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Distressed loans soar to a record Tk 4.75 lakh cr

Shows central bank data till Dec 2023

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and AM JAHID

Distressed loans at banks totalled over Tk 4.75 lakh crore at the end of 2023 – a revelation that makes for a sobering read of the actual health of this vital sector of the economy.

The amount is the sum of non-performing loans (NPLs), rescheduled loans and restructured write-offs, all of which were disclosed in the latest edition of the Bangladesh Bank's Financial Stability Report yesterday.

The distressed loans amounted to almost 32 percent of the total outstanding loans of about Tk 15 lakh crore as of December 2023. The sum is a nearly Tk 1 lakh crore or 26 percent jump from a year earlier and close to the operating expenditure of the 2023-24 national budget.

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, blamed political or business influences in disbursing credit for the rise in distressed loans.

"This was because of bad governance as the banking regulator has given support and on the other hand, the big borrowers have taken the loan facilities using their influences through various political channels," he said.

At the end of 2023, the banking sector's NPLs stood at Tk 133,722 crore, rescheduled loans at Tk 2,88,540 crore and written-off loans Tk 53,612 crore.

The breakdown of distressed assets has been revealed as part of the conditions agreed with the International Monetary Fund for the \$4.7 billion loan programme, which was launched last year.

As per international best practices, distressed assets are reported alongside NPLs to reflect the true state of the banking sector's stressed assets.

"The asset quality of the banking sector might have deteriorated partly due to a lack of oversight on regular and rescheduled or restructured loans and advances as well as slow progress in NPL recovery," the report said.

- Distressed loans account for **32%** of total outstanding loans
- The amount jumped by **26%** or Tk **1 lakh** crore in a yr
- NPLs stand at Tk **1,33,722cr**
- Tk **2,88,540cr** loans rescheduled
- Tk **53,612cr** loans written off

SOURCE: BANGLADESH BANK

External issues like the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Palestine conflict, and other global and domestic challenges may have impaired the borrowers' repayment capacity, which in turn might have translated into the deteriorated asset quality of the overall banking sector, it added.

In recent times, a huge amount of loans has been rescheduled. About Tk 63,720 crore loans were rescheduled in 2022. The amount of rescheduled loans in 2023 was Tk 91,221 crore.

The report said the Bangladesh Bank introduced a temporary and somewhat lenient policy in 2022, allowing banks to reschedule loans by taking reduced down payments and granting a relatively longer tenure to the borrower for repayment.

"Banks were also allowed to frame their own policy to reschedule loans based on the parameters set by the Bangladesh Bank earlier. The stated policy might have contributed to the increase in rescheduling of loans in 2023. Furthermore, banks were allowed to reschedule loans of particular sectors (such as ship building and cold storage related loan) for longer tenure," it said.

Professor Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), said irregularities and extreme deterioration of good governance in the banking sector led distressed loans to increase.

Disbursing loans indiscriminately, and rescheduling loans on political

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Eight die of dengue in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least eight dengue patients died in the last 24 hours while 1,221 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Both the deaths and cases are the highest in a single day this year.

Of the deaths, five are in Dhaka South City Corporation areas while one each in Dhaka North City Corporation, Khulna division, and Barishal division.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new deaths and cases, the total number of deaths rose to 158 while total number of cases rose to 29,786.

Currently, 3,297 dengue patients are undergoing treatment.

A total of 26,331 patients have been released till yesterday.



Industrial and other liquid waste being dumped into the Karnaphuli river, the lifeline of Chattogram. The photo was taken in the port city's Firingi Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

S Alam took out 86pc of Global Islami Bank's loans

MD MEHEDI HASAN

S Alam Group and its linked companies account for more than 86 percent of the disbursed loans of Global Islami Bank (GIB), one of the six Shariah-based lenders that were controlled by the Chattogram-based business giant.

As of June, Global Islami's total loans

stood at Tk 13,880 crore, with S Alam and its linked companies accounting for 86.45 percent of the sum, according to the Shariah-based lender's records.

The loans were taken between 2013 and 2018 from the bank's branches in Chattogram through more than 50 trading companies linked with the S Alam Group. The Daily Star has learnt from officials of the bank who are involved with identifying the bank's exposure to the conglomerate.

Established in 2013 as NRB Global Bank, the bank soon came under the grip of S Alam Group, whose chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam is a close collaborator of the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina. After the fall of her government last month, the Bangladesh Bank reconstituted the board.

From the preliminary investigation, it has been identified that 85 percent of GIB's loans were taken by S Alam and its affiliates companies, said Mohammad Nurul Amin, the new chairman of GIB.

More information will be available after the independent audit.

No new loans were disbursed to the group or its affiliate companies after 2018 but the tenure of the previous loans were extended, he said.

"We are trying to reach them to recover the funds."

On paper, GIB's defaulted loans stood at Tk 327.12 crore, which is 2.36 percent of the total outstanding credit as of June. But the actual amount of bad loans is higher, Amin added.

Meanwhile, a central bank inspection report found that more than 80 percent of the bank's loans were disbursed from the Chattogram division. The majority of the funds were disbursed through Chattogram's Khatungonj branch, BB report showed.

The Khatungonj branch lent Tk 1,250.16 crore to eight trading companies linked with S Alam Group: Tk 151.87 crore to Green Expose

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BUET AUTHORITIES' NOTICE Students cannot join any political party, other orgs

Decision draws flak

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Buet authorities have announced that students cannot be members of any political organisation, be it on campus or outside.

The move comes nearly six months after the High Court allowed student politics on the campus.

A notice issued on Saturday by the premier engineering university read, "No student can join any political party or other organisations except for clubs or societies approved by the university."

Student leaders have urged Buet to immediately withdraw the decision, terming it undemocratic and unconstitutional.

The Buet notice says the authorities' aim is to ensure the quality of education, proper evaluation of merit, and elevate the university's status in the international academic community.

Buet academic council at a meeting on September 21 made the decision as part of its effort to reduce political activities among students, the notice signed by Buet Registrar Forkan Uddin adds.

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CSA will be amended, not struck down

Asif Nazrul says laws obstructing right to info to be scrapped or fixed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will abolish laws that go against the right to information and will amend the Cyber Security Act, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul said yesterday.

He explained that they would not completely abolish the CSA because cyberspace involves two types of offences, one computer-based and the other speech-based.

"Anarchy will ensue if we decriminalise cybercrimes like hacking or blackmailing women or other forms of harassment..."

The laws that oppose the right to information, or those which the previous government planned to enact for such a purpose, will either be cancelled or fixed, he said.

Prof Nazrul said this in a views exchange meeting on the "Right to Information in Establishing Transparent and Accountable Good Governance: The Supporting Role of NGOs" marking the International Right to Information Day.

The NGO Affairs Bureau and the Information Rights Forum jointly organised the event at the NGO Affairs Bureau's conference room.

"We will not wait for the reports from the reform commissions. Things that can be reformed immediately, like the Cyber Security Act and the Information Commission, will be urgently dealt with," he said in his address as the chief guest.

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PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

PLANTER SHOPPING

The quest for the perfect terracotta pot

RBR

For the gardeners of urban Dhaka, it's time to prepare for winter flowers. One might say it's too early, but October is when you need to prune your roses and feed them with compost, besides preparing beds and soil for other winter blooms.

In Dhaka, many of us do rooftop or balcony gardening, so pots and planters are what we always buy. We do most of our planter shopping in October for the lovely marigolds, zinnias, and snowballs. However, we tend to purchase multicoloured plastic pots or cut-up old drums and use them as big tubs. It looks unappealing; it is not the right choice for planters either.

I am not fond of plastic or tin planters. I think terracotta pots are gardening-friendly. The porous texture of terracotta helps the roots to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. It also absorbs the excess moisture after watering, which prevents the roots

from staying in soggy soil for too long.

Earthen products like huge urns and plant basins are not common in the Dhaka market. Even if you find one, it comes with an exorbitant price tag, which is not very cost-effective, especially if you opt for bulk buying. A simple regular 18-inch terracotta pot in local sidewalk pop-up stores is priced at Tk 250, and they keep on adding Tk 50 extra every season. Chari, a basin used to feed cattle, which can also be used as plant basins, is almost out of the Dhaka market. A shame really, since potting your colourful petunias in them gives your garden a happy lift.

People who desire them mostly collect them from places like Dhamrai, Patuakhali, and Faridpur, or go to the urban villages at the periphery of the metropolis. These places still wheel out big ornamental pots and other utilitarian items that were once used for carrying water and storing grains, and are now upcycled as planters.

So, I suggest you go on day trips to collect your

environment-friendly planters at wholesale prices. Many might think it to be an outrageous idea, but plant moms are crazy people with a bohemian spirit; they will go anywhere for garden accessories.

Recently, while coming from Joydebpur, I took a detour to avoid traffic and discovered a gem of a store, selling all sorts of local crafts and terracotta items. The sidewalks of the nameless inward lane were lined with three stalls owned by one entrepreneur. Items like palm leaf hand fans, wooden jolchoki or stools, terracotta plates to grind ingredients for bhortas or vegetable mash, pitchers, urns, etc were all there. The owner collected his stock from as far as Barishal.

The huge burnt-orange clay pot with whiplash curve designs, inspired by vines, caught my attention. I was on the lookout for a huge terracotta pot for my Ficus plant that I planned to keep indoors, and this unknown store in the middle of nowhere, had just what I was looking for, that too, for a price reasonable enough for me to get four more for my winter garden.

Jubo league man beaten to death in Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader was beaten to death in Noakhali's Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Mohammad Shahid, 43, was a member of the convening committee of East Chramtua Union Jubo League.

A video clip of Shahid being tortured went viral on social media.

The clip shows Shahid screaming for help as he is being severely beaten with his hands tied.

Three other Jubo League activists -- Riad Hossain, Jamal Uddin and Javed -- were also beaten up inside a house in Surya Narayanbahar village in the district between 1:00pm and 2:00pm yesterday, said Riad Hossain.

Mir Jahedul Haque Rony, officer-in-charge of Sudharam Model Police Station, said locals beat up Shahid and the other three and handed them over to joint forces.

Shahid died while undergoing treatment at the 250-bed Noakhali General Hospital around 8:00pm on Saturday. The other injured were admitted to the hospital.

Riad told The Daily Star, that around 11:00am on Saturday, Shahid and some Jubo League activists were having tea at a stall when some 70-80 armed people chased them.

"When we took shelter inside Ismail Muhuri's house, the attackers surrounded the house, grabbed Shahid and me and started beating us with sticks and hammers," he said.

"They also bludgeoned Jamal Uddin and Shahid's cattle farm manager Javed with hammers," he continued.

"The army rescued us and took us to the hospital around 6:00pm, but Shahid died," added Riad.

Jamal said, "Some followers of Faisal Bari took me from my shop and tied up my hands and eyes. They broke my legs with a hammer.

"My only fault is that I am involved in Jubo League politics. I don't know if I can walk again in life," he added.

Faisal Bari denied the allegations.

Lightning strikes kill 6

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A total of six people were killed in separate incidents of lightning strikes at five upazilas of Sunamganj and Sylhet districts today (Sunday).

Of them, two died in Sunamganj's Dowarabazar, one each in Sunamganj's Jamalganj and Chhatak, and Sylhet's Sadar, Bishwanath and Companiganj Upazilas.

In Dowarabazar, Jalal Miah, 30, and Jashim Uddin, 18, of Polirchar village died at nearby Dekhar Haor while fishing with other fishermen in the morning. Jahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dowarabazar Police Station, confirmed the deaths.

In Jamalganj Upazila, Sharif Miah, 35, of Kalagujia village died while fishing at Pagnar Haor. SM Kamal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jamalaganj Police Station, confirmed.

In Chhatak Upazila, Sundor Ali, 50, of Mallikpur village died while fishing in a haor near his home. Golam Kibria Hasan, officer-in-charge of Chhatak Police Station, confirmed.

In Bishwanath Upazila, Redwan Ahmed, 21, of Saroil village died while fishing in the pond near his home. Jaman Uddin, sub-inspector of Bishwanath Police Station, confirmed.

In Companiganj Upazila, Mashuk Miah, 52, of Rajnagar village died while farming near his home. Ujayer Al Mahmud Adnan, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, confirmed.

Distressed loans

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considerations over the past years worsened the situation further, he said.

"I think the actual situation is more horrible if the money taken away by the directors of many banks is taken into consideration.

"This shows how the banking system has turned into a looting ground and influential people have taken away money from banks by using connections. I am afraid that a large part of these loans are not recoverable. This is the biggest concern," Prof Selim said.

However, the Dhaka University teacher is optimistic that the current authorities will be able to find a way out of the problem because an expert like Ahsan H Mansur has been appointed as the governor of the Bangladesh Bank.

Zahid Hussain said distressed loans would have been bigger had the defaulted loans, which were not calculated due to court's stay orders, been taken into consideration.

However, it is too early to say that the initiatives of the interim government in this regard will be successful, he said. "More time is needed to see the result."

CSA will be amended, not struck down

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"We will act on whatever is immediately feasible," he added.

He also expressed surprise that The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam faced over 80 cases for what he had said at a programme.

Prof Nazrul said he believes that a lack of awareness about the right to information is one of the reasons people have not been able to fully exercise this right.

"If we think deeply, we will realise that every right is meaningless without the right to information..."

"We could not turn the right to information into a movement, as our neighbouring country India did," he said, added that withholding information had been a common strategy here for oppression and abuse.

He said if the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary did not function properly, then bodies like the information or human rights commissions would also be ineffective.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman questioned whether the country was transitioning from one authoritarian regime to another.

He said people fear that there

might be written, or unwritten, instructions sent to the NGO Bureau telling them not to release funds to organisations working on women's rights, indigenous rights, gender diversity, and LGBTQ issues.

Iftekharuzzaman called on everyone to be alert.

He said that people don't ask for information because they know that seeking it leads to harassment. "We must create an environment where ordinary people feel encouraged to seek information."

He noted that the so-called security agencies had previously infringed on people's rights and pointed out that institutional development was still not up to expectations. He also called for amendments to the Right to Information Act.

Iftekharuzzaman said the commissions are stuck in red tape, and they have become rehabilitation centres for former bureaucrats. He urged for reforms to the commissions, including the Information Commission, and suggested that public opinions be considered when appointing commissioners.

Badiul Alam Majumder, head of the Election System Reform Commission, said the ghosts of

the deposed autocrat still linger. "Harassment continues in various ways, and this must end quickly. I, too, was once a victim of harassment for seeking information."

He said, "We must take steps to ensure that we can access information from political parties as well. Without democratic political parties, unrestricted access to information cannot be established."

Delivering the keynote paper, Shaheen Anam, convener of the Information Rights Forum, said in the new Bangladesh, they want to ensure that no one faces any issues in obtaining information.

She mentioned poor preparedness of the authorities; inadequate skills of designated officers; and a lack publication and dissemination of information, among others, as obstacles to implementation of the right to information law.

Among others, Md Anwar Hossain, director of the NGO Affairs Bureau; Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI; Mahmudul Hossain Khan, secretary of the Coordination and Reform of the Cabinet Division; and Saidur Rahman, director general of the NGO Affairs Bureau, spoke at the event.



Law Adviser Asif Nazrul among other speakers at a views-exchange meeting on the "Right to Information in Establishing Transparent and Accountable Good Governance: The Supporting Role of NGOs" at the NGO Affairs Bureau yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Shakib will have security just like another cricketer

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as much as a player receives. This is our responsibility, we will give him that if he comes to the country.

"But if the general people are angry at him because of his political identity... I have five police constables and an armed man for my security, and if 100 million out of the 160 million people are angry, then will these five or six people protect me?"

"If the people are angry at me, I have to calm them with words. I think he has to make his position clear and talk about where he stands politically.

"Mashrafe Bin Mortaza already talked about his situation. So, if there are security risks from the people, then no one can give security to anyone. Even Sheikh Hasina could not be given that security and she had to flee. So, Shakib has to make his position clear."

Israel bombs 'dozens of targets'

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days of Israeli strikes.

Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati yesterday said his country could be witnessing its largest wave of displacement ever amid intense Israeli air strikes. Lebanon's army warned Lebanese against actions that would disturb public order.

In Beirut, some displaced families spent the night on the benches at Zaitunay Bay, a string of restaurants and cafes on Beirut's waterfront.

12 dead in air strikes on pro-Iranian fighters in Syria

AFP, Beirut

Twelve pro-Iranian fighters have been killed in air strikes of unknown origin in eastern Syria, a war monitor said yesterday, adding that a large number of people were wounded.

"Twelve pro-Iranian fighters were killed in air strikes of unknown origin targeting their positions in the city of Deir Ezzor and to the east of the city, as well as the Boukamal region, near

the border with Iraq," said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The strikes were not immediately claimed by any entity, according to the monitor. Five of the strikes had targeted military positions near Deir Ezzor airport, it added.

Iran has been providing military aid to Syria since the civil war there began in 2011, while Israel has carried out hundreds of strikes targeting pro-Iranian groups in eastern Syria.

Students cannot

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"Students must strictly adhere to the university ordinance, and any violations will result in appropriate disciplinary action taken as per the rules of the ordinance," the statement reads.

On April 1 this year, the High Court stayed the effectiveness of the university's 2019 ban on student politics.

The stay order came in response to a writ petition filed by Buet student and Chhatra League leader Imtiaz Hossain Rahim Rabbi.

On October 7, 2019, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League men murdered a second-year student at a dormitory. Buet banned politics after that.

Contacted yesterday, Professor Al Amin Siddiqui, director of student welfare, said, "We made the decision considering the current situation."

No students will be allowed to be members of organisations that have any form of political involvement, he added.

"For instance, Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad or Doctors Association of Bangladesh are not political organisations, but they have political affiliations. Our students cannot be part of such bodies."

He said as per Section 16 of the Board of Residence and Discipline of the Buet Ordinance, students always needed permission from the Directorate of Student Welfare to be involved in a political organisation.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nasir Uddin, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, said, "Banning student politics is unconstitutional and

undemocratic. Banned organisations will be active now. It puts many students at risk of harassment. We believe Buet students will welcome all student organisations except Chhatra League."

Mashur Rahman Richard, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, said, "All Buet students are voters. They must be free to support any group or opinion. The administration has interfered with their freedom. They will eventually criminalise them, which will go against the spirit of the July mass-uprising."

Mahir Shahriar Reza, president of a faction of Chhatra Union, said, "We think it's an autocratic decision of the administration, a violation of constitutional rights. It is a part of a scheme to depoliticise the educational institutions."

A student of the 19th batch said, "We strongly condemn the decision and urge the authorities to change it. Otherwise, we will go to court if necessary."

Noted Supreme Court Lawyer ZI Khan Panna said, "Who gave them the right to decide what a student should do or not do outside the campus?"

"We got independence because of student politics. Any adult individual can harbour any ideology. It is their constitutional right. They are not above the constitution of Bangladesh."

Anu Muhammad, former professor of economics at Jahangirnagar University, said, "To be able to do politics and express opinions is a bare minimum democratic right of a citizen. Buet authorities are behaving like a dictator."

S Alam took out 86pc

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Traders; Tk 163.23 crore to Epic Able Traders; Tk 160.94 crore to Momentum BG; Centre; Tk 136.68 crore to Monir Trade International; Tk 168.50 crore to Masum Trading House; Tk 161.58 crore to Hossain Traders; Tk 163.82 crore to Dominion Karpa; Tk 143.54 crore to Chowdhury and Hossain Trade, said a senior official of the bank seeking anonymity.

The bank, however, became mired in irregularities within years of its operation. In 2015, it appointed Prashanta Kumar Halder, popularly

known as PK Halder, as its managing director.

Halder, said to be a close associate of Alam, amassed hundreds of crore from several non-bank financial institutions (NBFI), which he laundered abroad.

The Daily Star could not reach Mohammed Saiful Alam, the chairman of S Alam Group, at the time of filing the report.

Contacted, Subrata Kumar Bhowmik, executive director of the business group, told the newspaper that he is not in the position and does not have such information as well.

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Heart disease treatment too Dhaka-centric

AHMED DEEPTO

In Bangladesh, cardiovascular disease treatment is predominantly Dhaka centric and is prohibitively expensive. Patients have to either come to the capital or remain untreated, said experts.

The centralisation of heart disease treatment in Dhaka has led to an overwhelming burden on institutions like the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), resulting in long waiting times for surgeries, sometimes even months.

Patients often have to wait months to get heart stents or major surgeries in government hospitals. As a result, most patients seek treatment in private hospitals, where costs are significantly higher.

An angiogram that costs Tk 3,000-4,500 in a government hospital can cost between Tk 10,000-15,000 in private ones. Heart stenting, which costs Tk 20,000-25,000 in government hospitals, can cost up to Tk 1,20,000 in private facilities.

Many cannot afford these prices.

Md Rafiur Rahman is one such person. He is a 63-year-old former government employee who has two blocks in his heart.

"I had a heart attack in 2019. Then the doctors asked me to wear the ring. But I had to wait more than a month for the surgery in a government hospital. Private medical expenses are high so I didn't go for surgery," he said.

The 700-bed NICVD hospital always has twice as many patients. Around 1,000 patients come to the outdoor department of the hospital every day.

A total of 130 coronary angiograms and 100 heart bypass surgeries are performed daily, with over 100 other surgeries also conducted each day, according to the NICVD.

Catheterisation laboratories or cath labs are very important in heart disease treatment. Various tests including angiogram, angioplasty, pacemaker or ICD implantation are done in this lab.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, there are 87 cath labs in government and private hospitals across the country. Of these, 58 have been installed in Dhaka. Eight cath labs are now inactive due to a lack of manpower across the country.

DGHS data said that there are 42 cardiac care units in the country, of which 32 have cardiovascular surgery units. Prof Nazmul Hossain, director general of DGHS, said the standard of cardiac surgery and heart treatment has increased after 2000. But the number of surgeries being performed is not high in the country.

When asked about the Dhaka-centricity of heart treatment, Hossain said, "Initiatives will be taken to make heart disease treatment available outside Dhaka."

This is the reality of heart treatment in Bangladesh as the world observed World Heart Day yesterday.

The World Health Organization says that more than four out of five cardiovascular deaths are due to heart attacks and strokes, and one third of these deaths occur prematurely in people under 70 years of age, according to World Health Organization (WHO).

Prof Sohel Reza Chowdhury of National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute said, "Around five lakh people die of cardiovascular disease annually in

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus being received at Dhaka airport as he returned home early yesterday, following a four-day visit to the US to attend the 79th session of UN General Assembly. Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain and Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin welcomed the chief adviser upon his arrival.

PHOTO: PID

VIOLENCE IN CHT

Probe attacks under UN supervision

Demand indigenous communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of indigenous people and leaders yesterday called for a probe committee under the supervision of the United Nations to investigate the recent attacks, murders, and arson in Dighinala of Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

"We demand the formation of a probe committee under the supervision of the UN to investigate the violence and killings in Khagrachhari and Rangamati," said Khukumoni Chakma, reading out a written statement in a press conference.

"The interim government has formed a seven-member committee to investigate the violence, but we have no trust in this committee," he added.

They came up with this demand at a conference titled "Protect our lives and assets," organised by indigenous people from Khagrachhari and Rangamati, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Addressing the event, Ruposhi Chakma said, "I am still living in fear and panic. After losing my son, I'm afraid to send my younger son to school or anywhere outside. I live

I am still living in fear and panic. After losing my son, I'm afraid to send my younger son to school or anywhere outside. I live every day in fear, not knowing when or where another attack might occur.

RUPOSHI CHAKMA

every day in fear, not knowing when or where another attack might occur."

Ruposhi's 20-year-old son, Junan Chakma, was shot dead in

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WB to give \$300m for clean air project

Says environment adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday announced that the World Bank will provide USD 300 million to support the Bangladesh Clean Air Project (BCAP).

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, this initiative aims to strengthen air quality management and reduce emissions from key sectors.

The project will be funded by an IDA credit, along with a potential grant for clean cooking initiatives as part of the National Air Quality Management Plan.

The adviser shared this

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Top criminals released after Aug 5 under surveillance

Says DMP chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Top criminals who were released from prisons following the fall of Awami League government on August 5 have been kept under police surveillance, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Mainul Hasan yesterday.

He made the statement during the inauguration of the "Walton-CRAB Sports Festival 2024" football tournament at Paltan Outer Stadium, organised by the Crime Reporters Association Bangladesh.

The DMP chief said, "They [top criminals] have been released through the court after serving long jail terms. They are now under our surveillance. Legal action will be taken against them if they get involved in new crimes."

According to the Department of Prisons, at least 43 top criminals and militants have been granted bail since August 5.

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DOUBLE MURDER

No arrests after 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days have passed since the double murder in Dhaka's Gulshan area on Friday morning, but law enforcement has yet to make any arrests.

Khalilur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Gulshan Zone, said they are making efforts but have not been able to make any arrests so far.

The decomposing bodies of Rafiq, 62, a wholesale cigarette seller, and his employee Sabbir, 15, were recovered from a tin-roofed house in the Gulshan-2 neighbourhood area.

Rafiq, a caretaker of an empty plot of land on Road 108, had been living in the tin-roofed house for the past decade. He had also been running a wholesale cigarette shop on the same plot.

Yesterday, doctors of the forensic medicine department conducted

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Vehicles navigate through an alley submerged in muddy water from nearby sewers due to a poor drainage system, causing severe inconvenience to passengers and pedestrians. This issue persists almost year-round, with no measures being taken to resolve it. The photo was taken at Mir Hazirbagh in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Enhance youth employability

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is urgent to improve young people's employability to effectively meet the pressing demands of today's job market, said speakers at a project launching event yesterday at a hotel in the capital.

To combat youth unemployment, Educo Bangladesh in partnership with Child Fund Korea (CFK) and Eco Social Development Organization (ESDO) has launched project "LIFT".

The project will provide technical and vocational training, soft skills and career guidance to 300 vulnerable youth across various sectors.

AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, said, "Technical education equips individuals with practical skills and unlocks considerable opportunities for entrepreneurship."

"Our goal is to provide training that enables them to establish themselves as skilled professionals abroad, while also fostering their potential to grow as entrepreneurs within the country," he added.

Abdul Hamid, country director of Educo Bangladesh stated, "Our focus is not only on creating employment but also on promoting a sustainable work environment where young people can shape their own futures."

Foyzal Ahmed, a youth, said, "During the pandemic, my family experienced financial hardships, which forced me to discontinue my studies. Now, I wish to pursue technical and vocational training in mobile servicing and open a mobile repair shop in my village."

Anowara Mahbub passes away

STAR REPORT

Anowara Mahbub, a recipient of the President's Female Small Agri Entrepreneur Award and wife of late freedom fighter Syed Mahbubul Haque, passed away yesterday. She was 83.

She had been suffering from pneumonia before breathing her last at a hospital in Dhaka.

Anowara Mahbub is survived by her three sons, one daughter, and several grandchildren.

Her body was taken to her home in Magura, where she was laid to rest following a namaz-e-janaza after the Asr prayers.



Indiscriminate garbage dumping on the Dhaka-Aricha highway is not only polluting the environment but also narrowing the road, leaving inadequate space for vehicular movement. The photo was taken at Boliarpur in Savar recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Mahmudur Rahman sent to jail after surrender

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, was sent to jail yesterday after his surrender before a Dhaka court in a case filed for plotting to abduct and kill Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of former PM Sheikh Hasina.

On August 17 last year, a court sentenced him to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in his absence.

Mahmudur returned to the country on Friday morning after spending over five and a half years in exile.

Yesterday, Dhaka Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mahbubul Haque ordered to send him to jail, after Mahmudur surrendered before it through his lawyer, seeking bail in the case.

According to the lawyers, the court concerned has jurisdiction to grant bail to any accused, who is jailed for one year in any case. As Mahmudur was jailed for seven years, it has no jurisdiction to grant him bail.

Journalist Badiul Alam no more

UNB, Dhaka

Badiul Alam, former senior vice-president and

treasurer of the Jatiya Press Club, passed away in the capital yesterday. He was 78.

Badiul Alam, also former city editor of News Today, breathed his last at his Iskaton residence, Dhaka.

Founding member of the Dhaka Reporters Unity, Badiul was suffering from various diseases including kidney-related problems.

He left behind his wife, one daughter and a host of relatives. Jatiya Press Club President Hasan Hafeez and General Secretary Ayub Bhuiyan expressed their profound grief over the death of Badiul Alam.



Top criminals

FROM PAGE 3

Recent weeks have seen multiple allegations against these individuals, including murder, and extortion. A murder case was filed against alleged top criminal Imamul Hasan Helal, also known as Pichchi Helal, at Mohammadpur Police Station. Helal was released on August 16 after serving a 24-year prison term.

When asked about police officers who have not resumed their duties, the DMP commissioner said the number was minimal.

"Necessary action will be taken against those who

have failed to report back to duty," he said.

As of now, at least 187 police officials, ranging from deputy inspector general to constable, remain absent.

Hasan assured that all police stations in Dhaka remain operational.

Earlier, in his inaugural speech, he emphasised the importance of maintaining a strong relationship between the DMP and crime reporters.

"We have only one goal: to ensure peace and order in Dhaka. Crime reporters are helping us with valuable information," he said.

1.84cr affected in 4 disasters

FROM PAGE 5

approximately \$600 million (BDT 6,880 crore) across 20 districts.

The situation worsened in mid-June due to heavy rains affecting the northeastern region, prompting the National Agriculture Working Group to conduct a Rapid Needs Assessment. By June 26, it was estimated that 3.74 million people were affected, with 1.4 million requiring urgent humanitarian assistance across six districts.

In July, heavy rainfall from upstream India contributed to significant flooding in the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river system, impacting an additional 5.13 million people.

By August 21, prolonged monsoon rains and water flow from India led to severe flooding in eleven districts in Chattogram and Sylhet divisions, affecting approximately 5.8 million people and resulting in 67 deaths. Most affected districts are Noakhali, Cumilla, Laxmipur, Feni,

Chattogram, Moulvibazar, Rangamati, and Khagrachari.

Over 7,000 schools were closed, impacting 1.75 million primary students, and posing serious risks for maternal health with 78,000 pregnant women in the affected areas. The flooding damaged 1,62,823 water points and 2,95,689 latrines, exacerbating the risk of waterborne diseases, while agricultural losses amounted to nearly 3,00,000 hectares of crops, said the UN report.

Probe attacks under UN

FROM PAGE 3

Khagrachhari's Swanirbhar area on September 19. Junan had recently passed his HSC exams from Panchari Government College.

"My soul will only find peace, even after death, if justice is served for Junan's killing," said Junan's mother. "I used to respect security forces, but not anymore, because they are the murderers who killed my son," she added.

Niranta Tripura shared her grief at the programme, saying, "My son was innocent. He was not involved in politics. He worked as a mason to support our family."

"After the attack in Dighinala, Rubel went to check on the shops and ensure the safety of our village. But the security forces shot and killed him, who was the only breadwinner of our household," she said.

Niranta's son Rubel Tripura, 21, who was also killed in the Swanirbhar area, was a resident of Paltanjay Para in Parachara Union of Khagrachhari.

Despite the killings and looting, no one involved has been arrested so far, said Khukumoni.

Along with the probe committee, Khukumoni presented four other

demands, including proper compensation for the victims' families and those who lost homes.

At the press conference, Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said, "The indigenous community is asking for a UN-supervised investigation because they are unhappy with the current committee, which mostly consists of police officials. They don't have confidence in the police."

Jatiya Mukti Council Secretary Faizul Hakim said, "The interim government must ensure a fair investigation and take action against those responsible."

WB to give

FROM PAGE 3

news following a high-level meeting held at the environment ministry. Martin Raiser, vice president of the WB South Asia region, and Abdoulaye Seck, WB country director for Bangladesh, were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, the adviser also called for the WB's assistance in waste management and the restoration of Dhaka's canals to create a "blue network".

Heart disease

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh. Premature death is seen in 40 percent of cases."

He also said, "The country's heart disease treatment is mostly Dhaka-centric. Even cardiologists are less interested in working outside Dhaka."

Tobacco use, obesity, trans fat in foods, salt intake, lack of physical activity and air pollution are mainly responsible for heart disease, he said.

PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-35	12-45	4-15	6-00	7-30
JAMAAT 5-10	1-15	4-30	6-05	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Lost Advertisement

I lost my passport, issued by the Regional Passport Office in Uttara, Dhaka. Passport # BR0936933, issued: 4/3/2018. Expiring: 3/3/2023. NID: 2427746314, Bangladesh. Filed a GD at Uttara West Police Station, GD# 1619, dated: 17/9/2024. - Kyaw Munn OO

TENDER NOTICE

1. **Name of organization:** Artillery Centre and School, Halishahar Cantonment, Chattogram.

2. **Name of Work:** Procurement of Artillery Centre and School Firing Range, Multipurpose Training Shed, Rappling Tower, Swimming Pool, FIBUA Village, Assault Course Ground, Daily Messing Allowance and other training related items will be procured/manufactured. You are request to submit tenders/ quotations on sealed pads from legal Company/Contractors.

3. **Date of Tender sale:** 30 Sep 2024 (0900 hrs).

4. **The end date of tender submission:** 11 Oct 2024 (0900 hrs).

5. **Date of opening the tender:** 11 Oct 2024 (1400 hrs).

Commandant
Artillery Centre and School
Halishahar Cantonment
Mob: 01769253649

আইএসপিআর/সেনা /২০২৪/৫৩৪
২৯/০৯/২৪

GD- 568

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়
সাধারণ সেবা অধিশাখা
৯১, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা।
www.moind.gov.bd

নং-৩৬.০০.০০০০.০৪৮.০৭.০১৮.২৪-৩২৩ তারিখ: ১৪ আশ্বিন ১৪৩১
২৯ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়ের বিভিন্ন দপ্তর/শাখা/অধিশাখায় ব্যবহারের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক ক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে প্রকৃত ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে সীল মোহরকৃত নামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি ও শর্তাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ

ক্রমিক নং	দরপত্রের গুরুত্বপূর্ণ বিষয়	দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী মন্ত্রণালয়	শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়
	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, দপ্তরের নাম ও ফোন নম্বর	মোঃ জাকির হোসেন, উপসচিব (সাধারণ সেবা), শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, ৯১ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০। ফোন: ০২-২২৩৩৮১৯৫৭, ই-মেইল: dscomser@moind.gov.bd
১	কাজের বিবরণ	২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য "উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র" পদ্ধতিতে কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক ক্রয় প্রসংগে।
২	অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট (পত্র)
৩	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (OTM)
৪	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	৩৬.০০.০০০০.০৪৮.০৭.০১৮.২৪-৩২৩ তারিখ: ২৯/০৯/২০২৪
৫	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা	দরপাত্রার (ক) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও ভ্যাট সনদপত্র (খ) হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদপত্র (গ) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ভরসিগত যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে ইস্যুকৃত আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতার সনদপত্র (ঘ) সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে কমপক্ষে তিন বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ ইত্যাদি থাকতে হবে। বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে উল্লেখ থাকবে।
৬	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, ৯১ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০। ৪র্থ তলায় (কক্ষ নং-৪১২)
৭	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, ৯১ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০। ৪র্থ তলায় (কক্ষ নং-৪১২)
৮	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	২৯/০৯/২০২৪ তারিখ
৯	দরপত্র ভরসিগ বিক্রয়ের সর্ব শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪/১০/২০২৪ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	১৫/১০/২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ১১:০০ ঘটিকা
১১	দরপত্র খোলার সময় ও তারিখ	১৫/১০/২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা
১২	পণ্য ও সেবার সংশ্লিষ্ট বিবরণ	বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিবরণে সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে
১৩	দরপত্র দাখিলের সূচ্য	প্যাকেজ-০১ এর দরপত্র দাখিল সূচ্য=৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা
১৪	প্যাকেজ	বিবরণ
	প্যাকেজ-০১	কম্পিউটার ও আনুষঙ্গিক
	কম্পিউটার	সিডিউলের সূচ্য উপসচিব (সাধারণ সেবা), শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, ৯১ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-এর বরাবরে ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফিসের যোগ্য) বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক ট্রেজারী চালানবের মাধ্যমে কোড নং- ১ ৩৯০১ ০০০৩ ২৩৬৬ খাতে টাকা জমা দিয়ে চালানের সুপকসি দরপত্র (সিডিউল) এর সহিত দাখিল করতে হবে (অনলাইনে চালান যাচাই করা হবে)।
	আনুষঙ্গিক	দরপত্র জামানতের ৫০,০০০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা উপসচিব (সাধারণ সেবা), শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, ৯১ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে পে-অর্ডার আকারে জমা দিতে হবে (যোহার সঠিকতা যাচাই করা হবে)।
	বিবরণ	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)
		২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছর

শর্তাবলীঃ

- (১) শিল্পিএ ২০০৬ ও শিল্পিআর ২০০৮ এর সকল বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- (২) স্বাবিকারীর জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের ফটোকপি। বর্ণিত সকল ভুক্তিমোটের সত্যায়িত কপি দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রয়োজ্য ক্ষেত্রে পত্রের ক্যাটালগ/প্রোশিয়ার/নমুনা দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- (৩) দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রত্যাশিত মূল্যের উপর বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট ও ট্যাক্স প্রদান করতে হবে।
- (৪) দেপশিডি ও সর্বনিম্ন দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে NOA প্রদানের পর ৩০০৭ (তিনশত) টাকার নন জুডিশিয়াল গ্যারান্টি চুক্তি করতে হবে।
- (৫) কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যেকোন দরপ্রস্তাব বাতিল বা গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(মোঃ জাকির হোসেন)
উপসচিব
ফোন: ০২-২২৩৩৮১৯৫৭

GD- 559

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

Ref No.: 28.20.9153.276.28.540.24 Date: 26-09-2024

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No.	Description of works	Tender ID	Last selling of tender (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
01.	Construction/Repair of Boundary Wall with Y-type Barbed wire fencing at Head Office area of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited, Chiknagool, Jaintapur, Sylhet.	Tender ID: 1017957	20-Oct-2024 17:00 Hours	21-Oct-2024 15:00 Hours

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

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

3) The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any registered bank's branch.

4) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd

Engr. Md. Kamrul Islam Sarder
General Manager (P&D)
E-mail: gmpnd@sgfl.org.bd

GD- 565

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, WAPDA Building, Dhaka
Tel: 0223138081
www.bpdb.gov.bd

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://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
1	1019101	GR-23 FY 2024-25	27.11.0000.304.25.30 1.24 dated: 26/09/2024	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 125VDC 400Ah Ni-Cd type battery set for Chandpur 150 MW CAPP, BPDB, Chandpur, Bangladesh on Turn-Key basis.	21-10-2024 13:00	21-10-2024 14:00	21-10-2024 14:00

This is 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 (<https://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 band branches.

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

For more details please contract to the PE's Support Desk (01755591658).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-২০০(২)/২৯/০৯/২৪
৬২৩

Md. Abu Sayed
ID No. I-01401
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

জিডি-৫৬১

Mostafizur Rahman Fizar no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister Mostafizur Rahman Fizar passed away at a hospital in Dhaka last night. He was 71.

He breathed his last at LabAid Hospital around 8:30pm, his brother, Musfikur Rahman Bablu, confirmed to The Daily Star. "Fizar had been battling cancer for several months," he said.

Fizar is survived by two daughters, relatives and well-wishers.

Fizar served as the state minister for the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Land, and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education during the Awami League's terms in power.

He was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications for 15 years and served on the Public Accounts Committee for 10 years.

In 2000, he was appointed Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.

Born in Jamgram village of Dinajpur on November 29, 1953, Fizar earned a master's degree in social sciences from Rajshahi University and a bachelor's degree in law.

Fizar was enrolled as a freedom fighter during the 1971 Liberation War, fighting under Sector 7.

He was first elected as a member of parliament in 1986 from the Dinajpur-5 constituency (Phulbari-Parbatipur) and was re-elected seven consecutive times, serving until 2024.

In 2013, he was elected president of the Dinajpur District Awami League. He also served as a member of the AL central committee throughout his long political career.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Nosimon, an improvised motorised three-wheeler used for transporting goods, racing alongside a battery-run easy bike in Khulna, creating a hazardous situation for commuters on Khulna-Satkhira highway. Though banned, these vehicles continue to ply the highways. The photo was taken in Dumuria upazila recently.

1.84cr affected in 4 disasters since May

Says UN report on Bangladesh; \$138m needed to fight this climate crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since May this year, a series of consecutive natural disasters has placed people and communities across Bangladesh at the forefront of the global climate crisis.

Following the landfall of Cyclone Remal on May 26, the country experienced flash floods in the northeastern floods in the Haor region, northern riverine flooding in the Jamuna Basin, and devastating eastern flash floods in Chattogram.

An estimated 1.84 crore people have been affected by these four different disasters in 29 districts, over the four months from May to August, United Nations Bangladesh said in a report recently.

To fight this climate crisis, at least US \$134 million is required, according to the UN report

"Bangladesh: Cyclone and Monsoon Floods Humanitarian Response Plan, June 2024 - March 2025".

The UN said they have received \$38 million so far.

"The year 2024 will be remembered as one of the worst in the recent past due to the impact of an intense cyclone and monsoon season... It is noteworthy that Bangladesh is expecting its second cyclone season in October," the report said.

If needs are not addressed immediately, vulnerabilities and conditions of the most vulnerable may be further challenged if confronted with yet another emergency, it added.

Cyclone Remal wreaked havoc across Bangladesh, resulting in 18 fatalities and impacting approximately 4.6 million people, particularly in the districts of

Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Khulna, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, and Satkhira.

An estimated 1,73,866 homes were either damaged or destroyed, leaving 4,34,000 individuals in urgent need of health services, safe drinking water, shelter, food, and livelihood support. Among the affected, there are around 46,000 children under five and 10,000 pregnant women.

The cyclone significantly impacted agriculture, with more than 5,00,000 farmers suffering crop damage valued at \$90.7 million across 62,783 hectares.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock reported that 50,000 fish enclosures, 34,000 ponds, and 4,000 crab farms were also inundated. Overall, damage to assets and infrastructure reached

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

‘Chhanamukhi’ gets GI recognition

MASUK HRIDOY, Brahmanbaria

Chhanamukhi, a unique and beloved sweetmeat from Brahmanbaria, has officially received Geographical Indication (GI) recognition, marking it as a distinct product from the region.

The Directorate of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (DPDT), under the Ministry of Industry, notified the Brahmanbaria district administration of the registration.

Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner Mohammed Didarul Alam confirmed the news on September 24. The sweet now holds the GI registration number 41.

In a letter signed by DPDT Director General Munim Hasan, it was noted that Brahmanbaria's Chhanamukhi sweet has been registered under GI-75 in the GI Registration Book since April 8. The application was submitted by Brahmanbaria District Commissioner in April 2022.



According to the district administration's website, Chhanamukhi originated in Brahmanbaria during the British colonial period. The sweet is known for its labour-intensive process, with around seven to eight litres of cow's milk required to produce just one kilogramme of Chhanamukhi, which currently sells for Tk 700 per kg.

The sweet has long held a special place in both local and international circles. Notably, in 1986, Pakistan's then-president General Ziaul Haque praised the delicacy after tasting it at an event at the Bangladesh Embassy in Islamabad. His compliments were widely reported in Pakistani media at the time.

Dulal Modak, owner of "Adarsha Matri Bhandar" in Brahmanbaria, explained the meticulous process of making the sweet.

"First, curdled milk (chhana) has to be made and cut into squares. Then it has to be fried in sugar juice to make Chhanamukhi. Chhanamukhi is small and hard with four corners. It is coated with congealed sugar and it is very tasty," he said.

Notably, Chhanamukhi is exclusively produced in Brahmanbaria, adding to its significance as a regional delicacy.

SBMCH director resigns amid protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal's Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) Director Saiful Islam yesterday resigned following a strike enforced the day before by the intern doctors.

The interns went on the work stoppage on Saturday afternoon for 24 hours to press home their demands including security of the doctors and resignation of the hospital director.

According to the hospital authorities, on Saturday evening, an eight-year-old child named Junayed died of various diseases including pneumonia. When the child died, his relatives assaulted the doctors and nurses, he said. Protesting the incident, the interns started the strike from 12:00pm on Saturday and, at one stage, demanded resignation of the hospital director, he added.

Man beaten to death ‘by nephew’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man was allegedly beaten to death by his nephew following a land dispute in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila yesterday.

The victim is Riaz Hossain, 50, of Asgana village. According to police and locals, Riaz's nephew, Rubel Miah, had asked him to give up the disputed land to widen a road adjacent to their houses. When Riaz refused, Rubel beat up his uncle.

Rubel fled the scene when locals arrived. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Tangail General Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Police detained Rubel's father, mother, and sister for questioning.

BNP's Dulu cleared from DSA case

STAR REPORT

Lalmonirhat district BNP President and BNP Central Organising Secretary Asadul Habib Dulu has been exempted from a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

The case was filed on September 13, last year. Dulu, also a former deputy minister, surrendered before the Rangpur Cyber Tribunal Court yesterday. At the end of the hearing, Judge Abdul Majeed acquitted him and dismissed the case, said his counsel advocate Mahafuz Un Nabi Don.

On September 13, 2023, a case was filed against him under the DSA with Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station on charges of making slanderous remarks on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on social media.

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস অসুস্থ নয়, এর অপচয় রোধ করুন।

গ্যাসের অবৈধ সংযোগ গ্রহণ ও ব্যবহার শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution PLC
Titas Gas Bhaban, 105 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,
Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215

Memo No.: TGTDCU/SMEIIP-ADB/GD-2(SI-02)/2024/105 Date: 29-09-2024

2nd Corrigendum/ Amendment Notice

This is to be informed that for an unavoidable circumstance the below mentioned amendments have been made in the tender document are as follows:

Package Number & Name of the Package	Description of Information	According to the original Tender Document	Amended As
GD-2(SI-02): Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Unified Web System and Automated Grievance Redress Center (Hardware & Software)	Tender Last Selling Date	18.09.2024 14:00 (GMT+6) Local Time	14.10.2024 14:00 (GMT+6) Local Time
	Tender Submission Date & Time	19.09.2024 14:00 (GMT+6) Local Time	15.10.2024 14:00 (GMT+6) Local Time
	Tender Opening Date & Time	19.09.2024 14:30 (GMT+6) Local Time	15.10.2024 14:30 (GMT+6) Local Time

This Corrigendum/ Amendment notice with amendments and Pre-Bid meeting minutes will be the part & parcel of the tender documents. All other terms & conditions of this tender will remain unchanged. All concerned are requested to take necessary actions accordingly.

(Engr. Muhammad Abul Kawser)
Project Director

GD- 560

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY)
Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP)
Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Bangladesh Secretariat
<https://www.mowca.gov.bd>

Ref. No. 32.00.0000.013.14.060.24.153 Date: 30 Sep 2024

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Spot Checks and Beneficiary Feedback Firm

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
2	Agency	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme
4	Procuring Entity Code (If Applicable)	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Selection of Spot Checks and Beneficiary Feedback Firm [Package No-SF-02]
7	Title of Service	Spot Checks and Beneficiary Feedback Firm
8	EOI Ref. No.	32.00.0000.013.14.060.24.153
9	Date	30 Sep 2024
KEY INFORMATION		
10	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
11	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget, IDA
12	Development Partners	World Bank
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
13	Project / Programme Name	Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP) under the Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY) Project (IDA Credit No. 7426-BD)
14	EOI Closing Date, Time & Address	Date-30/10/2024, 02:30pm (Hard copy can be submitted) Project office: SIMCBP Office, Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Room No. 206 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. Phone: +880 2 716 3645; Fax: +880 2 716 2892 Email: pdbeibeysimcbp@gmail.com
15	EOI Opening Date and Time	Date: 30/10/2024, 3:00pm.
16	Brief Description of Assignment and Required Qualifications, Experience & Skill Required	The main objective of the assignment is to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the MCBP by conducting spot checks and gathering feedback from beneficiaries. The assessment will focus on various aspects including outreach and awareness campaign, targeting, payment process, role of field administrators, ease and effectiveness of maternal and child health, nutrition and development training through Social Behavioral Change Communication, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and beneficiary satisfaction. Interested firms must have at least 15 years of relevant experience, including large scale program evaluation in the region/country, as well as a good understanding or early childhood development issues. Detailed scope of service is provided in the TOR which is available on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' website (https://www.mowca.gov.bd/ and BPPA website https://www.cptu.gov.bd/)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
17	Name of official Inviting EOI	Sufia Nazim
19	Designation of official Inviting EOI	Project Director (Joint Secretary)
20	Address of official Inviting EOI	SIMCBP Office, Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Room No. 206 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official Inviting EOI	Phone: +880 2 716 3645; Email: pdbeibeysimcbp@gmail.com
22	The procuring entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all the Expression of Interest (EOI) without showing any reason.	

(Engr. Sufia Nazim)
30.09.24
Project Director

Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY)
Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Building No. 7 (2nd Floor), Room No. 206, Bangladesh Secretariat
Mobile No. 01713082263
Email: pdbeibeysimcbp@gmail.com

GD-564

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director (ACE, RHD)
Bangladesh Road Safety Project
Roads and Highways Department
Room No. 201, Level-2, Block-A
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
E-mail: pd.brsp@gmail.com
Website: www.rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.2690.078.07.023.24.635 Date: 25.09.2024

**Request for Bids for Goods
(International, One-Envelope Bidding Process)**

Country: Bangladesh
Name of Project: Bangladesh Road Safety Project
Package Title: A. BLS Ambulance supply; B. Medicine and equipment supply for BLS ambulances
IDA Credit No.: 7059-BD
RFB Reference No.: GP (DGH)-01

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Bangladesh Road Safety Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for "A. BLS Ambulance supply; B. Medicine and equipment supply for BLS ambulances".
- The Roads and Highways Department now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for **Procurement of 60 (sixty) Basic Life Support (BLS) Ambulances**; and some equipment, medicine for those ambulances.
- Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" dated November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Mr. Abul Barkot Md. Khurshid Alam, Deputy Project Director, BRSP, Room-B-316, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka, email: dpd.brsp@gmail.com and inspect the bidding document on the website www.rhd.gov.bd at Bangladesh Road Safety Project-Notice tab.
- The bidding document in English may be purchased by interested Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of BDT 5000 or USD 50. The method of payment will be cash. The document will be given in hand. Last date of selling of bidding document is **November 13, 2024 up to 12:00pm**.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:00pm November 14, 2024**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives at the address below on the same day at 1:30pm.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of BDT 1.40 Crore or USD 150,000.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at 11am on **October 15, 2024** at Room A-206, Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form, as included in the bidding document.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or rejects all bids.
- The address referred to above is:

(Engr. Md. Amanullah)
25.09.2024
Md. Amanullah
Project Director (ACE, RHD)
Bangladesh Road Safety Project

GD- 566

Poorly arranged concerts should not be an ‘Aadat’

Jal’s controversial outing sparks age-old debate

“Boss, I can’t stand in here, let alone take photos. People have broken in and it’s extremely chaotic,” said our freelance photographer Thabit from Jamuna Future Park (JFP), where Pakistani rock sensation Jal performed on Saturday. The concert, originally supposed to take place at Purbachal’s Dhaka Arena, was abruptly shifted to JFP because of heavy rain.



PHOTOS: THABIT AL BASHAR

The arguable coup de grâce to the concert happened when Jal had to be stopped mid-act amidst their final set for an absurdly abrupt ending of the concert,

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Due to the sudden venue change, organisers, Assen Buzz and Xirconium, were unable to provide proper logistics for concert. Hundreds of hooligans stormed in due to the lack of proper security, resulting in the proceedings becoming mired in chaotic disarray. Assessing the situation, I instructed the photographer to abandon the assignment. Then he informed me the army was there to control the audience and he could continue. The concert, titled *Legends of the Decade*, featured Jal, alongside Bangladeshi bands Aurthohin, Vikings and Conclusion. It is rather telling of the people when the army has to show up because of how people behave at a concert. “They brought an international band to a mall to perform,” said Sakib, who had attended the concert with high hopes. “It was a total joke.



Organisers started taking selfies with the band mid-show, while Jal had to ask 20 times for a light to be turned off.”

“I was shopping at JFP when I stumbled across the concert from the balcony,” said Saadh, who currently works at a private bank in Dhaka. “I just stood there and enjoyed a better view than people who paid Tk 3000.”

During the concert, there were multiple skirmishes between some organisers and people who had tried and succeeded in entering forcefully, before the JFP authorities had to call in the army.

“Throughout the first half of the concert, drinking water wasn’t provided to the bands, and I saw Conclusion rather irate because of it. It was hell in there,” said Thabit, who was relieved to finally be able to provide photos of the concert.

A one-hour break had to be introduced by the organisers to ‘allow’ Aurthohin to perform. Aurthohin, a marquee Bangladeshi act led by Bassbaba Sumon, took all the deficiencies of sound and lighting gracefully, and performed their heart out. However, the arguable coup de grâce to the concert happened when Jal had to be stopped mid-act amidst their final set for an absurdly abrupt ending of the concert, leaving people furious.

“It is so disrespectful to treat an international band this way,” said Rubaba, a student of North South University. “We were shocked and to see them being escorted down the stage without even completing their set.”

When approached, Anondo Chowdhury, CEO



Authorities calls in the army to control the mob and reinstate order at the venue.

of Assen Buzz, admitted that the mismanagement was primarily due to the sudden change in venue. “We knew that to deviate from our original plan, which was at Dhaka Arena, would be a problem. We had every single precaution taken at that venue, and simply could not accommodate those precautions at a mall,” he said, audibly disappointed. Anondo further explained that due to major earthing that could have been life-threatening to the artistes, they had to stop the performances. “I am grateful to the bands who knew that the concert would be a

compromise, but performed anyway.”

AK Rahul, a prominent musician and organiser, believes that many organisers try to make a name for themselves with international artistes before they even understand how a concert works. “I have been arranging concerts for 15 years, and you cannot skip your baby steps. Organisers are more concerned about the marketing than ensuring the quality of the concert. First, learn to organise for 200 people, then try to organise for 2000.” Rahul further emphasised on the importance of respecting the audience. “Do not see the audience as Tk 500 notes, see them as people, your work will immediately improve.”

However, there is much to learn for the audience as well. “There is only so much organisers can do if so many people want to break in,” said Rudan Al Amin, CEO of Dhaka Broadcast. “People have even broken into charity concerts! That being said, the venue selection was a big misstep, we all saw this from a mile away, when JFP became the venue for Jal’s concert.”

Powersurge vocalist Jamshed Chowdhury believes that the free concerts have ruined the music industry, and has led people to become entitled to ask for free passes. “I had been saying for a long time that *Joy Bangla* and similar free concerts have led to people refusing to want to pay to see artistes perform, resulting in the increase in such hooligans barging into paid concerts as well. When I brought it up first, people trolled me, saying that I only said it because I did not get a ‘slot’ at *Joy Bangla*, go figure!”

The author is the Editor of Arts & Entertainment, The Daily Star

COUNTRYWIDE

LACK OF DUSTBINS

Waste dumping pollutes Brahmaputra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Several thousand residents of Islambagh area in Mymensingh city have been dumping daily waste on the bank of the Brahmaputra river for years due to lack of public awareness and absence of sufficient dustbins.

Although the meanace has been continuing for over a decade now, the authorities concerned are seemed reluctant to stop the act.

While talking to this correspondent, some local residents alleged that they have sought Mymensingh City Corporation’s (MCC) help on several occasions to set up adequate number of dustbins in the area, but no initiatives has been taken yet.

As there is no proper garbage management system, inhabitants of the area dump their household waste along the Brahmaputra bank according to their will, said Ansar Ali, a local resident.

Not only here, garbage dumping into the bed of the Old Brahmaputra river near Kalibari Puratan Gudarghat (Old Ferry Ghat) has also been continuing for years, but the authorities concerned are keeping a blind eye, creating concerns among the environmentalists, they further alleged.

Though the city corporation has a designated spot at Char Kalibari on the

other side of the Brahmaputra Bridge, sometimes the garbage carrying trucks dump waste into the river at night on the plea of serious traffic jam or shortage of manpower, locals said.

During the monsoon, the pile of garbage often gets washed away and falls into the river, accelerating water pollution and threats of different water borne diseases, they alleged.

The mindless dumping of waste is not only polluting the river water but the adjoining residential areas also, putting hundreds of people in serious health hazard, said advocate Shibbir Ahmed Liton, secretary of Mymensingh Poribesh Rokkha O Unnayan Andolon, a citizen platform.

“We have submitted memorandums to local administration and city corporation authority on numerous occasions urging them to stop the heinous act, but nothing has been done so far,” Liton said.

Terming lack of dustbins a lame excuse, advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu, convener of Jonouddogh, Mymensingh unit, said once the garbage mixed with the river water, it affects the ecological balance and bio-diversity as well.

Contacted, Mohabbat Ali, conservation inspector at MCC, said around 500 tonnes of garbage are being produced in the city area every day and they can manage about 480 tonnes.

Biman curtails flights on five int’l routes

FROM PAGE 12

Japan in addition to generating profit by operating on this route.

The state minister was also optimistic about making the new route profitable to attract passengers from Nepal, Bhutan, and the north-eastern states of India apart from Bangladeshi nationals.

However, despite initial optimism, the route has proven to be a loss-making venture due to the airline’s inefficiency and mismanagement, said an aviation expert.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Kazi Wahidul Alam, an aviation expert, criticised Biman for its lack of effective planning, promotion, and

marketing strategies to attract passengers and make the route profitable.

During the inauguration of the Narita route, the then Biman chief Shafiu Azim said the national flag carrier was planning to carry its passengers to Australia, the west coast of the United States, and Canada with the help of other carriers via Japan through code sharing.

“We are exploring with other airlines interlinking or code sharing so that we can offer our passengers different routes beyond Japan like a 360 degree airline,” the Biman boss had said.

Although one year has passed, Biman could do

little in this regard.

In December 2021, Biman also resumed flights to Manchester, but has now been forced to reduce the number of flights on this route due to financial losses. The national flag carrier is only earning profits in 11 out of 21 international routes.

Currently, Biman is only generating profits on 11 out of 21 international destinations, namely, London, Toronto, Dubai, Jeddah, Madina, Riyadh, Dammam, Bangkok, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore.

The airline is incurring operational losses on six international destinations, including Manchester,

Kuwait, Delhi, Kolkata, Guangzhou, and Narita.

The remaining four international routes—Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Doha, and Sharjah—are gradually becoming profitable by reducing the load penalty through coordinated excess baggage weight with airfare.

Due to a significant decline in passenger demand, Biman has reduced its weekly flights to Kolkata from 14 to seven. Flights to Delhi and Chennai have also been cut from seven to three weekly flights each. The downturn in passenger traffic is attributed to India’s restricted visa issuance, which has led to a decrease in travellers between the two countries.

Death toll

FROM PAGE 12

the level of its main Bagmati river up 2.2 m (7 ft) past the danger mark, experts said.

But there were some signs of respite yesterday morning, with the rains easing in many places, said Govinda Jha, a weather forecaster in the capital.

“There may be some isolated showers, but heavy rains are unlikely,” he said.

Television images showed police rescuers in knee-high rubber boots using picks and shovels to clear away mud and retrieve 16 bodies of passengers from two buses swept away by a massive landslide at a site on the key route into Kathmandu.

Weather officials in the capital blamed the rainstorms on a low-pressure system in the Bay of Bengal extending over parts of neighbouring India close to Nepal.

Haphazard development amplifies climate change risks in Nepal, say climate scientists at the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD).

12,000 bhoiri

FROM PAGE 12

the cooperative sector,” he remarked.

The conference also featured discussions on BARD’s recent research and initiatives in the field of rural development and cooperatives in Bangladesh.

The event was attended by special guests including Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Professor Dr Tofail Ahmed, a local government expert, and Saif Uddin Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD).

The session was presided over by Mosammat Shahanara Khatun, secretary to the Rural Development and Cooperative Division under the Ministry of LGED.



Dumping of waste materials badly affecting local environment as well as the already dying Brahmaputra river. The photo was taken from Mymeningh city’s Islampur area a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli forces pursued their operations in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, and in Gaza City's suburb of Zeitoun.



Demonstrators shout slogans as they march against Israeli strikes in Gaza and Lebanon at a protest rally in the central business district of Sydney, Australia yesterday. At least 41,595 Palestinians have been killed and 96,251 others injured in Israel's military offensive in Gaza since October 7.

PHOTO: AFP

REUTERS, Moscow

The ministry said in a post on the Telegram messaging app that its forces, with the support of aircraft and artillery rounds, repelled attempts to enter the region near the village of Novy Put, some 79 kilometres (50 miles) west of Sudzha, a strategic crossing point for Russian natural gas exports to Europe via Ukraine.

CNN ONLINE

The US sees the possibility of a limited ground incursion into Lebanon as Israel moves forces to its northern border, CNN reported earlier. But the US officials stressed that Israel does not appear to have made a decision on whether to carry out a ground incursion.



The group, however, still retains skilled commanders, as well as many of its most powerful assets – including

Pointing to the ongoing conflicts between Israel and Hamas, Israel and Hezbollah, and Israel and Iran, former US State Department Middle East negotiator Aaron David Miller told CNN: "None of these wars of attrition are going to end any time soon... there are no transformative, diplomatic Hollywood endings."

AFP, Puerto de la Estaca

Spanish government sources said the boat may have been carrying up to 90 people, instead of 84 as originally announced, which could put the number of missing at more than 50.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY)
Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP)
Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Bangladesh Secretariat
<https://www.mowca.gov.bd>

Ref. No. 32.00.0000.013.14.060.24.155

Date: 30 Sep 2024

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Internal Audit Firm

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
2	Agency	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme
4	Procuring Entity Code (If Applicable)	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Selection of Internal Audit Firm [Package No. SF-04]
7	Title of Service	Internal Audit Firm
8	EOI Ref. No.	32.00.0000.013.14.060.24.155
9	Date	30 Sep 2024
KEY INFORMATION		
10	Procurement Method	Fixed Budget Based Selection (FBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
11	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget, IDA
12	Development Partners	World Bank
PARTICIPAL INFORMATION		
13	Project / Programme Name	Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP) under the Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY) Project (IDA Credit No. 7426-BD)
14	EOI Closing Date, Time & Address	Date: 30/10/2024, 02.30pm. (Hard copy can be submitted) Project office: SIMCBP Office, Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Room No. 206 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. Phone: +880 2 716 3645; Fax: +880 2 716 2892 Email: pdbeibey.simcbp@gmail.com
15	EOI Opening Date and Time	Date: 30/10/2024, 3.00pm.
16	Brief Description of Assignment and Required Qualifications, Experience & Skill Required	The objective of the assignment is to conduct an audit of the fiduciary management, controls, and governance arrangements and processes of the Project in accordance with the International Standards of Internal Auditing. Interested firms must be registered Chartered Accountants/Cost & Management Accountants having at least 10 years' experience in the internal audit field. Detailed scope of service is provided in the TOR which is available on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' website (https://www.mowca.gov.bd/) and BPPA website (https://www.cptu.gov.bd/)
17	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
18	Name of official Inviting EOI	Sufia Nazim
19	Designation of official Inviting EOI	Project Director (Joint Secretary)
20	Address of official Inviting EOI	SIMCBP Office Building No7 (3rd floor), Room No. 206 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official Inviting EOI	Phone: +880 2 716 3645; Email: pdbeibey.simcbp@gmail.com
22	The procuring entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all the Expression of Interest (EOI) Without showing any reason.	


30.09.24
Sufia Nazim
Project Director

Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY)
Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Building No. 7 (2nd floor), Room No. 206, Bangladesh Secretariat
Mobile No. 01713082263
Email: pdbeibey.simcbp@gmail.com


GD-562

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
 Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY)
 Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP)
 Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Bangladesh Secretariat
<https://www.mowca.gov.bd>

Ref. No. 32.00.0000.013.14.060.24.154
Date: 30 Sep 2024

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Pilot Design and Evaluation Firm

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
2	Agency	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
3	Procuring Entity Name	Project Director, Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme
4	Procuring Entity Code (If Applicable)	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Selection of Pilot Design and Evaluation Firm [Package No. SF-03]
7	Title of Service	Pilot Design and Evaluation Firm
8	EOI Ref. No.	32.00.0000.013.14.060.24.154
9	Date	30 Sep 2024
KEY INFORMATION		
10	Procurement Method	Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
11	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget, IDA
12	Development Partners	World Bank
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
13	Project / Programme Name	Supporting Implementation of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (SIMCBP) under the Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY) Project (IDA Credit No. 7426-BD)
14	EOI Closing Date, Time & Address	Date: 30/10/2024, 02.30pm. (Hard copy can be submitted) Project office: SIMCBP Office; Building No. 7 (3rd floor), Room No. 206 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. Phone: +880 2 716 3645; Fax: +880 2 716 2892 Email: pdbeibeysimcbp@gmail.com
15	EOI Opening Date and Time	Date: 30/10/2024, 3.00pm.
16	Brief Description of Assignment and Required Qualifications, Experience & Skill Required	The main objectives of this assignment are to (i) conduct an analysis of Mother and Child Benefit Programme beneficiary needs and provide recommendations for tailored services/interventions; (ii) design and implement pilot interventions; (iii) evaluate effectiveness of pilot interventions and generate any other knowledge pieces. Interested firms must have proven competency with at least 15 years' experience in program design, implementation, and evaluation, as well as a good understanding of early childhood development issues. Detailed scope of service is provided in the TOR which is available on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs' website (https://www.mowca.gov.bd/) and BPPA website (https://www.cptu.gov.bd/)
17 PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
18	Name of official Inviting EOI	Sufia Nazim
19	Designation of official Inviting EOI	Project Director (Joint Secretary)
20	Address of official Inviting EOI	SIMCBP Office Building No. 7 (3rd Floor), Room No. 206, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official Inviting EOI	Phone: +880 2 716 3645; Email: pdbeibeysimcbp@gmail.com
22	The procuring entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all the Expression of Interest (EOI) without showing any reason.	


Sufia Nazim
 Project Director
 Bangladesh Enhancing Investments and Benefits for Early Years (BEIBEY)
 Supporting Implementation of Mother and Child Benefit Programme
 Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
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 Mobile No. 01713082263
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A dangerous precedent

Dissolution of textbook committee shows fault lines in reform drive

The row over the composition of a textbook revision coordination committee over the last few days has exposed a fault line in the government's ongoing reform drive, underscoring the challenges it faces as it prepares for more critical reforms, especially surrounding the question of religion in the constitution. On Saturday, the government dissolved the committee after facing backlash from certain groups for the lack of Islamic scholars in the 10-member committee and alleged "anti-religious" views held by its two members. The development, and the manner in which the authorities have acquiesced, underline a dilemma that has long plagued the state: how to balance progressive reforms with the expectations of religious constituencies that still hold significant sway.

The education adviser has denied the decision had anything to do with the pressure, stressing that there was no need for such a committee as specialists from both Islamic and general streams of education are "at the final stage of revising textbooks." But why form a committee then and disband it only after 13 days? The episode suggests that the government may be susceptible to yielding to conservative pressure in its reform initiatives. It also brought into focus the broader question about the role of religion in state affairs, with the fallen Awami League regime setting a trend of exploiting and appeasing fundamentalist elements for political gains. One may recall how pressure from religious groups led to the removal of certain stories and topics from school textbooks.

If we analyse the criticisms directed at the two Dhaka University teachers, it is clear that those had nothing to do with education or their qualifications, but only their perceived beliefs. Many have even indulged in a hate campaign online to the point that it sparked concerns about the safety of the teachers. Dissolving the committee, without critically evaluating the criticisms or doing nothing about those indulging in hate speech, also cast doubt about the government's commitment to such reforms. Are we to accept that any group can influence or reverse much-needed reforms through public agitation?

We must acknowledge the importance of ensuring a balanced and inclusive curriculum, one that reflects the cultural and religious diversity of the nation. But decisions on curriculum revisions must be based on academic merit and pedagogical principles, not political pressures. The government must realise that yielding to such pressures risks creating an atmosphere where education is increasingly getting detached from the objective of nurturing critical thinking which it is supposed to do. We must not allow our education system to regress under the weight of such undue pressures any longer.

Govt must do more to reduce prices

Efforts to ease inflationary pressure proving ineffective

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), around 38 percent of low-income households in Bangladesh were food insecure in August, as essential commodity prices only slightly decreased after the interim government took office. We must say the continuation of this situation to this date is deeply distressing. The government should have placed greater emphasis on reducing prices considering the suffering of the people, especially those in the low-income bracket.

In July, food inflation reached an all-time high of 14.1 percent due to disruptions in the supply chains during the mass uprising. Food security further deteriorated in August due to floods across 11 or more districts, leading to over a million people being affected, 74 being killed, and an estimated loss of over Tk 14,269 crore. The country also incurred huge losses during Cyclone Remal, which had a devastating impact on 20 districts, affecting almost four lakh people and causing an estimated loss of over Tk 7,000 crore. As a result of these external shocks and various other factors inflating prices, about three in every 10 households could not afford an adequate diet in August. The number rises to six in every 10 households when considering only the low-income segment.

The country has been experiencing continuous inflationary pressure for around two years now. With people's real income and purchasing power deteriorating or stagnating, households are being forced to either rely on credit purchases or spend from their savings. In fact, the situation has become so severe that the most vulnerable households have had to resort to various coping strategies to deal with food insecurity, with about seven in every 10 selling assets to make do.

Under these circumstances, it is hard to accept the interim government's failure to remotely address the inflationary crisis. In an effort to contain prices, it recently set prices of some goods, but in a manner reminiscent of the previous government, it has failed to enforce them. Experts say that simply setting prices—without understanding the ground realities of why prices are remaining high or addressing the underlying reasons—is the wrong approach. Unfortunately, we haven't seen much else being done by the government to address food inflation.

We urge the authorities to learn from their failed interventions, take strict measures against any syndicates profiting off increased prices by creating an artificial crisis, and improve supply chain conditions. Additionally, they should increase allocations for subsidised food programmes, such as the Open Market Sales, and other initiatives of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh to ease some of the pressures on low-income groups.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Munich Agreement signed

On this day in 1938, the notorious Munich Agreement, in which then British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain encouraged Britain and France to appease Adolf Hitler's demands in the hope of preventing World War II, was reached.

India's hydropower projects, power corridor, and our concerns



Kallol Mustafa
is an engineer and writer who focuses on power, energy, environment and development economics. He can be reached at kallol_mustafa@yahoo.com.

KALLOL MUSTAFA

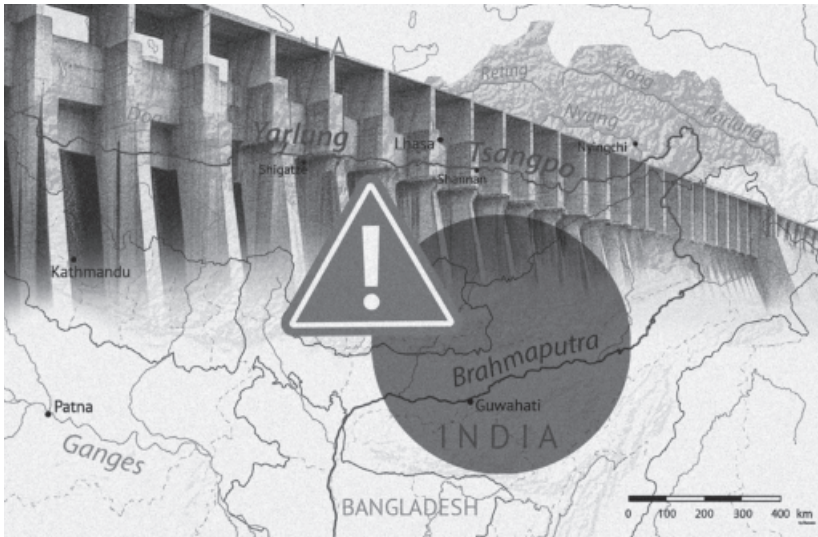
India has recently decided to invest \$1 billion to expedite the construction of 12 hydropower projects upstream of the Brahmaputra River in the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh. A couple of months ago, the federal finance ministry approved up to 750 crore rupees (\$89.85 million) as financial assistance to each hydropower project in the state. Earlier in August 2023, the state government of Arunachal Pradesh signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with three central state-owned power companies to generate a total of 11,517 megawatts (MW) of electricity through these projects. Of these 12 projects, five projects of 2,620MW capacity were allocated to the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO), five projects of 5,097MW capacity to Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN), and two projects of 3,800MW capacity to the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd (NHPC).

These hydroelectric projects with reservoirs of varying capacities will be built on different tributaries of Siang, Dibang and Subansiri rivers, which themselves are major tributaries of the Brahmaputra. For example, the 1,000MW Naying hydroelectric power project with a reservoir capacity of 82 million cubic metres is planned on the Siyom River, which is a major tributary of the Siang. The 680MW Attunli hydroelectric power project with a reservoir capacity of 13.96 million cubic metres will be built on the Tangon River which is a tributary of the Dibang. And the 1,800MW Kamala hydroelectric power project with a reservoir capacity of 623.58 million cubic metres is planned on the Kamala River, a tributary of the Subansiri.

Not only these 12 projects, the total hydropower potential of Arunachal Pradesh is estimated to be over 57,000MW, as per the central electricity authority of the state. To tap into this hydropower potential, India's plan is to construct at least 135 hydroelectric power projects on different tributaries of Brahmaputra River.

If so many hydropower projects are constructed by building dams

upstream of the Brahmaputra, it will intensify water shortage in Bangladesh during the dry season, while during monsoon, opening the dams will increase the risk of flash floods. According to a study by the US-based Center for Naval Analyses (CNA), the Brahmaputra provides 75 percent of river water in Bangladesh during the dry season. Bangladesh is already



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

getting 25 percent less than the required water from the Brahmaputra and facing human security pressure, which will be magnified by building dams upstream and water diversion activities.

Regrettably, there is a serious lack of information in Bangladesh regarding the danger of these hydroelectric projects. Moreover, arrangements are being made to facilitate transmission of the electricity generated from these power plant projects from the northeastern part to the northern, western and southern regions of India through Bangladesh. This huge amount of electricity cannot be used in the northeastern region of India due to a lack of demand, and it is also inconvenient for strategic and technical reasons to transmit this electricity through the narrow Siliguri Corridor in West Bengal. As the parliamentary standing committee on energy of 15th Lok Sabha explained,

availability of power transmission corridors through the Chicken's Neck area is limited due to the requirement of space for habitation, railways, roads, oil and gas pipelines, communication links, etc and is gradually getting constricted.

For this reason, the Indian government has been pressuring Bangladesh for a long time to approve the construction of a power transmission corridor from northeast India through Bangladesh to other parts of the country. To this end, discussions have been going on for a long time in the meetings of Bangladesh-India Joint Working Group (JWG) and Joint Steering Committee (JSC). At last, at the 22nd meeting of the JWG on July 19—less than three weeks before the Hasina

March 7, 2020, Bangladesh mentioned that the country did not have any additional power import requirement at that time and in the future till 2030 that could justify the construction of the interconnection line. In the 19th JWG meeting on January 21, 2021, Bangladesh expressed concern that this transmission system might be used to evacuate hydropower from northeast India in the future, and Bangladesh being a lower riparian country, the issue also needs to be discussed by the Joint River Commission (JRC) Bangladesh and India. The Bangladesh side also raised the issue of security and the operation and maintenance of the line. Bangladesh proposed to sign a data-sharing agreement in order to get different kinds of information to conduct comprehensive feasibility study, hydrological and water modelling studies, and environmental and social impact assessments.

But, at the higher-level 19th JSC meeting on January 23, 2021, India denied the relation of any specific hydroelectric power project with the Katihar Parbatipur-Barnagar transmission line and said no riparian issues were involved with the proposed transmission system. Thus the issue of data-sharing and hydrological and water modelling studies involving the Joint River Commission were dropped from the agenda, and it was decided that Bangladesh would carry out its due diligence about social and environmental impact inside its territory, as undertaken for other transmission lines, and evaluation of legal and technical aspects of the projects will be continued parallelly.

Although India refuted the relation of the transmission line with the hydropower projects in Arunachal, it is obvious that transmission through Bangladesh would be a practical necessity for the utilisation of the huge power generated in the Indian state. That's why it would be suicidal for Bangladesh to allow India to transmit the power generated by damming the Brahmaputra river system.

In this context, the interim government of Bangladesh currently has two major responsibilities. First, it should protest India's unilateral decisions to construct 12 hydroelectric power projects on the upstream of Brahmaputra basin and take the necessary diplomatic steps to deter India from moving forward. Secondly, it should cancel the approval of the Katihar-Parbatipur-Barnagar transmission line project immediately so it cannot be used by India to evacuate the hydropower generated by damming the Brahmaputra.

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY

Let girls realise their dreams



Laila Khondkar
is an international development worker.

LAILA KHONDKAR

I once had a conversation with Tajul Islam, the former principal of Thakurgaon Degree College. He established Rangatungi Pramila Football Academy in Ranisankail upazila about 10 years ago. He shared, "Five players from this academy are representing the national team in different age groups. Some have just got a chance in the Bangladesh Army as players, which has turned their lives around. As a result, interest in football has increased among the girls."

Most of the people in the area live below the poverty line. However, about 50 girls in the age group of 10 to 20 years have joined this academy, despite facing many challenges. This has increased the pressure on the organisers, as they are struggling to meet the expenses related to the training materials, sports equipment, ground preparation, medical and travel expenses.

While I feel encouraged to note the success of girls' sports and also appreciate people like Tajul Islam, thinking about the child marriage situation in Bangladesh is still very upsetting. Bangladesh has the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia and globally ranks among the top 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage.

A survey by BRAC, titled "Born to be a Bride" (October 2023), shows

that child marriage is happening irrespective of the girls' socio-economic backgrounds. In addition to poverty and lack of social safety, parents referred to finding "suitable grooms" as one of the major reasons for marrying off their daughters. Limitation in law enforcement is also a significant problem, while social acceptance of the practice is another. Additionally, nearly two years of school closures and rising poverty during the Covid-19 pandemic increased child marriage rates.

Apart from child marriage, there are other challenges that are linked to discriminatory attitudes and biases against girls and women in our society. I was disturbed to see a recent advertisement by an English medium school in Dhaka where two boys are seen learning mathematics and robotics, while a girl is seen playing the violin. To me, it was a glaring example of gender stereotypes, as the media and the entertainment industry continue to portray women in trivial ways. Limiting children to the narrow confines of gender stereotyped expectations affects their ability to realise their potential to the fullest.

The lives of adolescent girls shrink due to lack of social safety. In many cases, their mobility gets restricted and they are not able to avail opportunities. It is our responsibility to make society

safe for girls by strengthening child protection system at the community and national levels.

Recently I was talking to a few adolescent girls in Dhaka. They have their own analyses and thoughts on a wide range of issues, starting from the importance of environmental protection to the impact of artificial intelligence on our lives. Some of them are writing novels online, some

The lives of adolescent girls shrink due to lack of social safety. In many cases, their mobility gets restricted and they are not able to avail opportunities. It is our responsibility to make society safe for girls by strengthening child protection system at the community and national levels.

are learning foreign languages, some are interested in karate, and some are skilled in graphic design. I was hopeful to know their views on various aspects of society and culture.

Swedish author Astrid Lindgren created a character named Pippi Longstocking—the strongest girl in the world. Pippi lives with her horse and a monkey (Mr Nilsson), and has the courage to do anything. The story of this extraordinary girl, who leads life according to her own terms, not afraid of anyone and empathetic to others,

has become part of classic literature.

The girls of Bangladesh are more courageous than Pippi. I have seen such girls in different parts of the country—from the char of Lalmonirhat to the haor of Sunamganj. They are determined to build their own lives.

However, that cannot be achieved without investments in girls' education, health, protection, and sports.

Initiatives must be taken to compensate for the loss to their education due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is important to bring back married girls and adolescent mothers to school so that they can develop skills for economic, social, and political empowerment.

Girls should be raised in such a way that they can become confident, strong, ambitious, brave, independent and humane. We should listen to them while making decisions on issues affecting their lives. Furthermore, boys must be taught to respect girls and women. Having an equal relationship between men and women in the family is critical as well because children learn by observing adults around them.

On a broader scale, writers, artists, and cultural activists can create realistic and inspiring stories of female characters. Parents have to choose books, movies, toys, etc. for children very carefully, while the media can take steps to highlight women who are positive role models.

The girls of Bangladesh are marching forward. They want to reach the sky. If we encourage girls to dream and support them in their journey, they can succeed in all kinds of professions, and contribute to society in a meaningful way. Are we ready and willing to perform our responsibilities?



The job market is crying for reforms



Abu Afsarul Haider is an entrepreneur. He can be reached at ajfsarulhaider@gmail.com.

ABU AFSARUL HAIDER

“Will I find a good job after I graduate?” This is the most pressing concern for more than 6.5 lakh university graduates who enter the job market in Bangladesh every year. According to a 2019 World Bank report, one in three graduates remains unemployed one or two years after graduation. Around 20 lakh young people join the job market annually, and they do not fare much better. Most, if not all, find employment in the informal sector, which is insecure, poorly paid, and lacks social protection. In fact, only one in five workers are in wage employment, and less than 40 percent of them have a written contract. Finding a decent job in present day Bangladesh is a significant challenge, which is worrying in a country where 65.53 percent of the population falls within the working age bracket (15-64 years), according to the 2022 census. The number of unemployed people in the country stands at more than 26 lakh as of 2023, per the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data.

Creating new jobs requires increased investments and the establishment of new businesses. However, despite steady economic growth over the past decade, investment in Bangladesh remains lower than that of its regional peers. The public investment to GDP ratio for infrastructure and social services stood at 7.32 percent in FY2021, slightly rising to 7.53 percent in FY2022, but then dropping to 6.77 percent in FY2023. While public spending on infrastructure, especially megaprojects, has increased, it has not significantly attracted private investments, whether local or foreign. The private investment to GDP ratio was 25.25 percent in FY2019, dropped sharply to 20.24 percent the following year, and then fluctuated, reaching 23.70 percent in FY2021, 24.51 percent in FY2022, 24.18 percent in FY 2023, and 23.51 percent in FY2024, according to the latest BBS data. Bangladesh is also lagging in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). In FY2023, the country received around \$3.2 billion in FDI, which amounted to only around one percent of GDP—one of the lowest rates in Asia.

Successive governments have claimed to prioritise investment promotion, yet the ground reality tells a different story. Industry experts point out gaps in both the

comprehensiveness of policies and their implementation, especially concerning the private sector and investors. Bureaucratic hurdles frequently frustrate business operations, with challenges such as excessive red tape, inadequate infrastructure, inconsistent energy supply, corruption, underdeveloped funds and capital market, a complicated tax system, and delays in decision-making. Hidden costs related to policies, procedures, laws and infrastructure further inflate the cost of doing business. These obstacles particularly hinder small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are crucial for job creation, from growing and scaling up.

Promises from successive governments to make Bangladesh a business-friendly country and create jobs for all have largely been unfulfilled. Corruption, injustice, and a lack of meaningful reform have plagued the country for far too long. A turning point seemed to arrive on August 5, 2024, when the government of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fell, and Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge of the interim government. Prof Yunus, known for his visionary approach to social and economic change, has called for a break from the rigid, outdated political practices holding the country back. His pledge to create a “new Bangladesh,” driven by creativity, public interest, and genuine reforms, has sparked hope among the citizens.

This interim period presents a unique opportunity for Prof Yunus and his team to lay the groundwork for a truly business-friendly Bangladesh. Tackling the issues mentioned earlier in a sustainable manner, they must develop policies that foster an environment conducive to economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. However, setting the right policies is only part of the solution; they also need to collaborate with the private sector, educational institutions, and international organisations to build a comprehensive strategy for job creation. There are several critical areas that require attention. First, public sector reforms are essential. Jobs in this sector must be allocated based on merit, free from political interference. Implementing transparent hiring processes can

help restore public confidence in government employment.

Second, an overhaul of the education system is crucial to align it with market demands. Currently, the curriculum is disconnected from industry needs. While schools and colleges worldwide emphasise soft skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and decision-making, Bangladesh’s education system remains outdated. This gap results in employers’ reluctance to hire graduates from local institutions, worsening unemployment rates. By improving collaboration between educational institutions and industries, and by aligning training programmes with market requirements, we can bridge this gap and create a more job-ready workforce.

Third, promoting entrepreneurship is vital. The government should ease access to finance, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and offer incentives for startups and SMEs. A business-friendly environment—marked by reduced red tape, improved credit access, and minimal interference—will drive growth in these sectors and expand job creation.

Fourth, diversifying the manufacturing and services sectors with a focus on expanding exports and attracting FDI could generate millions of jobs. To boost investment inflows, the interim government must address the high cost of doing business and implement policies that safeguard the rights of enterprises, workers, and consumers. Furthermore, ensuring a stable political environment is crucial to attract both domestic and foreign investment.

Finally, job creation efforts must be inclusive, targeting both urban and rural areas. In rural regions, where many depend on agriculture, diversifying the economy through agro-processing and rural SMEs can absorb the underemployed workforce.

While the current situation presents numerous challenges, Chief Adviser Prof Yunus is uniquely positioned to reshape Bangladesh’s economic future. His extensive network of global connections, including world leaders, international organisations and influential policymakers give him the leverage needed to promote Bangladesh as an investment hub. By advocating for increased imports of Bangladeshi goods and attracting investments in critical sectors like manufacturing, tourism, infrastructure, technology, and power, the chief adviser can facilitate large-scale job creation and economic opportunities for the people of the country. This influx of foreign capital is not just an economic necessity, but also crucial for the broader social and economic stability of the country.

Why we need democratic policing



Muhammad Nurul Huda is former IGP of Bangladesh Police.

MUHAMMAD NURUL HUDA

There is no denying that the fall of an insensitive and autocratic regime in Bangladesh has been caused by a multiplicity of factors, prominent amongst which is the decay and incompetence of regulatory institutions, with the police being the most visible culprit. Why has the organisation failed to act in accordance with the spirit of our constitution? Why are the deficits in democratic policing so glaring?

Looking back, one would find that policing in the subcontinent, including Bangladesh, was modelled after the militaristic Irish constabulary rather than the civilian London metropolitan model. This was deliberately done by the British colonial rulers to subjugate large and hostile populations with a relatively small force. Such a force answered predominantly to the regime in power and its bureaucracy, not to the people.

Personnel in this arrangement naturally felt responsible for controlling populations rather than protecting the community, and sought to secure the interests of the dominant group. They were required to remain outside and distinct from the community and were extremely hierarchical in structure, where loyalty was directed towards leadership and establishment rather than the rule of law.

Curiously, all South Asian governments have largely retained this colonial structure of policing. No wonder, therefore, that there continues to be a strict hierarchical division between officers and constabulary throughout South Asia. The former are often well-educated and relatively well-paid, while the latter suffer from lamentable working conditions.

Democratic policing is a concept that has emerged in recent times to describe the characteristics of policing in a democracy, where the police serve the people of the country rather than the regime. In Bangladesh, the police need to serve and protect rather than impede freedoms. Our police should not concern themselves with people’s beliefs or associates, their movements, or conformity to party ideology. It should not be too much to expect that our police remain primarily committed to preserving community safety and applying criminal law equally to all people, without fear or favour.

Democratic policing requires a normative framework for the organisation. It should provide a common reference point for civil society, policymakers, international partners, and the police itself. Our democratic police must be characterised by an orientation to serve society—transparency and accountability must permeate the organisation. Personnel in such an outfit must reflect the demographic make-up of the country and be insulated from undue political influence. In addition, they should be equipped with the skills to perform their tasks effectively and efficiently, exhibiting professionalism throughout the organisation.

These values must be considered non-negotiable, as without them, police organisations cannot be democratic in their structure,

The ‘ruler supportive’ character of our police emerged when the governing elite of a decolonised society decided to retain the inherited police organisation, ignoring justified demands for change.

culture, or performance. A realisation must dawn that democratic policing is not just about maintaining law and order. It is about establishing and nurturing a healthy relationship with the community, based on mutual respect and understanding. The police must provide service as a means to uphold the law rather than using force to impose the law.

One may ask why we lacked democratic policing thus far despite having a republican constitution. The answer to this question lies in the fact that after independence, we retained colonial administrative, police, and judicial structures without adapting them to the changing situation. The “ruler supportive” character of our police

emerged when the governing elite of a decolonised society decided to retain the inherited police organisation, ignoring justified demands for change.

A cynical view that cannot be entirely dismissed is that our politicians were attracted to the administrative and police system established by colonial powers and enjoyed exercising power and authority, disregarding their own demands for far-reaching administrative reforms. All political parties have exercised influence over police postings, promotions, and transfers, as well as the deployment of police during strikes, demonstrations, and elections. They did not want to professionalise the service, as control over it is central to political conflict in a divided society.

Additionally, the blanket power of superintendence vested in the government by the Police Act, 1861, is inappropriate in a democracy. And the role of intelligence agencies has not been redefined to protect the fundamental right to freedom of association, expression, and movement. The police in Bangladesh still monitor all political activities without discrimination, excluding only the ruling party of the day, which gives them authoritarian powers antithetical to the democratic spirit.

Under these circumstances, we need to define the contours of the political executive-police relationship. The powers and responsibilities of each entity must be properly articulated. A careful balance must be struck between legitimate supervision of the police by the political executive and illegitimate interference and influence. It is important to carefully define what superintendence means to ensure that the power of the executive is conditioned while allowing the police operational autonomy under the law.

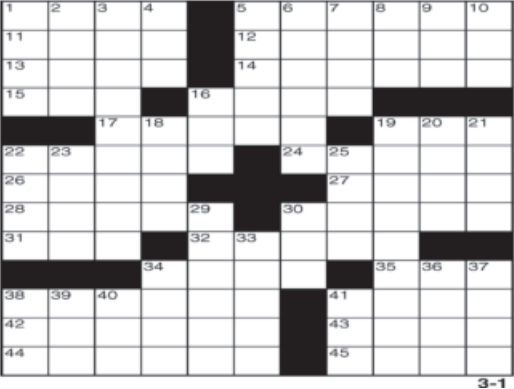
At present, there is very little effective oversight of police conduct. For democratic policing to be meaningful, there must be transparent and functional external accountability mechanisms compliant with international best practices. And parliament should constantly oversee the effectiveness of policing.

Policing is a public responsibility wherein the powerless are often pitted against the powerful. The interplay between the public and the police is usually more immediate, intense, and frequent than interactions with the judiciary, other parts of the bureaucracy, or the political class. Therefore, without substantial reforms, policing will continue to undermine security and, consequently, our democratic foundation.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Volume
 - 5 Sacred beetle
 - 11 Notorious czar
 - 12 State without proof
 - 13 Uncool fellow
 - 14 Obstructed
 - 15 Pendulum path
 - 16 Blocks up
 - 17 Short poem
 - 19 Kitten cry
 - 22 Do a butler’s job
 - 24 Town center
 - 26 Goatee setting
 - 27 Makes mistakes
 - 28 Tirades
 - 30 News summary
 - 31 Chick holder
 - 32 Suppress
 - 34 Obligation
 - 35 Deli meat
 - 38 Financially solvent
 - 41 Washed out
 - 42 South Dakota capital
 - 43 Open space
 - 44 Grade school book
 - 45 Phone message

- DOWN**
- 1 Singer Turner
 - 2 Finished
 - 3 Sousa nickname, with “the”
 - 4 Wrap up
 - 5 Man at the wheel
 - 6 Stop talking
 - 7 Some charity
 - 8 “Stand” band
 - 9 Long time
 - 10 Sleep spot
 - 16 Clamor
 - 18 “— No Sunshine”
 - 19 Mad Hatter’s friend
 - 20 Poet Pound
 - 21 Hornet’s kin
 - 22 Plot unit
 - 23 Uneven hairdo
 - 25 Sediment
 - 29 Town center
 - 30 Bright beam
 - 33 Say
 - 34 Frosh quarters
 - 36 Baseball’s Rodriguez
 - 37 Substance
 - 38 Tablet download
 - 39 Fragrant tree
 - 40 Oahu garland
 - 41 Light touch



YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS



Write for us. Send us your opinion pieces to dsopinion@gmail.com

The people’s Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1:
National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization
IDEB Bhaban (10th floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo no. 1(192) Active items/ Hardware /NSW/2024/2124

Date: 29.09.24

Subject: Addendum to bidding document for supply and Installation of Hardware and Infrastructure (network, communication, cabling etc.) and standard software for NSW solution; other network, communication equipment, structure, Hardware and cabling: Server & Storage and Network & Security components for NSW Server Room & DR. Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: Request for Bids (RFB) No. NBR-GD2A.1.

Addendum No. 5

This is for the information of all Bidders concerned that the following amendments have been made for the procurement mentioned in the subject above;

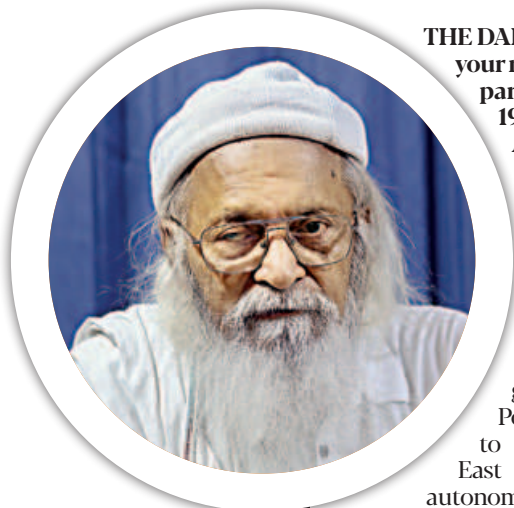
Ref	Existing Entry	Amended entry
Sl No. of 6, SPN ITP-23.1 & 26.1	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: September 30, 2024, Time : 14.00 hours.	The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: October 30, 2024, Time : 14.00 hours.
	Date & Time for Bid Opening September 30, 2024, Time :14:30 hours	Date & Time for Bid Opening October 30, 2024, Time :14:30 hours

All the terms and conditions of bidding Documents (RFB) NBR-GD2A.1 shall remain unchanged. This Addendum No. 5 shall be considered an integral part of the Bidding Documents and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained or will obtain the Bidding Documents from the Purchaser.

(Abul Bashar Md Shafiqur Rahman)
Project Director
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1:
National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization
Email: pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com

“Reform must come from the people”

In conversation with philosopher and poet Farhad Mazhar



Farhad Mazhar
PHOTO :
ZIAUDDIN SHIPLU

THE DAILY STAR (TDS): Could you offer your reflections on the 2024 uprising, particularly in comparison to the 1969 Mass Uprising and the 1990 Anti-Authoritarian Movement?

FARHAD MAZHAR (FM): The 1969 Mass Uprising was primarily focused on achieving either provincial autonomy or independence, which ultimately led to the Liberation War in 1971. At that time, we demanded a provincial government based on the Six Points, advocating for Pakistan to become a federal state where East Pakistan could enjoy greater autonomy. This demand transformed into a call for independence following the Pakistani Army's brutal Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971. The 1969 uprising was fundamentally about political and economic autonomy and later the creation of a new nation.

In contrast, the mass movement of 2024 is centered around state-building based on popular sovereignty. Its core aim to dismantle the existing fascist state and the structures of authoritarian and fascistic power by organizing the people as the central political force. This movement seeks to launch a constitutive process to draft a new constitution based on the will of the people. Thus paving the way for the establishment of true democracy—a fundamentally different kind of state power and governance. It's important that the movement also aims to deconstruct and dismantle the false ideology of election as democracy. Elections are merely mechanisms for practicing democracy, and what we need is to install the democratic state first and practice election as a decision making process at various levels

people, forming a new alliance among students, citizens, and soldiers. This is the essence of people's power.

Dr. Yunus or a similarly chosen figure should be appointed as head of state. Afterward, the president must undertake two crucial tasks. First, he must ensure Bangladesh operates under existing laws and regulations, except for those that are colonial, enacted by Sheikh Hasina, or violate human rights. Examples include the Digital Security Act (DSA), laws regarding the RAB, or the colonial-era Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). We may proclaim that any law that violates the international human rights regimes will be considered null and void and the state will function as it is functioning now, until we draft a new constitution.

Finally, the president must declare an interim period to draft a new constitution. The political parties and the people must give him time to begin this work. The interim government must provide ample space for political parties free from fascist ideology and practice, to participate at all levels of discussions. Elections should be held for a constituent assembly rather than simply a regular election to elect government. This process should begin with local-level meetings—at the division, upazila, or even union level—where people can voice their vision for the state and their expectations. Political parties, too, will present their ideas for the nation's future.

The people are not an abstract entity but rather possess a deep political understanding in their own way, not necessarily adhering to the expectations of the educated elite. A National Constitution Council will draft the constitution based on the suggestions proposed by the people, which will later be legitimized by an elected National Constituent Assembly. Our aim is to create a charter founded on human

in this revolutionary passion; many others share the same drive.

Democracy, at its core, depends on the collective will of the people, as seen in constitutional preambles like “We, the people of the USA” and “We, the people of Bangladesh.” It's crucial to emphasize that the people have agency. They are not apolitical; through their united action, they overthrew the fascist regime. However, it's also true that some individuals supported the fascist regime.

This brings up the need for a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), akin to the one in South Africa after the anti-apartheid struggle led by Nelson Mandela. Such a commission should have been established right after the people took control of state power in Bangladesh. The urgency for a TRC stems from the fact that not all Awami League supporters are fascists; some are genuinely committed to democracy.

Amidst all of this, we tend to overlook critical questions, such as the nature of heinous institutions like Aynaghar, about which we still know a very little as citizens.

And why isn't Dr. Yunus engaging in dialogue with civil society? While we recognize his contributions, he must also listen to the people, otherwise it will eventually damage his acceptability. The state is a political entity with complex processes that require broad engagement.

TDS: How do you foresee the South Asian political landscape evolving in light of the recent developments in Bangladesh?

FM: Our relationship with India differs significantly from our ties with the USA. Unfortunately, the interim government lacks experts who fully understand these geopolitical nuances. A faction within Delhi's foreign policy circles, including the BJP, perceives India's bilateral relationship with Bangladesh is based on a flawed premise. Instead of people-to-people relations, India maintained relations as a state to the individual leader of a fascist regime. That's wrong.

Despite these challenges, we must work towards establishing a constructive and positive bilateral relationship with the people of India, considering the geopolitical subtleties and regional dynamics. We need to approach this with political acumen, clearly identifying which aspects of India's policy we support and which we oppose. It's crucial to bridge the gap between the people of Bangladesh and India, especially to counter any misconceptions about the treatment of minorities in Bangladesh.

As someone who engages closely with students concerned about the country, I haven't noticed any baseless or irrational anti-Indian sentiment among them. The dissatisfaction many Bangladeshis feel is largely due to India's perceived injustice and oppression towards its Muslim population, which is understandable. Additionally, India's refusal to shelter Muslim refugees contrasts sharply with our own acceptance of Rohingyas. To alleviate this discontent in Bangladesh, India needs to address its treatment of Muslims within its borders. Continued aggression will have negative repercussions for India.

From a broader perspective, our goal is to live peacefully within the subcontinent, which is a fundamental principle. However, if India maintains its current stance, it could provoke and intensify anti-Indian sentiments in Bangladesh, potentially mobilizing forces against India. This would place responsibility squarely on India. Policymakers must therefore work to prevent such outcomes.

TDS: There is much talk about political reforms. What are the essential steps to achieve genuine reform?

FM: The people of Bangladesh must understand that we cannot rely on external help; no one will come to our rescue. We need to build a genuine consensus among the populace to move forward effectively. Herein lies my fundamental disagreement with our political parties. They may profess a commitment to reform, but they are not equipped to drive real change. Reform must come from the people, with political parties providing support rather than leading. Had the political parties acted responsibly, we wouldn't be in this crisis today. Political parties are not above

the people, which they often imagine and try to impose; they are an extension of the people and their existence depends on the people.

We should consider forming a Reconciliation and Reconstitution Council that includes political parties. Our role would be to engage in discussions with them while respecting the interim government's responsibilities—interference should only occur if the government acts against the will of the people. Additionally, we must confront any remaining fascists within the bureaucracy, police, and army. Political parties should encourage their members to support the authentic path to democracy. This process should be completed hopefully within a year, as our goals are clear.

Engaging the public will naturally involve political parties. By establishing committees at the Upazila level, we ensure their inclusion. Integrating political parties is essential for building a new state. We should facilitate discussions and possibly hold seminars to gather ideas and solutions, as this is a collective issue that transcends any single party. Our aim is to resolve these issues swiftly.

TDS: It seems the interim government is not adequately addressing the people's demands, and there is a perceived void, as political parties are claiming that this government has not provided a clear roadmap. How do you evaluate the situation?

FM: It's unjust to place the responsibility for creating a roadmap solely on the interim government. The initiative should come from the political parties themselves. Why are the political parties failing to put forward their own roadmap? It's contradictory to expect the interim government to provide a plan while leaving the task of reform to the political parties.

I've published seven critical articles on the BNP's proposals for state reform, which are available on my website. None of the BNP members have contested my views. If political parties refuse to listen to public feedback and dismiss criticism while demanding a roadmap from the government without offering their own, how can they claim to be a legitimate agency to lead the people? They need to outline their plans to the people, earn their trust, and secure their votes.

Furthermore, we still have bureaucrats who were involved in significant corruption and remain loyal to the Awami League. Why haven't we replaced them? What's stopping us from promoting capable young bureaucrats aged 30 to 32? If they are competent, why not consider them for senior positions like secretary?

TDS: How does the July movement stand to shape narratives related to the 1971 Liberation Movement?

FM: The independence movement of 1971 is a non-negotiable issue! It clearly and historically marks us as a political community different from Islamic Pakistan, and in 1947 we marked ourselves as different from Hindu India. I fundamentally reject the prevailing narrative about the events of 1971.

It's crucial to differentiate between independence and liberation. Liberation involves the creation of a politically empowered community, whereas independence merely signifies control over territory without fully realizing statehood and its essential structures. Collective self-consciousness as the driving historical agency is not easy to achieve and realize. This is why I am so keen on literature, art, culture and the critique of theology and traditions. So I squarely place emphasis on the appropriate articulations between Bangla language, Bangla culture, pre-Islamic history and the religions. To progress, we must challenge the conventional Awami League (AL) narrative that 1971 was the culmination of our journey. No. It is only the beginning. We must integrate the golden history of Islam both in its place of origin and its arrival in the subcontinent and contribute to building powerful foundational imaginations and structures in our own language, and culture integrating the traditions and legacies we carry within us from pre-Islamic era. We must cultivate a critical, historical and creative mind that keeps us united and altered to our collective self-consciousness as the agent of world history, and not slaves of colonial, imperialist ideologies and power.

The intellectual shortcomings of the Awami narrative become apparent when we consider the constitution's adoption, which was driven more by the preferences of lawyers and bureaucrats than by the general will of the people formed by the collective self-consciousness as I discussed earlier. The Constitution is not a legal document, as naive lawyers usually think. To constitute is the most important political act through which a political community arrive to world history and contributes to the collective good of humanity and world history and planetary survival as a life form.

The core demands of the 1971 movement—equality, human dignity, and social justice—must now be actively pursued. Following the July uprising, Bangladesh has the chance to advance towards these goals. At this pivotal moment, we must address issues related to laws, culture, tradition, religion, and history to move forward effectively. Most importantly, we must learn to imagine ourselves as a unique political community and our existence is not negotiable.

The interview was taken by Shamsuddoza Sajen of The Daily Star.



Students are protesting in front of Shaheed Minar on 3rd August.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The people are not an abstract entity but rather possess a deep political understanding in their own way, not necessarily adhering to the expectations of the educated elite. A National Constitution Council will draft the constitution based on the suggestions proposed by the people, which will later be legitimized by an elected National Constituent Assembly. Our aim is to create a charter founded on human dignity, equality, and social justice.

of state craft as required by the constitution. When a democratic state is installed, elections are important to its functioning and remain akin to the will of the people.

In Bangladesh, however, elections have often been equated with democracy, which is a misconception and the major ideological challenge for the people's movement that we have been facing for long time. Elections alone do not ensure democracy. We often fail to learn from history that fascist regimes rose through elections and constituted as fascist power based on nationalism and populism. In the absence of a powerful ideological struggle against nationalisms and various undemocratic religious and secular tendencies, so called election as democracy ends up in populism and fascism, as we saw in Europe in the past. We must learn from Germany, Italy, Spain, Chile, and now from India. Hitler, Mussolini and Sheikh Hasina all came to power via elections. Those advocating for elections and preaching election as democracy in the current context of Bangladesh are, in effect, perpetuating fascism because they are pushing for the continuation of authoritarian rule under the guise of electoral legitimacy.

TDS: What steps should be taken to initiate the process of drafting a new constitution?

FM: First, we must declare the existing constitution null and void. Dr. Mohammad Yunus, as Chief Adviser of the interim government, is advising President Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu, who was appointed by the fascist regime and served under the fascist government. This indicates that the mass uprising remains under the legal and constitutional mechanism and control of the fascist power. Did people sacrifice their lives for this outcome? Therefore, the first step is to declare a new president reflecting the sovereign will of the people firmly based on the political and legal paradigm of popular sovereignty, annul the existing constitution, and remove Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Second, we must review the top army officers appointed by Sheikh Hasina. If it is found that they remain loyal to her or Tarique Siddique rather than the people of Bangladesh, they must be removed. Should the Army Chief choose to support the people, he must show a positive attitude, as there were moments when soldiers refused to fire on civilians. Many in the army demonstrated solidarity with the

dignity, equality, and social justice.

Many might think that I am an ultra-leftist, convinced by the Bolshevik model, but our reality is quite distinct from that of Russia. Instead, we may look at China as our economic model, if not for the political ideals. We are in dire need of economic development that has been thwarted by the new liberal capitalist global order, dominated by few transnational corporation. We must free ourselves from old petty-bourgeois utopian socialist ideals that breed underdevelopment and fascism. We must invent policies that promote accelerated economic transformation and secure for us a strong economic position in the international division of labor. So we have a very challenging task to engage with global capital and globalization that is not possible by conventional economic ideologies and externally prescribed economic policies. We cannot remain perpetually poor and deprived of technology. We must find ways for the transfer of science, technology, the art of management and efficient governance and appropriate social relations and forms to remain cohesive and strong. As you know, China rapidly advanced toward economic development immediately after 1976, and it is quite possible that we could similarly develop ourselves within a very short period of time.

We are rich in natural, biological, aquatic and human resources that accompany historically accumulated local knowledge system. These will be the key to our massive economic upheaval. Once the people are convinced that they are part of a massive state and nation-building project the people's revolution will be able to realize the aspiration of the people. We are an emerging political community endowed with powerful political agency, pragmatic ambitions and a clear goal to chart a path for ourselves in the global economy. No one could stop Bangladesh to emerge as a powerful country. People are willing to sacrifice their lives for their dreams and ambitions. We have seen that in the July Revolution.

TDS: Do you see any significant changes in the post-uprising period?

FM: The anti-fascist spirit remains strong and active among the people. As an activist intellectual, my main focus is to sustain that intense desire for societal transformation and facilitate dialogue with others. I am not alone



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India vs
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Live from 10:00 am

Star Sports Select HD1
Premier League
Bournemouth vs
Southampton
Live from 1:00 am
(Tuesday)

'Experienced' Riyad stays, Miraz returns

SPORTS REPORTER

Veteran Mahmudullah Riyad held his spot while Mehedi Hasan Miraz made a comeback to the T20I side as Bangladesh announced a 15-member squad for the three-match T20I series against India, starting in Gwalior on October 6.

Chief selector Gazi Ashraf Lipu backed under-fire Mahmudullah, saying that he had not given up on experience despite underlining how this squad was a reflection of their plans for the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Mahmudullah had come under scrutiny after star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan announced that "he had played his final T20I" on Friday to make way for new faces, keeping in mind the major event two years later.

Many had pointed out how Mahmudullah, who dished out a detrimental performance in Bangladesh's last Super Eights match, should follow suit or be axed from the demanding format in which the 38-year-old has struggled in, as evidenced by a career strike-rate of under 117.81. He batted with a strike-rate of 94.05 in the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

"Mahmudullah Riyad is in the team. We still have faith in him that he can help the team," Lipu said in a video message yesterday.

Miraz, on the other hand, received a recall after 14 months due to Shakib's absence. Lipu explained how they were not looking at the 26-year-old for the 20-over format but Shakib's unexpected announcement had prompted them to rope him in.

"The great Shakib Al Hasan announced that he had played his final T20I. Considering his experience and performance, we don't have someone anywhere near him for replacement but batting-wise; someone who can make up for Shakib's absence is Mehedi Hasan Miraz. He will take that spot.

"Our thinking is that Miraz can make his biggest contributions with the bat. He bowls good off-spin but we did not go for him in the T20 World Cup; a big reason for that was that we did not want to hamper his batting or bowling in Test and ODIs through the aggressive nature of T20 cricket. We thought that his Powerplay bowling was not a good option. We were clear then about where we wanted to see him. In the context, we want to see him bat higher and not as a finisher."

Soumya Sarker was dropped and left-arm spinner Tanvir Islam was sidelined due to injury, making way for opener Parvez Hossain Emon and Rakibul Hasan.

SQUAD: Najmul Hossain Shanto (C), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Parvez Hossain Emon, Towhid Hridoy, Mahmudullah, Liton Kumar Das, Jaker Ali Anik, Mehedi Hassan Miraz, Mahedi Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Rakibul Hasan.



Bangladesh batter Mushfiquur Rahim's wait for the action to resume extended further on Sunday as play was called off for a second consecutive day due to a wet outfield following just 35 overs of action on a rain-interrupted opening day of their second and final Test against India in Kanpur. Mushfiquur, unbeaten on 6, will hope for things to improve on the fourth day today as all he could do yesterday was lay down his gloves and pads on the Green Park stadium turf to dry.

PHOTO: BCB

Curious case of wet outfield in another no play day

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Kanpur

It was unclear to reporters present at the Kanpur Green Park Stadium yesterday what was halting the third day's play of the second Test between Bangladesh and India from getting on to the field.

There was no rain in the morning and it did not rain near the venue till 5:00 PM, so naturally, expectation was that the match which saw no action on Day 2 and only 35 overs of play on the opening day, will resume at some point in the day.

But three inspections later, at 2:00 PM the umpires called off the day's play, without there being any rain.

The weather had however played tricks. Conditions were mostly overcast but light improved at certain points of the day, which brought out loud cheers from the big turnout in the stadium, who saw it as a sign that the day's play would eventually begin.

After the first inspection at 10:00 AM, there was hope that the next inspection at 12:00 PM will bring good news. Instead, the umpires set up another inspection at 2:00 PM, this time with the added note of 'bad light'.

There was confusion over why another inspection had been set up, was the outfield still damp? In each inspection, the bowlers' run-up areas and the outfield were checked. It could be surmised from the press box that there was moisture in the surface. Yet there was no word on outfield's condition.

The covers on the ground had been taken off before 9:00 AM yesterday and 30 minutes later, the pitch covers were



removed.

But after the 2:00 PM inspection, when the sun too had come out for the first time in two days, the day's play was called off due to wet outfield. Just a few minutes later, it got overcast again.

Why the umpires singled out bad light when the outfield had been the issue or did the correct information not reach the press box, is unclear.

Sources claimed that the groundstaff had drilled inadequately to cover up the Kanpur outfield. There may have been issues with covering the ground as well, perhaps it was not done as fast as it should have been. Large super soppers were at work on Day 2 but were not actively tending to the outfield yesterday.

The umpires were not seen checking

for lights. The condition of the outfield, it appeared, was being kept out of the radars of reporters. Sources have claimed the poor drainage system is the biggest issues at the Kanpur stadium.

The venue may have offered resistance to play continuing but the weather too was unkind. Humidity was high throughout the day and moisture does not go away easily, especially without the sun coming out.

The weather was described as peculiar by most involved with cricket in Kanpur. Simply said, at this time of the year, there is usually no rain. That could have been a reason for under preparation.

A sunnier sky is expected on Monday which could allow some cricket. However, with two days down the drain, a draw seems like the likeliest conclusion now.



The captains and coaches of Bangladesh and India teams pose for a photograph with the trophy at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday ahead of today's final match of SAFF U-17 Championship. Bangladesh finished runners-up to India in the last edition and were beaten by the same opposition in the first match of the tournament which is why coach Saiful Bari termed the final opponents as favourites.

PHOTO: SAFF

SHORT CORNER

Ex-Pakistan captain Yousuf quits as selector

Former captain Mohammad Yousuf quit as a Pakistan selector "for personal reasons" on Sunday, just a week before the team begin a home Test series against England. The Pakistan Cricket Board confirmed his resignation, adding that Yousuf had stepped aside to concentrate on other responsibilities within the board.



Bangladesh end AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers with win

Bangladesh ended their AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign with a 2-1 win over Bhutan in their final Group A encounter at Lach Tray Stadium in Hai Phong, Vietnam yesterday. With two defeats, one win, and a draw, Bangladesh finished third in the five-team group.

Afghanistan confirm Bangladesh ODIs in November

Afghanistan cricket team will play three one-day internationals against Bangladesh in the United Arab Emirates next month, confirmed the country's cricket board today. In a social media post, Afghanistan Cricket Board said, "Afghan national cricket team will play one day international matches with Bangladesh national team on 6th, 9th and 11th of November 2024 which will be hosted by Afghanistan in UAE.

Archer Alif reaches final of Asian Youth C'ship

Archer Abdur Rahman Alif stormed into the final of the Men's Recurve Under-21 event of the Asian Archery Youth Championships with a comprehensive 7-1 set points win over Iran's Mohammed Hossein Golshani Asl in the semifinal in Taipei City in Chinese Taipei yesterday. Alif will now play against Li-Cheng Huang of Chinese Taipei in the gold-deciding match on Tuesday.

Wadifa secures first WIM norm

WFM Wadifa Ahmed clinched her first Women's International Master norm from SixDays Budapest September 2024 IM A tournament after beating FM Kemal Bashirov of Ukraine in the ninth and final round in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday. Wadifa secured five points from nine matches to ensure her WIM norm as well as finish fourth among 10 players, who played each other in the tournament.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website.

Hard work pays off for Sri Lanka

AGENCIES

Debutant off-spinner Nishan Peiris took six wickets yesterday after Kamindu Mendis played a record-breaking knock earlier as Sri Lanka sealed their first series win against New Zealand in 15 years with a crushing victory by an innings and 154 runs in the second Test in Galle.

New Zealand were all out for 360 in their second innings before tea on day four after being asked to follow-on.

Sri Lanka won the opening match by 63 runs and the series win is their first against New Zealand since a 2-0 win at home in 2009.

The result leaves New Zealand winless from six Test appearances at Galle, with Sunday's 360 their highest innings total at the venue.

Peiris, 27, and fellow spinner Prabath Jayasuriya shared 18 wickets in the match, the latter taking 6-42 in the first innings to bundle out the tourists for just 88 after the hosts had amassed a mammoth 602-5 declared, thanks to Kamindu Mendis' unbeaten 182.

Peiris took his maiden five-wicket haul, finishing with figures of six for 170 in the second innings.

"Amazing how the batting unit rose to the occasion," Sri Lanka captain Dhananajaya de Silva told reporters.

"Then the spinners were too good... Once we bowled them out for less than 100 runs in the first innings, it was very



difficult for them to come back into the game."

De Silva also talked about how the toss had went their way and hailed his team as their hard work paid off for the series.

"I call well and toss well! Nishan was brilliant, he was doing well in domestic cricket. He has the control. We have been practising hard [with the catching], and it has paid off," De Silva added.

New Zealand's lower order did put up some fight after resuming at 199-5 on Sunday, with Tom Blundell, Glenn Phillips, and Mitchell Santner all making half-centuries.

Kamindu Mendis, who made a hundred in the opening game, was named player of the match for his epic knock during which he became

the fastest Asian to 1,000 Test runs by reaching the milestone in his 13th innings.

"I think Kamindu at five can play the long innings and I can finish the game at number six," Sri Lanka skipper De Silva mentioned how Mendis had significantly strengthened his team's middle-order.

New Zealand captain Tim Southee said playing two Tests at Galle, known as a spinner's paradise, was always going to be challenging.

"It's a tough place to come for a foreign team, and Sri Lanka played some great cricket," Southee said after New Zealand slipped to seventh place in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings. Sri Lanka remain in third place but they have now improved their point percentage to 55.55%.



With only 11 days left for the season's curtain-raising one-off Challenge Cup match against Bashundhara Kings, Mohammedan players train at the club premises in Motijheel yesterday, with head coach Alfaz Ahmed (L) involved with Uzbek playmaker Mozaffarjon Mozaffarov and local midfielder Alamgir Kabir Rana. The Black and Whites, who started their camp on September 18, will look to start the campaign with a title after finishing the Federation Cup, the Independence Cup, and the Bangladesh Premier League as runners-up last season.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



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Biman curtails flights on five int’l routes

Rising losses, dearth of passengers to blame

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has reduced flights on five international routes due to financial losses and a decline in passengers.

The national flag carrier has cut flights to Manchester and Narita, citing financial losses on these routes. Meanwhile, flight frequency to Delhi, Kolkata, and Chennai has been reduced due to a shortage of passengers since India tightened its visa issuance in August.

According to a Biman official, wishing to remain unnamed, weekly flights to Manchester have been reduced from three to two, effective late October. Similarly, the frequency of flights to Narita has also been decreased from three to two per week.

The airline's decision to curtail operations on these routes is aimed at minimising financial losses and remaining competitive in the market, said the official.

After 17 years, Biman resumed flights to Narita in September 2023 with high hopes of commercial viability.

The then state minister for civil aviation, M Mahbub Ali, had expressed high hopes that Biman's direct connectivity to Japan would open new doors of trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges between Bangladesh and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



A destroyed building at the site of Israeli air strike in Beirut's southern suburbs in Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

HC seeks list of S Alam’s immovable properties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a list of all immovable properties owned by S Alam Group, its shareholder directors and their family members before the court.

The law secretary and inspector general of registration have asked to execute the order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque issued the order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Md Rukunuzzaman.

The writ petition sought the HC order on the authorities concerned to attach all immovable properties owned by S Alam Group, its shareholder directors and their family members and to impose restrictions on the transfer or sale of those properties.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Shakib will have security just like another cricketer

Adviser Asif says the allrounder has to clarify his political stance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youth and Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud yesterday said cricket superstar and former MP Shakib Al Hasan must clarify where he stands politically.



Shakib, being a cricketer, will get as much security as any player receives, said Asif.

“Bangladesh Cricket Board addressed the issue and the state is bound to provide security to each and every citizen. We will do this,” he told reporters at the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Shakib has demanded security from the BCB in order to be able to return to the country in mid-October and participate in the South Africa series.

Regarding this, Asif said, “In this case, you have to remember that Shakib Al Hasan has two identities: the cricketer and the politician. He took part in the general election representing the Awami League. People have mixed reactions regarding his identities. Now, we will give Shakib, the cricketer, enough security,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Israel bombs ‘dozens of targets’ in Lebanon

Another top Hezbollah figure killed; Iran-backed group continues to fire rockets at Israel

REUTERS, Beirut

Israel struck multiple targets in Lebanon yesterday, pressing Hezbollah with more attacks and saying it had killed yet another senior figure after it struck a huge blow by killing the Iran-backed group's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

The Israeli military said the air force had “struck dozens of Hezbollah terror targets in Lebanon, including launchers that were aimed toward Israeli territory, structures in which weapons were stored and additional Hezbollah terrorist infrastructure”.

The air strikes had killed Nabil Kaouk, a prominent Hezbollah leader, the latest in a string of Israeli strikes that have targeted many of the group's most senior figures. Hezbollah has not yet commented on Kaouk's fate but its supporters have been posting mourning messages for him since Saturday.

Israel's military also conducted a ‘precise strike’ in Beirut's Dahiyeh area, as a loud blast was heard and a plume of smoke rose from the city's southern suburbs.

Separately, Israeli air force launched attacks on several Houthi rebel targets

- » Diplomatic efforts for a truce still underway: Lebanon
- » Israel launches attacks on Houthi targets in Yemen
- » Over 1,000 people killed in Lebanon in past two weeks

in Yemen using dozens of aircraft. The Israeli navy earlier said it had intercepted a projectile approaching Israel from the area of the Red Sea and another eight projectiles coming from Lebanon had fallen in open areas.

Hezbollah said it would keep fighting Israel and has continued to fire new fusillades of rockets into Israel yesterday.

More than 1,000 people in Lebanon have been killed and more than 6,000 wounded as a result of the Israeli attacks in the past two weeks. Fourteen medics have been killed over the course of two

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

12,000 bhoori gold go missing from Samabaya Bank

Says LGRD adviser

UNB, Cumilla

Adviser to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) AF Hassan Arif has said that 12,000 bhoori of gold is missing from the Samabaya Bank.

“An investigative committee has been formed, and legal actions are being initiated in this regard.”

He further disclosed that a significant portion of the assets belonging to the Samabaya Bank have been illegally taken over by those who were once associated with the bank.

He made these remarks as the chief guest at the 57th Annual Planning Conference of the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Cumilla yesterday. During a briefing with journalists, the adviser provided further details.

During his speech, the adviser emphasised that the cooperative sector has been unable to thrive due to a lack of genuine cooperative spirit among its members.

“Many cooperators are only interested in joining committees, but they pay little attention to the actual development of



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FLOOD IN NORTH Over 60,000 stranded in two districts

Heavy rains, onrush of water from upstream inundate low-lying areas

STAR REPORT

Over 60,000 people in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram have been marooned by floodwater as vast tracks of low-lying areas in northern districts have been inundated due to heavy rainfall and onrushing water from upstream.

Many of the flood-hit people have left their homes and taken shelter on roads and embankments with their cattle and poultry.

Farmers are facing a double blow as their vegetables are at the risk of being destroyed by the flood.

All five upazilas of Lalmonirhat, and Rajarhat, Ulipur, and Chilmarri upazilas of Kurigram are affected, said local administrations of the districts, adding that over 60,000 people remain stranded there.

However, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in a bulletin yesterday forecast the flood situation may improve in next two days.

The Teesta was flowing 33cm above the danger level at Kaunia in Rangpur yesterday, according to the officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

“Water level of the Teesta has raised due to heavy rainfall and onrush of water from upstream,” said Shunil Kumar, executive engineer of BWDB in Lalmonirhat.

“Water started to get into my home on Saturday night. My yard has gone under three to four feet deep water by this [Sunday] morning,” said Tahera Bewa of Gatiashyam village in Kurigram's Rajarhat upazila.

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LANDSLIDES, FLOODS Death toll in Nepal hits 151 56 people missing

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal has shut schools for three days after landslides and floods triggered by two days of heavy rain across the Himalayan nation killed 151 people, with 56 missing, officials said yesterday.

The floods brought traffic and normal activity to a standstill in the Kathmandu valley, where 37 deaths were recorded in a region home to 4 million people and the capital.

Authorities said students and their parents faced difficulties as university and school buildings damaged by the rains needed repair.

“We have urged the authorities concerned to close schools in the affected areas for three days,” Lakshmi Bhattarai, a spokesperson for the education ministry, told Reuters.

Some parts of the capital reported rain of up to 322.2 mm (12.7 inches), pushing

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With different gear, locals catching fish in Kinai Beel in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila yesterday. This fishing festival, locally known as Polo Bawa Utshob, resumed this year after a pause of over 20 years due to various reasons.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

FREAK ROAD CRASH 4 schoolchildren die on their way home



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four children, aged between 11 and 12, were killed and another injured when they were hit by a microbus on the Kushtia-Rajbari regional highway in Kushtia's Khoksha upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Mim, 12, Tanzila, 11, Bithi, 12, and Maria, 12, said Kushtia Highway Police Station Sub-Inspector Harunur Rashid.

The accident occurred in the Shimulia area around 7:00am when the children were returning home after taking a lesson on Quran recitation at Shimulia Kuthipara Jame Mosque.

A Kushtia-bound microbus from Dhaka overturned on the road after hitting the children, who were crossing the regional highway, said the SI quoting eyewitnesses and locals.

Mim died on the spot, while Tanzila, Bithi, and Maria were declared dead after they were taken to Khoksha Upazila Health Complex, the SI said, adding that another Fatema was seriously injured and is currently receiving treatment at the hospital.

Following the incident, locals blocked the highway around 10:00am in protest, causing significant traffic congestion.