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Dialogue not on AL's mind at the moment

Amu makes U-turn a day after saying AL is open to talks with BNP PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League at this point is not considering talks with the BNP to solve the current political impasse over the next general elections.

According to AL sources, the party believes this is not the time to invite the BNP for talks and that dialogue with the BNP will never bear any fruit as the lattar's main demand is the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

AL veteran Amir Hossain Amu brought the issue to the fore through some remarks on Tuesday.

At a programme of the AL-led 14-party alliance on Bangabandhu Avenue that day, Amu said, "The door for dialogue is open. Keeping the constitution in mind, we are ready to do anything for a solution. Come forward, we are willing to sit with you [the

BNP]." "Let a representative of the United Nations come. We want to sit with the BNP face to face and see where the differences are," he added.

Sources said AL President Sheikh Hasina spoke to Amu about his statement yesterday morning after she placed a wreath at the portrait of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Dhanmondi-32 on the occasion of the historic Six-Point Day.

They said Hasina conveyed to Amu that what he said on Tuesday was not the party line. There is no need to go so soft, she said.

Later in the day, Amu, during a discussion which was presided over by Hasina, made a U-turn and said nothing was said about dialogue and no one was invited.

"There is no chance of inviting anyone. It's not like the Awami League will treat someone in its house by inviting them," he said.

"Elections will be held as per the constitution and all political parties must participate in the election following the constitution," Amu continued.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A traffic policeman splashes water on his face to beat the oppressive heat at the capital's Nilkhet intersection. The Met office forecasts that the mild to moderate heatwave will continue in Dhaka and some other parts of the country for a few more days. Story on page 3. PHOTO: PRABTE DAS

Depreciation, tax pose medium-term risk

Finds finance division study

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

One of the consequences of years of economic mismanagement is the dramatic depreciation of the taka against the dollar in recent times, and its fallout will spill over into the medium term markedly, said a finance division study.

And one of the ways it will manifest is through the public sector debt, which may shoot up if the taka depreciates further, said the medium

term macroeconomic policy statement (MTMPS)

The public and publicly guaranteed debt is estimated to reach Tk 36,400 crore in fiscal 2023-24, Tk 36,600 crore in fiscal 2024-25 and Tk 37,100 crore in fiscal 2025-26.

Now, if the taka depreciates by 10 percent in the coming fiscal year, the debt stock will be Tk 40,200 crore instead of the projected Tk 36,400 crore. The taka depreciated by about 21.3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

SATIRE ARTICLE Mayor Taposh serves legal notice on Star Seeks Tk 100cr for 'defamation'

STAR REPORT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh's lawyer yesterday said the mayor has served a legal notice on The Daily Star, seeking Tk 100 crore for "defaming him in a satire piece on May 13".

Speaking at a briefing on the Supreme Court premises, Taposh's lawyer Mejbahur Rahman said The Daily Star published the "column", titled "Cutting trees to make way for air", in both their print edition and online.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

'External forces won't put BNP in power' Will rather use the party against govt, says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Minister Prime Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no external forces would put BNP in power, rather they would se the party against her government.



"They think someone, coming from somewhere else, will put them in power No one will do that. They will use [them], but won't give them power," she said in an oblique reference to BNP's reactions following the announcement of the new US visa policy for Bangladesh.

The PM was addressing a discussion arranged by the Awami League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, marking the historic SEE PAGE 2 COL

Our reply to legal notice

The Lex Counsel sent a legal notice dated June 5, 2023, undersigned by Barrister Mejbahur Rahman, on behalf of Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation. It finds a satirical article, published in our May 13, 2023, issue of Satireday under the title "Cutting trees to make way for air," highly offensive and defamatory to the notice giver.

The legal notice, which we received late on June 6 afternoon, allowed us SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Blender's Choice - The Daily Star OTT AND DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2022

"Let them [the **BNP] do whatever** movement they want to do. We'll not say anything." AL President **Sheikh Hasina**

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3. Best Content Creator, Kids

4. Best Content Creator, Food & Recipe

5. Best Content Creator, Sports



ELECTRICITY CRISIS Situation to improve in 10-15 days: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said more electricity will be added to the national grid within the next 10-15 days, ending the ongoing power crisis.

We have been compelled to go for load shedding I can realise the sufferings of the people. We've been trying our best. Around 500 megawatts electricity will be added to the national grid within the next one or two days. More power will be added within 10-15 days. Then there'll be no sufferings," she said.

The PM was addressing a discussion arranged by the Awami League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, marking the historic Six-point Day.

Hasina said unfortunately, this time the people are enduring abnormally high temperature. "We can't think the temperature would go up to 41 degrees.

She said the lack of rain aggravated the people's suffering. "We're meetings time and again to find the ways out and trying to ease this suffering."

Turkish pro-opposition media hit with fines

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey's journalists' association yesterday criticised fines imposed by the country's media regulator on four pro-opposition television channels during the election campaign, saying they "penalise the public's right to information".

The Supreme Council of Radio and Television (RTUK) targeted Tele 1, Fox TV, Halk TV and Flash Haber for comments made by some of their guests ahead of the elections.

association The journalists' president Nazmi Bilgin said it was an "unacceptable violation of the public's right to receive information and make electoral choices"

"(The) merciless punishment of the right to free expression" had "transformed the regulator into an instrument of the government to silence the opposition and those who criticise it", he said in a statement.

The level of the fines, which was not specified, will be determined by the channels' advertising revenues.

Onderoglu, Turkey Erol representative for Reporters Without Borders (RSF), told AFP the outlets egularly receive fines that are disproportionate to their revenues".

Sudan's army has been battling to defend a military industrial complex believed to contain large stocks of weapons and ammunition in southern Khartoum, close told Reuters by phone. to fuel and gas depots that are at risk of exploding, residents said yesterday. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

(RSF), in the eighth week of a power struggle with the army, had attacked the area containing the Yarmouk complex late on Tuesday before retreating after heavy fighting, witnesses said. Clashes could still be heard yesterday morning.

The RSF quickly seized swathes of the capital after war erupted in Khartoum on April 15. Army air strikes and artillery fire have shown little sign of dislodging them, but as the fighting drags on the RSF may face a challenge restocking with ammunition and fuel.

Fighting across the three cities that Khartoum, Bahri and Omdurman has picked up since a 12-day ceasefire transition. formally expired on June 3 after repeated

been a violent battle with the use of planes and artillery and clashes on the ground and columns of smoke rising," Nader Youssef, a resident living near Yarmouk,

SUDAN CONFLICT

Military factions battle over

fuel depots, weapons

Due to the proximity of fuel and gas depots, "any explosion could destroy

Over 1,428,000 people have been driven from their homes within Sudan and a further 476,800 have fled into neighbouring countries: IOM

residents and the whole area", he said.

The fighting derailed the launch a transition towards civilian rule four years after a popular uprising ousted strongman president Omar al-Bashir. The army and RSF, which together staged a coup in make up Sudan's greater capital region 2021, fell out over the chain of command and military restructuring plans under the

'Since yesterday [Tuesday] there has violence in the long volatile western region of Darfur, and displaced more than 1.9 million people.

PHOTO: **PID**

Most health services have collapsed, power and water is often cut, and looting has been spreading.

In Bahri, north of the Blue Nile from Khartoum, local activists said that more than 50 days of water cuts had driven many people from their homes and that they were caught between having nothing to drink and being trapped in the crossfire as they searched for water.

More than 1,428,000 people have been driven from their homes within Sudan and a further 476,800 have fled into neighbouring countries, most of which are already struggling with poverty and internal conflict, according to estimates published on Tuesday by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Sudan's health ministry has recorded at least 780 civilian deaths as a direct result of the fighting. Hundreds more have been killed in the city of El Geneina in West Darfur. Medical officials say many bodies The conflict has wreaked havoc on capital, triggered new outbursts of deadly remain uncollected or unrecorded.

Secondary schools, colleges closed today

NEWS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All secondary schools and colleges across the country will remain closed today because of the ongoing heatwave.

Education ministry's Public Relations Officer Abul Khair confirmed the matter to The Daily Star vesterday.

Earlier, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education announced the closure of all government primary schools till today for the same reason.

Most parts of the country have been facing scorching heat since the last week of May.

The prevailing mild, moderate, and severe heatwave may continue for five to six more days, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department said on Tuesday.

2 bodies recovered from car in Tejgaon STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of a man and a woman from inside a car in the capital's Teigaon Elenbari area yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Delwar Hossain Molla, 53, and Mousumi Akter Rani, 42.

On information, police recovered the bodies from inside the car around 7:30am.

The car was parked inside a garage at a government staff quarters, said Shah Alam, inspector (investigation) of Tejgaon Police Station.

The inspector said they came to know that Delwar was an office assistant of a government office, but did not get details about the female.

Both bodies were sent to the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Man killed during arbitration meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was stabbed to death during an arbitration meeting called to settle a domestic dispute between a married couple in Majhipara village of Dinajpur Sadar upazila Tuesday night.

Police subsequently arrested Nur Mohammad, 60, who lived with his wife at his in-laws' house and they often got into domestic quarrels.

Joynal Abedin, his father-in-law called the arbitrations on Tuesday night to settle the matter.

The deceased Abdus Sobhan, a local resident, was stabbed when he went to call Nur for the meeting, said police.

Locals rushed him to M Abdur Rahim Medical College, where he died around 9:30pm Tuesday night.

His body was sent for autopsy, said Tanvirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station.

The suspected killer was arrested and a case was filed against him, he added.



violations.

External forces

FROM PAGE 1

Six-point Day.

She also said it was the AL that protected democracy and voting rights, and ensured the continuation of democracy in the country.

Hasina said she has already told the authorities concerned to let the BNP wage movement.

however, asked the She. authorities to stay alert always "so that the BNP can't repeat the arson violence like they did in 2013, 2014 and 2015."

"We have to always remember that this country is ours. We will not allow anyone to play with the fate of the people. No matter how much local and international pressure comes, Bangalees don't bow to it," said Hasina.

Dialogue not on AL's mind at the moment Mayor Taposh

Dhanmondi

REUTERS, Khartoum

During her address at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday, Hasina did not say anything about dialogue but she did say, "Let them [the BNP] do whatever movement they want to do. We'll not say anything." When asked about the party's stance

on dialogue, a central leader of the AL cited the remarks of Hasina and said the party president made it crystal clear.

But before Hasina spoke, senior AL leaders had made confusing statements.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said his party has made no decision to hold talks with political parties ahead of the next national election.

But, he said, "In our country, we will discuss our own problems. We will solve it ourselves if necessary. There is no such political crisis in the country that

requires the mediation or intervention alliance," said Hasan, also information of the United Nations."

Solution to any crises is in the constitution, he said after placing a reath at the portrait of Bangabandhu. Responding to a question about Amu's statement, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan stressed the need for dialogue for solving any problems. There is no alternative to having talks, he said.

AL Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud at a programme around noon said what Amu had said was his personal opinion and that it was not the position of the government or the AL or the 14-party alliance.

"There was no discussion about this in our party or in the government. It was not even discussed in the 14-party

and broadcasting minister.

AL insiders said the party might rethink its stance if the BNP came up with a proposal for dialogue accepting that Hasina would lead the electiontime government.

The BNP, however, said it is not paying any heed to the statements about dialogue as it wants to realise its demands through a movement.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said his party was yet to get any formal proposal from the AL about the election-time government.

"It is not important to me who is saying what. If anyone gives us any written proposal, we will consider responding," he said at a programme.

FROM PAGE 1

'In the column, the name of Dhaka South City Corporation was distorted to make Dhoka South Town Corporation ... the person who wrote this column distorted their own opinion and, in inverted commas, passed them off as comments of the honourable mayor."

Such comments are defamation under the existing law – the Penal Code, he said.

"After reading the report, the DSCC mayor has directed me to take legal steps and accordingly I sent a legal notice as a primary step. In the notice we have sought two things -- the report must be removed from online version in 24 hours, they [notice receivers] must apologise unconditionally in the print version and will have to pay Tk 100 crore as compensation," he added.

The lawyer said he will take the next course of action on the advice from the DSCC mayor after seeing what briefing yesterday. steps the notice receivers take.

Mejbahur Rahman sent the legal notice on behalf of Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh on June 5, asking Mahfuz Anam, the editor and publisher, Executive Editor Syed Ashfaqu Haque, and the writer, Naziba Basher, to pay the money within seven days of the date of receipt of the legal notice served "for creating and publishing defamatory imputation in your national Daily, in online publication and on social media and network with criminal intention to insult, humiliate and persecute our client, thus intentionally harming hard earned reputation of my client, his family and his institution".

The notice said the article went against the principles of journalism as present in the existing laws.

Appropriate legal action would be taken against the notice receivers if required steps are not taken within the time, the lawyer said during the

She, however, asked the authorities to stay alert always "so that the BNP can't repeat the arson violence like they did in 2013, 2014 and 2015."

She said her party will keep protecting people's voting rights. "It is we who brought democracy, waging movements and struggles in this country. Since there is the continuation of democracy, Bangladesh has today witnessed progress and socio-economic uplift."

AL Advisory Council member Amir Hossain Amu, its presidium members engineer Mosharraf Chowdhury, Hossain, Matia Shajahan Khan and Simeen Hussain Rimi, among others, spoke at the discussion.

On June 7, 1966, Bangladesh's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman launched a massive movement against the misrule of the Pakistanis on the basis of the Six-point demand, the Magna Carta of the Bangalees, demanding autonomy for the then East Pakistan.

Depreciation, tax pose medium-term risk FROM PAGE 1 percent in the year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank. A year earlier, the depreciation was about 5 percent.

"Overall, the exchange depreciation may raise fiscal burden to some extent in the medium term," reads the MTMPS.

Although it states that the debt level will remain within the sustainable ceiling, economists beg to differ.

Ahsan H Mansur. executive director of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said, "The debt service to GDP ratio is not of much use as the government does not have the GDP in its hand to repay the debt with...

Here, the government is lagging. At 7.77 percent at the end of fiscal 2022-23, Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio is the lowest amongst its peer countries, according to the finance division study.

"After a 23.8 growth in fiscal 2020-21, revenue grew at a modest rate of 1.8 percent last year. To meet the development goals set for 2031 and 2041, revenue collection needs to be increased significantly," the MTMPS savs.

But the prospective depreciation will have a direct impact on revenue by way of import-related taxes, it adds.

With the dollar becoming more expensive vis-à-vis the taka, imports will come down, and so will the importrelated tax receipts.

The depreciation will also increase the government's expenditure.

On the spending side, the main items affected are: the fertiliser subsidy bill: payments to the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation for oil imports; the externally financed portion of the annual development programme; and interest payments on external debt.

The upward movement of the foreign exchange rate may increase the subsidy expenditure of the government to a large extent."

An assessment by the Bangladesh Power Development Board found that the depreciation of the taka will escalate the power subsidy by Tk 473.6 crore in fiscal 2023-24.

It may also result in a significant hike in project costs run by the government,

said. "Many of the government projects, especially the mega projects, are heavily ependent on imported items. Thus, depreciation of exchange rate may result in cost escalation of the projects creating additional fiscal burden."

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, said there are further risks from epreciation.

The analysis of risk arising from exchange rate fluctuations presented in the macroeconomic statement detailed but incomplete from an accounting perspective."

The focus is entirely on the impact on government expenditure and external debt

"What it overlooks completely is the direct and indirect impact of the same depreciation on government revenues and external financing.'

Revenues from all taxes based on the taka value of imports rise as a result of exchange rate depreciation.

There are also indirect effects with an increase in prices of domestically produced substitutes as import prices increase. The taka value of external credit disbursements will also increase. Hussain said, "Most importantly, the analysis does not go deeper into downside fiscal risks if authorities do not allow the exchange rate to depreciate. The resulting dollar shortage constrains the entire economy affecting economic activities and prices, which, in turn, disrupt efficient conduct of fiscal management, among others."

Mansur, also a former economist of the International Monetary Fund, said that exchange rate stability is not possible without removing the interest rate cap.

"Interest rate cap is one of the reasons for the macroeconomic instability," he said, while urging the government to be more careful when taking on foreign debt.

FROM PAGE 1

only two days to respond. But before within the stipulated time, Lex Counsel held a press briefing on June 7, 2023. There, the law firm stated that Mayor Taposh has served a legal notice on The Daily Star and sought Tk 100 crore for defamation. It went on to term the satire article a "report" or a "column", which is factually incorrect.

In response to the legal notice and the subsequent briefing, we humbly reiterate that it was neither a "report" nor a "column," but a satirical piece, which is mostly presented in a parody format in mainstream journalism. Satire relies heavily on irony and deadpan humour. Globally, such satirical articles are written on important and powerful persons and/or institutions. Political leaders, Nobel laureates, famous writers and prominent activists are subjects of satire and irony. It is the standard literary and journalistic practice. We, however, are shocked to

Our reply to legal notice find ourselves so fundamentally misunderstood. In no way was our we could come up with our response article meant to defame, humiliate or hurt anybody; it was simply a satire published in Satireday, our weekly page designated for satire. The topic was chosen only because it was one of the public interest issues and many reports, articles and editorials had already been written on it.

It is a long-standing journalistic practice, and it's known all over the world that important leaders and toplevel decision makers are subjects of satire. This piece was written to draw more attention to a matter of public concern and assist the authorities to reconsider and re-evaluate their decision, and not, we repeat, not to hurt anyone in any way. It was furthest from our intention. Still, we are sorry to know that our satire piece has ended up upsetting the notice giver.

As a gesture of goodwill, we have already unpublished the link upon knowledge of the unintended hurt as communicated in the legal notice.

-Editor

DHAKA

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 8, 2023 **JAISHTHA 25, 1430 BS** The Daily Star

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PADMA BRIDGE WB realised its allegations were false: PM STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has realised that it had brought false allegations against the Awami League government regarding corruption in the Padma Bridge construction project, Prime Minister Hasina Sheikh said yesterday.

The premier said this in parliament in reply to a query from Jatiya Party MP Syed Hossain of Dhaka-4.

Hasina said during her recent visit to the World Bank's headquarters in Washington DC, she again raised the issue of "false allegations" while holding a discussion.

"(In my speech) I firmly mentioned that I will never patronise any evil purpose which will diminish the dignity of the people of Bangladesh," she said.

"After added, She my speech, I presented a painting of Padma Bridge to the World Bank World Bank president. SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Braving scorching heat in the line of duty

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

It was around 2:30pm on Tuesday. Amid the boiling heat, dozens of vehicles were lined up at two sides of the Bijoy Sarani signal in the capital, patiently waiting for their turn to go. Among the passengers stopped at the signal, Rubel Hasan, 32, was waiting inside a CNG-run three-wheeler, sweating profusely as a blistering

sometimes it is unbearable to stand for a long time under the sun. Yet we cannot leave the road unauthorised," Md Alamgir told The Daily Star.

The capital is enduring a prolonged heat wave this summer, with midday outdoor temperatures reaching 37 degree Celsius at times. Despite the intense heat, several hundred traffic sergeants like Alamgir work hard to maintain traffic order on major streets wearing synthetic uniforms.



heat wave has been sweeping over the country. "How can we possibly survive in this city with such chaotic traffic?" a frustrated Rubel said.

Just a few yards away, stood Alamgir, a traffic constable in his mid-40s, to control the flow of vehicles under the sizzling sun. A few minutes later, Alamgir let the vehicles go with his handheld signal and the vehicles, including the one Rubel was in, started moving again.

Rubel might have found some relief after crossing the signal. However, for Alamgir, it is the road where he has to stand for almost the entirety of his eight-hour-long shift, no matter how high the temperature is out on the street.

"What else can we do? It is our daily duty but

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

There are around 4,000 traffic personnel working under the traffic division in Dhaka to maintain vehicular movement. The scorching heat is taking a heavy toll on them as they are exposed to the constant heat for a long time.

Md Mushfiq, 41, a constable stationed at the Agargaon intersection, said, "I already have knee problems from standing for extended periods while on duty. Now, the heatwave exacerbates hese issues, leaving me feeling fatigued quickly."

"We are trying to drink as much water as possible. Still, the heat makes us feel drained out," ie said

Sergeant Asaduzzaman Jewel at the Farmgate SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Preventable, vet a public health concern

Say speakers on fatty liver disease STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 45 million people in the country are affected by fatty liver disease, adding an economic burden of Tk 75,690 crore which is more than double the health sector's annual budget, said Dr Md Saiful Islam Elin, a consultant hepatologist at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), at a roundtable yesterday.

"The doctors need to step up and raise awareness as the number is increasing with every passing day," he added.

He made the remarks at a discussion titled, "Fatty Liver: National Economic Burden of Bangladesh" organised by Hepatology Society, Dhaka at the capital's Cirdap auditorium, marking sixth International Nash (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) Day.

According to the attending physicians, a healthy liver turns into a fatty one when the weight of its stored fat equals 5-10 percent of the liver's weight. Upper abdominal pain, sudden weight loss and fatigue are the most common symptoms.

However, opting for a healthy lifestyle can prevent these health problems. SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

WORKERS IN MALDIVES 47pc don't get promised wages Says RMMRU study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 47 percent Bangladeshi migrant workers in the Maldives do not receive the wages promised to them, according to a recent study.

The study, conducted by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), said on average, a worker earns Tk 35,147 per month there.

It also said documented Bangladeshi workers in the Maldives earn an average monthly income of Tk 37,066, while undocumented ones Tk 25,650.

The study, titled "Migration Dynamics of Bangladesh and the Maldives Corridor," was SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Plastic waste a threat to soil fertility **Speakers tell seminar**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Plastic pollution is deteriorating the germination capacity of soil by killing larvae, microbes and earthworms that enriches the soil's fertility, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They made the remarks at the event jointly organised by seven developmental organisations at Department of Environment auditorium in the capital's Agargaon marking World Environment Day.

The organisers are Bangladesh Resources Centre for Indigenous Knowledge, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Environment and Social Development Organisation, A Better Bangladesh Trust, Bandhu Foundation, Green Savers, and Association for Land Reforms and Development.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



There is also no direction in the budget to prevent widespread corruption and money laundering.

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR BNP secretary general



Budget designed to plunder nat'l wealth: BNP UNB, Dhaka

Terming the proposed budget for anti-people and deceptive, BNP vesterday said it has been designed to loot several billion dollars of national wealth under the shelter of a corrupt regime. Speaking at a press conference, party secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir also said it will not be possible to ensure people's welfare through the budget. BNP arranged the press conference to give the party's formal reaction to the proposed budget. In the budget, Fakhrul said, the finance minister did not acknowledge the ongoing economic crisis, growing income disparity, dwindling foreign exchange reserves, rampant money laundering, and huge debt burden on the shoulders of the country's people. He said the government also did not give any outline in the budget about how to overcome the economic crises and challenges and completely avoided the concept of good governance and justice. "There is also no direction in the budget to prevent widespread corruption and money laundering," he observed. He said all arrangements have been made in the budget to smartly loot lakhs of crores of taka, plunder banks, and public money through a syndicate. He said an accountable, democratic, and responsible elected government must be established to get rid of the ongoing national crisis. "The only way to do this is to hold a free, fair, impartial, inclusive and acceptable election under a polls-time impartial government."

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Notice regarding change of company name

Notice is hereby given that the renowned company of the country "MJL Bangladesh Limited" changed its name to "MJL Bangladesh PLC." as per section 11 (Ka) of the Companies Act 1994 (Amended Act 2020) with the permission of the shareholders of the company, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchange respectively.

Therefore, from now on "MJL Bangladesh Limited" will be operated under the following name:

MJL Bangladesh PLC.

On behalf of the company

Md. Rokibul Kabir Company Secretary

Dhaka, Bangladesh Date: 8 June 2023



MJL Bangladesh PLC.

2nd Edition

WB realised its allegations

FROM PAGE 3

has realised that they had brought false allegations against us [regarding corruption in the Padma Bridge project.]"

the premier informed the House that the amount the country is 16.27 lakh tonnes.

food grains, the amount export of goods to India,"

"Research shows how

unplanned disposal of

plastics damages the soil 23

of toxic chemicals like

chlorine in plastics hampers

and its nutritional intake.

They also permeate into

the food chain, affecting

animals and humans," said

biodiversity and ecology

researcher Pavel Partha

while delivering the key-

seminar.

note presentation at the

According to a research

the sea. The presence Padma,

FROM PAGE 3

of rice is 12.25 lakh tonnes she added. and wheat is 3.96 lakh tonnes.

query from JP lawmaker construction Mashiur Rahman Ranga, Economic In reply to a query from Bangladesh will not get AL lawmaker Kazim Uddin, duty-free, quota-free of food grains stocked as a result of its removal exports to India are likely at present (as of May) in from the list of least to increase by 190 percent. developed countries.

Plastic waste a threat to soil

times faster than it affects annually through the use plastics as much as

"A study conducted by

found microplastics in the

bodies of 84 percent of sea

turtles, 44 percent of sea

bird, and 43 percent of sea

mammals," he added.

deputy

Jamuna. he mentioned.

Meghna, and

minister for

the event as the chief guest, the seminar.

of

the growth of plant roots the Food and Agriculture

Taking consideration, initiatives While replying to a have been taken to execute

the

this

Agreement (CEPA) with

is signed, Bangladesh's

"It is still in the

Shamsul Huda from

ALRD moderated the

seminar while Abdul

of Environment chaired

chief executive of Bela,

Shahriar Hossain from

Hasmi, advisor of Bandhu

Syeda Rizwana Hasan,

the programme.

India, the PM said.

Comprehensive

Partnership

into

the prime minister said benefits for exporting negotiation stage. If CEPA goods to India after 2026

It is expected to increase "This may have a the GDP by 1.72 percent," The PM said of the total negative impact on the she hoped.

conducted by National said, "We expect to devise

Geography, 73,000 tonnes an alternative to plastics

plastic enter the sea we have to avoid single-

Organization said they Hamid from Department

Begum Habibun Nahar, Esdo and Kazir Imtiaz

environment who attended Foundation, also spoke at

non-biodegradable by 2026, but until we do,

possible."

Businessmen rule FROM PAGE 5 this year it stands at 37.13

percent.

repairing

others.

Meanwhile,

League's mayoral candidate

Abul Khair Abdullah

unveiled his 35-point

election manifesto at the

Crown Convention Centre

adopting a master plan

for the city's development,

introducing a drainage

healthcare services, among

In another turn of events,

Police Station

The pledges include

in Barishal yesterday.

Awami

roads,

centres,

effective

against candidates since 2018. In 2018, ongoing cases accounted for 27.20 percent compared to 36.76

percent in the past. Among the mayoral candidates, two have educational qualifications below SSC (28.57 percent), one studied up to HSC (14.2 percent), two are graduates (28.57 percent), and two are postgraduates (28.57 percent).

system, constructing and Out of the total 118 excavating new roads, drains councillor candidates in 30 and canals, ensuring safe wards, 26 have educational drinking water, installing qualifications below SSC street lights, managing (22.03 percent), 23 studied vehicles, increasing the up to SSC (19.49 percent), green coverage, establishing 29 studied up to HSC cultural (24.48 percent), 19 are implementing graduates (16.10 percent), measures to bring gas and 20 are postgraduates connections from Bhola to (16.95 percent). Barishal, and modernising

Compared to 2018, the literacy rate has increased to 34.10 percent from 26.47 percent.

Arifur Rahman, a leader of the seven Among Islami Andolan Bangladesh, mayoral candidates, five filed a case yesterday with have paid taxes. Jatiya Party Kotwali mayoral candidate Iqbal against Anisur Rahman Hossain Tapos paid the Sharif, an Awami League highest amount of taxes leader of ward 14 and a in the last fiscal year, while councillor candidate, under Islami Andolan Bangladesh the Digital Security Act for making false allegations candidate Mufti Syed Md Faizul Karim came in that AL leaders Hasanat and his son Sadiq gave Tk second.

In 2018, the rate of 3 crore to IAB candidate income tax payment was Mufti Karim to defeat AL 27.18 percent, whereas candidate Khair.

RFP Ref. No.: LRPS-BAN-2023-9183283

Request for Proposal (RFP): For development of positive parenting package in the context of Rohingya refugees.

UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong record and credibility of providing the above-required service. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to supplybangladesh@unicef.org

The deadline to submit the proposal is Monday, 26 June 2023; Time: 11:00 Hrs.

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

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Date: 07/06/2023



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd. ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 45001:2018 Certified



(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board) Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-3) NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj-6700.

Ref: 27.28.8878.301.07.001.20.73

e-Tender Notice

Braving FROM PAGE 3

Police box area said many FROM PAGE 3 of his colleagues fell ill while on duty.

"We have been trying to overcome the situation but the heat is unavoidable due to the nature of our duty. We have been supplying water and saline to our colleagues to combat the heat," he added.

While visiting the Karwan Bazar intersection, Sergeant Md Shimul told this newspaper that the situation is always tough for traffic personnel as they have to work in a chaotic environment.

With the ongoing sweltering heat, it has physically become torturous for many of them, he added.

The authorities should take steps like increasing the number of traffic personnel or reducing the duty hours to protect them from the heat waves during the season, said another traffic constable stationed at the Farmgate Police Box area, seeking anonymity.

Abu Raihan Mohammad Saleh, joint commissioner (traffic north) of DMP, said traffic personnel have been advised to take necessary precautions, including drinking adequate amounts of water and using an umbrella while performing their duties. We have also been shifting their duties, ensuring that they do not have to work for long, continuous shifts," he added.

কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং

কাজের নাম

031

021

47pc don't get undocumented migrants

NEWS

remitted Tk 223,000.

Meanwhile

undocumented workers

spend 35 percent of

accommodation,

compared to 20 percent for

Around 38

respondents

earnings

on

percent

reported

employers

commissioned by The Asia Foundation, and surveyed 120 current and 250 returnee migrants.

It said 33 percent their Bangladeshis in the Maldives work in hotels and resorts, 25 percent in documented workers. construction, seven percent as day labourers, and two percent each in domestic that their work and the fisheries sector. The remaining 31

at a city hotel, RMMRU Executive Director Prof CR Abrar emphasised that around 90 percent of the respondents considered the Maldives as their preferred destination for work. He called for both governments to play a role in ensuring the regular and orderly migration of Bangladeshi workers and a

embargo by the Maldives said study on hiring unskilled workers migrant from Bangladesh. Shahidul or intermediaries.

migrant Haider Current workers remitted an average of Tk 297,667 over the previous 12 months, while returnee migrants remitted Tk 218,477 during the same period. Documented migrants remitted an average of Tk 312,600, while

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ

চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম

www.rhd.chittagong.gov.bd

কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

(৪র্থ আহ্বান)

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ঃ ০১ (এক) নিঃ প্রঃ সওজ, চসবি/২০২২-২০২৩খ্রিঃ

২০২২-২০২৩খ্রিঃ, ২০২৩-২০২৪খ্রিঃ এবং ২০২৪-

২০২৫খ্রিঃ আর্থিক বৎসরের জন্য চট্টগ্রাম সড়ক

বিভাগাধীন কর্ণফুলী নদীর উপর কালুরঘাট ফেরী

ঘাটে (ফেরীতে ইজারাদার কর্তক লুব্রিকেন্ট ও

জ্ঞালানী সরবরাহসহ) পারাপারকারী যানবাহন

Alam, director general of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, said foreign ministry needs to take step in this regard. Barrister Shameem Patwary president of Bangladesh Parliamentarians Caucus on Migration and Development, said step should be taken so that undocumented migrant

workers can remit money home without hassle through formal channels.

Who will get BNP decision and was defeated by Khaleque.

party's lack of interest in the election, reinforcing their Moni decision not to participate. "It would be unwise to

expect BNP supporters to cast their votes for another party's symbol," he said.

FROM PAGE 5

Seeking anonymity, a senior BNP leader in Khulna has shed further light on the dynamics within the party. Khulna city "The BNP is divided into two

factions, one of which is led by former KCC mayor Moniruzzaman Moni and veteran BNP leader Nazrul Islam Manju. They believe that local elections hold significant importance for the party's grassroots level, prompting them to consider defying the party's instructions to rally voters to the polling booths on election day "he said

BNP's city unit, reiterated the In the 2013 elections. won against Khaleque, while in 2018, Khaleque secured his second mayoral term by defeating BNP candidate

Nazrul Islam Manju. In the last election held in 2018, AL candidate Talukder Abdul Khaleque secured the mayoral position by defeating the BNP candidate with a margin of 67,946 votes.

In the previous one, IAB candidate Muzzammil Hague secured 14,363 votes and stood in third place, while JP's SM Mushfiqur Rahman received 1,072 votes.

However, both parties changed have their candidates this year to attract more voters. 1:1-4-

retained their passports. Discrimination at the percent work in various workplace was reported by other sectors. 45 percent of documented While revealing the and 52 percent of data at an event held undocumented workers.

Additionally, 18 percent of respondents faced physical or verbal abuse at some point, and 16 percent experienced challenges in accessing medical services. Meanwhile, 74 percent of respondents were able to secure necessary services from the Bangladesh High Commission in Male. Referring to an ongoing

better future for them. The Bangladeshi workers spend an average of Tk 205,997 to migrate to the Maldives. In 59 percent cases, migration facilitation is done through sub-agents

	lowing e-Tender is invited in the Tender ID Brief Descript	National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure ion of Tender Publication Last St Date & Time Date &	elling Opening	on election day," he said. PREVIOUS RESULTS The first KCC election took	IAB mayoral candidate Abdul Awal said their party has a disciplined workforce				ইত্যাদি হইতে ৩ (তিন) বৎসরের জন্য ইজার মাধ্যমে মাগুল আদায়ের কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
	837909 Procurement of Equipm and Steam Quality (Sampling System)	ent and Spares of Water 07/06/2023 05/07/	2023, 06/07/2023, PM 11:00 AM	place on January 30, 1994, with the late BNP leader Sheikh Tayebur Rahman	in every ward and enjoys a larger voter base after Awami League.	०७।	ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা	8	খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন ব্যক্তি, ঠিকাদার ও ব্যবস প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ।
opies www.e	will be accepted. To submit	Swammed 107.06	GP System Portal n the National e-GP	being elected as mayor, defeating Mahabubul Alam Hiran from Awami League. Rahman was re-elected in 2002. BNP boycotted the 2008 elections, but Moniruzzaman Moni, then	Preventable FROM PAGE 3 Dr Shahinul Alam, professor of Hepatology at BSMMU and general	08	বায়নার টাকা	o	কোটেশনে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুকূলে তফসি ব্যাংক হইতে বিডি/পে-অর্ডার আকারে উদ্ধৃত মূলে ১০% (দশ শতাংশ) বায়নার টাকা হিসাবে ও দিতে হইবে।
GD- 10	000	(Shyamal Kumár Das Plant Manager (S.E) Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (U NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajga Contact No.: + 880177773	Jnit-3) nj-6700.	organising secretary of the Khulna City BNP, contested the polls against the party	secretary of Hepatology Society, made the keynote presentation. Each fatty liver patient spends an average of Tk 16,800 for a single comprehensive evaluation	0¢	কোটেশনের দলিলাদি প্রাপ্তির অফিসসমূহের নাম	0	১। বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, চট্টগ্রাম। ২। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ, সড়ক বিভ চট্টগ্রাম/চট্টগ্রাম দক্ষিণ সজ বিভাগ/কক্সবাজার/পিএডডি ডিভিশন, আগ্রাব
e		TIAL DRUGS COMPA 395-397, Tejgaon Industr Dhaka-1208 cal Press Tende	ial Area	TIGTE MUIB	and management. The combined cost of all the patients visiting the hospital at least once in their life time would add up to Tk 75,690 crore, he added. Regular exercise,				চট্টগ্রাম। ৩। উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী সওজ, সড়ক উ বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম/সীতাকুন্ড/ফটিকছড়ি/১ম স কারখানা উপ-বিভাগ, চট্টগ্রাম।
for s	ed tenders are hereby in uccessful completion of	avited from the reputed Contractor similar works in any single work during the last 5 (five) years.	ors/construction fi	irms having experience emi Govt./Autonomous	choosing milk, fruits and vegetables over fried food and ensuring walkways, cycling lanes, playgrounds and parks in urban areas, and can help prevent fatty liver disease, he informed.	०७।	কোটেশন গ্রহণের অফিসসমূহের নাম	00	 >। বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, চট্টগ্রাম। ২। তত্তাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী সওজ, চট্টগ্রাম সং সার্কেল, চট্টগ্রাম। ৩। নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী সওজ, সড়ক বিভ
01.	EDCL(Bogura)/Pur/LT/ 2023/229 Dated: 07/06/2023	Construction of 2-Storied Sub- Station Building extension from existing Building at EDCL, Bogura	Tk. 1500.00/set Non-refundable	Closing: 20/06/2023 at 12.00 Noon Opening: 20/06/2023	The event was chaired by Prof Mobin Khan, founding president of the organisation. Prof Dr ASM Matiur	०१।	কোটেশন তফসীলের মূল্য	00	চউগ্রাম/চউগ্রাম দক্ষিণ সড়ক বিভাগ, চউগ্রাম। প্রতি সেট ৫০০০/ (পাঁচ হাজার) ট (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
02.	EDCL(Bogura)/Pur/LT/	(Details as per Tender Schedule & BOQ) Construction of WIP & Airlock	Tk. 1500.00/set	at 12.30 PM Closing: 21/06/2023	Rahman, advisor to a former caretaker government attended	op. I	টোল আদায়ের নির্ধারিত সময়	00	কার্যাদেশের তারিখ হইতে ও (তিন) বৎসর।
	2023/230 Dated: 07/06/2023	Corridor Room extension from existing Building at EDCL, Bogura. (Details as per Tender Schedule & BOQ)	Non-refundable	at 12.00 Noon Opening: 21/06/2023 at 12.30 PM	the programme as chief guest, alongside Prof Mohammad Ali, founder and secretary general of the	୦৯	কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	0	২১-০৬-২০২৩ইং দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
Dhak	ka on payment as stated	d from the Accounts Departmen above during office hours on all	working days (e	except Friday, Saturday	National Liver Foundation of Bangladesh; and Prof Dr M Haroon-ur Rashid,	201	কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	00	২২-০৬-২০২৩ইং দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
The	tender will be accompa	der schedule will be sold on the op nied by an amount of Earnest M	oney @5% of to	tal quoted value in the	president of Bangladesh Accounting Association.	22 1	কোটেশন খোলার নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়	0	২২-০৬-২০২৩ইং দুপুর ৩.০০টা।
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	L authority reserves the	e right to accept or reject any o	or all the tenders	without assigning any	JUNE 8		আবু মোঃ ভুট্ট		সেগুন প্রসাদ বড়ুয়া পিন্টু চাকমা

CITY

Businessmen rule the race in Barishal city polls

Finds Shujan analysis; Khair unveils manifesto

SUSHANTA GHOSH and MD ABBAS

The literacy rate and compliance with income taxes among the candidates of the Barishal city polls have increased, which is a positive sign, according to Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan).

The number of cases against candidates has also decreased. However, there is a concerning trend in terms of occupation, as the highest number of candidates contesting the polls are businessmen, compared to the 2018 elections. In 2018, 58.80 percent of the candidates were businessmen. The percentage has now increased to 62.87 percent.

Dilip Kumar Sarkar, central coordinator of Shujan, made these observations at Kirtankhola Auditorium in Barishal after analysing the information provided by the candidates who are contesting for the Barishal City Corporation elections scheduled for June 12.

According to the Shujan report, there are cases against



Awami League mayor candidate Abul Khair Abdullah presenting his election manifesto yesterday.

two mayoral candidates, which account for 28.57 percent. This percentage remains the same as in the previous elections.

On the other hand, there are cases against 32 councillor candidates, which is 27.12 percent, compared to 49 cases (41.53 percent) in the previous elections.

Furthermore, there are two criminal cases against the candidates for the female councillors in the reserved category, which is 4.76 percent at present, whereas the previous number was six, and the percentage was 14.29.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of cases SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

With less than a week to go, Khulna is gearing up for the city polls. Technicians are setting up CCTV cameras at polling centres for close monitoring of the situation on the polls day. Meanwhile, police have imposed stricter security measures. As part of which, they have started checking vehicles for proper documents at different points of the city. The photos were taken in Sonadanga and Boyra areas yesterday.

KHULNA CITY POLLS Who will get BNP's vote?

DIPANKAR ROY and MD ABBAS

With BNP's significant vote bank up for grabs, politicians and experts are now wondering which candidates will emerge victorious in the upcoming Khulna City Corporation polls slated for June 12.

KCC elections have always been a closely fought battle between BNP and the ruling Awami League. In the past five elections, BNP candidates have clinched victory thrice, while the AL nominees emerged triumphant on two occasions.

In BNP's absence, Islami Andolan Bangladesh and Jatiya Party candidates have thrown their hats into the ring, leaving no stone unturned in their bid to capture the hearts and votes of those faithful to BNP.

Both parties firmly believe that the absence of BNP from the race provides them with a golden opportunity to rally the BNP supporters under their respective banners.

Meanwhile, the BNP leadership in Khulna maintains that their supporters have lost faith in the electoral process and are unlikely to turn up at the polling stations on election day. So, the question of who the BNP loyalists will vote for simply does not arise.

A total of 535,528 voters residing in 31 wards of the city are expected to exercise their voting rights in the



upcoming KCC elections. **WILL THEY SHOW UP ON ELECTION DAY?** Sazzad Hossain, a councillor candidate from ward 5, has been expelled from BNP for participating in the polls. Despite the party's instructions to stay away from the polling stations, Hossain remains undeterred.

"I will make every effort to bring voters to the polling centres on the election day, to vote for the councillor candidates," he said.

Meanwhile, Shafiqul Alam Mona, convenor of the SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Man, son killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man and his son were killed on Tuesday night after a tractor hit their CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Pabna-Rajshahi highway in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila's Dashuria area.

Mahabub Alom, 40, an employee of Square Group, was returning home from Natore's Lalpur with his family -- wife and two children -- around 11:30pm. The tractor's driver lost control and hit the auto-rickshaw, killing Mahabub and his one-and-ahalf-year-old son Abdur Rahman on the spot. The auto's driver, Mahabub's wife and daughter were injured, said OC Ashish Kumar Shannal of Pakshey Highway Police Station. The bodies were handed over to the family. A case was filed yesterday.

тнкеат то рм² Rajshahi BNP leader remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Abu Sayeed Chand, the Rajshahi district unit BNP convener, on a two-day remand in a case filed over giving "death threat" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a public rally in the district.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Haque passed the order. Chand was shown arrested in the case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act. On May 25, Ashikur Rahman Anu, a Chhatra League leader, filed the case against Chand.

'Increase allocation for edu, health'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children and Unicef yesterday called upon parliamentarians to safeguard allocations for education, health, and social protection in the national budget.

This appeal was made during a briefing titled "National Budget 2023-2024 and Child Rights," organised by Unicef and the Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights. It was attended by children as well as members of parliament, including representatives from standing committees on finance, health, and education, reads a press release.

Deputy Speaker Shamsul Hoque Tuku, also chair of the parliamentary caucus on Child Rights, said, "Hearing from the children, it is evident that we, as public representatives, have a lot more to do for them."

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Invitation for	Goods, Printer Toner & Metting Software.				
Invitation Ref No	27.00.0000.043.07.006.22.250				
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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Children take a dip in the cool water of Kirtankhola to beat the heat. As they engage in water-play, their tired and worn-out faces adorn a smile of relief. This photo was taken near the Barishal city's Beltola Ferry Ghat yesterday.



This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<u>http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</u>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP

help desk (<u>http://www.helpdesk.eprocure.gov.bd</u>).

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CCC/PRD-185/22-23	On behalf of Chief Engineer
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		ng Tender ument (Principal)	Assistant Secre Secretariat, Dh		tration	3, Power Division, Room#212, Building#6, Bangladesh				
	Selli	ng Tender ument (Others)	Accounts office	er, Power Divis	ion, Sec	retariat Link Road, Biddut Vabon (level-10), Dhaka.				
	Rec	eiving Tender ument	Assistant Secre Secretariat, Dh		tration	3, Power Division , Room#212, Building#6, Bangladesh				
	Ope	ning Tender ument		ry, Administra	ation-1,	Power Division, Room#205, Building#6, Bangladesh				
INF		ATION FOR TEND								
18		Eligibility of Tender	ility of The tenders should be well Experienced with (1) Trade License (2) Incomes Tax							
19		Brief Description of Goods		Lot-01 Stationary goods, Lot-02 Printer Toner & Lot-03 Metting Software.						
20		Brief Description of Related Services	Not Applicable	8						
21		Price of Tender Document (Tk)	LOT (1, 2 & 3) Tk. 5,00/-						
				Tender						
	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Security Amount (Tk)		Completion Time in Weeks				
22			Location Power Division Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.	Amount	comp work autho autho be gr letter/	Completion Time in Weeks / stock or purchase/supply from main dealer/reputed any of Bangladesh within 30 days from the date of issu- order. Must submit sole distributor certificate /distributor rization letter along with tender document. The rization letter (for lot 2) in favor of majority product mus- anted. If the company/supplier provide fake or edite- certificate, the respective company/supplier have to b- ne black listed.				
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY'S PREMIER AWARD SHOW IS BACK **Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards** 2022 announced

This year **Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital** Content Awards 2022 will have 28 categories, out of which 14 are for **Film/Drama**/ Story, 4 for Music, 4 critics award and 6 for content creators.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

To celebrate and honour the innovators of 2022 in the OTT industry and the digital space, Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards was unveiled yesterday at The Daily Star Centre, through a press conference. The awards, presented by Ispahani and The Daily Star, are being organised for the second time to honour the groundbreaking work done by the artistes in the OTT space, alongside content creators.

The press conference was headed by Imran Kadir, Head of Marketing & Sales, The Daily Star, along with Omar Hannan, General Manager, Ispahani Team Limited, and Ajoy Kumar Kundu, CEO of Mediacom Limited. Celebrities, including the likes of FS Nayeem, Shohel Mondol, Syed Ahmed Shawki, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Khayam Sanu Sandhi, Aisha Khan, Sharif Siraj, Goutam Koiri, and Shahnaz Sumi, among others, graced the occasion with their warm presence.

This year Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT & Digital Content Awards 2022 will have 28 categories, out of which 14 are for Film/ Drama/Story, 4 for Music, 4 critics award and 6 for content creators.

"Ispahani has a long history of supporting and promoting Bangladeshi arts and culture. The collaboration between Ispahani and The Daily Star for the Blender's Choice-The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards 2022 is an endeavour to acknowledge, appreciate, and inspire the competitive spirit among both on-screen and off-screen contributors in Bangladesh's OTT and digital content industry," mentioned Omar Hannan.

He also expressed hope that this initiative upcoming artists to set greater benchmarks."



will foster the growth of a thriving creator's economy culture, and nurturing positive innovative and digital content. Taidin Hassan.

Chief Business Officer, The Daily Star told A&E, "It is truly monumental that OTT has become

of our entertainment. The goal of for behind-the-scene, technical artistes. this initiative is not just to recognise the outstanding performers, but to inspire the open from today (June 8) and it will be closed

He also added, "This is our second iteration, and I'm certain that over the upcoming years, we'll see this industry reaching greater heights."

FS Nayeem congratulated this initiative sharing his thoughts. "Recognising talents in the OTT arena is a great way to appreciate and inspire artistes to work more cautiously. I believe the best may take the prize home."

Taqdeer and Karagar director Shawki appreciated the initiative, and added that other than the National Film Award, no other such an essential ingredient awards in the country provides recognition

The submissions for the nominations are on July 8.



Captain America's 'Brave New World'

Recently, Marvel Studios made an exciting announcement, revealing the official title of their upcoming and fourth *Captain America* film as Brave New World. Previously known as Captain America: New World Order, the studio took to Twitter to share the new title with fans.

The film is set to hit theaters on May 3, 2024, as stated in a post on Marvel Studios' official page, accompanied by a first-look photo featuring stars Anthony Mackie and Harrison Ford on the film's set.

Souls disclose 50th anniversary plans at press conference

On Tuesday, Souls arranged a special press conference to announce plans for their 50th anniversary and their newly designed logo. Partha Barua, the band's vocalist and lead guitarist, told the media that they had been planning their 50th anniversary for a long time.

"We are currently in discussion with various sponsors related to the programme. We will inform everyone as soon as everything gets finalised," shared Partha Barua.

The musician also shared the band's plans of going on international and national tours at the end of August, adding that they have also recorded multiple songs, which will be released along with their music videos soon.



COUNTRYWIDE/NEWS

Bridge tilted before |High inflation

FROM PAGE 12 energy sector. Real household

Now water crisis heaps infrastructure ts are misery upon residents

inauguration not repaired in 5yrs

MIRZA SHAKIL

An important bridge at Nirail village in Basail upazila that tilted just after completion of its construction work has not been reconstructed in the last five years.

As a result, thousands of people of the village and nine other adjacent villages have been facing immense sufferings for long.

According to the office of the Project Implementation Officer (PIO) in Basail, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief constructed a total of 128 bridges in 12 upazilas of Tangail during the 2016-2017 fiscal years.

Under the project, one of the bridges was constructed at Nirail village under Fulki union in Basail upazila.

Construction Firm Ms Abdullah Enterprise built the 60-foot-long bridge at a cost of Tk 54 lakh.

But the newly constructed bridge got tilted amid huge pressure of flood water just before its inauguration, sources at the PIO office said.

Local people, however, blamed use of sub-standard materials in the construction work.

authorities Later, concerned requested the contractor to reconstruct the bridge again.

But, after conducting the demolition

work partially the constructor concern didn't continue the work further.

The contractor could not continue the bridge reconstruction work due to ending of the project period, the PIO office said.

Meanwhile, people of at least 10 villages, including Balia, Fulki, Fulbari, Baghil and Nirail have been facing huge sufferings to go to their destinations due to the incomplete bridge construction work.

Several villagers said now they are compel to move several kilometres more to reach the upazila heath complex or taking agricultural goods to the nearby markets.

"We have been deprived of getting fair prices of our crops as we cannot take our agricultural products to the local markets due to the broken bridge," said Robi Miah of Nirail village.

Meanwhile, several students of the area said they have to face serious troubles while going to and from their institutions during the rainy season for not having a bridge.

Contacted, Basail PIO Shakhawat Hossain said out of the Tk 54 lakh bill the contractor got only Tk 12 lakh.

Local Government and The Engineering Department (LGED) have a plan to construct a large bridge there, he added.



This bridge, tilted just before inauguration, at Nirail village in Tangail's Basail upazila has not been repaired in five years, much to the suffering of local people. PHOTO: STAR earnings are yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels despite an improvement in employment," the WB said.

While the central bank raised policy rates, transmission to the broader economy was impaired by a cap on lending interest rates, it said.

In the next fiscal year, gains in market share in key export destinations are expected to sustain Bangladesh's export growth.

Growth is projected to accelerate to 6.2 percent However, in fiscal 2023-24 Bangladesh, which is again below the sector government's target of 7.5 percent -- as inflationary pressures ease, reform capital buffers and weak implementation accelerates and transportation and

megaprojects completed. This is similar to the growth projection made for India in fiscal 2023-24: 6.3

percent, a 0.3 percentage point downward revision from January. once.

In the next fiscal year, gains in market share in key export destinations are generators." expected to sustain **Bangladesh's** export growth.

> for and created a crisis, he financial added. risks remain

elevated, with high levels subside if there are fewer of defaulted loans, weak outages and there is rainfall," he said. bank governance, said the World Bank. office forecast rains or

FROM PAGE 12

the power cuts. Dhaka Wasa has 1.061 pumps. It has generators,

divisions of the country including Dhaka in the 24hour period starting from but those are not enough 6:00pm yesterday. to run all the pumps at

thundershowers in eight moderate heat wave will continue in Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions and some parts of Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna

However, the mild to divisions, it added.



Blinken in Riyadh

FROM PAGE 12

considers a pariah over its contested nuclear activities and involvement in regional conflicts.

On Tuesday, the day Blinken arrived, Iran reopened its embassy in Riyadh after a sevenyear closure, with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alireza Bigdeli hailing a "new era" in ties.

On the same day, Prince Mohammed hosted Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, the head of a fellow oil power who has long sparred with Washington.

Last month, in a major shift, Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad attended an Arab League summit in Jeddah, his first since Syria's membership was suspended at the start of its 12-year civil war. Washington criticised the

decision to invite Assad. Yesterday's meeting at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh was attended by Qatar's prime minister among other top Gulf officials.

On the agenda were key regional issues, including conflicts in Yemen, Sudan, Syria and the Palestinian territories, Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson Majid al-Ansari said on Tuesday.

meeting "The undoubtedly constitutes an opportunity to draw a common position here in the region in relation to the United States of

America and to define the form of the American positive influence in region through the partnership with the GCC," he said.

Blinken's visit is aimed at boosting ties the potential for the volatile region.

with longtime ally Saudi normalisation of relations Arabia, which has begun forging closer relations with Washington's rivals. The visit will also focus

Meanwhile, the

on the joint battle against the Islamic State group and the Arab world's

relations with Israel. Blinken had "an open, candid discussion" with the 37-year-old Prince Mohammed in Jeddah, a US official said on

condition of anonymity. "The secretary raised human rights both generally and with regards to specific issues," the official said.

meeting, which The about 100 lasted minutes, touched on topics including Saudi Arabia's support for US evacuations from Sudan, the need for political dialogue in Yemen and

The two men discussed "our shared priorities, including countering terrorism through the D-ISIS Coalition, achieving peace in Yemen, and deepening economic and scientific cooperation", Blinken

with Israel.

said on social media. Since announcing resumed relations with Iran in March, Saudi Arabia has restored ties with Tehran ally Syria and ramped up a push for peace in Yemen, where it has for years led a military coalition against the Iran-

backed Huthi rebels. Regional heavyweights Saudi Arabia and Iran have been at loggerheads for years, backing opposing sides in a number of conflicts around the

Two die of diarrhoea in Rangamati FROM PAGE 12

Confirming the outbreak, Baghaichhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rumana Akter said the disease is spreading mainly because of drinking water.

Baghaichhari Upazila Health Complex's Medical Officer Arbindu Chakma said he was already instructed to send a medical team there.

Initially, saline has also been supplied in the areas from nearby BGB BOP.

Arvindu Chakma said, "We have already left for Sajek with the necessary medicine saline and water purification tablets. It will take a day to reach the remote villages from Konglak Para of Sajek on foot."

INTERNATIONAL

Air India sends plane after USbound jet stops in Russia

AFP, New Delhi

Air India said yesterday it had sent a relief airplane after a jet from New Delhi to San Francisco had to land in eastern Russia with an engine problem.

The flight with 216 passengers and 16 crew was diverted to Magadan on Russia's eastern coast, over 5,900 kilometres (3,670 miles) from Moscow on

Tuesday night. With "infrastructural limitations around the remote airport", passengers were put up in "makeshift accommodation" in the town, Air India said.

"Our ferry flight AI195 from Mumbai to Magadan, Russia is now airborne," Air India said in a statement, noting it was expected to arrive at 6:30 am yesterday (1930 GMT yesterday).

"The aircraft operating the ferry flight will take all passengers and crew onward to San Francisco", it added.

VIOLENCE IN INDIA'S MANIPUR

Army steps up security after family burnt alive

REUTERS, Guwahati

Indian security forces stepped up operations to prevent further violence in Manipur state yesterday after a seven-year-old boy, his mother and a relative were burnt alive when a crowd set fire to an ambulance ferrying them to a hospital.

Theboywasbeingrushed for medical treatment on Sunday night after he was shot amidst deadly ethnic clashes between tribal groups and the majority Meitei community in the northeastern state.

Indian Army The yesterday said it had launched operations in hill and valley areas across Manipur "to dominate sensitive areas and recover snatched weapons". "Locals in possession of such weapons being urged to surrender them to the Security Forces for the sake of peace & harmony," the army said on Twitter. The ethnic violence in the state began in early May when tribal groups clashed with the Meitei community, worried that the economic quotas and benefits granted to them would also be extended to the Meiteis.



A view shows a flooded area after the Nova Kakhovka dam breached, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kherson yesterday. Inset, police evacuate local residents from flooded area. PHOTO: REUTERS

NOVA KAKHOVKA DAM COLLAPSE **Ukrainians face** disease, homelessness

Floodwaters crest across a swathe of south; Ukrainian troops advance in Bakhmut

REUTERS, Kherson

Ukrainians abandoned their inundated homes as floodwaters crested across a swathe of the south yesterday after the destruction of a vast dam on the front line between Russian and Ukrainian forces that each blamed on the other.

Residents waded through flooded streets carrying children on their shoulders, dogs in their arms and belongings in plastic bags while rescuers used rubber boats to search areas where the waters reached above head height.

Ukraine said the flood would leave hundreds of thousands of people without access to drinking water, swamp tens of thousands of hectares of agricultural land and turn more into deserts.

had fought off the attack. Residents in the flood zone in the country's south blamed the bursting of the dam on Russian troops who controlled it from their positions on the opposite bank. "They hate us," Reva said. "They

want to destroy a Ukrainian nation and Ukraine itself. And they don't care by what means because nothing is sacred for them."



towns and villages lie in lowlands below the dam. Residents there have told Reuters by telephone that Russian troops patrolling the streets in waders were threatening civilians who approached.

17 settlements with a combined population of 16,000 people.

The sheer magnitude of the catastrophe will only become fully realised in the coming days," UN aid chief Martin Griffiths told the Security Council.

Targeting dams in war is explicitly banned by the Geneva Conventions. Neither side has presented public evidence demonstrating who was to blame.

"The whole world will know about this Russian war crime," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in his nightly address, calling it "an environmental bomb of mass destruction".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Ukraine had sabotaged the dam to distract attention from a new counteroffensive he said was

GLOBAL WARMING Arctic summer ice cap to disappear in 2030s Say scientists

AFP, Paris

The Arctic Ocean's ice cap will disappear in summer as soon as the 2030s and a decade earlier than thought, no matter how aggressively humanity draws down the carbon pollution that drives global warming, scientists said Tuesday.

Even capping global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius in line with the Paris climate treaty will not prevent the north pole's vast expanse of floating ice from melting away in September, they reported in Nature Communications.

"It is too late to still protect the Arctic summer sea ice as a landscape and as a habitat," co-author Dirk Notz, a professor at the

FOOD, ENERGY CRISIS 10billion global population 'unsustainable'

AFP, Oslo

US special climate envoy John Kerry told AFP that the world's population will not be tenable in 2050, when it is projected to hit nearly 10 billion, but refrained from asking Americans to give up steaks.

Since November, the global population has officially crossed eight billion, more than three

times the figure in 1950. This has already stretched food and energy needs and supplies. UN projections say the figure will balloon to 9.7 billion in the middle of the century.

"I don't think it's sustainable personally," he said in an interview on Tuesday. "We need to figure out how we're going to deal with the issue of sustainability and the numbers of people we're trying

to take care of on the planet."

Global warming is exacerbating the problem. The 2015 Paris Agreement calls for capping global warming at "well below" two degrees Celsius and 1.5C if possible.

Producing food for eight billion mouths accounts for over a fourth of greenhouse gas emissions.

"I've been to a number of African countries where they're very proud of their increased birth rate but the fact is, it's unsustainable for life today, let alone when you add the future numbers," Kerry said.

CNN chief Chris Licht is out

CNN ONLINE

Chris Licht, the embattled chief executive and chairman of CNN, whose brief one-year tenure at the network was stained by a series of severe missteps, announced yesterday that he will depart the company. "I met with Chris and he will be leaving CNN," David Zaslav, the chief executive of parent company Warner Bros. Discovery, told CNN employees at the start of the network's daily editorial call yesterday. Licht's departure, which came days after a devastating 15,000-word profile in The Atlantic, capped a tumultuous year for CNN, marked by layoffs, historically low ratings, and rock-bottom employee morale. Zaslav told CNN employees that the company is "in the process of conducting a wide search," both internally and externally, for a new network chief.

2024 WHITE HOUSE BID Trump foe Chris enters race

REUTERS

Former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie on

The disaster at the Nova emergency in the parts of Kherson Kakhovka dam coincided with the province it controls, where many apparent start of a long-awaited counteroffensive by Ukrainian forces, seen as the next major phase of the war. Each side accused the other of continuing to shell across the floodzone and warned of drifting landmines unearthed by the flooding.

Kyiv said yesterday its troops in the east had advanced by more than a kilometre around the deputy chief Oleksiy Kuleba said. ruined city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine, its most explicit claim of progress since Russia reported the start of the Ukrainian offensive this week. Russia said it

Ukraine expects the floodwaters will stop rising by the end of yesterday after reaching around five metres overnight, presidential

Two thousand people had been evacuated so far from the Ukrainian-controlled part of the flood zone, and the water level had reached its highest level in

"faltering".

Washington said it was still gathering evidence about who was to blame, but that Ukraine would have had no reason to inflict such devastation on itself.

"Why would Ukraine do this to its own territory and people, flood its land, force tens of thousands of people to leave their homes - it doesn't make sense," Deputy US Ambassador to the UN Robert Wood told reporters.

Even as the evacuation was under way, Russia shelled Ukrainianheld territory across the river. The governor of the region said one person was killed.

University of Hamburg's Institute of Oceanography, told AFP.

Decreased ice cover has serious impacts over time on weather, people and ecosystems globally.

"It can accelerate global warming by melting permafrost laden with greenhouse gases, and sea level rise by melting the Greenland ice sheet," lead author Seung-Ki Min, a researcher at Pohang University of Science and Technology in South Korea, told AFP.

Tuesday launched his 2024 presidential campaign with a withering attack on the Republican front-

runner, Donald Trump, calling him a "self-serving mirror hog" and faulting other rivals for avoiding direct confrontation. Christie, 60, was an adviser to Trump's successful 2016 White House campaign but has since become a vocal critic over the former president's false claims that the 2020 election was rigged. A former federal prosecutor,

Christie presented himself as the lone Republican contender willing to go toe-to-toe with the bellicose Trump.

Will discuss relook at total ban Says Karnataka CM on cow slaughter

AGENCIES

AMID protests by the BJP over a statement by Indian's Karnataka Animal Husbandry Minister K Venkatesh indicating that the Congress government would amend the stringent cow slaughter Act passed by the previous BJP regime, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah weighed in, saying the matter was on their table.

Speaking to reporters Monday, Siddaramaiah said the Cabinet was yet to discuss the issue and there was "no decision yet", reports The Indian Express.

However, he went on to refer to the version of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act passed in 1964, and pointed out that it did not restrict the slaughter of cattle above 12 years, barren cows and other cows not fit for agricultural purposes.

"They (the BJP) amended it once. We reverted it to the earlier provisions. They have amended it again. We will discuss it in the Cabinet meeting," the CM said.

The BJP held protests in parts of the state Monday against the statement made by Venkatesh last week, responding to media queries, that though the government had not taken a call on the legislation yet, they would discuss it and take a decision.

Under the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, passed in 2020, cattle were designated as "cow, calf of a cow and bull, bullock and he or she buffalo", and their slaughter banned. The only exemptions under the Act are for buffaloes above the age of 13 and certified by a competent authority as fit for slaughter.



Members of Inter University Students' Federation throw stones towards the riot police during an anti-government protest against alleged government efforts to undermine free education by permitting the setting up of private universities, and demand a change to the governance system, in Colombo, Sri Lanka yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

2 dead, 5 hurt in US school shooting

AFP, Washington

Two people were killed and five injured Tuesday during a shooting near a high school graduation in the US state of Virginia, police said, the latest in an epidemic of mass shootings plaguing the country.

The shooting took place around 5:00 pm (2100 GMT) outside a theater in the state capital of Richmond, where students from a local high school were celebrating their graduation, Richmond interim police chief Rick Edwards told reporters.

The deceased included an 18-year-old graduate and a 36-year-old man, he added. Of the five injured, one remained in critical condition. "People scattered, it was very chaotic at the scene," Edwards said.

nineteen-year-old А suspect fled the scene, but was soon arrested and is to be charged with second-degree murder. Edwards said.

EDITORIAL

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Power sector must answer for its failure

Frequent outages amid heatwaves lay bare its dysfunctional state

Amid unforgiving heatwaves, acute power outages are hurting the nation, and the reason, in case there was still any doubt, lies in the inefficiency of the power sector. According to a recent report, only one third of power plants are currently running at full capacity. The country has 153 power plants, and apart from the fully operational 49, at least 51 are producing at less than half the capacity, while 53 others have been completely shut, leading to the current debacle. Energy security is a key requirement for any state, and the current situation is yet another example of how the government's approach lacks the foresight needed to ensure that.

Over the past decade or so, the government has invested heavily in large-scale projects, defying warnings of energy experts. One of those projects, Payra Power Plant, shut down this week due to a coal shortage and overdue bills worth \$390 million. Rampal is also producing at half its capacity due to complications surrounding opening Letters of Credit to import coal. It's an irony that despite having a higher power generation capacity than needed, Bangladesh is struggling with unmet demand, largely due to its ill-advised overreliance on outsiders, undertaking collusive deals and empowering fossil-fuel plants. These plants, even when sitting idle, receive payments in capacity charges, in a sheer wastage of public funds. It is beyond unfair that people are continuously having to pay for such short-sighted decisions of the government.

In Dhaka and other major cities, they have been left without power for many hours a day. The situation is even worse in rural areas. The crisis is also proving to be a blow to the industries, especially the RMG. This calls for an urgent intervention that looks beyond the ongoing dollar crunch, and into longfestering issues that made us vulnerable in the first place.

In the proposed budget for FY2023-24, the government allocated Tk 34, 819 crore to the power sector, and only Tk 994.31 crore to the energy sector. Experts have long called for exploring our own gas reserves and prioritising renewable energy for self-sufficiency and security in the energy sector. The budget allocation, with an inadequate amount for energy development, thus signals that the government would rather maintain the shambolic status quo. This is totally unacceptable. We need proper policies to address our energy vulnerability.

Why are we intent on killing forests?

Chattogram district administration must answer for felling 5,000 trees

It seems that the importance of forests for the well-being of people is completely lost on those running government offices. The latest case in point is the Chattogram district administration, which is currently on a mission to clear out a mangrove forest in the coastal area of Uttar Kattali. The reason? It wants to build a sanctuary for birds and wildlife, and more than 5,000 trees have already been felled to this end. Setting aside the totally ludicrous idea of clearing out a natural habitat of birds to create an artificial one, we are baffled by the administration's move against a mangrove forest. Mangrove forests are not like ordinary forests - they can grow only in a select few locations around the world (like Bangladesh), and their ecosystems and biodiversity are unique. Destroying a mangrove forest would be detrimental to a number of flora and fauna species – both terrestrial and aquatic. Then there's the fact that the forest in question is supposed to be a reserved area under the forest department's jurisdiction. The Chattogram deputy commissioner, however, claimed that it is a khas land recovered from encroachers. It should be noted that the cabinet banned cutting trees in reserved and natural forests following Bangladesh's pledge to end deforestation by 2030. So, whether the forest was on a khas land or not, the Chattogram district administration had no right to cut down those trees, especially since it did not even get the required approval from the forest department – a practice that is, unfortunately, becoming the norm. Bangladesh is currently struggling through the hottest summer in recent memory. We all know how trees can bring down the atmospheric heat. Why then are government agencies sacrificing trees for their ill-conceived projects? The forest department needs to pull its act together and work to expand our measly forest coverage, not watch as others destroy it. And the government must make all its branches fall in line to achieve this goal. Development cannot come at the cost of our trees.

What the law minister's **DSA statement reveals**

ALI RIAZ

BLACK, WHITE AND GREY

is distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, a non-resident senior fellow of the Atlantic Council and president of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS).

Ali Riaz law minister mentioned in parliament.

percent were directly involved with the the United Nations special rapporteur ruling Awami League. Unless there is on extreme poverty and human a serious break in this pattern, we can rights Olivier De Schutter expressed make an informed guess as to who the grave concern over the misuse of the accusers are in the 7,001 cases that the Digital Security Act and urged for the suspension of the law. Despite Demand for scrapping the DSA 2018 international clamouring, the law has been raised since its inception as minister has unequivocally rejected the human rights organisers, journalists, possibility of scrapping the DSA. He,

The brief statement from Law Minister Anisul Huq in parliament on Monday regarding the Digital Security Act (DSA) 2018 is a welcome development in the sense that we finally have a count of the number of cases filed under the law since its introduction in October 2018. The minister informed that, until January 2023, a total of 7,001 cases had been filed under the law. Until now, there was no account from the government that provided a picture on the extent of the use of the law. The law minister, however, has not informed us as to how many people have been accused in these cases. He has deferred it to the home ministry, and we hope at some point the home minister and/or respective officials will come forward to provide this number, too.

The number of cases is staggering by all accounts, but far from surprising to those who have been closely following the wanton use of the law over the past 56 months. Instead, it only reaffirmed what national and international human rights organisations have been saying: it is a draconian law. The number of cases in 52 months, as provided by the law minister, shows that 134 cases have been filed on average each month, which means the average number of cases filed each day was 4.48 (or roughly five cases a day).

Although this piece of information does not present a comprehensive picture, it does provide a glimpse into the gravity of the situation.

Since January 2020, under a research project sponsored by the Center for Governance Studies (CGS), we have been tracking the use of the DSA since its inception. Gathering data, especially from government sources, has been an uphill task. Saad Hammadi, a human rights activist, requested the data from the police in June 2021. He was given a runaround. Drawing on various sources, as of May 31, 2023, we have been able to track 1,325 cases in which 4,121 individuals have been accused. The data show that the average number of people accused in each case was 3.11. There are no reasons to believe that there is



Demand for scrapping the DSA has been raised since its inception.

1,454 had been arrested - which is roughly one in three accused. Based on that pattern, of the 21,770 accused, it is safe to say at least 7,692 were arrested. That would mean that the average number of arrests per month was 137, roughly five individuals a day. This number should give pause to anyone and make them realise how widespread the use of the DSA has been for the past 56 months.

The primary reason for being accused and arrested under the law is expressing contrarian views in cyberspace. Anyone expressing a view that annoys the government and supporters of the ruling party has been subjected to persecution through the use of this law. Over the years, the DSA has become the weapon of choice for ruling party activists. Research data published in our report in February 2023 – titled "What's happening: Trends and Patterns of the Digital Security Act 2018 in Bangladesh") have documented that 39.13 percent a different pattern in the total number of the cases were filed by individuals of cases. As such, we can extrapolate affiliated with political parties, 22.17

and members of civil society could foresee the impacts of it on freedom of expression. Yet, ministers and ruling party leaders insisted that it will not hinder freedom but will protect citizens. Occasionally, ministers have recognised that the DSA has been "misused", implying that they are sporadic and an aberration. But witnessing the excessive use of the law and inconsistencies with the fundamental rights of citizens, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) last year recommended that two articles of the law be scrapped and eight amended. The government neither shared the observation with the public, nor acted on the recommendations. On March 31, in the wake of the arrest of a Prothom Alo reporter and a case filed against its editor Matiur Rahman, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk called on the government to immediately suspend the Digital Security Act. He said, "I am concerned that the Digital Security Act is being used across Bangladesh to arrest, harass and

FILE PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

however, has said that the law will be amended by September. The promise to amend the law has been made by ministers many times over the past years, only to be broken repeatedly. In fact, even before the DSA was passed by parliament in September 2018, ministers had promised to editors that the law would be amended.

The figure provided by the law minister reveals the gravity of the situation pertaining to the use of the DSA. Although we won't hold our breath, we hope that the government will release information about the number of individuals accused and detained under the law. Given that most of the offences are considered non-bailable, hundreds of people are languishing in jails as pretrial detainees. Lest we forget that Mushtaq Ahmed, an author, died in jail in February 2022 after being detained for ten months and denied bail six times. But most importantly, the number has once again reminded us that it is time to repeal the DSA 2018 altogether and replace it with a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Heatwave sweeping over the country

The frequency and intensity of heat waves have increased due to climate change, making them a pressing concern. While people of all ages are susceptible to heat-related illnesses, certain groups, such as the elderly, young children, pregnant women, and individuals with pre-existing health conditions, are particularly vulnerable.

By appointing a Chief Heat Officer, implementing urban planning strategies, and fostering collaboration, we can work towards reducing the devastating consequences of heat waves and safeguarding the well-being of the people of Bangladesh.

Thamid Thasin North South University

The Daily Star Reg. No. DA 781

the total cases based on our sample, percent by law enforcement agencies, which will suggest that at least 21,770 and 8.02 percent by government people have been accused. Of our sample of 4,121 individuals, with the political parties, almost 80

officials. Of those who were affiliated

intimidate journalists and human law, developed in consultation with rights defenders, and to muzzle critical voices online." In May, during his trip to Dhaka,

stakeholders, to protect the citizens rather than criminalising freedom of expression.

our democracy is still young and

democratic traditions have not

yet firmly taken root in our social

institutions. We have to recognise

how much of our freedoms are

expression, for instance, is connected

to our ability to access proper

education, participate in politics

without fear, and pursue economic

on literacy and education in our

developmental goals has helped our

country move ahead of our giant

neighbour, as per Nobel laureate

Amartya Sen, in key social indicators of

development. Literacy and education

have been a tool for liberation for

Bangladesh as they had been for Black

people in the US; they let us express

ourselves, engage in civic activities,

and pursue upward mobility. Our

NGOs and social enterprises are lauded

across the world largely because they

have played such an effective role in

bettering education and health for

because we have come so far so fast

that we have to be mindful of the

fact that our capabilities are fragile

and can be easily rolled back. We

risk being complacent over threats

to our broader democratic rights,

especially our freedom of expression,

at our peril, and we also have to ensure

people's right to economic mobility

and democratic participation. The

current fever of book banning in the

US shows how deeply ingrained values

in mature democracies. We have to ask

if we see the canaries in our coal mine.

of freedoms can quickly unravel even

At the same time, it is precisely

Bangladeshis.

The importance we have placed

opportunities unhindered.

Our 'entangled freedoms'



Watching a great writer think out their ideas is always a thing of wonder. I was lucky enough to have this experience when I attended the Arthur Miller Freedom to Write Lecture recently. Given as a part of the annual PEN World Voices Festival, this year's honoree was the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Ta-Nehisi Coates. It was a fascinating lecture that took perennial themes of US-American history and weaved them into something new, timely, and universal. Coates argued for seeing rights as "entangled freedoms", and it made me think about how fragile real freedom is, and what this means for a young democracy such as Bangladesh.

This year, the PEN World Voices Festival focused on the current fever of book bannings in the US, alongside the ever-increasing threats to writing and writers around the world. The curtailment of free speech and writing is especially distressing for the liberal classes in the US, given the values enshrined in the First Amendment with its guarantee of freedom of expression and the press. Yet, values are not not only abstract ideals but things that must be made real through our actions in the world, and the US, despite all its rhetoric, has rarely measured up to its talk meaningfully. Coates laid out the significance of current book bannings in terms of

the history of violence against Black people. He pointed out that literacy was banned for slaves by the slave codes and then censored for their descendants for most of US history through targeted laws such as Jim Crow.

Coates spent much of his lecture on the hurdles placed for Black people against participating in public discourse, and how their critics often appealed to free speech while denying this same right to them. He cited the life of Fredrick Douglas as evidence of the former, and how those enslaved had to persist, hoping that their words would make a difference. He talked about the debates over the movie The Birth of a Nation, recognised for inciting the Ku Klux Klan, the White terrorist organisation, in the 20th century, and how films intended to rectify the movie's fabrications were widely excluded from theatres.

The double standards faced by Black people extend beyond the realm of expression, and to voting and owning property. Coates argued that people's rights and capabilities are interconnected and, in an eloquent turn of phrase, all true freedoms exist entangled. He likens them to a concert and a symphony; they are like music in that they only are real when being performed. The phrase "entangled

freedom" has stuck with me, with expositions on entangled freedoms its inherent semantic contradictions apply to Bangladesh well, where echoing a resonant truth. Only a sensitive writer with a nuanced understanding of the world, and the obligations people have towards one another, could have penned it. interdependent. Our freedom of

I found his point about the experience of Black folk vis-a-vis freedom of expression and the freedom to write and express especially poignant. For the Black population in the US, literacy has been deeply connected with liberation. It marched hand-in-hand with democratic practices such as voting and entering the middle class, particularly through property ownership. These achievements, consequently, were also harder for minorities. This was so because they were capabilities that allowed people full personhood in both private and public contexts privileges only afforded to white men for much of US history.

Our abilities to write books, poetry, and novels, as well as fully participate in society through ownership of property and citizenship rights, all speak to a wider sense of power and freedom. Literature simultaneously symbolises and manifests these capabilities. It is in this complex interconnection that our entangled freedoms emerge. Consequently, book bans and similar acts of intimidation on writers and people's freedom of expression, Coates was saying, also have to be understood as a part of a suite of rollbacks that are widescale economic inequality and the curtailing of voting rights. They are the canary in the coal mines for the collective backsliding on our abilities to improve our material lives and our lives as citizens in a democracy.

I think the lessons of Coates'

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OPINION

Are we aware of aluminium phosphide poisoning?

The lethal gas that may have caused the death of two siblings in Dhaka



Naznin Tithi in the house, which likely led to the death of the two children.

> chemical a few years ago, when a relative was looking for a solution to bed bugs and had hired a pest control agency to get rid of the insects from his house. The agency

aluminium phosphide tablets as a pesticide which the countries have implemented my commute to my office in the capital's antidote for those affected by it? Reportedly, stricter regulations to control the use of Farmgate area, I regularly come across this chemical. The UAE banned pesticides street vendors advertising and selling these I first learned about this life-threatening containing aluminium phosphide for public use back in 2009.

the form of tablets in Bangladesh, largely

tablets (among other pesticides) to people, under the very noses of law enforcers. Once, But aluminium phosphide is available in I asked a street vendor how to use these tablets. He gave me specific directions to being sold by street vendors and used by keep the tablet in a room and stay out of the

The tragic death of two siblings in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area, allegedly from pesticide poisoning, has yet again reminded us how cheap our lives can be in a country that has failed to ensure basic safety and security of its citizens. Sadly, news of unnatural deaths - in road crashes, fire incidents, gas explosions, etc - have become a regular part of our everyday lives. However, the fact that two children would have to die in the "safety" of their own home just because a pest control agency did not do its job properly is inconceivable.

Reportedly, Mobarak Hossain, the father of the two children - Shayan Mobarrat Zahin, 15, an eighth-grader, and Shahir Mobarrat Zayan, 9, a third-grader – hired a pest control agency to rid their home of cockroaches. The employees of the agency spread the pesticides in their house on June 2 and asked the family to stay out of the house for two to three hours. But the family decided to take extra precaution and returned to the house after about 10 hours. Yet, all five family members fell sick soon after arriving home and inhaling the toxic fumes. As the state of the two children deteriorated, they had to be admitted to a private hospital, where both of them passed away.

I was horrified at the news, and the first question that came to my mind was: did the children die of aluminium phosphide poisoning? Aluminum phosphide is a chemical that emits a poisonous gas that not humans. A local news agency later reported



Brothers Shayan Mobarrat Zahin (15) and Shahir Mobarrat Zayan (9) fell sick and passed away likely after inhaling aluminium phosphide gas.

used some tablets to kill the bugs while the entire family was away for a whole day. And this did result in their house being free of bed bugs from thereon.

However, after a brief internet search, I came across news of how people across only kills insects, but is also dangerous for the world, including in the US, UAE, Thailand, and India, had died after

pest control companies.

Reportedly, if aluminium phosphide gas is inhaled by humans, it can prove fatal within hours. And if not treated properly, a majority of the affected may die within 24 hours. The chemical is particularly lethal for children and the elderly. However, in Bangladesh, it is sold

that the pest control company had used inhaling this poisonous gas, following openly for pest control purposes. During use this highly toxic pesticide, which has no

house for at least two days. It is supposed to "work like magic."

Forget about street vendors; professional pest control organisations in Dhaka have been using this lethal chemical for years. The question is: are they using it with approval from the government? Do they have the necessary knowledge and training to safely

the company that used the chemical in the Bashundhara house had told the residents to enter the house two to three hours after the pesticide had been spread – while the gas was still present in the house. This clearly indicates the company's lack of knowledge about the chemicals they are using in fumigating households. Their incompetence and negligence have now possibly caused the deaths of two young children.

According to a BARI official, aluminium phosphide tablets are not banned in the country, but their use is restricted. These tablets are basically meant for use in warehouses to protect foodgrains from insects. They should never be used for household pest control. How, then, are the pest control agencies using them?

Unfortunately, aluminium phosphide is not the only pesticide that is being sold openly in the city. According to Dr Syeda Sultana Razia, a professor at the department of chemical engineering in Buet, many other harmful insecticides which should only be used for pest control in agricultural fields are being sold in the capital's markets, without any monitoring from the authorities.

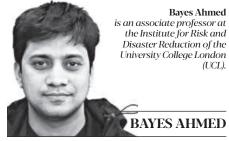
The onus is now on the government to look into the issue and take the required measures to restrict the sale of these lethal chemicals in the country. It is also high time that government authorities learned about pest control from the experiences of developed nations and formulated strict regulations regarding the use of such dangerous chemicals in households. Otherwise, we might see more such deaths from pesticide poisoning in the future.

Since the father of the deceased children has filed a case against the pest control company, it is up to the police now to properly investigate the incident and bring those responsible for the children's death to justice. Such acts of negligence must not go unpunished.

How well can we deal with **LANDSLIDES?**

CROSSWORD	
BY THOMAS JOSEPH	

ACROSS	workers	5 Pigeon's
1 Plotters'	33 Haddock's	perch
group	home	6 Wyoming
6 Some turns	34 Mattress	city
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hearts	37 Smallest	side
13 In the raw	Great Lake	9 Floor workers
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19 Shade	43 Tony winner	26 Menu
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symbols	46 Moved	29 TV's
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25 Bonanza	·	31 Make happy
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outcry	3 Steak sides	42 Arthur of
30 Diamond	4 Put away	TV



Bayes Ahmed on these hills from different parts of the lifestyle and agricultural practices, the monsoon seasons. Unfortunately,

Although landslides are a natural occurrence due to rainfall, recent landslides in Bangladesh have primarily been triggered by human activities. In 1968, landslides were first observed due to damage to the then Kaptai-Chittagong road. The five hilly districts of Chattogram division - Bandarban, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati were significantly affected.

Research has shown that between 1990 and 2010, deforestation took place in nearly 1,130 sq-km of the five hilly districts, and approximately 420 sq-km of land has been transformed into urban areas, indicating extensive hill-cutting.

Notable reasons behind landslides in Bangladesh include construction of settlements without proper planning, cutting down of forests and trees, construction of unplanned settlements on risky slopes, conversion of hills into plots and flats, inappropriate forest management, lack of appropriate cultural knowledge and skills to build houses on hills, population pressure, unplanned urbanisation, extraction of stones from hilly streams and foothills, and lack of coordination among relevant government, autonomous, and nongovernmental institutions.

Usually, two types of communities are found on the hills of Bangladesh. One group consists of Indigenous communities who have lived in the mountains for centuries. The second group consists of local Bangalees, who have lived in these hills for almost a generation. Various information and evidence analyses show that the settlers, mainly Bangalees, face landslide risks. Bangalees living in densely populated urbanised areas (such as upazila sadar or large municipalities) are mainly from extremely poor sections. Due to a lack of adequate civic facilities, they are forced to live on risky slopes. Although most of the hills in Bangladesh are considered government-owned land, and cutting hills is prohibited, a specific class of people are haphazardly settling

country. Within a radius of about half a illegal logging and stone extraction, kilometre, there are facilities such as jobs, adequate roads, schools, markets, banks, playgrounds, medical facilities, etc, which attracts countless low-income people, including climate migrants, towards these hills.

The residents – workers, day labourers, drivers,

construction of roads without sufficient geological surveys and slope stabilisation measures, promotion of unsustainable tourism, and lack of ecological restoration activities.

In the three hill tract districts, usually garment landslides primarily occur in road-cut and hill-cut sections. Communities living

The Chattogram hill districts are very likely to face catastrophic landslides during the monsoon seasons. Unfortunately, Bangladesh is not yet prepared to deal with landslide disasters. FILE PHOTO: STAR/ANVIL CHAKMA/MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

shopkeepers, and small business owners live in rented houses. Hundreds of thousands of people live at risk of landslides on these hills and regularly face various economic and social problems.

One noteworthy aspect of these hills is the cultural differences between the Bangalees and the Indigenous communities. The Indigenous people traditional and deep-rooted have cultural knowledge about which slope of the hills to build their homes on and what kind of materials to use. They also know how to cultivate and earn a living on the mountains and how to survive in a challenging environment. Their houses are built on bamboo stilts, and the roofs are thatched using bamboo leaves. These homes are not designed to withstand severe weather conditions, but are resilient against landslides. However, in recent years, the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) region has become vulnerable to landslides due to changes in Indigenous

in funnel-shaped locations surrounded by hills are marked as highly risky. This scenario is common for most of the hilly towns and municipalities in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Rohingya crisis has added another dimension to the landslide vulnerability in Cox's Bazar. Currently, the district is hosting over one million refugees who have faced serious crimes against humanity in Myanmar and fled to Bangladesh. A vast protected hilly forest was quickly converted into a megainformal settlement by cutting hills and destroying forests. This changed the entire local forest ecosystem and hilly landscape. As a result, the Rohingya residing in the camps also face the risk of major landslides and flash floods every year. Similar landslide vulnerability also exists in other neighbouring upazilas and for host communities in Cox's Bazar.

Given the overall context, the Chattogram hill districts are very likely to face catastrophic landslides during

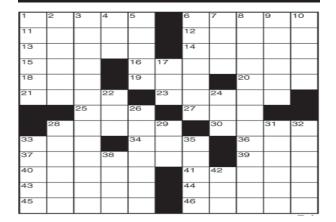
Bangladesh is not yet prepared to deal with landslide disasters. We do not even have national or regional landslide early warning systems (LEWS). Some organisations and academic institutions are trying to develop and introduce the country's first LEWS. However, those systems or technologies are still ineffective or have not gone through scientific validation and recalibration.

Landslides should be categorised as major human-made disasters. Detailed scientific research should be conducted on each hill's geographical, geological, topographical, geotechnical, soil, and land use aspects in those hilly districts. Using scientific methods, landslide hazard and risk maps for each upazila should be prepared to identify risky hills and communities at risk of landslides. Also, an effective LEWS should be introduced by integrating all four major components risk knowledge, forecasting systems, dissemination and communication, and preparedness and response capacities. This will enable people living in vulnerable areas to evacuate to safe places days in advance of a potential landslide disaster.

We also need to assess the economic and social status of those living on the hills, with regular surveys conducted to analyse their dynamic social vulnerability. Furthermore, high-risk hill-dwelling populations in particular should be evacuated to shelters during the rainy season every year. Provisions for landslide shelters should be created, and vulnerable people should be given temporary residence there during periods of extreme rainfall. A comprehensive risk-sensitive land use plan should be produced and implemented for the hill districts in Chattogram, and the northeastern Sylhet region. The plan should include community-friendly anticipatory actions and a forecast-based financing mechanism, and promote nature-based solutions to tackle landslide disasters.

Finally, a permanent and high-level landslide task force should be formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, involving all key stakeholders such as the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization, Geological Survey of Bangladesh, and other government, autonomous, nongovernment and intergovernmental organisations, community leaders, and the general public.

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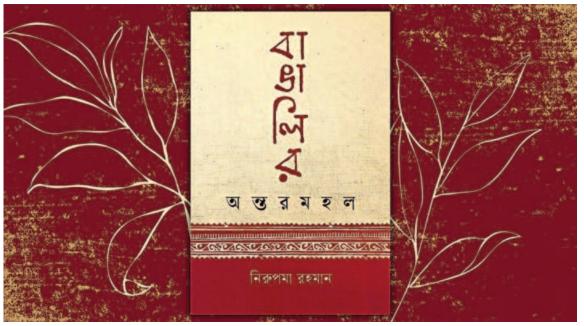


YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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ESSAY

A personal quest to explore the core essence of 'Bengaliness'



BOOK COVER DESIGN: SABYASACHI HAZRA: COLLAGE: MAISHA SYEDA

NIRA RAHMAN

As an academic, I find the discussions around positionality and intersectionality fascinating. I enjoy delving into questions around 'sense of self', how our identity is constructed, how language and culture shape our thoughts, learning styles and ability as well as how we interpret the world around us. These questions seem significant for my academic work around education design and developing pedagogical practices in higher education. While exploring and examining how diverse students and migrants represent their 'sense of

started to ponder about my 'sense of self' and how other Bengalis around me represent their Bengali identity.

I started questioning who or what is the 'Bengali', beyond our history, emotion, and heightened sense of self. What defines us? What are our defining moments? What makes us who we are? Realising 'Bangaliyana' is still at the very centre of my identity even after living away from Bangladesh for more than 20 years, I started to contemplate what is 'Bangaliyana' or what lies at the core of that 'Bengaliness'. Is it just a thousand years of our shared yet turbulent history? Or is it just our self' in academic and social settings, I intense and melodramatic emotions? book. Hence, the word Ondormohol identity and the juxtaposition of

healthy(!) ego?

In my maiden literary work, Bangalir Ontormohol, published by Baatighar, I tried to find the answers to these and related questions. As a Bengali myself, I tried to interpret and examine the sense of 'Bengaliness' (Bangaliyana) in the 21st century context through the prism of philosophical, social, cultural, Bengalis consciously (or unconsciously) define themselves by. In my book, I explore and explain the Bangali culture, language, community, attitudes and values in its entirety. What does it mean to be 'Bangali'? How do the actions and experiences of our ancestors inform our actions and experiences in the present? How does our language express and betray who we are? Through this book, I want to take my readers on a journey to explore, reflect, and contemplate our identity now, and what it means for our future.

What does the title Bangalir Ontormohol mean? The word Ontormohol was word-smithed and evolved from the word Ondormohol which means intimate and personal space of the house. So, if we consider the 'Bangali' sense of self (i.e. 'Bengaliness') as a whole domain, in this book I tried to capture the intricate, intimate, enchanting and exquisite aspects of 'Bengaliness'. This book, which is a compilation of 10 essays, explores with readers the core aspects of 'Bengaliness' that we proudly term as 'Bangaliyana'. I aim to take my readers for an exploration to the intimate and personal space of 'Bengaliness' through the different chapters of this

Or is it our heightened sense of self and transformed to Ontormohol as Ontor, meaning 'heart', keeps the concept of core essence attached to the domain of 'Bengaliness'. The title brings a greater nuance using a rather unusual Bangla word to express the concept of inner space.

To define 'Bengaliness' or who we are in the 21st century, I tried to delve deep using my own positionality historic, linguistic, global perspectives and intersectionality into language, culture, history, literature, philosophy, social mores and even the gastronomic tradition of the Bengalis. Bengalis in the 21st century who are now globalised claim to be internationalised, yet are in fact very traditional and conventional with their deep-rooted heightened sense of self. Hence, we are often confused and often mystified with our identity and positionality. It often seems from time to time, we are unable to define 'who we are' and 'what makes us "us".

Through different chapters of the book, I used my own experiences and journey to define, explore, and analyse various perspectives and aspects around what it means to be a Bengali, in terms of both the singular and the community identity. I used common jargons, proverbs, and colloquial terminologies of Bangla as resources for social analysis to understand the psyche, disposition and socio-cultural inclination of the Bengalis of the 21st century

This book also talks about the Bengali diaspora and their positionality and the construct of their intersectionality in their adopted homelands. It too included the discussion around the unique aspects of globalised Bengali

deep-rooted Bengali identity with intersectionality of global citizenship. Using my personal anecdotes, I also showcase music as an innate component to describe and define the sense of self and intersectional identities of Bengali migrants. Bengali cuisine and delicacies being vital to any Bengali, in this book I included a chapter where the idea of 'Bengaliness' was portrayed through the enthusiasm and evolution around Bengali cuisine and gastronomy! I also dealt with the social constructs around gender and its contradictory nature around philosophical, spiritual beliefs with common social displays and actions in different chapters.

K()()|

The various examples I used in each chapter to engage the reader in comprehending the sense of ever evolving 'Bengaliness' could be described as bewildering, ambiguous, or enigmatic. However, all of these contradictions, confusions and inconsistencies contribute to and encapsulate the resilient spirit and eternal core essence of 'Bengaliness': Bangalir Ontormohol.

Read an extended version of this article on The Daily Star website and on Star Books & Literature's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

Dr Nira (Nirupoma) Rahman is an academic at the Arts Teaching Innovation in the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne. She also regularly writes for Australian and Bangladeshi (in both English and Bangla) media on various topics that connect her academic interests to her personal insights around culture. language and identity.

BOOK REVIEW: NONFICTION Professing criticism

'Midnight's Third Child' by Naeem Mohaiemen (Nokta & ULAB Press, 2023)

MINHAZ MUHAMMAD

The South African critic Derek Attridge champions the term 'affirmative criticism'.



phrases, the strange time-untethered setting reminded me of the prose of Polish writer Bruno Schulz. Perhaps it's because I don't have the Bangla leaflet with me, and thus, I am not able to enter into the translation without any specific expectations. But in any case, it was far from being ineffective. The few pieces in that exhibition that had used English, Mohaiemen observed, did not retain "the frenzied energy, and density of reference". As it's clear from his own translation, it is perhaps less about the language itselfwhich comes off as spritely, dynamic and vital-and more about whom and how they're deploying it. But even with his reservations, Mohaiemen remains a staunch admirer of all the works he discusses. With respect to Datta's, he goes as far as to suggest learning Bangla to enjoy the works in their full capacity. One might find this a bit inconsistent. Why is he advocating for Bangla, when he is writing in English? Maybe he is writing back to an international audience of Bangladeshi art, who, as he mentions, even now see the best of Bangladeshi art to be produced outside of it, in the diaspora. He is creating a necessary archive, establishing dialogue, much in the way of Attridge with his affirmative criticism. Sometimes, they are quite literal-the interviews with Shahidul Alam, Dhali Al Mamoon, for instance, and sometimes he achieves that obliquely-the two beautiful essays (and quite possibly the best among the ones that I have read on these works) on Babu Bangladesh and In the Light of What We Know. He remains optimistic, open to possibilities, sometimes inserting his wishes for these works. When he writes about the socialist realism strain in documentary photography, he never denigrates the work, even though some of the popular and award winning images are made and received with the impression that they are capable of actual changes, when they clearly aren't, and to an uninformed audience, issues such as queer love and climate resilience may end up being misrepresented and cause more harm than becoming a positive catalyst. In fact, he writes with astonishing clarity, but never definitively. Each essay / interview feels like an invitation to think with him. There's a lot to be gained, just from the sheer breadth of exploration, to someone with cursory knowledge of Bangladeshi art. But for the completely uninitiated? This is a well-rounded primary education.

It is different from scholarship, which is often, but not limited to discovering the ideological faultline of a text / artwork, measuring the silences and the text's capacity to betray itself. It is also not what pervades in much of popular media-a run-down of different factoids that are inherent and obvious to the artwork, followed by a sweeping conclusion about the writer's judgment toward the work, or in other words, a quantification of value. Affective criticism is a different approach, where the scholarship is present, but it's rooted in admiration, the critic inhabiting the role of the lover of the work. It's a difficult position, one that is close to an activist rather than a critic (at least a traditionally defined one) with the negative connotations of the noun form of the word. But it seems appropriate, a fitting part for Naaem Mohaimen, within the boundaries of his brilliant and luminous

> This is a useful framework in thinking about Mohaiemen's chief concerns: the historiography of Bangladeshi art, the hegemonic setting and control of narrative, the formation of an inclusive canon. He delineates two ways artists and cultural workers at large have typically conducted themselves, either moving closer to the axis of power or becoming productive antagonists.

essay collection, Midnight's Third Child. The constellation of subjects that appear in this book are as much about many forms of art-cinema, visual art, and literatureas they are about their possible responses. To give a sense of the range of the essays, Mohaiemen writes on and about Joydeb Roaza, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mrinal Sen, Advertising Agencies, Tareq Masud, Shahidul Alam, Pathshala, Chobi Mela, Sarker Protick, Taslima Nasreen, Rubaiyat Hossain, Dhali Al Mamoon, Zia Haider

BOOK COVER IMAGE: ALI MORSHED NOTON; DESIGN: SARAH ANJUM BARI

Rahman, Numair Chowdhury, and Tayeba Begum Lipi among others. Mohaiemen is an anthropologist, filmmaker, author. and Associate Professor of Visual Arts at Columbia University, New York.

In his introduction to the collection, Mohaiemen provides an account of the strange but amusing name of the book. Midnight's Third Child is a polite translation of a phrase that is frequently used by Bengalis: "Chagol'er tritiyo baccha lafay beshi" (the goat's third child jumps more). It suggests that the youngest need to strive more for sustenance. The assertion is that Bangladesh, in its long and shared history with India and Pakistan, was the last to gain independence, and its geographic and economic formations have made it such that the country needs to do more than its fair share to attract global attention. But the term is also employed as a cheeky metaphor, by riffing on Salman Rushdie's landmark postcolonial novel *Midnight's Children* (1981). Other than the obvious allusion, the title seems to echo a sentiment that is often attached with Rushdie's novel—the empire writes back.

This is a useful framework in thinking about Mohaiemen's chief concerns: the historiography of Bangladeshi art, the hegemonic setting and control of narrative, the formation of an inclusive canon. He delineates two ways artists and cultural workers at large have typically conducted themselves, either moving

closer to the axis of power or becoming he's all for it, in the works of Razib Datta productive antagonists. The subjects in his book have occupied the latter position. Although the book is written in English, he has plenty of doubt to dispense about the language, its usefulness, acceptance, and communicability when it comes to writing and creating art in Bangladesh.

In 2019, Depart Magazine slanted its door permanently following its 22nd issue. Its sizable archive is still online, easily accessible, and its print issues can be found occasionally in Dhaka's bookstores. JAMINI, another art magazine, quite possibly has folded its cover in recent times as well. The major similarity between these two magazines, other than their premature extinction, is the language they operated in: English. "Since the English language occupies a microscopic space, what is the impetus for having two English language art journals? What is their future?' Mohaiemen asks in an essay, originally published in 2017. The answer points to a grim reality. Unlike India, where English has been embraced by people from all walks of life (a broad generalization, I am aware), in Bangladesh, English, till this date, has remained as the language of the elite, or "Bananibashi" as he sarcastically calls them in different parts of the book.

In a different essay, on a panel discussion at a group show, Mohaiemen finds himself at the center of a conversation about the proliferation of text in artworks. While

he observes the use of English to express different sentiments as "awkward and inert". Later on, when he's invited to Datta's group show, he notices even more text, but this time in Bangla. While in the past the English lended an "unintended, unproductive abstraction to the work", the utilization of Bangla had been "masterful". The witty and agile use of the language seemed to him from an earlier archaic spirit, and its boundary pushing, colloquial use in lieu of the more established literary form reminded Mohaiemen of chotis (smuts) and the little magazines of the country. Yet, reading his translation of a leaflet from the exhibition, I find it to be quite the opposite of his claim.

"That day was also another, like today. Rabindranath came to Iqbal Road at the invitation of Allama Iqbal. That day too was morning. After finishing a breakfast of naan-tehari-etc, Rabindranath went for a walk. He had not yet become a tagore. He was still on his own, where today there is Calcutta Herbal, and the air is filled with Hindi songs, Rabindranath found a stray clay pitcher. It was sealed at the top. Hiding his discovery under a long cloak, itself a gift from the great Iqbal, Rabindranath took refuge in a dark corner of Iqbal Road field. After saying his Indian prayers three times, he opened the pitcher and found inside a golden frog...²

The run-on sentences, repetition of Minhaz Muhammad is a contributor.





T SPORTS WTC Final Australia vs India

Day 2 Live from 3:30 pm

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Live from 7:00 pm

Rakib adds to injury woes

SPORTS REPORTER

had joined the preparation camp despite contending with injuries, but none of them could train with the ball on the third day of the camp at the Bashundhara Kings Arena. Tapu and Rimon were only seen stretching alongside their teammates.

take any risk with them in the friendly matches against Cambodia. We are expecting both to recover fully before the start of the SAFF Championship."

Tapu and Badsha are proven and experienced defenders in the 30-member squad, which also includes two more stoppers: rookie Mehedi Hasan of Mohammedan and Tarique Raihan Kazi of Bashundhara Kings. Right-back Bishwanath Ghosh has also been deployed in a more central role in the past.

"Rakib sustained a [hamstring] injury yesterday [Tuesday]. We will know more about his condition after tests," said the assistant coach, hoping that Rakib would also recover fully before the SAFF campaign.

"Rakib is a key player and is in our plans. There is no problem with the players in terms of fitness but we are wary of how soon they can recover from their injuries. It will be tough for Bangladesh to take part in the SAFF Championship without those experienced players.'

Forward Rakib Hossain was the latest to join Bangladesh's mounting injury list after centre-back Tutul Hossain Badsha was all but ruled out of the SAFF Championship, scheduled to begin in India on June 21.

Defenders Tapu Barman, Badsha and Rimon Hossain

The physio and doctor are working with them. Tapu and Rimon have improved but Badsha is uncertain. The doctor advised him to not wear the boots for two weeks due to a fungal problem in both feet. Badsha is in a difficult position," assistant coach Hasan Al Mamun told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

There was no problem found with Tapu's hamstring after the test but he needs to improve the strength in his hamstring. He is in recovery mode while Rimon has an ankle injury and is also recovering," Mamun added.

"They are experienced and vital players, so we cannot

Messi moving to Miami?

REUTERS

Lionel Messi will snub a lucrative contract in Saudi Arabia and move to Major League Soccer side Inter Miami as a fter parting ways with French champion Paris

Tariq Kazi jumps as Eleta Kingsley goes through the paces during a training session of the national football team at the Bashundhara Kings Arena yesterday as the team continued their build-up for the upcoming SAFF Championship. PHOTO: FTROZ AHMED

Can Mirpur track help pacers turn the tables?

SPORTS REPORTER

Afghanistan named a 15-man squad for the one-off Test against Bangladesh, starting from June 14, and the biggest takeaway was the absence of key spin threat Rashid Khan, who was reportedly being rested.

The Afghan spin wizard had taken 11 wickets in two innings Afghanistan dismantled as Bangladesh's batting line-up in the only Test between the sides in Chattogram in 2019, thumping the hosts by 224 runs.

This time around, the Tigers' squad was shaped by picking five pacers, suggesting that Afghanistan's spin threat may be countered by pace-friendly wickets. But how much has Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla favoured pace over the years? A look at the last 10 Tests in

No Rashid for Afghanistan

Ace spinner Rashid Khan was the notable omission as Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced a 15-member squad for one-off Test against Bangladesh, starting at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from June 14.

AFGHANISTAN SQUAD

Hashmatullah Shahidi (C), Rahmat Shah (VC), Afsar Zazai (WK), Ikram Alikhail (WK), Ibrahim Zadran, Abdul Malik, Baheer Shah, Nasir Jamal, Karim Janat, Zahir Khan,

picked three spinners along with three pacers but the pacers did not get enough help, with Ebadot Hossain's three for 37 the only example of pace leaving an impact. Will it create more controversy if pacers do not get what is being sought and results go against Bangladesh?

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) arranged a workshop on Turf and Outfield Management at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, which ended yesterday. Ian Joseph, head of Turf Management of New Zealand Cricket was conducting the workshop and believed it was possible to create pace-friendly wickets here.

He felt it was a myth that pacefriendly wickets were not possible to achieve in the nation. "I think that's a bit of a myth. It's up to the skills of the curator to carefully manage

Asian Tour welcomes PGA-LIV merger

AFP, Singapore

The Asian Tour called it "a massive stride forward" for golf Wednesday after the PGA Tour announced a shock merger with the Saudi-backed LIV circuit, ending the sport's twoyear civil war.

Tuesday's stunning announcement took many in the sport, including players, by surprise and means that all litigation between the feuding parties is over.

The Asian Tour said the agreement "validates" its decision last year to link up with LIV Golf. which made an initial commitment of more than \$200 million to the tour.

LIV is bankrolled by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) and had sparked accusations of "sportswashing" -- using sport to deflect from the country's human rights record.

Separately, the PGA of Australia said it had held talks with the PGA Tour and DP World Tour -- formerly the European Tour -- overnight to "discuss the details of the agreement".



Head leads Australia fightback

AFP. London

Travis Head scored an impressive half century as Australia reached 170-3 against India at tea on the

St Germain, the BBC reported on Wednesday.

Messi, who played his final game for PSG over the weekend, was also linked with a return to Barcelona but the Spanish club have had their hands tied due to LaLiga's financial fair play rules.

Should the deal with Miami go through, the 35-year-old Argentine will play outside Europe for the first time since he joined Barca's academy at the age of 13 and became the Spanish club's all-time record goalscorer with 672 goals.

Messi had wanted to go to a club where he could eventually have an ownership stake, a source with knowledge of the negotiations told Reuters this week. He also wanted to maximise his existing deal with Adidas and MLS's relationship with Apple.

MLS earns a flat fee of about \$200 million per year from Apple until it reach a certain threshold of subscriptions, after which point they will earn a share of the revenue from those subscriptions.

Mirpur, starting with a 20-run win against Australia, shows that stats heavily support the theory of spinfriendly Mirpur tracks. Spinners have taken 223 wickets compared to the 96 scalped by pacers. Approximately 70 per cent wickets in Mirpur have been claimed by spinners, which signals the dominance spin has held at Mirpur.

The last time Bangladesh played Afghanistan in a Test, the Tigers fielded four front-line spinners in Shakib Al Hasan, Taijul Islam, Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Naveem Hasan. The selection choice with no front-line pacers in the playing eleven created a furore. This time

Izharulhaq Naweed, Hamza Hotak, Ibrahim Abdulrahimzai, Yamin Ahmadzai and Nijat Masoud.

Bangladesh picked two spinners in Mehedi and Taijul, with Shakib out injured for the series.

Bangladesh are likely to pick a pace-heavy attack given that only two specialist spinners are available. But what if the wicket behaves similarly to how it did during the last Test at Mirpur against Ireland in April this year?

In that instance, Bangladesh

the pitch and its preparation and to deliver a quality surface. There have been a number of games that had been played in Bangladesh where the pitches have played very well. I am confident that the pitches will only improve further with the curator training programme and by sharing our knowledge," Ian told reporters.

However, the stats still showed where pace and spin stand in terms of dominating proceedings.

Bangladesh's squad has already been shaped by a certain understanding that pace will hold value in the upcoming Test but if the surface is a true one at Mirpur, it is the batters who have to respond.

> Haddad Maia puts **Brazil back** on map

AFP, Paris

Beatriz Haddad Maia became the first Brazilian woman to reach a Grand Slam semi-final since 1968 on Wednesday when she came back from a set down to defeat Ons Jabeur at the French Open.

World number 14 Haddad Maia came through 3-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-1 and will face top-ranked defending champion Iga Swiatek in Saturday's championship match.

The 27-year-old lefthander follows in the footsteps of seven-time major winner Maria Bueno who was the last Brazilian woman in the semi-finals of a major at the US Open 55 years ago.

"Ons is not easy to play against, you have to be patient but I believed in my body and tried to keep my rhythm," said Haddad Maia.

opening day of the World Test Championship final at the Oval.

Australia struggled after losing the toss in bowler-friendly conditions but as the sun burst through the clouds in south London on Wednesday, the runs started to flow.

Middle-order batsman Head was 60 not out at the break and Steve Smith unbeaten on 33 -- the pair had added 94 runs after coming together at 76-3 soon after lunch.

India captain Rohit Sharma elected to bowl under overcast skies and on a green-tinged pitch that promised to assist a four-man pace attack.

The WTC remains the only major men's cricket trophy Australia have yet to win.

The fixture also marks the start of a packed schedule of six Tests in eight weeks for Australia, including a five-match Ashes series against England.

Taskin eager to play in overseas leagues

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh speedster Taskin Ahmed on Wednesday said that he is eager to play in different leagues around the world after the Bangladesh Cricket Board decided not to release him to play for English County side Yorkshire.

Taskin, who is recovering from a side strain injury, is eyeing to feature in Bangladesh's one-off Test against Afghanistan starting on June 14.

"Every player wants to play leagues worldwide but we also need to think about national commitments since I play all three formats for Bangladesh. But yes it feels bad if I am not able to go in my free time. Sometimes it feels bad not to play leagues worldwide and I am eager to play international leagues for my personal achievements in future," Taskin told the reporters in Dhaka on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old confirmed on Wednesday that he got an offer to play for Yorkshire but revealed that upon discussion with him, head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the board decided not to let him go.

"I got a proposal from Yorkshire and they wanted me to play for a long season. I have talked to the coach and the board. After considering everything, they decided not to release me for the longer version games. As a player, it feels good to know that the board has plans for me for the future," he said.



The Daily Star



City

High inflation, energy crisis to slow growth

Says WB in its latest flagship publication

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elevated inflation, policy uncertainty, and weakening external demand are expected to slow growth in Bangladesh this fiscal year, said the World Bank in a report recently.

Growth is expected to be 5.2 percent, down from 7.1 percent registered in the previous fiscal year, said the major global lender in the latest edition of its flagship publication Global Economic Prospects Gains, which was unveiled on Tuesday.

This is the same projection made by the WB earlier in January and April, making Bangladesh the third-fastest growing economy in South Asia. The region includes Afghanistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Bangladesh's growth this fiscal year would also be below the South Asian average of 5.9 percent.

The 5.2 percent growth projection is similar to the ones made by the Asian Development Bank (5.3 percent) and the International Monetary Fund (5.5 percent).

However, the government maintains that growth would at least be 6.03 percent in this fiscal year which wraps up at the end of the month.

The reason for the slower growth is import restrictions imposed to safeguard a fast-depleting dollar stockpile. This has caused an energy crisis and fuelled inflation, which averaged 8.95 percent in the first 11 months of this fiscal year. In May, inflation hit an 11-year-high of 9.94 percent.

"In Bangladesh, continued import suppression measures and energy shortages have weighed on both industrial production and the services SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

PARTS OF DHAKA CITY Now water crisis heaps misery upon residents

STAR REPORT

An acute crisis of water has gripped some parts of the capital, causing unbearable sufferings to the residents already enduring hours of power cuts amid the heatwave.

The mercury went past 38 degrees Celsius yesterday in Dhaka. Atiqua Roma, a resident of Uttara sector-3, said, "There was no water for almost 36 hours. Today [Wednesday] we got some water for only about an hour.'

She contacted the Wasa and requested a tank of water on Monday night.

"We have not been able to cook. We had to buy



Hospital yesterday. Sourav and 13 other construction workers were killed in a head-on collision between a truck and a pickup in Sylhet yesterday morning. Inset, the two vehicles lie overturned on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Dakshin Surma's Kutubpur. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

14 workers die as pickup, truck collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Fourteen construction workers were killed after the pickup they were travelling on collided with a truck on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Kutubpur area of Sylhet's Dakshin Surma early vesterday

The crash around 5:45am also left 12 injured who were receiving treatment at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The construction workers were on their way to Sylhet's Osmaninagar upazila's Goalabazar when the potato-laden truck

crashed into the pickup. The pickup then flipped over. Survivor Rabiul Islam said, "A truck coming from the opposite direction veered into our lane and collided with the pickup carrying us. My uncle died on the spot. Luckily, my father and I

2 more die of dengue 147 new cases reported

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 147 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till vesterday morning.

With the new deaths, the total number of deaths this year reached 19, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the cases, the total number of dengue cases rose to 2,720.

Among the patients, 723 are from outside Dhaka. Some 480 of them are currently undergoing treatment.

Prehistoric cave paintings found in Spain using drones

CNN ONLINE

Archaeologists in Spain have discovered prehistoric paintings in hard-to-reach caves in the east of the country using drone technology.



researchers to quickly evidence previously unseen paintings cave dating from 5,000 7,500 years ago, according to a statement from the team at the University of Alicante, Spain

"They told me I was 72nd on the list and asked me to wait. We're still waiting for the water tank.'

Roma has been drinking bottled water and bringing water from her relatives' houses.

dinner as well."

People in different parts of Mirpur, Badda, Banasree, Basabo, Maniknagar, Doyaganj, Kajlarpar, Adabar, Shyamoli, Jurain, Matuail, Konapara and Dogair have been facing water crisis in recent days.

Khaleda Parveen, a resident of Merul Badda, said she had faced a water crisis for the first time last week since she moved into the area three and a half years ago.

We have not been able to cook. We had to buy breakfast and lunch, and may have to buy dinner as well," she said.

Dhaka Wasa Deputy Managing Director AKM Shahid Uddin told The Daily Star that they could not operate all the water pumps because of SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

breakfast and lunch, and may have to buy

Khaleda Parveen of Merul Badda

At the Sylhet hospital, Amina Begum was crying in front of the

body of her son Sourav Mia, 27.

"He came to Sylhet all of on sudden a week ago and started working as a construction worker without informing us. We even arranged his marriage back home but now he is no more."

Sabera Begum lost her husband Eklim Mia, 55. "I have nothing more left to live for," she said as her brother was trying to comfort her.

The cousin of deceased Dulal Mia, 25, said, "Dulal's brother Helal died in a boat crash in Sunamganj's Chhatak upazila around three months ago. Dulal married his brother's widow two weeks ago and now he is dead too."

The other deceased are Rashid Mia, 50, Md Saheed Noor, 50, Badsha, 22, Meher, 25, Harich Mia, 65, Sijil Mia, 55, Sadhu Mia, 40, Aolad Hossain, 50, Shaheen Mia, 40, Aolad Mia, 50, and Amina

Of the deceased, seven were from Derai upazila of Sunamganj, five were from the district's Shantiganj upazila, and two others were from Habiganj and Netrakona.

A total of 2,221 dengue patients were discharged from hospitals after being treated, of which 650 were from outside Dhaka.

The number of dengue deaths was 281 last year while the number of cases was 62,382.

Dengue infections are spreading rapidly, with the number of patients increasing fivefold in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year.

archaeologists findings were published in the Spanish scientific journal Lucentum las month.

The project allowed easier inspection of areas which could otherwise only be reached by "opening complex access routes climbing," reads the statement.

The team said they found their first results within just a few days of flying drones in a quarry in the Penàguila municipality in Alicante.

"This area is well known for housing numerous groups with prehistoric art," said lead author Francisco Javier Molina Hernández, an archaeologist at the University of Alicante, in the statement.

Two die of diarrhoea in Rangamati 50 fall ill in Sajek

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two indigenous persons died of diarrhoea and at least 50 others were suffering fromthe disease at Sajek union in Rangamati's Baghaichhari yesterday.

The dead are Gabti Bala Tripura, 50, and Darung Tripura, 60, said Ban Behari Chakma, member of Sajek Union Parishad.

Some 20 people are suffering from the disease at Longthian Para and 30 others at nearby villages, he added.

There has been an outbreak of diarrhoea in Longthian Para, Arun Para, Kaija Para, Raina Para and Sealdah areas of the union since last week, he further said.

Locals doctors are treating the patients as there is no hospital or community clinic in the area.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7



Blinken in Riyadh after Iran-Saudi détente

Attends GCC ministerial meeting

AFP, Riyadh

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Gulf Arab officials in Saudi Arabia yesterday at a time of rapidly shifting alliances following the oil-rich kingdom's rapprochement with Iran.

Blinken attended a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial meeting in the capital Riyadh that kicked off shortly after he met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan.

The two countries "resolved to continue to work together to counter terrorism, to support efforts to bring about a lasting peace in Yemen, and to promote stability, security, de-escalation, and integration in the region," the US State Department said.

"The two sides pledged to continue their strong cooperation to end the fighting in Sudan," it added in a statement.

The meetings came a day after Blinken flew into Jeddah and held talks with Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman, in which he raised human rights issues

Relations between Washington and Riyadh, decadesold allies, have been strained in recent times mainly over human rights and oil, after US pleas for help in bringing down skyrocketing prices last year were dismissed.

The three-day visit is Blinken's first since the kingdom restored diplomatic ties with Iran, which the West SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Sixty-eight-year-old Abul Hossain, who has been fixing broken fans since 1976, is doing a brisk trade for the last few days as more people are getting broken fans repaired amid the sweltering heat. The photo was taken in the Zindabazar area of Sylhet city yesterday.

Begum, 45.