

## PM alerts countrymen against arsonists' return to power

WASHINGTON DC: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the countrymen to stay alert as the anti-liberation elements, killers and arson terrorists never return to power. "Make sure that the killers, anti-liberation elements and war criminals never return to power again," she told a civic reception accorded to her by expatriate Bangladeshis in the USA at The Ritz-Carlton hotel's Hall Room here (Tuesday local time). The prime minister said the BNP-Jamaat alliance had burnt many people to death and destroyed thousands of roadside trees during 2013-15 in the name of so-called movement to dislodge the government. She reminded the countrymen that the BNP-Jamaat clique had taken the country on the verge of destruction while the Awami League government put it again on the highways of development in the last 14 years ensuring

country's overall development. "Bangladesh will march ahead and be transformed into a developed and prosperous country as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We're working to materialise that dream," she said. The prime minister heavily came down on the BNP-Jamaat quarter for carrying out anti-state propaganda at home and abroad cashing in on Digital Bangladesh. "We've made Digital Bangladesh. They (BNP-Jamaat) are conducting propaganda against us using the tools of Digital Bangladesh. Don't pay heed to that propaganda," she added. The premier further reminded the countrymen that the independence of Bangladesh had been achieved in exchange for blood of millions, saying all have to move at the globe keeping heads high and maintaining due

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the expatriate citizen reception organized by the United States Awami League at The Ridge Carlton Hotel in Washington DC

President for ensuring transparency, accountability at all levels

Staff Correspondent:

President Mohammed Shahabuddin today asked all officers and employees of Bangabhaban to ensure neutrality, transparency and accountability at all levels of their respective assignments. "We have to ensure impartiality, transparency and accountability at all levels... We have to think of enhancing reputation of Bangabhaban," he said. The Head of State said this while exchanging greetings with all military and civil officers and employees of Bangabhaban at its Durbar Hall here this

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Stop targeting truth, truth-tellers: UN Chief on World Press Freedom Day

Report AFP

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said the world must speak with one voice — stop lies and disinformation, and stop targeting truth and truth-tellers. "As journalists stand up for truth, the world stands with them," he said in a message marking World Press Freedom Day which falls on 3 May.

For three decades, on World Press Freedom Day, the international community has celebrated the work of journalists and media workers. "Freedom of the press is the foundation of democracy and justice. It gives all of us the facts we need to shape

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## Govt may allow Indian power corridor

India to let Bangladesh to import power from Nepal, Bhutan in return

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh is likely to allow India to set up a 116-200 kilometre power transmission corridor, which will connect India's northeastern states, also known as the seven sisters. In return, India may allow Bangladesh to import power from Nepal and Bhutan using its transmission line, which has been under negotiation for years. An agreement to this effect may be reached during the meeting between the power secretaries of Bangladesh and India scheduled for tomorrow in Khulna, according to official sources. Bangladesh Power Division Secretary Md Habibur Rahman will lead the Bangladesh delegation in the discussion on power sector cooperation. Both sides have agreed in



principle to extend cooperation in this area. Bangladesh currently imports 900-940 MW of electricity from India's Baharampur to Bheramara via a 400KV circuit HVDC transmission line. However, approximately 1,400 MW of transmission capacity remains unutilized. Technical data from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB)

indicates that the capacity of the Bharamara-Baharampur transmission line is expected to increase from 2,400 MW to 3,200 MW soon. Additionally, the 400 KV transmission capacity between Bangladesh's Comilla and India's Surajmaninagar, which can support 640 MW of electricity, is underutilized. Currently, only 160 MW is being supplied through the radial mode of the intercon-

nected grid line. Considering the unutilized 2,040 MW grid line between Bangladesh and India, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) proposed last year to finalize the existing grid to supply imported electricity from the GUKUL project in Nepal.

In response, Indian NVVN stated that an agreement

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199 local organisations applied for registration as election observers

Staff Correspondent

As many as 199 private organisations have applied to the election commission (EC) to register their names as election observers. The organisations succeeding in getting registered with the EC will have the chance to observe the upcoming 12th parliamentary elections. This registration will be valid for the next five years. According to the EC sources, some 199 organisations have applied for registering as election observing agencies within 2 February, the last day for submitting the application. A seven-member committee, formed by the EC, are now verifying the applications primarily. The work is in the final stage. Almost half of the

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## Bangladesh to buy 4 cargos of LNG from spot market

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh on Wednesday decided to purchase four cargos of liquefied natural gas from the international spot market. Each of the cargos will contain 33.60 lakh MMBtu of LNG. The decision was taken at a meeting of the cabinet committee on government purchases presided over by finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal virtually. Additional secretary Sayed Mahbub Khan of the cabinet division briefed reporters on the outcomes of the meeting. The maximum price for MMBtu is \$12.47 to be supplied by M/S Gunvor Singapore Pte Ltd., Singapore. The minimum price for MMBtu is \$10.9 to be supplied by M/S Vitol Asia Pte Ltd., Singapore. The same company will

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## Press freedom in Bangladesh is example for developing countries: Dr Hasan

Staff Correspondent

Information and Broadcasting Minister and Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Dr Hasan Mahmud today said the freedom of press and the expansion of media in Bangladesh are examples for other developing countries. "We believe in free media, we believe in media freedom. The mass media hasn't expanded in many neighboring countries and doesn't enjoy such unfettered freedom," he said at a discussion in the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) here as the chief guest. The JPC organized the discussion titled 'Role of Mass Media in Protecting Human Rights and Expanding Democracy', marking the World Press Freedom Day with its President Farida Yasmin in the chair. Dainik Jugantor Editor Saiful Alam, Dainik Samakal Editor Mozammel Hossain, senior



journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul and JPC Joint Secretary Md Ayub Bhuiyan also spoke at the event. Dr Hasan said if there is the responsibility with freedom, mass media can operate properly. But if the freedom is exercised avoiding responsibility, then in many cases the society as well as the state is

harmed, he added. The mass media is the fourth pillar of the state and democracy and the mass media are complement to each other, he said, adding: "Without freedom and transparency of media, democracy can never be operative and democratic social system cannot survive. Therefore

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DSA won't be repealed though misused at times: law minister

Staff Correspondent

Law minister Anisul Huq said on Wednesday that the Digital Security Act 2018 would not be repealed but there might be some changes in some sections in the law.

The minister, however, admitted that the law was 'misused' and 'abused' at times in the past.

He made the comments while responding to reporters during a programme to mark World Press Freedom Day at the office of Transparency International Bangladesh at Dhanmondi in Dhaka.

The minister said that the country might see the changes in the DSA 'possibly

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Refiners seek to up soybean oil price by Tk 18 per litre

Staff Correspondent

Citing the expiration of a VAT cut, edible oil refiners want to increase the price of bottled soybean oil by Tk 18 to Tk 205 per litre from today (Wednesday) - at a time when the global prices declined to a twelve-month low. The Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association recently sent a letter to the commerce ministry, seeking the price adjustment for soybean and palm oil. Commerce ministry officials said they will hold a meeting with sugar and edible oil refiners today (Wednesday) to reach a decision. The government in March last year lowered the value-added tax (VAT) on edible oils at the import and refining stages. The facility expired on April 30. Under the exemption, the refiners paid 5.0 per cent VAT instead of 15 per cent at the import level while it was zero at the production stage which previously was 15 per cent.

If the VAT cut is not extended, one litre of bottled soybean oil will be at Tk 205 from the current Tk 187, while five litres of soybean will be at Tk 1,005 from the current Tk 930, according to the refiners. According to the

new rate, the palm oil price will be at Tk 129 per litre from the current Tk 121. However, edible oil distributors have claimed that representatives of the refiners have already



informed them to raise the prices.

A cooking oil distributor in Dhaka's Mohammadpur said refiners did not issue new delivery orders (DOs) after Eid, as the company representatives have verbally informed them about the price jump.

Consumers

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Boro paddy harvesting season has started. Paddy harvesting is going on in Ashulia of Savar, Dhaka. A team of agricultural laborers on wages is engaged in the work of cutting paddy per bigha of land and delivering it to the farmers.

Former Hefazat leader Mamunul gets bail in 5 cases, but not walking out of jail anytime soon

Staff Correspondent

The High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Mamunul Haque, former joint secretary general of the Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh, in five separate cases filed with Paltan and Chittagong's Hathazari police. The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam passed the order after separate petitions were filed by Mamunul's legal counsel, Advocate Helal Uddin

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## Falling remittances push reserves below \$31b

Staff Correspondent

The country's foreign-currency reserves dropped below US\$ 31 billion due to a significant fall in inward remittance flow in April, according to central bank officials.

This fall in forex reserves has led to uncertainty in meeting the net reserve-threshold target of US\$ 24.46 billion by June next, set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). According to sources at the Bangladesh Bank (BB), the gross stock of the country's foreign currencies was US\$ 30.93 billion as of April 30, which was US\$ 13.08 billion lower on a year-on-year basis. The officials at BB said



that the latest fall in the reserve is due mostly to two factors - growing sales of the greenback to banks to settle their LC-related payments amid forex dearth and comparatively lower earnings from the source of remittance in April. Seeking anonymity, a BB official

said the central bank sold a total of US\$ 11.79 billion up to April 27 of this fiscal compared to US\$ 7.62 billion in the entire financial year of 2021-2022. This put pressure on the reserve. "But the less-than-expected level of earnings from remittance in the just-passed month, which is normally considered the peak remittance time," the official said. According to the latest statistics from the BB, Bangladeshi nationals working abroad remitted foreign currencies worth US\$ 1.68 billion in April, a decrease of 16.76 per cent compared to the earnings in the previous month of March when

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# NBR wants higher taxes for the wealthy in FY24 budget

Some 15,000 taxpayers paid Tk600 crore in surcharge in FY22, according to the NBR

Staff Correspondent

Wealthy individuals may face higher taxes next year as the National Board of Revenue (NBR) wants to increase the surcharge on their income taxes in the budget for the next fiscal year, finance ministry officials said.

An official of the ministry told The Business Standard that the NBR is likely to propose a 5-10 percentage points increase on the existing surcharges.

A 14-member NBR delegation led by its Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem placed the proposal, among others, to Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal at a meeting at the Secretariat yesterday, the official, who was present at the meeting, told TBS. The surcharge on income tax payable by wealthy individuals now varies between 10% and 35%. At present, the surcharge for individual taxpayers whose asset limit is between Tk10 crore and Tk20 crore is 20%. For those with assets between Tk20 crore and Tk50 crore, the rate is 30%.

Taxpayers with assets exceeding Tk50 crore have to pay a surcharge of 35%. The minimum 10% surcharge is



payable for individuals owning more than a vehicle or a residential property of more than 8,000 square feet.

Analysts have welcomed the NBR move, saying the super-rich should be taxed more to reduce inequality. "We will appreciate an increase in the surcharge as it will help reduce income and asset inequality as well as increase revenue," Professor Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue, told The Business Standard. "According to the latest BBS data, income and asset

inequality have increased significantly. So, we need to concentrate on equity." The economist also emphasised revisiting tax rates and slabs for individual taxpayers to effectively curb inequality.

The government reduced the upper cap of income tax on individuals to 25% from 30% in FY21 amid the outbreak of Covid-19, which benefited the rich and further fueled income inequality. Talking to TBS, economist Ahsan H Mansur also expressed opinion in favour of increasing taxes on wealthy people.

"It will decrease existing inequality," he said. "In the given economic situation, wealthy people should take responsibility, and pay higher taxes. From this ground, it is rational to increase the surcharge," Md Alamgir Hossain, former revenue board member for tax policy, told TBS. Such an additional tax existed even before the country's independence, he noted and added that it was then called wealth tax. In 1996, the government rescinded it and introduced the surcharge in FY11 as an

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# Zelensky was not warned of US secret docs leak: report

Report AFP

Washington did not warn Kyiv about the top-secret documents leaked to internet chat rooms -- containing sensitive information about Ukraine's war effort -- before the news broke in the media last month, President Volodymyr Zelensky told the Washington Post.

The embarrassing security breach revealed US unease about a coming counteroffensive by Kyiv's forces against Russian troops as well as concerns about Ukrainian air defenses. "I did not receive information from the White House or the Pentagon beforehand," Zelensky told the newspaper in an interview in Kyiv Monday.

"We did not have that information. I personally did not. It's definitely a bad story," he said, calling the situation "unprofitable."

Speaking on CNN, Pentagon Press Secretary Pat Ryder would not confirm or deny Zelensky's claim, saying

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# Sugar prices soar for supply shortage

Staff Correspondent

Sugar prices have risen at wholesale and retail markets in Dhaka and Chattogram due to an ongoing supply crunch. The sweetener is currently selling for Tk 135 to Tk 142 per kilogramme (kg) even though the government had set the price at Tk 104 about one month back. Sugar went for between Tk 112 and Tk 115 in April, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh. As such, the price has increased by 22 per cent or Tk 23 per kg over the past month. Several retailers say there was no sugar at their shops for the last four-five days due to reduced supply since before Eid-ul-Fitr.

The supply fell as raw sugar prices in the global market have surged to near 40-year highs on fears of lower production in several exporting countries, including India, Brazil and Argentina. The global market price of sugar has affected the country's market and importers had to reduce their shipments in fear of unstable prices, they said. During a visit to markets in different areas of Chattogram and Dhaka yesterday, it was seen that traders are blaming reduced supply for increased prices. It was found that sugar was selling for between Tk 135 and Tk 140 per kg at only four of 12 shops in the Kazir Deuri market of Chattogram city. Meanwhile, the sweetener was available at just three of seven shops at Karwan Bazar, the largest kitchen market in Dhaka. Alam Hossain, a wholesaler based in Kazir Deuri, said he currently receives only two sacks of sugar each week against

a demand of 20 to 25 sacks, weighing 50 kgs in total. "As a result, there was no sugar at my shop for the last four days," he added. Hossain then said the sugar price increased as refiners have reduced supply. The product is now selling for Tk 4,600 to Tk 4,650 per maund (37.32 kg) while it was Tk 4,000 a week before Eid, he added. Monwar Hossain, owner of Yasin General Store in Karwan Bazar, said many buyers do not want to buy sugar if the retail price is higher than that fixed by the government. So, he has stopped selling loose



sugar since Eid. In a letter to the commerce ministry, the Bangladesh Sugar Refiners Association yesterday said that the international price of sugar has risen to \$675 from \$520 per tonne in the last one month. However, the price of loose sugar has not seen a proportionate increase in the domestic market. And as the international price of sugar has reached record highs, the association members are suffering from their indecision on importing sugar.

The association also urged the government to take appropriate steps on the import of raw sugar. "We are regularly supplying sugar to the market," said SM Mujibur Rahman, head of accounts at Meghna Group of Industries

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# No criminal in Rohingya camps will be spared: IGP

Staff Correspondent

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun today said police will not spare any criminal in the Rohingya camps. "The police have been working to maintain law and order in the Rohingya camps. Necessary instructions were given to police officials," he told journalists after visiting Rohingya camp at Ukha here this morning. "None is spared while organizing any event. Strict action will be taken against any person who is guilty and necessary action will be taken against anyone who tries to create chaos," the IGP said. Regarding death of 10 fishermen in the Cox's Bazar trawler, he said, "As soon as I knew about the incident, I ordered the Range DIG to visit the spot." Apart from this, the CID (Criminal Investigation department) and PBI (Police Bureau of Investigation) teams have been sent there, he added. Police arrested the accused and took statement under the section 164, while investigation is ongoing, Mamun said. He urged



# DSA not to be repealed: Anisul

Staff Correspondent

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Haq today said Digital Security Act (DSA) will not be repealed.

"I want to say it clearly that the DSA will not be repealed. Like all other acts, this one too will have provision for the protection of the honest journalists," he said. The minister said this while addressing a discussion titled "Shaping A Future of Rights" organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) marking World Press Freedom Day in the capital. "The present government is working to stop the misuse of the DSA. I am telling this once again, this act was formulated only to tackle cyber crimes. I can assure you that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will never curb the freedom of press," he added.

The law minister further said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had recognised the

freedom of press as a fundamental rights in his constitution and his worthy daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also believes in this. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after assuming office for the first time in 1996, gave approval to the country's first private television channel. She has formulated Right to Information Act, gave approval to more than 40 television channels, 22 FM radios and 17 community radios," Anisul mentioned. Emphasising on the need of an act like DSA, the law minister also said cyber crimes are being committed worldwide through new media and many countries have similar acts under different names. Conducted by TOB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, the discussion was also addressed, among others, by National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Swedish Ambassador Alexandra Berg von Linde and UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis.

# Bangladesh, Japan focus on 'targeted-oriented' partnership: envoy

Staff Correspondent

Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori, expressing satisfaction over the discussion between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and Japan during PM Sheikh Hasina's recent official visit, on Wednesday said that the two countries were focusing on a 'very comprehensive and targeted-oriented' partnership. "Our relationship has been elevated to strategic partnership from comprehensive partnership. Strategic partnership does not mean only political and security issues," he told reporters at a media briefing at the Japanese embassy.

The ambassador, who returned from Tokyo on Tuesday, said that the two countries should have mutually beneficial cooperation on economic front.

He also said that the two countries

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# Exports fell by over 16% in April amid slow down of RMG orders

Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh's merchandise exports plunged by 16.52% in April of the fiscal year 2022-23 as apparel demand fell across major markets. The country's export sectors earned \$3.95 billion in April 2022-23, while it was \$4.73 billion in the same period of last fiscal, according to the provisional data of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) of Bangladesh. "Apparel demand was low in the global markets that's why every factory is running with less capacity. Besides that, about 12 days were vacations in the apparel industry in the last month as it was the month of Ramadan and Eid Ul Fitr, which is reflected in the export earnings," Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Vice President Shahidullah Azim told The Business Standard. "The global market has been facing a low sales volume for the last couple of months, which is reflected in our business," said Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, former president of BGMEA

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all to report any incident to the police as soon as possible and call the nearest police unit or national emergency service - 999. The IGP said, "We are working with the policy of zero tolerance against militancy and terrorism, declared by the Prime Minister." He said RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) conducted various operations against piracy and successfully worked to make the Sundarbans free from piracy as the Prime Minister declared the Sundarbans free from piracy. He said pirates who surrendered and sought cooperation for returning to normal life were given the opportunity. The IGP said the law enforcers have been conducting operations across the country against

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# A village known for its bitter gourd

The vegetable bringing solvency to the area

Staff Correspondent

The Parer Tong village in Ashidron union under Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar is widely known as Korola'r Gram, or bitter gourd village, by vegetable wholesalers and traders all over Bangladesh. About 10,000 kilogrammes (kgs) of bitter gourd are sold from local markets each day with many shops and stalls having been set up in the roughly 150-acre area. "Everyone in the village grows bitter gourd on a commercial basis as it takes less investment and time while offering better returns compared to other crops," said Nasu Mia, a resident of Parer Tong. The vegetable is currently selling for around Tk 42 per

kg while it was Tk 80 during the first week of Ramadan earlier this year, he added. It takes about Tk 40,000 to cultivate each bigha of land for bitter gourd,



gourd he grew this season. Amena Begum, a resident of the village, said the opportunity to work on bitter gourd fields has helped decrease unemployment in the area. "I get up to Tk 300 daily for tending fields," she added. Arju Mia, a vegetable wholesaler from the Mirpur area of Habiganj, said he buys about 3,000 kgs of bitter gourd from Parer Tong almost every day. "Traders like me sell this crop in different parts of the country, including major metropolitan areas such as Dhaka and Chattogram," he added. Hamdul Haque, general secretary of the Parer Tong collection point market, said bitter gourd cultivation is bringing financial solvency to many

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Japanese Ambassador Iwama Kiminori told reporters at a press conference on Wednesday that he was satisfied with the talks between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and Japan during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent official visit.





## CPD survey reveals Tk 1500cr social safety funds spent on ineligible beneficiaries

Business Desk

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in a survey report said about one-third or Tk 1500 crore of social safety net allocation goes to ineligible beneficiaries due to wrong selection.

The report stated about 30 percent of social safety net recipients are elderly and 33 percent are widowed ineligible beneficiaries. Through which about Tk 1500 crore was spent on ineligible beneficiaries.

CPD calls for effective household surveys to prevent this and selecting people to be beneficiaries based on nepotism and political consideration.

CPD believes that if this wastage can be prevented, it is possible to bring 45 percent of the genuinely eligible people under the allowance. At the same time CPD also suggested increasing the allocation to bring eligible non-beneficiaries under the allowance.

Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of CPD revealed the primary survey data on Sunday at a discussion on

'How to Improve Coverage and Effectiveness of the Social Safety Net Program', held at BRAC Centre in the capital on Sunday.

The survey highlighted that beneficiaries from different areas of Bangladesh believed they were receiving the benefit due to nepotism or a faulty selection process.

Even beneficiaries of other social security programmes like pension and vulnerable group development are getting old age and widow allowances, the report said.

On the issue of nutrition, the survey found that pulses and vegetables were the main sources of nutrition for allowance recipients.

The CPD suggested that to achieve the SDG goals, all eligible individuals in the country should be brought under a social safety net programme.

It required an additional allocation of Tk90,000 crore in the budget, which can be possible to earn by stopping tax evasion, the think tank's observation said.

Chief guest of the programme Rashed

Khan Menon, MP also chairman parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Social Welfare said the state was politically and economically trapped by a small group of rich people, and while poverty was decreasing, inequality was increasing. "Social security programmes should be increased to reduce inequality. However, the social security sector does not have the resources to increase allocations, and this can only be done if tax evasion is stopped," he added.

Aroma Dutta MP, Dr Md Abdul Aziz MP, Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to the caretaker government were present in the function as the special guests.

CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun chaired the event and opined in her speech that nepotism and political considerations were present in the selection of beneficiaries of social security programmes. The bigger problem was that those affected were not receiving the security benefits and those receiving it were getting less than what they should, she said.

## Foreign funds in stocks on the wane

Business Desk

Foreign investments in the Dhaka Stock Exchange have maintained a downward trend since 2018 despite the regulator's efforts to retain existing investors and attract new ones.

Global investors are distancing themselves owing to their long-held fear of a massive depreciation of the local currency against US dollars and repeated changes in policies that hurt listed firms. The worry related to the currency deepened first by the coronavirus pandemic and then by the Russian war in Ukraine.

Since 2020, the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has organised roadshows in the United Arab Emirates, the United States, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Japan in a bid to attract more foreign investments. The initiatives are yet to bring about any major visible positive impacts. Amid the lower participation of international investors, the turnover of foreign investors plunged to Tk 87 crore in March, the lowest since August 2012 when it stood at Tk 68 crore, BSEC data showed.

In March, foreign beneficiary owner account-holders bought shares worth Tk 45 crore and sold securities involving Tk 42 crore, giving a net investment of Tk 3 crore.

In February, foreign investors traded shares worth Tk 192 crore while their net investment was a negative Tk 12 crore.

The turnover was Tk 174 crore in January while the net foreign investment was Tk 114 crore in the negative.

"Foreign investors will not flock to our stock market even if the regulator invites them through roadshows," said a top official of a brokerage firm, preferring not to be named. "Rather, they will look at the potential and problems of the market. The regulator should fix the problems first." One of the challenges, the broker said, is foreign investors face a confidence crisis. "Changes in policies were a major obstacle that spooked the confidence of external investors. Policy continuity is necessary."

In recent years, regulators have brought in a number of policy changes that were most unexpected.

In 2018, the BSEC approved the extension of the tenure of closed-end mutual funds from 10 years to 20 years and handed over the power to asset managers, much to the dismay of investors because many of them had been waiting for the liquidation of the funds and booking profits.

Closed-end mutual funds are investment funds that gather a fixed pool of money for 10 years from investors and re-invest them into stocks, bonds and other assets.

In 2015, the energy regulator -- Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission -- slashed the distribution charges of Titas Gas. As a result, the market value of the state-run gas utility fell more than Tk 3,000 crore in the five months to February in 2016.

In 2019, the telecom regulator declared Grameenphone as a significant market power, dampening the confidence of foreign investors.

As an SMP, higher charges are applied to GP, which might squeeze the business growth of the leading mobile phone operator in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission also banned Grameenphone from selling SIMs in June last year. The restriction was lifted in January this year.

"When regulators take any abrupt decision and it goes against listed companies, their profits take a hit. As a result, companies' capacity to invest is squeezed. Investors don't like to be in such a situation," said the broker.

The fear of a drastic depreciation of the local currency had always been in the minds of investors as the central bank had kept the taka stronger against foreign currencies for long through artificial support. However, the central bank finally allowed the taka to fluctuate late last year after the foreign currency reserves started to fall fast owing to an escalation of import bills against moderate export and remittance earnings.

**নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

জি ই (বিমান) স্ক্রিমটোলা, ঢাকা সোনানিবাস- এর নির্দেশনামে অত্র দপ্তরের আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন উপ- বিভাগে অক্রেজো মালামাল যেমন ডেমোলিশন মালামাল, টিএসপি এবং বৈদ্যুতিক যন্ত্রপাতি, জিআই পাইপ, অক্রেজো আসবাবপত্র ইত্যাদি মালামাল যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে আগামী ০৯/০৫/২০২৩ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকার সময় প্রকাশ্যে নিলাম ডাকে বিক্রি করা হবে। নিলামের নিয়মাবলি ও বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য নিম্নে ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন। বিঃ দ্রঃ নিলাম ডাককারীপন নিলাম ডাকের পূর্বে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র ও নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ই-টিন সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট সার্টিফিকেট নিলামকারীর নিকট প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে।

**খান ড্রেডিং কোং (সরকারী নিলামকারী)**

৮৬, পূর্ব গোড়ান, ঢাকা-১২১৯  
মোবঃ ০১৭১১-৩৪৭১২৪, ০১৭১২-৫০৭৩০০

**Cheap offshore wind power may be lighting your home, feasibility study on**

Business Desk

The government is exploring the potential of wind power as an alternative source of energy, given the low potential of hydropower and the land scarcity challenges faced by solar power. Close PlayerUnibots.inA 2022 International Renewable Energy Agency publication shows offshore wind power plant electricity generation cost at around USD0.075 per kilowatt hour or Tk7.86 at current rate, which is much more competitive than coal- or gas-fired power plants. The Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources has signed a contract with The Netherlands-based BLIX Consultancy and its joint venture partners to conduct a pre-feasibility and detailed feasibility study.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT**  
**DHAKA**

Memo No.-37.07.2600.009.34.001.23.955 Date: 30-04-2023

**e-Tender Notice: 32/2022-2023**  
**(Open Tendering Method)**

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

SL No.	Tender ID	Name of woks	Online Tender Publishing Date (On/After)	Online Tender Opening & Closing (Date & Time)
01.	819849	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building with 4- Storied Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification Works to Nayabazar Degree College at Keraniganj Upazila, Dhaka District.	30-Apr-2023	Please visit Tender Notice in e-GP Website
02.	819850	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic Building in/c Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification Works to Tetuljhora College at Savar Upazila, Dhaka District.	30-Apr-2023	
03.	819851	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building with 4- Storied Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification Works to Anwara Begum Girls High School at Nawabganj Upazila, Dhaka District.	30-Apr-2023	
04.	825475	Construction of Single Storied Academic Building with 4- Storied Foundation in/c. Sanitary Water Supply & Electrification Works to Agla Chawkgighata Jonomongol High School at Nawabganj Upazila, Dhaka District.	30-Apr-2023	

i) 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.  
ii) To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
iii) The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of following Package from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.  
iv) Further information and guidelines are available in the Procuring Entity Office, National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

*(Md. Zahadur Karim)*  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Dhaka  
30.04.2023

**বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর  
সাতক্ষীরা পওর বিভাগ-২  
ফোনঃ ০২৪৭-৭৭৪০১৩৭  
e-mail: [xen.satkhira2@gmail.com](mailto:xen.satkhira2@gmail.com)

Memo No.: T-3/2582 Date: 02.05.2023

**e-Tender Notice No.: 11/2022-2023**

An e-Tender has been invited in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following [work/goods]

SL No.	Tender ID	Package No. & Description	Location of the Works/Supply	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date & Time
01.	826783	Package No.: NDR/Sat-2/31 Re-sectioning of Embankment from km. 1.750 to km. 2.750 total 1.000 km in Polder No. 7/1 Upazila-Assasuni, District: Satkhira Under Satkhira O&M Division-2 BWDB Satkhira during the year 2022-2023.	Upazila: Assasuni District: Satkhira	21.05.2023 15:00 hours	Closing Date & Time: 25.05.2023, 16:20 hours Opening Date & Time: 25.05.2023, 16:20 hours
02.	826782	Package No.: NDR/Sat-2/30 Re-sectioning of Embankment from km. 50.230 to km. 50.800 total 0.570 km in Polder No. 7/2 Upazila-Assasuni, District: Satkhira Under Satkhira O&M Division-2 BWDB Satkhira during the year 2022-2023.	Upazila: Assasuni District: Satkhira	21.05.2023 15:00 hours	Closing Date & Time: 25.05.2023, 16:40 hours Opening Date & Time: 25.05.2023, 16:40 hours
03.	826780	Package No.: NDR/Sat-2/29 Re-sectioning of Embankment from km. 18.000 to km. 18.225 & Km 18.800 to Km 18.950 total 0.375 km in Polder No.4 Upazila-Assasuni, District: Satkhira Under Satkhira O&M Division-2 BWDB Satkhira during the year 2022-2023.	Upazila: Assasuni District: Satkhira	21.05.2023 15:00 hours	Closing Date & Time: 21.05.2023, 17:00 hours Opening Date & Time: 21.05.2023, 17:00 hours
04.	826778	Package No.: NDR/Sat-2/28 Re-sectioning of Embankment from km. 2.800 to km. 2.940 & Km 25.000 to Km 25.350 total 0.490 km in Polder No.4 Upazila-Assasuni, District: Satkhira Under Satkhira O&M Division-2 BWDB Satkhira during the year 2022-2023.	Upazila: Assasuni District: Satkhira	21.05.2023 15:00 hours	Closing Date & Time: 21.05.2023, 17:20 hours Opening Date & Time: 21.05.2023, 17:20 hours

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. The tender will be available in e-GP system at 09.00 hours on 07.05.2023. 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 document from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to Banking 15:00 hours on 21.05.2023.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Md. Shahanooz Talukdar)  
ID No.: 820201002  
Executive Engineer

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