

# Deeper crisis feared as 219 factories shut

REFAYET ULLAH MRIDHA

With 219 garment factories shut in Ashulia yesterday amid worker unrest along the industrial belts, Bangladesh's apparel sector is feared to get into a deeper crisis if production does not resume on Saturday after the weekend.

Officials see conspiracies behind the unrest and believe "real workers" are not involved in the vandalism of some factories, while labour leaders blame the influence of partisan politics and control over fabric scrap trade for the situation.

Meanwhile, the inaction of a demoralised industrial police force and the "unusual demands" of the workers have frustrated the owners, who are under pressure from international buyers ahead of the next holiday season in the West.

Of the factories closed yesterday, 86 were shut indefinitely under the Labour Act, which empowers the employer to shut any unit in case of a strike.

The remaining 133 factories were closed as they declared a general holiday, said Md Sarwar Alam, superintendent of Ashulia Industrial Police-1.

The closed factories included 107 members of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, mainly in Ashulia and Zirabo, said Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, president of the association.

Although a few committees involving local politicians were formed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Want to build strong owner-worker relations

Yunus tells factory owners; businesses seek jt forces in industrial zones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said he would pursue building a strong relationship between factory workers and owners.

"And a big hope of mine is that, as long as we are here [in government], we will build a nice relationship between the workers and the owners. As long as we are in power, we want to work as a team."

Yunus at the National Business Dialogue yesterday advocated for joining the International Labour Organisation Convention.

"Now that the labour force and owners are united, we will do it. If [joining the ILO Convention] is not done, it would be difficult to move forward. Wherever you go, you will be reminded: why are you not signing it? So, if we want to move forward, we have to do it in a transparent manner. Give us courage, come forward, and we will sign the ILO Convention together."

The international community is observing Bangladesh's current situation with curiosity, Yunus said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Following the chief adviser's announcement of the heads of six commissions tasked with reforming the judiciary, election system, administration, police, the Anti-Corruption Commission and the constitution, two of the commission chiefs -- Iftekharuzzaman and Badiul Alam Majumdar -- shared their plans and priorities with Star.



### 'ACC's allegiance to the bureaucracy, politicians must end'

The work plan to deliver the reform proposal for the Anti-Corruption Commission will be prepared after all members of the committee are appointed and terms of reference are agreed upon, said Iftekharuzzaman, the head of the commission for ACC.

The ACC, since its inception in 2004, could not create public trust in its activities, and in fact, contributed to the impunity enjoyed by those in positions of power and their coteries.

This impunity for abuse of power was a key factor that led to the capture of all other state institutions that in turn became the main power structure of authoritarianism.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



### 'Law for appointing polls commissioners has to be reformed'

Badiul Alam Majumdar, the head of the commission to reform the election system, said they will need to reform the law through which the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners are appointed.

Under the law, the government can appoint its desired people as CEC and election commissioners.

"There is weakness in the law -- this law is not befitting this era."

The commission will also need to work to reform the candidate nomination process, make a few changes in the Representation of the People Order (RPO) and voter list.

"We will have to see what our jobs will be. We will need to see many things deeply."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Carry out reforms fast, aim for polls

Fakhrul urges govt; JP terms Yunus' speech precise, clear

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed optimism yesterday that the interim government would promptly implement the necessary reforms and proceed towards organising a national election.

"We hope they [interim government] will complete their jobs as early as possible and move towards holding the election," he said.

Speaking at a press conference at the BNP's Nayapaltan central office, Fakhrul said that Muhammad Yunus outlined the vision of his government.

"We have stressed the importance of the reforms, and we hope that these reforms will be implemented promptly."

"We believe the interim government is working, and we are committed to giving them the time and the chance to complete these tasks," he added.

The BNP leader said the country should be governed by the people's representatives elected to a parliament by the people. "We hope this will be done swiftly."

Fakhrul said his party wishes success to the interim government because it has been formed through a movement.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

**কেন খাবেন ক্যানোলা তেল?**

**হৃদরোগের ঝুঁকি কমাতে সাহায্য করে**

- ওমেগা-৩ ও ৬ এর পারফেক্ট ব্যালেন্স
- কোলেস্টেরল কমাতে সাহায্য করে
- মচমচে ভাজার জন্য সেরা
- খাবারের স্বাদ অক্ষুণ্ণ রাখে

**কোলেস্টেরল ফ্রি**

দেশের একমাত্র ক্যানোলা তেলের ব্র্যান্ড

**FASTEST 4G** | **banglalink**

**MyBL App**

**EXCEPTIONAL DEALS EVERYDAY**

- Get the best deals
- Customize your plans
- Recharge in one tap

ONE TAP RECHARGE

BEST DEALS

MY PLAN

AMAR OFFER

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD MyBL App

Best deals are also available on eKash App Amar Offer

**HASANAH ISLAMIC BANKING** | **PAYROLL Banking**

Prime Bank Brings Shariah Based Payroll Banking Solution for Your Organization

**ISLAMIC PAYROLL BANKING**

To know more, please email: payroll\_service@primebank.com.bd

**Prime Bank**





PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Mughal heritage Boro Kutra attacked again

MH HAIDER

A portion of Old Dhaka's iconic Mughal monument Boro Kutra has recently been demolished. In response, Urban Study Group, an organisation that campaigns for the protection of the architectural heritage of Dhaka, hosted a press conference last Wednesday, where its CEO, Taimur Islam, elaborated on the damages done and called for the protection of this age-old site.

The demolition activity took place during – and arguably by taking advantage of – the chaotic aftermath of the fall of the Hasina-led government, Taimur claimed.

Boro Kutra was built in the 1640s – a relatively early Mughal structure of our city that is older than Lalbagh Fort. Tradition says that was originally intended to be the palace of subahdar Shah Shuja, son of Emperor Shah Jahan, when the prince was the Mughal ruler of Bengal. But he probably never

lived in the edifice; it was used as a caravanserai and many rooms were converted into shops, incomes of which were utilised to maintain the building and help the poor.

"People in Dhaka always seem to take pride in the city's Mughal past, but when it comes to the protection of its heritage, we often see neglect and disregard," Taimur opined, but he also added that certain sectors of society, such as the judiciary, have been supportive in stopping unscrupulous activities in the capital's heritage buildings.

This is not the first time that Boro Kutra came under attack. To illustrate, Taimur exemplified that in 2022, an attempt was made to tear down the section which has now been demolished. That attempt was partially successful at that time, but it was halted by creating pressure on the authorities. In fact, there have been multiple endeavours to destroy Boro Kutra.

Taimur said if Boro Kutra can be preserved, or even better, if it can be returned to its former glory, there is an immense potential for tourism and local commerce.

In a rendered image shown during the press conference, Taimur put forward the beauty of the site and the various shops which could be accommodated there. But if you visit the area now, you may have to stretch your imagination to understand the true value or to gather a proper appreciation. This is because of all the settlements, encroachments, and ownership claims that are prevalent there.

Taimur urged the authorities to put a plan in place, on how to relocate these institutions or establishments on the Boro Kutra premises.

"Protecting heritage buildings is an interdisciplinary affair that requires tackling legal issues, understanding conservation technicalities, and

appreciating culture and tradition," said the Urban Study Group chief. "We would like to see a clear plan in this regard."

Boro Kutra's case is not unique in our city: there are many buildings of heritage value which have been partially destroyed, fully demolished, defaced, or taken over by encroachments over the years.

If the government can step forward to stop further damage on Boro Kutra and make it return to its former glory, it will set an example for Puran Dhaka, and the city can relish in this Mughal monument's true splendour, perhaps doing justice to an adulation enshrined in one of its inscriptions:

"What a building! It putteth high Heaven to shame

A copy of Paradise ye might it name." (History and inscription have been taken from the book "Notes on the Antiquities of Dacca" by Sayid Aulad Hasan)

## Left veteran Sitaram Yechury no more

AGENCIES

Veteran Indian politician and CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury died yesterday. He was 72.

He was undergoing treatment for pneumonia at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). The CPM leader was admitted to the emergency ward of AIIMS on August 19 and later shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The AIIMS said in a statement that Yechury died at 3.05pm. The family has donated his body to AIIMS for teaching and research purposes. His body will be at AIIMS for two days now and then shifted to AKG Bhavan, the CPM headquarters, so that his admirers and comrades can pay their respects. Later, the body will be shifted to AIIMS again.

Yechury is survived by his wife and senior journalist Seema Chishty, daughter Akhila and son Dhanish. His

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



## TAX SCRUTINY NBR seeks bank account info of Aziz, Taposh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue has asked for bank details of five individuals, including ex-Army chief General (ret'd) Aziz Ahmed and former Dhaka South City Corporation mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, for scrutiny of their tax compliance.

The three others are journalist couple Farzana Rupa and Shakil Ahmed, and former Election Commission secretary Helaluddin Ahmed.

NBR's Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) wrote to all banks and financial institutions, seeking bank account details of the five, confirmed a top official of the CIC yesterday.

Their income tax files will be examined to ensure whether they paid their taxes properly.

According to sources, the CIC will investigate their assets through field inspections.

"We have sent letters to all banks and financial institutions asking for all kinds of transaction information, including credit cards and deposits," said an official, seeking anonymity.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



## Deeper crisis feared as 219 factories shut

FROM PAGE 1

in Ashulia to resolve the crisis through discussions, industry owners are worried about the safety of their factories, he said.

Industrial police have yet to start fully functioning more than one month after the ouster of the Awami League government, further fuelling safety concerns. Harsh measures like internet shutdown amid street protests during the mass uprising already hampered production and orders heavily.

Owners say they are not getting help from the industrial police even after lodging complaints. The number of personnel patrolling the industrial zones is inadequate.

Army personnel have been deployed to the industrial zones, but they do not have the magistracy powers to arrest protesters, said Shams Mahmud, managing director of Shasha Denims.

"We aren't getting the confidence to run the factories because of safety concerns," Mahmud told The Daily Star over the phone.

Foreign buyers are putting pressure for timely delivery but the factories are shut, said a frustrated Mahmud. Many shipments may get cancelled, or the buyers may demand big discounts or expensive air shipments, he added.

Many international retailers and brands are cancelling buying trips because of the unrest although this is the peak time to confirm work orders for the next winter season, exporters said.

"So, a massive impact of the unrest will be noticed in the next winter season," Mahmud said.

A senior officer of the industrial police, requesting anonymity, said they are conducting joint patrols in the industrial zones and responding to incidents. Industrial police are trying to be fully functional, the officer added.

AK Azad, chairman and CEO of

Ha-Meem Group, echoed the views of Mahmud. He said most of the incidents were taking place in Ashulia and local groups were involved.

Police are not working, which is helping the unrest in one factory to spread to the others, said a garment exporter based in Narayanganj's Rupganj who asked not to be named.

In some cases, political issues are also involved, the exporter said.

For instance, he said, the unrest in the Beximco garment factory has political influence as one of its owners, Salman F Rahman, was an adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

He also said that buyers, worried and frustrated over the situation, are sending a lot of queries to know about the condition of work orders for the next season.

Giant Group Managing Director Faruque Hassan claimed the ongoing unrest is not about wages because the pay was hiked in December last year.

In many cases, the workers are demanding the removal of senior officials, equal ratio in appointment of male and female workers, he said.

The workers are placing "unusual demands" in some cases, said Md Saleudh Zaman Khan, vice president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

For example, he said, protesters demanded the recruitment of 300 workers when a factory in Narayanganj needed only 20. The factory management decided to hire a little over 20 workers, but the protesters did not return to work, Zaman said.

Worker leaders pointed the finger at partisan politics and conflict in fabric scrap trade for the unrest. They said a section of fabric scrap traders were trying to maintain control by using the workers.

Many are taking advantage of weak law and order, said Md Towhidur

Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparel Workers Federation.

If the factories do not reopen fully on Saturday, the sector may face a deeper crisis in near future, he said.

Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, said many workers are also involved in partisan politics. In some cases, outsiders are instigating them to launch unrest, she said.

She recommended holding a dialogue among the stakeholders to find a way out of the crisis.

Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman believes those involved in the vandalism of factories are not real workers.

The secretary said he held a meeting with BGMEA leaders and union leaders at Tongi yesterday as part of measures to improve worker-owner relations.

Asif Mahmud, youth and sports adviser to the interim government, suspects a conspiracy behind the ongoing unrest in the garment sector.

Speaking at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday, he said that around 20 percent of total orders have been cancelled.

"And we have witnessed that the buyers of a certain country have been desperately lobbying to get those orders," he said, citing Secretary Shafiquzzaman.

Asif said that workers prevented attacks on factories by a group called Bekar Jubo Songho, or Unemployed Youth Association, and one leader of the association arrested in Netrokona was found to be involved with AI's student front Chhatra League.

He admitted that the protesting workers have some genuine demands besides the conspiracies.

The adviser also warned of strict action against fabric scrap traders who are fuelling the unrest.

those who were involved were powerful, more so because these institutions were politicised and professionally bankrupt. We have to look into these organisations as part of reforming the ACC."

Unless these organisations are strong, it would not be wise to expect that the ACC will be able to function fruitfully.

Fourthly, if the power-hungry political culture and partisan bureaucracy persist, the ACC would not be able to control corruption even if it was an ideal organisation.

"The nation has seen enough of the devil of partisan bureaucracy working in collusion with the abuse of political power to create the superstructure of authoritarianism to sustain corruption."

The scope of reforming the ACC cannot be viewed in isolation from the reform in the political and governance space in a manner that people in power are held to account by the people.

"The commission will make proposals such that the ACC can apply the law equally against anybody – be it a politician, a businessperson, a bureaucrat, a lawmaker, a minister or any high-profile people."

## Want to build strong owner-worker relations

FROM PAGE 1

"We want to elevate our position from number two to number one [in garment exports]. At the dialogue, businesses demanded the deployment of joint forces in all industrial areas round-the-clock as such a move has already proved effective in improving overall security in some places.

"Right now, improving the law-and-order situation is our number one priority," said Mir Nasir Hossain, a member of the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh (ICCB), in his keynote speech at the dialogue.

Nasir delivered the speech on behalf of ICCB President Mahbubur Rahman, who was unwell, at the event held at the Intercontinental Dhaka. The ICCB in association with 15 trade bodies organised the dialogue.

Since the public uprising that saw the ouster of the Awami League government of 15 years, there has been a big vacuum within the law enforcement agencies in the country, Nasir said.

## 'Law for appointing polls commissioners has to be reformed'

FROM PAGE 1

There is a need for the inclusion of representatives from the treasury, opposition benches and the third-largest party in parliament in the search committee responsible for appointing the CEC and other election commissioners so that none can manipulate the system.

Besides, changes must be made regarding the types of information candidates provide in their affidavits

ahead of polls.

By and large, the electoral law RPO is acceptable. But there is a need for some changes.

For example, according to RPO's section 90B, political parties registered with the Election Commission must not have provisions for associated and affiliated bodies in their constitutions. This was intended to disband such bodies.

"This has been misused. The

uncertainty. However, where the joint forces were deployed, improvement in the overall situation was observed."

If such measures are implemented in all industrial zones, the situation can be brought under control soon, he said.

Bangladesh's economy is now under threat due to dishonest practices and financial irregularities of some unscrupulous businessmen.

"On behalf of the business community, I strongly appeal to you [Muhammad Yunus] to take strict legal action against those dishonest businesses and their associates."

He requested the government to create an environment conducive to conduct business safely and responsibly.

Finance and Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed and Education and Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud also spoke.

Finance and Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed and Education and Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud also spoke.

## 'ACC's allegiance to the bureaucracy, politicians must end'

FROM PAGE 1

"That's why the reform of ACC gets priority among other initiatives to reform the state in the 'new Bangladesh'," Iftekharuzzaman said.

Firstly, all the commissioners and top office bearers of the ACC, with few exceptions, were appointed based on partisan political considerations, said Iftekharuzzaman, also the executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

"As a result, the allegiance of ACC bureaucracy has remained with the government bureaucracy and their political masters rather than the ACC mandate, resulting in its failure to take action against people in positions of power. This must be stopped."

Secondly, there are allegations that many ACC officials used their position of privilege to earn illegal income. "We have to find a way to stop this."

Besides, the ACC was made ineffective and its power was curtailed by bringing several amendments to the Anti-Corruption Commission Act and rules.

"We will propose to amend these to make it time-befitting."

The ACC was also weakened by bringing amendments to some other related laws.

For example, the government allowed legalising black money using the income tax law and the ACC could not raise questions about it.

Besides, an amendment to the Public Service Act made prior permission from authorities concerned mandatory to arrest government officials.

The Anti-money Laundering Act was amended to curtail the authority of the ACC. "Such acts have to be amended too," Iftekharuzzaman said.

Thirdly, the ACC will have to work in tandem with other agencies to control corruption. Money laundering, which is a major manifestation of corruption, could not be prevented by the ACC alone.

Several organisations including Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, the National Board of Revenue, the Criminal Investigation Department and the Attorney General's Office were supposed to work in coordination with each other to prevent money laundering and repatriate laundered assets.

"But that was not happening because

political parties removed such provisions from their constitutions but kept those affiliated bodies by terming them as brotherly organisations."

The nomination process needs to be changed, he said.

The voter list needs to be changed too: there is a gender gap in the list, with fewer women voters than males, he added.

## Carry out reforms fast, aim for polls

RMG sector in a better way.

Quader said the government should take steps to stop the indiscriminate filing of cases and bar a section of people from "putting pressure on the judiciary" for filing cases.

"Otherwise, the situation will be like that period when the Awami League suppressed dissent. If all are arrested in such cases, it will not be good for politics," the JP leader said.

Expressing disappointment over the chief adviser's speech, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said that Yunus did not mention the measures to restore law and order, control the prices of essentials, break the syndicates, and address the current power crisis.

"On the one-month anniversary of the government, we expected to hear the concrete steps on those issues rather than just a summary of the government's activities," he said.

Prince, however, appreciated the formation of six commissions by the interim government. He said reforms should be made after consultation with the political parties.

"We would have been happier if the chief adviser had discussed electoral

reforms. He could have said that he would reform the electoral system radically and arrange elections soon."

The CPB leader said Yunus kept mum on the recent attacks on shrines and distortion of the history of the Liberation War.

He said he had expected that the chief adviser would speak clearly on the controversial appointments to some key posts, including the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal.

He said they had hoped that Yunus would announce a roadmap for implementing reforms and holding polls.

Biplobi Workers Party General Secretary Saiful Haque viewed Yunus' address positively as it outlined both the activities and limitations of the interim government.

"The six commissions constituted to reform six sectors seem to be a good initiative. The government should engage with political parties regarding reforms because if things happen otherwise, the reforms may not be sustainable after the takeover of power by a newly elected government," he said.



## INQUIRY COMMISSION

## Report info about enforced disappearances

Govt urges all; SC sends 64 names to the commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has issued a public appeal for information on missing persons, urging victims, families, or witnesses of enforced disappearances to provide details to the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances.

The call for information was made in a notice signed by Md Bulbul Hossain, additional district judge and an official attached to the commission.

The commission was established to investigate cases of enforced disappearances allegedly involving law enforcement agencies, including the Bangladesh Police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Special Branch (SB), Detective Branch (DB), Ansar Battalion, National Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Coast Guard, and other agencies, between 2010 and August 5 this year, the notice said.

The commission has asked victims, their family members, or witnesses to submit information in person, by mail, or via email between September 15 and September 30.

Complaints can also be filed by scheduling in person

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



Following the opening of the Dengue Ward at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital on Wednesday, more and more patients have started filling up the beds in both the male and female wards. According to the DGHS, the number of dengue cases is rising, with this year's death rate standing at 0.61 percent, compared to 0.5 in 2023. This photojournalist saw that most of the beds in both wards already had patients being treated.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## INTERVIEW WITH DW

## Hasina 'destroyed' Bangladesh's institutions: Yunus

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser

Muhammad Yunus took over as interim leader of Bangladesh last month after violent political unrest that led to an unceremonious end to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule.

In an interview with the DW, the Nobel Peace Prize winner addressed an array of issues, including the domestic political situation, Bangladesh's relations with India and the influx of the Rohingya into the country.

The 84-year-old leader, who holds the official position of chief adviser in the interim government, said former prime minister Hasina "destroyed almost all institutions" and "the economy was shattered".

"You do not know where to begin because everything has to be restarted in a different way," he said, adding that his interim administration wants to "establish citizens' rights, human rights, democracy and everything that goes with a good governance."

He also hinted at amending the constitution. "We should be focusing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Ex-IGP Mamun shown arrested in 4 murder cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun was shown arrested yesterday in four more murder cases filed with Bhatara and Khilgaon police stations centring quota reform protests.

Two Dhaka courts passed the orders after four petitions were filed in this regard, said court staffers.

Of the four cases, two were filed with Bhatara Police Station over the deaths of Sohag Miah, 16, and bakery employee Abdul Hannan on July 19, while two others were filed with Khilgaon Police Station over the deaths of grocery shop owner Mizanur Rahman and Ashiqul Islam, 14, in Khilgaon on the same day.

## CONSTITUTION

## AG for reforming Article 70

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman has expressed his desire for the reformation of Article 70 of the constitution, stating that it has led to an excessive concentration of power in the hands of one individual.

"Not as attorney general, my personal opinion is that due to Article 70 of the constitution, the legislative, executive, and judiciary of Bangladesh have practically come under the control of one person and the members of parliament cannot apply their minds independently" he said while speaking to reporters in his office at the Supreme Court premises yesterday.

Asaduzzaman said the upcoming constitution reform commission will review the issue.

## ‘Kicked out one fascist, not to make room for another’

Student leaders rally in Tangail, Cox's Bazar

If anyone dreams of becoming a fascist, they should learn from Hasina's downfall.

SARJIS

Once we began reforming the state, many emerged seeking positions of power.

HASNAT

STAR REPORT

The coordinators of the anti-discrimination student movement held rallies in Tangail and Cox's Bazar yesterday as part of their nationwide campaign.

At a rally in Tangail's Shaheed Smriti Municipal Park, central coordinator Sarjis Alam said, "We kicked out one fascist, not to make room for another."

He warned against the rise of new autocratic regimes, saying, "If anyone dreams of becoming a fascist, they should learn from Sheikh Hasina's downfall."

He said the student community should lead the country and enter parliament as policymakers, urging the youth to fight bribery, corruption, and syndicates.

In Cox's Bazar, central coordinator Hasanat Abdullah echoed similar sentiments.

Speaking at a meeting in the public

hall, he said despite the fall of the "fascist" government, its supporters remain, posing a threat to the country's newfound freedom.

He urged continuous vigilance to safeguard the rights won through the student-led movement.

Hasanat told everyone to stay united irrespective of caste, creed and religion. He emphasised the importance of building a fair, corruption-free state, stressing the need for co-operation from all sectors.

"Hundreds of students sacrificed their lives to rid us of the fascists. They sought no personal gain. However, once we began reforming the state and government after the movement, many individuals emerged seeking positions of power," he said.

He said the previous relationship between the fascist government and India had been one of subjugation. Looking ahead, he said Bangladesh will aim for an equal and respectful relationship with India.

## STUDENT-LED UPRISING

## Memorial to honour martyrs postponed

Foundation formed to support families of deceased, injured

BSS, Dhaka

Information Adviser Md Nahid Islam yesterday informed that the memorial meeting to honour the martyrs of the recent student-led mass upsurge, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed.

A new date will be announced later, he told reporters at a press briefing held at the Secretariat.

The health ministry has confirmed a list of 728 martyrs, alongside 20,263 injured, during the movement, he said.

On Tuesday, the government set September 14 as the date for the memorial.

Families of the martyrs and students, who participated in the movement, were expected to attend the memorial.

Meanwhile, the interim government has established the July Martyrs' Memorial Foundation to provide support for the families of the martyrs and those injured in the mass upsurge.

"The July Martyrs' Memorial Foundation has been formed while Chief Adviser Professor Yunus has been appointed as the foundation's president," said Labour and Employment Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain during a press briefing at Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

The press briefing was held after a meeting of the council of advisers.

Mir Mahbubur Rahman Snigdho, brother of the deceased student protester Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdho, has been made the general secretary of the foundation, said Asif.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 200 headteachers in limbo due to gazette delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 headteachers appointed to BCS non-cadre posts in government primary schools across the country have yet to be recognised as gazetted officers, despite a High Court verdict.

These headteachers were appointed through the Public Service Commission during the 34th BCS non-cadre recruitment in 2017. But, for more than six years, they have not been gazetted due to bureaucratic issues between the PSC and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

According to the teachers, due to a limited number of cadre positions, the PSC recommended appointing headteachers from non-cadre posts in 2016, following the 34th BCS.

The recruitment rules of 2010 (amended in 2014) stipulated that recommendations should be made for first or second-class gazetted positions. However, these teachers were recommended for third-class, non-gazetted positions.

Mejbaul Haque, president of the 34th BCS Non-Cadre Head Teacher Association and headteacher at Khas Naogaon Government Primary School in Naogaon Sadar, said those who ranked lower in the same BCS merit list were later appointed to second-class gazetted positions, such as assistant teachers in secondary schools and chemists and inspectors in the environment ministry.

They are yet to be promoted to first-class positions, even after nine years.

"In contrast, we are paid according to grade 12 and face no further opportunities for direct promotion," he claimed.

He said in 2018, 225 of their teachers filed a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## BANGLADESH-INDIA AIR ROUTES

## Passenger numbers plummet following Aug 5

RASHIDUL HASAN

Flights between Bangladesh and India have seen a sharp drop in passenger numbers recently, with airlines blaming India's restricted visa issuance as the main cause.

This has led to a significant fall in travellers, especially as many who have received visas are hesitant to visit India, fearing harassment or detention at the airport.

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, India has only resumed issuing visas on a limited basis, mainly for medical and educational purposes. As a result, flights are running at less than half capacity on routes from Dhaka to major Indian cities like Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi, according to sources at various airlines.

Flights to Kolkata, which are priced between Tk 12,500 and Tk 17,000 depending on the airline, are operating with very few passengers. In one case, a private airline flew to Kolkata with just 12 passengers.

Airlines are struggling to cover operational costs as a result of this steep decline, the sources said.

Currently, flights between Bangladesh and India are operated by Biman

Bangladesh Airlines, US Bangla Airlines, Novair, and Indian carriers Vistara Airlines, Air India, and Indigo. These airlines serve routes from Dhaka to Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai.

Airline officials said flights from Dhaka to Kolkata, Chennai, and Delhi are carrying less than 50 percent of their passenger capacity. Biman Bangladesh Airlines has had to reduce its weekly flights to Kolkata

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, India has only resumed issuing visas on a limited basis, mainly for medical and educational purposes.

to seven from 14, while flights to Chennai and Delhi have also been reduced.

Biman's general manager of public relations, Bushra Islam, said they are only managing to fill 40-48 percent of seats on these routes, though return flights from India have slightly higher passenger numbers.

US-Bangla Airlines has similarly

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A part of this road in the Jurain Rail Crossing area has been taken up by illegal makeshift shops and illegally parked CNG-run auto-rickshaws. As a result, there is very little space for vehicles plying the road, leading to severe traffic congestion. The photo was taken recently.



## Death anniv of Ibrahim Khalil

STAR REPORT

Today is the fourth anniversary of Dr Md Ibrahim Khalil, chief geologist of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, said a press release.

On this day in 2020, he died after being affected by Covid, aged 48.

He left behind his two daughters and a son. His only elder brother Mohammad Ismail Amin, director of Gungchil Ltd, sought prayers from all for the salvation of the departed soul.



## Lutful Aziz awarded honorary fellowship

STAR REPORT

Dr Lutful Aziz has been awarded the honorary fellowship by the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCOA) in recognition of his contributions to the field of anesthesia.

Dr Aziz is known for his pioneering work in anesthesiology and pain management in Bangladesh, where he played a crucial role in advancing surgical anesthesia standards and services across the region, said a press release.

With over two decades of experience at Evercare Hospitals Bangladesh, where he serves as coordinator and senior consultant in the Department of Anaesthesia, Dr Aziz has also made significant contributions to medical education, mentoring professionals and advocating for improved healthcare in developing regions.



## UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan no more

UNB, Dhaka

Amanullah Khan, founding chairman of United News of Bangladesh (UNB), passed away yesterday. He was 80.

Amanullah, also the chairman of Cosmos Group of Companies, breathed his last around 5:00pm in the capital's United Hospital while undergoing treatment there.

He left behind his wife, brothers, close relatives and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after the Juma prayers today at Gulshan Azad Mosque. He will be laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard.

Khan was a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, having qualified as a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan in 1969.

He was the founder chairman of UNB, the country's leading news agency established in 1988 with the Associated Press as its principal partner in news exchange.

Khan was also chairman of Cosmos Printing and Publishing Limited and the Dhaka Courier, the oldest surviving English newsweekly of Bangladesh.



## Hasina 'destroyed' Bangladesh's

FROM PAGE 3

on the major issues of constitution and build a consensus. We cannot do anything without a consensus because our strength comes from the consensus. If we can establish the consensus, we go ahead and do that."

But Yunus refused to give an exact date for the next election, saying that it will be held "as soon as possible".

"That is our mandate. We want to come to the election and have a decent election, beautiful election, and celebrate the victory of a particular party or whatever party which comes in, and hand over the power to the newly elected government. So this should be as brief as possible. We cannot give you date and time right now."

'Hasina's corrupt practices shattered economy'

Yunus also accused Hasina's administration of corruption, which he said shattered the nation's economy.

"Money siphoned off from Bangladesh, through government channels to bank channels and so on. Contracts were signed not for the benefit of the people but for the benefit of a family or family members, and something like that. So, those ugly things that you see when a government goes in the wrong direction, things happen, terrible things happen in the economy and so on."

B a n g l a d e s h ' s \$450-billion (€412-billion) economy has struggled since the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly when it comes to creating enough, decent-paying jobs for its vast youth population.

Russia's war against Ukraine has also sharply increased the cost of fuel and food imports, causing the South Asian nation's foreign exchange reserves to shrink.

Dhaka was forced to seek financial support from the IMF last year in the form of a \$4.7-billion bailout.

Yunus' interim administration is currently

urging international lenders to offer it \$5 billion in financial aid to stabilize its dwindling foreign exchange reserves.

How to manage relations with India?

On the question of Bangladesh's relations with India, which shared close ties with Hasina's administration, Yunus said Dhaka has no option but to maintain good ties with New Delhi.

"Bangladesh must have the best of relationship with India, out of its own necessity and out of its own acquaintances, and the similarity of the things that we do together. We share each other's history. So there is no escape route for Bangladesh to do something else," he said.

After the student protests turned into a mass uprising against her, Hasina fled to India in a military helicopter.

New Delhi has not provided details on Hasina's location, though she is believed to be sheltering in a safe house.

Yunus' interim government in Dhaka has already revoked Hasina's diplomatic passport, and more and more voices in Bangladesh, including its top prosecutors, are demanding her extradition.

Former diplomats and academics consulted by DW say New Delhi is likely to resist pressure from Dhaka to deliver Hasina for trial.

Speaking to DW, Yunus also pointed to other bilateral problems, such as river water sharing and the cross-border movement of people. He said his administration will work together with New Delhi to resolve these issues.

Rohingya influx 'creates problem for us'

He also briefly touched upon Dhaka's policy toward the Rohingya. "The Rohingya are trickling in as trouble begins in Rakhine," he said, referring to the armed conflict in Myanmar's western province that shares a long border with Bangladesh.

Dhaka says at least 18,000 Rohingyas have crossed over in recent months to escape the escalating violence in Rakhine.

"The Rohingyas are trying to find a way to escape, that they're coming towards Bangladesh. We can't stop them, we can't push them back. Pushing them back means we are pushing them to death. I don't think any country can do that. So we welcome people who come, let them come in," he said.

However, he stressed that the situation is challenging for Bangladesh.

"It creates problem for us... because we already have nearly a million Rohingyas living in the country, we don't know what is the future of that," Yunus said.

"Then on top of it, we have 200-300 people almost every day coming in. This number builds up very quickly, so this is an additional burden. So, we are worried about it. We are trying to draw attention of the international community on how to handle this. We do not have a solution right now, but we kept the door open."

## Passenger

FROM PAGE 3

reduced its flight schedules. It used to operate 21 flights a week from Dhaka and Chattogram to Kolkata but is now only running six. Weekly flights to Chennai have also been cut to five from 11.

According to Kamrul Islam, US-Bangla Airlines' general manager of public relations, passenger numbers have dropped significantly since August due to visa complications. Indian airlines operating from Bangladesh have also reduced their flights, as the demand for travel between the two countries remains low due to the ongoing visa issues.

Many travellers are unable to visit India for urgent reasons, adding to the uncertainty surrounding travel between Bangladesh and India.

## Report

FROM PAGE 3

appointments through the hotline from 10:30am to 4:00pm on working days.

The commission's office is located at 96, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Email: decommission.bd@gmail.com. They can be contacted via these hotlines: 01701662120 and 02-58812121.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court administration yesterday handed over a memorandum, which contains the names, photos and addresses of 64 persons, who were forcibly disappeared by the law enforcement agencies at different times, to the commission for taking necessary steps.

The memorandum signed by Md Bellal Hossain, chief coordinator of Gum Paribarar Sodosso (Family members of disappeared persons) was given to Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed through SC registrar general on August 28.

In the memorandum, the family members of disappeared persons have described the details of their financial and mental plights and sought cooperation from the chief justice on eight issues including taking measures to prosecute the perpetrators of the crimes of disappearance before the International Crimes Tribunal, ordering financial compensation to the families of the missing persons, providing an opportunity to conduct the case at government expenses, issuance of special certificate for sale or transfer of property of any missing person if he is not found.

Yesterday, the SC administration sent the memorandum to the five-member Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances headed by Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury, which was formed under on August 27, under the instruction from the chief justice, an SC press release said.

## Appeal

FROM PAGE 5

with Hepatitis C, for which she underwent treatment.

She has been found to have high AFP levels, suggesting hepatocellular carcinoma, and therefore requires a liver transplant as soon as possible.

Shweta's family has exhausted all their savings on medical treatments. At present, they are unable to afford the expenses.

Given the severity and complexity of her medical needs, she urgently requires financial assistance of Tk 80,00,000 to continue her treatment. So, they have sought financial support from the well-off of society.

Aid can be sent to Mondira Esh (sister's bKash): 01921006627; and Chobi Bhowmik (mother's bKash and Nagad): 0931551865; and Shatabdi Esh, Bank A/C-4439601019033, Sonali Bank PLC, Begum Rokeya Sarani Branch, West Monipur, Dhaka.

## Buet and NSU

FROM PAGE 5

was named pro-VC of Buet.

Meanwhile, North South University (NSU) also got a new VC -- Prof Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, a faculty member at the NSU's School of Business and Economics (SBE).

According to a press release issued by NSU, Prof Hannan previously served as the VC of Primeasia University and pro-VC of Eastern University.

Meanwhile, Prof ABM Obaidul Islam of Dhaka University's Physics department has been appointed as the VC of Bangladesh Open University and Prof Mamun Ahmed of DU's Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department has been appointed as pro-VC of Dhaka University.

## Doctors continue

FROM PAGE 5

immediately and that we will not return to work until the safety of doctors is ensured."

Dr Mong Ting Yeo, the hospital superintendent, confirmed that a committee had been formed to investigate the incident and that a case would be filed.

"If safety of the doctors is not guaranteed, services beyond the emergency department will remain suspended," he added.

Police have detained four suspects--Tahsin Mohammad Reza, 25, Tamim Mohammad Reza, 22, Saidul Latif Saqib, 24, and Saif Bin Samrat, 24--connected to the attack.

## Memorial to honour

FROM PAGE 3

Other office bearers of the foundation's seven-member executive body of are -- Kazi Waqar Ahmad (treasurer), Md Nahid Islam (office secretary), along with Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, Nurjahan Begum and Sharmin S Murshid (executive members).

Asif said the foundation will remain operational

through the seven-member standing committee, while 14 more general members will be included to the foundation.

The foundation will conduct activities to support the families of the martyrs and the injured ones in the future, while long-term treatment for those injured will be ensured too, he added.

**প্রট বিক্রয়**  
বসুন্ধরা আই এক্সটেনশন ব্লকে দক্ষিণ মুখী পুটে ২ দিকে রাজ্য সম্পূর্ণ বাউন্ডারি করা রেডি প্রট জরুরী বিক্রয় হবে।  
যোগাযোগ : ০৯৩২২-৮৪০০৬৪

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বসুন্ধরা এফ-১ ব্লকে ১৫০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোল্ডিংস লিমি।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
বসুন্ধরা ডি-১ ব্লকে সেমি-ফোরব্রাস ২০৫০ বর্গফুটের নির্মাণাধীন ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোল্ডিংস লিমি।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৭

**Invitation for ENLISTMENT**

Ref No: BCB/Admin/T&PC/576

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

Sealed applications are invited from bonafide Suppliers/ Manufacturers/ Sole Agents/ Distributors/ Stores/ Whole sellers/ Contractors/ Service Providers operating within the territory of Bangladesh for enlistment with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) in the following groups / categories for a period of 03 (Three) years (To be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024).

- Group A : Design, Printing & Artwork.
- Group B : Catering Service.
- Group C : Transport Service.
- Group D : General Suppliers.
- Group E : Automobile Maintenance & Engineering Works.
- Group F : Advertising (Branding) & Event Management.
- Group G : C&F Agents / Freight Forwarder.
- Group H : Sports Goods & Attires.
- Group I : Courier Service (Domestic & International).
- Group J : IT support and Accessories (Computer, IPS, UPS, Printer & Accessories Suppliers).
- Group K : Gifts & Souvenirs (Crest, Trophy, Gift item etc.).
- Group L : Tailors (Shirts, Trousers, Suits and any formal attire).
- Group M : Repair and maintenance of Grounds & Facilities Equipment.
- Group N : Repair and maintenance works (Civil & Electrical Work).
- Group O : Furniture & Interior Decoration.
- Group P : General Hospitality (Hotel & Accommodation).
- Group Q : Travel Agent (Domestic & International).
- Group R : Advertising Firm for ads in Print, Web & Electronic Media.
- Group S : Automobile Accessories.
- Group T : Security Equipment Service Provider & Supplier (Walkie-Talkie, CCTV, Metal Detector).
- Group U : Suppliers of Coir Mat and Boundary Rope.
- Group V : Pitch Clay / Soil.
- Group W : Home & Office Appliances (Electrical).
- Group X : Medicine and Medical Equipment & Accessories Suppliers.
- Group Y : Cleaning Service.
- Group Z : Security Service.
- Group AA : Health, Life & General Insurance Service.
- Group AB : Audio Visual & Sports TV Production Service (Local).
- Group AC : Repair & Maintenance Service (IT, Electrical Office Appliances, Electronics).

**Non-Eligibility :**

- Companies related to Tobacco, Alcohol (Surrogated & Non-Surrogated), Betting, Online Betting shall not be eligible to participate in the invitation process.
- Any person(s) or entities / companies with on existing unresolved dispute (i.e. Financial, Disciplinary and any other) with BCB or ICC on a point of law or fact shall also be ineligible to participate in the invitation process.

**The following documents must be submitted along with the application :**

- Updated Trade License, VAT Registration Certificate and TIN Certificate, Income tax return acknowledgement copy.
- Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile
- Experience/performance certificate along with a list and contact details of existing clients.
- Sole Agency / Dealership / Distributorship certificate and price list of products.
- Name of the Proprietor / Partner / Managing Director / CEO and the Key Person with Business Address, Telephone / Fax number / E-mail.
- Bank Solvency Certificate along with bank Statement.
- Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association along with Certificate of Incorporation and Schedule-X.
- In case of Consortium Notarized consortium Agreement.
- Updated financial audit report (in case of consortium each members' financial audit report needs to be submitted individually)

**Other Information :**

Schedule for enlistment can be purchased from Tender & Purchase Department, BCB upon cash payment of **BDT 4,000/-** (Taka Four Thousand only) to the Finance & Accounts Department of BCB Management Office, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka during Saturday to Thursday between 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM on or before **24<sup>th</sup> September, 2024**.

The application for enlistment will be evaluated by the concerned committee and short listed suppliers will be called for an initial interview for further queries. Qualified suppliers then need to deposit a refundable amount as decided by the concerned committee in the form of a "Pay-Order" in favour of "Bangladesh Cricket Board".

Duly filled up Application Form for enlistment along with all supporting documents must be submitted in the designated drop box located at the BCB Reception (1st Floor of Management Office, SBNCs, Mirpur, Dhaka) by 2:00 PM on or before **25<sup>th</sup> September 2024**.

The BCB reserves the right to cancel or make any changes in the terms to the entire process at any stage and to accept or reject any application for enlistment at its sole discretion, without assigning any reason whatsoever.

## 4 die in oil

FROM PAGE 5

Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, where they were declared dead upon arrival."

Police believe the explosion resulted from welding sparks igniting the oil tank during repairs. The bodies were kept in the hospital morgue, said Sub-inspector Lalon Hossain.

Abdul Wadud, deputy director of SZMCH, said, "The four bodies, with burn marks, were brought to the hospital. The cause of death will be confirmed after an autopsy."

Ranjan Chakraborty, admin officer of the plant, said, "Seven workers were welding an oil pipe atop a 40-foot tank when it exploded, hurling four of them to the ground. We did not instruct them to work today. They were hired from Nilphamari 12 days ago. We will discuss compensation with their families."

OC Rezaul Karim said, "The families of the deceased have not yet arrived. If they file a complaint, we will investigate and take appropriate action."

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 13

|            |       |         |      |
|------------|-------|---------|------|
| Fazr Juma  | Asr   | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4:35  | 12:30 | 4:30    | 6:14 |
| JAMAT 5:10 | 1:15  | 4:45    | 6:17 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
লালমার্গিয়া বি-ব্লক-এ ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের শতভাগ রেডি ব্রাড নিউ ফ্ল্যাট।  
ম্যাজিক প্রিক্স হোল্ডিংস লিমি।  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৬  
০১৭০৪-১৭০০৭৮

**ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়**  
নর্থ গুলশানে পার্কের কাছে আধুনিক মান সম্মত সকল সুবিধাসহ ৪৫০০ বর্গফুটের ফ্ল্যাট জরুরী বিক্রয় হবে।  
যোগাযোগ : ০৯৩২২-৮৪০০৬৪

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Conservator of Forest  
Chattogram Circle, Banpahar, Nandan Karon, Chittagong  
[www.forest.chittagongdiv.gov.bd](http://www.forest.chittagongdiv.gov.bd)

**Tender Cancellation Notice**

Due to Unavoidable Circumstances, the tender notice published on 09 September, 2024 in two National Dailies (Jugantar and The Daily Star) for Supply of Manpower Through Outsourcing (Memo No. 2222, date-08.09.2024, Package No. NCS 01-PD/Cox Greenbelt/2024-2025) is hereby cancelled.

**Mohammed Hossain**  
Deputy Project Director  
Establishment of Greenbelt, Eco-restoration and Eco-tourism Development in Cox's Bazar District

**Investment Corporation of Bangladesh**  
Head Office, BDBL Bhahan (Level-14)  
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.  
**Secretary's Department**

**Dividend Declaration of ICB Unit Fund for the year 2023-2024**

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh in its meeting held on 12 September 2024 approved Dividend on ICB Unit Fund for the Financial Year 2023-2024 as follows:

| Name of the Fund | Dividend Per Unit of Tk. 100.00 each |           |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
|                  | 2023-2024                            | 2022-2023 |
| ICB Unit Fund    | Tk. 35.00                            | Tk. 34.90 |

The Certificate holders of ICB Unit Fund whose name appeared in the respective Register on 30.06.2024 will be entitled to the dividend. The Repurchase Price of ICB Unit Certificate has been fixed at Tk. 271.00 which will be effective from 15.09.2024

Honorable unit holders are requested to update their KYC by submitting E-TIN certificate to the respective office of ICB.

**(Ruksana Yasmin)**  
Company Secretary/Deputy General Manager

Date : Dhaka, 12 September 2024



ACC to probe graft allegations against Ivy, two ex-MPs

STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday initiated an investigation into allegations of corruption against former Narayanganj City Corporation mayor Salina Hayat Ivy and two other former lawmakers.

The former MPs under investigation are Ayesha Ferdous from Noakhali-6 constituency and Ranajit Kumar Roy from Jashore-4.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shweta Shatabdi Esh, a former student of Dhaka University (Bangla department, session: 2010-2011) and a poet, is battling severe health issues.

She was born with beta thalassemia major and has faced various complications, including weakened bone mineral density and the need for regular blood transfusions.

In 2009, she underwent spleen removal due to its enlargement from the side effects of iron overload.

Then, in 2017, she encountered complications during gallbladder surgery and suffered from anesthesia issues and a severe infection that required skin grafts.

Shatabdi also struggles with thyroid problems and was recently diagnosed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8



A CNG-run auto-rickshaw lies toppled on its side following a clash between traders of Bandar Bazar and drivers in Sylhet yesterday. The clash erupted after disputes over vehicles being illegally parked in front of the market. In the aftermath, 15-20 people were injured on both sides, and 25-30 vehicles, along with five shops, were vandalised.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

DENGUE OUTBREAK IN CTG

Fatality rate more than double the national average

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Health experts are concerned about the high fatality rate from dengue in Chattogram despite the relatively low number of hospital admissions.

Data from the Chattogram district civil surgeon's office shows 34 dengue patients were hospitalised in the past 24 hours, bringing the total to 764 this year.

Meanwhile, one more patient died at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, raising the death toll to 10.

The fatality rate in the port city now stands at 1.30 percent, more than double the national rate of 0.60 percent.

According to the Ministry of Health, 16,819 dengue patients have been hospitalised nationwide, with 102 deaths reported.

Dr Abdur Rob, associate professor of Medicine at CMCH, pointed to the Den 2 serotype as a possible cause of the higher death rate.

"Last year, our research found that 75 percent of dengue patients in Chattogram were infected with Den 2, which is more dangerous than the other serotypes," he said.

"The high fatality rate suggests Den 2 might be prevalent this year as well."

He also highlighted that late hospital admissions of critical patients contribute to the high mortality rate. "Danger signs like vomiting, abdominal pain, low blood pressure, and bleeding should prompt immediate hospitalisation," he added.

Dr Abdullah Abu Sayeed,

assistant professor of Medicine at CMCH, said patients with co-morbidities are especially vulnerable and need quick treatment.

Residents in several areas of Chattogram have complained about the Chattogram City Corporation's lack of action in controlling Aedes mosquitoes.

No CCC worker has sprayed insecticide in the area for days, said Ratna Ghosh, a resident of Askar Dighi.

CCC CEO Sheikh Muhammad Tauhidul Islam refuted these claims, saying workers have been spraying insecticide in all 41 wards, divided into 10 zones.

He added that mobile court drives would soon begin to prevent mosquito breeding in residential areas.

2018 'CROSSFIRE' Shahidul, Benazir sued over BNP activist's death

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Five people, including former inspector generals of police (IGPs) AKM Shahidul Haque and Benazir Ahmed, have been sued for the alleged killing of a BNP activist in a 2018 "crossfire incident".

Julekha Begum, wife of the deceased Abul Hossain, filed the case with the Gomostapur Amoli Court in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

Other defendants include former Rapid Action Battalion Chapainawabganj camp officer Mozammel Haque, along with two Rab

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

MURDER CASE Addl SP Kafi remanded for five days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Abdullah Kafi, an additional superintendent of police, on a five-day remand in a case filed over the death of university student Sheikh Ashabul Yamin at Savar Bazar bus stand during the quota reform movement on July 18.

Yamin was a student of Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST).

Dhaka Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Julhas Uddin passed the order after Md Abdulla Biswas, an inspector of Savar Police Station and the investigation officer of the case, produced him in court seeking a seven-day remand.

7 children drown in three districts

One still missing

STAR REPORT

At least seven children have died by drowning and one other was still missing in Kurigram, Sirajganj and Feni districts in the last two days.

In Kurigram, four schoolchildren from different villages under Nageshwari upazila went to bathe in Brahmaputra river and drowned on Wednesday. Locals yesterday noon recovered bodies of three of them -- Jewel Islam, 7; Nazmul Hossain, 7; and Atiq Hossain, 7 -- from the river along different areas under Nageshwari, Ulipur and Chilmari upazilas.

Family members and locals were continuing search for Ankhi Khatun, 9, who remained missing.

Biswadev Roy, officer-in-charge of Kachakata Police Station in the upazila, confirmed the matter.

In Sirajganj, locals recovered the bodies of two children from Jamuna river yesterday morning near Janata High School in Chowhali upazila.

They were: Md Hazrat Ali, 7, and Khadiza Khatun, 6, of Kukri village under the upazila.

Both of them drowned after they went to bathe in the river on Wednesday. OC Shamol Kumar Dutta of Chowhali Police Station said a case was filed.

In Feni, two children drowned in ponds under Parshuram municipality area yesterday.

The deceased are 15-month-old Nahida Akhter Nupur and two-year-old Meheraz Habib Tasif.

Nazmul Hasan, upazila health and family planning officer in Parshuram, confirmed the deaths.

4 die in oil tank explosion in Bogura factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Four people were killed when an oil tank exploded at a rice bran processing plant in Sherpur of Bogura, yesterday.

The explosion occurred around 1:30pm at Majumder Products Limited, causing four men, who were repairing the tank, to fall 40 feet to the ground.

The victims -- Md Imran, 32, Mohammad Sayeed, 38, Rubel Hosain, 31, and Md Monir, 28 -- were from the Officers Colony in Syedpur, Nilphamari.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Police Station, said, "The technicians were repairing a tank of rice bran oil when it exploded, causing them to fall. They were taken to Bogura

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Buet and NSU get new VCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof ABM Badruzzaman of Department of Civil Engineering has been appointed as the new vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The announcement was made in a gazette notification yesterday by the education ministry.

In a separate notification, Prof Abdul Hasib Chowdhury of Electrical and Electronic Engineering department

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

COX'S BAZAR SADAR HOSPITAL Doctors continue strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Medical services at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital have been severely disrupted since Wednesday morning due to a complete shutdown by doctors.

The work abstention comes in protest of an attack on a doctor by relatives of a patient who allegedly died due to mistreatment.

Services in the emergency department resumed later on Wednesday afternoon after an army team visited the hospital. But other departments remained closed as of yesterday, leaving many patients unable to receive treatment and forcing some to seek care at private hospitals and

clinics.

Around 11:00am yesterday, doctors, intern doctors, medical students, nurses, and other hospital employees staged a two-hour protest.

They demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible for the attack and permanent security measures for medical staff.

The protest included a rally at the hospital, followed by a march to the office of the police superintendent

Shah Talal Mahmud Dihan, an intern doctor, said, "Our colleague was brutally beaten, and the hospital was vandalised. The authorities have yet to file a case. We insist that a case be filed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



ওয়েষ্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ওজোপাডিকো)

**WEST ZONE POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED**

Office of the Project Director

Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I project

website: [www.wzpdcl.gov.bd](http://www.wzpdcl.gov.bd), e-mail: [wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com](mailto:wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com), [pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd](mailto:pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd)

EOI Ref No: 27.22.4785.700.50.001.24.147


Dated: 11/09/2024

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (PRE-QUALIFICATION) FOR SELECTING INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY FIRM**

|     |  |  |
|-----|--|--|
| 1.  | Ministry / Division  | Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.   |
| 2.  | Agency   | West Zone Power Distribution Company Ltd. (WZPDCL)   |
| 3.  | Procuring Entity Name  | Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project  |
| 4.  | Expression of Interest (Pre-qualification) for Selection (Shortlisting) of                     | International, open Tender for Accompanying Measure Consultant for Capacity Building for the Project: "Modernization of Power Distribution- Smart Grids Phase I."  |
| 5.  | EOI Ref. No. & Date  | Memo No: 27.22.4785.700.50.001.24.147; Date: 11/09/2024<br>BMZ no: 2016 70 181, Procurement no: 504736   |
| 6.  | Procurement Method   | Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)  |
| 7.  | Budget and Source of Funds   | Development Budget (KfW and GOB)   |
| 8.  | Development Partner  | KfW Development Bank, Germany  |
| 9.  | EOI Closing and Opening Date, Time and Place   | Date: 23/10/2024; Time: 15:00; Bangladesh Standard Time<br>Place: Office of the Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I<br>Bidyut Bhaban, 35, Boyra Main Road, Khulna-9000   |
| 10. | Project Background   | The German Cooperation through KfW is financing the modernization of power distribution and implementation of smart grid with the objective to contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as to a safer, more reliable and more stable electricity supply. Under this programme, a budget is allocated as grant for accompanying measures. The assignment is foreseen for duration of 2 years.  |
| 11. | Brief Description of Assignment  | These accompanying measures shall concentrate on the following aspects:<br>1) Concept development and training development and implementation for operating and maintaining the to be implemented SCADA system;<br>2) Implementation and Operationalization of Distribution System Planning with DlgSILENT PowerFactory Software and supporting trainings. Purchase of DlgSILENT PowerFactory;<br>3) Environmental & Social Health and Safety Strengthening including capacity assessment, implementation of capacity building measures and trainings, development and implementation of an ESHS Management System on institutional level in line with national legislation and international ESHS Safeguards.<br>4) Implementation and Operationalization of Relay Test Systems and Energy Meter Test System including related trainings<br>5) Training Measures on different topics<br>The detailed information can be found on Pre-Qualification (PQ) document. |
| 12. | Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required   | The qualification of experienced consultants is subject to the regulations contained in the latest KfW procurement Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Goods, Plant and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries available at <a href="https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/FZ-Vergaberichtlinien-V-2021-EN.pdf">https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/PDF/Download-Center/PDF-Dokumente-Richtlinien/FZ-Vergaberichtlinien-V-2021-EN.pdf</a> . The contract will be awarded to an independent consultant firm with proven experience and a minimum annual turnover of EUR 2.4 million or equivalent.<br>The detailed information can be found on Pre-Qualification (PQ) document.  |
| 13. | Other Details  | To register and receive further information such as the comprehensive Pre-Qualification (PQ) document, please contact:<br><b>Julian Scholz, Tender Agent</b><br><a href="mailto:consult@julianscholz.com">consult@julianscholz.com</a><br>with CC to the Employer, <a href="mailto:wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com">wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd">pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd</a>   |
| 14. | Association with local firm  | The detailed information can be found on Pre-Qualification (PQ) document.  |
| 15. | Name of Official Inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI)  | Md. Saifuzzaman  |
| 16. | Designation of Official Inviting Expressions of Interest                                       | Project Director   |
| 17. | Address of Official Inviting the Expressions of Interest                                       | Office of the Project Director, Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project<br>Bidyut Bhaban, 35, Boyra Main Road, Khulna-9000, Bangladesh   |
| 18. | Contact Details of Official Inviting the Expressions of Interest                               | e-mail: <a href="mailto:consult@julianscholz.com">consult@julianscholz.com</a> , <a href="mailto:wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com">wzpdcl.mpdsgp@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd">pd.mpdsg@wzpdcl.gov.bd</a>   |
| 19. | The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EOIs without showing any reason thereof. |  |

  
(Md. Saifuzzaman)  
Project Director  
Modernization of Power Distribution-Smart Grids Phase I Project  
Bidyut Bhaban, 35, Boyra Main Road, Khulna-9000, Bangladesh.

GD- 421



**ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED**

395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area  
Dhaka- 1208

Ref. No.-EDCL/Pur/Consultant/2024/368

Dated: 11/09/2024

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) Legal Advisor**

Essential Drugs Company Limited is the only Government owned Public Company which requires legal advices and legal compliances on various issues and legal matters. To comply with the necessity the Company is inviting applications from Experienced lawyer.

**The services from the Legal Advisor may include:**

- Providing necessary in house-Legal advice in the field of Labour/Staff Regulation etc.
- Providing good management skill with litigation and successful completion of cases involving various types of court.
- Advising the board or head of Administration of the company on legal issues of day to day operation of the company.
- Drafting necessary Legal Documentation as per company's requirement.

**Job requirement:** Qualifications would be require L.L.B (Hon's) including L.L.M (foreign degree in the field of law or Bar-at-Law is preferable) with Bar council membership and knowledge of labour law, employment law and company matter will be appreciated. Experience working as legal advisor in pharmaceuticals companies is a must.

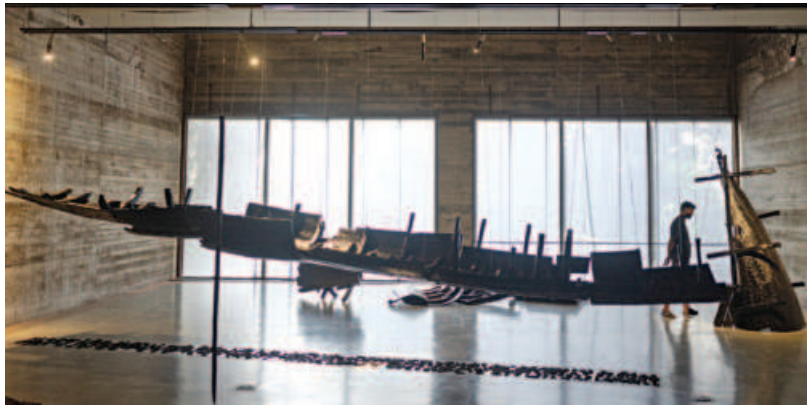
Expression of interst (EOI) is tobe submitted to the undersigned within 20 (twenty) working days from the date of publication of this notice in our prescribed schedule of items along with price quotation, which is to be collected from the office of the undersigned free of cost.

Essential Drugs authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**General Manager**  
Procurement Department  
For : Managing Director.

Size: 6.5 Inc x 4 col.





PHOTOS: ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY

# ‘MONON KHONON’

## Unravelling the complex threads of material culture

One of the most striking aspects of this exhibition is the artist's ability to make the local globally relevant. In a world where cultures are often homogenised through globalisation, Rahman's art highlights the power of local identity.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Wakilur Rahman's solo exhibition, *Monon Khonon*, currently on display at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi, offers an evocative exploration of material culture through the lens of visual art. By merging local elements with a global contemporary perspective, Rahman's work speaks to the unique relationship between the people of the delta region and their environment. His art forms a bridge between the ancient and the modern, the local and the universal.

The people of the delta region, with their unique way of life, deep-rooted philosophy, rich language, and soulful music, mould together a distinct and ever-evolving culture. In his pursuit to capture and map these intricate characteristics, the artist thus turned to the very elements that define this landscape.

His experimentation delves into three core components—the region's diverse topography, its indigenous materials, and the innate techniques and wisdom passed down through

its generations. Wakilur Rahman explored these facets by drawing inspiration from the fluidity of water, the malleability of clay, the symbolism of boats, and the power of language to craft his artistic narrative.

The vast expanse of Bengal's waterways, the soaked earth, and the sweeping winds of the plains reflect a diverse yet profound natural world, deeply influencing the tangible expressions of our local creativity. While these cultural manifestations may seem fragmented, elusive, and resistant to easy interpretation, they conceal rich treasures within their many layers. The exhibition endeavours to unravel these complex threads of our material culture, digging into the essence of the spiritual and material embodiment of the people who inhabit this land.

*Monon Khonon*, which translates to "Unearthing the Archaic," does not just present visual art; it presents a journey—an excavation of the mind and soul. The artist's approach is both methodical and intuitive, reflecting a deep respect for the materials he uses and the

stories they tell. His works, which include nine installations based on wood, aluminium, iron, and terracotta, are not just objects of art but repositories of memory, history, and identity. These materials, chosen for their durability and connection to the earth, mirror the resilience of the delta people and their ability to adapt to the changing environment.

One of the most striking aspects of this exhibition is the artist's ability to make the local globally relevant. In a world where cultures are often homogenised through globalisation, Rahman's art highlights the power of local identity. His use of indigenous materials and techniques, combined with contemporary forms and ideas, creates a dialogue between the past and the present. This dialogue is particularly important in today's world, where the preservation of cultural identity is increasingly seen as a form of resistance against the forces of globalisation.

Wakilur Rahman works in various mediums of visual art, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, and installations. He graduated from the Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, and earned an MEA from the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing. For nearly four decades, he has been working internationally, while dividing his time between Dhaka and Berlin. Presently, he is serving as the curator of Kala Kendra.

The *Monon Khonon* art exhibition will be on display at Bengal Shilpalay in Dhanmondi until September 14.

## Taylor Swift wins seven VMAs, tying Beyonce for lifetime lead

On Wednesday night women dominated the MTV Video Music Awards 2024, with Sabrina Carpenter snagging Song of the Year for her hit track *Espresso*.

Taylor Swift and Post Malone also made waves, taking home the first award of the night for *Fortnight*. Swift notably won seven MTV VMAs, tying Beyoncé for the most career wins in the event's 40-year history.



Amid the various categories of awards, *Good Luck, Babe!* singer Chappell Roan was honoured as Best New Artiste. Blackpink's Lisa took home the award for Best K-pop Video for her solo track *Rockstar*. Tyla won the Afrobeats category for *Water*, while Anitta earned Best Latin Video for *Mil Veces*.

## Sohel Arman's 'Shongbad' to release next year

Filmmaker Sohel Arman's *Shongbad*, delayed by student protests and the fall of the Awami League government, is finally set to resume filming after a long pause.

The director shared, "We filmed for 14 days in June, completing sixty percent of the movie, but political unrest forced us to pause. I plan to finish filming this year for a possible release next year."

The story of the film is set in 1872 focusing on the *Zamindari* system. A thief, trying to steal from the estate, is inadvertently met with a situation of having to challenge the *Zamindar's* son.

# NEWS

## Arrest warrant issued

FROM PAGE 12  
Ahmad, owner of Le Meridien Dhaka, is now on bail. Amin was sent to jail on July 10 after he had surrendered to a Dhaka court.

On May 27, ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Neyamul Ahsan Gazi, also the investigation officer of the case, pressed charges against Bachchu, his wife Shirin Aktar and four other accused in the case.

The IO showed Bachchu and four others as fugitives and appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against them as they did not secure bail.

ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Nurul Huda filed the case with its integrated district office of Dhaka-1 on

October 2 last year.

According to the case statement, Bachchu bought 30.25 katha land from Amin for Tk 110 crore, but two deeds showed the property value to be Tk 15.25 crore. Amin allegedly assisted in ensuring that the price is shown lower than the market price.

Bachchu later transferred the property ownership to his wife and sons Rafa and Anik. He also tried to cover up his illegal income and devalued the land by Tk 94.75 crore, depriving the government of over Tk 8.52 crore in revenue, according to the case statement.

On June 12 last year, the ACC submitted charge sheets against

Bachchu and 146 others in 59 cases filed over embezzlement of Tk 2,265 crore.

The commission, however, did not implicate the then BASIC Bank board members, who were at the helm of the bank when the embezzlement took place between 2009 and 2013.

Between 2009 and 2013, Tk 4,500 crore was swindled out of BASIC, once a healthy public bank. Of the sum, more than 95 percent was sanctioned by the board.

In 2015, the ACC filed 56 cases in connection with the scam, but neither Bachchu nor any of the board members were named as accused although multiple probes indicated their involvement.

## 3 ex-DGs of DGFI sent

FROM PAGE 12  
Long Course from Bangladesh Military Academy. He had played the role of an area commander for the 11th Infantry Division of Bogura Cantonment.

Saiful was appointed as the DG of DGFI on February 24, 2020.

After the fall of the Awami League government, Md Saiful Alam was posted to the foreign ministry on August 6.

Previously, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) froze the bank accounts of Saiful, his wife and children on September 3, and asked all banks to send account-

related information or documents such as account opening forms, KYC and transaction statements to BFIU within five working days.

Tabrez was appointed as the DG of DGFI on July 5, 2021.

He has also served as the general officer commanding (GOC) of the 33rd Infantry Division in Cumilla and the 10th Infantry Division in Cox's Bazar.

On August 6, he was removed as army training and doctrine command (ARTDOC) GOC and appointed as quartermaster general.

Hamidul became the DG of DGFI on October 26, 2022.

## Carnage in Gaza must stop

FROM PAGE 12  
to shelter displaced families as the vast majority of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been repeatedly uprooted by the war.

Israeli forces have struck several such schools in recent months, saying Palestinian militants were operating there and hiding among displaced civilians — charges denied by Hamas.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it had conducted a "precise strike" on a Hamas command and control centre within the Al-Jawni compound. It did not elaborate on the outcome, but said "numerous steps" were taken to reduce the risk to civilians.

Survivors of the strike scrambled

to retrieve bodies and belongings from the rubble, telling AFP they had to step over "shredded limbs".

"I can hardly stand up," said one man, holding a plastic bag of human remains.

"We've been going through hell for 340 days now, what we've seen over these days, we haven't even seen it in Hollywood movies, now we're seeing it in Gaza."

Gaza has repeatedly been called the world's deadliest place for humanitarian workers.

UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini said after the school strike that at least 220 members of the agency's staff have been killed in the Gaza war.

"Endless & senseless killing, day after day," he posted on X.

## Killer of Pathao founder gets 40 years in jail

FROM PAGE 12  
Saleh into the lift of his luxury apartment building in Manhattan and shocked him in the back with a taser when the lift doors opened into Saleh's apartment. Saleh fell to the floor and Haspil stabbed him to death, authorities said.

Haspil returned to the apartment the next day to dismember the body with an electric saw but eventually left to purchase a charger after the saw's battery died. While Haspil was out, Saleh's cousin arrived at the apartment and discovered the dismembered body.

Police arrested Haspil days later.

## Will consider polls

FROM PAGE 12  
ministry and Bangladesh Bank would chalk out a road map on how the money the ministries and government organs kept at different private banks as fixed deposit receipts (FDRs) can be recovered.

"We will find out who kept the money at these [private] banks and on what consideration it was deposited. This is public money."

Bangladesh Climate Change Trust kept Tk 538 crore in FDRs with the erstwhile Farmers Bank, she said.

The bank was later renamed as Padma Bank. Now the government will need to explore ways to recover the climate funds' Tk 874 crore — including accrued interest — withheld by Padma Bank.

The bank is extending the duration of the FDRs and it will not be able to clear the money before 2038.

Labour Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain told the press briefing that the labour welfare fund made deposits of Tk 114 crore at a bank.

**HASINA MUST BE PRESENT AT TRIAL**

Rizwana said that the government position regarding ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition was clear.

She must be present for the interest of trials for genocide, torture, and repression, and "above all, as a spokesperson for a fascist system," the adviser said.

"What will be the process of extradition? How will the two

countries talk? These will be considered next. We will see the matter when the legal proceedings commence."

As a reporter asked her about the unfavourable comments made in Indian media, Rizwana said, "Most of us have been in this country for the last 15 years. We all know the reality. We will try to keep friendly relations with all countries, including our neighbours. But it has to be based on fairness and equality. There is no subservience here. And this is being made clear again and again."

Asif said "The July Martyrs' Memorial Foundation" has been formed with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus as its chair.

## India to work with interim govt

FROM PAGE 12  
Indian high commissioner, during his meeting with the chief adviser, conveyed that India is willing to work with Bangladesh to fulfil the shared aspirations of the two countries. India remains committed to working with Bangladesh with our national priority."

"This is how we approach our engagement with Bangladesh," he added.

To a question about the Adani

Power's agreement with Bangladesh Power Development Board for supply of electricity from the former's plant in Godda, Jharkhand, Jaiswal said, "It is a buyer-seller agreement between the two parties and it's for them to sort out the issues."

Asked about the fate of the India-Bangladesh friendship pipeline from Numaligarh in Assam to Parbatipur for supplying diesel, Jaiswal said the project is functional, adding that

India has made certain proposals about extending the pipeline and is waiting for a response from the Bangladesh side.

Replying to a question about the revival of India Bangladesh bilateral development projects, Jaiswal reiterated that the work on them would resume as soon as the law and order in that country stabilises and the Indian workers involved in them return.

## Left veteran Sitaram Yechury

FROM PAGE 2  
34-year-old son, Ashish Yechury, died of Covid in 2021.

A member of CPM's top decision-making body Politburo for over three decades, Yechury was a Rajya Sabha MP from 2005 to 2017.

An alumnus of Delhi's St Stephen's College and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Yechury started his political career with the Students' Federation of India and joined the CPIM in 1975. He was pursuing his doctorate in Economics from JNU when the Indira Gandhi government imposed the Emergency in 1975 and he was arrested along with many other leaders who would later play a key role in national politics. His PhD remained incomplete.



# Gaza: where sickness can be ‘DEATH SENTENCE’

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

In Gaza, falling ill can be a death sentence. Cancer patients are waiting to die, polio has returned, and many of the doctors and nurses who might have offered help are dead while the hospitals they worked at have been reduced to rubble.

Doctors and health professionals say that even if the Israel-Hamas war were to stop tomorrow, it will take years to rebuild the healthcare sector and people will continue to die because preventable diseases are not being treated on time.

“People are dying on a daily basis because they cannot get the basic treatment they need,” said Riham Jafari, advocacy and communications coordinator at rights group ActionAid Palestine.



With each specialist killed, Gaza has lost a source of knowledge and human connections, a devastating blow on top of the destruction of most of the Strip's hospitals.

Many people have become weak from a lack of food, as prices of basic commodities have more than quadrupled since the conflict began. When they become ill, they are also too frightened to journey to the few remaining hospitals, Jafari said.

Eighty-two percent of children aged between 6 and 23 months have limited access to quality food, according to a report by the Global Network Against Food Crises, and more than 90% of children under 5-years-old suffer from infectious diseases.

Meanwhile, skin diseases are rampant because of a lack of cleaning supplies and hygiene products, Jafari said. In markets, a bottle of shampoo can cost around \$50.

Israel has severely restricted the flow of food and aid into Gaza, and humanitarian agencies have warned of the risk of famine.

Waseem Alzaanin, a general practitioner with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, said the lack of drugs, equipment and medical facilities is killing his cancer patients.

Gaza's only cancer centre was destroyed earlier this year, he said, and many of his stage-one cancer patients are now classified as stage-four.

“The most basic requirements are not present. We cannot do anything except give them painkillers and make them comfortable with what life they have left,” he said.

“It is like a death sentence,” he added. “Let us not kid ourselves. We have no medical system.”



## Millions in SE Asia battle floods Yagi death toll passes 200

AFP, Hanoi

Millions of people across Southeast Asia yesterday struggled with flooded homes, power cuts and wrecked infrastructure after Typhoon Yagi swept through the region, as the death toll passed 200.

In worst-hit Vietnam, the fatalities rose to 197, with nine confirmed dead in northern Thailand — where one district is suffering its worst floods in 80 years.

Yagi brought a colossal deluge of rain that has inundated a swathe of northern Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, triggering deadly landslides and widespread river flooding.

The United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) said the typhoon had damaged more than 140,000 homes across 26 provinces in Vietnam.

The high waters have devastated more than 250,000 hectares of crops and huge numbers of livestock, Vietnam's agriculture ministry said, with farmland around Hanoi hit hard.

Myanmar's junta government has set up around 50 camps, anticipating that some 70,000 people could be affected by the floods, Lay Shwe Zin Oo, director of the social welfare, relief and resettlement ministry told AFP.

In Thailand the death toll has risen to nine, the department of disaster prevention said, including six killed in landslides in Chiang Mai.

- More than **41,000** Palestinians killed in Gaza; **92,000** wounded
- At least **490** healthcare workers, including **55** specialist doctors, are among those killed
- Almost all of Gaza's health facility destroyed
- More than **90pc** of children under 5-years-old suffer from infectious diseases

Cancer patients “are waiting for their turn to die,” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Last week, Israel and Hamas agreed on limited pauses in the fighting to allow children to be vaccinated against polio

after a one-year-old baby boy was found to be partially paralysed from the disease, the first case in the crowded strip in 25 years.

But even as crowds gathered in the southern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis for vaccinations on Sept. 5, bombs continued to fall in other areas with Gaza health officials saying an Israeli strike killed five people at the Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al-Balah.

“It will take long and so much effort in order to restore the level of care that we used to have in Gaza,” said Mohammed Aghaalkurdi, medical programme lead at Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Every day he sees around 180 children with skin diseases that he “just cannot treat,” he said.

“Due to vaccination campaign interruptions, lack of supplies, lack of hygiene items and infection prevention control material, it (healthcare) is just deteriorating.”

Since October 7 last year, more than 41,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel's offensive in the enclave, according to the Gaza health ministry, with around 92,000 wounded.

But beyond the death toll from the fighting and airstrikes, people are also succumbing to illnesses that could be cured in normal circumstances.

As with the re-emergence of polio, children will bear the brunt of these long-term consequences, health experts say.

“We are talking about disabilities, we are talking about intellectual disabilities, mental health issues,” said Aghaalkurdi.

“Things that will stick to the child until they die.”

At least 490 healthcare workers have been killed since the conflict erupted, according to Gaza's health ministry. A Reuters investigation found that 55 highly qualified specialist doctors were among those killed.



## Wildfire rages in LA

AFP, Wrightwood

A wildfire ravaging the hills near Los Angeles had swelled in size by over 1,000 percent by Wednesday, torching dozens of homes and prompting a state of emergency. The Bridge Fire is one of three out-of-control blazes that have erupted around the United States' second-biggest city.

Authorities issued widespread evacuation orders as the fire tore through the towns of Wrightwood and Mt Baldy, destroying at least 33 homes, several cabins, and racing through a ski resort.

The fire broke that broke out early Sunday has by Wednesday afternoon roared to 49,000 acres.

## Xi to attend BRICS

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the BRICS summit in Russia next month, China's foreign minister announced yesterday.

The summit of emerging economies will be held from October 22 to 24 in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan, in what the Kremlin hopes will be a chance to expand its influence and forge closer economic alliances, especially with Beijing.

The BRICS group, an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, represents almost half the world's population and has since expanded to include other major emerging economies including the United Arab Emirates and Iran.

## 33 held in Manipur

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police have arrested 33 people after a surge in ethnic violence in Manipur state, where a curfew and an internet blackout have been imposed, officers said yesterday.

Fighting broke out in Manipur in May 2023, between the predominantly Hindu Meitei majority and the mainly Christian Kuki community, an ethnic conflict that has since killed at least 200 people. After months of relative calm, fresh fighting erupted this month.

At least 11 people have been killed, including in what police called a “significant escalation” of violence, with insurgents firing rockets and dropping bombs with drones.

## UNSC to expand!

REUTERS, United Nations

The United States supports creating two permanent United Nations Security Council seats for African states and one seat to be rotated among small island developing states, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said as set to announce on Thursday.

The push for two permanent African seats and a rotating seat for small island developing states is in addition to Washington's long-held support for India, Japan and Germany to also get permanent seats on the council.

Ahead of making the announcement at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Thomas-Greenfield said that US does not support expanding veto power beyond the five countries that hold it.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Mymensingh

Memo No. 37.07.6100.001.34.018.24.142      Date: 12-09-2024


**e-Tender Notice No. 06/EED/Mym-2024-2025**

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

| Sl No. | Tender ID No. | Description of works   | Procurement method |
|--------|---------------|--|--------------------|
| 01     | 1014468       | Construction of 03-Storeyed Library Cum Auditorium Building with 03-Storeyed Foundation in/c Sanitary, Water Supply, Electrification, Sound System, Stage Lighting, Multimedia Projector, Generator, Air Conditioning, Acoustic work & Deep Tubewell works at Govt. Ananda Mohon College, Sadar, Mymensingh. | OTM                |

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 banks branches up to **one hour before Tender last selling time**.

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. Yusuf Ali**  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Mymensingh  
E-mail: [xeneedmym@gmail.com](mailto:xeneedmym@gmail.com)

GD- 426

**বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক**  
গণমানুষের ব্যাংক

বিভাগীয় কার্যালয়  
কৃষি ব্যাংক ভবন  
জিদ্দাবাজার, সিলেট

ফোনঃ ০২-৯৯৬৬০০০৬২  
০২-৯৯৬৬০০০৯০  
ইমেইলঃ [gmsylhet@krishibank.org.bd](mailto:gmsylhet@krishibank.org.bd)

নং-বিক্রিশ/প্রশা-৪২-অংশ-০২(কম্পিউটার)/২০২৪-২৫/৬০৪      তারিখঃ ০৪-০৯-২০২৪ইং

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

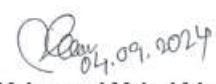
This is to notify all concern that the following tenders have been published through National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

| Sl No. | Tender ID   | Tender name   | Tender publishing date and time | Tender closing and opening date and time | Tender method |
|--------|---|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 01     | ID: 1003890<br>Ref No: BKB/Admin42/part-02(Computer)/2024- 25/571 | Supply, Installation and Implementation of 40 No. Personal Computer for Several Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division | 12 Sep 2024, 11:30              | 02 Oct 2024, 11:30                       | OTM           |
| 02     | ID: 1004640<br>Ref No: BKB/Admin42/part-02(Computer)/2024- 25/579 | Supply, Installation and Implementation of 20 No. Inkjet Printer for Several Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division    | 12 Sep 2024, 11:30              | 02 Oct 2024, 12:30                       | OTM           |
| 03     | ID: 1004664<br>Ref No: BKB/Admin42/part-02(Computer)/2024-25/580  | Supply, Installation and Implementation of 20 No. Flatbed Scanner for Several Branches of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Sylhet Division   | 12 Sep 2024, 11:30              | 02 Oct 2024, 13:15                       | OTM           |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Government Procurement Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Government Procurement Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) and you can also ask help from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

যুগ্মপত্র মামা বসন্ত ভাঙ্গো, যুগ্ম থেকে হুইও কিছু ভাগ নে।  
মামা আর ভাঙ্গোটা দুজনে, সমাজের কীট জানে সুজনে।  
-রফিকুল নদী

  
**Mohammad Moinal Islam**  
Deputy General Manager

GD-428

**বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনী**  
আলীকদম সেনানিবাস, বান্দরবান

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ০১/২০২৪**

১। এমইএস/সরকারী ১ম শ্রেণীর তালিকাভুক্ত ত্রিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হতে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজের অনুকূলে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র/কোটেশন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

| ক্রমিক | কাজের বিবরণ   | কাজের সময়সীমা                                      |
|--------|---|---|
| ১।     | জালানিপাড়া আর্মি ক্যাম্প এবং ইয়াংহা আর্মি ক্যাম্পে সৈনিক লাইন পুনরী নির্মাণ | ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে কাজ সমাপ্ত করতে হবে। |

২। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ (১৬০০ ঘটিকা)

৩। দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ (১৩০০ ঘটিকা)

৪। দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়ঃ ২২ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ (১৬০০ ঘটিকা) ত্রিকাদারগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)।

৫। নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে দরপত্র পাওয়া যাবে এবং গৃহীত হবে। প্রতিটি সিডিউল এর মূল্য ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত মাত্র) টাকা বা অফেরতযোগ্য।

৬। শর্তাবলীঃ দরপত্র ক্রয়কালে ত্রিকাদারদের নিজস্ব চিঠি/মূলপাড়ে আবেদনপূর্বক নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি সেখানে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট হতে দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে পারবে এবং দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় ও সমস্ত কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

ক। হালনাগাদ লাইসেন্স নবায়নের সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র এবং ১০ ডিজিট ভাট সনদপত্র।

খ। দরপত্র তফসিলে প্রত্যেক পাতায় সীলমোহর স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে এবং খামের উপর কাজের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

গ। যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।

২২ আগষ্ট ২০২৪  
আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৪/৪৯৫  
১২/০৯/২৪


**জোন কমান্ডার**  
আলীকদম সেনা জোন  
মোবাইল নং-০১৭৬৯২৯২৫৫৪

GD-430

**বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্পোরেশন**  
২১, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০  
[www.brtc.gov.bd](http://www.brtc.gov.bd)

**বিআরটিসির প্রধান কার্যালয়সহ সকল ডিপো, ট্রেনিং ইনস্টিটিউট, ট্রেনিং সেন্টার ও ওয়ার্কশপ এর জন্য সিএ ফার্ম নিয়োগ**

| ক্রমিক | বিবরণ   | সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ।  |
|--------|---|---|
| ১      | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ                                 | সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগ।  |
| ২      | নিয়োগকারী সত্তার নাম                             | চৌধুরামান, বিআরটিসি।  |
| ৩      | নিয়োগ পদ্ধতি                                     | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM) (পিপিআর-২০০৬ ও পিপিআর-২০০৮ মোতাবেক)।   |
| ৪      | অর্থায়নের উৎস                                    | বিআরটিসির নিজস্ব অর্থায়ন।  |
| ৫      | দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং                               | ৩৫.০৪.০০০০.০১৫.৩৪.২২৩.৯৯  |
| ৬      | দরপত্র সিডিউল পাওয়ার স্থান                       | <a href="http://www.brtc.gov.bd">www.brtc.gov.bd</a> হতে ডাউনলোডকৃত সিডিউল।   |
| ৭      | ডাউনলোডকৃত দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণের তারিখ ও শেষ সময় | ১৫/০৯/২০২৪ইং হতে ২৯/০৯/২০২৪ইং, বিকাল ৫:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।  |
| ৮      | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য                             | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) "চৌধুরামান, বিআরটিসির" অনুকূলে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে ইস্যুকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার ব্যতীত দরপত্র বাতিলযোগ্য।  |
| ৯      | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান            | ৩০/০৯/২০২৪ইং, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বিআরটিসি, ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), ২১, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০ ও ডাকঘোষণা/কুরিয়ার ঘোষণা দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। ডাকঘোষণা/কুরিয়ার ঘোষণা প্রেরিত দরপত্র বিআরটিসির প্রধান কার্যালয়, ক্রয় বিভাগে ৩০/০৯/২০২৪ইং, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে না পৌঁছালে দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।  |
| ১০     | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান                  | ৩০/০৯/২০২৪ইং, দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা বিআরটিসি, ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), ২১, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।  |
| ১১     | সিডিউলের সাথে যে সমস্ত ডকুমেন্টস সংযুক্ত করতে হবে | (ক) <a href="http://www.brtc.gov.bd">www.brtc.gov.bd</a> হতে ডাউনলোডকৃত সিডিউল, (খ) পার্বত্য প্রকৌশল বিবিমালার বিধান অনুযায়ী প্রকৃত সেবা সরবরাহকারী ব্যবসায়ী তৎসহ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, (গ) আয়কর প্রত্যয়নপত্র, (ঘ) ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র, (ঙ) ব্যাংক স্বাক্ষরতার সনদপত্র, (চ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, (ছ) ০২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের হস্টিন ছবি ও (জ) অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র ও (ঝ) সিডিউলে বর্ণিত ডকুমেন্টস।<br>দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত কাগজপত্র হালনাগাদ নবায়িত এবং প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে দাখিল করতে হবে। |
| ১২     | কাজের সর্বাধিক বিবরণ                              | বিআরটিসির প্রধান কার্যালয়সহ সকল ডিপো, ট্রেনিং ইনস্টিটিউট, ট্রেনিং সেন্টার ও ওয়ার্কশপ এর ২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বৎসরের হিসাব নিরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত।   |
| ১৩     | দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম                             | ইমাম হোসাইন।  |
| ১৪     | দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী                            | ম্যানেজার (ক্রয়), বিআরটিসি।  |
| ১৫     | দরপত্র আহবানকারীর অফিসের ঠিকানা                   | বিআরটিসি, ক্রয় বিভাগ (৯ম তলা), ২১, রাজউক এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১০০০।  |
| ১৬     | দরপত্র আহবানকারীর অফিস টেলিফোন নং                 | ৪১০৫১৩৪৩।   |
| ১৭     | কর্তৃপক্ষের ক্ষমতা                                | কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সফল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণসহ দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী সংযোজন, সংশোধন, পরিমার্জন ও পরিবর্তনের ক্ষমতা রাখেন এবং সর্বক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই হুড়াক্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।   |
| ১৮     | নির্দেশনা   | অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিমুক্ত দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।  |

  
**ইমাম হোসাইন**  
ম্যানেজার (ক্রয়)  
বিআরটিসি

GD-425



## Govt’s reform agenda is promising

Its proper implementation requires national unity

We are pleased with the outline presented by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus during his address to the nation on September 11. Emphasising the need for a systemic reform, he announced that the interim government had decided to establish six commissions. These commissions will be primarily tasked with reforming the judiciary, electoral system, administration, police, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and the constitution, with the goal of creating a state system based on public ownership, accountability and welfare. It is also commendable that a three-month deadline, starting from October 1, has been set for these commissions to complete their tasks.

According to the chief adviser, these reforms have become essential to prevent the re-emergence of fascism or authoritarian rule in Bangladesh, and we agree. However, in implementing them, we hope the interim government remains true to its promise of inclusivity and ensures that its actions are transparent to the public. Given what transpired during the last three elections under the authoritarian Awami League government, reforming the four institutions related to the electoral process—the police, public administration, judiciary, and ACC—is crucial to ensure that future governments remain accountable to the public and can be peacefully removed from power. As the chief adviser stated, the nation does not want to witness another bloody uprising like the one made necessary by the oppressive Hasina-led government, which clung to power through brutal suppression.

The chief adviser raised a couple of key concerns, including the weak state of the economy and the factors further worsening it. The crony capitalist actions of the previous government and its cohorts have left our economy in an extremely vulnerable state. The ongoing worker protests and factory closures are adding to this pressure. While we understand that workers have many legitimate demands that have gone unmet over the years—which we have written about in this column—we urge them to support the continued operation of factories during this difficult time. At the same time, we call on factory owners to engage in meaningful dialogue with workers to find a solution that benefits both parties. In this regard, we also urge the interim government to play a constructive role in facilitating and mediating these discussions.

The key message to take away from Prof Yunus’s speech is the need for national unity, inclusivity, and active participation from all stakeholders to reform and rebuild the nation. In this regard, we hope that businesses, NGOs and other organisations, and ordinary citizens will step up to create a new Bangladesh in which they themselves would want to live.

## Ensure women’s safety in public spaces

Gang rape of 70-year-old woman extremely disturbing

We are deeply disturbed by the news of the gang-rape of a 70-year-old woman at Chhobir Haat in the capital’s Suhrawardy Udyan on the night of September 7. The severely injured woman is still undergoing treatment at a hospital, and as of the time of writing this editorial, no arrests have been made.

The incident highlights once again our failure to ensure the safety of women in our streets, parks, and other public spaces. The recent rape on a public bus in Chattogram underscores this issue. Although the alleged perpetrators were arrested in that case, the lack of security of females of all ages remains a concern. The extent of women’s vulnerability becomes worrying when one considers the place where the September 7 rape incident took place. Chhobir Haat, adjacent to the Shahbag police station and situated within the perimeter of Dhaka University (DU), should have been an inherently secured place since a large number of female students frequent the area every day. Besides, the recent events of July and August, that took place in DU, should have guaranteed heightened security.

Unfortunately, the innate patriarchy of our society, its perception of females as second-class citizens, lackadaisical investigation, long-winding legal process, and low conviction rate in rape cases all culminate in the lack of security for women in our country. This year alone, between January and June, at least 250 rape incidents occurred according to data collected by the human rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra.

A UN study has shown how Bangladeshi men perceive their privileged position in society as a justification for rape. These harmful perceptions must be fought through proper educational reforms and actively countering ideologies that justify violence against women and treat them as second-class citizens. We also urge the interim government to prioritise the security and protection of women, not just by formulating laws and policies but also by ensuring their proper enforcement. In the case of the recent gang-rape case, we call on the police to expedite their investigation and bring the perpetrators to book as swiftly as possible.

### TALK CHECK

“We seek reforms. Our sincere request is that you not retreat to the spectators’ gallery after entrusting us with the heavy responsibility of reforms. Stay with us. We will bring reform together. It is everyone’s responsibility. Bring reform to your own field.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, on September 11, 2024 in an address to the nation discussing the creation of six commissions and a path to reform

# Business community’s voice needed in interim government

It is necessary for growth and attracting foreign investment



THE THIRD VIEW  
Mahfuz Anam  
is the editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

MAHFUZ ANAM

On September 9, in *The Daily Star’s* roundtable discussion with business leaders, including those from the manufacturing, banking and fast job-producing IT sectors, urgent appeals were made to the interim government for help. First and foremost was the need for security. The disappearance of police from the scene and the overall lack of security in the industrial zones led to desperate appeals for army presence to ensure law and order. They specified five industrial belts: Ashulia, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Chattogram, and Cumilla. These five zones constitute our crucial industrial base that must be protected with the highest priority. Normally, they wouldn’t ask for the army’s help, but they feel it to be an urgent necessity because of the power vacuum that has been caused by the sudden political change that we recently experienced.

Along with the physical protection of the above areas, what has been emphasised is the restoration of law and order in general. The truth is that, because of their role during the past regime, police now suffer from a severe backlash for which they hesitate to go to public places and take firm action when needed. This obviously sends out wrong signals to the criminal elements who are creating havoc in our factories.

With the sudden fall of a regime who appeared to have had endless unaccounted for power, there now exists a crisis of governance of sorts. The hatred towards police due to their partisan use has been multiplied a thousand times by their trigger-happy colleagues who killed more than a thousand students and citizens, and injured thousands more, as initial official estimates show. Our border guards—BGB—who have no training in crowd control or how to deal with mass protests, were used, which added to the death toll on the streets of Dhaka and the rest of the country. This has resulted in a tremendous anger and desire for revenge against the previous regimes and their henchmen: the politicians. Included in this is a section of the business community who did nothing but exploit their political connections to loot the country. This is exemplified by the so-called private sector adviser of the former regime, who could have been better termed “personal sector representative,” as he never worked for the overall benefit of the private sector and used his privileged position to advance his own

interest and those of his cronies.

This, however, led to an overall impression of the private sector as a product of undue privilege. This narrative is influencing both a section of our society, especially the young people, and some within the government, giving the impression that the interim government is not fully cognisant of the private sector’s role in advancing, modernising and driving the economy as a whole. The fact that there is no representative from the business community in the interim government is considered by many to be indicative of the above mindset. For the sake of our immediate and long-



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The warehouse of a factory in Gazipur was set on fire on September 11, 2024, highlighting the need for increased security in industrial areas.

term growth, this has to change—and immediately so. We urge the interim government to appoint an adviser from the private sector.

An important fact that has to be remembered is that not the entire private sector was the recipient of the former regime’s largesse. Only a section of them influenced policies that favoured only them. There is a large number of businessmen who suffered because they refused to toe the line. They did not default on loans. They paid their due taxes and yet got constantly harassed. The distinction between the genuine private sector and the crony entrepreneurs must be urgently and seriously made.

Regardless of the background of their owners, factories are national

assets. How they built them must be a big factor in dealing with them, but what they built with personal assets or bank loans cannot be viewed as anything other than the collective wealth of Bangladesh. That particular viewpoint appears to have been put in the background. This is evidenced by reactions to factories owned by individuals close to the former ruling party or whose wealth has been a direct result of cronyism, undue favours, dubious tax breaks, and illegal practices that should have nothing to do with doing proper business.

Yes, none of them would probably have been anywhere near the wealth they accumulated without their political connection, yet their production facilities cannot be treated as “enemy properties” and burnt down, as has been the case for several industries. The direct impact of such action is the threat to the jobs of workers. The vandalism and looting of stocks and raw materials, and in many cases of the machinery and its spare parts, clearly indicate the involvement

amendments to the old one has been going on, a similar discussion for changes in the economy has not been that forthcoming.

We need fundamental reforms in the way we do business. To attract FDI and increase local investment, we need urgent reforms in the banking laws and regulations. To start with, we must make the professional management of banks mandatory and introduce international practices in regulating the role of bank directors who think of themselves as “owners” of the banks and not small shareholders, with the depositors being the main owners. The practice of protecting the depositors’ rights must immediately be introduced. It’s the directors that can be held as mostly responsible for destroying the banking system.

We must investigate why we have not been able to attract FDI over the past decades in spite of our economy’s growth. Mega-corruption was of course a big factor. Too many laws are in operation that inhibits entrepreneurship. Bureaucratic hassle, land registration issues, and the overall delay in getting things done all contribute to the lack of efficiency in our system, which must be changed if we are to realise our potential.

We must remember when people or companies invest either in one’s own or in a foreign country, it’s their own wealth—or borrowed from banks—that they are investing. We should allow them to make legitimate profits and prevent them from profiteering. The precondition for this to work is an intangible element called confidence, which comes from a whole set of factors, such as the legal framework, business practices, political interference, corruption, and bringing those who break the law to justice. Many foreign investors came to Bangladesh, and after waiting several years, they left because they felt we are not dependable in terms of business stability. This is not to say that foreign investors have no flaws—sometimes they push investment in areas that are not our priority or in terms that do not suit us—but the overriding need for them cannot be ignored. If state-controlled countries like China and Vietnam can attract huge FDI, why can’t we who practise market economy? The reason is that they are able to generate that intangible factor that we referred to earlier: confidence.

It is our hope that the new Bangladesh, headed by a man of vision and integrity and with unrivalled global respect, and driven by the energy and honesty of the young people with the wholehearted support and confidence of the public, will be able to create that vital trust and necessary confidence both within the nation and among the international community, and we will be able to build a democratic, equitable and rights-based future.

## The case of disgruntled DC aspirants



Dr Kazi Maruful Islam  
is professor of governance and politics at the Department of Development Studies in the University of Dhaka. He can be reached at kazi.marufj@du.ac.bd.

KAZI MARUFUL ISLAM

In a stunning departure from the disciplined nature of public service, chaos erupted at the heart of Bangladesh’s Ministry of Public Administration on September 10. Mid-level civil servants, frustrated with the recent appointment of 59 deputy commissioners (DCs), openly protested at the secretariat, shouting slogans and shoving senior officials—a scene unimaginable in the typically hierarchical and rule-bound structure of bureaucracy. The discontent stems from allegations of favouritism and unfairness in the selection process, as many aspiring DCs found themselves bypassed in favour of others.

At a time when Bangladesh is undergoing a crucial transformation under a newly installed interim government, such a breakdown of discipline in the very agency tasked with maintaining order is deeply troubling. Following the July uprising, the government’s foremost task has been restoring law and order—a task that hinges on the effectiveness of field administration where the DCs play

a crucial role as the highest-ranking officials at the district level.

It’s not difficult to see why mid-level officers are frustrated. For years, the civil service has been seen as a tool for political gain, rather than an institution governed by merit and professionalism.

**Bureaucracy, as envisioned by Max Weber, is built on the foundations of hierarchy, discipline, and adherence to written rules. The very essence of public service is its commitment to professionalism and order, even in the face of frustration. When those who are meant to uphold the system become its disrupters, it sends a dangerous message.**

Under the long tenure of Sheikh Hasina, appointments were frequently influenced by political connections rather than competence. As a result, the civil service is now deeply polarised, with many officers feeling sidelined and discriminated against due to their perceived affiliations.

While the interim government has

of elements for whom national interest is of least concern.

With all the nepotism, corruption, looting of the national exchequer, and power abuse, Bangladesh’s economy has grown. However flawed it is, with all its inner weaknesses, we increased exports—some would question the undeserved subsidies and tax facilities that were given—and captured new markets, and brought in technologies to make new products, thus expanding our export markets. Take the latest statistics (some of which needs to be more thoroughly verified), there is strong and undeniable evidence of our advancing economy.

The country is now poised for some fundamental changes. While the talk about a new constitution or serious

made significant strides in addressing some of these issues, the damage inflicted by years of politicisation is not easily undone. The latest round of DC appointments, which should have been an opportunity to restore confidence, has instead exacerbated the sense of injustice within the ranks.

However justified their grievances may be, the actions of the junior officers cannot be condoned. Bureaucracy, as envisioned by Max Weber, is built on the foundations of hierarchy, discipline, and adherence to written rules. The very essence of public service is its commitment to professionalism and order, even in the face of frustration. When those who are meant to uphold the system

become its disrupters, it sends a dangerous message.

At this critical juncture, the civil service must rise above personal grievances. The country is recovering from a period of immense political and social upheaval, and the citizens deserve a functioning, competent and impartial administration. It is the duty of every civil servant, especially

those in leadership positions like DCs, to ensure the smooth functioning of government institutions and the delivery of essential services.

The interim government, for its part, must take swift and decisive action. The politicisation of civil service must be addressed through transparent processes, ensuring that future appointments are based on merit and not political loyalty. More importantly, the grievances of civil servants must be heard through formal channels, rather than allowing discontent to spill into the public arena.

During his address to the nation on September 11, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus announced the formation of six reform commissions, which includes the Public Administration Reform Commission, to be led by Abdul Mueed Chowdhury, the newly appointed chairman of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. The commission can identify necessary reform measures for a professional, accountable and pro-people civil service in Bangladesh.

Additionally, this incident serves as a stark reminder that the civil service itself must be part of the solution. Public servants are not merely employees of the state, they are the backbone of governance. At a time when the country is grappling with challenges on multiple fronts, from economic instability to social unrest, the civil service must act as a stabilising force, not a source of discord.



# Renegotiating the language of authority and power



Psymhe Wadud teaches law at the University of Dhaka and is in charge of Law & Our Rights, The Daily Star.

PSYMHE WADUD

Since forever, lessons on legal authority (within jurisprudence) seemed rather futile to me as they stood in dissonance with my lived socio-political reality in Bangladesh. One such instance is the “service conception” of authority I had to learn, meaning simply that legal authority exercises its power over us because it serves us. In fact, authority derives its authority from the service it delivers. It serves us with meaningful options that we would choose from anyway. The lessons made me wonder why we are not conditioned to really conceptualise authority as service. More importantly, why do those in power never see themselves in our service—the governed?

The ground reality of politics in Bangladesh has historically been quite complicated with opposing geopolitical interests at play and various factions awaiting to capitalise on political leverage. Perhaps, in both catering to and exploiting such complexities, the language of authority in Bangladesh has been of compulsion, uncritical submission, and exertion of force. Invariably, binaries have been produced to perpetuate cycles of oppression against the “others.”

The identities of “political others” have changed over time, as the political fields

have been critical of how minority voices got subsumed by the majoritarian nation-building politics since independence.

In particular, in negotiating with the “Indigenous question,” ethnic nationalism in Bangladesh has proved to be a major failure no matter who got hold of power. Similarly, the marginalisation of “women question” and “religious minority question” within the politico-legal imaginary too has been a disconcerting reality. More curiously, politics in Bangladesh produced a third category of “critical others”—shunned as “others” for not uncritically sympathising with everything the ruling elites stood for. Unappreciative of the nuance, such “others” have by and large been wrongly labelled as “political others.”

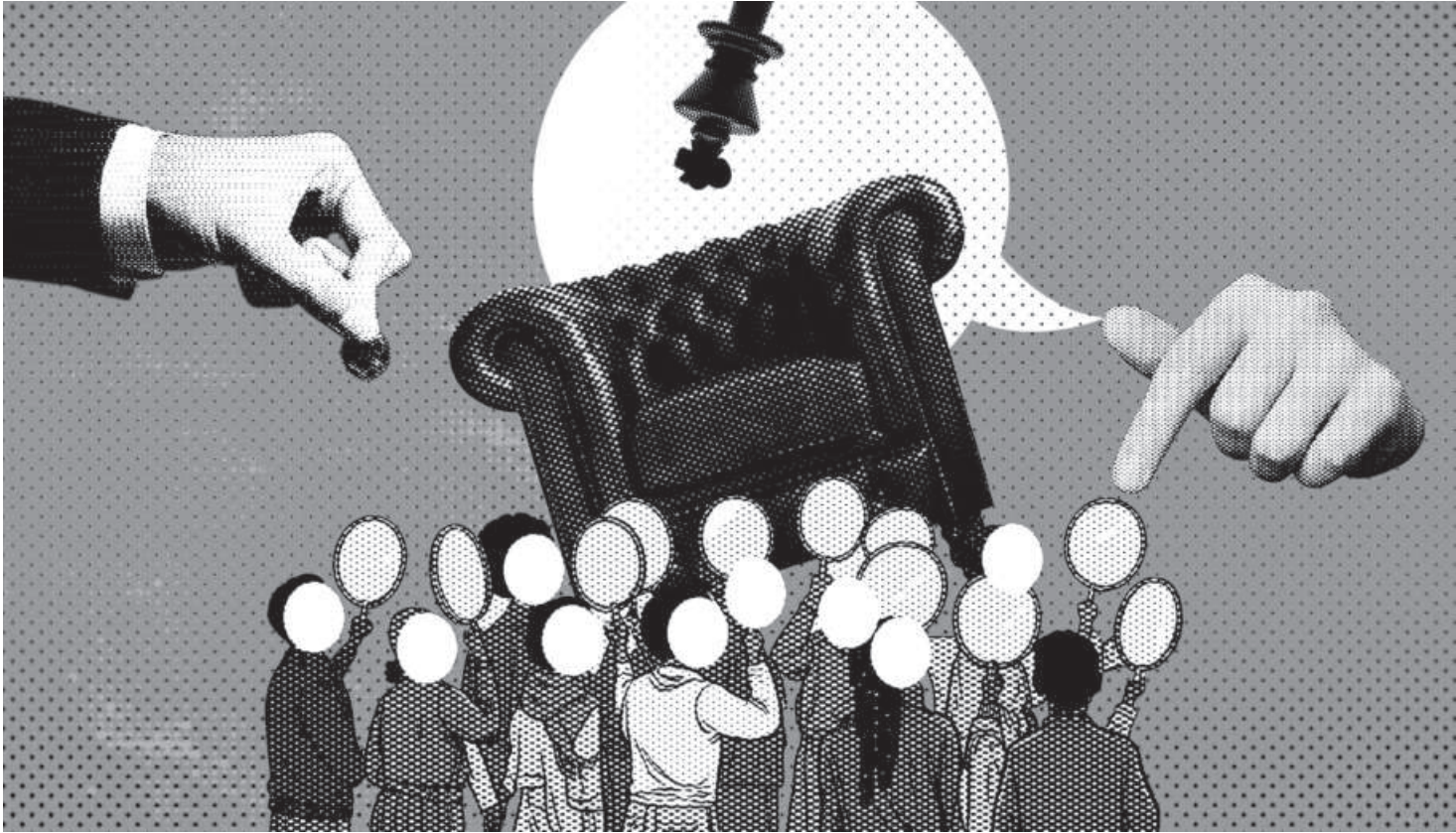
Any transition makes for a fertile ground to further marginalise the various categories of “others.” Transitions make us aware that power is not concentrated only within those formally at the helm of statecraft in Bangladesh, rather it is decentralised. Power pervades across spheres—from court corridors to the narrow alleys, from schools to universities, from tea-stalls to our walls, it grows and breeds even within our domesticity. As we stand at a crossroads, the government needs to rethink and

to also free our politics from the clutches of whataboutism and tropes of circular narratives of dominance and hegemony. This would potentially humanise the liminal space that the “political others” inhabit. Furthermore, it is important to replace and reform the state-centric paternalistic or assimilationist language for defining and treating the “apolitical others” (eg, the minorities). To this end, some begin by

identities—both those that are dominant and more so those that are peripheral. There is no singularity or duality to any identity, and we ought to appreciate the plurality (and intersectionality) that defines Bangladesh as a collectivity.

It is certainly not an easy task to break free from our deep-seated social as well as political culture which is as old as the state itself. However, with appropriate language,

to ensure that they are not viewed (or worse, hounded) as political or critical “others” for challenging the status quo, critiquing the establishment, or questioning the taken-for-granted assumptions that those in power usually try to feed us. Necessary reforms should therefore be brought to empower academia and media in such a way that can create meaningful democratic (and yet not majoritarian) spaces for reconciliation and



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

**The identities of “political others” have changed over time, as the political fields shifted, and schisms widened more and more. Their rise and fall have been marked by suppression, reprisals, and dominance. The “apolitical others” however, remained unchanged over time, across regimes. Such “others” are the fringe-dwellers—the Indigenous and religious minorities, the disabled, the gender-diverse, and invariably, the women.**

shifted, and schisms widened more and more. Their rise and fall have been marked by suppression, reprisals, and dominance. The “apolitical others” however, remained unchanged over time, across regimes. Such “others” are the fringe-dwellers—the Indigenous and religious minorities, the disabled, the gender-diverse, and invariably, the women. Different academic circles

renegotiate what power and authority should imply for the “others” at any given point—should they serve or dominate or should they harm or protect?

Instead of “serving” us, those in power have exploited their authorities and trod abysmally intolerant paths in the past. However, while redressing the wrongs perpetrated in the past, time is now ripe

seeking reform around the label “minority,” while others outrightly denounce the tag. In this context, we ought to ask if getting rid of the epithet of “minority” would mask the obvious fissures and the systemic imbalance of power. Indeed, being “minority” is not numeric, but is about marginalisation within an often-majoritarian power domain. Therefore, to me, the epithet “minority” is but a fact, with no judgment attached—it can mean anything from resistance against assimilation to even pride of belonging.

Time is now ripe to acknowledge the positionality of “minorities” within the power hierarchy while also being mindful to their agency and subjectivity as different identarian groups. Now is the time to work towards dissecting and understanding the varied voices that make up different

changes, although minimal, could certainly occur. As we speak of reform, the interim government needs to address the language of power above all—both the language that defines the authority and language that the authority uses to speak to (or define even) the “others.”

One of the ways to do so is strengthening the academia and the mass media. I put academia and media together essentially because these two produce language. Indeed, responsible academic and journalistic practices can potentially influence the power behind language and similarly shape the language behind power. The role of these two should never change, rather remain steadfast across regimes—unapologetically critical, unfettered, and powerful. There should also be institutional guarantees and safeguards

responsible statecraft.

Hannah Arendt once said, “The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative on the day after the revolution.” Standing at a crossroads, it is important for the media and academia to help sustain the liberal fervour of the July uprising for as long as possible, and to become voices for ones who are forcefully silenced and ones who are conventionally (and conveniently) not heard. We need to be vigilant so that the political transition does not make room for shrinking spaces for dissents or for unjustly quelling those considered as “others” at any given point. Indeed, now is the time to create conditions so we may dare to conceptualise the governed as the “served” and the ruling elites in our service—for as long as the demarcation exists.

## Our expectations from Dhaka University



Dr Md Main Uddin is professor and former chairman of the Department of Banking and Insurance at the University of Dhaka. He can be reached at mainuddin@du.ac.bd.

MD MAIN UDDIN

Politics at the University of Dhaka has played a significant role in various decisive moments of Bangladesh’s history. However, partisan politics deterred its overall academic atmosphere for more than three decades. Partisan politics of both students and teachers has proven to be damaging for academic excellence. Just as student politics was followed by gono room culture and torture cells, teacher politics also destroyed the checks and balances in the administration system. Such types of student and teacher politics should be banned, and students’ councils should be revived.

In a resource-constrained university, politics works as a means for one to get a piece of the pie. Being politically involved increases the probability of one getting a position of authority such as the vice-chancellor, dean, provost, house tutor, and so on. It also assists many to get important positions outside the university. The appointment of the VC, who decides on major issues, must be significantly modified, and it must be ensured that their authority does not make them autocratic. A VC guarded by a gunman and his residence guarded by police seem strange.

The present practice of recruiting pro-VC, treasurer, proctor, provost and house tutors must also be revised. The dean election, which is mired in many problems like recruitment, promotion and formation of different committees, should be stopped. The practice of a dean becoming the editor of the journal published from their faculty must end.

The administrative section (registrar’s building) is perhaps the most inefficient part of the university. Its employees should be smart and efficient, and their service delivery mechanism should be a standard-setter. Unfortunately, that is not the case.



SOURCE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The University of Dhaka is plagued with a number of fundamental problems.

A big part of the administration staff doesn’t have computer literacy. The entire administrative section needs restructuring and modernisation.

At a good university, students remain engaged in studies and they rarely have spare time. But this university offers degrees in many subjects where students have to spend a bare minimum time in studies to earn decent grades. The syllabuses of these subjects require an upgrade.

Over the past 20 years, numerous departments were opened without rational reasoning. Some of them were opened to recruit political teachers and a few others to place several teachers as chairmen,

compromising with quality. For example, some departments under the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Social Sciences were created that overlapped with those at the Institute of Modern Languages. Some are also contradictory within their respective faculty. At the Faculty of Business Studies, the number of departments more than doubled in just 20 years; in 2003, there were only four departments, which increased to

master’s degree as well. There could be many students at the undergraduate level, but not the same at the master’s level. There must be a separate test for master’s admission, which should remain open to students from other universities as well.

A lecturer is appointed just after completing their master’s degree. Sometimes, a candidate may join as a lecturer a few months after their graduation. There is no meaningful training for the new recruit. Consequently, they often fail to manage their class. But a good university appoints lecturers after finishing another degree, preferably a PhD.

It is also peculiar that the university tries to recruit teachers with higher degrees and good research profiles but offers poor salaries. The salary of a university lecturer does not differ significantly from that of a college lecturer. A portion of these teachers do not allocate much time to the university due to low pay. They come to the campus when they have classes. They stop research after becoming a professor. Some make extra money by other means. The low salary cannot bring in foreign faculties to the university. Even with this low pay, a huge percentage of teachers engage in rigorous research and give much time to the university. The salary structure must be revised to support a better standard of living for the teachers. Once it is revised, all teachers must be held to account, and they should achieve their yearly research target.

Taking the opportunity of low salary, some

**At a good university, students remain engaged in studies and they rarely have spare time. But this university offers degrees in many subjects where students have to spend a bare minimum time in studies to earn decent grades.**

positions are allocated based on political affiliation. By offering these positions, the teachers are made subservient to partisan politics. A house tutor, for instance, gets

nominal allowance, pays lower house rent, and their experience as a house tutor is counted for promotion. This should be ended as well.

The University of Dhaka is at the top of many students’ list of universities around the country. But when they get admission here, most of them face issues with accommodation. The university does not allow first-year students to stay in the residential halls. But they get space there by making “friends” with political leaders and getting involved in politics. This hampers their studies and they cannot attain good grades during the first year, which affects their subsequent results. Thus, the first-year students must be given priority when allotting seats in the dormitories. To reduce pressure on residential facilities, no seats can be allotted to the postgraduate students.

The low quality of meals is another major concern in dorms. This is because a large number of political students eat at the cafeterias without paying for them. To offset this loss, low quality food is provided. The hall administration must stop this trend and ensure high quality of food. Moreover, halls should be the abode of all academic and extracurricular activities.

The university medical centre is of no use. Most teachers and staff avoid it because of its failure to provide proper treatment. Students who have the ability to get proper medical treatment elsewhere also avoid it. Thus, this centre must be modernised with facilities to provide basic treatment. The campus must also have some public toilets.

No government has so far shown interest in resolving the fundamental problems that plague the University of Dhaka. As is normal, a university with a lack of resources poses fewer threats to the position of authority. Once these problems are fixed, students and teachers will be less dependent on partisan politics and have more room to be open-minded free thinkers. They will be driven by reasoning and always challenge authority. It is not the scarcity of resources that keeps the problems unresolved; it is simply a lack of intention to solve these issues. Let the good intention prevail among the new administration to free this university of all its ailments.





RIGHTS WATCH

# Accession to the Enforced Disappearance Convention

## ENDING IMPUNITY?

**Accession to the Convention by Bangladesh will facilitate the ensuring of accountability of individual perpetrators of acts of enforced disappearance by extending criminal jurisdiction to these acts. However, given the special nature of the crime and numbers of victims potentially involved in enforced disappearance, a separate law criminalising it is of immense need.**

DR. ABDULLAH AL FARUQUE

In recent years, enforced disappearance has emerged as a grave concern in Bangladesh because many such incidents have gone unpunished in the absence of any law to criminalise it. Needless to mention, enforced disappearance is prohibited under international human rights law. In case of enforced disappearance, typically, the victim is removed from the protection of the law and is often subjected to torture and even extrajudicial execution. In addition, the victim's family and friends are deliberately denied knowledge of the individual's arrest or detention. Enforced disappearances have been used to suppress political dissent and have assisted in maintaining oppressive political regimes in many countries. Enforced disappearance takes place through abducting people and then holding them in clandestine prisons, subjecting them to torture, and often executing them without trial. Enforced disappearance can be committed by state agents or non-state actors such as organised criminal gangs.

In Bangladesh, enforced disappearance came into the forefront as news of political opponents being kept in 'Ayna Ghar' came to light during the previous regime. On the other hand, enforced disappearances are further pursued to ensure the impunity of those who commit them. Criminalisation of enforced disappearance at the national level is crucially important for ensuring accountability of the perpetrators. Enforced disappearance can amount to a violation of several rights contained

in the international human rights instruments and the constitution of Bangladesh such as the right to liberty and security, the right to life, the freedom from torture, cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment. Disappearances also entail the violation of other fundamental human rights such as the right to a fair trial, legal counsel, and to equal protection under the law.

In Bangladesh, enforced disappearance is not explicitly prohibited although kidnapping and abduction are categorically prohibited in the Penal Code. The difference between abduction and enforced disappearance lies in the fact that the participation of the State, whether directly through its agents or by its acquiescence is often the defining and characteristic element of the latter. The refusal by the authorities to provide information on the whereabouts and fate of the missing person is another element of enforced disappearance that affects not only the missing person but also their families. Moreover, the existing laws of Bangladesh require government sanction prior to suing a public servant, which remains a primary obstacle to holding law-enforcement agencies accountable for enforced disappearance. As a result, currently, state actors involved in enforced disappearance enjoy impunity for such crimes. Another barrier in ensuring legal accountability is the lack of witnesses in cases of enforced disappearance.

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance 2006 is the first legally binding

instrument to address the issue of enforced disappearance. It requires each State Party to make enforced disappearance a criminal offence, to investigate acts of enforced disappearance, and to hold criminally responsible perpetrators of such crime. The Convention contains detailed provisions on prevention of enforced disappearance and it sets out an absolute prohibition on 'secret detention'. Crucially, it gives victims the right to seek reparations and to demand the truth about the circumstances of the disappearance. Bangladesh has acceded the Convention recently – a significant nascent step towards ending impunity for enforced disappearance. However, it is the first step for undertaking an international obligation to prohibit enforced disappearance and it must be followed by enactment of law or reform of existing penal law to implement such obligation.

Enforced disappearance is inherently wrong and goes against established norms of human rights. The State has the responsibility to protect the right to life and ensure security of all its citizens. Accession to the Convention by Bangladesh will facilitate the ensuring of accountability of individual perpetrators of acts of enforced disappearance by extending criminal jurisdiction to these acts. However, given the special nature of the crime and numbers of victims potentially involved in enforced disappearance, a separate law criminalising, it is of immense need.

*The author is Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Chittagong.*

LAW AND POLITICS

# Rethinking the Bangladesh-India water politics

MD. FAHMEDUL ISLAM DEWAN

To strike an equitable water-share mechanism between Bangladesh and India, the Joint Rivers Commission was formed in 1972, and the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty was approved in 1996, establishing a structure for collaboration between governments. Nevertheless, whenever India discharges upstream water without prior notification, Bangladesh encounters catastrophic floods (the recent flood being illustrative), exposing the constraints of the existing deal. The historical conflicts between the two countries highlight the crucial importance of ensuring fairness in the administration of water resources following international legal standards that forbid any state from unfairly exploiting shared resources.

To prevent future calamities, it is crucial for Bangladesh to promptly create legally enforceable agreements with India about water sharing and flood management, considering the existing limitations. The importance of political will, legislative reforms, and detailed processes in diplomatic terms cannot be overstated. The current bilateral agreements between India and Bangladesh must be updated to incorporate legally binding methods for resolving disputes. Diplomatic channels have to be used more effectively to deal



with unresolved matters, such as unexpected water spills or intentional or unintentional withholding of important information. In the light of the shifting political conditions, the need for greater cooperation and more robust framework to ensure the same are a must.

The primary objective of the 1997 United Nations Watercourses Convention is to provide fair and responsible management of shared water resources, with a focus on reducing negative effects on neighbouring countries. To prevent the evasion of punishment and guarantee responsibility, any forthcoming agreements between Bangladesh and India must incorporate obligatory dispute settlement processes.

In addition to adopting legally binding agreements, both countries must implement steps such as exchanging real-time data, establishing early warning systems, and utilising modern technology such as satellite monitoring and predictive modelling to reduce the impact of floods efficiently. By engaging in these cooperative endeavours, Bangladesh and India have the potential to significantly mitigate the destructive effects of floods on both human lives and economic operations, offering hope for a more secure future.

The recent floods clearly indicate that natural calamities can significantly influence geopolitical dynamics and contribute to regional instability. The necessity for more stringent legal frameworks, heightened cooperation, and augmented shared accountability mechanism between the two nations has reached a level of utmost importance.

*The writer teaches law at World University of Bangladesh.*

LAW VISION

# Biosecurity Laws and infectious diseases

AHMED RAGIB CHOWDHURY

Infectious disease outbreaks have been a recurring theme in human history. The new variant of the bird flu (H5N1), facilitated by a minor change in its DNA, infecting bird species, and even humans leading to one death in Mexico. Concerns have heightened over this rapid spread of the H5N1 to domestic farm animals such as cows. A new study suggests, similar to pigs, several human-like flu receptors (proteins inside a cell or on its surface) exist in different parts of the cow body (cow udders in particular), which also contains bird receptors, multiplying the possibility of cows further spreading the virus. Global biosafety concerns are further exacerbated by the new variant of the monkeypox (mpox) Virus spreading in multiple countries across Africa, Europe, and Asia, prompting the WHO to declare it a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC).

What implication do these newer, and possibly more infectious variants of the bird flu & mpox have for Bangladesh? For a country such as Bangladesh with a large poultry industry, low health security, and an economy still recovering from a global pandemic, the emergence of both these diseases is extremely concerning. Legislative measures are exceptionally useful in the standardisation of both proactive and reactive measures to infectious disease

outbreaks. The question that needs to be asked and answered, is whether the laws of Bangladesh addressing biosecurity are up to the task. This piece provides an overview of the laws of Bangladesh addressing biosafety and their efficacy.

For starters, Bangladesh has both international treaty obligation (article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights outlining state party duty to handle epidemics or endemics) and constitutional obligation (under article 18 of the Constitution concerning state duty to improve public health) to prevent, control, and eradicate infectious disease outbreaks. There are a number of laws in Bangladesh that could be useful to thwart these new strains of the bird flu and mpox, and to prevent the possibility of any kind of animal-to-human transmission or widescale outbreak.

The Animal Diseases Act 2005 (Sections 3-12, 14, 15) provides a wide range of reactionary measures to be undertaken in the event of a suspected or ascertained disease outbreak including isolation of

infected animals, burying of animals dead or suspected to be so from an infectious disease, reporting obligation, lockdown of infected area, and prohibition of marketisation of infected animals or their products. The Quarantine of Animal and Animal Products Act 2005 empowers the Government of Bangladesh to restrict the entrance, import/export of animals infected or potentially exposed to an infectious disease, including their disinfection, isolation, quarantine, and the period of such separation (sections 3, 5-7). The Food Safety Act 2013, additionally prohibits the production, import, or marketing of diseased or decomposed food (section 34). The Animal Slaughter and Meat Standard Regulation Act 2011 enables a veterinary official or veterinarian to determine if the carcass of a slaughtered animal is inedible, either wholly or partially, to ensure its non-introduction into the food chain (sections 17-19). The 2018 Act establishing the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute mandates it to conduct epidemiological research on livestock diseases, biosafety

for zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases, and to establish health protocols or guidelines for protection (section 10).

In addition, the Infectious Disease (Prevention, Control, and Eradication) Act 2018 recognises an expansive number of diseases within its ambit including the avian flu (section 4). This Act outlines isolation, quarantine measures for infected individuals, the burial of bodies dead from or suspected to be so from infection, reporting obligations, and the requirement of containment measures to conform with WHO and IHR 2005 guidelines (sections 5, 9-14, 16-20, & 24).

Thus, Bangladesh has an extensive legal framework addressing infectious disease outbreaks. The framework is, however, at present, inchoate. The majority of the laws addressing biosecurity are mostly reactionary. Very few of the provisions actually establish a proactive framework that builds up the capacity of ground-level personnel and institutions including the efficiency of the overall organisational framework. Moreover, the eight laws covered in this piece have no cohesion within them and are at best standalone pieces of legislation. Furthermore, the laws in and of themselves do not address the tremendous financial toll associated with the prevention, mitigation, and eradication of an infectious disease outbreak.

Laws are a crucial instrument in dealing

with a pathogen. They, however, are not an all-purpose solution. What is needed is infrastructural enhancement in tandem with the prevention and mitigation frameworks developed by the laws. Nita Madhav et al. (2017) suggests a framework for an ingrained understanding of the conditions that lead to the emergence and spread of a pathogen, its impact on population health, the costs associated with implementing protocols to prevent further spread, and the recovery of infected individuals.

The possibility of the H5N1 infecting livestock and jumping species barrier is a concerning matter for the livestock and agricultural industry in Bangladesh. A reassuring factor about the new mpox variant is that, unlike COVID-19, it is not airborne, and only spreads through direct contact or exchange of bodily fluids. Nonetheless, taking into consideration the population density, and resource-deprived state of healthcare infrastructure in Bangladesh, there is an urgent need to adopt a more coherent approach in the form of a comprehensive policy-legal framework to address its biosecurity concerns instead of the existing legislation-specific piecemeal approach.

*The writer is LL.M. Candidate, Peter A. Allard School of Law, the University of British Columbia.*





# ‘Dedication’ key in Jaker’s Test selection

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

Coaches and selectors believed that Jaker Ali’s call up for the India Tests was very well-deserved, saying his dedication and adaptability in crisis situation could be an asset for the team in the tough tour.

Jaker, a middle-order wicketkeeper-batsman, earned his maiden call up to the Bangladesh Test squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against India yesterday, as the selectors opted to go with an extra batting option to replace the injured Shoriful Islam, who is still recovering from a groin injury.

“Looking at the team combination, we felt that we should increase an option in the middle-order with the condition and opponent in mind. So, we went for an extra batter,” national selector Hannan Sarkar said in a press meet yesterday.

Jaker, who made his Bangladesh debut during last year’s Asian Games in Hangzhou, first caught everyone’s attention in the shortest format with his brilliant showing in the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) 2024, smashing 199 runs in 10 innings at a strike rate of 141.13.

His performance earned him a place for the home T20I series against Sri Lanka where he smashed 68 off 34 balls in the first match and nearly

pulled off a thrilling win for the Tigers, chasing 207.

Jaker has failed to do justice to his promise in the 14 T20Is innings since then and also had an average season in the first-class competition the National Cricket League 2023-24, making 266 runs in seven innings, averaging 38.

But the 26-year-old showed that he

the ninth batter, proving himself a deserving candidate for the Test side.

“Jaker has been working under me since his Under-19 days. He has the potential and deserves this call up. His performance against Pakistan A team was really brilliant,” Mizanur Rahman Babul, Bangladesh ‘A’ head coach in the Pakistan tour, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Local coach Sohel Islam spoke about Jaker’s dedication, saying, “His biggest quality is his dedication. In every situation and format, he wants to stay at the wicket, wants to play big innings and contribute for the team, he has that hunger.”

Babul also spoke about how teams like England and India now try to score at higher rate in Tests and Jaker, who has the ability to take the attack to the opposition, could be a decent backup option to have at the middle or lower-middle order.

“His strike rate was excellent in the 172-run knock. Many international cricketers play at a high similar strike rate in Tests now... Everyone here likes him because he plays timely innings. In crisis situations, he is an excellent player to have.”

BANGLADESH SQUAD

Najmul Hossain Shanto (captain), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Liton Das, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Jaker Ali Anik, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed and Khaled Ahmed.

can make an impact in red-ball cricket away from home in Bangladesh ‘A’ team’s tour of Pakistan last month, hitting a 172 off 286 balls at a strike rate 60.13 against Pakistan Shaheens in the second of the two four-day games.

In that match, he came to bat after four early wickets and departed as



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Season delay in view amid 6-week prep demand

SPORTS REPORTER



The country’s 2024-25 football season was originally scheduled to get underway today with the lone match of the newly introduced Challenge Cup, but the recent changes in the country’s political scene deferred the season’s opening by three weeks, with a tentative start date of October 4.

However, the majority of clubs have requested at least six weeks for preparation before the season begins. If the demand is met, the season will commence after the upcoming Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) elections, scheduled to take place on October 26.

Of the 10 participating teams in the Bangladesh Premier League, defending champions Bashundhara Kings have already kickstarted their preparations, considering their October-November AFC Challenge League campaign. Bangladesh Police FC are also engaged in pre-season training, but the remaining eight clubs are eagerly awaiting the outcome of tomorrow’s meeting between the BFF Professional League Management Committee and the representatives of the participating clubs before beginning their pre-season activity.

“We are waiting for Saturday’s meeting before making our decision to begin pre-season preparations, as we have already requested six weeks for preparation,” said Abahani manager Nazrul Islam, adding that they were originally supposed to start their pre-season on August 9 but could not proceed following political changeover on August 5.

Mohammedan SC coach Alfaz Ahmed said, “I believe a team need at least six to seven weeks for pre-season preparation. I also think BFF needs one to two months to prepare new grounds, as the clubs want to play at venues near Dhaka.”

Fortis FC manager Rashedul Islam also stressed

**The federation should understand the current state of the clubs, who also need time to restructure everything following the changeover.**

Brother Union manager and BFF executive member AMER KHAN

on the importance of a six-week preparation period, informing that their pre-season training was also supposed to begin in early August. “We are now waiting for Saturday’s meeting,” he said.

Rahmatganj MFS general secretary Imtiaz Hamid Sabuj wants the issue of bringing foreign players to be settled as well. “I think we may face issues bringing in foreign players because we’re unsure whether they will receive on-arrival visas after the government change. So, we need time to settle that matter as well as to prepare the team.”

“If the league committee allows the clubs six weeks of preparation from now, then the season is likely to start after BFF elections, and there could be uncertainty over the start of the season. Let’s see what decisions are made at the meeting on Saturday,” added Sabuj, also a BFF executive member.

Brothers Union manager Amer Khan, however, expressed that they do not want any decisions imposed on the clubs without their input.

“We believe the league committee must discuss the matter with the participating clubs, who are going through a very different situation than usual. The federation should understand the current state of the clubs, who also need time to restructure everything following the changeover.

“We need to know why the one-match Challenge Cup has been introduced and why the Independence Cup was excluded. We don’t even know the timeframe for the season or the league venues,” said Amer, also a BFF executive member.

## Batter Shakib at crossroads?

SPORTS REPORTER

“Actually, Shakib’s [Al Hasan] batting, he is not in rhythm,” Bangladesh selector Hannan Sarkar said at the press conference in Mirpur after announcing a 16-member squad for the upcoming India Tests this month.

Shakib’s batting struggles have been in the limelight and questions are being raised whether the 37-year-old is past his best days as a batter or just a knock away from getting back to form.

Test cricket provides time, but one must face far steeper challenges in the longest format. The Bangladesh team management will be hoping that such challenges will set star all-rounder Shakib on the right course to overcome his batting blues.

His bat did not smile in the Pakistan series, nor in the preceding Global

T20 league in Canada. Shakib is yet to play in any ODIs since the last ODI World Cup in India, when his eye problems first surfaced. In Tests though, his last fifty came against Ireland last year.

His eye problem still persists, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) sources have revealed. In fact, the change of stance that has been seen lately, starting from the Asia Cup in Pakistan and Sri Lanka last year, is largely due to his right eye’s blurry vision.

“He has been prescribed rest; he needs a big gap,” a BCB source claimed.

But at the twilight of his career, Shakib cannot afford a gap that would allow him to rest without playing for a long period.

He has just played for Surrey in County Championship Division One, where he had the ball do the talking – picking nine wickets in two innings, featuring a five-for. However, he has not yet addressed concerns over his batting.

“He won’t be able to get that kind of rest now, so he will have to manage it,” sources close to the development informed The Daily Star.

If there is a cricketer from Bangladesh who can go against the grain and current form, simply to meet a challenge, that’s Shakib. While

batting has been difficult in Pakistan, the manner of his dismissals were not dissimilar to those of other Bangladesh batters. He struggled against the movement of Pakistan pacers on day three of the second Rawalpindi Test, but so did the other batters. His last innings in Pakistan showed he can still dig deep.

As far as Hannan’s assessment is concerned, it is only a matter of time for Shakib to get over his batting woes.

“I believe, given the standards he has set, it’s just a matter of time – just one innings away. It’s always a concern for the opposition when Shakib is at the wicket. No one rates Shakib based on two to five innings, and neither do we,” he said.

Shakib is probably the only player in the Tigers’ rank who would still be considered a key player despite his struggles in one aspect of the game as the all-round ability of the cricketer remains unmatched with anyone else.

Similarly, it is also obvious that he would be questioned for underperforming in any one department.

For Shakib, this, however, is nothing new. But will this time the star all-rounder be able to come out with answers, especially with the willow?

## Arteta agrees new Arsenal deal

REUTERS

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta has signed a contract extension, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The Spaniard’s existing deal was set to expire at the end of the season and, while the club did not disclose any details, British media said his new contract runs to 2027.

“I feel extremely proud, very excited and am looking forward to what is coming next,” Arteta said in a statement.

“I feel very inspired, I feel challenged, I feel supported and I want to do much more than we’ve already done together.”

Former Arsenal midfielder Arteta took over in December 2019 after a three-year stint at Manchester City as an assistant coach to Pep Guardiola.

Arteta led Arsenal back into Champions League in 2023, after five years outside the Premier League top four. They finished second to City in last two seasons.



Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe gears up on Wednesday as players across Europe return to their respective clubs following the international break. Mbappe had an underwhelming international break, remaining goalless in France’s 3-1 defeat to Italy before coming off the bench in their 2-0 win against Belgium in the Nations League. Carlo Ancelotti will hope for his star man to return to scoring when Real Madrid play Real Sociedad away from home in their LaLiga game on Saturday.

PHOTO: REAL MADRID

# WE ARE HIRING

Project Analyst,  
NPSA-9

DUTY STATION  
Dhaka

APPLY BEFORE  
24 Sept 2024  
23:59, New York Time

Contract Duration  
1 year with possibility for extension

Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.  
For details of the job description and instructions to apply, please visit our website:

[www.undp.org/bangladesh/careers](http://www.undp.org/bangladesh/careers)





BSRM  
building a safer nation

WITH BSRM FASTBUILD  
YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME  
WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS



SHAH CEMENT

BANGLADESH'S  
NO.1 CEMENT BRAND

## LAUNDERING TK 95CR Arrest warrant issued against ex-Basic Bank boss Bachchu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former BASIC Bank chairman Sheikh Abdul Hye Bachchu and four of his family members in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission over embezzling and laundering around Tk 95 crore.

Judge Mohammed Ash Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after taking cognisance of the charges brought against Bachchu and five others.

The judge directed the Banani Police Station OC to submit by November 4 the reports on the execution of the arrest warrants.

Bachchu and his family members are on the run. Another accused, Amin SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



PHOTO: BCB

Fresh from their Test triumph against hosts Pakistan, Bangladesh cricket team players, coaching staff, and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials were accorded a reception at the office of Professor Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government, in Tejgaon yesterday.

## ‘Will consider polls after parties commit to state reforms’

Says Rizwana about interim govt’s stance after advisory council meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has said the interim government will think about holding the next election once the political parties commit to the reform proposals to be put forth by the newly formed commissions.

The interim government expects the six reform commissions to come up with their proposals in three months. The proposals will then be finalised through dialogue with the political parties, Rizwana told a press conference after an advisory council meeting yesterday.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on Wednesday announced the formation of the Constitutional Reform Commission, Judicial Reform Commission, Election System Reform Commission, Public Administration Reform Commission, Police Reform Commission and the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

At yesterday’s press briefing, Rizwana said the commissions will start working on October 1.

“Implementation of the recommendations depends on whether we can reach a political consensus. We are soliciting politicians’ opinions on the reforms,” the environment adviser told the press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

The political parties are included in the reform process and “we will hold dialogues” to reach political consensus, she said.

“We will think about the next election after [we get their] definite commitment regarding the reforms and necessary amendments. Political parties made it clear that they want polls after reforms.”

Rizwana said the advisory council meeting decided that the finance SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

“Implementation of the recommendations depends on whether we can reach a political consensus.”

Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan

## India to work with interim govt

Says its external affairs ministry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday reiterated that it would continue to work with Bangladesh’s interim government to fulfil the “shared aspirations” of the peoples of the two countries.

Addressing the weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also responded to a series of questions relating to Sheikh Hasina’s extradition and her current status in India, saying that “this is a hypothetical question and we do not answer this type of hypothetical question.”

Jaiswal reiterated that Hasina came to India on August 5 on short notice and that he had nothing more to add to that at present.

Asked to comment on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus’s remarks during a recent interview with an Indian news agency that Hasina should remain silent when in India and that New Delhi should look beyond the narrative given by her, Jaiswal said, “The SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Carnage in Gaza must stop

Condemnations pour in as at least 18 people, including UN staffers, killed in Israeli strike on UN school

AGENCIES

Condemnation poured in as Israel bombed a school housing displaced Palestinians in central Gaza, which rescuers said killed 18 people, including UN staffers, while the Israeli army said it hit a Hamas control centre.

The Al Jawni school in Nuseirat had already been bombed several times over the course of the 11-month war in Gaza.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell have condemned the Israeli strike on the UN-run school.

The director-general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has condemned the Israeli strike, saying “the carnage in Gaza must stop”.

“No words can reflect the true horror and loss of life in Gaza,” he wrote on X. “Hospitals, schools and shelters have been repeatedly bombarded, resulting in deaths of civilians and humanitarianism.”

The strike on Wednesday flattened part of the UN-run facility where Gazans had sought shelter, leaving only a charred heap of rebar and concrete.

“For the fifth time, Israeli forces bombed the UNRWA-run Al-Jawni School, killing 18 citizens, including two UNRWA staff members, children, and women, and injuring more than 18 others,” Gaza’s Civil Defence spokesperson Mahmud Bassal posted on Telegram, referring to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

UNRWA later said six of its staffers had been killed in two Israeli air raids on the Nuseirat school and its surroundings, calling it the highest death toll among its team in a single incident.

“Among those killed was the manager of the UNRWA shelter and other team members providing assistance to displaced people,” the UN agency posted on X.

“Schools and other civilian infrastructure must be protected at all times, they are not a target.”

Across the besieged strip, many school buildings have been repurposed

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

At least 22,000 in Gaza suffering from ‘life-changing’ injuries: WHO

Israel arrests 40 in latest West Bank raids

Gaza death toll rises to 41,118

## 3 ex-DGs of DGFI sent into forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Army has sent Lt Gen Md Saiful Alam, Lt Gen Ahmed Tabrez Shams Chowdhury, and Major Gen Hamidul Haque into forced retirement. They were all former directors general of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI).

Besides, former director general of the Special Security Force (SSF) Lt Gen Mujibur Rahman was dismissed from the army.

The Ministry of Defence issued two separate notifications dated September 10 in this regard.

The sacking of Mujibur and sending of Saiful into forced retirement were done so under Section 289(A) of the Army Regulations, which pertains to removal for misconduct and inefficiency.

Saiful was commissioned into the army as a cadet of the 14th BMA

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Killer of Pathao founder gets 40 years in jail

AGENCIES

A personal assistant convicted of killing and dismembering his former tech entrepreneur boss Fahim Saleh was sentenced to 40 years to life in prison on Tuesday, Associated Press reports quoting Manhattan’s district attorney.

Saleh, the co-founder of the ride-sharing venture Pathao in Bangladesh and CEO of Nigeria-based motorbike startup Gokada, was found dead in his Manhattan apartment in New York City on July 13, 2020.

Tyrese Haspil, 25, was found guilty in June of murder, stealing about \$400,000 from Saleh, and other charges in the 2020 death of his former boss, according to AP.

Prosecutors said Haspil had been hired as an assistant for Saleh, who started to siphon money from Saleh’s businesses. Haspil resigned a year later but continued to steal money, even after Saleh discovered the theft and let Haspil repay him over two years to avoid criminal prosecution.

Haspil decided to kill Saleh over concerns that his former boss would discover he was continuing to steal from his companies, prosecutors said.

On July 13, 2020, Haspil, wearing a black suit and a mask, followed SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Fahim Saleh

## Hasina, 25 journos sued for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A murder case has been filed against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, 25 journalists and 139 others over the death of a 31-year-old man in the capital’s Bhasantek during the mass uprising.

The journalists are Naem Nizam, Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Shyamal Dutta, Farida Yasmin, Omar Faruque, Monzurul Islam, Monjurul Bari Nayan, Sohel Haider Chowdhury, Quddus Afrad, Arun Kumar Dey, Nurul Haque, Jihadur Rahman Jihad, Abdul Majid, Sajjad Alam Khan Topu, Syed Shukur Ali Shuvo, Haider Ali, Ashikur Rahman Srabon, Alamgir Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Mainul Alam, Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, Kabir Ahmed Khan, Abdullah Al Kafi, Nurul Islam Hasib and Shahnaz Sharmeen.

Mohammad Sabuj, 42, elder brother of the victim, identified as Mohammad Fazlu, filed the case at Bhasantek Police Station on Wednesday.

According to the complaint, of which a copy is with The Daily Star, Fazlu got shot around 7:00pm on August 5 when he was at a rally celebrating the fall of Hasina-led government in front of Diganta Filling Station in the Vasantek area.

“Fazlu was rushed to nearby Marks Medical College Hospital for treatment where the doctors declared him dead. He was later buried in his village in Bhola,” reads the case statement.

Along with Hasina, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former law minister Anisul Huq, former textiles minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and former state ministers Kamal Ahmed Majumder, Mohammad Ali Arafat, and Zunaid Ahmed Palak have also been accused in the case.



PHOTO: SHARIF SARWAR

**HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT ...** A red scorpionfish camouflaging itself on a seabed around 20 feet under the Bay near Saint Martin’s Island. Also known as *Scorpaena scrofa*, this venomous marine species is found in the Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean. Its colour ranges from brick red to a light pink, with dark-coloured blotches. It has long supraorbital tentacles and venomous spines. This fish, which can achieve a maximum weight of around three kilograms, hides in burrows and caves during the day, and ventures out for food -- crustaceans, molluscs and other fish -- at night. It lives in marine and brackish environments with rocky, sandy or muddy bottoms and is a sedentary and solitary fish.

## B’BARIA BORDER Former MP Fazle Karim Chy arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, former Awami League lawmaker from Chattogram-6, and two others were arrested near Akhaura border in Brahmanbaria on Wednesday night.

He was wanted in several cases filed with different police stations in Chattogram, said police.

Two other arrestees are Abdul Hannan, general secretary of Swachhchasebak League’s Akhaura unit and former member of Akhaura South Union Parishad, and Naem Chowdhury, a human trafficker.

A BGB team held Fazle Karim as he was trying to cross the border illegally through Akhaura border, said Shariful Islam, public relations officer of BGB.

Hannan and Naem were accompanying him.

