

Tk317 crore of govt loan to build Padma Bridge paid back

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) yesterday paid back Tk317 crore to the government as the first and second installment of the loan given for the construction of the Padma Bridge. "Padma Bridge is not just an infrastructure, but a symbol of pride for Bangladesh," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said at the cheque handover event on Wednesday (5 April). The total cost of constructing the bridge with internal financing is Tk30 thousand 193 crore. Out of this, Tk300 crore came from aids. The remaining Tk29 thousand 893 crore 38 lakh has been given as loan by the finance division.

The agreement was signed by the BBA and finance division on 29 August 2019. Under the contract, the bridge department will return this amount in 35 years with one percent interest. Government debt repayment

will be completed in 2056-57 financial year.

According to the schedule, a minimum of Tk826 crores to a maximum of Tk1475 crores should be paid every financial year.

The loan will be repaid in a total of 140 installments over four years and 35 years quarterly. In this case, the interest will be calculated on the loan balance after each installment. Apart from this, if the bridge authorities want, they can also pay the money in advance with interest. However, in case of failure to pay an installment, it has to be paid along with the next installment in arrears. The agreement further states that the finance division will assist in fixing the toll rate as per the proposal of the bridge authority for crossing the bridge, so that they are able to repay the debt. The advised toll rate will increase by 10% every 15 years. Apart from this, the bridge

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Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader handed over the check of the first and second installments of the government loan for the construction of Padma Bridge with self-financing to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban

BNP does not do politics for people: Quader

Staff Correspondent

Lashing out at BNP for its negligent attitude towards the fire victims, Awami League (AL) General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said that BNP does not do politics for the welfare of the people. The minister said this in a statement issued today protesting the statement of BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir published in the media. Referring to the recent devastating

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Jewellers want 10-year tax holiday for gold refinery

Staff Correspondent

Jewellers on Tuesday demanded a ten-year tax holiday for local gold refineries to boost the industry of the precious metal.

At a pre-budget press conference, the Bangladesh Jeweller's Association (Bajus) wanted the government to provide the businesses with a 50% cash incentive for a minimum 20% value addition to promote the exports of gold bars, coins, and ornaments. It also called for reducing the value-added tax (VAT) to 3% from 5% at present on retail sales of gold, silver,

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Investing for the future to unlock financial potential

Staff Correspondent

Investing in Bangladesh can yield attractive returns for investors; however, it is imperative to bear in mind the potential financial risks associated with factors like inflation, unemployment, depletion of reserves and substantial debts incurred for massive infrastructure projects.

In a joint effort, the Center for Policy Dialogue and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, along with Transparency International Bangladesh, have emphasised the need for a stronger regulatory structure to combat corruption and widen business prospects in Bangladesh's economy.

As per the World Bank's data indicators, Bangladesh's economy has been consistently growing at a rate of approximately 6% annually, especially in the areas of garment manufacturing, energy, infrastructure, information and

communication technology (ICT), pharmaceuticals and food processing industries.

Over the last decade, Bangladesh has made impressive headway in poverty reduction, as per data from the McKinsey Global Institute and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). This success can be accredited to the country's focus on investing in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social safety net programs. In addition,

the IFC has reported an improvement in Bangladesh's business climate, making it a more appealing destination for investors. The country has also seen a significant rise in foreign exchange reserves, which acts as a safeguard against any potential external economic disruptions.

As per data from Pew Research, Bangladesh has made remarkable strides in gender equality, with women's participation in the workforce surging from 20% in 2000 to 36% in 2020. The State Government's Investment Climate Statements: Bangladesh report, published by the government, further confirms its commitment to enhancing transparency, reducing corruption, and improving the regulatory environment, which makes Bangladesh an attractive investment destination. According to the China Global Investment Tracker, China has been one

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Indictment hearing in two cases against Khaleda on April 30

Staff Correspondent

A Dhaka court on Wednesday set April 30 for holding hearing on charge framing in two cases, one for observing fake birthday on National Mourning Day and another for stigmatizing the War of Liberation, lodged against BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. Wednesday was fixed for holding the indictment hearings in the two cases but Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Noor reset the date as Khaleda's lawyers pleaded for time on her poor health ground.

Journalist Gazi Jahirul Islam lodged the fake birthday case against Khaleda on August 30, 2016. According to the complainant, Khaleda, from

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Gausia Market, Rajdhani Super Market seem risky: fire service DG



Staff Correspondent

The fire service will conduct surveys of Gausia Market in the capital's New Market area and Rajdhani Super Market in Tikatuli, its director general said on Wednesday.

Fire Service and Civil Defence Director General Brig Gen Md Main Uddin said they think those markets may be vulnerable to fires.

"A market, building or an establishment is supposed to have enough exits and entry points, and fire safety measures in proportion with the number of people who visit or stay there," he said after

visiting the site of the Bangabazar markets, which were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire yesterday.

"It seems to me these [Gausia and Rajdhani Super Markets] are risky," he added. Main said fire service members, along with the owners of the markets, will conduct a survey and tell the market authorities what to do. Replying to a query, the fire official said they have a list of risky markets and buildings but he could not immediately say how many were in the list.

Repeating to another query, the DG said 12 firefighting units are

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Bangladesh can immediately generate 1,700MW-3,400MW power from renewable sources



Staff Correspondent

The Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) has found that Bangladesh can immediately generate 1,700MW-3,400MW of electricity from renewable energy sources with a reduced cost between Tk5.25 and Tk7.6 against the existing cost Tk8.84 per unit

from the conventional fossil fuels.

Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), the US-based research organization, from its analysis also showed that Bangladesh needs up to US\$1.71 billion annually till 2041 to achieve its target to generate 40% of electricity from renewable sources.

The report, released on Wednesday, said the average electricity generation cost is likely to cross double-digits in Bangladeshi Taka (Tk) terms in FY2022-23. "Our analysis shows that the existing power system can immediately incorporate 1,700 megawatts (MW) to 3,400MW of solar during the day and, subject to the feasibility of location and availability of sufficient wind speed, 2,500MW to 4,000MW of wind power at night to reduce the use of costly furnace oil-based power generation," said the report's author Shafiqul Alam, energy finance analyst of IEEFA. Such a move will also help reduce the average electricity generation cost. According to the report, estimates show that the levelized cost of

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Rokia Afzal Rahman passes away

Staff Correspondent



Renowned woman entrepreneur and advisor to former caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman passes away early Wednesday.

Arlinks Group manager Khaled Saifullah confirmed this to Prothom Alo. Rokia Afzal Rahman was the chairman of the group.

Speaking to Prothom Alo Khaled Saifullah said Rokia Afzal Rahman breathed her last at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. She was ailing for a long time. Her health condition deteriorated after she contracted Covid-19. She had been undergoing treatment in Singapore since then. Khaled Saifullah also said Rokia Afzal Rahman came to Bangladesh a month ago. She took part in a meeting of the board of directors of MIDAS Finance just two days ago. But she was taken to Singapore on an emergency basis as her health condition suddenly deteriorated. She breathed her last in her sleep at around 4:30 am (Bangladesh time).

She was the chairperson of Mediaworld Limited that owns The Daily Star and chairperson

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BRB
অন্যতম বিশ্বে...
বাংলাদেশে শীর্ষে...
রমজানুল
মিবারক
সাহুরী ও ইফতারের সময়

রমজান	এপ্রিল	সাহুরীর শেষ সময়	ইফতার
১৩	০৫	৪:২৪	৬:২০
১৪	০৬	৪:২৪	৬:২১
১৫	০৭	৪:২৩	৬:২১

US-BANGLA AIRLINES
Stretching Wings TO NEW HORIZON

DAILY FLIGHT TO DUBAI

DHAKA → DUBAI		DUBAI → DHAKA	
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
06:30 PM	10:00 PM	11:30 PM	06:00 AM+1
MON, THU, FRI & SUN		MON, THU, FRI & SUN	
05:30 PM	09:00 PM	10:30 PM	05:00 AM+1
TUE		TUE	
03:55 PM	07:25 PM	08:55 PM	03:25 AM+1
WED		WED	

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WB, ADB lower growth forecasts for Bangladesh



Staff Correspondent

Two multilateral development financiers—the World Bank and the ADB downgraded Bangladesh's economic growth below 6.0 per cent for the current fiscal year following several internal and external shocks.

In their respective economic updates, unveiled Tuesday, the WB lowered its forecast to 5.2 per cent now for the FY2022-23 while the Asian Development Bank revised the rate down to 5.3 percent.

"The real GDP growth is expected to decelerate to 5.2 percent in FY2023, weighed down by elevated inflation, tighter

rates, it notes.

"Exporters receiving lower-than-market exchange rates have deferred repatriation of net proceeds, and incentives for import over-invoicing have risen," it says in listing the growth-decelerators.

"Administered rates are not market-clearing, and foreign exchange (FX) liquidity in domestic banks is negative. Firms are unable to access sufficient FX for imports or dividend repatriation and a wide gap between official and parallel rates has persisted."

Uncertainty about FX policy can impact foreign-investor confidence, the WB cautions. The economic update forecasts external pressure is expected to remain elevated in FY23. The current-account deficit is expected to narrow to 2.1 percent of GDP in FY23 from 4.0 percent of GDP in FY22, as imports normalize with the moderation of commodity prices and exports grow modestly. "Short-term financing flows have contracted. Together with delays in the repatriation of export earnings and lower medium- and long-term government borrowing, this has limited

financial conditions, disruptive import restrictions, and global economic uncertainty," says the WB in its 'Bangladesh Development Update'.

The Bank, however, projected a rebound in the economic growth as it is expected to accelerate to 6.2 per cent in FY2024 as inflationary pressure eases, external conditions improve, and reform-implementation gains momentum. In a reform package the WB has called the government for introducing unified market-based foreign-exchange rate aimed at boosting its reserves. The cap on remittance rates has incentivized the use of informal exchange channels offering higher

lel rates has persisted."

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Atia Mahal attack: All 3 accused acquitted

Staff Correspondent

A Sylhet tribunal on Wednesday acquitted all three accused in a case filed over a grenade attack during an anti-militant ride at Atia Mahal in Sylhet's Dakshin Surma upazila.

The three are Jahurul Haque alias Jasim, his wife, Argina alias Razia, and Md Hasan.

Judge Muhammad Nurul Amin Biplob of the Anti-terrorism Special Tribunal handed down the verdict.

Muminur Rahman, special public prosecutor of the court, confirmed the matter.

He also said that the court ended hearing arguments on March 14.

Twenty-one witnesses, out of 33, testified before the tribunal in the case.

On March 24 of 2017, law enforcement identified a militant hideout in a building named Atia Mahal in the early morning.

Later, a para-commando team of the Bangladesh Army conducted "Operation Twilight" at the building the next morning which ended on March 28.

Seven people, including a high-ranked RAB official and two police inspectors, were killed during the drive.

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Distribution of goats and cash among beggars in Jhenaidah

Khairul Islam Nirob: Jhenaidah Sadar Upazila Social Service Office and upazila administration have provided goats and cash among the beggars. This was organized on Tuesday morning at the Upazila Parishad premises. Under the chairmanship of Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sadia Zerine, Jhenaidah Sadar Upazila Awami League President and Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Adv. Abdur Rashid. Sadar Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohammad Noor A Nabi, BRDB Officer Anupam Das, PIO Newton Bain and others were present as special guests. Sadar Upazila Social Service Officer Abdul Hai Siddique presided over the event. It is known that a beggar survey was conducted in Sadar Upazila in 2019 under the chairmanship of the then Upazila Executive Officer Shammil Islam. At that time, a total of 44 people were resettled from the list of surveyed beggars from 17 unions of Sadar Upazila. Among them, 20 have been resettled in the past days by providing vans, grocery stores and goats. Social service officer Abdul Hai Siddique said that this initiative was taken under the beggar rehabilitation project. According to the previous day's survey, today we give 7 Khasi goats to 7 beggars and 1000 cash to each. He also said that the decision to take programs for rehabilitation and alternative employment of people engaged in begging and discouragement of begging is ongoing.

Inflation close to double-digit

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh sees inflation soar amid price spikes as official arithmetic put the rate at 9.33 per cent for March—the highest in seven months—worsening consumer woes.

High costs of some food items, especially protein items like chickens, eggs, and beef, spurred up the price indices, sources said.

The figures from the Office for Bangladesh's National Statistical Organisation (NSO) showed inflation as measured by the consumer-price index having hit its highest level in August 2022 of this fiscal year, adding to the huge strain on households, especially those in lower- and limited-income brackets.

Economists and analysts say limited-income groups of people, like garment workers, day labourers, and others, suffer much as they have to pay through their nose with their earnings being eroded by the higher inflation.

However, the NSO or BBS (Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics) data showed that both

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Professionals including teachers, intellectuals, diplomats, politicians, writers, journalists, columnists, businessmen meet at AB party's iftar party.



Staff Correspondent

Concern over the fire in Bangabazar, prayers for the victims and demand for compensation from the government. AB Party has organized Iftar Mahfil in honor of professionals including teachers, intellectuals, politicians, writers, journalists, columnists, businessmen. Party convener and former secretary AFM Solaiman Chowdhury presided over the iftar party conducted by AB Party member secretary Mojibur Rahman Manju at Fars Hotel in Vijaynagar of the capital on Tuesday. The program started with recitation of Quran by internationally renowned Qari Abdul Majeed Panchgari. In his welcome speech, the party's joint convener, Advocate Tajul Islam, expressed concern over the series of fires in various parts of the country, including Bangabazar Market. He said that the country has turned into hell due to various failures and accidents. In this situation, we are concerned about the safety of the country and its citizens. He

expressed his condolences to the thousands of small traders who lost their capital. Tajul Islam said, My Bangladesh Party is the name of a new journey of a new day by breaking the existing political deadlock of Bangladesh. He also said, we can see human rights violations in the country, extrajudicial killings, taking away people's freedom in the name of digital security law and tarnishing the promise of independence. He reiterated AB Party's determination to overcome this situation. Among the political leaders present at the iftar ceremony were the president of Nagrik Oikya Mahmudur Rahman Manna, the president of Gonforum (part) Mustafa Mohsin Montu, the general secretary Ad. Subrata Chowdhury, President of NAP (Bhasani) Jebel Rahman Gani, Presidium member of Islami Andolan Bangladesh Ashraf Ali Akon, Member Secretary of Gana Odhikar Parishad Nurul Haque Noor, Dr. National People's Party

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Onion prices go up

Staff Correspondent

Prices of onion witnessed a hike as its retail prices soared to Tk 40-55 a kilogram on Tuesday, raising the consumers' woes further.

Seasonal onion, known as 'haali', has already captured the market replacing the 'murikata' or seed onion - one kg of such variety was found selling at Tk 40-50 a kg, marking a hike of Tk 5.0-6.0 a kg. Imported Indian onions were retailed at Tk 45-55 a kg on the day, according to city groceries and kitchen markets. The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) recorded an 8.0-10 per cent hike in onion prices in a week. Sharif Rahman, a grocer at Rayer Bazar in the city, told the FE that the wholesale price showed a Tk 3.0-4.0 a kg hike in the last two days, resulting in the rise in prices of the item in the retail market. He said a plunge in supply of 'murikata' and the entrance of 'haali' at a slow pace have all contributed to the price hike. But the price of local onions is still

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Three persons jailed for stone-sand lifting in Panchagarh's Tentulia

Muhammad Tariqul Islam, Panchagarh Correspondent: Three people have been sentenced to three days imprisonment for cutting sand and soil and lifting stones and sand in the area adjacent to the highway road bridge in Tentulia of Panchagarh. The jail sentence was handed down during a mobile court operation in the area adjacent to Dahuk Bridge on the Tentulia-Panchagarh National Highway on Wednesday (April 5) morning. It is known that three persons named Moshir, Mehdi Hasan and Safiqul were arrested on the spot while cutting sand and soil from Dahuk river and lifting stones and sand while conducting mobile court operation in the area adjacent to Dahuk Bridge of Tentulia-Panchagarh National Highway. The three arrested persons were immediately sentenced to 3 days

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6 get death sentence for gang rape of Natore college student

Staff Correspondent

A Natore tribunal on Wednesday sentenced six people to death and four to life imprisonment in a case filed over the gang rape of a college student in 2012.

Those sentenced to death are Sabbir Ahmed, Rezaul alias Rabbil, Nazmul Haque, Rajibul Hasan, Ripon and Shahidul. Manirul Islam, Khairul Islam, Ataul Islam and Rezaul Karim were sentenced to life in prison.

Natore Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Muhammad Abdur Rahim handed down the punishment. The court also fined them

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Finland joins NATO in historic shift sparked by Russia's war

Report AFP

Finland's blue-and-white Nordic cross flag was hoisted outside NATO headquarters on Tuesday as it became the alliance's 31st member, in a historic realignment of Europe's defences spurred by Russia's war on Ukraine.

NATO leaders will now turn up the pressure on their awkward allies Hungary and Turkey to lift their block on Sweden joining. Helsinki's strategic shift -- which ended decades of military non-alignment -- has doubled the length of the US-led alliance's land border with Russia and drew an angry warning of "countermeasures" from the Kremlin.

Finland's foreign minister formally sealed Helsinki's membership by depositing the Finnish flag was raised between those of France and Estonia to the singing of a choir outside NATO's gleaming Brussels headquarters.

"Finland now has the strongest friends and allies in the world," NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, he said, had "wanted to slam NATO's door shut. Today we show the world that he failed, that aggression and intimidation do not work."

Joining NATO puts Finland under the alliance's Article Five, the collective defence pledge that an attack on one member "shall be considered an attack against them all".

This was the guarantee Finnish leaders

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Nannu Sardar had to leave the country due to the lawsuits and attacks of the opponents centered on the elections in Madaripur

Madaripur representative

A young man named Nannu Sardar (29) was hacked and injured during the Chardaulatkhon (Sidikhan) union parishad election of Kalkini upazila of Madaripur district. At this time, his residence was vandalized and looted. Later Nannu was forced to leave his area when false political cases and death threats were made against him. Later Nannu Sardar took refuge in Italy via Libya. Nannu Sardar of Mathabhangha area of Kalkini Upazila. Yunus is Sardar's son. It has been alleged that he is being framed with several false cases

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State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman delivered the chief guest speech at the annual progress reporting workshop and disaster management committee database portal inauguration of the project on development of flood early warning and dissemination system at the local level at Hotel Sonargaon in Dhaka

Three persons

imprisonment under the Balumhal and Soil Management Act, 2010. The convicts are Moshur (27) son of Mahbur Rahman of Dahukguchcha village of Buraburi union, Mehdi Hasan (20) son of Abdul Jabbar of Padiagach village of Shalbahon union and Safiqul (35) son of Quddus of Majhipara village. Also, 20 CFT of stones seized from the spot were sold in public auction and the proceeds were deposited in the government treasury. Upazila Nirbahi Officer and Executive Magistrate Sohag Chandra Saha gave the sentence. At that time Deputy Inspector (SI) of Tentulia Model Police Station Abdul Malek Miah and the accompanying force were present. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sohag Chandra Saha said that such operation will continue.

Nannu Sardar

of harassment by the police due to political vendetta. According to sources, Nannu Sardar was picked up from Bhurghata area of Kalkini upazila on the night of 25 April 2015 under the identity of RAB. Awami League leaders and activists handed him over to the Kalkini Police Station three days after he was detained at an unknown place and taken away after physical torture. Nannu Sardar was released on bail on March 6, 2016 after serving a long period of imprisonment. According to police and local sources, polling was held in 13 UPs of Kalkini and Dasar upazilas on November 11, 2021. On the morning before the polls, there was a massive clash between the ruling Awami League and BNP leaders in Mathabhangra area of Chardaulatkhan Union. In the clash, Awami League candidate Chan Mia Shikder's people attacked the residence of Upazila Chhatra Dal Information and Communication Secretary Nannu Sardar. At this time Nannu Sardar's residence was looted. At the same time Nannu Sardar and his family members were attacked with indigenous weapons. Later local people and police rescued the injured Nannu Sardar in critical condition and admitted him to Kalkini Upazila Health Complex. Since then, Nannu Sardar could no longer stay in his village house. Nannu Sardar was forced to leave the country due to false political cases and death threats against him. First he went to Libya from Bangladesh and took a position. From there he took refuge in the European country of Italy. Currently, Nannu Sardar is staying in a city in Italy. In this regard, Nannu Sardar said, "Due to political revenge in the area, several false and harassing political cases have been given in my name, including drugs. Awami League leaders have also threatened to kill me if I go to the area. We are just a student leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party BNP Chhatra Dal. We cannot go to the area under the influence of the ruling party Awami League. It is not possible to go back to their own country because of their fear. So I have stayed in Italy."

WB, ADB

financial-account inflows, although disbursements are expected to rise in the last quarter of FY23 with budget support from development partners," the report reads.

Remittance inflows are expected to rise, underpinned by a higher outflow of workers and resilient demand for workers in the gulf region buoyed by elevated oil prices, according to the WB development update.

At the Development Update report-sharing session, World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan Abdoulaye Seck Tuesday said: "Russia's invasion of Ukraine and global uncertainty impacted countries around the globe. Bangladesh's post-pandemic recovery has been disrupted by elevated commodity prices, rising interest rates, and slowing global growth."

He assures that the WB stands ready to support Bangladesh with reforms to accelerate growth and strengthen resilience.

The Washington-based donor noted that multiple-exchange-rate system contributed to the balance-of-payments pressure, disincentivizing export and remittance inflows. Moving towards a single market-based exchange rate will help restore external balance.

It sees financial-sector reform as an imperative for a sustainable growth.

"Your bank company act should be amended to an international standard. It will not only comply with all the internal regulatory issues, also ensure attracting local and foreign investors," said the WB country chief.

Improving trade competitiveness for export diversification will be critical to achieving Bangladesh's aspiration of upper-middle-income status by 2031.

Bernard Haven, WB Senior Economist and co-author of the report, said the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the risk of overreliance on a single sector readymade garments—of Bangladesh's exports.

"Diversifying exports and improving competitiveness will help Bangladesh achieve upper-middle income status by 2031. For this, it will be important for Bangladesh to reduce

both tariff and non-tariff barriers. A comprehensive reform program can strengthen regional integration, particularly with South Asia and Southeast Asia," he added.

Meanwhile, the WB development update said Bangladesh made a rapid recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic supported by prudent macroeconomic policies, but the economy now faced considerable challenges with global economic uncertainty, rising inflationary pressure, energy shortages, a balance-of-payments deficit, and a revenue shortfall.

Professionals

Faridur Rahman Farhad, Executive President of Ganoforum Mr. Ed. Jaglul Haider Afrik, Secretary of Citizens' Union, Mr. Shahidullah Kaiser, President of Alternative Bangladesh, Mr. Dr. Nurul Amin Bepari, NDP Chairman Khandkar Golam Mortuza, Alternative Dhara Secretary General Advocate Shah Ahmed Badal, Gana Dal President Golam Mawla Chowdhury, People's Party Chairman Mr. Babul Sardar Chakhari, People's Rights Council Joint Secretary General Rashed Khan, Muslim League President Kazi Abul Khair, Former BNP Leader Taimur Alam Khandkar, Political scientist Professor Dr. was present among the prominent people. Dilara Chowdhury, former advisor to the World Health Organization, Professor Dr. Mozaherul Haque, Patuakhali Science and Technology University former VC Professor Dr. Abdul Latif Masum, former registrar of Bangladesh Supreme Court Iktedar Ahmed, BFUJ president M Abdullah and executive member Mo Abu Bakar, Nayadigant secretary Alamgir Mohiuddin, senior lawyer Adv. Mohsin Rashid, former secretary of the National Press Club, Syed Abdal Ahmed, Janipop Chairman Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, eminent tax lawyer Advocate Abbas Uddin, senior journalist Basir Jamal and civil society representatives. Besides, diplomats of various countries and representatives of development partners including United Nations, United States, United Kingdom, European Union, IRI participated in the Iftar. The party leaders were present, the joint convenor of the AB party, Major (retired) Professor Dr. Abdul Wahab Minar

Inflation close

food and non-food items were contributors to the rise in inflation in March.

The high-priced non-food items are medical and health-care products, transport and clothing as well footwear products, while food items are poultry birds, beef, mutton and eggs. On back of this rise, inflation measured by the BBS surpassed annual government target at 7.5 per cent (revised for FY 2023) for eight straight months, peaking to 9.33 per cent this past March.

And month-on-month inflation increased by 1.13 per cent in March over February.

Food inflation soared to 9.09 per cent while non-food inflation to 9.72 per cent.

The overall inflation based on the consumer-price index or CPI measured in Laspeyres's formula was 8.78 in February, 8.57 in January, 8.71 in December, 8.85 per cent in November, 8.91 per cent in October, 9.1 per cent in September, 9.52 per cent in August, and 7.48 per cent in July.

The BBS, which computes the CPI and then inflation, uses its urban consumer basket for a total of 422 commodities – food and nonfood. It includes a rural basket consisting of 318 food and non-food items.

Onion

below Tk 50 a kg in retail - the price was Tk 70 a kg in the same period a year ago, he claimed. Jagadish Bhoumik, a Beribadh-based trader, said a sudden rain in Rajbari, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Pabna districts have also caused a surge in prices in the hubs.

"Though the price showed only Tk 1.5-2.0 a kg hike at the wholesale level, retailers are charging irrationally," he said, adding that onion production will surpass all records this year. Though import costs have increased, it will not impact the market of locally-produced onions, he observed.

Secretary of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan said traders in Rajbari, Faridpur, Pabna and Shyambazar in Dhaka have influence over the onion market. Poor market monitoring is the key reason behind the illogical hike in prices of most of the essential commodities, including onion.

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics recorded an all-time high of 2.6 million tonnes of onion production in 2022 against a demand for 2.8-3.0 million tonnes. The agriculture ministry is expecting 3.8 million tonnes of onion in 2023.

Finland joins

decided they needed as they watched Putin's devastating assault on Ukraine. "NATO membership strengthens our international position and room for manoeuvre," Finland's

President Sauli Niinisto said.

US President Joe Biden said the alliance was strengthened by its newest member and promised to "defend every inch of NATO territory".

But Moscow erupted in fury at the move, which takes its frontier with NATO member states to 2,500 kilometres (1,550 miles), branding it an "assault" on Russia's security and national interests.

"This forces us to take countermeasures... in tactical and strategic terms," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

- Powerful military -
Invaded by its giant neighbour, the Soviet Union, in 1939, Finland -- which has a 1,300-kilometre border with Russia -- stayed out of NATO throughout the Cold War.

Now its membership brings a potent military into the alliance with a wartime strength of 280,000 and one of Europe's largest artillery arsenals.

Its strategic location bolsters NATO's defences on a border running from the vulnerable Baltic states to the increasingly competitive Arctic.

Senior NATO military commander Admiral Rob Bauer told AFP that Finland had so far not requested its new allies station troops on its soil.

NATO officials say the war in Ukraine has sapped Moscow's forces, but the alliance is monitoring how Russia responds to gauge its future steps.

Turkey and Hungary, attempting to gain leverage over allies in separate political battles, had delayed Finland's bid to come under the NATO umbrella -- and Stockholm's progress remains blocked.

But last week, the Turkish parliament voted to clear Finland's final hurdle.

Completing the ratification in well under a year still makes this the fastest membership process in the alliance's recent history.

NATO was created as a counterweight to the Soviet Union at the onset of the Cold War era that began immediately after the Allies defeated Nazi Germany.

- Sweden soon? -

Finland's arrival nevertheless remains a bittersweet moment for the alliance as the hope had been for Sweden to come on board at the same time.

Helsinki's first act as a new member was to back Stockholm's bid.

Budapest and Ankara remain the holdouts after belatedly agreeing to wave through Helsinki's bid.

Sweden has upset Hungary's leader Viktor Orban -- one of Putin's closest allies in Europe -- by expressing alarm over the rule of law in Hungary.

It has also angered Turkey by refusing to extradite dozens of suspects that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan links to a failed 2016 coup attempt and the decades-long Kurdish independence struggle.

The United States and other NATO members led the calls for Sweden to join as soon as Finland's flag was fluttering in the cold Brussels breeze.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he believed both countries would take part in a NATO summit in Vilnius this summer as new members.

Ukraine is also pushing for eventual NATO membership, but Western diplomats say that remains a distant prospect.

"There is no better strategic solution to ensuring strategic security in the Euro-Atlantic region than the membership of Ukraine in the alliance," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Stoltenberg said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was invited to NATO's Vilnius summit in July.

The focus for the alliance remains on bolstering Kyiv's capacities to win the war, while moving it towards NATO membership only over the longer term.

Atia Mahal

Police filed two separate cases regarding the incident.

Tk317 crore of govt

authority will pay VAT and income tax at the advised rate on the toll revenue. Meanwhile, an agreement was signed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 10 July, 2008 to

design the Padma Bridge. Under this, the company gave loans of about Tk100 crore. The interest rate on this loan was six percent. The grace period of this 20-year loan was 5 years.

Briggs authority has to repay this loan in 30 years with two percent interest. This loan will be repaid in the financial year 2036-37.

Jewellers want

and diamond ornaments to make them competitive with the neighbouring country of India.

Bajus Vice-President Anwar Hossain presented the budget proposal at the press conference held at the Bashundhara City Shopping Complex in the capital.

Sayem Sobhan Anvir, president of the association and managing director of Bashundhara Group, was also present on the occasion.

Anwar Hossain said local jewellers are facing setbacks when attempting to import capital machinery as their customs duty ranges from 30% to 60%.

Bashundhara Group has already set up the first ever gold refinery in South Asia, according to Bajus.

Bajus leaders hope that the gold industry has the potential to attract more investment if the customs duty on importing gold ore goes down from 5% to 1%.

Besides, the duty on importing semi-refined gold can be reduced from 10% to 5% to flourish the local industry of gold bars and hand-made ornaments.

Apart from the gold sector, Bajus also mentioned that diamond ornaments can make a 40% value addition if they get an affordable duty structure on importing raw materials.

Investing for

of the most significant investors in Bangladesh, with a specific focus on infrastructure projects. Additionally, the American Enterprise Institute has recommended unconventional investment approaches beyond traditional banking methods in Bangladesh.

Indictment

1996, was celebrating her fake birthday on August 15, the day when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was martyred along with most of his family members.

The complainant also submitted copies of different newspaper reports on Khaleda's birthday, copies of her passport, marriage certificate and mark sheets, which indicates August 15 is not her birthday in anyway.

Jananetri Parishad President AB Siddiqui filed the other case on November 3, 2016, against Khaleda Zia and her late husband Ziaur Rahman for stigmatizing the War of Liberation by rehabilitating anti-liberation war elements.

The BNP chief is on bail in both the cases as Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge KM Imrul Qayesh granted her bail on July 31, 2018.

Gausia Market,

working till now at the Bangabazar site.

BNP does

Bangabazar inferno, he said: "BNP did not take any initiative to stay beside the fire-victims as they have no responsibility towards people." "Lauding the AL men for their sincere support during the fire incident, the AL leader said that the members of the government agencies and Awami League activists tried their best to protect the goods of the affected traders in the tragic fire accident in Bangabazar." "However, during the fire incident, BNP has not taken any such initiative of visiting the spot and helping in the rescue operation to protect the goods of the affected traders," Quader said. Quader, also the AL General Secretary, expressed deep sorrow over the fire incident in Bangabazar saying that such type of tragic accident is very painful. Soon after the fire incident, Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina been monitoring the situation round the clock and giving necessary directives, he added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JHENAI DAH
E-mail: ee_jhe@eedmoe.gov.bd

Memo No:EE/EED/JHENAI DAH/2022-23/447 Dated: 05-04-2023

e-TENDER NOTICE NO. 16/2022-2023
(Open Tendering Method)

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

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Work	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
01.	804057	Package No. EE-JHE-2022-23-4931-PW-11: Repair and Renovation Works of Administrative Building at Maheshpur Government Degree College Under Maheshpur Upazila of Jhenaidah District.	20.04.2023 11:00	20.04.2023 13:00
02.	804058	Package No. EE-JHE-2022-23-4931-PW-12: Construction of Classroom with Flagstand at Government Birshrestho Hamidur Rahman Degree College Under Maheshpur Upazila of Jhenaidah District.	20.04.2023 11:00	20.04.2023 13:00
03.	804059	Package No. EE-JHE-2022-23-4931-PW-13: Repair and Renovation Works of Boundary Wall at Government Birshrestho Hamidur Rahman Degree College Under Maheshpur Upazila of Jhenaidah District.	20.04.2023 11:00	20.04.2023 13:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fee's for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National System portal have to be deposited, online through any registered Bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

sd/-
(Md. Istiaque Iqbal Hemal)
 Executive Engineer
 Education Engineering Department,
 Jhenaidah.
 Phone: 02-477746133

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Khagrachari PWD Division, Khagrachari.
Phone: 02333343123
e-Mail: ee_khgra@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No.25.36.4600.320.50.004.19-920

Date: ২২/১২/১৪২৯ বঃ
 ০৫/০৪/২০২৩ খ্রি:

e-GP Tender Notice (OTM, NCT)

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

Tender ID No.	Invitation Ref. No.	Description of Works	Tender Document Last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
814311	egg/pwd/khagra/OTM/2022-23/450	Construction of PCR Lab at Khagrachari District Hospital.	27/04/2023 11:00	27/04/2023 12:00	27/04/2023 12:00

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of the banks registered in the e-GP system.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details about procurement package, please contact the official inviting the tender.

sd/-
(Md. Anowarul Azim)
 Executive Engineer
 Khagrachari PWD Division
 Khagrachari.

German defence minister quits as pressure grows for Ukraine aid

International Desk

German Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht resigned on Monday after coming in for months of heavy criticism over Berlin's stuttering response to the war in Ukraine. Her decision came just days ahead of a crucial meeting of defence ministers from Ukraine's allies, and as Berlin was under intense pressure to provide battle tanks to Kyiv. A spokeswoman for Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Monday he would announce a replacement for Lambrecht "in the near future" but government sources told AFP that no decision was expected on Monday on her successor. Lambrecht, 57, said in a statement she had asked Scholz to relieve her of her duties. "The months-long media focus on my person hardly allows for objective reporting and discussion about servicemen and women... and securi-

ty policy decisions in the interest of the citizens of Germany," she said. The politician from Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) had faced criticism for months over what some see as Germany's wavering response to the conflict in Ukraine. Patience for Lambrecht ran out when she posted a New Year's video on social media in which she lauded her "special experiences" as defence minister in 2022 against a backdrop of loud fireworks. Leading German media blasted the tone-deaf message, with some commentators saying she was "no longer tenable as a minister". Rumours had been swirling ever since that she was planning to hand in her resignation. Tanks for Ukraine - Lambrecht's move comes days before the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, which coordinates arms supplies to Kyiv, is due to meet at the Ramstein Air Base.

Russia produces first nuclear warheads for Poseidon super torpedo

International Desk

Russia has produced the first nuclear warheads for the Poseidon super torpedoes to be deployed on the Belgorod nuclear submarine, TASS reported on Monday, citing an unidentified defence source. "The first Poseidon ammunition loads have been manufactured, and the Belgorod submarine will receive them in the near future," TASS quoted the source as saying. President Vladimir Putin first announced what would become known as Poseidon in 2018, saying it was a fundamentally new type of strategic nuclear weapon with its own nuclear power source. In the 2018 speech, Putin said the range of the torpedo would be unlimited and that it could operate at extreme depths at a speed many times that of any submarine or other torpedoes. "They are very low noise, have high maneuverability and are practically indestructible for the enemy. There is no weapon that can counter them in the world today," Putin said.



4 Indians now confirmed dead in human smuggling operation at Canada-US border

International Desk

Four Indian nationals were among the eight victims of a human smuggling operation that led to a tragedy along the Canada-United States border on Friday. Local law enforcement has not released the names of the four Indian citizens. In an update on Saturday, the Akwesasne Mohawk Police said, "The identities of the four Indian nationals have not yet been confirmed and next of kin have not yet been notified. Until confirmed, names will not be released to the public." They released the identities of two of the other victims, both Romanian nationals - 28-year-old Florin Iordache and his wife.

Office of the Mirpur Pourashava Mirpur, Kushtia.

Mirpur pourashavakus@yahoo.com

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo : Mir/Poura/Kus/LGCRRP/01/2022-23/256

Dated : 05-04-2023

e-Tender Notice No- 01/2022-2023 Open Tendering Method (NOTM)

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

Sl No	Tender / proposal ID	Name of work	Package No	Tender Publication (date & time)	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
1.	ID:810 509	a. Rehabilitation & Upgradation of DBC Road from Pourashava bhabon to BGB Sector 2nos Gat, ward no-09, Mirpur pourashava, Kushtia. (ch.0.00-1120.00m)	e-Tender/LGC RRP/Mirpur/2022-2023/W-01	05-Apr-2023 10:00	26-Apr-2023 17:00	27-Apr-2023 13:00
2.	ID:810 508	a. Construction of RCC Road from Unik Traders office to Mirpur Rail Station road, ward no -01 Mirpur pourashava, Kushtia. (ch.0.00-135.00m) b. Construction of RCC Road from S. K. Kinder Garten School to Hannan house, ward no 06 Mirpur pourashava, Kushtia. (ch.0.00-165.00m) c. Rehabilitation & Upgradation of DBC Road from Nawapara road Haywl house to Moslem Mondol house, ward no-08, Mirpur pourashava, Kushtia. (ch.0.00-325.00m) d. Earth filling Edging repiar work: a. of the Road side from G,K main Canal Bazar Bridge to Sluice Gate, Ward no-01, Mirpur Paurashava, Kushtia.(ch.0.00-1120.00m) & b. of the Road side from Satter shop to MahaShosan , Ward no-01, Mirpur Paurashava, Kushtia. (ch.0.00-690.00m) e. Construction of RCC Road from Prosanto house to Barisal Khal Stair Ghat, ward no 09, Mirpur pourashava, Kushtia. (ch.0.00-108.00m)	e-Tender/LGC RRP/Mirpur/2022-2023/W-02	05-Apr-2023 10:00	26-Apr-2023 17:00	27-Apr-2023 13:00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, registration in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-tender Documents from the national e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank branches up to above mentioned date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) and also for e-mail: saeanarul@gmail.com

(Md. Anarul Islam)
Assisant Engineer©
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Phone: 01712406566
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Dated : 05-04-2023

Rahul Gandhi likely to move Surat court tomorrow against jail sentence

International Desk

Indian Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who was disqualified as a Lok Sabha MP after being sentenced to two years in prison over a 2019 defamation case recently, is likely to challenge his conviction and sentencing in a sessions court in Gujarat's Surat on Monday, sources said. In his petition, Gandhi is expected to ask the sessions court to set aside the magistrate order convicting him in the 'Modi surname' case. The court granted him bail and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal in a higher court. A complaint was filed by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi for his alleged remark, "How come all thieves have Modi as the common surname?" The court of chief judicial magistrate .

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Chuadanga. E-mail: eechu@rhd.gov.bd Phone & Fax: 02-477789139



Memo No.: 35.01.1800.409.05.001.23-751

Dated: 05/04/2023 Eng.

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID	Tender No and Description	Tender Last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
813833	e-GP/CHURD/32/2022-2023. Repair with Seal Coat work at Ch. 24+639 Km to Ch.26+530 Km (Total Length= 1900.00m) of Chuadanga - Darsona - Jibannagar - Kolchandpur - Kaliganj Road (R-748) under Road Division, Chuadanga during the year 2022-2023.	17-Apr-2023 15:00	18-Apr-2023 12:45

- This is an online Tender. Where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any Member of Schedule Banks for e-GP.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Md. Monzurul Karim)
ID No. 602000
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Chuadanga.
01730-782778

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Dhaka PWD Division-III, Dhaka. Phone/Fax : 02-223381359

Memo no. 3211

Date:-03/4/2023

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the Civil Construction Work of Dhaka PWD Division-3, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.

SL No	Invitation Reference No	Tender ID No	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time
1.	25.36.2600.230.00/3191, date-03.04.2023	809703	18-04-2023, 10.30 AM	18-04-2023, 11.30 AM
2.	25.36.2600.230.00/3192, date-03.04.2023	809700	18-04-2023, 10.45 AM	18-04-2023, 11.30 AM
3.	25.36.2600.230.00/3191, date-03.04.2023	806486	16-04-2023, 13.30 PM	16-04-2023, 14.30 PM
4.	25.36.2600.230.00/3099, date-22.03.2023	806480	16-04-2023, 13.00 PM	16-04-2023, 14.00 PM
5.	25.36.2600.230.00/3097, date-22.03.2023	806407	16-04-2023, 12.30 PM	16-04-2023, 13.30 PM
6.	25.36.2600.230.00/3096, date-22.03.2023	806363	09-04-2023, 12.00 PM	16-04-2023, 12.45 PM
7.	25.36.2600.230.00/3095, date-22.03.2023	806324	16-04-2023, 12.00 PM	16-04-2023, 13.00 PM
8.	25.36.2600.230.00/3098, date-22.03.2023	806461	16-04-2023, 12.30 PM	16-04-2023, 13.30 PM

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any e-GP registered Bank's branches up to date & time mentioned in respective Tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Kaysar Ibne Shaikh)
Executive Engineer,
Dhaka PWD Division-3, Dhaka.