



Together, they work tirelessly to repair a damaged dam

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Russia keeps pounding Ukraine

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A good national address to start with

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Nepal stand between Bangladesh and elusive trophy

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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Govt sets up inquiry commission

It has to submit report in 45 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a five-member inquiry commission to identify and find the people who were forcibly disappeared by various intelligence and law enforcement agencies between January 1, 2010, and August 5, 2024.

The formation of the commission comes three weeks after the toppling of the previous government, which had persistently denied reports of enforced disappearance and maintained that the victims went into hiding willingly to embarrass the authorities.

Bangladesh currently has no laws criminalising enforced disappearance nor has it ratified the United Nations International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

The country has now tasked retired High Court judge Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury to lead the new commission that will investigate the circumstances under which people were forcibly disappeared by any law enforcement or intelligence agency.

These agencies include Bangladesh Police, the Rapid

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Seven-year-old Riya feeding her 10-month-old brother the bread they received as relief for flood victims yesterday. Their family, along with 25 others, have been in an under-construction building in Feni municipality since Thursday when their previous shelter was flooded.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

UCB freed from ex-land minister, family's grip

2 more banks removed from S Alam's control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed lost its grip on United Commercial Bank (UCB) yesterday as the Bangladesh Bank dissolved the lender's board of directors.

The dissolved 18 member board was heavily dominated by Saifuzzaman's family members, including his sister Roxana Zaman Chaudhury and relatives Anisuzzaman Chowdhury and Asifuzzaman Chowdhury.

Saifuzzaman's wife, Rukhmila Zaman, had been serving as chairman of the bank till August 16, when the bank reconstituted the board of its own accord in an attempt to keep a portion of Saifuzzaman's family onboard, industry insiders alleged.

The bank reconstituted its board again yesterday for the same reason just hours before the banking regulator dissolved the board, they added.

Over the years, Saifuzzaman has influenced various activities at the bank,

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Major reshuffle in police force

3 top cops forced into retirement; 5 retired police officials reinstated

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In a major reshuffle in the police force yesterday, three top police officials have been sent into forced retirement and five mid-ranking officials, who had been forced to retire by the Awami League government, have been reinstated.

Also, 24 district police superintendents were transferred to police units across the country.

The government also transferred 38 additional SP- and 14 assistant superintendent of police (ASP) ranked officers from Dhaka Metropolitan Police to different police units, including in-service training centre, river police, and Rab.

Many of these officials have worked in the capital for years and had held major posts during the AL rule.

Forty-seven additional SP- and 10 ASP-ranked officers, who were outside Dhaka or in different units, have been transferred to the DMP.

Six deputy inspectors general and two additional inspectors general also got new posts.

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- 24 SPs transferred
- 38 addl SPs sent outside Dhaka, to police units
- 47 addl SPs transferred to Dhaka, police units

How a family grabbed multiple banks

S Alam and his family bypassed rules cleverly in capturing seven banks and two non-banks

AHSAN HABIB

The Bangladesh Bank is supposed to protect customers' interests, but it did not do so when it permitted Mohammed Saiful Alam and his family to seize multiple banks and funnel enormous sums as loans.

Alam, the chairman of S Alam Group, and his family members used the central bank's special permission to unprecedentedly possess large shares of seven banks and two financial institutions despite prohibition by the Bank Company Act.

For example, they have a 30 percent stake in Islami Bank while the law caps such shareholding by a family in a bank at 10 percent. That allowed Alam's relatives to take a total of Tk 25,000 crore loans from the bank with far less investment in it, official data shows. The actual amount is believed to be more than three

S ALAM, RELATIVES' SHARE IN BANKS, FIS (IN %)	
Islami Bank	30
SIBL	22
First Security	28
Global Islami	30
Al-Arafah	5
Union Bank	74
Northern Insurance	5
Aviva Finance	72

! SOURCE: ANNUAL REPORTS !

times the official figure.

The Alams are the only family in Bangladesh with all members and some of their relatives sitting on the boards of several banks simultaneously. They deftly captured the banks' shares as the central bank relaxed the rules for them.

Analysts and experts have condemned such a practice as "totally unacceptable and absurd", as it has put the banks, and the entire financial sector at risk.

The experts have been calling for efforts to reduce family control over the banks for a long time. However, their suggestion fell on deaf ears with the central bank bypassing rules to let Alam and his family strengthen their control over the banks.

All the members of the family were directors of different banks until last week when the

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FLOOD RELIEF

Lack of logistics key obstacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inadequate logistics continue to plague relief distribution along the eastern flank of Bangladesh that has been ravaged by the recent flood. Although the government has allocated food relief and cash -- 20,650 tonnes of rice and Tk 3.52 crore -- many among the 5.6 million flood victims of 11 districts are yet to benefit from it.

While the flood situation has improved in the absence of torrential rains in the eastern districts and water levels are subsiding, local administration and volunteers still find it hard to reach remote areas since they do not have enough boats. As a result, there is a strong demand for relief materials in deep pockets. Some of the officials have also complained of inadequate allocation of relief materials.

According to a daily update of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Chattogram was allocated Tk 35 lakh and 2,100 tonnes of rice, Feni was allocated Tk 62 lakh and 2,900 tonnes of rice, Cumilla, Noakhali and Sylhet were each allocated with Tk 45 lakh and 2,600 tonnes rice, Moulvibazar with Tk 30 lakh and 2,350 tonnes of rice, Habiganj with Tk 35 lakh and 2,400 tonnes of rice, Brahmanbaria with Tk 15 lakh and 1,600 tonnes of rice, Lakkhipur and Khagrachhari with Tk 10 lakh and 500 tonnes of rice each, and Cox's Bazar with Tk 20 lakh and 500 tonnes of rice.

The disaster relief ministry also allocated 15,000 packs of dry food

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YUNUS' ADDRESS

It presented a clear vision of Bangladesh

Say eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government, has presented his vision with objectivity and assured his government's commitment towards the countrymen in his televised address to the nation, said eminent citizens.

The speech has met the expectations of the people, said Itekhazuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

"Without any verbosity or rhetoric, Yunus, as expected of him, provided straightforward responses to a whole range of issues that have been agitating the minds of the people in the prevailing extremely challenging circumstances."

The speech strongly emphasised equality for everyone irrespective of any marker of identity and fundamental rights and justice without any form of discrimination.

"One could easily find in the speech a true articulation of the underlying spirit and aspirations of 'New Bangladesh' as pronounced by the unprecedented student-led people's movement."

The emphasis against corruption

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Sweatshops and traders of kitchen markets have turned the Shuvadya canal into a landfill, leaving no room for water to flow. The photo was taken in Dakshin Keraniganj a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Modi's tweet and a question

TANIM AHMED

In his recent tweet, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that while talking to US President Joe Biden, they spoke about Ukraine, and "also discussed the situation in Bangladesh and stressed the need for early restoration of normalcy, and ensuring the safety and security of minorities, especially the Hindus, in Bangladesh".

Not just Prime Minister Modi, the Indian foreign ministry's brief states that the two leaders "expressed their shared concern" about the situation in Bangladesh.

The two leaders hoped that "safety and security of the minorities, particularly Hindus, in Bangladesh" would be ensured.

Curiously though, the White House readout of the same telephone conversation does not even mention Bangladesh, which probably indicates that Biden's concern about the "situation" in this country is not as much as Modi had thought it to be or what his foreign ministry's statement makes it out to be.

The Indian prime minister had already spoken to Muhammad Yunus, the de facto Bangladesh prime minister, soon after his inauguration, and chose to take up this issue with the American president. He might have, instead, raised it with his counterpart in Bangladesh again, if he was still unsure whether the matter was satisfactorily resolved.



MY DHAKA

Understanding the 'Dhaka Dhakka' phenomenon

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

Moving to a new city can be intimidating, and when it's Dhaka, there are bound to be some stories.

Cultural shock is a real thing and it can happen even within your own country. Moving to Dhaka comes with such experiences and instead of cultural shock, I like to call these -- "Dhaka Dhakka."

Here are a few things that are common in Dhaka, but usually surprising to the newcomers:

NOT KNOWING YOUR NEIGHBOUR

If you come from a rural area, chances are that you know almost everyone in your village.

Some people are even so well informed that they can tell you what their neighbour is cooking for dinner on any given day.

But this is hardly the case in Dhaka.

Unless you have been living close by for a long time, people in Dhaka barely know their neighbours. And in most cases, they do not have the time or the patience for it either.

IT'S ALIVE 24/7

Village markets get dizzy by 10:00pm. By 11:00pm, everyone is closing up.

In remote areas, late nights are quiet, desolate, and frighteningly dark. Dhaka is not bound by any such schedule.

Even at midnight, there are people



PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

on the roads, and many places are found buzzing at midnight, such as Nazirabazar.

Places like Karwanbazar and other wholesale markets in Dhaka are equally noisy in the middle of the night as they are at any other time of the day. Dhaka is alive every hour of the day and every day of the week.

NOBODY CARES ABOUT OTHERS

There are so many people in Dhaka and everyone is so busy with themselves that nobody has the time to sit back and care about what another person is doing.

In smaller cities and villages, you find that people will stop and stare. Some would even come up and inquire sometimes.

This happens more often in villages where individualism hasn't quite caught up yet and the concept of privacy is still alien. So, everyone is interested in someone else's business.

But in Dhaka, nobody has the time or interest to care about what others are doing.

LOVE FOR SLEEP

Sure, Dhaka is alive 24/7 and buzzing even at midnight, but the city loves to

sleep more than anything else.

One can really feel that on weekends and other national holidays. While you might be used to people starting their day as early as possible back in your hometown, Dhaka reminds you that there is no need to rush into the day when it's your day off.

On workdays, Dhaka will surprise you with its millions of commuters and their dedication but on holidays, you can expect to start the day as late as possible. Even the shops will open late so you're better off sleeping.

'THERE'S A MARKET FOR THAT'

Remember that time when people used to say "There's an app for that?" Well, Dhaka is sort of like that.

If you are looking for something, there probably is a market for that somewhere in Dhaka.

From common items such as books and clothes to unique items such as antiques and paintings -- whatever you need -- there is a marketplace for that in Dhaka. All you have to do is ask around.

Digesting the "Dhaka Dhakka" can take some time. For those who are willing to embrace the city, it can happen fast.

But if you are scared by Dhaka, then it's not going to get any easier because Dhaka is many things, but forgiving is not one of them.

Erdoğan calls Yunus, promises aid for flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan congratulated Bangladesh Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on assuming leadership of the interim government over a phone call yesterday.

During the call, President Erdoğan condoned the loss of valuable lives in the flood-affected areas of Bangladesh and said Turkey would provide humanitarian aid to the flood-stricken people.

Chief Adviser Yunus thanked the Turkish president, who is a long-time friend of the 2006 Nobel laureate.

He called for increased trade with Turkey and said Bangladesh would need Turkish investment in key sectors, including manufacturing, in which Turkey is a formidable global power.

President Erdoğan said he would soon send a high-powered delegation to Bangladesh in their efforts to help rebuild the country.

He invited the chief adviser to visit Turkey. Prof Yunus accepted the offer, saying he would visit the country at a convenient time.

The chief adviser also invited President Erdoğan to visit Bangladesh. He also accepted the offer.

Student returns from Assam after backlash on social media

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi student studying in India's Assam returned home on Monday as many people reacted angrily to her heart emoji reaction on an "anti-India" post on social media, PTI reported yesterday, quoting local police.

The student of the National Institute of Technology in Silchar requested the institution's authorities to allow her to return to Bangladesh, Cachar Superintendent of Police Numal Mahatta said.

The SP said the fourth-semester student of the electronic and communication department of NIT was sent back through the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Sutarbandi in Karimganj district.

"This is not a case of deportation... She reacted with a lovesymbol in anti-India post on Facebook by her senior and NIT Silchar alumnus who left India around six months back after completing his course. He now lives in Bangladesh," Mahatta said.

UCB freed

FROM PAGE 1

including approval of loans, according to the insiders.

The central bank constituted a five-member board for the bank, including two shareholder directors and three independent directors.

Sharif Zahir, chairman of National Finance, was made a shareholder director. Zahir is also the managing director of Ananta Group and a former vice chairman of UCB.

Md Tanvir Khan, director of Eastland Insurance, is the other shareholder director.

Sajjad Hossain, former executive director of Bangladesh Bank, Yusuf Ali, former deputy managing director of Agrani Bank, and Obaidur Rahman, a chartered accountant, were named independent directors.

The new board was constituted to protect the interests of the depositors and ensure good governance as per section 45 of the Bank Company Act, 1991, read a letter from the central bank to the UCB managing director.

Saifuzzaman has acquired at least 260 properties in the United Kingdom, paying at least 134.76 million British pounds or Tk 1,888 crore, according to The Daily Star's calculation based on company filings that are publicly available on UK government websites.

The three-time Awami League lawmaker also has at least 537 mortgages against properties in the UK, a majority of which are in London.

Allegations are also rife about the former land minister using UCB for personal gain.

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit found that Saifuzzaman and Rukhmla have also amassed huge fortunes in the United States and Dubai.

Saifuzzaman is a relative of S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam.

TWO BANKS FREED OF S ALAM
The S Alam Group's dominance over two banks, namely Global Islami Bank and Union Bank, was upended yesterday as the Bangladesh Bank dissolved their boards, which were heavily controlled by individuals linked to the conglomerate.

In recent days, National Bank, Islami Bank Bangladesh and Social Islami Bank have also been freed from the S Alam Group's clutches.

The central bank dissolved the 21-member board of Global Islami Bank and 11-member board of Union Bank, and appointed five independent directors for each.

Mohammad Nurul Amin, former managing director of Meghna Bank, has been appointed as chairman of Global Islami Bank's board following his selection as an independent director.

Similarly, the banking watchdog appointed Md Farid Uddin Ahmed as the chairman of Union Bank after selecting him as an independent director.

Ahmed is a former managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh.

Founded in 1985 by Mohammed Saiful Alam, a relative of former Awami League politician Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, S Alam Group has grown into one of the largest conglomerates in Bangladesh.

The banks have been facing huge deficits in their current account balances with the central bank for more than a year due to widespread loan irregularities and scams.

Govt sets up inquiry commission

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Action Battalion, Border Guard Bangladesh, the Criminal Investigation Department, the Special Branch, the Ansar Battalion, National Security Intelligence, military forces, and the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI).

The commission will provide descriptions of the incidents of enforced disappearance to the authorities concerned and make recommendations, according to a gazette notification of the Cabinet Division.

Relatives will be informed if the commission discovers someone forcibly disappeared, said the notification signed by Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain.

It will also gather information from the investigation already carried out by any agency or organisation on the incidents of enforced disappearances.

The other four members of the commission are Justice Md Farid Ahmed Shibli, another former judge of the High Court, rights activists Nur Khan and Sazzad Hossain, and Nabila Idris, a teacher at BRAC University.

They will submit the report to the government after completing their investigation within 45 working days in line with the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1956, under which the

commission has been formed.

Sanjida Islam Tulee, coordinator of Mayer Daak, a platform for the families of victims of enforced disappearance, said, "The investigation process must be transparent and the report must not seek to hide any of its findings. A system must be set up for victims to submit evidence."

The AL's narrative regarding reports of enforced disappearances unravelled after the horrifying stories of people, who were confined to secret detention centres, became public following the dramatic fall of Hasina's government.

The victims of enforced disappearance began to speak out after their release from the secret facilities known as "Aynaghar". These victims come from different age groups and political and social backgrounds, but their narratives of the thick-walled, iron-door prison cells are strikingly similar. These facilities are notorious for their complete isolation, with detainees unable to see any light from the outside world.

Many of these were run by the DGFI. The agency's heads are reportable directly to the prime minister and the prime minister's security adviser.

At a meeting with the DGFI on August 6, a six-member team,

including rights activists and a UN representative, demanded access to the detention facility. The team was allowed to visit the DGFI headquarters in Dhaka on August 7.

After coming out of the facility, rights activist Shirren Huq told families of some victims that the DGFI said there were no detainees in their Dhaka facility. The agency also said that they would form a joint commission to arrange visits for rights activists to 23 other facilities across the country to see if the victims of enforced disappearance were there.

Now demands are being made from the families of the victims, rights activists and different other quarters to put an end to such torture in confinement to Aynaghar-style facilities.

According to rights organisation Odhikar, at least 708 people were victims of enforced disappearance between 2009 and June 2024.

The US in December 2021 imposed sanctions on Rab and seven of its top officers over serious rights abuses. It said the Rab and other Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies were responsible for more than 600 enforced disappearances since 2009 and nearly 600 extrajudicial killings since 2018.

Major reshuffle in police force

FROM PAGE 1

Over the last one week, 13 top police officers have been sent into forced retirement in "public interest".

Many of these officials have been alleged to have used excessive force to suppress the student movement that toppled the AL government on August 5.

Much-talked-about names like Monirul Islam, additional IGP at Special Branch; Habibur Rahman, DMP commissioner; Atiul Islam, additional IGP of police headquarters; Mohammad Ali Miah, CID chief; and Krishna Pada Roy, additional IGP of the Police Headquarters, were among those forced to retire.

Some of them have murder cases filed against them.

Police and home ministry sources said the changes were made as a part of measures to revamp the force that has been "politically used" for a long time.

"We have transferred the officials out of Dhaka as a part of measures to revamp the force," Md Mainul Hasan, commissioner of the DMP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said, "Capable, professional, and deprived officers are being selected for filling the vacant posts."

Muhammad Nurul Huda, a former inspector general of police, termed the moves "administrative measures or actions warranted by the present situation".

He told The Daily Star, "The officials, who have been given charge in new posts, should strictly follow the law so that the image [of the force] is restored."

REINSTATEMENTS, RETIREMENTS
With three circulars, the government

yesterday sent three top police officials, including an additional inspector general of police (IGP), into forced retirement from today.

The officials are Krishna Pada Roy, additional IGP of police headquarters; Mozammel Haque, Khulna Metropolitan Police commissioner; and Sardar Rakibul Islam, additional commissioner.

The circular invoked section 45 of the Public Service Act, 2018.

The five reinstated police officials, who were forced to retire between 2020 and 2023, are Deputy Inspector General of Police Abdullah Al Mamun, and SPs Nazmul Karim Khan, Ali Hossain Khan, Delwar Hossain Mia, and Zillur Rahman.

Five circulars were issued in this regard yesterday.

They would be considered on duty from the day of their forced retirement, and they would be entitled to arrears, promotions, and other benefits as per rules, read the circulars.

The home ministry during the AL rule had cited "public interest" as reason for them being forced to retire.

THE NEW TO BE WATCHED
Sources said many of the newly posted DMP officials do not have experience in working in the capital.

Talking to this newspaper, a source, requesting anonymity, said, "It would be hard for the newly appointed officers to perform their duties if they have no experience in dealing with crime in the capital..."

DMP Commissioner Mainul said, "We will keep the newly transferred officials under the scanner and follow their work. If they fail to perform and

maintain the professional standard, then they would be sent back.

"We want to ensure the best service to people..."

Earlier, the authorities transferred all additional commissioners and deputy commissioners of eight crime divisions and eight detective branches of the DMP.

The officials, who were posted outside Dhaka, are now being given the charges of these divisions and DB branches.

NEW SPs, DIGs
The home ministry in another circular transferred the SPs of 24 districts.

New officials were also appointed to these districts.

The districts that got new SPs are Rangpur, Gazipur, Cumilla, Dhaka, Sirajganj, Chattogram, Manikganj, Mymensingh, Gaibandha, Habiganj, Rajshahi, Munshiganj, Sylhet, Narayanganj, Natore, Pabna, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Kishoreganj, Jhenaidah, Magura, Tangail, Jashore, and Narsingdi.

In another circular, the home ministry yesterday transferred two additional inspectors general of police and six DIGs.

Additional IGP (supernumerary) AKM Hafiz Akter and KH Mahid Uddin were transferred to the Industrial Police and Tourist Police.

DIG Munibur Rahman of DMP was sent to the Armed Police Battalion headquarters while DIG Faruk Ahmed to the DMP.

DIGs (supernumerary) Israil Howlader, Khondoker Nazmul Hasan, Masud Karim, and Hasan Md Shawkat Ali were posted to the DMP.

It presented a clear vision of Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

and money laundering has raised expectations and would motivate the relevant institutions to take action to set concrete examples that abuse of power, especially at high levels, can no longer be enjoyed with impunity, Iftekharuzzaman said.

Yunus has rightly conveyed the message that it is upon the people to determine when the much-needed elections will be held.

"There is no denying that one of the deliverables of the interim government is the restoration of people's right to vote as the means of transition of power. But the election cannot be regarded as an end in itself without meeting the key aspirations of the movement," he added.

In his address to the nation on Sunday, Yunus requested the people to discuss and prescribe what is the least the interim government needs to do, said Serajul Islam Choudhury, professor emeritus at the University of Dhaka.

"Our expectation is that an election should be held and for that, a proper atmosphere should be created."

At the very least, the expectation is that due honour will be given to the aspiration of liberty.

There are several other expectations such as proper treatment for those injured during the mass upsurge and financial compensation for the families of those killed.

"Perpetrators of these murders must be brought to book. There is a need to rein in the immense powers given to the police and the RAB. Efforts should be made to stop wealth laundering, plundering and corruption."

Ramping up employment generation, bringing prices under control, ensuring freedom of expression and dismantling all types of syndicates are crucial.

Furthermore, adopting a policy of development towards social ownership and moving away from the trend of capitalist development is also essential.

"If you can ensure this, an atmosphere of polls will be created. This should not take that much time. There are proposals of different reforms and commissions but those are time-consuming exercises," Choudhury added.

In his statement, Yunus highlighted that a key priority for the interim government is to seek justice for the hundreds killed and thousands injured during the July Protests, said Sara Hossain, a Supreme Court advocate and a rights activist.

"He also said it out loud and clear that no one should face injustice when seeking justice. I hope the government will act on this and take swift measures to bring to account some of those responsible for the gross human rights violations we have just witnessed, and also stand

by the victims, remembering the long history we have in our country of impunity across the years."

It was good to hear Yunus emphasise the importance of respecting each other irrespective of ethnicity, religion or gender, marking a clear step away from the politics of division and hatred and towards a vision of common goals and a shared future.

Yunus asked all those raising grievances for patience.

"People have genuine grievances, and with the restrictions on democratic space, they have had little opportunity to voice them for years."

They need to be heard and issues resolved based on priority.

"But more importantly we need to move ahead with a practical reform agenda, including for public institutions, which have been hollowed out. Once this is done, the government can move forward with other tasks."

Hossain agreed with Yunus that there should be reforms before holding elections.

"We have not witnessed proper elections for many years. Elections are not just a matter of institutional practices or legal rules; political parties should play a role and they should be ready for it. For that, voters need genuine choices, and all political groups must have a fair chance to be involved," she added.

Through his address, Yunus aimed to reassure the countrymen about the actions being taken and addressed the challenges of democratic transformation and the necessary reforms for it, said Selim Raihan, professor at the University of Dhaka's economics department.

Yunus mentioned that the interim government assumed power based on the mandate of the students and the people and asserted that the government would remain in place as long as they have that support.

However, one thing that needs clarification on how much control this interim government has over the administration.

"Every institution is in mess, with many being severely damaged -- it is a monumental task to rebuild them. I believe the government should create a comprehensive package outlining the necessary reforms and then hold a referendum on that."

If the government go to an election without making significant progress on the reforms, it will be like returning to square one, said Raihan, also the executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling.

He suggested that a white paper on the state of the economy should be issued and that similar initiatives should be taken across different sectors such as the constitution, administration, elections and others to ensure their accountability.

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Yunus now heading 6 ministries

Portfolios of four other advisers redistributed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus is now in charge of six ministries or divisions as the portfolios of five advisers were redistributed yesterday.

The Cabinet Division has issued a circular in this regard.

Yunus, the head of the interim government, was in charge of 10 ministries and divisions, but as per the circular he has given up charge of the land, science and technology, shipping, and women and children affairs ministries.

According to the new decision, Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed has been given the charge of the science and technology, and finance and commerce ministries.

Hasan Arif has been given charge of the

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The road beside the Jurain Railway Market in the capital's Jurain area goes under water even after minimal rainfall, causing suffering for commuters and vehicles. With the road's numerous potholes remaining invisible due to the water, it gets risky for vehicles to ply the road amid the situation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UN RIGHTS DELEGATION Bangladesh assures full cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is committed to providing full cooperation to the United Nations, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said yesterday following a meeting with a visiting UN delegation at the Secretariat.

The three-member delegation, led by Rory Mungoven, Chief of the Asia-Pacific Section of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), arrived in Bangladesh on August 22 to investigate human rights violations that occurred between July 1 and August 15.

The team also included Livia Consenza and Alexander James Amir El Jundi, both human rights officers at OHCHR.

During the meeting, the home adviser requested the UN to consider including more Bangladeshi personnel from the army, police, and other forces in UN peacekeeping missions.

Rory Mungoven described the meeting as positive, saying, "We are in Bangladesh to discuss how the UN could conduct an investigation and fact-finding mission regarding the events of the past two months, as requested by the interim government."

He added that the delegation is also exploring other areas where they can assist and support the interim government and the people of Bangladesh.

"We are halfway through our visit, and the discussions have been very positive. We are inspired by the efforts of the students and people of Bangladesh, and we want to support them in the best way possible," Mungoven told reporters at the Secretariat.

APPOINTMENTS OF CECs, ECs HC asks why indemnity of search bodies not illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule questioning the legality of a provision that provides indemnity to president-appointed search committees that recommend appointments of CECs and other ECs for holding polls in the country.

In the rule, the court asked the respondents to explain why Section 9 of the Chief Election Commissioners and Other Election Commissioners Appointment Act, 2022, which has given such impunity to search committees, should not be declared illegal and contradictory to the constitution.

The law secretary and the election commission have been made respondents to the rule, which is returnable in four weeks.

The HC bench of AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahubul Islam issued the rule following a writ petition challenging the legality of the provision, which was filed by 10 Supreme Court lawyers on August 18.

Section 9 states that the appointments of CECs and other ECs based on the recommendations of the search committees previously formed by the president and their activities will be deemed as valid and no question shall be raised in any court in this regard, said the petition.

Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir appeared for the petitioners during the hearing of the petition.

He told the HC that Section 9 of the act has taken away the jurisdiction of the judiciary, as it has been said that any question cannot be raised in any court of the country.

Such impunity is totally unconstitutional, he added.

Earlier, Shishir Manir told The Daily Star that his clients have challenged the impunity given to the search committees formed in 2017 and 2022, headed respectively by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Obaidul Hassan, judges of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, to recommend appointing the CECs and ECs for holding the elections in 2014 and 2018.

Together, they work tirelessly to repair a dyke

A breach in the embankment has flooded over 35 villages in Sylhet

MINTU DESHWARA

A breach in the Manu River embankment in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila has led to widespread flooding, submerging over 35 villages and causing significant damage to crop fields, houses, and roads.

The breach, which occurred on August 20, has left the region reeling as floodwaters continue to inundate the area.

The damage was particularly severe in the villages of Belartal, Alinagar, and Dhalia, where sections of the embankment gave way due to persistent rainfall and water flow from across the border.

Local residents and officials have pointed fingers at the Bangladesh Water Development Board, accusing it of using substandard materials in constructing the embankment, leading to its collapse.

Despite these challenges, the story has taken a hopeful turn as hundreds of local residents, students, and social organisations have come together to repair the damaged embankment themselves.

"The Manu river's breach has devastated our community, but we're not waiting for government aid. We've taken matters into our own hands," said Umar Ali, a student involved in the repairs.

Ali and other local youths were among the first to respond, quickly filling the breach with sandbags.

Soon after, they were joined by former UP member

Abbas Ali, social activist Dr Monirul Islam Sohag, and other villagers.

The repair effort, which began on the night of August 22, has become a community-wide endeavour. Men, women, and children have been working side by side, filling sacks with soil and stacking them to rebuild the embankment.

The scene is one of determination and unity, with villagers refusing to let the floodwaters defeat them.

"We've been working since dawn, every day, to protect our homes and crops," said Dr Sohag, who also contributed Tk 1 lakh to support the effort.

"Many of the embankments in this area are unstable, and we're doing everything we can to safeguard our land," he added.

Local youth Yasin Ali voiced frustration over unfulfilled promises by public representatives to build a permanent embankment, but he praised the community's

spirit. "The people here are incredible. They've come together to do what needs to be done. It's inspiring to see," said Yasin.

Abbas Ali echoed these sentiments, noting that while the situation is dire, the collective effort has brought the community closer together.

"We've been working at great personal risk, but it's worth it to protect our neighbours and our homes," he said.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Volunteers load trucks with clothes and other relief materials to dispatch them to flood-affected areas. As the relief campaign continues at Dhaka University, students are working round the clock to collect relief funds and items and send them to the flood-affected people. The photo was taken at the DU Central Field yesterday.

Biman board of directors reformed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday reconstituted the board of directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Affairs Ministry said this in a gazette notification in this regard.

Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, a former adviser to the caretaker government, was made chairman of the board of directors of Biman.

On August 19, Chowdhury has been appointed as the new chairman of the national flag carrier.

Russia interested in exploring five more gas wells

Envoys of three countries call on chief adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Russian state-owned energy company Gazprom has expressed interest in exploring five additional gas wells in Bhola, as well as further wells inland, Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Mantyskiy revealed during a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday.

Mantyskiy also highlighted Russia's ongoing support for Bangladesh in international forums and discussed several key cooperation areas, including the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

'No flowers, no lavish arrangements' Says Prof Niaz after taking charge as 30th DU VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan took charge as the 30th vice chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday.

He was appointed "for the time being" by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, also the chancellor of the university.

After joining the office, Prof Niaz went to visit relief activities at TSC, where students are collecting relief items and funds for flood-affected people.

He also urged teachers, students, and other

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

FOR CUSTOMERS' ATTENTION
TEMPORARY HALT OF IMPORT-EXPORT
& GUARANTEE SERVICES



In our continuous endeavor to serve you better, we will be carrying out a system upgradation of our trade services as per the time table below. All Import-Export & Guarantee related services will be suspended during this period.

Schedule Downtime	Suspended Services
Sunday, 1 September, 2024 to Tuesday, 3 September, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All local and international Import-Export services All Guarantee related services

We regret any inconvenience caused. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

City Bank PLC
City Bank Center
28 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka
www.citybankplc.com
Call Center: 19234



Asiatic 3Sixty supports flood relief efforts

STAR REPORT
The Asiatic 3Sixty family has come together to support those affected by the recent floods, contributing one day's salary to a relief fund, said a press release.
This effort was further amplified by matching contributions from the organisations under the Asiatic 3Sixty umbrella, effectively doubling the total amount collected.
The full donation has been handed over to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund of the interim government. This fund will be used to provide essential supplies such as food, clean water, medical assistance, and other critical support to flood victims.

Most KCC dev projects halted

FROM PAGE 5
those? I want to surrender and hand over the remaining work to KCC authorities to prevent further losses," he said.
Echoing him, Ziaul Ahsan Titu, proprietor of Ziaul Traders and also councillor of ward 28, said, "My safety is my first priority now. My materials and equipment have been looted from the work site already. However, if I get security from the authorities, I will complete the remaining work in time."
Visiting at least seven wards including 21, 25, 28, and 9, this correspondent observed that sand, stones and other materials were left scattered on road near the construction sites. Only a few workers were seen on some sites.
Kudrat-e-Khuda, president of Sanak Khulna unit, called upon the KCC authorities to restore public

confidence by addressing the issue and finding a way to resume the works of these crucial projects immediately, alongside ensuring transparency and accountability, and steps to prevent future disruptions.
Contacted, Moshuazzaman Khan, chief engineer of KCC, said work has already resumed on 11 project sites while steps are on to resume the rest.

Menon, Inu

FROM PAGE 5
In the case, the complainant alleged that some of the accused as per instruction directly or indirectly from some others opened fire while hundreds of students, including Rubel, were protesting in Adabor on August 5.
Rubel succumbed to bullet wounds at a hospital two days later, the case said.
Another Dhaka court placed Hasanul Haq Inu on a seven-day remand in the Abdul Wadud murder case.
Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ali Haider passed the order after police produced him with a 10-day remand prayer, court sources said.
On August 21, Abdur Rahman, the victim's brother-in-law, filed the case with New Market Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 129 others.
Besides this case, Inu has been accused in several other cases after Hasina resigned and fled on August 5 in the face of a mass uprising.
Meanwhile, in the courtroom, a group of pro-BNP lawyers hurled epithets and attempted to attack Inu and Menon. Some unruly lawyers even threw eggs at them despite law enforcers' presence.

70 indigenous families attacked

FROM PAGE 5
The student leaders called on the government to restore the damaged sculpture.
Specific incidents highlighted during the press conference include the torching and looting of homes in Pipalla village, Biral upazila, and Birganj upazila in Dinajpur, leaving many residents displaced out of fear.
In Bochaganj, 12 big has of land belonging to the indigenous communities were seized, and in Parbatipur upazila, houses were occupied after being set on fire.
Further attacks were reported in Ranisankail upazila of Thakurgaon, where four houses were burned down.
In Godagari upazila of Rajshahi, several villages were targeted, with valuables worth Tk 10 lakh looted. Similar

incidents occurred in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila, where fish from several ponds were looted, and in Patnitola upazila of Naogaon, where shops owned by indigenous families were ransacked.
The students at the press conference demanded a thorough investigation into the attacks and immediate government action to protect the affected communities.

Release detained

FROM PAGE 5
He said that over the past 15 years, more than 50 UPDF leaders and activists have been killed without trial, disappeared, arrested, or tortured.
Mikel called for an end to military control in the CHT, arguing that democracy is impossible under such conditions.
He expressed support for the interim government but stressed the importance of including the CHT in any upcoming reform plans to prevent the resurgence of a fascist regime.

of the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces Division, the Ministry of Food, the Ministry of Public Administration, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

Russia interested

FROM PAGE 3
This project, which benefits from Russian technical and financial support, is nearing completion and is expected to become operational next year.
Additionally, Russia is keen on exporting LNG to Bangladesh and constructing a gas pipeline from Bhola to Khulna, he noted.
Chief Adviser Yunus acknowledged Russia's historical support during Bangladesh's Liberation War and its crucial mine-clearing operations at Chittagong Port.
He urged Russia to increase its imports from Bangladesh and emphasised the need for expanded economic and

educational cooperation.
In a separate courtesy call, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador Essa Yousef Essa Al Duhailan informed Yunus that approximately 3.2 million Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia send around \$10 billion in remittances annually, with half sent through official channels.
Yunus praised Saudi Arabia as a key friend of Bangladesh and reminisced about his visit to the country for the World Football Summit. A Ambassador Essa Yousef also raised the issue of renewing passports for 69,000 undocumented Bangladeshi residents in Saudi Arabia and discussed Saudi interest in investing

further in Bangladesh's logistics, services, and renewable energy sectors.
Meanwhile, during a meeting with Pakistani High Commissioner Syed Ahmed Maroof, Yunus called for the revival of SAARC to enhance regional cooperation and boost economic ties in South Asia. He expressed hope that SAARC could become a model for regional integration similar to the European Union.
Maroof emphasised the need to revitalise trade and economic relations between the two countries and advocated for easing visa procedures and establishing direct flights between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

PRAYER TIMING
AUGUST 28

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Yunus now heading 6 ministries

FROM PAGE 3
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry as well as the Ministry of Land, Brigadier General (retd) M Shakhawat Hossain was given the charge of the shipping ministry while Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin S Murshid was given charge of the women and children affairs ministry, according to the circular.
Yunus is now in charge

of the Cabinet Division, the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces Division, the Ministry of Food, the Ministry of Public Administration, and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization to undertake graphic design and printing for the ILO office in Bangladesh for the provision of Long-Term Agreement (LTA). The bidding documents can be downloaded from the **United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM)** at <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/244819>
The deadline for submission of proposal is **Wednesday, September 25, 2024, by 04:30 PM (BST time)**.

Save the Children
Date: August 28, 2024
Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

Invitation for Tender
Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting request for proposal from the interested experienced bona fide vendors for Supplying ALP Book.
For details, please see the IFT schedules, which are available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification for free of cost. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

SL	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Pre-Tender Meeting Schedule & Place	Last date of Tender Submission
1	ALP Book Printing	IFT/SCI/CXB/FY-24/(Manual)/02	Zoom Meeting: 02/09/2024 https://zoom.us/j/99633685610 ?pwd=umb4PglTUbUjucMT2HFLmiq47LbV.1	September 17, 2024, on or before 03:00 pm.

Special Instruction:
(a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Services/Goods/Works will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. (b) SCI reserves the right to accept or reject part/whole of any or all the application without assigning any reason.
Director - Procurement & Supply Chain

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Rangamati Division, Rangamati
Email: dph.rangamati@gmail.com

Invitation e-Tender
Tender Notice Memo No: 46.03.84.00.061.24-234 Date: 27/08/2024

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division
2	Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering
3	Project Name	Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4)
4	e-Tender ID	ID No: 1010268,1010264,1010266
5	Description of works:	Construction of single storied RCC WASH Block having 1 storied foundation for MT & Boys and FT & Girls including all associated construction, sanitary, plumbing & electrical works under DPHE Rangamati Division Construction of 2 storied RCC WASH Block having 2 storied foundation for MT & Boys and FT & Girls including all associated construction, sanitary, plumbing & electrical works at different primary school in Rangamati District.
6	Name, Designation & Address of official Inviting Tender	Engr. Parag Barua Executive Engineer, DPHE, Rangamati Division, Rangamati.
7	This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and on offline/hard copies will be accepted	Interested persons/firms can see details in the : www.eprocure.gov.bd

(Engr. Parag Barua)
Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Rangamati Division, Rangamati.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram-4202.
Phone: +88-031-659604, email: ccspt@railway.gov.bd

No: 54.01.1543.335.08.027.24 Date: 25/08/2024.

Corrigendum to Notice-2
The following corrigendum to tender document have been carried out in respect of Tender Last selling date, Tender closing date & Opening date of tender no. 54.01.1543.335.08.027.24. Date: 11/06/2024. Opening Date: 28/08/2024 of this Procuring Entity:

SL. No.	Description of Corrigendum	Read	For
1.	Tender Last selling date	08/09/2024	27/08/2024
2.	Tender Closing date and Time	09/09/2024, 12.00 PM	28/08/2024, 12.00 PM
3.	Tender Opening date and Time	09/09/2024, 2.00 PM	28/08/2024, 2.00 PM

This corrigendum to tender document shall be treated as an integral part of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain unaltered and unchanged.
This is issued with the approval of the Chief Controller of Stores, Bangladesh Railway, Pahartali, Chattogram.

S(24)(182)
(Md Mizanur Rahman)
Assistant Controller of Stores (P-1)
For the Chief Controller of Stores
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram.

No flowers

FROM PAGE 3
well-wishers not to come and exchange greetings with flowers and other stuff, as the country is going through a crisis, said sources at his office.
"The context of my taking charge is a bit different. The blood of the martyrs has not yet dried. Many students are screaming in pain. On the other hand, millions of people are living in dire straits due to the current flood situation in the country. As part of our sympathy to all of them, we request you refrain from any lavish arrangements, including flowers, at this time," Professor Niaz said.

A circular from the education ministry yesterday announced that President Md Shahabuddin, as chancellor of the university, appointed him under the Dhaka University Order, 1973.

He replaced Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, who resigned from the post of DU VC on August 10.

Prof Niaz was the former chairman of the Department of Development Studies at DU. He also was a pro-vice chancellor at Independent University, Bangladesh.
He has a distinguished career in academia and development management. He holds a PhD degree with distinction from the University of Wales Swansea and has earned numerous scholarships, including the UK Commonwealth Scholarship.
He subsequently pursued postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford, University College Swansea, and Asian Institute of Technology.
Prof Niaz also served as the Bangladesh Country Representative of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Four AL leaders

FROM PAGE 5
Supreme Court lawyer Kamrul Hasan submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on August 20.
In the petition, he also requested the HC to form an inquiry committee to identify those responsible for formulating the "wrong curriculum" and to suspend the current

the attack. Thirteen died on the spot, and two others died in hospital. Attackers also vandalised and torched the police station.
Enayetpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Hasibullah Hasib said they have recorded the case and are investigating it.
"Police are trying to nab the culprits," he said.

A few law enforcers sheltered in many areas, but the attackers dragged them back to the police station and mercilessly beat them to death.
At least 15 police personnel were killed during

HC scraps petition

FROM PAGE 5
Supreme Court lawyer Kamrul Hasan submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on August 20.
In the petition, he also requested the HC to form an inquiry committee to identify those responsible for formulating the "wrong curriculum" and to suspend the current

curriculum.
"There are lots of errors in the curriculum and syllabus of secondary level education and the student's guardians have reportedly expressed concern with this issue," Kamrul Hasan told The Daily Star.
He also said he will again move the same petition before the HC later.

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
Email: adp3army1@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice
1. Sealed Tenders in Local Currency are invited from bonafide manufacturer(s)/Supplier(s) (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

Ser No.	Name of Items & Qty	Schedule selling date	Tender opening date	Tender No.	Cost of I/T
1.	Pillow for JCO & OR, Qty-54,000 Nos.	From 27-08-24 To 17-09-24	18-09-24	219.205.23	5,000.00

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office time between 0800 hour to 1300 hour. The Tender can be dropped latest by 1125 hour on opening date (18-09-2024) and shall be opened at 1130 hour on the specified date of opening in presence of all Tenderers (If present).

Dated: August 2024
Colonel
For Director General
আই.এস.পি.আর./বিবিধ/২০২৪/৩৪০
২৭/০৮/২৪
GD- 275

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-mail: ddp3navy@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice
1. Sealed tender in Foreign currency is invited from bonafide Manufacturer/Dealer/Suppliers/ Importers (enlisted with DGDP) for supply of the following item for Bangladesh Navy:

S. No.	Name of item	Date of selling	Date of opening	Cost of tender schedule	Tender number	Currency
1	Inflatable Life Jacket (General Service), Qty: 1,500 Nos.	From 27-08-24 To 06-10-24	07-10-24 At 12:05	5,000.00	248.07.048.24 Dt. 22 Aug 24	Foreign

2. Tender schedule with detailed specification/condition will be available in this Directorate General on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours on the abovementioned date of selling. The tender can be dropped in the tender box latest by 1200 hours and the same will be opened at 1205 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of the tenderers (if present).

Commander BN
For Director General
আই.এস.পি.আর./বিবিধ/2024/341
27/08/28
GD- 276

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE JAIL SUPER
NOAKHALI DISTRICT JAIL
www.prison.noakhali.gov.bd
Memo No. 58.04.7500.123.04.001.2024- 4119/6 Date: 27-08-2024

e-Tender Notice
This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SL. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Goods	Publishing date & time	Closing Date & Time
01	1011004	Supply of Unnotamaner Moshur Dal (Mota) to Noakhali District Jail for the period of October/2024 to March/2025	25/08/2024 & 23:00	09/09/2024 & 13:00
02	1011019	Supply of Unnotamaner Moshur Dal (Saru) to Noakhali District Jail for the period of October/2024 to March/2025	25/08/2024 & 23:00	09/09/2024 & 13:15
03	1011023	Supply of Unnotamaner Cholar Dal to Noakhali District Jail for the period of October/2024 to March/2025	25/08/2024 & 23:00	09/09/2024 & 13:30

This is an online Tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 09:00 on 09 September, 2024.
Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

27-8-24
(Md.Golam Dastagir)
Jail Super
Noakhali district Jail
Jailsupernoakhali@gmail.com
GD- 278

Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL)

Invitation for Tender
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Authorized Agents/ Dealers of respective brands for supply, installation, configuration, and commissioning of **Firewalls, Routers, Switches and Network Monitoring Solutions** with required Hardware, OS, Software, and other ancillaries to Central Depository Bangladesh limited (CDBL) as per the RFP (Request for Proposal) provided by CDBL.
Tender documents may be collected from CDBL, Head Office, DSE Tower (Level-5), House#46, Road#21, Nikunja-2, Dhaka-1229 during office hours from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM from 01-09-2024 to 05-09-2024. Last date of submission of tender is 4:30 PM, 03-10-2024.

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

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for **Procurement of several ICT Items i.e. hardware, accessories, hardware repair for Uttara Bank PLC.** Please visit www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender for details.
General Manager

AUGUST 5-7

70 indigenous families attacked in the north

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 70 families from the indigenous communities across five districts in the northern region have come under attack since the fall of the Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5.

The violence, which continued for three days, left 25 people injured and resulted in significant property damage.

The Adivasi Chhatra Janata, a student body representing the communities in Dinajpur, revealed the details during a press conference at the Dinajpur Press Club yesterday.

Ishwar Tudu, a leader of the organisation, presented the keynote address, detailing the extent of the attacks.

The violence occurred between August 5 and August 7, affecting the districts of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, and Naogaon.

The attacks involved looting, vandalism, and arson.

In addition to the destruction of homes, the attackers also looted fish from ponds and damaged or stole crops, with total financial losses estimated at approximately Tk 2.5 crore.

Despite the severity of the attacks, no official cases have been filed yet.

The violence also included the defacement of the Shidhu-Kanu sculpture, a monument commemorating the historic Tevaga movement, located on the way to the Kantajew temple in Kaharol upazila, Dinajpur.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Amid incessant rain, pullers of rickshaw vans keep waiting for work while parking their vehicles on the side of the road. As there are very few people getting outside due to the downpour, they have been struggling to find passengers or other work. The photo was taken in the Boyra Bazar area of Khulna city recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

ACC forms panel to assist anti-graft operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has formed a panel to maintain the ongoing anti-corruption operations and support the law enforcement agencies.

Md Shahriar, director general of ACC, disclosed this in a letter yesterday.

The panel will assist in seizing evidence and handling legal matters during search operations, the letter said.

The panel includes ACC Deputy Directors Debabrata Mondal, Md Humayun Kabir, Md Saiful Islam, and Mohammad Tajul Islam Bhuiyan, as well as assistant directors Muhammad Zafar Sadeq Shibli and Shoyeb Ibne Alam.

The panel was formed with the commission's approval, the ACC said.

The body will assist in searches with the ACC secretary's approval, the anti-graft watchdog added.

HC scraps petition on bringing edn reform

It says govt needs time for that

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to accept a writ petition that sought its order on the government to reform the education system at the secondary school level.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahubul Islam dropped the petition, saying the interim government needs time to bring reforms in the education system.

No order should be passed on the government in this regard, the court said.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman opposed the writ petition, citing similar points.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Most KCC projects halted

Contractors go into hiding after AL gov't's ouster

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

After the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 following a mass uprising, Khulna City Corporation's mayor, most of the ward councillors, and pro-AL contractors fled.

As such, most of the ongoing projects of KCC have been halted since then.

KCC has been working on a Tk 823 crore project to develop the city's drainage system, and a Tk 607 crore project for renovation of the city's roads.

According to sources, most of the works of these projects were being implemented by pro-AL contractors. Also, it has been alleged that some of the works were being done by the mayor himself and some councillors anonymously using the licence and work orders to other contractors. With them now on the run, these projects have been lying suspended.

City residents expressed concerns that solution to Khulna's existing problems, including waterlogging and dilapidated roads, will now either take much longer to be solved, or will be left incomplete midway.

At least 23 of the KCC's 31 ward councillors were directly involved in some of these project works



- Suspension of projects leave roads incomplete
Contractors demand security
Tk 468cr worth of projects remain unfinished

contractually.

Abdur Razzak from ward-25 said the renovation work of at least four major drains have been suspended for two weeks, exacerbating waterlogging.

AKM Kibria Hossain, a resident of ward 28, said local residents are now being compelled to cross the 2km concrete road from Jorakal Bazar to Rupsha on foot as it has been left half done.

According to KCC, around 50-70 per cent works of the drainage and road development projects have so far been completed. However, unless the works resume soon, the projects may get delayed.

Other halted projects include renovation of the road in front of Kuet, and construction of a waste treatment plant in Shalua and Chitrali Market.

The remaining works for all these projects are worth around Tk 468 crore.

A ward councillor, who is also contractor of at least 12 development works, said wishing anonymity that he has been threatened by locals, who also vandalised his residence and office.

"Amid the lack of security, how am I going to oversee the works and complete

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

AUG 4 COP KILLINGS Four AL leaders and 6,000 unnamed sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A case was filed yesterday against four local Awami League leaders and around 6,000 unnamed individuals on charges of killing 15 police personnel at Enayetpur Police Station in Sirajganj on August 4.

The accused AL leaders are: AL's Enayetpur union unit President Ahmed Mostafa Khan Bachchu, Secretary Ajgar Ali, Khukni Union Parishad Chairman and also AL's union unit President Mulluk Chand, and Bhangabari Union Chairman Johurul Islam Bhuiyan.

Enayetpur Police Station Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Malek filed the case.

According to the case statement, the accused often forced the police to fulfil their illegal demands. On August 4, when police did not listen to them, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Ensure safe env in edn institutions Ministry directs DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Education Ministry has instructed district commissioners (DCs) to oversee the overall maintenance of a conducive environment in educational institutions under the current circumstances.

The ministry's Secondary and Higher Education Division issued an order in this regard yesterday.

The order stated that demands for the resignation or removal of heads and officials at some universities, colleges, and schools have led to unpleasant situations in various parts of the country.

"In some cases, teachers have been personally harassed, which caused a deterioration in law and order. Such a situation is unacceptable," the order reads.

At the university level, vice-chancellors, pro vice-chancellors, or other officials may resign on their own. If necessary, the chancellor can remove them according to the law.

The order also stated that the SHED or the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education can investigate and take necessary actions, including transfers, for heads or officials in government schools and colleges.

"Similarly, governing bodies or the DSHE can take action in the case of private educational institutions. In such cases, the relevant department or office will investigate and take action if there is a specific complaint against a teacher or official," it also said.

MURDER CASES

Menon, Inu placed on remand

STAR REPORT

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon was remanded for six days and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu for seven days yesterday in separate murder cases filed in Dhaka.

Menon, a key leader of the Awami League-led 14-Party Alliance, was remanded in the case over the death of garment worker Rubel during the mass uprising on August 5.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifur Rahman passed the order after investigation officer Mintu Chandra Banik, an inspector of Adabor Police Station, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, a sub-inspector working in the court told The Daily Star.

On August 22, Rafiqul Islam, father of the victim, filed a murder case with Adabor Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 147 others.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Release detained UPDF supporters Demands Mikel Changma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United People's Democratic Front's organiser Mikel Changma yesterday urged the interim government to release 29 supporters of the organisation and its affiliated bodies from jail.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, Mikel Changma highlighted that while political prisoners in other regions are being released, UPDF leaders and activists in the Chittagong Hill Tracts remain incarcerated, with some detained for over five years.

Mikel presented an eight-point demand, including the formation of a special tribunal to investigate all murders and human rights violations in the CHT during what he described as "the fascist regime of Hasina".

He also called for the United Nations' involvement in the judicial process.

UPDF leader Mikel returned home on August 7,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Official notice from Bangladesh Police regarding recruitment for the Police Staff College. Includes details about the exam, syllabus, and contact information for the college in Mirpur, Dhaka.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. Invites tenders for the operation, maintenance, and servicing of 04 (Four) no's passenger lift in monthly payment basis for 03 (Three) years at BDBL Bhaban-2, 12 Karwanbazar, Dhaka-1215.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. Invites tenders for the operation, maintenance, and servicing of 04 (Four) no's passenger lift in monthly payment basis for 03 (Three) years at BDBL Bhaban-2, 12 Karwanbazar, Dhaka-1215.

How a family grabbed multiple banks

FROM PAGE 1
central bank dismantled the board of the Islami Bank to ensure good governance after the new interim government launched its efforts to fix the troubled sector as part of a broader reforms plan.

Alam is the chairman of First Security Islami Bank's board while his wife Farzana Parveen is a director. Their son Ahsanul Alam, daughter Maimuna Khanam, and son-in-law Belal Ahmed control the boards of Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank and Social Islami Bank respectively. Alam's brothers, sisters, and other relatives also sit on the boards of several banks.

The law bars a person with a significant shareholding in a bank from buying a substantial stake in another bank. The same rule applies to their family members and companies.

Alam, however, grabbed Islami Bank and Social Islami Bank in 2017 despite having significant shares of First Security Bank, and Union Bank.

A top official of the Bangladesh Bank confirmed that Alam's family received the central bank's approval to buy the stakes despite the banking regulator's obligation to block the process.

The law states that not more than three members of a family are allowed to hold the directorship of a bank. A family and their firms cannot acquire more than 10 percent of shares jointly.

However, besides the 30 percent stake in Islami Bank, Alam's family members and their firms together own about 22 percent of Social Islami Bank shares, 28 percent of First Security Islami Bank, and 30 percent of Global Islami Bank, according to the shareholding reports of the banks.

They also have 5 percent shares in each of Al-Arafah Islami Bank and Northern Insurance, and more than 70 percent in Aviva Finance and Union Bank each.

Shareholding data of Bangladesh Commerce Bank could not be obtained but the website of S Alam

Group claims it owns the bank.

Toufiq Ahmad Choudhury, director general of Bangladesh Academy for Securities Markets (BASM), described the control of Alam's family over the banks as "totally unacceptable".

Although legal restrictions were put in place to stop the family control in banks, S Alam had been allowed to wield its control over the banks for its own benefit, Choudhury said, referring to the loans taken by the Alam family and their relatives.

"The banking business is quite different. Depositors are the real owners of the banks," said Choudhury, also a former director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM).

An analysis of Islami Bank's financial reports shows that the Shariah-based bank provided about Tk 25,000 crore loans to Alam's relatives. Social Islami Bank showed nearly Tk 5,000 crore loans to them in its financial reports.

The other banks followed in the footsteps of these two banks. Officials of these banks, who requested anonymity, said the loans given to Alam's relatives were bigger than what official data shows.

The total amount could be above Tk 75,000 crore from Islami Bank alone, one of the officials said.

A top official of a bank said many directors abused their power to save themselves from becoming loan defaulters by rescheduling loans year after year. So the criteria for directors should be changed in such a way that will not allow them to have their loans rescheduled when they face a default.

Data also showed how the S Alam family's presence on the board affected the banks, all of which except Al-Arafah Islami Bank remain in the yellow zone - meaning their financial health is between "good" and "fragile".

Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said this is "the best example of how a single family controls the

banking sector".

As the regulatory body, the Bangladesh Bank is responsible for allowing this to happen while the government gave S Alam a free rein over the banks by amending the laws, she said.

Despite repeated requests from analysts, parliament allowed the increasing presence of families on a bank's board. It doubled the number of members of a family allowed on a bank's board to four before reducing it to three amid huge pressure from analysts. On top of that, a director was allowed to remain on the board for 12 years.

"This is absurd," said Fahmida.

When many family members remain on a bank's board, they can influence the board for the benefit of people or organisations linked to them. In some cases, directors with a much lower stake also obtain such benefits.

For instance, Alam's relatives received loans above Tk 25,000 crore from Islami Bank officially while their contribution to its paid-up capital was around Tk 300 crore, according to the financial report of the bank.

It shows how high their gain is compared to their investment in the bank, Fahmida said.

The economist recommended amending the law further to allow only one member of a family on a bank's board and limiting a bank director's tenure to six years.

A top official of a leading private bank, who preferred not to be named, questioned the Bangladesh Bank's role in allowing the S Alam family to control so many banks. "What did the central bank do when the family was grabbing the banks? It was their responsibility to stop the family," he said.

The Daily Star tried to contact Saiful Alam via text message, but he did not reply. BB spokesman Mezbahul Haque did not receive phone calls for comment.

Lack of logistics key obstacle

FROM PAGE 1
and baby food worth Tk 35 lakh and another Tk 35 lakh for fodder.

Shahina Akhter, deputy commissioner (DC) of Feni told The Daily Star confirmed that she had received the relief materials but could not reach the remote areas. "Initially we could not distribute the materials in the remote areas as it was hard to reach the villages. But from today (Tuesday) we plan to distribute rice in every ward."

"We have already sent instructions to all UNOs accordingly," she said.

Tania Bhuiyan, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Fulgazi sub-district under Feni confirmed receiving about 250 tonnes of rice, 500 sacks of dry food and Tk 7.5 lakh as relief from the DC office. "We have been facing difficulties in sending relief to remote areas. But the army and navy are trying their best."

Apart from the government relief initiatives, armed forces air dropped around 48,000 packets of food among destitute people. Also, private volunteers distributed an estimated 60,000 packets

of food, she said.

Considering that both government agencies and non government organisations as well as volunteers were engaged in distributing disaster relief materials, the ministry directed deputy commissioners of the flood affected districts to coordinate efforts with units of the anti-discrimination student movement, army, navy, fire service and civil defence, medical teams and other volunteer units.

Local government officials of Noakhali and Laxmipur districts also said they were facing difficulties to distribute relief in remote areas.

Kabirhat UNO Mohammad Sarwar Uddin, under Noakhali district, said he received 96 tonnes of rice and Tk 4.5 lakh in cash for two lakh people affected by the flood. "But we are not able to distribute that in the remote areas due to a lack of boats," he told The Daily Star.

Subarnachar UNO Md Al Amin Sarkar said they had received 76 tonnes of rice and Tk 3.5 lakh. "We are trying to reach the remote areas," he said.

Lakkhipur Sadar UNO Arifur Rahman said they have so far received 126 tonnes of rice and Tk 4 lakh for people of 21 unions.

Raipur UNO Imran Khan said the government allocation was inadequate. "We are not getting relief from any non-government sources here. And we are not able to reach remote places away from roads because we don't have boats," he said.

Contacted, Fatikchhari UNO Mozammel Haque Chowdhury said flood waters receded in most of the areas in the upazila on Tuesday, adding, "Only two unions - Suabil and Harualchhari - are still under water."

While water had receded in many localities, some low lying areas still remain inundated, said Yamin Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said that overall flood situation was improving as water level is receding in all major rivers in eastern and northeastern Bangladesh.

Petition filed for reviewing SC verdict

FROM PAGE 12
system was introduced through political consensus and thus became a part of the constitution's basic structure, which cannot be scrapped.

The Appellate Division verdict, which cancelled the 13th amendment, is self-contradictory as the court in its short verdict said that the next two national elections (10th and 11th parliamentary polls) could be held under the caretaker government system, but this was not mentioned in the full judgement, the lawyer said.

Replying to a question, he said if the Appellate Division grants the review petition after holding a hearing, the caretaker government system will be reinstated.

On Sunday, Appellate Division Chamber Judge Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam allowed the five citizens to file the review petition.

The chamber judge passed the order

after the petitioners filed an application seeking permission to lodge the review petition.

The four other citizens are Tofail Ahmed, M Hafizuddin Khan, Md Jobirul Hoque Bhuiyan and Zahrah Rahman.

The petitioners in the review petition said that the sole purpose of the 13th Amendment Act was to ensure democracy by holding free and fair elections under a nonparty caretaker government which would be in charge for only 90 days, and accordingly, the 13th Amendment became an essential part of the basic structure of the constitution.

They said that the right to vote in public elections is a fundamental feature of the constitution, which cannot be curtailed by a judgment of the Appellate Division; and furthermore, free and fair elections are a part of the basic structure of the constitution and democracy. Hence, the impugned SC judgment, which declared the 13th Amendment Act

void and ultra vires the constitution, is liable to be reviewed.

The petitioners also argued that direct consequence of the abolition of the nonparty caretaker government system through the impugned judgment was three consecutive failed elections in 2014, 2018 and 2024. This not only destroyed the foundation of democracy, but also led to the politicisation and manipulation of the judiciary. Accordingly, the circumstances that have emerged as a result of the student mass revolution leading to the overthrowing of the government on August 5, 2024, warrant a review of the impugned judgment to ensure a democratic transition and a peaceful handover of power.

A seven-judge full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by then chief justice ABM Khairul Haque, by a majority view on May 10, 2011, declared the 13th amendment null and void.

Modi's tweet and a question

FROM PAGE 1
Admittedly, there were attacks on Hindus immediately following the fall of Sheikh Hasina's autocratic regime on August 5. The minority groups had unfortunately fallen victim to bigots and brigands who exploited the brief absence of law enforcement agencies. That was immediately addressed, with citizens' groups including madrasa students and Muslim clerics - in the temporary absence of the police - coming forward to guard places of worship and homes of fellow Bangladeshis, whether Hindu or Buddhist, in a show of communal harmony that has done us proud.

Furthermore, these attacks targeting religious minorities subsided within a few days of the flare-up and there has not been a single such incident reported over the last week. But the attacks should never have happened in the first place and we must make our utmost effort that it never occurs again.

The timing and context of the Indian premier raising it with the US president makes it difficult to understand his rationale for doing so. India is perceived to be one of Sheikh Hasina's chief enablers in legitimising rigged elections and strengthening her misrule. As such, anti India sentiment runs rather high among Bangladeshis at the moment.

More recently, Bangladesh's eastern districts along with India's Tripura and Assam, have been facing one of the worst floods in decades. It was also on August 26 that there was news of the Farakka Barrage opening all its gates to let the water through, which is reportedly normal procedure.

It was in this context that Prime Minister Modi raised his concerns over a religious minority before even recognising the plight of millions of people affected by the floods. This can only create further misunderstanding between neighbours at a time when we desperately need to improve relations with each other.

BAPEX বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম এক্সপ্লোরেশন এন্ড প্রোডাকশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (বাপেক্স)
Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co. Ltd (BAPEX)
Foreign Purchase Department, Administration Division
BAPEX Bhaban (Level-4), 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1	Ministry Division	: Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/ Energy & Mineral Resources Division.
2	Agency	: Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)
3	Company	: Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (BAPEX).
4	Procuring entity name	: General Manager, Administration Division, BAPEX
5	Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.
6	Invitation Ref. No	: BAPEX/ADMIN/INT/TEN-1257/2024, Dated 25-08-2024
7	Invitation for	: Procurement of Mechanical Spare Parts for ZJ50DBS Rig for Zakiganj-1 Work Over Well.
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	: One Stage Two Envelope Tendering Method (OSTETM), International Competitive Tender (ICT).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	: BAPEX Own fund, Under Cash Foreign Exchange.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
10	Division name/project name	: Engineering Division
11	Last selling date of tender	: 14-10-2024 at 15.00 hrs (BST).
12	Place of tender selling	: a) Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co. Ltd. (BAPEX), Accounts & Finance Division (Level-3), BAPEX Bhaban, 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. b) Petrobangla, Petrocenter, 3, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215. c) Titus Gas T & D Company Ltd. 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
13	Date & time of selling of tender document	: Tender documents will be available from 29-08-2024 to 14-10-2024 between 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs. BST on all working days (except government holidays).
14	Tender closing date & time	: 15-10-2024 at 11.00 Hrs. (BST).
15	Tender opening date & time	: 15-10-2024 at 11.30 Hrs. (BST).
16	Place of tender receiving & opening	: Foreign Purchase Department, Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co. Ltd. (BAPEX), BAPEX Bhaban (Level-4), 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
17	Eligibility of tenderer	: i) Manufacturer must have at least 6 (six) years experience and relevant ISO/API Certificate. ii) Bonafide Suppliers having minimum 6 (six) years experience of supplying similar items (at least 3 (Three) consignments of similar goods for last 5 (Five) years) to IOC or any other well reputed Oil & Gas Exploration related Companies Locally/Internationally. iii) Suppliers/Manufacturers of the countries which have no diplomatic relation with Bangladesh are not eligible for this tender.
18	Brief description of goods	: Lot-1: Spare Parts for DW, RT, HPU, Pneumatic control system & others. Lot-2: Spare Parts for Caterpillar & Volvo Engine. Lot-3: Spare Parts for solid Control Equipment. Lot-4: Spare Parts for National Mud Pump.
19	Price of tender document	: Bangladeshi Taka 5,000.00 or USD 45.00 (non-refundable).
20	Procuring entity details	: General Manager (Administration, BAPEX (Level 5), BAPEX Bhaban, 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
21	Address of the official inviting tender	: General Manager (Administration) BAPEX (Level 5), BAPEX Bhaban, 4, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.
22	Special instructions	: a) Tender must remain valid for 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of closing of the tender. b) Time for completion of delivery 120 (one hundred twenty) days. c) Mode of Shipment: By Sea d) Amount of tender security for Lot-1: US\$ 1,750.00 or BDT 2,06,000.00, Lot-2: US\$ 1,160.00 or BDT 1,37,000.00, Lot-3: US\$ 1,700.00 or BDT 200,000.00, and Lot-4: US\$ 4,100.00 or BDT 483,000.00 or any equivalent amount of freely convertible currency in the form of Bank Guarantee or Pay Order issued by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly endorsed by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh located in Dhaka with full obligation and liabilities. e) The tender security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty-eight) days from the date of closing of the tender. f) If tender opening day happens to fall on any holiday or any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. holiday etc. tenders shall be opened at the same hours on the first subsequent working day. g) This tender notice will also be available at Bapex website: www.bapex.com.bd and Petrobangla website: www.Petrobangla.org.bd and CPTU website: www.cptu.gov.bd
23	This tender will be conducted as per	: The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Public Procurement Rules-2008.
24	The procurement entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or full of any or all tenders at any stage without assigning any reasons whatsoever.	

GD-272 General Manager (Admin.)

Bangladesh Bank
Common Services Department-2
(Mechanical Engineering Wing)
Head Office, Dhaka-1000.

Invitation for Tender (Goods & related works) through Web.

01.	Procuring Entity	Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka- 1000.
02.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
03.	Invitation ref. No. & Date	CSD-2(MES): 11/2(lift)/2024-40 Date: 27/08/2024
04.	Source of Funds	Bangladesh Bank's own fund.
05.	Name of the work	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 1000 Kg Capacity 01 (One) No. Passenger lift including all other accessories at Bangladesh Bank, Rajshahi Office, Rajshahi.
06.	Address of the web for submission e-tender.	From web: www.bangladeshbank.org.bd www.bangladeshbank-bank.org (e-Tender)
07.	Last date & time e-tenders through web	15/09/2024 on or before 3:00PM.
08.	Last Date & Time and Name & Address of the office for receiving Original tender security and other documents	15/09/2024 on or before 3: 15 PM. Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor of 30 th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
09.	Tender opening Date & Time	15/09/2024 at 3:30 P.M.
10.	Name & Address of the office Opening Tender.	Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor of 30 th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000. (intending tenders or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening).
11.	Eligibility of the Tenderer	(a) Tenderer shall have at least 07(Seven) years of overall business experience in the supply and installation of mechanical machineries. (b) Tenderer shall have a sole agent/ distributorship of the proposed lift. (c) Tenderer shall have specific experience for supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of the proposed brand lift installed in any Govt./ Semi-Govt./ Autonomous organization worth not less than Tk. 50(Fifty) Lac, in a single contract in the last 05(five) years. (d) The minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 55(Fifty Five) Lac only. In case of credit facilities, Bank shall ensure that the above mentioned credit limit will be given if the said work is awarded to the contractor. (e) The Tenderer shall have to furnish the certificate in this respect from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer or equivalent and shall meet all other criteria, terms & conditions as specified in the tender documents without which the tender will not be considered.
12.	Tender Security	Tender Security amounting BDT 1,50,000 (Taka One Lac Fifty Thousand) only will be required in the form of Pay Order/ Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee in favour of Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
13.	Work's completion Time	06(Six) months from the date of Award of Contract.
14.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Sudhangshu Kumar Sarker, Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 (7th floor, 30 th storied Building), Bangladesh Bank, Head office, Dhaka-1000.
15.	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 88-02-9530490, Fax: +88-02953032.
16.	Special Instructions	(i) The Tenderer shall submit the tender through Bangladesh Bank Website (e-Tendering) & shall have a valid e-mail address for participating in e-Tendering. (ii) Original PO/BD/BG as Tender Security has to be send to Director (Engineering-E/M), Common Services Department-2 within stipulated date and time of TDS. (iii) Scanned copy of the Tender Security shall be submitted with the tender through web. (iv) Tenderer shall submit the documentary evidence etc. (attested or original whichever necessary) at the time of Tender opening or when required, failing which the Tender may be considered as non-responsive. (v) Tenderer shall duly fill in the Form PG-1 (Tender Submission Letter) and Form PG-4 (Tenderer Information sheet) as per format given in Tender Document. (vi) PG-1 form will be completed and signed by the Authorized Signatory on the Letter-Head Pad, attached by scanning during submitting tender and original will have to send to Director (Engineering-E/M), CSD-2 at scheduled time as per TDS. (vii) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents shall result in rejection of the tender and may lead to action under Rules 127 of PPR 2008. (viii) All sorts of Security and Safety measures shall be carried out by the Contractor during execution of the work. (ix) Bangladesh Bank reserves all right to accept or reject any or all the tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. No claim will be entertained in this regard.

DCP : 48/2024-2234
Date : 27-08-2024

ব্যাবিকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

(Sudhangshu Kumar Sarker)
Director (Engineering-E/M)
Common Services Department-2
Phone:- 9530490

GD-277

Russia-France ties hit new low after arrest of tech boss

REUTERS, Paris

Relations between Moscow and Paris have reached a nadir following the arrest of Russian-born Telegram boss Pavel Durov...

Durov, who has French as well as Russian nationality, was arrested near Paris over the weekend as part of an investigation into crimes related to images of child sex abuse...

It remains unclear if he knew about the threat of arrest in France. Durov's French lawyer did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

Durov's arrest has plunged Moscow-Paris ties to their lowest level, Lavrov said, capping months of deteriorating relations between the two nations.

French authorities accused Russia of trying to destabilise it ahead of the Paris Olympics in response to its more hawkish stance on the Ukraine war...

Durov's detention was extended by 48 hours late on Monday, a spokesperson for the Paris prosecutor's office said yesterday.

With close to 1 billion users, Telegram is particularly influential in Russia, Ukraine and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Without providing evidence, Vyacheslav Volodin, the chairman of Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, earlier said the United States, through France, was attempting to exert control over Telegram.



Police detain an activist as they march towards the state secretariat demanding the resignation of Mamata Banerjee, chief minister of India's West Bengal state, in Kolkata yesterday.

Russia pounds Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Russia fired a wave of attack drones and missiles at Ukraine that killed at least four people, authorities said yesterday after the second night of heavy strikes across the war-battered nation.

The overnight barrage came a day after the Kremlin launched one of its largest ever aerial attacks on Ukraine, which targeted energy facilities and killed several people.

Ukraine's air force yesterday said it downed half of the 10 missiles and 60 of the 81 Iranian-designed attack drones launched from several regions of Russia and from occupied Crimea.

"Unfortunately, despite the effective work of our air defence systems, four people were killed and 16 were wounded," President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a post on social media.

He said rescue work was ongoing at the impact sites and vowed a response to the attacks.

"Crimes against humanity cannot be committed with impunity," he said.

AFP journalists in the capital Kyiv heard air raid sirens echo over the city throughout the night

as well as an explosion, likely from air defence systems.

Local authorities said earlier yesterday that two people had been killed in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region and two in the central city of Kryvyi Rig after a missile struck a hotel.



The Russian attacks on Monday triggered widespread blackouts and condemnation from Ukraine's allies in Europe and the US.

Russia said the attack had targeted infrastructure linked to the Ukrainian military. NATO member Poland said its airspace was violated during the barrage, probably by a drone.

Since invading in February 2022, Russia has launched repeated large-scale drone and missile attacks on Ukraine, including punishing strikes on energy facilities.

In Kyiv, Ukraine's electricity grid operator said that emergency

power facilities," Ukrenergo said in a statement, urging Ukrainians to reduce their electricity consumption.

The bombardment comes as Ukrainian forces are pushing an offensive in Russia's border region of Kursk, a surprise operation that has seen Kyiv gain swathes of territory in three weeks.

The governor of Russia's Belgorod region, which borders Kursk and Ukraine, yesterday said he was aware of reports the Ukrainian army had tried to cross the border.

Zelensky said late Monday that Ukraine's surprise cross-border incursion into Kursk region launched on August 6 was partially to "compensate" for Kyiv's inability to strike deeper into Russian territory.

He has been appealing to Ukraine's allies to allow his forces to use Western-supplied weapons to strike targets inside Russian territory as part of efforts to thwart more aerial bombardments.

Despite Ukraine's push inside Kursk, which Kyiv hoped would divert Russian forces from the front line in the east of the war-battered country, Moscow has been making steady gains.

Excessive heat

FROM PAGE 12

flames," the official told The Daily Star at 6:10pm.

He said a team of engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD) visited the factory premises in the afternoon to make an assessment of the damage, but they could not enter the building.

Alauddin said they will not launch a rescue operation until they are given the go-ahead by the expert team.

Saiful Islam, sub-divisional engineer of PWD in Narayanganj, who accompanied the team, said, "The building became very risky as parts of it collapsed and there were some fires."

He said they will visit the factory site again today to decide if it is safe for the firefighters to conduct a rescue operation.

Anwarul Haque, assistant director of fire service, in the morning said, "We managed to reach a staircase on the ground floor and search the roof of the building, but found no one there."

Visiting the factory premises in the afternoon, Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner Mahmudul Haque said the fire service will launch a rescue operation in the quickest possible time.

He said the building had a large stock of sulfur, rubber, plastic, and other raw materials for production of tyres.

The DC said an investigation cell will be formed to prepare a list of the missing.

He said the district administration yesterday formed an eight-member inquiry committee, headed by Narayanganj Additional District Magistrate Hamidur Rahman, to investigate the incident. It has representatives from fire service, Power Division and the police.

LIST OF MISSING PEOPLE

Students started preparing a list of the missing people since noon yesterday. Family members and relatives of 126 missing persons reported to the students till 6:00pm, said Mahima Mir Ripa, a student of Government Murapara College.

She said though the fire broke out on Sunday night, they did not find anyone compiling a list of the missing people till Tuesday morning.

Holding photographs and national identity cards of the missing persons near the factory, their relatives were looking for them, Mahima said.

"Please find my brother alive or dead," said Rafiqul Islam Ratan, brother of Abdul Motaleb, 40, at the main gate to the factory holding Motaleb's NID card and a photo.

Motaleb had rushed to the factory looking for his teenage son Yasin Gazi, a worker of the factory.

Yasin, however, returned home later.

The DC said Ruppangj upazila administration was compiling a list of the missing people. He said they will also collect the list being prepared by the students.

Advertisement for East Delta University Faculty Search. It lists positions for Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor in Computer Science and Engineering. It also mentions an exceptional salary package and provides application details.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Superintendent Chattogram 250 Bedded General Hospital. Invitation for Tender for Non-MSR (Diet/Non-Diet) goods. Includes details of the tender, key information, and a table of items and prices.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি. Includes details of the tender, key information, and a table of items and prices.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Stop police culture of implicating rivals

Fabricated FIRs, arrests without evidence deplorable

After the fall of a repressive political regime, we have entered a new era of governance. However, police still seem to be trapped in the old culture of looking at things through a partisan lens. According to a report by *Prothom Alo*, police are arresting Awami League leaders and activists as accused in cases they had filed before August 5, when the regime fell, although it was BNP-Jamaat men and general protesters who were initially accused in the First Information Reports (FIR) of those cases.

The newspaper cited 34 such cases filed between July 17 and August 1 relating to the murder of 64 people, where BNP-Jamaat men and protesters had been shown as accused. The initial FIRs of three other cases filed by victims' families also mentioned the same coterie of suspects, although they later claimed they didn't file those FIRs. For example, the mother of one victim, who was fatally shot on July 16 in the New Market area, denied accusing BNP-Jamaat men although the initial FIR implicated them. But after the arrest of Awami League leaders Anisul Huq and Salman F Rahman on August 14, a revised FIR was submitted to court replacing the names of previous suspects with "unidentified accused". Anisul Huq, Salman F Rahman, and another person were also shown arrested and taken on remand under that case.

This indicates that police did not carry out due diligence and probe into the killings before arresting anyone. Moreover, they just randomly replaced the accused, calling the whole exercise into question. Such laxity only weakens the legal basis of court cases and denies victims their right to a proper trial. At the same time, there is a risk that actual perpetrators will go scot-free. Besides, the plethora of cases being filed against Awami League leaders and former MPs and ministers without evidence is making a farce of the judicial system, with legal experts saying these cases will not last in court or even pass the initial stage.

What's equally concerning here is the police's culture of always accusing the opposition. Before August 5, it was BNP-Jamaat men who were their favourite scapegoats, and now it is AL men. This is not only undermining the spirit of the anti-discrimination movement that led the mass uprising; it is also eroding public confidence in police. When discussions of freeing police force from the shackles of politicisation are going on, the above pattern of police behaviour shows where the priorities of any reform initiative should be. The legal system must not be used as a tool of retribution under any circumstance. Rather, to ensure justice, police must investigate any cases without bias. They must come out of their mindset of appeasing those in power, and instead vow their loyalty to the people.

We need better data governance

For success in modern times, there is no alternative to reliable data

Data discrepancies among different government departments continue to be a significant concern, with the most recent mismatch arising in revenue collection and expenditure figures. According to a report in this daily, data from the finance ministry showed that Tk 277,925 crore was collected during the July-April period of FY23-24, while the National Board of Revenue (NBR) reported collecting Tk 289,376 crore, resulting in a discrepancy of Tk 11,451 crore. Similarly, regarding expenditure under the Annual Development Programme (ADP), the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) estimated that ministries and divisions had spent Tk 125,315 crore during July-April of FY23-24. However, the finance ministry's data shows an expenditure of Tk 92,126 crore, which is Tk 33,189 crore lower than the IMED's figure.

Last year, a similar discrepancy was observed between the tax collection figures published by the finance ministry and the NBR—a Tk 4,031 crore difference for July-April of FY22-23. Additionally, the ADP spending data showed a gap of Tk 41,136 crore between IMED and finance ministry figures. Apparently, the ministry calculates tax receipts based on reports from the Office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), while the tax administration accounts for revenue collection by including outstanding dues. This, officials say, is a major reason for the gap. But why are different departments using different methods of calculation? Why haven't they developed a uniform system of data evaluation that would ensure accuracy?

In April, Bangladesh Bank discovered that exports during July-April of FY23-24 were nearly \$14 billion less than the shipment value of goods previously reported by the Export Promotion Bureau. The sheer margin of difference shocked everyone. These discrepancies and others highlight the poor state of data governance in the country. As economists have noted, if the finance ministry does not receive accurate spending data, it hampers the process of debt planning. Similar issues arise with other data inaccuracies that we seem to encounter frequently.

Given the circumstances, government institutions need to place greater emphasis on proper data governance. A systemic change to streamline the process has become essential so that flawed data doesn't lead to flawed policies. Experts say data mismatches may occur for two reasons—deliberate manipulation or accounting errors. There is strong suspicion that previous governments often deliberately manipulated data to enhance their image. We, therefore, hope that the interim government will take comprehensive actions to improve data governance among all relevant public institutions.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Civil rights march on Washington

On this day in 1963, some 200,000 people marched on Washington, DC, a high point of the civil rights movement, especially remembered for the famous "I Have a Dream" speech of Martin Luther King, Jr.



A good national address to start with



Tanim Ahmed is a journalist at The Daily Star.

TANIM AHMED

The chief adviser's much-awaited address to the nation came a little over two weeks after Dr Muhammad Yunus had taken over the helm of Bangladesh under unique circumstances. The Nobel peace laureate was on his way back from the Paris Olympics when people back home had already chosen him to lead the interim government. It rarely happens that a leader is chosen by national consensus because of adulation and respect. That was three weeks ago. In the meantime, there were a couple of questions that made the rounds: the interim government's mandate and tenure.

The Yunus-led government is a result of a student protest for reform that turned into an anti-government campaign and culminated in a people's uprising that toppled an iron-clad regime of 15 years. Sheikh Hasina's dictatorial regime had destroyed the institutions necessary for a functional state with respect for law and order. The 84-year-old professor of economics, renowned around the world for his social business concept, was a victim of the previous regime himself. Hence, reforms were always going to be a priority for the incumbents. There was a slight indication to the nature of reforms as Yunus mentioned them briefly to a reception of diplomats earlier this month, and some isolated mentions from some of the advisers. But this was the first time that the chief adviser elaborately laid out his vision of the reforms, for which he must be commended.

Dr Yunus also touched upon certain challenges and urged the people to bear with him and have patience. As for the reforms, he predictably stressed on judiciary, law and order, administration, Election Commission, and the media. But the de facto prime minister also mentioned agriculture, health, and education. He mentioned a police commission and a banking commission. One of the advisers had previously mentioned media commission, but the chief adviser said



Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus addressed the nation on August 25, 2024.

PHOTO: PID

he would carry out reforms to ensure free flow of information. He said the incumbents would take a strong stand against corruption. There is wholehearted agreement from most quarters that we need these reforms desperately. But there is also little doubt that all these reforms would take years, if not decades.

Having laid out his vision of reforms, the chief adviser rightly left it up to the political forces and the people. He mentioned twice in the same breath that his tenure and mandate would only be a reflection of the people's will, and that his government's tenure was entirely a matter of political decision. One can only interpret that as the incumbents' attempt to secure political as well as social acceptance of the government's

reforms as well as its tenure.

One might venture to say that while Dr Yunus laid out his elaborate vision of reforms, he sought the people's mandate to endorse it—or rather, that he would like the people to set the limit, hence his mention of "the bare minimum that must be done." We recognise that the 170-plus million people of this country do not

winner-take-all culture, engagement with the full spectrum of current political forces would still not mean full representation of the electorate. The chief adviser has only spoken to centre-right-leaning parties in his attempt to engage the political parties. Surely, the absence of leftist progressive liberal forces among his audience was an accidental omission.

2024 FLOODS

Facts, feelings, and the art of engineering diplomacy



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SHAFIQUL ISLAM

Just weeks after mass protests toppled Bangladesh's long-serving prime minister, the country is now grappling with a new crisis: devastating floods that have claimed lives and affected millions. With communication lines down and vital infrastructure damaged, the interim government faces the dual challenge of managing the disaster and combating the surge of misinformation.

In times of crisis, feelings often overshadow facts. Yet, distinguishing between the two is crucial for effective disaster management. This is where the art of engineering diplomacy can make a difference. By fostering cooperation with India, Bangladesh can develop a more reliable flood forecasting system. This collaboration can also help rebuild trust with India, shifting the focus from blame to exploring joint solutions for many shared problems.

The 2024 floods in Bangladesh didn't just happen by chance—they were the result of a perfect storm of climatic events. Firstly, we're in the thick of the monsoon season, which is hitting harder than usual this year. Add to that the Madden-Julian Oscillation, a powerful force driving warm, moist air from the Bay of Bengal toward the coast. To top it off, the jet stream over Central Asia has been positioned in a way that funnels even more rain into both Bangladesh

and India. The combination of these factors has led to a series of intense rainfall events since late May, causing unprecedented flooding in many parts of both countries.

But not all floods are created equal, and this year's have been particularly early and severe. In late May, Cyclone Remal hammered southern Bangladesh and eastern India, with widespread floods leaving nearly 30 million people without power. Then, mid-June brought relentless rains that submerged Sylhet and Sunamganj, areas that received 242mm of rain in a single day—well above the monthly average. Southeastern regions didn't fare much better, with additional storms causing severe flooding in places like Feni and Cumilla.

On August 21, Feni recorded an unprecedented 312mm of rain in a single day, causing several rivers in the region to swell beyond danger levels. While extreme rainfall has been the primary catalyst for these floods, there is also speculation that the release of excess water from dams and barrages may have contributed to localised impacts. However, these releases are unlikely to be the main cause of the widespread inundation.

For context, consider the Dumboor Dam on the Gomati River in Tripura, India, which has a capacity of around 670 million cubic metres. By comparison, the rainfall over

have a mechanism at their disposal through which they may express their opinion. Hence, it would perhaps be most prudent for the incumbents to achieve this through dialogue with experts, interest groups, researchers, academics and practitioners of the field. These people will then be able to set the ceiling.

At the same time, there is the important question of the interim government's tenure which, as Dr Yunus rightly said, has to be a purely political decision. But one must caution that his understanding of political acceptance must stem from having listened to the whole cross-section of the people.

Since many people are frustrated with predatory politics and the

One can only presume that the omission of the 14-party alliance was out of practicality.

Hence—short of a referendum, which has its limitations and may well prove to be impractical under the circumstances—this regime would do well to engage with a broad range of stakeholders to ascertain public opinion. These could include professional bodies, businesses, students, trade unions, and the wider civil society.

Most Bangladeshis see this transition as an opportunity to rebuild the country. They are eager to cooperate and help the government in any way they can. These dialogues must begin soon before the exuberance subsides.

crucial. It's not just about constructing physical infrastructure—it's about building trust and cooperation, both within our borders and beyond.

Two recent developments highlight this approach in action. First, the remarkable relief efforts led by students at Dhaka University, who mobilised to provide support to flood victims, demonstrate the power of grassroots action in the face of a disaster. Second, Chief Adviser Dr Muhammad Yunus's proposal to establish a high-level mechanism between Bangladesh and India to jointly tackle emergencies like floods signals a significant step towards regional cooperation.

The interim government has a unique opportunity to leverage this moment, not only to enhance flood forecasting systems, but also to address broader issues with India. By adopting a principled pragmatic framework, Bangladesh can develop solutions that are technically sound, socially acceptable, ethically responsible, and politically feasible. Some key areas for collaboration may include: developing a shared flood forecasting system that integrates processes, people, and politics, operationalising agreements to protect the Sundarbans, exploring infrastructure projects that enhance regional connectivity through Bangladesh, and addressing economic disparities and trade imbalances.

The floods of 2024 have shown us that it's time for a new approach—one that combines technical know-how with diplomatic skills. As M Inamul Haque correctly pointed out in this daily, "This situation needs to be handled diplomatically... we must avoid panicking, even though it's difficult. Panicking often leads to more problems." In these fast-moving and uncertain times, we need to be both principled and pragmatic.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2024

Kamala Harris should change her Gaza policy



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RAMISA ROB

The words "Palestine" and "Gaza" were missing a bit too much during the Democratic National Convention (DNC), which nominated the first female Black Democratic presidential nominee in history, in Chicago—the city with the largest population of Palestinian Americans in the United States. Widely popular former First Lady Michelle Obama said, "Hope is making a comeback," since Biden passed the torch to Kamala Harris. The Democratic Party has undeniably witnessed a new refreshing momentum, nostalgic of Barack Obama's first election campaign. But that hope she spoke of was not shared by roughly 30,000 pro-Palestine protesters—led in part by Palestinians and Jewish activists—who filled up the streets of Chicago and demanded that Harris earn their votes by ending the genocide in Gaza.

Pro-Palestinian delegates to the DNC, including Abbas Alawieh, an "uncommitted" delegate from Michigan, staged a sit-in protest outside the United Center. Prior to the DNC, the "Uncommitted Delegates" had been calling for campaign organisers to allow a Palestinian American to speak about Gaza, for a humble five minutes. Georgia state Rep Ruwa Romman, a Palestinian American Democrat, had drafted an appeal for unity, stating, "Let's commit to electing Vice-President Harris and defeating Donald Trump who uses my identity as a slur." The

meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, she said she would not be silent about Palestinian suffering. All that hope has been effectively squashed by her acceptance speech in the DNC, as she loudly carolled her commitment to "Israel's right to defend itself," which means the provision of weapons to continue carpet bombing Gaza and the ethnic cleansing of a devastated population under a manufactured "existential and security crisis" that Israel is purportedly facing, when in reality everyone can see it is what Palestinians are facing. Harris highlighted the sexual violence committed by the "terrorist organisation Hamas," and chose to stay silent about the sexual violence committed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) against Palestinian detainees—both men and women—documented by CNN and the United Nations. She called the situation in Gaza "heartbreaking," hypocritically eschewing that it is only the case because of the US's supply of lethal weapons to Israel's warmongering cabinet for the past 10 months.

Pragmatically, it is understandable that Harris cannot win a US election by going hardline against Israel. But her chances of winning by alienating those who care about Palestine are looking slimmer by the day. As Uncommitted Democrats take note of their censorship in the DNC, Green Party nominee Jill Stein, who has been a fierce critic of Israel's genocide, is reportedly choosing a Palestinian

The contrast between Stein and Harris so far suggests that Harris will definitely lose some voters over the issue of Palestine, even if Stein's bid to the White House is a long shot. Some people simply don't care if Donald Trump will win, more than they care about the inhumanity they have seen in Gaza where the Biden-Harris administration is complicit. Robert Francis Kennedy, Jr recently ended his campaign, endorsing Trump, but Stein

of a foreign security force that commits "gross violations" of human rights.

Most pro-Dem media outlets advance an agenda with their journalism, for many self-serving reasons, some of which are valid such as the fact that Donald Trump is a titanic threat to US democracy and press freedom. The media now understands that Biden's Gaza policy poses a significant problem for Harris, and she needs to distance herself from

administration's biggest failure.

As of August 26, Harris maintains a tight lead of 2.5 percent in Michigan polls over Trump, and in Pennsylvania, the second largest home for Arab Americans, she maintains a 1.1 percent lead based on 29 polls. These polls don't include Jill Stein, who could take up the percentage of the leads that Harris has over Trump. Another fact to note: polls are polls. They can never be blindly trusted



Democratic presidential nominee and US Vice-President Kamala Harris applauds from the stage on Day 4 of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, US on August 22, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Kamala Harris has a tiny lead over Trump in the swing states of Michigan and Pennsylvania. These polls also don't factor Green Party candidate Jill Stein, who will likely take up some progressive votes from Arab Americans and generally those who care about Gaza, and put Harris in the back foot. Polls can never be trusted blindly and Harris should not take it for granted—a lesson from Clinton's loss to Trump in 2016, where polls wrongly predicted an easy sweep across the country for the first female Democratic nominee.

draft was never vetted and all requests were denied.

On the other hand, the parents of Hersh Goldberg Polin, an Israeli American who lost part of his left arm and was taken hostage by Hamas during the October 7 attacks, spoke on the stage. The DNC's decision to provide space for only the Israeli side of the story, and not the Palestinian side, reflect the same-old prejudicial practices that have paved the way for Israel to commit a US-backed genocide with no end in sight.

Earlier in July, Kamala Harris had imparted hope regarding a shift from Joe Biden's disastrous policy on Gaza, when after

American as her running mate. Stein has made direct outreach to Palestinian Americans in Michigan, where Israel's genocidal war in Gaza has hit home with 390,000 Arab Americans. In this very key swing state, Harris made a blunder at a rally recently, when protesters chanted, "Kamala, Kamala, you can't hide! We won't vote for genocide!" What could've been a moment for her to express support and vow to take action, the vice-president snapped instead, saying, "If you want Donald Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking," with an entitled stare. It is her job to convince voters to elect her instead of Trump, not the other way around.

told the *Newsweek* that she intends on staying in the race, that she will never back Kamala Harris, even if it means facing a repeat of accusations from Democrats that she contributed to a Trump victory. Voters appealing to a third party like Stein for being more progressive and humanitarian delivers a huge blow for Harris and a gift for Trump.

The liberal US media—which has shown its duplicity regarding the lives of Palestinians in Gaza since October 7 and have their fair share of complicity for parroting Israeli propaganda—has taken a U-turn of sorts. The *New York Magazine* now calls what is happening to citizens in Gaza "an ongoing genocide," for which Harris should end US support. Even *The New York Times*—who published a major uncorroborated report of gender-based sexual violence committed by Hamas on October 7—is now running op eds like "Harris can change Biden's policy on Israel by upholding the law" by Peter Beinart, where he argues that instead of an arms embargo, Harris, as a prosecutor, could uphold the law that prohibits the US from assisting any unit

to defeat Trump. Karen Attiah, a Black journalist in *The Washington Post*, wrote an article regarding the division between Black feminists on Harris regarding Gaza. Before the DNC, her words were clear: keeping silent on Gaza is too steep a price to pay for electing the first Black woman president.

As the DNC concluded, a letter to the editor was issued in response to Attiah's article, with the title, "Americans are choosing Harris or Trump, not Harris or Gaza." The writer argued, "Electing former President Donald Trump is a far greater existential threat to our country and the world, including Palestinians. Withholding votes from Ms Harris puts that outcome into play." The writer does not seem to realise that Harris herself has to say these words or devise a strategy out of it. The Harris campaign has steered clear from paying much attention to Donald Trump's insults—supposedly a learning lesson from Hilary Clinton's campaign—but she has to somehow assert that Trump would be even worse for Gaza, and that she will also be better than Biden, as it has been the current

and should not be taken for granted—a lesson from Clinton's loss to Trump in 2016, where polls wrongly predicted an easy sweep across the country for the first female Democratic nominee.

After a loud DNC, it seems that the US media has come to Harris's defence, to tame the moral outrage over Gaza and paint the whole week in a positive light for voters. CNN praised Harris, calling her "tough and defensive" of Israel, but also "compassionate" of Palestinians. But we've seen starved skeletons, dead children under rubble, a headless child, charred bodies, and dismembered human beings in plastic bags in the besieged strip. The US has sent Israel more weapons than humanitarian aid to Palestinians, and that's a hard pill to swallow. So mere "compassion" will not work. If Kamala Harris wants to lose to Donald Trump in November, then she should continue speaking and silencing Palestinian voices. Otherwise, she should start speaking to her campaign managers regarding how to change her rhetoric and policy on Gaza before it's too late.

India needs to pursue equal partnership with Bangladesh



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AFIA IBNAT

India is often portrayed as Bangladesh's closest ally. The two nations share a strategic partnership grounded in shared history, economic interdependence and strong cultural ties. However, this relationship has frequently been characterised by a power imbalance, with India being in a position to exert dominance over Bangladesh. If Bangladesh and India are to forge a more equitable friendship, three existing bilateral issues need to be addressed.

A vexing issue that has been in deadlock for decades is the disadvantages imposed on Bangladesh for being a lower riparian state. Even though the recent floods cannot solely be attributed to India opening the Dumbur dam, the situation serves as an eye-opener on our water-sharing agreements (or lack thereof), flood management capacity, and the need for bilateral negotiations where both countries can mitigate the damages from heavy rainfall without harming the other. Teesta River's water-sharing agreement is one example. If current trends continue, the Teesta water shortage could lower Bangladesh's rice production by roughly 8 percent by 2030 and 14 percent by 2050. This scarcity raises production costs and risks for farmers and also triggers social issues such as migration, displacement, and poverty.

Even though Sheikh Hasina's government allowed India several benefits, including the upcoming railway line that will allow the transport of goods and travel of passengers



Gautam Adani, founder and chairman of India's Adani Group, meets former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban on July 15, 2023.

PHOTO: X/GAUTAM ADANI

(including military personnel) from India to its seven northeastern states via Bangladesh, Dhaka continues to be sidelined. Under Hasina's government, Dhaka had not been

able to leverage its concessions to India to make progress with Teesta or other shared rivers. The interim government now has an opportunity to address this issue and build strong political consensus for a more equitable and sustainable water-sharing and flood mitigation arrangement between the two neighbours.

The second issue is the border killings between India and Bangladesh. Despite the

Kendra, a human rights organisation in Bangladesh, conservatively reported that between 2013 and 2023, 332 people were killed by the BSF, averaging 30 deaths per year. Aside from the killings, the BSF has also subjected Bangladeshis at the border to gruesome torture and abductions. It makes little sense for two countries that share exemplary ties to allow such lethality on their border. Although the leadership in India pledged zero deaths, this reality is yet to materialise as state promises are unaligned with BSF actions at the border. If the previous home advisor's words are an indication, the Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) will no longer remain passive and retreat in border conflicts in the face of aggression from the Indian side. But more importantly, it is pertinent for the interim government to address the crisis and catalyse strong political will from its Indian counterparts to end the killings and bring to book the BSF soldiers who engaged in prior misconduct that led to the loss of lives and lifelong injuries of Bangladeshis.

A third contentious point that requires a comprehensive reassessment is Adani's Godda power plant in Jharkhand which charges Bangladesh an exorbitant, above-market rate. The deal was initiated back in 2015 by Modi—who Adani's chairman is close to—and signed in 2017 with Hasina's blessing, despite the deal not being favourable for Bangladesh, as reported by *The Washington Post*.

Even though a report by the non-profit AdaniWatch suggested Bangladesh might have at least two ways to exit the contract, it turns out that Adani made sure to insert clauses that prevent Bangladesh from leaving even if Adani breaches the contract. First, private coal-fired power plants in India can export electricity if only India has a power surplus, which it currently does not. Second, the contract states that the Bangladesh Power Development Board

(BPDB) must pay a levy of taxes and duties that Adani itself is exempt from, especially since it was declared a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). BPDB was supposed to be officially informed of these changes for a price adjustment within 30 days, but Adani failed to do so. BPDB still went ahead with the contract, even fast-tracking it under the political compulsion of the Hasina government. Unfortunately, as *The Daily Star* pointed out, Bangladesh can only leave if Adani's breach of contract negatively impacts the latter's ability to produce electricity. As it stands, making unethical profits off the backs of Bangladeshi taxpayers will not be harming Adani's bottom line anytime soon.

Despite the ironclad agreement, there may be a way out. Unresolved disputes may be "settled in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre, 2016, 6th Edition," according to a lawyer interviewed by *The Daily Star*. If such a pathway can be pursued, the interim government may probe into the matter to identify any scopes for dispute resolution. Getting out of this contract or renegotiating the prices would drastically minimise costs in a country that is already plagued with debts and dwindling foreign reserves.

Whether it's our riparian rights, contentious border killings, or power deals designed to empty Bangladesh's coffers, it is true that Bangladesh often gets the short end of the stick. But Bangladesh can leverage its advantage as a zone of influence for great power politics and make use of its concessions to its upper riparian neighbour to ensure the sustainable prosperity of its land and people. It is also in the best interest of both India and Bangladesh to ensure the survival and thriving of their long-lasting exemplary friendship—with transparency and broad political consensus benefitting both countries equally.



Dipjol's team has already delivered aid by truck in Cumilla and Feni.



Directors Mostafa Kamal Raz and Rafat Mazumder Rinku in Feni.



Airin visits Noakhali to help the victims.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Artistes rally to support flood victims across Bangladesh

Some have personally delivered relief materials to affected areas, while others have made financial contributions to support the victims. Their collective efforts are providing much-needed assistance to those struggling in this dire situation.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

As Bangladesh grapples with severe flooding, celebrities have united to support those affected by this disaster. Regions such as Feni, Noakhali, Lakshimpur, Cumilla, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Rangamati, and Khagrachari are experiencing one of the worst floods in recent history. In response, many in the entertainment industry have taken action.

Some have personally delivered relief materials to affected areas, while others have made financial contributions to support the victims. Their collective efforts are providing much-needed assistance to those struggling in this dire situation.

Young artistes Arosh Khan and Tasnuva Tisha have journeyed to Feni to offer support. The actors, along with others, have formed groups to deliver relief supplies to affected villages by boat. In Feni, they organised dry food distributions and Arosh made two consecutive visits to flood-hit areas to provide support.

Actress Rukaiya Jahan Chamak has taken the

initiative to support flood victims in Noakhali. She has provided clean drinking water, dry food, and essential medicines, doing her part to bring relief to struggling communities.

Singer

Asif Akbar has addressed the ongoing flood crisis by launching the Asif Akbar Foundation. He announced this initiative, explaining that the foundation's main goal is to raise funds to support flood victims and assist in relief efforts during various natural disasters across the country. He shared his vision, saying, "I have fan clubs in all 64 districts. I plan to form teams of 11 members from each club who will actively stand by people in their districts during such disasters."

Musician Zunayed Evan from the band

Ashes has also travelled to the flood-hit areas to aid victims. Joining him in these efforts are director Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raaz, Shakal Ahmed, Rafat Mozumder Rinku, Emel Haque, and actors Airin and Rashed Simanto, along with many others, who are actively contributing to the relief efforts.

Producer and actor Monowar Hossain Dipjol has once again stepped up to support flood

victims. He is leading efforts to distribute relief supplies to those in need. His team has already delivered aid by truck in Cumilla and Feni, and they have also reached remote areas by boat to ensure help reaches the most affected regions.

Actor Siam Ahmed has pledged to donate two months' earnings to support the victims, sharing this decision in a heartfelt video on Facebook. He also called on other media professionals to contribute according to their abilities. His wife, Shamma Rushafy Abante, a digital content creator, has pledged to donate one month's earnings as well.

Additionally, actresses Azmeri Haque Badhan and Zakia Bari Mamo have promised to provide clothing for those affected by the floods. Artistes including Mehazabien Chowdhury, Tasnia Farin, Apu Biswas, Ananta Jalil, Barsha, and Imran Mahmudul have contributed various food supplies to aid the victims.

A concert held in the Dhaka University area successfully raised both relief supplies and funds for flood victims. The event, titled *Joruri Shongjog*, featured performances by over 30 bands and artistes, including Shironamhin, Sonar Bangla Circus, F Minor, Arghadeb, Sayan, and Krishnakoli. Their efforts have significantly contributed to providing aid to flood-affected communities.

Additionally, the Film Directors Association, the Film Actors Association, the Actors Guild, Get Up Stand Up, and the Bangladesh Artistes Society are all actively working under their respective banners to provide much-needed relief to flood victims.



Arosh Khan and Tasnuva Tisha have travelled to Feni to offer support.

Ritabhari Chakraborty demands justice for sexual assault survivors



Tollywood actor Ritabhari Chakraborty has come forward with bold accusations of sexual misconduct within West Bengal's entertainment industry.

Without naming anyone specifically, Chakraborty called for exposing those responsible and urged India West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to initiate an investigation akin to the Hema Commission, which recently shed light on similar issues in the Malayalam film industry.

In a Facebook post on Monday night, she wrote, "The Hema Commission report exposing sexual assaults in the Malayalam film industry has left me wondering why the Bengali film industry isn't taking similar steps. Many of the reports echo experiences I've had or ones that actresses I know have faced."

Rokeya Prachi removed from Telepab VP post

Rokeya Prachi, a renowned actress and director, has been removed from her position as vice president of the Television and Digital Program Producers' Association of Bangladesh (Telepab), amid allegations of disciplinary breaches.

Director Shazzad Hossain Dodul, general secretary at Telepab, confirmed the news. While Prachi will retain her membership in the association, she has lost her influential role as vice president.

Dodul indicated that an official statement, detailing the specific breaches committed by Prachi, will be released to the media shortly. As of Tuesday afternoon, Prachi has not provided any comments regarding her dismissal.



NEWS

Dhaka should engage with Arakan Army

FROM PAGE 12
the 1970s, with the largest one being in 2017. Currently, Bangladesh shelters more than a million Rohingya.

Rohingya repatriation to Myanmar and improving trade with the neighbouring country and the other ASEAN countries are the major objectives of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been maintaining relations with the Myanmar junta since it assumed power for Rohingya repatriation.

The emergence of a de facto statelet on its border that aspires for permanent autonomy will require Bangladesh's interim government to expand the scope of its engagement with the AA, the ICG said.

Despite the challenges Bangladesh faces domestically, it also has a key role in Rakhine State as do other outside actors, it said.

"While strengthening ties with the group, Bangladeshis envoys should emphasise the importance of treating

the Rohingya humanely and with dignity," the report said.

To stabilise the borderlands and address drivers of irregular migration, Dhaka should also allow for more humanitarian aid to the area and trade across the frontier.

"Finally, Dhaka should improve security in the refugee camps, reduce the influence of armed groups there and allow a genuine Rohingya civil society movement to emerge."

The ICG said the other foreign governments should explore how they can work with the AA and neighbouring states to improve humanitarian access and expand assistance for all ethnic communities affected by conflict in central and northern Rakhine State.

For neighbouring states and other outside actors, the emerging situation in Rakhine State creates quandaries, not least the question of how to work with a de facto authority like the AA amid an

international system that for legal and practical reasons privileges relationships with nation states.

Despite the dilemmas, the ICG said neighbours and donors will likely find that the greatest potential for positive humanitarian and security impact by working with Rakhine State's de facto administrators toward mutual goals.

The AA forces have been accused of serious human rights abuses against the Rohingya, including the attack on August 5, for which the group denies responsibility.

Rakhine State requires leaders of both the Rakhine and Rohingya communities to rise above their historical animosity and defuse communal tensions.

"The AA should incorporate more Rohingya into its administration and commit to supporting an independent investigation into allegations of abuses against civilians, which should begin as soon as practicable."

Seek resolution at UNHRC session

FROM PAGE 12
responsibility of accounting for the past to steer the country toward a rights-respecting future," said Lucy McKernan, deputy UN Geneva director at HRW.

"The government should support a Human Rights Council-backed investigation into recent abuses while also seeking UN backing for an independent domestic inquiry into the former government's 15 years of rights violations," she said.

The interim government should urgently implement measures to bring civilian oversight over security forces, disband the notorious Rapid Action Battalion, reform institutions in line with international human rights standards, and revise abusive laws.

To effectively follow through on its commitments to justice and accountability amid a highly divisive political environment, the interim government should ask the UNHRC to establish an independent mechanism with a comprehensive mandate to investigate, collect, store, and analyse evidence and cooperate with credible and

independent national and international judicial bodies toward accountability for the July and August violence and its root causes, the rights organisation said.

A UNHRC mandated investigation would have the greatest independence and credibility for Bangladeshis, who distrust domestic institutions and could avoid the political interference that could undermine purely domestic measures, it said.

The HRW suggested that the council resolution should also mandate OHCHR to monitor the human rights situation in Bangladesh through the transition period until there are free and fair elections, and report back regularly.

The HRW said the recent protests reflect the frustration that Bangladesh's economic progress has been unevenly shared.

Social protection should be reformed to guarantee an adequate level of protection for all, and to ensure that no one is excluded from public benefits because of their inability to pay bribes or because they lack social or political connections, it said.

It called upon the interim government to reform institutions, the security

sector, and its justice and legal system, all of which have been deeply eroded under the previous government and earlier administrations, to bring about lasting, human rights changes.

The interim government should welcome the technical assistance of OHCHR to ensure the full independence of legal and judicial bodies, the rights organisations said.

In addition to disbanding the Rapid Action Battalion, the interim government should implement robust human rights training protocols across all security forces and remove laws that enable impunity for security force abuse, Human Rights Watch said.

"Without deep institutional reform and UN support to ensure independence and transparency, the hard-won advancements in Bangladesh could be easily lost," McKernan said.

"The UN and member states should demonstrate their support for all Bangladeshis by backing fact-finding and accountability measures and by investing in rights-based institutional and security sector reform," she said.

Two girls found dead

FROM PAGE 12
the victims' families searched for them but could not find them.

Early yesterday, locals found the bodies beside a road in Sadekpur area.

On information, police recovered the bodies, said Mohammad Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police

Station. "We have sent the bodies to Brahmanbaria General Hospital morgue for autopsy. The reasons for the deaths will be known after autopsy," he added.

Contacted, the hospital's Medical Officer Anik Dev said, "We have found multiple injury marks in the private parts of the girls. After primary

investigation, we assume that they were raped around four days ago. However, further investigation is required for this to be confirmed."

Maimuna's father Abdul Barik, hinting at the possible involvement of a madrasa teacher, said they want a proper investigation and punishment of the people responsible.

Reject writ petition for banning AL

FROM PAGE 12
Islam during a hearing on the writ petition yesterday.

Following the hearing, the bench set September 1 as the date for issuing an order on the writ.

Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan, executive director of Sarda Society, a rights organisation, filed the petition with the HC as a public interest litigation on August 19, seeking its order to ban AL as a political party and cancel its registration for the indiscriminate

killing of students and general public during the anti-government movement.

In the petition, he implored the HC to pass an order fixing the tenure of the current interim government at three years, rename the institutions that were named after Sheikh Hasina, bring back Tk 11 lakh crores laundered abroad, and transfer officials who were appointed on contract during past regimes of the AL government.

During yesterday's hearing, Attorney General Asaduzzaman told the HC that the person who submitted the writ

petition has no "locus standi" to file such a petition as his organisation's constitution does not allow him to do so.

He also said the writ petitioner did not include the Awami League as a party in the petition and did not serve any notice to AL prior to filing the writ.

He argued, therefore, the writ petition was unacceptable.

The attorney general then asked the HC to fine Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan for submitting the petition and taking up the court's time unnecessarily.

Hasina faces 5 more cases

FROM PAGE 12
Magistrate Md Saddam Hossain.

Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former AL lawmakers Shamim Osman and Ramesh Chandra are among the accused.

The magistrate recorded the statement and asked the officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station to register it as a First Information Report (FIR).

In Mohammadpur, Hasina and 21 others were sued for the killing of Mansur Miah, a machine operator at Buriganga Filling Station in Bosila on July 19.

The victim's brother Ainal Haque filed the case with a Dhaka court which asked the Mohammadpur Police OC to register it as an FIR.

Quader, Asaduzzaman, former AL lawmakers Ali Arafat and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, former DB chief Harun Or Rashid and former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman are among the accused in the case.

Khorshed Alam brother of Miraz Hossain, who was killed on August 5, filed another case against Hasina and 91 others with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Belal Hossain.

The magistrate recorded his statement and asked the Demra Police OC to register it as an FIR.

Hasina and 40 others were sued for the killing of 21-year-old Nahidul Islam at Mirpur 10 on July 19.

The victim's brother Md Sabuj filed the case with a Dhaka court, which

asked Mirpur Police OC to register it as an FIR.

Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana and son Sajeeb Wazed Joy are among the accused.

In Rajshahi, SM Salahuddin Ahmed Shamim Sarkar, convener of Bagha upazila Chhatra Dal, filed a case against Hasina, former state minister for foreign affairs Shahriar Alam, and 52 others on charges of abduction and torture, said Bagha Police OC Abu Siddique.

According to the case statement, under the direct instruction of Hasina and the other accused, Salahuddin was picked up in front of the Bagha New Bus Stand on May 21, 2023.

He was tortured and shot in the leg before being handed over to the police, who later framed him in a false case, Salahuddin mentioned in the case.

Hasan Mahmud, Nowfel, S Alam

FROM PAGE 12
education minister Mohibul Hassan

Chowdhury Nowfel; former Chattogram city mayor AJM Nasir Uddin; former MPs Abu Reza Nadvi, Abdul Motaleb, Abduch Salam, and Fazle Karim Chowdhury; Central Awami League Office Secretary Biplob Barua; Central Awami League member Aminul Islam; Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shyamal Dutta; and S Alam Group chairman's personal assistant

Akij Uddin, among others.

The rest of the accused are leaders and activists of the Awami League and its affiliate organisations.

According to the case statement, under the leadership of Hasan Mahmud, the accused razed hills in the area for real estate companies in the port city.

The accused had been selling soil collected from the hills in Chattogram and other places through a syndicate.

However, due to fear, no one dared to speak out against them at the time, the statement added.

On December 30, 2017, a landslide in the Rajanagar area under Rangunia killed three people, including a child.

The statement states that the landslide occurred as a result of the accused's indiscriminate hill-cutting as the forest department and local administration were unable to take action against them.

Murder case filed

FROM PAGE 12
Divisional Commissioner Zakir Hossain, former DIG (Rangpur range) of police Abdul Baten, ex-commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police Mohammad Moniruzzaman, former deputy commissioner Mohammad Mobasher Hasan, and former superintendent of police of Rangpur Mohammad Shahjahan.

Dilruba Akter, wife of victim Muslim Uddin Milon, filed a complaint with

the court of Rangpur Metropolitan Magistrate Raju Ahmed Babu, yesterday, said lawyers Palash Kanti Nag and Mofazzal Hossain Bakul.

The magistrate asked Rangpur Kotwali Police Station to record the complaint as a case.

Besides, many unnamed people were accused in the case.

According to the case statement, on July 19, a clash broke out between students and Awami League leaders and

activists during a quota protest in the City Bazaar area. The incident escalated when police opened fire indiscriminately under the orders of the accused.

Milon was hit by a bullet at that time and taken to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Under pressure from the accused, the body was hurriedly buried without an autopsy, the plaintiff alleged in the case statement.

Nepal stand between Bangladesh and elusive trophy

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh team management will be hoping to field a fully fit squad in the final of SAFF U-20 Championship when the men in red and green take on hosts Nepal at the ANFA complex with a target of winning the elusive title of regional youth championship.

Having beaten three-time champions India in the semifinals on Monday, the charges of Maruful Haque have apparently struggled to recover owing to a lack of facilities in Nepal. However, the head coach is expecting that the players will be fully fit before facing Nepal, who won the title in 2015 and 2017.

Bangladesh have never won the trophy in five previous attempts, despite making the final three times previously. They have not even been able to beat Nepal in four meetings.

"From Day 1 till now, the boys have been on the right track as we have come to this stage following ups and downs. If the boys remain fit and play according to game plan, we can return home with the trophy. I hope the boys will be fully fit before the final," Maruful said at the pre-final press



conference yesterday.

The veteran coach fears Nepal could come stronger than the group stage match, where they beat Bangladesh 2-1 even though he believes his charges are ready to take more challenge this time.

"If they [Nepal] gave 80 percent in the group stage match against us, they will come stronger with 100 percent effort in

the final. They may also change tactics compared to that match," Maruful said. "However, losing to Nepal once doesn't mean we will not be able to beat them in the final. If the boys can give their 100 percent and play according to game plan, it is possible for us to win."

Nepal will have the advantage on playing on their home turf, which is an

artificial one, and in front of their home crowd and under familiar weather. Some of the Nepal players are also much quicker than their Bangladeshi counterparts while playing on the artificial turf, which is why Maruful is planning to change his strategy.

Bangladesh will be missing out on the services of experienced goalkeeper Mehedi Hasan Srabon, who returned to Dhaka on Tuesday following an injury in the semifinal, and experienced defender Kamacai Marma Aky, who was given marching order against India just a minute before the final whistle.

"After winning against India, the mental condition of the players is very strong but that match is now past. It is a new day and new opponents, who are a talented side with some quick wingers. I think we have to take more challenge in the final," said the UEFA A-licensed coach.

Nepal coach Urjan Sheshtha, however, is rating Bangladesh as a top team. "We see Bangladesh as the top team, who played a very good match against India. I think the final is going to be an interesting game where we will do our level best," said Shreshtha.

BCB scratching its head to solve the BPL problem

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

The newly-elected Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed has called a board of directors' meeting on Thursday where among several key issues, holding the upcoming Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) in scheduled time is likely to be discussed.

Faruque has inherited a BCB that has been in limbo ever since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 in the face of a student-led people's movement. Many BCB directors, who had links with the previous government, have gone into hiding since, leaving various standing committees at a standstill.

Resuming activities of those standing committees with changes in personnel will be a key agenda in the meeting, as will be the forthcoming BPL, which is facing a plethora of challenges at the moment.

The biggest challenge is the uncertain status of several franchises whose owners had strong ties with Awami League and are on the run after the recent political developments in the country.

Comilla Victorians, the most successful team in BPL history with four titles, was run by Nafisa Kamal, daughter of Awami League lawmaker and former finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal. Teams like Durdanto Dhaka, Fortune Barishal and

Khulna Tigers are also known to have political ties.

The remaining three teams of the seven-team tournament - Sylhet Strikers, Chattogram Challengers and Rangpur Riders - are expected to continue but they are also facing financial challenges.

"The Awami League backed teams are not in the scene at the moment. Apart from that, the market situation is not good at all. There were sponsor issues in the previous editions and now the challenges will exacerbate," a franchise official told The Daily Star yesterday, wishing to remain anonymous.

"Previously, we would have to spend around Tk 15-16 crore each season and would hardly get Tk 3-5 crore from sponsors.

Getting that same amount from sponsors is also unlikely for the next edition," he added.

Before the start of the last ICC T20 World Cup in the USA and West Indies, the BCB had reached out to the franchisees, seeking their participation confirmation and some teams had responded positively.

However, since the change in government and Faruque taking over as BCB president, replacing Nazmul

Hassan Papon who was an Awami League lawmaker, they are yet to establish any formal communication with those franchisees.

Previously, the BCB had planned to



hold the players' draft for the upcoming BPL in the first week of September as the tournament is scheduled between January 1 and February 11 next year. But after the recent changes in the board, holding the draft in the scheduled time seems highly unlikely.

"In these extraordinary circumstances, there is a big question whether the teams would play or not. The board is yet to receive confirmation from them as well. We have to see which teams are in a position to participate. We are currently working on that," a BCB official told the Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

"We are trying to stick to the legal framework. If the franchisees do not respond, the board will then decide whether or not to terminate the contract. Whatever we do, we have to maintain the legal framework.

"We are closely monitoring the situation. We are also considering what the impact would be like if the number of participating teams went down to five from seven."

Another huge challenge for Faruque, who has been a staunch critic of BPL's financial issues over the years, would be to introduce a new structure for the tournament, which has been thrown into controversy many times due to mismanagement since its inception in 2012.

The BCB would also need to address the issue of some teams still not having cleared players' payments from the previous edition.

Amidst all the challenges, there is one silver lining as it was learnt that some interested companies have already met the newly-elected BCB president, showing interest to buy new franchises in the BPL, and the board is still holding out hope of going through with the event.

"We are very optimistic to hold the tournament in time. We believe we can make it happen," concluded the board official.

SHORT CORNER

No bar on Shakib to continue playing

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) president Faruque Ahmed said that star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan can continue to represent the country as long as he is not proven guilty of any misdeeds. "There are a lot of legal procedures left to prove someone guilty. At this moment there is no bar on Shakib to continue playing," Faruque said.



Jay Shah elected Independent Chair of ICC

Jay Shah, the current honorary secretary of the BCCI, has been elected unopposed as the Independent Chair of the ICC, and will assume his position on 1 December, 2024. On August 20, it was announced that current ICC Chair Greg Barclay would not seek a third term and would step down at the end of his tenure in November.

Sports associations to have student reps

The National Sports Council introduced a position for student representatives in the new seven-member ad-hoc committees to be formed nationwide, a press release confirmed yesterday.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.

Offloading players Chelsea's main target: Maresca

REUTERS

Chelsea's main aim in the transfer window is to offload players from their squad so the club can balance its books, manager Enzo Maresca said on Tuesday.

Chelsea have been busy in the market since American owner Todd Boehly took over two years ago.

The West London club have spent over 160 million pounds (\$211.50 million) on 11 new signings for this season, including winger Pedro Neto, forward Joao Felix, midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall, and goalkeeper Filip Jorgensen.

Chelsea sold Conor Gallagher to Atletico Madrid and defender Ian Maatsen joined Aston Villa, but they still have over 40 senior players registered are at risk of falling foul of the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules.

"The target is to solve the economic problem in terms of selling players," Maresca told the club website. "From there, we try to do our best and see where we arrive."

Chelsea's struggles to offload players are well documented, with England internationals Ben Chilwell and Raheem Sterling among a group of about 15 high earners frozen out by the manager and not training with the first team.

"For us, the target in this moment is to improve players. No one from the club asked me to compete for the Premier League, or compete for a Champions League spot," the Italian Maresca added.

"I want to see my team play the way we want to play, and compete every game. I want to see on the ball a clear idea of what they want, and off the ball, a very aggressive team. The most important thing is to be better game after game."

Djokovic 'avenges brothers' to kick off record bid

REUTERS, New York

Novak Djokovic's bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title kicked off on Monday with a rusty 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 win over qualifier Radu Albot in the US Open first round as the defending champion returned to the court after his Olympic triumph and managed to 'avenge' his brothers.

Three weeks after winning the singles title at the Paris Games, Djokovic toted his rackets and gear in a pair of gold-coloured bags onto centre court where the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd gave him a hero's welcome.

But the Serb's golden touch was decidedly lacking in the late night match as he struggled with serve and racked up nearly twice as many unforced errors as winners.

For all that, he had more than enough weapons to handle Moldovan Albot in their first tour clash and claim a record 78th win at Arthur Ashe under a closed roof.

"I was not aware of it, to be honest with you," Djokovic said of the centre-court milestone.

"It's definitely the loudest stadium

we have in the history of our sport. The night sessions are the best in the world here."

While having never played Albot before, Djokovic said he had done his homework on the 34-year-old who beat both his younger brothers Marko and Djordje during their playing days.



"They both lost to him so hopefully I can avenge my brothers tonight," he told ESPN commentator Brad Gilbert with a laugh before taking the court.

Djokovic duly avenged the family name in three clunky sets but he will hope for better from his game as he looks to move past Margaret Court on the all-time Grand Slam winners' list.

With 10 double faults, his serve was wild by his usual standards, and he winced throughout the night as 40 unforced errors piled up.

His coach Nenad Zimonjic was an animated presence, barking instructions in Serbian at the wayward champion, who could convert only six out of 16 break points.

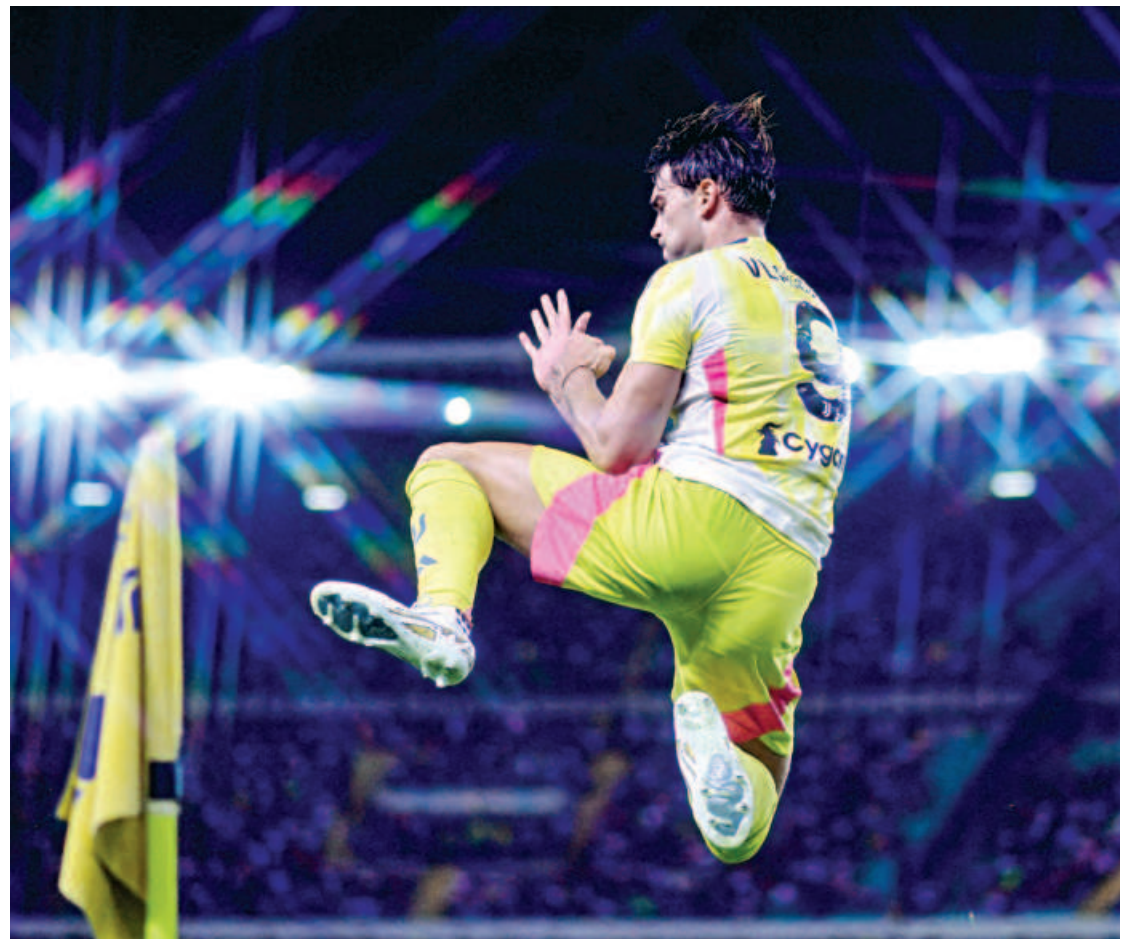
Though Djokovic was well off his best, Albot was unable to make the world number two pay.

After bright starts in the first two sets, he crumbled on serve in each of them before making a better game of the third.

In the twilight of a record-smashing career, Djokovic is eyeing several milestones in New York, including a fifth title at Flushing Meadows to match the professional era record held by Pete Sampras, Jimmy Connors, and Roger Federer.

He also hopes to become the first back-to-back winner in the men's singles since Federer's run of five successive titles from 2004-08.

Serbia's Djokovic will face fellow countryman Laslo Djere in the second round today.



Dusan Vlahovic netted a brace as Juventus continued their flying start under new manager Thiago Motta with a comfortable 3-0 victory at Hellas Verona in Serie A on Monday. Juventus, who look to reclaim the Serie A title after four years, are the only side to have kept their points tally at a maximum over the opening two match days of the Italian top flight and lead the standings with six points. PHOTO: REUTERS



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GAZI TYRE FACTORY FIRE

Excessive heat, risky structure delay rescue op

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

After a 32-hour battle, firefighters put out the massive blaze at Gazi Auto Tyres Factory in Narayanganj's Rupganj early yesterday.

They, however, could not enter the six-storey building due to extreme heat and the precarious state of the fire-ravaged structure.

They were uncertain about the start of the rescue operation as small fires continued to flare up since yesterday afternoon due to intense heat. Parts of the ceiling and walls of the building collapsed.

Meanwhile, a group of students visited the factory site in Rupshi area yesterday and compiled a list of 126 people reported missing by their families since Sunday night when the factory, owned by former Awami League minister Golam Dastagir Gazi, was set on fire by arsonists.

Md Alauddin, deputy assistant director of the Fire Service and Civil Defence, said they doused the blaze around 5:00am yesterday, but small fires flared up at some places due to intense heat.

"We are still trying to extinguish the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



As boats are hard to come by, volunteers pile up supplies on a boat in Dadurpol Kitchen Market area of Feni town yesterday and try to take the vessel to hard-to-reach areas where flood victims need relief materials.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Reject writ petition for banning AL

Attorney general requests HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman yesterday implored the High Court to reject the writ petition that sought its order on the government to ban Bangladesh Awami League as a political party and cancel its registration.

"The current interim government believes in the freedom of association that's enshrined in the constitution of Bangladesh and does not intend to ban any political parties.

"People involved in the previous authoritarian regime who are guilty of wrongdoings can be tried in court, but it's not right to ban any political party based on the actions of its members," AG Asaduzzaman said.

He went on to say that the Awami League still has many good leaders and workers who believe in and practice party ideology.

The attorney general presented his arguments before the HC bench of Justices AKM Asaduzzaman and Muhammad Mahub UI

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

RAKHINE STATE

Dhaka should engage with Arakan Army

Suggests Int'l Crisis Group

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As the Arakan Army is on the verge of expelling the Myanmar military in the Rakhine State, Bangladesh needs to expand the scope of its engagement with the rebel group, said the International Crisis Group (ICG) yesterday.

"After restarting its fight for Rakhine State in late 2023, the Arakan Army is in the process of carving out a proto-state of over a million people on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border," said the Brussels-based global think tank in a report.

Although the Myanmar military has countered with indiscriminate attacks and a blockade that is causing huge economic distress, the AA has pushed on, reaching northern townships where it is alleged to have attacked Muslim Rohingya civilians, it added.

Formed in the borderlands of China, the AA is responsible for some of the military junta's most decisive battleground losses over the past year.

The victories are rallying other ethnic armed groups and pro-democracy fighters to dislodge the military regime, which took control of the country by a coup against the National League of Democracy in February 2021.

The NLD leaders formed the National Unity Government (NUG) with the armed group Peoples' Democratic Force (PDF). Along with dozens of other ethnic armed groups, they have been fighting the military and now control large swathes of Myanmar.

Bangladesh's relationship with Myanmar remains sore because of the Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh in



SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

SCRAPPING OF CARETAKER GOVT

Petition filed for reviewing SC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A petition was filed with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday seeking review of its verdict that scrapped the nonparty caretaker government system in May 2011.

Lawyers Sharif Bhuiyan and Tanim Hussain Shawon submitted the review petition on behalf of five eminent citizens, including Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, citing some 14 grounds for reconsideration of the apex court's judgement.

"We have submitted the review petition against the Appellate Division verdict that revoked the constitution's 13th amendment. We will present the petition before a full bench of this court once it reconvenes after the annual vacation," lawyer Sharif told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Appellate and High Court divisions of the SC is scheduled to go into an annual vacation on September 6. They will reopen on October 20.

Citing the review petition, Sharif said the caretaker government

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GAZA STRIP

No place for displaced as fighting rages

Israeli strikes kill 22; Israeli hostage rescued after 10 months

AGENCIES

Palestinians displaced by fighting in the Gaza Strip crowded onto the seashore as Israeli forces continued to battle Hamas fighters in central and southern areas, with health officials reporting at least 22 people killed in strikes yesterday.

Ceasefire talks were continuing in Cairo with little sign of a concrete breakthrough over key issues separating the sides, including future control over two corridors in the Gaza Strip once fighting ends.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military yesterday said it rescued an Israeli hostage in Gaza.

Kaid Farhan Alkadi, a 52-year-old Israeli Bedouin, was among the 251 people abducted by Hamas on October 7 last year.

"Alkadi was rescued... in a complex operation in the southern Gaza Strip," the statement said, adding that he was in a stable condition and being transferred to a hospital for a medical check-up.

Hostage rescues are rare, but Israeli forces have so far rescued alive eight captives since the ground military campaign in Gaza began on October 27. Seven hostages have been freed since a week-long truce ended in November.

- Few signs of progress in Cairo peace talks
- UN says movement of aid, aid workers in Gaza halted
- Gaza death toll hits 40,476

PROBING RECENT ABUSES

Seek resolution at UNHRC session to set up mechanism

HRW urges interim govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has called on the interim government to seek a resolution at the upcoming session of UNHRC to establish an independent mechanism to investigate and pursue accountability for recent grave abuses in Bangladesh.

The 57th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council is set to begin on September 9, 2024.

In a letter to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and other interim government officials, HRW emphasised the need for ensuring ongoing monitoring of Bangladesh's human rights situation by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and for regular reporting to the council.

The interim government should also work with OHCHR and relevant UN experts to set up an independent domestic inquiry into enforced disappearances, torture, and extrajudicial killings during former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year administration, Human Rights Watch said in the letter released on Monday.

This domestic mechanism should operate with UN support and oversight to ensure its independence and adherence to international human rights standards.

"Following Sheikh Hasina's resignation amid mass protests, Bangladesh's interim government has the heavy

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Palestinians evacuate injured children at the site of an Israeli strike that destroyed several houses in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Murder case filed against ex-speaker Shirin

Tipu Munshi also sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Former Jatiya Sangsad speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, former commerce minister Tipu Munshi and 15 others were



accused yesterday in a case filed over the murder of a goldsmith in Rangpur during a mass protest on July 19.

The other accused include former lawmaker from the women's reserved seat for Rangpur Nachima Zaman Bobby, former Rangpur-2 MP Abul Kalam Md Ahsanul Haque Chowdhury,

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Two girls found dead 3 days after going missing

Doctor suspects murder after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

The bodies of two female students, presumed to have been killed after rape, were recovered in Brahmanbaria yesterday, three days after they went missing.

Naima Akther, 13, of Kalisima village under Brahmanbaria Sadar, and Maimuna Akhter, 15, of Uttarpara village, were resident students of Mayna Begum Islamia Hafizia Mahila Madrasa in the area.

Police said they went missing on Saturday night and the madrasa authorities informed their families of the matter.

The madrasa authorities and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Hasan Mahmud, Nowfel, S Alam, sued for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A murder case was filed yesterday against former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam, former principal secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Tofazzal Hossain Mia and 270 others.

Nazim Uddin, office secretary of the Chattogram district (north) unit of Jubo Dal, the youth wing of the BNP, filed the case with Chattogram Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

The court ordered the Rangunia Police Station to register the case, said plaintiff's lawyer Ashraf Hossain.

The case accuses 270 named persons and 150 unnamed.

The other accused are former

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Hasina faces 5 more cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was accused in five more cases yesterday.

Four of the cases were filed in Dhaka over the killing of four people during the recent student-led movement, while another was filed in Rajshahi over the abduction and torture of a BNP leader in 2023.

With this, Hasina is now facing 71 cases, including 60 for murder, seven for crimes against humanity and genocide, three for abduction, and one for attack on a BNP procession.

Hasina and 48 others were sued for the killing of one Dulal alias Selim in the city's Jatrabari area on August 3.

The victim's brother Mostafa Kamal filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan

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