



Country must be back in business without delay

Bankers, factory owners and telco CEOs suggest a way forward for the economy as they join a roundtable organised by *Star*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid worker unrest and insecurity in the industrial sector, entrepreneurs and bankers have urged the new administration to focus on rebuilding confidence in the economy.

Businesses suffered heavily because of street protests and internet blackouts with production disrupted and shipments delayed during the anti-discrimination student movement that toppled the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5.

The political turmoil in Bangladesh has significantly impacted the economy, eroding the confidence of both domestic and international investors. The police force, fearing reprisal attacks, was hesitant to return to work, further worsening the situation. Worker unrest fuelled more concerns later.

Now, Bangladesh must make sure that the country is back in business and also needs to set a communication strategy for channelling the information to the domestic and international business community, according to Syed Nasim Manzur, managing director of Apex Footwear Ltd.

Nasim Manzur and other entrepreneurs and bankers shared their ideas about short and long-term measures at a roundtable titled Current Business Challenges & Way Forward, organised by The Daily Star at its office in Dhaka yesterday.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, moderated the discussion.

SECURITY AND UNREST

Speaking at the roundtable, Sk Bashir Uddin, managing director of AkijBashir Group, said the elephant in the room is the law and order situation. "Of course, I was personally almost assaulted in one of my factories," he said.

Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, described the "huge labour unrest" as "a dire problem" for the manufacturers.

With the police absent, the entrepreneurs are turning to the army but confusion remains over whom to talk to to resolve the issues raised by the workers, she said.

"So ultimately, they [entrepreneurs] do not know who to contact and how to run the factory. This is going to give a certain amount of uncertainty for the multinational companies who are actually investors. They are seeing that this kind of labour unrest happens and there is nobody to support them," Rupali said.

REGAINING CONFIDENCE

Normalcy appears to be returning slowly to the industrial sector now with the workers and law enforcers getting back

to their jobs, while army personnel have joined the efforts to ensure safety in the industrial belts.

Nasim Manzur suggested ensuring safety in the five major industrial belts, including Ashulia, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Chattogram and Cumilla so that no further untoward incidents take place in these industrial zones.

He mentioned that several factories were burnt out or vandalised, which impacted the production and business of these industries heavily as a section of people took advantage of the volatility.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rebuild business confidence
- Beef up security in 5 major industrial belts
- Restore law and order as soon as possible
- Rebuild trust in banking sector thru reforms
- Increase cash flow in banking channels
- Focus on ease of doing business
- More trade facilitation for better business
- Equal disbursement of Export Development Fund
- Make BIDA dynamic

For instance, production in nearly 20 pharmaceuticals factories has been severely affected due to the latest spell of labour unrest and a tyre factory, which used to meet nearly 60 percent of the domestic demand, was torched in Narayanganj, he said.

The government should hold a meeting involving at least 50 of the top foreign investors soon so they regain confidence in doing business here, said Nasim Manzur.

"I would like to recommend setting up a taskforce which would include major exporters, government, as well as some of our international partners, investors, buyers, as to what that communication

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



IPDC Finance PLC officials, the five winners of The Daily Star-IPDC Unsung Women Nation Builders Award-2023, and five female coordinators of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement pose for a photo at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium yesterday evening. PHOTO: STAR

Hats off to grassroots women torchbearers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five grassroots women were honoured at the seventh edition of the Unsung Women Nation Builders Award-2023 yesterday evening for their resilience and dedication that empowered themselves and brought about meaningful changes in society.

Between 2017 and last year, the award, a joint initiative by The Daily Star and IPDC Finance PLC, recognised 42 grassroots women for their tireless and often unnoticed contributions to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh.

This year the awardees, each symbolising courage and strength in their respective fields, received their well-deserved recognition at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium.

The award recipients are Suraya Farhana Resma, an agricultural entrepreneur from Bogura; Hlakrayprue Kheyang, a dedicated advocate for Khyang women from Bandarban and Rangamati; Nacima Akter from Jashore, known for her environment-friendly pens; Alpona Rani Mistry from Satkhira, who preserves

indigenous seeds; and Titu Paul, a trailblazer in artificial insemination for livestock farming.

IPDC Finance PLC Managing Director Rizwan Dawood Shams in his speech said, "In 2017, The Daily Star and IPDC began this journey to put the spotlight on indomitable women whose stories resemble novels. Their struggles, courage, and efforts to help others should be publicised. Positive stories like these are key to progress."

At the event, Rizwan asked for a one-minute silence in memory of Jannatul Ferdous Mohua, a fellow awardee with a physical disability who passed away.

Despite her disability, Mohua completed her education, got trained in embroidery, and pursued e-commerce. She left behind an inspiring story.

In his welcome speech, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam highlighted the importance of recognising women whose crucial role in shaping the nation, within a male-dominated society, often goes unnoticed.

"Through this unsung women nation builders programme, we

honour grassroots women with no formal education. We are delighted, proud, and inspired by their social awareness, patriotism, self-belief, and stories of overcoming immense struggles," he said.



Mahfuz praised the resilience of the women, who advanced in most cases with their willpower and without any support from banks or social institutions.

"We are truly honoured to recognise such women," he added. Resma rebuilt her life after ending her marriage. She was

abused in her married life.

She started with a small fish farm, and then expanded her businesses to vermicomposting and cattle, poultry, and vegetable farming.

Despite limited financial resources and no formal education, her ventures achieved remarkable success due to her sheer determination and relentless hard work.

Today, her monthly earnings exceed Tk 2 lakh, with total assets valued at Tk 2 crore. She also became a source of inspiration and hope. She trains and employs people at her farms.

Other award winners, like Resma, have significantly improved the lives of women in their communities.

Hlakrayprue Kheyang emerged as a flag bearer for the disadvantaged Khyang women in Rangamati and Bandarban by creating employment opportunities and helping them become self-dependent. Those women now support their families and fund their siblings' education.

As the former chairperson and current adviser to the Gunguru

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BUSINESS

Workers' unrest affects RMG production

More than 80 factories in the Ashulia-Gazipur industrial belt remained shut yesterday as workers demonstrated to realise several demands.

Around 69 of the affected factories are owned by members of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), according to data from the trade body.

Workers of Euphoria Apparels in the Jamgora area of Savar vandalised the factory around 6:00pm. They also set fire to a vehicle belonging to the Rab and vandalised an army vehicle.

STORY ON B4

39 more DCs likely to be withdrawn within a day or two

New ones may be appointed a day after withdrawal; 25 districts get new DCs

BAHARAM KHAN

The interim government is likely to withdraw 39 more deputy commissioners within a day or two.

It will appoint new DCs to the districts a day after the withdrawal, said sources of the Cabinet Division and the public administration ministry.

The decision has been made to expedite the field-level administration activities that became slow after the fall of Awami League government on August 5, they said.

Meanwhile, the public administration ministry yesterday appointed 25 DCs

in the districts from where DCs were withdrawn on August 20. It issued a gazette notification to this effect.

The DCs are the head of civil administration in the districts. They play a vital role in overseeing local

governance, ensuring the effective delivery of public services, and maintaining law and order.

"The government will issue a notification of appointment of the new DCs in these districts a day after their withdrawal," said an official seeking

anonymity. The ministry officials mentioned that DCs from all 64 districts had never been changed within such a short time.

There was some hesitation within the government about withdrawing all DCs. Some argued that there are many capable officers currently serving and that it might not be right to replace them. On the other hand, those who have felt overlooked for a long time are pushing for the withdrawals.

A DC said after the withdrawal of 25 DCs, many of them anticipated that all

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Power outages on the rise again

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Power cuts are getting more frequent as power generation has failed to keep up with the high demand caused by the rising mercury.

For instance, the power generation shortfall hit nearly 2,000 megawatts (MW) yesterday -- the highest in recent weeks, according to data from the Bangladesh Power Development Board.

From this month, PDB has started

generating up to 13,900 MW of electricity a day against the highest demand of 16,200MW, which is much higher than the previous month's average. Last month, the demand was 14,000MW to 14,500MW.

The temperature in Dhaka is now in the mid-30s during the day.

Rajshahi, Rangpur, Cumilla, Mymensingh and Sylhet areas are mostly affected by power cuts, the PDB data shows.

Frequent power cuts started in

the last three to four days, said Rafiul Islam, a resident of the Sambhuganj area of Mymensingh.

"It's unbearable amid the sweltering heat."

The situation stays normal from midnight to 7 in the morning and then the power goes out in one to two-hour intervals throughout the day, Rafiul said.

A businessman, who ran a steel workshop in Biswas Para of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1





“In 2017, The Daily Star and IPDC began this journey to put the spotlight on indomitable women whose stories resemble novels. Their struggles, courage, and efforts to help others should be publicised. Positive stories like these are key to progress.”

Managing Director of
IPDC Finance PLC
Rizwan Dawood Shams



The Daily Star-IPDC Unsung Women Nation Builders Award-2023 winners, from left, Hlakrayprue Kheyang, Suraya Farhana Resma, Alpona Rani Mistry, Nacima Akter and Titu Paul holding their crests on stage at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium yesterday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Hats off to grassroots women torchbearers

FROM PAGE 1
Para Tribal Women’s Development Organisation, she built homes for many, provided low-interest loans for agriculture, and offered financial assistance for higher education.
Nacima, a school-dropout, crafts environment-friendly paper pens that sprout into plants after use, reducing plastic waste.
She now produces 6,000 pens a week and employs 20 local women.
Since 2005, Alpona has been preserving indigenous varieties of seeds in her seed bank, which now

has 250 kinds of vegetables and medicinal plants.
She exchanges seeds with local farmers, trains female farmers, and distributes seeds to 300 families each season.
Titu Paul of Dulahazra union in Cox’s Bazar has broken barriers in the male-dominated field of artificial insemination. She is breeding high-quality cattle and reducing livestock diseases.
She has inseminated 400 heads of cattle and vaccinated over 7,000. With the earnings, she supports her

family.
A highlight of this year’s event was the presence of five female coordinators of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement.
Unlike the award-giving ceremonies of previous years, there was no chief guest this year. Instead, the coordinators joined The Daily Star editor and the MD of IPDC Finance PLC to present crests and Tk 2 lakh cheques to each of the unsung women.
Mahfuz and Rizwan gave mementos to coordinators Umama

Fatima of Dhaka University; Nazifa Jannat of East West University; Taposhi Dey Prapti of Jahangirnagar University; Tanema of Mofazzal Momena Chaklader Mohila Degree College; and Asfia Rahman of Viharunnisa Noon College.
Umama said, “Our ongoing mass uprising is yet to be celebrated as the country remains in a vulnerable state. The government has not taken any steps to support the families of the martyrs. Many injured students are in hospitals. Some have lost their eyesight. Others have lost limbs

and will need artificial limbs and rehabilitation. We must support these families.”
She also urged the well-off to support these families so that a tiny part of what is owed to them by the nation is repaid.
Other coordinators also spoke at the event.
The event was moderated by singer and journalist Elita Karim.
This year, over 100 nominations were submitted, showcasing the impact women across Bangladesh are making, often in remote areas.

Two cops arrested over Abu Sayed’s murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Two suspended police personnel were arrested in connection with the killing of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University, on July 16 during a student movement in Rangpur.
Rangpur Metropolitan Police arrested Assistant Sub-Inspector Md Amir Ali and Constable Sujan Chandra Roy and subsequently handed them over to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) in Rangpur.
Amir was posted at Tajhat Police Station while Sujan was posted at Rangpur Metropolitan Police Lines.
PBI Superintendent of Police Md Zakir Hossain confirmed the arrests yesterday, saying that the two officers had been under surveillance at the police lines before their arrest.
According to a press release issued by the Rangpur Metropolitan Police, Abu Sayed, a student from the 12th batch of the English department, was shot and killed by police during a student-led protest at Begum Rokeya University on July 16.

On August 18, Abu Sayed’s elder brother, Ramzan Ali, filed a murder case with Tajhat Police Station, naming 17 individuals as suspects. ASI Amir Ali and Constable Sujan Chandra Roy were among the accused and had been suspended from duty on August 3 prior to their arrest.

Power outages on the rise again

FROM PAGE 1
Joypurhat, said they need to take a break for at least an hour every couple of hours. “Sometimes, the power is gone for three to four hours,” he added.
PDB officials are pinning the blame for frequent power cuts on insufficient electricity generation by the coal-based power plants due to various technical issues. Gas shortage, too, has become a regular scenario.
Power plants with at least 10,000MW unutilised capacity are sitting idle due to fuel shortage or maintenance: 6,300MW due to

fuel shortage and 3,600MW for maintenance.
Compared to last month, the unutilised capacity has increased due to fuel shortage this month.
Gas-fired plants of 4,093MW capacity are sitting idle due to a shortage of fuel, according to PDB data.
The country has a total of 11,428MW installed capacity from gas sources.
At least 25 gas-fired power plants have been shut since May 27 when cyclone Remal hit the coastal areas.
The cyclone damaged one of the country’s two floating storage

and regasification units (FSRUs), which brought down the LNG regasification capacity to 600 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d) from 1,100 mmcf/d.
The FSRU tried to resume operations several times but failed.
It is now slated to resume operations from September 15, as per the recent announcement of Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, the adviser to the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources.
Then the PDB’s largest single power supplier, the 1,496MW Adani Godda power plant located in India’s Jharkhand, is producing around

1,000MW of electricity.
Recently, they have sent letters to the ministry, the Bangladesh Bank and the chief adviser of the interim government to clear their eight months’ outstanding bills amounting to \$800 million.
“We are forced to inform you that the Godda plant is struggling hard to sustain its operations on account of running expenses towards procurement of coal, debt service obligations, operation and maintenance,” said a PDB official quoting the letter as saying.
The Matarbari power plant is also producing less than its capacity due

to coal shortage, while one of the two units of Chattogram’s SS power plant is under maintenance.
At present, about 2,300MW – or one-third of the total coal power capacity of 6,604MW – remains idle, according to data from PDB.
Furnace oil imports also faced a dip due to the dollar crunch, according to PDB officials.
As of September 4, gross foreign exchange reserves stand at about \$20.6 billion, enough to service about four months’ import bill, according to data from the BB.
The country’s total power generation capacity is 27,086MW.

A murder case was filed at the Tajhat Police Station, and the two officers were implicated based on the findings of the investigating body formed on July 18.
Earlier, on August 18, Abu Sayed’s elder brother, Ramzan Ali, filed a murder case with Tajhat Police Station, naming 17 individuals as suspects. ASI Amir Ali and Constable Sujan Chandra Roy were among the accused and had been suspended from duty on August 3 prior to their arrest.
This arrest marks a significant step in the ongoing investigation into the tragic killing, which has drawn widespread attention and condemnation across the country.

Country must be back in business without delay

FROM PAGE 1
strategy should look like,” he added.
Nasim Manzur, also a former president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, (MCCI) suggested removing any discrimination in the disbursement of credit from the Export Development Fund (EDF).
He also recommended overhauling the overburdened insurance sector and setting up priorities for reforms in key sectors.
Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman and CEO of PRAN-RFL, said: “In terms of export, we are nervous because of unpredictability in Bangladesh.”
“We have to see how quickly we can make Bangladesh more predictable so that we can continue to fulfil our export demands. We have to involve all respective ministries and secretariats to this end,” he said.
About agriculture, he said the government needs to think deeply about fertiliser import and other needs of the farmers to reduce production costs. “We have to think how we can grow more agricultural products that have got the potential to reduce food inflation,” he said.
Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said business associations bear more responsibility for restoring confidence in the economy.
Industries are national assets and these need to be protected, he said and added, for the greater interest of the industries, the central bank is not freezing bank accounts of any business group.
The governor also emphasised putting an end to extortion and corruption. “If extortion can be stopped, the cost of doing business will fall a lot. A section of government officers accumulated a lot of wealth by using public offices like land registration and passport offices. These should stop.”
He assured that he would not deprive any business unit of its “oxygen”, namely the credit line.
Governor Mansur said optimism in the economic sector needs to

be backed by credible steps as well. “Optimism will be generated with the work we deliver. ‘We’ means the government as a whole.
“There is a nervousness regarding export. There is no question about it. I have been getting calls from inside, from outside as well,” he said.
“The destruction at the Gazi Tyres factory is a sad affair. It shouldn’t have happened. It should have been protected,” he said, emphasising the need for political reforms. “Without political reforms, no other reform will be lasting,” the central bank governor said.
Mansur said there is a lot of misinformation, disinformation and also “some genuine concern which needs to be very clearly addressed”.
For example, he said he got a phone call from the US on Monday that some of the big companies were very much concerned and would shift their orders if some large factories were not allowed to operate.
“My answer to them was that not a single company has been prevented from operating. We have to fight those things collectively and also individually in our respective capacities,” he said.
Mansur also spoke about the formation of three separate taskforces for streamlining the banking sector.
Akij Bashir Group’s Bashir said it is “sad” that the buyers are dictating the terms most of the time. “I think this needs to change,” he said.
Multinational banks are earning a lot of money just by confirming the credit of the local banks, Bashir said. “This is an aggregate lack of confidence in the overall financial industry and this needs to be relooked.”
Ali Reza Iftekhar, managing director of Eastern Bank Ltd, urged the BB governor to revisit the Banking Company Act.
He said he was a part of the committee that finalised the act. But at the last minute when the act was about to be placed in parliament, many things were omitted and

changed without the consent of the committee.
“So, I request the governor that we can relook at the Banking Company Act and try to re-establish those things.”
If the law is amended with recommendations from the industry, it will be richer and more effective, Ali Reza added.
Mahfuz Anam said The Daily Star will be a key platform to discuss all important business issues.
“Please don’t shy away,” he said, inviting the participants to suggest ideas that need to be covered in the newspaper.
“If the economy grows and can be more efficient, more productive, there are more jobs created, then Bangladesh moves ahead,” he said.
EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, DIGITALISATION
Ali Reza also suggested measures for ease of doing business and to increase the cash flow in the banking system, as in some cases even Tk 5 lakh cheques are bounced back.
Selim RF Hussain, managing director and CEO of BRAC Bank, said the area that the country needs to focus on very strongly is real digitalisation.
“We need to learn from India: the cost of doing business, ease of doing business. The cost will come down significantly if everything will move into the official channels,” he said.
He said about 50 to 60 percent of cash is now outside the banking system. If everything becomes digitalised, similar to China, undisclosed income and funding in the unofficial sector will go away.
At the same time, the government’s revenue will increase when everything will be recorded.
Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of Mutual Trust Bank, said the foreign exchange rate was not fixed timely. He suggested further strengthening the central bank for ease of doing business.
He also said the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority

needs to act as the chief marketing officer for the country.
Land registration needs to be digitalised to curb corruption, he added.
Aameir Alihussain, managing director of BSRM, urged the government to ensure the accuracy of GDP growth, export, import and other data. “Inaccurate data gives a wrong message,” he said.
Mohsin Ahmed, CEO of New Zealand Dairy, said the government should set the urgency and priorities. The civil bureaucracy and police are shattered and they need to be revived for confidence restoration, he added.
Md Miarul Haque, a director of the Foreign Investors’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and managing director of DHL Express, called for simplification of the customs procedures and for bringing more transparency in the business processes. He also suggested eliminating face-to-face interaction in business processes to curb corruption.
He suggested proper implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement to reduce time in business processes.
BANKS
Mashrur Arefin, managing director of City Bank, mentioned liquidity shortage as one of the major challenges in the banking sector.
He said that money outside banks has increased to Tk 2.9 lakh crore from Tk 1.84 lakh crore in 2021, which means “people have lost confidence in the banking system”.
“This isn’t helping us,” he said and added that the banking system was run by S Alam Group – a fact that led the people to take away their money from the banks out of fear and anxiety.
Sohail RK Hussain, managing director of Bank Asia PLC, said the banks must have the right people on their board of directors for a better banking sector. The country needs to ensure that the central bank is independent in a true sense, he added.

Rizwan Dawood Shams, managing director of IPDC Finance, said his company is working with a reasonable level of non-performing loans and credit rating ratio but is not allowed to take government deposits.
“But many of the banks having high NPLs are still allowed to take government deposits. That’s very discriminatory while we are operating in the same industry.”
TELCOS AND TECH
Yasir Azman, CEO of Grameenphone, said that although telecom companies act and innovate locally, and solve the problems for Bangladesh, they need foreign investors to bring global best practices in technology.
He recommended restoring investor confidence in the country and presenting the nation as an opportunity for them.
According to him, the industry’s main challenge is the heavy tax burden, with a corporate tax rate of 40 percent. “We actually at times get confused about who our regulator is. Our regulator is also a collector.”
He said as a CEO for the last four to five years, he had to spend more time on resolving financial disputes with the regulators than on focusing on innovations.
Rajeev Sethi, CEO of Robi Axiata, said the government needs to think about what is the role of the telecom industry and how to treat it.
“Is it a cash cow like what we have been treated in the past? Or are we a force multiplier? We believe the latter. Is it just to maximise the revenue or is it a maximum dividend for the people? I think it’s always better in case we do the latter,” he said.
“If a customer has to consume services worth Tk 100, they have to pay Tk 140. The same number on average is around 15 percent across the region.
“Why should that happen in a country where the real (mobile) penetration is less than 60 percent? If you look at internet penetration,

the real penetration on mobile is less than 40 percent. On top of that, this year SIM tax increased from Tk 200 to Tk 300,” he said.
Erik Aas, CEO of Banglalink, said telecom operators can support digital financial inclusion by offering mobile financial services.
Allowing mobile network operators to provide digital services can increase competition, benefit consumers, and help more unbanked people join the financial system, he said.
According to him, free access to information is essential for building a tech-driven nation.
Restrictions on news, education, and entertainment through OTT platforms hinder digital growth. Encouraging access to news and education on digital platforms is crucial for creating a knowledgeable, tech-savvy society, Aas said.
Syed Mohammad Kamal, country manager for Mastercard, said payments were heavily hit in the July-August period.
He said all sorts of payments, from travel to grocery to restaurant, eating out, and e-commerce, are dropping.
“If the confidence level of the general mass will not build up again, bringing the digital economy back on track might become really, really difficult,” he said.
Raihan Shamsi, chairman and CEO of Devo Tech, said the IT and IT service industry had failed to meet the \$5 billion target despite the industry’s huge potential. “This student-led pro-youth government should focus on this IT industry which not just can create employment, but it can also help our government in export diversification.”
He said India exports close to \$200 billion in this industry alone, employing 6 million people. “Here we have made some progress. There were a lot of taglines in the past as we couldn’t progress much.”
He said Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus’s global reputation can help rebrand the industry.

Enjoy Your Golden Years with
SENIOR CITIZEN PUBALI DEPOSIT SCHEME (SCPDS)

- ✓ Any Bangladeshi individual aged 59 years and above can open account under this scheme.
- ✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit [6 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]



পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
PUBALI BANK PLC.

Open your
Account
from anywhere

PI a PUBALI BANK apps



Islamic Banking services are provided through online from all our branches and sub-branches

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTES

People suffer as students block road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from Polytechnic Institute and other technical institutions blocked Sattrasta Mor in Dhaka's Tejgaon for six hours yesterday, causing severe traffic congestion and immense sufferings to commuters.

Hundreds of students of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board gathered at the intersection around 11:30am under the banner of "Karigori Chhatra Andolon".

Their six-point demand include reserving the designation of deputy assistant engineer solely for diploma engineers, ensuring four-year courses for diploma engineering, limiting each semester to six months, and calling for 100 percent seat allocation for diploma engineering students in the four proposed engineering colleges to expand higher education opportunities.

The blockade in the Tejgaon industrial area caused significant traffic disruption, with many people stranded on the road for more than five hours.

Major thoroughfares, including the Motijheel-Gulistan route to Uttara, were closed until 6:00pm due to the protests.

Vehicular movement on the Bijoy Sarani flyover and areas surrounding Sattrasta came to a complete standstill.

Severe traffic jams were seen in Rampura, Hatirjheel, Kakrail, Hare Road, Shahbagh, Moghbazar, Karwan Bazar, Farmgate, Bijoy Sarani, Mohakhali, Banani, and other areas.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman in a meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

Army chief calls on president

BSS, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz Zaman yesterday called on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban in Dhaka.

During the meeting, the president was briefed by the army chief regarding overall activities of the army, President's Press Secretary Md Joynal Abedin told BSS.

Besides, he also highlighted the activities of the army to maintain the law and order as well as peaceful situation across the country.

The president appreciated the role of the army in maintaining the overall law and order situation in the country and providing security to the people.

President Shahabuddin also appreciated the armed forces for their timely measures in providing relief goods to the flood victims and carrying out rescue operation during the floods in the country's north and south-eastern parts.

TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

Sign UN treaty, ensure fair water agreements

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called on the government to sign the 1997 UN Watercourses Convention and ensure equitable usage agreements for transboundary rivers.

They also urged the removal of barriers from shared rivers.

The seminar, titled Transboundary Rivers and Rights of Bangladesh, was organised by the Nongor Trust Bangladesh and held at Jatiya Press Club.

The organisers put forward a set of nine demands, including the establishment of a ministry of river resources.

Sumon Shams, founder of the Nongor Trust, presented an article during the seminar outlining the key demands which include preservation of all rivers, canals, ponds, and reservoirs, in line with the court's directives under relevant laws.

He emphasised the need for strict enforcement of laws against encroachment and pollution.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'Return our missing relatives in 48 hours'

Families of enforced disappearance victims issue ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of families of victims of enforced disappearances has given a 48-hour ultimatum for the return of their missing relatives, allegedly abducted during the Awami League regime.

At a press conference held at the Crime Reporters Association auditorium at 11:30am yesterday, relatives of the victims demanded immediate action.

Bellal Hossain, chief coordinator of the platform, "Bangladesh Families of the Disappeared" and Chairman of Lexus Group, recounted his own harrowing experience.

Bellal said he was picked up by a team from Rab-1 on October 10, 2016, and subjected to torture for over a month.

"It's unimaginable how humans could treat others so cruelly. The place echoed with constant cries, broken only by

the chirping of insects. The tiny rooms were filled with unimaginable suffering. After

The place echoed with constant cries, broken only by the chirping of insects. The tiny rooms were filled with unimaginable suffering. After enduring brutal conditions, I was released, but only after paying a large sum and meeting strict conditions.

BELLAL HOSSAIN
A victim

enduring brutal conditions, I was released, but only after paying a large sum and

meeting strict conditions," he said.

Bellal expressed frustration at the slow progress of the interim government's investigation into these incidents.

He said on August 27, a five-member investigation committee was formed with 45 days to submit a report, but 15 days in, there has been no transparency about their progress.

"We do not know where the torture cells, referred to as 'Aynaghar', are located or how many such cells exist in Bangladesh," he added.

"If these secret prisons are not revealed within 48 hours, we will surround all suspected detention centres, including those run by the DGFI and Rab, and demolish them," Bellal warned.

Bellal said 70-80 percent of disappearances, killings,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

DU teachers propose new recruitment process

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Shikkhok Samaj (DU Teachers' Society) has proposed a new two-step recruitment process for university teachers, replacing the current system.

The draft proposal was presented yesterday at a programme titled "Dhaka University: Reformation of Education System" held at the Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of the DU Social Sciences Faculty building.

Under the proposed procedure, candidates will first be selected by an academic committee based on their qualifications and experience, including higher degrees such as MPhil, PhD, and post-doctoral fellowships.

In the second stage, shortlisted candidates will be invited to the campus to undergo a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

ACC sees major reshuffle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has carried out a major reshuffle in the organisation with the transfer of 10 directors and 42 deputy directors, according to an office order issued yesterday.

They have been transferred to various offices in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Narayanganj, Comilla, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Naogaon, Khulna, and Chandpur districts.

Vatican envoy meets Yunus

They discuss inter-faith dialogue, Rohingya crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vatican Ambassador to Bangladesh Kevin S Randall paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

During the meeting, the chief adviser and the Vatican envoy discussed key issues concerning Bangladesh's religious minorities, interfaith dialogue, and the ongoing Rohingya crisis.

They also discussed Yunus's address at the United Nations General Assembly later this month.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Syed Jamil Ahmed new Shilpakala DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syed Jamil Ahmed, a scholar, theatre director, and the founding chair of the Department of Theatre and Music at Dhaka University, was appointed as the director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

Hasan Mahmud, chief coordinator of the ICT and Innovation Cell, and assistant director at BSA, confirmed the news.

His appointment letter, dated September 9, marks the start of a two-year contract. During this period, Ahmed will need to sever ties with any other organisations in which he is currently involved.

Following the fall of the former AL government, Liaquat Ali Lucky, who served as director general of the academy for over a decade, stepped down from his position on August 12.

Committee soon for police reform

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee will soon be formed for police reform, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

He made this announcement during a meeting at his office, where an eight-member delegation led by Stefan Liller, resident representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Bangladesh, met him.

Regarding police reform, the adviser mentioned that it is still in the preliminary stage.

"No committee has been formed yet, but a primary committee for police reform will be established soon. This committee will determine the process, how the reform will be conducted, and who will be included," he said.

The adviser further said the process will move forward based on the recommendations and opinions of the primary committee, and future actions will be determined accordingly.

Stefan Liller said police reform should be conducted in such a way that the public can gain trust and confidence in the force, avoiding any criticism.

Earlier at an event, the home adviser said most of the problems in jails could be solved by stopping bribery and corruption.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Motorcycles parked in a single line by workers and customers of shops in Dhaka's Chawkbazar create an artificial divider in the middle of the already narrow road. This leaves minimal space for vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

DCs asked to provide security to student coordinators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters issued an order yesterday, instructing deputy commissioners (DCs) to provide security for the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement during their divisional and district-level tours.

The circular, signed by Nassian Wazed, additional deputy inspector general of police (Overseas and UN Operations), directed the DCs to work with local coordinators to ensure the safety of the central coordinators during their visits.

Julfikar Ali Haider, commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police, and Aminul Islam, commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police, confirmed to The Daily Star that they had received the orders.

They said they would take necessary steps to ensure the coordinators' security.

Rezai Karim's death anniv

STAR REPORT

The seventh death anniversary of Language Movement activist Kazi Rezai Karim will be observed today.

On the occasion, his family will hold special prayers and distribute food to the destitute at Kanchpur in Sonargaon, Narayanganj, said a press release yesterday.

Rezai Karim was arrested in Narayanganj in February 1952 for his activism. He was a student of class X at that time.

He was the youngest son of Yasin Kazi Sahityaratna, a senior member of the erstwhile Kolkata Bangiya Muslim Parishad.



PRAYER
TIMING

SEPTEMBER 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:17	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DU teachers propose Sign UN treaty

FROM PAGE 3

series of assessments. They will deliver a teaching demonstration in front of the department's faculty, students, and a recruitment committee, with evaluations made by the audience.

This will be followed by a dialogue and Q&A session with masters' students to further assess the candidate. The final step involves a viva board conducted by the selection committee.

The new procedure will apply from the initial recruitment for non-permanent lecturer posts. According to the proposal, lecturers will start as non-permanent and can

become permanent and eligible for promotion to assistant professor upon earning a PhD and publishing a paper in a top journal of their discipline.

The current system recruits candidates based on a viva board and academic performance, but the new proposal emphasises skills, experience, and achievements in addition to qualifications.

Vice Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan, Treasurer Prof Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Movement Abdul Quader, and Umama Fatema spoke at the meeting.

FROM PAGE 3

He demanded eviction of Madhumati Model Town, established at the source of the Buriganga River near the Dhaleshwari River.

Another demand was the restoration of the waterway from Rampura Bridge to the Sluicagate on the Narai River, including key areas such as Gulshan, Hatirjheel, Panthapath, Dhanmondi Lake, and Pikhana, and the removal of low-lying bridges over 47 lost canals in the capital.

Drawing on examples from Europe, Sumon said countries with shared borders have ensured fair water distribution for their transboundary rivers, either independently or with assistance from the UN's Europe-based agency UNECE.

"We can follow the same approach to ensure a fair share of water from the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna rivers for everyone," he said.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon member Halim Dad Khan echoed the demand for the government to sign the UN convention and address inequalities in river management.

River researcher Airin Sultana said both Bangladesh and India suffer from poor water

management and the engineering of dams, barrages, and embankments must be re-evaluated.

She also called for the government to create a comprehensive list of the country's dams, assess their conditions, and evaluate their engineering integrity.

Sheikh Rokon, secretary general of Riverine People, highlighted the need for unified agreements for all shared rivers.

"While it is often said that we have 54 transboundary rivers, the actual number is 123. Not all of these are covered in agreements. Therefore, we need agreements for all our rivers," he said.

Mihir Biswas, joint general secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Movement, stressed the importance of ensuring river navigability while avoiding environmental damage. He also called for better disaster preparedness related to the rivers.

Abu Sayeed Khan, advisory editor of Samakal, who attended the seminar as the chief guest, concluded by emphasising the need to preserve the country's river-based civilisation.

"Just as we have established maritime boundaries, we must do the same for our rivers," he said.

People suffer

FROM PAGE 3

Frustrated after being stuck for hours, some drivers and motorcyclists were seen protesting in front of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute due to the traffic chaos caused by the blockade.

The sufferings intensified in the afternoon as office workers attempted to return home. With few alternatives, many were forced to walk.

Rafiqul Amin, an employee of a private organisation in Moghbazar, said he left his office at 3:30pm on his motorcycle, heading to his home in Uttara.

"I got stuck in a huge traffic jam. My bike has been trapped for the last 45 minutes, and no vehicles are moving," he said.

Abir Hasan, a private firm employee, left his home in Banasree at 12:30pm for Farmgate.

"The commute usually takes 45 minutes, but today

(Monday) it took me more than two hours."

Many other people who left home after 12:00pm reported similar experiences.

Mohsenul Haque, another private employee, said it took him almost two hours to reach Farmgate from Gendaria on his motorcycle, a journey that usually takes 20-25 minutes.

"Vehicles were stuck at almost all intersections, with no sign of movement. I was mostly trapped at Doyaganj, Kakrail, and Officers' Club. Even the flyovers were gridlocked," he added.

Traffic gradually returned to normal after 6:00pm, when the protesting students cleared the road following government assurances that their demands would be met, said Gazi Shamimur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station.

Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 5

to manage the influx. Adnan Chowdhury, upazila nirbahi officer of Teknaf, said the Rohingyas are entering under the cover of darkness, with many taking refuge in relatives' homes or renting houses in Ukhiya and Teknaf. He said a list of the newly arrived individuals is being compiled.

He also reported a shortage of manpower for border patrols by the Border Guard Bangladesh and Coast Guard. He requested for additional forces.

Meanwhile, Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed of BGB Battalion 2 in Teknaf claimed Rohingyas are not crossing the Naf River, but are using alternative entry points. The BGB is employing modern technology to detect and repel illegal crossings, he added.

Committee

FROM PAGE 3

He made the remark while speaking as the chief guest at a views exchange meeting with prison officials at the Directorate of Prisons in Dhaka's Bakshibazar.

Calling for the transformation of jails into correctional centres, Jahangir said, "The quality of food for prison guards and prisoners should be improved. They need to improve their skills through training."

Biman sues six

FROM PAGE 5

launched an internal investigation, which led to the identification of six traffic helpers stationed at Dhaka airport.

According to Bushra Islam, general manager of Public Relations at Biman, the suspects confessed to their involvement in the theft. Five of them were handed over to police, while one is on the run. A case was filed in connection with the incident.

NHRC takes steps

FROM PAGE 5

The sale of a child to cover medical costs is a matter of grave concern, and it underscores the failure to ensure adequate healthcare for citizens, a fundamental responsibility of the state, the statement read.

NHRC is particularly concerned as the couple had to resort to such extreme measures despite the availability of free surgeries at government hospitals.

The commission questions why such high costs were incurred

at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital and will investigate this further.

According to the report, a newborn girl was sold for Tk 37,000 by her parents, day labourer Abdur Rashid and Rokeya of Katapara village in Dinajpur Sadar Upazila.

The couple made this decision to cover Rashid's hospital bills after he was shot during a clash between protesters, Awami League activists, and police during anti-discrimination student movement on August 4.

Four die in pickup

FROM PAGE 5

The driver of the pickup fled the scene immediately after the crash, he said.

Tanvir Islam Anik, duty doctor of Fakirhat Upazila Health Complex, confirmed that three victims were declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

The two injured were later transferred to Khulna Medical College Hospital, where one of them succumbed to injuries.

The bodies of the deceased are currently at the police station, the SI said.

Meanwhile, 17 people, including five children, were injured in a road crash at Nabinagor Technical area on Dhaka-Sherpur road in Sherpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The accident occurred when two microbuses collided head on around 5:30am, said Mohammad Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Sadar Police Station, quoting locals.

Locals rushed to the spot and took the injured to Sherpur General Hospital. From there, 13 critically injured were referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

Request for Quotation:
Fund Management Software

BRAC Bank PLC. delivers a full array of banking services to individuals as well as business entities with a network of 187 Branches, 45 Sub-branches, 329 ATMs, 457 SME Unit Offices and 1,080 Agent Banking. Currently the Bank is seeking for vendor(s) to provide Fund Management Software.

A Request for Quotation (RFQ) for Technical Offer Submission is issued for the mentioned purpose. The RFQ along with details of the bidding process can be found on the bank's website: <https://www.bracbank.com/en/information/e-tender>.

Interested eligible bidders are requested to submit the technical offer as per the mentioned bidding process.

BRAC BANK

আবদুল আজিজ

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Bogura
ee_bog@eedmoe.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice No. eed/ee/bog/2024-2025/6821-11 lots+6821 TMED-1 lot /05 Date: 09.09.2024

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

Tender ID	Description of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
1001750	Manufacturing & Supply of new Furniture at Vocational Teachers Training Institute (VTTI), Sadar, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012920	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Dupchancia Jahanara Kamrujuman (JK) College, Dupchancia, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012921	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Bishwahrighacha Bohalgacha BL High School, Dhunat, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012922	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Malotnagar High School, Sadar, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012923	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Mokamtola Girls High School, Shibganj, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012924	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Korpur BL High School, Sonatala, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012925	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Kahaloo Adarsha Mohila College, Kahaloo, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012926	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Gangnagar A M ML High School, Shibganj, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012928	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Chhatni Dekna High School, Adamdighi, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012929	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Majhihata High School, Shibganj, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012930	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Mohisbathan S. M High School, Sadar, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00
1012931	Manufacturing & Supplying work of New Furniture at Kahaloo Govt. Model High School, Kahaloo, Bogura	25.09.2024 16:00	26.09.2024 12:00

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

Md. Arifujaman
Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Bogura

GD-388

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১। প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম : মিলিটারি ফার্ম সাতার।

২। কাজের বিবরণ : ক। (১) ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল টিন ৬,০০০ সিএফটি, জিআই হুক ২০০ কেজি, (২) রেড অস্কাইড (২৫) ২০ গ্যালন, তারপিন/খিনার ১০ গ্যালন, (৩) পিভিসি বোর্ড ৮০০ সিএফটি, গ্র্যান্ডপ্লেন্স ৭,০০০ কেজি, (৪) এমএস প্লেট ৬০ সিএফটি এবং ৪" এমএস পাইপ ২,৫০০ কেজি।
খ। একটি সাইকেল বেডিং মেশিন (কমপ্লিট)।
গ। ৪০ অংশজি (মিনিমাম), ৩-ফেজ, ২২০০ অরপিএম, ৬" সাকশন ও ডেলিভারী সম্পন্ন সাবমার্সিবল গভীর নলকূপের বোরিং করণ, মালামাল সরবরাহ ও পাম্প স্থাপন।

৩। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ : ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ হতে ০৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৪।
৪। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ : ০৩ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ (সময় ১২:০০ ঘটিকা)।
৫। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্যাবলী সিডিউলের সাথে সরবরাহ করা হবে।
www.army.mil.bd

ফার্ম অফিসার
মিলিটারি ফার্ম সাতার

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৪/৪৮৩
৯/০৯/২৪

GD- 391

EASTERN REFINERY LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
North Patenga, Chattogram-4204
Bangladesh

Invitation for International Tender
ERL hereby invites offers from reputed Suppliers/Manufacturers/Agents/Distributors for the supply of the following goods in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereafter:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Energy and Mineral Resources Division		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation		
3	Purchaser name	Eastern Refinery Limited		
4	Purchaser district	Chattogram		
5	Invitation for	Goods		
6		a) ERL/PUR/IT-83/2024 b) ERL/PUR/IT-84/2024 c) ERL/PUR/IT-85/2024 d) ERL/PUR/IT-86/2024 e) ERL/PUR/IT-87/2024		
7	Date	05 September, 2024		
KEY INFORMATION				
8	Procurement method	International Open Tendering Method		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
9	Budget and source of funds	Eastern Refinery Limited (Own Fund)		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
10	Tender document last selling date	(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) 16 October 2024, 16:00 Hrs		
11	Tender closing date and time	(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) 17 October 2024, 11:15 Hrs		
12	Tender opening date and time	(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) 17 October 2024, 11:30 Hrs		
13	Offer validity	120 days (from the date of tender opening)		
NAME & ADDRESS OF THE OFFICE(S)				
14	Tender document selling address	i) Accounts Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh. Phone: 88-0233301261-7 ii) ERL Liaison Office, YMCA Bhaban, 2nd Floor, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. Phone: 880-2-8391990, 8391991		
15	Tender receiving address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
16	Tender opening address	Purchase Department, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
17	Eligibility of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet		
18	Brief description of goods			
	Name	Price of tender document (non-refundable)	Tender security	Shipment validity
a)	Bearing Block for induced Draft for EM 1123 G/H	Tk. 1000.00/-Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 22,000.00 Or USD 185.00	75 days
b)	Gearbox Set for Aero-condenser EM 1123 G/H	Tk. 1000.00/-Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 35,000.00 Or USD 300.00	75 days
c)	Spares for Pump PM 1204 A/B	Tk. 1000.00/-Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 20,000.00 Or USD 170.00	75 days
d)	Spares for Pump P1110A	Tk. 1000.00/-Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 70,000.00 Or USD 585.00	75 days
e)	Complete Actuator Assembly for 3MW Ebara STG	Tk. 1000.00/-Or, USD 12.00/-set	Tk. 35,000.00 Or USD 300.00	75 days
PURCHASER DETAILS				
19	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Zahed Jamal		
20	Designation of official inviting tender	Manager (Foreign Purchase)		
21	Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh.		
22	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 880-233301261-7, Ext. 380, Mobile: 01321149067, Fax: 880-233301269 Email: managerfp@erl.com.bd , officerfp@erl.com.bd , md-office@erl.com.bd , Website: www.erl.gov.bd		
23	a) The Purchaser reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the Tender proceedings. b) If it is not possible to receive/open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received/ opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.			

GD-393

NCC Bank
with you always

NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK PLC.
COMMON SERVICES DIVISION
Head Office: NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1-2, Toyenbee Circular Road
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 223390053
PABX: 223381901-4, 223383981-2, Ext-117

NOTICE OF INVITING PROPOSAL

Sealed proposal is hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirement under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Proposal (RFP) documents.

Service Description	Price of the Tender Document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
RFP for Collection and Recovery Services to National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC.	Tk. 1,000/- (One Thousand) only for each item separately in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	September 15, 2024	September 19, 2024	September 22, 2024 on/before 2:00 PM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. Tender will be opened on September 22, 2024 at 2:30 PM in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if any). The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President &
Head of Common Services Division

STAY UPDATED WITH
The Daily Star
@
thedailystar.net
 /dailystarnews

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat
+Tel: 0591-61770, Fax: 0591-61770
Email: eerhd1al@yahoo.com, eelal@rhd.gov.bd

Date: 09-09-2024

e-Tender Notice
This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will accept in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).
e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer (PE), RHD, Road Division, Lalmonirhat for:
Supply of Crushed boulder, Pakur Stone, Pea gravel, Sand (FM.>1.00), Synthetic Bags & Firewood at Lalmonirhat stackyard for emergency repair of different road & different location under Road Division, Lalmonirhat during the year 2024-2025.

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Ref. No.	Tender last selling	Tender closing date	Tender opening date
1.	1013587	eGP-01/EE/LRD/2024-2025	24-Sep-2024 17:00	25-Sep-2024 13:00	25-Sep-2025 13:00

Md. Abdul Momen
ID No. 100448
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Lalmonirhat

GD-384

SAGAR RUNI
Investigators
get chance
to probe for
113th time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Rab to submit by October 15 the probe report of a case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

This is the 113th extension of the deadline for probe report submission.

Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbubul Haque passed the order after Rab's Additional Superintendent Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, also investigating officer of the case, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

On August 4, the same court asked Rab to submit the investigation report by yesterday.



Plot owners attempted to clean this area by setting trees on fire. These plots are designated for future residential projects. However, the fire also causes extensive damage to the surrounding area and environment, mostly through the smoke. The photo was taken from the Beel Pabla area of Dumuria in Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Biman sues
six staffers
for stealing
6,800 euro

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six employees of Biman Bangladesh Airlines have been identified as suspects in the theft of 6,800 euro (equivalent to approximately Tk 9 lakh) from the checked luggage of a passenger travelling to Chennai from Dhaka.

The incident occurred on August 2.

The passenger reported the missing euros upon reaching Chennai on the BG-363 flight. They then filed a written complaint with Biman.

In response, Biman

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

FLEEING PERSECUTION IN MYANMAR

Rohingyas in hundreds gather across the border

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Around 5,000 Rohingyas are gathering across the border to enter Bangladesh at Lal Dwip in Myanmar, across from Jalia Dwip in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar, according to border sources.

In the past 48 hours up to yesterday noon, over a thousand Rohingyas have crossed into Bangladesh through various borders in Teknaf.

These individuals are fleeing Myanmar due to escalating violence from both the Myanmar military and Arakan Army rebels in Rakhine State.

In the past 48 hours up to yesterday noon, over a thousand Rohingyas have crossed into Bangladesh through various borders in Teknaf. These individuals are fleeing Myanmar due to escalating violence from both the Myanmar military and Arakan Army rebels in Rakhine State.

They alleged facing indiscriminate attacks, including murder, rape, and arson, primarily by the Arakan Army in recent days.

The Rohingyas are paying human traffickers significant sums to facilitate their illegal entry.

Some are charged up to Tk 20,000 per person or Tk 50,000 for boat transport to Bangladesh, said Abu Sadek, a Rohingya who has arrived recently. At least a dozen others echoed him.

According to multiple sources, more Rohingyas have gathered at the borders to enter Bangladesh.

Local authorities are struggling

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

DENGUE OUTBREAK

1 dies, 615 get hospitalised in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Single day dengue cases have surged past 600 for the first time this year, raising concerns among health experts.

The Directorate General of Health Service reported that one dengue patient died and 615 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning.

This brings the total number of deaths to 97, with 16,285 cases recorded so far this year. Of these, 9,198 are from outside Dhaka.

SELLING CHILD TO PAY BILLS NHRC takes steps to look into it Asks DC to submit report by October 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) yesterday took suo motu cognisance of a story published in The Daily Star on September 8, 2024, titled "Baby girl sold to pay injured father's hospital bills," asking the deputy commissioner of Dinajpur to submit a report on the news.

The commission is gravely concerned by the contents of the report and has initiated action to ensure the rights of the affected family, said an NHRC press release.

NHRC has directed the DC of Dinajpur to investigate the matter and submit a report by October 15.

This includes ensuring proper treatment for Abdur Rashid, gathering the couple's views on the situation of their sold child, and verifying the child's welfare. Additionally, the commission has called for financial assistance to be provided to the family, it added.

In the suo motu, the commission termed the incident a tragic violation of human rights.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Four die in pickup, autorickshaw collision in Bagerhat 17, including 5 children, injured in Sherpur crash

STAR REPORT


Four people were killed and another injured in a head-on collision between a pickup truck and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Bagerhat-Khulna highway in Bagerhat's Nawapara town yesterday.

Three of the victims were identified as Shawkat, 40, Masum, 30, and Nipa, 28, a teacher at a government primary school in Bagerhat Sadar, said police.


The identity of the other deceased could not be known immediately.

The accident occurred around 9:30am when a Khulna-bound pickup collided with the auto-rickshaw coming from the opposite direction, said Ashraful Haque, sub-inspector of Katakhal Highway Police Station.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chief Adviser's Office
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Dhaka Export Processing Zone
Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka-1349.
(www.bepza.gov.bd)



Ref. No. 03.06.2672.333.33.032.24-1214


Date: 09-09-2024

Auction Notice (4th Call)

Sealed auctions are hereby invited from the interested National/Foreign Buyers/Companies in order to sell Inventoried & Valuated Structure, Machinery, Equipment & other Assets by auction "as is where basis" of terminated industry named M/s. Lenny Fashions Ltd., Plot # 66-68, Dhaka EPZ (Old Zone), a Play suits, Tracks suits, Coats, Overcoats, Pants, T-Shirts, Trousers, Jumpers, Rompers, Pajamas, Night wears etc. woven items manufacturing industry or to operate the enterprise. To participate in the auction the terms & conditions are stated below:

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested Persons/Organizations/ Existing enterprises of EPZ(s) (Local/Joint Venture/Foreign) or any other interested persons/organizations from outside EPZ can take part in this auction who are interested to purchase the Structure, Machinery, Equipment & other Assets "as is where basis" of the company by observing the existing rules and regulations in this regard.
- Successful bidder will have to pay VAT, TAX and other payable fees as per custom rules for the duty free imported Assets of existing Assets of industry to be taken out to the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).
- Auction documents attached with a single pay order/bank draft/FDD or any other means approved by Bangladesh Government from any schedule bank of an amount of 15% as earnest money (non-refundable for successful bidder & refundable for unsuccessful bidder) must be submitted in favour of BEPZA. Auction documents without earnest money will be treated as rejected.
- Inventoried Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets under the inventory list may be seen on 29/09/2024, 30/09/2024, 01/10/2024 & 02/10/2024 from 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM. Information regarding the visit and the list of Assets may be collected by contacting with the Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ directly.
- If the auction is accepted by the Authority, the successful bidder will have to pay the remaining 85% amount of the quoted price along with applicable TAX & VAT within 15 days to BEPZA through Pay Order/Bank Draft/FDD, or any other means approved by Bangladesh Government. Accordingly, the delivery of Structure, Machineries, Equipment & other Assets will have to be taken as per Customs & BEPZA rules.
- Auction Schedule may be bought by paying Tk. 5,000.00 (non-refundable) within 02/10/2024 during office hours from the Accounts Department of Dhaka EPZ, Chattogram EPZ, Adamjee EPZ, Mongla EPZ, Cumilla EPZ, Karnaphuli EPZ, Ishwardi EPZ, Uttara EPZ & Accounts Department of BEPZA Executive Office, Dhaka.
- Auction schedule may be dropped into the auction box kept at the office of Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ on 10/10/2024 from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm and Submitted Auction documents will be opened in the same date at 12:30 pm at the office of Executive Director, Dhaka EPZ in presence of the bidders (If any). Updated copy of VAT, TIN and Trade License shall have to be attached with the Auction schedule; but this condition may be relaxed by the Authority in case of fully new 100% foreign owned company interested to invest in the EPZ.
- Persons/Organizations/Investors who are interested to operate the closed industry will get priority in auction.
- Successful bidder will have to take permission (if applicable) to operate the industrial unit in the EPZ by following the project sanctioning procedure of BEPZA as per rules.
- The Authority reserves the right to accept any auction or reject any or all of the submitted auctions without showing any reason. The Authority also reserves the right to cancel the Auction and accordingly take next action if the desired rates are not obtained.



(Md. Ahsan Kabir)
Executive Director
Phone: 02-224498238
E-Mail: ed.depz@bepza.gov.bd

GD- 390

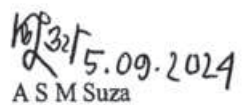
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Ministry of Water Resources
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Invitation For Tender (Goods)

No: 42.00.0000.050.07.001.21-111

Date: 5 September 2024

1	Ministry	Ministry of Water Resources
2	Procuring Entity Name	Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Ministry of Water Resources.
3	Source of funds	GOB.
4	Invitation for procurement of goods	Supply (Lot-1) Stationery, (Lot-2) Computer & Computer Accessories & (Lot-3) Furniture for the Ministry of Water Resources.
5	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
6	Tender Publication Date	10 September 2024
7	Last Selling Date of Tender Schedule	25 September 2024, During Office Time
8	Tender Submission date & time	26 September 2024, Time 12.00 AM
9	Tender opening date & time	26 September 2024, Time 02.00 PM
10	Name and Address of the Officer for Selling Tender Document	Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Room No-414, Building-06, 4 th Floor, Ministry of Water Resources.
11	Name and Address of the Officer Places for Receiving Tender Document	Joint Secretary (Admin), Room No-401, Building-06, 4 th Floor, Ministry of Water Resources.
12	Opening Tender Document	Room No-414, Building-06, 4 th Floor, Ministry of Water Resources.
INFORMATION FOR TENDER		
13	Eligibility of Tenderer(s)	Having (i) Up to date Trade License, (ii) E-TIN and Vat (e-BIN) registration certificate, (iii) Income tax clearance certificate (2022-23 tax year) (iv) General experience 3 years. Minimum liquid assets i.e working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be 19.00 (Nineteen) Lac for Lot-1, 24.00 (Twenty Four) Lac for Lot-2, 24.00 (Twenty Four) Lac for Lot-3.
14	Brief description of the goods	Supply of goods and fitting fixing of goods. (Lot-1) Stationery, (Lot-2) Computer & Computer Goods, Electronic Equipment & (Lot-3) Furniture for the Ministry of Water Resources. (As per the Schedule).
15	Price of Tender Document (Tk.) (Non-Refundable)	Per lot 1000/-(One thousand) Taka.
16	Tender Security	Tk. 38,000.00 (Thirty Eight Thousands) for Lot-1, Tk. 48,000.00 (Forty Eight Thousands) for Lot-2, Tk. 48,000.00 (Forty Eight Thousands) for Lot-3.
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS		
17	Name of Official Inviting tender	A S M Suza
18	Designation of official inviting tender	Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Ministry of Water Resources.
19	Address of the official inviting tender	Assistant Secretary (Admin-3), Room No-414, Building-06, 4 th Floor, Ministry of Water Resources.
20	Contract Details of the official invitation tender	Tel: 02-55101132
21	Special condition	The Procurement entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all without assigning any reason.
22	Contact Period	A Contract Must be Signed and contract Period would be minimum (01) One year. It may be extended.



A S M Suza
Assistant Secretary (Admin-3)
Phone: 55101132

GD-380

‘Shono Mohajon’: The unlikely anthem that became the voice of a generation



ILLUSTRATION: DOWEL BISWAS

“We were out of the country at that time, but we felt happy that we could contribute to the cause through our music.”

MAHIYA TABASSUM

In the sweltering summer of this year, as Bangladesh erupted in what would later be known as the July Revolution, an unexpected soundtrack emerged from the chaos. *Shono Mohajon*, a song released nearly a decade earlier by the local band Shunno, suddenly found new life as the unofficial anthem of a nation in upheaval. This feature explores the journey of the song, its creators, and the profound impact of music on social movements.

The birth of an unlikely anthem

Formed in 2007 by vocalist Imrul Karim Emil and former lead guitarist Shaker Raza, Shunno quickly established itself as a prominent voice in Bangladesh’s music scene. The band, completed by bassist Andrew Michael Gomez, drummer Rafatul Bari Labib and guitarist Ishmamul Farhad, had already tasted success with their song *Shoto Asha* becoming the unofficial theme for the 2011 Cricket World Cup in our country. However, it was *Shono Mohajon*, a track from their earlier days, that would ultimately define their legacy.

Written by popular lyricist Shahan Kabondho and produced by Fuad Al

Muqtadir, *Shono Mohajon* was not created with any specific political agenda in mind. As Emil explains, “When we made the song 9-10 years ago, we didn’t target any political party.” Instead, the song spoke to a universal experience of oppression under dictatorship, its lyrics a poignant cry against abuse of power:

*“Amar bichar tumi koro, tomar bichar korbe ke
Kobe tomar dokhol theke, mukti amay debe
Shono Mohajon, ami noyto ekjon
Shono Mohajon, amra onekjon.”*

The chorus loosely translates to:

*“You judge me, but who will judge you?
When will you free me from your control?
Listen, lord, I am not alone
Listen, lord, we are many.”*

As students took to the streets in July as part of the anti-discrimination student movement, demanding an end to the corrupt governance and repressive regime, *Shono Mohajon* found new resonance. Its lyrics, once a general critique of power structures, now

seemed tailor-made for the moment. Students used the song as background music for countless social media reels documenting the protests, spreading its message far beyond its original reach.

The band, touring in Canada at the time, watched in awe as their creation took on a life of its own. “We were surprised and proud to see the mass circulation,” Emil recalls. “We were out of the country at that time, but we felt happy that we could contribute to the cause through our music.”

On July 30, as the protests reached a fever pitch, Emil changed his profile picture to solid red, an act of solidarity with the students back home. Meanwhile, in Toronto, the band dedicated their performances to the protesters, using their platform to raise awareness about the situation in Bangladesh.

What made *Shono Mohajon*

and become a vessel for the hopes and frustrations of a new generation. As Michael notes, “The song isn’t ours anymore, it has become the song of the people.”

Music as a catalyst for change

The story of *Shono Mohajon* and its role in the July Revolution is more than just a tale of musical success; it’s a stark reminder of the complex relationship between art and society. While the song’s resurgence demonstrates the power of music to inspire and unify, it also raises critical questions about the nature of protest anthems and the responsibilities of artists in times of social upheaval.

On one hand, the adoption of *Shono Mohajon* by protesters showcases the organic way in which art can transcend its original intent and become a powerful tool for change. The

current issues?

As the country enters a new era of newly-found freedom of expression, the music industry stands at a crossroads. The potential for a renaissance of creative expression is immense, but so too are the challenges. Emil and the band see both opportunities and responsibilities for artists. “Since now we have got the ‘license’ to tell stories, hopefully, we will be able to tell more interesting, compelling stories now,” Emil muses. He emphasises the importance of artists staying conscious and continually challenging those in power. “Asking the right, conscious questions will help in the long run. We, as musicians and artists, can also raise questions through our creation.”

Michael, the band’s bassist, expresses optimism about the potential for more authentic and diverse artistic expression: “Other musicians and artists who could not fulfil their artistic potential due to censorship would be able to exercise the newly found freedom, and I am really happy for them.” However, Emil also notes the importance of responsible use of this freedom, particularly in an age of misinformation. “The youth are much more aware now. People verify every piece of news before believing it. So, if censorship is eliminated, I am sure people will make good use of it,” he says.

Regarding the reform of the music industry, Emil suggests, “We should welcome all kinds of music,” advocating for more diverse representation in music events and festivals. He also emphasises the need for established industry associations to provide better resources and guidance to emerging artists, helping to build a strong foundation for the next generation of musicians.

The legacy of *Shono Mohajon* serves as both an inspiration and a caution. It reminds us of music’s power to unite and inspire, but also of the need for critical engagement with the art we consume and create. As Bangladesh’s artists step into this new era, they carry with them not just the opportunity to create and express freely, but also the weighty responsibility of shaping cultural narratives and social discourse.



resonate so strongly with the protesters, particularly the youth? Andrew Michael Gomes, the band’s bassist and occasional lyricist, offers an insight: “We were true to our art and words when we created the song. It’s a song for anyone who has ever been oppressed, can be anyone from any background. Our song wasn’t directed towards any particular party or institution. We didn’t even promote the song during the movement. It got picked up because of its relevance.”

This universality, combined with the song’s emotional power, allowed it to transcend its original context

band’s surprise at their song’s new life highlights the unpredictable nature of artistic impact. In an era of viral content and rapid information spread, we must consider the potential for manipulation and misinterpretation of artistic works.

Moreover, while Shunno’s indirect approach to social commentary allowed their message to resonate across time and context, it also raises questions about the role of more direct, confrontational art in social movements—is it more effective to create universally applicable works that can be reinterpreted, or to produce art that explicitly addresses

NEWS

ACC to work

FROM PAGE 12

The official said signing of a memorandum of understanding between the FBI and the ACC also came up for discussion.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, ACC Secretary Khorsheda Yasmeen said it was a courtesy meeting.

“They [FBI officials] wanted to learn how the ACC operates. They have assured us of providing support in recovering laundered money, if needed.”

On Sunday, Commerce Adviser Saleh Uddin Ahmed announced plans to form a special taskforce to recover laundered money.

Speaking to the media at the commerce ministry, the adviser said the authorities were working on establishing the taskforce’s operating guidelines and the criteria on picking its members.

ACC sources said the special taskforce will include representatives from Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, the ACC, the Finance Division, the NBR, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, among other agencies.

No plastic bags in supermarkets

FROM PAGE 12

inform the public about the ban.

To ensure the availability of jute shopping bags, the Ministry of Textiles and Jute will hold meetings with superstore operators within a week to secure a steady supply of alternative bags.

In addition, the Department of Environment, in collaboration with the NGO ESDO, will host a fair by September 30, showcasing eco-friendly bags made from jute and other sustainable materials.

The event will serve as a platform for supermarket authorities and bag manufacturers to discuss their requirements and production capacities.

The meeting, chaired by the secretary of the ministry, was attended by high-ranking government officials, including additional secretaries, the director general of the Department of Environment, and representatives from supermarket chains and other ministries.

14-year-old boy killed

FROM PAGE 12

India earlier in the day were detained by BSF.

After the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government, people, especially from the minority community of Thakurgaon and its nearby districts, have been going to the border to go to India, the police officer said.

The Border Guard Bangladesh and the BSF held a flag meeting at the Balia border in Panchagarh’s Atwary upazila around 4:30pm following a request by the former.

Commanding Officer of BGB 50 Battalion Lt Col Tanjir Ahmmud led the Bangladeshi side while acting Commandant of Kishanganj BSF Battalion Jiten Dev Sharma led the Indian side in the 40-minute-long meeting.

ICT starts field-level probe

FROM PAGE 12

sent separate letters to local and police administration, medical colleges, media houses, and university authorities and sought information concerning the student movement.

In a letter to all metropolitan police commissioners, deputy commissioners, and superintendents of police, the agency sought a list of casualties between July 1 and August 5, information about graveyards and a list of martyrs buried there, information about any mass grave and list of martyrs buried there, names and addresses of victims’ families, and the role of law enforcers and the then ruling party cadres in quelling the movement.

In a letter to all directors of medical college hospitals and civil surgeons, the agency sought a list of the casualties, their attendants, and treatment-related documents.

In a letter to all editors of the national dailies and the heads of news at TV channels, the agency sought reports that quoted the speeches or comments given by the then ministers, advisers, lawmakers, party leaders, and law enforcers to suppress the movement and stories or footage related to killing, mass killing, torture, confinement, enforced disappearance, arson, etc.

In a letter to vice-chancellors of the public and private universities the agency sought information about students, teachers, and staffers who were killed or injured and information about the role of law enforcers and the then ruling party

The BGB strongly protested the killing and said the BSF could have detained the Bangladeshis and processed them for illegal entry or handed them over to the BGB instead of shooting them.

The BGB officials said they would not be patient and respond accordingly if such incidents recur.

The BSF officials in the meeting said that they opened fire as the intruders attacked BSF personnel after entering Indian territory, Lt Col Tanjir said.

Last week, a 16-year-old girl was shot dead by BSF in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

According to Ain O Salish Kendra, 31 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF along the border in 2023, of whom 28 were shot dead.

cadres in quelling the movement.

Sheikh Hasina, who was ousted on August 5 following a student-led mass uprising, is facing 12 charges of crimes against humanity and genocide.

Eleven complaints were filed in connection with the recent student movement, while another complaint was connected with the crimes committed centring the Hefajat-e-Islami rally in Dhaka in May 2013.

Besides Hasina, her party leaders and several journalists, were also included in the complaints filed with the ICT.

Hasina-led government formed the International Crimes Tribunal in March 2010 to try the people who committed crimes during the Liberation War in 1971. Later, a second ICT was formed.

At least six BNP and Jamaat leaders were executed for their 1971 crimes following the ICT verdicts.

Filing of complaints with the investigation agency started after Law Adviser Asif Nazrul on August 15 said the interim government decided to hold the trial at the International Crimes Tribunal for the killings during the mass uprising that toppled the Hasina-led government.

The government on Thursday reconstituted the prosecution team of the ICT by appointing a chief prosecutor and four other prosecutors.

Tajul Islam, who defended several Jamaat-e-Islami leaders facing wartime crimes charges at the tribunals, was made the chief prosecutor.

Border killings

FROM PAGE 12

Earlier, on September 5, Dhaka had requested New Delhi to investigate all border killings, identify those responsible, and hold them accountable. The request followed the killing of a 13-year-old Bangladeshi girl, Shwarna Das, who was shot dead by BSF on September 1 in Moulvibazar’s Juri upazila.

According to the human rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), 31 Bangladeshis have been killed by BSF in 2023, with 28 of them shot dead. Between 2009 and 2022, 563 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF.

“Such killings occurred even when the relationship was described as the golden chapter. There has been no change so far. This is unacceptable,” Hossain said.

He emphasised that good relations between countries are not just about government-to-government ties. It also depends on the perception of people of those countries about each other, and border killings do not help in that regard.

Asked about media reports claiming President Mohammed Shahabuddin has a second home in Malaysia and a residency permit in Dubai, the adviser declined to comment, stating that the foreign ministry cannot act on speculation.

He, however, stated that the claims should be addressed by the relevant authorities.

Asked about the Rohingya crisis, Touhid said repatriation of the Myanmar citizens is not feasible at the moment due to ongoing clashes between the junta military and the Arakan Army in Myanmar’s Rakhine State. Repatriation can only take place when conditions are stable, he added.

He emphasised that good relations between countries are not just about government-to-government ties. It also depends on the perception of people of those countries about each other, and border killings do not help in that regard.

Asked about media reports claiming President Mohammed Shahabuddin has a second home in Malaysia and a residency permit in Dubai, the adviser declined to comment, stating that the foreign ministry cannot act on speculation.

He, however, stated that the claims should be addressed by the relevant authorities.

Asked about the Rohingya crisis, Touhid said repatriation of the Myanmar citizens is not feasible at the moment due to ongoing clashes between the junta military and the Arakan Army in Myanmar’s Rakhine State. Repatriation can only take place when conditions are stable, he added.

MAN Siddique

FROM PAGE 12

Siddique, a former secretary of the division, was appointed the managing director of the state-run company in October 2017.

The country’s first metro rail service started partially in December 2022 and the entire Uttara-Motijheel section in November last year. Work for the extended part of the line up to Kamalapur is underway.

DMTCL is now implementing two more metro rail projects, MRT Line-1 and MRT Line-5 (northern route), and has planned to construct three more lines in Dhaka and its adjacent areas to reduce traffic congestion and environmental pollution.

39 more DCs

FROM PAGE 1

DCs would be withdrawn, so they were mentally prepared.

However, another DC believes that evaluating all officials in the same way is unfair.

“Not every appointment during the last government was partisan. Most officers became DCs based on merit. We did not expect such a decision from a non-partisan government. For those of us who have served as DCs for a short period, it leaves a stain on our careers.”

“Has my competence become my enemy?” the DC said.

India follows ‘dominance politics’

FROM PAGE 12

He made the comments in response to Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh’s recent remarks urging the country’s armed forces to remain prepared for war.

According to Indian media reports, Singh emphasised the need for India’s armed forces to be ready for war to maintain peace.

Fakhrul, along with the leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, visited Zia’s grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and paid homage to him by placing a wreath, marking the 46th founding anniversary of the BNP’s female wing.

BNP standing committee members Selima Rahman and AZM Zahid Hossain, Mohila Dal President Afroza Abbas, General Secretary Sultana Ahmed, and Joint General Secretary Helen Zerin Khan, among others, were present.

Fakhrul said Bangladesh was freed

25 NEW DCs

Twenty-five districts, including Dhaka, Chattogram, Gazipur, and Mymensingh, now have new DCs.

Other districts are Faridpur, Sylhet, Habiganj, Sherpur, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Magura, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Naogaon, Natore, Pabna, Bogura, Joypurhat, Cox’s Bazar, Noakhali, Chandpur, Cumilla, Moulvibazar, Khulna, and Gopalganj.

The DCs were transferred to different ministries, directorates, and other offices.

Cabinet Division sources said the new DCs would join their stations tomorrow.

from the hands of the fascist Awami League regime after almost 16 years through a student-led mass uprising.

He mentioned that many students, as well as women and children, sacrificed their lives for this revolution.

“On this day, we have taken an oath to continue our struggle to consolidate the freedom that has been achieved, restore democracy, and establish the rule of law in the country.”

Fakhrul hoped that the interim government will hand over power to the people through an election after completing the necessary state reforms as soon as possible.

Responding to a question, the BNP secretary general said he met the chief adviser twice and requested him to present the reform proposals before the people, and set a timeline so the national election can be held within a specific and reasonable timeframe.

Trump, Harris in final

FROM PAGE 12

and cost-of-living issues to health care.

Trump, 78, will be under pressure to rein in his insults and aggression as he goes up against a mixed-race candidate vying to be the first female president in US history.

But he has experience on his side, with six prior presidential debates under his belt — and his restrained approach against an imploding

Biden in their debate in June proved brutally effective.

Biden was forced to drop out of the White House race less than a month later.

Trump struck a typically dark tone in rallies and social media posts over the weekend as he reached out to his right-wing base, at one point warning of “long prison sentences” on all those he said were planning “cheating” in November.

Can we change the story of our banks?

Restoring trust in the sector crucially important

The extent of damage done to the banking sector during the Awami League's 15 years of rule is truly shocking. Despite this daily's frequent coverage of various irregularities during its tenure, and more transparency emerging in the wake of the mass uprising that brought down Sheikh Hasina, the true scale of corruption in the banking sector seems unfathomable, with new revelations coming to the fore every day. This just shows how daunting the challenge will be for the interim government as it sets its sights on reforms and recovery. Nevertheless, it must perform its duties diligently.

The new administration has already taken some positive steps in this regard. The decisions to form a banking commission to undertake reforms and a task force to identify key areas of concern are notable. According to this daily, the Bangladesh Bank (BB) has also decided to rescue struggling banks, including some Shariah-based banks formerly controlled by the S Alam Group, by managing liquidity or merging a few. It is important to note that the old regime had promised similar objectives. However, instead of working towards them, it gave preferential treatment to corrupt, politically connected bank owners and stakeholders, which further compromised the health of these banks, put depositors' funds at risk, and damaged the economy as a whole.

In contrast, the present authorities are believed to be supporting these banks for three main reasons: to safeguard the country's economy, to protect depositors, and to assist customers involved in production. These are the exact factors that should drive all reform decisions. Though many of the banks were mired in corruption, their bankruptcy would cause significant harm to both depositors and the economy. The central bank is therefore obligated to try to rescue them, but it must do so in the right way and for the right reasons. For instance, as the central bank has now promised, it must avoid providing liquidity support by printing money—as was done before—and instead allow lenders to access support through inter-bank money supply, with the BB acting as the guarantor for struggling banks. Additionally, the BB must ensure that these banks take every possible measure to recover defaulted loans in order to alleviate their liquidity crisis. So far, most of the banks have not performed well in this regard. That needs to change.

Reportedly, out of the Tk 70,000 crore that left the banking sector, Tk 30,000 crore has been recovered. This, along with the government's decision to insure up to Tk 2 lakh for each depositor, should help restore some confidence in the sector. While we welcome the direction in which the banking sector is moving under the interim government, coordinated efforts involving various agencies—including the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police, and home and foreign ministries, among others—are essential to recover the remaining funds. They should also complement the long-term reform measures currently being outlined.

Stop armed violence at Geneva Camp

Dismantle groups fighting over drug trade, ensure safety

We are concerned at the repeated incidents of violence at the Geneva Camp in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area in recent weeks. According to a report by this daily, since the fall of the Awami League government, clashes between armed gangs inside the camp have become common as drug dealers are trying to take control of the area. Locals have reported hearing gunshots almost every day, which was not the case before. Over the past month, two men were also killed in such gunfights. The situation remains tense, requiring immediate attention from the authorities.

The Geneva Camp has always been known as a hub of drug dealers. Reportedly, there are various groups involved in drug trade, and clashes generally occur over establishing supremacy. For example, in April, a major clash occurred between rival groups over controlling the trade. And after August 5, new players have entered the scene trying to take control of the trade. Particularly, the rampant use of firearms has raised alarms among the residents of the camp and adjacent areas. From the photos and video clips taken by locals during the clashes, police assume that the firearms were probably looted from police stations earlier last month. If that is the case, our law enforcers should immediately take action to recover them.

According to data from the Police Headquarters, 5,829 firearms including rifles, SMGs, pistols and shotguns were looted in early August from police stations across the country. Of them, 3,933 were initially returned. And the joint drive led by armed forces, which began operations since September 4, has thus far recovered 53 more firearms. There are concerns that if the remaining weapons are not recovered soon, those could be used to cause further violence by criminals.

The residents in and around the Geneva Camp are living in fear because of the rampant clashes, with many young people also getting involved in them, which is a serious concern. The law enforcement agencies must take prompt actions to tackle the dual threats of drug trade and illegal firearm use. It's time a joint operation was also conducted in the camp to dismantle the threats posed by these illegal drug businesses, which many camp residents have also urged. Ordinary people must not be held hostage by criminal groups.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Last execution in France

On this day in 1977, Hamida Djandoubi became the last person to be executed by a guillotine. Djandoubi was convicted and sentenced to death for the murder of 21-year-old Elisabeth Bousquet.

An education memorandum

Action priorities for the interim government

Dr Manzoor Ahmed
is professor emeritus at BRAC University.

Dr John Richards
is professor emeritus of public policy at Simon Fraser University in Canada.

Shahidul Islam
is a doctoral student at Queens University in Canada, and a former senior education adviser with the US Agency for International Development.

MANZOOR AHMED, JOHN RICHARDS and SHAHIDUL ISLAM

When Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus addressed the nation on August 25, two weeks after the student-led mass uprising put the interim government led by him in power, education was not expected to be on top of the agenda. But he did make four important points: i) the misrule of the past government has maimed the education system and has created chaos at all levels of education; ii) taking the initiative for a comprehensive reform in education is a pledge of the interim government; iii) work on developing a curriculum fit for the changing times will begin; and iv) an urgent task is to resume the activities of the educational institutions in a creativity-generating, safe and learner-friendly environment.

Speaking about the multitude of demands arising from the “state repair” agenda put forth by the mass uprising, Prof Yunus said, actions on various reforms have already begun and the process of consultation would have to continue. The interim government has to decide guidelines for the minimum reform targets to achieve, and where to begin. In this regard, the ultimate decision has to emerge through political consultation. The time frame for reform—i.e., the decision about the life span of the interim government—will also emerge from political dialogue involving all citizens, including students, he said.

A CRIPPLED EDUCATION SYSTEM

Fourteen years ago, the government adopted a national educational policy setting the guidelines for educational development. The key objectives of the 2010 policy remain unmet: i) a core unified curriculum for all types of school education with a minimum common standard of school provisions for all students; ii) major change in the professional training of teachers, their performance standards, their status and incentives, and assurance of adequate numbers;

We have not produced satisfactory learning outcomes due to deficits in planning, school management and accountability, and the absence of a holistic education vision. We don't have enough teachers with professional skills, commitment to teaching, and a career path for them as an incentive for performance.

and iii) decentralised and accountable education governance, planning and management.

Researchers see development in sub-sectors of education as fragmented and partial, devoid of a holistic view of the sector. Government actions have not addressed the root problems; they have reacted to symptoms, often without success.

Public investment in education has remained at or below two percent of GDP—one of the lowest among developing countries. Under the present structure of planning, management and accountability, larger budgets are actually likely to create more waste, inefficiency and mismanagement.

We have not produced satisfactory learning outcomes due to deficits in planning, school management and accountability, and the absence of a holistic education vision. We don't have enough teachers with professional skills, commitment to teaching, and a career path for them as an incentive for performance.

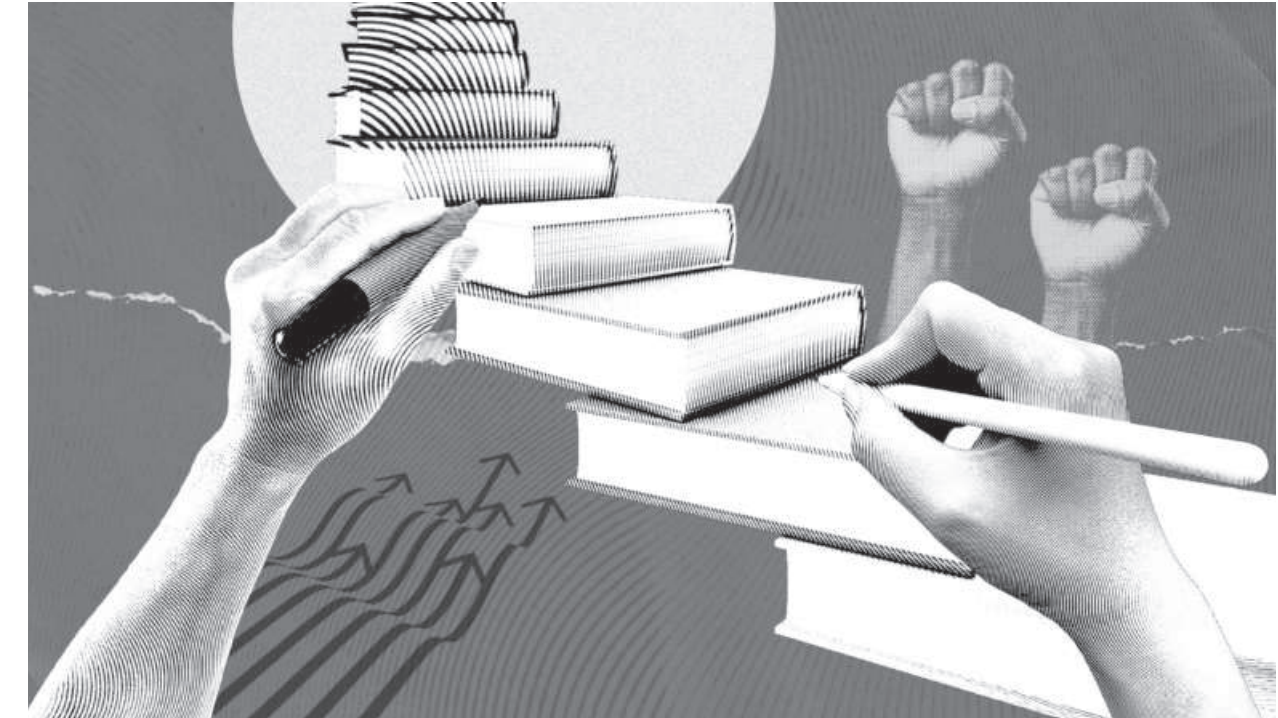
Unlike other countries, comprehensive planning has been hindered by splitting school education into two ministries. As in other sectors, partisan political interests, rather than educational goals, have guided decision-making, especially in recruitment of personnel. Corruption, inefficiency and a lack of accountability have continued hand in hand.

The new school education curriculum, launched in 2022 with

much fanfare, has become an example of partial and fragmented action without adequate preparation for major required collateral steps. The curriculum has caused widespread anxiety and confusion among students, teachers and parents. It has put students' future at risk.

THE EDUCATION PRIORITIES

As implied by Prof Yunus in his speech, the interim government needs help in at least two areas: a) advice on immediate and short-term steps required for restarting the educational institutions and their normal activities, getting rid of the egregious practices of the past that vitiated the academic operations and environment of the institutions; and b) ideas for long-term changes. The interim government may take up some major decisions; for others, a reform process may be initiated with the outcomes to emerge over a longer



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

time frame.

Beyond listing the reform agenda, it is necessary to indicate mechanisms, action steps, and processes. Reforms should be articulated, action plans made, actions implemented, and progress monitored and evaluated.

URGENT AND SHORT-TERM ACTIONS

Restarting with a “new normal”: The extraordinary recent events call for urgent actions. Students need to be in school and normal operations need to resume. A “new normal” has to be defined at each level of education, renouncing many past practices. At the university level, the University Grants Commission (UGC), in consultation with students and other stakeholders, should provide guidelines, but not seek to micro-manage. Each institution should consult students, teachers and parents at the school level in implementing the guidelines.

Right people at the right place: The recent spate of resignations in top university and other positions and the demand for resignations in institutions point to the need for the right people in the right place. Appointments must be based on merit, not political or other considerations. The process must ensure impartiality through clearly defined job qualifications and use of search committees. A professional UGC can facilitate the process and consult teachers and students. To fill the vacuum in administration, people may be placed in institutions and key education administration positions for a short term, with regular appointments made through due deliberation.

Elected student unions: With their sacrifice and maturity demonstrated in the recent popular movement, students have earned the right to a role in managing the education and co-curricular activities of their institutions. This opportunity should be created by forming non-partisan elected student bodies in institutions, beginning with universities and colleges.

Pause and rethink the new curriculum: The interim government has begun to take steps to address the ongoing contentious issues. Ad hoc decisions risk exacerbating

the frustrations of stakeholders. A comprehensive and well-structured approach is necessary to ensure a smooth transition. Most educationists want a pause in the rollout of the new curriculum. In order to minimise disruption, two steps can be taken: i) textbooks already introduced in some grades under the new curriculum may continue and existing textbooks may be used for other grades; and ii) conventional end-of-year or public student evaluation based on written examinations should continue, separating formative and practical work-based evaluation in classrooms from summative written examinations.

A pause spanning a year or so should be used to review and rethink the curricular reforms, particularly student evaluation, a highly controversial aspect of the new curriculum, and effective implementation in classrooms. Experts and stakeholders should be involved in this rethink.

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS

Initiate a continuous curriculum development process: The curriculum reform mechanism and process should be initiated in a holistic way for the entire school education, understanding the curriculum as an ongoing process rather than a singular event. Core

subjects across all school systems are essential, while maintaining flexibility to allow students to seamlessly transfer between different educational pathways.

Increase education budget: A planned growth of the public education budget should be committed. NGOs with demonstrated capacity to perform should be supported to participate with the government in district- and upazila-based plans for inclusive early childhood, primary, secondary, and vocational education of acceptable quality.

Assessment of primary students' foundational skills: One of the priorities should be a national assessment of primary-level students' ability to read and do basic arithmetic, and actions based on the assessment to reach these targets. Bangladesh could adopt the simple biannual early grade ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) reading and arithmetic at-home surveys, which was pioneered by Pratham in India and adopted in several countries.

Invest in teachers: Steps should be taken to increase the number of teachers, strengthen the quality of teacher preparation, and provide teachers with a career path. Teachers' professionalism and performance are the pivot of change in education. A reimagined teaching profession should attract and retain the best talents in the profession. Teachers' and other education workers' preparation, performance standards, status, incentives, remuneration and career path should be redesigned and applied across the board for all schools, state and non-state. Teachers should be the role model for their students. This rethinking about teachers will be a longer-term task, but it should begin in earnest now.

Unify school education under one ministry: A unified government leadership and policy guidance should be established by bringing all school education, pre-school to pre-university, under one ministry. This would be important in the context of decentralising education governance with planning and decisions devolved to district, upazila and institutional levels.

Bring in industry experts: A

programme should be initiated with businesses and private sector social enterprises to enhance employment generation and skill development. Good examples should be supported and employers' bodies should be involved in creating social businesses for employment generation and skill development.

Pilot projects in decentralising management: The decades-long talk about decentralising education governance should take concrete shape through initiating a pilot project of decentralisation, establishing district education authorities for finance, planning and management.

This list is not exhaustive. An education consultative group would consider and advise on both the short-term and medium- and longer-term policy questions, and might come up with other issues deserving priority attention. Being strategic means having a choice of actions with probable success, rather than attempting many things all at once.

FROM RHETORIC TO ACTION: HOW TO GO ABOUT IT

An education consultative group of experts and stakeholders should examine the status of and priorities in the education sector and advise the interim government. They would examine the issues and suggest actions on the matters noted above. They would help build a consensus on the longer-term vision. This group may be turned into a permanent, statutory commission, as recommended in the 2010 National Education Policy. The consultative group should consider priorities and steps related to SDGs and national goals for building an equitable, inclusive and quality education system for all.

This larger agenda would include: i) promoting an equitable society through education; ii) a time-bound plan for equitable and inclusive early childhood development and K-12 school education of acceptable quality for all; iii) strengthening the teaching profession and the education workforce in respect of their professional skills, motivation, performance and adequacy of numbers, as well as the effective use of digital technologies; iv) establishing decentralised district education authorities for planning and managing equitable K-12 education in every community; and v) ensuring academic autonomy of the education system and education institutions, protecting them from partisan politics.

As Prof Yunus envisaged, there has to be systematic consultation and dialogue with all stakeholders, not token gestures. The energy and idealism of students and the youth have to be harnessed to this end. A social compact on education has to be backed up by a political consensus.

The interim government is not expected to complete all the needed reforms. But if it realises at least some of the key reforms and charts the way ahead for others, it will have done justice to the sacrifices of students and citizens during the July-August movement.

The writers are co-authors of the book Political Economy of Education in South Asia: Fighting Poverty, Inequality and Exclusion (University of Toronto Press, 2022). It has been well received, and national editions have been published in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Prof Ahmed has also written a book in Bangla focusing on Bangladesh, titled Ekush Shotoke Bangladesh: Shikhar Rupantor (Bangladesh in the 21st Century: Transforming Education), published by Prothoma in 2023.



There has been widespread allegations of human rights violations suffered by migrant workers during the construction of all eight FIFA World Cup 2022 stadiums in Qatar. FILE PHOTO: AFP

Can we break the cycle of migrant exploitation?



Shuprova Tasneem is a writer and commentator with an interest in gender justice and global politics. Her X handle is @shuprovatasneem.

SHUPROVA TASNEEM

The announcement of official pardon for the 57 Bangladeshi migrants, who were handed out harsh prison sentences in the UAE for organising peaceful protests in solidarity with students back home, has brought about a general sense of relief. This is a definitive diplomatic win for the chief adviser, and has raised hopes of closer ties with an important trade partner at a crucial moment—in FY2023–24, \$3.65 billion was sent from the UAE to Bangladesh as remittance, making it the highest remittance-earning market for our workers.

However, the severity and lack

In 2021, Abiron Begum became the only Bangladeshi woman to receive justice when a Saudi court convicted a family of three for her murder, but there are many more Abirons who have been forgotten. As long as the labour flows out and remittances flow in, there has been a silent consensus on turning a blind eye to rights abuses so far.

between 17 percent and 35 percent. In 2021, Abiron Begum became the only Bangladeshi woman to receive justice when a Saudi court convicted a family of three for her murder, but there are many more Abirons who have been forgotten. As long as the labour flows out and remittances flow in, there has been a silent consensus on turning a blind eye to rights abuses so far.

Far from supporting and protecting our migrants, many officials of the previous establishment seem to have played an active role in exploiting workers through labour syndicates instead. We have seen this most recently in the Malaysia recruitment chaos, where thousands of workers spent their life savings, yet never found employment. Currently, Bangladesh has the highest labour recruitment costs in South Asia, a large proportion of which is spent on bribes and illegal fees. These fraudulent practices are not only a crushing burden on ordinary workers, but it harms the economy by creating a trust deficit with host countries and limiting access to labour markets. In 2023, an average of 8,200 Bangladeshis were travelling to the UAE every month, whereas this year, the figure has dropped to 6,500 per month, reportedly due to employers' reluctance to take on workers who might ultimately fail to meet legal

brokers who work as go-betweens for them and agencies. Ensuring easy access to information is a necessity to protect workers, as is a particular authority, preferably separated from recruitment, where complaints can be lodged regarding such unscrupulous practices.

The recent events in the UAE have made it clear that workers' ability to organise and collectively bargain for their rights in destination countries are severely restricted. Given how vulnerable this makes them, it is shocking that over the past few decades, so little effort has been put into creating a proper bureaucratic infrastructure and setting up support systems that migrant workers can directly access. In contrast, if we are to look at the Philippines model for inspiration, we will find that their foreign consulates hold a resource centre for migrants, as well as a specific migrant workers office and social welfare attachés in host countries. We can definitely take a leaf out of their book in terms of building a migration management system, streamlining migration-related bureaucracy and investing in human capital, alongside updating labour laws to protect migrants.

We have also witnessed recently that a little bit of diplomacy can go a long way. It is time for us to realise that there is safety in numbers, and to collaborate with India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries with big migrant populations to put pressure on destination countries. One immediate push that is needed is health coverage for our workers. For too long they have been treated as dispensable, receiving little to no healthcare and being unceremoniously kicked out of their workplaces after falling ill. Oman has already set an

Over the last 10 years, more than 34,000 migrant workers have died abroad. Yet, the previous government made not even one serious attempt to provide justice to the family members of the deceased. To this day, we have no comprehensive data on the proportion of female migrant workers who have faced sexual violence and torture, although different sources estimate this to be between 17 percent and 35 percent.

requirements.

The interim government is now faced with the mammoth task of rescuing migrant workers from exploitation, both at home and abroad, while ensuring that their efforts do not have the adverse impact of reducing labour outflows instead. For this, the most urgent course of action is to bring back trust into the recruitment process by breaking up the labour syndicates. The chokehold of the powerful few can finally be loosened, with more players allowed into the market. It is also essential to make legal recourse available to migrants, both for righting historical wrongs and to ensure their protection in future interactions with recruiting agencies.

Unfortunately, corruption and mismanagement exist at every level, whether it's bribes for police clearance certificates, exaggerated fees for medical tests, or overpriced tickets from travel agencies. Workers rarely have clear information on these processes, and are at the mercy of sub-agents and

example by introducing a social insurance system for both nationals and migrant workers that covers sickness, and it is high time for us to raise our voices so that others follow suit.

If you're wondering whether such efforts will ultimately hamper migration, it must be clear by now that there is an obvious power imbalance between migrant importing and exporting nations that devalues our workers, especially if they are "unskilled." But if the July uprising has taught us anything, it is that power cannot be endlessly abused. Alongside dealing with the exploitation of workers within our own economy, we must also tackle global exploitative practices head-on, whether it is in the migrant labour sector or in the RMG industry. If the Qatar World Cup is an example to go by, Saudi Arabia will also rely heavily on migrant workers for construction if it is to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup. It is high time for host countries to come to the realisation that they need us as much as we need them too.

Preserving our future by saving our forests



Rakibul Hasan Mukul is deputy chief conservator of forests at the Forest Department (lion), executive director at Aramnyk Foundation, and organising secretary at the Institution of Foresters Bangladesh (IFB). He can be reached at rakib@aramnyk.org.

RAKIBUL HASAN MUKUL

With the recent fall of an authoritarian regime and an interim government in place, the expectations and demands of people in Bangladesh are skyrocketing, and there is a desire to take full advantage of new opportunities and possibilities. In a similar vein, conservationists and natural resource management professionals expect the management of forests and other resources to be more effective now, protecting the long-term interests of the country and its population.

Previous regimes were more concerned about success stories in all sectors, with fabricated success carefully covering unattended challenges. Political interference was widespread in institutional decision-making, leading to wastage of public resources, ignorance of expert opinions, and forsaking of participation and stakeholder consultation. Against this backdrop, the Forest Department and other related agencies gradually drifted far from their due course.

The interim government may weigh on several issues that I believe are crucial for transforming the public forest management system into a more transparent and accountable one.

One such issue is data tampering and the misrepresentation of facts. It has been customary, over the past decade, to present exaggerated scenarios in terms of achievement. For instance, the data regarding national forest cover, which was shown to be around 12.6 percent, while it is in reality around 8.6 percent. These have immense bearing on our national forest coverage targets, and the targets against the relevant SDGs, policy, plans, and strategies, as the distorted data places us on an impractical trajectory.

Therefore, the scholarly demand is to correct the course through updating Bangladesh's actual forest cover data, and reconsider various national targets accordingly.

Most of the forest and relevant laws in practice are from the British regime, and devoid of any consideration of the people. Moreover, parts of the reserved forests are declared as Protected Areas to fulfil international obligations, which further limits accessibility and the rights of the people. It has never been a practice of the Forest Department to arrange public consultation while declaring public forests as Protected Areas. At present, 52 percent of the Sundarbans forest (including the waterways) has been declared as

Protected Areas with harsher usage regulations. This often makes the lives of forest-dependent locals miserable, and ultimately results in exacerbated illegal practices.

The rights of local communities should be ensured by revising the boundaries of declared Protected Areas and subsequent declarations. Alongside the Protected Areas management plan, a mandatory management requirement for each Protected Area should be prepared for real action to fill the missing gaps.

Another area of concern is the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), an underutilised hidden gem for forest restoration and carbon conservation. Despite the widespread deforestation (522,158 ha) and forest degradation (146,210 ha) in the CHT region, efforts are not being taken to restore

Unfortunately in the forestry sector, we see exclusionary, vested interest-led and often politically biased, inefficient and even unnecessarily planned and implemented development programmes. Some of these initiatives have caused irreparable harm to forests and wildlife and enabled embezzlement and wastage of public money.

it at scale because of the conflicting land management responsibilities of the various departments. Some part of the CHT forest land is managed by the Forest Department, termed as reserved forests, while most of it is under the management of the deputy commissioners representing the land ministry, often termed as unclassified state forests. The latter has no mandate to prevent forest degradation or restoration; therefore, the lands are undergoing further degradation due to massive expansion of agriculture and horticultural crops. The Forest Department, on the other hand, has no functional ties or programmes under the administrative structures created in light of the 1997 CHT Accord.

However, appropriate community-based forest conservation programmes could increase forest cover by eliminating

conflicting land uses and create further opportunities to foster employment in the hills, generate timber and non-timber products, secure livelihoods and thus reduce landslide, soil erosion and siltation, improve watersheds, regulate local climate, and achieve both national REDD+ and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets. Furthermore, it is possible to earn a considerable amount of foreign currencies from the voluntary or regulatory carbon markets through emission reduction by carbon conservation in the forests.

Unfortunately in the forestry sector, we see exclusionary, vested interest-led and often politically biased, inefficient and even unnecessarily planned and implemented development programmes. Some salient examples include the installation of non-profitable and useless ropeway in the name of Sheikh Russel Aviary and Ecopark in Rangunia, the establishment of a safari park at Lathitila forest and numerous ecoparks. Some of these initiatives have caused irreparable harm to forests and wildlife and enabled embezzlement and wastage of public money.

To ensure resourceful forest conservation activities, the Forest Department has drafted a forest policy and a forestry master plan using huge debt investment; it has been awaiting approval for eight years. These forest policy and forestry master plan should be discussed, approved and implemented immediately before these become obsolete.

Even more concerningly, the Forest Department does not have the capacity to prevent encroachment. Even though enormous lands—104,000 hectares—have already been encroached, the field-level staff are still putting their life at risk to prevent encroachment and hill-cutting, resulting in physical assaults and even death of forest personnel in the recent past.

Shockingly, the Government and Local Authority Lands and Buildings (Recovery of Possession) Ordinance, 1970 currently in use did not retain the legal power of divisional forest officers for eviction, which was in the earlier ordinance. After sending the list to the deputy commissioners, the Forest Department must wait for the eviction orders and the appointment of magistrates. By the time all approvals are obtained, the forest is already encroached upon and destroyed. Actions for evictions, if ever, are taken from the office of the deputy commissioner. However, these are often purely populist, bowing down to the wishes of political leadership.

If forests and wildlife habitats are to exist, necessary legal power needs to be given to stop encroachment and protect them. The misuse of forests cannot go on any further. People should stand up for forests, for only then will forests survive—and so will people.

of due process in terms of the sentencing, as well as a glaring lack of support from relevant ministries and officials in Bangladesh prior to the chief adviser's intervention, point towards a worrying status quo for migrants. It is clear that, working in precarious conditions under repressive regimes with little knowledge of their rights (and limits to it), our workers are on paper celebrated for their role in propping up the economy, but in reality, they are isolated, ignored, and left to fend for themselves.

Nothing makes this stark reality more obvious than the huge number of migrant workers that continue to return home in body bags and coffins. Last year, a record 4,552 Bangladeshi workers died abroad, with a majority of these deaths occurring in Gulf states. Almost all of them were chalked up to "natural causes," despite rights groups arguing that unsafe working conditions, including lack of protections against extreme heat, are a major driver behind these untimely deaths.

Over the last 10 years, more than 34,000 migrant workers have died abroad. Yet, the previous government made not even one serious attempt to provide justice to the family members of the deceased. To this day, we have no comprehensive data on the proportion of female migrant workers who have faced sexual violence and torture, although different sources estimate this to be

Government of Peoples Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Mugda Medical College Hospital
Dhaka
E-mail: mugda@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

Memo No. MMCH/2024-2025/2962

Date: 08/09/2024


e-Tender Notice

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contract support desk contract numbers.
e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. S. M. Hasibul Islam, Director, Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Propo al Publication Date & Time	Tender/Propo al Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/ Opening Date & Time
1012858	Procurement of Medical & Surgical Equipments for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012859	Procurement of Computer Accessories for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012860	Procurement of Computer Consumable for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012861	Procurement of Others Stationary for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012863	Procurement of Cleaning Items for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012864	Procurement of Printing & Binding for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012866	Procurement of MSR Medicine (Non EDCL) for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00
1012868	Procurement of Chemical Reagent for the F.Y 2024-2025 at Mugda Medical College Hospital, Dhaka.	11-Sep-2024 12:00	09-Oct-2024 16:00	10-Oct-2024 12:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.


(Dr. S. M. Hasibul Islam)
Director
Mugda Medical College Hospital
Dhaka

GD-382

24TH ICAB NATIONAL AWARD

ICAB NATIONAL AWARD

for Best Presented
Annual Reports ★ Integrated Reporting ★ Corporate Governance Disclosures 2023

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB)
Tuesday, September 10, 2024

CA BANGLADESH THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF BANGLADESH



Message

I welcome the initiative of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) to organize the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023.

Corporate Governance is a pre-requisite for economic prosperity of a country. Transparency and accountability in the financial activities are indispensable to ensure corporate discipline and to protect the interest of the people. ICAB in this regard can play an important role in evaluating the published accounts and reports with utmost diligence. I hope that ICAB and its endeavors would help promoting transparency, accountability and corporate governance in business entities.

Bangladesh is marching towards continued growth and development as socio-economic indicators including per capita income, growth rate of GDP, life expectancy, standard of living, literacy rate particularly for women, consumption of electricity are trending up gradually. The size of our annual budget and the volume of corporate economy is also expanding steadily. Therefore, I urge everyone to maintain and ensure transparency and accountability at every sphere of life for the sake of our people and the nation.

I congratulate the award winning organizations and wish the event a grand success.
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

Mohammed Shahabuddin



Message

I am delighted to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) will be organizing the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, focusing on Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures, on 10 September 2024 in Dhaka. This event, celebrated with much enthusiasm, highlights the significance of corporate transparency in our country.

The ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports is among the most prestigious honors in Bangladesh, and it is a source of immense pride for any business entity to be recognized as one of its recipients. This platform brings together the leaders of our corporate sector, providing them with well-deserved recognition for their excellence.

The Review Committee for Published Accounts and Reports (RCPAR) of ICAB deserves commendation for this initiative. Such recognition not only encourages entities to further enhance the quality and transparency of their published accounts but also stands as a testament to their commitment to best practices.

I deeply appreciate ICAB's pioneering role in organizing the National Awards for Best Presented Annual Reports each year. These awards are crucial in recognizing the superior quality of the Published Accounts and Reports of Listed Companies and Organizations, thereby setting benchmarks for others to follow.

I am confident that this event will have a lasting impact on improving corporate governance standards and will further bolster the confidence of stakeholders in the corporate sector.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the award winners and sincere felicitations to ICAB for organizing this remarkable event. I wish the event great success.

Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed



Message

I am delighted to know that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures ceremony on 10 September 2024 in Dhaka in a befitting manner.

ICAB has been organizing this event since 2001. This is undoubtedly a praiseworthy initiative of the Institute. So far my knowledge goes, the objective of the ICAB National Award is to enhance good governance, transparent reporting and adequate disclosures through application of accounting standards, financial reporting and auditing standards. This reflects ICAB's firm commitment to serving the public interest and contributing to the economic development of the country.

I congratulate the organizer and the winning entities on their commendable performance.

Wahiduddin Mahmud



Message

It gives me great pleasure to know that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures ceremony on 10 September 2024 in Dhaka. The recognition of best presented annual reports is not merely an accolade; it is a reflection of an organization's commitment to uphold the highest standards of financial reporting and disclosure. Transparent accounting practices and reliable reporting can ensure healthy and sound economic environment, which ultimately accelerate the pace of development of the country. ICAB, as an apex body of accounting profession in the country, has been playing a very pivotal role in that direction.

As the Auditor General of Bangladesh, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the organizations and individuals who have been nominated for the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports. Their dedication to best practices in financial reporting sets a shining example for others to follow. Together, we can create a transparent financial environment that is not only robust and reliable but also conducive to sustainable economic growth and development.

I wish the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023 a resounding success.

Md. Nurul Islam



Message

It is an honor to extend sincere congratulations to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) on the occasion of the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023 and the publication of a commemorative souvenir. Scheduled for September 10, 2024 in Dhaka, this event highlights ICAB's unwavering commitment to advancing corporate governance and financial reporting standards.

The preparation of annual reports is fundamental to transparent corporate practices, serving as a key tool for communicating vital information to investors, customers, and other stakeholders. ICAB's role in setting high standards for financial reporting and integrated governance is crucial for enhancing the quality of corporate disclosures and reinforcing the integrity of the financial sector. A culture of excellence and accountability in these areas could be fostered through the commendable leadership of ICAB.

Bangladesh Bank fully supports the promotion of best practices in financial reporting and corporate governance. By upholding these rigorous standards, robust oversight and transparency within the financial industry can be ensured. I feel confident that ICAB will continue to set exemplary benchmarks, guiding the accounting and auditing profession towards even greater heights in terms of integrity and professionalism.

I look forward to the continued positive impact of ICAB's initiatives and wish the award ceremony every success. May your efforts continue to inspire and elevate financial reporting standards within the nation!

Warm regards,

Ahsan H. Mansur

Jury Board for ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports ★ Integrated Reporting ★ Corporate Governance Disclosures-2023



Message

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures Ceremony on 10 September 2024 in Dhaka.

Companies publish annual reports to convey important information to investors, customers, media etc. Good corporate practices rest on transparency and proper reporting to their stakeholders, thereby improving the standard of corporate governance, ethics and compliance to achieve a new level of excellence. ICAB has been bearing a very important responsibility of upgrading accounting and financial reporting standards and practices through providing leadership and adding more value to the accountability profession in Bangladesh.

Preparing annual reports in the appropriate format is absolutely essential for financial institutions. It provides the companies a direction to improve corporate governance and disclose their financial information to the external shareholders. I expect that ICAB as well as all the accounting and auditing professionals would exercise more caution and apply inquisitiveness in preventing and ensuring necessary safeguards against dubious, unscrupulous accounting and auditing practices at all times.

I hope that ICAB will continue this trend of according recognition to companies for the best presented accounts and corporate governance disclosures in the days ahead.

I wish the ceremony a great success.

(Dr. Md. Khairuzzaman Mozumder)



Message

I am very happy to learn that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), as in the previous years, is going to organize the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures ceremony on 10 September in Dhaka in a festive manner.

ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports is one of the prestigious awards of the country, for which a business entity feels proud of being one of the awardees. It is a platform where the leaders of the corporate sector of the country converge to receive the awards. This is, indeed, a competition in various sectors of the economy to present best reports for the stakeholders.

This is a praiseworthy initiative of the Review Committee for Published Accounts and Report (RCPAR) of ICAB. The award is expected to encourage the entities to improve further the quality and transparency of published accounts which is the testimony to their commitment towards best practices. I appreciate the pioneering role of ICAB for arranging the ceremony of National Awards for the Best Presented Annual Reports every year to reckon the best quality of the Published Accounts and Reports of Listed Companies and Organizations.

I believe the event will leave a profound impact on improving the quality of corporate governance and winning the confidence of the stakeholders.

I congratulate all the Award Winners and extend my sincere felicitations to ICAB for organizing this event.

I wish a great success of the event.

Md. Selim Uddin



Message

I am happy to note that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) is going to organize the 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures ceremony for listed and non-listed companies on 10 September 2024 in Dhaka. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the award-winning entities for their milestone achievements.

I am informed that the Bangladeshi entities nominated by ICAB have achieved the highest number of awards among the SAARC countries over the years for their best-presented annual reports, which is a matter of great pride for us. They are the reckons of the remarkable contribution of Chartered Accountancy Professionals toward best practices in financial disclosures.

Our graduation to a developing country, becoming a digitized economy, historical achievements of millennium development goals and constant progress in achieving SDGs are envious and unparalleled compared to South Asian Nations.

I hope this award shall be a part of the initiative to carry forward the spirit of building a prosperous and developed country.

I wish the 24th ICAB National Award giving ceremony a grand success.

Md. Abdur Rahman Khan FCMA



Message

I am pleased to learn that The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) has organized its 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures ceremony on 10 September 2024 in Dhaka. FRC advocates for the continual development of professional skills and the exchange of views and opinions between all stakeholders. Forums as such, I presume, primarily benefit the public interest. FRC has recently formed a technical committee to finalize the adoption of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 sustainability reporting disclosure Standards. As the standard setter and regulator of financial and other professional reporting by public interest entities, FRC's goal is to bring updated global high-quality standards, codes and guidance to the professionals in Bangladesh.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) has been playing an active role in shaping the accountability profession in the desired manner. As the Chairman of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC), I would like to appreciate and acknowledge their efforts.

Accounting professionals' role in our economy are pivotal and the assurances provided by auditors significantly enhance Public Trust in financial and other information. The collection of Government Revenues in income tax from the corporate sector is ubiquitously related to assurances provided by auditors, underscoring their instrumental roles in establishing an ambience substantiating due professional practice.

I hope that ICAB will work closely with the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) to improve the audit quality and the qualitative characteristics of information provided in the audited financial statements of public interest entities in Bangladesh.

I congratulate the Award-Winning Public Interest Entities for their excellent performance regarding financial and non-financial information.

Mohammad Manzarul Mannan



Message

On behalf of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), I send my congratulations to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) on hosting its National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports (BPAP) 2023.

The ICAB National Award Ceremony is an annual event that promotes integrated reporting—which is a benefit to both investors and stakeholders. I am honored that throughout my presidency, ICAB has kept IFAC informed of this event. I commend all participants and companies that have been assessed and I congratulate all the winners. I encourage all participants and winners to continue their pursuit of an integrated mindset.

Professional accountants across the business world—from the smallest companies to the largest—make entire markets and economies work. Success in our field is a great achievement not just for the organizations we serve, but also for the public interest. Our profession is a home for those who look for purpose and meaning in their work and the opportunity to make a difference.

ICAB is a leading voice for the profession in Bangladesh, in South Asia, and around the world. ICAB members should be proud of its remarkable progress and the voice it brings to the rest of the profession.

I thank ICAB for allowing me to send this message and for its continuing partnership as an important member of the IFAC family. I wish all ICAB members and students much success in the years to come.

Asmaa Resmouki



Message

On the occasion of the 24th ICAB National Awards for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, I would like to extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB). The commitment of ICAB towards elevating the standards of the accounting industry is evident in how meticulously this event has continued to be organized and executed through the years.

In an era where clear and accurate communication is more crucial than ever, these Awards serve as a beacon of inspiration for others to follow. The ICAB National Awards for Best Presented Annual Reports promotes good governance, transparent reporting, and adequate disclosures by encouraging the application of accounting standards and other non financial reporting frameworks.

Excellence in governance and disclosure practices should be taken seriously in the fast-paced digital landscape we are now operating in. It is also imperative that sustainable practices are lauded across the sectors.

As we celebrate the best in corporate reporting at the 24th ICAB National Awards for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023, I am reminded of the vital role such transparency plays in fostering trust, not just within your borders, but across our shared region. Your leadership in this field resonates beyond Bangladesh, contributing to stronger economic ties and shared progress among our nations.

May this event inspire continued excellence and innovation in corporate reporting, and may it further strengthen the bonds of collaboration between our countries.

Heshana Kuruppu



ADDRESS OF WELCOME

I am extremely delighted to welcome you all to the 24th ICAB National Awards for Best Presented Annual Reports, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures 2023. The ceremonial presentation of this award is a festive occasion, fostering substantial goodwill and providing an effective interface among the regulators, business leaders and the accounting professionals. It serves as a forum of inspiration for all participating entities and future award aspirants.

The objective of the ICAB National Award is to enhance good governance, transparent reporting and adequate disclosures through application of accounting/financial reporting and auditing standards. This reflects ICAB's firm commitment to ensure and serve the public interest and contribute to the economic development of the country. I would like to emphasize that the awards recognize and reward entities for presenting Best Published Accounts and Reports, rather than evaluate their quality and performance.

Since 2021, the Review Committee for Published Accounts and Reports (RCPAR) has evaluated the reports of entities through automated process and selected the best of the best reports by adopting the updated standards and tools. The Jury Board-RCPAR that comprised of distinguished personalities, notable scholars and experts, were involved in this process of selection, made the entire procedures more transparent. The members of the Jury Board reviewed the whole process of the evaluations and nominations of the winners with utmost sincerity and in the most objective way.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the winners in the 24th ICAB National Awards

for Best Presented Annual Reports, Integrated Reporting and Corporate Governance Disclosures 2023. My appreciation also goes to the companies who could not win the award this time, and I hope they will participate in the next year's competition with their better and improved reports. You will be pleased to know that today's top three winners in each category are also nominated to compete in the Forum of South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA). I am happy to share with our distinguished guests and participants that last year, the highest number of Bangladeshi companies won awards in the SAFA BPAP Award competition including overall winners. I am confident that Bangladeshi companies will perform remarkably well this year as well in SAFA BPAP Award competition.

Finally, I would express my sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Chief Guest and Respected Special Guests for their gracious presence. My deep gratitude to the members of the Jury Board for lending their expertise and time.

I am profoundly grateful to the RCPAR Chairman, Co-chairman and its members, particularly to all the evaluators, for their dedicated contribution in the adjudication process and commitment to complete the challenging task timely.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the executive team of ICAB including CEO and COO for their persistent efforts for holding this flagship event successfully.

Thank you and Allah Hafaz.

Mohammed Forkan Uddin FCA



FOREWORD

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh is proud to organize 24th ICAB National Award for Best Presented Annual Reports 2023 as a distinct glorious event to promote transparency and accountability through the financial and non-financial disclosures in the published annual reports.

Today's Ceremony celebrates the occasion of the declaration and presentation of the awards in the following categories: 1. Best Presented Annual Reports (BPAP), divided into 14 sectors: (i) Public Banks, (ii) Private Banks, (iii) Financial Services, (iv) Manufacturing, (v) General Insurance, (vi) Life Insurance, (vii) Service, (viii) Information and Communication Technology, (ix) NGOs (x) Agriculture, (xi) Public Sector, (xii) Diversified Holdings, (xiii) Power and Energy and (xiv) Infrastructure and Construction; 2. Corporate Governance Disclosure (CGD); 3. Integrated Reporting (IR); and 4. Overall Winner.

Besides, recognizing Gold, Silver and Bronze positions in each category, entities that achieved a minimum threshold of scores are awarded the "Certificate of Merit." Overall winner has been selected from the winners which achieved maximum awards in 3 (three) categories of BPAP, CGD and IR. For the year 2023, RCPAR received 76 annual reports for evaluation. Out of the 76 annual report entries, 22 were awarded with Gold, Silver and Bronze and 8 were given merit certificates for 'Best Presented Annual Reports', across 11 sectors.

Similarly, 3 entities were awarded Trophies, and 3 received 'Merit Certificates' for 'Corporate Governance Disclosures'. In the 'Integrated Reporting' category, 4 entities were awarded Trophies, and 3 were given 'Merit Certificates'. Also overall winner has been selected following the SAFA guideline in this regard. The awards for the Infrastructure and Construction, and Agriculture categories could not be considered because the participating entities scored below the threshold mark.

The Annual Reports of these organizations have been evaluated following the criteria formulated by the South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) which judges the compliance of the entities in respect of adequate disclosures and meaningful reports on transparency, accountability & integrity, thus ensuring good governance in the financial activities, operations and management of these entities. It also brings a greater sense of responsibility among the management of these entities towards safeguarding the interest of the stakeholders, society & environment and compliance to laws, rules & regulations in these regards.

Review Committee for Published Accounts and Reports (RCPAR) of the Council of ICAB diligently & objectively evaluated and assessed disclosures and the information provided in the Annual Reports of these organizations. It may be mentioned here that only a part of the annual reports is audited, e.g., the financial statements, which are prepared following the International Financial Reporting standards. Other information disclosed in the Directors' Report on the state of the affairs of the entities, content of the management discussion and analysis, disclosure on CSR activities,

disclosure of the state of internal control and risk management etc., are not audited, although those are also evaluated for the purpose of these awards.

An 11-member Jury Board was selected from the eminent personalities of the country. They reviewed the whole process of the evaluations and nominations of the winners. It is worth noting that since 2021, the entire evaluation process has been conducted using software specifically developed by ICAB for this purpose, with participating entities uploading their own information directly into the system.

The awards are based on the evaluation of publicly disclosed audited financial statements and unaudited additional information. Therefore, they do not constitute an attestation by ICAB regarding the operational performance, financial position, liquidity, capital adequacy, or earnings status of the evaluated entities. These awards should not be interpreted as a reflection of the future financial health or profitability of the awarded entities, nor should they be used as a basis for making investment, lending, or other financial decisions.

Amongst the 3 best annual reports selected in each category by ICAB, the first 2 will also be eligible to compete as Bangladesh's nominations in the SAFA forum, recognizing their excellence in financial and non-financial disclosures. Over the years, the Bangladesh nominations for the SAFA Awards have significantly enhanced the performance of these entities. This improvement reflects the growing awareness among Bangladeshi organizations, striving to achieve the highest standards of governance, compliance, and stakeholder information disclosure in their published reports. This year's SAFA BPAP Awards ceremony will be held in Sri Lanka, on December 20-21, 2024. I hope, as in previous years, that Bangladeshi entities will continue to excel and secure awards at the SAFA forum. Bangladeshi entities nominated for the SAFA competition last year i.e., for annual reports published in 2022 have performed quite well.

On behalf of the RCPAR of the Council of ICAB, and in my own capacity, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the winners and sincere commendations to all participating entities across the various categories, whose efforts have made this Awards Competition both challenging and meaningful. I am deeply grateful to each member of the Jury Board for their invaluable contributions. I extend special thanks to the esteemed Chairman of the Jury Board, whose wisdom and guidance were instrumental in ensuring a flawless adjudication process, even from the public's perspective. I also express my sincere appreciation to the RCPAR members, especially the evaluators, for their dedicated service, time, and enthusiastic engagement in the evaluation process. Additionally, I thank the ICAB officials for their unwavering commitment and effort in the successful organization of this event. I wish the event continued success and hope that the awards will motivate the winners and inspire others to excel in the future.

Mohammed Humayun Kabir FCA

Tigers look to take fight to India with balanced attack

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh are going into the India series on the back of a historic away series sweep against Pakistan. Their previous tour of India in 2019 hadn't gone to well for them but all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz is adamant that this time the side is ready for the 'fight' against the 'big side'.

On Sunday, India named their squad for the first Test with all their major red-ball stars in the mix. Their home record, unlike Pakistan's, is formidable, having won against strong sides like England and Australia in home Tests in the last two years.

Miraz hoped that the momentum from the Pakistan series will help them bridge the gap between the two sides.

"Every series is challenging. I feel that since we have done well in Pakistan and there is not too much gap [between series], everyone is in a good rhythm. If we can continue the same way, we can expect good results," Miraz told reporters in Mirpur yesterday.

"India is that obviously a very big side. If we think about performing instead of focusing on results, that would help us achieve positive outcomes at the end of the day," he added.

The Tigers had spoken about being competitive ahead of the Pakistan series, which they eventually won 2-0. The talks in the camp before the India has been similar with Miraz saying he wanted to put up a tough fight against India.

In their last trip to India, Bangladesh were blown over by India's pace bowlers and conceded an innings defeat in both Tests. This time, however, spinners are expected to come into play in the two-Test series in Chennai and Kanpur.

"The challenge is there. We have



Bangladesh all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz interacts with some of the men's Under-19 players at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Getting to meet Miraz -- who established himself as a key player for the national team after having been the player of the 2016 U-19 World Cup -- is set to motivate the young Tigers as they begin 20-day long training in Rajshahi, starting today, ahead of their upcoming home series against the UAE.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

played in India before and our past performance there was not that good. We are going in with confidence this time and we will try to make use of their conditions. If we can put up a fight, we can create chances to bring results."

If spin comes into play, Bangladesh have Miraz along with Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam and Nayeem Hasan in their ranks. Miraz believes, however, that a message has been sent through their pace dominance in Pakistan and they are now

capable of dictating with spin or pace.

"We never had the right balance. When the spin attack was great, the pace attack wasn't and vice-versa. We have good pacers now.

"Nahid Rana is bowling at 150 kph. You can send a message through that, that this side has a 150 kph bowler. The way Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful [Islam] and Taskin [Ahmed], obviously you have to credit the pace attack for how they

bowled in difficult conditions and took wickets.

"The batters were not being able to play big knocks but it happened in Pakistan with Mushfiqur [Rahim] bhai scoring 190 plus and Liton bhai almost making 150. Shadman [Islam] was there too and I contributed as well. If batters can only get scores of 50-60, the morale comes down but in the last two Tests, it was perfect," he concluded.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

A reprise of Copa finalists

AGENCIES

Colombia prepare to host world champions Argentina in Barranquilla on Tuesday night (2:30am Wednesday, as per Bangladesh time), as both teams aim to fortify their bids for World Cup qualification, with the campaign nearing its midpoint.

The hosts remain undefeated and sit securely in third place with 13 points, enjoying a seven-point cushion in the automatic qualification positions.

Lionel Scaloni's charges, on the other hand, have amassed 18 points from a possible 21 and are course to top the 10-team group and secure their 14th consecutive World Cup berth.

This South American World Cup qualifier fixture serves as a reprise of July's Copa America final, where Argentina clinched a thrilling victory with Lautaro Martinez's decisive extra-time goal, securing their second successive title.

Nevertheless, Argentina will be without their talismanic figure Lionel Messi, who continues to recover from the ankle injury sustained in that very final against Colombia.



Nissanka scripts 'very special' Sri Lanka win

REUTERS, London

Sri Lanka completed a rare Test victory in England on Monday as they reached their target of 219 with untroubled ease on the fourth day at The Oval, with Pathum Nissanka's unbeaten 127 leading them to a consolation win in a 2-1 series defeat.

It was their fourth victory in 21 Tests in England over 40 years and their first since a 1-0 victory in a two-Test series 10 years ago.

"It is very special, winning in England," Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva told the BBC. "The boys were tough enough to handle the pressure and get into some scenarios."

"It is not comfortable. There was hard work put in by the bowlers and batters. We were there in every match - had positive points. The boys wanted to win in the end."

"Credit to all of the bowlers. They



have been on target from ball one. In the second innings they were spot on. He (Nissanka) has proved he is the best opener in Sri Lanka right now."

Opener Nissanka, who had hammered a quick 53 not out in Sunday's final session to set up the chase, was initially more controlled

in his approach, but kept the scoreboard ticking and reached his second test century off 107 balls.

He then cut loose with some big hits and, with the experienced Angelo Mathews also looking untroubled for 32 not out, it turned into an absolute cruise that did not even need the entire first session.

England had been hoping for a 6-0 summer clean sweep after crushing West Indies 3-0 and claiming two more convincing victories over Sri Lanka.

"We had a poor day three and credit to Sri Lanka as well. We weren't at our best but that was a brilliant knock from Nissanka as well. There are a couple of good lessons we can learn from day three," England captain Ollie Pope.

England now turn their attention to white ball cricket against Australia, starting with a T20 on Wednesday.

New champions crowned, new rivalries forged

REUTERS, New York

A US Open full of upsets and hungry, young contenders offered the latest sign that men's tennis has entered a new era, with 2024 marking the first time in more than two decades that none of the "Big Three" claimed a Grand Slam title.

With Roger Federer retired and Rfael Nadal struggling to get back on court due to injuries, Djokovic was the last man of that golden generation standing at Flushing Meadows, but the Serb crashed out in the third round to Australian Alexei Popyrin.

While Djokovic's wait for a record 25th Grand Slam goes on, Jannik Sinner picked up



Jannik Sinner produced a brutal display of baseline power as he became the first Italian man to clinch the US Open title with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 win over American Taylor Fritz in the final on Sunday.

his second major of the year with his victory over Taylor Fritz in Sunday's final.

The Italian also won the Australian Open and with 21-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz claiming the French Open and Wimbledon titles, the old guard were shut out of the Slams for the first time since 2002.

"Nice to see new champions. Nice to see new rivalries," said Sinner, who tuned out a doping furore before the tournament.

"I feel it's good for the sport to have some new champions."

Sinner and Alcaraz are the only two men born after 2000 to reach a major final.

There were early clues that it would not be business as usual for the favourites at Flushing Meadows.

Strained from his victorious Olympic campaign in Paris, four-time US Open champion Djokovic went down in four sets to Popyrin.

Pre-tournament concerns about how

the Olympians would fare with the tight turnaround from Paris to New York and the quick switch from clay to hard courts were validated as none of the singles medallists made it past the quarter-finals.

Alcaraz, who lost to Djokovic in the energy-sapping Olympic final, also went out early, stunned by Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp in the second round.

Olympic women's champion Zheng Qinwen, who lost in the quarter-finals, said the quick turnaround did her no favours.

Hailed as the 'City That Never Sleeps', a sweltering New York put players through the wringer, the tournament featuring its latest-ever start for a match, longest-ever match and latest-ever finish for a women's match.

World number one Iga Swiatek was another leading contender who went out too soon, the five-time Grand Slam winner and 2022 champion losing in the quarters, while defending champion Coco Gauff exited in the fourth round.

With players struggling for fitness in tough conditions, it was perhaps little surprise that Aryna Sabalenka, who had been suffering a back injury for long, triumphed on the women's side.

The world number two finished runner-up a year ago and lost in the semi-finals twice before that, but there would be no New York heartbreak this time around.

C'WEALTH KARATE

Bangladesh lose hosting rights

SPORTS REPORTER

The 11th Commonwealth Karate Championship, which was supposed to take place in Dhaka from September 25 to 29, has been shifted to South Africa amid security concerns following the recent student-led people's movement in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh had been awarded hosting rights last year and the tournament was supposed to take place at the Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium where some 1200 participants from 35-40 countries were supposed to take part.

But the Commonwealth Karate Federation has shifted the competition to Durban, South Africa from November 27 to December 2.

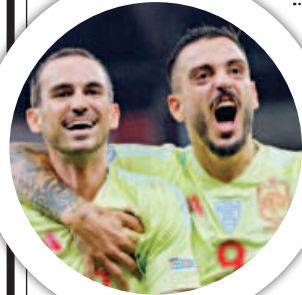
"We were preparing to host the event but the Commonwealth Games Federation shifted the venue to Durban, we were informed on August 8 or 9," Bangladesh Karate Federation (BKF) vice president Mohammad Iqbal Hossain said yesterday.

The BKF vice president also said that Bangladesh might not participate in the tournament in South Africa owing to a financial crunch. "The former general secretary [Kaw Shaw Hla], whose resignation was accepted on last Saturday, helped the federation a lot financially. Now, I don't know how to manage the funds to send the squad to South Africa."

NATIONS LEAGUE

Euro champs back on track

AGENCIES



Spain secured their first win since claiming the Euro 2024 title by defeating Switzerland 4-1 in a rain-soaked Nations League match in Geneva yesterday, despite playing with 10 men.

The sell-out match, attended by 26,265 fans at the Stade de Genève, was played on a pitch in poor condition, with fungus affecting the grass and holes covered with green paint.

Joselu gave Spain a strong start, heading in Lamine Yamal's cross at the far post. Spain doubled their lead in the 13th minute when midfielder Fabian Ruiz blasted in the rebound after Nico Williams' shot was saved by the goalkeeper.

Spain suffered a setback seven minutes later as their defender Le Normand was sent off, and the momentum shift led to Zeki Amdouni in pulling one back for Switzerland in the 41st minute, giving the hosts a glimmer of hope.

However, Spain were adamant in sealing a win. Ruiz struck again in the 77th minute, and substitute Ferran Torres hammered the final nail three minutes later.

"I am very proud of my players," Spain manager Luis de la Fuente said, expressing his satisfaction with their performance after recovering from being a man down.

In their first match since defeating England 2-1 in the Euro 2024 final in July, Spain began their Nations League title defence with a frustrating goalless draw against Serbia in Belgrade on Thursday.



Portugal substitute Cristiano Ronaldo struck a late winner as his side came from a goal down to beat Scotland 2-1 and continue their strong start to the Nations League on Sunday. After Bruno Fernandes had fired in Portugal's equaliser, Ronaldo pounced in the 88th minute for his 901st career goal. "Cristiano has a goal, today he scored 901 and now he's on his way to a thousand, which is what he wants," said Fernandes, who played his 600th career game.

PHOTO: REUTERS



BSRM
building a safer nation

WITH BSRM FASTBUILD
YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS



SHAH CEMENT

BANGLADESH'S
NO.1 CEMENT BRAND

THAKURGAON BORDER

14-year-old boy killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Indian Border Security Force shot a teen dead along the Kantivita border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila early yesterday.



Jayanta Kumar

Jayanta Kumar Singh, 14, of Fakirvita Belpukur village, died while his father Mohadev Kumar Singh, and one Md Darbar Ali, 50, of Nitoldoba village were injured, said Firoz Kabir, the officer-in-charge of Baliadangi Police Station.

Quoting locals, the OC said: "Members of Dingapara BSF camp opened fire on a group of people when they were trying to enter India by cutting a barbed-wire fence around 3:30am."

The others in the group escaped unhurt, he said, adding that Mohadev and Darbar were being treated for gunshot wounds at a hospital in Rangpur.

Samar Kumar Chatterjee, local chairman of Dhantala union parishad, said 16 other Bangladeshis who went to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Gridlock in front of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday afternoon. Traffic in the city was horrendous, trapping commuters for hours, after students under the banner of "Technical Students' Movement" blocked the Satrasta intersection to press home their six-point demand. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Border killings a barrier to good ties with India

Says foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said border killings by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) remain an obstacle to good relations between Bangladesh and India.

"We definitely want good ties with India based on equity. It [bilateral relations] should be two-way, not one-sided...," he said in response to reporters' questions at the foreign ministry.

His remarks came after a teenage boy, Jayanta Kumar Singh, 14, was shot dead by BSF along the Kantivita border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila early yesterday, according to police.

Asked whether the foreign ministry would lodge a formal protest, the adviser said the ministry would act after receiving confirmation of the incident from the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

India follows 'dominance politics' with neighbours

Says Mirza Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said India consistently resorts to "politics of dominance" with its neighbours.

Speaking to reporters at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman, he said that India has strained relations not only with Bangladesh but also with its other neighbours.

"The main reason, as I see it, is India's persistent politics of dominance regarding its neighbouring countries. This approach will not bring good fortune to India or its neighbours."

Fakhrul said BNP believes India's relationship with Bangladesh should be built on mutual respect, dignity, and shared interests.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

ACC to work with FBI to bring back laundered money

Joint taskforce on the cards

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the US to bring back money siphoned off abroad.

The decision came at a meeting yesterday between the ACC's money laundering and legal wings and an FBI delegation, said meeting sources.

The meeting primarily decided to form a joint taskforce to work on preventing money laundering.

Led by FBI Legal Attaché Robert Cameron, the two-member delegation of the US federal agency reached the ACC headquarters in the afternoon. Cameron, however, did not speak to the media.

The other member of the delegation, which arrived in Dhaka on Sunday, is Muhammad Aminul Islam, a police liaison specialist.

A senior ACC official, who was present at the meeting, said the discussion focused on forming the joint taskforce. "We sought FBI's assistance to recover the laundered money."

He said the meeting also discussed whether the FBI would directly participate in the joint taskforce. "We initially agreed that the FBI will work as a consultant."

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

No plastic bags in superstores from Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The use of polythene and polypropylene shopping bags will be banned across all superstores in Bangladesh starting October 1, Environment Adviser Rizwana Hasan said yesterday.

She made the announcement during a meeting with stakeholders at the Bangladesh Secretariat, said a ministry press release.

The government will require superstores to offer jute and cloth bags as eco-friendly alternatives. There will also be an emphasis on engaging young people and students in the initiative.

A detailed action plan was formulated to enforce the upcoming ban, including steps to raise public awareness through a nationwide media campaign starting on September 15 across print and electronic platforms.

Official notices will also be issued in newspapers to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Trump, Harris in final prep for crucial debate

AFP, Philadelphia

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump made their final preparations yesterday on the eve of their first – and possibly only – televised debate before the knife-edge 2024 US presidential election.

With less than two months until election day, the face-off could be a turning point in a bitter contest between the Democratic vice president and Republican former president.

Harris arrives at 4.40pm (2040 GMT) Monday in the eastern city of Philadelphia where the debate takes place, while Trump is not due to touch down until hours before Tuesday evening's clash on ABC News.

The two candidates have never even met before, and the debate is set to be a contrast in styles between a former prosecutor and a convicted felon who has targeted Harris with racist and sexist insults.

"There's no floor for him in terms of how low he will go and we should be prepared for that," Harris told radio host Rickey Smiley in an interview broadcast Monday, when asked how she planned to handle Trump's attacks.

"And we should be prepared for the fact that he is probably going to speak a lot of untruths."

Yet Harris in some ways has the most to prove, despite the scandals dogging a rival who has hinted that he won't accept the result of November's election if he loses.

The 59-year-old Harris's honeymoon after replacing the aging Joe Biden at the top of the ticket appears to be fading, with polls showing she needs to reach out to voters who don't know much about her policies.

She addressed the growing pressure late Sunday when her campaign put out a policy page, touching on subjects from unions

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

ICT starts field-level probe into complaints against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe agency of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday launched a field investigation into the complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide allegedly committed by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, among others, during the student movement that later manifested in a mass uprising.

On the day, the members of the agency visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital and National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital. There, they spoke to over 20 victims who were injured during the movement from July 1 to August 5 and recorded their statements.

They also collected the identities of 529 injured victims who took treatment at the neurosciences institute.

"With this, we have begun our field-level investigation into the recent complaints against Sheikh Hasina and others," Ataur Rahman, deputy director (administration) of the ICT probe agency, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam, among others, was present during the recording of statements. Talking to the journalists yesterday, he said the agency

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

MAN Siddique removed as metro rail project MD

Additional secretary Rouf replaces him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday cancelled the contract of MAN Siddique,



Abdur Rouf

managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, the implementing and operating agency of Dhaka metro rail.

The Road Transport and Highways Division issued a circular in this regard yesterday, which will come into effect immediately.

The division also appointed Mohammad Abdur Rouf, an additional secretary, who has been serving as the additional project director of Mass Rapid Transit Line-5 (northern route), as MAN Siddique's replacement.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A man rides a cycle as smoke billows in the background after an Israeli strike in an area that was ordered to be evacuated by the Israeli army in the southeast of Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

UN fears of 'lost generation'

Gaza schools remain shut for 2nd year; Israeli strikes on Syria kill 18

AGENCIES

The new school year in the Palestinian territories officially began yesterday, with all schools in Gaza shut after 11 months of war and no sign of a ceasefire.

As fighting continued, Israel announced new orders to residents of the north Gaza Strip to leave their homes, in response to rockets fired into Israel.

Umm Zaki's son Moataz, 15, was supposed to begin 10th grade. Instead he woke up in their tent in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza and was sent to fetch a container of water from more than a kilometre away.

"Usually, such a day would be a day of celebration, seeing the children in the new uniform, going to school, and dreaming of becoming doctors and engineers. Today all we hope is that the war ends before we lose any of them," the mother of five told Reuters by text message.

The Palestinian Education Ministry said all Gaza schools were shut and 90% of them had been destroyed or damaged in Israel's assault on the territory, launched after Hamas gunmen attacked Israeli towns in October last year.

The UN Palestinian aid agency UNRWA, which runs around half of Gaza's schools, has turned as many of them as it can into emergency shelters housing thousands of displaced families.

"The longer the children stay out of school the more difficult it is for them to catch up on their lost learning and the more prone they are to becoming a lost generation, falling prey to exploitation including child marriage, child labour, and recruitment into armed groups," UNRWA Director of Communications Juliette Touma told Reuters.