all. Such incidents will create anarchy in the overall education system and teaching process, and will ultimately weaken the education system," said the statement.

Such indiscipline is the testament to social degradation and a lack of human values, the committee said.

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