



# Take urgent steps to ensure security

Business leaders urge interim govt chief amid protests, unrest in industrial areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid workers' protests in Savar and Gazipur, top business leaders yesterday urged Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus to deploy more army personnel, if needed, to ensure that factories can run smoothly.

Production at factories has been suffering since the beginning of the week due to workers' unrest.

At least 50 garment factories, mostly in Ashulia, were closed yesterday amid demonstrations, industrial police said. On Monday, nearly 100 factories, mainly garment and pharmaceutical units, remained closed on the outskirts of the capital.

During the meeting with business

leaders at the state guesthouse Jamuna, Prof Yunus said the government would support the industries.

The chief adviser told the business delegation that the interim government is committed to protecting the factories from violence and attacks, according to a statement from the chief adviser's office.

"We want to take the industries to a new level," he said.

Mahbubur Rahman, president of The International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh, led the delegation.

"Law and order situation in the industrial areas is not good. Factories are coming under arson attacks," Mahbubur told The Daily Star.

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Bangladesh players celebrate their historic 2-0 Test series victory against Pakistan at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium yesterday. The Tigers beat the hosts by six wickets yesterday after having won the first Test at the same venue by 10 wickets.

PHOTO: AFP

# EDITORS MEET PROF YUNUS Call for national unity, reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and editors of top media houses yesterday called for national unity to consolidate the reforms that will be made to strengthen institutions and put an end to the culture of vote rigging.

During a meeting with the editors, the chief adviser urged the media to publish news on the interim government's mistakes without hesitation.

The editors called for the cancellation of repressive laws like the Digital Security Act. If need be, the clauses of draconian laws, used to silence journalists, can be suspended immediately and the laws can be amended later, they said.

"At the very least, it should be announced that the clauses of these laws that are used to repress journalists will not be enforced and that the reforms will happen

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# Former IGP's Shahidul, Mamun held



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested former IGP's AKM Shahidul Hoque and Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun from Uttara area last night.

Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police chief Rezaul Karim Mallick said, "We arrested the

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# A surreal series VICTORY

AL-AMIN

It still feels surreal that Bangladesh have won their first-ever Test series against Pakistan 2-0 and that too on Pakistan soil.

The Tigers scripted the epic with a six-wicket win in the second and final Test in Rawalpindi yesterday, a week after their 10-wicket triumph in the opening Test at the same venue.

The watershed moment came when Bangladesh, set 185 for a memorable series sweep, reached the target in the fifth afternoon, with Shakib Al Hasan (21 not out) hitting the winning runs -- a boundary down the covers off leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed.

Mushfiqur Rahim, who struck a monumental 191 in the first Test, was at the other end unbeaten on 22.

If the first Test win was a statement of

perseverance from the Tigers, the second Test was a captivating story of coming back from a precipice to the pinnacle, something witnessed very rarely in the history of Test cricket.

Reduced to a hopeless 26-6 in their first innings on the third morning in reply to Pakistan's 274, Bangladesh appeared to be in a similar situation of throwing up a good initiative they had done many times before.

However, a record 165-run stand between Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz for the seventh wicket irrevocably turned the game on its head before the pace trio of Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana, and Taskin Ahmed put Bangladesh in pole position to win the game from the jaws of an embarrassing defeat.

In a rare demonstration of aggressive pace

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# A triumph spurred by belief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh beating Pakistan by six wickets in the second and last Test and clean sweeping the two-match series is an accurate description of what happened yesterday at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, but it falls woefully short of capturing the magnitude of what the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side accomplished.

Inside two weeks, Bangladesh dragged themselves out of seemingly unwinnable positions, not once but twice, in foreign conditions against an opponent whom

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Army personnel patrol the DEPZ road in Ashulia's Jamgora area yesterday to prevent any potential trouble stemming from demonstrations by factory workers. Nearly 100 factories in Ashulia and Gazipur had to suspend production on Monday amid workers' protests demanding salary hike and regularisation of contractual workers.

# BUSINESS

# Default loans surpass Tk 200,000cr

Default loans in the banking system surpassed Tk 200,000 crore, underlining the fragile condition of the sector that fell prey to rampant scams and irregularities under the tenure of the Awami League government over the past 16 years.

At the end of June, bad loans climbed to Tk 211,391 crore, which accounts for 12.56 percent of the total loans, Bangladesh Bank data shows.

This is the highest ratio of non-performing loans to total loans in the past 16 years.

STORY ON B1

# FOREIGN LOANS

# Committee on 'white paper' to look into deals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee tasked with formulating a white paper on Bangladesh's economy will review the energy sector's foreign loan agreements and other contracts, said its chair Debapriya Bhattacharya.

Bangladesh implemented some major power plants with foreign parties such as the Rooppur nuclear plant, Payra, Rampal, SSPower, Matarbari power plant and so on.

The power purchase from India's Adani Power is also under government scrutiny along with the new agreements to build two floating storage and regasification Units (FSRU) and for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) without announcing any tender process.

"We will definitely evaluate the foreign loan contracts in the energy sectors," said Bhattacharya, also a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

He made the remarks yesterday while speaking to reporters following the committee's second meeting at the General Economics Division (GED) office in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

At the meeting, the committee identified all specific sectors that would be discussed in the white paper.

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# 2 US teams set to visit Bangladesh mid-Sept

Donald Lu to lead one of those seeking to boost bilateral ties

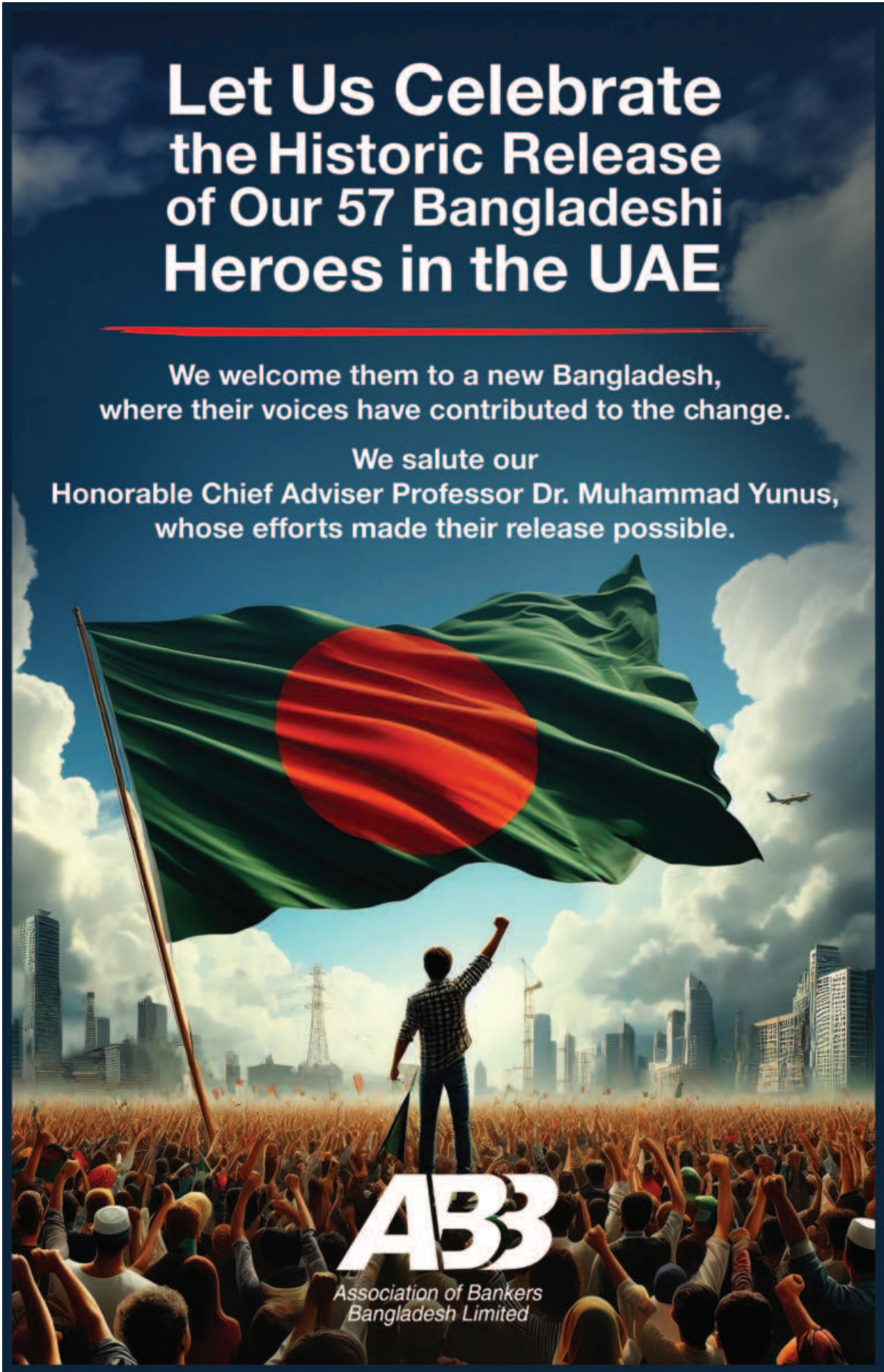
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two US delegations will be visiting Bangladesh in the middle of this month to discuss ways to further bilateral relationships in a changed political scenario.

This will mark the first such engagement from the US since the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus took office on August 8 following the ouster of the Awami League regime.

The visit is expected to reset Bangladesh's relationship with the US, which became strained

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## PADMA BOAT CAPSIZE

# Bodies of 4 missing victims recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The bodies of four victims, who went missing in Padma River after a boat capsized in Rajshahi's Paba upazila on Sunday night, have been recovered.

The deceased have been identified as Mohammad Razu, 22, Mohammad Ali, 38, Md Sabuj, 20, and Md Faruk, 19. All were residents of Char Majardiar village in Paba. They were all day labourers by profession.

Paba Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abu Saleh Mohammad Hasnat said locals recovered the bodies of Razu and Ali around 10:00pm on Monday at Khanpur village, approximately 2km off the accident site.

The remaining bodies were found at the same place early yesterday, the UNO added.

The namaz-e-janaza for the deceased were held, he said, adding that financial assistance would be provided to their families.

Shamim Hossain, a former member of Char Majhardiar union parishad, said the incident occurred around 8:00pm on Sunday when a small engine-run boat carrying 15 labourers capsized in the Padma River.

Eleven of them managed to swim to safety, but four had gone missing.

Local authorities and Rajshahi Fire Service and Civil Defence were informed immediately after the accident. However, rescue operations were delayed due to a strong current in the river.

"We couldn't reach the spot on Sunday night because of the strong current. Rescue operations began at 6:00am on Sunday but had to be suspended by 11:00am due to inclement weather conditions," said AKM Murshed, assistant director of Rajshahi Fire Service and Civil Defence.

## Take urgent steps to ensure security

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At least 27 pharmaceutical factories have been shut and vandals are attacking doctors, he said.

Bangladesh's image in the world improved when Nobel laureate Yunus took the charge of the interim government and the business community has full confidence in the administration, he said.

"But our reputation will suffer if the industries suffer in the absence of law and order. The international buyers are already scared.

"How will we deliver the orders if our factories are shut? Our safety and security has to be ensured for smooth production and delivery of goods."

At the meeting, the business representatives observed that police were yet to work like they used to.

The Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceutical Industries at a press conference yesterday requested government support to calm the situation.

At the meeting with the chief adviser, business leaders said outsiders, including some groups living abroad, instigated the vandalism.

Prof Yunus urged the industry leaders to undertake labour reforms to win more orders from global brands.

"We have a major opportunity to make vital reforms. We need to upgrade our labour laws to ILO standards," he said.

After the meeting, AK Azad, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), said pharmaceuticals, leather product makers, and even retail shops were not immune to looting.

"If our foreign buyers orders elsewhere, it will be difficult to bring the business back," said Azad.

ICCB Vice President Naser Ezaz Bijoy urged the government to be firm in ensuring law and order.

Former FBCCI president Mir Nasir Hossain said, "The readymade garment sector is bringing around 85 percent of our export earnings. This sector has been impacted over the last one month."

"We have requested the chief adviser to use his global fame to request the international community to keep faith in us," he told The Daily Star.

Joint drives, involving army personnel, should be frequent so that vested groups cannot damage the country's reputation, he added.

Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals, also attended the meeting.

In Ashulia, 86 factories in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone operated smoothly, said Anwar Parvez, executive director (public relations) of Bangladesh Exports Processing Zones Authority.

Mohammad Sarwar Alam, superintendent of police of Industrial Police-1 in Ashulia, said workers demonstrated in front of some factories in the morning but they did not block roads.



Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus talks to editors of newspapers during a meeting at the state guesthouse Jamuna yesterday. PHOTO: PRO

## 541 killed in countrywide violence in August

### Says HRSS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political revenge, attacks on police stations, and assault on minority communities were seen in August, and all these point to a society split across the fault lines, said Human Rights Support Society (HRSS) in a report released yesterday.

The minority communities, especially the Hindus and Ahmadiyyas, have been particularly harmed in the aftermath of the protests. Attacks on their homes and

religious establishments spread extensively.

This violence followed the indiscriminate killing of students and protesters in the first five days of August.

The death toll from the entire month of August is 541, said the organisation. It collated the statistics from 12 national newspapers.

After August 7, a total of 22 individuals were killed in political violence, and 537 were injured.

Out of 49 incidents of political

violence, 23 happened because of the BNP's infighting, 21 were related to clashes between the BNP and Awami League, four were incidents of AL infighting, and one was related to a clash between the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Among the 22 dead, 12 were from the BNP and 10 from the AL, said the report.

Two journalists were killed in August and 61 were injured, claimed HRSS.

Journalist Md Atikur Rahman was

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## Call for national unity, reforms

FROM PAGE 1

over time," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, emerging from the meeting at the state guesthouse Jamuna.

"We want a national unity to be established in Bangladesh. It was part of our discussion," he said.

He said the editors expressed their expectation of major reforms, like amending the constitution and strengthening the local government.

"We want reforms to the autonomous bodies, like the Anti-Corruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, and the Election Commission, to make them truly people-oriented institutions, especially the Election Commission, so that all future elections truly reflect the thoughts of the voters. We want an Anti-Corruption Commission that would work independently," Mahfuz said.

The editors emphasised that the state-run media outlets, including BTV, BSS, and Bangladesh Betar, should be made autonomous so that those can perform professionally.

According to the editors, Yunus said that he believes in independent journalism, and made a special appeal so that the media, through their work, help create a national consensus.

"I realised that he truly wants a vibrant media. He genuinely believes in press freedom. If we've ever had a media-friendly head of government, we have one now," Mahfuz said.

Editors at the meeting said all allegations against the media should be referred to the press council first.

They also urged activities regarding four proposed laws, which they believe would curb citizens' rights, be stopped.

Mahfuz mentioned that Yunus asked the editors how long the interim government should stay. Many expressed their opinions on this matter, but the main gist was that it would depend on the government's

agenda, he said.

He noted that Yunus wants the media to discuss these issues in detail and provide him with an idea of what the nation wants.

"Yunus said he does not have his own view on the tenure of his government; rather, he wants to know the people's opinion on it."

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam, at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy, said Yunus wanted to hear from the editors what would be a "reasonable" tenure of the interim government.

An editor said it should be between two and three years. Another said it should be two years. Most editors, however, said the tenure of the interim government should be determined by the time needed to carry out vital reforms, Shafiqul said.

The Editor's Council in a press release issued later said most of the editors at the meeting were members of the council. When Yunus asked about their opinions on the interim government's tenure, most did not mention any time.

Some had expressed their personal opinions, it said.

"Most of the editors present at the meeting did not say anything about the tenure of the government. They urged for quick restoration of law and order, ensuring security of the people and factories, and presenting the government's agenda or roadmap for reforms to the nation."

The chief adviser's press wing also issued a clarification stating, "During the meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus, several editors on Tuesday suggested that the tenure of the interim government could be two to three years. Most editors, however, said the tenure of the interim government should be determined by the time needed to carry out vital reforms."

During his press briefing earlier, Press Secretary Shafiqul said Yunus and the editors were in favour of

having a national unity to consolidate the reforms.

He said the editors made different suggestions, like amending or rewriting the constitution, setting up of a constitution commission, and a media commission.

Ways to make the police force effective and strong; a police commission; reforms to the Election Commission; and changes of the election commissioners were discussed.

There was also a suggestion to make the cabinet more proactive, he said.

"This is a great opportunity for Bangladesh, for all of us to repair the state and to take Bangladesh to a new level," Shafiqul quoted Yunus as saying.

Deputy Press Secretary Azad Majumder said the discussion was recorded and that each adviser would listen to the opinions of the editors.

The one-and-a-half hour meeting that began around 11:00am was attended by Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo; Tasmima Hossain, editor of Ittefaq; Nurul Kabir, editor of New Age; Shamsul Huq Zahid, editor of The Financial Express; Altamash Kabir, editor of Sangbad; Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor and publisher of Bonik Barta; Mahbub Morshed, managing director of BSS; Zafar Sobhan, editor of Dhaka Tribune; Mostafa Mamun, editor of Desh Rupantor; Mostafiz Shafi, editor of Pratidin Bangladesh; Inam Ahmed, editor of The Business Standard; Hasan Hafiz, editor of Kaler Kantho; AMM Bahauddin, editor of Inquilab; and Abul Momen, editor of Amader Shomoy.

Chattoogram based Dainik Azadi and Purbokone editors MA Malek and M Ramiz Uddin Chowdhury and Bogura based Daily Karatoa Editor Mozammel Haque also attended the meeting.

However, going into their next assignment later this month against India, the Tigers still have some areas to improve on, especially with the top-order batting.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto has been going through a lean patch with the bat and so has been Mominul Hoque, whose best in the series has been a half-century. Besides, against the quality attack of India, the openers Shadman Islam and Zakir Hasan need to come up with a more compact defence to give Bangladesh solidity at the top.

Though Shakib was brilliant with the ball, he struggled with the bat. He was having some issues with his left eye [Central Serous Chorioretinopathy] and it was quite noticeable while he was batting and fielding. The team management needs to look into this issue considering the fact that Shakib bats in a key position for the team.

Despite having areas for improvement and the obvious challenges going forward, this series victory will further the confidence of the team that they can be competitive in the most demanding format of the game, not just at home but also away from home.

## A triumph spurred by belief

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they had lost to 12 times out of 13 previous encounters in Tests.

In both matches, Shanto thinks it was the players' indomitable belief that got them through tough situations.

"Belief is very important. Every single player believed that we can come back," Shanto said at the post-match press conference.

Yesterday, chasing a target of 185 on the fifth day of the match, Bangladesh's win hardly looked in doubt.

But victory, let alone a comfortable one, looked out of the picture on Day 3 when they were six down for just 26 runs, replying to Pakistan's first innings score of 274.

The Tigers required a miracle to recover from that position and that miracle arrived in the collective form of Liton Das and Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who together added 165 runs for the seventh wicket to save Bangladesh's blushes and bring down the deficit to 12.

Liton, who had shown his form with a classy 56 in the previous Test, hit a scintillating 138 while Miraz, who had already stamped his mark in the match with a five-wicket haul in the first innings, scored a valiant 78.

Shanto said that Miraz, who was named the player-of-the-series, was positive even when the side was six down and believed he and Liton could

get the job done.

"After losing six wickets [in first innings] we still believed. Before Miraz went out to bat, he said that he and Liton will do the job for the team. These guys have done it before but this one was impressive."

In the series opener, it was Mushfiquur Rahim's 191, Shadman Islam's 93 and Miraz's 77 that allowed Bangladesh to take a sizable 117-run lead after Pakistan had declared their first innings on 448-6.

And then, Miraz and Shakib spun a web over the Pakistani batters, claiming four and three wickets respectively to bundle out Pakistan for 146, setting up a 30-run target which the openers chased down without breaking a sweat.

In both matches, Bangladesh showed they have the ability to deal with the ebbs and flows of a Test match as players never looked short of self-belief even when the situation was not in their favour.

Shanto had spoken of this belief in the team before the series began and his side backed up his words with incredible performances.

"Before we start the series, I said in a press conference that records can be broken. It was because we knew how well the players had prepared themselves. This was very important for us and we are very happy."

## 2 US teams set to visit

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towards the latter part of the AL's 15-year rule.

In December 2021, the US imposed hard sanctions on RAB over allegations of extrajudicial killings. In 2023, the US announced a visa policy for Bangladesh ahead of the general elections.

One of the delegations will be led by Donald Lu, the US assistant secretary of state for the bureau of south and central Asian affairs. Lu would be calling into Dhaka from India.

Another delegation will include Brent Neiman, the deputy under-secretary for international finance at the US Department of the Treasury, and Lindsey W Ford, the deputy assistant secretary of defence for South and Southeast Asia.

Officials from the USAID will also be included in the delegation.

They are expected to arrive on September 15, Md Touhid Hossain, the foreign adviser to the interim government, told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

During the visit, the US delegations are expected to call on Yunus, Hossain and Salehuddin Ahmed, the finance adviser to the interim government, among others.

"In a changed political context, the US Bangladesh relations may be warm," a diplomatic source told the correspondent.

Bangladesh has already joined up a series of reforms including joining the UN Convention against Enforced Disappearance and forming a commission to investigate such cases.

## Former IGPs

FROM PAGE 1

former police chiefs from Dhaka and they are now in our custody."

Asked in which case they had been arrested, he said they would hold meetings in this regard and then finalise.

Both ex-police chiefs were wanted in a number of cases, including those filed for murder.

Shahidul served as the IGP from December 2014 to January 2018 while

## Yunus to fly for NY on Sept 22

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is set to depart for New York on September 22 for a brief visit to attend the 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain said yesterday.

"He will stay there only for five days," he told reporters at the foreign ministry in the afternoon.

When asked about chief adviser's potential bilateral meetings during the trip, Touhid said those would be arranged once he would be in New York.

"Some discussions are ongoing, and there will be meetings, but I can't specify at this point," he said.

On Monday, Touhid said the chief adviser would lead a small delegation to the UNGA in New York.

Only people with direct responsibilities at the UNGA will accompany the chief adviser, he said.

During the visit, the foreign adviser said, the chief adviser is also expected to attend a reception marking the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's relations with the United Nations.



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CONTEMPT OF COURT  
Supreme Court  
restores petition  
against Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday restored a contempt of court petition filed against former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh for his derogatory comments about a former chief justice and civil society for holding a hearing on it (contempt petition).

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed passed the order following an application filed by an SC lawyer Shah Ahmed Badal.

On March 10 this year, an Appellate Division bench headed by Justice M Enayetur Rahim, who resigned on August 10, dismissed the same contempt of court petition against Taposh "for default" as no lawyer for the petitioner appeared before the court.

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This woman sits waiting for the TCB truck to arrive at the designated spot in the Ring Road area of the capital from 7:00am. The truck was supposed to reach at 11:00am but was yet to make an appearance around 12:30pm when the photo was taken yesterday. Amid difficult economic circumstances, TCB trucks have become a beacon of hope for people throughout the country.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

‘8,000 Rohingyas  
entered Bangladesh  
in recent weeks’  
Says foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain has said around 8,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh in recent weeks, as tens of thousands were displaced amid intensified conflicts between the Arakan Army and Myanmar military.

"I have information that some 8,000 Rohingyas entered Bangladesh. In a day or two, we will have serious discussions on how to prevent fresh influx," he told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Some 7,50,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh after the brutal military campaign against them in Myanmar's Rakhine State since August 2017.

Now, over a million Rohingyas are sheltered in the refugee camps, creating a range of challenges for Bangladesh.

The Arakan Army now controls most of the Rakhine State. Battles between the Arakan Army and Myanmar junta in early August forced the displacement of thousands of the remaining 6,00,000 Rohingya residing in the state.

Several thousands of Rohingyas also took shelter along the Naf River bordering Bangladesh, and there were reports of Rohingyas entering Bangladesh, but no confirmed figure was known until it was disclosed yesterday.

"Various forces are there [along the border]. We cannot deny that there is corruption there," the adviser said in response to how Rohingyas could enter despite border security forces being there.

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2 more murder  
cases filed  
against Hasina  
Quader, Kamal, Inu  
also accused

STAR REPORT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was sued in two more murder cases yesterday, over the deaths of two people on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Sreepur in Gazipur.

Hasina is now facing at least 92 cases, mostly for murders during the mass student protests that forced her to resign and flee the country on August 5.

In these two cases, former ministers Obaidul Quader and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, as well as Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JASAD) president Hasanul Haque Inu, along with several local Awami League leaders, have also been named as accused.

Nuruzzaman, father of the deceased, Shifat Ullah, filed one of the cases against 42 named individuals and 150-200 unnamed persons.

Jamila Khatun, mother of the other deceased Kabir Hossain, filed the second case, implicating 86 individuals along with 400-500 unidentified others, said

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Medical services  
to resume in full  
swing from today

Say protesting doctors at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After two days of operations on a limited scale, medical services will resume in full swing across all departments of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and other hospitals across the country from today (Wednesday), said protesting doctors of DMCH yesterday.

At a press conference, Dr Abdul Ahad, resident surgeon of Neurosurgery department of DMCH, said, "Considering the visible steps by the government regarding our demands and the overall situation of the country, we are announcing the resumption of all services in hospitals across the country."

"According to our demands, the hospital administration has ensured the safety of doctors and the accused, who attacked doctors, were arrested," he added.

"Formation of Health Police and reforming the Health Protection Act -- our second and third demands -- have been discussed with the health secretary. The secretary assured us that he will take effective steps to implement these demands at the earliest. A committee will be formed in this regard, said Dr Ahad.

Speaking with reporters, Dr Imam Hossain, another resident surgeon of Neurosurgery department of DMCH, said they postponed their protest as they have been assured by the ministry that their demands will be met.

Doctors and medical students went on strike from Sunday

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Drives against  
illegal firearms  
start today  
Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury has said the joint force will start operations to recover the firearms today, as yesterday was the last day for submission of illegal firearms, including those whose licence has been suspended.

"The joint forces will start the operation from 12:00am tomorrow [early today] and arrest the criminals," he said while briefing reporters after the first meeting of the advisory council of law and order at the Secretariat yesterday.

Without taking any questions from the reporters, the home adviser said, "You can see the government's action on all issues, including the recovery of arms on the ground." Jahangir also said drug abuse is a big problem. "It is important to control it [narcotics]. Narcotic godfathers will be brought under the law," he said.

Regarding the situation along the Myanmar border, he said, "Work is underway to resolve the border issue there." Regarding the upcoming Durga Puja, the largest Hindu festival, the home adviser said necessary steps have been taken ahead of Durga Puja.

After the interim government assumed power, it decided to conduct a joint operation, comprising the armed forces, BGB, Coast Guard, Police, Rab, and Ansar, across the country from September 4 to recover the illegal firearms.

3 ex-ministers  
don't turn up at  
ACC summons  
Five more called; new probe  
launched against three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) summoned five individuals, including three former ministers and state ministers, who are accused of corruption, to appear before it yesterday. However, none of them responded to the summons.

Additionally, the ACC yesterday summoned five more top leaders of Awami League to appear before it today.

The ACC has also decided to initiate investigations against two former lawmakers and one other individual on new corruption charges.

According to ACC sources, former minister of shipping Shajahan Khan, former minister of industries Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, former state minister of industries Kamal Ahmed Majumder, former lawmakers Salim Uddin Taralder (Naogaon-3) and Mamunur Rashid Kiron (Noakhali-3) were all asked to appear in person at the ACC headquarters yesterday. However, none of them showed up.

In addition, the ACC yesterday summoned five more individuals, including former chief whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Noor Alam Chowdhury, former

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‘I didn’t see  
daylight for  
eight years’

Abdullahil Amaan Azmi  
shares story of being  
held in Aynaghar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brig Gen (suspended) Abdullahil Amaan Azmi yesterday shared his experience during his eight-year imprisonment in Aynaghar.

Azmi said he didn't get to see daylight for the last eight years of his stay in Aynaghar.

"I always thought that they might kill me through crossfire. I used to cry to Allah so that my body could reach my family," he said at a press conference.

Azmi organised the press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, where he appeared virtually.

Dhaka south city of Jamaat telecast the live video on Facebook.

Azmi is the son of former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer late Ghulam Azam.

Azmi went missing on the night of August 22, 2016, his family said.

While describing the experience of his days in Aynaghar, Azmi said, "I cannot express in words how badly I was treated."

In a show of silent protest against the

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Anti-mosquito drives are now running in full swing throughout the capital. After the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, city corporation activities such as these had been halted for a few weeks. The photo was taken in Jatiya Press Club area yesterday.

‘He will remain  
alive among  
the people’  
Speakers tell event  
commemorating  
Sheikh Muhammad  
Shahidullah

DU CORRESPONDENT

Engineer Muhammad Shahidullah was a real hero who protected the nation's wealth and will be alive forever in people's mind for his remarkable works, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They made the remarks at an event commemorating Shahidullah, organised by National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

At the event, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury of Dhaka University said Shahidullah's work will never die and he will remain alive among the people.

"He (Shahidullah) was not only an engineer but he was a true human being. He had struggled to save the country's wealth before his death. To be a human was most important to him," said Prof Choudhury.

Jahangirnagar University's former professor Anu Muhammad said,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



## Death anniv of M Abdur Rahim today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth death anniversary of M Abdur Rahim, a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and western zone chairman of the then Mujibnagar government, said a press release.



A Liberation War organiser, Abdur Rahim was a lawyer and recipient of the Swadhinata Padak. Marking the death anniversary, family members and various organisations have arranged programmes including doa mahfil, Qurankhwani and food distribution among orphans in Dinajpur.

## Must work together to protect rivers

Says Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday emphasised the need for countries to work together in protecting international rivers, forests, and wetlands.

She stressed ensuring environmental and climate justice, holding countries responsible for climate change and pollution accountable for compensation.

She also advocated for a nature-centric approach to biodiversity conservation.

The environment adviser made these remarks yesterday at the 8th IUCN Regional Conservation Forum in Bangkok, Thailand, themed "Reimagining Conservation in Asia: A Nature-Positive Future".

জমি বিক্রয়

আতপিয়া, সাভারে একটি চমৎকার ভ্রাগান ফলের বাগান বিক্রি হবে। জমি নিম্নলিখিত বড়ভারীকৃত ও টিনশেড বালসো বাড়ীসহ ২০৫ শতাংশ। যোগাযোগ: মালিক সরাসরি ০১৮৪১-৯১১৪১১

## 8,000 Rohingyas entered

FROM PAGE 3

"We will try to prevent any fresh Rohingya influx. We cannot give shelter to new Rohingyas as it is beyond our capacity," he added.

Asked about sealing the border, Hossain said it is difficult to seal any border as there are various forces, as well as interests of locals. However, the government will try to seal the border.

He said he will meet the home adviser and also discuss the matter at the council of advisers in a day

or two.

Asked if he supports the notion that Bangladesh needs to establish contact with the Arakan Army, Hossain said, "It is not the issue of my personal affair, but a state matter."

In the aftermath of August 5, there have been a series of attacks against minority groups, mostly Hindus. The Indian High Commission also drastically reduced the number of visas being issued to Bangladesh.

Asked if there's any enmity

growing between Dhaka and New Delhi, Hossain said it is now an abnormal time and abnormal things happen in such time.

"The situation is getting normal and will be more stable in a few days. Then, we will see how things evolve," he added.

Hossain also informed the media that Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will be attending the UN General Assembly for five days starting from September 22.

## Supreme Court restores

FROM PAGE 3

Advocate Shah Ahmed Badal told The Daily Star that the apex court will later on hold a hearing of the contempt of court petition against Taposh and pass an order.

Hearing of the petition may be held after reopening of the court following its upcoming vacation, he said.

Both the Appellate and High Court Division of the Supreme Court will go into an annual vacation on September 6 and

will reopen on October 20.

Badal submitted the contempt of court petition to the Appellate Division of SC on June 2 last year, saying that the utterances made by Taposh have constituted contempt of the highest court of the country and the judiciary as a whole.

On May 23 last year, Bangla daily Manab Zamin published a report containing his statements under the headline "Ekjon Chief Justice keo

Namiye Diyechhilam (We had even removed a chief justice)."

"I wish I could resign and come back here [at the SCBA]. I know where to use the hammer. We had even removed a chief justice," the report quoted Taposh as saying.

"The civil society members, who want to preach to us, ...we will bundle them in a sack and throw them into the dark water of the Buriganga," the report quoted him as saying.

## Medical services to resume

FROM PAGE 3

morning with four-point demands, following a attack on two doctors from the neurosurgery department of DMCH last Saturday.

Eventually, doctors, nurses, interns, and

medical students called a strike in public and private hospitals nationwide.

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

Doctors returned to work after 10 hours at around 8:00pm on Sunday, after being assured that their demands would be fulfilled.

Work continued on a limited scale on Monday and Tuesday.

## He will remain alive

FROM PAGE 3

"Shahidullah was committed to the nation. People used to come to him for suggestions when the country fell into deep crisis."

DU Professor Dr MM Akash also paid tribute to Shahidullah.

SM Shaheek Mahmood Roni, son of Shahidullah, said, "The country's wealth is our wealth and it is our responsibility to protect it. My father struggled a lot to protect oil, gas, and mineral resources. He will live through his activities."

Before his death, he was very happy about the victory

of the students in the mass uprising, added Shaheek.

Before the event, his well-wishers paid tribute to him with flower wreaths.

A song was performed in tribute to him and a short documentary on his life and work was also screened at the event.

The programme was hosted by Khan Asaduzzaman Masum, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

M u h a m m a d Shahidullah led the movement to protect the country's oil, gas, and mineral resources.

## Women, girls

FROM PAGE 5

basic supplies.

"We are deeply concerned about women and girls in the flood-affected areas, especially those who are pregnant. Cut off from essential healthcare, clean water, and safe shelter, they are exposed to grave risks," said Kristine Blokhuis, UNFPA representative in Bangladesh.

Over 2,000 women and girls have already been reached through mobile health clinics, but much more is needed, she said, calling for increased funding.

## I didn't see

FROM PAGE 3

torture, Azim has grown his hair long, nearly to his waist.

Azmi said on the night of August 6, he was finally released and left blindfolded at Alenga, Tangail.

Recalling the day of his abduction, Azmi said, "When they came to my house, I asked them who they were and asked for their ID cards. I wanted to know if there was any warrant for my arrest. They did not respond to any of my words."

"Among them was an army officer who misbehaved with me. They even misbehaved with my wife," he said.

"At one point, they forced me to board in a car. I was taken to a place blindfolded. I was left there in a dark room. They even took me to the toilet blindfolded," he added.

At that time, Jamaat said he was arrested from his house in Boro Moghbazar of the capital by individuals posing as law enforcement officers.

In the briefing, Azmi demanded that the government give exemplary punishment to those involved in enforced disappearance and other types of criminal activities.

Azmi also said the present constitution of Bangladesh is not legal. He, therefore, demanded that the interim government enact a new constitution.

Meanwhile, Azmi also demanded to form a new national anthem, claiming that the present national anthem is a "violation of the spirit of independent Bangladesh".

At the briefing, Azmi also made claims regarding the number of martyred people in the Liberation War.

He claimed, "The number of martyred people in the Liberation War is not actually three million, but rather 2.86 lakh according to a survey."

Azmi called upon the government to conduct a survey to know the actual figure of martyrs in the Liberation War.

## 3 ex-ministers don't turn

FROM PAGE 3

state minister of law Advocate Kamrul Islam, former state minister of Chittagong hill tracts affairs Kujendra Lal Tripura, former lawmakers Ziaur Rahman and Qashim Uddin Ahmed.

They have been asked to appear in person at the ACC today.

Meanwhile, the ACC has also decided to initiate investigations against former lawmakers Naimur Rahman Durjoy and Enamul Haque, and Tamal Mansur, son of former Health Minister Mohammad Nasim.

ACC Secretary Khorsheda Yasmeen confirmed the information to journalists.

Based on preliminary intelligence findings, which have been shown to be credible, the commission

has decided to proceed with open investigations against them, she said.

According to ACC sources, Durjoy is accused of misusing his power to illegally seize and appropriate land belonging to BIWTA near the Aricha river terminal. He allegedly formed a syndicate with his relatives to illegally dredge and extract sand from the river, earning crores of taka.

He is also reported to own 12 bighas of land in Baikanthapur, Ghior, Manikganj, a one-story house in Manikganj, and various investments in banks and businesses, with total assets amounting to approximately Tk 3.16 crore.

Enamul Haque is accused of misusing his power to collect bribes ranging from Tk 4 to 5 lakh for appointments of primary

school office staff in his constituency. Additionally, information has surfaced that he, along with his family, owns agricultural and non-agricultural land in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Rajshahi, with total assets amounting to Tk 23.50 crore.

Tamal Mansur is accused of misusing his father Mohammad Nasim's power in various corrupt and unethical activities, including supplying substandard materials for a Tk 175 crore government procurement at Shaheed Tajuddin Medical College and Hospital in Gazipur, thereby embezzling government funds. He is also reported to own a real estate business in Jamaica, New York, where he has purchased 12 apartments and 4 parking spaces in the Aftab Sky View Condominium Tower, valued at US \$4.96 million.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস কর্পোরেশন

BANGLADESH TEXTILE MILLS CORPORATION

7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh

Memo No. 24.03.0000.103.06(5).110.22-236

Date: 02 September 2024

Corrigendum

Subject: Corrigendum to the Invitation for Bid (IFB) "Development of Dost Textile Mills Site at Feni, Bangladesh through Public Private Partnership (PPP)"

The following change is hereby made against the IFB issue dated 19 July 2024 on the above project:

Sl No	Reference Section	Existing Clause	Revised Clause
1.	IFB Table 1: Project Summary (row 13) (Page 5 of IFB)	Upfront Premium: Taka 6.5 crore payable in favour of the Contracting Authority	Upfront Premium: Taka 3.5 crore payable in favour of the Contracting Authority
2.	IFB Table 1: Project Summary (row 14) (Page 5 of IFB)	Bid Variable: First Annual Contract Fee (ACF1), in favour of the Contracting Authority, to be quoted separately by the Bidder, which should be an amount equal to or greater than Taka 1.75 crore per annum.	Bid Variable: First Annual Contract Fee (ACF1), in favour of the Contracting Authority, to be quoted separately by the Bidder, which should be an amount equal to or greater than Taka 1 crore per annum.
3.	Clause 6.4.1 (Page 34 of IFB)	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 03 September 2024, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.	Bids shall be submitted on or before 12:00 hours BST, on 18 September 2024, i.e. the "Due Date" to the address provided in section 6.3.11, in the manner and form as detailed in this IFB.

This corrigendum will be the part of IFB Document. All other provisions shall remain unchanged.

(Kazi Feroz Hossain)  
Project Director  
Mob: 01781180656  
E-mail: feroz775@gmail.com

AGRANI BANK PLC

Establishment & Engineering Division

Head Office

9/D Dilkusha C/A

Dhaka.

Invitation for Tenders

1	Procuring Entity Name	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head office (7th floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
2	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation and Upgradation of CCTV System Agrani Bank PLC, 3 Branches of Moulovibazar Zone.
4	Invitation Ref No	ABL/E&ED/Eng/Mecha-295/2024
5	Date	28/08/2024
Key Information		
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.
Funding Information		
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Own fund of Agrani Bank PLC.
Particular Information		
8	Tender Publication Date	28/08/2024
9	Tender Last Selling Date	17/09/2024
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date Time
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	18/09/2024 3.00PM
12	Name & Address of the Tender Document Selling Office	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
13	Receiving Tender Document	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
14	Place of Tender Opening	Tender Opening will take place at the Primary Place
Information For Tenderer		
15	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	Tenderers who have: a. Not been prevented by order of any judicial court from entering into and/or signing contract with the procuring entity. b. Tenderers shall have at least 03 (Three) years of overall business experience in similar works preceding the date of publication of IFB. c. Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. d. Certificate by the bidder stating that he/she had successfully completed CCTV installation, testing and commissioning works at Govt/Semi-Govt Autonomous organizations/ Reputed Limited Company. e. No joint venture company is allowed. i) Up to date valid Trade license ii) Up-to-date income tax paid certificate iii) Valid VAT registration certificate iv) TIN Certificate v) Minimum amount of liquid asset i.e. working capital or line of credit certificate of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 4.75 Lakh only. vi) Catalogue/ Brochure. vii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 contract(s) successfully completed within the last 3 years, each with a value of at least Tk. 3.5 Lakh. viii) Tender Submission Letter (Form PG3-1) ix) Bidder must be the sole agent/commercial distributor of the proposed brand CC Camera of the contract and he/she must submit its all supporting documents. x) International Standard Conformity Certificate and Every other documents mentioned in TDS.
16	Tenderer to attach copies of the following documents	
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	1000/- (Tk One thousand only) Non-refundable pay-order from any branch of Agrani Bank PLC in favor of Agrani Bank PLC, Head Office, Dhaka.
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdur Rahman
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Agrani Bank PLC, Establishment & Engineering Division, Head Office (7th Floor), 9/D, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	02223381674 <a href="mailto:eedmechanical@agrani.bank.org">eedmechanical@agrani.bank.org</a>
23	a) The Tenderer shall furnish Registration certificate and evidence of being managed by Bangladeshi nationals in original and certificates of satisfactory completion of previous work for proposed brand CC Camera of above magnitude from the owner at the time of dropping the Tender documents. b) If communication is disrupted on the date of receiving and opening the Tender(s), the same will be received at the same time on the day after next working day. c) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008. d) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever. No claims will be entertained in this regard.	

MD- 337

Md. Abdur Rahman  
Deputy General Manager

Tender Notice for Auction of 15 Decimals Land situated at Hotel Rafel Inn More, Goal Chamat, Faridpur Sadar, Faridpur

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Prime Bank PLC. from eligible organization/bidder for purchase of 15 decimals land located at Faridpur through auction as mentioned below:

Sl	Summary of item/Schedule of the Auction Property	Period of schedule/ documents collection From To	Proposal/Tender to be submitted on
1.	All that piece and parcel of land measuring 15.00 decimals located at Faridpur near Hotel Rafel Inn More (JL No: 103, Mouja: Goal Chamat, Khatian No. C.S. 399Ka, R.S. 1633, S.A. 1558, B.R.S. 3207, Dag No. C.S. 1027, 1028, 1029/ 3148, R.S. and S.A. 4198, B.R.S. Dag No. 317, 318, Jote No. 6915, Mutation Khatian No: 6964, Deed No: 9918 dated 25/11/2009, Sub-Registry Office: Faridpur Sadar)	10/9/2024 22/09/2024	Date 23/09/2024 (From 10:00 am to 04:00 pm)

Tender documents need to be deposited in tender box kept in following address as per above mentioned date:

Prime Bank PLC., Prime Tower (Ground Floor)  
Plot # 08 & 35, Nikunjo-2, Khilkhet, Airport Road, Dhaka-1229

Note: Information on land along with terms & conditions to participate in mentioned auction will be available in Bank's website ([www.primebank.com.bd](http://www.primebank.com.bd)) and provided with schedule of tender.

Prime Bank

## 2 more murder cases

FROM PAGE 3

Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station.

According to police officials, two buses carrying members of Border Guard Bangladesh were attacked and set on fire in Mulaidd village on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on August 5.

During the clash, two people lost their lives.

### CASES AGAINST AL LEADERS

In Brahmanbaria, another case has been filed against former Housing and Public Works Minister RAM Obaidul Muktadir Chowdhury and his two personal assistants, along with ten others.

The case involves the alleged abduction and murder of BNP activist Atiqul Islam in 2012.

Nasima Islam, wife of the missing victim, filed the case at Brahmanbaria

Sadar Model Police Station on Monday night.

Seven to eight unidentified individuals have also been accused in the case, said OC Mozaffar Hossain.

Since August 5, five cases, including three murders, have been filed against Muktadir in Brahmanbaria.

In Tangail, a case has been filed against former State Minister for Commerce Ahsanul Islam Titu and 128 others, alleging their involvement in an attack on anti-discrimination student protesters in Nagarpur area.

Monir Hossain, a student of European University of Bangladesh and a resident of Nagarpur, filed the case with the Senior Judicial Magistrate Court in Tangail on Monday.

The court has ordered the officer-in-charge of the police station concerned to register the case as an FIR, said Malek Adnan, the complainant's lawyer.

## Floods

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) in a bulletin yesterday forecast that water level of Brahmaputra-Jamuna rivers may remain stable in the next 24 hours.

"Ganga-Padma water level is stable. The water level of both the rivers may remain stable in the next 48 hours," said the bulletin released at 9:00am yesterday.

In Sylhet region, the Surma-Kushira river water level is rising at a slow pace, which may continue for the next 24 hours and may flow below the danger level.

According to meteorological agencies, heavy rainfall is not expected in the southeast, eastern and adjacent uplands of the country in the next 24 hours.

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Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon A/A, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

Phone: 222218331-33 Website: [www.pksf.org.bd](http://www.pksf.org.bd)

Memo No. 53.23.0000.001.03.050.24.5397

Date: 03-09-2024

e-GP Tender Notice for Goods (Re-Invitation)

PKSF invites e-Tender in the National e-GP System Portal ([http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd)) for the procurement of following goods:

Tender ID No	Description	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing/ Opening Date & Time
1012826	Supply & Installation of Generator (02 nos.) for PKSF's Shyamoli Building (Re-invitation). (Package No.-PKSF/Shyamoli Building/2023-2024/ RT/G-02)	03-09-2024 & 12:30 PM	25-09-2024 & 14:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the national e-GP portal (<http:// www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Deputy Managing Director-1



## ABRAR MURDER

### HC asks why his parents shouldn't get Tk 10cr as compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government and BUET to explain why they should not be directed to give Tk 10 crore in compensation to the parents of Abrar Fahad Rabbi, who was tortured and killed in 2019.

Abrar was a second-year student of electrical and electronics engineering of BUET. Several students of the same institution, who were members of Chhatra League, tortured Abrar with skipping ropes and cricket stumps inside a room of Sher-e-Bangla Hall on the night of October 6, 2019.



His battered body was found by several students under the staircase of the dormitory early next morning. The killing sparked widespread student demonstrations on campuses and throughout the country. The BUET administration even banned political activities on campus.

Later, a Dhaka court on December 8, 2021 sentenced 20 BUET students to death for their direct involvement in the murder and also sentenced five others to life imprisonment for their role in the murder.

Yesterday, the HC also ordered the cabinet division to form an inquiry commission to find out the persons responsible for the failure to protect Abrar from the torture and to ensure his safety and security on the campus.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahub UI Islam issued the rule and order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Shahin Alam in 2019.

PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 4

Fajr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4:30

12:45

4:45

6:33

8:00

JAMAAT 5:05

1:15

5:00

6:36

8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A young woman looks at a potted plant at a tree fair held at Sylhet Government Alia Madrasa. This year's event features a variety of native and foreign flowers, fruit trees, medicinal plants, and ornamental species from local nurseries. The fair, which began on August 31, will continue until September 14. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

# Floods claim 71 lives so far

STAR REPORT

A total of 71 people, including seven women and 19 children, died in the recent floods in nine districts until yesterday, the disaster management and relief ministry said in its latest release.

Twenty-eight people died in Feni, 19 in Cumilla, 11 in Noakhali, six in Chattogram, three in Cox's Bazar, and one each in Moulvibazar, Lakshmipur, Brahmanbaria and Khagrachhari.

Besides, one person in Moulvibazar remains missing. Although the flood situation continues to improve in the all the affected 11 districts, over 5.82 lakh people were still marooned till yesterday.

"My house went under water on August 9. We have been passing hard days since then. My home is still submerged," said Iqbal Hossain, a resident of Gopinath village under Noakhali Sadar upazila.

Md Harunur Rashid, a resident of Senbagh municipal area, echoed him.

At least 698 people suffered snake bites in August during the flood. However, no one died, according to sources at different hospitals in Noakhali.

Over five million people have been affected by the flood in 11 districts, said the ministry's report.

The flood situation in Chattogram, Khagrachhari, Habiganj, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria and Cox's Bazar districts is completely normal while the overall flood situation in Moulvibazar has improved.

Besides, the situation in Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali and Laxmipur districts is improving, the report added.

“My house went under water on August 9. We have been passing hard days since then. My home is still submerged.”

IQBAL HOSSAIN

A resident of Gopinath village

## FLOOD-HIT SOUTHEAST Women, girls at higher risk: UNFPA

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has warned that women, adolescent girls, and gender-diverse people in the flood-affected southeastern region of Bangladesh face heightened risks.

In a statement, the UN agency said women and girls in the affected districts are also exposed to risks of gender-based violence, especially in overcrowded evacuation centres which lack security and privacy.

There are over 78,000 pregnant women in the affected areas, with thousands expected to give birth in the coming weeks. These women are in regions where severe flash floods have impacted over 5.82 million people, leaving millions without shelter, healthcare, or

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Police see another major reshuffle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven metropolitan cities and seven ranges have got new chiefs, while 26 districts have new superintendents of police (SP), in yet another major reshuffle in the police department.

Besides, 37 other officials who were recently promoted to the rank of deputy inspector general (DIG) got new postings. Eighteen SPs and 31 other police officials between the ranks of SP and assistant police commissioner have also been transferred.

The transfers were announced in six separate notifications issued by the home ministry's Public Security Division yesterday.

As per the orders, Hasib Aziz has been appointed as the Chattogram Metropolitan Police commissioner, Rezaul Karim as the Sylhet Metropolitan Police commissioner, Khandoker Rafiqul Islam as commissioner of Gazipur Metropolitan Police, Mohammad Abu Sufian as commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, Mazid Ali as commissioner of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, and Aminul Islam as commissioner of Barishal Metropolitan Police. They all were promoted to DIGs recently.

Besides, AKM Awlad Hossain was made the DIG of Dhaka Range, Ahsan Habib Palash of Chattogram Range, Md Alamgir Rahman of Rajshahi Range, Md Ashrafur Rahman of Mymensingh Range, Md Mushfequr Rahman of Sylhet Range, Md Monzur Morshed Alam of Barishal Range and Md Rezaul Haque was made the DIG of Khulna Range.

## Kuwait to recruit more Bangladeshis

### Outgoing envoy meets CA

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Kuwaiti Ambassador Faisal Mutlaq Aladwani yesterday said Kuwait will recruit more human resources, including skilled workers from Bangladesh, in its effort to boost ties with the South Asian country.

He made the assurance when he paid a farewell call on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the state guesthouse Jamuna in Dhaka.

Prof Yunus praised the envoy, saying he was "a wonderful friend of Bangladesh" and hoped that he would continue to play this role.

The outgoing ambassador noted that over 3,00,000 Bangladeshis work in the Gulf emirate and his country was keen to recruit more from Bangladesh, said the chief adviser's press wing.

"We want to recruit more doctors, nurses and engineers," he said, adding more than 5,000 Bangladeshi troops were also serving in Kuwait.

Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited

(A Company of Petrobangla)

Employment of Legal Adviser (Retainer) and Panel Advocates

Applications are hereby invited in plain paper from the members of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Dhaka and District Bar Association of Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Feni and Noakhali for the appointment of one Legal Adviser for Cumilla Area and Panel Advocates- four for Dhaka, two for Cumilla, Brahmanbaria and one each for Chandpur, Feni and Noakhali Area for a period of two years for conducting suits in different courts on the following terms and conditions :

1. For Dhaka area, the applicants must have 10 (ten) years of experience (including 5 (five) years of experience in the Supreme Court) in handling cases in civil courts as lawyer. Advocates with Bar-at-Law/LLM degree or Doctorate degree in any discipline of law will be preferred. Lawyers in areas other than Dhaka should have 10 (ten) years of experience as legal practitioner in civil/criminal courts.

2. Retired District Judges (age not exceeding sixty five years) who are practicing law can apply for Legal Adviser/Panel advocates.

3. The tenure of Legal Adviser and Panel Advocates will be 02 (two) years. Exemption/resignation shall be effective upon giving 30 (thirty) days notice to either party.

4. For Legal advisor and Panel advocates, preference will be given to the experienced lawyers in Bangladesh Gas Act, Company Act, Commercial Law, Labor Law in addition to common laws.

5. After being appointed as a legal adviser, the respective legal adviser will receive a retainer fee of Tk 1,000.00 (one thousand) per month. Engaged Legal Advisers and Panel Lawyers will separately receive fees as prescribed by BGDCL for filing and handling cases in court. The applicable rate schedule for Legal Adviser and Panel Advocates can be obtained from the Law Section at the Head Office of the Company.

6. If the applicants are working as Legal Adviser or Panel Advocate of any other organization, it must be mentioned in the application and while employed as Legal Adviser or Panel Advocates of BGDCL, they cannot act as lawyers of any organization/person against the interest of BGDCL.

7. Interested candidates should submit 2 (Two) copies of the application form stating the candidate's name, father's name, mother's name/husband's name, permanent and present address, all educational certificates, national identity card, citizenship certificate (if any), Bangladesh Bar Council certificate, proof of membership of the concerned bar and in case of other experience certificates, 2 (two) copies of all certificates attested and 2 (two) copies of passport size photographs attested by a first class gazetted officer attached to the application form within 15 (fifteen) days of publication of this notification to Company Secretary, Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited, Head Office, Chapapur, Cumilla-3500.

8. The application and the envelope should be superscribed with the words "Application for the post of Legal Adviser/Panel Advocate".

9. This recruitment advertisement is also available on the websites of BGDCL and Petrobangla ([www.bgdcl.gov.bd](http://www.bgdcl.gov.bd) & [www.petrobangla.org.bd](http://www.petrobangla.org.bd)).

10. Those who applied before according to the previous circular published on 25/04/2024 need not apply again.

Company Secretary

Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited

Cumilla.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Food

Construction & Maintenance Unit (CMU)

16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

[www.dgfood.gov.bd](http://www.dgfood.gov.bd)

e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 13.01.0000.140.55.39.24.397

Dated: 02-09-2024

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

Sl No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Description of work	Procurement method	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
1	1011273 Maintenance/2024-25/16	Repair of food godown with ancillary facilities at Boalmari LSD, Faridpur	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 13:40
2	1011298 Maintenance/2024-25/17	Repair of food godown with ancillary facilities at Vatiapara LSD, Gopalganj	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 13:50
3	1011305 Maintenance/2024-25/34	Repair work of Godown and ancillary facilities at Roumari food Godown center in Kurigram district	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 14:00
4	1011386 Maintenance/2024-25/35	Repair and Renovation of boundary wall with repair work of ancillary facilities at Bhajanpur Food Godown, Panchagarh District	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 14:10
5	1011424 Maintenance/2024-25/38	Repair of godown Fs- 2 (1000 MT), boundary wall and River bank protection wall with ancillary facilities at Nasirnagar LSD, Brahmanbaria.	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 14:20
6	1011648 Maintenance/2024-25/42	Reconstruction of boundary wall, construction of retaining wall and ancillary repair works including submersible water pump at Asasuni, LSD, Satkhira.	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 14:30
7	1011851 Maintenance/2024-25/24	Repair of Food Godown (FS-1), RCC Road, Boundary wall and external electrification work with ancillary facilities at Borolekha LSD, Moulvibazar.	OTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 14:40
8	1012251 Maintenance/2024-25/40	Reconstruction of boundary wall and RCC road at Gangni LSD, Meherpur	OTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 15:00
9	1012253 Maintenance/2024-25/44	Repair of Food Godown with Ancillary facilities at Mathbaria LSD, Pirojpur	OTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 15:20
10	1012254 Maintenance/2024-25/27	Repair of Food Godown with ancillary facilities at Mymensingh CSD, Mymensingh.	OTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 15:40
11	1012296 Maintenance/2024-25/21	Repair of food godown with ancillary facilities at Sindiaghat LSD, Gopalganj	LTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 15:50
12	1012499 Maintenance/2024-25/30	Repair of godown Fs-1,2,3, boundary wall and re-construction of Rec road with ancillary facilities at Basurhat LSD, Nowakhal.	OTM	25-Sep-2024 16:00	26-Sep-2024 16:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Abu Bakar Siddique

Superintending Engineer (C.C.)

Phone: +88 02-41050725

Email: [se.mu@dgfood.gov.bd](mailto:se.mu@dgfood.gov.bd)



# WORKPLACE-BASED TRAINING

## A new trend in training to upskill Bangladeshi youth

Employees acquire required skills that affect their roles and performances through the development of specialised training modules, credited to the flexibility and adaptability of the modules. For example, training in productivity optimisation, quality control, and food safety gives employees the practical knowledge they need to effectively satisfy customer needs and uphold high standards.

TAHSEEN NOWER PRACHI

Bangladesh's economy is in constant change and has the potential to grow to be worth \$1 trillion in the decades to come. This transformation has been the result of the rise in employability and smart business in entrepreneurial and industrial sectors simultaneously. Urbanisation and trend waves have increased the demand for and profitability of convenience-based products, prompting the emergence of new industries in this sector to meet the demand.

With the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector emerging as a key driver of this expansion, the transition has been quite hopeful. Bangladesh is set to position itself to become the world's ninth-largest consumer market by 2030, with the FMCG sector projected to reach a remarkable \$5.8 billion approximately. In this extremely promising landscape, the necessity of highly skilled and employable labour, however, is a more pressing concern now that must be addressed in order to fully utilise its potential.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), in the last 15 years, consumption expenditure for rural areas has increased significantly, reaching 103 percent from 81 percent. Over the years, the shift in spending patterns also indicates the demand for more consumer-based products, and with that, the importance of creating a more employable and skilled workforce across Bangladesh.

Food, beverages, as well as personal hygiene goods and such, are all included in the product lines of the FMCG sector. As a result of its broad scope, qualified workers in a variety of departments are needed, such as production, quality assurance, and customer support.

Despite the industry's promising projection, there is a significant lack of necessary skills. According to a recent training need assessment conducted by the BYETS (Building Youth Employability through Skills) project implemented by Swisscontact with leading FMCG industries, only 30% of the workers in the FMCG sector are classified as skilled, with the remaining 70% falling into the unskilled or semi-skilled categories. According to industry representatives, traditional training programs are not meeting current industry demands. Workers in this increasingly automated and export-oriented sector need training in areas such as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Quality Management Systems, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and finally, soft skills to stay competitive.

Due to a lack of trust in traditional training methods in mainstream industries, programs like BYETS are focusing on Work-Based Training (WBT) to equip Bangladeshi youth with essential technical and employability skills. Leading FMCG companies such as Ifad,



Square, and City Group have collaborated with the project to provide industry-specific training through customised modules. By developing a pool of expert trainers within these companies, this approach ensures that the training is sustainable beyond the project and has a lasting impact.

In addition to this, WBT offers opportunities for on-the-job learning so that staff members may quickly apply their acquired practical abilities to their respective duties. This strategy increases the efficiency, confidence, and production in organisations while also improving the individual performance of the trainees.

Golam Mostafa, deputy manager (production) and a trainee of the BYETS project at IFAD Multi-products, shares his experience of the training, "It is a great learning opportunity for both technical skills and personal skills, such as communication and management at micro-levels. Our confidence has been boosted, and we are now able to train and guide our junior trainees in their needs as well. The training module and moderator have made learning easy and understandable for all."

Employees acquire required skills that affect their roles and performances through the development of specialised training modules, credited to the flexibility and adaptability of the modules. For example, training in productivity optimisation, quality control, and food safety gives employees the practical knowledge they need to effectively satisfy customer needs and uphold high standards.

Md. Zakir Hossain Mondal, head of plant operation at IFAD, says, "We are a company of 11 food-based plants with 1,200 employees. When the BYETS project of SwissContact reached out to us regarding the training program, the company board decided that it would be beneficial for our employees. The training was well designed and gave the employees scientific reasoning for every guideline they had to follow. So far, we have only provided the training to one batch of employees. Our

target is to provide the training to nine more batches," said Mondal.

The training program was divided into two parts: soft skills and food safety and hygiene. The training module incorporated both the experienced workers and the trainees so that they could meet the international standards of production. Arohi Akter Asha, a production assistant operator and trainee of the BYETS program from IFAD, expresses a boost in her confidence after attending the program. She says, "We learn about the proper implementation of hygiene and safety protocols through the training. It includes learning how to maintain personal hygiene and health, washing hands, wearing necessary safety equipment, hand gloves, nets, and so on. We also learn about the practicals of food hygiene, food safety, and environment-friendly habits. The learnings also encourage us to educate those around us on the issues of food safety and the importance of maintaining hygiene. The five-day long training program made me feel more educated and conscious."

The start of the workforce's up-skilling process via the WBT model emphasises the value of industrial, academic, and governmental cooperation. The training program focuses on inclusion and empowerment, paving the way for better education and enriching skills beyond any barriers, regardless of their roles or gender, for that matter.

A skilled workforce is undoubtedly the cornerstone of both sectoral progress and individual business growth. By encouraging and investing in employee development, organisations can cultivate a high-performing culture that fosters job satisfaction, reduces turnover, and propels the company forward. The key to unlocking the future potential of a better and greater economy is in the up-skilling of its root workforce.

**The BYETS project is funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and implemented by Swisscontact**

## JOBS SPOTLIGHT

United International University (UIU)



Psychological Counselor

Deadline: September 10

Eligibility:

Master's degree in Counseling Psychology with a Bachelor's (Hon's) Degree in Psychology.

Minimum experience: 3-5 years

**SINGER**  
Embrace Life Now

Singer Bangladesh Ltd

Trainee District Manager

Deadline: September 14

Eligibility:

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing.

Minimum experience: 2 years

Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited



Officer Quality Assurance

Deadline: September 9

Eligibility:

MSc in Chemistry or Applied Chemistry from a well-reputed university.

Minimum experience: 1-2 years

Wipro

Datacenter Operations Specialist



Deadline: N/A

Eligibility:

Bachelor's degree in computer science, information technology, or similar.

Minimum experience: 5-7 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



"Hide not your talents, they for use were made, What's a sundial in the shade?"

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

# Smart ways to explain your employment gap

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

"How do you explain your time off?" is a common yet uncomfortable question that often rears its unwanted head during job interviews. Employment gaps, regardless of the reason, are difficult to properly dive into during a tense interview, especially if your CV shows long, glaring, unexplained gaps between jobs and/or education.

So, to ensure the next time you aren't stuck when asked this question, here are some smart ways to explain your employment gap to a potential employer.

**Focus on skill development**

The best explanation for employment gaps is stating that you took online courses or attended workshops to upskill yourself. If that is the case, show the necessary certifications or degrees to show proof of completion of any such lessons. During the interview, talk about how your newly acquired skills will be an asset in the new position, e.g. "During my break, I dedicated time to learning advanced Excel and data analytics - skills crucial for this role."

**Highlight relevant activities**

Even if you weren't formally employed during the gap, you likely engaged in volunteering, freelancing, or pursuing non-academic certifications. If so, focus on how these activities



helped improve your professional growth. A possible explanation could be, for example, "While I wasn't working full-time, I completed a certification in digital marketing and volunteered for a local nonprofit. I learned valuable skills there to help brands gain an online presence."

**Be honest about personal reasons**

If you took time off to care for a family member, pursue personal growth, or travel, it's important to be truthful about your reasons. However, focus on how the experience contributed to your personal or professional development. You could frame

the explanation as such: "During this time, I cared for a family member, which enhanced my time management and multitasking abilities."

**Frame the gap as a re-evaluation period**

Among other reasons, you could choose to have time off to re-evaluate your career goal and plan your next steps. If so, explain how the break allowed you to gain clarity and align your career path - specifically towards your new potential job. Say something like: "I took some to reassess my career direction. As such, I have realised my passion lies in..." and then add information about the

role you are applying to.

**Acknowledge the industry context**

Sometimes employment gaps occur due to external factors, such as economic downturns, industry shifts, or company-wide layoffs. If that happened to you, straightforwardly address the matter; something along the lines of: "Even though my employment gap occurred during a significant economic downturn, I remained engaged with the industry by attending conferences and staying updated with market trends. Now, I am ready to jump back in as the industry recovers."

# Apple appoints Indian-origin Kevan Parekh as new CFO

NEXT STEP DESK

Apple has officially announced the appointment of Kevan Parekh, an Indian-origin engineer, as its next Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Parekh will take over the role on January 1, 2025, succeeding Luca Maestri, who has been a pivotal figure in Apple's financial management for nearly a decade.

As per the official announcement, while Parekh steps into this critical role, Maestri will transition to continue leading the Corporate Services teams, including information systems and technology, information security, and real estate and development, reporting directly to CEO Tim Cook.

**Who is Kevan Parekh?**

Kevan Parekh, who has been with Apple for 11 years, is currently serving as the Vice President of Financial Planning and Analysis. In this role, Parekh has led key areas such as Financial Planning, General & Administrative (G&A) and Benefits Finance, Investor Relations, and Market Research, as per the official blog by Apple.

Parekh's career at Apple began with leading financial support for Apple's Product Marketing, Internet Sales and Services, and Engineering teams. He later moved on to lead finance for Worldwide Sales, Retail, and Marketing.

Before joining Apple, Parekh held senior leadership roles at Thomson Reuters and General Motors. He is an electrical engineer with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Michigan and an MBA from the University of Chicago.

**What does Tim Cook say about him?**

In the official statement, Tim Cook expressed his confidence in Parekh, saying, "For more than a decade, Kevan has been an indispensable member of Apple's finance leadership team, and he understands the company inside and out. His sharp intellect, wise judgment, and financial brilliance make him the perfect choice to be Apple's next CFO."

Luca Maestri also voiced his support for Parekh, stating, "I have enormous confidence in Kevan as he prepares to take the reins as CFO. He is truly exceptional, has a deep love for Apple and its mission, and embodies the leadership, judgment, and values that are so important to this role."

The leadership transition comes at a critical time for Apple, as the company gears up for its highly anticipated fall product launches, expected to feature the most significant software upgrades for the iPhone to date. Parekh's appointment as CFO is being seen as a strategic move to ensure continuity and stability in Apple's financial operations.



## Thailand nets 1.3m kgs of invasive fish

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand has netted more than 1.3 million kilograms of highly destructive blackchin tilapia fish, the government said Tuesday, as it battles to stamp out the invasive species.

Shoals of blackchin tilapia, which can produce up to 500 young at a time, have been found in 19 Thai provinces, damaging ecosystems in rivers, swamps and canals by preying on small fish, shrimp and snail larvae.

As well as the ecological impact, the government is worried about the effect on the kingdom's crucial fish-farming industry.

Fishing authorities caught 1,332,000 kilograms of blackchin tilapia between February and August 28, authorities said.

The fish, native to West Africa, were first discovered in Thailand's rivers in 2010 before spreading rapidly in 2018, and are now also found in the US state of Florida and in the Philippines.

In July, the Thai government declared the eradication of the species a national priority.

It remains unclear how the fish arrived in Thailand, but local media reports have said they could have been imported by a company from Ghana in 2010.

A parliamentary investigation is under way to determine the cause of the infestation, Nattachai said.

The Thai government has encouraged locals to catch the fish, offering to pay people 15 baht (\$0.42) per kilogram.

Authorities have released predator species to hunt down the tilapia and are also developing genetically modified blackchin tilapia to produce sterile offspring.

A UN science panel warned last year that the tilapia are spreading faster than ever, wrecking crops, distributing disease and upending ecosystems.

More than 37,000 alien species have taken hold far from their places of origin, costing upwards of \$400 billion a year in damages and lost income, the UN panel said.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh attend an official welcoming ceremony in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia yesterday. Putin received a red carpet welcome on a state visit to Mongolia, whose failure to arrest him under a warrant from the International Criminal Court was criticised by Ukraine as a blow against justice.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Russian strikes kill 41 in Ukraine

At least 180 wounded in the deadliest single attack on Ukraine this year

REUTERS, Kyiv

At least 41 people were killed and more than 180 wounded yesterday when Russia struck a military institute in the central town of Poltava with two missiles, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, the war's deadliest single attack so far this year.

Zelenskyy said in a video that Russian forces struck with two ballistic missiles, damaging a building of the Military Institute of Communications. He ordered a full and prompt investigation.

"The Russian scum will definitely be held accountable for this strike," Zelenskyy said on the Telegram messaging app.

According to the foreign ministry, the type of weapons used left little time for people to find cover once the air alert had sounded.

Photographs posted on social media in Ukraine showed several bodies lying on the ground covered in dust and debris, with the badly damaged side of a large

building behind them. Reuters could not immediately verify the images.

"One of the institute's buildings was partially destroyed, and many people were trapped under the rubble," the defence ministry said on Telegram.



"Thanks to the coordinated work of rescuers and medics, 25 people were rescued, 11 of whom were taken from the rubble. The rescuers are currently continuing their work."

Russia had yet to comment on the attack.

Russia has intensified its missile and drone attacks on Ukraine two-and-a-half

years into the full-scale war.

Last week Ukraine was pummeled with the heaviest bombardment to date, and on Monday ballistic and cruise missiles targeted Kyiv causing loud explosions.

Ukraine also targeted Russia with more than 158 drones at the weekend, damaging an oil refinery near Moscow and a power station.

Zelenskyy repeated his calls for more Western air defences and urged allies to allow their long-range weapons to be used for strikes deeper into Russian territory in order to protect Ukraine.

"We keep telling everyone in the world who has the power to stop this terror: air defence systems and missiles are needed in Ukraine, not in a warehouse somewhere".

Fighting has intensified over the past month, with Russian forces advancing in heavy battles in eastern Ukraine, while Kyiv's troops have mounted their first large-scale cross-border assault into a Russian region, for which Moscow has vowed to retaliate.

## Khaleda Zia cleared in 5 defamation cases Committee

FROM PAGE 12

Haque dismissed three defamation cases filed over undermining the national flag and observing a "fake birthday" on August 15.

One of the cases was filed by AB Siddique, president of Bangladesh Jananetri Parishad, a pro-Awami League organisation, with a Dhaka court on November 3, 2016, accusing Khaleda and her late husband, former president Ziaur Rahman, of "undermining" the country's map and national flag.

The court dropped Ziaur Rahman's name from the charges as he is dead.

The second case accusing Khaleda of celebrating her "fake birthday" on August 15, the National Mourning Day, was filed by Gazi Zahirul Islam,

former joint general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists, with another Dhaka court on August 30, 2016.

The third case was filed by AB Siddique on October 21, 2014, claiming that on October 14 of the same year, Khaleda at a programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka said "the ruling party's [AL] professed secularism was nothing but a sham," adding that her remarks hurt religious sentiments of Muslims.

Third Additional Chief Additional Metropolitan Magistrate Md Tofazzal Hossain dismissed another case as the complainant was absent yesterday without taking any steps.

The fourth case was filed on January 5, 2016 against Khaleda and the party's senior leader Goyeshwar

Chandra Roy for demeaning Liberation War martyrs.

AB Siddique, president of Jananetri Parishad, filed the case against them.

Md Mahbulul Haque (in charge) of the Fourth Additional Chief Additional Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka dismissed another case filed by AB Siddique.

On January 25, 2017, AB Siddique filed the case against Khaleda over a "defamatory statement" on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In the complaint, Siddique alleged that Khaleda, at a programme on December 31, 2016, said Bangabandhu wanted to be the prime minister of undivided Pakistan rather than leading Bangladesh (the then East Pakistan) to independence.

FROM PAGE 1

"We have distributed our member's responsibility and made a decision on how they will prepare this report," Bhattacharya said.

However, he did not disclose the responsibilities of each member yet.

The committee will review macroeconomic issues along with issues in the education, health, energy and banking sectors among others.

Issues such as revenue mobilisation, money laundering, mega projects and poverty reduction will be discussed too.

"We shall review all the available

information from a critical perspective. We will verify its accuracy and compare it with the international standard," Bhattacharya said.

The available research in the fields will also be considered while preparing their report.

The committee plans to meet with various stakeholders and experts in sociology, economy and political science at home and abroad to get their opinions.

Within the next three days, the initial outlines of the committee's targets would be unveiled, he added.

## Filing of case

FROM PAGE 12

miscreants and take immediate legal action against them "irrespective of party affiliation."

An interim government took over after the fall of the authoritarian government in a student-led mass uprising on August 5.

The brutal force used by the fallen government to quell the popular uprising resulted in many deaths and casualties. Many people have been subjected to abductions, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings during the long-term misrule, reads the circular.

As a result, there is public anger towards the outgoing government. The interim government is determined to prosecute these abuses, the circular states.

Through the circular, the home ministry said the government wants to clarify that legal action will be taken against these activities that disrupt public safety.

If there is a complaint against someone, it should be reported to the superior officers concerned and their respective offices.

In no way can any institution be surrounded or any kind of violent behaviour be undertaken, the circular warns.

Measures will be taken to ensure adequate compliance and eliminate harassment during the process of conducting searches and accepting cases, the ministry circular reads.

Everyone is sincerely urged to cooperate with the government in maintaining law and order, it added.

## 9 Maoists killed

AFP, Raipur

Indian police killed at least nine Maoist rebels during a gunfight yesterday, officials said, with security forces still searching the forest for more remains and weapons.

The battle took place in Bailadila mountain range in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, Deputy Inspector General of Police Kamal Lochan Kashyap told AFP. "Authorities have recovered automatic, semi-automatic and other weapons," he added.

The clash is the latest in India's long-running Maoist insurgency that began in the 1960s and has cost tens of thousands of lives.

## JAIL BREAK ATTEMPT 129 dead in DRC

AFP, Kinshasa

At least 129 people were killed during a weekend prison break attempt at the largest jail in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the interior minister said yesterday.

"The provisional human toll is 129 dead, including 24 who were shot after warnings," minister Jacquemain Shabani said in a video message, adding that at least 59 others had been wounded at the Makala prison in the capital, Kinshasa.

His ministry said several people had been crushed or suffocated and a number of women had been raped.

Witnesses told AFP gunfire had started at the prison at around 2:00 am on Monday morning and lasted for several hours.

## 11 killed in China school bus mishap

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Eleven people were killed in China's eastern Shandong province yesterday after a school bus lost control at a busy pedestrian junction, broadcaster CCTV reported, with disturbing footage showing bodies lying on the road and trapped under the vehicle.

Six parents and five children were killed in the incident while one remained in critical condition. More than two dozen were injured, CCTV said.

Dongping Police Department said in a statement on WeChat that a vehicle picking up students lost control at a junction in Dongping County, Shandong yesterday morning.

The accident is under investigation, it added.

## 57 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 12

their departure from Bangladesh," Yunus wrote.

On July 19, groups of mostly Bangladeshi nationals who live in the UAE carried out peaceful protests in multiple locations across the UAE to express solidarity with the student protesters in Bangladesh.

The following day, the UAE's attorney general announced an investigation into the protests and just a day later the Abu Dhabi Federal Court of Appeal handed the 57 long prison terms for "inciting riots in several streets across the UAE".

Three of those accused were sentenced to life, 53 were given 10-year sentences, while one accused was sentenced to 11 years, according to the UAE's state-run Wam news agency.

The court also ordered the convicts to be deported upon completion of their time in prison.

Human Rights Watch in a statement on July 25 condemned the harsh punishments and said the speed with which the accused were probed, tried and convicted raised serious concerns about the fairness of the judicial process and amounted to unfair trial.

## Bangladeshi girl

FROM PAGE 12

the group, he added.

When they approached the barbed wire fence around 9:00pm, BSF personnel opened fire, killing Swarna on the spot and injuring her mother and the couple, he added.

Locals said the couple from Chattogram was taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital with gunshot wounds.

## Forcing teachers

FROM PAGE 12

Prof Wahiduddin also urged students to maintain an environment conducive to learning in their educational institutions for their benefit.

According to a count by The Daily Star, at least 150 teachers across the country were forced to resign till August 31 after the fall of Hasina-led government on August 5. Many were also humiliated and harassed.

Besides, several hundred teachers stepped down following demands from students. Over 20 teachers were barred from entering their institutions. Some filed complaints with police stations.

The actual number could be much higher as this newspaper could not reach all places. Protests are continuing at various institutions. The Secondary and Higher Education Division recently issued an order, asking deputy commissioners to see that an environment conducive to education is maintained at educational institutions.

## 541 killed in countrywide violence

FROM PAGE 2

killed in Jatrabari during the protests, Pradip Kumar Bhowmik was killed in Sirajganj. Cases were filed against 38 journalists, the organisation found.

At least 65 attacks were carried out on the members of the minority communities, which left 61 people injured. A total of 228 Hindu homes, 240 Hindu businesses, and 15 temples were attacked. These attacks

happened in Natore, Dhamrai, Dinajpur, Patuakhali, Shariatpur, Faridpur, Jashore, Noakhali, Meherpur, Chandpur and Khulna.

In addition, the Ahmadiyyas were attacked in Panchagarh and Rangpur, read the report.

The actual figures on violence could be far higher because these only represent the incidents which were reported by the media, it added.

## Israeli PM signals no appetite for

FROM PAGE 12

alongside Qatar and Egypt to try to secure a truce deal, replied "no" when asked by reporters in Washington if he thought Netanyahu was doing enough to secure a hostage deal.

The veteran Israeli leader, whose ruling coalition relies on the support of far-right ministers opposed to a truce, insisted that "we say yes" while it is Hamas that has refused to make concessions.

"I will not give in to pressure,"

Netanyahu told the press conference, saying Israel must control Gaza's border with Egypt, the Philadelphi Corridor, to stop Hamas from re-arming.

Israeli left-leaning daily Haaretz said Netanyahu was "masking his motives with security concerns" but said he was primarily concerned with his own political survival.

"His coalition... might unravel if a Gaza deal goes through," it said.

Netanyahu "wants to occupy Gaza on some level indefinitely" and was

now "just saying it more openly", Zonszein told AFP.

Despite "huge opposition" among Israelis who support a Gaza deal, "there's also nobody in the political realm that's able to challenge him," said the analyst.

Israel occupied the Gaza Strip in 1967 and maintained troops and settlers there until 2005, when it withdrew but imposed a crippling blockade and, since the start of the current war, a siege.

## Uphold religious harmony

FROM PAGE 12

communal harmony will not be allowed to be played again in this country. Let us either bury them [efforts to play minority card] or burn them in pyres."

Tarique said the followers of one religion have protected for ages the places of worship of another religion from the conspirators who try to destroy religious harmony in Bangladesh. "They have proved

time and again that there is nothing called minority or majority in this country."

He said all the citizens of Bangladesh have one identity -- they are Bangladeshis.

Talking about the current situation in Bangladesh, Tarique said the victory is still far away and the road to success is very long.

"We had been in the opposition camp for the last 17 years and we are

still in the opposition camp. Now it is not the time for complacency."

The BNP leader expressed optimism that their party will be able to present a new Bangladesh to the people if its grassroots leaders and activists could earn their trust.

BNP standing committee members Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Salahuddin Ahmed, and Begum Selima Rahman also spoke at the meeting.



## New DCs should be urgently appointed

### District-level governance vacuum must not persist any longer

We are concerned about the delay in appointing deputy commissioners (DCs) in 25 districts which has resulted in a governance vacuum. At least 13 days have passed since the interim government withdrew the DCs from various districts, including Dhaka, Gazipur, Chattogram, Mymensingh, and Cox's Bazar, reassigning them to different ministries, directorates, and other offices. As a result, additional deputy commissioners are now having to fill in for the DCs.

The DCs serve as administrative heads in their respective districts, playing a vital role in overseeing local governance and ensuring the effective delivery of many public services. They have also been recently tasked with the additional responsibility of supervising zilla parishads and municipalities, replacing mayors and chairmen. Given that, the delay in appointing new DCs is significantly hindering district-level operations. Since the fall of the Awami League government, we have observed increasing difficulty in the functioning of public offices. The resulting chaos within the civil administration has led to numerous disruptions in regular activities and services. And while many of these issues were expected given just how intertwined the previous regime became with all aspects of governance, the interim government should have planned better with respect to appointing new DCs so that some of this chaos could have been better mitigated.

For example, along with transferring the DCs, the government also dissolved the governing bodies of secondary and higher secondary educational institutions, as well as district and divisional sports councils. Consequently, the responsibility for overseeing these institutions and forming new committees fell to the DCs. However, because many of the DCs themselves were transferred, the formation of committees for educational institutions and sports organisations has been stuck in limbo. Additionally, the large-scale transfer of DCs has reportedly alarmed field-level officials who claim that the fear of being transferred is hindering their routine work, which is unacceptable.

Usually, the government first appoints new DCs before transferring the existing ones, or the two processes are done concurrently. However, although it is disappointing that the interim government ordered the transfer of nearly half of the district DCs without preparing a list of replacements, we must acknowledge the over-politicisation of civil service by the previous regime that has been particularly detrimental in this regard. As a result, the interim government has been extremely cautious in appointing new DCs, as it does not want to rely on the list of officials prepared by the previous administration. Be that as it may, the government urgently needs to sort out the DC appointment issue and bring back some discipline so that the delivery of public services is not hampered for much longer.

## Take steps to address crop losses

### Farmers, who suffered heavily during the floods, need help

After the recent floods, which claimed at least 67 lives, it is evident that a long, painful rebuilding process awaits affected communities even if they are not out of the woods yet, with the Met office warning about potential short-term flooding again later this month. Saddled simultaneously with the challenges of rebuilding homes and regaining livelihoods, these people will need continued help to weather this crisis. One area of recovery that deserves particular attention is agricultural rehabilitation.

According to an estimate, the recent floods have damaged crops worth Tk 3,346 crore, with about 14.14 lakh farmers in as many as 23 districts affected. A total of 986,214 tonnes of crops—including Aush and Aman paddy, vegetables, ginger, turmeric, fruit orchards, chilies, betel leaf, watermelon, papaya, and tomatoes—have been destroyed. Among the crops, paddy production has suffered the most significant damage. The inundation of Aman paddy fields and seedbeds has resulted in 6,85,000 tonnes of Aman paddy being wiped out, while 1,06,000 tonnes of Aush paddy have suffered the same consequence. That means, Tk 2,519 crore worth of paddy alone has been destroyed. Overall, crops were grown on over 14.3 lakh hectares, about 14.58 percent of which has been damaged.

This is a huge loss for the farmers, and a staggering blow to our food security, with its impacts already being felt in the markets. Fields that swayed with the promise of a bountiful harvest even a few weeks ago now lies barren, their crops rotting in the mud. Beyond crops, the devastation of seedbeds and fish enclosures has further deepened the crisis. In the fisheries sector, the losses in 12 most-affected districts have exceeded Tk 1,590.36 crore. Add to that the damage caused to livestock, poultry, animal feed, aquaculture infrastructure, etc. In the face of such overwhelming loss, the need for swift action to rehabilitate farmers, especially paddy farmers, cannot be overstated.

One of the immediate priorities is to make agricultural inputs—including seeds and fertilisers—readily available for replanting crops. So the authorities must reach out to all farmers in need of help. Reportedly, the government is placing the highest priority on setting up Aman seedbeds to ensure replanting in ravaged fields. Many have still complained of a crisis of seeds and lack of official help. This has to be addressed. One silver lining in this regard, as in the rescue and relief efforts throughout this flood, has been the support of volunteers, particularly students and teachers from various agricultural universities, who are collecting and preparing seeds to help farmers.

Their collaboration and coordination will be a big part of the agricultural rehabilitation process, and they must keep up these efforts. They should also ensure that fish and vegetable farmers and entrepreneurs are not left out. We must bear in mind that many of the farmers have also lost their homes and savings, and without proper financial assistance, they will be unable to purchase the necessary inputs or invest in the recovery of their land. Low-interest loans, grants, and subsidies can be made available to help them get back on their feet.

# The renaissance of Bangladesh Bank and some expectations



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BIRUPAKSHA PAUL

The newly appointed Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor, Dr Ahsan H Mansur, has effectively started the reformation of the country's banking sector without delay. This is most hopeful as it has long been overdue. The new governor, being a strong proponent of macroeconomic governance, started his day with the bitterest task of swooping down on the top financial hooligans who simply emptied the banking sector through a wholehearted pairing with corrupt politicians in power. An objective assessment of what is happening at the central bank heralds the advent of a dark chapter for the oligarchs who plundered both the capital market and numerous banks simultaneously under the interest of the past rulers.

What the governor has kicked off is no less than a renaissance since his actions have begun to storm the castles and forts of the economic mafia who never thought of being caught red handed because they governed the government. His prime actions endorse the importance of correcting institutions before talking about theoretical aspects. Dr Mansur is a sound pro-market economist who has equal respect for Smithian ethical doctrines, and he has not deviated from that: his market-based rules for exchange and interest rates are a testimony to that. He has remained different from his predecessors by signalling to the market that he will go after the money launderers and bank looters before fixing theoretical macro irregularities.

The revival of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) is also a significant move. BFIU was like a cat without teeth under the two previous governors, while the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was like an anaemic tiger without claws. Both the institutions are prerequisites for the well-functioning of Bangladesh Bank. The political domestication of both BFIU and ACC impeded BB's desired actions in many regulatory aspects. The judicial tardiness of default litigations at higher courts eventually made BB dysfunctional as a financial regulator. That is why many economists advocated for BB to have some magisterial powers to punish the wrongdoers at its own discretion.

Although the new BB governor has infused blood into the BFIU,

pairing with the ACC or higher courts remains beyond his capacity. And that bureaucratic labyrinth will again give refuge to the wrongdoers when the next elected regime begins. The time has come to make some reform so BB can complete the task of judgement and punishment within the financial regulatory framework. Going to the ACC or courts for straightforward financial verdicts is just a waste of



ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

time and energy—a rigmarole which eventually helps the culprits. This injustice induces new entrepreneurs to default wilfully since dishonesty pays better. People want an end to this culture to make the banking system fair and self-propelled. We believe the banking commission, which is presumably under construction, will figure out what to do in this respect to remove the trap of judicial bureaucracy.

The institutional damage done by the immediate past BB governor, who

will give the Bangladesh Bank a tough time. Economists who believe in ethics and politicians who respect minimum fairness must stand beside the new governor so he can bring some semblance of order in the country's banking system and punish the culprits by seizing their assets to adjust for their thefts. He wants to treat the cancer first before giving vitamins to the patient. And that makes him different from other policymakers.

We hope that the BB governor will

unquestionable obedience.

Finally, Economic Adviser Dr Salehuddin Ahmed and BB Governor Dr Ahsan H Mansur must step in a highly measured way to form the banking commission, which will delink political clout from banking affairs for the sake of establishing a corporate culture so the financial sector can see some light at the end of the tunnel. To make it happen, the governor's position must be made constitutionally powerful to strike the final note of the renaissance.

# Can the student movement free us from dynastic politics?



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N N TARUN CHAKRAVORTY

Plato, in his magnum opus *The Republic*, portrays his ideal state as one that ensures justice, harmony, and the well-being of its citizens. From this, we can infer that the aim of politics is to increase the well-being of people. In Plato's ideal state theory, a philosopher-king must be an enlightened ruler with a deep understanding of state affairs and the ability to discern absolute truth and justice.

Today, one might question the use of terms like "king" and "ruler." Regardless of the terminology, the underlying meaning remains the same. However, when politics is dominated by family dynasties or if the state suffers from crony capitalism, the well-being of the people tends to diminish.

The historical events that have most shaped the modern world are the European Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, the Magna Carta, the Glorious Revolution of England, the French Revolution, the Bill of Rights enacted in the US, and the Russian Revolution. The essence of these events is the empowerment of people and, in some cases, a transition from monarchy (centralised power within one family) to democracy (government

of the people, by the people, for the people). This transition aimed to uphold people's interests and maximise their well-being.

When power is concentrated within a single family, people's well-being is rarely maximised. This is why people revolted against monarchies—to ensure that state opportunities were open to all, regardless of caste and creed, so that people could enjoy freedom of choice, freedom of enterprise, and thus maximise their well-being.

In the states in which these revolutions took place, people's well-being significantly improved after the transitions. Amartya Sen's capability approach to development explains that the development of individuals' capacities is key to the overall human development. "Enhancement of capacities" means utilising the inherent potential in humans. When individuals' capacities are enhanced, they can achieve great things. To enhance these capacities, the state must play a crucial role by addressing needs such as alleviating poverty, providing schooling, etc. But in the states in which power is concentrated to one family or where

crony capitalism exists, individuals' capacities cannot be enhanced, that is, human potentials remain unutilised.

A critical aspect here is that people do not enjoy receiving alms from others, be it from individuals or the state. They prefer to stand on their own feet, exert their own efforts, build their own enterprises, and earn their own bread. They do not wish to be objects of pity from "royal families." This inherent aspect of human nature underscores the necessity for the "enhancement of capacities," as proposed in Sen's capability approach.

Family dynasties depend on a psychological phenomenon called "person worship" or a personality cult, often visible in developing countries where people who are not very educated view the family members or descendants of a "hero" as superior. Once people start to "worship" a certain individual, they continue to worship their descendants across generations.

In Bangladesh, the families of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Gen Ziaur Rahman are examples of such dynasties. As mentioned previously, states plagued by family dynasties generally experience lower levels of well-being, and moral issues are even more critical. Every individual, be it someone from a poor family or someone from a rich family, should be able to get to the top of the state ladder. But family dynasties create barriers in every individual's path to such a rise—leading to the creation of a discriminatory, unfair, and unjust society. Since the recent student

movement in Bangladesh is called the anti-discrimination student movement, we would expect these young individuals with modern values to advocate for the abolition of family dynasties.

This movement is a boon for Bangladesh, which should help us with a tremendous transition. Now, the students can help establish a new political party and free the country from the burden of family dynasties. Those who have already completed their studies may become members of this new political party, while others may join later. They may also invite others with knowledge, integrity, and patriotism to join them. If they pursue this path, I would issue two warnings.

First, I would advise them to consider Plato's idea on forming a new political party and building a new state. Plato advocated for a meritocratic society where individuals are assigned roles and responsibilities based on their own abilities, rather than inherited or acquired status. Education plays a leading role in shaping citizens in an ideal state, with a system focused on rigorous philosophical training, mathematics, ethics, and physical fitness to nurture intellect and moral character.

Second, I would insist that the principle of equality be the core spirit of the proposed political party. We must remember that human emancipation is not possible without social ownership of wealth, for which we must cultivate the spirit of collective life within society and also develop an education system that teaches this spirit of collective life.



INDIAN MEDIA PROPAGANDA ABOUT BANGLADESH

What purpose does it actually serve?

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RAMISA ROB AND MAHADEV GHOSH

Since the student-led mass uprising toppled Sheikh Hasina's regime in Bangladesh on August 5, a new reality dawned on the horizon for the nation grappling with uncertainty. But in neighbouring India's media, an alternate reality of what was not seen on the streets of Bangladesh emerged. An incessant flow of misinformation and largely disinformation flooded social media. The attacks on Hindu minorities, which did indeed take place, was put on steroids to detract and distract from the real sentiments of the movement.

There was a clear and apparent campaign by the "Godi media"—a term coined by veteran Ramon Magsaysay award-winning Indian journalist Ravish Kumar to refer to media outlets that share unobjective alliances with the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—to paint Bangladesh's democratic uprising against its former dictator as purely "anti-Indian" (in a roundabout way) and claim it was engineered by everything ranging from religious extremist forces to the US "Deep State." The latter claim came from none other than Republic TV's Arnab Goswami, who was initially reportedly funded by a prominent BJP politician, but he claims the shares have been bought back. Appearing on his channel, Goswami said, "When Rahul Gandhi goes to London and says America must save Indian democracy, this is the intervention he is probably talking about," as he pointed towards videos of Gono Bhaban being ransacked, buses being burnt in Dhaka and so on playing in the background. BJP MP Anurag Thakur called out Congress party's supposed hypocrisy in Lok Sabha by saying, "You spoke about Gaza but not about minorities

had done its job properly, we would've had an easier time talking about what we are facing." This account itself shows that the endless distortion of the violence against minorities in Bangladesh in the pro-establishment media in India has taken attention away from the real attacks that happened and, in fact, caused more harm. So then, who does this propaganda about Bangladesh serve?

Before Hasina's ousting, writer Aakar Patel in The Wire had written an article, interviewing people in these pro-establishment channels, who said the overt majoritarianism under Narendra Modi has produced a condition where "existent bigotry is given a platform to be amplified." Along with this, this section of the Indian media used the situation in Bangladesh to attack the Congress party and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A.) and breed further division in India itself.

The necessity of an aggressive stance against the opposition has been clear after the elections where BJP failed to reach a majority on its own, in spite of its slogan, "Abki baar 400 paar," which means, "This time surpassing 400" of the 543 seats in Lok Sabha. BJP did not even reach the magic 272 seats needed to form a government, and had to rely on the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi called the results "a moral and political defeat for Mr Modi." Although Modi did in fact bring home a third term, his grip on the nation seems to be dwindling and the difference between the parties widening, which can be further seen by analysing the contrast in their approaches towards Prof



In his Independence Day address, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised that 1.4 billion Indians are worried about the safety of Hindu minorities in post-Hasina Bangladesh, in New Delhi on August 15, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: AFP

**There was a clear and apparent campaign by the ‘Godi media’ to paint Bangladesh’s democratic uprising against its former dictator as purely ‘anti-Indian’ (in a roundabout way) and claim it was engineered by everything ranging from religious extremist forces to the US ‘Deep State.’**

in Bangladesh." The same sentiments were echoed by Aaj Tak's Sudhir Chaudhary when he compared the attacks against minorities in Bangladesh to the genocide in Gaza. "No country, no community in the world stepped forward to stop this genocide. Like how they did for Rafah," he said.

Hindus in Bangladesh themselves called on the Indian media to display facts. Bipra Prasun Das, a 21-year-old Hindu student from North South University in Dhaka, whose ancestral home was burnt down during the week of Hasina's fall, told Indian media watchdog Newslandry, "If the Indian media

Muhammad Yunus-led interim government in Bangladesh.

For instance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said it was "natural that we will deal with the government of the day," and that the relationship between the two countries has had its "ups and downs." Jaishankar's comments were still, steering clear of any jubilation or adversity, which was in sharp contrast to how Congress leader and former diplomat Shashi Tharoor addressed it. Speaking to NDTV, Tharoor said Prof Yunus taking over was "a very good sign, he is a highly respected figure, he has a reputation that

of Bengali Muslims protecting Hindu temples and protecting Hindu homes," adding that "we should be telling both sides of the story."

In this context, it's also important to note the BJP's realpolitik foreign policy. Debidatta Mahapatra of the *Times of India* explained India's current foreign policy as it stood on the sidelines of the Russia Ukraine war, until Prime Minister Modi's recent historic visit to Ukraine. "As realist prudence demands, India cannot simply undertake a moralist standpoint and ignore the dictates of realpolitik," described Mahapatra. This very use of realpolitik in India's neighbourhood policy—which is understandable as nations do act in their own interests—has bred the anti-India sentiments that we saw in the Maldives earlier this year.

Undoubtedly, the portrayal of India's international strength by the BJP, the hosting of the G20 Summit and its renewed importance on the world stage are all causes for national pride for India. BJP capitalises on it, reframing what would have historically

indicate the best picture.

Raghuram Rajan, former governor of India's central bank who resigned two years into BJP taking power, stated that Modi's goals of becoming a developed economy by 2047 was unachievable, citing high dropout rates and lack of high school education in the country of 1.4 billion where more than half are below the age of 30. Youth unemployment stands at 45.4 percent, one of the highest in the world. The Global Hunger Index rated their child wasting rate as the highest in the world—at 18.7 percent—exceeding countries with active conflicts such as Yemen. This makes it imperative for the BJP to hold onto realpolitik policies to sell its position in the world to its people at the cost of fostering antagonistic attitude with its neighbours—which are all a part of what the *Hindustan Times* calls the "Modi-Doval-Jaishankar" playbook. The playbook can be summarised as "shaping democratic verdicts" when deemed necessary.

Many commentaries have been written to understand the purpose of the Indian media's

and September (in) 2023." By painting the democratic uprising as Islamist or anti-Indian and leveraging it to attack the Congress party, the BJP's media allies demonstrated the lengths to which they would go to mask the domestic challenges India is currently facing under the BJP rule. This includes the prevailing communalism and violence in Manipur which the pro-establishment media and BJP politicians have ignored, while Modi recently wrote on X (formerly Twitter) that he discussed the issue of "Hindu minorities" in Bangladesh, with US President Joe Biden.

Irregardless, at the end of the day, Bangladesh and India need to maintain a good relationship. For the pro-establishment media in India to continue pursuing the divisive commentaries and the current brand of journalism will needlessly harvest an anti-India sentiment in Bangladesh and cultivate harmful sentiments between ordinary citizens of the neighbouring countries. And that is the last thing that South Asia needs right now.

‘Active citizens can serve as a social check on the government’

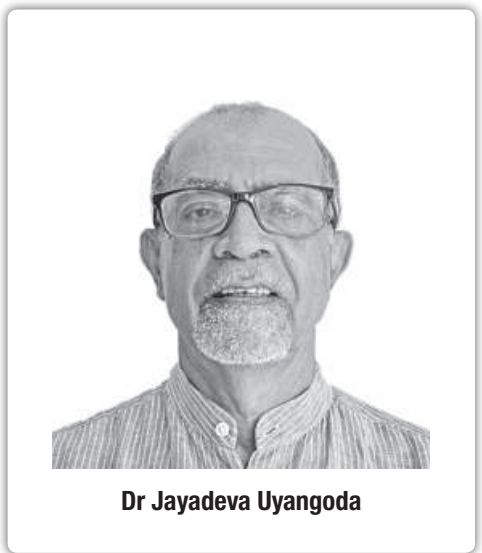
As we approach a month of Sheikh Hasina’s fall in Bangladesh, Dr Jayadeva Uyangoda, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka, speaks to Ramisa Rob of The Daily Star regarding the parallels with Sri Lanka’s democratic movement in 2022, and the lessons to learn for Bangladesh.

**Do you see any similarities between the ouster of the Rajapaksa family in Sri Lanka and the fall of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh?**

Yes, indeed. In my view, there are four key ones. First, element of spontaneity: both protests were citizens' direct actions which suddenly erupted with no prior leadership or direction. Second, both were borne from people's accumulated anger against an autocratic ruler. Third, both began as low-key movements against the government without a political agenda, before long acquiring a mass character driven by people's desire for change. And fourth, they were democracy-enhancing protests opening the political and social space for new initiatives for setting in motion a process of substantive change.

**How would you describe the political climate in Sri Lanka freshly after the revolution and what can Bangladesh learn from it?**

In Sri Lanka, the political climate became "normalised" in a very strange manner when a right-wing backlash against the protest movement succeeded in July-August 2022 to overcome the political challenge from the protesters. A new elite coalition was swiftly forged by the Rajapaksa family and Ranil Wickremesinghe, leader of the right-wing United National Party, to save the status quo by using their parliamentary majority. This new coalition used its majority to consolidate the authority of the weakened ruling class. That soft "counter-revolution" succeeded without much violence. The protest movement slowly began to dissipate



in the face of a repressive response by the government led by the new president.

The first lesson I would suggest for Bangladesh from Sri Lanka's experience is: be watchful of a possible counter-revolution, which might not be very soft. Second, continue the democratising role of the protest movement as an ongoing political actor as a citizens' check on the political parties as well as other actors who want to take the country away from democratic consolidation. And lastly, if possible, initiate a new democratic coalition to participate in the next parliamentary elections so that the agential role of the student movement for democratic transformation can be sustained.

**How do you think the region as a whole can navigate the culture of nepotism, political dynasty, and loyalism?**

It is not easy to clean up corrupt governance in South Asia unless through popular uprisings, like what we saw in Sri Lanka in 2022 and in Bangladesh in 2024. I notice that in Bangladesh, there are efforts being made at present to rid the politics of these political and social evils. An active, alert and vigilant citizens' movement, without pursuing political power, will hopefully be a powerful force to cleanse our political systems and cultures by democratic means and continue to function as an active social check on governments, bureaucracies, and public institutions.

**In terms of economy, Sri Lanka’s recovery has been noted, though we understand the economic crisis still persists. Is there a cautionary tale that you want to tell Bangladesh?**

Beware of the IMF-inspired solutions to the economic crisis without calculating their immediate social and political costs. Do not accept the solutions offered by the IMF as well as your own economic bureaucracy without calculating the terrible social cost of economic recovery. Similarly, do not allow the IMF or your own economic bureaucracy to pass the burden of the crisis recovery on to the ordinary, poor, working, and middle-class families through varieties of direct and indirect taxation. These families are already victims of the social mismanagement of the economic growth of your country. And ignore the social and political consequences of economic crisis management.

**How do you view the tensions in the region since Sheikh Hasina’s fall?**

I think the tension with India was unavoidable. A similar crisis occurred to China-Sri Lanka relations when Mahinda Rajapaksa was the president. My humble view is that India needs to review, reset, and re-imagine its relations with Bangladesh as well as other neighbours for a democratic and peaceful South Asia.

**How did Sri Lanka navigate geopolitical relations after the 2022 protests, and what can Bangladesh do to achieve harmony in the region?**

The geopolitical challenges for South Asia today are quite complex. They have the potential to generate tension, and even enmity, among the South Asian states too. At the moment, we don't have a truly South Asian intergovernmental forum to discuss, debate and understand these challenges at the level of governments. I have always thought that SAARC needs to be revived in the true spirit of cooperation and solidarity among the peoples as well. It has been too statist and overtly bureaucratised.

Sri Lanka's protest movement did not raise issues concerning foreign policy as such. There are some murmurs from some in Sri Lanka that it has become closer to the US and India, at the expense of the relations with China and Russia. Obviously, the regional and global powers were watching what was going on in Sri Lanka during the protests because of its geopolitical significance. They were also obviously watching whether there would be a regime change in Sri Lanka and what would be the political colour of the

post-protest regime, as I am sure is being discussed now in Bangladesh. The simple lesson we have to learn is that internal political changes in our societies are not free of worrisome consequences to regional and global powers, and that there is always the likelihood of external interventions, mostly covertly and sometimes overtly. That is also why the small countries in the world today need a new and updated version of the vision of non-alignment to protect their peoples from the unwanted fallout from the big power—there are quite a few of them around us these days—rivalries.

**Are the Sri Lankan people better off now, and if so, how can Bangladesh follow the same path?**

Well, soon after the citizens' protest became subdued, the government's immediate response was to restrict the democratic space for protests and the politics of resistance. The government introduced new repressive legislation restricting civil rights and upgraded the repressive capacities of the police, turning it to more or less like a semi-military force, obviously to curb more effectively the next phase of protests. So avoiding that is crucial for Bangladesh.

Yet, one good thing about democracy in Sri Lanka continues to remain, the knowledge of which perhaps may benefit Bangladeshi citizens. Politically alert and democratically conscious citizens continue to play their role as a living democratic force. The forthcoming presidential election, scheduled for September 21, will tell us where Sri Lankan people are as democrats.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

পরিচালকের কার্যালয়

ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব হসপিটালস ও হাসপাতাল

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

ফোনঃ ০২-৪৮১২০০৭৯, ই-মেইলঃ [nins@hospi.dghs.gov.bd](mailto:nins@hospi.dghs.gov.bd)

স্মারক নং: ৫৬(৯)/এনআইএনএস/সরপরে বিজি/২০২৪-২৫/৪৪৯

তারিখঃ ০৩/০৯/২০২৪ইং

**AMENDMENT**

স্মারক Ref: 56(9)/NINS&H/Tender Document/2024-25/282, Date: 18/08/2024

Advertisement Date & Time				Amendment Date & Time			
	Particular	Tender last selling date	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time	Tender last selling date	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
ITT 38.1,	Package No-GR-	02/09/2024	05/09/2024	05/09/2024	25/09/2024	26/09/2024	26/09/2024
ITT 38.3,	02, 03, 04, 05	(Office hour)	Time: 12:00	Time: 12:15	(Office hour)	Time: 12:00	Time: 12:15
ITT44.1	Lot: 01						

N.B: Other details conditions including in the schedule.


অধ্যাপক ডা. কাজী মীন মোহাম্মদ

পরিচালক

ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব হসপিটালস ও হাসপাতাল

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

GD- 341



**Bangladesh Land Port Authority**

Ministry of Shipping

Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project

Land Port Building, Plot No. F-19/A, Shere-E-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No. 18.15.0000.023.11.008.24.-01

Dated: September2, 2024.

**Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI)**

**(Consulting Services – Firms Selection) (International)**

Country: Bangladesh

Name of the Project: Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project

Credit No.: IDA 7166-BD

Assignment Title: Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision and Contract Management (CSC).

Reference No.: BLPA-S1

The Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the “Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project” and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include “Consultancy Services for Construction Supervision and Contract Management (CSC)”. The main objective of this Consulting service (the Services) is the Supervision of the contracted civil works in the Project, including pre-construction design review and construction and post-construction phase monitoring, inspection, and reporting activities of the designed works at Ramgarh, Sheola, Bhomra, and Benapole Land Ports. These supervision services comprise, *inter alia*, working with the successful contractor (s) to ensure an orderly start-up and timely execution of the works; a full array of quality assurance activities; certification of payments; co-ordination with various stakeholders; contract administration; minor designs for problems encountered; development of variation orders as needed, including scoping, independent pricing, and negotiation; communication and facilitation of communication among all necessary parties; and issuance of Taking-Over Certificates

The duration of the assignment is during a construction period of 42 months for the eight (8) works packages and a defects notification period of further 12 months, expected start date is January 1, 2025. The total professional staff-months for the assignment are 420 person-months (detailed position mentioned in the TOR).

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found in the web site [www.blpa.gov.bd](http://www.blpa.gov.bd) or can be obtained at the address of the undersigned.

Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- General Experience of the Firm (core business and years in business),
- Experience in Construction Supervision of comparable size,
- Experience in Contract Management of comparable size,
- Working experience in development partner funded projects will be an added advantage

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” September 2023 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS (Quality and Cost Based Selection) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form, one (1) hard copy and one (1) soft copy (MS Word/Pdf format in CD or DVD or Flash Drive) by September 23, 2024 up to 03.00 p.m. to the address- Md. Ruhul Amin Miah, Project Director (Joint Secretary), Accelerating Transport and Trade Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (ACCESS) – Bangladesh Phase 1: (BLPA Component) Project, Land Port Building, Plot No. F-19/A, Shere-E-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.

(Md. Ruhul Amin Miah)

Project Director (Joint Secretary)


(Service ID-15346)

Land Port Building

F-19/A, Shere-e-Banglanagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

E-mail: [pdaccessblpa@gmail.com](mailto:pdaccessblpa@gmail.com)

GD-332



**Jashore Pourashava, Jashore**

District: Jashore

Memo No. 16.02.002.376.2022.6959

Date: 02-09-2024

**e-GP Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25**

e-GP Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as mentioned in the following table:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Brief description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
1011232	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-09	(a) Periodic Maintenance of East Barandi Main road by DBC. Ch.0+00m to 0+420m (Start From Dhaka Khulna Main road) at Ward No. 01 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Periodic Maintenance of Purbo Barandi Math Para road by DBC. (From Lichu Tala. Ch.00-670) at Ward No. 01 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012263	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-10	(a) Upgrading road by RCC at Mollapara Bashtala road bylane Anower Hossain house to Advocate Somir Uddin house. Ch.0+00m to 0+180m at Ward No. 01 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Upgrading of RCC drain at Mollapara Bashtala road bylane Anower Hossain house to Advocate Somir Uddin house. Ch.0+00m to 0+180m at Ward No. 01 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012264	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-11	(a) Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at HMM road by Lane House of Robiul Alom to house of Babul. (Ch.0+00 to 0+102m) Connecting Road & drain-1- House of Toufiq house side road (Ch. 0+00 to 0+015m). Connecting Road & drain-2- House Lipu house side road (Ch.0+00 to 0+035m) at Ward No. 02 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Nath Para road bylane House of Kuddus to House of Rashu (Ch.0+00 to 0+080m) at Ward No. 02 under Jashore Pourashava. Â© Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Nath Para road bylane House of Mohammad Ali to House of Altaf Mia (Ch.0+00 to 0+162m). Connecting Road & drain from House of Suja to House of Ratan Rai (Ch.0+00 to 0+070m) at Ward No. 02 under Jashore Pourashava. (d) Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Ombika Basu Road bylane Ghorawala road (ch. 0+00 to 0+118m) at Ward No. 02 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012265	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-12	(a) Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Ghope Central road bylane Golam Mostofa Road House of Munna to House of Tutul Chairman (Ch.0+00 to 0+090m). Connecting Road & drain-1. - Sadik Biswash house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+070m). Connecting Road & drain-2- Tutul Chairman house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+015m) at Ward No. 03 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Ghope Central road bylane House of Razek to House of Foysal (Ch. 0+00 to 0+090m) at Ward No. 03 under Jashore Pourashava. Â© Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Ghope Central road bylane House of Rafiq Master to House of Ibrahim Mia (Ch.0+00 to 0+172m) at Ward No. 03 under Jashore Pourashava. (d) Upgrading of RCC road & RCC drain at Ghope Ghope Pilu Khan Road Bylane House of Ashik Ali to House of Fanta (Ch.0+00 to 0+085m) at Ward No. 03 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012337	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-13	Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Kolmi Lata road. (Graveyard road to house of Firoz. Ch.0+000m to 0+170m). Connecting road & drain-1: Jewel Sir house side. (Ch.0+000m to 0+170m), Connecting road & drain-2: Taj Uddin house side. (Ch.0+000m to 0+050m), Connecting road & drain-3: Jahangir house side. (Ch.0+000m to 0+210m), Connecting road & drain-4: Journalist Jewel house side, (Ch.0+000m to 0+052m), Connecting road & drain-5: Freedom Fighter Sirajul Islam house side. (Ch. 0+000m to 0+080m) at Ward No. 04 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012398	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-14	Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Hazrat Borhan Shah road bylane Shahid Shawpan Road (Ch. 0+000m to 0+250m). Connecting road & drain-1: Ch.0+000m to 0+035m, Connecting road & drain-2: Ch.0+000m to 0+095m, Connecting road & drain-3: Ch.0+000m to 0+020m, Connecting road & drain-4: Ch.0+000m to 0+080m, Connecting road & drain-5: Ch.0+000m to 0+020m at Ward No. 5 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012445	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-15	(a) Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Biman Bondor Road bylane Jashim House side (Ch. 0+00 to 0+055m) at Ward No. 5 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Hazrat Borhan Shah Road bylane Ad-Din Hospital side East side of Baitus Sultal Jam-E-Mosque Dr. Zaved house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+092m) at Ward No. 5 under Jashore Pourashava. Â© Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Khorki road bylane west side of Post Office Quarter Dr. Sumon house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+145m) at Ward No. 5 under Jashore Pourashava. (d) Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Bamon Para Gojonabi house to Rejaul Muhuri house (Ch.0+00 to 0+135m). Connecting road & drain: Khokon house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+050m) at Ward No. 5 under Jashore Pourashava. (e) Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Abdul Halim road by lane Hawakers Market to Lavu Joarder house (Ch.0+00 to 0+236m). Connecting road & drain-1: Ripon House side (Ch.0+00 to 0+050m). Connecting road & drain-2: Shimul house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+046m). Connecting road & drain-3: Mosque Goli (Ch.0+00 to 0+025m) at Ward No. 5 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012547	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-16	Rehabilitation of road by DBC & Construction of RCC drain at Raipara Jamatala (Raipara Madrasa road to Dalmil road) road at Ward No. 6 under Jashore Pourashava. (Chainage. Ch.0+00 to 0+560) (Road Length = 560.00m both side drain. Drain Length= 1120.00m)	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012561	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-17	Upgrading of road by DBC & Construction of RCC drain at Ghope Pilu Khan road bylane Janata Hospital Side road at Ward No. 03 under Jashore Pourashava. (Chainage. Ch.0+00 to 0+197) (Road Length = 197.00m both side drain. Drain Length= 394.00m)	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012565	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-18	(a) Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at TB Clinic road bylane TB Clinic to house of Anju Shaikh (Ch.0+00 to 0+205m). Connecting road & drain-1: House of Radha Shaha (Ch.0+00 to 0+110m). Connecting road & drain-2: house of Noyon (Ch.0+00 to 0+015m) at Ward No. 7 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Construction of RCC Road & RCC drain at Ansar Camp road west side of water tank to Asia House (Ch.0+00 to 0+225m). Connecting road & drain-1: Graveyard to mosque (Ch.0+00 to 0+070m). Connecting road & drain-2: Morshed house to Mira house (Ch.0+00 to 0+060m) at Ward No. 7 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012566	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-19	(a) Construction of RCC Road & RCC drain at east side of MSTP school Biswash Printers to Rokeya Cottage (Ch.0+00 to 0+054m) at Ward No. 8 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Construction of RCC Road & RCC drain at Basepara main road Sontosh house to Narayon house (Ch.0+00 to 0+095m). Connecting road & drain: Sadhon House side (Ch.0+00 to 0+020m) at Ward No. 8 under Jashore Pourashava. Â© Construction of RCC Road & RCC drain at Basepara main road bylane Asia Monjil to Fazlur rahman house via Mosfek rahman house (Ch.0+00 to 0+146m) at Ward No. 8 under Jashore Pourashava. (d) Construction of RCC Road & RCC drain at Basepara main road bylane house of Moslem to Dilruba house (Ch.0+00 to 0+096m). Connecting road & drain: Shawpan house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+090m) at Ward No. 8 under Jashore Pourashava. (e) Upgrading of RCC Road & RCC drain at Basepara Gurgullah road bylane house of Uttom Kundu to house of Jilani (Ch.0+00 to 0+055m) at Ward No. 8 under Jashore Pourashava. (f) Upgrading of Road & RCC drain at Basepara new extension road bylane house of Shawapan to house of Arun (Ch.0+00 to 0+095m). Connecting road & drain: Shimu house side drain (Ch.0+00 to 0+060m) at Ward No. 8 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM
1012567	LGCRRP / Jashore/ 2023-24/ W-20	(a) Upgrading of Road & RCC drain at Basepara main road bylane Progoti Polli road side drain. (Ch.0+00 to 0+075m). Connecting road & drain-1: Engineer Dhojoy house side drain (Ch.0+00 to 0+105m). Connecting road & drain-2: Bishawjit house side drain (Ch.0+00 to 0+065m) at Ward No. 9 under Jashore Pourashava. (b) Upgrading of Road & RCC drain at Tatipara road bylane house of Late Abdur Razzak to house of Mijanur Rahman (Ch.0+00 to 0+150m). Connecting drain: Riad house side drain (Ch.0+00 to 0+052m) at Ward No. 9 under Jashore Pourashava. Â© Upgrading of Road & RCC drain at Hushtala Eye Hospital road bylane house of Salauddin to house of Yakub Kabir (Ch.0+00 to 0+150m). Connecting road & drain: Bashir house side (Ch.0+00 to 0+030m) at Ward No. 9 under Jashore Pourashava. (d) Upgrading of Road & RCC drain at Base Para Bonani road Bismillah Traders to Joynal Dairy (Ch.0+00 to 0+170m) at Ward No. 9 under Jashore Pourashava.	04-09-2024 09:00 AM	26-09-2024 02.00 PM

These are an online tender, where only e-GP Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-GP Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-GP Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 25-09-2024 at 3.00pm.

For these works bill will be paid after fund available. Further information and guidelines are available in National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

S.M. Sharif Hasan

Executive Engineer

Jashore Pourashava, Jashore

District: Jashore

E-mail: [sharif.hassan41@yahoo.com](mailto:sharif.hassan41@yahoo.com)

GD-335



Bangladesh's six-wicket win in the second Test against Pakistan in Rawalpindi yesterday confirmed the Tigers' **third overseas Test series win**. They won their one-off Test away to Zimbabwe in 2021 and swept the two-match series away to West Indies in 2009.

This was Bangladesh's **21st** win in **144 Tests**.

Overall, it was Bangladesh's **eighth** win in an overseas Test -- two each in West Indies, Zimbabwe & Pakistan and one each in Sri Lanka & New Zealand.

This was also Bangladesh's **ninth** Test series victory, having played a total of 74 series so far. The other series victories came against Zimbabwe (4 times), West Indies (2), Ireland (1) and Afghanistan (1).

This was only the **second** time Pakistan got whitewashed at home in a Test series after seeing England sweep a series 3-0 in 2022/23.

Bangladesh went on to win the second Test against Pakistan after losing six wickets for 26 runs in the first innings. The last instance of any side winning a Test after losing six wickets below 30 runs happened **137 years** ago when England beat Australia by 13 runs in a game in Sydney in which they had lost six wickets for just 17 runs in the first innings.

The 185-run target that Bangladesh chased down to win yesterday is the Tigers' **third-highest** successful chase behind 215 vs West Indies in St George's in 2009 and 191 vs Sri Lanka in Colombo in 2017. This was also the third-highest chase by a visiting team in Pakistan and the **highest** since Sri Lanka chased 220 in 2000.

Pakistan have now gone **ten** Tests at home without a win (six defeats & four draws).

Pakistan have lost all **five** Tests under Shan Masood -- the worst start by a Pakistan captain.



Mushfiquir Rahim and Shakib Al Hasan celebrate as Bangladesh win second Test against Pakistan by six wickets in Rawalpindi yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

# Miraz relishes ‘one of his happiest moments’

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

From Mushfiquir Rahim's majestic hundred in the opening Test to Liton Das's resilient ton and the pacers' lethal performance in the series-deciding second Test, there were a number of heroes who played pivotal roles in Bangladesh's maiden Test series victory over Pakistan.

But among them, one particularly stood out with his superb all-round display throughout the series. It was Mehedi Hasan Miraz, who did the job with both the ball and bat, helping Bangladesh clean sweep Pakistan in the two-match series, materialised when the Tigers registered a six-wicket victory in Rawalpindi yesterday their 10-wicket win in the same venue last week.

Since his emergence in the U19 scene in 2016, Miraz has repeatedly shown that to be the true successor of Shakib Al Hasan -- the country's best all-rounder has produced to in the last couple of years, the 26-year-old has some splendid performances, mostly in Tests and ODIs, to justify the point.

In the opening Test, Miraz scored a brilliant 77 after coming to bat at number eight and his record 196-run stand with Mushfiquir helped Bangladesh take a handy first-innings lead over the hosts. Later, he came up with a four-wicket haul in the second innings to orchestrate the Tigers' maiden Test win over Pakistan.

Miraz continued his superb form in the second game as well, registering a fiver to restrict Pakistan under 300 in the first innings. And when Bangladesh were left tottering at 26-6, Miraz made 78 off 124 balls and was part of the rescue act that saw him stitching a record 165-run seventh-wicket stand with Liton Das to help Bangladesh avoid the embarrassment of follow-on and reduce the first innings deficit down to just 12 runs.

"I never thought negatively. If you do that, you can't perform well in this condition. So I just tried always to be confident," Miraz said after yesterday's win.

Having finished with the most number of wickets (10) and as the fifth-highest scorer (155 runs), Miraz justifiably took home the player of the series award. This was his second such accolade as he became only the third Bangladeshi cricketer after Shakib (5) and Taijul Islam (2) to have won the award more than once.

The last and only time Miraz achieved such a feat was back in 2016 when he took 19 wickets in his debut Test series against England at home.

"The team is very happy with my performance, they keep supporting me. This is one of the happiest moments for me," Miraz concluded.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

### Pakistan vs Bangladesh, 2nd Test

**PAKISTAN 1ST INNINGS:** 274 all out (Ayub 58, Masood 57; Miraz 5-61, Taskin 3-57)

**BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS:** 262 all out (Liton 138, Miraz 78; Khurram 6-90)

**PAKISTAN 2ND INNINGS:** 172 all out (Salman 47 not out, Rizwan 43; Mahmud 5-43, Nahid 4-44)

**BANGLADESH 2ND INNINGS:** 185 for 4 (Zakir 40, Shanto 38, Mominul 34; Salman 1-17, Abrar 1-40)

**RESULT:** Bangladesh won by six wickets and took the series 2-0

**PLAYER OF THE MATCH:** Liton Das

**PLAYER OF THE SERIES:** Mehedi Hasan Miraz



# Defiant Liton stepped up ‘to take the game on’

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI

If Liton Das's last Test series against Sri Lanka at home is anything to go by, he had been struggling immensely both mentally and technically. His technique, especially against the new ball, had come under scrutiny even before those Sri Lanka Tests. Thus, when he was batting in the Rawalpindi Test on day three, he had to contend with the momentum Pakistan had built up against Bangladesh, as well as his own recent struggles.

If going against the grain is a sought-after trait when achieving a backs-to-the-wall turnaround, Liton mythically overcame his performance issues and played an innings that completely changed the scenario. To put it in perspective, it was Liton's first Test century in 27 months, since the one against Sri Lanka in 2022. Since then, he had scored five fifties in 18 innings, but problems with concentration led to poor shot selection and low scores.

The Tigers were reduced to 26-6, in reply to Pakistan's 272 in first innings, with Mir Hamza and Khurram Shahzad nipping the ball around at will. Usually, Liton is the aggressor, but this time he played according to the situation.

Former captain Mominul Haque, watching with the rest of the team,

described the feelings that engulfed the dressing room at the time.

"The mood within the team was certainly one of disappointment -- it's only natural after losing six wickets so early," Mominul told The Daily Star over the phone from Pakistan.

"When Liton and Miraz were batting, I was sitting upstairs in the dressing room, feeling quite depressed. It was even more acute because the previous day we had been buoyed by the win in the first Test, and all of a sudden it felt like we had nothing.

"Then I went down and felt a bit more optimistic. At that point, they had added around 12-15 runs to our score of 26. I was with Taijul and remember telling him that from here Miraz would score a hundred and Liton would get a ton -- that's 200 runs, and then we'd win. It was just something I said out of the blue without context, but maybe someone granted my wish," he added.

Even with Miraz's massive innings, Liton's task did not end when the last recognised batter, Miraz, got out. He went on to complete his century with only Hasan Mahmud for company, showcasing all the class and maturity that had been missing from his earlier Test innings.

"Liton and Miraz were just

unbelievable. It proves that there is nothing unbelievable in cricket," Mominul said.

"After Miraz got out, we were a bit tense, as another wicket would mean Liton wouldn't get his hundred. The way he played throughout the innings, doing what was necessary, taking risks when needed, and his shot selection and counter-attacking at the right moments, showed he took all the responsibility to take the game on," Mominul aptly remarked.

Mominul noted that Liton was nervous at the start, but once Miraz relieved some pressure with boundaries, Liton capitalised on that momentum to end up scoring a 228-ball 138 that set the stage for Bangladesh's first series win in Pakistan.

"You need to counter-attack according to your strengths. His [Liton's] move was that when they attacked his strong zones he went on the attack. He plays the cuts and pulls very well and they set him up for short deliveries but he capitalised," said Mominul.

As a fast bowler, I was looking for wickets, and the boys, our effort [with the ball], we really deserved it.

HASAN MAHMUD

They [Pakistan] had good momentum. We [me and Miraz] had to kill that momentum [while batting in first innings after Bangladesh lost six for 26 runs]. It's a big achievement by the Bangladesh cricket team.

LITON DAS

Very proud. Very young group, in terms of the number of games they have played. Probably not the kind of wickets we were expecting but this group has improved every Test and showed some good control, particularly in the second innings.

Bangladesh pace bowling coach  
ANDRE ADAMS

I dedicate this award to the student protestors who were martyred. A rickshaw-puller was hurt in the violence, and eventually died. I want to gift this award to his family.

MEHEDI HASAN MIRAZ

Heartiest congratulations on behalf of the government and myself. The whole nation is proud of you.

PROF MUHAMMAD YUNUS,  
Chief Adviser.

Extremely disappointed, we were excited for the home season. The story has been the same as Australia, we have not learnt our lessons.

SHAN MASOOD, Pakistan skipper

Means a lot, can't express in words. Really happy. We were looking to win here and very happy with the way everyone has done their job.

NAJMUL HOSSAIN SHANTO, Bangladesh skipper

We don't play Test really well. We don't even have a good track record in Tests. The team went to Pakistan having these in their minds. Beating Pakistan in Pakistan is a massive thing for any country whether it's India, Australia or England. And we won both the matches by dominating them.

NAZMUL ABEDEEN FAHIM, BCB director

# Bangladesh make big strides on WTC table

## WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS TABLE

Pos	Team	Pld	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts	Pct
1	India	9	6	2	1	74	68.52
2	Australia	12	8	3	1	90	62.5
3	New Zealand	6	3	3	0	36	50
4	Bangladesh	6	3	3	0	33	45.83
5	England	15	8	6	1	81	45
6	South Africa	6	2	3	1	28	38.89
7	Sri Lanka	6	2	4	0	24	33.33
8	Pakistan	7	2	5	0	16	19.05
9	West Indies	9	1	6	2	20	18.52

## STAR SPORTS REPORT

Bangladesh have moved to fourth position on the World Test Championship (2023-25) table following their historic 2-0 series victory away in Pakistan on Monday.

The Tigers started the two-match series in eighth position on the nine-team table and moved up two places following their 10-wicket win against Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi. The win in the second Test, which the Tigers won by six wickets, moved them two places further up, leapfrogging England and South Africa.

The Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side are currently in fourth position with three wins and three defeats from six matches, with a 45.83 percentage points.

India, Australia and New Zealand occupy the top three positions on the table.

Bangladesh will play two Tests against India later month before hosting South Africa for a two-match series in October-November.

The Tigers will wrap up the World Test Championship Cycle with two Test matches away at West Indies in November-December this year.

The two finalists of the World Test Championship, which will be held at Lord's in London from June 11, 2025, will be declared on January 28 next year.

Australia are the reigning World Test champions after beating India at The Oval in 2023.





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## ‘Filing of case doesn’t mean random arrests’

Home ministry says cops under pressure from some quarters to record cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has warned of legal action against those responsible for creating instability through forced resignations, vandalism, arson, illegal searches, looting, extortion, and tender manipulation, which it said were being carried out by a group of overenthusiastic and vested quarters.

The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the warning in a circular yesterday.

The circular also stated that in an attempt to create instability, some quarters are putting pressure on the police to record cases and are attacking the accused in court. In this context, the government wants to assure everyone that a case filed does not mean random arrests will be made.

“All these cases will be properly investigated, and appropriate action will be taken,” reads the circular.

The government will identify all the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Rickshaws negotiate a waterlogged road in the capital's East Tejturibazar around noon yesterday, hours after heavy rains. The downpours inundated many roads and alleys in the capital, causing sufferings to the city residents.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Uphold religious harmony

Tarique urges an end to games with ‘minority card’

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday called upon the people to come forward and stop the old game of “minority card” to uphold religious harmony in the country.

“Many games have been played with the ‘religious minority card’ at home and abroad,” he said during a virtual meeting with the BNP’s grassroots leaders and activists from Chattogram and Barishal divisions.

The BNP leader said everyone knows who repeatedly tried to gain political advantage by exploiting a sensitive issue like the minority-majority divide and creating fictitious stories of persecution to conceal their misdeeds and destabilise the country.

“The old game of destroying

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

## 57 Bangladeshis convicted for protesting in UAE pardoned

Yunus writes to UAE president to thank him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president of the United Arab Emirates yesterday pardoned all 57 Bangladeshis who were convicted by the UAE Federal Court for demonstrating in the Arab country during the uprising in Bangladesh.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus paid deepest gratitude to the UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for pardoning the Bangladeshis who were sentenced to jail terms for expressing solidarity with the student-led mass upsurge.

“This act of clemency, following our telephone conversation [last week], not only exemplifies Your Highness’s compassionate leadership but serves as a conduit for strengthening the enduring bond of fraternity between our two nations,” Yunus said in a letter to the UAE president yesterday.

The decision to annul the sentences of the migrants has been a great relief for their families and countrymen, the letter said.

“We are, indeed, profoundly touched by your empathy and understanding. We have full respect for the laws of the UAE and renew our commitment to brief and educate our nationals on the local laws and culture of their host countries before

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

## LOOTING OF POLICE STATIONS 2,000 arms, 3 lakh bullets still missing

Joint drive to recover those underway

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite repeated calls by the government to submit the looted firearms and bullets to nearby police stations, over 3 lakh bullets and 2,000 guns remain missing.

The government conducts a joint drive, comprising the members of armed forces, BGB, Coast Guard, police, Rab, and Ansar, across the country to recover the arms from today.

The drives begins from 12:00am as yesterday was the last day to hand over the guns, including those whose licences have been suspended, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury after the first meeting of the advisory council on law and order at the Secretariat yesterday.

After the fall of Hasina-led government on August 5 amid an uprising, mobs looted firearms and bullets from different police stations and establishments across the country.

Since August 12, the Police Headquarters asked several times to hand over the guns and bullets and the deadline to do it ended yesterday.

According to the PHQ data, 5,829 firearms and 6,06,742 bullets were looted from police, different police stations, and establishments.

Of those, 3,763 guns and 2,86,082 bullets were recovered, meaning that 2,066 arms and 3,20,660 bullets remain missing.

The guns include rifles (Chinese), SMGs, pistols, shotguns, teargas launchers, and signal pistols.

The PHQ data shows 31,044 teargas shells, 1,455 teargas grenades, 4,692 sound grenades, 291 smoke grenades, 55 stun grenades, 893 multiple bang stun grenades, and 177 teargas spray were also looted.

5,829 arms looted; 3,763 recovered

6.06 lakh bullets looted; 2.87 lakh recovered

2,116 sound grenades, 22,139 teargas shells recovered

Of those, 22,139 teargas shells, 704 teargas grenades, 2,116 sound grenades, 213 color smoke grenades, 18 stun grenades, 533 multiple bang stun grenades, and 94 teargas sprays have been recovered so far.

“We will also recover the illegal firearms, along with the looted ones, during the joint drive,” Md Rezaul Karim, deputy inspector general of the PHQ, told The Daily Star.

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## Bangladeshi girl killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, moulvibazar

A 16-year-old girl was shot dead allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar on Monday night.

Swarna Das, daughter of Parendra Das of Kalnigarh village, was a student of class eight at Nirod Bihari High School in the upazila.

Several Bangladeshis attempted to illegally enter Indian territory when BSF shot dead one of them and took the body, said Nayek Obaid, patrol commander at Lalarchak Border Outpost of the Border Guard Bangladesh.

Binay Bhushan Roy, officer-in-charge of Kulaura Police Station, said bringing Swarna’s body back would require an official procedure involving authorities from both sides of the border.

Swarna’s grieving father Parendra said his daughter and wife attempted to cross the border to visit his eldest son, who lives in Tripura.

A couple from Chattogram and two locals who helped them walk across the border were in

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## Israeli PM signals no appetite for Gaza truce

Remains defiant amid mounting criticism; 18 more killed in Gaza

AGENCIES

Concerns grew yesterday over the chances of securing a Gaza truce, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected making any “concessions” in stalled talks towards a hostage release deal.

Netanyahu told a televised press conference at the end of a day of nationwide protests that he would “not give in to pressure” to renege on demands in indirect negotiations with Hamas to end the war, now nearing its 12th month.

Analyst Mairav Zonszein of the International Crisis Group said Netanyahu’s remarks showed “he won’t stop the war... until Hamas surrenders, and he basically announced there won’t be a hostage deal”.

Gripped by grief and fury after six dead hostages were recovered from Gaza, Israelis took to the streets on Sunday and Monday to ramp up pressure on their government to secure the release of the remaining captives.

The military said the six were all captured alive during Hamas’s October 7 attack on southern Israel that triggered the war, and shot dead by the captors shortly before troops had found them.

“These murderers executed six of our hostage,” said Netanyahu, who has increasingly faced accusations from critics in Israel as well as Hamas officials and analysts of prolonging the war for political gain.

US President Joe Biden, who on Monday met negotiators working

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Israel presses West Bank raids killing 27

WHO surpasses polio vaccination targets in Gaza children

Gaza death toll hits 40,819

## ‘Forcing teachers to resign totally unacceptable’

Edn adviser calls for immediate end to harassment of teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education and Planning Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud has called for an immediate end to forcing teachers to resign and their harassment.

He said such practices are “completely unacceptable”.

During a meeting with education ministry officials at the Secretariat yesterday, the adviser expressed concern over the ongoing incidents of teachers being forced to resign and harassed in educational institutions across the country. He added that these must be stopped immediately, said a press release.

Any allegations of corruption or misconduct against teachers or officials will be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate authorities, and necessary actions will be taken, said the adviser.

Local administrations have already been directed to take steps against any illegal or criminal activities, he added.



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Two women workers sift through soggy jute fibres that were damaged by recent flash floods at a factory of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation in Feni. Most of the stored jute at the factory have been ruined, officials said.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Khaleda Zia cleared in 5 defamation cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has been acquitted from five defamation cases filed against her during the last Awami League tenure over derogatory remarks about the Liberation War, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Three separate courts in Dhaka dismissed the cases and relieved the BNP chairperson from these charges yesterday as the complainants were absent for several dates without taking any steps.

Khaleda’s lawyer told journalists that AB Siddique, complainant of four out of the five cases, died four years ago.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbul

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