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**Grabbers feast on railway hills**



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**'US visa policy alone cannot ensure fair election'**



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**Eshaan Akbar: The Bangladeshi actor from 'Sex Education'**

## Tamim dropped after drama

BCB announces WC squad; Mahmudullah returns

AL AMIN

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) announced its ICC World Cup squad last night, excluding Tamim Iqbal following much drama involving the experienced opener.

The BCB dropped Tamim on fitness grounds as the left-handed batter has been carrying a recurring back injury, which saw him missing the Asia Cup earlier this month.

But Tamim, the most successful opener the country has produced, was primed to play his fifth straight World Cup and looked comfortable while opening the innings against New Zealand in the second ODI in Mirpur, where he scored a fluent 44 on Saturday.

Despite playing with some pain, which many top-level and experienced cricketers around the world are known to do, Tamim's place in the squad was likely not a dilemma for the selectors, who were sweating on whether to include Mahmudullah Riyad by sacrificing an all-rounder in the 15-man World Cup squad.

However, the drama over Tamim's selection unfolded since Monday midnight after ODI captain Shakib Al Hasan and coach Chandika Hathurusingha's visit to BCB President Nazmul Hassan Papon's residence.



Traders use the edge of the Turag, along the Mirpur-Ashulia Beribandh road in Deul area of Ashulia, to bring in sand on bulk carriers and load sand on to trucks using diggers. Part of the river, marked by the red-tipped pillars, also gets filled in the process. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Tigers opt for mix of youth and experience

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh team management went for a mix of youth and experience as they named the World Cup squad yesterday, with the biggest fallout from the announcement being the absence of veteran Tamim Iqbal due to injury concerns.

The other telling selection was the return of Mahmudullah Riyad. Mahmudullah himself had fitness concerns, with particular attention drawn to his declining athletic abilities on the field.

The 37-year-old, who crossed 5,000 ODI runs in the third match against New Zealand yesterday, impressed the selectors enough in his comeback series to be included for what would be his fourth appearance in cricket's biggest event.

However, question after question was posed to chief selector, Minhajul Abedin Nannu, regarding Tamim's exclusion during the squad announcement. The selection panel felt that they took Tamim's achievements into account before excluding him but they felt the risk of carrying an injured player would outweigh the rewards.

With the 34-year-old Tamim, with over 8,000 runs in ODI cricket, out of the picture, the team management went for a young face for the opening slot.

Youngster Tanzid Hasan Tamim, who made 34 runs in five innings so far since getting the opportunity to play in the Asia Cup, had impressed enough with his strokeplay. A number of openers were tried out before the World Cup, with Mohammad Naim featuring heavily but while he got starts at the Asia Cup, he did not capitalise with big knocks. In the end, Tanzid got the nod despite his inexperience.



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## NATIONAL ELECTION EC to invite observers from Saarc countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There are many countries in the world other than the ones in the European Union, and they may send observers for Bangladesh's national polls, Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said yesterday.

The Election Commission will invite observers from the Saarc countries next month, he told reporters at his office.

The EU last week informed the EC that it would not send a fully-fledged mission to observe the national election here.

"Based on the recommendations of the exploratory mission -- and taking into consideration the budget for EU Election Observation Missions for 2023/2024 -- High Representative Josep Borrell has decided not to deploy a fully-fledged EU Election Observation Mission," reads a letter EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Charles Whiteley sent to the EC.

"The High Representative's decision reflects the fact that, at the present time, it is not sufficiently clear whether the necessary conditions will be met at the point in time when the elections take place."

Alamgir yesterday said the EU had informed that it would send a small team of observers.

"But it's not the final word. They may later change their mind and send a full mission," he added.

**GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

As per the guidelines the EC issued yesterday, individuals or organisations must have work experience in good

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## \$27b health budget in the works

The five-year health sector plan yet to be approved

REJIAUL KARIM BYRON and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is preparing a \$27 billion budget for the upcoming five-year health sector plan, up 52.5 percent from the ongoing programme that ends in June 2024.

The ambitious plan, centred on achieving universal health coverage with a special focus on urban primary health care and mitigating the impact of climate change on health, is slated for implementation in July 2024.

Tangible progress will remain elusive without a clear roadmap and effective coordination among different programmes within the health sector plan, according to experts.

"The upcoming health sector plan is crucial for achieving universal health coverage by 2030, but, like the current one, it lacks coordination among different components and a clear roadmap," said Syed Abdul Hamid, a health economics professor at the University of Dhaka.

The upcoming Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP), which would be the fifth of its kind, lacks a clear plan to tackle health emergencies like Covid-19 and the

dengue outbreak or emergencies due to natural calamities.

"Covid-19 and the current dengue outbreak have shown us the necessity of special allocation for health emergencies. There should have been a separate operational plan for this," Hamid added.

All health sector programmes, including the current one, failed to improve access to health care for the lowest quintile of society, said Be-nazir Ahmed, health system expert and former director of disease control at the Directorate General of Health Services.

"This issue primarily stems from systemic gaps in our healthcare management. Consequently, funds are allocated and increased, yet discernible improvements in quality remain elusive."

He warned that without addressing the systematic gaps, the upcoming health sector programme will also fail to deliver any tangible outcome.

The proposal though is not final yet and is awaiting approval from the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council by the first quarter of the following year, The Daily Star has learnt from officials informed.

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## Country has been turned into 'Hirak Rajar Desh'

Says Mirza Abbas

STAR REPORT

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas said the government has turned the country into "Hirak Rajar Desh", a fictional country run by an oppressive and erratic monarch in a Satyajit Ray film.

"But, my friends, we all know the consequences of Hirak Rajar Desh .... It is high time to challenge the government. Be united and organised. This regime will sustain no longer," he added.

He made the remarks while inaugurating the Khulna divisional road march at Jhenidah Bus Terminal yesterday.

"Bangladesh has not gained independence to establish the rule of one person. Bangladesh became independent for establishing democracy, sovereignty, freedom of speech, and the right to vote. Not to establish the reign of a king or queen. Not to turn the country into a Hirak Rajar Desh," he said.

The BNP leader said, "The amount of loan defaulted in the country was Tk 21,000 crore. Today, that amount has risen to Tk 1,09,000 crore. People want to know where this money went, who used this money, and who misappropriated it. Those of us who protest are arrested by the police .... Then, they send us to

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BNP holds a brief rally at Muralimore in Jashore town yesterday while marching from Jhenidah to Khulna via Magura and Jashore. The road march was part of its one-point movement demanding the next election under a non-partisan administration.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## No visa policy, sanctions can stop Hasina

Quader says at AL rally

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cannot be stopped by issuing visa policy and sanctions, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader told a rally in Keraniganj yesterday.

"Bangladesh will run in line with the constitution. It does not abide by any country's sanctions. We were not defeated in 1971 and Sheikh Hasina cannot be stopped even today by issuing sanctions. We don't care about anyone's sanctions," Quader said.

The US imposed the restrictions, but BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir made threats over the issue, Quader told a "peace and development" rally, held by Dhaka district AL, at Jinjira, protesting "terrorism, militancy, anarchy and ill politics of BNP-Jamaat".

"Did Mirza Fakhrul get an agency? Washington's sanctions could not stop Israel's killing in Palestine. They [US] failed to prevent the Russian invasion of Ukraine. No one pays heed to sanctions. So, we who have achieved the country's independence in exchange for blood are not afraid of sanctions."

Quader said, "The game will start once

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## Six Ansar al-Islam members arrested

Says Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have arrested six members, including a key leader, of the banned militant outfit Ansar al-Islam from different areas in Dhaka.

Two laptops and copies of Jihadi literature were seized from their possession during a joint drive conducted by Rab-1 and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence on Monday night.

The arrestees are Mesbah Uddin Chowdhury alias Abu Masrur, 50, chief of Dawah wing of the outfit's Dhaka region; Sheikh Ashiqur Rahman alias Abu Afifa, 49; Sadi Md Zulkarnain, 35; Kamrul Hasan Sabbir, 40; Masum Rana alias Masum Billah, 26; and Saieed MRizvi, 35, said a Rab press release.

In primary interrogation, they said they joined the outfit through fellow members and are now engaged in militant activities in different areas.

According to the release, Mesbah went to a European country in 2004 for higher education and got permanent residency. After joining the outfit through Ashiqur, he used to circulate video clips on social media to encourage Bangladeshi youths to join militancy.

**In primary interrogation, they said they joined the outfit through fellow members and are now engaged in militant activities in different areas.**

In 2022, he returned to Bangladesh at the behest of the top militant leaders and started recruiting fresh youths for the group, the release said.

Like Mesbah, Ashiqur was also in a European country after completing an MBS degree from a university in Bangladesh. He was one of the advisors for the group's Dhaka region and a key fund provider.

Sadi, a civil engineer, used to work at a garment factory and later joined the militant group through Mesbah, while Kamrul, who completed his BSc in engineering from a public university, joined the group through Ashiqur.

Saieed, a doctor by profession, got radicalised while staying in a Middle Eastern country in 2021. He later joined Ansar al-Islam through Mesbah, while Masum, a master's student, joined the group through Sadi, Rab officials claimed.

## Country has been turned

FROM PAGE 1

court, and the court subsequently sends us to jail. This situation cannot continue."

Leaders and activists of the party and its associate bodies from adjoining districts gathered to join the road march with posters, banners, festoons, party flags, and national flags.

The march, which is part of the BNP's 15 day programme, began at 11:45am.

After marching different streets in Jhenidah, Magura, Jashore, and Khulna, the rally concluded in Khulna's Shibbari, where Abbas once again addressed the gathering.

Hundreds of party leaders and activists joined the rally to press home their demand for elections under a non-partisan caretaker government.

[Our Jhenidah and Khulna correspondents contributed to this report]

## EC to invite

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governance, elections, democracy, peace building, and human rights in order to be observers.

The organisations should be registered with the authorities of their countries, add the guidelines.

The observers must submit their election observation reports by email or in print to the EC secretary within 30 days after the polling day.

The reports should be based on observations made before, during, and after the polls.

The observers should ensure that the observations and reporting are impartial, objective and reflect the highest standards of accuracy.

Individuals and entities willing to be the observers are required to apply to the EC for accreditation.

Applications from individuals convicted of an electoral offence, fraud or dishonest conduct will not be considered by the EC.

The EC last month began amending the 2018 guidelines for international observers.

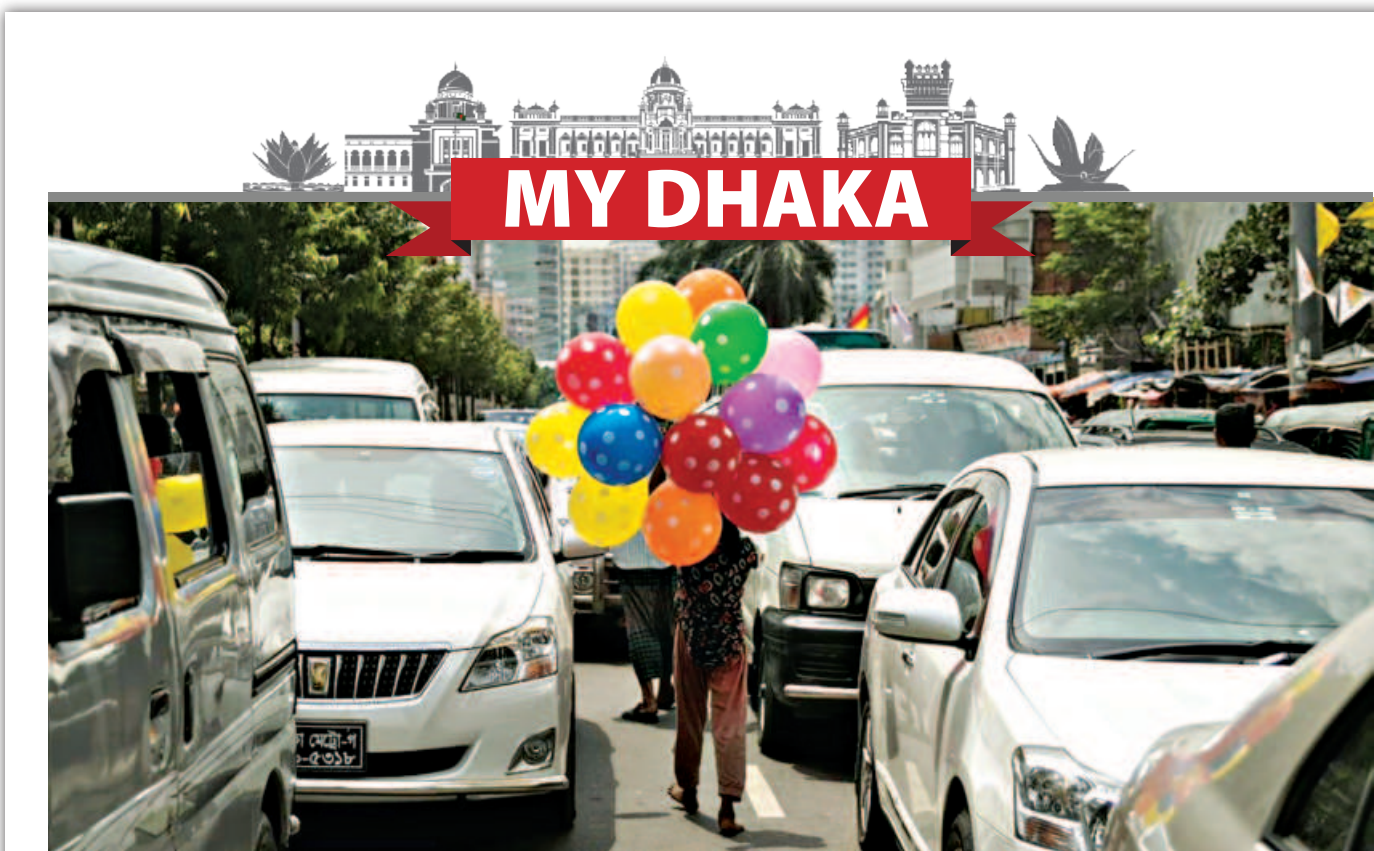


PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

# A Sri Lankan's memory of Dhaka

DASTAQUIR ISMAIL

Over the course of my career, I have spent a significant amount of time in Dhaka, Bangladesh and various other locations in the country. However, Dhaka holds a special place in my heart, as it has been witness to more than half of my professional journey. From my first flight to the bustling capital in the 90s, where immigration questions were tediously typed on a piece of paper, to the present day, I have seen this city transform into a thriving metropolis, representing the progress of the entire nation.

One of the things that struck me from the moment I arrived was the warm and friendly nature of the people of Dhaka. They loved Sri Lankans! No matter where I went, I was greeted with smiling faces and a genuine willingness to help. Their hospitality and obliging nature made me feel at home, even in a place far from my own.

And then there's the food. Oh, the food! Dhaka is a culinary paradise, with its rich and diverse cuisine that never fails to tantalise the taste buds. And



during the holy month of Ramadan, the city comes alive with an array of delicious iftar treats, creating a unique atmosphere of celebration.

While the people and the food are undeniably remarkable, there is one aspect of Dhaka that can be a challenge for both residents and visitors alike: the traffic. The city's roads are notorious for their congestion, and navigating through the sea of vehicles can be quite an adventure. However, over time, I have come to accept this as a part of the city's charm. In fact, it has become a sort of rite of passage for anyone living or working in Dhaka. Once you learn to navigate the traffic, you truly feel like a part of the city.

Dhaka, a city where the old and the new seamlessly blend, showcases a unique tapestry of culture and colours. The architectural wonders of the past proudly stand alongside modern skyscrapers and vibrant rickshaws, reflecting the resilience and adaptability



of its people.

Rooted in a rich heritage, Dhaka's vibrant culture shines through its colourful festivals, and traditional music. Every corner of the city exudes history and tradition, leaving visitors enchanted by its charm.

It is a city that has undergone tremendous transformation, both physically and culturally. From a place where immigration questions were typed on an Excel-like sheet to a thriving metropolis, Dhaka has come a long way. Its people, make the city welcoming and inviting. The diverse cuisine tantalises taste buds, while the traffic challenges become a part of the adventure. And above all, the vibrancy of Dhaka, coupled with its rich culture and colours, leaves an indelible mark on the hearts of those who experience it.

Dhaka truly is a city that captivates and enchants all who have the pleasure of calling it "my Dhaka".

## 10 injured in AL factional clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

At least 10 Awami League activists were injured yesterday in a clash between two of its factions in Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila.

The clash broke out between supporters of MP Mosharraf Hossain and former upazila parishad chairman Gias Uddin around 4:00pm at a community centre, said locals and police.

Gias Uddin told reporters that the MP's supporters, headed by Mirsarai Upazila Chhatra League President Masud Karim, ambushed his supporters during a meeting organised to plan an upcoming rally.

Contacted, Masud Karim denied the attack and instead blamed Gias Uddin for the attack on his activists.

"On information, we sent a police team to the spot to bring the situation under control," said Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mirsarai Police Station.

"No one filed any complaint yet. Additional police have been deployed in the area to keep the situation under control," the OC added.

## Cousin held over gang-rape of sixth-grader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police yesterday arrested a young man, one of three accused in a case filed over the gang-rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl in Savar.

The 21-year-old arrestee, the victim's cousin, was arrested early in the morning after the girl's mother filed a case with Savar Model Police Station Monday night, said Dipok Chandra Saha, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police also arrested two other accused, both aged around 13.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said that on Sunday the arrested youth took the victim, a student of class six, to a house in Manikganj's Singair from Savar and raped her.

Later, the two other accused also raped her and left her next to her house in Savar around midnight.

The victim's family disclosed the matter to police last night and filed the case accusing the trio, he said.

## UP member stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A union parishad member died after being stabbed allegedly by his neighbour while settling a quarrel in Gaibandha's Polashbari upazila Monday night.

Badsha Mia, 50, of Noyonpur village in Palashbari, was a member of Betkapa union's ward 8, said Inspector of Palashbari Police Station Dibakar Adhikari.

Betkapa UP Chairman Mostafizur Rahman said, "Due to an alarming increase of theft incidents in the area, we appointed some local youths as guards and it was announced that no one will be allowed to stay outside the house after 10:00pm without any emergency."

Last night, one of the newly appointed guards named Khairul Islam was patrolling Noyonpur Bazar.

When he saw a local around 11:30am, Khairul asked him why he was outside at that time, which triggered an altercation between them.

## Tamim dropped after drama

FROM PAGE 1

According to BCB sources, in the meeting, Shakib wanted to step down from captaincy as he did not want unfit players to go to the World Cup. It is understood that Shakib was referring to Tamim's current injury situation.

As the news spread yesterday morning, it caught everyone by surprise. It also delayed the announcement of the World Cup squad, which according to the BCB's official social handles, was scheduled for the innings break of the day-night third ODI against New Zealand.

The board circulated the final squad on its social media platforms at 8:14pm even though it has been a tradition for the selectors to announce a squad at a press briefing, which eventually took place after the match against New Zealand.

Appearing at the press briefing, Chief Selector Minhazul Abedin said, "The squad prepared after discussing with the medical department, team management, players, the skipper, and the head coach as well. We followed the same procedure for Tamim as we normally do in the case of any other player."

It was a little curious that following such turmoil, Tamim's injury was the sole reason offered for his omission. After all, the very fact that he was played for the first two ODIs against New Zealand, in a series talked about as a final chance to get the World Cup combination right, strongly implies that the medical department and all those other stakeholders had deemed Tamim a risk worth taking.

If his injury took a sharp turn for the worse, there was no word of it over the past three days.

Those associated with the game said the injury issue was just a smokescreen to hide the bigger problem plaguing the national team.

They said the whole episode is disturbing for a team heading to a global showpiece event, which will commence in India on October 5.

It also once again exposed a lack of cohesion in the national team and the board's inability to handle such

situations professionally, they said.

An official with knowledge of Tamim's medical condition said the left handed batter's back injury is known to everybody.

"It was not an issue that can prevent him from playing provided that he manages it properly. He was so fluent in the game against New Zealand. It could have been good for his confidence had he played the third ODI," said the official.

Tamim sat out the last game, with the team management saying that he had opted out to take rest. But insiders say Tamim's decision had to do with a longstanding rift involving him, Shakib and coach Hathurusingha.

Tamim and Shakib have not been on talking terms for a long time and a board official, preferring not to be named, said, "The relationship has become so complicated that nobody knows how to solve it."

The board president has also admitted it publicly, but has done little to neutralise it."

Allegations have also been rife that Hathurusingha has not done enough to play the peacemaker's role. Since his return as Bangladesh coach in February this year, Hathurusingha has so far failed to build the team as a unit.

His inability to create harmony in the team was one of the six reasons that the Sri Lankan cricket board cited for his termination as coach in 2019, after the national team's poor run of form.

Tamim announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, in dramatic circumstances, after playing Bangladesh's first match against the touring Afghanistan team on July 5 in Chattogram.

Insiders had then said an emotional Tamim, who has often been criticised for not handling pressure well off the field, took the decision from a concern that the team management had not kept faith in him while he was playing through pain.

At that time, he had reversed his decision after an intervention from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

This time, though, there was no return for Tamim.



Children stand next to cars as refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh region arrive in the border village of Kornidzor, Armenia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tigers opt for mix of youth and experience

FROM PAGE 1

"We have seen a number of openers. Tanzid was in our HP unit. He did well in the Emerging Cup. He is just getting a few opportunities [on the international stage]. We are hoping he can show his worth with more opportunities in the World Cup," came Minhajul's reply yesterday at the press conference.

Aside Mahmudullah, the other two veterans in the squad are skipper Shakib Al Hasan and Mushfiqur Rahim. Najmul Hossain Shanto will be Shakib's deputy at the World Cup, his ongoing purple patch with the bat ushering him onto the role, while another youngster Tawhid Hridoy would continue as a key batter in the showpiece event.

Despite the dramatic atmosphere ahead of the squad announcement, the 15-member squad did not have much of a surprise factor. The Tigers included five pacers, a much debated topic among the BCB think-tank ahead of the squad selection.

Without Tamim in the squad, Mehedi Hasan Miraz may now likely be the backup opener and it opened up a spot for bringing in a fifth pacer into the squad. Tanzim Hasan Sakib, who impressed against India in the Asia Cup, got the nod ahead of pacer Khaled Ahmed. The other regulars of the pace attack -- Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman, Hasan Mahmud and Shoriful Islam -- all

made the squad as expected.

Miraz, Nasum Ahmed and Mahedi Hasan would provide the spin options at the World Cup, with Mahmudullah also carrying part of the responsibility. In absence of a genuine number seven, Bangladesh eventually decided in favour of Mahedi, who put in an all-round performance in the Asia Cup game against India.

Bangladesh team are scheduled to fly to India this afternoon and before their World Cup opener against Afghanistan on October 07, the Tigers will play two warm-up matches against Sri Lanka and England on September 29 and October 02, respectively, in Guwahati.



## HIGHEST EVER INVESTMENT IN DATABASE INFRASTRUCTURE



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

The migration will take place during  
**28-30 September 2023.**  
Banking operations will remain  
suspended on those days.

## Will work following ideals of Bangabandhu Says Justice Obaidul Hassan, takes oath as 24th chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Obaidul Hassan took oath as the 24th chief justice of Bangladesh yesterday.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath at Bangabhaban at 11:00am, said Supreme Court sources told.

The prime minister was not present at the oath taking ceremony as she is abroad. Cabinet members, former chief justices, judges, and family members of Hassan attended the ceremony.

Later in the day,

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Justice Obaidul Hassan taking oath as the 24th chief justice. President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath at Bangabhaban yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PTI

## Snap illegal power lines immediately Demands JS body

UNB, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry yesterday recommended the government to disconnect illegal electricity lines on an urgent basis and take steps immediately to identify snapped power lines during natural disasters.

The parliamentary watchdog also suggested ensuring power supply by determining the actual demand of electricity in different areas of the country.

The recommendation came from the 41st meeting

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## There will be a 'constitutional gap' if polls not held on time: EC Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir yesterday said a "constitutional gap" will be created if the next general election is not held by January 29 next year.

"There has to be an election in any situation, otherwise there will be a constitutional gap. If that gap is created, there will be chaos in the country," he said. "The Election Commission cannot allow that to happen," Alamgir told reporters at his office while answering journalists' questions.

The current parliament expires on January 29. According to the constitution, the national election must be held at any time in the final 90 days of the parliament's tenure. The 90-day countdown starts on November 1.

His comment comes at a time when the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP and several other parties are at odds over the polls time government.

AL says the polls will be held under the current government as per the constitution, while the opposition is demanding a caretaker government.

The opposition also wants reconstitution of the current EC.

Alamgir said there might be some sort of "political crisis" over such disagreements between political parties, but that doesn't mean that the parties are not in the course of election.

## TEENAGER MURDER

## 16 boys sentenced to various terms

STAR REPORT

A juvenile court in Barguna yesterday sentenced 16 boys to different terms in prison for killing a teenager named Hridoy in 2020.

Twelve of them were sentenced to 10 years and the rest to seven years in prison, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

The juveniles, aged between 16 and 17, will be at correctional facilities until they are 18, at which point they will be taken to prisons, says the verdict.

Three of them are on the run.

Barguna Juvenile Court Judge Moshir Rahman Khan delivered the verdict convicting the boys of beating Hridoy, 14, to death in Barguna town on May 25, 2020, which was Eid day. The next day, Hridoy's mother Feroza Begum filed a case with Barguna Sadar Police Station accusing 20 people.

## 'We oppose external interference' Says Chinese envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China opposes any kind of external interference in Bangladesh, said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen on Monday.

China supports Bangladesh in safeguarding national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, he said. He made the remarks at a reception marking the 74th anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China at a city hotel.

"...all countries should abandon the cold-war mentality and zero-sum game," he added.

## Choose eco-friendly candidates for polls Bapa urges political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon yesterday demanded political parties to not nominate candidates who are responsible for pollution, in the upcoming national polls.

A group of environmentalists and teachers brought forth this demand during a press conference at the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Bapa President Nur Mohammad Talukder said some dishonest businessmen, officials, ministers and MPs are responsible for air and environmental pollution, leading to public health and lives being put at risk, just for profit.

The government complies with the demands of all of these high-profile polluters, which has resulted in Bangladesh's average life expectancy falling by eight years. All political parties should only nominate environment-friendly candidates, said Bapa Vice President Iqbal Habib.

DU Geography and Environment Department Chairman Professor Shahidul Islam, Bapa Joint Secretary Ahmed Kamruzzaman Majumder, and national committee member Gaus Peyaree also spoke at the event.

## Promote self-regulation in media

### Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is an absence of editorial guidelines in media houses, which creates scopes for external factors to control journalists and newsrooms, according to a study.

The study, titled "Advocacy for Enhanced Media Self-Regulation in Bangladesh," was conducted by three International Training Program (ITP) members from Bangladesh in support of the Sweden-based organisation NIRAS, in collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

This study was coordinated by MRDI.

Mir Masrur Zaman, director of the Society for Media and Suitable Human Communication

Techniques (SoMaSHTe), presented the research findings at a stakeholders' consultation on media self-regulation during "Research Findings Dissemination and Opinion Mobilization," held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

"The constitution of Bangladesh has mentioned the right to information and freedom of speech, but simultaneously, there are many laws used for suppressing the voice of journalists," the study said.

The report also pointed out the absence of any specific law to protect journalists. In addition to this, two more research reports were also presented at the event.

"Bangladeshi media leaders and professionals are worried about the

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Overgrown bushes, dumped non-biodegradable waste, and algae choke the Kunipara end of Hatirjheel lake in the capital. The current state of the water poses a serious threat to the waterbody's marine biodiversity while its stench is unbearable for the area's residents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 85pc used 'Surokkha' to get jabs

### Says MJF study on Covid vaccination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 85 percent people voluntarily registered for Covid-19 vaccines through "Surokkha" app while the remaining 15 percent registered in person during special vaccine campaigns or at vaccine centres, according to a Manusher Jonno Foundation study.

The findings of the study, titled "The Feedback State: Listening and Responding to Bangladesh's Citizens During the Covid-19 Pandemic" was revealed yesterday in an event held at a city hotel.

Around 2,400 individuals (50

percent male, 50 percent female), from rural and urban areas of 33 districts, participated in the study.

According to the study, 36 percent of respondents availed government healthcare services during the pandemic, either personally or for their families. Among them, 20 percent utilised telemedicine services.

Approximately 11 million and three million telehealth consultation calls were made in 2020, and 2021 respectively.

Additionally, 70 percent received information through

private television channels, 34 percent from BTV, 27.3 percent through social media, 24.7 percent through announcement using loud speakers, 12 percent via SMS from mobile operators, 11.3 percent through local government representatives, 1 percent from upazila Facebook pages, and 5.3 percent from other sources.

Of the respondents, 48 percent obtained information about the pandemic from family and community members.

Speaking at the event, lawmaker

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## AL unfazed by US visa policy Speakers tell Jubo League event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi

Awami League is undeterred by the US visa policy and sanctions, said AL presidium member AHM Khairuzzaman Liton in Rajshahi yesterday.

He was speaking at the triennial conference of Rajshahi Jubo League. The day-long conference was held on Pathanpara Road.

It featured discussions on the US visa policy, where party leaders criticised BNP's reliance on foreign powers and called for unity among party members.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud expressed concern over the US ambassador's comments on media personalities and their inclusion in the visa policy. He viewed this as an interference with the independent media.

JL Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash highlighted the challenges faced by the organisation due to intra-party feud. He stressed the importance of overcoming these issues.

No new committee was announced during the conference, with party members indicating that it would be revealed later.

PRAYER  
TIMING  
SEPTEMBER 27



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:15	6:00	7:30
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:30	6:05	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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**TO-LET**  
COMMERCIAL SPACE

Ground floor: 2500 square feet  
1<sup>st</sup> floor: 4500 square feet  
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# Sorry state of a Khulna hospital

## Crumbling building, manpower shortage plague Chest Disease Hospital

DIPANKAR ROY

A lack of proper supervision and renovation has left the 58-year-old Khulna Chest Disease Hospital in a sorry state.

The institution serves as the only reliable treatment centre for tuberculosis patients, especially drug-resistant tuberculosis, in 21 districts of the region.

Despite its reputation, admitted patients are always in a state of fear due to the dilapidated condition of the hospital building. Often, one-third of the beds remain vacant, as many patients do not venture to get admitted there.

Its walls lay cracked and half of the pillars have collapsed. When it rains, water falls through the roof into the ward. The plaster of the walls and roof of the building has fallen and iron rods are visibly sticking out.

Almost all toilets designated for patients are unusable.

However, only a few rounds of regular renovations have been carried out over a long period of time.

Partha Biswas, a medical officer at the hospital, said various NGOs are providing free medical care to TB patients in remote areas. Because of that, the number



PHOTO: STAR

of TB patients has decreased. Additionally, a patient crisis has been ongoing since Covid-19.

“However, the dilapidated building poses a threat to everyone and many patients leave in fear of accidents,” he added.

Md Abdur Rahman of Manjildpur of Paikgacha Sadar union in Khulna said, “I was admitted here last year. I returned again last month for treatment. But lying in the hospital bed and looking at the ceiling, my chest shuddered.”

Sheikh Dildar of Mongla upazila in Bagerhat has been

receiving treatment for several months on the bed next to Abdur Rahman.

“I am already sick... But the condition of the hospital makes me panic more,” he said.

According to available data, 297 patients were admitted between January and July of this year. However, data from 2022 showed that 300 patients visited the facilities every month.

While doctors and nurses serve at this 100-bed hospital amid the risk, there is an ongoing crisis of manpower. Surgeries at the hospital have been shut down for

two years due to a lack of specialist doctors.

Out of the 11 posts available for doctors, five positions -- including two specialists -- are vacant. The hospital does not have any doctors for pathology and radiology. Similarly, 16 out of 25 posts for office assistants and 12 out of 15 posts for cleaners are also vacant.

While other public hospitals in Khulna are overcrowded with patients, KCDH is only at one-third of its capacity. This shows the present condition of government hospitals, said Sheikh Baharul Alom, president of Bangladesh Medical Association, Khulna.

Contacted, Prodip Chandra Mondal, superintendent of the hospital, said the condition of the hospital buildings has reached an alarming level and the authorities should have looked into this earlier.

The Public Works Department has put two proposals, forward earlier this year, for the reconstruction of dilapidated buildings and abandoned residential buildings, he said.

“They have already visited the hospital. They said it is no longer repairable and it has to be rebuilt,” he added.

## Villages of artisans

FROM PAGE 5

domestic chores and earn around Tk 7,000-8,000 a month.

Milton Miah, a artisan of the factory, said he has been working there for seven years and currently earns around Tk 15,000-16,000 monthly.

“With the earnings, I can maintain my family and ensure my children’s education,” he said.

Munia Begum, a craftswoman from Borni village who also works at the factory, said, “I also want to build a small factory someday.”

Siraj Miah of the same village, who has been involved in this industry for many years, said, “My children don’t want me

to work anymore. But I don’t want to leave this profession as I am really good at it.”

“Earlier, we had to move to different places to sell our products. Now, we can just sell our products to the factory,” he added.

People of this area do not sit idle anymore. They have become financially independent through bamboo crafting, said Nurunnabi.

The shopping malls in Dhaka are main customers of Nurunnabi’s products, while the handicrafts are also being exported to about 10-12 countries, he said.

“However, we are struggling to compete in the international market regarding the price and

quality of our products. We need advanced tools and machinery to increase production and maintain quality,” he said.

Jamil Hussain, extension officer of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation in Tangail, said several initiatives are being taken to expand the bamboo-cane industry.

“If a person needs a loan, we will arrange it on easy terms,” he added.

## Snap illegal power

FROM PAGE 3

of the committee, presided over by its chairman Waseqa Ayesha Khan in the Parliament Bhaban, said a press release.

The meeting discussed the steps taken to reduce load shedding in the areas under Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board.

The parliamentary body asked for imparting proper training to the members of Palli Bidyut Samity regularly. The committee recommended the ministry

concerned to autimise its imported fuel sales or distribution system, taking actions immediately to check irregularities if any in the system, and continuing the geological survey activities.

Besides, the parliamentary panel suggested stopping illegal extraction of stones from stone quarries in different parts of the country and, if necessary, taking measures to appoint guards in the quarries.

## Will work

FROM PAGE 3

Hassan paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu and to the martyrs of the Liberation War by placing wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi 32 and at National Martyrs Memorial in Savar.

Afterwards, he told reporters that he took oath for establishing rule of law and justice for all following the ideology of Bangabandhu. “Bangabandhu has given us the constitution and it is our responsibility to uphold the constitution,” he said.

## 85pc used

FROM PAGE 3

Aroma Dutta said collaboration between the government and NGOs during the pandemic can be an example for such future emergencies.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, highlighted how the organisation has helped government stakeholders facilitate their services for targeted groups.

“We have witnessed how people volunteered to help each other during the pandemic,” she added.

## Promote

FROM PAGE 3

declining media trust; however, they tend to put the blame mostly on external factors, sidelining the media’s own failures in maintaining effective internal governance standards,” says another study titled “Towards Sustainable Journalism in Bangladesh,” which was presented by North South University’s Associate Professor SM Rezwan Ul Alam.

“There is a strong urge from media leaders and practitioners to develop a functional code of conduct and improve self-regulations, which will ultimately contribute to public trust,” the study read.

Another study, titled “Promoting Self-regulation in Digital News Platforms,” found that the importance of fact-checking emerges as a cornerstone in the edifice of responsible journalism, safeguarding accuracy, credibility, and the overarching principle of truthfulness.

Reaz Ahmad, executive editor at Dhaka Tribune, presented the study

findings at the same event. The study also highlighted the limited efficacy of regulatory bodies, such as the Press Council, in addressing journalistic content proliferated on social media.

It said media can serve as a guiding light for digital news outlets by upholding high journalistic standards, practicing self-regulation, and prioritising ethical reporting.

Speakers, while addressing the event, emphasised the importance of ensuring self-regulation in media houses when practicing journalism.

Journalist Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, while speaking at the event, said if media could manage content diversification, improve presentation styles, and properly use technology, it would sustain in the near future.

The event was moderated by MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman, while Ainee Islam, director of programme development at the Asia Foundation, spoke at the event, among others.

**Worldwide Media Rights**  
Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) T20 for 02 Editions

Ref No: BCB/ Media Rights/ BPT20 / 2023/645

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the TV Broadcasters/ Marketing Agents/ Consortiums for acquiring the following Worldwide Media Rights of the BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE (BPL) T20 for a period of two (02) editions/seasons i.e., 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> edition/season of BPL T20:

01. Satellite TV Broadcasting Rights for Global including Bangladesh.

02. Digital OTT (Over-the-Top) Rights for Global including Bangladesh.

03. DTH (Direct-to-Home) Rights.

**Area of Rights :**

A detailed EOI document has been developed incorporating all necessary EOI details for acquiring the above-mentioned Worldwide Media Rights of the BANGLADESH PREMIER LEAGUE (BPL) T20 for a period of two (02) editions/seasons i.e., 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> edition/season of BPL T20.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

a) Companies related to/ directly or indirectly involved in Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, online betting & Online Betting Surrogate shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.

b) Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute or regarded as non-compliant in its previous involvement (e.g. Financial, Disciplinary etc.) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process or to obtain EOI Document from BCB on payment.

c) Interested applicants (TV Broadcasters /Marketing agencies/ Digital Marketing Agencies/Consortiums) should have the appropriate experience, infrastructure, staffing, resources, capability, and financial standing to participate in the EOI process.

d) The broadcaster / TV Channel must be in operation (on air) for least 02 (Two) years. Marketing Agency/Digital Marketing Agency/Consortium must have the capability and reasonable experience in marketing international standard cricket events.

**EOI Document Purchasing Procedure :**

a) Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document from BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department) on payment of the Non-Refundable fees of BDT 3,00,000 (Three Lacs Taka Only) in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Cash or for the Overseas participants USD 3,000.00 (Three thousand US Dollar only) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name : Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank : Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT : SCBLBDDX). Please send your request for the EOI Document (Soft copy or printed version) along with the evidence of Bank Transfer /Payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com).

b) The details of the EOI process, Tentative Itinerary, Bank Guarantee Format etc. are set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 during working hours (10.00 AM to 5.00 PM except Friday & Public Holidays in Bangladesh).

**EOI Submission Procedure :**

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board.

**The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:**

01. Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.

02. Updated auditor's report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).

03. Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement.

04. Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.

05. Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.

06. In case of Consortium, notarized Consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Bangladesh Cricket Board  
Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

**Bangladesh Cricket Board**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**UTTARA BANK PLC.**  
PURCHASE & PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT  
HEAD OFFICE, DHAKA.

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for Procurement of several servers for Microsoft Framework at the Data Center (DC) and Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) of UTTARA BANK PLC. Please visit [www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender](http://www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender) for details.

**Deputy General Manager**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH  
HIGH COURT DIVISION  
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)  
**MATTER NO. 382 OF 2023**

An application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994.  
AND  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Ibrahim Iqbal Memorial Hospital Limited ..... PETITIONER  
-VERSUS-  
The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and firms, TCB Bhaban (6th Floor), 1 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 .....RESPONDENT  
Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994, for the alteration and addition of the objects clause of the Memorandum of Association of Ibrahim Iqbal Memorial Hospital Limited has been filed before the Hon'ble Company Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Pursuant to the said application Mr. Justice Md. Riaz Uddin Khan, the Hon'ble Justice of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh was pleased to admit the application by an order dated 11.09.2023.  
Any person wishing to contest or oppose the aforesaid application may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through a duly appointed Advocate.  
A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of requisite costs.

**Intiaz Uddin Ahmad Asif**  
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
Room No. 105 (Annex-Extension) Sher-e-Bangla Bhaban,  
Supreme Court Bar Association Building

**WANTED**

**Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vittik**  
**Medical College, Savar, Dhaka**  
A sister organization of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Charitable Trust.  
Applications are invited for the post of principal of **Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vittik Medical College, Savar, Dhaka.**  
**Eligibility criteria:**  
Candidates who are registered with BMDC according to the BMDC Rules, are encouraged to apply with CV, two copies of passport size colored photographs, copies of supporting documents, and a payment order for BDT. 1,000/00 (Taka one thousand) only payable to **Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vittik Medical College before October 08, at 2 pm.** Internal candidates have the option to apply through the proper channels. Two years of experience as principal at a medical college and the status of professor with two medical articles published in reputed journals are required.

**PROFESSOR ALTAFUNNESSA MAYA**  
Chairperson  
Gonoshasthaya Kendra Charitable Trust  
Address: 14/E, Road No. 6 Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka, BANGLADESH.

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**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

This is to inform our valued Shareholders that, the Board of Directors of BBS Cables Ltd. in its Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 at 4.30 p.m. at the Corporate Head Office of the Company, has decided, declared and recommended in regard to 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of BBS Cables Ltd. for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 as follows:

• Recommended Dividend

• Date and Time of 15<sup>th</sup> AGM

• Venue of 15<sup>th</sup> AGM

• Record Date

: Cash@2%

: Thursday, 23 November, 2023 at 12.30 PM

: Digital Platform.

: Sunday, 22 October, 2023

Particular	FY 2022-2023	FY 2021-2022
Net Profits (Taka)	97,442,033	807,661,826
Earnings Per Share (EPS) Restated	0.46	3.81
Net Asset Value Per share (NAV) Restated	32.99	33.29
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) Restated	2.49	1.58

By the order of the Board,  
Sd/-  
**Md. Golam Habib CACC**  
Company Secretary (Acting)

Date : 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2023  
Place : Dhaka

**Attention:** \* Shareholders are requested to check and update their BOLD's Bank A/c details along with Routing Number to get Dividend online through BEFTN system.  
\* Provide 12 digit e-TIN to BO A/c and get Tax deduction @10% instead of 15%.

**Home Series-Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men)**  
**Worldwide Media Rights**

Ref No: BCB/Media Rights / 2023/646

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the TV Broadcasters/ Marketing Agents/ Consortium for acquiring the following Worldwide Media Rights of Home Series involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024:

01. Satellite TV Broadcasting Rights for Global including Bangladesh.

02. Digital OTT (Over-the-Top) Rights for Global including Bangladesh.

03. DTH (Direct-to-Home) Rights.

**Area of Rights :**

A detailed EOI document has been developed incorporating all necessary EOI details for acquiring the above-mentioned Worldwide Media Rights of Home Series involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men).

**Eligibility Criteria:**

a) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, Online Betting & Online Betting Surrogate shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.

b) Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process.

c) Interested applicants (TV Broadcasters /Marketing agencies/ Digital Marketing Agencies/Consortiums) should have the appropriate experience, infrastructure, staffing, resources, capability, and financial standing to participate in the EOI process.

d) The broadcaster / TV Channel must be in operation (on air) for least 02 (Two) years. Marketing Agency/Digital Marketing Agency/Consortium must have the capability and reasonable experience in marketing international standard cricket events.

**EOI Document Purchasing Procedure :**

a) Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document from BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department) on payment of the Non-Refundable fees of BDT 3,00,000 (Three Lacs Taka Only) in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Cash or for the Overseas participants USD 3,000.00 (Three thousand US Dollar only) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name : Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank : Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT : SCBLBDDX). Please send your request for the EOI Document (Soft copy or printed version) along with the evidence of Bank Transfer /Payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com).

b) The details of the EOI process, Tentative Itinerary, Bank Guarantee Format etc. are set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 during working hours (10.00 AM to 5.00 PM except Friday & Public Holidays in Bangladesh).

**EOI Submission Procedure :**

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: Chief Executive Officer, Bangladesh Cricket Board.

**The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:**

01. Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.

02. Updated auditor's report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually).

03. Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement.

04. Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.

05. Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.

06. In case of Consortium, notarized Consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Bangladesh Cricket Board  
Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh

**Bangladesh Cricket Board**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023



# President begins 3-day Pabna visit today

UNB, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin will begin a three-day visit to his home district Pabna today.

President's Press Secretary Md Joynal Abedin told UNB that the president will leave for Pabna this afternoon. He will address several gatherings and hold views exchange meetings with a cross section of people and different professional bodies.

The president is scheduled to return to Dhaka on September 29.

# Hit by train, teen using headphones dies in Ctg

UNB, Ctg

A 17-year-old boy was killed after being hit by a train while walking on rail tracks wearing headphones at Fouzdarhat rail station in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Rabiul Hasan, son of Mahbubur Alam of Barishal, said Md Faruk, sub-inspector of Fouzdarhat Police Station.

Rabiul arrived in Chattogram's Sitakunda to visit his maternal uncle. Police sent the body to morgue for autopsy.



Artisans of Borni, Kopakhi and Proyoganj villages in Tangail's Delduar upazila are spending busy days invested in bamboo crafting. These environment-friendly handicrafts are garnering more attention locally and globally. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

# Villages of artisans

Bamboo handicrafts changing fortunes in Tangail

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Men and women of almost every house in three villages of Tangail's Delduar upazila have taken up bamboo crafting as their main occupation, turning those villages into cottage industries.

The export of these handicrafts -- made by local artisans of Borni, Kopakhi and Proyogani villages -- is leading to a boom in this emerging industry and creating

more employment opportunities for the locals.

Traditional bamboo handicrafts are environment-friendly and have seen a rise in demand during recent times.

The products include different types of baskets, table lamp shades, mats, trays, wraps, tissue and jewellery boxes, windowsills, and bottle holders.

Nurunnabi, a craftsman from Baropakhia village invested in this

trade since 1990 and is leading this initiative along with several other local entrepreneurs.

His factory Nurunnabi Bamboo Craft, established in 2004 in Borni Dakkhinpara village, employs 60-70 workers every day, while around a hundred families of the village work from their homes.

While men in those villages are wholly engaged in craftsmanship, women do the work alongside their

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



# Kidnapped boy found dead, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police recovered the body of a 10-year-old child in Patuakhali early Monday, six days after he was kidnapped.

The victim, Md Ratul, was the son of Golam Rahman Liton from Chhota Auliapur village.

Superintendent of Police in Patuakhali Md Saidul Islam said the body was recovered from an abandoned house.

The incident occurred in Chhota Auliapur village in Sadar upazila.

The body was sent to Patuakhali Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The deceased was a second grader at Auliapur Hat Government Primary School.

Two individuals, Anwar Hossain, 45, and Hanif Howlader, 41, were arrested in this connection, said the SP.

They confessed to their involvement at court, said Patuakhali Police Station Sub-inspector Alauddin Shikder, the investigating officer.

The accused entered Golam Rahman Liton's house on September 18 night, stole valuables and kidnapped the boy while the family was asleep, said the SP.

Later, Golam Rahman filed a case against unidentified perpetrators with the police station, he added.



**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
**Bangladesh Development Bank Limited**  
Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000  
IT & Risk Management Division  
**IT Security Unit**

Reference: 11.2/334/119

Dated: 25/09/2023

**e-Tender Notice**

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

S/N	e-Tender ID	Description	Last date & time for submission through web	Date & time for tender opening
01	879067	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of the product bellow for Bangladesh Development Bank Limited: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Next Generation End Point Security with Extended Detection and Response (XDR) for Workstation (800 Workstations License).</li><li>Next Generation Server Security with Extended Detection and Response (XDR) for Server (50 Servers License).</li></ul>	09/10/2023 3:30 PM	09/10/2023 03:30 PM

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 branches of Bangladesh Development Bank Limited or any registered banks' branches up to 12:00pm on 09/10/2023.

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>).

  
**Engr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman Monir**  
Assistant General Manager  
& Head, IT Security Unit  
Tel: 02-223389908

GD-1488

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka  
[www.mofa.gov.bd](http://www.mofa.gov.bd)

**Invitation for Tender**

Memo No. 19.00.0000.625.04.001.22/310

Date: 26.09.2023

1.	Ministry, procuring entity & district	: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Public Diplomacy Wing, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
2.	Invitation for	: Procurement of Diary, Desk Calendar and Wall Calendar.
3.	Invitation Ref No. & date	: 19.00.0000.625.04.001.22/310, Date: 26.09.2023
4.	Procurement method	: OTM (Open Tendering Method)
5.	Budget and source of funds	: Revenue Budget for MOFA
6.	Tender publication date	: 27 September, 2023
7.	Tender last selling date and time	: 10 October, 2023, Time-04.00pm
8.	Tender closing date and time	: 11 October, 2023, Time- 12.00pm
9.	Tender opening date and time	: 11 October, 2023, Time- 12.30pm
10.	Selling tender document- Place & address of the office	: Senior Assistant Secretary, Room No. A-218, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka
11.	Receiving tender document- Place & address of the office	: Senior Assistant Secretary, Room no. A-218, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka
12.	Opening tender document Place & address of the office	: Office of the Director General, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
13.	Price of tender document	: Each set Tk. 1000/- (non-refundable).
14.	Brief description of goods	: Printing of Diary, Desk Calendar and Wall Calendar as per schedule with technical specification and supplied design.
15.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	: (a) Minimum 05 years of general experience in printing said products of the best quality. (b) Tenderer should have latest trade licence, 13-digit VAT certificate, income tax pay certificate, TIN certificate, along with other conditions described in the tender documents. (c) Other specific qualification criteria mention in ITT 14.1 (b) Section: 2 of bid document.
16.	Special instruction for the tenderer	: (a) The procuring entity reserves the rights to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings. (b) Tender details are mentioned in Tender Document. (C) If tender cannot be received in due time for unavoidable circumstances, tender will be received in following working day.
17.	Name & designation of official inviting tender	: Ms. Seheli Sabrin, Director General, Public Diplomacy Wing, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
18.	Address of official inviting tender	: Room No. 206, Annex Building, Public Diplomacy Wing, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
19.	Contact details of official inviting tender	: Telephone: 02-223382952, E-mail: <a href="mailto:dgpd@mofa.gov.bd">dgpd@mofa.gov.bd</a>

  
**Seheli Sabrin**  
Director General

GD-1485

# Jamuna water level rises in Sirajganj



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Water level in the Jamuna has been rising for the fifth time this year. In the last four days, levels rose by 15-20 centimetres due to the onslaught of water from upstream, according to the Water Development Board.


Water level at Sirajganj hard point was around 11.12 metres yesterday morning, just 178 centimetres below the danger level. In the last 24 hours, till yesterday, water levels increased by 18 centimetres.

At Kazipur point, within the same time frame, water levels rose by 20 centimetres, leaving it at 12.80 metres, just 200 centimetres below the danger level.

"We were waterlogged over three months, as the entire shoal was submerged in early July. Water levels began receding early this month. However, once again, it is rising," said Khadiza Begum of Chhoto Koyra village.

Ranajit Kumar, sub-divisional engineer of Sirajganj WDB, said, "Rain upstream has caused water levels in the Jamuna to rise in the last four days. It will continue rising for the next 2-3 days, but will start receding soon."





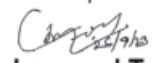
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**Call for Papers**  
**BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis**

Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM), a premier knowledge hub in Dhaka conducts academic, research, training and intellectual capacity building activities on broad areas of governance and public policy discourse, is inviting scholarly papers for its journal named 'BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis'. Manuscripts must be original and preferably, be of quantitative nature following interdisciplinary perspectives and approaches in areas of public policy, development, economics and adjacent fields. Papers that describe experimentation are earnestly encouraged.

All submitted papers will be considered based on the outcome of a double-blind peer review process. Aside from peer review, submitted manuscripts may undergo procedural review within the reviewer referee/ expert network of the Journal.

BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis follows the APA referencing style. The desired style of formatting is: Times New Roman font in 12 font sizes and 1.5 line-spacing in A4 size paper. Only a soft copy of the article, both in word and pdf format, should be submitted by email at [journal@bigm.edu.bd](mailto:journal@bigm.edu.bd) on or before December 31, 2023. Every submission must be accompanied by a cover letter and should include contact details, institutional affiliation of author/authors and other relevant information, such as, non-submission of the article in other journals, funding information (if any), and authors' contribution in case of multiple authors.

  
**Dr. Mohammad Tareque**  
Director, BIGM and Editor-in-Chief  
BIGM Journal of Policy Analysis

GD-1486



**Chattogram Fish Harbour**  
**Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation**

Ref. No. 33.03.1561.008.07.001.21.1751

Date: 25/09/2023

**e-Tender Notice**

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

Ser.	Tender ID	Name of work	Tender publication date	Last selling, closing & opening date
1.	879995	Supply of Structural Materials for 350 Sets Green House Mechanical Drayer (2nd Phase-125 Sets).	25.09.2023	15.10.2023

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 e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches by 12:00 hours on 15.10.2023.

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)) Contact No. BFDC, Ctg Fish Harbour (01716169062 and 01719319043).

  
**General Manager**

GD-1489



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ঢাকা ১০০০, বাংলাদেশ  
ফোনঃ (অফিস)ঃ (আইপি) ৯৬৬৬৯১১৪৬৩/৭০৭১  
ফ্যাক্স (ঢা.বি.)ঃ ৮৮০-২-৫৫১৬৭৮১০  
ই-মেইলঃ [math@du.ac.bd](mailto:math@du.ac.bd)



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**টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি (উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি)**

মেমো নং DU/OTM/24-01 গণিতঃ ০১

তারিখঃ ১১ আশ্বিন ১৪৩০ বঙ্গাব্দ  
২৬ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৩ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

ক্রম নং	কাজের নাম	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার বগ্ন বন্ধের তারিখ ও সময়	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সমাজের স্থান
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গণিত বিভাগ, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-১৪৮৪



# MEET ESHAAN AKBAR:

## The Bangladeshi actor from ‘Sex Education’

“Hi, are you busy”, I asked the British- Bangladeshi comedian in English, and he replied with *Nah, ami cha banachchilam* (No, I was making tea). I was quite surprised when I heard the popular comedian speaking in Bangla. Eshaan Akbar was born and raised in London; his mother was Bangladeshi, while his father is Pakistani. He respects both the cultures but is slightly inclined towards his love for Bangladesh.

“When I spoke to the producers, the first thing they told me that they were sure about casting me as the principal the moment I auditioned for the role,” he revealed.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Recently, the actor has been receiving praise for his acting debut in *Sex Education* season 4, where he plays the eccentric but entertaining Principle Lakhani at Cavendish College. Earlier on, the comedian became viral in 2019 for his segment ‘Growing up in a mixed household’ in BBC’s *Mock the Week* programme. He is the first person of Bangladeshi descent to be featured in popular shows like *Mock the Week*, *Good Morning Britain*, amongst others.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, the comedian talked about his experience in *Sex Education* and how comedy helped him cope with the tragic death of his mother.

Netflix’s popular series *Sex Education* was released on the streaming platform, on September 21. Eshaan played the goofy principle, who had a carefree attitude towards his institution. Although he didn’t have an extended screen time, his comic timing surely kept the audience entertained in the final season.

“I auditioned for the role without any research or rehearsals. I just showed up and did a few scenes. To be honest, I didn’t think the audition go very well. Later, I called my agent and informed him that I needed to practice before appearing for the audition. Three weeks later, they called me

to confirm my role as the principle in the series,” said Eshaan.

When asked about whether he liked any particular trait about Principle Lakhani, the comedian said, “Lakhani is quite an interesting character. The makers described his character as someone who is laid back and doesn’t really bother what his students are up to. The series has several deep emotional stories and majority of the students are involved with one another.”

He continued, “On the contrary, Lakhani is pretty reluctant about his surroundings and could offer some kind of comedic foil to everybody’s earnest seriousness. Thus, it presents a nice antithesis to what Sex Education stands for.”

“When I spoke to the producers, the first thing they told me that they were sure about casting me as the principal the moment I auditioned for the role,” he revealed.

The British-Bangladeshi comedian made his debut in stand-up comedy in 2014. What started off as a hobby, soon blossomed into a full-time career. Earlier this year, he performed at *The O2 arena* nine times – where each show consisted of around 20,000 people.

“Apart from pursuing my degree at the Queen Mary University of London, my father convinced me to learn Kathak. Later, I also choreographed Bollywood dance routine. Comedy just started off as a hobby when I performed five-minute spots at some open mic nights. After continuing it for some time, my mother suddenly passed away and comedy became my coping mechanism to escape from the pain of losing her,” Eshaan expressed.

“Within a year, I got consumed by work and my shows started increasing in number and duration. Interestingly, I



PHOTOS: JACOB HARE/ JIKSAW COMPANY

started off my career as a banker. Later I worked in various positions, including government policy advisor, speech writer, and also as a journalist. I have had my fair share of hard-core jobs, but I left my banking career as comedy shows were enough to pay my bills and of course, it’s a fun thing to do,” laughed the comedian.

Eshaan Akbar has appeared in many of popular British programmes, including *Mock the Week*, *Frankie Boyle’s New World Order*, *The Big Asian Stand Up Night*, and *Good Morning Britain*, amongst others.

He was the first Bangladeshi descendant to be on *Mock the week*, a British topical satirical celebrity panel show. “Although it’s embarrassing that, even in 2023, I was the first Bangladeshi artiste to get a shot at it. I was pleased that my work inadvertently represented Bangladesh. I am one of those individuals who is pleased to represent both my Bangladeshi and Pakistani ancestors,” he said.

“However, I am slightly inclined towards my Bangladeshi roots than Pakistani ones,” added Eshaan.

When asked about his experience in Bangladesh, the comedian said in Bangla, “*Ami choto bela te prottek bochor Bangladesh ey jetam and ami KG-1 ey porechhilam Dhanmondi International school ey.*”

“The last time I visited Bangladesh was in 2016, two years after my mother passed away. It was a rough journey since Bangladesh will always be associated with my mother’s memories. However, I also have pleasant memories of eating Jackfruit at my *khalu’s* place in Mohammadpur. My mother taught me Bangla, and I can also write in it. Being Bangladeshi gives me a sense of pride,” concluded Eshaan.

## COUNTRYWIDE

### How long will the kids suffer?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Students and teachers of Jahura Khatun Government Primary School in Kaliganj upazila have been facing serious difficulties as they have to cross two risky small wooden bridges to get to the institution every day.

Moreover, the schoolground remains submerged for almost all the year round as the educational institution was constructed in the middle of a local waterbody, some 500 metres from Bakulia Sreerampur regional road.

The government primary school, which was named after local lawmaker’s mother Jahura Khatun, was established on 33 decimals of land in 2016.

The institution has five teachers against a total of 76 students.

But since its inception, the road that connects the school with Bakulia-Sreerampur road and two makeshift-bridges on small ditches have not been constructed yet.

As a result, teachers have to remain alert whenever the kinds come and leave the school every day.

During a recent visit to the school

compound this correspondent saw little boys and girls were walking along the slippery narrow road pretty cautiously and crossing two risky wooden-bridges to get to the institution.

Fourth-grader Ripon Hossain said, “We can’t play on the schoolground as it remains submerged most of the times of the year.”

Sumaya Khatun, a Class III student at the institution, said they have to face serious difficulties while coming to the school as many of them often fall from the wooden bridges and get wet.

Headteacher Parvina Khatun said, a female assistant teacher fell from one of the wooden bridges a few months back and sustained severe fracture on her left foot.

She said a paved road and two small concrete bridges will be built soon.

Acting Kaliganj Upazila Primary Education Officer Mahmudul Hasan said they have raised the issue at the monthly law and order meeting and local Lawmaker Anwarul Azim assured them the road and bridges will be built within a short time.

### No visa policy

FROM PAGE 1  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home after wrapping up her foreign tour.

If anyone hurts AL activists, they will not be spared, he said, adding that the ruling AL would not bow down to anyone.

AL wants to see how the BNP captures Dhaka. “The ruling party will occupy the entire country with red and green flags”, said Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister.

Chaired by Dhaka district AL President Benazir Ahmad, MP, the rally was addressed, among others, by AL presidium

member Qamrul Islam, joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif and AFM Bahauddin Nasim.

Hanif questioned if BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is not sent abroad for better treatment, why the AL will be responsible. “If

“The ruling party will occupy the entire country with red and green flags.”

Obaidul Quader

Bahauddin Nasim said BNP-Jamaat is hatching plots to create anarchy in the country again, while they are blocking roads in various places and destroying properties of people in the name of rallies.

### It aims to ensure free, fair polls

FROM PAGE 12  
that Bangladesh will also impose restrictions on those involved in any move to thwart elections from outside and about Bangladesh’s foreign ministry saying the US had assured that there would be no sanction before elections.

Miller was also asked to comment on BNP’s ultimatum to the government to release the party’s Chairperson Khaleda Zia and allow her to go abroad for advanced medical treatment, as her medical condition was very serious.

“I just don’t have any comment on that,” Miller said.

A journalist also asked Miller about US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas saying on September 24 that media persons may also come under US visa restrictions and whether

that undermined the US’s call for human rights, freedom of speech, and freedom of the press.

Miller said, “... we have not announced the specific members or the specific individuals to which this [visa restriction] will apply, but it made clear that they will apply to members of law enforcement, the ruling party, and the political opposition.”

Washington on September 22 said it had begun applying the visa restrictions the US announced on May 24 this year.

It said it imposed visa restrictions on members of law enforcement, the ruling party, and the political opposition.

On May 24 this year, the US said it would impose visa restrictions on individuals and their immediate

family members “if they are responsible for, or complicit in, undermining the democratic election process in Bangladesh”.

### AIIB to provide

FROM PAGE 12

At the annual meeting, Khan made a strong call for more funding to build climate-resilient infrastructure given the climate challenges being faced by all, be it developed or developing countries.

“Developing countries like Bangladesh are most vulnerable to climate change,” she said, while calling for a bigger role of AIIB to avert an impending crisis.

AIIB President and Board Chairman Jin Liqun said the development bank will stand by its members to face the upcoming climate challenges.



With a bag packed with books, students of Jahura Khatun Government Primary School, located in the middle of a waterbody in Jhenidah’s Kaliganj upazila, have to cross two wooden-bridges to reach their classrooms.

PHOTO: STAR

### \$27b health budget in the works

FROM PAGE 1

The proposal is being discussed with donor agencies for financial support, they added.

World Bank, a key partner in Bangladesh’s healthcare endeavours, estimates the budget for this plan to range between \$24 billion and \$27 billion.

The government primarily finances the majority of the budget, with development partners currently contributing 5 to 10 percent in the form of soft loans.

Nevertheless, the government is actively engaged in discussions with the partners to secure additional funding.

Officials from the finance and health ministries have indicated that the development partners have expressed interest in providing more funds, potentially in the

form of loans with higher interest rates.

The ongoing health sector plan faces a financing gap of \$460 million, which needs to be addressed before its conclusion in June 2024,

service quality, according to the WB report.

While the coverage of basic child immunisation increased from 85 percent between 2007 and 2017-18, disparities persist.

Access to antenatal care

face unique challenges, with a growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In 2017-18, nearly half of older urban women had hypertension, and diabetes affected 13 percent of urban adults in 2018, with most unaware of their condition, according to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18.

Addressing these disparities and the growing NCD crisis is a critical aspect of the government’s healthcare strategy.

Besides, densely populated urban areas in Bangladesh, especially Dhaka, face ongoing challenges with diseases like water-borne illnesses, dengue and Covid-19.

Dengue outbreaks, once controlled, have resurged in recent years, particularly in urban areas, exacerbated by limited disease and

vector surveillance, alongside climate change and rapid urbanisation.

Besides, environmental issues like improper medical waste management and climate change’s impact on public health further complicate urban healthcare.

In this context, the upcoming sector programme will contain a new operational plan to ensure primary healthcare to the urban population and address the climate change impact on health.

The project also aims to enhance collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives to ensure effective provision for urban primary healthcare services.



# ‘Political convenience’ can’t determine response to terror

## Indian FM tells UN amid Canada row

NDTV ONLINE

India yesterday told the United Nations “political convenience” cannot be the basis for a response to terrorism or extremism, and called on the global community to respect the rules-based order and the UN Charter.

Addressing the UN General Assembly, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called out nations (without naming any) that interfere with internal affairs of others.

Jaishankar’s remarks – coming amid the India-Canada diplomatic row and continuing tension along the border with Pakistan – have been interpreted as a gentle jab at both countries.

“... nor must we countenance that political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. Similarly, respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be exercises in cherry-picking. When reality departs from the rhetoric, we must have the courage to call it out... without genuine solidarity, there can never be real trust,” he said.

Last week there were sharper words for Pakistan; India demanded Islamabad shut its “infrastructure of terrorism”



and said matters pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were “internal affairs”.

India and Canada have been locked in a diplomatic row since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau last week claimed “agents of Delhi” were involved in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Nijjar – wanted by India on terrorism charges – was a Canadian citizen who was shot dead outside a gurudwara in Canada’s British Columbia in June.

India has unequivocally denied Canada’s “absurd” allegations and pointed out Trudeau’s government has yet to share evidence to back its claim.

The Indian government has also flagged “politically condoned hate crimes and criminal violence” in Canada, which is home to a large and politically influential Sikh community that is expected to play a major role in the outcome of that country’s next general election in 2025.

Hundreds of Sikh protesters rallied outside Indian diplomatic missions in Canada on Monday, trampling pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi after Ottawa said New Delhi had played a role in the killing of a prominent Sikh activist.



Students shout slogans during a protest against the killing of two missing students by unknown miscreants, and for the restoration of peace in India’s northeastern state of Manipur in Imphal yesterday, amid ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur.

PHOTO: AFP

## UKRAINE’S ODESA Russian air strikes hit grain facilities

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia hit Ukrainian port infrastructure and grain storage facilities in an overnight drone strike on the grain exporting district of Izmail, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Oleh Kiper, governor of the southern Odesa region, said a border checkpoint building, storage facilities and more than 30 trucks and cars were damaged.

The Ukrainian military said 26 of the 38 Iranian-made attack drones had been shot down.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said yesterday that US supplies of long-range ATACMS missiles and Abrams tanks to Ukraine would not change the situation on the battlefield.

Russia’s defence ministry yesterday published images showing the commander of its Black Sea fleet, one day after Ukraine claimed it had killed the high-ranking officer in a missile strike. Admiral Viktor Sokolov, in uniform, was show via video link taking part in a meeting that was presided over by Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu.

# US army chief, allies discuss Asia-Pacific in India

## China’s FM warns Beijing would oppose ‘wanton expansion of military alliances’

AFP, New Delhi

Army chiefs and senior officers from 30 countries including the United States met in India yesterday to discuss threats facing the Asia-Pacific region, in the face of concern at an increasingly assertive China.

US Army chief Randy George said the region was “critically important”, speaking to reporters alongside his Indian counterpart Manoj Pande, and vowed to boost cooperation to “maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific”.

Generals from Japan and Australia, which make up the “Quad” defence cooperation forum alongside Washington and New Delhi, also took part, as did Britain and France.

As the generals met, China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that Beijing would oppose the “wanton expansion of military alliances”, the latest in a string of warnings as Washington deepens security ties in the Asia-Pacific.

Beijing has long said that any effort to establish a Nato-like military alliance in



the Asia-Pacific would provoke conflict.

Nations present at the two-day conference in New Delhi included Vietnam and the Philippines, both of which have longstanding pending territorial disputes with China.

The conference, which launched in 1999, brings together army chiefs and top officers from 30 countries.

India’s Pande said the region faced challenges on both land and at sea.

“These range from territorial disputes over land masses, or in some cases, even

over artificially expanded islands to acquire real estate and establish military bases,” Pande added, in an indirect reference to China.

India has also had to balance its traditional alliance with Russia – the provider of most of its arms imports, and now a source of cut-price oil – with growing ties to Washington.

“The partnership between India and the US armies is vital for stability in the region, and the relationship between our armies is strong and growing stronger,” George said.

Speaking at a press conference in Beijing yesterday, Wang said Beijing would seek to “resolve differences and disputes among countries through dialogue and consultation”, without specifying the nations in question in either case.

Wang also declined to confirm whether President Xi Jinping would travel to the United States for a meeting with US counterpart Joe Biden.

The two leaders are expected to meet at an APEC summit in San Francisco on November 14-16.

## TALKS WITH ISRAEL Saudi envoy seeks to reassure Palestinians

AFP, Ramallah

Saudi Arabia yesterday sent its first delegation in three decades to the occupied West Bank to reassure Palestinians that it will defend their cause even as it forges closer ties with Israel. In a sign of the thaw, Israel’s Tourism Minister Haim Katz visited Riyadh on the same day, for the first such high-level public mission to the oil-rich kingdom.

Washington has urged its Middle East allies Israel and Saudi Arabia to normalise diplomatic relations, following on from similar deals involving the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Morocco. The Palestinians have labelled those US-brokered agreements a betrayal of their plight and quest for statehood – but Nayef al-Sudairi, who headed the Saudi delegation, sought to reassure them that Riyadh stands by their side.

“The Palestinian matter is a fundamental pillar,” Sudairi, the new ambassador to the Palestinians, said after meeting top Palestinian diplomat Riyad al-Maliki in Ramallah for talks and to present his credentials. “And it’s certain that the Arab initiative, which was presented by the kingdom in 2002, is a cornerstone of any upcoming deal.”

The 2002 initiative proposed Arab relations with Israel in exchange for its withdrawal from the West Bank, east Jerusalem, Gaza and the Golan Heights, and a just resolution for the Palestinians.

National Team Sponsorship Rights  
Expression of Interest (EOI)

Bangladesh  
Cricket Board

Ref No: BCB/National Team Sponsorship Rights / 2023/647

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Companies/ Corporate Houses/ Firms / Agencies for acquiring the following National Team Sponsorship Rights starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2027 (including ICC & ACC Events).

**01. Category A (Existing National Team Sponsorship Rights).**  
**02. Category B (Additional National Team Sponsorship Rights).**

**Area of Rights:**

A detailed EOI document has been developed incorporating all the necessary EOI details for acquiring National Team Sponsorship Rights of Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men’s & Women’s), “A” Team (Men’s & Women’s) and Bangladesh Under- 19 Team (Men’s & Women’s).

**Eligibility Criteria:**

a) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, Online Betting & Online Betting Surrogate shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.

b) Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process.

**EOI Document Purchasing Procedure:**

a) Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document from BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department) on payment of the Non-Refundable fees of BDT 50,000 (Fifty Thousand Taka Only) in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Cash or for the Overseas participants USD 500 (Five hundred US Dollar only) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name : Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank : Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT : SCBLBDDX). Please send your request for the EOI Document (Soft copy or printed version) along with the evidence of Bank Transfer /Payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com).

b) The details of the EOI process, Tentative Itinerary, Bank Guarantee Format etc. are set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 during working hours (10.00 AM to 5.00 PM except Friday & Public Holidays in Bangladesh).

**EOI Submission Procedure:**

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: **Chief Executive Officer**, Bangladesh Cricket Board.

**The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:**

- Company Profile and Individual Directors’ / Owners’ Profile.
- Updated auditor’s report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party’s auditor’s report needs to be submitted individually).
- Bank Solvency Certificate along with bank Statement.
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- In case of Consortium, notarized Consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Bangladesh Cricket Board  
Management Office: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216  
Tel: +880 2 8031001-4, Fax: 803 1199

Home Series-Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men)  
Title Sponsorship & Ground Branding Rights

Bangladesh  
Cricket Board

Ref No: BCB/Title Sponsorship & Ground Branding Rights / Home Series/ 2023/652

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) along with financial offers from the reputed Business Houses/ Companies/ Parties/ Agencies / Consortiums for acquiring the **Title Sponsorship & Ground Branding Rights** of Home Series involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027.

**Area of Rights:**

A detailed EOI document has been developed incorporating all necessary EOI details for acquiring the above-mentioned Title Sponsorship & Ground Branding Rights of Home Series involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men).

**Eligibility Criteria:**

a) Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (surrogated and non-surrogated), Betting, Online Betting and Online Betting Surrogate shall not be eligible to participate in the EOI process.

b) Any person(s) or entities with an existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall be ineligible to acquire the aforementioned rights or to participate in the EOI Process.

c) Reputed Business Houses/ Companies/ Parties/ Agencies / Consortiums must have at least 02 years of experience in marketing / selling international standard cricket events for the aforesaid rights will get preference in the EOI process.

**EOI Document Purchasing Procedure:**

a) Interested parties need to obtain a copy of the EOI Document from BCB Management Office (Marketing & Commercial Department) on payment of the Non-Refundable fees of BDT 50,000 (Fifty Thousand Taka Only) in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Cash or for the Overseas participants USD 500 (Five Hundred US Dollar only) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name : Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank : Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT : SCBLBDDX). Please send your request for the EOI Document (Soft copy or printed version) along with the evidence of Bank Transfer /Payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com).

b) The details of the EOI process, Tentative Itinerary, Bank Guarantee Format etc. are set out in the EOI Document. EOI document will be available from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 during working hours (10.00 AM to 5.00 PM except Friday & Public Holidays in Bangladesh).

**EOI Submission Procedure:**

The EOI along with financial offer (prepared in accordance with the EOI Document) must be submitted at the BCB Management Office at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216, Bangladesh by 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 during office hours (between BST 1000 to BST 1700) and should be in a sealed envelope to be addressed to: **Chief Executive Officer**, Bangladesh Cricket Board.

**The EOI needs to be accompanied with the following documents:**

- Company Profile and Individual Directors’ / Owners’ Profile.
- Updated auditor’s report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party’s auditor’s report needs to be submitted individually).
- Bank Solvency Certificate along with bank Statement.
- Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.
- Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.
- In case of Consortium, notarized Consortium Agreement.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire EOI process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for EOI process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the EOI.

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## Promotion is earned, not gifted

When the opposite happens, it raises suspicion

With the general election just months away, it is disconcerting to see how the administration is giving in to demands for undue perks and promotions for public officials in vital positions. The latest move, according to a report by this daily, saw the home ministry request the public administration ministry to approve more in-situ posts of additional inspector general (IGP) and deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, among other positions, after its previous attempt failed to meet expectations. In-situ posts mean that police personnel will hold the same positions and perform the same duties as before even after promotions, because of a lack of vacancies. What's the point of a promotion, then?

Apparently, BCS police cadre officers have been spurred on by other instances of in-situ promotions of late, particularly within the administration cadre. While we recognise the importance of deserving officials getting the opportunity to advance their careers, the circumstances under which this is being done raises concerns. For one, the lack of vacancies at top levels, which makes any addition not just unnecessary, but also a huge drain on public coffers. Reportedly, the government would require an additional Tk 1.5 crore per month to pay for all the in-situ promotions originally requested.

More worryingly, the timing of the move, just ahead of the election, makes it appear as if the home ministry wants to appease police officers who will play important roles during the election to potentially influence its outcome. Such concerns are not unfounded given the role played by poll-related officials, including those in charge of security, during the last two controversial elections. Similar efforts at appeasing high-ranking officials have also been witnessed recently, when the finance ministry approved spending Tk 380 crore to buy 261 new vehicles for DCs and UNOs, reneging on its own policy on such purchases during the current economic crisis. The government should know that the implications of such undeserved provisions are not lost on citizens.

During the last 14 years or so that it has been in power, opportunities for serving public officials have increased manifold, but the quality of their service has not. Grievances abound, but efforts to address them, especially from the police force, are sorely lacking. Against this backdrop, the government must consider public interests before approving any additional spending to accommodate demands for promotions. Promotion should be given only when it is earned, through adequate public service, and as required by service rules.

## The e-GP process must be competitive

### It's essential for fair, transparent public procurement

We are disheartened to learn of anomalies in the electronic government procurement (e-GP) process allowing certain quarters to monopolise it. According to a new study on e-GP by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), over the last 11 years, public contracts worth a whopping Tk 60,069 crore were awarded based on single bids. The study further reveals that one in five contracts is awarded through a single bid, without competition, which makes it glaringly obvious that something is amiss in the e-tendering process.

These findings are based on data collected from 64 ministries and divisions between January 2012 and February 2023. Apparently, the top five percent of contractors control nearly 30 percent of the e-contracts in the public sector, and their dominance is increasing. During the study period, as much as three quarters of the e-contracts awarded were single-bid contracts – given to 92 procuring entities. Furthermore, 416 contractors received at least 75 percent of their work as single bidders, the study found.

The government rolled out the e-GP process in 2011 to streamline the tendering process and increase transparency and accountability in the public procurement process. This was meant to utilise our limited resources optimally and meaningfully. Judging by the TIB statistics, however, the government has all but failed to achieve that goal. It is hard to accept that there is so little competition that such an overwhelming number of public contracts were disbursed through single bidding. It points to some level of manipulation in the tendering process with the potential collusion of politically backed entities and corrupt government officials, leading to a monopoly in the e-GP process. This is completely unacceptable.

Competitive bidding is vital to ensure that the best contractor is selected out of all competitors to do the job at hand, with the assurance of the best quality of work and value for money. That is exactly what we need right now, when our country is at a critical juncture of development. We urge the government to review and upgrade the e-GP process so that it is used for its intended purpose – which is to ensure a fair, competitive, transparent and corruption-free procurement system. The government must safeguard the process so that it cannot be manipulated by the corrupt and powerful.

New Message

To

Subject

Have things to say? Want your thoughts about current events to be published in The Daily Star? Send us a letter (100 - 300 words) with your name and area!

Write to us: letters@thedailystar.net

# ‘US visa policy alone cannot ensure fair election’

Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, analyses the relationship between the US visa policy, Bangladesh's politics, and broader geopolitics in an exclusive interview with Naimul Alam Alvi of The Daily Star.

**The US Department of State has stated they are implementing visa restrictions on Bangladeshi individuals who have undermined, or are involved in undermining, the democratic election process in Bangladesh. What do you think is the significance of this policy?**

The US visa policy was announced on May 24, and what we have heard recently is basically an acknowledgement that the US government has started to act on that policy. The US wants to send a signal which they have been sending for the last two years: that they'd like to see Bangladesh not have a repeat of the 2014 or 2018 national elections. The major implications of this policy are 1) a message that they are not convinced by the assurance of the Bangladesh government that the current process is going to deliver a free, fair, inclusive and peaceful election; 2) they would like to see the Bangladesh government take steps toward creating a conducive environment; and 3) they see that there are individuals who are acting in a manner detrimental to the democratic process.

With respect to the election, I tend to believe that the US visa policy is to help the process. But this in and of itself is not going to ensure a free and fair election.

**Does the US government have geopolitical interests in Bangladesh's national election beyond its stated commitment to a fair and democratic process?**

A policy, when enacted, is not entirely bereft of larger strategic interests or, in this case, broader US policies. Over the last two years, US delegates who visited Dhaka repeatedly insisted on this fair election. They've seen that the human rights situation and media freedom have deteriorated significantly. They have seen violence in politics, mostly perpetrated by state actors against the opposition. Those are the things they didn't like. But the most important thing is that this policy is not entirely separated from how the US sees Bangladesh's role in the Indo-Pacific region, especially in South Asia and also on the global stage. The US intends to see the Indo-Pacific as a region which doesn't fall into any one country's sphere of influence, particularly China's influence.

How, then, is the national election in Bangladesh connected to the Indo-Pacific strategy of the US? The US, to my understanding, would like to see a government which is accountable and represents the will of the people. A government which has a democratic mandate to govern is likely to make policies and take a position which is consistent with democratic principles. And if it is democratic, then in all likelihood it would align with the democratic forces globally. That would benefit the US, instead of if a country was authoritarian or aligned with a country which does not support



Prof Ali Riaz

democratic practices globally.

**Does the US have a similar approach to democracy for all countries as they currently have in Bangladesh's case?**

Absolutely not. No policy is made in isolation from the broader concerns and broader policy outlook. The US considers countries based on their relationship, and their geostrategic and geopolitical importance. Hence, the policies would in some cases be different. We can find contradictions in it. But remember that all states pursue national interest first. No state is a charity organisation. And national interest is not a one-size-fits-all matter. Definitely, you and I and everyone else can criticise US policies towards various countries. But, at the same time, neither you nor I can simply ignore the fact that the US would pursue its interest the way it sees fit. But with respect to Bangladesh, my point has always been that the fate of Bangladesh's democracy and governance should not be decided in Washington, New Delhi, Beijing or somewhere else. It should be decided by the people of Bangladesh.

What the US is asking here today, and the European Union is indicating, is that an opportunity should be given to Bangladeshi people. Bangladesh hasn't had a fair and inclusive national election for 14 years now. That is the point.

Two elections have been manipulated and engineered in a fashion that have delivered victory to a political party which has become more authoritarian by the day. But most importantly, there's a lack of moral legitimacy of this government. Bangladesh cannot afford to have another election like those of 2014 and 2018.

**With the US sanctions on Rab and the new visa policy, and Bangladesh being more critical of the US lately,**

**how do you see the US-Bangladesh relationship going?**

US policy with respect to Rab, which came at the end of 2021, was for the specific reason that this particular force was engaged in extrajudicial killings and egregious violations of human rights. And it is not that the Bangladeshi government was not aware of it. Moreover, the US has said that if the reforms are made, there is no reason to continue the sanctions they have imposed on Rab.

Similarly, with respect to the visa policy, what do we see? Bangladesh was told repeatedly ahead of time that there are issues with respect to the democratic process and fair election. It came on May 24, 2023, but if you look back at 2022, and even 2021, anyone who visited Bangladesh on behalf of the US government had underscored this point. So, with these, of course, there's a strain in the relationship.

**The US position with respect to a fair election is somewhat a reflection of the aspirations of the Bangladeshi people. The people want to have an election where they can vote, their voices are heard, their opinions matter and they are part of these political processes and the governance. It is not about reacting to US policy or not. It is about ensuring that Bangladeshis do have this opportunity – in fact, this right.**

But it is not irreversible. This is not yet determining all other aspects of the relationship between these two countries. I'm afraid that if this strain continues, the different aspects of the multifaceted relationship between Bangladesh and the US will eventually be hampered.

**There have been claims of foreign interference, including the US', in Bangladesh's internal matters. What is your perspective on the issue?**

Bangladesh is a part of the global community. As partners in various global institutions, even if you don't call them development partners, they have concerns about governance and democracy in Bangladesh. There are strategic and business interests as well. Let us not forget that the government has not abandoned the idea of having a Data Protection Act, which is going to hinder the business interests of the US and other countries. So, do they have a right to express their concerns?

Definitely they do. It is not an intervention. The US has not taken a position in favour of any political party whatsoever. Rather, it has said that it just wants to see a free and fair election in Bangladesh. And the Bangladesh government should have a popular mandate; a legitimate one – morally, constitutionally, and politically.

**How do you assess Bangladesh's response to the US visa policy?**

The Bangladesh government's reaction seems to swing among "yes, it is a great thing," "it is supportive of Prime Minister Hasina's effort to have a fair election," and "we don't care about it." The prime minister's reaction in the New York press conference seems to be exactly the opposite of what her ministers have been saying. Is this a reasonable response to this policy? It seems that they have not made up their mind yet about their official reaction. But if you take it at face value, Bangladesh's ruling party does not seem to be concerned.

Bangladesh should be concerned. This is a clear testimony, an unequivocal statement from the United States, not only through its delegates but through its policy, that they are convinced that a free and fair election might not take place in 2024. The assurance that the government of Bangladesh has given has not convinced them.

Considering that the Bangladesh-US relationship is a multifaceted thing, there is no reason to have a belligerent tone towards the US. Both parties have underscored from time to time that the Bangladesh-US relationship is a friendly relationship. Bangladesh's economic interest aligns with having a better relationship with the United States. Bangladesh's government needs to decide what they are going to do.

**Ideally, what should Bangladesh do now?**

The US position with respect to a fair election is somewhat a reflection of the aspirations of the Bangladeshi people. The people want to have an election where they can vote, their voices are heard, their opinions matter and they are part of these political processes and the governance. It is not about reacting to US policy or not. It is about ensuring that Bangladeshis do have this opportunity – in fact, this right. History tells us very clearly and unequivocally that present circumstances and the present system of governance would not be able to deliver a free, fair, and inclusive election. So, something must be done, some kind of neutral administration has to be installed so that people have confidence and the opportunity to exercise their constitutional right to vote and express their opinions. That is what matters, that is what is most important. It is far more important than what the US or other countries are saying.



READERS' VOICE

## Are feminists asking for 'too much'?

Mosammat Maimuna Khatun  
is an economics graduate.

MOSAMMAT MAIMUNA KHATUN

The most common "criticism" of modern-day feminism is that women don't face the kind of severe discrimination that the movement had once fought against. Proponents of this argument claim that, since women have achieved certain rights already, there is no need to continue advocating for gender equality. This reminds me of a Tumblr post that read, "You know how first-world feminists get told that they don't need feminism? They're told that they should be glad they're not 'really oppressed' like the women in third world countries, that things could always be worse..."

The post goes on to explain how feminists everywhere are dismissed

just because someone else in another place is worse-off, while those who are presented as worse-off are being told the same, and so on and so forth. These psychological tricks generally work by guilt-shaming a victim, distracting them from their problems, belittling

**Whenever I talk about women's rights, many men instantly argue that the feminist movement has given women so much special treatment that it is now unfair to men in some cases. They use designated bus seats as the ultimate example. Those who argue about these issues don't understand that feminism starts off with equity, not equality.**

their issues as being "not real," and emotionally blackmailing them for being ungrateful. Just because things could always be worse doesn't mean that the current issues are not worth fighting for.

Whenever I talk about women's rights, many men instantly argue that the feminist movement has given women so much special treatment that it is now unfair to men in some cases. They use designated bus seats as the ultimate example. Those who argue about these issues don't understand that feminism starts off with equity, not equality.

The movement is not meant to diminish the distinction amongst gender needs. Rather, it caters to those who are deemed inferior (in this case, women) so that they are not considered inferior anymore. For example, to ensure fair treatment for those with disabilities, wheelchairs are provided to those who need them. Is this "special treatment"?

Should everyone, including those who can walk, get a wheelchair? Similarly, women are given special quotas in some sectors so they can get access to the opportunities that men get by default. It is not pushing them ahead in the race but only giving them a fair chance to win.

Failure to understand this basic fact has led many to hate the overall idea of feminism. The word itself has been associated with such negative connotations that even some women's rights activists don't call themselves feminists.

To bring about a welcome change, people need to understand feminism's multifaceted nature and the ongoing struggle for gender equality in a society that often downplays or misunderstands women's issues. Properly educating the younger generations about feminism can erase the negative connotations associated with the word, and only then can feminists freely advocate what they stand for.





Some areas remained waterlogged even two days after the downpour on Thursday night. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Why must Dhaka drown after heavy rain?

## City authorities must take effective steps to end waterlogging



A CLOSER LOOK

Tasneem Tayeb  
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Her X-handle is  
@tasneem\_tayeb

TASNEEM TAYEB

While Dhaka was being lashed by a rainstorm on the evening of September 21, a tragedy unfolded near Dhaka Commerce College in Mirpur as four lives, including three of a family, were lost to electrocution amidst waterlogging.

Street vendor Mizanur Rahman (32) was trying to cross an inundated road – as an immediate result of the 134mm rainfall the capital endured since the evening on Thursday – with his seven-month-old son Hossain in his arms, along with his wife Mukta Begum (22), and seven-year-old daughter Lima. They were returning to their home in a slum near Botanical Garden from Mukta's parental home in Jhilpar slum. Lightning struck, leading to an electric wire falling into the water, which resulted in the electrocution of the family. A 20-year-old autorickshaw driver, Anik, was the only person who dared to go to the rescue of the family. As Anik pushed baby Hossain from the arms of his electrocuted father, he too lost his life. Later, videos on social media surfaced showing how a handful of bystanders were trying to get the lifeless bodies out of the water using gamcha and sticks.

The downpour resulted in unspeakable suffering for city dwellers, including severe waterlogging in many areas in New Market, Mirpur, Dakshinkhan, Khilkhet, Ashkona, Bangshal, Jurain, and Matuail, among others. While the city corporations did try to remove water from many of the worst affected areas, the inefficient drainage system made it difficult to do so. Some areas remained waterlogged even two days after the downpour, such as Jurain, Shyampur, Abdullahpur, Dakshinkhan, Utar Khan, Ashkona.

The tragedy of the family-of-four on Thursday night has once again brought to fore the never-ending failure of the city's drainage system. From unplanned and environmentally-hostile urbanisation to random digging of the roads by various authorities and the drains being clogged due to irresponsible waste disposal, there are multiple factors contributing to our persistent waterlogging woes.

First of all, while we are surrounding the city with high-rise buildings – both commercial and residential – we are doing little to also build the capacity of the drainage system to bear this added load. In the pursuit of urbanising Dhaka, we have encroached upon ponds, lakes, and canals, blocking the channels that are critical for effective natural drainage of water, including by government bodies themselves, resulting in rapid loss of natural drainage mechanisms. Take, for instance, the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), which earlier filled about 11 acres of a 53-acre water retention area in Gabtoli's

Goidartek for the establishment of a four-storey building to be used as a tissue culture laboratory. Then, in 2021, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) took initiatives to build eco parks and other permanent structures by filling up the Turag River. The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) last year filled up a water retention pond in Ashkona for a housing project for its employees and officials. All this, unfortunately, is only the tip of the iceberg.

According to Fire Service and Civil Defence data, of the 100 ponds recorded in Dhaka in 2018, at least 71 have been filled up over the last five years. And, according to a survey report by the Institute of Water

**While we are surrounding the city with high-rise buildings – both commercial and residential – we are doing little to also build the capacity of the drainage system to bear this added load. In the pursuit of urbanising Dhaka, we have encroached upon ponds, lakes, and canals, blocking the channels that are critical for effective natural drainage of water.**

Modelling, wetlands, canals, and lowlands covering more than 10,000 hectares in Dhaka have been choked since 1985.

Both the DNCC and DSCC mayors in January 2021, after being handed over the responsibility for the drainage system from Dhaka Wasa, committed that the lost water bodies would be reclaimed. But little visible progress has been made so far. At that time, the DSCC went so far as to suggest that the Shyampur, Manda, Kalunagar, and Jirni canals along with Panthapath and Shegunbagicha box culverts would be reclaimed and developed so that, by March that year, the locals would get respite from waterlogging. Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic red tape, funds for the project, titled "Canal Restoration, Renovation and Aesthetic Environment Creation Project," could not be cleared for months and months. And even since the funds were allocated, no visible and effective progress has been made in the project so far.

The second major problem contributing to the capital's waterlogging woes is the poorly managed drainage system that gives up in the face of slight downpours. A

lot of it certainly has to do with our ill-managed waste disposal system. Despite the 2002 ban on the use of polythene bags, they are still in use and often end up in the drains, canals, and other water bodies, thus clogging the waterways. This is the result of a two-pronged problem: 1) the lack of enforcement of the plastic ban; and 2) the disorganised and insufficient waste management system across the country, not just in Dhaka.

A study titled "Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City" by Nature Study Society of Bangladesh suggests that about 5,000 tonnes of waste is generated in Dhaka every day, of which only about half is collected and disposed of in an organised manner. Although the blame is often put on the people, in a city where there is an acute lack of waste disposal bins (let alone segregated bins), it is a challenge for even those with good intentions to practise responsible waste disposal. The onus is on the city corporations to make sure that there are sufficient services and mechanisms in place for people to discard waste responsibly.

Even when it comes to waste collection by the municipality, while recyclable waste (such as e-waste, recyclable fabric, and plastic waste) is collected and sold to actors in the recycling industry, the waste that cannot be recycled (including single-use plastic products such as one-time utensils, straws, etc) is dumped haphazardly in random places.

These wastes – biodegradable, non-biodegradable, chemical, electronic, and recyclable – often end up jumbled together in the wrong places, including in canals, lakes, ponds, drains, and openings of drains, such that water cannot pass through them. Even the investment of around Tk 1,300 crore by the two city corporations between 2016 and 2020 to declutter canals, drains, box culverts, and remove accumulated waste have not made any impact because, after the clean-up, irresponsibly dumped waste smotherers these openings anew.

The two city corporations in the capital do sound sincere when they say they are working relentlessly to recover the canals and ponds, or developing a drainage system to eliminate the problem of waterlogging. Still, their efforts are not resulting in any positive, demonstrable changes in the situation. While more than Tk 3,000 crore has been spent to combat waterlogging in Dhaka – by Dhaka Wasa and the city corporations in the last 12 years – these investments have yielded almost no results.

In response to the paralysis of the city due to Thursday's rain, both the city corporations are only sharing laundry lists of the work that they have apparently done. But all this shows is that whatever the city corporations are doing is simply not working. They must revisit their plans and see where they are going wrong with these investments, or evaluate if their strategy is even relevant in the first place. Baby Hossain was saved this time around. But there are more children out there who are at the risk of losing their lives due to our ineffective drainage system. No one should have to die due to the failures – if not apathy – of the authorities.

# Sustainable tourism need not be an oxymoron



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The tourism industry in Bangladesh always has to tread on a tightrope, balancing economic development and environmental preservation. On this World Tourism Day, the country is standing on untapped opportunities that would allow the sector to flourish. For the nation to act as a model for other countries, it must figure out a more efficient way to prioritise protecting nature without sacrificing economic growth.

Although Bangladesh's tourism sector is still in its infancy, accounting for slightly more than three percent of the country's GDP in 2023, it possesses an incredible amount of untapped potential. The Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, and the never-ending coastline of Cox's Bazar are only two examples of the country's natural beauty. However, there are issues with the sector as a whole, particularly concerning the

and building supplies sourced from the immediate area to reduce negative environmental impacts. Investing in waste management and water purification technologies is another way to mitigate harm.

Costa Rica is an excellent model for understanding how to practise ecotourism. The Central American nation has invested a lot to preserve natural resources, eliminate waste, and promote eco-friendly projects. As a result, Costa Rica has become a leader in sustainable tourism on a global scale and has garnered the attention of millions of eco-conscious travellers. Bangladesh can learn much from the country, like how successful government incentives can support environment-friendly development.

Initiatives mindful of the environment can bring significant benefits in Bangladesh's tourism sector. Solar-powered lodges with

to support the change toward greener practices. This would serve as an incentive for companies to make this shift. Businesses that go out of their way to implement eco-friendly policies ought to be rewarded with tax rebates, subsidies, and loans with significantly reduced interest rates. Any initiative, including sustainable tourism, must be co-created and co-managed by the people living

**Cox's Bazar is in jeopardy due to the coastline's catastrophic erosion, brought on by climate change, while illegal logging and pollution are slowly choking the Sundarbans. Despite the Sundarbans being designated a Unesco World Heritage Site, it is still struggling. These issues highlight why the tourism industry needs to make strides toward improving its environmental sustainability.**



Bangladesh must figure out a more efficient way to prioritise protecting nature without sacrificing economic growth.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

environmental damage it causes.

For instance, Cox's Bazar is in jeopardy due to the coastline's catastrophic erosion, brought on by climate change, while illegal logging and pollution are slowly choking the Sundarbans. Despite the Sundarbans being designated a Unesco World Heritage Site, it is still struggling. These issues highlight why the tourism industry needs to make strides toward improving its environmental sustainability.

Corporations investing in projects that benefit the environment should be more than a passing trend or demonstration of a company's commitment to social responsibilities. This is a practice that attempts to protect the environment and simultaneously ensure the firm's profitability, a delicate balance. Such expenditures may take on a few different forms in the tourism business. For example, eco-friendly hotels typically use renewable energy

rainwater collection systems could be an eco-friendly and a financially advantageous accommodation choice in the hospitality industry. Guests will have the opportunity to have a genuine, environmentally conscientious experience if investments are made in cultural centres and eco-lodges, which might leverage the region's diversity and natural beauty. Bangladesh, often known as the "land of rivers," can capitalise on the expanding water tourism business by offering tours in boats powered by solar energy.

The tourism industry is in desperate need of a clearly defined regulatory system that considers environmental standards; for instance, certain environmental criteria should be in place to issue business licences and monitor operations. A national eco-certification programme should be implemented for businesses that fulfil specified sustainability requirements

in the area to save the natural environment and local culture. Creating cooperative partnerships with global organisations like the World Tourism Organization to share information and combine resources should be considered. And awareness programmes that instruct tourists and residents on the significance of environmental stewardship must be developed.

As Bangladesh increasingly becomes a popular tourist destination worldwide, the country's government must work to guarantee that economic growth is not unsustainable. Investments in green technology may help the nation become a pioneer in sustainable tourism, and at the same time, will ensure that benefits are not only monetary in nature but also environmental. Let us celebrate the optimism for a brighter tomorrow in Bangladesh and for all of humanity on this World Tourism Day.

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

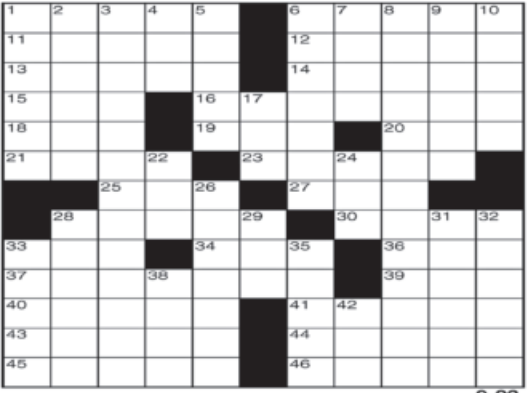
- 1 Soak
- 6 Catchers' needs
- 11 Clear sky
- 12 Improvised
- 13 Gladiator's spot
- 14 New Hampshire city
- 15 — Mahal
- 16 Give the oath of office to
- 18 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
- 19 Dawn goddess
- 20 Fall mo.
- 21 Cuts off
- 23 Drug bust units
- 25 Musician's job
- 27 "My country - of thee"
- 28 Stylishly quaint
- 30 Engrave

- 33 Possesses
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- 36 Period of history
- 37 Hawks' home
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- 40 Bee attack
- 41 Ferber book
- 43 Critical asset
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- 45 Door sign
- 46 More tender

### DOWN

- 1 John or Paul
- 2 Transport for Ellington
- 3 John Grisham novel
- 4 Egg layer
- 5 Wipe off
- 6 Succeeds

- 7 Creative germ
- 8 John Grisham novel
- 9 Invigorating drinks
- 10 Fragrance
- 17 Stir-fry pan
- 22 Plop down
- 24 Tell tales
- 26 Friend of Potter and Weasley
- 28 Wicker material
- 29 Unconscious
- 31 Liner trip
- 32 Closet item
- 33 Briskness
- 35 Shocked sounds
- 38 Price to play
- 42 Cry of discovery



## MONDAY'S ANSWERS

L	U	N	G		S	W	E	E	T										
A	S	I	A		S	C	O	R	E	R									
F	E	L	T		P	O	O	R	L	Y									
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dsopinion@gmail.com.



# Grabbers feast on railway hills

» 5,500 people residing on 9 hills

» Landslide killed over 400 in 17 years

» Port city lost over 120 hills in 40 years

SIFAYET ULLAH

Over 3,000 illegal structures have been constructed on nine hills owned by Bangladesh Railway in various parts of the port city, violating the law and endangering the hills.

According to data from BR estate department, over 5,500 people currently reside on these state-owned hills, which are being subjected to indiscriminate hill razing and tree felling.

"We've removed more than 1,700 illegal structures from these hills in the past two years, but no action has been able to deter grabbers, as people returned to the hills after the evacuation," said Sujon Chowdhury, estate officer (east) of BR.

BR made a list in 2022 and found that most of the illegal



Over 5,000 people in the port city are currently residing in makeshift structures on state-owned hills, built illegally by local influential people and a section of government officials. These are mostly rented to low-income families who live in the landslide prone slopes, risking lives. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

due to our inability to afford the rent for high-rise buildings," she said.

According to both locals and BR officials, a number of syndicates led by local influential people and BR staff members constructed these buildings and leased them to low-income people.

Recently, BR suspended one of its employees, Abdul Khalek, for his involvement in constructing illegal structures on Soloshohor hill.

Moreover, over 100 structures, predominantly erected by a politically influential figure named Mohammed Tareq, who was identified by BR as a key hill grabber, were removed.

However, Tareq denied all allegations of land grabbing against him. "My opposition group is spreading propaganda by calling me an encroacher," he added.

A study conducted by geography and environmental department of Chittagong University showed, landslides claimed the lives of more than 400 people, primarily in informal settlements in the port city between 2000 and 2017.

structures are built on its hills at Foy's Lake area in Chattogram's Akbarshah area.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of that list. During a recent visit to a Soloshohor hill, it was noticed that people are residing in homes constructed on the hill's slope, even though a landslide on August 27 claimed the lives of two individuals, including a child, at this very place.

Sharifa, who lost her husband in that landslide, said, "Where else will I go? Anywhere else is too costly. Poverty forced us to live here."

Nur Jahan, a 60-year-old, is still crying for her two sons, Mohammad Liton and Mohammad Ripon, who died in a landslide in Akbarshah area last year.

"We had no choice but to reside on a hillock

Recently, BR suspended one of its employees, Abdul Khalek, for his involvement in constructing illegal structures on Soloshohor hill.

## Building at the cost of a pond

SIFAYET ULLAH

A pond in Chattogram city's Mohora area is counting its breaths as builders continue to fill it up for the construction of a five-storey building.

The permission for this construction was given by the Chattogram Development Authority, violating the Environment Conservation Act.

To legalise their action, the authorised division of CDA has shown the pond as an open land during paperwork. However, the place is still mentioned as a pond on a BS survey.

The Daily Star has obtained copies of the aforementioned documents.

In November last year, CDA permitted Sadia Kamal, owner of the pond, to construct the building by filling up the 0.12-acre pond, according to the documents. The construction works started in January.

"We used to collect water from this pond for domestic use. But the builders have filled it up under the nose of the administration as they are influential in the area," said a local woman, seeking anonymity.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw several pillars had already been constructed by filling up a vast portion of the waterbody.

Owner Sadia Kamal said, "CDA issued the plan following our application. If they had not given the permission, we would not have started the construction work."

Mohammad Hasan, authorised officer and member secretary of CDA's Building Construction Committee, approved the construction permit.

Asked, Hasan said, "I am not aware of the situation and did not have field data. I only issued the permit as an authority."

Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA, said, "There is no opportunity to approve plans for construction of buildings by filling up ponds. We will look into the matter and cancel the permit if irregularities are found. Besides, action will be taken against those involved in the irregularities."

Filling up water bodies is a punishable offence under the Environment Conservation Act. An accused can be sentenced to five years imprisonment or subjected to a Tk 50,000 fine, or both if found guilty of grabbing any water body.

Mia Mahmudul Hoq, deputy director of DoE (port city), said "We already sent a letter to CDA, requesting them to cancel the construction permit."

According to DoE, the port city was home to around 25,000 waterbodies in 1981. However, a 2017 Chittagong university study found the existence of 1,249 of them.

"Water bodies play an important role. It can serve as a source of water for domestic use and to douse fire. It also helps control waterlogging, support biodiversity, and restore depleted groundwater. This city will become unliveable if we continue to kill these natural water sources," said Md Delwar Hossain Mazumdar, executive member of Forum for Planned Chattogram and former chairman of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.



CU MUSEUM

## Where history comes alive

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Walking down the aisles at Chittagong University Museum, a treasure trove of priceless antiquities and archaeological knowledge, it would seem as if history has come alive there.

Anyone would feel a thrill, as if she or he is travelling to the past, by simply looking at the displayed artifacts.

There is an ancient Surya idol at the sculpture section that is more than 2,400 years old, dating back to the Gupta Empire (320 and 550 CE). Numerous century-old specimens from different historical periods of this region are also on display.

This is the only university museum in Bangladesh. It started its journey with an initial collection of 30 pieces of art and artifacts that included robes and pillows, weapons and armours, stone inscriptions, sculptures, and brass plates, according to CU sources.

It was inaugurated on June 14, 1973, temporarily on the first floor of CU's arts faculty building. After a while, it was shifted to the Chattogram District Shilpakala Academy, before being relocated again to AR Mallick Bhaban on the CU campus in 1988. The museum found its own place in the three-storied Library and Museum Building of CU on August 10, 1992.

The items were collected by CU's Department of History before being handed over to the museum.

Over the years, the museum's collection became more enriched, with most of the



items being donated to it.

The sculpture section has 52 ancient idols of different sizes, sculpted from rare black stones. A sandstone statue of Vishnu, collected from Mirsarai of Chattogram, is among the oldest specimens, dating back to the 9th century.

Besides, there are 28 bronze and some other metal sculptures, which are close to 2,800 years old, dating back to the Pala Empire (750-1161 CE).

The museum houses five permanent

exhibition galleries on the first floor: Pre-History and Archaeological Gallery, Sculpture Gallery, Islamic Art Gallery, Folk Art Gallery, and Contemporary Art Gallery.

The ground floor comprises of Abdul Karim Reference Library, a conservation laboratory, a space for special exhibitions and workshops, a documentation and research service centre, and the museum's stores and offices.

The second floor houses a conference hall.

An open stage, thematic gardens and the yard complete the CU Museum's premises.

Professor AR Mallick, the first vice-chancellor of CU, and Professor Abdul Karim, the first head of the history department, took initiative to build up the museum's collection. Dr Shamsul Hossain, a former student of the history department, was its first academic staff, who later served as its deputy curator.

The CU authority allocates a fund for the museum's maintenance. However, it fails to draw enough attention from researchers and visitors due to lack of planning and exposure, according to sources.

It remains open for visitors from 9:00am till 1:30pm.

"The museum has been playing a vital role in historical research and academic knowledge for both teachers and students," said Professor Mahbulul Haque, dean of CU arts faculty and former curator.

## Work starts for specialised burn unit at CMCH

ARUN BIKASH DEY

A modern and specialised burn and plastic surgery unit is being set up at Chattogram Medical College Hospital following a bilateral agreement between China and the health ministry.

The project work has begun with surveying and soil testing of the construction site, and is expected to be completed in 2025, said CMCH Director Brig Gen Shamim Ahsan.

China is funding 119 million yuan for the project, he said.

The agreement to construct the 150-bed burn and plastic surgery unit was signed in Dhaka on March 30. On March 11, a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the CMCH authorities and the Chinese government at CMCH.

Chinese Embassy Secretary Shi Chen said,

**Establishment of a modern burn unit in Chattogram is a crying need and a long cherished dream. This project will make that dream come true.**

Dr Samanta Lal Sen Coordinator of National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery

"If everything goes properly, the unit would be constructed within 22 months after signing of the agreement. We want to start the construction works soon."

Although CMCH has a burn and plastic surgery unit, it is not adequately equipped with modern instruments and also has a crisis of beds.

The new specialised unit will have modern equipment for treating burn patients, alongside two modern operation theatres, 10 intensive care unit beds and 25 high dependency unit beds, the CMCH director said.

The Chinese government will build the infrastructure of the new unit and provide all modern equipment for treating burn patients, while the unit will be managed by CMCH authorities, he said.

"Establishment of a modern burn unit in Chattogram is a crying need and a long cherished dream. This project will make that dream come true," said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka.

Dr Mujibul Haque Khan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association's Chattogram chapter, said around 30 million people in this region will be benefitted once the modern burn and plastic surgery unit at CMCH is established.



TIGERS' CLASS OF '23



‘Indian conditions not a worry for Pakistan’

REUTERS, Lahore

Pakistan captain Babar Azam does not think lack of familiarity with Indian conditions would hurt their bid for a second 50-overs World Cup title as they embark on a rare tour of the neighbouring country on Tuesday.

Bilateral cricket remains suspended between the neighbours, thanks to their soured political relations, and the last time Pakistan toured India was for the T20 World Cup in 2016.

Pakistan players do not feature in the Indian Premier League either, which means most of them would have little knowledge of the conditions they are going to face during the showpiece event beginning on Oct. 5.

In his pre-departure press conference, Babar dismissed suggestions it increased the pressure on his team to do well across the border.

“There’s no such pressure,” the 28-year-old told reporters as his team prepared to leave for India via Dubai. “Every player keeps himself ready to perform in every condition, in every country.”

“Most of us have not played in India but the information we have gathered suggest conditions are going to be similar, except in Chennai maybe where spinners get more help.

“Rest of the venues will have good, sporting tracks.

“I played the 2019 World Cup as a player but this time I’m leading the side. It’s a big honour for me and our effort would be to perform well and bring home the World Cup.”

The difficulty in securing visa for India tour means Pakistan would not get much support from the stands either but Babar was not perturbed.



Shanto offers the sole silver lining

SPORTS REPORTER

Amid all the rumours surrounding the announcement of the World Cup squad, the focus on Bangladesh’s performance in their third and series-deciding encounter against New Zealand took a back seat at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The curiosity was more on whether Tamim Iqbal would be selected for the World Cup squad than how Bangladesh team would perform in their last ODI prior to the fast-approaching showpiece event next month.

However, due to yet another poor batting display, the hosts went on to face a seven-wicket thumping and New Zealand cruised to victory and sealed the series 2-0.

It was Bangladesh’s first series defeat against the Black Caps in fifteen years and the Tigers will thus head into the World Cup without little momentum in their sails.

Stand-in skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto, who marked his ODI captaincy debut with innings highest score of 76, informed that the team are not too worried over their collective batting form after failing to post 200 in the last two matches.

“Our batsmen didn’t score big runs. Most of us got the starts but no big scores. Think it’d have been different if I’d batted till the end. We needed two big partnerships. Hopefully, next time the batters will take responsibility



SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh:

171 all out in 34.3 overs (Shanto 76, Mahmudullah 21; Milne 4-34, Boult 2-33)

New Zealand:

175 for 3 in 34.5 overs (Young 70, Nicholls 50 not out; Shoriful 2-32)

Result:

New Zealand won by 7 wickets

Player-of-the-match: Will Young

Player-of-the-series: Henry Nicholls

and bat long,” said Shanto after match yesterday.

Bangladesh earlier made four changes to their playing eleven from the previous match. Shanto came in for the first time in the series, alongside Mushfiqur Rahim, Shoriful Islam and Zakir Hossain, with the latter making his ODI debut.

Despite having elected to bat, Bangladesh were struggling at 35 for three inside six overs. Young opener Tanzid Hasan Tamim, who made the cut in the World Cup squad, scored five while Zakir also fell cheaply.

Shanto, on the other end, after having recovered from a hamstring injury, looked solid as he smashed his fifth ODI fifty to remain the only silver lining in the Tigers’ batting unit.

Shanto also reached a special landmark by becoming the highest Bangladeshi run-getter on ODI captaincy debut, surpassing Aminul Islam Bulbul’s 70-run knock against India in 1998.

New Zealand fast bowler Adam Milne, introduced for the first time in the series, was the pick of the bowlers. He scalped four wickets for 34 runs, while Trent Boult and Cole McConehie picked up two each.

As Bangladesh travel to India for the World Cup on the back of three series defeats this year, regular skipper Shakib Al Hasan and head coach Chandika Hathurusingha will surely need to find better tactics for a side who enjoyed a terrific home record till 2022.

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 1

India vs Australia

3rd ODI

Live from 2:00 pm

‘Injury concerns’ prompted Tamim’s exclusion

SPORTS REPORTER

Finally, when the dust settled yesterday night after almost 24 hours of speculation and rumors, it was revealed that the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) did not include seasoned campaigner Tamim Iqbal among the 15 selected to represent the country in the 13th edition of the World Cup, to be played in India from October 5 to November 19.

Although it came as a surprise to the entire nation and the fans, the national selectors had a straightforward reason behind Tamim’s exclusion.

“There are some injuries which you can’t take a risk with. This is very important. If we include someone and that player suffers from injury after going to the World Cup, then that would see the team management in a fix. So, that’s a risk. So, we took this decision after considering all these,” chief selector Minhajul Abedin Nannu, addressing the media in Mirpur last night, said while pointing out Tamim’s recurring back injury as the main reason behind dropping the opener from the World Cup squad.

This was set to be Tamim’s fifth ODI World Cup, having represented the country in every edition of the mega event since mesmerising everyone in his first in the West Indies in 2007.

The exclusion of the country’s best opener from one of the biggest cricketing events raised a lot of questions, especially since there were a lot of rumours circulating in mainstream as well as social media.

One such rumour was that skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who will lead the Tigers in the World Cup for the second time after having done so in 2011, was reluctant to captain the side if Tamim was included.

“We were never relayed any such information. We heard many things in the media but nothing of that sort was relayed to us,” added Minhajul.

Another rumour suggested that Tamim had informed the board that he would only be able to play five of the compulsory nine games the Tigers are set to play in the mega event in India. Answering this query, Minhajul said: “No. Let me clear this to everyone, we never received any information that Tamim would only play five games.”

The chief selector repeated a number of times that a proper procedure was followed while deciding the squad.

“The squad is prepared after discussing with the medical department, team management, players, the skipper, and the head coach as well. We followed the same procedure as we normally do in the case of any other player.

“You also have to keep in mind that Tamim felt a bit of pain [in his back] after he batted and fielded in the second game,” Minhajul asserted.

It is customary for the selectors to announce the squad and take questions regarding before any major event, but with what had happened since Monday night, probably the selectors were not the right people to face the media yesterday.

Even though the events that transpired in the country’s cricketing fraternity yesterday were consistent with how usually things happen almost before every major event, Tamim’s exclusion, despite all the reasoning provided by the BCB, keeps a scope for many more questions.

Maybe some of those questions of the curious cricket fans and media personnel will be answered when Tamim speaks up, as the 34-year-old left-handed batter confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday that he would provide his own statement regarding the incident.

Shanaka retained as Sri Lanka skipper for World Cup

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka retained out-of-form skipper Dasun Shanaka on Tuesday in its 15-member squad for next month’s World Cup in India despite pressure from fans and the media to drop him.

The island nation is still smarting from its ignominious defeat by India at the six-nation Asia Cup finals this month in which they were all out for just 50 runs.

The thrashing on home soil prompted scathing social media attacks on the board and its players, and demands for Shanaka’s sacking.

“Perhaps it’s time Sri Lanka moved on from Shanaka before the country ends up being an absolute joke in the World Cup,” the Daily Mirror said in a scathing editorial last week.

But after much internal debate, the board decided to stick with him and the rest of the team, a Sri Lanka Cricket source told AFP.

Bowling all-rounder Wanidu Hasaranga is still recovering from injury and was not included in the squad but could still play in the tournament if his condition improves, the board said.

The board said in a Friday statement that selectors and officials “were in agreement that the national team is in the right direction towards making further progress”.

It said they were “optimistic that the upcoming World Cup will bring glory to the nation”.

SQUAD

Dasun Shanaka (capt), Kusal Mendis, Kusal Perera, Pathum Nissanka, Dimuth Karunaratne, Sadeera Samarawickrama, Charith Asalanka, Dhananjaya de Silva, Dushan Hemantha, Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Kasun Rajitha, Matheesha Pathirana, Lahiru Kumara, Dilshan Madushanka.

Fencers suffer heavy defeat

SPORTS REPORTER FROM HANGZHOU

Despite early promise, Bangladesh fencers Fatema Mujib and Rokhana Khatun suffered defeats in all five matches in their respective pools in yesterday’s Asian Games individual sabre events in China.

Fatema fought neck-and-neck with Thailand’s Bandhita Srinulnd in her opening match, losing 5-4 in front of loud spectators in the gallery of a well-decorated Hangzhou Dianzi University Gymnasium. Her following four bouts, however, -- against opponents from Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong -- all turned out to be one-sided affairs, resulting to elimination.

Rokhana, meanwhile, performed similarly and a 5-4 defeat against Saudi Arabia’s Alhina Alhammad in her second match was her best display of the day, as she could offer little resistance against Uzbek, Korean, Singaporean and Saudi Arabian counterparts.

Both Fatema and Rokhana’s Asian debuts were distinctly different from their successful show in the 2019 South Asian Games, when the country’s fairly new discipline brought 11 medals, including gold and silver by Fatema and Rokhana, respectively.

It was evident that both Fatema and

Rokhana started with an attacking approach, forcing opponents on the backfoot, but their technically superior opponents managed to pick the points cleverly.

“I think what I performed at this level today was good as the opponents were better than me,” said Fatema after the match at the mixed zone of the gymnasium.



behind the outcomes.

“We lack international experience. So far, I came to know that each of foreign participants took part in 10 to 20 tournaments prior to competing in the Asian Games, whereas Fatema played only two international tournaments since 2019.”

“Our players are training at home but they don’t have an idea about the outside environment, new rules and footwork, technical positions and how to attack the opponents. These are the areas where we lack.

“If the fencers can go abroad to compete more, then they will have an opportunity to rectify the small mistakes and improve their performances,” added the former national fencer.

**Boxer Selim in pre-quarters**

Boxer Selim Hossain beat Sri Lankan opponent Rukmal Prasanna 3-2 at the Hangzhou Gymnasium yesterday to move into the pre-quarterfinals of the 51-57kg category, scheduled for September 30.

Selim was ahead of Prasanna following the first two rounds but he lagged behind in the third and final round by three minutes. Selim was eventually declared the winner by three out of five judges.

The ‘Flying Dutchwoman’ retires

AFP, The Hague

Two-time world sprint champion Dafne Schippers, known as the “Flying Dutchwoman”, announced her retirement at the age of 31 on Tuesday, saying she was hanging up her spikes “without regret”.

Schippers won 200m gold at the world championships in Beijing in 2015 and London in 2017. She narrowly missed out on 200m Olympic gold in Rio.

“The race stops here,” Schippers wrote on Instagram. “Today, I have decided to take my life off track to pursue and embrace whatever comes next.”

Schippers had been blighted by injury in her later career and her last competitive medal came when she won silver in the 60m at the 2019 European indoor championships.

Her time of 21.63sec in Beijing remains a European record and makes her the sixth fastest performer in history.

“As an athlete, you always know this day will come, that at one point, your career will be a moment in time, a collection of memories and hopefully medals,” Schippers said.

Starc, Maxwell ‘on track’ for return

AFP, Rajkot

Australia pace bowler Mitchell Starc said on Tuesday he and all-rounder Glenn Maxwell remain close to match fitness ahead of the World Cup.

Starc and Maxwell, both returning from injuries, took part in the team’s training ahead of the third one-day international against India in Rajkot on Wednesday.

“It’s on track,” said Starc on his recovery, on the eve of the final match of the series already won by India.

Starc suffered a shoulder injury in this year’s Ashes, followed by a groin injury.

“The goal is to play tomorrow but that will depend how today goes,” he said. “The priority being the World Cup, and not compromising on that.”

Starc, a left-arm quick, said they have three matches before their World Cup opener against India on October 8 in Chennai.

“It’s been somewhat of a different lead-up with the South African tour, the three-match series here and the two warm-up games,” he said.

Maxwell had a good hit in the nets as he recovers from an ankle injury, and Starc said the batting all-rounder will be an X-factor for Australia in the World Cup.

“He is on track as well, but I am not sure (about) his particular timeline, but no doubt he will be looking to make an impact as soon as he gets his chance,” said Starc.





## DENGUE OUTBREAK

# Dhaka saw most deaths this season

65pc of the victims from the district, shows DGHS data

**DIPAN NANDY**

A staggering 65 percent of the deaths from dengue this year were in Dhaka district, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Health officials say many patients from outside Dhaka are being sent to the capital due to a lack of treatment facilities for critical dengue patients. In many cases, those patients cannot be saved.

According to data of the DGHS, 15 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, bringing the total number of deaths from the virus to 943 this year.

Of the 943, at least 617 patients (65.42 percent) died in Dhaka and the rest 326 (34.58 percent) in other districts.

Asked why Dhaka saw more deaths than other districts, Md Niyatuzzaman, director of Mugda General Hospital, said dengue infections have been prevalent among the residents of the capital and that's why deaths are high here.

"Most of the patients from outside Dhaka arrive in the capital in critical condition. If they die, their deaths are recorded in the city. This is another reason for the high mortality rate in Dhaka," he told The Daily Star.

Khalilur Rahman, director of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said many patients from outside

DENGUE CASES AND DEATHS		
Figures until September 26		
DIVISION	TOTAL CASES	TOTAL DEATHS
Dhaka	110,889	690
Chattogram	27,983	80
Rajshahi	7,995	17
Khulna	13,419	41
Barishal	23,160	97
Sylhet	1,170	1
Rangpur	3,799	6
Mymensingh	5,466	11

SOURCE: DGHS

Dhaka come here with dengue shock syndrome and they need ICU support.

"Their trips to Dhaka take a lot of time and they don't receive proper treatment on the way. As a result, many of them die on the way to hospitals or within a few hours after getting admitted. We don't get enough time to treat them," he said.

A total of 3,123 patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. Of them, 774 admissions were logged in Dhaka and 2,349 outside Dhaka.

As of yesterday, a total of 1,93,881 dengue patients have been admitted to hospitals this year. Among them, 80,490 were admitted to hospitals in the capital, and 1,13,391 to hospitals outside Dhaka.

Till September 25, the highest monthly deaths were logged in August with 342 fatalities. With yesterday's 15 deaths, September's death toll is now 350.

Meanwhile, a mobile court sealed off Deep General Hospital in Savar's Sreepur bus stand area yesterday afternoon and fined it Tk 50,000 for different irregularities, including charging patients extra for dengue tests, reports our Savar correspondent.

## Power generation capacity to rise 4,817MW this year

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The country's power generation capacity will rise by 4,817 megawatts by this year, thanks to new power plants, says a report of the energy and power ministry.

By 2027, 13 power plants that are being constructed now will raise the country's power generation capacity by 10,754MW, said the report submitted yesterday to the parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources.

The existing plants have a total capacity of 23,871MW electricity and they produced the highest 15,648MW on April 19. However, the country saw power outages that day because there was demand for more.

The second unit of Rampal power plant, second unit of Banshkhali power plant, first unit of Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Power Plant, Sreepur 150MW power plant, Summit Meghnaghat Power Plant-2, Unique Meghnaghat Power Plant, and Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited will begin commercial operation by this year, says the report.

Construction of the power plant in Sreepur has made 74.43 percent progress while the rest are almost complete.

One unit of Chattogram's 1,224MW Banshkhali power plant owned by SS Power Limited, a subsidiary of S Alam group, started commercial operation on September 18. Bangladesh Power Development Board is likely to ask the plant authorities to begin operating the second unit by the last week of October.



Hawkers have taken over the rickshaw lane of this road in the capital's Gulistan, forcing the three-wheelers on to the fast lane. Consequently, vehicles getting off the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, *not in picture*, get stuck in tailbacks. The photo was taken near Sergeant Ahad Police Box on Sunday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Karabakh exodus grows after offensive

### Over 19,000 Armenians flee the breakaway region; fuel depot blast kills 20

**AFP, Lachin Corridor**

Thousands more Armenian refugees fled Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday as officials in Azerbaijan's war-scarred separatist statelet raised the death toll from a fuel blast to 20.

The number of deaths from Monday's disaster threatened to grow much higher because dozens were being treated in critical condition and many remained unaccounted for.

Most of the victims were stocking up on fuel for the trip down the so-called Lachin Corridor connecting the impoverished and historically disputed region with Armenia.

Yerevan has warned of possible "ethnic cleansing" by Azerbaijan – a close ally of Armenia's arch-nemesis Turkey – after Baku claimed full control of the region in a lightning offensive last week.

Armenians, mostly Christian, and Azerbaijanis, mostly Muslim, have fought two wars over the mountainous

**Azerbaijani border guards seek 'war crime' suspects in the sea of refugees.**

territory since the Soviet Union's 1991 collapse that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

The area is now populated by up to 120,000 ethnic Armenians but is internationally recognised as part Azerbaijan.

Armenia said yesterday that more than 19,000 refugees had fled since the first group arrived in the country on Sunday. Azerbaijani border guards sought out "war crime" suspects in the sea of refugees.

Meanwhile, the United States called on Azerbaijan to protect civilians and let in aid. An AFP team along the Lachin Corridor saw hundreds of cars piled high with belongings moving slowly along the jam-packed road.

Some of the vehicles crept along on flat tyres and many people simply walked past the last Azerbaijani checkpoint. The influx overwhelmed the border town of Goris – the first port of call for most families.

## AIIB to provide \$4.5 billion to Bangladesh

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will provide \$4.5 billion to Bangladesh in the next five years as Bangladesh seeks softer terms and conditions to facilitate climate-resilient infrastructure in the country.

The assurance came at the 8th annual meeting of the AIIB that took place on September 25 and 26 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, according to a finance ministry press release yesterday.

Sharifa Khan, secretary of the Economic Relation Division, led the Bangladeshi side in the meeting.

The \$4.5 billion loan will help finance various projects including climate-resilient infrastructure in the country, the press release said.

The AIIB has so far provided a total of \$3.27 billion in loans for 18 projects to Bangladesh after making its first investment in 2016 in a power sector project.

On the sidelines of the annual meeting, the Bangladesh delegation met with Urjit Patel, AIIB's vice-president for Investment Operations (Region 1) where he oversees all sovereign and non-sovereign operations in South Asia, the Pacific Islands and South East Asia.

At the meeting, Khan called for making AIIB's loan conditions more lenient given the current reality.

At present, loans from AIIB come at market-based rates, which used to be manageable thanks to the LIBOR being around 1.5 percent. LIBOR has been replaced by SOFR from July 1 and SOFR is now upwards of 5 percent.

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## US VISA POLICY

### It aims to ensure free, fair polls in Bangladesh

#### Says US State Dept

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The US State Department reiterated that the intention of the US visa policy announced for Bangladesh was not to take a side in the country's election but to ensure or support free, fair, and peaceful national polls in Bangladesh.

"I will say that, as we noted when we announced these new visa restrictions on Friday, they include members of law enforcement, the ruling party, and the political opposition," said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller at a regular press briefing at the State Department in Washington on Monday.

He avoided making any comment when asked about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, saying

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## Biden joins picket line of autoworkers on strike

**REUTERS, Belleville**

President Joe Biden yesterday joined a picket line with striking autoworkers in Michigan, backing their call for a 40 percent pay raise and telling them they deserve a "lot more" than they are getting.

Biden's appearance, the first visit by a US president to striking workers in modern history, comes a day before Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner for president, will speak to auto workers in Michigan. The rare back-to-back events highlight the importance of union support in the 2024 presidential election, even though unions represent a tiny fraction of US workers.

Democrat Biden traveled to Belleville, Michigan to join the picketers.



Firefighters extinguish burning trucks damaged during a Russian drone attack, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, at a compound of a port on Danube river in Odesa region, Ukraine yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## India's Moon lander, rover fail to 'wake up'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

India's groundbreaking Moon lander and rover that made history last month after becoming the first spacecraft to soft land on the lunar south pole have not "woken up" after they were put into hibernation.

Indian space agency Isro has so far failed to re-establish communication with both the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover, that were part of India's path-breaking Chandrayaan-3 mission.

Isro on Friday said "no signals have been received" from Vikram and Pragyan, raising concerns about the mission's further exploration of the lunar surface.

"Efforts have been made to establish communication with the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover to ascertain their wake-up condition," the Indian space agency said.

India made history on 23 August with its groundbreaking soft landing on the Moon's south pole, with the mission crossing another milestone just hours later once the rover exited the lander module to explore the lunar surface.

