



ICT ACT AMENDMENT Draft proposes banning political parties up to 10yrs Ministry seeks opinions from stakeholders

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The interim government has prepared a draft to amend the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, which introduces a provision that allows the banning of a political party for up to 10 years for committing crimes against humanity and genocide.

According to the draft, prepared by the law ministry, the amendment would allow the trial of leaders of any organisation for command responsibility, the appointment of foreign lawyers, and the recording and broadcast of trial proceedings.

The move to amend the act comes at a time when the government is seeking to try those responsible for the crimes committed to suppress the July uprising that culminated in the toppling of the Hasina-led government.

According to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), more than 600 people were killed between July 16 and August 11.

More than 30 complaints have been filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal against Hasina and her party colleagues for alleged crimes against humanity and genocide.

The government has reconstituted the prosecution and investigation agency, and the probe agency has started field-level investigation into the alleged crimes.

- Party leaders can be tried
- Evidence from CCTV, phone, drone can be used
- Enforced disappearance, gender violence can be tried

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The restoration work of this old Buriganga channel along the Babubazar-Gabtolli Beribadh road, initiated by the Dhaka South City Corporation in June 2022, has seen little progress. In the meantime, land grabbers have encroached upon the river, enabling traders to set up makeshift structures for their businesses. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BIDEN-YUNUS TALKS Govt looks to strengthen trade, ties

PORIMOL PALMA



The bilateral meeting between Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and US President Joe Biden due today provides a rare opportunity for Dhaka to push for improving trade and boost the economy, say analysts.

Biden agreeing to meet with Yunus on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York signals Washington's eagerness to support Bangladesh's interim government.

Diplomatic sources said the US president usually goes to the UNGA for a short time and holding any bilateral meetings with the head of the Bangladesh government is rare.

"This signals that Washington wants to seriously engage with Dhaka because

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Israeli airstrikes kill 356 in Lebanon

1,246 wounded; tens of thousands fleeing for safety

REUTERS, Jerusalem/Beirut

Israel launched airstrikes against hundreds of Hezbollah targets yesterday, killing 356 people and sending tens of thousands fleeing for safety on Lebanon's deadliest day in decades, according to authorities.

After some of the heaviest cross-border exchanges of fire since the hostilities flared last October, Israel warned people in Lebanon to evacuate areas where it said the armed movement was storing weapons.

Nasser Yassin, the Lebanese minister coordinating the crisis response, told Reuters 89 temporary shelters in schools and the like had been activated, with capacity for more than 26,000 people as civilians fled "Israeli atrocities".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent a short video statement addressed to the Lebanese people.

"Israel's war is not with you; it's with Hezbollah. For too long, Hezbollah has been using you as human shields," he said.

After almost a year of war against Hamas in Gaza on its southern border, Israel is shifting

its focus to the northern frontier, where Iran-backed Hezbollah has been firing rockets into Israel in support of Hamas, also supported by Iran.

Israel's military said it had struck Hezbollah in Lebanon's south, east and north.

Lebanon's health ministry said 356 people had been killed, including 24 children and 42 women, and 1,246 wounded. One Lebanese official said it was Lebanon's highest daily death toll from violence since the 1975-1990 civil war.

The Israeli air force said on X it had carried out about 650 strike missions in the past 24 hours, attacking more than 1,100 targets using more than 1,400 munitions, and other places where it said weapons were stored.

Hezbollah has not commented on Israeli claims that it hid weapons in houses, which Reuters could not independently verify, but it has said it does not place military infrastructure near civilians.

In response to the strikes, Hezbollah said it had launched dozens of missiles at a military base in northern Israel.

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- Israel targets over 800 'Hezbollah sites'
- Hezbollah retaliates by firing rockets at Israeli base

Dhaka protests Amit Shah's comment on Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday lodged a "strong" protest against "highly deplorable" remarks of Indian Home Minister Amit Shah about Bangladeshi nationals during his recent visit to Jharkhand.

Through a protest note handed over to the deputy high commissioner of India in Dhaka, the foreign ministry conveyed its "serious reservation, deep sense of hurt and extreme displeasure", according to a ministry statement published on its Facebook page.

It called upon the Indian government to advise the political leaders to refrain from making such "objectionable and unacceptable" remarks.

The ministry also emphasised that such remarks, coming from responsible positions against the nationals of

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Media reforms commission likely next week Hopes information adviser

BSS, Dhaka

A mass media reforms commission could be announced next week, Information and Broadcasting Adviser Md Nahid Islam hoped yesterday.

"The announcement is expected to come after the chief adviser's return from the UN General Assembly in New York," he said.

The adviser was addressing a views-exchange meeting with publishers, editors, and other stakeholders of newspapers at the Tathya Bhaban. The Department of Films and Publications (DFP) organised the event.

Additional Information Secretary (in-charge) Md Nazrul Islam addressed the meeting as the special guest with DFP Director General Abul Kalam Mohammad Shamsuddin in the chair.

Nahid said everyone wants freedom of mass media. "But I want to leave you with the question... is there a limit to press freedom? Can freedom of the press be used for publicity of the fascists?"

The adviser thanked newspaper publishers, editors, and reporters for properly highlighting the incidents during the July uprising.

The people, he said, became dependent on newspapers to get correct information during the uprising. "So, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to them."



Md Nahid Islam

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RMG worker unrest spirals in Ashulia Now 52 factories shut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ashulia industrial belt saw an increased number of garment factories shut yesterday amid a fresh wave of protests by workers of dozens of units over several demands, including pay hike.

Meanwhile, factory owners reiterated their call to ensure safety for the smooth operation of the industry as 52 factories, mostly apparel units, have been shuttered in the latest round of unrest. Of them, 19 were shut yesterday.

Md Sarwar Alam, superintendent of police at Ashulia Industrial Police-1, said 43 factories have been shut under the "no work, no pay" provision of the labour law.

Of the closed factories, 39 are members of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association

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Smoke billows over southern Lebanon following Israeli strikes amid ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Tyre in south Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Released top criminals at it again

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Nasir Biswas, a 26-year-old mason, was walking close to the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital's Mohammadpur on the evening of September 20.

Criminals attacked and stabbed him multiple times around 6:30pm. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead around 8:45pm.

Nasir's brother, Sumon Biswas, yesterday said his brother was murdered by some associates of Imamul Hasan Helal alias Pichchi Helal over a previous enmity.

"Multiple eyewitnesses informed me that Helal was at the scene during the stabbing," he told The Daily Star.

Sumon, however, could not confirm the specifics of the previous enmity.

He lodged a murder case at Mohammadpur Police Station on September 21, naming six suspects, including Helal.

Ittekhhar Hasan, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said the complainant in the FIR mentioned that Helal was present at the crime scene.

"We have launched an investigation and are already collecting footage to determine Helal's involvement in the murder. He has since gone into hiding," he told The Daily Star.

Helal was listed as one of the top 23 criminals by police in 2001.

Then a Chhatra Dal leader, Helal was arrested on January 12, 2000. He was released on bail on August 16 this year.

Several residents of Mohammadpur have alleged that Helal's associates have been intimidating local business owners to assert dominance in the area since his release.

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UK Channel migrant arrivals top 25,000 in 2024

AFP, London

The number of migrants arriving in Britain by crossing the Channel in small boats has topped 25,000 since the start of the year, provisional figures showed yesterday.

The figures came as the new Labour government – like the last Conservative administration – struggles to reduce the cross-Channel arrivals.

Some 717 migrants crossed the Channel from northern France on Sunday, taking the cumulative number of arrivals so far in 2024 to 25,052, according to the interior ministry.

A similar number, 707, also made the crossing on Saturday.

The total represents a four percent rise on the equivalent figure at this point last year, but a 21 percent drop on 2022.

Stopping the small boat arrivals on England's southern coast was a key issue in Britain's general election in July.



Two battery-powered illegal autorickshaws, one going the right way and the other against the traffic, transport passengers across the Second Buriganga Bridge in Badamtali yesterday. These vehicles aren't permitted to operate on the bridge as they are considered risky and prone to accidents.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Farhad Mazhar questions legality of constitution reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Poet and writer Farhad Mazhar yesterday questioned how the interim government could form a commission for reforming the very constitution under which it took oath of office.

"The entire state is being run under the constitution of Sheikh Hasina and her President Mohammed Shahabuddin. Why did you [Yunus-led interim government] take the oath of office under this constitution? You betrayed the people by taking the oath under this charter..." he said.

Farhad also expressed wonder at the formation of a commission, led by Prof Ali Riaz, by the chief adviser to amend the constitution.

"You said that you would uphold the constitution, and now you are forming a commission to amend it. Who gave you this right?"

Farhad was speaking at a discussion titled "Constitutional Debate after Mass Uprising: Search for Origins and Destination."

July Ganaparishad, a platform for reviewing the uprising, organised the event at the Bangla Academy.

According to Farhad, the idea of a constitution is a colonial concept from academic, historical, and critical perspectives.

"Those who believe in the constitutional concept think that it is a tool of colonial power needed to rule the people..."

He said the crisis arising after the mass uprising is a political crisis and it is not a constitutional crisis.

Released top criminals

FROM PAGE 1

According to the Department of Prisons, Helal is among 43 top criminals and militants, who secured bail in different cases after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5.

Among these criminals are Abbas Ali alias Killer Abbas of Mirpur, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam alias Sweden Aslam of Tejgaon, Sanjidul Islam alias Emon of Hazaribagh, Khandaker Nayeem Ahmed alias Tipton and Khorshed Alam alias Rasu alias Freedom Rasu.

On December 26, 2001, the home ministry released the names of 23 top terrorists, including Abbas, Helal, Tipton, and Freedom Rasu. The four were accused in many cases, including for murder and attempted murder.

Brig Gen Syed Muhammad, inspector general of prisons, said they freed some top criminals after receiving release orders from courts.

"The law enforcement agencies might be able to give further details regarding the bails," he told this newspaper recently.

Tawohidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research, said notorious criminals used to control criminal activities from within jails.

He warned that their release on bail could lead to a rise in criminal activities.

"The authorities must closely monitor whether those freed are reviving their old criminal networks. If they are found doing so, they should be arrested again as soon as possible."

Sources in police said top criminal Ibrahim Khalil alias Killer Ibrahim, who had been hiding abroad, returned home after mid-August and resumed his criminal activities.

A leader of Bhashantek Slum, requesting anonymity, said Ibrahim's associates locked several rickshaw garages in the area for tolls.

"They [Ibrahim's men] unlock the garages only if the owners pay at least Tk 70,000. Sometimes, their demands go up to Tk 2 lakh."

The leader also said that Ibrahim's men collected tolls from building owners in Bhashantek, and recently extorted Tk 2 lakh to Tk 3 lakh each from landlords by threatening to set fire to or vandalise buildings if they were not paid the money.

Shah Md Foyzal Ahmed, OC of Bhashantek Police Station, said they were yet to receive any specific complaints regarding Ibrahim's criminal activities. "We will definitely take action once we receive specific information."

Enquired about the bail of notorious criminals, a top police official said that they had been busy with addressing the force's internal issues and maintaining law and order after August 5 and that they were waiting for the interim government's decision in this regard.

He said many top criminals and militants have been freed recently as their jail terms ended.

"The interim government also recently directed the police to adopt a zero-tolerance policy against top criminals and militants. We have stepped up our vigilance across the country and action will be taken against anyone carrying out criminal activities... no criminal will be spared," the official told this newspaper.

On September 10, Inspector General of Police Mainul Islam instructed all police units to adopt a "zero tolerance" policy against militancy and criminal activities.

Dhaka protests

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a neighbouring country, undermine the spirit of mutual respect and understanding between two friendly countries.

Amit Shah on Friday said at a rally in Jharkhand that if the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party returns to power in the state, it will chase Rohingya and Bangladeshi infiltrators out of Jharkhand.

Draft proposes banning political parties

FROM PAGE 1

The law ministry's Senior Assistant Secretary Ashfaqur Rahman yesterday presented the draft of the proposed amendments at a meeting at the Judicial Administration Training Institute in Dhaka and sought opinions and suggestions from legal experts and protest leaders who steered the movement against the Hasina-led regime.

Amendments were proposed for eight sections of the act, which was originally formulated in 1973 to try the perpetrators of the crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971. The law was later amended twice – once in 2009 and again in 2013.

Opinions and suggestions will be solicited from stakeholders before finalising the amendments, said Asif Nazrul, the law adviser to the interim government, who presided over the meeting.

"The trial of these murders must be acceptable to everyone. We don't want to take revenge. We want to ensure justice."

"The prosecution and investigation teams of the International Crimes Tribunal have already been formed to facilitate the activities of the tribunal. Now the important challenge for us is to reconstitute the tribunal."

A WELCOME MOVE

The participants at the meeting supported and welcomed the proposed amendments and gave suggestions.

IGRD Adviser AF Hassan Arif and Industries Adviser Adilur Rahman Khan said more discussions will be held and opinions will be solicited from relevant persons for finalising the amendments of the ICT Act to make it stronger and better so that justice is delivered to those seeking it.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman said the interests of the accused persons have also been protected in the proposed amendments to the law.

He also suggested a provision allowing the victim families to engage their lawyer in the trial proceedings.

ICT's Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam said, "The ICT Act will be amended in such a manner so that both the prosecution and defence can be satisfied knowing that justice has been ensured."

Welcoming the initiative to amend the ICT Act, Sara Hossain said a provision should be made to involve an international judge in the tribunal to ensure the trial proceedings are of international standard.

Badiul Alam Majumder, chief of the Election Commission Reforms Commission, said, "Those who have undermined democracy and the electoral system, committed financial crimes, including money laundering, and are responsible for the killing of more than 1,000 people in July this year must be brought to justice."

A total of 32 cases have been filed with the investigation agency of the ICT against Awami League President and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

RMG worker unrest spirals in Ashulia

FROM PAGE 1

(BGMEA). A total of 233 BGMEA member factories were open in the Ashulia area yesterday.

Worker leaders, factory owners and government officials sat for a tripartite meeting at the Ministry of Labour and Employment in Dhaka yesterday as the unrest intensified again after a relative calm last week.

They agreed to issue a joint statement on the unrest today.

Labour and Employment Secretary AHM Shafiquzzaman, who chaired the meeting, suggested that the BGMEA leaders inform the ministry about the workers' demands before issuing the joint statement.

The worker leaders raised 20 demands, including a review of the wage, full implementation of the latest wage structure by all the factories, an amendment to the labour law, and an increase in annual increment and attendance and tiffin allowances.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The law ministry proposes amending three sections – 3(2)(a), 4(2), and 19 – as well as introducing three new sections – 4(A), 13(A), and 20(A) – and two new sub-sections – sub-section (3) under section 3 and sub-section (2) under section 12.

It proposed changing the definition of crimes against humanity in section 3(2)(a).

As per the existing law, crimes against humanity include murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, abduction, confinement, torture, rape or other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population or persecutions on political, racial, ethnic or religious grounds, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated.

The proposed amendment states that crimes against humanity would involve murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, imprisonment, abduction, confinement, enforced disappearance, torture, rape, gender based violence, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation or other inhumane acts committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against any civilian population or persecutions on political, racial, ethnic, gender, cultural or religious grounds, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated.

Section 4(2) of the existing act, which deals with command responsibility, states that any commander or superior officer who orders, permits, acquiesces or participates in the commission of any of the crimes specified in section 3 or is connected with any plans and activities involving the commission of such crimes or who fails or omits to discharge his duty to maintain discipline or to control or supervise the actions of the persons under his command or his subordinates, whereby such persons or subordinates or any of them commit any such crimes, or who fails to take necessary measures to prevent the commission of such crimes, is guilty of such crimes.

To this section, the draft amendment adds "leader of an organisation, association, entity, or organised group" in the act along with any commander or superior leader.

Section 19(1) of the existing act states that the tribunal shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence and may admit any evidence, including reports and photographs published in newspapers, periodicals and magazines, films and tape recordings and other materials as may be tendered before it, which it deems to have probative value.

The draft adds that data or information generated, prepared, sent, received, or stored in magnetic, electromagnetic, optical, or computer memory; audio and video recordings; Digital Versatile Disc (DVD), Digital Video Disc (DVD); records from mobile phones; hardware, software, or any other digital device may also be tendered before it,

which it deems to have probative value.

The draft added sub-section (3) under section 3 that states, "For the purpose of determining liability under sub-section (2), the Tribunal shall have regard to the Elements of Crime of the International Criminal Court (ICC), as adopted pursuant to Article 9 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this act."

It also proposed to add sub-section (2) under section 12 that states, "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Order, 1972 (President's Order) (President's Order No. 46 of 1972), the Tribunal may allow foreign counsel to appear before it, subject to its satisfaction that such counsel has at least 10 years' experience in the practice of international criminal law."

The draft introduces section 4(A) which states, "The Tribunal may decide to make an audio-visual recording of a hearing or part thereof. The Tribunal may decide to make available an audio or video broadcast of a hearing, or part thereof, via the Internet or other means, in accordance with any conditions set by the court to protect the safety, privacy, and dignity of participants."

Another proposed section 13(A) states, "Representatives from foreign governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and international bodies may attend public hearings, trials, and other proceedings of the Tribunal, subject to its prior approval and accreditation."

The draft amendment also proposed section 20(A) which deals with the prohibition of political organisations engaged in international crimes and states, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, if any political organisation is found to have committed, aided, abetted, or facilitated the commission of any of the crimes under section 3 of this act, such organisation shall be subject to a ban for a period not exceeding 10 years."

It also says the ban imposed under this section shall include all activities of the organisation, including but not limited to: (a) participation in elections; (b) organising meetings, rallies, or any form of public gathering; (c) use of media and digital platforms for propaganda or communication; and (d) collection of funds and conducting any financial transactions.

Any person acting in contravention of the ban imposed under this section shall be liable to penalties as determined by the Tribunal, the section states.

The Tribunal, however, may, at its discretion, reduce the period of the ban upon an application filed by the organisation concerned, provided that it can demonstrate substantial reforms and compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights, it added.

they also want safety to be restored in the sector.

Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals, said the unrest began in the pharmaceuticals industry, which he said is "the most organised sector" with most factories giving five bonuses and sharing profits, apart from other benefits.

AK Azad, chairman and managing director of Ha Meem Group, said many small and medium enterprises are in "big trouble" because of the unrest, and many factories would not be able to pay salaries timely as they could not continue production.

BGMEA President Khandoker Rafiqul Islam said 260 factories were closed as they could not implement the new wage structure that came into effect in December last year. He also said the unrest has been continuing even after meeting the workers' demands.

Govt looks to strengthen

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh is important for the US and Prof Yunus has a global standing," said Obaidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's International Relations Department.

He said the US has been trying to deepen the engagement with Bangladesh over the last few years, but it was not going very well. Now that the interim government has taken up initiatives for widespread reforms, and promised democratic elections and good governance, Washington is showing increasing interest.

The US suspended the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) facility for Bangladesh in the aftermath of Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, citing poor labour conditions. In 2021, it imposed sanctions against Rab and seven of its top officials over human rights violations and in May last year announced visa restrictions for those undermining democratic elections.

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina made critical remarks of the US that was vocal about human rights, media freedom, and free and fair election ahead of the national polls on January 7 this year.

With the changed political landscape, the Dhaka-Washington relations appeared to take a new trajectory.

A six-member US delegation, led by Treasury Department's Assistant Secretary Brent Nieman, visited Dhaka in mid-September, the first foreign delegation's tour after the interim government was formed.

The delegation said Washington would be happy to support Prof Yunus' reform agenda and expressed eagerness to offer technical and financial assistance for reforms.

According to foreign policy analysts, Bangladesh's main challenge is now the economy, and the reforms agenda being taken up will be successful if the economic challenge can be addressed. Things may be different otherwise.

With better political understanding, Bangladesh may secure greater economic benefits and have access to new avenues for much-needed external funds, at favourable conditions, said Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, a senior research fellow at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University.

Even with about 18 percent duty, Bangladesh's export to the US is close to \$8 billion and it can be easily increased by a few billion if there is a duty-free quota-free facility, and non-tariff barriers are addressed.

"The US administration may, if felt imperative to do so, consider flexible ways and special vehicles to offer GSP facility to Bangladesh in the changed circumstances," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

With Washington's support, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank may favour allocating funds for Bangladesh. Such support will have positive impacts on the overall economy because the funding will lead to economic stabilisation, employment generation, and increased wages, he said.

These in turn can embolden the interim government's resolve and capacity to secure improved governance, higher labour standards, and better human rights. Such a positive spiral can also encourage greater economic interaction and quality investments from other Western countries.

"If the US companies can be encouraged to invest in the IT sector of Bangladesh and the Bangladeshi IT experts in the US can be connected to our IT industry, it can significantly increase Bangladesh's IT-related services export. The same can happen with other cutting-edge technologies if the US shows keenness only with deeper political understanding, trust, and confidence," said Sufiur, Bangladesh's former permanent representative to the UN offices and international organisations in Geneva.

Sufiur said over the last years of the Awami League government, Bangladesh had to depend more on China for its failure to bridge gaps with the US and the West, and there is a real chance of striking a balance now.

DU teacher Obaidul said Washington can also provide budgetary support, which is much needed in Bangladesh.

He said the export of Bangladeshi readymade garments saw a decline amid recent demonstrations and subsequent unrest, and US support towards this end will be extremely helpful.

Washington can also support Bangladesh's reform process, including in financial and security sectors.

"If Bangladesh improves in human rights, labour rights, and governance sectors, and eventually the sanction against Rab is withdrawn, this will have positive impacts on Bangladesh's export to the Western countries," Obaidul added.

Analysts said Prof Yunus, who has earned US trust, is expected to discuss these aspects and take forward the US-Bangladesh relations to a new level.

Dhaka needs to ensure that it maintains a balanced foreign policy, they added.

Israeli airstrikes

FROM PAGE 1

In New York, Iranian President Masoud Peshkian said Israel wanted to drag the Middle East into a full-blown war by provoking Iran to join the Israel-Hezbollah conflict.

"It is Israel that seeks to create this all-out conflict," he told journalists after his arrival in New York to attend the UN General Assembly, saying the consequences of such instability would be irreversible.

Media reforms

FROM PAGE 1

But some newspapers were in favour of the fascist government and those who played such roles during the uprising would have to be brought to book.

About the money government owes to newspapers for running ads, Nahid said the government is trying to digitalise the payment system to provide hassle-free service.

Daily Jugantar Editor Saiful Alam, daily Manabzamin Editor Matiuur Rahman Chowdhury, Daily Kaler Kantha Editor Hasan Hafiz, Daily Sun Editor Rezaul Karim, Prothom Alo Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif, Daily Aiker Pathrika Managing Editor Kamrul Hasan, Daily Ittefaq News Editor Ashok Kumar Singha, Daily Sangram Managing Editor Nurunnabi, Daily Sangbad Chief Reporter Shahrar Karim, Daily Inqilab Executive Editor Fahima Bahauddin Shama, and Daily Azadi Managing Editor Wahid Malek also spoke at the meeting.

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Food support for families in need if BNP comes to power

Says Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said if BNP can come into power with public mandate in future, they will introduce a "family card" against which food support will be provided to people per their needs.

"My plan is... we will specify the number of families in Bangladesh. We will give a family card to every family from the state," he said.

The BNP leader raised his plan while virtually addressing a public rally at Kishoreganj Old Stadium in the district.

Tarique Rahman said the family card will be given against the name of the mother or homemaker in a family, and this programme will initially start in the rural areas and then expand gradually to the urban areas.

Under the card, every family will be provided with a certain amount of required food items every month, he added.

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Protesting the recent upsurge in incidents of mob violence throughout the country, a human chain was formed in front of the National Museum in Shahbagh yesterday. Speakers demanded that all incidents of mob violence should be investigated and those involved should be held accountable.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

We're exporting hilsa to India, not sending as gift

Says Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, clarified yesterday that hilsa is not being sent to India as a gift. It will be exported, with the Bangladesh government receiving the export revenue.

She emphasised that the export value is significant and should not be underestimated.

The adviser made these remarks to journalists after visiting the regulators of Muchhapur closure area in Companiganj, which was damaged by floods last month.

The adviser further said that although a decision has been made to export hilsa, the fish has not yet left Bangladesh.

"The price has already increased, so it's not accurate to say prices will rise further due to export. This matter is under the government's consideration," she added.

Addressing broader issues, she said, "Those who seek hilsa have supported anti-discrimination movements from the other side. We must recognise that we have many topics to discuss with our neighbours, and we should not let minor issues hinder dialogue."

During the visit, Nurul Alam Sikder, convener of the Companiganj upazila BNP, accused Abdul Quader Mirza,

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Farewell to a 13-yr-old martyr

Shot by police on August 5, Ratul dies after 49 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Thirteen-year-old Junayed Islam Ratul joined a victory procession in Bogura on August 5, after hearing that Sheikh Hasina had fled the country. Little did he know that this march for freedom would cost him his life.

As the procession approached Bogura Sadar Police Station, police opened fire on the crowd.

Ratul, a sixth grader at Path Public School and College, was hit by gun pellets that pierced through his body, leaving him critically injured.

Ratul was rushed to a local hospital that night before being transferred to the National Institute of Neuroscience and Hospital in Dhaka, where he fought for his life for over a month.

Despite extensive efforts to save him, he succumbed to his injuries yesterday at 4:00am, said his father, Ziaur Rahman.

Later that day, Ratul's body, draped in the national flag, was brought to the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka at 4:30pm, where many gathered to pay their last respects to the young martyr.

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SITUATION IN CHT

'Must have peace, stability in the hills'

Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday expressed deep concern over the recent unrest in the three hill districts -- Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban (Chittagong Hill Tracts), and emphasised the need to maintain peace and stability in the region at all costs.

The JP chief made the remarks during a meeting with leaders of the Jatiyo Matsyajibi Party and the Jatiyo Hawkers Party at his office in Dhaka's Banani.

GM Quader said, "I don't want to see bloodstains on the green hills. We are all Bangladeshis, and we believe in unity and harmony. We cannot allow the tourism industry and economic potential of the hilly areas to be jeopardised."

No new reports of violence

UNB, Khagrachhari

There were no reports of new violence in Khagrachhari till yesterday morning -- the last day of the 72-hour blockade called by indigenous students and activists protesting the recent violence in the district.

Although long distance bus services remained suspended, there was presence of inter district vehicles.

Commuters, however, alleged that motorcycles and autorickshaw drivers were charging extra fares, taking advantage of the blockade.

Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Abdul Baten Mridha said patrolling by the army, Border Guard Bangladesh, and police was ongoing to maintain law and order. The presence of students at the educational institutions was thin compared to other days due to the blockade.

Rangamati's Baghaichhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shirin Akter said over 1,000 tourists stranded in Sajek have not been brought back yet as movement of vehicles from the spot remained suspended due to security reasons.

The blockade was called on Friday by indigenous protesters under the banner of Jummo Chhatra-Janata Parishad based in Dhaka in response to recent violent incidents in Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

The United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) supported the protest.

US stands with all Bangladeshis

Says Charge d'affaires LaFave

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The USA stands in support of the indigenous communities and all Bangladeshis, recognising their rich cultural heritage and invaluable contributions to the nation's identity, said US Charge d'affaires Helen LaFave yesterday.

She made the remarks after the meeting with the CHT Affairs Adviser Supradip Chakma at the latter's office.

She said rights of the indigenous communities and all Bangladeshis must be respected and upheld, ensuring they are free from discrimination, marginalisation, and violence. An inclusive and just society defends the voices and rights of its most vulnerable populations.

Form commission to reform health sector: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside the previously formed six reform commissions, the interim government should have also formed a commission to restructure the health sector, said experts at a meeting in the capital yesterday.

The programme titled, "Health Sector Reform: Citizen's Perspective", in the capital's Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific auditorium was organised by Alliance for Health Reforms Bangladesh.

We are at a crucial point with opportunities for reform. While consensus on some issues is lacking, we are working towards change. Reducing out-of-pocket expenses for patients is a key priority.

PROF NAZMUL HOSSAIN
DG of Directorate of Health Services

Prof Nazmul Hossain, director general of the DGHS, said, "We are at a crucial point with opportunities for reform. While consensus on some issues is lacking, we are working towards change. Reducing out-of-pocket expenses for patients is a key priority."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Country needs inclusive reforms

Speakers tell dialogue on ending discrimination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women from all backgrounds, regardless of caste, creed, or religion, should be included in decision making for national progress and to end discrimination, said speakers at a dialogue in the capital yesterday.

Titled "All are Equal", the session was organised by ActionAid Bangladesh and brought together over 20 participants, including activists and representatives from indigenous communities, people with disabilities, sex workers, and women's rights advocates.

The discussion focused on the need for state reforms and inclusive development in the wake of recent student protests.

Nishitha Zaman Niha, coordinator of Boishommo Birodhi Chhatro Andolon, stressed the importance of addressing rural women's rights to bridge societal divides.

"We need a Bangladesh free from discrimination and state oppression," she said.

Anowara Begum, representing women farmers, highlighted wage

discrimination and limited access to markets. "Women farmers lack land rights and face inadequate sanitation facilities. We need a discrimination-free society and a 'farmer's card' to access services and benefits."

Khilon Robidas of the Bangladesh Robidas Forum in Gaibandha raised concerns over the discrimination faced by Dalit communities, especially women and children.

"People mock them due to their distinct dress, marking them as members of the community," he said.

Nilofa, secretary of the sex workers network, called for justice and protection for sex workers, citing ongoing physical and mental violence.

Puchainu Marma from the SUSHIL project in Bandarban highlighted the struggles of indigenous communities in the hill tracts, calling for land rights and security under the new government.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, urged for the issues of discrimination to be addressed during ongoing reforms.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Vegetable vendors have taken up this entire footpath, leaving no space for pedestrians to walk. Many people in the background can be seen walking on the road as a result. The photo was taken in the Azimpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MA Mannan denied bail, sent to jail

UNB, Sunamganj

A Sunamganj court yesterday sent former planning minister MA Mannan



back to jail after rejecting his bail petition in a case filed over the attacks on students and people during the recent student-led movement in the district.

Sunamganj Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Nirjan Mitra passed the order after hearing the bail petition, said the plaintiff's lawyer Mashuk Alam.

Law enforcement agencies arrested the former minister from his residence in Shantiganj area under Jagannathpur upazila in Sunamganj on September 19.

He was accused in the case filed by one Hafiz Ali, brother of a victim who was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Govt forms ten teams to combat dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed 10 teams for proper implementation, coordination and close supervision of the mosquito eradication campaign to combat dengue outbreak in the current season.

Among the teams, four teams will work in Dhaka South City Corporation and three teams will work in Dhaka North City Corporation. Three teams have been formed for operations in Narayanganj, Gazipur, Chattogram and other city corporations.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting held at the Local Government Division chaired by LGD secretary Abu Hena Morshed Jaman.

Apart from these, several more teams have been formed for vulnerable municipalities like Savar, Dohar, Tarab, Rugganj and other municipalities. Another seven-member committee has been formed to coordinate and collect information on the dengue outbreak.

Dhaka air worst in the world Says AQI index

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka has topped the list of cities worldwide with the worst air quality, with an AQI score of 227 at 9:00am yesterday. Today's air was classified as "very unhealthy".

When the AQI value for particle pollution is between 50 and 100, air quality is considered "moderate", usually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion, between 101 and 150, air quality is considered "unhealthy for sensitive groups", between 150 and 200 is "unhealthy", between 201 and 300 is said to be "very unhealthy", while a reading of 301+ is considered "hazardous", posing serious health risks to residents.

Form

FROM PAGE 3

Prof Ahmedul Kabir, former additional DG of DGHS, stressed the need to strengthen primary healthcare services at all levels.

Prof Rashid-E-Mahbub, chairman of National Committee on Health Rights Movement, said that the country's health sector reform should be done with care and approached slowly for best results.

Syed Abdul Hamid, professor at Institute of Health Economics, proposed a three-tier agenda list for reformation in the health sector - including provision of establishing health services commission, reforms to medical education, healthcare administration, and public health. There should also be provisions for paramedics at the community clinic level, he said.

Prof AM Zakir Hossain, executive member of Bangladesh Health Watch, said, "There are 18,000 paramedics across the country. But we need five times this number to ensure adequate services."



Students removing various banners and festoons of different political parties and advertisements in Khulna city yesterday. The banners were previously plastered throughout the cities, on walls, electric poles and various other spaces. This step was taken to restore the beauty of the city. The photo was taken in Khulna Boyra Women's College intersection.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Nowfel, Hasan

FROM PAGE 5

Double Mooring Police Station, accusing 225 named persons and 300 unidentified others.

Confirming the matter, Rafiq Ahmed, officer-in-charge of the police station, said police registered the case and will investigate it as per law.

Other named accused include: former lawmakers Mohiuddin Bachchu (Chattogram 10), MA Latif (Chattogram II), Md Didarul Alam Didar (Chattogram 4), Abu Reza Muhammad Nezamuddin Nadwi (Chattogram 15), Abdullah Al Mamun (Chattogram 4), Awami League's office secretary Barrister Biplob Barua, former FCCI president Mahbubul Alam, former Chattogram City Corporation mayor and general secretary of AL's Chattogram unit AJM Nasir Uddin, and president of JP's Chattogram Metropolitan unit Solaiman Alam Seth, among others.

According to the case statement, directed by Nowfel and Hasan Mahmud, the accused attacked and opened fire at a procession celebrating former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation on August 5.

In the incident, Mohammad Alam, 36, was shot in his head while returning home.

MA Mannan

FROM PAGE 3

injured in clashes with the law enforcers and Awami League supporters in the district on August 4.

Meanwhile, the district witnessed a mixed reaction over the arrest of the former minister.

A group of people staged a demonstration for the release of Mannan, while another group opposed it, demanding punishment of the former minister accusing him of amassing illegal wealth.

On Sunday, some students under the banner of general students took position in front of Shantiganj Upazila Parishad along Sunamganj Sylhet road, demanding the release of Mannan. In Pagla Bazar of the upazila, another group of students formed a human chain demanding exemplary punishment of the former minister.

Woman held for pouring hot

FROM PAGE 5

ago and lives with her maternal grandparents in Waijbari, Juidondi. On Wednesday afternoon, while playing with other children, she and the group saw an elderly neighbour, Yaar Mohammad. The children started calling out to him, saying "murubbi, murubbi, uhu", mimicking a viral social media video.

Witnesses said that Sayera, wife of Yaar's younger brother Abul Kalam, became furious and scolded the victim, he said. "She then fetched a bowl of boiling water and poured it on the child's head,

causing serious burns," he added.

The victim was initially taken to a local health complex before being transferred to CMCH.

Rafiquddin Ahmed, head of the burn unit at CMCH, said the victim sustained 10 percent burns on her body, mainly on her shoulders and neck.

He said for a child, this is considered a severe burn, and her condition is currently critical.

The video that the children imitated features a religious preacher saying "murubbi, murubbi uhu", supposedly telling an

elderly person to not do something. The video had gone viral on social media for weeks, becoming a popular internet meme, and has led many, including children, to imitate the phrase.

Hasina, Rehana

FROM PAGE 5

was shot in front of the police lines at Mirpur-14 around 10:30am on August 5. Later, he was rushed to Max Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

On Sunday, two more cases were filed against Hasina and several others over the deaths of 14-year-old madrasa student Ahmed Abdullah at Jatrabari on July 18 and 12-year-old Rakib Hasan at Mohammadpur on July 19.

Hasina is now facing 194 cases, including 173 for murder, 11 for crimes against humanity and genocide, three for abduction, six for attempted murder, and one for an attack on a BNP procession.

Food support for all

FROM PAGE 3

He said the main goals of BNP are to establish people's political rights while attaining their economic emancipation. "We want to make the people of Bangladesh self-reliant economically," said Tarique.

He said the autocratic government tried to divide the nation to hold onto

power, but BNP wants unity.

Tarique also announced he has no address (house) outside Bangladesh.

He said, "BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia earlier said she had no address outside the country. Being her son, today I would like to say that I don't have any address outside Bangladesh."

Country needs

FROM PAGE 3

"There is a concern that some groups may be left behind. We are working with young people to build a discrimination-free society," she said.

Ibrahim Khalil Al-Zayed, chairperson of ActionAid International

Bangladesh Society, referenced the constitution's stance on non-discrimination. "The interim government must take an inclusive approach to reforms, setting the stage for a future where all changes are carried out fairly."

Farewell to a 13-yr-old

FROM PAGE 3

A funeral prayer was held, honouring Ratul.

Following the ceremony, Ratul's body was taken to

his hometown in the Hakir Mor area of Bogura, where a second janaza will be held before his burial, his father added.

We're exporting

FROM PAGE 3

the brother of former minister Obaidul Quader, of illegally lifting sand from the Muchhapur closure.

In response, the adviser requested Nurul to submit a formal written complaint.

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	১৫ আর ই ব্যাটালিয়ন, বঙ্গবন্ধু সেনানিবাস, জুগোপু, টাংগাইল।
২	কাজের বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্ত মালামাল (মিলিটারী ইনস্ট্রুমেন্টারীজ) সরেজমত যাবতীয় বায় নির্বাচ বান্দ।
৩	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪।
৪	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	২৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/২০২৪/৫২০
২৩/০৯/২৪

মিনহাসুল আবেদীন, পিএসসি
সেং কর্নেল
অধিনায়ক
১৫ আর ই ব্যাটালিয়ন
বঙ্গবন্ধু সেনানিবাস

ক্রিডি-৫০২

Buffalo Research and Development Project
Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Savar, Dhaka 1341

Memo No: 33.05.2672.111.03.003.21-2016 Date: 22/09/2024

e-Tender Notice

The e-Tenders will be invited through the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods/works and related services as described in the given Table:

Tender ID	Package No.	Description of goods	Tender Document Last Selling/ Downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing/ Opening Date and Time	Remarks
1011207	GD - 01 Lot - 02	Supply of Murrah Buffalo	22-Oct-2024 10:00	22-Oct-2024 15:00	-
1011217	GD - 08 Lot - 09	Supply of Laboratory Equipment	08-Oct-2024 10:00	08-Oct-2024 15:00	-
1016129	W - 02 Lot - 02	Construction for Vertical Extension (1st floor) of AI Lab. Building at BLRI H.Q, Savar, Dhaka	06-Oct-2024 10:00	06-Oct-2024 15:30	Re-Tender
1016372	W - 08 Lot - 03	Construction of External Electrification works at BLRI H.Q, Savar, Dhaka	08-Oct-2024 10:00	08-Oct-2024 15:30	-

Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required for submission of e-Tender. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any schedule bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP portal.

Size: (5" x 3")

22.09.2024
(Dr. Gautam Kumar Deb)
Project Director
Telephone No: 02224426036
e-mail: pdrbdp21@blri.gov.bd.com

GD-503

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Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item.	Date of Publish	Last Date & time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for Opening of e-tender
01	06/2024-2025	8,000 Kgs P.P Strap.	24/09/2024	22/10/2024 upto 11.00 AM	22/10/2024 at 11.15 AM

For more details, Please visit/Contact the followings:

Website : www.spcbl.org.bd
Cell : 88-01911064896
Telephone : 02-223375560-67(Ext: 168 & 180)
E.mail : info@spcbl.org.bd
e-Tender site : <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>

(Mohammad Shamsuddin Ahmed)
General Manager (Local Purchase & Sales)
Phone: 02-2233755556

GD- 493

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital
Bogura.
email : szrmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

Memo No : SZMCH/2024/5117 Date : 23.09.2024

e-GP Tender Notice (2024-2025)

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
02	Agency	Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura.
03	Project /Program Name	Utility Service Charge (Laundry Service). Supply of X-ray Film and others. Supply of Chemical Reagent and Supply of Non-EDCL medicines at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the Fiscal year 2024-2025.
04	e-Tender IDs	a) 1014197, b) 1013744, c)1013724, d) 1015657, e) 1015749, f) 1015844, g) 1015851.
05	Description of works	a) Utility Service Charge (Laundry Service) at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025. b) Supply of X-ray Film and others at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025. c) Supply of Chemical Reagent at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025. d) Supply of Non-EDCL medicines at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025. e) Supply of Non-EDCL medicines at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025. f) Supply of Non-EDCL medicines at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025. g) Supply of Non-EDCL medicines at Shahid Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogura for the financial year 2024-2025.
06	This is online Tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline / hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons / firms can see details in the website : (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd)	

23.09.24
(Brig Gen Md. Julfikkar Alam)
Director
Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital
Bogura

GD- 496

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Director - Operation and Maintenance
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 1
Academic qualifications: Master's with B.Sc. in Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering Degree from a recognized university
Age: Ideally 40 - 50 years.
Experience: At least 15 (fifteen) years of experience in operation & maintenance of big companies' hospitals/ hotels/ commercial buildings/ factory complex, etc. and minimum 3 years of management experience as Director / Chief Engineer.

Assistant Director, Office of External Affairs
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 1
Academic qualifications: Master's degree preferably in MBA with at least 2nd Class/CGPA 3 out of 4.
Age: Not exceeding 40 years.
Experience: Experience of working in a higher education setting or with international organizations.

Department Secretary, School of Health & Life Sciences
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 1
Academic qualifications: Master's degree with at least 2nd class or CGPA 3 out of 4 from any reputed university.
Age: Ideally 25 - 30 years.
Experience: Candidates should have at least 2 to 3 years of practical experience in any large organization/ educational institutions.

Coordinator Officer, Office of External Affairs
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 1
Academic qualifications: Master's degree with at least 2nd Class/CGPA 3 out of 4.
Age: Not exceeding 32 years.
Experience: 2 to 3 years in a relevant field.

Web Master, Office of Information Technology (IT)
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 1
Academic qualifications: Master's degree with B.Sc. in Computer Science/ Computer Science & Engineering/ Software Engineering at a recognized university from home or abroad would get the preference.
Age: Not exceeding 35 years.
Experience: At least 3 years(s).

IT Officer, Office of Information Technology (IT)
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 1
Academic qualifications: Master's degree with B.Sc. in Computer Science/ Computer Science & Engineering/ Electrical Engineering or a related field at a recognized university from home or abroad would get the preference.
Age: Not exceeding 35 years.
Experience: 3 years working experience in the relevant field.

Lab Instructor (CSE and EEE), Department of ECE
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 12
Academic qualifications: Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline (CSE & EEE) with good standing (CGPA 3.5 and above) from a well-recognized university.
Experience: Not required, but laboratory experience will be given preference.

Assistant Lab Officer, Department of ECE
Last date of application: 23 October 2024

Number of position: 4
Academic qualifications: Bachelor's degree in relevant discipline/lab with good standing (CGPA 3.0 and above) from a well-recognized university.
Experience: Not required; but experience(s) of working in relevant labs will be given preference.

For more information please visit jobs.northsouth.edu

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Gopal Mondal heads to the market with his van full of crabs. He collects the crustaceans from various areas starting from the crack of dawn. He then sells them at a retail price of Tk 50-80 per kg, depending on the size. The photo was taken from the Beel Pabla area in Dumuria upazila of Khulna yesterday. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

JUBAYER MURDER
Anisul, ex-IGP
Mamun shown
arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former law minister Anisul Huq and former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were shown arrested yesterday in a case filed over the murder of Hafez Mohammad Jubayer Ahmed during protests on August 5.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Nurul Huda Chowdhury passed the order after Investigation Officer Sarwar Khan Rassel, a sub-inspector of Adabor Police Station, submitted an application to the court in this regard.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Woman held for pouring hot water on girl in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a sixty-year-old woman in Chattogram's Anwara upazila on Sunday night for pouring boiling water on a 12-year-old girl. The attack occurred at Wajarbari under Juidondi union on Wednesday. The accused, Sayera Khatun, allegedly attacked the girl, who is an orphan, for addressing an elderly man and saying "murubbi, murubbi, uhu".

Sayera was taken into custody in the Battali area after the victim's maternal grandfather lodged a case on Sunday, said Mohammad Monir Hossen, officer in charge of Anwara Police Station.

The victim, who suffered severe burns from the incident, is receiving treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

OC Monir said the victim lost her parents years ago.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Pistol, ammo recovered in Gulshan: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) recovered a pistol and a cache of ammunition from a pile of garbage in Gulshan on Sunday.

According to a DMP media release yesterday, the discovery was made near checkpoint-10, next to Manarat University, around noon.

The items recovered include a Walther PPK 7.65 pistol, seven rounds of 7.65 calibre ammunition, 23 rounds of 22 bore ammunition, and 38 shotgun cartridges. Authorities have launched a legal investigation into the incident, DMP said.

Strict security measures in place for Durga Puja: IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Moinul Islam yesterday said stringent security measures will be in place during Durga Puja.

While addressing a meeting on law and order and security at the Police Headquarters, the IGP said police will maintain utmost vigilance around puja mandaps alongside a three-tier security plan in place before and during the festival, and also during the immersion of idols.

Chiefs of different police units, and leaders of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Puja Ujapan Parishad and Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee attended the meeting.

Nowfel, Hasan Mahmud sued over murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former education minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, former foreign minister Hasan Mahmud, and Jatiyo Party's senior co-chairman Anisul Islam Mahmud were among 525 persons sued in a murder case filed over the death of a person in Chattogram on August 5.

The case was filed by Md Jamal Uddin, brother of victim Mohammad Alam, on Sunday night with

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

KILLING RMG WORKER Hasina, Rehana, 69 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana and 69 others were sued yesterday over the death of garment worker Md Fazlu during the quota reform movement in Dhaka's Kafrul area on August 5.

The victim's wife Suraiya Akhter filed the case against Hasina and others with the Court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saiful Islam.

After the hearing, the magistrate asked Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit a report following an investigation.

In her complaint, Suraiya said her husband

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

TRAFFIC RULE VIOLATIONS 870 cases filed, Tk 36 lakh fine imposed

UNB, Dhaka

The traffic division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) filed 870 cases and imposed fines of around Tk 36 lakh after conducting drives against traffic rule violators on Sunday.

Jahangir Kabir, assistant commissioner (media) of DMP, said this in a media release yesterday.

Of the fined money, the traffic realised Tk 8 lakh and 62,550 in cash.

Sixty-four vehicles were dumped and 60 others were towed during the drives conducted in parts of the capital.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক
সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর।
ফোন: ০২৫৮৮৮৭১২৭০ ফ্যাক্স: ০২৫৮৮৮৭৩৮১০
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তারিখ: ২৩/০৯/২০২৪

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিজ্ঞপ্তি (সংশোধনী-২)

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে অভ্যন্তরীণ ক্রয়কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/নবায়ন করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২, নাটোর হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য পেন-অর্ডার/বাংক ড্রাফট/চালান নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর এর অনুকূলে জমা প্রদান করে অথবা মানি রিসিটের মাধ্যমে ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা পরিশোধ করত: অগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পূরণ পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ নিয়ে বর্ণিত (স্ক-০২) সময়ের মধ্যে নাটোর সড়ক বিভাগে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি-৬৩ ও ৬৪ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এই তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ দরপত্র আহবান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চয়তা বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিপূর্বে অত্র দপ্তরের তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারগণ ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের লাইসেন্স নবায়ন (Renewal) ফি বাবদ টাকা-২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) মাত্র + ১৫% ভ্যাটসহ নিয় বর্ণিত (স্ক-০২) তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা পূর্বক লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

স্ক-০১ (সংশোধিত-২)			
বিবরণ	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরমের মূল্য	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম সংগ্রহের সময়সীমা	তালিকাভুক্তির ফরম জমা প্রদানের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি	১০০০/-	০৭/০৭/২০২৪ হতে ০১/১০/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত	০৭/০৭/২০২৪ হতে ০২/১০/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত

স্ক-০২			
বিবরণ	নবায়ন ফি	বিনা জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা	১০০% জরিমানায় নবায়নের সময়সীমা
ঠিকাদার লাইসেন্স নবায়ন	২০০০/- টাকা + ১৫% ভ্যাট	০৭/০৭/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ১৪/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত	১৬/০৮/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ হতে ১৫/১০/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত

(মোঃ কামরুল হাসান সরকার)
পরিচিতি নং- ৬০২৩১২
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চফস), সড়ক
সড়ক বিভাগ, নাটোর।

GD-494

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner
Institute of Public Health (IPH) Bhaban (2nd Floor)
Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.

Invitation for Tender

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs		
02	Agency	Bangladesh Police, CID, Dhaka.		
03	Procuring entity name	Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.		
04	Procuring entity District	Dhaka.		
05	Invitation for	1) Chemicals(ACS reagent Grade & LC-MSMS, HPLC), Pesticide Standard, Narcotics Analysis Ready kits, Explosive etc, Chemical Related Gas & Gas Cylinder & Chemical Related Laboratory Apparatus for Chemical Lab (CE-16) 2) Stationary Goods (Consumables, Other Monihari goods & Health Provision contents) items.		
06	Invitation Ref. No	Memo No- CE/01/2024-25/724/1(2) Dated: 22/09/2024		
KEY INFORMATION				
07	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (Frame work Contract) will be selected in accordance with the procedures set in the guidelines of public Procurement Regulation Rules -2008 of the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.		
FUNDING				
08	Budget & Source of fund	Revenue Budget (GOB)		
PARTICULARS				
09	Tender Package No	CE-16 & Stationary goods (Consumables, Other Monihari goods & Health Provision contents) items		
10	Tender Package Name	1) Chemicals(ACS reagent Grade & LC-MSMS, HPLC), Pesticide Standard, Narcotics Analysis Ready kits, Explosive etc, Chemical Related Gas & Gas Cylinder & Chemical Related Laboratory Apparatus for Chemical Lab (CE-16) 2) Stationary Goods (Consumables, Other Monihari goods & Health Provision contents) items		
11	Tender Publication date	Before 24/09/2024		
12	Tender Last Selling date	09/10/2024		
13	Tender Closing date & time	10/10/2024 time 12.00 pm hrs		
14	Tender Opening date & time	10/10/2024 time 12.30 pm hrs.		
15	Name & Address of the office	Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.		
16	Place/date/time of Pre-tender Meeting	Pre-tender Meeting shall not be held.		
INFORMATION				
17	Eligibility of Tenderers	Up to date copies of valid Trade License, Bank Solvency Certificate with current balance in BDT, Income Tax Certificate (last fiscal year), VAT Registration Certificate, Minimum 03 years experience in similar natures of works etc. & Other requirements described the tender document (PG-3A)		
18	Brief Description of Chemicals	Mentioned in Tender document.		
19	Brief Description of related services	As per Tender document.		
20	Price of Tender Documents	A complete set of tender document may be purchased by interested bidders on submission written application upon payment of non-refundable fee of taka 2000/- (Only Two Thousand) in cash for Chemical & Chemical Related Items, on the other hands payment of non-refundable fee of taka 1000/- (Only One Thousand) in cash for Stationary Items at Office of the Chief Chemical Examiner, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.		
21	Name of Chemicals	Location	Tender Security (Tk) (refundable)	Duration of Framework Agreement
i)	Chemicals(ACS reagent Grade & LC-MSMS, HPLC), Pesticide Standard, Narcotics Analysis Ready kits, Explosive etc, Chemical Related Accessories, Chemical Related Gas & Gas Cylinder & Chemical Related Laboratory Apparatus for Chemical Lab (CE-16)	Chief Chemical Examiner's Office, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka	Tk. = 2,20,000/-	45 days
ii)	Stationary Goods	Do	TK= 12000/-	Financial 2023-2024
a)	Consumables	Do	TK= 7500/-	Do
b)	Other Monihari goods	Do	TK= 7500/-	Do
c)	Health Provision contents	Do	TK= 7500/-	Do
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
22	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Nazrul Islam		
23	Designation of official inviting tender	Chief Chemical Examiner		
24	Address of official inviting tender	Chief Chemical Examiner's Office, Bangladesh Police, CID, Mohakhali, Dhaka.		
25	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone-222298676 Fax-9892870		
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
27	An application should be submitted to our office during purchasing the schedule.			
Special Instructions				
28.	a) No tender will be received after the deadline of Submission time & date. b) The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender process without assigning any reason. c) The supplier shall select in per item rate but shall supply required amount of goods as per requirement. d) If not possible to receive/open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be received/opened on the next working date at the same time & same venue. e) Evaluation will be on item by item basis. f) The Procurement will be performed according to the PPA-2006 and PPR, 2008.			

(Md. Nazrul Islam)
Chief Chemical Examiner (Current in Charge)
Bangladesh Police, CID,
Mahakhali, Dhaka.
Phone-222298676, Fax: 9892870

GD-495

Office of the Manikganj Pourashava
Manikganj.

Memo No.-: MPS/Eng.2024-466
Date: 22.09.2024.

e-Tender Notice no (OTM)-01 /2024-2025

e-Tender is invited in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under IUGIP Project, LGED. Details are given below.

SL No	Description of the works & package	Tender ID No	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)	Tender Security Submission (Last Date & Time)
1.	IUGIP/MANI/UT+DR/01/2023 Name of Sub-Project: Name of Sub-Project: Construction/Improvement/Rehabilitation of Roads 6746.00m in 08 locations, RCC Drain 476.00m in 02 locations, Protection Work 1169.00m & installation of street light 198 nos. at Manikganj Pourashava, Manikganj.	1016152	28-Oct-2024 till 2:00 PM	28-Oct-2024 till 1:00 PM

- This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-Gp portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-Gp system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for the downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-Gp system portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 27-10-2024 up to 2.00PM.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-Gp system portal and From e-Gp help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd) also for email:- manikganj_municipality@yahoo.com

(A.N.M Gias Uddin Khan)
Executive Engineer
Manikganj Pourashava, Manikganj.

GD-499



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

This is the only popular award that recognises behind-the-screen heroes: AISHA

Aisha highlighted the unique platform that OTT provides for artists, allowing fresh talent to emerge, while also reviving the careers of seasoned performers.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Blender's Choice The Daily Star OTT and Digital Content Awards is back for another thrilling season, celebrating the finest digital content from the past year. Aisha Khan, renowned for her role in *Kaiser* and the host of last year's event, shared her excitement about the show's return, offering valuable insights on its significance and future improvements.

Aisha highlighted the unique platform that OTT provides for artists, allowing fresh talent to emerge, while also reviving the careers of seasoned performers. "OTT has given us many new faces and brought back some of the greats," she noted, emphasising the impact this medium has had on Bangladesh's entertainment industry.

One aspect that makes this award



show stand out, according to Aisha, is its recognition of the often-overlooked talents behind the scenes. "It's the only award in the country that honours those working behind the camera, which makes me incredibly proud to be part of it," she shared. For her, this focus on the unseen contributors sets the show apart.

As for making the event even better, Aisha suggested adding more creative elements to the programme. "Beyond musical and dance performances, introducing fun, innovative skits could make the show more engaging for the audience," she proposed.

With Aisha's passion and thoughtful suggestions, the upcoming season promises to be an even bigger and more entertaining celebration of Bangladesh's digital content creators.

GET READY FOR THE HIGHLY
ANTICIPATED ENCORE

CALL FOR ENTRY!



The Daily Star

OTT & DIGITAL CONTENT AWARDS 2023

A collaboration of

ISPAHANI The Daily Star

15 DAYS REMAINING

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS NOW!!

Submit and nominate your most favourite content

ottdcawards.thedailystar.net

Last date of Submission : **October 8, 2024**

Entertainment Partner



Scan to submit



NEWS

Metro line-5

FROM PAGE 12

The project's revised cost is Tk 33,472 crore.

The physical work on MRT Line-1 and Line-5 (northern route) started in March and July last year, respectively, more than three years after the projects were approved in October 2019.

According to the planning ministry official, Japan is financing the two projects, which will continue.

The official however added that should the interim government make any different decisions, the planning ministry will act in accordance.

The project authority of MRT Line-1, the country's first underground metro rail line, has so far been able to hire contractors for only one out of 12 packages. The project deadline is set for December 2026.

Under the Tk 52,561 crore project, the authority will build a 19.87km underground line from Dhaka airport to Kamalapur and an 11.37km elevated line from Dhaka's Natunbazar to Narayanganj's Pitalganj.

Similarly, the project authority of MRT Line-5 (northern route) has so far hired contractors for only one out of 10 packages.

The 20km line stretching from Hemayetpur to Bhatara will have underground and elevated sections. The deadline for the Tk 41,239 crore project is December 2028.

The proposed MRT Line-2 will be 36km long from Gabtoli to Narayanganj via Mohammadpur, Nilkhet, Azimpur, Central Shaheed Minar, Gulistan, Sadarghat, Mugda, Demra, and Chattogram Road.

The cost of the project will be around Tk 61,000 crore.

The DMTC in September 2022 sent a preliminary development project proposal (PDDP) to the planning commission for the project's feasibility study. The commission in August last year approved the PDDP in principle and sent it to the Economic Relations Division to look for a financier, according to a project document.

Shibir now out into the open at DU

FROM PAGE 12

He also said the full committee of the university unit will be unveiled soon.

After the fall of Ershad in 1990, Paribesh Parishad, a platform comprised of the DU authorities and student representations, slapped a ban on the activities of Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, a party that actively opposed Bangladesh's independence struggle and sided with the Pakistan army during the Liberation War.

Members of Shibir's predecessor -- Islami Chhatra Shangha -- formed Al-Badr and were involved in the 1971 killings of Bangalee intellectuals towards the end of the war. Some members of Al-Badr had been convicted and executed by the International Crimes Tribunal during the first and second terms of the Awami League-led government.

Over the last two days, following the revelation of Shadik and Farhad's identities, different student bodies came up with mixed reactions.

Talking to The Daily Star, Maeen Ahmed, general secretary of DU Chhatra Union, said, "Paribesh Parishad is a social or political pact, in which the university administration and student organisations have a stake. I think that honouring the pact, the previous decision regarding Shibir should have been reviewed or reformed. The university administration should have tried to learn Shibir's current stance on the grounds on which it was banned."

At Saturday's meeting, which was attended by the two Shibir leaders, some left-leaning student organisations raised questions before the vice-chancellor.

DU Chhatra Union General Secretary Maeen said, "I asked the VC, 'How did you find him [DU unit president of Chhatra Shibir]?' 'Shouldn't you have taken the opinions of other student organisations?' But the administration has acted irresponsibly."

He, however, said he appreciates that an organisation has chosen to come out into the open instead of keeping itself under wraps. "Because the good and bad deeds

of covert politics cannot be assessed and those behind them cannot be held accountable," added Maeen.

Nahiduzzaman Shipon, general secretary of DU unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, said it should be a collective decision of all organisations whether Shibir can be allowed on campus or not. "All stakeholders including social, political and cultural organisations, should be involved in taking decisions in this regard," Shipon told The Daily Star.

Asked, Sarjis Alam, a key coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, said they would hold a discussion yesterday before making comments.

Meanwhile, in a press statement yesterday, Farhad denied any involvement with BCL.

"I have not been involved with any activities of the Social Welfare and Research Institute unit of Chhatra League. I have never submitted any résumé to anyone for any position in BCL," he said.

Farhad said they consider the controversy over his alleged involvement with BCL a "conspiracy to destroy the spirit of the anti-fascist movement".

He said he was the president of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall debating club and the general secretary of Social Welfare and Research Institute debating club.

Meanwhile, a photo of Tanbir Hasan Saikat, general secretary of BCL DU unit, exchanging floral greetings with him went viral on Facebook on Sunday night.

In another picture, Farhad was seen sitting next to Tanbir and BCL central unit's technical education affairs secretary Rakib Sirazy at an iftar mahfil of the debating club.

Regarding the photos, Farhad said, "When I was the president of hall debating club and general secretary of Social Welfare and Research Institute debating club, my photos with political persons attending various debate events were posted on social media ... all of those were debating club-related events, not political events."

Their brutality

FROM PAGE 12

According to the case statement, Shahadat had left home around 2:00pm on August 13, telling his wife that he would return by 7:00pm.

When he did not come home and his phone was switched off, his wife Sharmin began looking for him. It was not until the next evening that Harun saw a post on Facebook showing Shahadat's body lying near the Badna Shah Mia shrine in the city's Probortak intersection.

More than a month later, when the video went viral, Shahadat's family identified him and found out how he was killed.

"Now we can say he was brutally tortured to death in a planned manner -- he was called over the phone before the incident," said Shahadat's uncle Harun.

Shahadat's phone has been missing since the murder, said his wife Sharmin. "We want justice. How can anyone who is mentally sound torture someone to death while singing?"

Mohammad Solaiman, the officer-in-charge of Panchlaish police station, said CCTV footage from the area.

The investigation is ongoing, the OC said, adding that police are trying to determine the motive behind the murder and identify those responsible.

India invites

FROM PAGE 12

of World Affairs (ICWA), whose council includes India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, said two other sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity as the matter was confidential.

It was not immediately clear if Myanmar's military government would also be invited to the event, which the sources said would be on the topic of "Constitutionalism and Federalism". They gave no further details.

Widespread protest in Myanmar over the 2021 coup turned into a nationwide rebellion, with an armed resistance movement combining with some established ethnic armies to seize control of wide swathes of territory from the military.

Rejoinder, our reply

FROM PAGE 12

name in the title of the report is wrong and misleading.

The report also mentioned that his wife is involved with the RACE business even though she holds no shares in the company. This indicates that the report was made to damage his and his family's dignity and reputation, reads the rejoinder.

It is also not clear why The Daily Star portrayed a picture of Sarafat and titled the news defaming him personally whereas Imam, the person who is being investigated by CID and BSEC for the stock manipulation, has not been portrayed or highlighted in the said article.

Moreover, the Canadian University of Bangladesh (CUB) is a not-for-profit trust.

The CUB, like all other private universities, participated in RAJUK's lottery system and was allotted the plot for establishing the university's permanent campus following the established legal procedures.

The other applicants' private universities were also allotted similar plots during the process. The land is the sole property of the CUB. The plot allotment price was declared by the government and like other private universities, the CUB paid for the land in full.

Sarafat resigned from his position as chairman of Padma Bank in January 2024 due to physical illness.

His name has been linked to the allegations in the news report without fully understanding the facts and circumstances. The allegations are a result of journalism lacking proper investigation.

More importantly, the report cited ongoing investigations that are not part of the public record and should remain confidential to avoid bias and ensure a fair judicial process.

The rejoinder called for publishing the correct news incorporating the information provided with the same importance to ensure the correct information.

OUR REPLY

Our report was based on the CID

investigation report and we did not mention any information or comments beyond the findings.

The investigation found that Sarafat, the chairman of RACE Asset Management, has manipulated the stock prices of many companies for financial gain and caused losses of crores of taka to general shareholders.

Sarafat did not refute RACE's involvement in the irregularities.

In the rejoinder, Sarafat says that he resigned from the position as chairman of Padma Bank. The report also mentioned him as the former chairman of the bank.

According to CID findings, Sarafat, his wife Anjuman Ara Shahid and Imam invested the money from the 10 mutual funds of RACE and bought shares of the then Farmer's Bank (now Padma Bank) and became directors of the bank's board.

Sarafat, however, did not dispute this fact in the rejoinder.

He did not give any response in the rejoinder regarding the extension of the tenure of the mutual fund by 10 years in collusion with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh without returning the entire money to the investors in the fund, which CID mentioned in the report.

As such, we stand by our report.

37 Khulna rivers

FROM PAGE 12

The recommendations include allowing floodwaters to flow into adjacent plains during monsoon, removing unnecessary sluice gates and dams, and clearing encroachments from riverbanks and connecting canals.

Participants also called for a comprehensive study to determine the actual number of rivers in the country and to create a database for monitoring.

Gauranga Nandy, chairman of Center for Environment and Participatory Resources Chairman, conducted the discussion while Kudrat E Khuda, convener of Paribesh Manch, presided over the event.

No magic solution to economic crisis

Says Sri Lanka's new president, vows to restore public faith in politics

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's first leftist president was sworn in to office yesterday and vowed to restore public faith in politics, but said he had no magic solution to the hardships suffered following an unprecedented economic crisis.

Self-avowed Marxist Anura Kumara Dissanayaka of the People's Liberation Front (JVP) took his oath at the colonial-era Presidential Secretariat in Colombo after trouncing his nearest rivals in Saturday's vote.

The previously fringe politician, whose party led two failed uprisings that left tens of thousands dead, saw a surge of support after the 2022 economic meltdown impoverished millions of ordinary Sri Lankans.

Dissanayaka, the bearded 55-year-old son of a labourer, was sworn in by chief justice Jayantha Jayasuriya in a televised ceremony attended by diplomats, lawmakers, Buddhist and other clergy and the military.

"I am not a conjuror, I am not a magician, I am a common citizen," he said after taking his oath. "I have strengths and limitations, things I know and things I don't... my responsibility is to be part of a collective effort to end this crisis."



Palestinians cry as they check the bodies of victims at a hospital morgue in Deir el-Balah yesterday after an Israeli air strike hit a school sheltering displaced people in the central Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: AFP

'This is Arvind Kejriwal's chair'

Says Atishi after taking charge as Delhi CM with an empty chair beside her

THE HINDU ONLINE

India's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Atishi took charge as the eighth Chief Minister of Delhi yesterday after taking the oath of office on Saturday.

Refusing to sit on the chair used by her predecessor Arvind Kejriwal, Atishi chose to sit on a different chair. "This is Delhi's Chief Minister's chair, this chair, is Arvind Kejriwal ji's," she said after taking charge at the Delhi Secretariat.

The third and the youngest woman Chief Minister of Delhi, Atishi has retained the 13 portfolios she held in the Kejriwal government, including those of education, revenue, finance, power and PWD.

"I have full faith that in the election which is due in February, the people of Delhi will elect Arvind Kejriwal ji as Chief Minister again. Till then this chair will be in this room, in expectation of Arvind Kejriwal ji," she said.



30 bodies found in boat adrift off Senegal coast

AFP, Dakar

Senegal's navy has recovered at least 30 bodies from a boat discovered adrift around 70 kilometres off the coast of the capital Dakar, the army said yesterday.

Investigations are under way to establish where the vessel came from and to confirm the death toll, the army said in a statement. Senegal's coastline sees frequent tragedies involving attempts to reach Europe by boat.

After being alerted to the incident late Sunday, a navy patrol towed the adrift, long, wooden fishing boat known as a pirogue to the port of Dakar where it arrived around 06:00 am (GMT) yesterday, the statement said.

CLIMATE MEETINGS IN NEW YORK
Leaders warn of growing mistrust between nations

REUTERS, New York

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres launched a two-day, climate-themed "Summit for the Future" on Sunday evening as part of the UN General Assembly, where some leaders warned of growing mistrust between nations as climate-fueled disasters mount.

National leaders addressed the group after adopting a "Pact for the Future" aimed at ensuring and increasing cooperation between nations, with many calling for urgent access to more climate finance.

"International challenges are moving faster than our ability to solve them," Guterres told leaders at the summit. "Crises are interacting and feeding off each other - for example, as digital technologies spread climate disinformation, that deepens distrust

and fuels polarization."

Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados echoed Guterres' warning and urged a "reset" in how global institutions are governed so they can better respond to crises and serve those most in need. The UN climate summit continued yesterday with speeches from China, India, and the US.

Elsewhere during the week, US President Joe Biden is expected to deliver a speech at an event also attended by actress and climate activist Jane Fonda and World Bank President Ajay Banga, among others.

Another event hosted by the Clinton Foundation features speeches by Prince Harry and actor and water activist Matt Damon.

The Climate Group counted some 900 climate-related events planned across the city this week.

Pakistan picks new chief of spy agency ISI

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan has picked Lieutenant-General Muhammad Asim Malik as the new director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), its top spy agency, according to a security source and a local TV channel, the first change in the key post since 2021.

The Pakistani military's public relations department did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The reported move comes as the political role of the agency faces intense scrutiny. One former ISI chief has been arrested for supporting the political cause of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan.

China wants to deepen BRI cooperation with Sri Lanka under new leader: Xi Jinping



Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday said he hoped to broaden cooperation with Sri Lanka under his Belt and Road infrastructure initiative (BRI) as he congratulated the island nation's new leader Dissanayaka.

"We hope something good will happen," construction worker Thilina Hansaka told AFP. "I don't think much of anything can be done overnight, or even in five years. Let's give him a chance and see what he is capable of doing."

Dissanayaka succeeds Ranil Wickremesinghe, who took office at the peak of the financial crisis following the government's first foreign debt default and months of punishing food, fuel and medicine shortages.

Wickremesinghe, 75, imposed steep tax hikes and other austerity measures under the terms of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout. His policies ended the shortages and returned the economy to growth but left millions struggling to make ends meet.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
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Website: kushtia.police.gov.bd
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
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সুনামগঞ্জ।
: দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি :
পিপিএ-২০০৬, পিপিআর-২০০৮ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত সকল বিধিমালা অনুসরণক্রমে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের জন্য সুনামগঞ্জ জেলা পুলিশের নিম্নে

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

High expectations from CA's UNGA trip

Scope for improved relations and collaborations

For Bangladesh, the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) holds more significance than usual as this is the first major global summit the country is taking part in following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina regime. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus flew out of the capital at around 5:10am on September 23 to attend the UNGA, as well as a number of meetings. Given his international stature, we expect to see opportunities open up for Bangladesh to build meaningful, strategic collaborations that will help with its reform agenda in the short term, and with trade, economic growth and development in the long term.

The chief adviser is scheduled to address the UNGA on September 27, where he will present the context of the anti-discrimination student movement that evolved into a mass uprising in the face of state-sponsored violence, ultimately ending the 15 plus years of Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian rule. He is also set to highlight the reform initiatives that his government has undertaken, which we believe is a crucial part of his UNGA agenda. Presenting before the world our people's aspirations for a strong, fair and equitable justice system, impartial state machinery that serves only the people, and a democratic system where no one's voice is suppressed is key to gaining acceptance and cooperation from the international community—both at the government-to-government and people-to-people levels.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, the chief adviser is scheduled to meet US President Joe Biden on September 24. This meeting is considered significant as it's the reflection of US support for the interim administration in Bangladesh, according to diplomatic sources in New York. Plus, it's not usual for a US president to hold bilateral meetings during the UNGA. So, we hope to see a new strategic partnership emerge out of this meeting that will strengthen our ties with the US and protect our interests at the same time. Another high-level meeting is set to take place between Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain and Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, which we expect to kick-start the process to normalise relations between the neighbouring countries after weeks of tension surrounding Hasina's fall and her being sheltered in India.

The chief adviser is also set to hold bilateral meetings with several heads of governments, and some of our strategic and development partners, including the EU. Bangladesh will also host a high-level reception on September 24, marking the 50th anniversary of its UN membership, and will attend a high-level side event on the Rohingya crisis.

As it goes through a massive transformation following the events of August 5, Bangladesh has yet to find an even footing. Our economy continues to struggle, our foreign exchange reserve crisis is still concerning, and our export earnings are still not up to the mark. Years of corruption and irregularities have left some lasting wounds, and to heal them, we need help from our partners. We hope the interim government will be able to garner the support needed to smoothen Bangladesh's reforms and aid in its interests moving forward.

Can Shilpakala Academy rise again?

Financial irregularities of the past must be properly investigated

It is quite alarming to know the level of corruption that engulfed Shilpakala Academy over the last 15 years or so. According to a report by Prothom Alo, financial irregularities, nepotism in recruitment and promotion, and various other forms of corruption almost crippled this once guiding light of our cultural landscape. The report focuses particularly on the extended tenure of its seven-time director general, Liaquat Ali Lucky, who, since being appointed in 2011, presided over a particularly corrupt and dysfunctional period. He made arbitrary decisions and even misused funds allocated to the academy for personal gain. Despite protests from theatre activists, he was reappointed repeatedly, with the last instance being on March 29, 2023. This speaks volumes about the mismanagement that plagued the institution.

Reportedly, while the annual budgetary allocation for Shilpakala increased tenfold over the last 15 years—its current budget exceeding Tk 100 crore—financial irregularities within the institution has risen in parallel. There is an allegation of over Tk 200 crore being misappropriated, which is yet to be investigated properly. Other irregularities include inflating the cost of the same costume five times, withdrawing excess funds for nationwide events, submitting fake vouchers for foreign trips, and providing fraudulent receipts for crores of taka in the name of purchasing artworks. These just sum up the financial misconduct committed during Lucky's tenure.

In addition, while a number of officials close to the former DG received preferential treatment—promotions and postings in Dhaka—in violation of the rules, many others were unjustly denied promotions or even salary increases. Moreover, during this period, district-level cultural activities were reportedly neglected to a considerable extent, with some districts still lacking cultural officers.

The question is, how can the Shilpakala Academy be freed from such practices and restored to its former glory? To achieve this, thorough and fair investigations must be conducted into all the allegations and all those involved in corruption must be held accountable. With Syed Jamil Ahmed, a visionary theatre director, now at the helm, there is hope for a new direction. It is expected that under his leadership, the academy will be run better and become more inclusive and diverse, offering people across the country a space to enjoy or express themselves through arts. This transformation is needed for the academy to reclaim its role as a leading cultural institution.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Guinea-Bissau gains independence

On this day in 1973, Guinea-Bissau declared its independence from Portugal. On September 10, 1974, after nearly a year had passed, the declaration received recognition

Why has the government's flood response been so slow?



Mostafa Shabuj is a journalist at The Daily Star.

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Kabir Ahmed, a 65-year-old sharecropper from Jagatpur village in Feni's Fulgazi upazila, lost his two tinshed houses when the embankment of the Muhuri River breached on August 22. Floodwaters destroyed Kabir's home, forcing him to seek shelter at a neighbour's house with his seven family members and his cattle.

On September 15, *The Daily Star* published a story about Kabir online. After that, an NGO visited him, offering to build him and his family a new house. Kabir refused the offer, his reason being that without repairing the embankment, any new house would be washed away by the next flood. As a result, the NGO left without providing assistance.

On September 14, we met another farmer, Md Alam, from the same village. One of his five cows died in the August flood. He is now in great distress, feeding banana plants to the remaining four cows as the flood washed away all his hay and there is no grass left on the croplands. The district livestock officer (DLO) mentioned they received only Tk 5 lakh to distribute to the flood-affected farmers for fodder.

According to an official from Bangladesh Water Development Board's (BWDB) Feni office, around three kilometres of the 122 kilometre embankment along the Muhuri, Kahua, and Cilonia rivers in Parshuram and Fulgazi upazilas were damaged. Due to a lack of fund allocations, the local water development office could not begin repair work until September 22. Meanwhile, 200 hectares of Aman paddy fields have been buried under one to five feet of sand, which were carried by floodwaters from upstream India.

Officials from the Parshuram upazila agricultural extension advised farmers to switch to cultivating alternative crops, as paddy cultivation would not be feasible for the next three to four years due to the sand deposits.

Solaiman Ali, a farmer from West Aloka village, lost 12 bighas of land to three to five feet of sand. He now faces uncertainty about how he will provide for his family without cultivating Aman rice in the coming season.

These are some of the stories we gathered from a visit to the flood-affected areas of Noakhali and Feni on September 10-16. However, as



Riding a rickshaw van, a family navigate a flooded road near Feni Girls' Cadet College on their way to a shelter in Feni town on August 24, 2024.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

of September 19, a month after the floods, the government has yet to begin rehabilitation work.

According to the Noakhali district administration, around 50,000 houses were damaged by the floods. On September 17, Disaster Management and Relief Adviser Farooq-e-Azam told journalists that the August flood had caused a total financial loss of Tk 14,269.68 crore and claimed 74 lives across 11 districts in the eastern part of the country. Around 45.5 lakh people had to leave their homes and take shelter elsewhere during the flood.

This raises several questions. Why hasn't the government started rehabilitation work yet? Why is the damage assessment taking so long? Why will it take the district administration officials a month to prepare a list of victims? Why are flood-affected people still homeless a month later? Why is Kabir Ahmed still taking shelter in someone else's house after all this time? Why are farmers in Parshuram upazila still in the dark about when they can clear the sand from their cropland?

Has the government even considered addressing these questions?

The August flood was the worst flood in the country since 1988. In some areas of Feni, water levels rose as high as the second floor of some buildings. Many people are still reeling

was hit, leaving many people who don't have experience of big floods to face the worst flood in their lives. The government should have acted swiftly to help them return to normal life. Instead, it remains bogged down in bureaucratic delays. Rehabilitation can only begin once bureaucrats finalise their victim lists, a process that is taking far too long. There needs to be a rapid assessment team during floods and another one to mobilise quick responses.

There are many examples where we witnessed local administrations and ruling party members distributing blankets after winter was gone and the temperature started to rise. These instances were not just laughable—they were tragic.

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the recent floods damaged 200,000 hectares of crops, including paddy seedlings. The agency has predicted that Bangladesh will have a shortage of rice compared to its target this year. Had the government taken quick actions, farmers could have replanted Aman within the necessary time frame.

The flood-affected farmers were unable to arrange seeds, fertilisers and other means of production post-flood. As a result, thousands of hectares of Aman paddy land remain uncultivated across the 11 flood-affected districts. If the government had provided cash incentives, fertiliser and seeds immediately after the water receded, these lands might not have remained fallow.

After independence, this is the first time that people from all walks of life have extended such massive help to flood-affected people, which is truly wonderful. At Dhaka University's TSC, many children even came out with their parents to donate the savings they had collected for years. For the older generation, this was a remarkable and heartwarming sight.

Following the mass uprising and this public mobilisation, the government should consider reforming the outdated bureaucratic system. People are ready for change, and the government should follow suit. Ultimately, to bring about any meaningful reform, the government must prioritise saving farmers from natural disasters to ensure increased agricultural production.

The need for truth and reconciliation in Bangladesh



Tamina Chowdhury is a policy, legislation and advocacy specialist based in the US.

TAMINA CHOWDHURY

For over 15 years, under Sheikh Hasina's authoritarian regime, the people of Bangladesh endured rampant oppression and untold cruelty. The regime was characterised by state-sponsored torture, enforced disappearances, maiming, and pervasive human rights abuses. Cruelty was employed as a deliberate tactic to suppress dissent and erode people's democratic aspirations. The oppressive system was maintained with impunity by the state machinery and bureaucracy. As a result, the state is widely mistrusted and seen by Bangladeshis as anti-people.

Given the scale of corruption and brutality orchestrated by the regime, the judicial system alone cannot swiftly or adequately deliver justice. The institutional nature of the crimes and urgent demand for accountability call for a truth and reconciliation process (TRP), similar to the one guided by South Africa's post-apartheid Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

A TRP, led by a commission or council-type body, would expose the human rights violations without relying on retribution. It would provide a platform for victims and witnesses to share their stories and give perpetrators the chance to confess their crimes, bringing the atrocities to the fore. This process would help Bangladesh (re)build a just and accountable society, by creating a culture that listens to victims and addresses past atrocities transparently.

By focusing on restorative justice, the TRP could help break the cycle of vengeance and promote a peaceful transition to democracy. This approach is essential for rebuilding a society after prolonged injustice, as it establishes a foundation for accountability, reduces impunity, and restores public trust in institutions. Additionally, by demonstrating that truth-telling and reconciliation can be powerful tools for healing divided societies, the TRP could help form a moral centre for the country, establishing new norms and institutional safeguards to prevent future abuses.

The TRP should be tailored to Bangladesh's unique situation with a focus on: i) investigating human rights violations like killings, torture, and abductions between 2009 and 2024. The TRP would present its findings on the extent of state-sponsored violence to the public; ii) offering victims a space to tell their stories and recommending reparations and rehabilitation to address national trauma and promote healing; and iii) considering amnesty for those who fully disclose their actions based on set criteria, which may be limited to lower-level perpetrators who followed orders or helped cover up abuses.

The concept of addressing state violence and delivering accountability through the process of victim testimony and perpetrator confessions emerged in post-apartheid South Africa. Following the end of apartheid, a brutal system of racial oppression

that spanned from 1948 to 1994, the newly elected government of Nelson Mandela sought to confront past injustices without resorting to retribution or further violence.

The TRC was created in 1995 through the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act, to uncover the truth about the atrocities committed during apartheid.

Some believed that amnesty allowed perpetrators to escape justice, and others argued that it did not address systemic injustices or offer sufficient reparations to victims. Moreover, the government did not fully implement the TRC's recommendations for reparations.

The commission was chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a respected anti-apartheid activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate. His leadership was crucial in guiding the commission's work with a moral and ethical focus on reconciliation.

The TRC had three main committees: i) Human Rights Violations Committee: investigated human rights abuses like killings, torture, and abductions committed between 1960 and 1994; ii) Reparation and Rehabilitation Committee: focused on restoring the dignity of victims by recommending reparations and rehabilitation; and iii) Amnesty Committee: assessed and granted amnesty to perpetrators who came forward and fully disclosed their actions.

The TRC held public hearings across South Africa, where victims could tell their stories and perpetrators could confess their crimes. These

hearings were often emotional and widely covered in the media, exposing apartheid's horrors to the nation.

The TRC successfully revealed the extent of apartheid-era human rights violations, with thousands of victims coming forward and many perpetrators confessing. By focusing on restorative justice, the TRC helped prevent a cycle of vengeance and facilitated South Africa's peaceful transition to democracy. Its public hearings encouraged national dialogue, essential for forging unity and healing.

However, it faced challenges and criticism. Some believed that amnesty allowed perpetrators to escape justice, and others argued that it did not address systemic injustices or offer sufficient reparations to victims. Moreover, the government did not fully implement the TRC's recommendations for reparations.

Despite these challenges, the TRC remains a landmark effort to address a nation's violent past. By uncovering the truth and promoting reconciliation, it played a key role in South Africa's transition from a divided society to a democracy.

As Bangladesh grapples with the aftermath of Sheikh Hasina's autocratic regime, it must ensure that justice is timely and effective. The nation needs closure and healing from the trauma inflicted by years of state-sponsored violence and oppression.

A well-designed TRP can offer a path to healing. By uncovering the truth, giving victims a voice, and fostering reconciliation, it can help break the cycle of violence and write a new chapter in Bangladesh's story—one that must be different from its past.

We are at an inflection point in shaping the country's future. How we address its dark past will define its social fabric, establish norms, and set the tone for the future. It is crucial that we get this process right.

Who is 'Indigenous?'



Wasfia Nazreen is a mountaineer, activist, environmentalist, social worker and writer.

WASFIA NAZREEN

The recent debate on "Indigeness" in the context of Bangladesh has thrown up many questions on the appropriateness of the "Indigenous" identity of the peoples of Bangladesh, particularly the *Pahari* (hill) peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). The government line is that the Paharis are not indigenous to Bangladesh, while Bangalees are. On the other hand, the Jumma peoples and the Plains Adibashis insist that they are indigenous peoples.

Who is right? Who are the Indigenous—the Adibashis or the Bangalees? Or are they both indigenous?

An informed discussion on the subject will not be possible unless we clarify the context. The relevant context here is human rights and the framework necessarily has to be the one ascribed by that premier club of the world's sovereign states: the United Nations. Although our former foreign minister is known to have cited dictionary meaning(s) of the term, "Indigenous," quoting them to be those who "belong to a particular place rather than coming to it from somewhere else," the debate cannot be settled by referring to dictionaries, but by looking at the term's meaning as understood in the relevant UN instruments, processes, and other international human-rights mechanisms, while paying appropriate attention to the political and legal contexts of Bangladesh.

And, of course, we must not ignore history. Let us therefore explore the history of settlements in Bangladesh, and the implications of the recent amendments of the constitution.

Ancestral backgrounds of the Adibashis

The most pertinent question in this respect is, were there peoples living in different parts of Bangladesh—and not necessarily spread over all parts of Bangladesh—before the arrival of the currently dominant groups (the Bangalees) in those parts of the country?

Citing the government of Bangladesh's communication to him, the UN Special Rapporteur Martinez Cobo wrote that the government regarded members of tribal and semi-tribal populations as Indigenous on account of their descent from populations which are settled in specified geographical areas of the country.

Thus, the question is, were the different Adibashi peoples settled in the different parts of the country such as the CHT (e.g., Chakma, Marma, Tripura), the Barind tract (e.g., Santal, Munda, Oraon), the Madhupur tract (Garo, Hajong) and so forth, before the Bangalees settled there?

Indigeness of the CHT Adibashis (Jummas)

Historical records of the Portuguese, Mughals, and British, and oral and written accounts

of the Jummas themselves clearly attest to the fact that all the 11 Jumma peoples were in existence in the CHT-Chittagong-Feni-Noakhali-Comilla region, not just in the hills but also in the plainlands, prior to conquest (in 1666, by the Mughals of a part of Chittagong, Feni-Noakhali, Comilla, etc., but excluding the present-day CHT).

Suniti Bhushan Qanungo writes: "In prehistoric times Chittagong was inhabited successively by the Austro-Asiatic and the Mongoloid groups of peoples." He adds, "The Mughal conquest of Chittagong drove the Arakanese beyond the hill ranges, and vacated places were occupied by new settlers from

Arakan Hill Tracts, or the State of Tripura".

In contrast, Bangalees were the last to settle in the CHT.

Most importantly, the CHT was not part of Bengal until after British advent. Eminent historians and sociologists therefore have noted, "In 1860, the British occupied the hills to the east of Chittagong and annexed them to their colonial empire. For the first time in their history, the Chittagong hills were administered from Bengal. Before that time, political power in the hills had been dispersed among many chiefs."

Indigeness of the Plains Adibashis

As in the case of the CHT, in the plains region as well, there is no record of Adibashis having displaced Bangalees and settled in their present locations. The Santal and Oraon made the Barind tract inhabitable and converted harsh terrain into paddy lands. Similar settlements were made by Rakhaing (Patuakhali-Barguna), Garo and Khasi (Mymensingh-Sylhet), but not by conquering and displacing Bangalees.

As in the case of the CHT, the plains Adibashis were also present in Bangladesh from before there were written histories,

of Bengal included several of the peoples who are claiming indigenous identity.

But the crucial point here is that by having assimilated into the dominant groups and adopting the dominant identity (regardless of the religious and nationalist aspects of that identity) Bangalees can no longer claim the Indigenous mantle as it is understood in the human rights context. The Indigenous concept only makes sense when the peoples are "non-dominant" in statecraft and otherwise.

Contrary to the popular belief portrayed in the media, having an "Indigenous" status does not give anyone privileges of any sort over and above that of other citizens. Essentially, it means the recognition of their full participatory rights as citizens, keeping in mind the exclusion and discrimination historically meted out to them in the process of state-formation, nation building and development, which Bangalees have enjoyed from the formation of the state. It also means the creation of an enabling environment, in which they may preserve their distinctive cultural identities, which are threatened on account of their marginal situations from the beginning of state formation.

other sectors of the societies now prevailing on those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity, as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal system."

First and foremost, we should be examining the concept in relation to the ILO Convention on Indigenous & Tribal Populations (Convention No. 107) of 1957, which Bangladesh ratified in June, 1972, under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, about six months before the Constitution of Bangladesh was adopted.

As a collective entity, Bangalees live less in conformity with the "social, economic and cultural institutions" of the time of their pre-colonisation or pre-conquest period ancestors, and more in conformity with "the institutions of the nation to which they belong", and hence they cannot be regarded as indigenous within the meaning of Convention 107.

In contrast, hill communities of the CHT, and Adibashi groups of the plains, "irrespective of their legal status" are quite the opposite. Traditional institutions in the CHT are formally recognised by law, and while those in the plains are not—still conform to their ancestral institutions' traditions, norms, and mores.

In the case of "economic institutions", Bangalees clearly do not retain very many practices of the pre-colonial or pre-conquest period, unlike Pahari groups, for example: collective forest management, subsistence-oriented jhum or "shifting" cultivation, etc.

It is clear from the wording of ILO Convention No. 107 that "indigenous" and "tribal" population groups are both referred to as "tribal or semi-tribal" populations. Therefore, Indigenous populations are those among the tribal and semi-tribal population groups who "[are descended] from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonisation and which, irrespective of their legal status, live more in conformity with the social, economic and cultural institutions of that time than with the institutions of the nation to which they belong."

The concept of tribal and semi-tribal population groups has been related in this convention with "social and economic conditions [that] are at a less advanced [read disadvantaged] stage than the stage reached by the other sections of the national community," and a "status [that] is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations."

The concept of indigenous peoples is meaningless in the case of Bangalees from a human rights perspective because Bangalees are at the helm of state power, while the Adibashis were, and still are, substantively, the "excluded" citizens, marginalised and disadvantaged.

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The full version of the article can be found on our website.



A programme held at the Central Shaheed Minar premises in Dhaka on occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9, 2017.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

within or outside the district. The Mughal government encouraged the colonisation in northwestern Chittagong, which had been depopulated during the Arakanese regime. The new colonisers, mostly the inhabitants of Noakhali-Tripura-Comilla region were the latest settlers in the district."

Portuguese accounts refer to "Chacomars," separately from Bengal, Arakan and Tripura in the mid-16th century. Migration of Jummas to and from present-day Bangladesh, the Indian states of Tripura and Mizoram, and Myanmar happened for centuries. It was not a one-off event. Thus, it is understandable why the CHT Regulation of 1900 defined an Indigenous person of the CHT as "Chakma, [Marma] or a member of any Hill tribe indigenous to the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Lushai Hills,

imperial conquests, and colonisation.

Even today, despite the de-recognition, and subsequent non-recognition by the state, it is the traditional institutions that these peoples turn to for resolving their internal disputes and for carrying out other cultural activities (Manjhi: Santal, Nokma: Garo, Myntri: Khasi). They do not turn to the mainstream state-centric institutions, unlike the Bangalee peoples.

Indigeness of Bangalees

Of course, Bangalees have also lived in different parts of the plains and delta areas for centuries. However, they have not ventured into the hill and forest areas until relatively recently. Going back to the earliest history of Bengal, prior to the arrival of the Indo-European and Dravidian-speaking peoples, the inhabitants

Indigeness in UN instruments and practices

According to the UN, the most fruitful approach is to identify, rather than formally define indigenous peoples and hence there is no set definition of indigenous peoples in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, international laws do not define minorities either. The "working definition" of Indigenous peoples by José R Martínez Cobo has attained the status of a near-formal definition in the context of UN and international human rights jurisprudence. Cobo writes, "Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from

Writing in the time of autocracy



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MD MAHMUDUL HASAN

For a long time, I remained largely detached from the events in Bangladesh as I was focused on my academic pursuits. I didn't worry much about the political fallout at the local and national level or what was happening in the streets or in the corridors of power. I was mainly a man of the classroom and maintained an apolitical stance in my academic work. I wrote and published works related to my research interests. I thought then—as I do now—that by producing academic work, I would hopefully make lasting contributions to my field of knowledge which would benefit generations of learners.

At one point, I received casual and seemingly innocuous comments from some of my friends and acquaintances. Referring to the situations in Bangladesh, they expressed doubts about the efficacy of producing scholarly work that does not give meaning, or is not sensitive, to *la condition humaine*. What they said amounts to this: long-term academic work may have its own value, but how can an academic remain indifferent to the pain of tens of millions of their compatriots under a brutal regime? Or, how could we not raise concerns when massive corruption plagued all state machineries? Or, how long could we remain silent when our country was being plundered and large sums of our money siphoned

off to foreign shores by an autocratic government and its cronies?

For a while, I quietened such whisperings of conscience and continued focusing on my armchair intellectual work which was largely disconnected from the immediate here and now. But my subconscious mind continued speaking to me and sending me messages.

As I visited Bangladesh or spoke with the people of the country and its diasporas, it was obvious that something went terribly wrong in our motherland. People were in constant fear. Anyone could be apprehended by the security forces or forcefully disappeared from their homes or from the streets—during the day or in the middle of the night. Anyone could be fired from their job, their businesses could be ransacked, or their properties could be grabbed. Or, anyone could be harassed or beaten to death in the streets. One simple statement was enough for the security forces or for the ruling party ruffians to justify all such cases of human rights violations: the victim belonged to one of the opposition parties to whom the Hasina-led regime directed its ferocious fury and repressive measures.

We have some numbers or have heard stories about people who were killed or subjected to enforced disappearances during Hasina's autocracy, which lasted for fifteen and a half years. Thanks to the

media, we were also fed with some information about the victims of the weaponisation of the law on Hasina's watch.

But it is difficult to put a number on those innumerable Bangladeshis who lived in fear or had a peripatetic life inside and outside the country, as they went into hiding to escape police arrest or torture by the thugs of the ruling party. It is hard to record how many expatriate Bangladeshis didn't visit their beloved birthplace, as they feared persecution. Their crime might have been some of their social media posts which could be interpreted as criticisms of the government. Many other expatriate Bangladeshis didn't visit their country simply because of a sense of insecurity that would grip them inside the country once they left the airport.

All these kept disquieting me. Then the "What can I do?" question was also insurmountable. It somewhat paralysed me and made me feel helpless. It was a real let-down.

I found an answer in the end. Yes, I could write to protest against the evils of autocracy. However, it was going to be a challenging task for two main reasons. First, it would take away much of my research time. But I was confident that I would be able to address this through better time management.

The second issue was unpredictable, more serious and beyond my control—writing against the autocratic government would compromise my security. How would I avoid the wrath of a regime that was fundamentally unjust and used enforced disappearances as a tactic to silence dissent?

The government subjected the writer and artist Mushtaq Ahmed (1967–2021) to nine-month long slow

death in police custody. By this, the regime wanted to send a forewarning message to all other writers who might have contemplated exposing its human rights violations and financial corruptions.

Many capable intellectuals and opinion leaders heeded the message and remained silent. They prioritised their own safety and comfort over the independence of their mind and their sense of responsibility to the nation. Some of them continued writing but never touched on the wrongdoings of the government. They explored the aesthetics of flora and fauna or the serenity of lakes, and similar bland subjects. Others provided epistemic cover-ups to Hasina's autocracy by

seeking to establish moral equivalence between the then and previous governments. The enthusiasts among them eulogised the regime for its mega development projects without touching on their high pricing and massive corruption through which people in the government pocketed money with both hands.

The toadies and lickspittles among the intellectual elites went further; they started to panegyricise the government hoping for positions, perks or privileges. They helped embolden the regime and allowed it to continue repressing the people of Bangladesh. About such a greedy educated gentry lacking strength of character, poet-philosopher Muhammad Iqbal (1877–

1938) said, "This hungry man bartered away his soul for a piece of bread and caused us great grief thereby."

I couldn't bring myself to follow the example of such well-positioned intellectuals devoid of moral convictions.

Long story short, I got over material and psychological obstacles and began writing for Bangladeshi English dailies. By doing so, I was heeding the call of conscience. The alternative was not to write about the regime's corruptions and injustices on the people. Had I made that choice, the pangs of conscience would have outweighed the temptation to inhabit a comfort zone which is free from the pitfalls of the world that often beset the best among us.

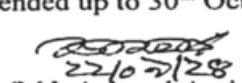
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Education
Secondary and Higher Education Division
International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)
1/Ka, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.imli.gov.bd

Memo No. 37.26.0000.116.99.003.24-572 Date: 22 September 2024

Application/proposal for International Mother Language Award 2025

Time Extension Notice

The International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) has issued a circular for International Mother Language Award 2025 (Memo No. 37.26.0000.114.23.001-498; Date: 16/07/2024) fixing the deadline for sending application/proposal on 15th September 2024. Due to unavoidable circumstances the due date has been extended up to 30th October, 2024.


(Md. Azharul Amin)
Chair
International Mother Language Medal Selection Committee
&
Director (joint secretary), Routine Charge
International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)
Tel: +88 02 8391346
E-mail: imli.moebd@gmail.com

GD-501

Empowering self-sufficiency in Bangladesh:

Specialised ICT training for people with disabilities

The first month of the five-month training held at the CRP's Manikganj training centre focuses on basic Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access). As the students get acquainted with MS Office skills, they begin their training on a digital marketing course.

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

In Bangladesh, a staggering 2.8% of the population lives with at least one form of disability, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). For people aged between 15 and 65 with disabilities, unemployment rates soar to approximately 72%, showcasing the stark gap in opportunities. Bangladesh's National Policy for the Disabled gives guidelines for prevention, identification, rehabilitation, education, research and accessibility, among other things, to those with disabilities. The Disability Welfare Act 2001 addresses, among others, the "protection of rights of people with disabilities, equal opportunities for participation in education, training, employment opportunities etc." There are also specific indications in the said Act to promote employment of the Persons with Disabilities (PwD) in government and other recruitment processes. The government has also reserved a quota in public service for PwD. However, despite all this, the representation of PwD in the workforce is quite insignificant.

Breaking barriers with digital skills

For youth with disabilities, employment barriers go beyond societal stigma or lack of education. The physical environment itself—such as poor transportation systems and inaccessible workplaces—restricts their mobility and integration into the workforce. Educational institutions, industries, factories, and formal workspaces, are unequipped to train and accommodate PwD, leaving them further marginalised.

However, the growth of AI and digital skills in Bangladesh is creating new opportunities for people with disabilities, offering fresh hope for greater inclusion in the workforce. One such initiative is currently being implemented by the Building Youth Employability Through Skills (BYETS) project of Swisscontact, in collaboration with the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP). Together, they have launched a specialised five-month residential ICT training program aimed at equipping young PwD with in-demand digital skills. This program empowers them to compete in today's job market by providing the tools and knowledge needed to navigate the evolving digital landscape.

The first month of the five-month training held at the CRP's Manikganj training centre focuses on basic Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access). As the students get acquainted with MS Office



skills, they begin their training on a digital marketing course. This training will allow the participants to pursue freelancing opportunities, which is particularly useful for those whose physical mobility restricts them from traditional office jobs. After completing the training the trainees will be supported to become freelancers enabling them to work from home. In a country where most infrastructures are not equipped to accommodate wheelchair users or individuals with limited mobility, freelancing opens doors to financial independence that would otherwise remain closed.

A path to self-sufficiency

For many of these trainees, this ICT training is not just a course—it is a life-changing opportunity. Riduan Rahman, a 20-year-old participant who finished his HSC last year, reflects on the impact the training has had on him so far: "Before I joined this program, I didn't have any ideas about the things that I am being taught." According to Riduan, he is being taught basic yet important digital skills such as editing documents in Word, checking CVs, and doing calculations in Excel. The trainees have also just started their classes on digital marketing, where they are learning the basics of social media marketing, search engine optimisation, and other necessary tools.

Riduan suffered a spinal cord injury at age four and thus lacks strength in his body from the waist down. He recounts that despite his physical inabilities, he hasn't stopped pursuing his goals. Through the program, he is gaining the confidence to pursue freelancing and hopes to become self-reliant, funding his education without the need for further financial support.

Many others like Riduan are set to benefit from the program's efforts to empower them with the skills needed for freelancing or remote jobs—as the program currently hosts 10 individuals undergoing this inclusive training. CRP's ICT instructor, Mahmuda Akter Palli, explains, "This program is opening doors for people who have never had the chance to be employed. Even with

mobility challenges, they can now pursue a career in fields such as data entry and virtual office assistance." Palli further states that special equipment such as wheelchair-enabled computer assistance is provided to the PwD participants currently undergoing this training program, highlighting CRP's utmost care for its resident trainees.

A vision for a more inclusive Bangladesh

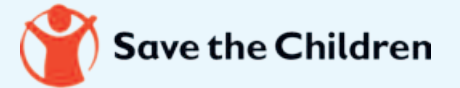
In Bangladesh, NGOs have often played a pivotal role in reaching populations deprived of their entitlements due to gaps in government services. Unfortunately, in the case of PwD, the initiatives by NGOs are scanty as well. NFOWD, the National Disability Think Tank, is the only registered network of its kind and is the apex body for NGOs focused on disability in the country. With 388 members, it represents the few NGOs, out of thousands in the country, dedicated to supporting PwD. The Executive Director of CRP, Dr. Md. Sohrab Hossain, says, "CRP has partnered in this unique initiative because we believe that the program can make a meaningful impact in the lives of PwDs. This training not only creates confidence in the participating trainees but also creates a scope for having independence in their lives. Their success will create inspiration for PwDs, enabling them to make an inclusive society. This initiative strives to build a more inclusive, skilled workforce in Bangladesh, addressing the often-overlooked potential of PwD."

The initiative is not just about short-term employment; it seeks to create long-term success stories. The BYETS project hopes that, by investing in these young people and helping them navigate freelancing platforms, they will become entrepreneurs in their own right. By empowering PwD to achieve financial independence, this initiative fosters an inclusive society, promoting equality and ensuring that no one is left behind in the workforce.

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



JOBS SPOTLIGHT



Save the Children
Technical Specialist, Partnerships
Deadline: September 25

Eligibility:
● Master's degree preferably in Social Science, particularly in International Development, Development Studies, Anthropology, Sociology or related field.
Minimum experience: 4 years

British High Commission
Project Support Officer
Deadline: September 25

Eligibility:
● Minimum of an undergraduate degree in any discipline with prior experience preferably in programme admin roles.
Minimum experience: 2 years

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)
Lecturer, various departments
Deadline: October 8

Eligibility:
● Master's and 4-year Bachelor's degree with excellent results in all examinations.
Minimum experience: N/A

World Health Organization
Communications Officer
Deadline: October 3

Eligibility:
● Bachelor's degree in communications, journalism, marketing, political or international relations, or health communications.
Minimum experience: 5 years

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



"Success is falling nine times and getting up ten."

JON BON JOVI

Bangladeshi Stanford graduate's AI startup receives \$750K funding

NEXT STEP DESK

Story Engine Inc., an AI startup co-founded by Bangladeshi Stanford graduate Sheikh Srijon, has received \$750,000 in pre-seed funding from the reputed venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz (A16Z). The startup, founded by Sheikh Srijon, Zhizhuo Zhou, and Wanrong He, aims to revolutionise the realm of webtoon and anime creation through generative AI technology.

The Story Engine platform allows users to create consistent, controllable characters and visual stories across multiple panels, solving key challenges faced by existing AI tools like Midjourney, says Srijon. "While 53% of Gen Z in the US watch anime, only a fraction of them have the tools to create their own visual stories," he says, explaining that his startup aims to democratise the creation of webtoons and anime, much like YouTube did for video content.

According to Srijon, this funding will help the team scale their operational expenses while being able to train their AI models better. They also received Google Cloud credits worth \$500k, which Srijon says helps extend the lifetime of any young startup. Furthermore, working with A16Z has provided Story Engine Inc. access to invaluable mentorship. The startup is part of a larger A16Z community of 32 high-growth companies, allowing the founders to network and learn from some big names in tech, such as the creators of Tinder, Zynga, and League of Legends.

The 5 types of people you should keep in your professional network

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

No matter what step you are in your career, networking can make or break your professional success. The right connections can open doors to better opportunities, and at times, help you navigate challenges that might stump your progress. But, who should you prioritise on your list? Here are five types of people you should always consider in your professional network.

Mentors

A mentor is someone with more experience than you, who can offer valuable guidance and advice at any step of your career. If you are on the verge of a tough decision or wondering how to develop a specific skill, a mentor can provide unique insights and help you see the bigger picture. As such, keep mentors at the top of your professional network, so you always have people to not just give you advice, but to challenge you to grow.

Industry experts

Just like mentors, industry experts will have more experience than you as well—but they are at the top of their respective fields, always updated about the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities. Stay connected with them so they share knowledge that may not be readily available.

Business partners are people you collaborate with directly—clients, vendors, or even co-founders. As these relationships are built on trust and mutual goals, a strong partnership can potentially lead to successful projects and long-term growth for both parties.

Follow their work and engage with their content to broaden your understanding of the industry.

Sponsors

A mentor will help you develop, an industry expert is someone you can learn from, but a sponsor will directly elevate your career by recommending promotions or new roles. They are people with influence in your industry who will advocate for you even when you are not

physically present in a conversation.

Recruiters

While a sponsor will help you increase visibility, recruiters are your direct gateways to new job opportunities. When building your network, try to build a relationship with a recruiter who understands your skills and aspirations. Because they are constantly on the lookout for new talents, they can streamline your job search and potentially connect you with your next big career jump.

Business partners

Business partners are people you collaborate with directly—clients, vendors, or even co-founders. As these relationships are built on trust and mutual goals, a strong partnership can potentially lead to successful projects and long-term growth for both parties. If you nurture connections with interested business partners, you can even ensure proper funding if you launch your own venture down the line.

THE 5 TYPES OF PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KEEP IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK



1 MENTORS
Can offer valuable guidance and advice at any step of your career.



3 SPONSORS
Will recommend you promotions or new roles, and help increase your visibility.



4 RECRUITERS
Can streamline your job search and connect you with your next big career jump.



2 INDUSTRY EXPERTS
At the top of their respective fields, always updated about the latest trends, challenges, and opportunities.



5 BUSINESS PARTNERS
A strong partnership can potentially lead to successful collaborative projects, even funding.

ILLUSTRATION: SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

“

I would say our batters are in a good flow, especially after the series against Sri Lanka A. They've scored runs which is why we, the bowlers, were able to defend well. The Asia Cup and this series will help us in the [T20] World Cup. We've played matches in Abu Dhabi before and as far as I know, the wickets there are similar [to ours].

Bangladesh vice-captain Nahida Akter told the reporters yesterday.



Bangladesh Women's cricket team began training under floodlights at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to ramp up their preparation for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup, starting on October 3, in the UAE. Skipper Nigar Sultana Joty did not attend the session yesterday and will join her teammates for an official photoshoot and press conference followed by another training session today before leaving for the UAE on Thursday. PHOTO:BCB

SHORT CORNER

Tabith Awal to run for BFF presidency

Two-time Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) vice-president Tabith Awal has officially declared his candidacy for the BFF presidency in the elections scheduled for October 26. His announcement comes eight days after Tarafder Ruhul Amin emerged as the first candidate, following incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin's decision not to seek a fifth term.

Complacency costs U-20s facing Guam

Bangladesh squandered the lead twice in a 2-2 draw against Guam in their AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers match in Hai Phong yesterday. After a 4-0 loss to Syria in their opener, Bangladesh needed a win to keep their slim hopes of advancing to the competition's final round for the first time in 20 years.

CSA delegation witnesses commando drills at SBNCs

A four-member delegation of Cricket South Africa (CSA) inspected the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium (SBNCs) in Mirpur as part of their routine inspection ahead of the Proteas' upcoming two-match Test series against Bangladesh, scheduled next month.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.



CHESS OLYMPIAD India secure double gold

AGENCIES

Continuing their dominating display, GMs Gukesh Dommaraju, Arjun Erigaisi, and Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu led the Indian men to a decisive 3.5-0.5 victory over Slovenia, sealing their triumph in the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad in Budapest yesterday (Bangladesh time).

Finishing a remarkable four points ahead of five rival teams, unbeaten India claimed gold, while the United States secured silver after GM Wesley So's victory against China. Uzbekistan rounded out the podium with bronze, thanks to GM Shamsiddin Vokhidov's win over France.

In a historic achievement, Indian women's team clinched gold for the first time at the Olympiad after narrowly missing out in 2022. They decisively defeated Azerbaijan 3.5-0.5, edging second-placed Kazakhstan by one point in the points table.

The double gold feat was termed as an "unbelievable" achievement by India's chess great Viswanathan Anand.

In contrast, Bangladesh's men's team finished 78th, and the women's team placed 81st in the tournament contested by a record number of 197 teams, representing 195 nations.

Tigers feel intensity of India challenge

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI, from Chennai

Bangladesh spent a relatively relaxed day without any practice sessions in Chennai yesterday, which would have been the fifth day of the first Test had it not finished inside four days at MA Chidambaram Stadium. However, the baptism of fire from the India challenge was felt after a 280-run loss at Chepauk.

Although Bangladesh dominated most of the proceedings in their series win at Pakistan, India proved a different beast for the buoyant Tigers. Team sources informed that they are not daunted by the prospect of facing such a fascinating and skillful outfit as India. There is no mental barrier, at least according to what they are feeling within the team environment.

Some players and members of the management even took the opportunity, when time allowed, to roam around Chennai. Earlier in the morning, selector Hannan Sarkar attended a press meeting at the team hotel, accompanied by media manager Rabeed Imam. Hannan also discussed the gap in calibre.

"If you look at the bowling and batting departments of the two sides, you will see that they [India] are some way ahead. We expected a tough time, and they [India] did provide that."

"It was a good sporting wicket in Chennai, especially in the first two days. If we consider the batting, we failed to live up to the challenge. There was some recovery in the second innings, and some batters regained some confidence," he said.

The biggest difference was felt in the batting units of the two teams. While India



"Shakib is such a player that if he can't bowl, he could play as a batter. If he feels he can't bat or bowl, then it's a different scenario."

Selector Hannan Sarkar

had three centuries in two innings, only Najmul Hossain Shanto got close to three figures.

It was reported that a team meeting took place in the morning at the team hotel, with all players involved. Head coach Chandika Hathurusingha and the coaching staff spoke to the batters in particular about the mistakes made and analysed what went wrong.

Bangladesh may also need to consider combinations and changes in the playing eleven, with ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan under observation after suffering

a painful blow to his right hand in the second innings. He also had issues with his spinning finger, something that only surfaced after the match, Hannan clarified in his press meeting.

Shakib has been under observation since Sunday. The Tigers are set to depart for Kanpur along with the India team via chartered flight on Tuesday at 1:30 pm.

"These past two days, the physio has kept him under observation. When we get back to the ground [in Kanpur], we will get the physio's feedback," Hannan said. "Shakib is such a player that if he can't bowl, he could play as a batter. If he feels he can't bat or bowl, then it's a different scenario," he added, suggesting that changes in the combination would occur based on the physio's assessment.

With the bat, Shakib applied himself well in both innings despite being unable to score big. There is also the T20 series to come, so combination changes will be considered, keeping Shakib's injury troubles in mind.

As majority of teams use seven batters and four specialists, with the all-rounder being part of the seven batters, Mehedi Hasan Miraz is the all-rounder who could step in and bat earlier in Shakib's absence. This would mean that the other left-arm spinner, Taijul Islam, waiting in the wings for a match, could come into the playing eleven, depending on the conditions.

The bigger headache, as could be inferred from the team meeting discussion, is that all Test teams depend on the top order for runs, and thus Bangladesh need more from the top six in the second and final Test.

Barca goalkeeper Ter Stegen to undergo knee surgery

AFP, Barcelona

Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen will have surgery on a ruptured knee tendon, the Catalan club said Monday, with the club's captain potentially sidelined for the rest of the season.

The 32-year-old German international was stretched off after falling awkwardly during his team's 5-1 victory over Villarreal on Sunday.

"(Ter Stegen) has a complete rupture in the patella tendon in his right knee," said Barcelona in a statement.

"On Monday afternoon he will undergo a surgical process and once complete a new update will be released."

Ter Stegen, who was criticised after making a mistake in Barcelona's 2-1 Champions League defeat at Monaco on Thursday, suffered the injury before half-time at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica.

"I think it will be a huge injury, when he lay down on the field... you can see it directly," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said after the game.

Inaki Pena replaced Ter Stegen and is set to fill in for the German, although Barcelona may look to sign a replacement.

Flick said it was too soon to comment on the issue.

"I don't know if I like this question directly after the match... I just want to see how Marc is, he's our captain and is a very important player for us," said Flick.

"Please understand that I don't want to talk about that."

Ter Stegen started two Nations League matches for Germany in September after Bayern Munich veteran Manuel Neuer's retirement from international duty in August.

Sri Lanka win Galle Test to make moves in WTC

AGENCIES

Left-arm spinner Prabath Jayasuriya took two overs to polish off the New Zealand tail and complete a five-wicket haul as Sri Lanka sealed a 63-run victory in the opening Test at Galle International Stadium on Monday.

Chasing 275 for victory, New Zealand were all out for 211 despite Rachin Ravindra's gallant 92, their batters unable to negotiate the sharp turn and low bounce at the venue.

Jayasuriya (5-68) claimed his eighth five-wicket haul, seven of them coming at his happy hunting ground in Galle alone.

With the win, Sri Lanka claimed important points to challenge teams at the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) table.

India have continued their strong run in the WTC 2025 cycle with a 280-run victory over Bangladesh, while Sri Lanka's win helped their move towards a potential spot in the competition final at Lord's next year.

The two results have led to shifts in the race for the two final spots, with India tightening their grip on top spot, and Sri Lanka leapfrogging their current opponents into third spot.



Calmly accounting for the Tigers in Chennai, India's win in Chennai and the 12 World Test Championship points reasserts their status at the top of the table, moving to a percentage of 71.67%, extending their lead on Australia in second (62.50%).

Bangladesh, who had jumped to the fourth position following an exceptional 2-0 win against Pakistan, drop to sixth place (point percentage of 39.29%) behind Sri Lanka and England after the defeat.

"The win in England boosted our morale," Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva said referring to their Test match victory at The Oval

earlier this month.

"We've the ability to win Tests and the boys are delivering now."

Jayasuriya's match haul of nine wickets earned him the player of the match award.

"I like this Galle pitch," Jayasuriya said.

"I just concentrate on bowling a consistent line and length, focus on that and get the results."

The second Test, also in Galle, begins on Thursday.

Moving to third on the WTC25 table after victory in Galle, Sri Lanka stand the best chance of challenging the 2023 World Test Championship finalists for a spot in the 2025 final.

The 63-run victory over the Black Caps in Galle was their fourth in eight matches, moving them an even 50% of possible World Test Championship points, with a best possible percentage of 69.23% for Dhananjaya de Silva's men.

That figure would likely be enough for a chance of lifting the mace in next year's finale at Lord's, though the side would need to beat New Zealand once more, claim a clean sweep of South Africa, and beat Australia 2-0 at home in a series early next year.



PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

AC Milan players Rafael Leao, Tammy Abraham, and Youssef Fofana cover Inter Milan's corner flag with a Milan Kit in celebration after their centre-back Matteo Gabbia netted in the 89th minute to clinch the Milan derby, known as the Derby della Madonnina, at San Siro on Monday. The act was a response to Inter's Marcus Thuram who celebrated the same way when Inter won the derby 2-1 the last time the two sides met in April.



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Shibir now out into the open at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After around three and a half decades, Islami Chhatra Shibir has come out on Dhaka University campus by revealing the identities of its two top leaders, touching off public debate online and offline.

Soon after a meeting between student organisations and the university administration on Saturday, Shadik Kayem said he is the president of Shibir's DU unit. He is a political science student of 2016-17 academic session.

A day after the disclosure of the DU president's identity, SM Farhad's came to light on Sunday night. A student of the 2017-18 academic session at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, he is the general secretary of DU unit Shibir.

He was a resident student of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall. Both Shadik and Farhad got enrolled at DU after completing Alim from Baitush Sharaf Adarsh Kamil Madrasa in Chattogram.

Shadik Kayem, who was actively involved in the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, said they divulged their identities in line with a decision of the organisation.

"In the last 15 and a half years, the fascist government forced us to stay underground. We were portrayed as monsters. We want to get rid of it," Shadik told The Daily Star.

"Everyone will do their politics, everyone will enjoy the freedom of expression, nothing will be imposed on anyone - that is what we want," he said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Construction of the TT Para underpass, part of the Padma Rail Link project, is progressing, albeit slowly since the recent student-led uprising that toppled the Hasina regime. The photo was taken near Kamalapur in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Rejoinder, our reply

Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat has issued a rejoinder in response to a Star report titled "Nafeez Sarafat manipulated stock market", published on September 2 based on the investigation report by the Police's Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The rejoinder said the report was made based on improper investigation and inaccurate information, which is not consistent with the principles of journalism.

The rejoinder reads that RACE Asset Management is run by its managing director and chief executive officer Hasan Taher Imam, who holds 75 percent shares of the company.

Earlier this year, it was Sarafat who identified potential irregularities within the company and acting in good faith filed formal complaints to the Bangladesh Security Exchange Commission. His actions prompted an investigation into Hasan Taher Imam and RACE Asset Management.

Sarafat, acting on his own initiative, also filed a case with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, seeking enforced compliance measures and an impartial audit of the company. Hence, using Sarafat's

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Their brutality unimaginable

Video shows men singing, dancing around youth they murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twenty-year-old Sharmin Akter was recovering after losing her 24-year-old husband Md Shahadat Hossain, who was found murdered a month ago, but she spiralled once again as a heartbreaking video surfaced of the last moments of his life.

The 20-second video from August 14 in Chattogram showed the limp body of a young man tied to two poles. A crowd of young men were singing a local song and dancing around him, seemingly taking pleasure in a life slipping away before their eyes.

More than a month after the ruthless killing, the incident came to the fore after the video was posted on Facebook on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Shahadat, 24, a resident of the BRTC area's Boiler Colony under Kotwali Police Station in Chattogram. Originally from Nadra village in Noakhali's Sonaimuri upazila, he worked as a day labourer in the BRTC fruits market, said his family members.

The location of the assault was confirmed by police to be under the Akhtaruzzaman flyover near the Sholoshahar No 2 Gate area in the port city.

Police found Shahadat unconscious with multiple injuries in the Probortak area of the port city on the night of August 14. He was taken to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The following day, Shahadat's uncle, Md Harun, filed a case with the Panchlailish Police Station, naming unknown persons as suspects. The motive for the murder or any prior disputes were not mentioned in the report.

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO

Metro line-5 proposal to be re-evaluated

Interim govt takes its first step to review mega projects

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

For the first time, a proposal for a mega project will be sent back for further review as the interim government intends to re-evaluate all large projects to assess their usefulness carefully.

According to officials at the Planning Commission, the MRT Line-5 project proposal is likely to be sent back to the metro rail authority within a day or two. The project is awaiting final approval from the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc).

On Sunday, the Planning Commission placed the MRT Line-5 proposal before Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud, who gave his consent for further review.

"Now we will send the proposal back to the metro rail authority. It could be sent tomorrow [today]," a Planning Commission official, wishing to remain unnamed, told this newspaper yesterday.

The interim government has decided against initiating new mega projects and to review ones under the Annual Development Programme (ADP). The planning adviser has given a directive to evaluate mega projects to assess whether they should be executed, especially the new ones.

The 17.20km Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-5 (Southern Route) is planned to be built between Gabtoli and Dasherbandi at a cost of Tk 54,618 crore (approximately \$5.1 billion), with funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and South Korea.

During the immediate past

The 17.20km Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Line-5 (Southern Route) is planned to be built between Gabtoli and Dasherbandi at a cost of Tk 54,618 crore (approximately \$5.1 billion)

Awami League government, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing and operating agency of metro rail, sent the project proposal to the planning ministry before its approval at the Ecnc.

In April, a Project Evaluation Committee meeting evaluated the project.

According to the project

documents, the MRT Line-5 will be built from Gabtoli to Dasherbandi via Kalyanpur, Shyamoli, Asad Gate, Russell Square, Karwan Bazar, Hatirjheel, Tejgaon, and Aftabnagar. There will be 11 underground and four elevated stations. The tunnel section will be between Gabtoli and Aftabnagar, while the elevated portion will be from Aftabnagar to Dasherbandi. A feasibility study on the project has already been completed with ADB financing. The deadline for the project is 2030.

According to the preliminary commitment, ADB will provide \$3 billion and South Korea \$1.5 billion in financing for the project.

In July 2013, the AL government formed the state-run company DMTCL to build and operate metro rail. The company adopted a time-bound action plan to build a 140-km metro rail network, comprising six lines, in and around Dhaka by 2030 to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution.

The country's first metro rail line, also known as MRT Line-6, is now fully operational on the Uttara to Motijheel route, significantly reducing travel time in a major part of the city. Its extended part from Motijheel to Kamalapur is expected to be opened by June next year.

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37 Khulna rivers in dire straits

Finds Bela study

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The rivers of Khulna division are in a poor state, primarily due to reduced water flow from upstream and inadequate management of siltation.

Many rivers lack water flow and encroachment on them continues.

A recent study by the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) identified that out of 138 rivers in the division, 37 are now in a state of critical distress. This alarming information was shared during a discussion on river conservation held yesterday at a hotel in Khulna city.

The endangered rivers are Soilmari, Chunkuri, Rupsa, Bhadra, Mayur, Hori, Hamkura, Pasur, Mukteshwari, Harihar, Ichamati, Garai, Kaliganga, Bhairab, Kapotaksha, Madhumati, Navganga, Chitra, Kumar, Atarobanki, Payala, Mathabhanga, Baleshwar, Bhola, Marihap, Kakshial, Mongla Ghsialkhal, Kholpetua, Ghangrai, Shibshah, Teligati, Guachapa, Hariyabhang, Guakhali, Salta, Labanyabati, and Chuna.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mukul, Khulna divisional coordinator of Bela, presented the key findings, noting that 20 of the rivers in distress were not flowing and the Hamkura river was about to disappear.

Encroachment, unplanned infrastructure development, siltation, industrial pollution, and the construction of barriers like bridges and sluice gates are the main reasons for their poor state.

He also cited that the establishment of Carew & Co (Bangladesh) Ltd sugar mill in 1938 severed the connection between the Mathabhanga and Bhairab rivers, leading to the latter's health to slide. The construction of narrow railway bridges in 1861 also disrupted river systems, impacting the Kumar, Navganga, Chitra, and Bhairab rivers.

After 1950, around 4,000km of embankment, 782 sluice gates, and 92 polders were constructed. Of them, 1,556km of dam, 92 sluice gates, and 37 polders were built in the south-western region.

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POST-COUP MYANMAR India invites anti-junta forces to Delhi

REUTERS

India has invited political and military opponents of Myanmar's ruling junta to attend a seminar in New Delhi, sources said, a significant move by the South Asian power that has maintained ties with the top generals shunned by Western nations.

A civil war in Myanmar since its military unseated an elected civilian government in a February 2021 coup now risks destabilising India's 1,650-km (1,025-mile) border with Myanmar, and some of its key infrastructure projects there.

A leader of an armed group and two sources with direct knowledge of the issue said the parallel National Unity Government (NUG) and ethnic minority rebels from the states of Chin, Rakhine and Kachin bordering India had been invited to a seminar in mid-November.

It was not immediately clear what the seminar would seek to achieve or why India has made the move.

The event would be hosted by the government-funded Indian Council

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A city corporation worker sprays mosquito repellents using a fogger in the capital's East Tejuri Bazar yesterday afternoon. The city has seen a sharp rise in dengue cases over the last few weeks. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Oldest human DNA from South Africa decoded

AFP, Johannesburg



Researchers have reconstructed the oldest human genomes ever found in South Africa from two people who lived around 10,000 years ago, allowing a better understanding of how the region was populated, an author of the study said Sunday.

The genetic sequences were from a man and a woman whose remains were found at a rock shelter near the southern coastal town of George, about 370 kilometres east of Cape Town, said University of Cape Town (UCT) biological anthropology Professor Victoria Gibbon.

They were among 13 sequences reconstructed from people whose remains were found at the Oakhurst shelter and lived 1,300-10,000 years ago. Prior to these discoveries, the oldest genomes reconstructed from the region dated back around 2,000 years.

A surprise finding from the Oakhurst study was that the oldest genomes were genetically similar to those from San and Khoekhoe groups living in the same region today, UCT said in a statement.