



Patients suffer as doctors strike

Physicians resume emergency services on condition that they're shadowed by law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following an attack on a doctor at DMCH on Saturday night, physicians went on strike at key public hospitals in the capital and in some districts yesterday, causing numerous patients to suffer.

Services at the country's largest, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, ground to a halt in the morning.

Following a call for "complete shutdown" in the afternoon, doctors at Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, and Mugda Medical College Hospital in Dhaka and public hospitals in several districts, including Chattogram and Khulna, followed suit.

Eventually, doctors, nurses, interns, and medical students called strike in public and private hospitals nationwide.

This put patients, especially those in critical condition, in serious trouble.

However, service providers in most private and some public hospitals did not respond to the call for strike.

The health adviser yesterday evening assured the doctors of meeting their demands, but the physicians of government hospitals stuck to their

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An elderly patient lying on a gurney outside the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital as the doctors went on strike in protest of an assault on a physician on Saturday night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt asks all its staffers to submit wealth statements

BAHARAM KHAN

The government has instructed all its employees to submit their wealth statements as per the existing rules.

This directive was issued in a notice signed by Senior Secretary Md Mokhlesur Rahman of the Ministry of Public Administration yesterday.

Details regarding the process and deadlines for submission will be communicated to the relevant parties through upcoming meetings.

Under existing laws, every government employee is required to declare their immovable and movable assets at the time of joining service.

Subsequently, they must submit a statement on any changes in their assets every five years through the appointing authority to the government.

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Beximco laundered \$135 million: CID

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Beximco Group laundered at least \$135 million by exporting goods through 18 companies without repatriation of the export value, said the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday.

The CID's financial crime unit termed the anomalies as "trade-based money laundering" and has already started an investigation on this, said Kusum Dewan, deputy inspector general (organised crime).

About \$23.04 million was laundered through Apollo Apparels, \$24 million through Bextex Garments, \$25.20 million through Int'l Knitwear and Apparels and \$24.39 million through Esses Fashions, according to CID's database.

All are concerns of Beximco Group, whose vice-chairman Salman F Rahman was the private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

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SECONDARY EDN Science, arts, commerce groups return

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has reinstated the stream-based system at the secondary level, reinstating science, humanities, and business studies groups that were scrapped under the new curriculum introduced by the previous government.

The Secondary and Higher Education Division issued a notice yesterday,

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WORKERS' PROTESTS Production shuts at 10 RMG, 20 pharma units

JAGARAN CHAKMA, AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Amid workers' demonstrations for better pay, regularisation, and two-day weekend, production at some 10 garment and 20 pharmaceutical factories stopped on the outskirts of the capital on Saturday and yesterday.

The demonstrations took place in Savar, Ashulia, Dhamrai and Gazipur.

If the workers continue the strike, there will be a long-term impact on the industry, said M Mohibuz Zaman,

managing director at ACI Healthcare.

"The unrest at pharmaceutical units suddenly began 10 days ago. I suspect there is a conspiracy," he told The Daily Star.

The management talked to the workers and promised to grant what they want in phases, he said, adding that raising the salary would be possible now, but complying with the other demands would take time.

But the workers are not getting back to work, disrupting the supply

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No consecutive 2 terms as PM

Tarique wants provision in constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman said yesterday that his party wants to include a provision in the constitution that would prevent anyone from serving as prime minister for more than two consecutive terms.

He made the remarks while virtually addressing party leaders and activists from

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Bangladesh batter Liton Das raises his bat after scoring an epic hundred against Pakistan on the third day of the second Test in Rawalpindi yesterday. The right-hander's sublime 138, backed up by Mehedi Hasan Miraz's vigilant 78, helped the visitors bounce back from the depths of 26 for six to post 262 in their first innings.

PHOTO: AFP

BUSINESS

Remittances jumped 39pc in August

Remittances sent by Bangladeshis living abroad soared nearly 39 percent year-on-year to \$2.2 billion in August, which is likely to ease pressure on the foreign exchange reserves to some extent.

August's receipts were 16.10 percent higher than those recorded in July, when remittances hit a 10-month low of \$1.90 billion.

The slump in July occurred because expatriates were unable to send funds in the middle of the month as the government imposed an internet blackout to quell protests centring the quota system in government jobs.

STORY ON B1

Liton, Miraz turn the tide on Day 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day that had Bangladesh staring at ignominy in the morning ended with them in the ascendancy, owing to the tremendous resolve of Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz as their historic stand fueled the tourists' fightback on the third day of the second Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Liton scored a majestic 138 while Miraz made a valiant 78 as they added 165 runs for the seventh wicket to rescue the Tigers from a precarious 26-6 and help them put up 262 on the board, 12 runs short of Pakistan's first innings tally.

Pacer Khurram Shahzad was the standout bowler of the day, claiming a career-best 6-90, and was Bangladesh's main tormentor in the morning session with his deadly in-swingers.

Hasan Mahmud, who made an unbeaten 13 off 51 balls in a vital ninth-wicket stand with Liton worth 69 runs, snapped up two wickets in just 10

deliveries late in the day as Pakistan were reduced to 9-2 at stumps, leading by 21 runs.

A day that ended in a positive note for Bangladesh had begun in the worse way possible, with the team losing six wickets inside the first hour.

Bangladesh's southpaw-heavy batting order, with five left-handers in the top six, were seemingly at the mercy of the Pakistan quicks, especially Shahzad, who used his ability to bring the ball sharply into left-handers to dismiss four lefties: Zakir Hasan (one), Shadman Islam (10), Najmul Hossain Shanto (four) and

Shakib Al Hasan (two).

Mir Hamza, the other opening bowler, also did some damage, dismissing Mominul Haque (one) and Mushfiqur Rahim (three).

The optimism emanating from Bangladesh's maiden Test win over Pakistan last week was at risk of getting replaced by the embarrassment of getting

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Liton scored a majestic 138 while Miraz made a valiant 78 as they added 165 runs for the seventh wicket to rescue the Tigers from a precarious 26-6.



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MY DHAKA



Botanical Garden.

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED



Mirpur Beribadh.

PHOTO: SHADAB SHAHROKH HAI

5 things that make MIRPUR SPECIAL

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

Dhaka is basically divided into a few "general areas". These areas refer to a larger neighbourhood that are recognised by the same name. For example – the Mirpur area might refer to the whole of Mirpur-1 through 12. Like every other neighbourhood in the city, there are a few perks of living in Mirpur.

Here are 5 things that make Mirpur special.

The Stadium

The Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium is one of the most popular places in the city. Being a nation with fervent zeal for cricket, people are more than eager to be here. Whenever there's a match, the surrounding neighbourhoods light up with the buzz. Besides the main attraction of cricket, the stadium comes with the added benefit of a stadium market that draws people in search of furniture.

National Zoo

Located on one side of Mirpur, the National Zoo is the largest zoo in the country, boasting an array of animals

and species. Children or adults alike, the zoo is a point of interest for everyone. With two lakes within its huge premises, it's no wonder this is a popular place, not only to local residents, but to people all over the country. Whatever mood you



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Book market in Mirpur

are in, the zoological diversity and the open sky will surely make it a soothing experience.

Face of Nature

It's not just the zoo, there are more places around Mirpur that can offer you a respite from your metropolitan life. With the river Turag flowing right

beside Mirpur, there are plenty of places where one may get a glimpse of nature, something that has become quite rare in Dhaka. The Mirpur Beribadh is one such place that stands on the bank of the river with a spectacular view. If you



PHOTO: SHADAB SHAHROKH HAI

Love Road in Mirpur

just cross the road, you can find yourself in the Botanical Garden, a place not only soothing but also educational for those who are interested.

Lively Hangout Places

Perhaps one of the most important factors about any neighbourhood is how friendly and accommodating

it is. Mirpur offers both with the numerous hangout places it offers. The most popular hangout place in the neighbourhood under open sky has to be Love Road. Street food, music and youth – all these make it a lively experience. There's Mirpur-1 for those who are looking to window shop or catch a movie or just roam around and grab a cup of coffee.

Book Market

The second-hand book market in Mirpur is one of few such markets in Dhaka. Starting from the stadium gate, it expands towards Mirpur-10 roundabout and sometimes, stray shops are spotted even beyond that. With a large collection and affordable price, it's the place to be if you are interested in books. With effort and time, one can even find antique books here as well. And of course, academic books.

Of course, there are more interesting places in Mirpur, such as the Benaroshi Polli, Shaheed Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium, Currency Museum etc. For locals to just sit back and take it easy for a day or for visitors to roam around, Mirpur is a great place.

Production shuts

FROM PAGE 1

chain, he added. Mahbul Karim, executive director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals, said, "We did not open our factory to avoid an untoward incident amid the protests."

He added that several discussions between the management and the workers yielded no result because the workers want their demands met by 24 hours.

Zahangir Alam, chief financial officer at Square Pharmaceuticals, said production units of the company had been closed since Saturday as the "workers do not listen to requests".

He added that the demands that are logical would be met.

Square Pharmaceuticals employs 1,000 casual and 6,000 regular workers, he said.

A team of Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries led by its president Abdul Mukhtar met the advisers of home affairs, industries, and health and sought their cooperation to solve the crisis.

A top official of Popular Pharmaceuticals said his company had promised to regularise all of its 300 casual workers.

He added that the sudden demand for raises and perks was an indication that a quarter had instigated the workers who seemed to be content before.

Workers of a shoe, a ceramic, and a several garment factories demonstrated in Savar and Gazipur, blocking highways yesterday.

The authorities closed at least 10 garment factories in Ashulia and Savar.

Workers of GAB Limited, Snowtex, Starling Group Apparel, NASA Apparels, and Acme Agrovet & Consumers Ltd blocked the Nabinagar-Chandra highway and began demonstrating around 9:00am, said Mohammad Sarwar Alam, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police.

Some of the protesters said they wanted bonuses, lunch allowance, and an end to termination of workers.

Several workers of GAB Limited said authorities closed the factory without saying whether the demands would be met.

"We will continue the protests unless they comply with the demands," said one of them, requesting anonymity.

In Gazipur, long tailbacks formed as workers blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at three places. The highway was blocked for two hours in the morning.

The workers of Bata shoes blocked the road in the Station Road area, People's Ceramics in Targachh, and Anant Casual Limited in Chandana.

The workers demanded regularisation, better pay, and medical allowance.

SC to hear Jamaat

FROM PAGE 12

He told The Daily Star that the Appellate Division earlier dismissed Jamaat's appeal against the High Court verdict without holding a complete hearing.

"If the Appellate Division on October 21 restores the appeal, then a complete hearing will be held before it on the merit of the appeal. If this court allows the appeal after hearing on it, Jamaat-e-Islami will get back its registration with the Election Commission and will participate in the

elections."

On November 19 last year, a five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by the then Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan dismissed Jamaat's appeal for "default" as its counsels did not appear before the court on that day.

Jamaat had filed the appeal against the HC verdict that scrapped its registration with the EC on August 1, 2023.

Lawyers Mohammad Shishir Manir and Md Matiur Rahman Akanda appeared for Jamaat during the hearing yesterday.

Patients suffer as doctors strike

FROM PAGE 1

guns and agreed to provide only emergency services if a law enforcer protected every doctor.

The trouble began Saturday night when Ahsanul Islam Dipto, a 24-year-old civil engineering student at the Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT), died from road crash injuries.

A doctor at DMCH was assaulted by some students who accused physicians of being negligent.

The same night, a group of people attacked an injured person inside DMCH after a clash between two groups in the Khilgaon-Sepahibagh area. In response, DMCH doctors issued a 24-hour ultimatum for identifying and punishing the attackers. They threatened a complete shutdown of the hospital if their demands were not met.

Emergency services at DMCH resumed around 7:30pm yesterday after Health Adviser Nurjahan Begum said the attackers would be arrested within two days and brought to justice. She also assured the doctors of taking measures for workplace safety.

After a meeting with the adviser, the doctors announced that they would resume emergency services only if armed law enforcers shadow every doctor at work.

They said they would continue their strike and that the "complete

shutdown" would be reinstated if their demands were not met by 8:00pm today.

The doctors demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the accused involved in the attacks; deployment of armed law enforcers to protect doctors in every hospital within 24 hours; appointment of health police under the DGHS within seven days; and implementation of the health protection laws.

SUFFERINGS

Medical services and treatment at DMCH were halted around 10:00am. The counters for getting tickets, required to see a doctor, were closed.

But ambulances carrying patients continued to arrive. They were turned away.

Patients who had travelled from various parts of the country were unaware of the strike. They rushed to the outpatient departments from the emergency department but did not get any treatment.

Among them was Rezaul Karim, 11, a class-IV student from Barishal, whose right leg was gangrenous.

Rezaul was seen lying on the floor of the outpatient department while his family desperately sought treatment.

"My son is in excruciating pain. I feel helpless seeing him suffer without treatment," said Shaheen Farazi, Rezaul's father and a rickshaw-puller.

Shaheen said he could not afford to take his son to a private hospital.

Khairun Nahar, 53, a critical neurosurgery patient with brain and spinal issues, was referred to the DMCH from Satkhira. After not getting any help at DMCH, her family took her to another hospital where she was turned away as well.

The family eventually returned to Satkhira.

"What happened between the doctors and the patient's friends could be resolved, but now we are suffering. If this patient dies, who will be held responsible?" said Mohammad Ali, Nahar's husband.

"I had to pay Tk 20,000 for the ambulance, and my wife is now returning home without receiving treatment," he said.

This correspondent visited the female ward of the neurosurgery department three times between 1:00pm and 5:00pm. There were several patients in critical condition there.

Some family members alleged that nurses were not administering injections or giving the patients pills.

"My wife has brain haemorrhage and needs emergency surgery, but the doctor has not come. The doctor prescribed some medication and injections for her, but no nurse came to the ward. I went to other wards and the nurses' offices, but they did not show up," said a patient's

husband around 5:00pm.

MEETING

Coordinators of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement, Sarjis Alam and Hasnat Abdullah, went to the DMCH and had talks with doctors in presence of DMCH Director Brig Gen Asaduzzaman around 3:00pm.

Around 45 minutes later, the health adviser reached DMCH and had a separate meeting with a different group of doctors.

Before leaving, Hasnat told journalists, "We met the doctors to facilitate the immediate resumption of emergency services. However, the doctors remain firm on their demands ... We have requested the health adviser to resolve the issue."

After the meeting with the health adviser, the DMCH director said the hospital would resume medical activities, including treatment at the emergency, casualty, and neurosurgery departments.

He said members of the army, police, BGB, and Ansar would be deployed round-the-clock to ensure the security of the doctors.

Speaking to reporters, Abdul Ahad, resident surgeon of the Neurosurgery Department at the DMCH, said the shutdown would continue, but emergency services would be provided only if every doctor was assigned a law enforcer to protect them.

He said there would be no outpatient services

but ICU and HDU services would continue.

"If the criminals who attacked doctors are not arrested ... within the next 24 hours, the complete shutdown will resume at 8:00pm on Monday [today]," he said.

"The hospitals, medical centres, and routine services across the country will be suspended for the next seven days. During this time, our four-point demand, including the protection of doctors, must be met. We will only resume outpatient and routine services once our demands are met," Ahad said.

At a briefing at the Secretariat earlier, Adviser Nurjahan Begum assured doctors that stern action would be taken against those involved in assaulting doctors at the DMCH. She said two separate investigation committees had been formed.

She also urged the doctors to end their work abstention for the sake of the patients.

As of 2:00pm yesterday, a total of 2,941 people were undergoing treatment at the DMCH. Between 1,100 and 1,200 people typically visit the emergency department for critical care, while over 3,000 people visit the outpatient department for medical services.

There were army and BGB personnel at DMCH since yesterday evening.

said, "We are giving priority to recovering the looted guns ..."

As of yesterday, a total of 3,880 weapons of various types, looted from police stations and offices, during the recent unrest, have been recovered. In addition, law enforcers have recovered 2,86,353 bullets, 22,201 teargas canisters, and 2,139 stun grenades.

Beximco laundered

FROM PAGE 1

The group first opened a letter of credit for exporting goods and then took a loan locally against 80 percent of the value, said Md Moniruzzaman, inspector of the CID financial crime unit.

As the group did not bring back the export proceeds, the loan remains unpaid.

"Beximco Group laundered money through this way," he added.

Another official at the CID financial crime unit said they have found primary information that Rahman laundered the money and invested in real estate in different countries including Dubai, Singapore and the UK.

Rahman's son, Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman, has opened a large pharmaceutical company in Saudi Arabia, said a CID official involved with the

investigation. And most of the funds of that company in Saudi Arabia went from Bangladesh, he said.

Once the primary investigation is complete, a case would be filed under the Money Launder Act against Beximco Group, Dewan said.

During the primary investigation, the CID's financial crime unit found that Beximco Group has been accused of fraudulently taking loans from seven banks in the last 15 years.

Of the loans, Tk 5,218 crore was taken from IFIC Bank, whose chairman is Rahman himself.

The sprawling conglomerate took at least Tk 21,681 crore from the principal branch of the state-run Janata Bank, according to a CID official involved with the investigation.

Beximco also took Tk 295 crore from National

Bank; Tk 5,671 crore from Sonali, Agrani and Rupali; and Tk 605 crore from AB Bank, according to CID's primary data.

The CID's financial crime unit has sent teams to the seven banks to collect their database, said its special superintendent Mohammad Basir Uddin.

CID's primary investigation found that Rahman is accused of laundering the loans abroad in the name of various companies of Beximco Group.

There are also allegations that in the last three years around Tk 6,600 crore has been taken from the market visibly and Tk 20,000 crore embezzled through fraud and forgery, reads the CID primary investigation report.

Rahman has been in police custody since August 13 in a case filed over the killing of a shop employee.

Govt asks all its staffers to submit wealth statements

FROM PAGE 1

Although this procedure is part of the conduct regulations to combat corruption and ensure accountability, compliance has often been lacking.

On August 25, Chief Adviser to the interim government, Prof Muhammad Yunus, in his address to the nation said, "Government employees should regularly submit their wealth statements."

"All our advisers will publish their asset details as soon as possible. Regular asset disclosure will be made mandatory for all government servants," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mohidul Islam, additional secretary (rules wing) of the public administration ministry, said the government employees must submit an account of their assets, including their families and dependents, as per the existing rules.

He, however, said, "A process to amend the

existing rules is underway to make them stricter. But for now, the government employees will have to submit their wealth statement following the existing rules."

According to section 13 (1) of Government Servant Conduct Rules-1979, every government servant shall, on entering service, hand over to the government, through proper authority, info on all movable and immovable property, including shares, certificates, securities, insurance policies, and ornaments of a total value of Tk 50,000 or more owned by him or his family members.

They will have to mention the name of the district in which the property is located, disclose details on each type of ornament worth over Tk 50,000, and provide any other information if required by the government through general or special orders, said the section.

However, the existing rule does not apply to the subordinates of railways, metropolitan police, and lower ranks of police and border guards.

There are around 15 lakh civil servants currently working in the country.

Feroz Mia, a former additional secretary of the public administration ministry, told The Daily Star that an example must first be made by submitting the accounts of the secretaries of the government to the administration.

"Then others will be encouraged to follow suit," he said.

The 1979 rules initially mandated the submission of asset accounts every year. Since the rules were not followed, it was amended in 2002 with a provision of submitting wealth accounts every five years.

This too is not being implemented, said officials of the public administration ministry.

Drive begins to recover illegal arms on Sept 4

FROM PAGE 12

licences of weapons issued to civilians over the last 15 years -- January 6, 2009, and August 5, 2024 -- during the Awami League rule.

Yesterday, the ministry asked the authorities to inform the licence bearers through text messages for submission of the firearms, and ammunition to their nearby police stations.

Md Kamrul Ahsan, additional deputy inspector general (confidential) of Police Headquarters, told The Daily Star yesterday, "The firearms with suspended licences will be considered illegal if these are not handed over to police stations by September 3 [tomorrow]."

He asked the owners of the weapons to submit

then within the timeframe to avoid legal action.

According to sources in the Special Branch of police, they have a database of 50,310 gun owners. However, the officials are yet to get the actual figure of how many licences were issued during the AL rule.

A top SB official, requesting anonymity, told this newspaper, "We

are working to update the database and are hopeful of completing the work within a day or two."

Yesterday in a directive, the PHQ announced that all firearms and ammunition looted from police stations during the recent violence must be returned by tomorrow.

Kamrul Ahsan, additional DIG of PHQ,



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Travel ban on Asaduzzaman, nine others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a travel ban on 10 people, including former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan over corruption allegations brought against them.

Asaduzzaman's wife Lutful Tahmina Khan, son Shafi Midassir Khan and daughter Safia Tasnim Khan are also among the 10.

The others included joint secretary of home ministry Dhananjay Kumar Das, former additional secretary Md Harun-or-Rashid Biswas, its public relations officer Sharif Mahmud Apu, administrative officer Mollah Ibrahim Hossain, home minister's assistant personal secretary Monir Hossain and the ministry's former deputy inspector general of police Mollah Nazrul Islam.

Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court

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Workers sit idle at a filling station in the Matsya Bhaban area of the capital yesterday, with no vehicles in sight due to the 'unavailability' of fuel. Despite pump operators claiming they sold out all their stock, vehicle drivers alleged that a syndicate of pump owners has halted sales in response to the government's reduction in fuel prices. The reduced prices are Tk 105.50 per litre for diesel and Tk 125 per litre for octane for the month of September.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Yunus to sit with secretaries Sept 4

To discuss how to bring stability; he will attend 79th UNGA this month

BAHRAM KHAN

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will meet all government secretaries at his office on Wednesday, inside sources told this newspaper.

A letter was sent to all 55 ministries and divisions yesterday regarding the meeting. It will be the first meeting of the chief adviser with all secretaries since the formation of the interim government on August 8.

On August 12, the CA had a meeting with the secretaries of 25 ministries.

Such meetings typically discuss the country's general situation and key government agendas, but sources say there is specific agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Sources at the secretariat associated with the meeting told The Daily Star that the central government administration and field administration did not work in harmony after the current government took over.

After the fall of Hasina-led government, government institutions in various parts of the country, have been subjected to unprecedented attacks. In the meeting with secretaries, Yunus may seek advice on how to bring the administrative work across the country back to normal as soon as possible.

At the same time, he will instruct the secretaries regarding what his government is thinking about these issues.

Another source said the government's priority is to maintain stability and increase its visibility to the public. However, the unusual circumstances of the past month

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PILING UP BODIES ON VAN Police form probe committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police have constituted a four-member probe committee to investigate the incident in Ashulia, where officers were seen in a viral video piling bodies onto a van.

The committee, led by Additional SP Sajadur Rahman, has been directed to conduct a thorough investigation and submit a report as soon as possible, Dhaka District Superintendent of Police Ahmad Mueed said during a press briefing after inspecting Ashulia Police Station yesterday.

"The viral video has come to our attention, and we are taking the necessary actions from our end," SP Mueed said.

"We have identified those involved and those present at the scene, but we are not disclosing names yet as it pertains to our next steps. This information will be made public soon."

He added that while the video has been viewed, physical evidence has not yet been obtained. "We are still working on these aspects. A missing person's report was filed yesterday, and we are addressing this as well, hoping for a satisfactory result."

In response to whether any police officers involved would face charges, SP Mueed said, "Anyone involved, regardless of their position, will be charged. The police

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POWER SECTOR Form commission to probe graft: CAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh yesterday called for the formation of an independent commission to investigate corruption, irregularities, and the plundering of wealth by the previous Awami League government in the country's power and energy sector.

At a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, Prof M Shamsul Alam, CAB's energy adviser, presented an 11-point reform proposal aimed at making the power and energy sector more consumer-friendly within the next three years.

He said implementing these proposals could eliminate irregularities, corruption, and predatory costs in the sector.

The key proposals include: freezing fuel and power prices for the next three years; establishing an Energy Sector

Reform Commission; appointing experienced, neutral, and honest officials to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission through a search committee; removing cadre officers from the managing bodies of energy-related companies; replacing top officials in power sector companies; involving all stakeholders directly in the reform process; limiting the ministry's role to policy regulation; revoking the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010; setting fuel prices under BERC; ensuring government companies provide services without profit motives; and identifying and prosecuting corrupt officials.

Alam criticised the previous government for turning the energy sector into an oligarchy. "The government will need at least two to three years to complete the reforms in this sector. We are also

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HC rejects writ petition seeking ban on AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that sought its order to ban Awami League as a political party and cancel its registration for the indiscriminate killings of students and other people during the anti-government protests in July and early August.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahbub Ul Islam passed the rejection order, saying the petition is not acceptable as Awami League has not been made any party in the petition.

The court said the individuals who committed the offences will be tried and punished under the law, but a political party cannot be tried.

The interim government has already taken steps to bring the laundered money back to the country and there is no need to pass an order on this issue, the HC bench said.

Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan,
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BANGABANDHU'S FAMILY High Court wants to know about state expenditure on them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a report on expenditure of the state for all the benefits and properties enjoyed by the family members of father of the nation.

The government has to submit the report before the court in 30 days.

The HC also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government why they should not be directed to recover the benefits and facilities already enjoyed by the family-members of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahbub-Ul Islam issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer and Assistant Secretary General of Human Rights Support Society Mohammad Moniruzzaman on August 25, seeking necessary directives.

In the petition, he also challenged the legality of the Protection of Family Members of the Father of the Nation Act 2009 and the Special Security Forces Act 2021.

The two laws are contradictory to the
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ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক-এর
সকল শাখা ও ফাস্ট ট্রাকে
CRM বসানো হয়েছে

CRM-এ টাকা উত্তোলন ছাড়াও
রিয়েল টাইমে
টাকা জমা ও পাঠানো যায়

এ সকল লেনদেন সম্পূর্ণ ফ্রি

ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
শাখা / ফাস্ট ট্রাক

Dutch-Bangla Bank
BRANCH/FAST TRACK

ATM ATM CRM CRM CRM

ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

Nadia Anwar chairperson of AIUB

STAR REPORT

Nadia Anwar, a founding member and vice chairperson of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), has been unanimously elected as the chairperson of the university's Board of Trustees, said a press release.

In addition to her role at AIUB, Nadia Anwar is the chairperson of wEvolve Limited. She also serves as the director of American Dairy Limited (ADL), Chemlube Limited – the sole distributor of MAK Lubricants in Bangladesh, a product of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd – and Subaru Bangladesh Limited.



JUNGLE KHUNIYA PALONG IN COX'S BAZAR

Cancel forest land allocation to BFF

Environment ministry submits proposal to CA

STAR REPORT

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has recently proposed to revoke the order de-reserving 20 acres of forest land in Jungle Khuniya Palong, Ramu upazila, Cox's Bazar.

The proposal, signed by Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan and Secretary Farhina Ahmed, was submitted to the chief adviser on August 28.

The forest land in question had been allocated to the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) for the construction of a "Technical Centre," which spans 25 acres within the reserved forest area of Jungle Khuniya Palong.

According to the letter, the reserved forest covers 4,710.64 acres of hilly terrain and serves as a vital habitat for Asian wild elephants, monkeys, wild boars, and numerous other species, including snakes and birds.

Of the 25 acres controlled by the Forest Department, 20 acres were handed over to the Ministry of Youth and Sports for the centre's construction.

The ministry expressed concerns that the establishment of the BFF's technical centre would severely impact the habitat of Asian wild elephants and the broader forest ecosystem, wildlife, biodiversity, and environment.

Citing Bangladesh's constitutional duty to conserve forests and its commitments under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the ministry argued that allocating reserved forest land for such development is inappropriate, especially given the country's already limited forest resources.

In 2022, the Awami League-led government had allocated the land to the BFF for constructing a residential training facility, funded by FIFA.

Court freezes

FROM PAGE 5

ACC Public Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir moved the application before the court on behalf of the ACC.

On August 17, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested Shah Kamal from the city's Mohakhali area.

Earlier on August 16, DMP conducted a raid and recovered cash worth around Tk 3.11 crore, in both local and foreign currencies, from Kamal's house at Babar Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area.

Shah Kamal served as secretary from 2015 to 2019 and as a senior secretary from 2019 to 2020.

High Court

FROM PAGE 3

constitution as those have ensured the facilities of protection and security for only the father of the nation and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and their family members, he said in the petition.

Other family members of Bangabandhu are the country's ordinary citizens and providing such facilities for their family members are discriminatory and unconstitutional, he added.

Moniruzzaman also prayed to the HC to pass an order upon the government to recover the benefits and facilities already enjoyed by the family members of the father of the nation and to direct the respondents concerned to stop providing the special security arrangements for his family members. He sought an order from the HC on the authorities concerned to prepare a report on the matter and submission before the court.

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 2

Faiz	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

GOVT FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS Bitopi Group donates over Tk 41 lakh

STAR REPORT

In response to the devastating floods, Bitopi Group has stepped up to support the government's relief efforts by donating Tk 41,12,492 to the "Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund."

This contribution includes funds from the company and a day's salary from all its employees, officers, and workers, according to a press release.

On August 29, Bitopi Group's Managing Director Miran Ali and Director Sarah Ali handed over the donation cheque to Disaster Management and Relief Adviser Farooq-e-Azam during a ceremony at the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Also present at the event were ABM Sirajul Islam Azad, head of the Human Resource Department; and Morshedul Haque, CFO of Bitopi Group.

Miran Ali expressed the company's commitment to aiding the nation during times of crisis, stating, "Bitopi Group will continue to stand by our nation in times of need." Established in 1968, Bitopi Group is a renowned Bangladeshi conglomerate with a diverse business portfolio. The company operates in sectors such as export-oriented garment manufacturing, advertising, media, and fisheries, contributing to the growth and development of the country.



Police form

FROM PAGE 3

are not above the law." "Not only students and the public but also many of our police officers have been burned alive. There will also be a case for the killing of police officers. There is clear guidance from the chief adviser that if human rights violations occur, serious actions will be taken."

When asked if there was a specific deadline for the investigation, the SP told The Daily Star, "No specific deadline has been set. Rushing the investigation could lead to errors. However, the committee has been instructed to conduct a clear investigation and submit a report promptly."

Earlier on Friday, a one-minute and 50-second video began circulating on social media. The grisly footage shows several partially covered bloodstained bodies on a van, with some policemen standing by.

In the video, bodies covered with bedsheets and with hands outstretched can be seen.

Among the policemen beside the van, two were wearing police vests and were seen throwing another body onto the pile.

ACC to investigate

FROM PAGE 5

misused his power to engage in corruption and unethical activities, while accumulating illegal wealth through various irregularities.

He allegedly owns immovable properties in Nazirpur of Barisal, Pirojpur, and Dhaka under his name.

It is also alleged that during his tenure as the minister of Fisheries and Livestock, he misappropriated Tk 25 crore under the Livestock and Dairy Development project through the purchase of equipment and training programs.

He also reportedly has significant amounts of wealth in banks and other assets both in the country and abroad.

Monnujan Sufian, Sahabuddin, Shamima Sultana Hridoy, and Yasir Arafat, are also accused of misusing power to accumulate illegal wealth through corruption and unethical activities.

Monnujan allegedly owns a 5-katha plot in Sector 10 of Uttara in Dhaka, a three-story house in Khulna, two cars, and 16.07 katha of land in KDA, Mothuri Housing.

Additionally, her aides are accused of embezzling millions of takas through various appointments, postings, and promotions.

Travel ban on

FROM PAGE 3

passed the order after Anti-Corruption Commission Deputy Director Md Jahangir Alam, who is also conducting the investigation, submitted an application.

ACC Public Prosecutor Mir Ahmed Ali Salam moved the petition on behalf of the ACC.

The judge sent a copy of the order to the special superintendent of police (immigration) of the Special Branch for the next course of action.

Yunus to sit

FROM PAGE 3

have hindered progress. The chief adviser appears to be using the secretariat meeting to set the tone for more proactive governance.

Then, the government wants to kick start the reform it promised to people, sources added.

The meeting may also discuss financial stability, illegal weapons recovery, corruption prevention, etc, said secretariat sources.

Meanwhile, Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday confirmed that Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will attend the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) this month, but his stay would be brief, reports UNB.

While talking to reporters at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Hossain also said he would have a discussion with the chief adviser regarding his engagement in the UNGA.

HC rejects writ petition seeking ban on AL

FROM PAGE 3

executive director of rights organisation Sarda Society, submitted the petition as a public interest litigation on August 19, also praying for an HC order to make the tenure of the current interim government three years and to change the names of the institutions, which are in the name of former prime minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina.

The petition also sought to bring Tk 11 lakh crores laundered abroad back to the country and to transfer the officials

who were appointed on contractual basis during the regimes of the previous AL government.

During the hearing of the petition on August 27, Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman urged the HC to summarily reject the writ petition, saying that the current government has no intention to ban any political organisation.

He told the HC that this interim government believes in the freedom of organisation and political parties that are enshrined in the constitution.

The attorney general said those who, being involved in the previous authoritarian government, committed misdeeds, can be tried through the courts of law but it is not appropriate to ban any political party for their personal activities.

During the hearing, Asaduzzaman told the HC that the person who submitted the writ petition has no locus standi (the right or capacity to bring an action or to appear in a court) to file such a petition as his organisation's constitution

does not allow him to do so.

The attorney general urged the HC to impose a cost on the writ petitioner for wasting the court's time by filing and moving the petition.

Petitioner Arifur Rahman Murad Bhuiyan moved the petition himself.

He told this correspondent he will not move any appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC order.

Form

FROM PAGE 3

ready to work collaboratively with the government," he said.

He also urged the cancellation of agreements such as those with Adani Power Plant and Summit Group.

CAB's Legal Advisor Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua highlighted that businesses in this sector have made predatory profits over the past 15 years.

He pointed out that, by law, BERC should set energy prices, but the previous government consistently set fuel prices independently.

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

TENDER NOTICE

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

Ser	Name of Item	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Cost of Tender Schedule	Tender No	Currency
		From	To				
1.	SPARE PARTS FOR DIESEL GENERATOR (BRAND: MTU) (QTY: 32 L/U)	02-09-2024	13-10-2024	14-10-2024	BDT 5,000.00	254.07.056.2024	Foreign

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available in this Directorate General on payment as per invitation of tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0900 hours to 1300 hours on the above mentioned 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).

আই এস পি আর/বিবিধ/২০২৪/৩৪৮
১/০৯/২৪

Commander BN
For Director General
Directorate General Defence Purchase

GD- 314

FLAT SALE
Flat Sale @ Bashundhara Residential Area H Block
1450 sft. I Block 1556 sft. M Block 1562 sft.
NS DEVELOPMENT LTD.
01723 006441, 01734 939203

Institute of Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh Studies (IBBBS)
BSMR Maritime University, Bangladesh

Admission Notice – Short Certificate Course

Applications are invited in the prescribed form from interested applicants for admission to the 1st batch of certificate course entitled **"Essential Perspective of Blue Economy"** which will be held by the Institute of Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh Studies of BSMR Maritime University, Bangladesh.

Educational Qualification: Graduate (Hons) or Pass/equivalent degree holders from any recognized university can apply for admission.

Collection and Submission of Admission Form: The admission process can be completed by filling the prescribed form by 10 October 2024 in person or through e-mail. A total of Tk 18,200.00 has to be paid for application processing and course fee. Admission form and other information is available at the following web link:

https://bsmrmu.edu.bd/content_details/certificate-courses.

Class Timings: 0900am to 0400pm. From 20 October 2024 to 28 October 2024, excluding holidays, it will be conducted for a total of 07 (seven) days.

<p>Contact: Institute of Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh Studies, 9/1 (Padma Building), Pallabi, Mirpur-12, Dhaka-1216 Mobile: 01788-322945 (Research Officer), 01520-102857 (Lecturer) E-mail: ibbbsoffice@bsmrmu.edu.bd</p>	<p>Cdre Md Minarul Hoque Director, Institute of Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh Studies BSMRMU</p>
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GD-311

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Adaptation to Climate Change through Climate-Smart Technologies in Khulna Agriculture Region (1st Revised) Project
Department of Agriculture Extension
Khulna Region, Khulna

Memo No. 12.01.0000.018.07.001.24. 629

Date: 01/09/2024

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender are invited in e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the construction of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
01	1011315	CCAP/DAE/2024-25/WD-1	Mini Pond Excavation	15.09.2024 11.00	15.09.2024 15.30
02	1011336	CCAP/DAE/2024-25/WD-2	Borrow-Pit Excavation	15.09.2024 11.05	15.09.2024 15.15
03	1011339	CCAP/DAE/2024-25/WD-4	Construction of Seedling Polynet House	15.09.2024 11.00	15.09.2024 15.45

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

26-09-24

Shaikh Fazlul Huque Moni
Project Director
Email: ccapkhulna@gmail.com

GD-306

BAKHRABAD GAS DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Head Office: Chapapur, Cumilla
Website: www.bgdc.gov.bd
IT Department, Cumilla

Reference No: 28.11.0000.431.07.003.23.62

Date: 28/08/2024

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works	e-Tender Document Selling Start Date and Time	Last Selling Date and Time	Closing Date and Time	Opening Date and Time
1009702	IT202401	Supply of Computer, Laptop and IT Accessories like Processor, Motherboard, RAM, SSD Drive, IPS, UPS, Pen drive, Scanner, Laser Printer etc.	29-Aug-2024 12:00	11-Sep-2024 15:00	12-Sep-2024 13:00	12-Sep-2024 13:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copied 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 National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

28-08-2024

(Engr. Md. Firoj Alam)
Deputy General Manager (IT), Current Charge
IT Department, BGDC, Cumilla
E-mail: dgm_it@bgdc.gov.bd

GD-313

GRAFT ALLEGATIONS ACC to investigate Rezaul, Monnujan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

According to ACC sources, Rezaul Karim has
SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Court freezes 19 bank accounts of ex-senior secy, wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The two murder cases were filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and others after the AL-led government's resignation on August 5.

Gazi is among the accused.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়

ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা

রেলওয়ে প্রশাসনিক ভবন (২য় তলা), কমলাপুর, ঢাকা

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

স্মারক নং-৩৮৫৭/হি(রেশন),

তারিখঃ ০১/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা পুলিশ রেশন স্টোরের জন্য ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪খ্রিঃ মাস পর্যন্ত) (১) মসুর ডাল, (২) ভোজ্য তেল, (৩) চিনি, (৪) পোশাওর চাল, (৫) গম পেয়াই, (৬) জ্বালানী কাঠ, (৭) রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন (৮) কুলির কাজ/সেবা ক্রয়/সরবরাহের লক্ষে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রকৃত মিশমালিক/টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী/দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে প্রাপ্তের নাম ও নমুনা সহ সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	এজেন্সি	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক/সংস্থা	পুলিশ সুপার, ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা।
৪.	দরপত্র আইটেমের নাম	(১) মসুর ডাল, (২) ভোজ্য তেল, (৩) চিনি, (৪) পোশাওর চাল, (৫) গম পেয়াই, (৬) জ্বালানী কাঠ, (৭) রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন, (৮) কুলির কাজ/সেবা।
৫.	অর্থের উৎস ও বাজেট	সরকারী (জিওবি)।
৬.	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	স্মারক নং-৩৮৫৭/হি(রেশন), তারিখঃ ০১/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ।
৭.	দরপত্রদাতা/যোগাদার/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের ফটোকপি প্রথম শ্রেণির সরকারী গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে (১) প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি, (২) হালসনের ব্যবসায়িক নবায়নকৃত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (৩) TIN নম্বর উল্লেখসহ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, (৪) VAT নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, (৫) অতি সাম্প্রতিক ০৩ (তিন) মাসের ব্যাংক লেনদেনের বিবরণী, (৬) প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকানা সনদপত্র, (৭) প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের সদ্য তোলা ০১ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, (৮) কোনো ভালিকাভুক্ত নহে মর্মে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে মুদ্রা করা দিতে হবে, (৯) প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে তিনটি নমুনা স্বাক্ষর দিতে হবে, (১০) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য যেকোনো ১টি সনদপত্রের ঘাটতি হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট টিকাদার বর্ষিত কাজের জন্য অযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে। এছাড়াও অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা থাকতে হবে। যা টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট/সিডিউএল এ উল্লেখ আছে। সকল শর্ত তিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান মানতে বাধ্য থাকবে।
৮.	দরপত্র প্যাকেজ নং	০২/২০২৪-২০২৫খ্রিঃ।
৯.	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
১০.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৭/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১.	দরপত্র জমাধানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৮/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ, ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১২.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৮/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ, ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা। (দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে, যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)
১৩.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ, ১০.৩০ ঘটিকা।
১৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃক/ফর্মের নাম ও ঠিকানা	আনোয়ার হোসেন, পুলিশ সুপার, ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা।
১৫.	দরপত্র দাখিল বিক্রয়কারী/গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা। (রেলওয়ে প্রশাসনিক ভবন ২য় তলা, কমলাপুর, ঢাকা)
১৬.	দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা। (রেলওয়ে প্রশাসনিক ভবন ২য় তলা, কমলাপুর, ঢাকা)

ক্রয় করা হবে এমন মালামাল/সেবার বিবরণ, সিডিউএল মূল্য ও দরপত্র জামানতঃ

ক্র. নং	মালামালের বিবরণ	সম্ভাব্য পরিমাণ	দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফার/তথ্যগত)	দরপত্রের জামানত (রেফার/তথ্যগত)	কাজের সময়সীমা
১.	মসুর ডাল (প্রতি কেজি)	৮,০০০ কেজি	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-	০১/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ হতে ৩১/১২/২০২৪খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত
২.	ভোজ্য তেল (প্রতি লিটার)	৮,০০০ লিটার	৭৫০/-	৫০,০০০/-	
৩.	চিনি (বছ পলিপ্যাক) (প্রতি কেজি)	৬,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	২৫,০০০/-	
৪.	পোশাওর চাল (প্রতি কেজি)	৪০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-	
৫.	গম পেয়াই (প্রতি কেজি)	৩০,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	১৫,০০০/-	
৬.	জ্বালানী কাঠ (প্রতি কেজি)	৮,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-	
৭.	রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন (প্রতিশত কেজি)	৭০,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-	
৮.	কুলির কাজ/সেবা (প্রতিশত কেজি)	৭০,০০০ কেজি	৪০০/-	৫,০০০/-	

১৮. গৃহীত দরপত্রদাতা যোগাদার/সরবরাহকারীকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের পূর্বে জামানতসহ ৩০০/- টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল ট্রাস্টে ট্রাক স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে।

১৯.	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	(ক) দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও মূল্যায়ন পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও বিধি-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী মোতাবেক পরিচালিত হবে, (খ) দরপত্র দাখিল সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র ক্রয়কালে অফিস হতে জানা যাবে এবং দরপত্র সিডিউএল বর্ণিত রয়েছে, (গ) দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করার সময় প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে সিডিউএল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে, (ঘ) নির্দিষ্ট তারিখ ও সময়ের পর দরপত্র সরবরাহ/গ্রহণ করা হবে না, (ঙ) কোনো কারণবশতঃ অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও নিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে, (চ) দরপত্র জামানত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার পুলিশ সুপার, ঢাকা রেলওয়ে জেলা বরাবরে করতে হবে ও (ছ) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোনো দরপত্র আংশিক কিংবা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ অথবা যেকোনো বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
২০.	মালামাল সরবরাহ সংক্রান্তে বর্ণনা	(ক) নমুনা মোতাবেক মসুর ডাল ও গম পেয়াইপূর্বক সাদা আটা (চাহিত সাইজের) স্বজ পলিপ্যাকে সরবরাহ করতে হবে। (পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্সের নির্দেশনা স্মারক নং-৪৪-২০১৩/৮-৩২(১৫০), তারিখঃ ০১/০৭/২০২১খ্রিঃ) (খ) ভোজ্য তেল (বিস্তৃত সাইজের ক্যানসহ), জ্বালানী কাঠ সরবরাহ, নির্ধারিত চিনিকল হতে

‘Harassment of artistes not acceptable’

TV, film shootings stopped amidst looming uncertainty

“A culture of fear looms over us,” said Ekushey Padak-winning actor Ramendu Majumdar. “Many have accused us of remaining silent during the student movement.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The mass uprising in July and the subsequent ousting of the former ruling party have brought the entertainment industry to a standstill. Artistes, many of whom were accustomed to working 30 days a month, are now eagerly waiting to resume their industrious lives. Some argue that fear and the lack of a secure cultural environment are preventing them from returning to work.

“A culture of fear looms over us,” said Ekushey Padak-winning actor Ramendu Majumdar. “Many have accused us of remaining silent during the student movement. However, I can say that in numerous television interviews, I expressed solidarity with the students’ demands, urging the former government to heed them. Unfortunately, they did not listen to us.”

The veteran actor continued, “During the war in 1971, poet Shamsur Rahman retreated to his ancestral village, where he wrote *Shadhinota Tumi*, which I consider the finest poem on our independence. While many literary figures sought refuge in India, he remained in the country without blaming those who chose to leave. Now, however, there is a clear divide among artistes. The attitude of some is putting others at risk.”

Majumdar also noted that many cultural figures are facing harassment. “Cases are



PHOTOS: STAR



Aruna Biswas

being filed over incidents from a decade ago that have nothing to do with artistes. Media personalities are being extensively questioned when trying to travel abroad. Overall, a safe environment for filming has yet to be established.”

Another Ekushey Padak awardee, theatre personality Mamunur Rashid, believes that artistes should not be politicised. “Every time a new government comes to power, certain artistes are banned. Many face legal harassment and even exile. I hope the current government will alleviate this to some extent,” he said.

Tariq Anam Khan asserted that every artiste

has the right to support a political party, but with a caveat. “If a media personality wishes to enter politics, they should leave their ‘artiste’ identity behind,” said the National Award-winning actor. “Only a few artistes were fully affiliated with the ruling party, so why should all of us be blamed? Why should artistes feel endangered in a free country?”

Aruna Biswas told The Daily Star that she has also faced harassment recently. “I won’t deny that some artistes have become too entangled with the government over the past 15 years, tarnishing their image. However, what’s happening now is unacceptable. I was born into a renowned cultural family that firmly believes in the spirit of our independence and Liberation War—is that a crime now? Artistes are national treasures; they do not belong to any political party. I demand security for all artistes.”

Actors’ Equity President Ahsan Habib Nasim highlighted the growing tendency to blame other artistes in the industry for “keeping quiet” during the student movement. “What good will this finger-pointing do? Artistes are not criminals, and they should not be treated as such. Moreover, there have been cases against three actors, which we do not condone at all. Remember, thousands of people, including lighting technicians, makeup artistes, and crew members, depend on daily shootings for their livelihoods. To prevent further disruption, we must ensure a safe environment for cultural personalities to continue their work.”

‘Toofan’ to release on both Chorki and Hoichoi



The Shakh Khan starrer film *Toofan* made a strong impact in theatres during Eid-ul-Azha and received a huge response internationally, releasing in nearly 20 countries. After breaking records, the film is set to debut on OTT platforms soon.

Raihan Rafi’s film will finally be released on two OTT platforms simultaneously, as announced on his Facebook page by the director himself.

“The biggest sensation of the year #Toofan is gearing up for its grand OTT debut. Coming soon to both Chorki and Hoichoi for the very first time—stay tuned for the date announcement,” the director wrote.

An update on the release date is expected soon.

AdFilm Association announces indefinite strike over industry issues



The Bangladesh Association of AdFilm and Content Producers (BAACP) has launched an indefinite strike, starting last Sunday, to address unresolved issues with advertising agencies and clients. Despite ongoing negotiations, key demands remain unmet, which BAACP outlined on social media.

The producers are demanding immediate payment of outstanding dues and have expressed frustration over inconsistent work orders which often result in production delays and last-minute rushes that place undue strain on resources.

The Advertising & Filmmakers Association (ADFA), the Bangladesh Alliance of Cinematographers (BAC), the Post Productions Association of Bangladesh (PAB), and the Art Directors & Costume Designers Association of Bangladesh have all united in solidarity with BAACP.

NEWS

Floods leave thousands homeless

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relative’s house.

Jamsed Ali, also a resident of Mierpara area, said, “My vegetable garden, which was my sole income source, has been washed away. Now, how will my family survive?”

Around 8,786 houses have been damaged by the recent flood in the district, according to Moulvibazar District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Mohammad Sadu Mia.

“We have already sent a letter to higher authorities concerned seeking allocation to rehabilitate the flood victims,” he said.

Cumilla has been similarly devastated by the floods.

“My house and all the furniture in it

have been washed away. But I don’t have the money to repair it,” said MA Azim, a resident of Mohismara village under Burichang upazila.

He said he and his family took shelter at one of their relatives.

Burichang Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shahida Akter said around 40,000 houses in this upazila have been damaged.

Over seven lakh families are still marooned across the country, though flood situations are improving gradually, according to a government report yesterday.

Flooding has subsided entirely in several districts, including Chattogram, Feni, Khagrachari, Habiganj, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, and Cox’s Bazar, said the report of the Ministry of Disaster

Management and Relief.

“Meanwhile, the flood situation has improved in Moulvibazar, and the situation is gradually improving in Cumilla, Noakhali, and Lakshmipur,” it said.

“Currently, 7,05,052 families are still marooned,” added the report.

At least 59 people died and over 53 lakh people in 11 districts were affected by the flood.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, in a bulletin yesterday, said the flood situation is likely to continue to improve across the country as most of the major rivers are in a falling trend.

[Our correspondents from Moulvibazar and Cumilla also contributed to the report.]

Nafeez Sarafat manipulated stock market

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licence for RACE Management PCL in 2008. The asset management company had created quite a stir among the capital market stakeholders through various workshops at that time.

By 2013, RACE was managing 10 mutual funds.

Sarafat, who is the younger brother of sports commentator Chowdhury Jafarullah Sarafat, Shahid and Taher Imam invested the money from the fund and bought shares of the then Farmers Bank (now Padma Bank) and became directors of the bank’s board, according to the CID findings.

However, the mutual funds did not benefit from this investment in the bank.

“The combined size of the funds is about Tk 4,500 crore. The FDRs [fixed deposit receipts] are opened for a fixed period with the money of the fund, but

those were broken before their expiry in collusion with the bank officials,” according to the CID report.

As a result, investors in the fund are being deprived of profits worth taka crores.

Around Tk 650 to 700 crore of the fund was deposited in short-term deposit (STD) and special notice deposit (SND) accounts at only 3-4 percent interest.

And again, about 2-3 percent of the interest money was embezzled in collusion with bank officials, the report reads.

Although there are rules for distributing at least 75 percent of the profits received from the stock market to the investors, in most cases, RACE embezzled most of the funds by not following this rule.

Sarafat, also the chairman of the board of trustees of the Canadian

University of Bangladesh (CUB), extended the tenure of the mutual fund by 10 years in collusion with the Bangladesh Securities And Exchange Commission and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh without returning the entire money to the investors in the fund.

On December 2, 2018, RAJUK allotted a plot of 171.16 katha to CUB under the Purbachal New Town Project. The government suffered a loss of Tk 77 crore, said CID officials.

Besides owning the mutual funds, Sarafat is the chairman of Argus Credit Rating Services.

“We have already started collecting databases regarding the anomalies of Nafeez Sarafat and his family members and associates,” said Md Moniruzzaman, inspector of the CID’s financial crime unit.

Secondary edn

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announcing that the students currently in the ninth grade will return to the previous curriculum of 2012 when they advance to the 10th grade in 2025. Textbooks of the 2012 curriculum were last used in the 2023 academic year.

These students will receive revised textbooks and follow a shortened syllabus to ensure they complete their studies within one academic year, after which they will sit for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) or equivalent exams in 2026.

The notice, signed by Deputy Secretary Rohima Akhter, cited widespread feedback concerning the National Curriculum 2022 from educators, stakeholders, and researchers.

It said there are issues such as inadequate teacher preparation, unclear content, concerns over assessment methods, and significant institutional limitations. Therefore, the curriculum is not feasible for

implementation, the notice said.

In response to these challenges, the ministry has decided to keep the current textbooks for classes six to nine throughout 2024. New textbooks, revised and updated as far as possible, will be introduced in 2025.

Additionally, students of grades six to nine will be evaluated under a revised assessment method for the remainder of 2024 and during the annual exams.

Their six subject-based assessments, which could not be completed due to the mass uprising and closure, will not resume.

Instead, the 2024 annual exams will follow a revised assessment framework, which will be distributed among the schools soon, the notice said.

Students advancing to the ninth grade in 2025 will study under the revised 2012 curriculum, using stream-based and cluster-based formats. They will complete their syllabus in two academic years and participate in the

SSC or equivalent exams in 2027.

For the primary level, the ministry decided to revise and print fourth and fifth-grade textbooks, aligning them with earlier grades. Teaching methods and assessments will be updated, with a focus on exams, similar to the National Curriculum 2012.

The education ministry said that the revised curriculum would be finalised in 2025, incorporating input from educationists, curriculum experts, and other stakeholders. A fully updated curriculum will be implemented from 2026 onward.

The existing new curriculum, launched in 2023 in classes one, six, and seven, expanded to classes two, three, eight, and nine this year. Initially, it was planned to be introduced in all classes by next year. The curriculum brought major changes, including a revised assessment system and the elimination of stream-based education at the secondary level.

Dhaka may review MoUs

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the ouster of the Awami League government.

On August 5, Hasina fled to India and has been there since then.

Asked about the projects, the foreign affairs adviser said it is normal that after any revolution, there is some level of chaos, and that’s what has happened in the country.

“There were problems with law and order and there is no question about it.

However, we have been able to bring it under control.

“As everything is getting normal, the Indian contractors will also feel that and resume work,” he said, adding, “The ongoing projects have to be completed.”

He said the government will seek extradition of Hasina from India if the legal procedures require it as there have been numerous cases filed against her, including those of killing people.

“If the court asks us to bring her

back, we will try to act accordingly ... it is up to India if it extradites her. They are supposed to do it, but there is a legal process. I don’t know how it can happen.”

The interim government has cancelled red passports of former ministers and lawmakers.

Asked about the status of Hasina in India, Touhid said he had no idea about it. “You rather ask the Indian authorities.”

Liton, Miraz turn the tide on Day 3

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bundled out for their lowest ever total in Tests—43 against the West Indies.

Liton and Miraz first saved the side from that embarrassment and took the team to lunch on 75-6.

Post-lunch, Liton and Miraz, looking unperturbed by the Pakistan bowlers, gradually turned the tide as they avoided the follow-on, completed their

respective fifties and brought the deficit below 100.

When the stand ended with Miraz chopping the ball back to Shahzad, they had already made history by becoming the only pair to put up a stand worth 150 runs or more after the team lost six wickets below 50.

Liton batted for almost another 25 overs, completed his fourth Test ton and

ended Pakistan’s hopes of a sizable lead, before getting caught off Salman Agha, who dismissed Nahid Rana (0) two balls later to end Bangladesh’s innings.

The Tigers could bowl only 3.4 overs during which Hasan dismissed Abdullah Shahique (three) and night-watchman Khurram Shahzad (0), leaving the visitors happier of the two sides at the close of day’s play.

Students need to practice restraint

Forced resignation of teachers must stop

We are concerned about the way mobs of students are forcing teachers of various public and private educational institutions, at both tertiary and pre-tertiary levels, to resign. This daily has been able to confirm at least 150 forced resignations across the country since August 5, but said that the actual number could be much higher. In many of these cases, students harassed and assaulted teachers. There have been instances where they even went to teachers' houses demanding resignations, putting their family at risk.

These incidents, along with the voluntary quitting of several hundred teachers following students' demands, have created an unprecedented situation. This is not only disrupting classroom activities but there is the possibility of a breakdown of academic discipline as well, as highlighted by the Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud last week. As a result, administrative activities including disbursement of salaries at educational institutions are getting disrupted. Moreover, this trend is deteriorating trust in teacher-student relations which forms the basis of our current institution-based educational system. While it is understandable that politicisation of teachers and our educational institutions has given rise to this breach of trust as well as frustration among students, the forced removal represents a remedy that may hurt more than it heals in the long run. It also cannot correct years of systemic wrongdoing.

Since August 5, over 40 out of 56 public universities in the country lost their vice-chancellors and other top administrative officials due to forced or voluntary resignation following students' demands. While the interim government has recently appointed a new VC for Dhaka University, other public universities are still without academic heads. Finding qualified persons to fill up these positions on such short notice has already proven to be a challenge. The forced removal of college-school principals and subject teachers, many of them from BCS education cadre, will only exacerbate the situation. Besides, there is the risk of these precedents to be intentionally used to cause disruptions. Unqualified persons may also end up in important positions as a result.

Under the circumstances, we appreciate the statements given by the education adviser and some coordinators of the anti-discrimination student movement calling on students to refrain from these disruptive behaviours, and assuring them that lawful actions would be taken against accused teachers if complaints by students are found to be valid. We must all understand that any desired reform in the education sector will not happen overnight. This sector has long suffered from teacher shortages, ineffective and politicised recruitment processes, etc. These issues as well as the pandemic, frequent natural disasters and political upheavals have pushed back the academic progress of our students.

Therefore, we cannot let impatience and pent-up frustration worsen the crisis by creating an artificial teacher vacuum or further compromising teachers' recruitment processes. We hope that students will practice restraint and allow the time and space needed for the implementation of their demands in an orderly fashion.

Take steps to check waterborne diseases

Spread of diarrhoea in flood-hit areas demands a better response

We are worried about the outbreak of waterborne diseases, particularly diarrhoea, in the flood-hit communities. The situation is said to be especially alarming in the worst-hit areas like Feni, Noakhali, and surrounding districts, where floodwaters are receding much slower than expected, thus increasing the risks of diseases. Although the authorities have correctly identified the crisis of safe drinking water as a key problem, measures taken so far are proving to be inadequate. This underscores the need for further expanding ongoing efforts to both address the crisis of safe water and treat diseases emanating from the lack thereof.

A major challenge at the moment is the struggle of hospitals and health complexes that remain ill-equipped to handle the influx of patients. For example, Feni's Sonagazi Upazila Health Complex has 50 beds but is having to treat nearly double its capacity, with patients reported to be lying on the floors, staircases, and balconies. The Chhagalnaiya Upazila Health Complex, which has the same number of beds, had 126 patients on Saturday. The Feni General Hospital's diarrhoea ward, which has 18 beds, was accommodating eight times its capacity. Similarly, at the Noakhali General Hospital, a diarrhoea ward meant for 16 patients was treating 280. The two districts together contributed at least 32 in the overall flood death toll of 59.

The overflowing of patients has been ascribed to the submersion of tubewells during the flood—which contaminated the water source and caused waterborne diseases to spread—but also to the flooding of many community clinics, upazila health complexes, and even district hospitals, which multiplied the pressure on the remaining facilities. The result is that thousands have been left without access to basic medical care at a time when it was most needed. The government has tried to respond to the crisis by deploying 619 medical teams across the 11 flood-hit districts. But considering the scale of the disaster, there is clearly a need to increase the number of such teams, and ensure that they reach remote and worst-hit areas, as patients cannot be expected to travel long distances because of the communication disruptions caused by the flood.

Going forward, the government also must restore and strengthen the health infrastructure in affected regions. Reopening all community clinics, which are often the only source of healthcare for rural populations, is particularly important, as is ensuring the availability of safe water. The current crisis has once again laid bare the pitfalls of our disaster management systems. Bangladesh is no stranger to such calamities, yet the recurring issues of overwhelmed health facilities and lack of clean water after any major flood suggest that much needs to be improved. It is crucial to invest in building a more resilient health system that can respond effectively to such emergencies.

Statistics given by Hasina regime need urgent correction



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KALLOL MUSTAFA

In his recent research paper titled “How Much Should We Trust the Dictator’s GDP Growth Estimates?”, Dr Luis R Martinez exposed the extent to which autocratic governments exaggerate economic growth. He studied the overstatement of GDP growth in autocratic regimes by comparing the self-reported GDP figures to the night-time lights (NTL) recorded by satellites from outer space. He found that autocracies overstate their yearly GDP growth by approximately 35 percent.

Modern autocrats tend to depend on their so-called economic accomplishments as a way to legitimise their hold on power. Martinez argued that, although the incentive to overstate economic performance is shared by governments of all kinds, manipulation of official statistics can easily be done in autocratic regimes due to the absence of institutional checks and balances. This is exactly what happened during the long authoritarian rule of recently ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Many statistics like GDP growth, inflation rate, population, per capita income, agricultural production and consumption, export earnings, foreign exchange reserves, etc. were falsified at various times during the 15-plus years of Sheikh Hasina’s regime. The credibility of the GDP growth calculation shown every year was questioned by many economists and local and international organisations. Export and remittance growth did not correlate with GDP growth; private investment did not correlate with the growth shown in the industrial sector. During the Covid pandemic, the blatant manipulation of GDP was exposed. Even though the transport sector, hotel-restaurants and small industries suffered due to the pandemic, the data presented by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) showed significant growth in these sectors.

For example, from July 2020 to June 2021, BBS showed a value addition of about Tk 24,000 crore or more than 10 percent despite various restrictions on public transport throughout the year. After reviewing the data of the first nine months of FY2020-21, BBS gave a provisional estimate of 5.43 percent GDP growth. In the next three months, due to Covid, the economic activity was sluggish, but the final data showed a GDP growth rate of 6.94 percent, which raised the question about its credibility.

BBS inflation statistics also did not match the reality. Even when

the prices of all things were high in the international market and people were suffering from increased prices of essentials in the domestic market, BBS showed a decrease in inflation. According to the bureau, in January 2022, food inflation rates for urban and rural areas were 4.85 percent and 5.94 percent, respectively. However, according to the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), in January 2022, food inflation in urban and rural areas stood at 11.36 percent and 11.21 percent, respectively—double the rates claimed by BBS.

That these data manipulations were done systematically is evident



VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

from a recent investigative report by Bonik Barta. According to the report, former Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal was the mastermind behind these fabricated statistics. Under his leadership, an influential syndicate of five to six people within the BBS used to manipulate critical data, including GDP growth and inflation rates. They used to exaggerate the statistics on growth and industrial output. About the calculation of GDP, a former secretary of the statistics department said, “GDP growth rate is decided first. Later, the accounts are reconciled by ‘back calculation.’”

To manipulate the Consumer Price Index (CPI), various non-essential items like wardrobes, laptops, and

According to a report by *The Daily Star*, there are huge discrepancies in the data of revenue collection and expenditure among government agencies. For example, during the July-April period of FY2023-24, the gap in revenue collection figures between the finance ministry and National Board of Revenue (NBR) stood at around Tk 11,451 crore, while the difference between the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) and the finance ministry in terms of ADP spending stood at Tk 41,136 crore in the first 10 months of FY23.

The Hasina government also falsified food production figures. It used to claim that Bangladesh is self-sufficient in food. However, according to the food

One of the reasons why the country’s economy fell into a big crisis during the previous regime is the manipulation of statistics like GDP growth, agricultural production, inflation, unemployment, import, export, revenue income, etc. In order to solve this crisis, all such statistics must be corrected immediately, otherwise the decisions made by the interim government will be wrong. The incumbent government should establish an independent data commission and audit all the existing statistics on a priority basis. Moreover, the data collection and evaluation system should be reformed in such a way that it is not possible to falsify statistics for political purposes in the future.

The troubling behaviour of our lawyers

Osman Goni
is advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

OSMAN GONI

In recent times, we have witnessed alarming incidents where leaders of the previous government were attacked on court premises. Disturbingly, these attacks were often carried out by lawyers. For instance, in the cases of former Law Minister Anisul Huq and former Adviser to PM Salman F Rahman, news reports indicate that lawyers present in the courtroom prevented their legal representatives from defending them. This troubling trend of lawyers engaging in physical altercations both inside and outside the courtroom is becoming increasingly common.

Despite some public and media outcry, this behaviour is not new in Bangladesh. Lawyers have exhibited such transgressions for a long time, raising serious questions as to whether they are fit to practise law. Fundamentally, lawyers are officers of the court, with their primary loyalty to the court, followed by their clients and personal beliefs. They are meant to assist in the administration of justice. The right to legal representation is a fundamental human right, enshrined in Article 31 of our constitution, which guarantees a fair trial. Section 340 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure (CrPC) also ensures that every defendant can be represented by counsel in criminal proceedings. Moreover, it is a basic principle that no one should be physically harmed, a fact that should be self-evident to any lawyer.

Representing an accused does not imply that the accused will be declared innocent or that charges will be dropped. Lawyers are tasked with ensuring that their clients receive justice, and if convicted, that the conviction is justified and the punishment appropriate. Therefore, there should be no objection to any accused being represented by a lawyer, regardless of the alleged crime.

However, some lawyers believe that certain accused individuals should not be represented in court. In some bar associations, official decisions dictate that if the plaintiff or complainant is a lawyer from that bar, no other lawyer will represent the accused. Similar but unofficial rules exist in other such associations. In some instances, bar association leaders have decided that no lawyer will represent a specific person, and when any lawyer attempts to do so, they are harassed by their peers in court.

The situation has escalated to the point where physical attacks on accused individuals in court premises have become more frequent. For example, former Justice AHM

Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik was reportedly attacked so severely that he required surgery. Such actions, carried out in front of cameras, are serious offences. Yet, the perpetrators seem to believe they will face no consequences and that this behaviour is normal. Following some disruptive incidents during the hearings of Hasanul Haq Inu and Rashed Khan Menon, a senior lawyer remarked that he had not witnessed such unprecedented behaviour in his 33 years of practice. While his statement may contain some exaggeration, it underscores the severity of the issue.

Such practices persist due to a lack of accountability. To my knowledge, no lawyer has been punished for such actions. The Bangladesh Bar Council, which is the regulatory body, has not taken action against these decisions or the activities of individual lawyers. The leaders of the bar council and bar associations have not condemned these actions either.

Bar association leaders are elected and often invest heavily in their campaigns. Once elected, they seek to recoup their investments by handling numerous bail hearings and other cases, leveraging their official positions. There is little transparency in their decision-making processes. For example, the allocation of rooms in the bar association building is often based on lobbying and party

affiliation. The Supreme Court Bar Association, the top bar in Bangladesh, is no different. These leaders primarily serve their political parties and remain silent on serious violations of the rule of law, such as extrajudicial killings. Unlike in some other countries, our bar associations do not engage with other stakeholders to discuss justice administration or suggest statutory amendments.

The actions of these lawyers and their leaders indicate a fundamental disregard for the judicial process. Hence, the question arises: should these lawyers be allowed to practise law at all? By failing to address such behaviour, we are implicitly encouraging it.

Lawyers play a crucial role in society, and public perception of the justice system is closely linked to their conduct. If the general public sees lawyers violating the law, it will erode faith in the judicial process, which is detrimental to the country.

In the new Bangladesh, such behaviour should not be tolerated. Perpetrators must be punished, and the bar council should take action to suspend these lawyers. The Supreme Court can issue suo moto rules for their punishment. The Attorney General's Office and the law ministry should condemn these activities, and political parties should expel these lawyers from their ranks.

An unequal city



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KAZIKHALED ASHRAF

The uprising was quick. Starting from a rather simple demand by students, it turned to a larger movement in which people beyond universities, including workers and common people, joined the fray. In a month, it acquired a political and social cry about justice and fairness, and an opposition to the authoritarian establishment. In ensuing riots, students and the police faced off each other in violent confrontations on the streets of the city. One particularly violent night, 600 people were wounded and 422 detained. Tainted by accusations of heavy-handed treatment of the protests, the head of the government left the country.

The above scenario—perhaps too near and familiar at this time—describes the famous May uprising of Paris in 1968. *The New York Times*, in a 2018 feature on the Paris events, described it as a month of revolution that propelled students to confront capitalism, war and authority. It also pushed France into the modern world. Soon, France returned to being normal, and the indomitable leader who had left, Charles de Gaulle, was removed in a year. “Today it is hard to imagine,” the *Times* writes, “a Western country completely engulfed by a social upheaval, but that is what happened in May 1968 in France.” The youth rage that roiled Paris in 1968 was worldwide, from anti-Vietnam war protests in the US to the anti-dictator movement in then Pakistan (that eventually ousted Ayub Khan).

Revolutions have evolutions. While the confrontational part dwindled, the Paris uprising engaged major French thinkers like Jean-Paul Sartre, Michel de Certeau,

spectacularity, in which the lived life (the “real” life), he argued, has become a prisoner of representations and images. Student protesters used extracts from Debord’s writings as slogans and inspiration during the movement. Perhaps the most powerful thinking emerged from the sociologist Henre Lefebvre, whose tracts, translated as “Right to the City” and “Urban Revolution,” had a huge impact on thinking about spatial occupation in the city.

Revolutions have evolutions. The movement that ousted the Sheikh Hasina government found its clarity, not before or during, but in the aftermath: what began as a demand for equity in government job quotas has now become generally accepted as a call for social and institutional reforms. It is, and will remain, a work in progress.

At this juncture, some friends and colleagues have asked me to write on the state of architecture and the city. I was not convinced that this is a proper time to write about such a topic when the new government is busy tackling more critical issues around beleaguered normalcy, security and economy. And yet, I thought, if an outrage over disparity is the key theme of the movement, it’s not far-fetched to see it in a glaring display in the spaces of the city.

In Lefebvre’s rethinking of the city, it is a site for social justice, or lack of it. In his now famous tract “Right to the City,” Lefebvre describes how the threads of the neoliberal-commercial state set-up dictates and controls the uses and values of the spaces of the city. The end result is an increasing disenfranchisement



The streetscape of Dhaka as an installation at the 2019 Seoul Biennale. Conceived by Salahuddin Ahmed, organised by Bengal Institute.

flagrantly missing is housing, that is, shelter for people. It is very clear that we have done poorly in providing basic shelter to a large swath of people who actually need it. It is shocking that in a megapolis like Dhaka, there is no example of public, social or affordable housing whether through state or private initiatives.

Housing is poorly defined in our conversations. There is little discourse on the idea that housing is a social enterprise that works beyond provision of shelters. The goal of housing—creating social relations and a quality of life—works across all economic classes, and that the city and the state have an obligation to pursue that. It is no wonder that a vast population of Dhaka are generally disgruntled with where they are.

Oftentimes, what is touted as housing in Dhaka are apartment buildings on individual plots for the middle and upper middle classes—primarily ventures in real-estate speculation and profit-making. While such enterprises have been broadly sponsored by the state, through land preparedness, constructing infrastructure and utilities, and providing banking support, the lower- and limited-income groups have been completely ignored.

And on top of that, the wanton ravaging of precious lands in Dhaka have been conducted in the name of such profiteering enterprise. Entire ecologically precious zones have been pillaged to plan “residential areas.”

How people move in the city is another barometer of fairness. In the transport sector, the free movement of singular, individual vehicles has always been privileged. Flyovers and elevated roads were the priority in allocating

walk on roads rather than on footpaths!

While the images of rowdiness inside the Parliament Building in the afternoon of August 5 was a depressing sight, the assembly of thousands of people reclaiming the South Plaza for the purpose Louis Kahn intended—as a public space—was heartening. We have lamented how the public realm in the city is decreasing, even those assigned through intent and design. The lack of public spaces is

In Lefebvre’s rethinking of the city, it is a site for social justice, or lack of it. In his now famous tract ‘Right to the City,’ Lefebvre describes how the threads of the neoliberal-commercial state set-up dictates and controls the uses and values of the spaces of the city. The end result is an increasing disenfranchisement of the citizens. In the context of Dhaka, such a condition would mean how the spaces of the city, most particularly public and semi-public spaces, have been co-opted into commercial, exclusive or privatised enterprises.

Guy Debord, Henre Lefebvre, and many others. Their work, then and after, became an intellectual guide for rethinking critical aspects of society in which the city was a key theme. De Certeau famously wrote about the “everyday” which was, until then, hardly the focus of an intellectual inquiry. Going beyond spectacles of popular culture or hegemonic constructs by political regimes, he brought focus to how individuals navigate the everyday, from life in the street to life mediated by the state.

Debord’s book *Society of the Spectacle*, published a year before the rebellion, was a damning critique of consumerist capitalism and mass production, and its techniques of

of the citizens. In the context of Dhaka, such a condition would mean how the spaces of the city, most particularly public and semi-public spaces, have been co-opted into commercial, exclusive or privatised enterprises. The outcome is the shrinkage of the public realm and alienation of citizens from their own spaces, an increasing marginalisation of the marginals, and the surrender of the state to a unilateral monetisation of land.

A counter-trope to that unilateralism, Lefebvre’s Right to the City included the right to inhabit the city, and the right to participate in the making of the city. American sociologist Edward Soja’s notion of “spatial justice” is appropriate here, which is “the fair and

resources, while mass transit systems lagged behind. When it came, it was late. There should be more and vigorous resources for MRTs and other mass transit systems, such as BRTs, light rail, etc, over road infrastructure.

A city like Dhaka cannot remain hostage to a primitive bus system managed in a helter-skelter manner. Dhaka needs a master plan for bus routes with quality vehicles. There should be other smaller modules of mass transit, such as organised smaller vehicles serving secondary or neighbourhood roads and connecting to MRT/BRT stations. With Dhaka’s natural waterways, as we have decried for a long time, why can we not have a robust water-based transportation?

With the MRT’s arrival, there should be a walkability master plan for the city. How else will people avail the transit system? Consider the pedestrian aspect of the footpath: the domain of poor pedestrians, who constitute more than 40 percent of the people on the move in the city. In that case, we should have proper, wider and more decent footpaths, but no! Footpaths are chipped off to make wider roads, and whatever remains as a footpath is often a farce in walkability. No wonder people

the third issue of spatial justice in Dhaka.

In a city of around 22 million, there are few designated public spaces; there are no charters for safeguarding them as we have for a forest preserve, for example. Ambiguity prevails in giving definitions to public spaces: we know that Shahbag Chattar is not a *chattar* at all—it is a road intersection. Construction of new parks all over Dhaka has only yielded fenced-off areas. Parks, fields, lakesides, and canals have been appropriated and privatised. Riverbanks, which are natural ecological assets as well as a natural public realm, have been increasingly occupied by a state-private nexus.

Spatial equity, in this context, would mean the reclamation of riverbanks and all such public spaces, and their release to an occupation by the people. It would also mean a cataloguing of all public spaces in the city—fields, sidewalks, grounds, greens, ponds, leftover spaces, under-the-highway spaces—and creating a strict protocol for their preservation, and at the same time discovering new spaces and applying appropriate design to uplift them for access and use by all.

Revolutions have evolutions. Let us hope that they are for a public good.

The key changes needed in the education sector



EDUCATING EDUCATION
Dr Rubaiya Murshed
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at the Department of Economics in the
University of Dhaka.

RUBAIYA MURSHED

We are living in a new Bangladesh where ideas really are bulletproof, thanks to the sacrifices—of lives, of sight, of comfort—made by countless students and general people in the July uprising, and to the sacrifices by the likes of Abrar Fahad and many others before that were made dreaming of such a revolution. In respect of their bravery and sacrifice, the rest of us must become louder in voicing ideas important for a discrimination-free, fair and passionate Bangladesh. In tribute to them, I will do what I have been trained to do, and outline what I think are the top priorities for our education sector in this rejuvenated and reform-promised Bangladesh.

Equity in primary education

If we imagine our education system as a pyramid, the wide base at the bottom would be the primary education level. The base needs to be strong, meaning that primary education should yield the required level of learning outcomes at each grade. Keeping in mind that different children face different realities and that privilege plays a strong role, the focus should be on providing quality primary education all across schools, madrasas, villages, and cities.

Equitable quality primary education would mean enabling students to read and write at the right level, regardless of their socioeconomic background. A decentralised



FILE VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

equitable widespread distribution of resources is key in this case. Also, we must invest in research on primary education to find out what works in improving learning outcomes at the primary level. Raising the bar of primary education will, in turn, pull up the quality of secondary education as well.

Investment in educational research

If we want a reliable education system, there is no alternative to research-driven and

they believe in—the lack of a system and the absence of institutionalisation allows room for this person-focused autonomy. No matter how knowledgeable a person may be, no national-level reform should be without a process.

Streamlined purpose of a university education

Contingent on being able to achieve equity in the primary-level learning outcomes, we may

consider encouraging students to choose either the academic route or the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)/diploma route from the college level. The choice of a route may depend on the students’ academic performance, personal ambition, or a combination of both. For this system to be implementable, we need to first strengthen primary education so that academic performance or ambition is not biased by privilege. Otherwise, we will end up with a faulty system where an underprivileged child, despite being academically talented, is forced to pursue the TVET or diploma route.

This is linked to a similar choice being offered at the university level. Those seeking a career in academia may choose the degree path, while others seeking different careers than academia, e.g., a civil service job, would pursue the diploma route.

Michael Spence’s job market signalling model tells a story of how degrees have become signals for employers, so much so that large numbers of students enrol in universities for merely that: the degree. Consequently, students pursue a university degree to find jobs when in reality, perhaps a college graduate degree could have been adequate for most jobs.

Ideally, university—the academic route—shouldn’t be for the masses. If we consider the purpose of the degree route to be the creation of a body of academics who will produce and reproduce knowledge, mass participation in university education defeats this purpose. Consider then, for example, that someone doesn’t want to go into academia, but just wants to acquire the skills needed for a job with a decent salary. This is where we need the industry and job market to realign their intake criteria. It is time for them, across the board, to re-evaluate what they want in their workers.

Ideas inspired by collective experiences

Steps should be taken to include social and charity work into the curriculum. For example, a requirement of passing a grade could be that a student has to serve their community—plant trees, serve at an orphanage, control traffic, clean public places, etc. Additionally, a restructuring of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) recruitment process should be implemented to rethink how we measure merit in this country. Committees involved in scholarship (Commonwealth, for example) granting processes controlled by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other such bodies should be rebuilt because there are strong grounds for questioning the presence of some of the members who have sat on these selection boards for years.

Finally, creating political awareness should be prioritised through education among eligible and future voters across rural and urban Bangladesh through extensive campaigning. This political awareness is crucial if we are to change the norms and narratives around whom we elect as our leaders, which is an important responsibility and can no longer be hereditary or bought with promises, favours or gifts. We need to actively nudge voting behaviour towards realistic manifestos, candidates’ potential to implement plans, and their dedication and passion towards reforms in health, quality of life, and education. The new norm should be people before profit, not the other way around.

But all these ideas first need to be vetted through rigorous research and contextualised, decolonised analysis. The very first thing needed is to bring together a team of educational researchers—those with a track record of extensive research and training in the field—to brainstorm the future of education in Bangladesh.

From back foot to seizing opportunity

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh turned a nightmare start to the third day into one that could weave a new dream in their second Test against Pakistan yesterday, and Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz were the architects of a comeback story for the ages.

The pace duo of Mir Hamza and Khurram Shahzad had breathed life into the hosts' chances of squaring the series -- with the opening day's play getting washed out -- as Bangladesh's top order crumbled in quick succession. The visitors were 26 for six, in reply to Pakistan's 274, and the new ball had kept talking.

In that situation, the innings could have folded in a few overs. Liton, who scored a magnificent 138 -- his fourth Test century -- demonstrated the shrewdness of his game during two immense partnerships: first with Miraz, crucially avoiding follow-on (125 runs) during a massive 165-run stand, and then with an unlikely Hasan Mahmud.

Heavily criticised for his approach this year, particularly for his dismissal



After scoring a watchful 51-ball 13 not out, Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud also took two quick wickets to reduce Pakistan to nine for two in their second innings on Day 3 of the second Test in Rawalpindi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

while dancing down the track in his first delivery against Sri Lanka recently, Liton saw the situation as an opportunity.

"Obviously, I was a bit nervous at

that time. I never thought I would have to bat before drinks. When Miraz and I batted, we discussed that they had the momentum, so we needed to take our time. It was an opportunity

for me and Miraz as well, and I took it positively," Liton said at the post-day press conference.

For Liton, the mark of a big player is in seizing such opportunities when the team is at a disadvantage.

"I knew that we were on the back foot, but there was an opportunity, and if you are a big player, you have to cash in," he added.

But the key for Liton was controlling Pakistan's momentum. Liton was content to play second fiddle for a while and did so through an injury after being hit on the hands and cramps induced by the Rawalpindi temperatures.

Crucially, the partnership with Hasan lasted about two hours, adding 69 valuable runs after Miraz had departed, and the two wickets from Hasan at the end of the day made it the day.



'Exciting' Rishad on Shakib's BBL route

STAR SPORTS DESK



Rishad Hossain is set to become only the second Bangladesh player after Shakib Al Hasan to feature in the Big Bash League (BBL), as the leg-spinner has been signed by the Hobart Hurricanes for the upcoming season.

Rishad, who rose to prominence with his outstanding performance in

this year's T20 World Cup, taking 14 wickets, was one of 10 Bangladesh cricketers -- nine men and one woman -- who entered the draft, which took place yesterday.

Following in the footsteps of Shakib -- who played for Adelaide Strikers in 2014 and Melbourne Renegades the following year -- the 22-year-old will ply his trade for a team who are yet to win the BBL title, despite reaching the final twice.

The Hurricanes announced the signing on their official social media channels, stating, "A Bangladeshi Tiger has joined the Hurricanes! Welcome to Rishad Hossain, an exciting young leg spinner who will take BBL14 by storm!"

The 14th edition of the Australian franchise T20 tournament is scheduled to run from 15 December this year to 27 January next year.

Rishad has played 24 T20Is and several Bangladesh Premier League matches, having featured for the Comilla Victorians last season. Earlier this year, he was signed by the Toronto Nationals for the Global T20 Canada, but visa complications due to the unrest in the country during July-August prevented him from participating in Toronto's winning campaign.

NCL to begin on October 15

SPORTS REPORTER

The 26th edition of the National Cricket League (NCL) is set to begin on October 15, the Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) tournament committee confirmed on Sunday.

BCB's tournament committee sat down with cricket operations and selectors last year in May to provide a better scheduling, and despite many changes in the board recently, NCL plans are progressing as per initial target.

"Yes, NCL is to begin from October 15. Although divisional sports associations are disbanded, the teams are coordinating with members of the to-be-formed ad-hoc committees," a BCB official said.

The Youth and Sports Ministry dissolved all executive committees of divisional, district, and upazila sports associations as well as divisional, district, and upazila women's sports associations on August 21.

"The teams will be formed by national selectors. Our deadline for announcing the 30-member team from the divisions is September 5. It will be followed by fitness tests on September 6 before skill camps start. The training camp will begin on September 12 and go on till October 2 before the teams check in to the team hotels on October 13," the BCB official added.

This time the tournament will take place in single league format, meaning each team will play each other once -- unlike the previous two-tier system. Dhaka Division are the defending champions, having secured their seventh NCL title last season.

'Miraz on course to becoming COMPLETE ALL-ROUNDER'

ABDULLA H AL MEHDI

The hard work Mehedi Hasan Miraz had put in during the last few months to improve his all-round abilities has really come to the fore in Bangladesh's ongoing Test series against Pakistan.

When the white-ball team was busy in the ICC T20 World Cup

plans. He has played 45 Tests and is just going to get better. He is on course to becoming a complete all-rounder."

Compared to his bowling, Miraz's batting talents are often downplayed. But yesterday, with Bangladesh teetering on the brink on 26-6, the 26-year-old showed his class.

His record 165-run seventh-wicket stand with Liton Das got Bangladesh into the game again after a dismal start.

In the first Test, it was his mammoth 196-run stand with Mushfiqur Rahim for the seventh wicket that helped Bangladesh attain a 100-plus lead.

The fact that Miraz's name

but the patience was always there," Sohail said on Miraz's knock.

Unfortunately, Miraz's innings came to an end on 78 but the way he absorbed the pressure, allowed Liton to settle in and hit a world-class hundred.

Just a day before, Miraz



Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz's 165-run seventh-wicket partnership is the highest stand in Test history after a team lost six wickets below 50 runs in an innings. The Bangladesh duo surpassed the 115-run seventh-wicket stand between Pakistan's Abdur Razzak and Kamran Akmal in a Test against India in 2006 in Karachi.

Miraz's 124-ball 78 is the highest-ever by a number 8 batter in Tests after coming in to bat with a team losing six wickets below 30 runs. Bangladesh had lost six for 26 in their first innings against Pakistan on Day 3 of their second Test in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Liton, who scored a 228-ball 138, became the first batter to have scored three centuries as a number 6 or 7 batter after coming in to bat with the team's score below 50 runs.

This was also Liton's first Test century in 18 innings. His last century came against Sri Lanka in 2022 in Mirpur.

Liton is also the first Bangladeshi batter to have scored two Test centuries against Pakistan. His first came in 2021 in Chattogram -- also his career's first Test ton.

in the West Indies and the USA, Miraz was sweating it out in the Bangladesh Tigers' programme under his mentor and coach Sohail Islam.

Asked what was the key to Miraz's consistent performances against Pakistan, Sohail told The Daily Star, "He is reading the situation well and he is combining technical aspects with tactical

Pakistan pacers were getting the new ball to talk, but Miraz thwarted them with a measured counterattack.

A cut through backward point off Mir Hamza showed his immaculate form even under pressure. His innings was built on the foundation of patience and sweet timing, as was showcased by a cover drive off Hamza later on.

comes up in three of the 10 highest seventh-wicket stands in Tests for Bangladesh shows that forming big partnerships lower down the order is nothing new for the all-rounder.

"He is showing a higher level of maturity. You feel that he can play a long innings. Playing well is one thing, but he is taking up responsibility in tough situations. His range of shots have increased

had been the hero with the ball with a filer and was key along with Shakib Al Hasan in dismantling Pakistan in the second innings of the first Test.

The Tigers will now hope that Miraz will work his magic on a fourth day pitch and help swing the delicately poised match in Bangladesh's favour.

Chelsea held by Palace

REUTERS, London

A second-half equaliser by Eberechi Eze gave Crystal Palace their first point of the Premier League season as they secured a 1-1 draw away to Chelsea yesterday, bouncing back from a poor start.

The home side broke the deadlock in the 25th minute after Palace defender Marc Guéhi made an ill-advised raid forward and lost the ball. Winger Noni Madueke surged down the right before picking out Cole Palmer, and his deft pass found Nicolas Jackson who scored with ease from close range.

After slumping to successive defeats in their opening games of the season against West Ham United and Brentford and starting badly at Stamford Bridge, the Eagles finally achieved lift-off after the break as Eze equalised in the 53rd minute.



Newcastle United's striker Alexander Isak secured a 2-1 win against Tottenham Hotspur with a simple tap-in as they weathered a second-half storm from the visitors to secure the points in an entertaining Premier League clash at St James' Park on Sunday.

PHOTO: NEWCASTLE UNITED

'A big opportunity to qualify for Hockey Junior WC'

SPORTS REPORTER

Keeping sights on the Men's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2025, Bangladesh U-21 national hockey team yesterday started gearing up for the upcoming Men's Junior Asia Cup, scheduled to be held in Muscat, Oman from November 11-19 at BKSP.

Bangladesh, champions of Men's Junior AHF Cup, along with four other qualifiers -- China, Oman, Chinese Taipei, and Thailand -- will feature in the 10th edition of Junior Asia Cup alongside the top five teams including India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, and Korea. The top six teams from the Junior Asia Cup will qualify for the FIH Hockey Junior World Cup.

Bangladesh, who finished sixth in the previous edition of the Junior Asia Cup in 2023, will be fancying their chances of sealing a spot in the 24-team Junior World Cup for the first time after they had defeated high-ranked China and Oman to become champions in the

Junior AHF Cup tournament held in Singapore in June.

Some 44 players including four national players -- Amirul Islam, Rokibul Hasan, Nuruzzaman, and Hozaila Hossain -- reported yesterday to newly-appointed coach Moududur Rahman Shuvo, who took over from Mohammad Ashiquezaman. The players will start their two-and-a-half month training at BKSP from today.

"As the players including 15 current students of BKSP reported today [Sunday], we will start the training tomorrow [Monday], mainly focusing on fitness training as players except the BKSP students have been out of action since the completion of Junior AHF Cup," Shuvo told The Daily Star. "We will also emphasise on tactical training as

Bangladesh have a big opportunity to qualify for the Junior World Cup."

Shuvo also informed they will gradually trim the squad down to 30 members on the basis of fitness and performance.







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BANGLADESH'S
NO.1 CEMENT BRAND

Nafeez Sarafat manipulated stock market

Finds CID's primary probe

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat, chairman of RACE Asset Management, has manipulated the stock prices of many companies for financial gain and caused losses of crores of taka to general shareholders, found a primary investigation of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

An investigation has already started and a case will be filed under the money laundering act soon, said Kusum Dewan, deputy inspector general (organised crime) of the CID.



A nexus led by Sarafat, also the former chairman of Padma Bank, his wife, Anjuman Ara Shahid, and Hasan Taher Imam, managing director of RACE, were involved in the organised financial crimes, which also include money laundering, fraud, forgery and over-invoicing.

In 2008, Sarafat and Imam took the

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Workers sort flood-damaged furniture at Fazilpur Walia Madrasa in Feni town. The recent floods inundated the classrooms on the ground floor. The water was five feet deep inside.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Floods leave thousands homeless in 11 districts

STAR REPORT

Although waters have receded from majority areas in the 11 flood-hit districts, the suffering of the affected people continues, as the disaster has left many homeless.

On top of losing their houses, people from low-income groups, particularly farmers, have also lost their livelihoods after the deluge ravaged vast tracts of croplands and a great number of ponds.

"Floodwaters swept away my mud house. It's all I had in this world. Now, I have no place to live," said a devastated Nurun Begum, 65, of Mierpara village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

"I've had to taken shelter on the front porch of one of my neighbour's house," she explained in a helpless voice.

Sujan Mia, an autorickshaw driver from the same village, said, "My house quickly went underwater after the embankment along the Manu river got breached on August 22. Even though the floodwater has receded, I cannot return home as my house has been damaged."

Sujan said he was staying at one of his

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Drive begins to recover illegal arms on Sept 4

Cops cannot arrest without identifying themselves: home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All firearms and ammunition issued over the last 15 years will be considered illegal if these are not submitted to police stations by tomorrow.

The government has decided to conduct a joint operation, comprising the members of armed forces, BGB, Coast Guard, police, Rab, and Ansar, across the country from September 4 to recover the illegal firearms, including those with suspended licences.

The home ministry issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

For conducting drives, Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury in a press statement yesterday said, "Law enforcers will have to identify themselves during any drive and arrest, and under no circumstances, they can make any arrest without showing their identities."

The home ministry instructed all the district magistrates to hold a core committee meeting today, comprised of superintendents of police, representatives of the armed forces, intelligence agencies, and other members, read the circular.

The meeting will review the list of suspended licences.

On August 25, the ministry suspended

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Outcry in West after deaths of Israeli hostages in Gaza

Israel PM vows 'to settle the score' with Hamas; three Israeli cops killed in West Bank

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israel yesterday announced its troops had found six dead hostages in a Gaza tunnel, as Israeli police said a "shooting attack" in the occupied West Bank killed three officers.

The deadly shooting near Hebron added to surging violence in the West Bank, which is separated from Gaza by Israeli territory and where Israel has since Wednesday carried out a large-scale military operation that has sparked international concern.

In the besieged Gaza Strip, "humanitarian pauses" in the nearly 11-month war between Israel and Hamas were set to take place to facilitate a massive polio vaccination drive which a health official told AFP had begun.

Israel's military said the remains of six hostages were recovered Saturday "from an underground tunnel in the Rafah area" in southern Gaza and formally identified in Israel. They were named as Carmel Gat, who was

taken from a kibbutz community near the Gaza border, as well as Eden Yerushalmi, Almog Sarusi, Ori Danino, US-Israeli Hersch Goldberg-Polin and Russian-Israeli Alexander Lobanov, who were seized by Palestinian militants from a music festival site.

Military spokesman Daniel Hagari said all six "were abducted alive on the morning of October 7" and "brutally murdered by Hamas terrorists shortly before we reached them".

US President Joe Biden said he was "devastated and outraged" by their deaths, but told reporters he was "still optimistic" a Gaza truce and hostage release deal can be reached.

"It's time this war ended," said Biden, whose administration has been involved in ceasefire mediation efforts along with Qatar and Egypt.

EU top diplomat Josep Borrell said he was "horrified at the murder" of the hostages, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed shock at their "senseless" killing.

- » Biden 'devastated and outraged' by hostage deaths
- » Families of hostages call for strike, demand Gaza deal
- » Gaza death toll rises to 40,738

BSEC to investigate Beximco's two bonds

CSR deal with Bashundhara will also be probed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The stock market regulator yesterday formed a five-member investigation committee to examine whether there were any irregularities in the issuance of two bonds related to Beximco and in the selection of Bashundhara Group's ABG as the strategic partner of the Chittagong Stock Exchange.

Beximco, whose vice-chairman Salman F Rahman was the private industry and investment adviser to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, raised Tk 3,000 crore from the stock market through the Beximco Green Sukuk Al Istisna.

A sukuk is a Shariah-compliant bond.

On the other hand, the little-known Sreepur Township Company raised Tk 1,000 crore through the

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Dhaka may review MoUs signed with Delhi in June

Says foreign affairs adviser; govt may seek Hasina's extradition if court asks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka may review the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) signed with New Delhi during former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in June this year.

"MoUs are not the final agreements. We can definitely review these if our interests were not protected. We will sign agreements on the issues that protect our interests," Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

During Hasina's visit to India, the two countries signed seven new MoUs that include on maritime cooperation, joint research on oceanography, rail connectivity, and on two separate shared visions of digital partnership and green partnership.

The MoUs also includes collaboration for Joint Small Satellite Project. One of the most discussed MoUs was on providing rail transit to India through Bangladesh.

"Before reaching the level of agreements, MoUs are always reviewed. So, those can definitely be reviewed," Touhid said.

He rejoined the office yesterday after a visit to Cameron where he attended a meeting of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation on August 29-30. Before that, he was in the US for a pre-scheduled private visit.

Bangladesh has been implementing some projects under the Indian Line of Credit, but the work of the projects remains suspended as the Indian contractors have gone to India amid the recent students-led movement that led to

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SC to hear Jamaat's plea for registration on Oct 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court set October 21 as the date to hear a petition filed by the Jamaat-e-Islami seeking restoration of an appeal challenging a High Court verdict that scrapped its registration with the Election Commission as a political party.

Justice Md Ashfaque Islam, chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, fixed the date after holding a hearing on the petition yesterday.

A full bench of the Appellate Division will hear the petition on October 21, according to the apex court chamber judge's order.

Earlier in the day, Jamaat's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir submitted the petition to the SC on behalf of the party's Secretary General Miah Golam Parwar seeking necessary directives.

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To pay homage, BNP leaders and activists gather at the grave of party founder and late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Chandrima Udyan on its 46th founding anniversary yesterday.

PHOTO: PRESS WING OF BNP

Discovery of bridge rewrites history of Mediterranean

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A submerged bridge made by ancient humans has been discovered in a Spanish cave, revealing human colonisation of the western Mediterranean happened much earlier than previously thought.

Archaeologists unearthed the 25-foot submerged bridge at a cave on the Spanish island of Mallorca, providing the earliest uncontested evidence of human activity in the region.

Mallorca, the sixth largest island in the Mediterranean, was among the last to be colonised by humans.

The most solid research analysing archaeological finds like charcoal, ash and bones on the island suggested a timeline of human settlement on the island beginning only about 4,400 years ago. Other studies have claimed evidence of human presence on Mallorca as far back as 9,000 years, but their findings have been debated due to several inconsistencies.

Now a cave discovered near the coast of the island was found to have passages that had flooded due to rising sea levels, with distinct calcium-rich deposits forming on it during periods of high sea level.

