



## Biden offers full US support to Yunus-led govt

**Yunus stressed that his government must succeed in rebuilding the country and would need US cooperation.**

**President Biden said if the students could make so much sacrifice for their country, they too should do more.**

### CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

#### DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US President Joe Biden has offered his country's full support to Bangladesh's interim government during his rare bilateral meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

They met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last night, signalling a new beginning of the relationship that was strained over the last couple of years.

Nobel laureate Yunus apprised Biden

how students stood up to the tyranny of the previous government and laid down their lives to create this opportunity to rebuild Bangladesh, according to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing.

He stressed that his government must succeed in rebuilding the country and would need US cooperation.

"President Biden said if the students could make so much sacrifice for their country, they too should do more," the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



President Joe Biden and Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus hug each other during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of UNGA in New York yesterday.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

## 'I'll stand beside him, come what may'

### Says army chief about Yunus, his govt

#### REUTERS

Army chief General Waker-uz Zaman has vowed to back the country's interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus "come what may" to help it complete key reforms so that elections could be held within the next 18 months.

General Waker and his troops stood aside in early August amid raging student-led protests against Sheikh Hasina, sealing the fate of the veteran politician who resigned as prime minister after 15 years in power and fled to neighbouring India.

In a rare media interview, Waker told Reuters at his office in the capital on Monday that the interim administration led by Nobel laureate Yunus had his full support and outlined a pathway to rid the military of political influence.

"I will stand beside him, come what may. So that he can accomplish his mission," Waker, bespectacled and dressed in military fatigues, said of Yunus.

The pioneer of the global microcredit movement, Yunus has promised to carry out essential reforms to the judiciary, police and financial institutions, paving the way to hold a free and fair election in the country of 170 million people.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



**A transition to democracy should be made between a year and a year and half.**

## JULY UPRISING CASES

### No cops to be arrested without specific evidence

### Say PHQ officials

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Police members sued for murder, attempted murder, and kidnapping during the quota reform protests in July-August will only be arrested if there is specific evidence against them.

Different police units are collecting video footage and working to identify the force members who used lethal weapons against unarmed civilians.

The move came after the Police Headquarters (PHQ) on September 10 sent copies of a letter to all police units, asking them to drop the names of any government official or individual from cases if their involvement in offences is not found during primary investigations, a high official of the PHQ confirmed The Daily Star.

The letter was addressed to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) chief.

"We are collecting footage of police members using lethal weapons

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## GLOBE EDIBLE OIL LTD

### S Alam's backdoor takeover attempt

MD MEHEDI HASAN

S Alam Group's takeover of the Islami Bank to drain the healthiest bank of the country had left investors and customers in shock. It did not stop there.

Now allegations have emerged that it used the bank in its bid to force the chairman of another group to sell their cooking oil business to the Chattogram-based conglomerate.

Globe Pharmaceuticals Group of Companies Ltd, the parent of Globe Edible Oil Ltd (GEOL) which markets its products under the brand name Royal Chef, has been able to stop the takeover since S Alam's influences ended with the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government last month.

"I was forced to sign an agreement on April 18 last year to sell the shares of GEOL to a company of S Alam under a serious threat," said Md Harunur Rashid, chairman of Globe Pharmaceuticals Group.

Speaking to The Daily Star on September 19, he said that GEOL was also forced to stop all operations due to illegal interference by S Alam.

"Not only this single company, S Alam Group, over the last decade, had been trying to do a hostile takeover of the entire Globe Group through careful planning," Harunur alleged and added it caused Globe Pharmaceuticals Group huge financial losses.

The edible oil firm recently filed a Tk 1,497 crore damages case with the 5th Joint District Judge's Court, Dhaka against S Alam Group, its subsidiary Globe Refined Sugar Industries Ltd, Islami Bank Bangladesh and the senior vice president (SVP) and head of the bank's Gulshan branch. Bangladesh Bank was also made a defendant in the case.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Family loses beloved son and nation a patriot

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

With her husband returning from overseas after many years, her daughter happily married, and her son serving in the Bangladesh Army, there was very little missing from Nazma Akter's life.

She could look forward to a life filled with the little joys and precious moments a settled family can provide.

But her whole world turned upside down this morning when she got the news that her son, Lt Tanjim Sarwar Nirjon, was no more.

The young army officer, only 22 years of age, was stabbed to death by robbers during an operation by joint forces in Chakaria upazila, Cox's Bazar early yesterday. He was posted at Ramu Cantonment in the district.

When this correspondent visited Nazma's house in Korer Betka area in Tangail town yesterday, she was grieving

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Lt Tanjim Sarwar



People with their belongings in the back of a truck as they arrive in the coastal town of Naameh yesterday, after fleeing their homes in southern Lebanon due to ongoing cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces.

PHOTO: AFP



Abu Sayed died of pellet wounds, not head injury

P3



India, US both need a stable Bangladesh

P9



Bangladesh need Mominul to score big

P11

## BUSINESS

### Owners accept all demands of RMG workers

Garment factory owners have accepted all 18 demands of the workers to tame the ongoing unrest in the sector. "Normal operations in the industrial zones are expected to resume on Wednesday [today] as demands have been addressed," Labour and Employment Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajeb Bhuiyan said at a briefing.

STORY ON B1

## Israel, Hezbollah carry out fresh attacks

### Alarm grows as death toll reaches 558

REUTERS, Beirut

Israel struck Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon and the Iran-backed group attacked military facilities in northern Israel yesterday, increasing fears of a full-blown conflict after Lebanon suffered its deadliest day in decades.

Israel's military said it hit dozens of Hezbollah targets overnight, a day after carrying out airstrikes against the armed group which Lebanese authorities said killed 558 people, including 50 children and 94 women, and wounded 1,835. Tens of

thousands more have fled for safety.

Hezbollah said it targeted several Israeli military targets overnight including an explosives factory 60 km into Israel, which it attacked with Fadi rockets around 4:00 am. It said it had also attacked the Megiddo airfield near the northern Israeli town of Afula three separate times.

An Israeli airstrike on the southern suburbs of Beirut yesterday killed a Hezbollah commander who was a leading figure in its rocket division, two security sources said. The sources identified the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ সড়ক পরিবহন কর্তৃপক্ষ (বিআরটিএ)  
সদর কার্যালয়  
নতুন বিমান বন্দর সড়ক, বনানী, ঢাকা।

মহাসড়কে প্রি-হুইলার, অটোরিক্সা/অটোটেম্পু ও অযান্ত্রিক যানবাহন চলাচল নিষিদ্ধ সংক্রান্ত।

- সড়ক পরিবহন ও মহাসড়ক বিভাগের প্রজ্ঞাপন স্মারক নং-৩৫.০২০.০০৬.০০.০০.০১৮.০১৩-৩২১, তারিখঃ ২৭ জুলাই ২০১৫খ্রিঃ মোতাবেক সড়ক নিরাপত্তা বিধানে সকল জাতীয় মহাসড়কে প্রি-হুইলার, অটোরিক্সা/অটোটেম্পু এবং সকল শ্রেণীর অযান্ত্রিক যানবাহন চলাচল নিষিদ্ধ করা হলেও ইদানিং লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, এ আইন অমান্য করে জাতীয় মহাসড়কে উল্লিখিত যানবাহনসমূহ চলাচল করছে। এতে সড়ক দুর্ঘটনা বৃদ্ধিসহ জনমনে বিরূপ প্রতিক্রিয়া সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে।
- এমতাবস্থায় সড়ক নিরাপত্তা বিধানে দেশের সকল মহাসড়কে প্রি-হুইলার, অটোরিক্সা/অটোটেম্পু ও অযান্ত্রিক যানবাহন চলাচল নিষিদ্ধ থাকবে। যে সকল স্থানে সিএনজি ফিলিং স্টেশন নেই উক্ত স্থানসমূহে চলাচলকারী প্রি-হুইলার, অটোরিক্সা/অটোটেম্পু যাত্রীবাহী যানবাহন অবস্থায় ভোর ০৬.০০ ঘটিকা হতে সকাল ০৮.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিকটস্থ মহাসড়কের পার্শ্বে অবস্থিত সিএনজি ফিলিং স্টেশন হতে গ্যাস/জ্বালানী সংগ্রহ করতে পারবে। আইন অমান্য করে মহাসড়কে উল্লিখিত যানবাহন চলাচল করলে যথাযথ আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

বিআরটিএ

MY DHAKA



PHOTO: SHADAB SHAHROKH HAI

# Budget-friendly escapes near SANGSAD BHABAN

AYMAN ANIKA

If you are a resident of Dhaka, it is unlikely that you haven't heard of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. But did you know the area surrounding the Sangsad Bhaban is a thriving recreational hub for all walks of life?

From students and couples seeking an Instagrammable spot to families looking for an affordable day out, this iconic site offers many activities against stunning architecture and lush landscapes.

### Affordable delights for every palate

A family of four was seen enjoying a good time near a fuchka cart. When approached, the father, Noyon Roy, detailed, "We bring the children here to run around and enjoy the open spaces. It's so refreshing to find a place in the city where you don't have to spend much but still can enjoy a day full of fun."

One of the key attractions around the Sangsad Bhaban is the array of

food carts lining the nearby streets, especially on Manik Mia Avenue. These carts serve up some of our most beloved snacks at pocket-friendly prices.

From the tangy burst of a fuchka to the spicy mix of jhal muri (spiced puffed rice), these snacks are perfect for anyone looking to savour local flavours without spending a lot. You can enjoy these street food classics by spending only Tk 60 to Tk 120.

Ice cream vendors, with their carts chiming melodiously, offer a sweet respite from the scorching heat. These treats not only cater to the gastronomic delights of visitors but also ensure that a day out here doesn't have to be an expensive affair.

### Scenic Chandrima Udyan

Adjacent to the Sangsad Bhaban, Chandrima Udyan offers a beautifully maintained green space, ideal for those looking to capture memories. With its landscaped gardens and sprawling lawns, the park provides a scenic backdrop that appeals particularly to



both students and couples.

Moreover, the park is a favourite among the elderly, who are looking for a place to jog. Morshed Hossain, a retired banker who lives in Shyamoli, says, "I come here every afternoon to jog and meet friends who've also retired, particularly during the weekends. It's our little community within the park. The pathways are perfect for a gentle jog, and the fresh air does wonders for my health."

So, if you are confused about where to spend the weekend in solitude or

with friends, why not head towards Chandrima Udyan? A perfect place for relaxation, recreation, and photos!

### A recreational space for all

For the more active visitors, cycling is an option, engaging in physical exercise while enjoying the views.

"Riding my bike along Manik Mia Avenue is the highlight of my weekend," says Janifar Rahman, who lives in Adabor. "Due to office, I don't get to cycle on weekdays. However, on weekends, cycling is the best way I recharge though."

In addition, you may encounter horse-drawn carriages available for rides.

All in all, the area around Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban is a place where the old and young, students and professionals, couples and families can find something to enjoy. The affordability of the activities here ensures that everyone, regardless of budget, can partake in the joys around one of Dhaka's most iconic landmarks.

## UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY UN chief condemns 'get out of jail free' card on wars

REUTERS, United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday denounced a growing number of governments and other groups who feel they are "entitled to a get out of jail free card," citing wars in Ukraine, the Gaza Strip and Sudan.

"They can trample international law. They can violate the United Nations Charter," Guterres told world leaders at the UN General Assembly. "They can invade another country, lay waste to whole societies, or utterly disregard the welfare of their own people. And nothing will happen."

"The level of impunity in the world is politically indefensible and morally intolerable," he said.

With the nearly year-long Israeli offensive in the besieged Gaza threatening to now engulf Lebanon - where Israel targeted more than a thousand Hezbollah targets on Monday - Guterres made an impassioned plea.

"Lebanon is at the brink," he said. "The people of Lebanon - the people of Israel - and the people of the world - cannot afford Lebanon to become another Gaza."

Russia invaded neighbouring Ukraine in February 2022 and the conflict has recently escalated with Kyiv rapidly seizing land in a high-risk August 6 incursion into Russia's Kursk region and Russia ramping up drone and missile attacks.

"Citizens are paying the price - in rising death tolls and shattered lives and communities," Guterres said, adding that it was time for a just peace based on the UN Charter, international law and UN resolutions.

On Sudan, Guterres called out the "brutal power struggle" between the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces that erupted into war in mid-April last year ahead of a planned transition to civilian rule.

"A humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding as famine spreads. Yet outside powers continue to interfere with no unified approach to finding peace," he said.

Guterres' speech summed up the state of the world as unsustainable, but said the challenges faced could be solved.

"Geo-political divisions keep deepening. The planet keeps heating. Wars rage with no clue how they will end. And nuclear posturing and new weapons cast a dark shadow," he said. "We are edging towards the unimaginable - a powder keg that risks engulfing the world," he added.



## Biden offers full US support

FROM PAGE 1

Under the current interim administration, a six-member US delegation, led by Treasury Department's Assistant Secretary Brent Nieman, visited Dhaka mid-September. It expressed the US's commitment to support Prof Yunus' reform agenda, and eagerness to offer technical and financial assistance for reforms.

When the interim government has taken up major reform initiatives in the changed political landscape, Washington is showing increasing interest in Bangladesh.

Analysts said Bangladesh's main challenge now is boosting trade and economy, and Washington has the capacity to support Dhaka to that end.

For example, US can provide GSP facility through a presidential decree, which can help increase Bangladesh's export to the US by \$4-\$5 billion.

Bangladesh's export to the US now is nearly \$8 billion a year.

M Humayun Kabir, a former Bangladesh ambassador to the US, said the US can make investment through the US International Development Finance Corporation, support the reform process, bring back laundered money etc.

Mohammad Sufiur Rahman, a senior research fellow at the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University, said the US can also help security reforms that can eventually lead to withdrawal of sanctions against Rab.

Besides, with better political understanding, Bangladesh may reap

greater economic benefits and have access to new avenues for much-needed external funds through multilateral lenders like the World Bank, the IMF or the ADB.

YUNUS MEETS TRUDEAU  
Yunus also met Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in New York and discussed ways to cement the Bangladesh-Canada relationship, deepen freedom, build institutions, and support the youth of Bangladesh.

During the brief meeting, he handed "The Art of Triumph" to the Canadian prime minister.

Trudeau appreciated Yunus for assuming the responsibility and expressed Canada's readiness to support institution-building in Bangladesh, according to a statement from the Chief Adviser's Office.

Yunus appreciated Canada for its friendship with Bangladesh and the Canadian government's support for the interim government.

He requested Canada to grant more visas to Bangladeshi students.

Yunus reached New York on Monday night and started his UNGA visit with a reception hosted by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

He met prominent world leaders at the reception. He also joined the inaugural session of the UNGA.

This is Prof Yunus' first foreign visit as head of the interim government to attend the 79th UNGA.

The chief adviser will address the General Debate of the UNGA on September 27.

## Family loses beloved son

FROM PAGE 1

"I didn't know what to think. It's like I was having a nightmare. How can I bear the pain of losing my beloved child?" said Sarwar, overcome with grief.

Lt Itekar, a batchmate of Nirjon, said, "Nirjon was not only a brilliant cadet in class, but he became an exceptional officer later on in his career."

"By his death, a family has been stricken by an irreparable loss, and the country has lost a patriotic soldier."

Nirjon's family members, relatives, and neighbours broke down in tears when his body was brought to his Tangail home on a helicopter yesterday afternoon.

After his namaz-e-janaza at a local madrasa ground after Asr prayers, Nirjon was laid to rest in the local graveyard.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in a message said, "My sincere condolences to his family members. At the same time, I express my condolences to all my colleagues in the Bangladesh Army." This young and talented officer has sacrificed his life to protect the lives and property of the people. The nation will forever remember his sacrifice as an example of the ideal of patriotism.

Fifteen days ago, Nirjon came home on his day off and then returned to his post. This morning, the army called me and informed me that Nirjon was ill, later they informed me that he had died.

In a statement, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said a team of the Bangladesh Army was responding to a report of robbery going on in Purbia Maizpara village of Dulhazra union in Chakaria upazila.

At around 4:00am yesterday, a group of seven or eight robbers, sensing the presence of the army patrol, tried to escape when Lt Tanzim Sarwar Nirjon gave chase after them.

The robbers attacked Lt Tanzim at this time and stabbed him in the neck, severely injuring him and leading to tremendous blood loss, the statement reads.

He was immediately rescued and taken to Malumghat Memorial Hospital, where the doctor on duty declared him dead, according to ISPR.

Lt Tanzim Sarwar Nirjon was a former student of Pabna Cadet College. He received his commission in the Army Service Corps (ASC) from Bangladesh Military Academy on June 8, 2022, after the completion of the 82nd Long Course. ISPR also informed that three robbers were arrested from the location, with one locally made firearm, and six rounds of ammunition. Three others were apprehended on suspicion of robbery as well.

## No cops to be arrested

FROM PAGE 1

A large number of cops went into hiding after the filing of cases and arrests of police officials. Some of them even left the country, said sources in the force.

Many officials are now hesitant about carrying out their duties for fear of being accused in fresh cases and facing departmental action after the change of government, the sources added.

At least 187 cops have been absent from work till date since the fall of the Hasina-led government, officials in PHQ said.

Mostofa Kamal, deputy inspector general of the PBI, said it is the duty of the investigators to drop the names of innocent people from cases and not to harass them.

"We remind the investigators about this policy from time to time. In the charge sheets, the investigators will not name those suspects found not to be involved in crimes," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Regarding the PHQ directives, Julfiqar Ali Hayder, commissioner of the KMP, said they were trying to collect footage and specific evidence before arresting any suspect.

Ahsan Habib Palash, DIG of Chattogram Range Police, echoed the views of Julfiqar.

Despite repeated attempts by the

interim government to fully activate the police force, it is still carrying out duties on a limited scale, said sources in the force.

Before and immediately after the ouster of Hasina, police faced unprecedented public fury as mobs set fire to their vehicles and police stations in reprisal for the law enforcers' use of excessive force on demonstrators.

According to government statistics, at least 44 cops and 708 people were killed during the quota reform protests in July-August.

Many police officials, especially junior cops, now refuse to use force against demonstrators for fear of attacks or being accused in cases, according to sources.

On September 22, junior police officials were seen refusing to follow orders to clear a road block by some protesters in the capital's Kakrail.

Many junior cops said they should not be pit against the people.

"COPS ACCUSED INTENTIONALLY"  
There are allegations that police officials have been named intentionally in some complaints with Dhaka courts. But some of those names were dropped when the first information reports (FIRs) were filed with police stations.

This newspaper has obtained at least four such FIRs.

## 'I'll stand beside him, come what may'

FROM PAGE 1

rebillion, but some parts of the civil service are not yet properly functional after the dramatic fall of Hasina's administration.

With much of Bangladesh's police, numbering around 190,000 personnel, still in disarray, the army has stepped up to carry out law and order duties nationwide.

PUNISHMENTS AND REFORMS  
Born out of erstwhile East Pakistan in 1971 after a bloody independence war, Bangladesh came under military rule in 1975, following the assassination of its first prime minister, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father.

In 1990, the country's military ruler Hossain Mohammad Ershad was toppled in a popular uprising, leading to the restoration of democracy.

The military again staged a coup in 2007, backing a caretaker government that ruled until Hasina took power two years later.

A career infantry officer who served through these periods of turmoil, Waker said that the Bangladesh Army that he leads would not intervene politically.

"I will not do anything which is detrimental to my organisation," he said, "I am a professional soldier. I would like to keep my army professional."

In line with sweeping government reforms proposed since Hasina was shunted from power, the army, too, is looking into allegations of wrongdoing by its personnel and has already

punished some soldiers, Waker said, without providing further details.

"If there is any serving member who is found guilty, of course I will take action," he said, adding that some military officials may have acted out of line while working at agencies directly controlled by the former prime minister or interior minister.

The interim government has formed a five-member commission, headed by a former high court judge, to investigate reports of up to 600 people who may have been forcibly "disappeared" by Bangladesh's security forces since 2009.

In the longer-term, however, Waker wanted to distance the political establishment from the army, which has more than 130,000 personnel and is a major contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

"It can only happen if there is some balance of power between president and prime minister, where the armed forces can be placed directly under president," he said.

Bangladesh's armed forces currently come under the defence ministry, which is typically controlled by the prime minister, an arrangement that Waker said a constitutional reform process under the interim government could potentially look to amend.

"The military as a whole must not be used for political purpose ever," he said. "A soldier must not indulge in politics."

Ensure Your Retirement Financial Security at the End of Working Life

**PEOPLES PUBALI PENSION SCHEME (PPPS)**

- ✓ Attractive Interest Rate / Profit [ 6 Months FDR rate plus 1% p.a.]
- ✓ Monthly compounding interest / profit on a daily basis.

**AAA**  
Rated Bank

**পূবালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি**  
**PUBALI BANK PLC.**

**Open your Account from anywhere**

PI a PUBALI BANK apps

Islamic Banking services (deposit & withdrawal) are provided through online from all our branches and sub-branches

## Abu Sayed died of pellet wounds, not head injury

### Says doctor who conducted his autopsy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Excessive bleeding caused by shotgun pellet wounds led to Abu Sayed's death, said the doctor who conducted his autopsy.

The student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur was killed when police opened fire on students during a protest on July 16.

His body was taken to Rangpur Medical College where Rajibul Islam, an assistant professor at the Forensic Medicine department, conducted his autopsy.

Recently, a certain quarter is spreading a copy of the autopsy report on social media claiming Sayed died from a head injury.

In response, Dr Rajibul said, "The report does not state that his death was caused by a head injury. While there are marks on his head, they are not the cause of his death."

He said numerous pellet wounds caused internal bleeding and damage to Sayed's internal organs.

The autopsy also revealed wounds on Sayed's right thigh, which damaged the femoral artery, contributing to his internal bleeding. "Shock and bleeding caused his death," Rajibul said.

He said while a mark was found on Sayed's head, it did not suggest a severe injury that would typically lead to



Due to a lack of maintenance and protective measures, this riverside walkway by the Buriganga, spanning from Dhaka's Shyampur to Narayanganj's Pagla area, remains in a dilapidated condition. In fact, one can hardly detect the existence of the walkway these days. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## NID cards of Aziz's two brothers revoked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has scrapped the national ID cards of the two brothers of former army chief General (ret'd) Aziz Ahmed.

The four NIDs of Haris Ahmed and Tofael Ahmed alias Joseph have been scrapped, said Shariful Alam, director (Public Relations) of EC.

They will not be able to avail of any facility with the NID cards in the country, the EC director said.

The move came more than three months after the EC in June this year started investigation into the allegations that the two brothers obtained the NIDs "using false information".

EC sources said several media reported that in Joseph's mother's application for remission of his sentence, she mentioned Abdul Wadud and Renuja Begum as the parents of Joseph.

But Haris took an NID

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Overshadowed, underplayed

### Report says issues related to women, girls sidelined amid political unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issues concerning women and girl children are being sidelined as Bangladesh grapples with political unrest and national crises, said a new media monitoring report yesterday.

From January to August 2024, media coverage predominantly focused on the 12th parliamentary election, cabinet formation, and subsequent anti-discrimination student movements, overshadowing ongoing challenges faced by vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, it added.

The report, titled "Monitoring Violence and Abuse Against Girl Children - 2024," was prepared by the National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, a coalition of 206 government and non-government organisations aimed at improving the status of women and girl children.

It was presented at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

It highlighted a sharp decline in coverage of gender-based violence, discrimination, and girl children's rights during the first eight months of 2024.

The report also found while some victims or their families sought legal recourse, very few accused were arrested or punished.

"For example, data from the One-Stop Crisis Centre shows that over 62,000 women and children have received assistance for physical and sexual abuse over the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Health hazards lurking in veggies, fruits

### Study finds alarming levels of heavy metals, pesticides

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

A recent study has found alarming levels of heavy metals and pesticide residues in widely consumed vegetables and fruits across nine districts of Bangladesh.

The research, conducted by Bangladesh Agricultural University and the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, and funded by the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, analysed vegetables and fruits from markets in Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Gazipur, Dhaka, and Narayanganj.

The study, Heavy Metals in Vegetables and Associated Human Health Risk Management, led by Professor Shafiqul Islam and Dr Mohammad Golam Kibria of Bangladesh Agricultural University, focused on commonly consumed vegetables like brinjal, cabbage, country bean, cucumber, okra, pointed gourd, potato, red amaranth, and tomato.

"We found the highest levels of heavy metals in red amaranth because we consume the entire plant, unlike other vegetables where parts are discarded," said

**The study revealed that the dietary intake of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and nickel from these vegetables could increase cancer risks.**



Golam Kibria.

"The outer layers contain higher amounts of heavy metals, which is why it's critical not to grow these vegetables in contaminated areas."

Red amaranth, a widely eaten leafy vegetable, showed the highest contamination levels, with cadmium reaching 704.32 micrograms per kilogramme, far exceeding the permissible limit of 190 micrograms per kilogramme.

Lead and cobalt levels were also consistently above safe limits across all districts, while cadmium levels

were found to be dangerously high in most vegetables, particularly in Narayanganj.

Vegetables like brinjal (275.66 micrograms/kg), cucumber (349 micrograms/kg), and tomato (195 micrograms/kg) also contained hazardous levels of cadmium, predominantly in Narayanganj.

"These findings are alarming because these metals are toxic and can lead to long-term health problems, including cancer," the report said.

The study revealed that the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 'What if we kill you like Abrar?'

### RU seniors threaten fresher, force him to seek forgiveness from mother during ragging

STAR REPORT

In the early hours of Monday, Nazmul Hossain Nabil and Antor Biswas barged into the room of a Rajshahi University fresher Mohammad Rocky at a hostel in Lebugan area near the campus.

They forced Rocky to engage in an "uncomfortable conversation" which quickly escalated into a "dark game" of fear and intimidation.

The two instructed Rocky to make a phone call -- one that would grip his heart with dread.

"Call your mother. Tell her this will be the last time you'll speak," they demanded.

Rocky, caught off guard, dialed the number with shaking hands. His mind raced, his heart sank.

On the other end, his mother, unaware of the nightmare unfolding miles away, answered.

The seniors told him to seek forgiveness from her, leaving the young student torn between terror and confusion.

The atmosphere turned even darker when the two seniors from the university's marketing department, referenced the brutal death of Abrar Fahad, a BUET student who was beaten to death by fellow students in 2019.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The water reservoir in front of the Swadhinata Stambha (Independence Monument) at Suhrawardy Udyan, Dhaka, was initially constructed to beautify the area. However, over time, indiscriminate littering has turned it into an eyesore, stripping it of its intended appeal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**টেলিটক**  
নিয়ে এলো নতুন প্যাকেজ

নতুন যুগের নতুন প্রজন্ম

১৯৯৬ লাইন : ১৯৯ ০১০ ০০ ১৯৯ ১৯৯-৯  
www.teletalk.com.bd

## Ruhul Amin Gazi no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruhul Amin Gazi, president of a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), passed away in a Dhaka hospital last night.

With kidney related complications and diabetes, Gazi, also chief reporter of the daily Sangram, was undergoing treatment at BRB Hospital. He was shifted to the ICU on Monday, said Kamal Uddin Sumon, staff reporter of the daily Sangram.

On Sunday, a decision was made to transfer Ruhul Amin Gazi to Thailand for advanced medical treatment. However, due to a sudden deterioration in his health, doctors advised against the move.

On return from airport, he was readmitted to the hospital where he died.

Gazi left behind his wife, a son, and two daughters. Information Adviser Nahid Islam expressed grief over his death.

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 25

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:40	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30
JAMAAAT 5:15	1:15	4:45	6:10	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Health hazards lurking

FROM PAGE 3  
dietary intake of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and nickel from these vegetables could increase cancer risks.

Although arsenic and nickel concentrations were within safe limits, cadmium posed the greatest risk, particularly to women and children.

"We will submit the final revised report in a day or two," Kibria said. "This study involved collecting samples from three markets in each of the six districts, with a total of 162 samples reviewed. A larger-scale study is needed to provide conclusive recommendations."

Alongside the heavy metals, a separate study led by Dr Mohammad Delwar Hossain from Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) found pesticide residues in about 10 percent of fruit samples tested.

The research, Monitoring of Pesticide Residues and Their Associated Health Risk Assessment in Fruits, tested 320 samples of mango, litchi, Indian plum, and guava across Dhaka, Rajshahi, Pabna, and Bogura between May 2023 and June 2024.

Litchi showed the highest pesticide contamination, with 18.8 percent of samples

affected, while mango had the lowest at 8.8 percent.

"Farmers use more pesticides on litchi because they are more susceptible to pest infestations. In some cases, multiple pesticides were found in a single litchi," Delwar explained.

He urged farmers to wait at least 5 to 10 days after applying pesticides before harvesting, depending on the type of pesticide used.

Both studies have raised urgent questions about food safety in Bangladesh, with calls for larger investigations and stricter regulations to protect public health.

## Sanat Nandi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanat Nandi, news editor of 'Dainik Khabar', has passed away at a private hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 72.

The journalist breathed his last at 1:00am. He had been undergoing treatment at the hospital since September 16.

His body was cremated at Postogola Crematorium. Hailing from Kushtia, he was involved with different cultural and social activities.

He left behind his wife and only son, and a number of well-wishers to mourn his death.

## Abu Sayed died of pellet

FROM PAGE 3  
brain hemorrhage.

"No internal bleeding or fractures were found in his skull," he added.

Dr Rajibul said he faced tremendous pressure from the previous regime to tamper with the autopsy report. "They told me to conclude Sayed died from a head injury," he said.

The report was altered multiple times before its submission on July 30, he added.

Rajibul said the social media narrative claiming Sayed died from a head injury is an attempt to

tarnish the image of forensic departments across the country.

He is prepared to present his findings in court regarding the autopsy report, he said.

Sayed's body arrived at the morgue around 7:00pm on July 16, and Dr Rajibul described attempts by law enforcers to obstruct the investigation.

He began the autopsy shortly after 11:00pm the same night.

"It was a critical time for the country, and forming an autopsy board

was not possible due to a lack of personnel," he said.

On August 18, Sayed's brother, Ramjan Ali, filed a murder case against 17 individuals, including high-ranking police officials, and unnamed others at the Rangpur Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The accused include former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, Rangpur Range DIG Abdul Baten, several other law enforcers and leaders of the university's Chhatra League members and staffers.

## Overshadowed, underplayed

FROM PAGE 3  
past 23 years. However, only 19,441 cases were filed, with verdicts reached in just 3 percent of them, and less than 1 percent of perpetrators were punished," said Ahsana Zaman Aney, national coordinator of the forum.

The platform compiled the report using information from 70 daily newspapers, including 24 national dailies. It was released ahead of National Girl Child Day on September 30.

Md Shahidul Islam,

child rights and protection specialist at Educo Bangladesh, said, "If the media could publish a report on girl children every month, it would raise public awareness and prompt policymakers to take necessary actions."

Forum president Dr Badiul Alam Mazumder said, "If we do not prioritise girl children, make adequate investments for them, and create widespread awareness through National Girl Child Day, our girl children

will fall behind, which will be detrimental to us as a nation."

Advocate Salma Ali, president of the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, highlighted how parents exploit loopholes in the Child Marriage Restraint Act, calling for clearer legal provisions to hold offenders accountable.

Good Neighbours Bangladesh Country Director Moinuddin Mainul said, "Bangladesh was the

first country to observe National Girl Child Day. Still, we must examine why women and girls continue to face discrimination and neglect."

The forum recommended expediting judicial proceedings for gender-based violence cases, shifting the burden of proof in rape cases, stopping protection for abusers, increasing monitoring against child marriage, enforcing cyberbullying laws and raising the budget for social safety nets.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
**Wage Earners' Welfare Board**  
Prabashi Kallayan Bhaban  
Eskaton Garden, Ramna, Dhaka-1000  
[www.wewb.gov.bd](http://www.wewb.gov.bd)

No-49.04.0000.004.07.007.20.68 Date: 24.11.2024

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of Scheme	Publication date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1017962	WEWB-IT-24/25	Online UPS	25-September-2024 10:00	15-October-2024 12:30	15-October-2024 12:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

to submit e-Tender registration in the national e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

the fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches up to 05.00 PM on 14 October-2024.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

(Director (A & D)  
Wage Earners' Welfare Board  
PH-02-22223247  
e-mail: [d.ad@wewb.gov.bd](mailto:d.ad@wewb.gov.bd)

GD-526

## What if we kill

FROM PAGE 3  
The mention of Abrar's name was not just a reminder of a tragedy – it was actually a threat. "Do you know how Abrar Fahad was killed?" one of them asked.

When Rocky hesitantly responded, "Yes, he was beaten to death," they followed up with a bone-chilling question: "What would you do if we killed you the same way?"

Fear wrapped around him like a suffocating shroud. They kept pressing Rocky to accompany them to the hall's guest room. He resisted, only to be met with threats of violence. "If you don't come, we'll call Chhatra Shibir and kill you."

The psychological torment seemed never-ending, and Rocky, overwhelmed and terrified, felt the walls close in around him.

But fear did not silence him. After surviving the night, Rocky mustered the courage to lodge a formal complaint with the university's proctor

yesterday. Both Rocky and the accused were summoned to the proctor's office on the campus, where professors Rafiqul Islam, Nasir Uddin, and Mashihur Rahman listened to their accounts.

Nabil admitted to being present but denied any involvement in the harassment. Antor, on the other hand, claimed the conversation was meant to be casual, an effort, he said, to "build a good relationship".

Even the reference to Abrar Fahad, according to Antor, was not intended as a threat but an example to show that ragging was no longer rampant on campuses.

Rajshahi University Proctor Mahbubur Rahman said, "As teachers, we cannot support these issues in any way. We will try to ensure maximum punishment."

The complaint now sits with the marketing department's academic committee, awaiting review.

## NID cards

FROM PAGE 3  
(national ID) card under the name Mohammad Hasan using the names Suleman Sarkar and Rahela Begum as his parents. He also changed his photo in the NID card in 2019. The then army chief Aziz Ahmed made the recommendations for changing the photo, the sources said. Joseph had two NIDs. One card has

mentioned Abdul Wadud and Renuja Begum as his parents. He used his name as Tanvir Ahmed Tanjel, with names of parents as Suleman Sarkar and Rahela Begum in another ID cards.

On May 21, the US imposed sanctions on Aziz and his immediate family members for "his involvement in significant corruption".

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Bangladesh Power Development Board  
[www.bpd.gov.bd](http://www.bpd.gov.bd)

Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (10th Floor), Motijheel, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: 01819223401, 9836626  
e-mail: [dir.purchase@bpd.gov.bd](mailto:dir.purchase@bpd.gov.bd)

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01	ID-1018124	PP-GRL-02 FY:24-25	Pur-201/ID-1018124/ E.Box/PP-GRL-02/ Rev/FY24-25, Date: 24/09/2024	Supply Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Encryption Box for STS based Pre-Payment Metering System in BPDB.	09-Oct-2024, 17:00	10-Oct-2024, 14:00	10-Oct-2024, 14:00

These are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd))

For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768015538).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১৯১(২)/২৪/০৯/২৪

Md. Abu Sayed  
ID No. 1-01401  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

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

**TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Quotations are hereby invited from bonafied & experienced firms for **supplying & installation of a server for SWIFT operation of Uttara Bank PLC.** Please visit [www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender](http://www.uttarabank-bd.com/home/tender) for details.

General Manager

**KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED**  
BANGLADESH NAVY, KHULNA  
E-mail: [purchase@kshl.com.bd](mailto:purchase@kshl.com.bd), Web: [www.kshlshipyard.com](http://www.kshlshipyard.com)

BARE (P) – PT/2024-2025/ 01 DATE: 24 September 2024

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE**

01 Procuring Entity Name: Khulna Shipyard Limited, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna  
02 Invitation For: a) Material for Slipways Operating and Loading Carriages.  
b) Marine Electric Cable.  
03 Invitation Reference No: (S) BARE (P) – R/Slipway Carriage/2024-2025 DATE: 24/09/2024  
(S) BARE (P) – 632/ME/C/2024-2025 DATE: 24/09/2024  
04 Procurement Method: Open Tender (Single Envelope System)  
05 Budget & Source of Funds: Open Finance  
06 Tender Last Selling Date: 30 October 2024  
07 Tender Closing Date & Time: Date: 31 October 2024 Time: 11:55am  
08 Tender Opening Date & Time: Date: 31 October 2024 Time: 11:00am  
09 Name & Address of the Office for Selling of Tender Documents: Khulna Shipyard Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Khulna  
10 Price of Tender Document: Each Tender (Sl. a, b) Per set 2,000.00 (TK. Two Thousand) Non-refundable  
11 Contact Details of Official: Name: +8801674950715  
Email: [purchase@kshl.com.bd](mailto:purchase@kshl.com.bd)  
12 Special Instructions: The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all or any tenders prior to acceptance without showing any reasons.  
13 GD-519 Manager Admin

**বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Bogura WD Division, BWDB, Bogura  
Phone No. 02-588813493  
Email: [ee.bogra@gmail.com](mailto:ee.bogra@gmail.com)

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর  
বগুড়া পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ, বাগাউবে, বগুড়া  
ফোন নং অফিসঃ ০২-৫৮৮৮১৩৪৯৩  
ইমেইলঃ [ee.bogra@gmail.com](mailto:ee.bogra@gmail.com)

তারিখঃ ২০/০৯/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

**মাটি/বালি নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, বগুড়া কর্তৃক গৃহীত এবং বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনীর ২৪, ইঞ্জিনিয়ার কনস্ট্রাকশন বিশেষত কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নীয় "বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সারিয়াকান্দি, সোনাতলা, খুন্ট ও শেরপুর উপজেলায় ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখননকৃত উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি জেলা পানি সম্পদ উন্নয়ন ও ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটির মাধ্যমে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে মাটি/বালি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত উপযুক্ত দরদাতাগণের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরপত্র আবেদন আহবান করা হচ্ছে। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বগুড়া এর রাজশ্ব শাখা এবং নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, বগুড়া পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ, বাগাউবে, বগুড়া কার্যালয়ের রাজশ্ব শাখা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে দরপত্র ফরম সংগ্রহ করা যাবে এবং উক্ত কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে দাখিল করা যাবে।

**প্যাকেজ সমূহের তথ্যাদি**

ক্র. নং	প্যাকেজের নাম	কার্যের নাম	সদ্ব্যক্ত মাটির পরিমাণ (ঘনফুট)	সরকারি মূল্য (টাকা)	মন্তব্য
০১	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-হরাসাগর-৩-৪/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সোনাতলা উপজেলায় হরাসাগর-৩-৪ (E=৭৪৪০০৫, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	২৯,০০,০০০.০০ ঘনফুট	২৯,০০,০০০.০০ (নেত্রিশ লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)।	
০২	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-চরণাড়া ব্রীজ ৪২/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সোনাতলা উপজেলায় চরণাড়া ব্রীজ (E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	৩,০০,০০০.০০ ঘনফুট	৩,০০,০০০.০০ (তিন লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)।	
০৩	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-হয়াকুয়া ৪০/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সোনাতলা উপজেলায় হয়াকুয়া (E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	৭০,০০০.০০ ঘনফুট	৭০,০০০.০০ (সেত্তর হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।	
০৪	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-খামাচামা-৪৪/২০২৪-২৪	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার খুন্ট উপজেলায় খামাচামা- (E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	৫,৪৫,৪৬১.০০ ঘনফুট	৫,৪৫,৪৬১.০০ (পাঁচ লক্ষ শততাল্লিশ হাজার চারশত একষষ্ঠি টাকা মাত্র)।	
০৫	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-তেলাবাড়ী-৪৪/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সারিয়াকান্দি উপজেলায় তেলাবাড়ী-(E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	২,০৬,১৭২.০০ ঘনফুট	২,০৬,১৭২.০০ (দুই লক্ষ ছয় হাজার একশত বাত্রিশ টাকা মাত্র)।	
০৬	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-মাথিরাড়া-৪৬/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সারিয়াকান্দি উপজেলায় মাথিরাড়া-(E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	২,৮১,২৪০.০০ ঘনফুট	২,৮১,২৪০.০০ (দুই লক্ষ একশত একষষ্ঠি হাজার নয়শত চল্লিশ টাকা মাত্র)।	
০৭	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-ছায়াছাটা-৪৭/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার সারিয়াকান্দি উপজেলায় ছায়াছাটা-(E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	২,৫৪,০০৫.০০ ঘনফুট	২,৫৪,০০৫.০০ (দুই লক্ষ চারশত ছায়াছাটাত্ত্বিন্তিত পাঁচ টাকা মাত্র)।	
০৮	মাটি/বালি- নিলাম/বাঙ্গালী-শাকদহ-৪৮/২০২৪-২৫	"বাঙ্গালী-করতোয়া-ফুলজোর-হরাসাগর নদী সিস্টেম ড্রেজিং/পুনঃখনন ও তীর সংরক্ষণ (১ম সংশোধিত)" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় বগুড়া জেলার শেরপুর উপজেলায় শাকদহ-(E=৭৫৬৫১৬, N=২২৬৬৪৪৪) এলাকায় উন্মুক্ত মাটি/বালি নিলাম করণ।	২,৯৮,২৬৬.০০ ঘনফুট	২,৯৮,২৬৬.০০ (নয় লক্ষ আনুসংহেদ হাজার দুইশত ষাটটি টাকা মাত্র)।	

**দরপত্র বিক্রয় ও দাখিলের সময়সূচী**

বিবরণ	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র ফরম গ্রহণের বাজার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	মন্তব্য
১ম বার	২৪-০৯-২০২৪ খ্রি. হতে ০১-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. পর্যন্ত (সকাল ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)	০১-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. সকাল ০৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	০২-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. দুপুর ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।	
২য় বার	০৩-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. হতে ০৮-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. পর্যন্ত (সকাল ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)	০৯-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. সকাল ০৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	০৯-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. দুপুর ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।	
৩য় বার	১০-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. হতে ১৬-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. পর্যন্ত (সকাল ৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত)	১৭-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. সকাল ০৯.৩০ ঘটিকা হতে ০১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।	১৭-১০-২০২৪ খ্রি. দুপুর ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা।	

**শর্তাবলী**

- কোড নং-১-৪৬৩১-০০০০-১২৬৩ তে ফি বাবদ (প্রতি প্যাকেজ) চালান মূল্য ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা জমা প্রদান করে চালান কপি দাখিল করে দরপত্র ফরম সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
- দরপত্রের সাথে যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে জামানত/অগ্রিম বাবদ প্রস্ত মূল্যের (চোট্টেড দরের) ২৫% অর্থ হিসাববন্ধ কর্মকর্তা, আঞ্চলিক হিসাব কেন্দ্র, বাগাউবে, বগুড়া বরাবর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- মাটির দর অনুমোদনের পর ০৭ (সাত) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে মাসিক মূল্য বাবদ অবশিষ্ট ৭৫%, ১৫% ভ্যাট ও ১০% আয়করের অর্থ হিসাববন্ধ কর্মকর্তা, আঞ্চলিক হিসাব কেন্দ্র, বাগাউবে, বগুড়া বরাবর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে পরিশোধ করতে হবে। মাটির মূল্য কোনভাবেই কিস্তি পরিশোধ করা যাবে না। নির্ধারিত সময় অতিক্রম হলে জামানত বাজেয়াপ্ত নিলাম বাতিল করা হবে।
- সংশ্লিষ্ট প্যাকেজের খননকৃত মাটির ব্যক্তি অন্য কোন স্থান হতে মাটি সংগ্রহ করা যাবে না এবং মাঠে বিদ্যমান কৃষি জমি অপরিবর্তিত রেখে মাটি সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। মাটি সংগ্রহের ফলে নদীর গতিপথ বন্ধ হয়ে যায় এমনভাবে মাটি সংগ্রহ করা যাবে না। নদীর দুইপাড়ের স্রোত/চালের কোননুপ সৃষ্টি করা যাবে না।
- সংশ্লিষ্ট প্যাকেজের খননকৃত মাটির এলাকার অভ্যন্তরে কেউ অবৈধ অনুপ্রবেশ করলে তার দায়িত্ব নিলাম গ্রহীতাকেই বহন করতে হবে।
- মাটি পরিবহনের কারণে জনগণের চলাচলের রাস্তা ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হলে নিলাম গ্রহীতাকে নিজ খরচে মেরামত করতে হবে।
- দরপত্র ফরম পূরণে তথ্য মিথ্যা প্রমাণিত হলে বা ঘা-মাজা করলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- উল্লিখিত শর্তাবলী ভঙ্গ করলে নিলামমুক্তি বাতিলসহ 'বালুমহাল ও মাটি ব্যবস্থাপনা আইন' ২০০০ অনুযায়ী বাবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।
- নিলাম বিক্রয় প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দাখিলকৃত যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ নাছরুল হক  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী  
বগুড়া পানি উন্নয়ন বিভাগ  
বাগাউবে, বগুড়া  
আইডি নং-৮৪১০০০০০১  
ইমেইলঃ [ee.bogra@gmail.com](mailto:ee.bogra@gmail.com)  
৩  
সদস্য সচিব  
জেলা পানি সম্পদ উন্নয়ন ও ব্যবস্থাপনা কমিটি



Due to sand clogging the water supply lines, patients of Barishal General Hospital have been suffering from a severe water crisis for over 30 hours. Amid the situation, patients and their attendants have resorted to various ways to manage water for hygiene and other needs. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: TITU DAS

# Barishal hospital without water for 30 hours!

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Barishal General Hospital has been enduring a severe water crisis for over 30 hours, leaving patients and staff in distress.

As of yesterday evening, the crisis was still unresolved, with both patients and their relatives struggling to manage basic hygiene needs at the 100-bed hospital.

Hospital officials reported that sand had clogged the water supply lines, causing the disruption. Efforts are underway to resolve the issue as soon as possible, said officials.

Kaya Akter, 24, admitted with her four-month-old child suffering from diarrhoea, described the situation as "horrible". She said, "There is no water to go to the toilet. Relatives are bringing water from outside."

The hospital currently houses 120 patients, and they are managing their hygiene needs through various means. Some have resorted to purchasing bottled water, while others are sourcing water from nearby mosques and houses.

Residents of the hospital quarters are similarly affected, using bottles and buckets to collect water from nearby locations. Many relatives expressed concerns that the lack of water is exacerbating the conditions of already ailing patients.

Md Mehdi, a member of the hospital's water supply

department, said the motor pump became ineffective on Sunday morning due to sand entering the pipes. Efforts are underway to temporarily supply water through an alternative line, as the current system is outdated.

Dr Malay Krishna Baral, residential medical officer at the hospital, said the Directorate of Health Engineering



has been notified, and a request has been made for the installation of a new deep well. A temporary solution is also being implemented to supply water from another source.

Established in 1912, Barishal General Hospital plays a vital role in treating diarrhoea patients and is a crucial healthcare facility in Barishal division.

# BAGERHAT BUS TERMINAL No renovation in 20 years

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

The central bus terminal in Bagerhat has been in a state of disrepair for nearly two decades, with no renovations during that time. Since the opening of the Padma Bridge, which connects the southern districts to the rest of the country, the terminal has become a major transit hub.

However, a recent visit revealed the terminal to be in a poor condition, with inadequate infrastructure. The parking area is riddled with potholes that get filled with mud and dirty water after it rains, making navigation difficult.

Over 300 buses and minibuses operate across eight internal routes within the district, while inter-district services to Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, Jashore, and Barishal transport between 17,000 and 21,000 passengers daily. Yet the terminal is unable to handle this volume. Due to limited parking space, buses often park on the roadside, leading to severe traffic congestion.

The situation gets worse during rain, with the terminal becoming waterlogged.

"It's hard to enter the terminal because of the mud and potholes. I bought my ticket outside to avoid the mess," said Shyamapada Das, a passenger.

Built by the Local Government Engineering Department in 2004, the two-acre terminal is managed by Bagerhat municipality, which has made no improvements or renovations over the past 20 years, said locals.

Rezaul Karim Rizvi, assistant engineer of Bagerhat municipality, said a project to renovate and expand the terminal is in the works.

Contacted, Md Fakhru Hasan, the municipality administrator and deputy director of the Local Government Division, echoed him.



# Trader sued over 'remarks on Quran, Yunus, Nahid'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader yesterday sued a local trader in Chattogram on charges of making "derogatory remarks" about the Quran, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and ICT Adviser Nahid Islam on Facebook.

Saifuddin, a joint secretary of Fatikhhari JCD, filed the case against Moktar Hossain of Nanupur in the upazila under the Cyber Security Act at Chattogram Cyber Tribunal, court sources said.

Nasir Uddin Ahmad Khan, lawyer for Saifuddin, told journalists that the tribunal took cognisance of the charges and ordered the CID to investigate the matter.

According to the charges, Moktar posted a 7.37-minute video on August 15 on his Facebook wall, in which he made several derogatory remarks about religion. He also made derogatory comments targeting Yunus and Nahid.

# Hasina, Quader sued over murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 163 others were sued yesterday in connection with the murder of Shaon Talukder, 21, during mass movement in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on August 5.

The victim's cousin Abdul Halim filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahin Reza.

Former road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former IGP Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, former DMP commissioner Habibur Rahman and former DB chief Harun Or Rashid, among others, have been made accused in the case. With this, Hasina is now facing 198 cases.

## বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা। নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-প্রশ্ন/নিলাম-০১/২০২৪-২৫/ই-১৩৪(১২০) তারিখঃ ২৪/০৯/২০২৪

Table with 2 columns: Item No. and Description. It lists various items for auction, including furniture, electrical appliances, and other goods, with their respective quantities and estimated values.

Table with 6 columns: Item No., Description, Quantity, Estimated Price, Bidder's Name, and Bid Amount. This table provides details for the first set of auction items, including their descriptions and the bids received.

ক) মালামাল ক্রয়ের জন্য নিলাম নোটিশের বর্ণিত লটের তফসিল ক্রয়ের জন্য নির্ধারিত প্যাকেট ২২/১০/২০২৪ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে।

(ড. এ.কে.এম. জাহাঙ্গীর আলম, পিইজ) প্রধান প্রকৌশলী

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

## পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তারিখঃ ২৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ ইং

Table with 3 columns: Job Title, Number of Posts, and Details. It lists various academic and administrative positions available for recruitment, including their grades and the number of posts.

১) অবেদনপত্র লিখার শেষ তারিখ ২০ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ ইং। সফল অবেদনপত্র রেজিস্ট্রার, পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, জাহাঙ্গীর, পাবনা বরাবরে উক্ত তারিখের (২০ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ ইং) মধ্যে (সহকারী ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৯:০০টা থেকে ৪:০০টা) কেবলমাত্র ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে।

পাবনা বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় পাবনা।

# 'Now I can finally portray Yasmin'



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

**"I was very young when Yasmin's murder happened," Mim explained. "I felt a deep connection to her story when I finally read the script last year. I couldn't believe that such cruelty was possible. The script touched me deeply. Bringing Yasmin's life to the screen felt like an important responsibility."**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

It all began with a script that made her cry. When Bidya Sinha Mim first read the story for *Ami Yasmin Bolchhi*, a film based on the tragic life of Yasmin Akhter, the Dinajpur girl whose rape and murder by law enforcement sparked national outrage, she knew it was a project that mattered.

However, despite Mim's emotional investment and the film's social significance, the project was abruptly cancelled—on the orders of former Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Harun-or-Rashid, infamously known as DB Harun, a high-ranking law enforcement official, who wielded his influence to halt the production before it even began.

"I cried while reading the script," Mim recalls. "It was such a powerful story, and I couldn't believe this was happening in real life." For Mim, the role of Yasmin wasn't just another character to play; it was a chance to bring light to an injustice that had shaken the country decades ago. But the path to bringing *Ami Yasmin Bolchhi* to the screen was riddled with unseen obstacles—and the most unexpected roadblock came not from within the film industry, but from an official's interference.

The actress recalled; her voice soft but firm. The story—about Yasmin, a young girl brutally raped and murdered in Dinajpur in 1995's August 24—wasn't just another role for Mim. It was a powerful, poignant piece that hit close to home.

"I was very young when Yasmin's murder happened," Mim explained. "I felt a deep connection to her story when I finally read the script last year. I couldn't believe that such cruelty was possible. The script touched me deeply. Bringing Yasmin's life to the screen felt like an important responsibility."



The film, which was supposed to be directed by Sumon Dhar, had been in the works for years. It was a project that, according to Mim, needed to be told, not just for its artistic merit but for the social impact it could have. *Ami Yasmin Bolchhi* aimed to shed light on a dark chapter in Bangladesh's history that sparked protests across the nation and changed how the country talked about women's safety.

But this vital piece of storytelling never made it to the screen—at least, not yet. And the reason behind it? Not creative differences, budget constraints, or even scheduling conflicts, but a sudden intervention by an unexpected player: DB Harun, an influential law enforcement official.

Mim was in the middle of shooting for another film, *Manush*, in India when she received a call. "I was surprised when I saw DB Harun's name appear on my WhatsApp," she said, her tone still tinged with disbelief. "At first, I didn't understand what it was about. But then he told me that my director was sitting right in front of him and that the film *Ami Yasmin Bolchhi* couldn't go ahead."

The weight of that call didn't fully hit Mim until after she hung up. "I realised then that this wasn't just a scheduling issue or a producer's whim. This was a direct order. The project, this important story, was being stopped by someone outside the creative world. And just like that, the film was cancelled."

Mim's frustration was palpable as she recounted the experience. "It hurt. We were under contract. We were ready to bring this story to life, a story that needed to be told. But we were told no, by someone who had nothing to do with the film."

Director Sumon Dhar also confirmed that the halt came after DB Harun's intervention.

"The young girl's rape and murder by law enforcement officers triggered widespread

outrage in the mid-90s, leading to significant protests and calls for justice," Mim said.

She knew that this project could have reignited that conversation. "I wanted the audience to see Yasmin, not me. I wanted her story to be at the forefront, for people to feel what I felt reading the script."

But with DB Harun's sudden interference, the opportunity to tell that story seemed lost. Harun, infamous in law enforcement circles, used his influence to halt the production, citing concerns about the film's potential impact. Mim, Sumon Dhar, and the rest of the crew were left to grapple with the reality that sometimes, no matter how important a story is, there are forces beyond creativity that can shut it down.

Despite the setback, the actress hasn't entirely given up hope. In recent conversations with The Daily Star, she hinted that the project might still see the light of day. "I've heard that the obstacles are clearing up, and we might finally be able to start production," she said with cautious optimism. "It's taken a long time, and I know the producer is currently abroad, but the fact that this project is moving forward at all is a victory."

Even as she looks ahead to other projects, including her upcoming film *Digonte Phuler Agun*, Mim keeps the story of Yasmin close to her heart. "Some roles you take for the challenge, some for the joy of acting, but then there are those rare ones that feel like a calling. *Ami Yasmin Bolchhi* is one of those stories for me."

Mim, known for her versatility in films like *Amar Achhe Jol* and *Poran*, has carved out a space for herself as one of Dhallywood's most respected talents. But this time, her battle isn't just on the screen—it's against the unseen powers that tried to silence a story too important to be forgotten.

## NEWS

### Shakib fined Tk 50 lakh for stock manipulation

FROM PAGE 12

During the period, Shakib bought 10.6 lakh shares of the insurer and sold 10.2 lakh shares, according to the probe report.

In so doing, Shakib gained Tk 90.33 lakh and had an unrealised gain of Tk 4 lakh in that period.

Unrealised gains mean an increase in the value of an asset or investment that an investor has not sold.

The fine comes after the BSEC decided to cancel the appointment of Shakib, also a former member of parliament, as its brand ambassador.

Shakib's e-commerce company Monarch Mart was fined by Tk 1 lakh. His business partner Abul Khayer Hiru, also a government official, was fined Tk 25 lakh. Hiru gained about Tk 41 lakh from the manipulation.

Hiru's father Abul Kalam Mather was fined Tk 10 lakh while he gained Tk 16 lakh. Two business entities—Eshaal Communication and Lava Electrodes Industries—were fined Tk 76 lakh for their gains amounting to Tk 1.33 crore. Hiru's family has stakes in both entities.

The BSEC also fined Zahed Kamal Tk 1 lakh for his involvement in the manipulation that fetched him about Tk 2 lakh.

### Little to show for Tk 65,000cr spent

FROM PAGE 12

2024 report, Bangladesh ranked 29th out of 30 freelancing destinations, falling behind India and Pakistan.

The adviser said many projects had not been completed on time, with frequent extensions causing significant delays.

He stressed the need to ensure justified extensions to the project.

He also recommended cost reductions, avoiding procrastination, and providing regular updates to ensure timely completion.

"If these projects are completed properly, significant progress will be made in the internet and telecommunications sectors, ultimately benefiting the people of Bangladesh," he said.

### BB won't print taka or sell dollar to tackle crisis

FROM PAGE 12

monitoring, checking daily transitions and all other activities. After taking these steps, the deposits in the crisis-hit banks increased by Tk 400 crore on Monday. It is a matter of great relief. Once the liquidity crisis is over, we will move on to the next course of action."

If the depositors of Islami banks keep their patience for a year, all problems, including those related to the liquidity crisis, will be solved, Mansur said.

About the foreign exchange market, he said: "The way the dollar market is going, if it continues this way, there will be no more instability in the market. This is the first time that the dollar price in the kerb market is lower than interbank forex market."

Bad loans are another problem for the country, said Monzur Hossain, research director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

"If the issue of defaulted loans is not fixed, there will be an imbalance in the monetary policy. The 10-12 percent defaulted loan figure that is currently being talked about is not credible. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly state the amount of defaulted loans," he said.

AK Azad, former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), urged the governor not to increase the policy rate and interest rate, saying that such a step would hit the

### Crackdown

FROM PAGE 12

The adviser emphasised that the use of poly bags has been illegal since 2002, and actions will now be taken to strictly enforce the law in markets as well.

The secretary and additional secretary of the ministry, the director general and directors of the Department of Environment, and the president of Mohammadpur Town Hall Market Traders' Association were present at the event.

businesses adversely and bring down the country's export earnings.

In response, Mansur said the 9-6 percent policy rates (the lending and deposit rates respectively) were introduced in the past but it could not increase export; rather it has fuelled inflation.

Talking about previous mismanagement of the Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB), Romo Rouf Chowdhury, the newly elected vice-chairman of BAB, said if an association is occupied by one man for 17 years, there cannot be an effective association at all.

"We will establish it as an association, make it functional and inclusive. We are going to have some sub-committees. Among them, there will be a subcommittee for reform and a subcommittee for policy."

The banking sector seems to be the most uncompetitive sector, said Chowdhury, also the chairman of Bank Asia.

Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo; Fahmida Khatun, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue; Mohammad Abdul Mannan, chairman of First Security Islami Bank; Ali Reza Iltekkhar, managing director of Eastern Bank; Aziz Al Kaiser, chairman of City Bank; Humaira Azam, managing director of LankaBangla Finance; Shah Md Ahsan Habib, professor of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management; and Rushad Faridi, assistant professor of economics at Dhaka University, also spoke.

### Govt publishes

FROM PAGE 12

review until October 6, giving families, heirs, and representatives of the deceased the opportunity to verify, correct, or add names, addresses, and other relevant details.

Furthermore, individuals with opinions, suggestions, or additional information regarding the published list are encouraged to reach out to the relevant hospital or the nearest government facility, the notice said.

### S Alam's backdoor takeover attempt

FROM PAGE 1

Founded in 1985 by Mohammed Saiful Alam, a relative of late Awami League politician Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and his son former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, S Alam Group has grown into one of the largest conglomerates in Bangladesh.

S Alam is one of the four edible oil importers and processors along with three other firms (TK Group, City Group and Meghna Group) who together control 80 percent of Bangladesh's cooking oil market, according to import data from the National Board of Revenue.

Globe was the third firm after City Group and Meghna Group of Industries to set up a plant to extract oil and oilcakes from seeds.

The firm, which had a presence in beverage, biscuit and dairy markets, wanted to invest Tk 450 crore to establish a seed crushing and solvent extraction complex to extract sunflower, soybean and canola oils, its Chief Finance Officer Shaker Shamim said in 2017.

Globe Group came into prominence when its subsidiary Globe Bio-Tech Ltd developed a Covid-19 vaccine candidate during the pandemic. It did not finish trials as the pandemic had already ebbed.

**GEOL'S LOAN FIASCO**  
Harunur said the Globe Group of Companies applied to the Islami Bank in 2011 for a loan to import machinery and working capital to set up the edible oil company. The bank disbursed Tk 282 crore to the company in the first phase.

During the construction of the factory, there was a change in the ownership of the bank that stalled the funding.

Globe then invested Tk 1,200 crore from its subsidiaries to complete the project.

The company again applied to the Islami Bank for Tk 1,200 crore as working capital loans after S Alam took control of the board of directors of the Shariah-based bank.

But the bank did not provide the funds without any explanation, said Harunur. Instead, it collected Tk 76 crore from Globe as profit.

Harunur said they were able to meet with Saiful in 2019 after repeated attempts and he promised Tk 1,200 crore as working capital from the bank but it approved only Tk 550 crore.

After contacting the bank for the

rest of the funds, Globe understood that the S Alam chairman forcefully halted the disbursement, said Harunur.

"This move was aimed at making the financial health of Globe Group worse and subsequently grab GEOL and other Globe subsidiaries through a forced auction or other illegal ways.

"We were forced to shut down the company [GEOL] due to a lack of proper financing by the Islami Bank," said the Globe boss.

The Daily Star tried to reach Islami Bank Chairman Obayed Ullah Al Masud and Managing Director Mohammed Monirul Molla but they did not respond to our phone calls.

**S ALAM'S BID FOR GEOL**  
Saiful asked Globe officials to meet with him in Singapore in October 2022, Harunur said.

"We further requested him to approve the rest of the working capital loans. The S Alam Group chairman rejected our proposal and forced us to sell the shares of the company," said the Globe chairman.

S Alam had already formed a company named Globe Refined Sugar Industries Ltd without Globe Group's approval, alleged Harunur.

"I was forced to sign an agreement on April 18 last year to sell the shares of the company [GEOL] and the tenure of the agreement was until September 2023."

Saiful wanted to buy GEOL at Tk 2,200 crore—Tk 1,900 crore in cash and the remaining Tk 300 crore was supposed to be provided in interest waiver by the Islami Bank, Harunur said.

S Alam paid Globe only Tk 228 crore and repeatedly extended the deadline of the agreement instead of paying the rest of the money, he said.

"When we requested them to pay the rest of the money, S Alam tried to force us to sell the shares of two more units of Globe Group, Globe Pharmaceuticals Ltd and AST Beverages Ltd, but we refused their proposal," the Globe boss said.

"S Alam had deliberately refrained from paying us the entire amount mentioned in the agreement. Their main objective was to take over Globe Group illegally."

S Alam men then threatened to start an auction process by declaring GEOL and Globe Pharmaceuticals defaulters through the Islami Bank, Harunur said.

The Globe Group chairman also alleged that Subrata Kumar

Bhowmick, executive director (finance) of S Alam's Globe Refined Sugar Industries Ltd, was always putting pressure to sell the shares of the company.

The Daily Star tried to reach Saiful and Subrata but none of them responded to our phone calls.

**FALSE CLAIMS: S ALAM DGM**  
Md Moniruzzaman, deputy general manager (DGM) of S Alam Group, was involved in the deal for the sale and purchase of shares of GEOL.

Contacted, he claimed that the allegations brought by the Globe Group boss were "false and fabricated".

He said they were still unaware of the money damages suit filed by Globe.

"We signed an agreement to purchase the company at Tk 1,900 crore, and Tk 375.25 crore has already been paid to them," Moniruzzaman told this newspaper this week.

"Since we made an advance for purchasing the company, there was an agreement that around five to six of our employees will be appointed to Globe Edible Oil until the sale was completed but we could not pay the remaining amount due to some reasons," he said.

But Globe threw the S Alam employees out of the company after the change of the government, said Moniruzzaman.

He said that Globe was trying to take advantage of the current political situation.

Asked why S Alam established a company by using Globe's brand name, the senior official of the conglomerate said, "We bought the company with brand value because we need it."

Moniruzzaman also said Globe Refined Sugar Industries Ltd was formed by using Globe's brand name for a "smooth transition of purchase" of the company.

He claimed they took Globe's approval for the brand name.

About Globe's loan fiasco to the Islami Bank, Moniruzzaman said that the Globe Group was a defaulter and that is why they did not get any new loans.

"Their business was not good and they failed to run the company, which is why S Alam proposed to buy it," he added.

Bangladesh Bank spokesperson Husne Ara Shikha told The Daily Star that they did not know about the damages suit as they were yet to get any documents on the case.

## Biden seeks to calm ME tension at UNGA

REUTERS, New York

US President Joe Biden addressed world leaders at the United Nations for the final time yesterday, declaring that Russia's war in Ukraine has failed and that a diplomatic solution between Israel and Hezbollah was still possible.

With four months left in office, Biden stepped up to the green-marbled lectern at the UN General Assembly with wars in Ukraine, the Gaza Strip and Sudan still raging and likely to outlast his presidency, which ends in January.

He sought to calm tensions as the nearly year-long Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip now threatens to engulf Lebanon - where Israel targeted more than a thousand Hezbollah targets on Monday.

"Full scale war is not in anyone's interest, even if situation has escalated, a diplomatic solution is still possible," he told the 193-member UN General Assembly.

To a round of applause, Biden called on Israel and Hamas to finalise the terms of a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal put forward by the US, Qatar and Egypt.

"The good news is Putin's war has failed at his core aim. He set out to destroy Ukraine, but Ukraine is still free," said Biden.



Members of the civil defence and firefighting unit work at the site of an Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs in Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sri Lanka president dissolves parliament Calls snap polls on Nov 14

REUTERS

Sri Lanka's newly elected President Anura Kumara Dissanayake has dissolved parliament to clear the way for a snap general election in the debt-ridden country, he said in a government gazette notification yesterday.

The parliamentary election will be held on November 14, the notification said, adding that the next parliament would convene on November 21.

The last general election in Sri Lanka was held in August 2020. Lawmakers are elected for a five-year term.

Sri Lankans chose Dissanayake in a weekend presidential election, giving the Marxist-leaning politician a key role in deciding the future of reforms in the island country that is slowly emerging from a crushing financial crisis.

But his coalition, the National People's Party, has just three of 225 seats in the current parliament, prompting him to dissolve the legislature to seek a fresh mandate there for his policies. Saturday's presidential vote was Sri Lanka's first election since its economy buckled in 2022 under a severe foreign exchange shortage, leaving it unable to pay for imports of essentials including fuel, medicine and cooking gas.

## 'These atrocities must end'

Say top UN officials as Gaza death toll rises to 41,467

REUTERS, United Nations

Leading United Nations officials demanded on Monday "an end to the appalling human suffering and humanitarian catastrophe" in the Gaza Strip, nearly a year into the Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave.

"These atrocities must end," they said in a statement signed by the heads of UN agencies that include Unicef and the World Food Programme along with other aid groups as world leaders gathered

in New York for the annual UN General Assembly.

"Humanitarians must have safe and unimpeded access to those in need," the statement said. "We cannot do our jobs in the face of overwhelming need and ongoing violence."

The UN has long complained of obstacles to getting aid into Gaza during the war and distributing it amid "total lawlessness" in the besieged Palestinian enclave. Nearly 300 humanitarian aid workers, more than two-thirds of

them UN staff, have been killed.

"The risk of famine persists with all 2.1 million residents still in urgent need of food and livelihood assistance as humanitarian access remains restricted," the UN officials said.

Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and the UK said on Monday they would team up to develop a declaration for the protection of humanitarian personnel and invite all countries to sign.

**We must not allow Lebanon to become another Gaza at the hands of Israel.**  
Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian tells CNN

**SIEMENS energy**

**Warning Notice**  
**Beware of Fraud**

We took notice of the recent fraudulent activities being conducted on various online platforms, including Telegram, Facebook, and Instagram, falsely using the name of Siemens Energy and its employees.

Siemens Energy does not operate any investment platforms. We strongly advise the public to refrain from investing or depositing money on any social media or offline platforms claiming to be associated with Siemens Energy.

Siemens Energy and our employees are not involved in these fraudulent activities. We will not be held liable for any financial losses resulting from these fraudulent activities.

Siemens Energy Bangladesh Ltd.  
Laila Tower, 8 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212

## Good Neighbors Bangladesh Provides Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Assistance to 17,565 Flood-Affected Families in 2024

Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) has allocated 6 Crore 75 Lac Taka to support flood-affected families in Feni, Lakshmipur, Noakhali, Kurigram, Moulvibazar, and Cox's Bazar districts through emergency relief activities.

In response to the crisis, GNB has stepped in to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation support to reduce the hazards faced by the affected communities. The organization has distributed emergency food packages, including essential items such as rice, lentils, oil, and dry food, to 17,565 families who have lost access to basic necessities. Additionally, essential medicines and hygiene kits have been provided to mitigate health risks and prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. GNB's efforts also include initiatives aimed at restoring livelihoods and rebuilding infrastructure in the affected areas.

GNB has worked proactively in collaboration with local government authorities, volunteers, and community leaders to ensure that emergency aid reaches the most vulnerable people rapidly. To further assist the community, GNB has been sharing vital information on flood preparedness, including guidance on safe sheltering practices and health precautions.

To continue supporting the vulnerable

community, GNB is in constant communication with the Deputy Commissioner and UNO of the affected districts and sub-districts to discuss emergency response plans, which include support for the reconstruction of damaged households and community facilities.

"As a child-centered organization, Good Neighbors Bangladesh recognizes that during any disaster, women and children are often the most vulnerable. This flood is no exception. Based on our survey, we have provided essential support to flood-affected families, particularly those with children. We have distributed all necessary items and are also focusing on restoring livelihoods and rebuilding infrastructure in the affected areas," said M Mainuddin Mainul, Country Director of Good Neighbors Bangladesh.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh, an international non-government organization (INGO) working since 1996, is dedicated to helping deprived children, women, and youth in 13 districts of Bangladesh through various initiatives, including disaster response, education, healthcare, and sustainable development. With a strong presence in the country, the organization works to empower individuals and promote community resilience.



Advertorial

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার			
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়			
সিলেট এম এ জি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, সিলেট			
<b>আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</b>			
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগ	
২	সংগ্রাহক/ স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম	সিলেট এম এ জি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, সিলেট।	
৩	অর্থায়নের উৎস	রাষ্ট্রপথ খাত	
৪	আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রের নাম	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ/দরপত্র শাখা/আউটসোর্সিং/২০২৪/৪১৫০ তারিখঃ ২৪/০৯/২০২৪ইং	
৫	দরপত্রের নাম/ কাজের বিবরণ	স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের, স্বাস্থ্য সেবা বিভাগের প্রশাসন-১ শাখার 'স্বাস্থ্য নং-৪৫.০০.০০০০.১৪০.১১.০২.১.২৪-১৫৪২ তাৎ ০২/০৭/২০২৪ইং অনুযায়ী মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধির অনুমোদন প্রার্থীর আসোকে ২০২৪-২০২৫ইং অর্থ বছরে সিলেট এম এ জি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে নিম্নোক্ত জনবল নিয়োজিত করণের নিমিত্তে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইল।	
		ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম
		১	পরিচালক কক্ষী
		২	বাবুটি
		৩	সহকারী বাবুটি
		৪	নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী
		৫	পরিচালক কক্ষী
		৬	গুটি এটেন্ডেন্ট
		৭	গুটি এটেন্ডেন্ট
		৮	গুয়ার্ড বয়
		৯	অ্যাড
		১০	গুটি এটেন্ডেন্ট (সাইনিসিউ)
		১১	ইমার্জেন্সী এটেন্ডেন্ট
৬	সংগ্রাহক স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা	সিলেট।	
৭	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র	
৮	দরপত্রদাতাদের খোঁজাখোঁজ	২০২৪-২০২৫ইং অর্থ বছরে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে সেবা গ্রহণের নিমিত্তে জনবল সরবরাহ/নিয়োজিত করণের লক্ষ্যে আমেরী অডিটর/সংশোধিত ও সরকার কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত/মেজিটার জনবল সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/সিদ্ধান্তিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইবে।	
৯	দরপত্র কক্ষের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য বাবদ ২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা মাত্র চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং- (১) (২) (৩) (৪) (৫) (৬) (৭) (৮) (৯) (১০) (১১) (১২) (১৩) (১৪) (১৫) (১৬) (১৭) (১৮) (১৯) (২০) (২১) (২২) (২৩) (২৪) (২৫) (২৬) (২৭) (২৮) (২৯) (৩০) (৩১) (৩২) (৩৩) (৩৪) (৩৫) (৩৬) (৩৭) (৩৮) (৩৯) (৪০) (৪১) (৪২) (৪৩) (৪৪) (৪৫) (৪৬) (৪৭) (৪৮) (৪৯) (৫০) (৫১) (৫২) (৫৩) (৫৪) (৫৫) (৫৬) (৫৭) (৫৮) (৫৯) (৬০) (৬১) (৬২) (৬৩) (৬৪) (৬৫) (৬৬) (৬৭) (৬৮) (৬৯) (৭০) (৭১) (৭২) (৭৩) (৭৪) (৭৫) (৭৬) (৭৭) (৭৮) (৭৯) (৮০) (৮১) (৮২) (৮৩) (৮৪) (৮৫) (৮৬) (৮৭) (৮৮) (৮৯) (৯০) (৯১) (৯২) (৯৩) (৯৪) (৯৫) (৯৬) (৯৭) (৯৮) (৯৯) (১০০) (১০১) (১০২) (১০৩) (১০৪) (১০৫) (১০৬) (১০৭) (১০৮) (১০৯) (১১০) (১১১) (১১২) (১১৩) (১১৪) (১১৫) (১১৬) (১১৭) (১১৮) (১১৯) (১২০) (১২১) (১২২) (১২৩) (১২৪) (১২৫) (১২৬) (১২৭) (১২৮) (১২৯) (১৩০) (১৩১) (১৩২) (১৩৩) (১৩৪) (১৩৫) (১৩৬) (১৩৭) (১৩৮) (১৩৯) (১৪০) (১৪১) (১৪২) (১৪৩) (১৪৪) (১৪৫) (১৪৬) (১৪৭) (১৪৮) (১৪৯) (১৫০) (১৫১) (১৫২) (১৫৩) (১৫৪) (১৫৫) (১৫৬) (১৫৭) (১৫৮) (১৫৯) (১৬০) (১৬১) (১৬২) (১৬৩) (১৬৪) (১৬৫) (১৬৬) (১৬৭) (১৬৮) (১৬৯) (১৭০) (১৭১) (১৭২) (১৭৩) (১৭৪) (১৭৫) (১৭৬) (১৭৭) (১৭৮) (১৭৯) (১৮০) (১৮১) (১৮২) (১৮৩) (১৮৪) (১৮৫) (১৮৬) (১৮৭) (১৮৮) (১৮৯) (১৯০) (১৯১) (১৯২) (১৯৩) (১৯৪) (১৯৫) (১৯৬) (১৯৭) (১৯৮) (১৯৯) (২০০) (২০১) (২০২) (২০৩) (২০৪) (২০৫) (২০৬) (২০৭) (২০৮) (২০৯) (২১০) (২১১) (২১২) (২১৩) (২১৪) (২১৫) (২১৬) (২১৭) (২১৮) (২১৯) (২২০) (২২১) (২২২) (২২৩) (২২৪) (২২৫) (২২৬) (২২৭) (২২৮) (২২৯) (২৩০) (২৩১) (২৩২) (২৩৩) (২৩৪) (২৩৫) (২৩৬) (২৩৭) (২৩৮) (২৩৯) (২৪০) (২৪১) (২৪২) (২৪৩) (২৪৪) (২৪৫) (২৪৬) (২৪৭) (২৪৮) (২৪৯) (২৫০) (২৫১) (২৫২) (২৫৩) (২৫৪) (২৫৫) (২৫৬) (২৫৭) (২৫৮) (২৫৯) (২৬০) (২৬১) (২৬২) (২৬৩) (২৬৪) (২৬৫) (২৬৬) (২৬৭) (২৬৮) (২৬৯) (২৭০) (২৭১) (২৭২) (২৭৩) (২৭৪) (২৭৫) (২৭৬) (২৭৭) (২৭৮) (২৭৯) (২৮০) (২৮১) (২৮২) (২৮৩) (২৮৪) (২৮৫) (২৮৬) (২৮৭) (২৮৮) (২৮৯) (২৯০) (২৯১) (২৯২) (২৯৩) (২৯৪) (২৯৫) (২৯৬) (২৯৭) (২৯৮) (২৯৯) (৩০০) (৩০১) (৩০২) (৩০৩) (৩০৪) (৩০৫) (৩০৬) (৩০৭) (৩০৮) (৩০৯) (৩১০) (৩১১) (৩১২) (৩১৩) (৩১৪) (৩১৫) (৩১৬) (৩১৭) (৩১৮) (৩১৯) (৩২০) (৩২১) (৩২২) (৩২৩) (৩২৪) (৩২৫) (৩২৬) (৩২৭) (৩২৮) (৩২৯) (৩৩০) (৩৩১) (৩৩২) (৩৩৩) (৩৩৪) (৩৩৫) (৩৩৬) (৩৩৭) (৩৩৮) (৩৩৯) (৩৪০) (৩৪১) (৩৪২) (৩৪৩) (৩৪৪) (৩৪৫) (৩৪৬) (৩৪৭) (৩৪৮) (৩৪৯) (৩৫০) (৩৫১) (৩৫২) (৩৫৩) (৩৫৪) (৩৫৫) (৩৫৬) (৩৫৭) (৩৫৮) (৩৫৯) (৩৬০) (৩৬১) (৩৬২) (৩৬৩) (৩৬৪) (৩৬৫) (৩৬৬) (৩৬৭) (৩৬৮) (৩৬৯) (৩৭০) (৩৭১) (৩৭২) (৩৭৩) (৩৭৪) (৩৭৫) (৩৭৬) (৩৭৭) (৩৭৮) (৩৭৯) (৩৮০) (৩৮১) (৩৮২) (৩৮৩) (৩৮৪) (৩৮৫) (৩৮৬) (৩৮৭) (৩৮৮) (৩৮৯) (৩৯০) (৩৯১) (৩৯২) (৩৯৩) (৩৯৪) (৩৯৫) (৩৯৬) (৩৯৭) (৩৯৮) (৩৯৯) (৪০০) (৪০১) (৪০২) (৪০৩) (৪০৪) (৪০৫) (৪০৬) (৪০৭) (৪০৮) (৪০৯) (৪১০) (৪১১) (৪১২) (৪১৩) (৪১৪) (৪১৫) (৪১৬) (৪১৭) (৪১৮) (৪১৯) (৪২০) (৪২১) (৪২২) (৪২৩) (৪২৪) (৪২৫) (৪২৬) (৪২৭) (৪২৮) (৪২৯) (৪৩০) (৪৩১) (৪৩২) (৪৩৩) (৪৩৪) (৪৩৫) (৪৩৬) (৪৩৭) (৪৩৮) (৪৩৯) (৪৪০) (৪৪১) (৪৪২) (৪৪৩) (৪৪৪) (৪৪৫) (৪৪৬) (৪৪৭) (৪৪৮) (৪৪৯) (৪৫০) (৪৫১) (৪৫২) (৪৫৩) (৪৫৪) (৪৫৫) (৪৫৬) (৪৫৭) (৪৫৮) (৪৫৯) (৪৬০) (৪৬১) (৪৬২) (৪৬৩) (৪৬৪) (৪৬৫) (৪৬৬) (৪৬৭) (৪৬৮) (৪৬৯) (৪৭০) (৪৭১) (৪৭২) (৪৭৩) (৪৭৪) (৪৭৫) (৪৭৬) (৪৭৭) (৪৭৮) (৪৭৯) (৪৮০) (৪৮১) (৪৮২) (৪৮৩) (৪৮৪) (৪৮৫) (৪৮৬) (৪৮৭) (৪৮৮) (৪৮৯) (৪৯০) (৪৯১) (৪৯২) (৪৯৩) (৪৯৪) (৪৯৫) (৪৯৬) (৪৯৭) (৪৯৮) (৪৯৯) (৫০০) (৫০১) (৫০২) (৫০৩) (৫০৪) (৫০৫) (৫০৬) (৫০৭) (৫০৮) (৫০৯) (৫১০) (৫১১) (৫১২) (৫১৩) (৫১৪) (৫১৫) (৫১৬) (৫১৭) (৫১৮) (৫১৯) (৫২০) (৫২১) (৫২২) (৫২৩) (৫২৪) (৫২৫) (৫২৬) (৫২৭) (৫২৮) (৫২৯) (৫৩০) (৫৩১) (৫৩২) (৫৩৩) (৫৩৪) (৫৩৫) (৫৩৬) (৫৩৭) (৫৩৮) (৫৩৯) (৫৪০) (৫৪১) (৫৪২) (৫৪৩) (৫৪৪) (৫৪৫) (৫৪৬) (৫৪৭) (৫৪৮) (৫৪৯) (৫৫০) (৫৫১) (৫৫২) (৫৫৩) (৫৫৪) (৫৫৫) (৫৫৬) (৫৫৭) (৫৫৮) (৫৫৯) (৫৬০) (৫৬১) (৫৬২) (৫৬৩) (৫৬৪) (৫৬৫) (৫৬৬) (৫৬৭) (৫৬৮) (৫৬৯) (৫৭০) (৫৭১) (৫৭২) (৫৭৩) (৫৭৪) (৫৭৫) (৫৭৬) (৫৭৭) (৫৭৮) (৫৭৯) (৫৮০) (৫৮১) (৫৮২) (৫৮৩) (৫৮৪) (৫৮৫) (৫৮৬) (৫৮৭) (৫৮৮) (৫৮৯) (৫৯০) (৫৯১) (৫৯২) (৫৯৩) (৫৯৪) (৫৯৫) (৫৯৬) (৫৯৭) (৫৯৮) (৫৯৯) (৬০০) (৬০১) (৬০২) (৬০৩) (৬০৪) (৬০৫) (৬০৬) (৬০৭) (৬০৮) (৬০৯) (৬১০) (৬১১) (৬১২) (৬১৩) (৬১৪) (৬১৫) (৬১৬) (৬১৭) (৬১৮) (৬১৯) (৬২০) (৬২১) (৬২২) (৬২৩) (৬২৪) (৬২৫) (৬২৬) (৬২৭) (৬২৮) (৬২৯) (৬৩০) (৬৩১) (৬৩২) (৬৩৩) (৬৩৪) (৬৩৫) (৬৩৬) (৬৩৭) (৬৩৮) (৬৩৯) (৬৪০) (৬৪১) (৬৪২) (৬৪৩) (৬৪৪) (৬৪৫) (৬৪৬) (৬৪৭) (৬৪৮) (৬৪৯) (৬৫০) (৬৫১) (৬৫২) (৬৫৩) (৬৫৪) (৬৫৫) (৬৫৬) (৬৫৭) (৬৫৮) (৬৫৯) (৬৬০) (৬৬১) (৬৬২) (৬৬৩) (৬৬৪) (৬৬৫) (৬৬৬) (৬৬৭) (৬৬৮) (৬৬৯) (৬৭০) (৬৭১) (৬৭২) (৬৭৩) (৬৭৪) (৬৭৫) (৬৭৬) (৬৭৭) (৬৭৮) (৬৭৯) (৬৮০) (৬৮১) (৬৮২) (৬৮৩) (৬৮৪) (৬৮৫) (৬৮৬) (৬৮৭) (৬৮৮) (৬৮৯) (৬৯০) (৬৯১) (৬৯২) (৬৯৩) (৬৯৪) (৬৯৫) (৬৯৬) (৬৯৭) (৬৯৮) (৬৯৯) (৭০০) (৭০১) (৭০২) (৭০৩) (৭০৪) (৭০৫) (৭০৬) (৭০৭) (৭০৮) (৭০৯) (৭১০) (৭১১) (৭১২) (৭১৩) (৭১৪) (৭১৫) (৭১৬) (৭১৭) (৭১৮) (৭১৯) (৭২০) (৭২১) (৭২২) (৭২৩) (৭২৪) (৭২৫) (৭২৬) (৭২৭) (৭২৮) (৭২৯) (৭৩০) (৭৩১) (৭৩২) (৭৩৩) (৭৩৪) (৭৩৫) (৭৩৬) (৭৩৭) (৭৩৮) (৭৩৯) (৭৪০) (৭৪১) (৭৪২) (৭৪৩) (৭৪৪) (৭৪৫) (৭৪৬) (৭৪৭) (৭৪৮) (৭৪৯) (৭৫০) (৭৫১) (৭৫২) (৭৫৩) (৭৫৪) (৭৫৫) (৭৫৬) (৭৫৭) (৭৫৮) (৭৫৯) (৭৬০) (৭৬১) (৭৬২) (৭৬৩) (৭৬৪) (৭৬৫) (৭৬৬) (৭৬৭) (৭৬৮) (৭৬৯) (৭৭০) (৭৭১) (৭৭২) (৭৭৩) (৭৭৪) (৭৭৫) (৭৭৬) (৭৭৭) (৭৭৮) (৭৭৯) (৭৮০) (৭৮১) (৭৮২) (৭৮৩) (৭৮৪) (৭৮৫) (৭৮৬) (৭৮৭) (৭৮৮) (৭৮৯) (৭৯০) (৭৯১) (৭৯২) (৭৯৩) (৭৯৪) (৭৯৫) (৭৯৬) (৭৯৭) (৭৯৮) (৭৯৯) (৮০০) (৮০১) (৮০২) (৮০৩) (৮০৪) (৮০৫) (৮০৬) (৮০৭) (৮০৮) (৮০৯) (৮১০) (৮১১) (৮১২) (৮১৩) (৮১৪) (৮১৫) (৮১৬) (৮১৭) (৮১৮) (৮১৯) (৮২০) (৮২১) (৮২২) (৮২৩) (৮২৪) (৮২৫) (৮২৬) (৮২৭) (৮২৮) (৮২৯) (৮৩০) (৮৩১) (৮৩২) (৮৩৩) (৮৩৪) (৮৩৫) (৮৩৬) (৮৩৭) (৮৩৮) (৮৩৯) (৮৪০) (৮৪১) (৮৪২) (৮৪৩) (৮৪৪) (৮৪৫) (৮৪৬) (৮৪৭) (৮৪৮) (৮৪৯) (৮৫০) (৮৫১) (৮৫২) (৮৫৩) (৮৫৪) (৮৫৫) (৮৫৬) (৮৫৭) (৮৫৮) (৮৫৯) (৮৬০) (৮৬১) (৮৬২) (৮৬৩) (৮৬৪) (৮৬৫) (৮৬৬) (৮৬৭) (৮৬৮) (৮৬৯) (৮৭০) (৮৭১) (৮৭২) (৮৭৩) (৮৭৪) (৮৭৫) (৮৭৬) (৮৭৭) (৮৭৮) (৮৭৯) (৮৮০) (৮৮১) (৮৮২) (৮৮৩) (৮৮৪) (৮৮৫) (৮৮৬) (৮৮৭) (৮৮৮) (৮৮৯) (৮৯০) (৮৯১) (৮৯২) (৮৯৩) (৮৯৪) (৮৯৫) (৮৯৬) (৮৯৭) (৮৯৮) (৮৯৯) (৯০০) (৯০১) (৯০২) (৯০৩) (৯০৪) (৯০৫) (৯০৬) (৯০৭) (৯০৮) (৯০৯) (৯১০) (৯১১) (৯১২) (৯১৩) (৯১৪) (৯১৫) (৯১৬) (৯১৭) (৯১৮) (৯১৯) (৯২০) (৯২১) (৯২২) (৯২৩) (৯২৪) (৯২৫) (৯২৬) (৯২৭) (৯২৮) (৯২৯) (৯৩০) (৯৩১) (৯৩২) (৯৩৩) (৯৩৪) (৯৩৫) (	

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Citizens' safety must come first

### Strictly monitor top criminals now out on bail

We are concerned about the rise in crimes allegedly linked to the release of several top criminals from jail following the fall of the Awami League government. Reportedly, on September 20, a 26-year-old mason named Nasir Biswas was stabbed to death by a group of criminals. The victim's brother alleged that associates of Imamul Hasan Helal, also known as Pichchi Helal, were responsible for the murder—due to past enmity—and filed a case in this connection. Helal was listed in 2001 as one of the top 23 criminals in the country. Then a Chhatra Dal dealer, he was arrested on January 12, 2000, and released on bail on August 16 of this year.

According to the Department of Prisons, Helal is among the 43 top criminals and militants who secured bail in various cases since August 5. After his release, several residents of Mohammadpur have reported that his associates have been intimidating local business owners to assert their control in the area. Other top criminals who have secured bail include Abbas Ali, also known as Killer Abbas of Mirpur; Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, known as Sweden Aslam of Tejgaon; Sanjiddul Islam, known as Emon of Hazaribagh; Khandaker Nayeem Ahmed, known as Tipton; and Khorshed Alam, also known as Rasu or Freedom Rasu. Some of them were also on the home ministry's 2001 list of top criminals and have been accused in numerous cases, including for murder and attempted murder.

Jail is supposed to be a place to not just punish convicts, but to also reform their criminal tendencies so that they are fit for social reintegration when the time comes. But exploiting our poor prison system, notorious criminals, far from going down that path, often control criminal activities from within the jail. We are now getting a sense of what they can do if released on bail, unreformed. Police sources have already reported that another top criminal, Ibrahim Khalil, alias Killer Ibrahim, who had been hiding abroad, returned home after mid-August and resumed his activities. A leader of Bhashantek Slum stated that Ibrahim's associates have already begun extortion, threatening arson and vandalism.

Unfortunately, the police still seem too preoccupied with their internal issues caused after the regime change to closely monitor these top criminals and ensure that they don't break any laws again. As a result, the safety of ordinary citizens is being compromised. This cannot be allowed to happen. The government must instruct all security forces to closely monitor and prevent any criminal activities by those released on bail. And those found to be breaking bail conditions must be held accountable.

## High time to save our rivers

### BELA's finding on Khulna's dying rivers serves a warning

It is disheartening that our rivers continue to face neglect despite its many consequences for the nation. This apathy is once again reflected in the findings of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) that more than a fourth of rivers (37 out of 138) in the Khulna division are in dire straits due to encroachment, unplanned infrastructural development, siltation, industrial pollution, and the construction of man-made barriers. BELA also noted that 20 of these rivers are no longer flowing, while one—Hamkura—is on the brink of extinction.

It is not just in Khulna, but all across the country, that hundreds of rivers are dying or have lost their navigability because of greed as well as a lack of foresight by government bodies as reflected in the arbitrary construction of dams, embankments, sluice gates, and polders. A report by Prothom Alo highlighted another BELA finding about 35 rivers in the Sylhet division, which too are in distress. Unfortunately, there is no reliable official data on rivers facing such conditions, with figures from different government bodies contradicting each other. For example, as per the Water Development Board, Sylhet has only 36 rivers, but the National River Conservation Commission (NRCC) puts the number at 168. The commission's 2023 publication on the number of rivers in Bangladesh is also riddled with mistakes.

Until now, no government in Bangladesh has shown a genuine interest in freeing rivers from the grip of encroachers, polluters, illegal sand miners, etc. Neither were there any significant efforts to ensure coordination among the different agencies involved, or to conduct proper feasibility studies before building infrastructure that may disrupt river flow. However, since being appointed, the interim government's adviser for environment and water resources has issued several important directives. These include preparing a comprehensive list of rivers within two months and requiring action plans from divisional commissioners to evict 66,000 identified encroachers. She also expressed the government's intent to free at least one river in each division from encroachment and pollution.

Given how entrenched and widespread river encroachment has been, saving our rivers will be a massive and potentially disruptive task, requiring firm and even unpopular measures that may impact businesses and livelihoods. But that is doable for a non-political interim government if there is genuine intent. It is also vital that the NRCC is empowered to hold future governments accountable for any failure to protect our rivers. Public awareness campaigns are also essential to remind people of the importance of saving rivers.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY



### Demise of Wangari Maathai

On this day, Kenyan politician and environmental activist Wangari Maathai, the first Black African woman to win a Nobel Prize, died at age 71 in 2011.

# 'Administered prices don't work'

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) and former adviser to the caretaker government, speaks with Tamanna Khan of The Daily Star about effective and ineffective government interventions to rein in high prices of essentials.

**Recently, we have seen that the interim government tried to fix the prices of chicken and eggs to no avail. Previous governments also made similar efforts without success. Why does this measure fail?**

If you respond to consumer demands through these administered prices—which is a populist measure to try to address consumers' call for relief—it usually doesn't work. Decision-makers, meaning the government, have to have an updated understanding of the realities of the supply chain, not a theoretical understanding. They need to understand whether there are blocks somewhere and if those blocks can be overcome. For example, are there groups who are in a way exerting pressure on the market prices?

**We often hear that market syndicates are responsible for artificially raising prices. Who are these syndicates?**

Syndicate has been a widely used term for many years now. The syndicate is a reality; it is a unified group of market players who can control the supply chain and also influence the policymakers in that space. That was what we saw during the ousted regime.

When the commerce minister of the Hasina government said he couldn't do much, he was basically saying that he was part of the syndicate, so he couldn't do much.

Now the situation is different. However, we need to understand how far the syndicate is still influencing the supply chain. They are unlikely to disappear anytime soon. Although the current policymakers are not necessarily aligned with them, they have to be effective in terms of understanding and influencing the supply chain management if they want to act on certain variables that can affect the supply chain.

Being non-political doesn't automatically make the government effective in this matter. They need to understand if the influence is in the policy process or if it is just bureaucratic. Are the policymakers on top of the bureaucrats? Do they have a field understanding? I haven't seen much effort by the incumbent government to go out and understand the field realities of supply chain management.

**What should the government do then?**

They have to find the answers themselves. I am also not fully aware of the supply chain realities right now. But trying to control the market with a law-and-order mentality doesn't work.

There can be other measures. For example, when people hold supplies in storage, they rely on bank credit for these sorts of businesses. The Bangladesh Bank has the option to play with the terms of these bank credits. Say, I'm a supplier and I've taken Tk 1 crore bank loan, and I'm holding the supplies in the storage and not releasing it in the market, and my loan will mature in 90 days. Here,

policymakers can change the loan maturity tenure to 30 days. Then I have no option but to sell the goods. This sort of interventions require a good understanding of the supply chain processes and the current realities. Is the price higher because there is an actual lack of supply or is it because the supply is being held somewhere and not released?

Also, if producers say that they need to charge a higher price because of the high cost of production, then the question should be how the cost of production can be reduced.

Are there opportunities to bring down this cost of production that will automatically have an impact on the price? Are there opportunities to improve supply chain management? Are there incentives to be provided?

Besides, the government can always play the role of becoming a market player itself through open market sales (OMS) and other similar tools. They can expand the OMS policy in a bigger way, which will put pressure on the suppliers,

governance issues, for example barriers created by *chandabaji* (extortion). The known *chandabaji* (extortionists) may not be around now, but are there new *chandabaji* on the prowl? Can we contain them in a way?

Some of these syndicates or those who are responsible for high prices often come up with a counter-argument that these are market processes. They keep the prices high and manage the processes for their own interest. But the government should manage the market process in the interest of general people. And it has the instruments needed to do so. It just cannot rely on bureaucratic structures, but also go out in the field, as I mentioned before.

**Is there a way to create a market monitoring mechanism?**

Again, we are very fond of bureaucratic solutions. If the market monitoring process means another committee to be appointed, I'm sceptical of that. Monitoring is a dynamic activity and several monitoring processes already

Market monitoring requires updated, usable data, which is available to multiple users in the policy process. Besides, civil society bodies like the Consumers Association of Bangladesh can also be activated to play a bigger role. This government has an opportunity to do something

**There are three areas the government should look at: i) the incentive for growers, importers, etc and looking at how production can be boosted; ii) the governance of the supply chain, where financial instruments like loan maturity can be used as control tools; and iii) governance issues, for example barriers created by chandabaji (extortion).**

new. They can go out to the field and activate all this more dynamically.

**Do higher prices trickle down to the producers? And who gets the biggest share of the pie?**

That is a supply chain reality. For example, what kind of value addition is happening? If you look at rice prices, typically it should come down after harvest. For some years, this has not been happening. Rice millers are a very important group in this whole process. In 2008, as then commerce adviser, I went out to Naogaon to get a firsthand impression on this because Naogaon is the miller capital of Bangladesh. Millers make big investments and they are an important player. But are they a syndicate? What is their capacity to withhold or not withhold a product from the market? In the case of rice supply, government procurement drives typically have been very political. The actual farmers have not benefited from this drive—middlemen have.

Does it trickle down? In many cases, it doesn't. But we have to look at it empirically. We cannot assume that it does not. The consuming middle class opinion-makers of Dhaka tend to think of the middlemen as villains in every case. However, we conducted a study in 2006 from the PPRC on the marketing process. We found that the *faria*—those who go out and collect the produce from the growers or primary markets to shift to the next market level—are also part of the extreme poor group. They often don't have access to good finance. Agricultural trade is an extremely risky business, especially for those who put money there.

So, while some middlemen are villains, we cannot tag everyone in that category. Also, without middlemen, the produce will not travel from the field to your table; there are multiple layers and chains. And there is a process; people make profits at different levels of this process.



**Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman**

who are withholding supplies.

Of course, it depends on whether the government has the fiscal capacity to do that.

Another way to approach this is by looking at the types of incentives that can be given to growers, seed producers, traders, exporters, or importers of say animal feed or various types of agricultural inputs. They can have a look at the whole incentive system and creatively try to incentivise those who may improve the supply chain, which would result in more rational prices.

So, there are three areas the government should look at: i) the incentive for growers, importers, etc and looking at how production can be boosted; ii) the governance of the supply chain, where financial instruments like loan maturity can be used as control tools; and iii)

exist. For example, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is supposed to produce a consumer price index regularly. BBS can be given the additional responsibility of updating their capacity for this particular task and making the data available timely. Then there is the Bangladesh Competition Commission under the commerce ministry, which has certain market monitoring responsibilities. Unfortunately, all of these remain very textbookish and bureaucratic in nature. They tend to just focus on punishments, which is not effective.

Bureaucrats are very fond of punishments. They go out to the market and dole out punishment to the rule breakers. While punishments sometimes work and should be a part of the policy package, they cannot be at the centre of the policy package.

# The conundrum of govt job age limit



**Samira Tasnim**  
is a research associate at the Bangladesh Institute of Governance and Management (BIGM).

**SAMIRA TASNIM**

The debate on raising the age limit for government job recruitment in Bangladesh seems never-ending. After numerous petitions and movements by jobseekers, the Ministry of Public Administration has finally submitted a proposal to raise the entry age to 35 years and the retirement age to 65 years. If this proposal is approved, the long-cherished dream of many to work for the government might come true.

However, for an economy as reliant on human capital as Bangladesh, the question remains: how justified is this decision? While some may rejoice at the extended age, others argue it could worsen the job market.

For decades, the youth has viewed government jobs as the ultimate career destination, either for the job security they offer, the fringe benefits, or the opportunity to work within the system to contribute to national development.

The demand for government jobs often overshadows other career paths. As a result, university students become engrossed in preparing for

government job exams in their final years of study. It is not uncommon to see students from various disciplines abandoning their coursework in pursuit of success in competitive exams. In this context, the decision to raise the age limit could be seen as a positive change, as it may provide these students with enough time to both complete their education and develop additional skills, knowing they have more time to prepare for government jobs.

For students from rural or underprivileged areas, who often face delays in completing their higher studies due to systemic shortcomings, this policy could be a fair and equitable solution. The extended age limit might give them a chance to compete on a more level playing field, allowing their hard work to finally bear fruit in the form of a secure government job.

However, this move overlooks the deeper structural issues that plague the job market in Bangladesh. The imbalance between the supply and demand for government jobs has always been significant, as the number

of positions in public service remains limited. Increasing the age limit does not address this fundamental mismatch. With the extended age limit, more people will apply for government jobs, leading to a surge in applications each year. Many may choose not to pursue private sector employment in hopes of securing a government position before they turn 35. Thus, increasing the number of older applicants could overwhelm the system, further crowding out younger graduates who are just entering the workforce. This could lead to a vicious cycle, where young graduates are continually added to the unemployment list, lacking the preparation needed to compete with their older counterparts.

Besides, the question remains as to whether those who ultimately do not secure a government job by the age of 35 will be able to transition into the private sector. Even if they manage to do so, how will they fare in terms of skills and competitiveness compared to their contemporaries who have already been active in the job market? Bangladesh is already grappling with a serious youth unemployment crisis. Many university graduates are unable to find jobs, either due to a lack of skills or a shortage of opportunities. Raising the age limit for government job recruitment may not solve this underlying issue. The real problem lies in the scarcity of job creation, the mismatch between available skills and the market

demand, and an unhealthy reliance on government jobs as the primary avenue for secure employment.

If the policy encourages more individuals to wait for government job openings rather than seeking alternative employment, the private sector, which is crucial for national economic growth, may struggle to attract talent. This stagnation could discourage entrepreneurship and innovation, both of which are vital for driving the economy forward.

To foster sustainable economic growth and alleviate youth unemployment, Bangladesh must implement a comprehensive strategy that prioritises education reform, skill development, and job creation. Reforms must prioritise job creation in industries with high growth potential, such as information technology, manufacturing and agriculture. Encouraging entrepreneurship, reducing bureaucratic obstacles, and fostering a more business-friendly environment can help absorb the growing number of jobseekers. Diversifying employment opportunities is also essential for a sustainable economic future. Furthermore, targeted investments in skill development programmes can bridge the gap between education and employment. By providing access to vocational training and on-the-job learning, Bangladesh can equip its youth with the practical skills required to succeed in various sectors.



## India, US both need a stable Bangladesh



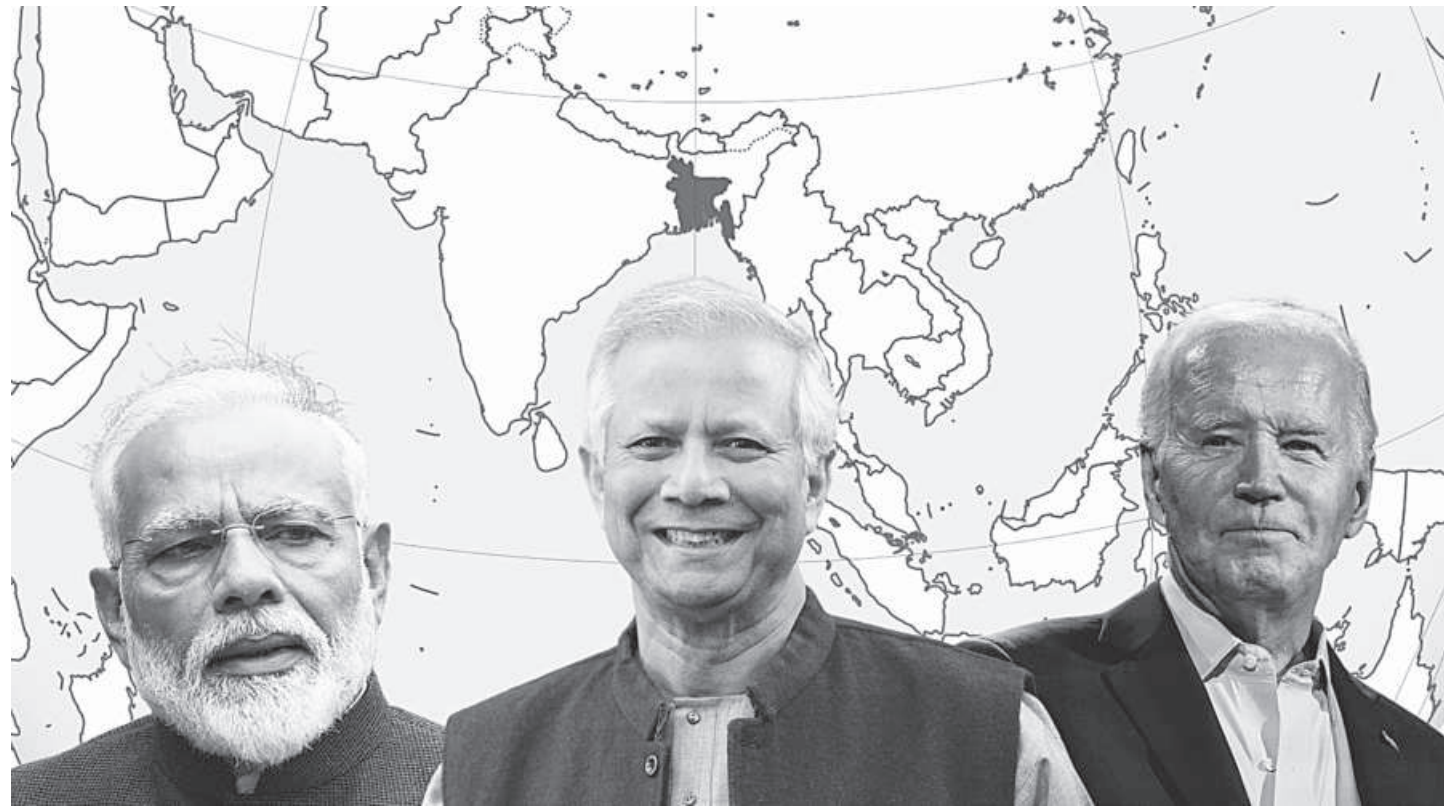
**Zillur Rahman**  
is executive director at the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) and a television talk show host. His X-handle is @zillur.

**ZILLUR RAHMAN**

Before returning to Bangladesh and assuming the mantle of leading the interim government, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, in an interview with India's NDTV, stated that if Bangladesh becomes unstable, it will affect West Bengal, Myanmar, and the entire northeast India.

Now, West Bengal is bogged down in protests over a horrific case of rape and murder, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declaring that she is "ready to resign." The state of Manipur is on red alert as recent drone and rocket attacks have triggered a fresh wave of ethnic violence. Meanwhile, "Myanmar is plumbing the depths of the human rights abyss," according to James Rodehaver, United Nations human rights chief of the Myanmar team. If the situation in the Bay of Bengal does not seem like a powder keg ready to explode, one must be truly blind.

However, the recent visit of a US delegation to Bangladesh offers some hope that the world is concerned with the evolving situation in the region. By the time this column is published, a bilateral meeting will have taken place between Chief Adviser Prof Yunus and US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. On September 15, the inter-agency US



VISUAL: FATIMA JAHAN ENA

**Regardless of the nature of international involvement, the ultimate responsibility for the stability of a nation lies with its own people. While geostrategic partners like the US and India can offer financial support and diplomatic engagement, it is up to the people of Bangladesh to ensure that their nation remains stable.**

delegation that met with the chief adviser included Brent Neiman, assistant secretary for the Department of Treasury; Donald Lu, assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs; Anjali Kaur, USAID deputy assistant administrator for Asia; and Brendan Lynch, assistant US trade representative.

During the visit, USAID signed a development agreement worth over \$200 million with the interim government to support Bangladesh in advancing development, strengthening governance, expanding trade, and creating greater opportunities for the Bangladeshi people to build a brighter and more prosperous future. From 2021 to 2026, USAID has committed

nearly \$1 billion in support.

Sources in the finance ministry indicate that the Asian Development Bank (ADB) may provide \$900 million in budgetary support to Bangladesh by March 2025. Earlier this month, the interim government also requested \$1 billion from the World Bank for the energy and power sector, along with another \$1 billion for banking sector

the population with bad-faith identity politics, or organising misinformation campaigns to obscure the truth and paint the nation in the worst possible light.

The bilateral meeting, as well as the recent visit by the US delegation underscores the country's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's development and political stability under the interim government. By

that extremist voices within India do not agitate the situation across the border. For instance, recent remarks by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the militaristic language and posturing by other political actors do not bode well for diplomatic de-escalation and mutual cooperation. Indian policymakers should exercise caution so that domestic issues are not exploited to create friction between the two countries.

More importantly, India must adopt a balanced approach, combining diplomatic engagement with Bangladesh and ensuring that no internal forces within India undermine efforts for stability. Given the ethnic and religious diversity in India's northeast region and Bangladesh's proximity, any instability in Bangladesh will most definitely spill over, affecting not only West Bengal but also states like Assam and Tripura. It's in India's own security interest to support the interim government in Dhaka, providing assistance where possible to counter both external and internal threats.

Regardless of the nature of international involvement, the ultimate responsibility for the stability of a nation lies with its own people. While geostrategic partners like the US and India can offer financial support and diplomatic engagement, it is up to the people of Bangladesh to ensure that their nation remains stable. Some questions have already been raised about the competence of the interim government and its lack of urgency. This is not a good sign. It will need to navigate each new political challenge promptly and carefully, ensuring that democratic institutions remain functional and that extremist groups are not able to exploit any governance vacuums. It should also pave the way for an election that is free, fair and inclusive, which in itself is a daunting task.

In these unstable times, civil society and the media, in particular, will need to step up their activities drastically, countering the ongoing waves of misinformation campaigns and holding the reality on the ground for all of the world to see. The youth, intellectuals, business communities and political parties have a significant part to play in ensuring that polarisation does not destabilise the country further. This is a critical moment for Bangladesh; the future rests in the hands of the Bangladeshi people. The people who came out on the streets and gave their lives to dethrone an autocrat must now step up again and resist divisive forces. This is the only way to remake Bangladesh into a more prosperous and peaceful nation.

reforms. This is part of a broader effort to secure \$8 billion from multilateral lenders and development partners to replenish the country's foreign exchange reserves and stabilise the economy.

One of Prof Yunus's key strengths is his appeal in the West, which is likely a significant factor in the potential inflow of foreign currency to support the interim government. These developments are critical at a time when Bangladesh is experiencing significant internal unrest. There are speculations that many forces, both within and outside the country, are actively working to discredit the government in any way possible, whether through inciting violence by exploiting religious sentiments, dividing

signing a development agreement through USAID and subsequently holding a bilateral meeting, the US has made it clear that it recognises the strategic importance of Bangladesh. Washington's backing, however, isn't just economic; it's also a strategic signal to regional powers that the situation in Bangladesh is of global concern. This development aligns with US interests in South Asia, particularly regarding regional stability, which is a cornerstone of its broader Indo-Pacific strategy.

India, as Bangladesh's closest neighbour, also has a vital role to play in ensuring that its own security interests align with Bangladesh's stability. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government must ensure

### SRI LANKA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024

## A turning point or a false dawn?



**Sakuna M Gamage**  
is a global political analyst at Law & Society Trust (LST) and documentary photographer based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**SAKUNA M GAMAGE**

Sri Lanka's 2024 presidential election, which saw the ascension of Anura Kumara Dissanayake (AKD) as the president, stands as a significant milestone in the country's modern political history. This victory, deeply rooted in the collective frustration from the economic collapse and the 2022 Aragalaya protests, symbolises a departure from the entrenched political dynasties and neoliberal policies that have shaped Sri Lankan governance for decades. As the island nation grapples with both its internal fractures and external pressures, Dissanayake's presidency is not only a reflection of the people's cry for reform, but also a litmus test for how far Sri Lanka can truly pivot from its problematic past and forge a sustainable future.

The seeds of this political shift that we're witnessing today were planted in the Aragalaya, a grassroots movement that demanded the ouster of the Rajapaksa family from power. The protests, fuelled by a catastrophic economic crisis, revealed the deep-seated anger and disillusionment among Sri Lankans against their ruling elites. Chronic mismanagement, corruption, and unsustainable fiscal policies had pushed the country to the brink of economic collapse. The foreign exchange reserve crisis, runaway inflation, and the inability to procure basic essentials forced millions into poverty. As the Rajapaksa regime fell, it became evident that Sri Lanka's political landscape had been irrevocably altered.

Dissanayake's rise to power is the political embodiment of the people-centric movement that has been running in the veins of Sri Lankans since 2022. He is the leader of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a left-leaning political party with a long history of revolutionary activism. AKD's victory is seen as a triumph for those who demand a system that prioritises social welfare of the masses over the interests of a few. His win is a testament to the fact that people's frustration with the political class has reached a tipping point, pushing them to rally behind a figure who promised

radical change, particularly in the economic domain.

Dissanayake's presidency presents an opportunity to reimagine Sri Lanka's economic strategy. For decades, the country has been caught in a cycle of debt, relying on foreign loans and neoliberal policies to fuel growth. This approach has led to structural inequalities, with the working class bearing the brunt of economic mismanagement while the political elite enriched themselves. The collapse in 2022 exposed the inherent flaws in this system, necessitating a radical rethink of Sri Lanka's development model.

Dissanayake has proposed a people-centric production economy, one that prioritises local industries, agriculture and sustainable practices, over dependence on imports and foreign debt. This shift would focus on strengthening domestic manufacturing, increasing food security, and investing in sectors that benefit the majority of the population, rather than multinational corporations or the wealthy elite. Such a strategy also promises to address the country's unemployment crisis by creating jobs in agriculture, industry, and small-to-medium enterprises, aligning economic growth with social equity.

One of the most pressing challenges facing Dissanayake's administration is the renegotiation of Sri Lanka's debt. The island's economy remains shackled by billions of dollars in foreign debt, with China, Japan, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) being its largest creditors. The austerity measures imposed by the IMF in exchange for bailout packages have further deepened the economic hardship experienced by ordinary Sri Lankans, leading to widespread resentment.

Dissanayake has signalled his intention to renegotiate Sri Lanka's debt on more favourable terms, seeking to alleviate the burden on the working class while pursuing a path of debt sustainability. He faces the difficult task of balancing fiscal responsibility with social welfare, as Sri Lanka's creditors

are unlikely to offer lenient terms without substantial reforms. However, the new president's emphasis on a people-centric economic model suggests that any future agreements with international financial institutions will try to prioritise people's welfare over the demands of creditors.

One of the cornerstones of Dissanayake's campaign was his promise to abolish the

reform will also aim to strengthen the independence of the judiciary and other democratic institutions, which have been systematically weakened under previous administrations.

However, such a mammoth task will not be without challenges. Resistance from powerful political actors, particularly those who have benefited from the centralised

ethnic and religious lines. His presidency offers an opportunity to forge a path towards social harmony. Central to this effort will be addressing the grievances of the Tamil and Muslim communities, particularly in terms of land rights, political representation, and economic opportunities. Meaningful power decentralisation, as part of a new constitution, could provide the framework for greater autonomy and representation for minority regions, fostering trust and cooperation.

Yet, promoting social harmony will require more than just political reforms. It will involve rebuilding trust among communities through education, cultural exchange, and grassroots initiatives that promote understanding and coexistence. Dissanayake's commitment to ethnic reconciliation will be crucial in determining whether Sri Lanka can move beyond its fraught past and build a more cohesive society.

On the global front, Sri Lanka's geopolitical position in the Indian Ocean has made it a focal point for major powers, particularly China, India and the US. The country's strategic location has been both a blessing and a curse, as successive governments have struggled to balance competing foreign interests. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) investments, particularly in infrastructure projects like the Hambantota Port, have drawn criticism for pushing Sri Lanka into a debt trap, while India remains deeply invested in Sri Lanka's political stability, given its proximity and the presence of a large Tamil population in southern India.

Dissanayake's presidency will likely entail a delicate balancing act between these powers. While he may seek to reduce Sri Lanka's dependency on Chinese loans, he cannot afford to alienate Beijing entirely, given its significant economic influence. Similarly, maintaining cordial relations with India will be vital for ensuring regional stability and fostering economic ties.

Dissanayake's presidency undoubtedly represents a critical juncture in Sri Lanka's history. If he can deliver on his promises of a people-centric economy, a decentralised political system, and social harmony, Sri Lanka may finally be able to overcome its turbulent past and chart a course towards a more just and equitable future. The road ahead is fraught with obstacles, and only time will tell whether this election marks a genuine turning point or a fleeting moment of hope.



**A roadside shoemaker works at his usual spot on Yatinuwara Street, Kandy, Sri Lanka, with pasted presidential election posters of AKD above his head on September 14, 2024, before the elections.**

COURTESY: SAKUNA M GAMAGE

executive presidency—a political institution that has long been seen as a source of authoritarianism and abuse of power in Sri Lanka. Since its establishment in 1978, the executive presidency has concentrated immense power in the hands of one individual, allowing for rampant corruption and political favouritism. Many argue that this system has contributed to the country's political instability and the entrenchment of family dynasties, such as the Rajapaksas.

Abolishing the executive presidency is not only a symbolic move towards restoring democratic norms, but also a practical step towards decentralising power. By shifting authority back to a parliamentary system and provincial governments, Dissanayake hopes to create a more accountable and transparent political system. Constitutional

power structure, is likely. Nonetheless, Dissanayake's push for a new constitution could pave the way for a more inclusive and participatory political process.

On the other hand, Sri Lanka's ethnic tensions, particularly between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil and Muslim minorities, remain a persistent fault line in its politics. The civil war, which ended in 2009, left deep scars, with successive governments failing to address the root causes of the conflict or to promote genuine reconciliation. The rise of Sinhala Buddhist nationalism in the post-war years further exacerbated ethnic divisions, marginalising minorities and fuelling resentment.

Dissanayake has positioned himself as a unifying figure, advocating for a more inclusive national identity that transcends

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Tangail

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

Memo No. 46.02.9300.000.07.014.24.6433

Date: 23-09-2024

**e-Tender Notice No. 06/2024-2025 [LTM/OSTETM]**

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of scheme	Package No.	Last selling date & time of e-Tender document	Closing & opening date & time of submission e-Tender document	Remarks (LTM/OSTETM)
1.	1014004	Improvement by BC of Baoykhola High School-Bilkis Mannan Girls High School Road from Ch.00-400m under Basail Upazila, District: Tangail (Road ID No. 393095164)	IRIDP/TAN /Basail/VR/ 598	09-10-2024 & 16.00pm	10-10-2024 & 15.00pm	LTM
2.	1014005	Improvement by BC of Porabari-Shonkarpur Ghat Road from Ch.00-500m under Dhanbari Upazila, District: Tangail (Road ID No. 393964118)	IRIDP/TAN /Dhanbari/ VR/599	09-10-2024 & 16.00pm	10-10-2024 & 15.00pm	LTM
3.	1014006	Improvement by BC of Kamarnowgoa-Delduar Charpara Road from Ch.1777-2777m under Delduar Upazila, District: Tangail (Road ID No. 393235034)	IRIDP/TAN /Delduar/VR /600	09-10-2024 & 16.00pm	10-10-2024 & 15.00pm	LTM
4.	1014007	Improvement by BC of Chinakhola Madrasa-Barabuchna Road from Ch.1000-1837m under Delduar Upazila, District: Tangail (Road ID No.393235029)	IRIDP/TAN /Delduar/VR /601	09-10-2024 & 16.00pm	10-10-2024 & 15.00pm	LTM
5.	1014008	Improvement by BC of Borni High School-Delduar Baropakha Slucegate Road from Ch.00-1000m under Delduar Upazila, District: Tangail. (Road ID No.393235067) (Salvage Cost. 3.80,700.00)	IRIDP/TAN /Delduar/VR /602	09-10-2024 & 16.00pm	10-10-2024 & 15.00pm	LTM
6.	1014009	Improvement by BC of Harisha-Bhengula Road from Ch.1050-1690m under Gopalpur Upazila, District: Tangail (Road ID No.39334050)	IRIDP/TAN /Gopalpur/ VR/603	09-10-2024 & 16.00pm	10-10-2024 & 15.00pm	LTM
7.	1014000	Improvement by BC of Lokkhindar GPS Pacca Road-Khaznagora GPS Road from Ch.1350-2850m under Ghatail Upazila, District: Tangail. (Road ID No.393284154)	IRIDP/TAN /Ghatail/VR/ 594	23-10-2024 & 16.00pm	24-10-2024 & 15.00pm	OSTET M

- 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.
  - Detail about the tender have shown in e-Tender notice and e-Tender document.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Executive Engineer

LGED, Tangail

E-mail: [xen.tangail@lged.gov.bd](mailto:xen.tangail@lged.gov.bd)

GD-509



**RAJSHAHI KRISHI UNNAYAN BANK**

Head Office, Information and Communication Technology Department

272, Banalata C/A, Airport Road, Rajshahi

Tel: 02588820082, Cell: 01729282197

E-mail: [dgmiect@rakub.org.bd](mailto:dgmiect@rakub.org.bd), Website: [www.rakub.org.bd](http://www.rakub.org.bd)

Ref No. RAKUB/HO/ICTB-138/2024-2025/335

Date: 23-09-2024

**CORRIGENDUM**

This is hereby to notify to all concerned that the EOI for the Selection of Software Developing/Software Solution Providing Firm for Supply, Installation, Customization and Implementation of HR Payroll Solution with Capacity building of Bank's Designated Personnel published on 01-09-2024 in the newspapers (Prothom Alo and The Daily Star) and our website ([www.rakub.org.bd](http://www.rakub.org.bd)) has been amended in the EOI: 07 EOI Ref. No., 11 EOI Closing Date and Time and TOR: 5 Documents to be submitted by the software developing/software solution providing firm for urgent requirement of the software solution as follows:

Item	Original text as per published tender document	Amended text as per this corrigendum	Remarks
EOI: 07. EOI Ref. No.	RAKUB/HO/ICTB-138/2024-2025/	RAKUB/HO/ICTB-138/2024-2025/255	-
EOI: 11. EOI Closing Date and Time	Date: 26-09-2024; Time: 04.00 pm.	Date: 03-10-2024; Time: 04.00pm.	-
TOR: 5. Documents to be submitted by the software developing/software solution providing firm	2. The Software Developing / Software Solution Providing firm Must have 02 (two) years in relevant practical experience of developing and implementation of HR Payroll Solution in the Banking sector.	2. The Software Developing / Software Solution Providing firm Must have 02 (two) years in relevant practical experience of developing and implementation of HR Payroll Solution.	-
		22. The Software Developing / Software Solution Providing firm must have membership of Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS).	Newly added. Firm must submit the related document and certificate.

All other terms and conditions of the EOI & TOR will remain unchanged. This corrigendum addendum is an integral part of the tender document.

*Md. Abul Kalam*  
23/09/2024  
Deputy General Manager

GD-521



**Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.**

(A Company of Petrobangla)

(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারের সশ্রমী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

স্বচ্ছচার চর্চা করি সমৃদ্ধ পোনার বাংলা গড়ি

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No : 28.16.9100.034.86.018.24

Dated: 22-September-2024

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & Date of Publishing	Name of the Work	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	e -Tender Id : <b>1016301</b> Package No : e -GP-POD-018 Date of Publishing : <b>19-September-2024</b>	"Construction of 4" Dia Low-Pressure Gas Pipeline with Ancillary Work at Borlekha, Moulvibazar."	Last Selling : <b>03-Oct' 2024, 12.30</b> Closing date : <b>03-Oct' 2024, 15.30</b> & time Opening date : <b>03-Oct' 2024,15.30</b> & time

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal/e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(ENGR.MD. ABU BAKAR)

General Manager (Operation Division)

Tel: + 8802997700621

E-mail: [gm\\_operation@jgtdsl.gov.bd](mailto:gm_operation@jgtdsl.gov.bd)

GD-512



**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

National Productivity Organisation

Ministry of Industries

91, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000



**Nomination for APO National Award**

36.10.0000.003.07.028.24/775 (1)

Date: 23-09-2024

National Productivity Organisation (NPO), a Government Department under the Ministry of Industries has been working to promote productivity and thereby accelerate pace of economic development through its multidimensional activities like creation of productivity awareness, development of productivity infrastructure and implementation of productivity improvement program. NPO is acting as the liaison office of Japan based Asian Productivity Organization (APO) which is an inter-governmental regional organization established in 1961. Bangladesh is the member country of Asian Productivity Organization (APO) since 1982.

The APO Award Program has been introduced to recognize individuals with outstanding achievements and contributions in the area of productivity at national and regional levels. The Award aims to recognize a core of deserving productivity champions within Asian Productivity Organization (APO) members, both from the public and private sectors and from profit and not-for-profit organizations, who are leading and implementing productivity initiatives and influencing other members of their organizations in various productivity activities and/or those outside their organizations.

**Award Categories & Winners' Privileges:** The APO National Award is conferred for two categories:

- ❖ APO National Award for Productivity Advocates (policy, strategic thinking, leadership, and management)
- ❖ APO National Award for Productivity Technical Experts (methodology, tools, and techniques)

The award is open to nominees from public, private, for-profit, or not-for-profit organizations. NPOs are not eligible to submit nominations to avoid conflicts of interest as they serve as the assessment bodies. Individuals may be nominated by their employers, other employer groups, trade chambers and associations, the mass media, or members of the public. The award may be conferred on a maximum of two individuals from each APO member per year. Each award recipient is presented with a certificate and plaque as personal mementos of their success and a monetary prize of USD1,000.00. The names of award winners are published on the APO's website.

If you are interested to get the APO National Award, please submit your application through mail ([fatamabegumnpo@gmail.com](mailto:fatamabegumnpo@gmail.com)) or send a hard copy of your application to NPO office by **24 October, 2024**. Further information and guidelines are available in the website of National Productivity Organisation ([www.npo.gov.bd](http://www.npo.gov.bd)).

*Mst. Fatema Begum*  
23/09/2024  
Senior Research Officer

National Productivity Organisation (NPO)  
Ministry of Industries, Bangladesh.

GD-513



**Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha**

Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

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

**e-Tender Notice No. RAJUK/SECC4-02/2024-2025**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for procurement of the following listed Tenders-

Tender ID	Description	Online tender publication date	Online tender closing date
1016867 (OTM)	Repair & Renovation work of internal Road of Block C, Sector-15 (Part) in/c Avenue-09 (Partly) at Uttara Residential Area of Rajuk, Dhaka.	25-Sep-2024 20:00:00	17-Oct-2024 15:00:00
1016866 (OTM)	Repair & Renovation work of Avenue 09 (Partly) in/c internal Road of Block A,B,C,D,E,F of Sector-16 at Uttara Residential Area of Rajuk, Dhaka.	25-Sep-2024 20:00:00	17-Oct-2024 15:00:00
1016865 (OTM)	Drain Construction work by Concrete Solid Block of Sector-15, Block-A1 at Uttara Residential Area of Rajuk, Dhaka.	25-Sep-2024 20:00:00	17-Oct-2024 15:00:00
1007300 (OTM)	Repair & renovation work of Avenue-01 (Partly) in/c internal road of Block-A1, Sector-15 at Uttara Residential Area of RAJUK, Dhaka.	25-Sep-2024 20:00:00	17-Oct-2024 15:00:00

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

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank within office hour on or before 16-Oct- 2024 15:00.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e GP help desk at [helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

*Md. Mobarok Hossain*  
23/09/2024  
Superintending Engineer (Civil Circle-4)  
Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha  
RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka

GD- 517

## Tigers need Mominul to score big

SHABAB CHOWDHURY

Amid Bangladesh's continued top-order failure in Test cricket in recent times, one character that might have escaped wide scrutiny is Mominul Haque, who these days bats at number four position - one of the two most crucial batting positions in Test cricket.

Mominul's runs, particularly the big knocks, have always been vital to Bangladesh's cause as evidenced by the impact of his centuries. Out of the 12 tons he has scored in the format so far, 10 of those saw Bangladesh either nick a draw or clinch a win, with the only loss coming against the West Indies in 2021 when the left-hander's 115 was trumped by Kyle Mayers' double century in Chattogram. Bangladesh's top four - all left-handers - put on a sorry show against India in



the first Test in Chennai as it was yet another batting meltdown, starting at the top, that plunged them to a 280-run defeat. Mominul was a key figure in that failure as he registered a golden duck and 13 in the match. He got castled in both innings; Akash Deep angled one in to break through the gap between Mominul's bat and pad - almost

identically to how he got bowled against Khurram Shahzad in Pakistan in the previous series - while Ravichandran Ashwin bowled a ripper from the same angle to take his off-stump in the second. The 32-year-old batter, who made his Test debut in 2013, used to boast a batting average of beyond 50 in the early years of his career and subsequently became one of the pillars of the batting unit of Bangladesh. He could keep up that enviable average for the first three years of his career, till 2016 that is, and since then

**Out of the 12 tons he has scored in the format so far, 10 of those saw Bangladesh either nick a draw or clinch a win, with the only loss coming against the West Indies in 2021 when the left-hander's 115 was trumped by Kyle Mayers' double century in Chattogram.**

it has regressed significantly (to 37.78) largely owing to a lack of consistency.

Then comes the home versus away debate with Mominul. As backed by his stats, Mominul averages just 25.29 in away Tests - a stark contrast to the 48.57 average at home. Of the 12 tons he has scored, only one came away from home (in Sri Lanka).

Mominul's recent struggles can be attributed to subtle technical issues,

predominantly his head position and his bat-lift. In his early years, the direction of his bat-lift used to be aligned more with the wicket-keeper or at best the first slip which would allow him to have a steadier head position and in turn help with swinging his bat with a straighter face. But in recent years, his bat-lift has been more directed towards the wider slips, perhaps to give him more access to wider areas of the field and establish a broader stroke range, which however has made him a prime candidate for lbws and bowled-outs. He cocks his bat at a wider angle now (towards third man) which destabilises his head position. This does not always allow him to cover the line of the ball, especially when bowlers are trying to get him out from around the wicket, and hence he loses his bearings, becoming susceptible to lbws as well as bowled-outs.

In his last 17 innings since 2023, Mominul's percentage of lbw and bowled dismissals was roughly 43 percent, whereas the figure was 31 percent in the 102 innings prior, giving a percentage rise of 39.

Heading into the second Test in Kanpur, starting from September 27, it is of no doubt where India will be looking to target Mominul. And for Bangladesh to put up a fight, it will be vital for Mominul to do justice to his pedigree as a Test batter.

## Shanto & Co reach Kanpur

SPORTS REPORTER

Amid security concerns and the prospect of being greeted to a slower and lower pitch than the Chennai surface, the Bangladesh national team, along with the Indian side, arrived in Kanpur yesterday afternoon for their second Test starting Friday.

Bangladesh suffered a 280-run hammering at the hands of the hosts in Chennai in the first Test of the two-match series, part of the World Test Championship.

Looking to stage a comeback, the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led team could get a familiar surface at the Green Park stadium as per reports from a number of Indian media outlets.

According to reports in India, the surface at Kanpur's Green Park will have a covering of black soil, meaning there could be a lack of bounce in the surface - the type of wicket that is similar to what the Tigers play at home in Mirpur.

The change in conditions might play a role in the two sides' selection of their eleven for the game, with India having the option to give a nod to either leggie Kuldeep Yadav or left-arm spinner Axar Patel while Bangladesh could call in left-arm spinner Taijul Islam or off-spinner Nayeem Hasan.

Meanwhile, there have been security concerns regarding the game as multiple right-wing organisations have called to oppose the matches in Bangladesh's ongoing tour of India in protest of the alleged attacks against the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

Indian authorities have undertaken elaborate security arrangements amidst security threats ahead of Bangladesh's second Test against India in Kanpur, reports several Indian media.

## Man Utd, Spurs eye respite in Europa League

AFP, Paris

Manchester United and Tottenham kick off their Europa League campaigns this week, hoping to put disappointing starts to the Premier League season behind them.

Erik ten Hag's United have failed to show any real improvement from a miserable season last term, sitting outside the top 10 already domestically with just seven points from five matches.

The Dutch manager narrowly clung on to his job despite leading the Old Trafford giants to their worst-ever Premier League finish of eighth last term, largely thanks to a surprise FA Cup final victory over Manchester City. United spent heavily in the transfer market, but the expected upturn in fortunes on the pitch are yet to materialise ahead of their Europa League opener at home to Twente on Wednesday.

Man United are back in the revamped Europa League after a disastrous Champions League performance last season that saw the three-time European champions finish bottom of their group.

Anything other than a victory against Dutch



club Twente, back in the competition proper for the first time since 2012, in the first of their eight league-phase matches would pile the pressure on Ten Hag and his players.

Discontent has also started to grow among Tottenham fans for the first time since their blistering start to life under Ange Postecoglou 12 months ago.

A 3-1 victory over Brentford at the weekend at least helped them bounce back from successive Premier League defeats against Newcastle and Arsenal.

But Spurs will be desperate to end their 17-year wait for a major trophy and will see the new Europa League, which will not feature any teams dropping down from the Champions League like in previous seasons, as a golden opportunity.

They host Azeri club Qarabag on Thursday. Elsewhere, crisis-hit Roma welcome Athletic Bilbao to the Stadio Olimpico, hoping to continue their strong recent form in Europe.

Other Europa League fixtures include 2022 winners Eintracht Frankfurt hosting Viktoria Plzen, while four-time European champions Ajax take on Besiktas in Amsterdam.

## We have 'all ingredients' to go the distance

**DS:** How have you adapted preparations after the T20 World Cup was shifted to UAE?

**Hashan Tillakaratne (HT):** It's very unfortunate that the venue has been changed from Bangladesh, but there are things you can't control. So, we must stay in a positive frame of mind. Playing in Sharjah, these wickets will definitely help us. It's all about believing in yourself and going out there to execute the plans.

**DS:** Do you think the experience of winning the qualifying tournament in 2022 in UAE will come in handy?

**DS:** Does the prospect of playing a relatively weaker opponent Scotland, and South Africa - beaten in their backyard last year - make you optimistic?

**HT:** All the teams are challenging. We can't take them lightly. Since I've been working with them for the last two years, I understand their mentality, skills, and everything. I'm sure we have all the ingredients, and the girls are very skilful. If they can play their 'A' game, we have a good chance because we've beaten South Africa in South Africa. There are a lot of



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

women's cricket. For a 17 or 18-year-old to develop so rapidly in two years is really good for Bangladesh. She's risen in the WT20I rankings, which is another positive for us. We have a lot of confidence in her, and I'm sure she will do what's needed. Also, she's a very smart girl.

**DS:** What's your take on the overdependence on Nigar Sultana Joty's batting?

**HT:** Yes, we've spoken about this often with Nigar and the other six or seven batters about how they need to support her. As you correctly pointed out, we've been putting undue pressure on Nigar. That's why I've tried different combinations so they can take some pressure off her. There are a few combinations in place now, and I'm sure they understand their roles and will play accordingly.

**DS:** We largely have the same players who played in the last T20 World Cup in 2023. Do you think a few domestic tournaments, like the Women's DPL and NCL, are enough to produce ample players for the national team?

**HT:** The BCB has taken a very good initiative by starting a T20 tournament and also two-day cricket. We need to make these tournaments more challenging for our players and more competitive. I see a lot of talented players, but they need a proper pathway to represent the country.

**DS:** Having worked with Sri Lanka, how do you compare women's cricket in both nations?

**HT:** Sri Lanka has come a long way in women's cricket... It's the same here - our girls are coming through nicely. The path is there, and I'm sure it's the right time to get ROI (return on investment).

### SHORT CORNER

#### Hamza one step away from playing for Bangladesh

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has sought final approval from FIFA to field England-born footballer Hamza Chowdhury as a Bangladesh player after getting a No-Objection Certificate from the England Football Association last week. "We have already applied to FIFA for the final approval for Hamza Chowdhury and our application is supposed to be placed before the players' status committee, subject to the availability of all related documents," BFF general secretary Emran Hossain told reporters yesterday.

#### India take Bangladesh to SAFF U-17 semis

Bangladesh moved into the semifinals of the SAFF U-17 Championship after India notched up an emphatic 3-0 win over Maldives in the final Group A match at Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan yesterday. India emerged group champions with six points from two matches while Bangladesh finished group runners-up by virtue of goal difference as both Bangladesh and Maldives secured one point each from two matches.

#### Sabalenko chases year-end No.1 ranking

Aryna Sabalenka said Tuesday that she wants to cap off a stellar year by returning to the top of the world rankings. The world number two is the top seed at the China Open this week following the withdrawal of top-ranked Iga Swiatek, the defending champion, because of undisclosed "personal matters".

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.



#### 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 campuses/ hospitals/ hotels/ commercial buildings/ factory complex, etc. and minimum 5 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 institute.

#### Coordination 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

**Age:** Not exceeding 35 years.

**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.

**Experience:** At least 3 year(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:** 5 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](http://jobs.northsouth.edu)



Scan me

**HT:** We all know that the World Cup is a challenging tournament. We can only control our game plan, and we have all the ingredients. They have played in the UAE before, and I think that experience counts for a lot. I'm sure they understand the seriousness of the game, and I'm confident they will play accordingly and go all the way.

positives in our game; we just need to continue that and play as a team.

**DS:** Recently, leg spinner Rabeya Khan has emerged as a top performer. How do you sum up her recent development?

**HT:** She is the future of Bangladesh cricket. She's developing very quickly, which is a positive sign for Bangladesh



**BSRM**  
Building a safer nation

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



**DHAKA METRO RAIL PROJECT**

Proud Construction Partner



## Govt publishes draft list of 708 people killed in uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday published a draft list of 708 individuals who lost their lives during the student-led mass uprising in July and August 2024.

This list is available at <https://medical-info.dghs.gov.bd/>, according to a public notice signed by Umme Habiba, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The list, compiled from various public and private hospitals and district sources, identifies martyrs from the anti-discrimination student movement, the notice said.

In case there are any names of victims missing from the list, the ministry has urged family members, heirs, and representatives to contact their local deputy commissioner, civil surgeon, upazila nirbahi officer, or upazila health and family planning officer with appropriate documents.

The list will be available for public

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A good number of vehicles impounded by the Shahbagh Police Station for various offences over the years are now abandoned in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. These vehicles, rusting under the open sky, occupying valuable space, represent a loss to both state and personal levels.

## Shakib fined Tk 50 lakh for stock manipulation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) yesterday fined cricketer Shakib Al Hasan Tk 50 lakh for manipulating the share price of Paramount Insurance in 2023.

Between August 17 and September 19 last year, the share price of Paramount Insurance rose about 84 percent, found a BSEC investigation.

Shakib was fined for breaking securities rules by involving in a serial trading of Paramount Insurance, said a top official of BSEC.

Serial trading, which is prohibited by the securities rules, refers to the purchase and sale of shares between the accounts of the same beneficiary owner (BO) aimed at impacting the share price.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Sending money home to be easier

### Expat welfare adviser unveils new facilities for migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates will now be able to send remittance directly to Probashi Kallyan Bank, said Prof Asif Nazrul, adviser to the expatriate's welfare and overseas employment ministry, yesterday.

Initiatives are also underway so that they can repay loans from abroad, he said, adding that 12 private banks can give expatriates loans from now on.

He shared the updates with reporters at a press briefing in the ministry.

Prof Asif added that booths of Probashi Kallyan Bank will be available at branches of Sonali and Agrani banks in remote areas.

Mentioning that expatriate workers often face difficulties, Prof Asif said, "Embassies don't work sincerely. There will be arrangements for lodging complaints in such situations. Their activities will be regularly monitored, and steps will be taken if there is any negligence."

He added that all costs for sending remittance to money exchange houses will be paid by the banks concerned.

The one-crore-taka limit on wage earners' bonds has been lifted, making it easier for expatriates to send remittance comfortably.

Only approval from Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) and the embassy now will be required to send workers abroad. There will be no need for ministry approval, saving 30 days, he said.

The adviser said sub-agent registration will be implemented, saying that reducing their influence will lower migration costs.

Recruiting agencies will be rated based on their performance, which will increase competition.

Prof Asif said the government has prepared a list of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5



## Touhid meets Jaishankar, talks about better ties

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain discussed issues of mutual interest with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday evening in New York.

This was the first high-level interaction between Bangladesh and India since the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

On the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, Touhid and Jaishankar talked about strengthening the long-standing ties between the two neighbours.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry in X yesterday said the meeting focused on the two countries partnership.

Jaishankar tweeted, "Had a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain of Bangladesh in New York this [Monday] evening. The conversation focused on our bilateral ties."

Bangladesh's ties with India strained after the interim government took over last month.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus wrote to India for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but the meeting could not be held as Modi was scheduled to leave New York before Yunus' arrival there.

## BB won't print taka or sell dollar to tackle crisis

### Says Governor Ahsan H Mansur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank will not print money or sell dollars from reserves to solve the problems in the financial sector, said its governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday.

Now, efforts are being made to provide funds from other banks to those in need of liquidity, he said at a roundtable discussion styled "Where do we want to see the banking sector?" organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office in Dhaka.

"This step will play a role in controlling inflation. If you can reduce people's anger and suffering, it will be a great achievement. Even if temporary relief is obtained by printing money, the problem will not be solved. Human suffering will increase."

Subsequently, the Bangladesh Bank has decided not to print money or sell dollars from the reserves.

Even though there will be temporary difficulties in the business sector due to the strict monetary policy taken to bring down inflation, it will benefit the overall economy.

"Reducing inflation is my main responsibility. Various measures are being taken to reduce it. Monetary policy is already tight and steps are being taken for further tightening."

When inflation will come down, the overall economy will benefit as a result, said Mansur, also a former economist of the International Monetary Fund.

Mansur, who took over the reins of the central bank from Abdur Rouf Talukder last month, is planning to form three task forces to reform the banking sector and one of them has already been constituted.

**"Reducing inflation is my main responsibility. Various measures are being taken to reduce it. Monetary policy is already tight and steps are being taken for further tightening."**

Besides, several measures have already been taken, including changing the board of directors of some banks.

About 10 to 11 weak banks have been brought under regular supervision to improve the situation.

"We have already started daily

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## Little to show for Tk 65,000cr spent on ICT

### Ministry says expenditure over 15yrs failed to meet expectations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecommunications and ICT sectors failed to make expected progress despite making a massive investment of Tk 65,000 crore between 2010 and August 2024, according to a recent statement from the telecom ministry.

Telecom and ICT Adviser Nahid Islam expressed concern over the outcomes and said numerous projects were launched under the "Digital Bangladesh" initiative, but the anticipated benefits have not reached the country's population.

The ICT sector has implemented projects worth Tk 25,000 crore, while the post and telecommunications sector invested Tk 40,000 crore, according to the statement.

Bangladesh's performance in global rankings highlights the challenges the two sectors faced, it said.

In the June 2024 ICT Development Index, published by the United Nations International Telecommunication Union, Bangladesh scored 62 out of 100, placing it behind Myanmar, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Vietnam, and Bhutan.

Also, Bangladesh ranked 109th out of 147 countries for mobile internet speed and 108th for broadband speed in the May 2024 Ookla Speedtest Global Index, trailing nations such as Kenya, India, and Rwanda.

Bangladesh ranked 113th out of 174 countries in the IMF's Artificial Intelligence Readiness Index and dropped five places to 82nd among 121 countries in the 2023 Digital Quality of Life Index by Surfshark, with its internet speed measured at 5 percent below the global average.

Freelancing, a potential growth area for the country's youth, is also lagging. According to CEO World's April

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Remains of Ice Age mastodons uncovered in Peru

REUTERS, Lima

The fossilised remains of three mastodons from the Ice Age have been uncovered in the Peruvian Andes, raising questions as to how the behemoths arrived in the area.

Excavations starting in 2019 uncovered the

behe-mo-ths, believed to be between 11,000 and 12,000 years old, in the valley of the town of Chambara, about 300 km east of Lima.

One of the specimens is nearly complete, and could be the most preserved mastodon in all of Peru, said paleontologist Ivan Meza.

"If the skull is found - and everything indicates that the tusks are there - that would have scientific importance at a national and global scale," Meza said.

Mastodons were similar to the also-extinct mammoth, but had flatter heads and straighter tusks. Scientists now hope to find more fossils in the area, which could shed light on how and when the mastodons arrived.



The rise in dengue cases this month has driven up demand for mosquito nets in both hospitals and households, keeping manufacturers busy this season. The photo was taken at a mosquito net manufacturing factory in the capital's Gulistan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## Crackdown on plastic bags begins on Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take legal measures in all supermarkets from October 1 and in all markets from November 1 to enforce the existing ban on the use of polythene and polypropylene bags.

Additionally, actions will be taken against polythene producers from November 1, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, announced yesterday.

The adviser mentioned that everyone has sufficient time, and the government is also working on providing alternatives.

Rizwana made the announcements during a discussion on the challenges and possibilities of banning polythene shopping bags. The meeting was held at the office of the Mohammadpur Town Hall Market Traders' Association.

Prior to the meeting, the adviser inaugurated a clean-up campaign and distributed alternative materials to polythene in the market.

Bins and permanent notice boards were also installed to collect polythene and other plastic packaging.

The ban on plastic bags in supermarkets is not a unilateral decision by the government but has been agreed upon in consultation with supermarket owners, she said.

Alternatives such as jute, fabric, and paper bags will be provided by 20-25 companies, including Bangladesh Jute Mills Association.

Supermarkets have already placed their orders, and arrangements are in place to meet their demands.