



Washing SMART

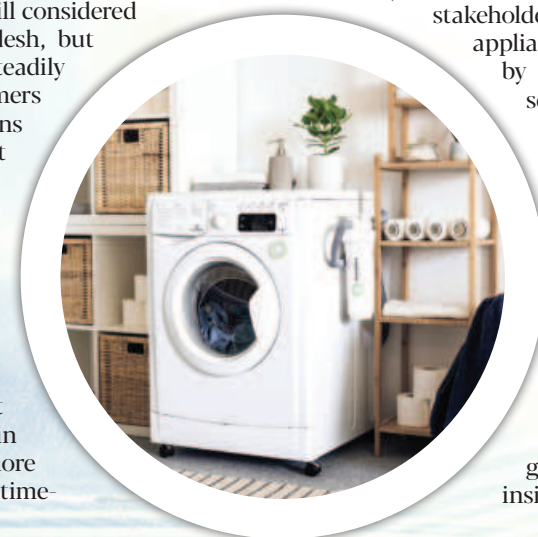
The Rising Popularity of Washing Machines in Bangladesh

PRIYAM PAUL

Washing machines are still considered luxury items in Bangladesh, but their popularity is steadily increasing as more consumers seek automated solutions for laundry. While not yet as common as televisions or refrigerators, they are becoming more affordable and essential with the country's social and economic progress. The market is growing by 5-10 percent annually, with significant potential for expansion in the coming years as more households adopt this time-saving appliance.

"Currently, only 3-4% of households in Bangladesh use washing

machines, leaving ample room for market growth," says a representative of a leading industry stakeholder. At present, these appliances are mainly purchased by the highest-income segment. However, the rapidly expanding middle class, which is expected to make up one-third of the population soon, presents a key opportunity. "To tap into this potential, we need to raise awareness about the category and effectively communicate the benefits of washing machines to this emerging group," adds the industry insider.



SEE PAGE J2

ILLUSTRATION: SOJIB ROY




WALTON

Washing Machine

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"ACCESS TO MODERN APPLIANCES IS ESSENTIAL for everyday convenience"

THE DAILY START (TDS): How do you differentiate your products in the increasingly competitive market?

MOSTAFA KAMAL (MK): Walton differentiates its products by focusing on innovation, affordability, and exceptional customer service. Our products are equipped with cutting edge, energy-efficient technologies and smart features designed to cater to the evolving needs of modern households. For instance, our washing machines come with power-saving modes, addressing the local demand for efficient energy use, especially in regions with high electricity costs.

One of Walton's key advantages is its ability to offer high-quality products at

cost-effective pricing. We are committed to ensuring that our customers receive outstanding value without compromising on performance or durability. Additionally, our strong customer support system sets us apart. We offer reliable after-sales services and warranties that give customers peace of mind.

As the leading washing machine brand in the country, Walton's reputation for reliability and quality has earned us a loyal customer base. We don't just meet domestic demand; we also export our washing machines internationally, which is a testament to the global trust in our brand. In a market filled with options, Walton stands out by consistently delivering

the perception that washing machines are a luxury item. We believe that access to modern appliances is essential for everyday convenience, and we ensure that all our products are backed by quality, affordable pricing, and dependable after-sales support, making washing machines accessible to every household.

TDS: What kinds of smart technology and features have you incorporated in your products to make them more energy efficient and environment friendly?

MK: Walton washing machines are equipped with advanced smart technologies designed to enhance energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

on utility bills while promoting a sustainable lifestyle.

TDS: What are your company's policies on after-sales service and how do you ensure customer satisfaction?

MK: Walton Washing machine is committed to excellent after-sales service to ensure

Additionally, fluctuating global factors, such as rising dollar rates and raw material prices, create cost pressures that can affect production and pricing strategies. The availability of raw materials also presents supply chain challenges, impacting the consistency of product manufacturing and distribution.

However, these challenges also bring



MOSTAFA KAMAL

Chief Business Officer, Walton Home & Kitchen Appliance

Walton washing machines incorporate smart sensors that ensure optimal washing performance by detecting the weight of the laundry and adjusting water and energy use accordingly. This prevents excessive resource consumption and promotes a more sustainable wash cycle.

superior products that meet the unique needs of consumers while building lasting relationships with them.

TDS: How does your company cater to the needs of diverse customer segments, from budget conscious to premium buyers?

MK: Walton offers washing machines for all types of budgets. Our semi-auto models give great value for budget-conscious buyers, while top-load machines are perfect for mid-range customers. For premium buyers, Walton's front-load models offer cutting-edge technology, modern designs, and advanced features such as digital control panels, silent operation, and eco-friendly washing modes. These machines are tailored to those seeking a high-end experience and top-tier performance.

Walton is also dedicated to breaking

One key feature is the inverter motor, which intelligently adjusts power usage according to the load, significantly reducing electricity consumption. This not only lowers energy costs for users but also contributes to a greener environment.

Additionally, Walton washing machines incorporate smart sensors that ensure optimal washing performance by detecting the weight of the laundry and adjusting water and energy use accordingly. This prevents excessive resource consumption and promotes a more sustainable wash cycle.

With features like Eco-mode, our machines further minimize water and electricity usage, making them an ideal choice for eco-conscious consumers. By focusing on reducing energy and water consumption, Walton offers a smart, eco-friendly solution, helping households save

customer satisfaction. We offer up to 12 years of warranty on spare parts, ensuring long-term security for our customers. Our extensive network of over 80 service centers nationwide allows us to deliver prompt and efficient support.

Our trained technicians are equipped to handle any issues quickly, with most problems resolved within 72 hours. Our quick support and reliable warranties provide a hassle-free experience for all customers.

TDS: What are the biggest challenges and opportunities in the industry moving forward?

MK: The washing machine industry faces several challenges, including price-sensitive buyers who can easily switch brands in search of better deals, making brand loyalty difficult to maintain.

As consumer buying power increases, there is potential to raise brand awareness and capture a larger share of the market. The industry's projected growth, driven by a positive compound annual growth rate (CAGR), offers opportunities for expansion. Furthermore, the competition posed by global brands and local production can fuel innovation. Walton can leverage this competitive environment by focusing on technological advancements and customer-driven solutions to further differentiate its products.

Walton's strong presence in the domestic market and commitment to quality provide a foundation for growth. By addressing challenges and capitalizing on opportunities, the company can continue to strengthen its position, both locally and internationally, while fostering brand loyalty and expanding its customer base.

WASHING SMART

The Rising Popularity of Washing Machines in Bangladesh

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Before 2010, the market was dominated by imported washing machines. However, over the past decade, the landscape has shifted dramatically as local companies have scaled up manufacturing and assembly. As a result, consumers are now enjoying more affordable prices.

Market insiders estimate that Bangladesh's washing machine market is valued at approximately 400-500 crore taka annually, with around 160,000-170,000 units sold each year.

Before 2010, the market was dominated by imported washing machines. However, over the past decade, the landscape has shifted dramatically as local companies have scaled up manufacturing and assembly. As a result, consumers are now enjoying more affordable prices.

Today, locally produced washing machines account for about 70-75% of the market, while imports make up just 25-30%—a complete reversal from the situation a decade ago.

"Complete production of washing machines in Bangladesh is not yet feasible. Many small parts and components are still required, which companies currently assemble after importing. Until 2010-2012, the market was almost entirely reliant on imports. Now, our company manufactures washing machines locally on a full scale," states Fazle Rabbi Khadem,

Brand Manager of Walton Home & Kitchen Appliances.

Major domestic suppliers in the local washing machine market include Walton Group, Rangs eMart, Best Electronics, Jamuna Electronics, PRAN-RFL (Vision), Esquire Electronics, Electra International, and Super Star Group.

Additionally, products from foreign brands

such as Samsung, LG, Sharp, and Whirlpool are also popular. While Singer produces most of its washing machines locally at its factory, it imports certain premium models.

As demand for domestic appliances grows, the use of washing machines is also on the rise. However, they are still primarily viewed as urban products. Concerns remain about potential fabric damage, such as fading or weakening, along with worries about rising electricity costs associated with

their use.

However, entry-level models are gaining popularity as their prices have become significantly more affordable. Smaller families with moderate incomes are increasingly opting for washing machines as a convenient, hassle-free laundry solution. This trend indicates a growing segment of customers seeking affordable entry-level options in the market.

"The semi-automatic segment starts at a price range of 10,000 to 12,000 taka, making it very affordable for consumers. Additionally, many companies are offering seasonal promotions and running marketing campaigns, presenting significant opportunities for market expansion," shares Fazle Rabbi Khadem from Walton.

There are primarily three types of washing machines: manual, semi-automatic, and fully automatic, with the latter available in top-loading and front-loading models. Top-loading machines, being more affordable, dominate demand, while front-loading machines, which are more expensive and feature advanced capabilities, are often seen as status symbols in home decor.

Currently, over 70% of washing machine sales are for top-loading models, but a shift is underway as demand for front-loading machines steadily grows.

Sales of washing machines typically increase during the rainy season and winter, as consumers seek solutions for drying wet clothes and avoiding the discomfort of handling cold water. This year, companies are again anticipating strong sales during the winter months.

"In the past two months, the market has been unstable due to political unrest and recent floods, but the overall market size is growing, and we are hopeful for increased sales moving forward," says Salim Ullah Salim, Director of Marketing at Jamuna Electronics and Automobiles Ltd.



“WE ANTICIPATE STRONG MARKET GROWTH in the coming years”

THE DAILY STAR (TDS): How do you differentiate your products in the increasingly competitive market?

M.H.M FAIROZ (MHMF): We differentiate our products in the competitive market through two core values: Sustainability and Quality. Recognized as a ‘Superbrand’ for the 2023-2024 session, Singer has earned the trust of consumers in Bangladesh over time, offering not just a product, but a complete lifestyle solution.

It is more than just durability or aesthetics. The real game-changer is the wide range of choices we offer our customers. Our products are thoughtfully designed to minimize their environmental footprint, featuring innovative water-

saving technologies and energy-efficient modes like Fast+ and ‘Mini.’ These cutting-edge solutions represent a significant shift in how people view household appliances and their role in building a more sustainable future.

TDS: How does your company cater to the needs of diverse customer segments, from budget-conscious to premium buyers?

MHMF: In Bangladesh, the washing machine has historically been perceived as a high-end product, primarily intended for affluent consumers. However, Singer Bangladesh caters to a wide array of customer segments by offering a broad

TDS: What kinds of smart technology and features have you incorporated in your products to make them more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly?

MHMF: Our approach to product innovation is deeply rooted in sustainability, ensuring that every feature contributes to a greener future. Standard features like Aqua Wash and Water Re-Use are designed to conserve water while maintaining high cleaning performance, making them both efficient and environmentally friendly. In addition, our Daily Express and Fast+ wash programs are tailored to optimize time, energy, and water usage based on

sets us apart is not just our cutting-edge products but also our unparalleled after-sales care. Our extensive, nationwide service network ensures that every customer, no matter where they are located, receives prompt and expert support.

Whether it is for routine maintenance, urgent repairs, or general product

and create opportunities for incremental growth. Shifting customer perception is one of our main hurdles, particularly for Washing Machine category. Although it is a necessary home appliance that greatly simplifies daily tasks, washing machine is still seen by many as a luxury product.



M.H.M FAIROZ

Managing Director & CEO, Singer Bangladesh

Prices for our products start at BDT 15,000 and go up to BDT 100,000, ensuring accessibility for different economic segments. Each washing machine, regardless of price point, is meticulously engineered for high performance and durability, featuring energy-efficient technologies.

range of washing machines specifically designed to meet the needs of both budget-conscious buyers and premium consumers alike. The rise of the middle class is expected to account for 25% of the population by 2025 and 33% by 2030, therefore, prices for our products start at BDT 15,000 and go up to BDT 100,000, ensuring accessibility for different economic segments.

Each washing machine, regardless of price point, is meticulously engineered for high performance and durability, featuring energy-efficient technologies such as water-saving functions and electricity-saving modes. This comprehensive approach allows us to cater to customers looking for cost-effective, practical solutions without sacrificing quality, as well as those who prefer advanced, premium models with enhanced features for a more luxurious home experience.

load size, allowing customers to save on utility costs while maintaining excellent results. Moreover, by integrating advanced Inverter technology, we further reduce energy consumption while delivering superior washing performance. This blend of smart, eco-conscious and energy-efficient technologies ensures our washing machines remain both environmentally friendly and cost-effective, helping users minimize their expenses without sacrificing exceptional performance.

TDS: What are your company’s policies on after-sales service, and how do you ensure customer satisfaction?

MHMF: After-sales service is a critical aspect of any successful company, as it plays a key role in fostering long-term relationships with customers and reinforcing brand loyalty. At Singer Bangladesh, what truly

inquiries, our dedicated customer service team is always available to assist via our toll-free helpline: 0800-0016482. Our commitment to customer satisfaction has earned us widespread loyalty and industry recognition, including the prestigious ‘Superbrand’ title in the washing machine category. This accolade underscores our continuous dedication to offering top-tier customer service alongside our high-quality, innovative products, ensuring a superior experience throughout the product lifecycle.

TDS: What are the biggest challenges and opportunities in the industry moving forward?

MHMF: Bangladesh is one of the fastest-growing economies in the South Asia Region. We want to improve the market perception about Singer Bangladesh

To address this misconception, we offer a 21-day free trial, allowing potential customers to experience the product firsthand. They can return the item with no questions asked if they’re not happy. Once consumers experience the convenience, it becomes a necessity in their lives.

Additionally, the washing machine sector presents significant growth opportunities. With the rapidly evolving socio-economic conditions in Bangladesh, washing machines have the potential to become the second-largest home appliance category, following refrigerators, in terms of demand and sales. As the middle class continues to expand and consumers increasingly value convenience, efficiency, and time-saving solutions, we anticipate strong market growth in the coming years.

WASHING SMART The Rising Popularity of Washing Machines in Bangladesh

Top-loading machines, being more affordable, dominate demand, while front-loading machines, which are more expensive and feature advanced capabilities, are often seen as status symbols in home decor.

FROM PAGE J2

The growth of the washing machine market has slowed after a period of robust expansion before the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent surge in inflation. This slowdown is attributed to both demand and supply constraints; however, market insiders are optimistic that these issues will be resolved in the future.

“The washing machine market in Bangladesh has not reached its full potential since the COVID-19 pandemic. During and immediately after the pandemic, washing machines became a necessity, changing the perception of them from luxury items. However, post-COVID economic turbulence has negatively impacted

both demand and supply. Inflation has reduced the purchasing power of the emerging middle class, while challenges such as the foreign exchange crisis have made it difficult to open Letters of Credit, further constraining the market. Despite these challenges, we expect positive growth in the coming years,” adds a market insider.

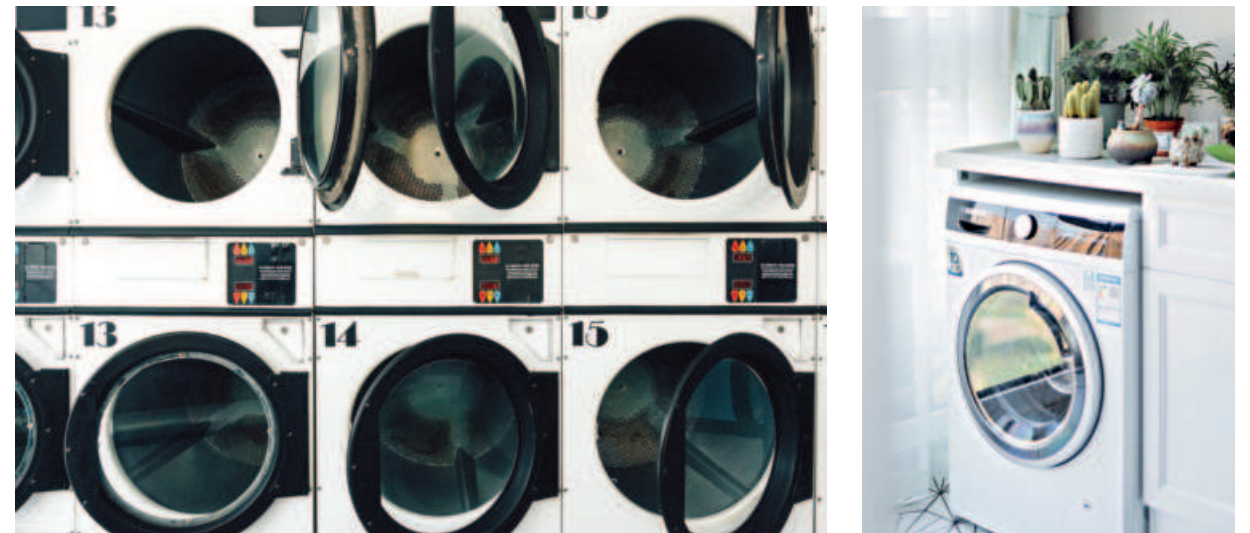
Despite difficulties in opening LCs for importing production materials, companies are strategically navigating the situation to expand market penetration and overcome the ongoing challenges.

“The country is currently facing a dollar crisis, and the cost of raw materials is soaring, which presents challenges in keeping prices affordable for buyers. However, we offer options such as EMI, seasonal promotions, and campaigns that are beneficial for consumers looking to purchase washing machines,” says Fazle Rabbi Khadem.

Walton currently holds the largest market share for washing machine sales, with the highest figures recorded between July 2023 and June 2024. Since starting production in 2017, Walton has become a key player in the market.

In addition, Walton has begun exporting its washing machines to countries like Bhutan, East Timor, India, Iraq, Nepal, Uganda, and Yemen, where the products are gaining popularity and proudly representing Bangladesh on the global stage.

To unlock the full potential of the washing machine market, companies are continuously conducting research and making innovations to enhance product value by introducing new features for consumers.



Washing well: Finding the best washing machine for your household

FROM PAGE J4

The expert adds, “Durability is a key factor. Machines constructed with high-quality materials are more likely to withstand the test of time. A comprehensive warranty and reliable after-sales support can significantly influence the purchasing decision, providing peace of mind and ensuring long-term satisfaction with the product.”

Moreover, modern washing machines offer a variety of programs tailored for different types of fabrics and stains. Features like steam wash, delay start, and extra rinse cycles can provide added convenience and improve washing outcomes. Smart washers with Wi-Fi connectivity allow you to control and monitor your laundry from your smartphone.

AVOIDING COMMON PURCHASING MISTAKES

Buying the right washing machine is an important decision that impacts daily life and long-term finances. Despite the importance of this purchase, many buyers fall into common traps that can lead to dissatisfaction and unnecessary costs.

One common error is misjudging the required capacity. “One of the most common errors is choosing a washing machine that doesn’t fit the household’s laundry volume,” another industry expert points out.

Moreover, the focus should not solely be on price. “Ease of use, such as intuitive controls and programmable settings, can improve user experience. Additionally, noise levels are an important consideration, particularly for those

living in apartments or using the machine during nighttime hours,” he highlights.

Selecting a less efficient washing machine can have a long-lasting impact on utility bills and environmental footprint. Modern machines come with better energy ratings and efficient water use, which not only conserve resources but also lower ongoing expenses.

living areas.

Most importantly, focusing only on the upfront cost can be short-sighted. It’s crucial to consider the total cost of ownership, which includes operating expenses, maintenance, and potential savings from durability and energy efficiency.

So, above all, choose quality over quantity.

Choosing the right washing



Often, shoppers may choose a washing machine solely based on price, missing out on features that could enhance convenience and fabric care. Intuitive controls, programmable settings, and quiet operation can significantly improve the user experience, especially in households where the washing machine is frequently used during nighttime or in close proximity to

machine involves a thoughtful balance of various factors, including type, capacity, efficiency, and personal lifestyle needs. By understanding the different types of machines and making informed decisions based on detailed expert advice, consumers can enhance their daily lives with a choice that offers convenience, efficiency, and long-term satisfaction.



WASHING WELL

Finding the best washing machine for your household



a more hands-on approach, semi-automatic washing machines offer a balance of manual and automated laundry solutions. These machines are typically more affordable and are ideal for places with water supply limitations.

Semi-automatic machines require you to move clothes manually from the wash tub to the spinning tub. This type allows users to control their water intake and is often seen as an economical solution that fits well in many budget-conscious homes or are as

can be a good choice in areas with water supply issues or for users who prefer a hands-on approach to their laundry," says the Walton expert.

There are also portable and compact washers, ideal for those who are short on space, portable washers can be stored away when not in use and rolled out to a sink or another water source for operation. Compact washers, on the other hand, are permanently installed but take up less space than traditional models. These are perfect for small households or single-person dwellings.

Thus, understanding the different types of washing machines and their distinct features is the first step in making an informed choice that suits your needs and lifestyle.

laundry volume – a larger family might benefit from a machine with a higher capacity, while a single individual or a couple might find a smaller capacity adequate," explains the Walton expert.

The drum size of a washing machine is an important factor to consider. It's measured in kilograms or cubic feet, indicating the amount of laundry it can handle in a single cycle. For individuals or couples, a smaller machine (5-7 kg) might suffice, whereas larger households would benefit from a capacity of 8 kg or more.

Overloading a machine can lead to poor wash results and strain the motor while underloading leads to wastage of water and energy. That said, energy efficiency equally matters.



For those who march to the beat of their own drum and perhaps enjoy a more hands-on approach, semi-automatic washing machines offer a balance of manual and automated laundry solutions. These machines are typically more affordable.

AYMAN ANIKA

Choosing the right washing machine is essential, especially in a country like Bangladesh, where climate, family size, and energy considerations play important roles in household decisions. However, as there are numerous models and features on the market, selecting the right washing machine can be a daunting task.

UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF WASHING MACHINES

With various types and features available nowadays, picking the right washing machine can feel overwhelming. Nonetheless, whatever the brand or features of a washing machine are, there are three primary types of washing machines on the market – top-load, front-load, and semi-automatic – each catering to different user needs, budgets, and

utility considerations.

So, which one might be more user-friendly you may ask.

An expert from Walton details, "Top-load machines are favoured for their ease of use. Users can add clothes without bending over, and these models often come at a lower price point. However, they can be less water and energy-efficient compared to other types."

He adds, "Front-load washing machines are generally more efficient in terms of water and energy usage, which can lead to savings in operating costs. They also often feature a wider range of wash settings and better handling of delicate clothes."

For those who march to the beat of their own drum and perhaps enjoy

with specific utility concerns. "Semi-automatic machines represent a budget-friendly option that requires some manual intervention, such as filling the machine with water. They

CHOOSING THE RIGHT MACHINE FOR YOUR NEEDS

Different families or individuals have different requirements. Therefore, washing machines will vary according to the person's needs. When it comes to picking the right machine, you need to consider several factors.

"First and foremost, capacity should align with the household's

The Walton expert shares, "Energy and water efficiency are paramount not only for environmental sustainability but also for reducing utility bills. Machines with high energy efficiency ratings and water-saving programs are preferable. Ease of use, such as intuitive controls and programmable settings, can greatly enhance user experience."

SEE PAGE J3



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Spin into the Future

The Cutting-Edge Tech Transforming Washing Machines

Unlike conventional washers, smart models are equipped with internet access, smart sensors and advanced technology that enables automatic operation. They provide alerts when a cycle finishes or if any issue occurs. Their sensor-based load detection, variable speed motors, and optimized wash cycles saves both water and electricity, while still ensuring thorough cleaning.

MIFTAHUL JANNAT

Gone are the days of manual scrubbing and rinsing as laundry days are getting a high-tech upgrade with the latest innovations in the industry. Today's washing machines are packed with cutting-edge technologies designed to make laundry smarter, faster, and more efficient than ever. From smart connectivity and intelligent sensors that customize wash cycles to energy-efficient designs and fabric-specific care, the modern washing machine is no longer just a household chore assistant—it is a sophisticated tool that saves time, energy, and resources while delivering pristine clothes.

IoT AND SMART CONTROL FEATURES

The latest technology incorporated in washing machines allows you to start a wash with just a few taps on your phone. Modern washing machines are equipped with IoT (Internet of Things) technology, which allows the machines to be connected to the internet and managed remotely through a smartphone app or other smart home devices. These smart washing machines usually come with sensors that track different aspects of the washing process, including water consumption, detergent levels, and cycle status. Users can control and monitor wash related updates through the app from anywhere in the house.

"The app allows users to control water flow, rinse and temperature. At the end of each washing cycle, it also shows feedback on current weather conditions, estimating the time required to dry the clothes," said Mostafa Kamal, Chief Business Officer at Walton Home & Kitchen Appliance. He further noted that the app provides information on weather forecasts and updates on rainy or sunny days so that users can schedule their washing accordingly.

Unlike conventional washers, smart

models are equipped with internet access, smart sensors and advanced technology that enables automatic operation. They provide alerts when a cycle finishes or if any issue occurs as well as for maintenance tasks such as cleaning cycles or filter changes, helping the machine run smoothly. Additionally, users can save custom wash programs suited to specific requirements or fabric types, enhancing cleaning efficiency and garment protection.

These machines are designed to perform optimally, offering fast, convenient laundry care with personalized options. On this note, another industry expert mentioned, "We offer an app called Homewhiz, which connects with our smart washing machines. Through the app, users can download specialized wash programs and monitor energy consumption with ease. Additionally, Homewhiz allows users to simply input details like fabric type, color, and the level of dirtiness, and the app's wizard will recommend the perfect washing program for optimal results."

ECO-FRIENDLY AND ENERGY-SMART EFFICIENCY

Modern washers are equipped with technology to make them more eco-friendly and energy efficient by lowering both water and energy consumption without hampering the performance. These technologies focus on economic use of resources, from water temperature to the amount of water used per load. Since a great amount of washing machine's electricity is spent on heating water, machines that use less energy by washing clothes at lower temperatures are considered energy efficient. These machines often have advanced technologies such as sensor-based load detection, variable speed motors, and optimized wash cycles, saving both water and electricity, while still ensuring thorough cleaning.

"Our washing machines are equipped with features such as Aqua Wash and Water Re-use, which conserve water while maintaining top-notch cleaning performance. Fast+ and Daily Express wash programs are designed to optimize water, energy, and time for various load sizes, allowing consumers to save resources without sacrificing efficiency. Furthermore, many of our products are powered by inverter technology, which minimizes energy consumption while delivering superior washing results," commented an industry insider. He also highlighted that all these technologies not only save utility bills, but also the environment with the energy-smart and water-saving features.

Modern manufacturers

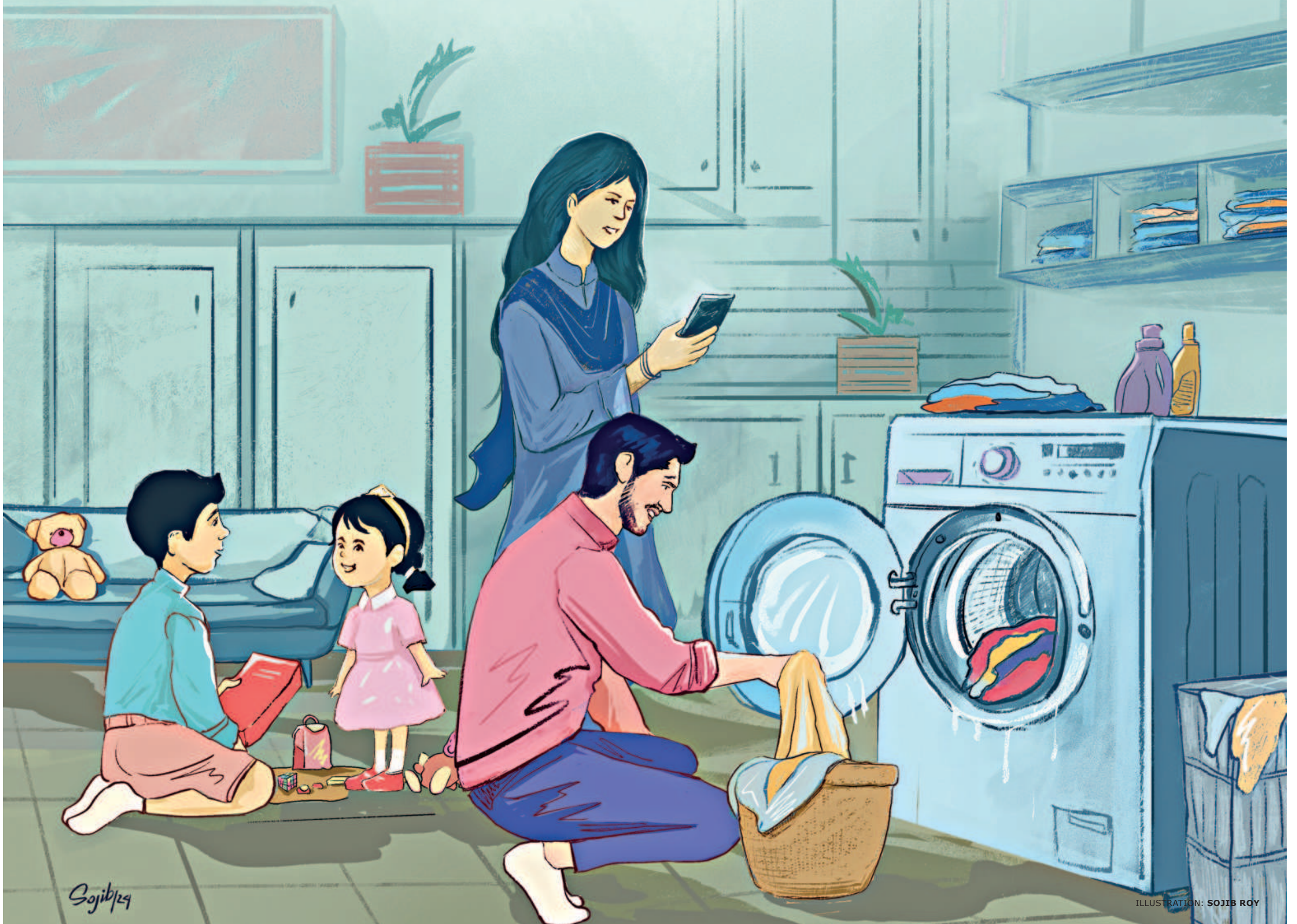
have also integrated shorter but equally effective wash cycles for the small loads and inverter motors for efficient energy use. Inverter washing machines differentiate themselves by featuring motors that can adjust their speed, unlike fixed motors in non-inverter models. This kind of structure layout has fewer moving components, leading to enhanced durability, reduced maintenance requirements, and better washing efficiency. By adjusting the motor speed according to the load, they improve energy efficiency, reducing power consumption and costs.

In this regard, Fazle Rabbi Khadem, Brand Manager of Walton Home & Kitchen Appliance commented, "We have a CIM inverter motor installed in all our washing machines, which saves 29% energy compared to conventional motors. It significantly cuts down energy consumption cost per wash, for instance, front load washing machines require Tk 6.5 per wash in terms of energy consumption, whereas semi-automatic machines require only Tk 1 per wash due to this inverter motor." He also added that their washing machines utilize 'Defoaming Technology', which is designed to eliminate excessive foam during the washing process. Too much foam reduces friction between individual laundry items and hinders the cleaning efficiency and may even cause overflow or machine malfunctions.

Thus, the defoaming technology improves washing efficiency by reducing the unnecessary foam produced due to spin.



SEE PAGE J6



Sojib/24

ILLUSTRATION: SOJIB ROY

Keep Washer Running Smooth Tips for Long-Lasting Durability

In order to retain the best utility of washing machine in the long term, regular cleaning and careful maintenance are essential.

Do not forget that your washing machine is a delicate appliance. To extend its lifespan, it's important to be mindful of its service and maintenance needs. Overloading the machine can lead to damage and reduce its efficiency.

MUJIB BRAHMAN

After all, it is a delicate machine that needs to be handled with care, and there are specific procedures that must be followed daily to avoid costly repairs while maintaining its efficiency and ensuring spotless laundry results. Let's take a look at some key steps and procedures for properly maintaining this delicate machine:

ENSURE THAT THE MACHINE IS LEVEL AND BALANCED

Proper placement is key to the durability of a washing machine. Ensure it is positioned correctly, as an unbalanced setup can cause vibration and rocking, leading to wear and tear. For optimal performance, the machine must be level and balanced, which is a prerequisite for its sustainability and durability.

USE THE RECOMMENDED DETERGENT

The choice of detergent should align with both the washing machine and the type of clothing. It is crucial to have a good understanding of the right detergent to use. While budget and personal preference often influence detergent choice, some people may opt for machine-specific detergents, while others use regular ones. However, it is always best to consult the user manual. Whether using machine-specific or standard detergent, it is essential

that it is not harsh or overly alkaline, as this can damage both the machine and the clothes. Excessive detergent should also be avoided to prevent residue buildup.

REGULARLY CLEAN THE WASHING MACHINE

After extended use, washing machines may lose efficiency, often due to the accumulation of detergent residues, fabric softeners, and micro-residue, which can lead to unpleasant odors and reduced performance. To maintain the machine's sustainability and durability, regular cleaning is essential. This includes wiping down the drum, cleaning the drain, door, hoses, and removing any detergent residue from the compartments. Regular cleaning helps prevent mold and mildew, which can cause bad odors. It is recommended to use cleaning products suggested in the user manual, such as bleach, white vinegar, or baking soda. However, instead of vinegar, a washing machine-specific cleaner may be preferred, as vinegar can sometimes damage rubber seals and hoses, leading to leaks.

"With each wash cycle, dirt and detergent residue can accumulate over time affecting the efficacy of the machine. Walton washing machines have a specialized Drum Clean program for that and we recommend using it once every month. Be aware

Most automatic and semi-automatic washing machines have three hoses: two inlets and one outlet. Regularly inspect the inlets to ensure they're properly connected to the water source, and check the outlet to make sure it's in good condition, as it removes dirt and lint. Even if your hoses seem secure, it's a good idea to replace them every three to five years to prevent accidents, as wear and tear can occur over time.



not to put any detergent or clothes into the machine while running the drum cleaning program," suggested Fazle Rabbi Khadem, Brand Manager, Walton Home & Kitchen Appliance. He also added that the detergent dispenser, water inlet filter and drain pump must be cleaned at least once a month as well. The door and gasket of the machine must be wiped with a dry cloth after every wash cycle, especially the lower part of the door must be cleaned with a soft towel each month where materials like lint, coins or paper clip can gather over time.

AVOID OVERLOADING THE MACHINE
Do not forget that your washing machine is a delicate appliance. To extend its lifespan, it's important to be mindful of its service and maintenance needs. Overloading the machine can lead to damage and reduce its efficiency. For bulky items like blankets and comforters, it's advisable to use high-capacity machines at professional laundry service outlets.

Avoiding overloading will help ensure the machine's durability and improve its performance. Load clothes in measured amounts to enhance cleaning efficiency. For best results, follow the user manual's recommended loading capacity, and consider factors such as weight, size, and color when loading clothes.

AVOID LEAVING LAUNDRY FOR EXTENDED PERIODS
It's common to leave wet laundry in the machine for extended periods, sometimes overnight, but this habit negatively affects both the machine and the clothes. Prolonged dampness can lead to mold and mildew growth, as well as unpleasant odors on both garments and the machine. To maintain the appliance's efficiency and prevent damage, avoid leaving wet clothes in the machine for long periods.

MONITOR THE WASHER'S HOSES

For smooth water flow in and out of your washer, it's important to regularly check the hoses. Most automatic and semi-automatic washing machines have

three hoses: two inlets and one outlet. Regularly inspect the inlets to ensure they're properly connected to the water source, and check the outlet to make sure it's in good condition, as it removes dirt and lint. Even if your hoses seem secure, it's a good idea to replace them every three to five years to prevent accidents, as wear and tear can occur over time.

CLEAN THE LINT FILTER REGULARLY
Many homeowners are unaware of the lint filter in their washing machines. If you notice fuzz or lint on your clothes after washing, it could be due to a clogged lint trap. The lint filter collects lint and dirt during the wash cycle, and it's important to clean it regularly. Once the filter is full, it can no longer effectively collect residue and dirt, which may then stick to your clothes.

LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN TO ALLOW FOR AIR CIRCULATION

Some people believe that leaving the washer door open invites dirt and debris inside, and while this can happen in certain cases, it's beneficial to keep the door open for 15 to 30 minutes after a wash. This allows moisture and bacteria to escape, preventing buildup inside the machine. For extra care, you can also wipe down the inside of the washer with a dry towel after each wash to remove any remaining moisture.

Regarding every day maintenance tips, an industry expert emphasized on several key points, "Keep the drum clean, wipe the drum after each use to prevent bacteria buildup, assort clothes based on type and dirt before washing and clean the filters regularly. For top-loader machines, the lint filter must be cleaned every week. Additionally, run the drum clean mode every 15-30 days depending on usage to prevent bad odors." In addition to following the previously mentioned tips, be sure to regularly clean the detergent and fabric softener dispenser, wipe the rubber gasket to keep it dry, prevent spillage and protect the machine's finish—small steps that ensure your washing machine stays in top shape.



Spin into the Future The Cutting-Edge Tech Transforming Washing Machines

FROM PAGE J5

FUZZY LOGIC CONTROL SYSTEM

Fuzzy Logic is a smart system that optimizes the performance of the washing machine depending upon various parameters. Most modern washing machines integrate fuzzy logic technology for optimal performance and increased efficiency of the wash cycles. It typically takes into account of variables, such as, the weight of the load, type of fabric, amount and temperature of the water, amount of detergent and dirt present in the water and based on these, the system determines the most efficient way to balance the load, redistribute items, and maintain proper spinning throughout the cycle, ensuring superior cleaning performance and optimizing lifespan of the machine.

"Fuzzy control technology in Walton Washing Machines is becoming increasingly common due to its advantages in improving efficiency, convenience, productivity, and reducing cost. Sensors continuously monitor changing conditions inside the machine and alter operations as necessary to achieve the finest wash results. Fuzzy control washing machines utilize up to 70% less water than standard top-loading washers, save up to 60% on energy, and can wash more clothes in a single load than traditional washers," said Khadem from Walton.

Fuzzy technology automates the washing process by assessing the level of contamination, temperature and amount

of water and detergent required according to each wash load. It eliminates the need to manually adjust settings like spin speed and temperature, while also minimizing the amount of water that needs to be heated, saving electricity. Moreover, by weighing the laundry, water usage is optimized. Neuro fuzzy logic - a more advanced version of fuzzy logic - can recognize fabric types and water hardness levels, and distinguish between powdered and liquid detergents, further optimizing performance.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR BACTERIA STERILIZATION

Modern washing machines are equipped with advanced bacteria sterilization technologies designed to enhance hygiene in laundry care. These innovations include high-temperature steam cycles and specialized wash programs which eliminate harmful bacteria and allergens without the need for harsh chemicals. For instance, Walton washing machines employ high-temperature drum cleaning with a temperature of 80°C, which ensures thorough sterilization of the inner drum. Steam reaches every corner of the drum, effectively removing bacteria and stains.

Additionally, they have 'Air Wash' function for regular wearables, providing odorless refreshed clothes instantly without the need for washing and 'Oxyfresh Technology' that keeps wet clothes fresh and deodorized after washing for up to 8 hours. Similarly, Singer washing machines have wash programs like



StainExpert, SteamCure and Hygiene+ that ensure a spotless and germ free wash for all types of soiled garments. Some models also feature antimicrobial coatings on internal components, such as antibacterial door seal and antibacterial integrated stainless-steel drum that sterilizes bacteria and prevents bacterial buildup.



Your cleaning partner

Usually the manuals are pretty comprehensive, adding all the information about daily usage. Looking at the manual book thoroughly will guide the user about the specific model they bought, as functions vary depending on the type and model.



SAUDIA AFRIN

Given the hustle and bustle of urban living, people constantly look for easier and more efficient routes to deal with regular upkeep. Due to its time-consuming and energy-draining nature, laundering would hit one of the top spots among those mundane jobs. However, the presence of a washing machine in the home can make a lot of difference if used accurately. Washing via washer is often perceived synonymously with loading dirty laundry, adding some detergent, and letting it spin. But, there are more to consider ranging from cycle options, and temperature to choice to spin. Read this article to comprehend key avenues of using your washing machine proficiently.

CORE UNITS OF A WASHING MACHINE
Water pump - facilitates a few basic functions including controlling water during the wash cycle and pumping out

Detergent drawer - a storage unit to put detergent powder and fabric conditioner.

STEPS TO FOLLOW, BEFORE LOADING CLOTHES INTO THE MACHINE

Sorting by fabric types and tone

Given the possibility of darker-toned fabric ruining lighter ones, it is advisable to wash them separately. Avoid washing delicate fabrics (such as silk, chiffon, and lace) with heavy and thick fabrics (such as cotton and jeans) as the water temperatures vary depending on the fabric type.

Preparation

Emptying pockets: Don't leave anything in clothes pockets be it coins, a used tissue, or keys as these can lead to certain damages to the machine. For example, metal objects such as coins or keys potentially damage the washer drum, and the front glass door, clogging the drainage system even tearing delicate fabrics and creating rattling sounds while operating. Furthermore, relatively soft objects like paper tend to



disintegrate into tiny fibers, covering the clothes with lint.

Mesh bag: Smaller and delicate items such as shoelace, lingerie, and delicate fabrics such as silk, and satin must be sealed in a mesh bag for extra protection. The prime reason is to keep the laundries from snagging and stretching because of the washer's agitation. Moreover, items with metal hooks must be fastened while putting them inside the mesh bag.

Others: Don't forget to zip up zippers and button all buttons. The agitation of the wash cycle can cause the zipper's metal teeth to damage the drum wall. Also, knot the straps. Turn screen-printed, block-printed, and dark-colored clothes such as jeans inside out to reduce fading.

Segregating based on stain intensity

Heavily stained items require pre-treatment depending on the types of stains. The three common pretreatment steps are applying a stain remover, gently rubbing, and soaking in water. Firstly, pour or spray the suitable stain remover directly onto the stains. Instead of rinsing it right after applying, it is advised to let the remover sit for 5 to 10 minutes to allow the remover to penetrate the fabric. The tough stains may require further rubbing either by hand or soft brush. If the clothes are heavily soiled, soak them in detergent-dissolved water for around 30 minutes.

A small guide to treatment matched with stain

Food and Drink Stains: Besides stain remover, white vinegar mixed with water can be used to treat stains of coffee, tea,

fruit juice, etc. Use dish soap or liquid laundry detergent to treat greasy stains.

Mud stains: Before applying any detergent, it is wise to dry mud or dirt to brush off excess mud residue.

Protein-based stains: A bit of enzyme-based detergent dissolved in cold water is ideal for dealing with stains of blood, sweat, etc.

HOW TO LOAD A WASHING MACHINE?

Loading the drums with clothes until packed is not a worthy tactic as it can only trigger mechanical failures. Overloading, the most commonly made mistake leaves no space for the clothes to rotate, for water to properly fill and circulate.



Washing machine motor - rotates the drum managing speed and direction as per requirements to circulate clothes during the wash cycle and the spinning cycle.

Circulating water is essential for the detergent to dissolve and the formation of suds to clean effectively.

It is recommended that a load of laundry shouldn't fill the washer tub more than three-quarters. For synthetics and delicate fabrics fill the drum half full.

A trick to calculate the load is placing your hand into the drum, if it fits between clothes and the drum wall, you're ready to begin.

"Usually the manuals are pretty comprehensive, adding all the information about daily usage. Looking at the manual book thoroughly will guide the user about the specific model they bought, as functions vary depending on the type and model," said Fazle Rabbi Khadem, Brand Manager, Walton Home & Kitchen Appliance.

CLEANING AGENTS

Like loading the drum correctly, detergent placement, selection, and measurement are equally vital. The placement of the dispenser drawer may vary depending on the type of washing machine. High-definition models may have advanced dispensing feature auto-dosing, placed either at the top or back of the machine. The front-load machine's dispenser drawer is mostly located at the top left corner having compartments for fabric conditioner. Some top-load machines have dispenser drawers at the top, and in some top-load models, the detergent is initially dissolved into water before loading it with laundry.

Read the detergent dosing instructions on the washer. The amount usually depends on factors such as load-size,

hardness of water, and level of dirtiness. Detergent options available in the market include washing powder, the cheapest option, and liquids. For heavily soiled clothes enzymes-based detergents such as Surfexel, and Rin are the best options.

Liquid forms are great for keeping colors bright and for everyday washing. Fabric conditioner keeps clothes soft, makes them smell nice and fresh, and generally makes clothes last longer.

Adding fabric softener at the correct time ensures your clothes come out soft and fresh, ensuring longevity. Pour fabric softener into the designated compartment in the dispenser drawer at the start of the wash. The machine automatically dispenses the fabric softener during the final rinse cycle. The fabric softener is manually added during the rinse cycle of the top-load machine without a softener compartment.

PICKING THE RIGHT TEMPERATURE

Cold water 15°C - 27°C

This temperature range is ideal for fabrics such as silk, lace, lingerie, dark or bright colors, synthetics (polyester, nylon), and wool in some cases. The best option for items that may shrink, fade or bleed color. It also saves energy and reduces costs.

Warm water - 32°C - 43°C

It can be termed as all-rounder, for everyday laundry that isn't heavily soiled. With a good detergent, this temperature can handle mixed wash, fabrics including cotton blends, some synthetics, lightly soiled clothes, and towels. It's hot enough to wash clothes, but not hot enough to shrink or fade them. In this range oils and dirt can be removed more effectively than cold water.

Hot water - 54°C - 65°C

It is ideal for sanitizing and removing tough stains. Fabrics include whites (cotton and linens), heavily soiled items, towels, and bedding.

KNOWING THE WASH CYCLE

The washing machine has a diverse range of wash cycles serving different purposes. The most common washing cycle options are a heavy-duty wash for heavily soiled clothes, Quick wash (combining cotton and synthetic), Aqua wash (delicate and lighter wash), wool wash (woolen fabrics), hand wash (sensitive fabrics require delicate care), etc.

Putting clothes on the wrong wash cycle can cause laundry to fade quickly. Check the fabric care label on your clothes to find the recommended wash cycle.

ABOUT SPIN SPEED

Spin and rinse - the steps after the wash cycle rinse laundry with water before spin drying it. Most machines are set to 1200 - 1400 rpm. The spin cycle can be tweaked depending on the fabric care instructions.

Likewise other home appliances, now-a-days washing machines come with remote controlling facility through app, making it more convenient. The prominent brands national and international ranging from Singer, Samsung to Walton have apps which can be operated through connecting with the smart washing machines.

Cotton to ensure more water is removed during the cycle, so the items will dry quicker	1200 - 1400 rpm
Synthetics	1000 rpm
Wool	800 rpm
Delicate fabrics such as silk	400 rpm

dirty water during the spin cycle.

Drum - has mostly two parts; inner drum and outer drum. The laundries are loaded in inner drums. The outer drum, containing the inner one, prevents water leakage to other parts of the washer.

Washing machine motor - rotates the drum managing speed and direction as per requirements to circulate clothes during the wash cycle and the spinning cycle.

Control interface - allows users to manage and customize the washing machine functions, mostly placed at the top or front side of the machine, depending on the washer type.

Timer - one of the vital parts of the control interface, manages the wash time both, automatically and manually.

Drain pump - releases the dirty water after washing clothes.

Heating element - placed mostly at the rear of the machine, heat the water to the desired temperature.

HOW WASHING MACHINE CHANGED OVER THE YEARS



1

The earliest known laundry methods date back to the ancient Romans and neighboring civilizations, who used a detergent made from a combination of animal fat and ash.

The first recorded instance of a mechanical washing machine dates back to the **1700s**, when a man named Jacob Christian Schäffer invented a hand-powered wooden device for washing clothes.

1700

2



3

In **1797**, Nathaniel Briggs received the first patent for a washing machine in the United States. His machine was a simple wooden box with a hand-turned crank that agitated the clothes inside.

1797



4

In the early **1900s** arrived the first electric washing machine, where the tub was powered by an electric motor, making laundry more efficient and less labor-intensive.

Since **1930** automatic washing machines with pressure switches, thermostats and timers began to appear but were still expensive at that time and had not become a regular household appliance.

1900 1930

5



6

From the **1980s** onwards, advances in the field of electronics accelerated the innovations in washing machines, gradually putting it into the modern shape that we know today.

1980



7

In the **1990s**, semi-automatic washing machines became the first electric washing devices to be introduced in Bangladesh.

Between **2001** and **2004**, top-loading washing machines started to gain popularity in Bangladesh, followed by the introduction of front-loading washing machines around **2010**.

1990 2010

8



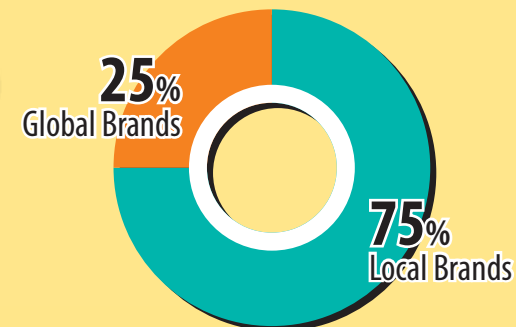
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Nowadays, modern washing machines are equipped with numerous features and latest technology including integrated Wi-Fi, app-control features, LED touch control panel, intelligent drying and specialized wash programs for various fabric type and load size.

KEY STATISTICS

Market Size:	Tk 400-500 crore	Annual Production:	160,000-170,000 units
Annual Growth Rate:	5-10 %	Penetration rate:	3-4 %

MARKET SHARE





A YEAR OF ISRAEL'S INVASION

Gaza still bleeds

Death toll nears 42,000; rallies worldwide call for ceasefire

AGENCIES

Intensified Israeli airstrikes on Gaza yesterday killed dozens on the eve of the first anniversary of its offensive in the besieged territory that has killed nearly 42,000 Palestinians and left the enclave in ruins.

Israel's war on Gaza has since spread as it invaded Lebanon after months of trading fire across the border, raising the fear of a wider conflict in the Middle East with experts saying it risks sucking in major regional and world powers.

As the Israeli invasion enters its second year, tens of thousands of protesters marched in cities around the world calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, a prospect which experts say is unlikely anytime soon.

The marches were held in almost all major cities across Europe,



- Two thirds of Gaza structures damaged or destroyed
- Nearly all of enclave's 2.3 million people displaced
- Humanitarian crisis amid bleak ceasefire hope

Africa, Australia and the Americas demanding an end to the conflict.

In Washington, more than a thousand protesters demonstrated outside the White House, seeking that the United States, Israel's top military supplier, stop providing weapons and aid to Israel.

One man attempted to set himself on fire, AFP journalists saw, succeeding in lighting his left arm ablaze before bystanders and police extinguished the flames.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas-led fighters streamed across the border from Gaza into southern Israel, killing about 1,200 people and kidnapping some 250 others, according to Israeli tallies.

The next day, Israel formally declared war on Hamas.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



People travel on a tractor trailer while others walk on a flooded road in Nalitabari, Sherpur. Some areas in the district have become completely inaccessible by roads as swollen rivers in the region continue to inundate villages and upend lives.

PHOTO : SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB

Floods worsen in Sherpur and Mymensingh

3.5 lakh marooned; three swept away by floodwaters

STAR REPORT

The bodies of three more people have been found who died over the last three days after being swept away by floodwaters in Sherpur, bringing the total number of deaths from the recent floods in the district to seven.

With the ongoing flood situation worsening yesterday, the number of people currently stranded in Sherpur and Mymensingh reached around 3.5 lakh.

A bulletin from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre yesterday said the flood situation in the two districts may remain stable till 9:00am today.

The three deceased were identified as Zahura Khatun, 70, of Chenguria village under Jhenaihati upazila; Muktar Hossain, 50, of Urfa union under Nakla upazila; and Mahua Khatun of Namabatkuchi village

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

A curious tale of two cases

Time of murders, victims different; complaints, accused almost identical

RAFIUL ISLAM and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Two cases were filed over the killing of two men in the capital's Jatrabari during the mass uprising that toppled the Awami League government.

The killings took place on July 18 and 19 and the circumstances surrounding the crimes were different but the seven-page first information statements (FIRs) filed with Jatrabari Police Station are

almost identical, with the names, addresses, and other details of the two victims being the only differences.

Abu Bakar, 55, who claims to be the convener of Ward 63 Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, filed both the cases on September 2 over the deaths of Sakib Hasan, 22, and Jahangir Alam, 50.

The same 442 individuals are accused in both cases.

Furthermore, Bakar, who is not related to either of the victims,

filed the cases without informing the families. Grieving members of Sakib and Jahangir's families were surprised when they were informed of the cases.

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, former ministers—Obaidul Quader, Amir Hossain Amu, Hasan Mahmud, Asaduzzaman Khan, Dipu Moni, former inspectors general of police AKM Shahidul Hoque, Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun are among the accused.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

105 children killed in July uprising

Govt publishes draft list of 737 killed

STAR REPORT

At least 105 children were killed during the recent student-led uprising in July and August, Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmin S Murshid said yesterday.

Each victim's family will receive Tk 50,000 as compensation, Sharmin, also the social welfare adviser, announced during a press conference at the secretariat.

The list was finalised by the Health Services Division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, reports UNB.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A bustling kitchen market on the rail lines in the capital's Karwan Bazar. While this a blatant disregard for safety, food hygiene is also compromised because of the close proximity to moving trains. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Saber Hossain Chowdhury arrested

Ex-land minister, MP, secy also held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested Saber Hossain Chowdhury, former environment forest and climate change minister and Dhaka-9 lawmaker, in the capital's Gulshan.

DMP Deputy Commissioner (media) Talebur Rahman told The Daily Star that there were

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

August floods caused Tk 14,000cr loss: CPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The late August floods caused damage worth an estimated Tk 14,421.46 crore, and the government would need to increase its budget for relief distribution, according to a study of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

The study highlighted that the damage was equivalent to 1.81 percent of the national budget and 0.26 percent of the projected GDP for FY25.

The findings were presented at a press briefing titled "Recent Flood Damage and Rehabilitation Process in Eastern Region: CPD's Analysis" at the think-tank's office in the capital yesterday.

The floods were caused by continuous heavy rains and onrush of water from upstream and affected 11 districts in the region.

The CPD's damage assessment focused on Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Feni, Khagrachhari, Cox's Bazar, Cumilla, Noakhali, Chattogram, Lakshmipur, and Brahmanbaria.

The CPD collected primary data through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, NGO representatives, and government officials. It also conducted field visits to Noakhali, Lakshmipur, and Feni.

The agriculture and forest sectors were the hardest hit. They suffered damage worth Tk 5,169.71 crore, or 35.85 percent of the total.

The loss to infrastructure was worth Tk 4,653.92 crore, 32.27 percent of the total. Damage worth Tk 2,407.31 crore, 16.69 percent of the total, were done to homes.

Noakhali accounted for 29.07

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



ADVERTORIAL

Bashundhara Group Calls for Immediate Action to Halt Defamatory Campaign and Safeguard its Reputation and Business Operations

Dhaka, October 7, 2024 – Bashundhara Group, one of Bangladesh's largest and most reputed business conglomerates, has issued an urgent appeal to the interim government, calling for swift intervention to stop the spread of defamatory and false allegations against the Group, its Chairman, and Managing Director. In a letter to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government, Bashundhara Group's Chairman, Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, emphasized that recent unsubstantiated accusations—disseminated by some media—have caused severe damage to the Group's reputation, business operations, and the livelihood of thousands of employees and their families.

Background

On September 5, 2024, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) issued a press release announcing that it would undertake an inquiry regarding some allegations of land grabbing and money laundering alongside other irregularities. These accusations and media publications, made without prior investigation or legal basis, have significantly harmed the conglomerate's local and global standing. Bashundhara Group has vehemently denied all such claims, stressing that no court or legal authority has ruled against the company on these matters.

The letter expressed deep concern that the widespread media coverage of these speculations, prior to any inquiry or investigation as per the law, has caused confusion among the Group's stakeholders, trade partners, and financial institutions. Bashundhara Group has emphasized that such serious accusations should be based on thorough investigations and credible evidence - not mere speculation. It further stressed that the conglomerate consistently adhered to regulatory compliance, upholding the principles of law.

Response to Allegations

A key allegation evolves around the conglomerate's real estate wing for illegally seizing government land and purported lack of regulatory approval for part of its residential projects. Bashundhara's Chairman has responded that these matters fall exclusively under the jurisdiction of civil courts, and to date, no court has ruled against the Group based on such claims. Furthermore, allegations of siphoning funds abroad and involvement in trade-based money laundering have been outrightly denied as baseless. The conglomerate has maintained a flawless 40-year history of regular loan repayments, with no concerns ever raised by its banking partners or Bangladesh's central bank.

Moreover, the Group categorically denied the unsubstantiated accusations of gold smuggling and tax evasion, emphasizing that no such formal complaints had ever been lodged, and no official investigation had been undertaken to substantiate these allegations. The media report, which speculatively tainted the conglomerate as guilty before completion of any inquiry or investigation, have severely disrupted its business operations and damaged its reputation both domestically and internationally. It has also violated the basic presumption of innocence of the Group, its Chairman and Managing Director before proven guilty, contrary to international legal and journalistic standards.

Economic Contributions at Risk

The letter to the interim government underscored that since its inception in the 1980s, Bashundhara Group has played a critical role in Bangladesh's economic development. The Group's ventures in real estate, bitumen, cement, paper, food, shipping, and essential commodities contribute to the country's housing, infrastructure, and food security. Its oil and gas projects are vital for Bangladesh's energy needs, while upcoming ventures in diverse sectors aim to reduce the nation's dependency on imports, preserving valuable foreign currency reserves.

Bashundhara Chairman's letter further stressed that the ongoing defamatory campaign threatens to destabilize the conglomerate's widespread business operations across diverse industries. Such outcomes would inevitably have a ripple effect on the national economy, jeopardizing thousands of jobs and harming Bangladesh's international credit rating on the global stage. It would also injure the Group's significant contributions to the government exchequer.

Appeal for Government Action and Commitment to positive contributions

Bashundhara Group has urged the interim government, led by Dr. Muhammad Yunus, to protect its businesses, the livelihoods of thousands of employees, and its hard-earned reputation.

Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan also emphasized that even though the conglomerate has fostered positive relationships with successive governments during the last four decades to ensure business continuity, none of his family members were ever involved in politics. He further reaffirmed the Group's commitment to contributing to Bangladesh's socio-economic development and upholding transparency, fairness, and accountability in all its endeavors.

Israeli air attacks batter south Beirut

Witnesses say it was heaviest so far; Hezbollah strikes Israeli base with drones

REUTERS, Beirut

Israeli air attacks battered Beirut's southern suburbs overnight and early yesterday in the most intense bombardment of the Lebanese capital since Israel sharply escalated its campaign against Iran-backed group Hezbollah last month.

It was the single biggest attack of Israel's assault on Beirut so far, witnesses and military analysts on local TV channels said.

"Last night was the most violence of all the previous nights. Buildings were shaking around us and at first I thought it was an earthquake. There were dozens of strikes - we couldn't count them all - and the sounds were deafening," said Hanan Abdullah, a resident of the Burj al-Barajneh area in Beirut's southern suburbs.

Videos posted on social media, showed fresh damage to the highway that runs from Beirut airport through its southern suburbs into downtown.

Israel said its air force had "conducted a series of targeted strikes on a number of weapons storage facilities and terrorist infrastructure sites belonging to the Hezbollah terrorist organization in the area of Beirut".

Lebanese authorities did not immediately say what the missiles had hit or what damage they caused.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) also issued new evacuation orders yesterday for residents of around 25 areas in southern Lebanon, calling on them to head immediately to the north of the Awali River.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus poses for a photo with army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman and other officials at the inauguration of the "Army Headquarters Selection Board-2024" at its headquarters in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

Freeze accounts of Bashundhara Group chairman, MD, family

BFIU directs banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) yesterday asked banks to freeze all personal accounts of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, his son and group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir, and their family members.

The family members mentioned by the BFIU are Sadat Sobhan, son of Ahmed Akbar Sobhan; Sonia Ferdowshi Sobhan, wife of Sadat; Shafiat Sobhan, another son of Ahmed Akbar Sobhan and vice-chairman of the conglomerate; and Sabrian Sobhan, wife of Anvir.

The anti-money laundering agency sent a letter to the banks ordering them to freeze the personal bank accounts in their names for 30 days in the first phase.

The BFIU asked the banks to block their locker facilities as well.

The intelligence unit also sought an update on the account details of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

105 children killed Gaza still bleeds

FROM PAGE 1

The monetary grant and a certificate will be distributed on World Children's Day today among families of the deceased children.

The ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Additionally, Murshid noted that Tk 82,70,898 has been allocated to assist students injured during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement through the Social Service Office and the Upazila Patient Welfare Association.

The ministry is also in the process of securing \$5 million from the World Bank to fund rehabilitation and treatment for those affected by the uprising.

She also said the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs currently operates 12 daycare centres and is advocating for the establishment of daycare facilities in all government institutions by June 2026.

The government is also exploring the possibility of introducing private-sector daycares to enhance employment opportunities and provide essential services.

Meanwhile, the interim government yesterday published a preliminary list of at least 737 people who were killed during the student-led mass protests in July and August.

The names and identities of the dead were collected from different public and private hospitals, reports our staff correspondent.

The list is available at <https://medical-info.dghs.gov.bd/>.

Being a preliminary list, it's a work in progress and is being updated. The website's filtering function was not working accurately as of last night. However, initial analysis indicates that the majority of fatalities occurred in Dhaka, and most of the victims were students.

Earlier on September 24, the government published a draft list of 708 names on the website of the Health Services Division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The draft list was scrutinised again and the preliminary list was released yesterday.

Saber Hossain

FROM PAGE 1

several cases filed against Saber.

Police are yet to determine in which case he would be shown arrested.

Following the January national election, Saber was appointed the environment minister. Previously, he was the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the environment ministry.

Saber was also appointed as a special envoy of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina for environment and climate change in June 2023.

He was the organising secretary of AL from 2001-2008, responsible for Dhaka division. During this period, he was also the political secretary to AL president and then leader of the opposition Hasina.

In another development, former land minister Narayan Chandra Chanda was held from Jhenaigati yesterday as he attempted to flee to India crossing the border illegally.

BGB members arrested him from Maheshpur border area, said Shariful Islam, public relations officer of BGB.

Chanda is former AL lawmaker from Khulna 5.

Meanwhile, the DB, in another drive, arrested Aminul Islam Khan, a former senior secretary of the home ministry, in Dhaka's Banani yesterday afternoon, Talebur said.

Aminul joined as the senior secretary of the home ministry on October 30, 2022. He retired on March 31 last year.

Rab arrested former AL lawmaker of Rajshahi 3 Asaduzzaman Asad in Dhaka's Baridhara yesterday, according to a text message sent by Rab.

Asad was accused in several cases following the ouster of Hasina on August 5.

Rab officials said the process is underway to hand Azad over to Boalia Police Station in Rajshahi.

FROM PAGE 1

Since then, indiscriminate Israeli bombardment has damaged or destroyed two thirds of the total structures in the Gaza Strip, The United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) said on September 30. It also damaged or destroyed around 68 percent of cropland and roads.

Only 17 of 36 hospitals remain partially functional, and all suffer from a lack of fuel, medical supplies, and clean water.

According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 1.9 million Palestinians in Gaza (more than 90 percent of the population) have been displaced, with many experiencing multiple forced displacements as a result of persistent Israeli relocation orders.

The blockade on humanitarian goods has caused a hunger crisis in the Palestinian enclave and led to genocide allegations at the World Court that Israel denies.

The offensive has not only destroyed the present day Gaza but also robbed its future as children, who make up almost half of Gaza's entire population, are the primary victims. Of the 42,000 killed in the enclave, at least 16,456 are children.

According to UN, none of them have been able to attend school since October 7. The longer fighting goes on, the greater the chance of losing an entire generation, it said.

The offensive intensified early yesterday with Israeli airstrikes hitting a mosque and a school sheltering displaced people in the Gaza Strip killing at least 26 people and wounding 93 others, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said.

Palestinian health officials said at least another 20 people had been killed since Saturday night in northern Gaza, after the army sent tanks into areas there for the first time in months and urged residents to leave.

The Israeli military said it had conducted "precise strikes on Hamas terrorists" who were operating within command and control centres embedded in Ibn Rushd School and

Floods worsen in Sherpur and Mymensingh

FROM PAGE 1

under Nalitabari upazila, said police.

Mohua had been missing since Friday noon when she was going to one of her relative's houses and was swept away by floodwater. Her body was recovered from a neighbouring village on Saturday night, said Sanowar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nalitabari Police Station.

On Saturday evening, Zahura Khatun was working in the yard of her house when, all of a sudden, a stream of rushing water entered into the yard, sweeping her away. Her floating body was recovered from near her residence around one hour later, said Habibur Rahman, OC of Nakla Police Station.

Muktar's body was recovered from Urfa area yesterday morning. But locals couldn't say when he drowned, Al Amin, OC of Jhenaigati Police Station.

Earlier bodies of four other victims were recovered from different areas of Sherpur's Nalitabari upazila on Friday and Saturday.

Around 1.5 lakh people in Sherpur's five upazilas - Sherpur's Sadar, Jhenaigati, Nalitabari, Sreebordi, and Nakla - are marooned, according to Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) officials.

Although Sherpur's major rivers were flowing above the danger marks last morning, as the day progressed,

the Shuhada al-Aqsa Mosque, in the area of Deir al-Balah in central Gaza.

Hamas rejects accusations it uses civilian facilities such as schools, hospitals and mosques for military purposes.

Amid the violence, the International Committee of the Red Cross urged all parties to ensure all civilians were protected.

"This is a year marked by heartbreak and unanswered questions. Families have been torn apart, with many loved ones still held against their will. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and millions have been displaced across the region," it said.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israel had struck 27 shelters, schools and displacement shelters across Gaza in the past 48 hours.

Medics said an Israeli airstrike killed three Palestinians in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, where Israeli forces have been operating since May.

On Saturday, Israeli army issued new evacuation orders in parts of Nuseirat camp in the central Gaza Strip, just north of Deir al-Balah, forcing hundreds of families to leave their houses. The military statement said its forces aimed to operate against Hamas fighters who waged attacks from the territory.

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks pushed into the northern Gaza areas of Beit Lahiya and Jabalia overnight, and planes hit several houses, killing at least 20 people, according to medics.

The Israeli military said its forces had encircled the area of Jabalia.

In one air strike, 10 people were killed in one house, and five others in another strike on a second home. Residents described it as one of the worst nights in many months.

"The war is back," said Raed, 52, from Jabalia, before he and his family left for Gaza City yesterday.

"Dozens of explosions from airstrikes and tank shelling shook the ground and buildings, it felt like the early days of the war," he told Reuters via a chat app.

The armed wings of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and smaller factions said fighters were engaged

the water levels in these rivers fell.

At 6:00pm yesterday, the Bhogai river was flowing 92cm below the danger level at Nalitabari point, while the Chellakhal river was 17cm below the danger level at Batkuchi point, according to Sherpur BWDB.

Many fresh areas, including houses, farmlands, ponds and roads, have been flooded yesterday, said locals.

"I have not seen such massive flooding in recent years. My house is now under knee deep water. We currently don't have enough dry food to survive on," said Abdul Malek, a resident of Balughat village under Nalitabari upazila.

"Floodwater entered my house so quickly that we could not move our furniture. All of my furniture have been damaged," said Halima Bewa, a resident of Rajnagar village under Jhenaigati upazila.

Fish from over 2,000 fish enclosures have been swept away, said Sherpur district Fisheries Officer Pranab Kumar Karmakar.

In Mymensingh, around two lakh people are marooned in Dhobaura and Halaughat upazilas, according to the local administration.

Aman paddy of around 11,600 hectares have been damaged, said officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Mymensingh.

in gunbattles with Israeli forces in Jabalia, the largest of Gaza Strip's eight refugee camps.

Palestinian and UN officials say no place in the enclave is safe, including the humanitarian zones.

Ahead of the anniversary, Israel placed its forces on alert.

Military spokesman Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari said at a televised briefing: "We are prepared with increased forces in anticipation for this day", when there could be "attacks on the home front".

In Washington, US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said US will continue to pressure Israel and other players in the Middle East to reach a ceasefire deal in Gaza even as advocates say that the United States has not thus far used its leverage over its ally.

Washington's occasional condemnation of Israel over the civilian death toll has mostly been verbal with no substantive change in policy.

President Joe Biden laid out a three-phase ceasefire plan for Gaza on May 31 but a deal between Israel and Hamas has not been reached due to gaps in exchanges of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and Israel's demand that it maintain presence in a corridor on the southern edge of the Gaza Strip bordering Egypt.

As the war in Gaza enters its second year and a wider Middle East conflict is on the verge of breaking out, one question remains: How, if at all, does this end?

"I'm not sure that it does end," Mairav Zonszein, senior Israel-Palestine analyst for International Crisis Group, told the ABC.

"At this point, we can't talk just about the war in Gaza, but we have to talk about the war with Hezbollah, and the war in the West Bank ... and of course Iran and its proxies."

All of this makes the prospect of a ceasefire in Gaza even less likely, according to Zonszein.

"There's a spectrum," she said.

"It could get much, much worse on several fronts. They're all connected and the connecting theme ... is Gaza."

"I cultivated Aman paddy on 10 acres. All of my paddy plants have gone underwater," said Nurul Amin, a resident of Doshrrapar village in Halaughat upazila.

Fish from around 10,800 enclosures have been washed away, according to the district fisheries office.

"All the fish in my fish enclosures covering around 50 decimals have been washed away," said Abul Kalam of Doshrrapar village.

Contacted, Md Akhlaq Ul Jamil, executive engineer of BWDB in Mymensingh, said the flood situation may improve after three days.

Many flood-hit people alleged that they did not get any relief aid.

"People in our village who are stranded neither got relief materials nor any chance to be evacuated," said Masudur Rahman, of Boro Khalepar village in Halaughat.

However, Azim Uddin, Mymensingh's additional deputy commissioner, claimed that they were working to evacuate flood victims and distribute relief.

Army personnel, with eight speedboats, have joined the rescue operation in Mymensingh, said Major Ibrahim.

[Our correspondents from Mymensingh and Jamalpur contributed to this report.]

August floods caused

FROM PAGE 1

percent of the total damage, followed by Cumilla, 23.51 percent; Feni, 18.61 percent; and Chattogram, 11.63 percent.

During the recent floods, homes were badly affected, with many hovels were destroyed. The loss of crops and fish was huge, said Muntaser Kamal, senior research fellow at the CPD, while presenting the findings.

The water bodies will require reinvestment before they can be used again. Poultry farms, particularly chicken farms, also suffered with entrepreneurs losing nearly all their investments.

Small businesses, especially grocery shops, faced severe challenges as they had to shut down, incurring heavy losses.

Electricity supply and internet access were disrupted.

Waterlogging persists in Noakhali and Lakshimpur, damaging roads, bridges, and culverts.

Educational institutions had their furniture and equipment on the ground floors destroyed, and children unable to go to school.

The study recommended social safety net allocations, particularly for elderly citizens, widows, and destitute women, be increased after careful assessment. Ensuring easy access to finance and providing debt relief were also highlighted.

The government needs to ensure that farmers can get agricultural loans easily. Small businesses, many of which have taken loans from microfinance organisations, may benefit from loan repayment moratoriums and extended repayment periods, the study said.

To protect the agricultural sector, it emphasised ensuring an adequate supply of seeds as the floods destroyed many seedbeds.

A curious tale of two cases

FROM PAGE 1

Most of the other accused are leaders and activists of the Awami League, particularly from the Jatrabari, Demra, and Kadamtali areas.

Veteran Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna said such cases would not stand the scrutiny of a trial and it would be impossible to ensure justice for the victims.

"These cases seem to be aimed at harassing people," he said, adding the FIR is crucial for proving a complaint and it must mention facts only.

Contacted, Jahangir's 18-year-old daughter Mithila Akter, a resident of Jatrabari, said, "We lost our father. We should have been the ones filing the case."

"Besides, the man sued several hundred people of our neighbourhood. Now these people hate us for no reason." She added that Bakar, who filed the case, "definitely has ill motives. He has accused people he wants to harm".

"I want justice for my father. We also want punishment of the man who filed the case without telling us."

Sakib's father Mortoza Alam also said he was surprised when he heard about the case.

"Police shot my son dead. But the complaint is against political leaders and activists. I want justice. I will file a case with the International Crimes Tribunal soon. I will sue only those who shot my son."

Contacted on September 23, Bakar said he filed the cases to ensure justice for the victims.

About the identical wording in both cases, he said he could not discuss the matter further. He requested a follow-up call, but had not responded to calls later.

Like the two identical cases, this newspaper also found three cases filed with Badda Police Station on August

The study recommended immediate government preparations for rice imports and reductions in agricultural input import duties as the extensive damage to agriculture is also likely to affect food security.

Keeping inflation under control will be a significant challenge, it added.

The study also stressed the need for improving emergency response system.

Radio communication systems between administrative offices should be established for use when mobile networks are down, and ambulance boats must be available in flood-affected areas.

Effective coordination between various stakeholders, including the meteorological department and local government units, is vital for rapid emergency response, it said.

Enhancing the capacity of government relief offices by ensuring adequate personnel and training is also crucial, along with improving embankments and upgrading forecasting and early warning systems. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the CPD, said Bangladesh should prepare with the understanding that the country will face floods more frequently.

He said recent floods have been particularly devastating as they were prolonged.

The damage at the individual level are more severe than ever before, necessitating long-term credit support for recovery, he added.

Fahmida Khatun, executive director at the CPD, said the nature of the floods was somewhat different from previous ones. Areas that typically do not experience flooding were inundated.

"As a result, the affected people, as well as those involved in relief efforts, were unprepared," she said.

20 and 21, over the killings of Sumon Sikder, 31, Hafizul Sikder, 28, and Sohag Mia, 30.

All the three cases contain almost similar narratives and same number of the accused though the victims were killed in three places at different times.

Masuma filed a murder case accusing 179 people over the death of her son Sumon on July 19 on Pragati Sarani in Uttar Badda while Abubakar Sikder filed another murder case accusing the same people over the death of his son Hafizul in Merul Badda area on July 20.

Bellal Mia, 35, filed the third one against 178 people over the death of his brother Sohag on Gulshan Link Road on August 5.

Though the place of murder and dates are different, the narratives of the cases are identical and 178 accused in each of the three cases are same.

Masuma could not be contacted but her husband Yousuf Sikder, a leader of the Badda BNP, said, "We made them accused following suggestions from the party men."

Another complainant named Abu Bakar said, "I know that if too many people are accused, justice can elude us. But a local BNP leader in Badda gave a list of people to accuse. I just signed the papers."

Bellal Mia said, "I gave the names of the accused. I don't know how these names matched with the names of previous cases."

Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, said police are not harassing anyone for being sued in cases. Police submit an investigation report to the court after analysing evidence.

The Police Headquarters has recently ordered officers to drop the names of individuals against whom there was no evidence.

ACC files case against ex-Shilpakala DG Liaquat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has filed a case against Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's former director general Liaquat Ali Lucky, former director (administration) Jahangir Hossain Chowdhury, and 22 other employees.

Sumitra Sen, deputy director of special branch at ACC's Integrated District Office, Dhaka-1, lodged the case yesterday.

ACC Public Relations Officer Akhtarul Islam confirmed the development to The Daily Star.

According to a report submitted by the ACC investigation team, Liaquat Ali and Jahangir Hossain conspired to falsify and forge written exam results

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Women bear the brunt of climate change

Says Rizwana at MJF event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women, especially mothers, bear the brunt of natural disasters and climate change, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

Speaking as the chief guest at the "Annual Community of Practice Network Convention 2024," organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at the Brac Centre Inn, Dhaka, Rizwana said gender issues are often included in official documents only towards the end, seemingly as a formality rather than out of genuine concern.

She highlighted the specific struggles faced by women in regions like Khulna, where clean water scarcity has forced many to take birth control pills to stop menstruation.

"During pregnancy, women suffer from high blood pressure due to saline water. Despite an abundance of water, there is a critical shortage of safe

While people often complain about heat waves, floods, and extreme weather, there is a reluctance to acknowledge these as consequences of climate change.

SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN



drinking water," she added. The event, supported by UN Women, brought together experts and activists working on climate adaptation and gender equality. Rizwana said while people often complain about heat waves, floods, and extreme weather, there is a reluctance to acknowledge these as consequences of climate change.

She also mentioned that local issues haven't been brought to the national

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Embracing the rain with a touch of creativity! The driver and passengers of this rickshaw-van ingeniously shield themselves with a plastic sheet as a sudden downpour interrupts their journey. This photo was taken near Koiya Bazar along the Khulna-Satkhira highway yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DSCC tops dengue deaths, cases

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka South City Corporation has recorded the highest number of dengue cases and fatalities this year, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

At least 8,144 people were infected with dengue in DSCC areas, while the number is 7,352 in Dhaka North City Corporation.

Chattogram, excluding its city corporation areas, saw at least 7,311 cases, and Dhaka division, outside the city corporation, saw 5,353 cases.

Barishal, also excluding its city

corporation areas, treated 3,177 patients as of yesterday.

DSCC areas also saw 99 deaths this year, highest so far. DNCC followed with 26 fatalities, Barishal reported 20, and Khulna recorded 11 deaths.

Among hospitals, Dhaka Medical College Hospital reported the highest number of deaths, with 36 patients succumbing to the virus. Mugda Medical College Hospital saw 24 deaths, Mitford Hospital 16, and Kurmitola General Hospital nine.

The DGHS reported a total of 186 dengue-related deaths and 36,590

hospitalisations so far this year.

Lisa Akhtar Jerin, a 13-year-old, is among many children hospitalised with dengue. Her grandfather, who brought her to Dhaka from Bagerhat, said she fell ill three days prior to their arrival. After being admitted, Jerin's condition has improved.

Six-month-old Ayman Hasan was also admitted with fever. His mother, Rimi Akhtar, said both her son and her aunt were diagnosed with dengue. The Goran resident said other residents in their building had also contracted the virus.

The city corporation has not

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

No specific threat for Durga Puja

Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said there is no specific security threat centring Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community in Bangladesh.

Speaking to reporters after visiting Ramna Kali Mandir in Dhaka, he said, "We have taken various steps to ensure smooth and peaceful Puja celebrations."

Law enforcement agencies have implemented necessary security measures in this regard, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Mahmudur Rahman demands ban on BCL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, yesterday issued a seven-point demand, including banning Chhatra League as a "terrorist organisation" within seven days.

Speaking at a press meet at Jatiya Press Club after his release from jail, Rahman accused the BCL and police of involvement in the deaths of students during the recent uprising.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

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ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

SOARING PRICES OF ESSENTIALS Govt to form task force to monitor market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government is set to form a task force to monitor the market to reign in the soaring prices of daily essentials.

"The task force will be on the field soon," wrote Asif Mahmud, youth and sports adviser, on his verified Facebook timeline yesterday.

"Even after making many products duty-free, there was no impact on the market due to the misdoings of syndicates. The process of forming a task force to monitor



the market is underway," he wrote.

The prices of daily essentials including rice, eggs, broiler chicken, soybean oil, palm oil, sugar and vegetables have increased significantly.

Science fair held at MDIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day-long science fair, organised by Manarat Dhaka International School and College (MDIC), was held on its premises in the city's Gulshan yesterday.

Students from class III to A-level participated in the fair where 292 projects were displayed.

Md Mozammel Haque, member of Manarat Trust and convener of the academic committee, inaugurated the fair. Prof ATM Fazlul Haque, also member of Manarat Trust, and Brig Gen (ret'd) SM Mahubul Alam, principal of MDIC, were present at the event.



Winners of the Prime Bank-Bangladesh Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality Awards 2024 at a gala ceremony held at a city hotel on Saturday. Peter A Seamone, chairman of PATA; Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor; Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, chairman of Biman Bangladesh Airlines; Abu Taher Md Jaber, CEO of the Bangladesh Tourism Board; Nazeem A Chowdhury, deputy managing director of Prime Bank PLC; and Akhtaruzaan Khan Kabir, chairman of the Jury Board, were present at the event. Thirty-one individuals and organisations were recognised across 25 categories for excellence in the sector.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
PRISONS DIRECTORATE
30/3, Umesh Datta Road, Bakshi Bazar, Dhaka-1211
www.prison.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.0000.030.25.007.24.1706 Date: 06.10.2024

E-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender is invited in the national e-GP portal:

SL No	Tender/ Re-Tender ID No	Name of work	Publishing, Closing date & Time
1	1022746	Medicine Package-4	03-Oct-2024 18:00:00 , 17-Oct-2024 11:00:00
2	1022775	Medicine Package-5	06-Oct-2024 12:30:00 , 20-Oct-2024 12:00:00
3	1023095	Medicine Package-16	03-Oct-2024 18:00:00 , 17-Oct-2024 15:00:00

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

(Abdul Quddus)
BJ-02720000243
06.10.24
Asst. Inspector General of Prisons (Finance)
For Inspector General of Prisons
Telephone No.57300514.

GD- 630

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জনসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা মহানগরী ও তৎসংলগ্ন পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার যানজট নিরসনে ও পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণে অত্যাধুনিক গণপরিবহন হিসেবে বাংলাদেশের সর্বপ্রথম আন্তঃনগরী মেট্রোরেল MRT Line-1 নির্মাণের লক্ষ্যে "ঢাকা ম্যাস র্যাপিড ট্রানজিট ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্রজেক্ট (লাইন-১)" প্রকল্পের কাজ চলমান রয়েছে। প্রকল্পের প্রস্তাবিত বিমানবন্দর রুটের বিমানবন্দর টার্মিনাল-৩ মেট্রো স্টেশন এলাকায় আগামী ০৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৪, সোমবার রাত ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিশেষ ব্যবস্থাপনায় পরিবেশা লাইন স্থানান্তরের কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করা হবে।

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GD- 635

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Directorate of Purchase
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Motijheel, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 01819223401, 9836626
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpdb.gov.bd

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

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
01	1023409	EE-GRL-01 (Lot-1) FY: 24-25	Pur-202/ID-1023409/xfm r/EE-GRL-01/Rev/FY 24-25, Date: 03/10/2024	Supply of 11/0.4KV, 250KVA Distribution Transformer (Tongi Store)	03-Nov-2024, 17:00	04-Nov-2024, 14:00	04-Nov-2024, 14:00
02	1023433	EE-GRL-01 (Lot-2) FY: 24-25	Pur-203/ID-1023433/xfm r/EE-GRL-01/Rev/FY 24-25, Date: 03/10/2024	Supply of 11/0.4KV, 200KVA Distribution Transformer (Fauzderhat Store)	03-Nov-2024, 17:00	04-Nov-2024, 14:15	04-Nov-2024, 14:15

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

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

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

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

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

বিদ্যুৎ-৯০৪(২)/০৬/১০/২৪
জিডি-৬৩২

Women bear the brunt Mahmudur Rahman demands

FROM PAGE 3

level, and for years, national leaders have not been encouraged to think about solutions.

Rizwana also stressed the importance of regional cooperation to tackle climate change challenges.

"Next month, all countries will gather to discuss how to support nations affected by climate change. Developed countries burn more fossil fuels, and yet, they have failed to deliver the promised funds to the affected nations through the Loss and Damage Fund. Developed nations talk big but fail to provide the necessary financial support. However, Sweden has been an exception," she added.

Maria Stridsman, head of development cooperation at the Swedish Embassy in Bangladesh, expressed concern over the disproportionate impact of climate change on Bangladesh, a country that contributes minimally to the crisis but suffers greatly from its effects. She emphasised

the need for support from high-emission countries while addressing local gender-specific impacts.

Gitanjali Singh, UN Women's country representative, highlighted Bangladesh's history of grassroots women leaders driving real change.

The event also launched the "Women's Climate Action Network," and honoured five women entrepreneurs with the "Role of Women in Addressing Climate Change Award, 2024" for their community contributions.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of MJF, said, "Today, it's truly uplifting to see so many women leaders from grassroots communities coming together. It's even more special to have a climate change warrior and a dedicated woman activist as our chief guest."

"I firmly believe that the women of our country have the strength and resilience to tackle the social issues brought on by climate change," she said.

Project in limbo due

FROM PAGE 5

for steps to complete the deadline, the HED cancelled the work order.

Challenging the HED's decision, the contractor filed a petition with HC in April this year, also seeking permission to complete the work. The HC issued a stay order on the construction work till December this year.

A significant portion of the construction work remains incomplete, as the contractor could build barely the structure of three buildings and only the underground foundation of the hospital building.

At present, the hospital provides emergency treatment at an abandoned building while outdoor and indoor services are being given at two remote other buildings.

The services are largely inadequate due to the incomplete infrastructures, depriving around one lakh people from five unions under the upazila of proper medical facilities.

Even though the hospital has arrangement for 31 beds for patients, it is only on paper as only 15 patients can be admitted there, that too both male and female patients in the same ward.

"The beds, space and toilets are inadequate and not properly managed for the patients," said Khadija, relative of a patient at the hospital.

"My bed is in front of the toilet, due to which I have to bear the bad odour from it all the time," said Md Shahidul Islam, a patient admitted there.

Razib Kumar Shil, another patient, urged

for steps to complete the construction works for ensuring better service to patients. The hospital also rues an acute shortage of doctors and staff.

"There are only three doctors against nine posts at the hospital. We have to move between the remote buildings throughout the day to serve the patients. And we don't get any leave even when it is necessary," said Sagarika Roy, assistant surgeon at the hospital.

Contacted, Mohammad Afsar, executive engineer of HED in Pirojpur, said HED cancelled Kohinoor Enterprise's work order as they failed to complete the work within deadline.

"The HC stayed the construction work till December after the contractor filed a petition with the court challenging the HED's decision. Steps will be taken in this regard after getting the final decision from the court," the official added.

No specific

FROM PAGE 3

The home ministry has issued an eight-point directive to local administrations and law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order during the nationwide Durga Puja celebrations.

The adviser also said the National Telecommunication Monitoring Center (NTMC) is on alert to receive reports of any incidents immediately.

He called for public cooperation to ensure the festival proceeds smoothly.

Praising the Pujá Uddjapan Committee, he said the community members have made excellent arrangements and volunteered to fulfil their duties around the clock.

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Wheel loader, tipper truck, Forklift, Generator, bulldozer, Pile driver barge, Concrete Block-making mixer machine Etc. Location: Barisal. CICO Bangladesh Gulshan-2, Dhaka. Mobile: 01818-443196

FROM PAGE 3

Rahman warned that if the interim government failed to act, he would lead protests with the journalist community.

His other demands include the government's responsibility for treating and rehabilitating those injured during the uprising, renaming the Jamuna Bridge as "Abu Sayed Bridge," and making public all treaties signed with India since 2009.

Rahman called for a committee of patriotic individuals to review the treaties.

"However, individuals like Iftekharuzzaman of TIB or Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya should not be included in such committees as they are agents of fascists or Pro-India," he claimed.

He also demanded renaming Bangabandhu Avenue to "Shaheed Abrar Avenue" and the immediate withdrawal of Saima Wazed Putul's WHO nomination, calling it fraudulent.

Rahman further alleged the negligent homicide of former NSI chief Abdur Rahim and BNP leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu

in prison, demanding a judicial inquiry.

He also criticised the judiciary, law enforcement, and the media for being under Awami League and Indian influence.

Rahman expressed his intent to resume the publication of Amar Desh and called for government cooperation in this matter.

He also claimed that the Bangladesh media remains under Indian hegemony.

Additionally, he questioned The Daily Star and its Editor Mahfuz Anam's role during the AL rule.

বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Water Development Board
Web: www.pani.bwdb.gov.bd

প্রকল্প পরিচালক এর দপ্তর
যমুনা নদী টেকসই ব্যবস্থাপনা প্রকল্প-১:
নদী তীর সংরক্ষণ ও নদী শাসন (কম্পোনেন্ট-১)
পানি ভবন, লেভেল-৪, ব্লক-এইচ, রুম নং-৪১৭
৭২, গ্রীন রোড (পান্থপথ), ঢাকা-১২০৫
ফোন: ৮৮-০২-২২২২-৩০২২২
ই-মেইল: pd.jrmpwdb@gmail.com

Office of the Project Director
Jamuna River Sustainable Management
Project-1: Riverbank Protection and
Riverbank Training (Component-1)
Pani Bhaban, Level-4, Block-H, Room: 417
72, Green Road (Panthapath), Dhaka-1205
Phone: 88-02-2222-30222
E-mail: pd.jrmpwdb@gmail.com

Memo No. 42.01.0000.036.14.001.24-33 Date: 06-10-2024

Invitation for Tender

Invitation Reference	No.	Date
42.01.0000.036.14.001.24-33	06-10-2024	06-10-2024

e-Tender ID (from e-GP Portal) 1023775

JARSMP-WDB-PMO-PS-01
Hiring of 07 (Seven) Nos. Microbus for BWDB in connection with the project of Jamuna River Sustainable Management Project-1: Riverbank Protection and Riverbank Training (Component-1)

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528- 31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

পানি-২৩৯/২০২৪-২০২৫
৩/১৩
জিডি-৬৩৭

T. M. Rashidul Kabir
Project Director
JRSMP-1 (Component-1)
BWDB, Dhaka

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

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার
গ্যাস হাতীয়া সম্পদ। এর অপচয় হ্রাস করে হাতীয়া দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

Ref. No. 28.20.9153.144.37.001.24 Date: 03-10-2024

CORRIGENDA OF TENDER

Tender No. SGFL/CRU/HYDROGEN/2024 dated 13-08-2024

Tender for procurement of Design, Engineering, Procurement, Supply, Installation, Hook-Up with existing system, Commissioning & Testing of One (1) 21 Nm3/hr Capacity Hydrogen Generation Package and Five (5) Nos. of 20 Nm3 Capacity Storage Vessel with Associated Facilities at 3000 BPD CRU Plant, Bahubal, Habiganj, Bangladesh of Sylhet Gas Fields Limited.

The following Corrigenda in the tender document are hereby made in connection with the submission of tender:

1. Tender last selling date will be 06-11-2024 instead of 08-10-2024.
2. Tender Closing/Receiving date will be 07-11-2024 instead of 09-10-2024.
3. Tender opening date will be 07-11-2024 instead of 09-10-2024.

All other information, terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Md. Atikur Rahman
Deputy General Manager (Procurement)

GD- 629

FACEBOOK POSTS Lalmonirhat assistant commissioner transferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

An assistant commissioner of Lalmonirhat has been transferred to Rangpur Divisional Commissioner's Office due to what officials say are her controversial Facebook posts and criticism of the chief adviser.

Tapashee Tabassum Urmi was released from Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner's Office last night.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner HM Raqib Hayder said, "The officer's Facebook posts were noticed by the higher authorities of the government."

On Saturday, she wrote on Facebook that the interim government had no constitutional basis. "The countdown has begun for you, sir," she wrote, addressing Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Contacted, Urmi said, "I deleted the post. There was no pressure from higher authorities on me about the Facebook post."

Lalmonirhat DC Hayder said such statements by a government official were a clear violation of the code of conduct.

Urmi joined Lalmonirhat district administration as an assistant commissioner on December 8, 2022.



As part of its ongoing drive, police seize battery-run auto-rickshaws in Dhaka's Mohammadpur area, as they are banned on the capital's major streets. Authorities say these vehicles lack proper speed control and frequently cause accidents. Despite repeated warnings, they continue to operate on restricted roads. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

KAWKHALI HEALTH COMPLEX

Project in limbo due to court stay order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

The construction work of Kawkhali Upazila Health Complex in Pirojpur has remained stalled for a long time after the contractor filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the Health Engineering Department's decision to cancel his work order.

The contractor firm, Kohinoor



Enterprise, got the work order on July 24, 2022 for the work to upgrade the six-storied 50-bed health complex and four other buildings for accommodation of doctors and nurses on condition of completing the work within 11 months.

After the contractor failed to complete it within the stipulated

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Fuel transfer to resume soon using a tanker

Says shipping corporation; ministry forms committee to probe fire incidents

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

In a bid to maintain the country's oil supply, the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) is set to resume the transportation of crude oil from mother vessels to the Eastern Refinery within one to two days by chartering a foreign oil tanker.

The decision follows the damage sustained by both of BSC's oil tankers, Banglar Jyoti and Banglar Shourabh, in fire incidents on September 30 and October 5.

BSC officials confirmed they have secured a Panama-flagged oil tanker, Global Dignity, which recently arrived at Chattogram Port carrying furnace oil.

Commodore Mahmudul Malek, managing director of BSC, said, "Our first priority is to safely discharge around 11,000 tonnes of crude oil from the fire-affected Banglar Shourabh using smaller, lighter tankers."

However, sources indicate that the newly chartered tanker lacks the necessary equipment for ship-to-ship fuel transfer, and its crew may not have the required expertise.

To address this, a senior BSC official mentioned plans to assemble a team of experts to assist with the operation.

In related developments, Brig Gen (ret'd) Dr M Sakhawat Hussain, adviser to the interim government for the shipping ministry, yesterday announced the formation of a 10-member expert committee to investigate the fire incidents and submit a report within seven working days.

Previously, BSC's managing director raised concerns that the fires could be acts of sabotage aimed at disrupting the nation's energy supply.

Sakhawat refrained from making assumptions, expressing relief that the fire on Banglar Shourabh did not reach its fuel cargo holds, which could have resulted in an oil spill and shut down the port channel.

Foreign secy to visit US October 7-14

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Secretary Md Jashim Uddin is scheduled to make an official visit to the United States on October 7-14 to hold a series of meetings as the two sides eye stronger relations in diverse areas.

This is going to be his first official visit abroad since appointment. Jashim will have meetings with senior officials of the US government, a diplomatic source told UNB, adding that he would visit both Washington and New York.

'Ensure rights of children'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kochi Konther Asar, a platform dedicated to ensuring children's rights, yesterday submitted memorandums to key stakeholders, including the chief adviser, UN, Unicef, and the US embassy, calling for urgent action to ensure the rights of children.

They organised a press conference in this regard at Biswa Sahitya Kendra in Banglamotor, Dhaka.

KKA founder Hemayet Hossain urged all to contribute to improving the lives of underprivileged children.

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NOTICE FOR ENLISTMENT

Companies, Firms, Suppliers, Service Providers and Manufacturers are invited to enlist with BASIC Bank Limited for the supply of goods and services under the following categories:

Sl	Category	Purpose
01	Interior Decorators/Renovation/Construction Firms	For interior decoration, renovation, construction and repair of branch/head office premises, ATM booth, other booths etc.
02	Designer/Consultant Firm	For design, drawing and supervision of interior works
03	Publicity Printing Press	For printing & supplying calendar, dairy, annual/semi annual/other reports, brochure, leaflet etc.
04	Other Stationery Printing Press	For printing & supplying various vouchers, forms, cards & registers etc.
05	Air Conditioner Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing of air conditioners
06	Wooden Furniture/Fixture Supplier	For supplying wooden furniture/fixture and repairing.
07	Steel Furniture Supplier	For supplying and repairing of safe, vault, vault door, locker etc.
08	Office Equipment and Machine Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing of office equipment like fax/photocopier/ note counting/ note binding machine/ CCTV system/PABX system/fake note detector/MICR scanner/Access control system etc. (individually mention name on the top of the envelope)
09	Solar Panel Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing solar panel system.
10	Office/Table Stationeries Supplier	For supplying all kinds of office/table stationeries.
11	Sign Board/Banner/Name Plate Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing all kinds of sign board/name plate/artwork/banner etc.
12	Motor Workshop	For repairing/maintaining bank's motor vehicles and supplying of spare parts.
13	Courier Service	For delivery of parcels and documents of the bank.
14	Event Management Firm	For arrangement of different events of the bank.
15	Media & Publicity Management Firm	For media coverage of various programs of our bank and designing of various publicity material.
16	Liveries Supplier	For supplying of liveries (shirt, pant, shoes, shocks belt etc.)
17	Repairing/Maintenance of Machinery/Furniture & Fixture	For repairing/maintenance of bank's Machinery/Furniture & fixture.
18	Generator Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing of Generator.
19	Gift item/Promotional Item	For supplying/procurement of gift item/promotional item.
20	Gun supplier	For supplying and repairing of Gun.
21	Radio Link Tower	For supplying, installing and repairing radio link tower.

- The participating company in all categories must have at least 5 (five) years of proven experience working in that category with any scheduled bank in Bangladesh / Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successful completion of any work in that category in BASIC Bank. Copy of previous work order(s)/records must be supplied along with the tender as proof in this regard.
- The company participating in the enlistment for the supply of any specific item in any category must be an authorized dealer/distributor of that specific item.
- A security deposit of Tk. 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) has to be submitted with the offer through PO in the name of "BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka". The security deposit of the enlisted bidder will be kept with the Bank for the enlistment period. In case of failure to provide satisfactory service, the Bank will exercise its power to adjust its loss from the deposit.
- The Eligible company is required to pay a non-refundable fee of Taka 5,000.00 (Five Thousand) in cash for category based enlistment with the Bank.
- The participating company may apply for enlistment in a maximum of 3 (three) categories.
- The schedule of enlistment may be obtained from Common Services Division (Sena Kalyan Bhaban - 5th floor, 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited from October 07, 2024 between 11:00 A.M. and 04:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk. 1,000/- only. No enlistment schedule will be sold after 02:00 P.M. of October 27, 2024.
- Sealed documents/papers have to be dropped in the box kept at Common Services Division of BASIC Bank Limited on or before October 28, 2024 by 03:00 P.M.
- The name of the category and the items applied for enlistment must be mentioned at the top of the envelope.
- Other terms and conditions can be found in the enlistment schedule.

Deputy General Manager
Common Services Division

ACC files case against

FROM PAGE 3
for the recruitment of various positions at Shilpakala Academy. They increased the marks of candidates who failed the written exam, leading to the illegal recruitment of 23 people for 10 positions.

The individuals subsequently joined their positions, and the government disbursed a total of Tk 8.28 crore in salaries and allowances to them. This constitutes embezzlement and damage to government funds, the report said.

The accused have

DSCC tops dengue

FROM PAGE 3
conducted any anti-mosquito drives in the area despite the dire situation, she claimed.

Nine-year-old Khadijatun Kobra of Demra is also hospitalised. Her mother, Fatimatujjohra, expressed frustration over the city's lack of mosquito control efforts.

Dr Satyajit Kumar Saha, director of Mugga Medical College Hospital, stressed the need for robust anti-mosquito campaigns and community clean-up efforts.

He advised residents to clear stagnant water to prevent Aedes mosquito breeding.

Dr Saha said dengue symptoms have shifted this year.

committed punishable offences under Sections 409, 420, 468, 471, and 109 of the Penal Code, 1860, and Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947, ACC official Akhtarul said.

Contacted, Liaquat Ali Lucky said, "All recruitments at the Shilpakala Academy are controlled and coordinated by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. I was the fifth member of the recruitment committee. The fact that I am being made the main defendant while ignoring the four members before me is surprising to me. I never had access to any of the recruitment documents."

Instead of high fever and headaches, patients are experiencing milder fevers (99-100°F), vomiting, and diarrhoea.

He urged people with these symptoms to seek medical attention and recommended hospital admission for patients showing severe symptoms, such as abdominal pain, excessive vomiting, bleeding, or breathing difficulties.

PRAYER TIMING					
OCTOBER 7					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-45	12-45	4-15	5-53	7-30	
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

বাংলাদেশ উন্নয়ন গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠান BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

No-20.08.0000.200.11.001.24.

03 October 2024

Recruitment of Director General

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) is the leading, most prestigious social science research organisation in Bangladesh. BIDS is an autonomous public sector research institute with the Adviser for Ministry of Planning as Chairperson of its Board. The Institute is looking for a new Director General. The Director General should be a person with broad understanding of the economy and society of Bangladesh/other developing countries, derived from relevant, hands-on experience of analytical development policy research. The job involves steering the course of research, development of relevant research agenda, and raising funds for research and related support services. The candidate should have at least 15 years of research/teaching experience, with at least 10 publications in reputed peer-reviewed journals. Other requirements are:

- Track record of research in relevant disciplinary/multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary areas at the frontiers of knowledge that are of particular relevance to Bangladesh.
- Experience of providing leadership in research, including initiating, coordinating and team building for research across disciplinary frontiers;
- Experience of research administration including managing research personnel, research support systems and research funds;
- International linkages through inter-country research, representation in international research committees, and participation in international conferences;
- Experience of fund-raising initiatives for research from international and bilateral funding agencies along with collaborative research initiatives within the country and abroad.

All research and non-research activities in BIDS are participatory in nature and the chosen candidate shall have to be ready to work in a participatory and interactive environment. Details of some of the activities and relevant committees may be found in the BIDS website (<http://www.bids.org.bd>).

The tenure of the DG is for three years and extendable by another three years, by the BIDS Board.

Candidates are expected to be at least 45 years of age at the time of application. The compensation package is negotiable. Only Bangladeshi citizens can apply.

Candidates should send 2 copies of their CV with names of three referees to Binayak Sen, Director General, BIDS, E-17 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, GPO Box: 3854. Tel: +88-02-58160411, Fax: +88-02-58160410, e-mail: dgsearch@bids.org.bd.

Candidates may also electronically register their applications with Professor Siddiqur Rahman Osmani, Convener of the Search Committee (e-mail: sr.osmani@ulster.ac.uk) pending dispatch of their papers.

Stakeholders of BIDS and others interested may nominate candidates (with candidates' permission), which may be done electronically at the above e-mail addresses.

Applications must be sent by October 25, 2024.

GD- 634

Binayak Sen
Director General
Phone: +88-02-58160411

Ministry of Agriculture

Bangladesh Institute of Research and Training on Applied Nutrition (BIRTAN)

Strengthening Nutrition and Food Security Through Agricultural Development Project (BIRTAN Part)

Araihazar, Narayanganj-1450.

Web. www.birtan.gov.bd. Telephone: 09611287287

Memo No-12.09.0000.001.040.24-467

Date: 06.10.2024

Invitation for e-Tender (Goods)

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

Tender ID No	Package Name	Tender Publication date & time	Tender Doc. Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Security Sub. Last Date
1023999	Lab equipment and related goods	07-Oct-2024, 09:00 am	29-Oct-2024, 14:15 pm	29-Oct-2024 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please registration on e-GP system portal.


(Project Manager)

GD- 639



বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষ

বিমানবন্দর ব্যবস্থাপকের দপ্তর

যশোর বিমানবন্দর, যশোর।

নথি নং-৩০.৩১.৪১০০.৫৬১.১৯.০১০.২৪/২৬৯০

তারিখ: ০৬/১০/২০২৪ খ্রি.।


পুন: ইজারা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ বেসামরিক বিমান চলাচল কর্তৃপক্ষের যশোর বিমানবন্দরের "কারপার্কিং এলাকা" ইজারা ফি আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে ৩১/১০/২০২৪ তারিখে ১ম বার দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ১ম বার কাঙ্ক্ষিত দর পাওয়া না গেলে ২৫/১১/২০২৪ তারিখে ২য় বার দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ২য় বার কাঙ্ক্ষিত দর পাওয়া না গেলে ১৮/১২/২০২৪ তারিখে ৩য় বার দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণ সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। সে মোতাবেক ইজারা গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক ব্যক্তি/ব্যক্তি মালিকানাধীন প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহবান করা হলো। দরপত্রের সকল শর্তাবলী ও বিস্তারিত বিবরণ দরপত্র সিডিউল ও সিএএবিই ওয়েবসাইট (www.caab.gov.bd) হতে জানা যাবে।

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তারিখ: ০৬/১০/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

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PHOTOS: COLLECTED

OTT regaining momentum with exciting projects

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After the July Uprising, only a handful of OTT projects saw the day of light. The first local OTT release after August 5 was Vicky Zahed's thriller short film *Ekti Khola Janala*. The project, featuring Tasnia Farin and Sallha Khanam Nádía, was released on September 4 on Binge.

The next project came from Chorki, titled *Forget Me Not*, starring Mehazabien Chowdhury and Yash Rohan. The web-film became available for streaming on Chorki from September 5. Directed by Robiul Alam Robi, it is the fourth instalment of the anthology series *Ministry of Love*.

The OTT industry is slowly attempting to regain the momentum



it has lost during the student-led movement. On September 30, Raihan Rafi's web-film *Mayaa*, featuring Sarika Subrin and Mammun Hasan Emon, was released

on Binge.

This month, the audience can expect two more new projects.

Alok Hasan's *Tribhuj*, featuring Anika Kabir Shakh, Shariar Nazim Joy, Imtiaz Barshon, Shohel Mondol, Mousumi Mou, and Farin Khan, is set to premiere on Deepto Play on October 10.

On the same day, Vicky Zahed's highly anticipated web-series *Chokro*, starring Tawfif Mahubb and Tasnia Farin, will be released on iScreen. The project was earlier halted by the censor board, lead by former AL regime.

Meanwhile, Pori Moni and Mostafizur Noor Imran starrer web-series *Rongila Kitab* for Hoichoi is awaiting release. Directed by Anam Biswas, the project is expected to be released next month.

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NEWS

Buddhists won't observe

FROM PAGE 12
where a college student of the Chakma community was lynched in broad daylight, he added.

At Maitri Bihar, a historic Buddhist institution, rioters destroyed scriptures and Buddha statues, and took away the donation boxes.

The monks' association in a statement said violence against the Buddhist community was not new to the hill tracts.

Law enforcers could have prevented

the destruction if they took steps, it added.

Besides, the administration has done little to bring the perpetrators to justice. The government formed investigation committees, but their findings are unknown, said the statement.

A lack of visible efforts by the authorities to address the situation has left the Buddhist community feeling unsafe and unwilling to observe the Kathin Chibar Dan, which was scheduled for November.

Among those present at the press conference were Sourajagat Mahathero, Tejapriya Mahathero, Gyanabangs Mahathero, and heads of 14 Buddhist organisations.

Kathin Chibar Daan marks the conclusion of a three-month seclusion of monks who meditate inside their monasteries for self-edification and atonement for mankind and is preceded by another festival, Probarona Purnima, characterised by the release of sky lanterns.

Changing 150-yr-old law

FROM PAGE 12
He said they would incorporate the best practices from police reform proposals being implemented in various democratic countries.

"We have an understanding of how police operate in different democratic countries, and we will try to include the best practices of those countries in our reform proposals as recommendations ...," he said.

The chairman further said the commission intends to get opinions from stakeholders, including civil society members, experts, media

personalities (print and electronic media), university students and teachers, and the people to formulate a set of suggestions for reforming the police.

"We have a limited timeframe for completing the work — three months. We have a plan to launch a website with questions in which the stakeholders can write their suggestions."

Safar Raj said they want to complete the task within the stipulated time.

"After discussing all inputs, we will simply suggest the government what

changes need to be made in various sections of the police laws to make them modern and relevant.

"We have to build a good police force for a democratic country, and its main task will be to serve the masses."

During the briefing, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said they would extend all possible support to the reform commission to carry out its task.

The commission, led by former home secretary Safar Raj, was constituted on October 3 and has been given 90 days to finish its job.

Three dead AL leaders

FROM PAGE 12
Rahman Farid, passed away from kidney disease in September 2022. His son, Farhad Hossain, said, "My father died a year ago, yet a case has been filed against him. This is absolutely ridiculous."

Billal Hossain, organising secretary of Sadar South Upazila Awami League, said, "Not only these three deceased Awami League leaders, but elderly individuals with old-age complications and expatriates living in the UK and Canada, have also been accused in this case."

Complainant Md Emran avoided answering the reporters' question about the inclusion of names of dead AL leaders in the case and said, "The complaint is legitimate. The accused will be judged based on the investigation."

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadar South Police Station, said, "A proper investigation will reveal the truth."

Accused number 55, Wahidur

Will never quit

FROM PAGE 12
sniper squads atop surrounding buildings, and a surveillance drone deployed overhead.

"There's a lot going on that's unnerving," said Heather Hughes, 43, who had traveled from New Castle in must-win Pennsylvania.

"Do I think he's safe? No, I think there's going to be another attempt. But I think he's going to make it through."

After the assassination attempt, pictures of Trump — with a blood-streaked face, pumping his fist and shouting "fight, fight, fight" — became defining images of the campaign.

On Saturday, many Trump supporters wore shirts emblazoned with the iconography, and some sported ear coverings recalling the bandage the former president wore after the shooting.

ADB-funded projects face

FROM PAGE 12
management, and governance sector.

Implementation of all major projects, particularly the infrastructure ones, was halted or almost stopped amid the quota reforms protests, which eventually turned into a student-led mass uprising that toppled the Hasina-led government on August 5.

"Almost all work remained halted for two months [July and August]. Work resumed in September, but it is yet to get momentum," a director of a major ADB-funded project told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Situation of other projects were almost same, and I think ADB wanted to mention this problem as additional challenges," the director said seeking anonymity.

WHAT ADB SAYS
According to a background paper made ahead of the tripartite portfolio review meeting, awarding of contract achieved is \$392.5 million (59.6 percent) against the

annual target of \$663.8 million this year.

The disbursement is \$890.2 million (61.6 percent) against the annual target of \$1,445 million, it says.

Insufficient financial and human resources to prepare projects, complex and lengthy approval process of projects and bid documents, challenges in land acquisition, limited experience and capacity of the project implementing agencies are major factors that led to poor project readiness and frequent extension of loan implementation periods, ADB said.

In 2023, all sectors exceeded their contract award targets except agriculture, food, nature, and rural development (73.6 percent) and energy (59.8 percent) sectors.

As of September 20 this year, the annual progress is 60.62 percent with

72 percent of the time elapsed, and the contract award and disbursement performances are "on track" as per year-to-date performance.

"However, we have observed additional implementation challenges in many ongoing projects due to the current political turbulence and changes in the government," ADB document reads.

The ADB, however, is committed to working even more closely with the interim government to ensure continuous improvement of Bangladesh portfolio management, it said.

The multilateral lender, with support from the project implementation units, initiated a rapid market assessment to better understand the impact of the prevailing socio-economic conditions.

The purpose of the assessment was to obtain information on the progress and quality of existing contracts, as well as the interest of potential companies to participate in future bidding opportunities in Bangladesh.

Army saved the country from instability

FROM PAGE 12
life, irrespective of political ideology.

In the first phase under this promotion board, eligible officers for the ranks of colonel and lieutenant colonel in the Bangladesh Army will be considered for promotion, the press release said.

The chief adviser welcomed everyone to the new Bangladesh following the revolution of the students and people.

He remembered with deep respect all who were killed in the Anti-Discrimination

Student Movement in July-August.

Prof Yunus also recalled all the brave soldiers of the armed forces, including the army, who participated in the Liberation War. The nation will always remember with respect the self-sacrifice of martyrs of the armed forces, said the chief adviser.

On arrival at the venue, Yunus was welcomed by Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman, the chief adviser's special assistant on defence and national solidarity, and the Chief

of General Staff and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division.

The chief of army staff expressed gratitude to the chief adviser for inaugurating the selection board despite his busy schedule.

The defence secretary and senior officers of the army were present at the inauguration ceremony.

At the end of the ceremony, Yunus participated in a photo session with the army officers and wrote his comments on the visitors' book.

India steamroll Tigers in first T20I

FROM PAGE 12
regular starters in the format as they rested lead pacers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj and wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant for the series.

However, India never looked to be in any sort of trouble as quick-fire innings from opener Sanju Samson (29 off 19) and skipper Suryakumar set the tone for a fast-paced finish to the game.

India got off to a blistering start in their chase as, following the fall of opener Abhishek Sharma in a run-out in the second over, Suryakumar took the charge to the

Bangladesh bowlers. With two boundaries and three maximums, Suryakumar raced to 29 off just 14 deliveries before being caught off a Mustafizur Rahman delivery in the final over of the Powerplay.

India never took the step off the pedal as Hardik Pandya smashed an unbeaten 39 off 16, featuring five boundaries and two sixes, and Reddy scored a 15-ball 16 not out to get things done in a hurry.

Earlier, Bangladesh batters produced yet another meek display as the openers — Liton Das and Parvez Hossain Emon — could survive only 2.1 overs, amounting

to 14 runs. Liton (4 off 2) was dismissed by unnecessarily slashing at an Arshdeep Singh delivery while Emon (8 off 9) too fell by inside edging one off the same bowler.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto could only make 27 off 25 deliveries while nonsensical shots saw the ends of Towhid Hridoy (12 off 18), Mahmudullah Riyad (1 off 2), and Jaker Ali (8 off 6).

Mehidy Hasan Miraz fought hard with an unbeaten 35 but found little support. Pacer Arshdeep and mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy took three wickets each for India.



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee areas in the northern Gaza Strip following an Israeli evacuation order in Jabalia yesterday. Israel's relentless offensive on Gaza has so far killed at least 41,870 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory.

PHOTO: REUTERS

A YEAR OF ISRAELI OFFENSIVE IN GAZA

Palestinians wonder how to deal with tonnes of rubble

REUTERS, Khan Younis

In the ruins of his two-storey home, 11-year-old Mohammed gathers chunks of the fallen roof into a broken pail and pounds them into gravel which his father will use to make gravestones for victims of the Gaza offensive.

"We get the rubble not to build houses, no, but for tombstones and graves from one misery to another," his father, former construction worker Jihad Shamali, 42, says as he cuts through metal salvaged from their home in the southern city of Khan Younis, damaged during an Israeli raid in April.

The work is hard, and at times grim. In March, the family built a tomb for one of Shamali's sons, Ismail, killed while running household errands.

But it is also a tiny part of the

efforts starting to take shape to deal with the rubble left by Israel's military campaign to eliminate Palestinian group Hamas.

The United Nations estimates there is over 42 million tonnes of debris, including both shattered edifices that are still standing and flattened buildings.

UN estimate shows debris clearance might cost \$1.2 billion

That is 14 times the amount of rubble accumulated in Gaza between 2008 and the offensive's start a year ago, and over five times the amount left by the 2016-17 Battle of Mosul in Iraq, the UN said.

Piled up, it would fill the Great Pyramid of Giza - Egypt's largest - 11

times. And it is growing daily.

The UN is trying to help as Gaza authorities consider how to deal with the rubble, three UN officials said.

A UN-led Debris Management Working Group plans a pilot project with Palestinian authorities in Khan Younis and the central Gaza city of Deir El-Balah to start clearing roadside debris this month.

"The challenges are huge," said Alessandro Mrakic, the Gaza Office head for the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP) which is co-chairing the working group. "It's going to be a massive operation, but at the same time, it's important that we start now."

Israel's military has said Hamas fighters hide among civilians and that it will strike them wherever they emerge, while also trying to avoid harming civilians.



A drone view shows the aftermath of floods and landslides in the village of Donja Jablanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Terrified and displaced

FROM PAGE 12
received are not enough to feed them for long," Rabbot said. It takes around \$100 daily to arrange food for the Bangladeshis at the shelter.

According to Babu Saha, another Bangladeshi based in Beirut, the Bangladeshi community in Lebanon has set up many such shelters in comparatively safe places.

He is aware of injuries of at least seven Bangladeshis so far by Israeli strikes. No deaths among the Bangladeshis have been reported yet.

Abdul Karim, president of Lebanon Probashi Bangladeshi Sramik Union in Beirut, said many Bangladeshis want to return home, but many others do not because they think that the war will end. They also spent good amounts of money to migrate to Lebanon.

Miraz is among those who want to return home because they are worried about the war. He urged the Bangladesh government to take immediate steps to repatriate them.

A foreign ministry official said the government is reviewing the options to repatriate them. "We are also discussing the matter with the International Organization for Migration. Fund has also been allocated to feed those living in the shelters," the official told this correspondent.

Lebanon hosts about 1,00,000 Bangladeshi workers, including the undocumented ones, according to an estimate of the Bangladesh embassy in Beirut.

The Israeli army ordered civilians in 26 border towns in southern Lebanon yesterday to evacuate immediately amid air and ground attacks against what Israel calls Hezbollah targets across Lebanon, the Anadolu Agency of Turkey reported.

At least 1,204 people have been killed and 3,411 injured in the attacks since September 23. Tel Aviv also started a ground invasion of southern Lebanon on October 1.

The military campaign was an escalation in a yearlong conflict between Israel and Hezbollah since the start of Tel Aviv's brutal offensive on the Gaza Strip that has killed nearly 41,900 people, mostly women and children, since a Hamas attack last year.

Freeze accounts

FROM PAGE 2

Safwan Sobhan, son of Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, and Safwan's wife Yeasha Sobhan within two working days.

The Criminal Investigation Department of police recently decided to investigate money laundering allegations against the Bashundhara Group bosses and their family members.

India villagers kill last wolf from man-eating pack

AFP, Lucknow

Villagers in India have beaten to death a wolf believed to be the last of a six-member pack that killed nine people, eight of them children, wildlife officials said yesterday.

The grey wolves sparked hysteria among residents in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, where the animals were said to have attacked more than 40 people.

More than 150 armed personnel and dozens of forestry officials were deployed to capture the wolves last month. Five of the animals were trapped, with drones and surveillance cameras suggesting only one remained free.

Iran prepares plan to respond to any Israeli attack

AFP, Tehran

Iran has prepared a plan to respond to a possible Israeli attack following the Islamic republic's retaliatory missile strike against it last week, local media reported yesterday.

"The plan for the necessary response to a possible action by the Zionists (Israel) has been fully prepared," Tasnim news agency said, quoting "an informed source" in the armed forces.

Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad visited a key oil site in the Gulf, amid growing concerns over possible Israeli strikes.

On Tuesday, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) fired some 200 missiles at Israel in retaliation after the leaders of groups allied to Tehran were killed in attacks.

"If Israel takes action, there will be no doubt that an Iranian counterattack will be carried out," said Tasnim. It added that Iran "has a list of many Israeli targets", and said Iran's attack on Tuesday "showed that we can level to the ground any place it desires".

Tuesday's missile barrage, Iran's second-ever direct attack on Israel, came after an Israeli air raid killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and IRGC top general Abbas Nilforoushan in Beirut.

It was also in retaliation for the killing of Palestinian group Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on July 31 in Tehran in an attack widely blamed on Israel.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned of a "proportional and similar reaction from Iran, and even stronger" if Israel attacks.

US President Joe Biden on Friday advised Israel against targeting oil sites in Iran, one of the world's 10 largest oil producers.

India's BJP set to lose two state elections: exit polls

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's ruling party is projected to have lost two key provincial elections to the main opposition Congress party and its allies, exit polls showed, suggesting another setback after the party fared poorly in national elections.

Local media reported that Congress had a clear advantage in exit polls in the northern state of Haryana, indicating an end to a decade of rule by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state. The opposition also held an edge in the Himalayan territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

The two elections were held in phases that ended on Saturday. Votes will be counted tomorrow and results will be announced the same day. The exit poll results were released late on Saturday.

Exit polls, conducted by private polling firms including TV broadcasters, have a patchy record in India, which analysts say poses a particular challenge due to its large and diverse voting population.

The exit polls had projected Modi's BJP would win a large majority in the general election in June, but it fell short and had to depend on regional parties to secure a majority and form a coalition government. The two Indian territories are the first to go to the polls since the national elections.

India's industrial hub of Maharashtra and the mineral-rich eastern state of Jharkhand, next up in provincial elections, are awaiting the announcement of polls dates that are expected to be in November.

The Jammu and Kashmir election was the first in a decade in the Himalayan region, which has endured years of militant violence.



PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Phone: 88-02-22218331-33, 222218335-39; Website: <https://pkfsf.org.bd/>

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Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), an apex development organization, was established by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in May 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. PKSF is an association not for profit within the meaning of Section 26 of the Companies Act, 1913 (as amended by the Companies Act, 1994). Its interventions focus on self-employment, income generation and poverty alleviation of the poor and the underprivileged people. PKSF channels appropriate financial and non-financial services through a vast network of its Partner Organizations (POs), mainly Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), to the intended groups of people at the grassroots. It ensures intensive supervision and renders consultancy services for building specially designed financial institutions for the poor.

Key Responsibilities

The Managing Director is the Chief Executive Officer of PKSF and works under the policy direction of its Governing Body. S/he is responsible for the management of the affairs of PKSF and plays a leading, innovative role in the management and expansion of the activities of PKSF. The major job responsibilities of the Managing Director include the following tasks:

1. To ensure proper administration of the affairs, the funds and the resources of PKSF;
2. To draw, endorse, sign, accept, negotiate, and hand over all cheques, bills of lading, drafts, orders, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments as may be required by and be in the interest of PKSF;
3. To secure the fulfillment of any contract, agreement or engagement entered into by PKSF by mortgage or charge of all or any of the properties of PKSF from time to time or in such manner as s/he may think fit in the interest of PKSF;
4. To appoint and, at his/her discretion, remove or suspend the employees of PKSF;
5. To prescribe the duties of all employees of PKSF;
6. To institute, conduct, defend or abandon any legal proceedings by or against PKSF; and
7. To exercise supervision and disciplinary control over the work and the conduct of all employees of PKSF.

Key Qualifications

1. The candidate is expected to have an excellent academic background with at least a master's degree from any reputed university with at least two first divisions/classes in the academic career. Having a third division/class at any stage of education is not acceptable.
2. The candidate should be a Bangladeshi national with at least 25 years of professional experience in the field of finance/economics/development including rural development and poverty alleviation.
3. S/he should have knowledge of and experience in macroeconomics and microeconomics, high-level administrative and management capabilities, abilities to maintain liaison with different ministries of the Government of Bangladesh and capabilities of effectively conducting international communication.
4. The candidate must have demonstrated leadership qualities and excellent organizing, analytical, negotiating and problem-solving skills.
5. The candidate is also expected to have a proven record of work experience of leading organizations in any of the above-mentioned fields. Necessary proof of experiences/ testimony must be attached with the application.
6. S/he must have strong grasp of the use of technology in the operation of day-to-day task;
7. The candidate must have interpersonal communication and collaboration skills to work with cross function teams;
8. The Candidate should not exceed 63 years of age on the last date of application (only the certificate of SSC/equivalent examinations will be considered as the proof-of-age document).

Emoluments

Monthly basic salary Tk 1,82,000/-; house rent 60% of the basic salary; medical allowance Tk 3,000/-; hospitality allowance Tk 7,500/-; housekeeping and service allowance Tk 11,500/-; education allowance Tk 1,600/- for each child (not exceeding two children); a full-time transport with driver, provident fund, gratuity fund, pension fund benefits and other fringe benefits & allowances as per existing policies of PKSF. Applicable income tax will be deducted from the Managing Director's emoluments at source. These conditions may be revised by the Governing Body of PKSF from time to time.

The Appointment will be made on a contract basis for an initial period not exceeding 3 years, subject to annual evaluation of performance by the Governing Body of PKSF.

Interested candidates that fulfill the requirements/qualifications should submit online application through PKSF website: <https://recruitment.pkfsf.org.bd/> by 21 October 2024. In addition, a printed copy of the application along with a curriculum-vitae and other necessary documents in a sealed envelope must be delivered at the following address by no later than 22 October 2024 through registered post. Candidates who currently have employment must apply through their proper institutional channels.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of unsolicited recommendation will be viewed negatively. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this advertisement without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Convener, Search Committee
for the Appointment of Managing Director, PKSF

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

The world must do more to stop Israel's unjust war on Gaza risks causing all-out regional conflict

As we mark one year since the start of Israel's devastating war on Gaza, which erupted after the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7, 2023, it is staggering to think of the massive humanitarian toll and suffering that have since ensued. Over the past 12 months, Gaza has endured relentless ground invasions and airstrikes that have flattened entire neighbourhoods, destroyed vital infrastructure, and driven millions of Gazans from their homes. Even as we write this, reports have emerged of yet another deadly air strike on a mosque and school housing displaced Palestinians, taking the total death toll to 41,870 with more than 97,000 injured.

All this to achieve what end? Could any end whatsoever justify the use of means that have long passed into the realm of genocide? To this day, Israel stands by its narrative: that its mission in Gaza is to neutralise Hamas. It does not matter that no one is buying into this narrative anymore. Emboldened by the support of its Western allies, Israel is now using the same excuse to ravage Lebanon. This time, its so-called target is Hezbollah, the Iran-backed group that supported Hamas from the beginning. In the end, however, it is the innocent civilians who are having to pay for this, often with their lives. The fast-escalating conflict has now drawn in Syria and Iran through proxy forces, with the latter launching more than 180 missiles towards Israel last week.

At this rate, fears of an all-out regional conflict in the Middle East look increasingly likely. Many have even begun to wonder if World War III is on the horizon, with the US presidential candidate Donald Trump also joining the bandwagon recently, despite himself being an enabler of Israel's war efforts. This, in other words, only underscores the duplicity of the US and other Western countries. Had they not blindly supported Israel, both militarily and diplomatically, throughout the past year, the Israeli government would not have been so emboldened to act with impunity and cause so much tragedy and destruction. As a BBC expert recently said, there are no "off-ramps" or deterrents convincing enough for Israel "unless the US and other major Western governments make it their business to change the direction of events on the ground."

That being the case, and with Israel showing no signs of heeding the countless warnings by the United Nations or the International Court of Justice, the onus really lies on Israel's Western allies to stop its forever war. They have delayed action for too long. They have consistently ignored calls for halting deliveries of arms feeding Israel's forces of death. That has to stop. One year on from the beginning of Israel's military campaign, they must do something decisive to force it to accept ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon before more territories are pulled into this meaningless conflict, and before it results in more unnecessary casualties.

Beware of health hazards in plastic toys

Reducing children's exposure to toxic chemicals is crucial

The extent to which our children are routinely exposed to toxic chemicals in their daily environment is deeply concerning. One of their sources is plastic toys, with a recent study on toys sold in different retail outlets in the capital revealing heavy presence of harmful chemical substances, including lead, mercury, cadmium, and chromium. This deserves scrutiny from the authorities and parents.

The study, conducted by the Environment and Social Development Organisation and BAN Toxics, tested 150 children's products, primarily made from recycled plastics, and found that 80 percent of them contained alarmingly high levels of heavy metals. More worryingly, the harmful chemicals in these toys enter children's bodies through contact with skin, inhalation, and even saliva, as children below six often tend to put objects in their mouths. Research says that sustained exposure to these chemicals can impair their physical, cognitive, and neurological development. For example, lead exposure can cause kidney damage, while cadmium can affect bone density and respiratory function.

Many foreign economies, such as those under the European Union, use strict laws to regulate the use of toxic chemicals in plastic toys by setting out clear guidelines for manufacturers, distributors, and importers. In Bangladesh, where 80 percent of plastic toys are manufactured locally and the rest imported from China, such regulations are absent. Clear guidelines at the manufacturing levels are required since the contaminants enter production at different stages. For example, lead is used in toy paint and to soften plastic, while mercury is often used in adhesives.

In the case of imported toys, regular testing is necessary to ensure that the products follow internationally set standards for permissible levels of heavy metals. Unfortunately, children's toys are not even on the product lists tested by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), which needs to change. Moreover, labelling these toys with hazard signs can educate parents. Mass campaigns can raise awareness about the presence of toxins in plastic products and encourage reduced use of plastics in daily lives. At the same time, we must promote the use of alternative toys that are chemically and environmentally safe. Also, we should reflect on creating a social ecosystem where friends, families, sports and nature—rather than gadgets and plastic toys—dominate the formative years of our children.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



German Democratic Republic formed

On this day in 1949, a constitution went into effect in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany that formed the country of East Germany, which existed alongside West Germany until 1990, when the two Germanys reunited.

We must rethink our foreign reserve strategy



GHULAM MOHAMMED ALOMGIR

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In the intricate dance of international economics, Bangladesh finds itself at a pivotal crossroads. As we grapple with the challenges posed by dwindling foreign reserves and escalating project costs, the nation's ability to manage foreign reserves effectively and negotiate loans prudently has never been more critical. Yet, the glaring inefficiencies in our current approach to government-to-government (G2G) funded projects are cause for alarm. If Bangladesh is to safeguard its economic stability and ensure sustained growth, the time for reform is now.

The negotiation crisis

At the heart of the problem is a failure in negotiation strategy. Too often, we find ourselves locked into agreements that seem to serve everyone except Bangladesh. Project delays, cost escalations, and contracts signed under unfavourable terms have become the norm. These outcomes stem from a lack of expertise and patriotism among the negotiators representing our national interests.

Effective negotiation requires more than just a senior government official with academic credentials. What Bangladesh truly needs are skilled negotiators—successful businesspeople with substantial international experience who possess both the knowledge and confidence to engage with countries like the US, China, and India. Such individuals must be fluent in the language of international trade, able to protect not only their company's interests but, more importantly, those of Bangladesh.

Reassessing the management of foreign reserves

The interim government's foremost challenge is the preservation of our foreign currency reserves. Maintaining even the current levels will be difficult unless we renegotiate existing contracts with countries like Russia, Japan, China, and India. Such renegotiations must be conducted strategically, without animosity, but with firm resolve.



VISUAL: BIPOB CHAKRABORTY

Bangladesh is not a minor player on the global stage. With a population of 170-plus million, we represent a significant market, and our geopolitical importance should not be underestimated. We are not in the business of begging for loans. Instead, we seek win-win agreements, ensuring that both Bangladesh and its lenders benefit equally.

Our immediate focus should be on renegotiating the terms of projects like the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and the Padma Bridge. These mega-projects, funded through G2G agreements, were often politically motivated, with large portions of the funds diverted to local agents and commissions. As a result, the terms were not negotiated in the country's best interest. This is evident in the case of the Rooppur project, where repayments are set to begin before the plant becomes operational—an inexplicable failure in negotiation.

Learning from the Adani Power deal

One glaring example of poor negotiation is the contract signed with Adani Power, rushed through in just 30 days under highly unfavorable

terms. The rate at which Bangladesh buys power from Adani is nearly double that of other sources in India. Local entrepreneurs, who set up power plants with their own investment, offer electricity at better rates. This contract, like others, needs to be re-examined and renegotiated.

A skilled negotiation team can sit down with foreign governments and

fostering job creation and increasing productivity.

Addressing project delays and cost escalations

One of the most significant obstacles to Bangladesh's economic growth is the repeated delays in completing foreign-funded projects. Extending a project's timeline from three years to five or seven years inflates loan commitment charges, worsening our already unfavourable terms.

A primary culprit in these delays is the practice of hiring consultants on a man-month basis, which incentivises them to prolong projects to increase their fees. This system must be overhauled. Consultants should be hired with a vision for the country's development, and project management teams should prioritise national interests over personal gain.

For 20 years, we have seen the same cycle of delays and cost escalations. A new approach is long overdue.

Reforming the G2G scheme

Finally, we must confront the inherent weaknesses in the G2G funding model. Lack of international competition, high-interest rates, and politically motivated contracts are just a few of the systemic problems. Worse, Bangladeshi companies are often excluded from joint ventures, preventing the transfer of technology that could benefit our economy.

Foreign reserves do not benefit either, as funds from these projects are repatriated directly. This must change. Bangladesh must negotiate terms that allow for joint ventures and local involvement, ensuring that our economy reaps the rewards of these mega-projects.

A call for reform

The path forward is clear—Bangladesh must take control of its future by engaging in more effective negotiations and selecting the right individuals to represent its interests. We need to introduce deferred payment systems and renegotiate existing projects to alleviate the immediate pressure on our foreign reserves. Above all, we must stop signing unfavourable contracts that burden future generations.

By taking these steps, Bangladesh can achieve economic stability, foster growth, and avoid the traps of cost escalations and project delays that have plagued us for far too long.

It's time for change, before it's too late.

Tofazzal's murder may have unseen political roots



SHAWKAT HUSSAIN

Shawkat Hussain is a former professor of English at Dhaka University.

The horrific murder on the Dhaka University campus a few weeks ago still haunts me, and I'm sure I am not the only one. I was a part of this university for four decades, and anything that happens here touches me in a way few things do.

As I read personal text messages, social media posts, and watched news and videos of the student movement with immense pride from thousands of miles away, I was completely mortified by the brutal killing of 35-year-old Tofazzal by a group of students in the guest room of Fazlul Haque Hall.

For more than four hours, they beat him, fed him dinner, gave him hope that he would live to see another day, then beat him again. From 6:30pm until almost midnight, the mentally-challenged man, ostensibly accused of stealing a mobile phone, was tortured and beaten, and no one said a word. Although the hall provost has been removed, the house tutors, who are surely culpable, remain unreprimed.

The murder immediately reminded me—and many others, I'm sure—of the killing of Abrar Fahad in BUET a few years back. These were practised killers, I thought. We now know that five of the six killers who were arrested were AL members.

I find it hard to believe that this was

an isolated, random, wanton act of brutality, in the heart of the city, and on the premises of the nation's highest seat of learning. Now, I strongly suspect it was not. These were hired murderers, sent to kill a student—any student—or, if a student could not be found, any random individual, to strike terror into the heart of a nation struggling to renew itself.

The police now know, as do we, that the killers are Chhatra League members. The police might also know how much they were paid to commit this monstrous act with such insouciance. Someone must have paid the killers, even if the orders came from afar.

I do not say these words irresponsibly. Anybody who has read the book written by Motiur Rahman Rentu, former private secretary of the former prime minister, would understand the modus operandi: when you are not in power, create as much trouble as you can so that you make it difficult, if not impossible, for the incumbent government to function.

Rentu's book covers the period from 1981 to 1997. During most of this time, Sheikh Hasina was not in power, except from 1996-2001. By then, seasoned in the art of realpolitik, she likely no longer needed Rentu's services for her dirty work. She fired him and declared

him persona non grata, in the classic style of a dictator-in-the-making. It is not surprising that Rentu's book, *Amar Fashi Chai*, published in 2001, was immediately banned.

Let me give just one example from Rentu's book to explain what I mean by modus operandi. When the SAARC summit was scheduled to be held in Dhaka under Khaleda Zia's chairmanship in 1992, with the then Indian prime minister attending the inaugural ceremony, Rentu was instructed to orchestrate a riot—burn a few Hindu homes, kill a few people—and generally create mayhem. Cash was disbursed, a localised riot was organised just on the eve of the

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summit, Narasimha Rao cancelled his visit, and the summit was postponed.

When Sheikh Hasina came to power the second time in 2009, she ruled without interruption until August 2024. We all know how she did it—with support from sections of the army, police, RAB, thugs from Jubo League and Chhatra League, looters and plunderers masquerading

as businessmen and politicians, sycophantic "intellectuals" and activists, and much more than can be written here.

Given what we know about her psychopathic nature, her limitless greed for power and money, it is not difficult to imagine that Hasina will continue to try to disrupt the efforts of the interim government to bring hope to the people of Bangladesh. The murder of Tofazzal is likely part of this vicious effort.

The murder, therefore, is not an isolated incident, but part of a concerted, multi-pronged strategy, with unrest among the Ansar members, restlessness of the garment workers, pandemonium in the Baitul Mukarram mosque, being just a few examples.

In addition, unimaginable amounts of money are available both within the country and outside to advance this strategy. The ousted prime minister, I believe, will try her best to use this money through her still-loyal underlings to foment trouble. They are everywhere—in the police, BGB, RAB, among businessmen turned MPs, whether hiding within the country or somewhere abroad, among university teachers, journalists, cultural personalities, and student killers in the universities.

We must be on guard, and try to find out the true motive behind the murder to uncover the real source of the evil. I have recently seen a photo of US President Biden hugging Dr Yunus and offering him full support on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. I wish this support was extended to Gaza as well, but we cannot afford to look a gift horse in the mouth now. This gives us hope of a better Bangladesh, at least.

Stop exploitation of tea workers and fix the industry



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PHILIP GAIN

For nearly seven weeks, more than 12,000 tea workers in 12 tea gardens under the National Tea Company Limited (NTC) have been living in anxiety about the payment of their wages. After they were paid Tk 595 on August 12, which is half of the weekly payment, the payment was halted till September 25, the day they were paid another instalment of the same amount. This is pretty bad for these tea workers as the Durga Puja festivities are set to begin on October 9. Thankfully, the tea workers have not stopped work and production.

However, to keep the management under pressure, the tea workers blocked consignments of made tea out of the garden warehouses. After a negotiation with the management and relevant state agencies, they allowed the release of two consignments from Patrokhola Tea Estate in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, the largest tea garden of the NTC, and one consignment from each of the 11 other tea gardens on October 1. In exchange, they were paid a week's salary on the same day, confirmed Shipon Chakraborty, panchayat president of Patrokhola. Now the deal is, tea workers will release the next consignments from the warehouses when the NTC management clears dues and bonus before Durga Puja.

What we see in the NTC gardens is bad management. NTC is a public limited company formed in 1978 under the Companies Act, 1913. The state holds 51 percent of the shares, and 49 percent are traded in Dhaka and Chattogram stock markets for the general public. Of its 12 tea gardens, seven are located in Moulvibazar, four in Habiganj, and one in Sylhet.

The NTC management, for which the government is responsible, is polluted by politics. The tea gardens, taken over by the government after independence, are located in a good topographic zone, yet they perform very poorly. According to a news report, between July and December of 2023, the company posted a net loss of Tk 26.66 crore. The company's lousy tea garden management is manifested in the look of its gardens: tea plants are sparse and without enough shade trees, among other things. The company's troubles have gotten worse since the sudden political change on August 5, following which the chairman of the company's board of directors, Sheikh Kabir Hossain, reportedly a relative of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has disappeared and the board has almost collapsed.



Women tea workers of Bawani tea garden in Habiganj carrying green tea leaves, on August 26, 2024.

PHOTO: PHILIP GAIN

The tea workers and their lone union, Bangladesh Cha Sramik Union (BCSU), are trying to negotiate with the NTC management. Half-fed or with an empty stomach, these workers have been showing their patience and working regularly in the hope that the management will stay true to its words and clear the full payment of their due wages and bonus before Durga Puja, the biggest festival of Hindus in Bangladesh.

However, NTC now faces many insurmountable challenges. According to a top government official dealing with tea gardens, it has a debt of Tk 380 crore with the Bangladesh Krishi Bank. This year, the company requested for a loan of Tk 150 crore, but the bank sanctioned Tk 86 crore only, which got exhausted by July, said a government official dealing with tea gardens, on condition of anonymity. Per the

arrangement of loan repayment, brokers in auction houses transfer the bank's share of sale proceeds directly to its account. The owners get their shares. But the workers are left with no other option but to block the made tea consignments.

While NTC gardens show serious anomalies—which is typical of state-run businesses—there are other private companies and proprietors in the industry that are also

still in production to some extent because of the workers. With a bank loan of Tk 50 crore, the owner is in deep trouble, the government official disclosed.

The official further revealed that 79 tea gardens are in terrible shape. These gardens have not made their due contributions to the Provident Fund (PF) for months. Gas and power lines have been cut off in a number of the gardens for not paying the bills. Many of

to management. The price that the company gets is good. Almost all houses in the labour lines at Zareen Tea Estate are pucca. The condition of houses in other tea gardens of Ispahani are also much better than in other tea gardens. The tea workers get better deals with other fringe benefits, the Ispahani management claims.

It is in the best interest of the tea industry in Bangladesh, not to mention the tea workers, that changes happen for the better. The interim government, which has committed itself to reforms to end discrimination and inequality, should consider giving immediate attention to the tea industry that is in disarray as a whole. The tea workers, around 140,000 of them, and their community of around half a million people have been facing severe discrimination for generations, since the beginning of the industry during British colonial times.

First of all, the tea industry, specifically the tea gardens, need proper mapping. Good gardens and bad gardens need to be identified and the reasons must be explained for chalking out recommendations to bring the necessary changes so that none of the tea gardens are beyond scrutiny for mismanagement, corruption, and financial misappropriation. All parties involved with the tea industry must come under scrutiny and be made accountable.

Second, clear attempts must be made to ensure the well-being of tea workers, who are deprived of equal treatment and dignity as citizens of Bangladesh. To begin with, a just and respectable wage structure must be fixed for the tea workers. The former prime minister fixed their daily cash wage at Tk 170 in August 2022, which is certainly not fair. She was allegedly guided by the owners of tea gardens, and her move was political when the minimum wage board was made to fail. Now the time has come to overhaul the tea industry to ensure justice for the tea workers.

Another concern while dealing with the well-being of tea workers is discrimination in the labour laws and regulations for them, and the owners' routine violation of several sections of the labour legislation, which cannot be justified in any way. While these anomalies have been exposed on various platforms, fresh consultations with tea workers, their trade union and others concerned, will definitely help bring out more details. It is a test for any government to make sure that the state agencies under the labour ministry who are responsible for executing the labour law and rules act honestly.

Tea workers, most of whom belong to minority communities, are largely invisible and voiceless. Wage deprivation and social exclusion from the British colonial times have rendered them a weak population, left behind in terms of education and economic progress. Equal opportunities are not enough for them. They deserve some preferential treatment to help them get out of their current condition. The interim government has a big responsibility here.

We need a local government reform commission



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NAWSHAD AHMED

On September 11, the interim government announced that it would form six separate commissions to carry out reforms in six critical areas: electoral system, police administration, judiciary, anti-corruption system, public administration, and the constitution. There are some other vital areas that may require closer assessment followed by reform efforts, one of which is the local government sector. There is a general consensus in the country about the need to strengthen local government institutions to improve public representation in governance, service delivery and an accountability mechanism.

It is assumed that while the commission to reform the electoral system might cover local government elections, and the one on public administration may also cover it partly, there are many other aspects of this sector that need review and reform in order to improve its overall operation. It is evident that the local government system in Bangladesh functions quite poorly and people do not get the required benefits from it. One of the reasons for that is that, compared to the central government, the local government is not sufficiently funded. Its total annual expenditure varies between seven and eight percent of the total public expenditure.

Therefore, a local government commission is needed to propose measures to strengthen the local government system. After a democratically elected government came to power in 1991, an 18-member commission was formed to thoroughly examine the local government system and suggest improvement in the structure. Again, the government that came to power in 1996 formed another local government commission. Both the

commissions suggested reforms in the system, but those were not properly implemented.

The local government bodies in Bangladesh—union parishads, upazila parishads, zila parishads, hill district councils, city corporations, and municipalities—have specific responsibilities as they are closest authorities to the public and most conversant with local needs and realities. Bangladesh has a unitary system of government with constitutional obligations of local bodies to provide various services to the people within their jurisdictions. Due to this, as per the local government laws, many responsibilities have been entrusted upon the local government bodies. The theory of decentralisation is premised on the principle of allocating public functions to those levels of government which can shoulder them in the best possible manner. Based on the notions of economies of scale and spatial incidence of benefits, certain public functions—such as water supply, sanitation, road and drain construction and maintenance, street lighting, public health, tree plantation, management of bus and truck terminals, slum improvement, etc.—are best placed at the local level.

Bangladesh has a fairly long history of both rural and urban local government institutions. The Bengal Village Chaukidari Act, 1870 was the first law to institutionalise the traditional panchayat system in the country. The panchayat was constituted of five non-elected members and was responsible for running the night watch system in the villages and collecting taxes to defray the expenses related to this service, i.e., the salary of watchmen. The next legislation was Bengal Local Self-Government Act, 1885,

enacted to provide wider responsibilities. Union committees were formed under this legislation. A second layer, the district board, was added under this legislation. The third important legislation was Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, under which union boards (abolishing union committees) with provisions of one-third elected members and district boards with two-thirds elected members were introduced.

upazila system at the thana level with elected representatives was introduced through a new local government ordinance in 1982. Currently, all local government bodies are administered under the Local Government Act, 2009.

The constitution is the legal basis for establishing local government in Bangladesh. The potential importance of local governments was recognised

implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development." Article 60 stipulates, "For the purpose of giving full effect to the provision of Article 59, Parliament shall, by law, confer powers on the local government bodies referred to in that article, including the power to impose taxes for local purposes, to prepare their budgets, and to maintain funds." Article 11 states that "effective participation by the people through their elected representatives in administration at all levels shall be ensured."

The issues around the local government are many, but the most important ones are: i) controversy over party-based election to local bodies; ii) huge gap between responsibilities and resources, causing frustration among the elected representatives and dissatisfaction among the people; iii) discrimination in allocation of public funds to local bodies; iv) shortage of manpower, no recruitment in vacant positions, and low-skilled staff; v) low compliance on the required stakeholder participation which results in misplaced prioritisation of projects; vi) challenges in producing accurate budget and accounts, and management of assets; vii) lack of emphasis on environment and climate change issues and inclusivity in local bodies; viii) poorly managed local information base which is inaccessible to the public; and ix) use of archaic auditing method for finance and projects.

The central government alone cannot take the responsibility of development and service delivery for the large population of Bangladesh. Therefore, building a stronger local government system has been a key focus in five-year plans although adequate measures have not been taken to that end. The local government bodies are well-known for their poor capacity. In this respect, the local government entities must be strengthened so that they are capable of undertaking their developmental and service delivery responsibilities. It is thus proposed that a local government commission be formed by the present interim government to review in details the strengths and weaknesses of the local government bodies and recommend the required improvements for better functioning.



The local government bodies in Bangladesh have specific responsibilities as they are the closest authorities to the public and most conversant with local needs and realities.

FILE PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

Under the Bengal municipal acts of 1864, 1876 and 1884, municipal governments (town committees) started to operate in Bengal. The 1884 law introduced provision for elected representatives in the urban local bodies. The Bengal Municipal Act, 1932 increased the autonomy of urban local bodies.

During the Pakistan period, local government laws retained union panchayat and zila boards and after independence, the Bangladesh government continued with the same structure until 1976, when a three-tier local government structure—at union, thana and zila levels—were adopted. The

immediately after independence. Article 59 (1) of the constitution specifically states, "Local government in every administrative unit of the Republic shall be entrusted to bodies composed of persons elected in accordance with law." Article 59(2) states, "Everybody such as is referred to in clause (1) shall, subject to this Constitution and any other law, perform within the appropriate administrative unit such functions as shall be prescribed by Act of Parliament, which may include functions relating to: (a) administration and the work of public officers; (b) the maintenance of public order; and (c) the preparation and



প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার
রক্ষা আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪

৭ অক্টোবর

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

২২ আশ্বিন ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ • ০৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ খ্রিস্টাব্দ



বিশেষ ক্রোড়পত্র

সহযোগিতা : তথ্য অধিদফতর (পিআইডি) এবং চলচ্চিত্র ও প্রকাশনা অধিদপ্তর, তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয়



বাণী

রাষ্ট্রপতি
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ
বঙ্গভবন, ঢাকা

বিশ্বের অন্যান্য দেশের ন্যায় বাংলাদেশেও 'বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪' উদযাপনের উদ্যোগকে আমি স্বাগত জানাই। এ শুভক্ষেণে আমি বিশ্বের সকল শিশুর প্রতি জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা, স্নেহ ও ভালোবাসা।

শিশুরাই পৃথিবীর ভবিষ্যৎ কাভারি। সবার জন্য একটি টেকসই, মানবিক ও সুন্দর বিশ্ব গড়তে শিশুদের শারীরিক, মানসিক ও সাংস্কৃতিক বিকাশের বিকল্প নেই। শিশুদের পরিপূর্ণ বিকাশে তাদের মৌলিক অধিকার তথা স্বাস্থ্য, শিক্ষা, নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিতের পাশাপাশি তাদের মতামতকে গুরুত্ব দিতে হবে। তাদের মধ্যে দেশপ্রেম ও মানবিক গুণাবলির উন্মেষ ঘটাতে হবে। শিশুরা জ্ঞান-বিজ্ঞান ও প্রগতিশীল চিন্তা-চেতনায় সমৃদ্ধ হয়ে গড়ে উঠলে আগামী দিনে ইতিবাচক বিশ্ব গড়ে তোলা সহজ হবে। বিশ্বের সকল শিশুর অধিকার সংরক্ষণের বিষয়টি উপলব্ধি করে জাতিসংঘ শিশু অধিকার সনদ গৃহীত হয়েছে। এ সনদের অনুস্বাক্ষরকারী দেশ হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ শিশুদের কল্যাণে বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে। শিশুদের অধিকার সুরক্ষায় 'শিশু আইন ১৯৭৪' এর ধারাবাহিকতায় দেশে শিশু অধিকার সংরক্ষণ ও শিশুর প্রতিভা বিকাশে সাংস্কৃতিক প্রশিক্ষণ প্রদান, প্রাক-প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা কর্মসূচি পরিচালনাসহ শিশু নির্যাতন বন্ধ বিশেষ করে কন্যাশিশুদের প্রতি বৈষম্য নিরসনে বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প ও কর্মসূচি বাস্তবায়ন করা হচ্ছে। এ লক্ষ্যে প্রণয়ন করা হয়েছে বিভিন্ন আইন ও নীতিমালা। সরকারের এ সকল পদক্ষেপ শিশুর শারীরিক ও বুদ্ধিবৃত্তিক বিকাশে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখছে। প্রেক্ষিতে দিবসটির এ বছরের প্রতিপাদ্য 'প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার, রক্ষা আমাদের অঙ্গীকার' যথার্থ হয়েছে বলে আমি মনে করি।

আমি আশা করি, শিশুদের পরিপূর্ণ বিকাশে সরকারের পাশাপাশি সমাজের সকল স্তরের মানুষ এগিয়ে আসবে। বাংলাদেশসহ বিশ্বের সকল শিশু স্নেহ, মমতা ও নিরাপদে বিকাশিত হোক- বিশ্ব শিশু দিবসে এটাই আমার প্রত্যাশা।

আমি 'বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪' উপলক্ষে গৃহীত সকল কর্মসূচির সাফল্য কামনা করি।

বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

মোঃ সাহাবুদ্দিন



বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ও শিশু অধিকার সপ্তাহ পৃথিবীর অন্যান্য দেশের মতো বাংলাদেশেও বিপুল উৎসাহ উদ্দীপনার মধ্য দিয়ে পালিত হয়। শিশুদের প্রতি দায়বদ্ধতা থেকেই পালিত হয় এ আন্তর্জাতিক কার্যক্রম। প্রতিবছরের মতো এ বছরেও বাংলাদেশে উদযাপিত হচ্ছে বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস। একইসাথে পালিত হয়েছে কন্যাশিশু দিবস ও শিশু অধিকার সপ্তাহ ২০২৪।

বাংলাদেশ শিশু অধিকার সনদে অনুস্বাক্ষরকারী প্রথম ২২টি দেশের একটি। বিশ্বের সকল শিশুর শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, বাসস্থান এবং সহনশীল পরিবেশে নিরাপদে বেড়ে ওঠার মৌলিক অধিকার বাস্তবায়নের দিকনির্দেশনা আছে এই সনদে। আর তারই ধারাবাহিকতায় বাংলাদেশ শিশুর অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায় একনিষ্ঠভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

শিশুর খাদ্য, বস্ত্র, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য নিরাপত্তা, আশ্রয়, মানসিক বিকাশ তথা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অধিকারসমূহ নিশ্চিত করার দায়িত্ব আমাদের সকলের। প্রকৃতপক্ষে মাতৃগর্ভ থেকে অধিকার ভোগ করার দাবিদার শিশুরা। চিকিৎসা বিজ্ঞানীরা এ বিষয়টি গুরুত্বের সাথে অনুধাবন করে মানবজাতিকে বার্তা পৌঁছে দিয়েছেন যে, শিশুকে গর্ভাবস্থা থেকে নিরাপদভাবে বিকাশের অধিকার দিতে হবে। বিশ্বের প্রতিটি শিশু যেন ন্যূনতম প্রয়োজনীয় সুবিধা নিয়ে জীবনযাপন করতে পারে সেটি নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। এমন দায়বদ্ধতা থেকেই এবারের বিশ্ব শিশু দিবসে আমাদের প্রতিপাদ্য- "প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার, রক্ষা আমাদের অঙ্গীকার"

সকল শিশুর সমঅধিকার নিশ্চিত করে সুন্দর ভবিষ্যৎ গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় নিরবচ্ছিন্নভাবে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি কেন্দ্রীয় কার্যালয়সহ ৬৪টি জেলা এবং ৬টি উপজেলায় শিশুদের সাংস্কৃতিক, ক্রীড়া, কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করে চলেছে। বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে নিয়মিত আয়োজন করছে দেশব্যাপী শিশু পুরস্কার প্রতিযোগিতা। শিশুর মননশীল ভাবনার বিকাশে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমির গ্রন্থ প্রকাশ কার্যক্রম অব্যাহত রয়েছে। শিশুদের মধ্য থেকে ভবিষ্যতের লেখক-কবি-সাহিত্যিক খুঁজে বের করার উদ্দেশ্যে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি প্রকাশ করে যাচ্ছে নিয়মিত মাসিক 'শিশু' পত্রিকা। সর্বোপরি সকল শিশুর যথাযথ বিকাশ, অধিকার সচেতন করতে বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি সর্বকম প্রচেষ্টা অব্যাহত রেখেছে।

'বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪'এর আয়োজনে মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় উপদেষ্টা শারমীন এস মুরশিদ ও সম্মানিত সচিব নাজমা মোবারেক অত্যন্ত কার্যকরী দিকনির্দেশনা প্রদান করেছেন। তাঁদের প্রতি আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জানাই। এ উপলক্ষে প্রকাশিত হচ্ছে 'স্মরণিকা 'শৈশব'। এ প্রকাশনার লেখকদের প্রতি রইল আমার আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা ও ধন্যবাদ। অত্যন্ত অল্প সময়ের প্রস্তুতিতে এ প্রকাশনাসহ সকল আয়োজনে অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রম করেছেন মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় এবং বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমির কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীবৃন্দ। সর্বোপরি শিশুদের অংশগ্রহণে সফল হতে চলেছে আমাদের বিশ্ব শিশু দিবসের সকল আয়োজন। আয়োজনের সার্বিক সাফল্যের অংশীদার আমরা সবাই। সকলের প্রতি রইল আমার আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।

আজকের এ শুভদিনে অভিভাবক ও সচেতন মহলের কাছে আহ্বান, শিশু অধিকার চর্চার বিষয়টি শুধু একটি দিন বা সপ্তাহের মধ্যে সীমাবদ্ধ না রেখে, আসুন আমাদের সারাবছরের কর্মসূচি শিশু অধিকারের বিষয়ে আমরা সচেতন থাকি।

সফল হোক-শুভ উদ্যোগ, শুভ আয়োজন।

প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার
রক্ষা আমাদের অঙ্গীকার

তানিয়া খান
মহাপরিচালক (অতিরিক্ত সচিব)
বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি



বাণী

প্রধান উপদেষ্টা
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশে 'বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪' উদযাপন উপলক্ষে আমি বাংলাদেশসহ বিশ্বের সকল শিশুকে স্নেহ ও ভালোবাসা জানাই। নতুন বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণের উদ্যোগে বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস পালনের গুরুত্ব নতুন মায়ায় উপনীত হয়েছে।

শিশুরাই সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশের রূপকার। বাংলাদেশকে নতুনভাবে গড়ে তুলতে শিশুদের সুন্দর বিকাশের জন্য গুরুত্ব প্রদান করা আমাদের সকলের দায়িত্ব। তাই শিশুদের শারীরিক, মানসিক ও সাংস্কৃতিক বিকাশে উপযুক্ত পরিবেশ, শিক্ষা, নিরাপত্তা, পুষ্টি ও সুস্থ বিনোদনের বিকল্প নেই। শিশুরা স্নেহ, মমতা ও মুক্তচিন্তার চেতনায় সমৃদ্ধ হয়ে বেড়ে উঠলে আগামী দিনের বাংলাদেশ গঠনে তারা ইতিবাচক ভূমিকা রাখতে পারবে। আজকের শিশুরাই আগামীর শিল্পী, সাহিত্যিক, দার্শনিক, অর্থনীতিবিদ, বিজ্ঞানী, চিকিৎসক ও প্রকৌশলীসহ নানা পেশায় দক্ষ হয়ে উঠবে।

ছাত্র-শ্রমিক-জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানের মাধ্যমে গঠিত অন্তর্ভুক্ত সরকার শিশুর প্রতি বন্ধনা, শিশুপ্রম, অগুষ্টি ও বাধ্য বিবাহসহ অন্যান্য সমস্যা যা শিশুর সঠিক বিকাশের অন্তরায় সেসব চিহ্নিত করে সমাধান করতে বঙ্গপরিকর।

'বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪' উদযাপনে গৃহীত কর্মসূচি শিশুর সার্বিক বিকাশে সহায়ক ভূমিকা রাখবে বলে আমি আশা করি। বাংলাদেশসহ বিশ্বের সকল শিশু নিরাপদ ও নিবিড় স্নেহ যত্নে বেড়ে উঠুক- আজকের দিনে এটাই আমার প্রত্যাশা।

আমি বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ও শিশু অধিকার সপ্তাহ ২০২৪ এর সর্বাঙ্গীণ সাফল্য কামনা করি।

প্রফেসর মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস



বাণী

উপদেষ্টা
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

'বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪' উদযাপনের এই শুভক্ষেণে বাংলাদেশ ও বিশ্বের সকল শিশুদেরকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

আজকের শিশুরাই বৈষম্যহীন বাংলাদেশ গঠনের প্রধান কারিগর। বৈষম্যহীন বাংলাদেশ গড়ে তোলার জন্য শিশুর বেড়ে ওঠার স্বাভাবিক পরিবেশ নিশ্চিত করতে হবে। সুস্থ ও নিরাপদ পরিবেশ শিশুকে যোগ্য ও নেতৃত্বদানে সক্ষম করে তোলে। শিশুকে মানবিক ও দেশপ্রেমিক হিসেবে গড়ে তোলার জন্য বর্তমান সরকার অহর্নিশ কাজ করে যাচ্ছে।

বাংলাদেশ জাতিসংঘের শিশু অধিকার সনদে অনুস্বাক্ষরকারী রাষ্ট্র হিসেবে শিশুদের কল্যাণে বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করছে। বিভিন্ন সরকারি-বেসরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠান শিশুদের উন্নয়নে কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। শিশুর দারিদ্র্য বিমোচন, পুষ্টি নিশ্চিতকরণ, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, বিনোদন, সাংস্কৃতিক কার্যক্রম, দুর্ঘটনাকালীন ও দুর্ঘটনা পরবর্তী সময়ে সকল শিশুর সুরক্ষা এসকল কার্যক্রমের মূল উদ্দেশ্য। শিশু জন্ম পরবর্তী সময় সুন্দর ও সুস্থ হয়ে বেড়ে উঠা নিশ্চিত করা রাষ্ট্রের নৈতিক দায়িত্ব। বিশেষ করে কন্যাশিশুর প্রতি বৈষম্য দূর করা এবং তাদের শিক্ষিত ও দক্ষ জনগোষ্ঠী রূপে গড়ে তুলতে রাষ্ট্র নানামুখী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে। শারীরিক ও মানসিক প্রতিবন্ধী ও বিশেষ চাহিদাসম্পন্ন শিশুদের উন্নয়নের দিকেও সরকারের সূদৃষ্টি রয়েছে। শিশুর জন্য সমঅধিকার ও সমসুযোগ নিশ্চিত করার মধ্য দিয়ে জাতির সুন্দর ভবিষ্যৎ গড়ে তোলাই এসব প্রচেষ্টার প্রধান লক্ষ্য। এক্ষেত্রে গ্রামের কন্যাশিশুদের এগিয়ে চলার পথে বড়ো বাধা বাধ্যবিবাহ। কন্যাশিশুদের ভবিষ্যৎ সুনিশ্চিত করতে সরকারের নানাবিধ পদক্ষেপ রয়েছে। তবে শুরুর সরকারি পদক্ষেপই যথেষ্ট নয়। শিশুকে মানবিক বাংলাদেশের রূপকার হিসেবে গড়ে তুলতে পিতা-মাতা, পরিবার, সমাজ ও রাষ্ট্রসহ সকলের দায়িত্বশীল ভূমিকা পালন অত্যন্ত জরুরি।

বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪ সাফল্যময় ও অর্থবহ হয়ে উঠুক। আমি প্রত্যাশা করি বাংলাদেশ ও বিশ্বের সকল শিশু সুস্থ, সুন্দর, সুরক্ষিত উপায়ে বেড়ে উঠুক। এই দিবস উদযাপনের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে জানাই আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা।

শারমীন এস মুরশিদ



বাণী

সচিব
মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

আজকের এই বিশ্ব শিশু দিবস ২০২৪ এ আমরা বাংলাদেশের প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার, সুস্থতা এবং ভবিষ্যতের প্রতি আমাদের প্রতিশ্রুতি পুনর্ব্যক্ত করতে একত্রিত হয়েছি। শিশুরা আমাদের জাতির অগ্রগতির ভিত্তি, আগামীদিনের নির্মাতা। তাদের সম্ভাবনা বিকাশের জন্য একটি নিরাপদ এবং অর্থজুট্টিমূলক পৃথিবী তৈরি করা আমাদের সকলের সম্মিলিত দায়িত্ব।

এ বছরের বিশ্ব শিশু দিবসে আমাদের দৃষ্টি নিবদ্ধ হয়েছে শিশুদের জন্য "প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার, রক্ষা আমাদের অঙ্গীকার" নিশ্চিত করার দিকে। যদিও আমরা শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্যসেবা এবং শিশু সুরক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে উল্লেখযোগ্য অগ্রগতি অর্জন করেছি, বাংলাদেশের অনেক শিশু, বিশেষ করে প্রান্তিক জনগোষ্ঠীর শিশু, এখনও ঝুঁকির মধ্যে রয়েছে। দরিদ্রতা, লিঙ্গ বৈষম্য বা শোষণের কারণে তাদের ভবিষ্যৎ অনিশ্চিত হয়ে পড়ছে, যা তাদের বুদ্ধি, শিক্ষা এবং বিকাশের অধিকারকে ছিনিয়ে নিচ্ছে। আমাদের জন্য সবচেয়ে বড়ো উদ্বেগের বিষয়গুলোর মধ্যে একটি হলো শিশুপ্রম। সাম্প্রতিক গবেষণা অনুযায়ী, বাংলাদেশের ১২ লাখেরও বেশি শিশু এখনও বিপজ্জনক প্রমে নিয়োজিত রয়েছে। এটি কেবল শিশুদের অধিকার লঙ্ঘন নয়, বরং আমাদের জাতির সম্ভাবনার ক্ষতি। শ্রমে নিয়োজিত শিশু শিক্ষা, নিরাপত্তা এবং শৈশবের আনন্দ থেকে বঞ্চিত হয়। এই অমৈতিক প্রথা নির্মূলে আমাদের আইনের কঠোর প্রয়োগ এবং পরিবারগুলোর জন্য বিকল্প জীবিকার সুযোগ তৈরি করতে হবে।

এর পাশাপাশি অনলাইন শোষণ ক্রমবর্ধমান হুমকির দিকে আমাদের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করা জরুরি। আমাদের সমাজের দ্রুত ডিজিটাল রূপান্তর, যদিও শিশুদের জন্য নতুন সুযোগ তৈরি করেছে, কিন্তু তাদের সামনে নতুন নতুন বিপদের দ্বারও খুলে দিয়েছে। শিশুদের অনলাইন নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করার জন্য ডিজিটাল সাক্ষরতা কর্মসূচি এবং কঠোর আইনি কাঠামো প্রয়োজনীয় হয়ে উঠেছে।

বাংলাদেশ শিশু অধিকার রক্ষার ক্ষেত্রে দীর্ঘদিন ধরে একটি অগ্রগামী ভূমিকা পালন করে আসছে। আমরা বিশ্বের প্রথম কয়েকটি দেশের মধ্যে অন্যতম যারা "জাতিসংঘ শিশু অধিকার সনদ" অনুমোদন করেছি এবং আমরা "শিশু আইন ২০১৩" এর মতো আইন প্রণয়নের মাধ্যমে এর নীতিমালা রক্ষা করে চলেছি। তবে শুরুর আইন দিয়ে শিশুদের জীবনকে ইতিবাচকভাবে পরিবর্তন করা সম্ভব নয়। এর জন্য প্রয়োজন সরকার, নাগরিক সমাজ এবং বেসরকারি খাতের সম্মিলিত প্রচেষ্টা এবং পরিবারের সক্রিয় অংশগ্রহণ।

আমরা যদি আমাদের শিশুদের ভবিষ্যতে বিনিয়োগ করি, তবে আমরা আমাদের দেশের ভবিষ্যতে বিনিয়োগ করছি। প্রতিটি শিশুর অধিকার রয়েছে সমান, সুরক্ষা এবং সুযোগের এবং আমরা সবাই একত্রে সেই অধিকারগুলো নিশ্চিতকরণ জরুরি করি।

নাজমা মোবারেক

Message



Children are the heartbeat of Bangladesh. When children thrive, a country prospers. World Children's Day this year comes at an extraordinary moment in Bangladesh history, after thousands of young people across the country elevated their voices and risked their lives to call for change.

Their initial call sought to bring attention to a system they felt was unjust; a system that threatened them with joblessness, and a future that offered little hope. As the voices multiplied, they stood in solidarity in search of a more equitable and fair society for all, a society where young people have a voice and play an active role in helping shape that future. On this World Children's Day, we honour their sacrifices, we honour the difference they can make – and we stand in support of Bangladesh as it gets childhood back on track.

Since ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child in 1990, strides have been made to improve access to and the quality of health, education, and protection services for Bangladeshi children. The progress, however, has been uneven. Too many children are being left behind – for too many timely health and nutrition care, a safe and clean environment, protection, or quality education remain elusive, leaving them with limited opportunities and subdued hopes; leaving them without the skills needed to face an uncertain future.

And that uncertain future, is already with us – as today's children already face and suffer more acutely than adults the impact of the climate crisis, pollution, violence, migration, and inequality. And they will face a world of work unlike and unimaginable by their parents; a world where those with problem solving skills, creativity, negotiation, digital literacy, and strategic thinking will thrive. Today, over half of children lack birth registration.

One in five does not complete primary school, and nine out of ten children under the age of 15 regularly experience physical and psychological violence at home. Year on year, the lives of millions of children in Bangladesh are ravaged by floods, heatwaves, and cyclones. Each wave of disaster can be measured not just in the height of the heating waters – but in the increased malnutrition levels, the lives lost to diarrheal diseases, the pregnancy complications and pre-term births, the weeks of education lost, and livelihoods erased.

The devastating floods in the eastern part of the country, the worst in over 34 years, is a frightening reminder that climate change is not a worry for future generations it is impacting women and children today, it is robbing them of development opportunities and contributing to poor outcomes for future economic growth of countries.

There is much to build on and significant work to be done to secure the rights of every child. Heading the voice of young people, living up to the promise made to children and adolescents in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF asks the people, the private sector, all levels of Government and children and adolescents themselves to galvanize their support to ensure actions are taken today that put childhood back on track.

UNICEF invites debate, encourages inputs and welcomes support to ensure efficiencies are found, and the best possible interventions and changes are acted upon that ensure a progressive implementation of children's rights. UNICEF recognizes that change will take time, that the Government budget will need to increase over time to deliver on these promises to children – but that there are steps that can be taken today, that set the foundation for child development and wellbeing that can be built on over the coming years. These measures include issues like increasing birth registration rates to make sure no child is invisible in society and their rights are respected; also investing in children to guarantee every child's right to

education, empowering them with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an ever-changing world; or ending the scourge of child marriage that still affects more than half of the girls in this country.

Bangladesh sits at a critical juncture, and UNICEF will continue to support the Interim Government to deliver short as well as long-term change for children, including the half a million children living in refugee camps. UNICEF will work hand in hand with the Government, the private sector, long-term development partners, and with children and adolescents so that every child survives and thrives in an environment where non-violence, prosperity and opportunity prevail.

We want to reimagine together a Bangladesh where every child develops, free from poverty and exploitation. On this World Children's Day, let us reiterate our collective commitment to the children of Bangladesh to bring their childhood back on track. Together, we can create a future where every child is nurtured, educated, and empowered, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous nation.

Rana Flowers
UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh
World Children's Day 2024

Star

DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2024, ASHWIN 22, 1431 BS

SPORT

What to WATCH

SONY SPORTS AND PTV
Pakistan vs England
First Test, Day 1
Live from 11:00 am

NAGORIK TV AND STAR SPORTS 1
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
England vs South Africa
Live from 8:00 pm

Tigers' skill and mentality under scanner

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI *from Gwalior*

From the second Test in Kanpur to the first T20I in Gwalior, the format changed and so did most of the players. India had a new setup while Bangladesh were looking into new avenues to approach T20 cricket with more aggression. However, just as the

BRIEF SCORES

Bangladesh: 127 all out in 19.5 overs (Miraz 35, Shanto 27; Arshdeep 3-14, Chakravarthy 3-31)
India: 132 for three in 11.5 overs (Pandya 39,

Suryakumar 29; Miraz 1-7)
Result: India won by seven wickets
Player of the match: Arshdeep Singh



India pacer Arshdeep Singh celebrates after having Bangladesh opener Parvez Hossain Emon chop one onto his stumps during their first of the three T20Is in Gwalior yesterday. [Bottom] The Tigers' meek batting display was, however, in stark contrast to the festive scenario in Gwalior, a city in which international cricket returned after 14 years as crowds flocked to the Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium in numbers.

PHOTO: AFP

Rohit Sharma-led side had dominated in Kanpur, the Suryakumar Yadav-led India dismantled Bangladesh with ease.

There was a slightly slow track on offer in the first T20I but the approach in the Powerplay showed that the Bangladesh batters were still far off from making solid shot selections across formats.

"We need to do proper planning in the next match. We need to focus on rotating the strike. T20 is not only about hitting. If we keep wickets in hand, we can get a good score," Shanto had said at the post-match presentation.

Bangladesh lost two wickets in the Powerplay with openers Liton Das and Parvez Hossain Emon picking shots that were not on for those particular deliveries.

When Shanto was asked in the press conference whether the brand of cricket Bangladesh play is not good enough, he said: "I won't say it is bad, but I think we are a better team than this. We have not been doing well in this format for a while but I don't believe we are this bad."

Bangladesh making 127 after being sent to bat first tells the story of how bad the game was for the visitors, whose standard score in the format seems to be stuck in 120-130.

Asked where they were lagging behind against an inexperienced India, he pondered slightly before replying, 'skill and mentality.'

"We have the capability, I believe that. But there is a lot of room for improvement in skill... If you see the last 10 years, this is how we bat and sometimes we play well. So maybe when we practice at home, maybe the wicket needs to be different...there must be some sort of change.

"When we play at home, usually we get 140-150 wickets. So, batters know how to go about that but don't know how to make 180 scores. It will be better if we practice in those sorts of wickets but it's not just wickets, there is a mental and skill factor to it," he said.

Going into the second T20I, Shanto and Co are in need of a quick turnaround otherwise another one-sided drubbing may be in the cards.

A festival for Gwalior

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI *from Gwalior*

The streets of the Shankargarh village area were packed with incoming traffic at 5:00 PM, some two hours before the first T20I between India and Bangladesh yesterday. There was tight security but that hardly dampened the fans' excitement for the game in Gwalior, where international cricket had returned after 14 years.

The last time this city saw an international game of cricket, India's greatest-ever had captured the imagination of the world with a double hundred – the first-ever in ODIs.

That venue – Roop Singh Stadium – is almost in ruins now and international cricket has remained out of Gwalior's reach for a long time. The Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore would sate the cricket appetite of Madhya Pradesh fans till Sunday when Gwalior's long wait finally ended as the city hosted its first ever T20I.

Sachin Tendulkar's double ton saw the changing of times in white-ball cricket. A homage to Tendulkar's knock was shown on the big screen during the game. The progress of T20I and the latest venue in Gwalior, the 54th international cricket venue in India, has caught the trend of times with the right facilities.

The eagerness to host international cricket could be felt too. Even on walks around the city, BCCI media accreditation card holders who are here to cover the match would often have to field queries from locals about match tickets. So, it was not a surprise that tickets were sold out on the very first day they went on sale.

The stadium has only undergone the first phase of its completion. A roof and more tiers in the stands are to be built. The eventual capacity of the stadium will surpass 30,000.



On Sunday, hundreds of bikes were parked in the field adjacent to the stadium and thousands of cheerful fans were entering the gates before the match, creating an epic atmosphere for a historic event.

"We used to watch matches in Roop Singh Stadium and many matches were held there. We are so excited right now to watch a game in the new stadium. We have waited so long. This is a festival for us," a job-holder who came with a few of his friends, told this reporter before entering the stadium.

A couple were seen hurrying along excitedly, perhaps wanting to catch every bit of the action. Catching up to them, they informed that it was their first ever live cricket match at any venue.

"We are very excited and we are going to show our full energy in this match," both exclaimed.

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav appeared to be a crowd favourite of sort. "Surya's innings is what we are looking forward to. I think he will smash it to all parts and India will win by a big margin," a couple named Shubham and Harpritha said together.

They also said how fast they had to act to get tickets. "The first day that tickets were on sale, within one hour everything got booked. Gwalior crowd is totally invested in this and you will see the energy in the stands," he said.

Some 40 minutes later, the toss took place and another 30 minutes later the game began. A loud reaction was expected, but the roar of the crowd still was something significant. There appeared to be no empty space in the stands.

The latest international stadium in India got its warm welcome.

WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP Kaur leads India to victory over Pakistan



AFP, Dubai

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur produced a steely 29 to steer her side to a scrappy six-wicket victory over Pakistan in Dubai on Sunday.

Set 106 to win after restricting Pakistan to 105-8 in their 20 overs, India were looking comfortable at 61-1. But two wickets in two balls by Pakistan captain Fatima Sana opened the door before Kaur took her side to the brink of victory.

With India two runs short, however, she slipped and appeared to rick her neck, leaving the field unbeaten on 29 from 24 balls.

Sajeevan Sajana hit the winning runs from the next delivery as India closed on 108-4, winning with seven balls to spare.

"We have been very disciplined, followed the plans," said India's Smriti Mandhana. "In the field we were very good. Better start with the bat would have been good, but we will take that win."

Nida Dar top scored for Pakistan with 28 from 34 balls but there was little else to cheer after Fatima had won the toss and elected to bat on a wicket that produced some awkward bounce.

"We were not up to the mark in the batting. We were 10-15 runs short," said Fatima.

All of the Indian bowlers contributed with Arundhati Reddy the most successful as she removed Omaira Sohail (3) and Aliya Riaz (4) in the middle order before clean bowling Dar in the final over to finish with 3-19 from her four overs.

Bavuma doubtful for Bangladesh series

REUTERS

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma will miss the third and final ODI against Ireland in Abu Dhabi on Monday and is a doubt to lead the Test team on a two-match tour of Bangladesh that starts on Oct. 21.

Bavuma sustained a soft tissue injury in his arm after diving for the crease while batting in South Africa's 174-run victory in the second ODI on Friday, the same injury that kept him sidelined for a lengthy period two years ago.

"Bavuma will return home with the rest of the squad on Tuesday and will consult a specialist.

An update on the extent of his injury will be provided in due course," Cricket South Africa said in a statement on Sunday.

Bavuma is a key part of the Test batting lineup and his absence for what is likely to be a challenging series in Bangladesh would be a massive blow to the side.



Manchester United defenders Jonny Evans and Matthijs de Ligt stand in dejection after their side battled hard to earn a goalless draw against Aston Villa away at Villa Park yesterday. The game was steeped in speculation about the future of United's under-fire manager Erik ten Hag whose situation seemingly has worsened amid The Red Devils' worst start to a Premier League campaign as they have gathered just eight points from seven matches.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Struggling Pakistan look to thwart adaptable England

AFP, Multan

Pakistan play England in a three-Test series starting Monday in Multan with the visitors favourites to inflict more damage on a team mired in a painful losing streak.

England's 3-0 whitewash on their last trip to Pakistan in 2022 was the first clean sweep by any visiting team to the country, and plunged the hosts into a slump that has left them winless in their last 10 home Tests.

The visitors will be buoyed by memories of that famous win, but begin the series without talismanic leader Ben Stokes, who will miss the first Test due to a hamstring injury.

Pakistan captain Shan Masood, however, warned on the eve of Monday's first Test that his side would still be facing a formidable England, despite the absence of their captain Stokes.

"We all know the quality of Ben Stokes," said Masood on Sunday ahead of the start of the three-Test series.

"England's strength will not lessen with one individual (missing)," he warned. "They are still very competitive."

"If you look at their playing eleven then it's very balanced with all-rounders, and they have two spinners and three fast bowlers with deep batting, so their loss is that of an individual."

Pakistan, meanwhile, are known for their unpredictability and will be desperate to wipe away the humiliation of a shock 2-0 defeat at the hands of low-ranked Bangladesh last month.

Pakistan cricket is flailing in all formats, with a revolving door of bosses and allegations of nepotism crushing the development of their most popular sport.



Superstar batter Babar Azam relinquished the white-ball captaincy this week, saying he wanted to focus on his batting after a run-drought of 16 Test innings without a half-century.

The three Tests in Multan and Rawalpindi scheduled to wrap up on October 28 will be the first trial of the

29-year-old's renewed commitment to his craft.

Ollie Pope will again lead England after deputising successfully in the recent 2-1 series win over Sri Lanka.

"They've obviously not had their strongest run recently, but we still see them as a highly skilled side," said Pope. "They are a team we don't take lightly."

Pakistan named their team with a bowling attack of two fast bowlers in Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah, medium-pacer Aamer Jamal, and frontline spinner Abrar Ahmed.

An impressive Jamal took 18 wickets against Australia in three Tests in his debut series earlier this year, but missed the Bangladesh series with a back problem.

"With Jamal we get an edge in the seam department," said Masood.

While England sit in third place in the ICC Test rankings, five spots above Pakistan, they travel to Pakistan with an inexperienced pace attack.

With James Anderson and Stuart Broad retired, Mark Wood injured and Ollie Robinson not selected, none of England's pace bowlers from the 2022 series remain.

But Masood cited Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse as threats. "You cannot underestimate anyone and need to be more cautious against any unknown player," said Masood.



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ADB-funded projects face fresh hurdles

Change in govt, political turmoil key reasons; review meeting starts today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Many ongoing development projects, funded by the Asian Development Bank, is facing additional implementation challenges due to the current political climate and changes in the government, a document says.

The ADB has also initiated a "rapid market assessment" to "better understand the impact of the prevailing socio-economic conditions", it said.

Against this backdrop, a three-day Tripartite Portfolio Review Meeting (TPRM) for the ADB funded projects starts in Dhaka today.

The critical implementation issues, including additional challenges that projects have faced during the recent unrest and changes of the government, are on the agenda of the meeting.

The meeting was supposed to be held in July 2024 but got delayed due to the uprising, which led to the changes in the government.

Representatives of implementing agencies of all the projects will join the meeting virtually.

The third and final day of the meeting will be co-chaired by the secretary of the Economic Relations Division and the country director of the ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission.

Currently, 53 investment projects in six sectors are being implemented with ADB's fund of \$12.262 billion.

Of the projects, five are in the agriculture, food, nature, and rural development sector; 10 in the human and social development sector; nine in the energy sector; 12 in the transport sector; 11 in the water and urban development sector; and six in the finance, public sector

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An artisan busy putting the finishing touches to idols of goddess Durga at Sri Sri Jagannath Mandir in Barishal city on Saturday. Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, begins on Wednesday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

ATTACK ON PROTESTERS Three dead AL leaders among the accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cumilla

Three Awami League leaders, who died between September 2022 and June this year, were accused in a case filed over the attack on protesters during the student-led mass movement in Cumilla Sadar South upazila on August 4.

The deceased leaders are Hazi Abdul Momin, Kamal Uddin Mazumder, and Wahidur Rahman Farid. They were Cumilla Sadar South upazila unit AL's forest and environment secretary, agricultural secretary, and member, respectively.

The case, filed on October 2, also names AHM Mustafa Kamal's younger brother and former upazila chairman Golam Sarwar and former upazila chairman Abdul Hai Bablu as prime suspects.

In total, 96 leaders and

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Army saved the country from instability

Says Yunus, inaugurates 'Army Headquarters Selection Board-2024'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the Bangladesh Army has once again been recognised as a symbol of trust by the people of the country.

"Bangladesh Army stood by the people of the country at the time of crisis and saved the country from an unstable situation by expediting the process of forming an interim government," he said while inaugurating the "Army Headquarters Selection Board-2024" at the Army Headquarters as the chief guest.

The chief adviser directed the members of the Selection Board to emphasise professional competence, leadership qualities and standards of discipline, honesty, trustworthiness, and loyalty, and above all, the suitability of the officers for promotion, said a press release issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

He said officers with honesty, integrity, and leadership qualities deserve promotions and directed the authorities to select those officers for promotion who have succeeded in providing competent leadership in various activities of military

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'Will never quit, never bend'

Says Trump during campaigns at the site of assassination attempt



AFP, Butler

Donald Trump defiantly returned Saturday to the site of a campaign rally where an assassin's bullet almost killed him in July, questioning whether his opponents were responsible and declaring he would "never quit."

"Exactly 12 weeks ago this evening, on this very ground, a cold-blooded assassin aimed to silence me," the Republican candidate told tens of thousands of supporters after taking the stage behind bulletproof glass.

Calling the gunman a "vicious monster," Trump vowed he would "never quit... never bend... never break" to cheers of "fight, fight, fight" from the crowd.

Trump's much-hyped return to Butler, Pennsylvania, came exactly one month before the November 5 presidential election, the outcome of which President Joe Biden suggested on Friday might not be peaceful.

Trump lashed out at his political opponents, calling them the "enemy within" who had pushed to indict him and "who knows, maybe even tried to kill me."

"I wasn't supposed to make it," he said ominously.

Security was noticeably tighter than Trump's July rally, with

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POLICE REFORM Changing 150-yr-old law will be top priority

Says commission chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Reform Commission will primarily focus on the amendment to the police laws and regulations to make the force time-befitting and turn it into pro-people and service-oriented.

The commission's Chairman Safar Raj Hossain disclosed this after meeting the commission members at the Secretariat yesterday.

He added that the force has been operating under a 150-year-old police law, the Police Act of 1861, and the Police Regulations of Bengal, 1943.

"These laws are outdated. No major changes have been made to them," he said while speaking to reporters after the meeting.

The commission plans to engage individuals, including police officers, experts, lawyers, and journalists ... who have been working on laws to bring necessary changes, said Safar Raj.

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BANGLADESHIS IN LEBANON Terrified and displaced

Many of around 3,000 want to come home

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladeshis in Lebanon are passing their days in sheer uncertainty amid a military campaign by Israel.

An estimated 3,000 people from Bangladesh have fled their places of work in the southern part of the Middle Eastern country.

Miraz Mahmud, 26, fled the Navatia region of southern Lebanon with some 30 other Bangladeshis and joined around 220 others at a shelter in the relatively calm Saida region after Israel launched the attack two weeks ago.

"Though there is no attack in the area where I stay now, there is no guarantee that this area will not come under attack," Miraz told The Daily Star from the shelter yesterday evening. The young man from Noakhali migrated to Lebanon in 2017 and has not visited Bangladesh since then.

The local Bangladeshi community rented the facility where Miraz and others have taken shelter. The evacuees there include 110 women and seven children.

Rabool Sheikh is one of the Bangladeshis who took the initiative to raise funds from his friends in Lebanon through a Facebook group. The Bangladesh embassy later extended support with rice, oil, and pulses. A Lebanese business community has also helped the evacuees.

"The funds and other kinds of support we have

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SECURITY CONCERN Buddhists won't observe major religious event in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

The association of Buddhist monks of Chattogram Hill Tracts yesterday announced that it will not observe Kathin ChibarDaan, a major religious event, this year because of safety concerns and the recent racial violence in the region.

The monks made the announcement at a press conference at Rangamati's Maitri Bouddha Bihar, which was ransacked and looted on September 20.

Several people were killed, over 100 shops were set on fire during communal violence on September 18, 19, 20 and October 1, said Sraddhalankar Mahathera, president of the Parbatya Chattogram Bhikkhu Sangha.

Three indigenous people were shot dead in Khagrachhari while the Regional Council office was burnt down in Rangamati

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India steamroll Tigers in first T20I

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new-look India were too much to handle for Bangladesh as the hosts produced a dominating all-round display to register a resounding seven-wicket victory in the first of the three T20Is yesterday in Gwalior, a city in which international cricket returned after 14 years.

After bundling out Bangladesh for 127 in 19.5 overs, India raced to the paltry target in just 11.5 overs.

Led by Suryakumar Yadav, India, who saw former skipper Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retire from the format after winning the T20 World Cup earlier this year, handed debuts to all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy and pace sensation Mayank Yadav yesterday.

The hosts were also without a bunch of their

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Vehicles navigate a crater-like pothole-ridden road in Kamalapur area in the capital yesterday. The poor condition of the street worsened following the recent rains. Breakdowns have become common on this patch of the road that often leads to congestion.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

More than one asteroid killed off dinosaurs: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A six-mile-long asteroid, which struck Earth 66 million years ago, wiped out the dinosaurs and more than half of all life on Earth. The impact left a 124-mile-wide crater underneath the Gulf of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula.

And, until now, it had been assumed that the asteroid acted alone. This week, scientists at Scotland's Heriot Watt University have published new three-dimensional images of a crater made by a second asteroid that hit Earth at around the same time off the coast of West Africa.

The 5-mile-wide Nadir Crater was found nearly a thousand feet under the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. Dr Uisdean Nicholson was part of the group that first found it a little over five years ago, but needed seismic data from the images to confirm what had made it.

"It reveals this crater in three dimensions for the first time - the first time we've ever been able to see inside an impact crater," he told The Independent on Friday. The study was published Thursday in the journal Nature Communications Earth & Environment.

