

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2024

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXIV No. 265

KARTIK 1, 1431 BS

[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

RABIUS SANI 13, 1446 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS CAMPUS: TK 15.00

STUDENT PROTEST ON SC PREMISES

## 12 HC judges barred from judicial work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed barred 12 High Court judges from all judicial activities after over a thousand students besieged the HC premises demanding removal of "pro-Awami League fascist judges" yesterday.

"The 12 judges will not be given benches for now, which means they will not be taking part in judicial activities when the court reopens on October 20," Supreme Court Registrar General Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan told the protesting students around 4:00pm.

The agitating students then postponed their demonstrations until Sunday.

Aziz, however, did not disclose the names of the HC judges.

**"We will publish the cause list on Sunday without the names of the 12 judges, and you will understand who those judges are."**

Aziz Ahmed Bhuiyan,  
Supreme Court Registrar General



Students under the banner of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement demonstrate on the High Court premises yesterday afternoon demanding resignations of "pro-Awami League fascist judges". A group of lawyers also joined the demo.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## PALTRY SAFETY NET COVERAGE FOR THE POOR A widow gets Tk 550 a month!

PROGRAMME	ALLOWANCE (TK)	BENEFICIARY (LAKH)	TOTAL SPENDING (CRORE TK)
Old Age	600	60.01	4,351
Widow & Destitute	550	27.75	1,844
Physically Challenged	850	32.34	3,322
Hijra Community	600	0.13	12
Bede Community	500	0.11	9.52
Tea Labourer [yearly one time]	5,000	0.6	36

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Maleka Begum, 70, carries the weight of nearly five decades of widowhood on her shoulders. Since her husband Abul Hossain Gazi died in 1972, her life has been a constant struggle.

As long as her health permitted, she worked as a housemaid or a construction worker to raise her son, her only child. The grueling work took its toll on her body, which was failing as she grew older. She had been looking for some support.

Then, after years of pleading with local officials and elected representatives, the Patuakhali woman got a widow allowance card under the government's social safety net programme about a decade ago.

It was Tk 300 per month then; it's Tk 550 now.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



**MATIA CHOWDHURY**  
1942-2024

**A firebrand politician falls silent**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A firebrand student leader who had become a national political figure even before graduating, Matia Chowdhury was a rare exception in Bangladeshi politics, which had been plagued by opportunism, corruption, and at times, crime.

A former agriculture minister, Matia was the deputy leader of the recently dissolved 12th parliament and a presidium member of the Awami League.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Asked about it later on, he said, "We will publish the cause list on Sunday without the names of the 12 judges, and you will understand who those judges are."

Asked about several online media outlets publishing names of the 12 judges in question, Aziz said he does not know what they have published or how they got the information.

The development came over two months after then chief justice Obaidul Hassan and five other judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stepped down amid students' demonstrations demanding their resignations following the fall of the Hasina-led government.

On August 10, when the SC judges were forced to resign, the students also demanded resignations of "pro-Awami League High Court judges".

When a BNP delegation met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus for a political dialogue on October 4, the party placed several demands including the removal of "partisan judges" from the HC.

President Mohammed Shahabuddin on October 8 appointed 23

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



A hill being cut to make space for houses in Jahangirnagar of Sylhet Sadar upazila's Tukerbazar union. At least six hills in the area have already been cut. Despite complaints by locals, the environment department and district administration have remained silent over the issue. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

**8 nat'l days including March 7 cancelled**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has cancelled eight national days, including the one commemorating the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu and the national mourning day.

The historic March 7 commemorates Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's pivotal speech, March 17 celebrates the birthday of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Children's Day, August 5 marks the birth anniversary of Shaikh Hasina's brother Sheikh Kamal, August 8 is the birth anniversary of Hasina's mother Bangmata Fazilatunnesa Mujib, October 18 recognises Sheikh Rasel Day, August 15 is observed as the national mourning day marking assassination of Bangabandhu, November 4 as National Constitution Day, and December 12 recognises Smart Bangladesh Day.

The information was first divulged via the verified Facebook page of the chief adviser of the interim government yesterday. Later, the Cabinet Division issued a circular cancelling these national days.

**Harris mocks Trump after rally turns into dance session**

AFP, Washington

Philadelphians went after US presidential election rival Donald Trump's mental state and fitness for office Tuesday after the 78-year-old Republican's

standard fare ahead of the November 5 election, as Trump took friendly questions from supporters on the economy.

But a pause for two medical emergencies in the crowd turned



televised town hall veered into a surreal, impromptu music session.

Three weeks ahead of the US election, Harris's campaign has begun to focus aggressively on Trump's health and mental stability, and was quick to weigh in, saying the ex-president appeared "lost, confused, and frozen on stage."

For about half an hour, Monday's event in Oaks near

into a bizarre 39 minutes of music and dancing as Trump abandoned the discussion of the election to put on his favorite hits, swaying awkwardly on stage.

"Who the hell wants to hear questions, right?" he said, bringing the Q&A section to an abrupt end and telling his people to crank up the volume.

Trump has made a brief, jerky

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## PUBLICATION OF FALSE AND BASELESS REPORTS AGAINST MEGHNA GROUP OF INDUSTRIES

False and defamatory allegations published in some of the news outlets owned by a malicious group on October 9, 2024 have come to the attention of Meghna Group of Industries (MGI). It is apparent that these publications are part of a calculated attempt to malign the reputation of MGI and undermine its standing in the business community for ulterior motives. These reports are entirely fabricated and misleading, and MGI expresses strong resentment and denial of such news.

These reports have not only misrepresented the facts, but have also been disseminated without any communication or clarification from MGI, which grossly violates the principles of ethical journalism.

It is imperative to highlight that these false accusations may be motivated by an ongoing legal dispute with the malicious group. In 2019, MGI filed a defamation lawsuit of 1000 crore taka against this group due to its false, fabricated and defamatory allegations against MGI and its Chairman. It appears that these recent accusations are part of its retaliation and continuous efforts to tarnish the good standing of MGI. The malicious group appears to be using its own media outlets as a platform for wrongful gain.

MGI has consistently been a pillar of Bangladesh's industrial growth, having invested thousands of crores of taka into various sectors and creating employment for over 50,000 people. Its operations are fully compliant with all government regulations, and hold all requisite certifications from relevant authorities. Last year alone, MGI contributed almost Tk 5000 crore in revenue to the government exchequer. These fabricated allegations of tax evasion, financial misconduct, and under-invoicing are not only absurd but a deliberate attempt to mislead the public and disrupt the company's business operations.

MGI, like other large companies, imports goods at internationally negotiated prices. Leveraging on its reputation and business history, MGI ensures the most economical purchase. The customs authorities have established Assessment Value designated for each product which may vary from actual imported price. This Assessment Value is applicable for all importers, and like all importing companies, MGI's imports are assessed as per laws set by the customs authorities. To imply under-invoicing by MGI is deceptive and dishonest reporting and a futile attempt by reporters to misguide and manipulate the public.

Additionally, the claim that MGI has misappropriated bank commissions and violated insurance policy is entirely unfounded. All vehicles of MGI are insured and operate as per the guidelines and rules set by the government and all bank commissions are processed in accordance with well-established banking policies. Any suggestion of embezzlement is a gross distortion of facts.

MGI has also been accused of illegally acquiring land in Narayanganj when all land purchases were conducted transparently and legally, with full permission and documentation from the relevant authorities. MGI and the malicious group have industrial operations in the same region, and any generic accusations leveled against MGI regarding conducting business in the area is applicable to that malicious group itself, yet MGI is being singled out for baseless allegations without any merit.

MGI has an exemplary financial record and has never in its history defaulted on any obligations- all banks both local and foreign can attest to its impeccable financial record.

The slanderous and defamatory news by the malicious group owned agencies seek to undermine MGI's substantial contributions to the nation. Such false information, which distort the facts, is damaging not only for MGI's reputation, but also for the broader business community of Bangladesh.

We urge the malicious group and its affiliated Media entities to refrain from such dishonest and corrupt journalism.



## SCRAPPING OF 8 NAT'L DAYS AL says it's 'bid to kill spirit of Liberation War'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has condemned the government's decision to cancel eight national days, including the one commemorating the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu.

Soon after the government announced the cancellation yesterday, the party, in a post on its verified Facebook page, termed the decision an "attempt to erase the history and destroy the spirit of the national liberation struggle".

The AL alleged that the current government has been undermining the values and ideals of the Liberation War from the very beginning.

The government is taking various steps to destroy the spirit of the Liberation War and considering freedom fighters and those who uphold the war's ideals as enemies.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## Harris mocks Trump after rally turns into dance session

FROM PAGE 1

dance his signature at the end of rallies for years, nearly always to his exit song -- the Village People's 1978 disco anthem "YMCA."

On Monday, however, he stayed on stage for nine songs, ranging from opera to Guns N' Roses and Elvis, with the ex-president alternating his dance moves with standing in place and staring into the crowd. "Hope he's okay," Harris opined dryly on X.

Trump has not released a recent comprehensive report on his state of health, prompting fierce criticism from Harris, 59, who has increasingly been homing in on Trump's age and physical and mental condition.

It was the topic of her closing argument as she sat down with popular radio host Charlamagne tha God in an effort to boost her messaging to Black male voters -- a part of the electorate where Trump has made gains.

After setting out her policies for improving the lives of African American men, she turned to Trump's rallies and repeated a claim that riled him during their September debate -- that bored supporters were leaving his rallies early.

"This man is weak and he is unfit," Harris said.

## A widow gets Tk 550 a month!

FROM PAGE 1

"I get Tk 1,650 every three months via my mobile. It runs out instantly. What can you buy with such little money when prices of everything are so high?" she told The Daily Star by phone on Tuesday from Auliapur village.

Her son Khokon Gazi, 50, is a day labourer, who shifts between odd jobs. But even odd jobs are hard to come by in this climate-vulnerable coastal area, one of the poorest districts in southern Bangladesh. Whenever he finds work, he supports his mother with whatever little he can.

But Maleka perhaps is one of the luckiest to get the paltry amount of Tk 1,650 every three months. Many don't get even that.

Azima Bibi, 60, from Bogura's Shahjahanpur area for example has been desperately trying to have her name enlisted for elderly allowance. She has not been successful so far.

"I have gone to the local union parishad member so many times for an update. Every time, he says, 'your name is not on the list yet,'" said Azima, who works as a housemaid and whose husband has no work. "I am disappointed."

Economists and poverty experts share her disappointment, and point out that both the size and amount of the coverage need a serious revisit to make the safety net programmes useful for the poor and disadvantaged groups such as widows, the elderly, and persons with disability.

They say expansion of social safety net is more urgent at times of high inflation, which hits the poor the hardest as their purchasing power takes the heaviest blow.

An analysis by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) of the average daily prices of 34 essential food items in Dhaka from 1 January 2019 to 19 May 2024 shows that prices increased from 10 percent to 310 percent during this period. The analysis was based on data from Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

**WHO GETS WHAT**  
According to the latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022 data, 18.7 percent or 3.17 crore people are poor (those living above \$2.15 a day) and 5.6 percent or



Participants of a roundtable titled "Pathways to prosperity for extremely poor people" at The Daily Star centre yesterday. The Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, European Union, and The Daily Star jointly organised the event marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

PHOTO: STAR

## Diverse income streams needed

FROM PAGE 12

Haor region.

The project also includes ethnic minority pockets in Dinajpur and Thakurgaon districts.

Since 2022, the PPEPP project has been funded by the EU and renamed PPEPP-EU, targeting 215,000 households.

It provides a carefully sequenced package of livelihoods, nutrition and primary healthcare, inclusive finance and community mobilisation interventions as the core components.

To address the multidimensional nature of poverty, the project also integrates climate resilience-building, disability inclusion and women empowerment with the core components.

"If we want to bring the issue of sustainable poverty reduction to the forefront, there needs to be a linkage between this project and a market-based linkage," said Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director at the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development.

"If we can provide them with loans and create such enterprises, then it is possible to move them toward a sustainable livelihood. So, it is necessary to think about how we can link them with cottage, micro and small enterprises," he added.

Poverty and inequality are two different things and should not be conflated together, said Zakir Ahmed Khan, chairman of PKSF.

"What we are doing now is

dealing with poverty, not inequality. Poverty is not only a lack of money -- it means many more things."

The PPEPP should be taken as a programme and not as a project, he said.

There must be a connection between sustainability and the market, said Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, chairman of Sonali Bank.

"Otherwise, we may go from one project to another. If we don't link it with the market and create self-employment opportunities, it won't succeed."

Different projects and programmes should be linked to central policies and aligned with the national strategy.

The programme needs to be implemented comprehensively, he said, adding that the local government should also be linked.

The primary goal of PKSF is to eradicate inequality along with poverty, aiming for zero poverty and the creation of an inclusive and equitable society, said Md Fazlul Kader, acting managing director of PKSF.

Bangladesh has witnessed remarkable growth and development, but unfortunately, extreme poverty still exists, said Michal Krejza, head of cooperation at the delegation of the EU to Bangladesh.

For example, in the southern coastal belt, the incidence of extreme poverty is quite high and is increasing in some areas due to the

EU to Bangladesh.

As the most densely populated country, whatever the country achieved really stands threatened because of climate change and Bangladesh needs global support, he added.

impacts of climate change.

To make these people less vulnerable, better access is needed to basic public services such as education, health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, and safe and nutritional food, he said.

"They need skills development and jobs. Those for whom the need is the highest often have the poorest access."

Since the inception of the project in 2019, 72 percent of the extremely poor households covered by the project have risen above the international poverty line, he added.

Macroeconomic policies do have a significant impact on poverty reduction at the national level, said Zaidi Sattar, chairman of the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh.

"The impact on poverty comes from the kind of macroeconomic policies we have. Macroeconomic stability is essential and macroeconomic policies for economic growth are also essential," he added.

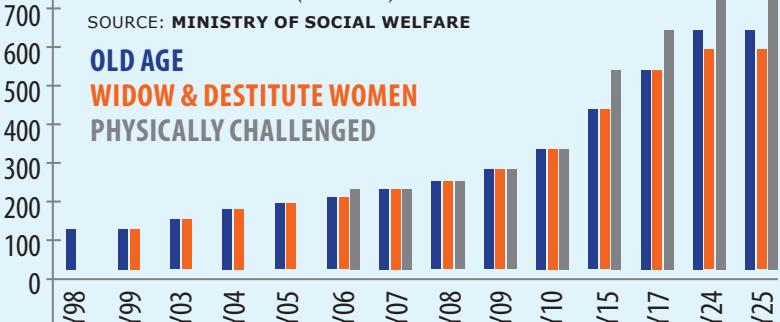
Bangladesh has done very well on many things including poverty, said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"But what remains is also a massive task. Let us not get into some sort of a comfort zone that we have done well."

As the most densely populated country, whatever the country achieved really stands threatened because of climate change and Bangladesh needs global support, he added.

## PER CAPITA ALLOWANCE INCREASE (in TK)

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE



95 lakh people are extremely poor (those living below \$2.15 a day).

Currently, there are 140 social security programmes worth Tk 136,026 crore to provide a cushion to various groups, including the poor, extreme poor and the lower income people, according to budget data.

However, nearly half of this money is spent on retirement benefits of government employees and interest payment of savings schemes.

In the current fiscal year, for example, Tk 36,580 crore has been allocated for payment of pension for government employees and Tk 8,828.32 crore for interest payment of savings certificates.

In comparison, the poor get paltry.

Data from social welfare ministry show the monthly allowance for widows, the elderly and persons with physical disabilities -- they are among the most vulnerable -- are Tk 550, Tk 600 and Tk 850.

Widow allowance was initiated in FY1999 with just Tk 100 a month for 4 lakh people. In the last 25 years, it has seen an increase of Tk 450.

Old age allowance, launched a year earlier also with Tk 100 a month for 4 lakh people, rose by Tk 500 since, the data show.

Disability allowance was initiated in FY 2006 with Tk 200 a month for 1 lakh people. It took 14 years to see a rise of Tk 650.

"We can hardly buy five kgs of rice and one kg of fish with this money. That's all," said Sames Uddin, a recipient of old age allowance from

Sirajganj's Sadar upazila.

### LEFT OUT

Then there are selection errors that leave many eligible people out of the coverage.

Last year, a CPD study titled "Social Safety Net Budget of Bangladesh: Catching Some, Missing Many" found that an estimated 33 lakh elderly people and 25 lakh widows eligible for assistance are not covered by the programme.

The low allocation per beneficiary per month raises questions about the effectiveness of Bangladesh's overall social protection strategy. It remains unclear why Bangladesh has been pursuing a large number of small programmes spread out over many different ministries and divisions of the government, budget after budget," said the report, published in July this year.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Prof Selim Raibhan echoed this sentiment and said the government should rather focus on bringing the disadvantaged groups out of poverty line through solid rehabilitation programmes instead of handing out such insufficient allowance.

"Besides, there are many selection errors, meaning many ineligible people are receiving the allowance instead of eligible disadvantaged people. The social security programmes should be revisited as there are many overlaps," said Prof Selim, also executive director of South Asian Network and Economic Modeling (Sanem).

Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, a recipient of old age allowance from

director general of Department of Social Welfare, acknowledged that the allowance under the safety net is inadequate, but insisted that the money still provides a critical support at individual levels.

About the limited coverage, he said, "The government is expanding the coverage gradually. As part of this, nearly five lakh people have been added to the beneficiaries' list this year. Top policymakers can say more about expanding the coverage and increasing the amount."

But Khokon Gazi, Maleka Begum's son, needs an immediate respite.

"How can we survive when a kg of

**"I get Tk 1,650 every three months via my mobile. It just runs out instantly. What can you buy with such little money when prices of everything are so high?"**

MALEKA BEGUM, 70

**"I have gone to the local union parishad many times for an update. Every time, he said, 'your name is not on the list yet.'"**

AZIZA BIBI, 60

pointed gourd costs Tk 80 and an egg Tk 16?" he said.

[Mostafa Shabuj from Bogura and Sohrab Hossain from Patuakhali contributed to this report.]

## Five police units get new chiefs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five police units got new chiefs as 10 additional inspectors general of police, including six recently promoted ones, were given new postings yesterday.

Additional IGP Matiur Rahman Sheikh has been made the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department since its head Mohammad Ali Mia was sent into forced retirement on August 22.

The home ministry issued a circular in this regard.

As per the circular, Addl IGPs Sarder Tamiz Uddin Ahmed, Delwar Hossain Mia, Abdullah Al Mahmud, and Kusum Dewan were given the charge of the Railway Police, Highway Police, Armed Police Battalion, and River Police respectively.

It also cancelled the posting of Addl IGP of the Police Headquarters Md Tawfiq Mahbub Chowdhury to the Police Bureau of Investigation that has been without a chief since July 19 when Banaj Kumar Majumder retired as the head of the unit.

On August 13, Tawfiq was transferred to PBI, but he did not join.

Meanwhile, chief of River Police Abdul Alim Mahmud, head of Special Security and Protection Battalion Golam Kibria, Addl IGPs Alamgir Alam, and Selim Mohammad Jahangir were posted to the Police Headquarters.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## Zelensky rules out ceding Ukrainian land in Victory Plan

AFP, Kyiv

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday unveiled his long-awaited Victory Plan to end Russia's invasion, rejecting any territorial concessions and urging ramped-up Western backing, including an invitation to join Nato.

The Kremlin immediately dismissed Zelensky's roadmap to end the grinding conflict, describing it as "some ephemeral peace plan".

After pushing back Russian troops at the start of the invasion in February 2022, Kyiv is now facing mounting pressure to find an exit strategy as its troops suffer battlefield losses and Moscow intensifies its strikes on infrastructure.

## BNP seeks review

FROM PAGE 12

ABM Khairul Haque declared the 13th amendment to the constitution (caretaker government) null and void.

After the fall of dictator Husain Mohamad Ershad in 1990, the 13th amendment introduced the caretaker government system to the constitution. Late SC lawyer M Salimullah and others filed a writ petition with the High Court in 1998 challenging the validity of that

amendment.

The HC on August 4, 2004, declared the amendment valid.

The writ petitioners in 2005 appealed before the Appellate Division against the HC verdict. The Appellate Division delivered a verdict in 2010 in favour of the appellants.

On June

Open Collection/Corporate Account  
For Supply Chain Management  
Seamless Integration among Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors and Retailers for achieving Fast and Real-Time Supply Chain Management.

AAA  
Rated Bank


পুবালি ব্যাংক পিলিস.  
PUBALI BANK PLC.  
Best Financial Institution  
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.

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

## The ministers' men who made millions

At least 10 PS, APS of former govt high-ups under ACC scanner

DIPAN NANDY

Not only did the ministers, state ministers and lawmakers amass huge amount of wealth during the Awami League's four terms in power, their personal secretaries and assistant personal secretaries managed to stumble into fortune as well.

Who doesn't know about Jahangir Alam, the peon (aide) of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who amassed wealth worth Tk 400 crore?

Hasina herself disclosed the information in one of her press conferences.

Sheer proximity to power helped these aides amass crores, and buy luxury cars and sprawling mansions.

For 15 years, these secretaries discovered just how lucrative it could be to answer phone calls and schedule meetings for ministers or state ministers.

Mere paper-pushing opened doors to lavish lifestyles -- through tender manipulation, commission cuts, and "favour" for jobs, promotions, and transfers.

And, all these were done in the name of their bosses.

**For 15 years, these secretaries discovered just how lucrative it could be to answer phone calls and schedule meetings for ministers or state ministers. Mere paper-pushing opened doors to lavish lifestyles -- through tender manipulation, commission cuts, and "favour" for jobs, promotions, and transfers.**

Now, following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, the Anti-Corruption Commission has woken up against widespread corruption by people in power.

The ACC has already launched investigations into at least 25 former ministers and state ministers.

But the spotlight has also been on their PSs and APSs -- who turned ministerial connections as a means to exploit and earn.

At least 10 of these secretaries are under the ACC's investigation. They now face questions about their suspiciously extravagant lifestyles.

Among those under investigation are Hafizur Rahman Liku, former APS to ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina; Dr Harun Or Rashid Biswas, former PS to ex-home minister, along with his APS Monir Hossain; Md Shahabuddin, APS to Mannujan Sufian, the former state minister for labour and employment; ANM Ahmadul Bashar, former APS to ex-state minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury; Mizanur Rahman, APS to ex-social welfare minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed; Mir Mosharraf Hossain, APS to former health minister Mohammad Nasim; Shamim Ahmed, APS to ex-state minister for disaster management and relief Dr Enamur Rahman, Hasnat Hossain, APS to ex-planning minister MA Mannan; and Emdadul Haque, former APS to ex-textiles minister Golam Dastagir Gazi.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Devotees light up a sky lantern on the occasion of Prabbarana Purnima, one of the biggest religious festivals of Buddhists yesterday. The photo was taken on the premises of the Chattogram Buddhist Monastery in the port city's Nandan Kanon area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## 35,384 killed in accidents in 5 years

Says report of Road Safety Foundation

UNB, Dhaka

In the last five and a half years, road, railway, and waterway accidents in Bangladesh have caused human resource losses worth Tk 87,884.12 crore, according to a report by the Road Safety Foundation (RSF).

From 2019 to June 2024, a total of 32,733 accidents were reported across the country, resulting in 35,384 deaths and 53,196 injuries. Among the fatalities, 5,103 were women (14.42

percent), and 4,785 were children (13.52 percent).

Motorcycle accidents accounted for a significant portion of the fatalities, with 11,593 deaths from 11,669 accidents, representing 32.76 percent of the total deaths. The motorcycle accident rate stood at 35.64 percent.

Additionally, 8,358 pedestrians were killed, making up 23.62 percent of the total fatalities. Drivers and their assistants made up 14.86 percent of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

SM Ali's 31st death anniv today



CITY DESK

Today marks the 31st death anniversary of Syed Mohammad Ali, founder editor-publisher of The Daily Star and a luminary in journalism of Bangladesh.

In a career spanning 44 years, SM Ali made his way up from a cub reporter to becoming one of the country's most brilliant editors. He also led the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) as its chairman.

Educated in Kolkata, Dhaka and London, he was one of the few Asian journalists who stood out in regional journalism.

Ali was born in a well-known family in Sylhet, in 1928. He was the eldest son of the late Syed Mustafa Ali, an official of the Assam Civil

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Govt doesn't consider Sheikh Mujib Father of the Nation: Nahid Prof Anu Muhammad says 'attempts to erase history will not be tolerated'



Bangabandhu has been made controversial by the Awami League. He has become a part of their 'fascist ideology'.

Sheikh Mujib is a political figure, and of course, there will be criticism and analysis of his role, but attempts to erase history will not be tolerated.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government does not recognise Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the Father of the Nation, said Nahid Islam, adviser to the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology, yesterday.

"Bangabandhu has been made controversial by the Awami League. He has become a part of their 'fascist ideology,'" he said in response to a question from journalists at the Secretariat.

When asked if he personally considers Bangabandhu the Father of the Nation, Nahid replied, "The Awami League held power in a fascist

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## TAQI MURDER Azmeri's aide 'Pagla Hamid' held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Abdul Hamid alias Pagla Hamid, who is known as Azmeri Osman's close aide, was arrested during a raid in Narayanganj's Fatullah area on Tuesday night.

Fatullah Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Shariful Islam confirmed the arrest.

"Hamid was on our target list. He was accused in a case of attacking protesters during anti-discrimination student movement. Initially, he was arrested in that case. However, he has been accused in several other cases like murder, extortion, and drugs," said Shariful.

A few hours earlier, in a joint operation, Hamid's close associate Anis was arrested, said police.

Pagla Hamid is known to locals as Azmeri Osman's "cadre".

Azmeri, nephew of former Awami League MP Shamim Osman, is the prime accused of Tanvir Muhammad Taqi murder in 2013.

Shamsher Mobin, wife not allowed to travel abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trinamool BNP Chairperson Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and his wife were denied permission to travel abroad and were sent back from Dhaka airport yesterday, as the immigration police allegedly did not allow them to board their flight without clearance from "top-level" authorities.

Contacted last night, Shamsher Mobin said they were headed to Bangkok for his wife's medical treatment. They were scheduled to fly on a Thai Airlines flight at around 1:35pm yesterday.

He alleged that while they were waiting in the VIP room, the immigration police took their passports, claiming they needed to make copies.

"They kept our passports for a long time and delayed us deliberately. When I asked, they said I needed clearance from an intelligence agency," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

নথ সাউথ ইউনিভার্সিটি (এনএসইউ) ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের সদস্য জনাব এম এ কাশেম, সাউথইন্স্ট ব্যাথকের পরিচালনা পর্যবেক্ষণ চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করেছেন তিনি প্রতিষ্ঠানটির প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান ছিলেন। একই প্রতিষ্ঠানের ভাইস চেয়ারপাস্ন হিসেবে

দায়িত্ব নিয়েছেন এনএসইউ ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের আরেক সদস্য জনাব রেহানা রহমান।

জনাব এম এ কাশেম ব্যবসায়ীদের শীর্ষ সংগঠন বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ও বণিক সমিতি তিনি এনএসইউ ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের প্রতিষ্ঠাতা সদস্য ও প্রতিষ্ঠানটির চেয়ারম্যান হিসেবে চারবার দায়িত্ব পালন করেন।

ট্রাস্টি বোর্ডের সম্মানিত দুই সদস্য সাউথইন্স্ট ব্যাথকের পরিচালনা পর্যবেক্ষণ মন্ত্রণালয়ে দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করেছেন।

জনাব রেহানা রহমান একজন সফল উদ্যোগী।

শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন



NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY  
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

“They kept our passports for a long time and delayed us deliberately. When I asked, they said I needed clearance from an intelligence agency,” he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Kazi Farms Contract Broiler Farming: Better for Farmers, Better for Consumers

The Kazi Farms Contract Broiler Farming (CBF) System is a safer alternative to traditional poultry farming.

Independent farmers buy chicks, feed, and medicines from dealers. Our contract farmers receive these inputs directly from Kazi Farms, at no cost. They raise the broilers, which remain the property of Kazi Farms, and are paid based on their productivity. This reduces the risk of losses for farmers, as Kazi Farms absorbs losses from disease outbreaks.

Independent farmers often administer “preventive” antibiotics to healthy chickens, but our CBF farmers do not. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that livestock farmers should avoid preventive antibiotics, which can make germs antibiotic resistant, and can lead to fatal infections in humans. Kazi Farms trains farmers in biosecurity. This reduces the need for antibiotics, and prevents antibiotic resistance.



Kazi Farms' Contract Broiler Farming

“ Maximises profit & minimises losses for poultry farmers. ”

Shopon Ahmed  
Hobiganj

**MA Samad's 19th death anniv today**

CITY DESK

Today is the 19th death anniversary of M.A. Samad, founder of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd (BGIC), said a press release.

After his retirement as managing director of Jibon Bima Corporation, he established BGIC, the first insurance company in private sector after the country's liberation.

Chaity and Adrija collecting shiuly flowers near their home in Khuila's Dighaliya upazila yesterday. The two sisters wake up early in the morning and gather the delicate flowers that have fallen from the trees, carefully placing them into their basket.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

**Nafisa's HSC result**

FROM PAGE 5  
Hazrat Ali then called Nafisa on her phone around 10:30am, when she said she was in Jahangirnagar University and safe.

"When I called her again around 3:00pm, someone else picked up and said the mobile phone belongs to a girl who had been shot and was taken to Labzon Hospital," recounted Hazrat.

Hazrat rushed to Labzon Hospital. The doctors there told him that Nafisa had died. He took Nafisa to

Enam Medical Hospital, where the doctors checked again and confirmed that she was dead.

Later, Nafisa's body was brought to Savar Bazar bus stand in a Jahangirnagar University ambulance. "From there, we brought the body to our home on a rickshaw. Here, after the funeral, Nafisa was buried in a graveyard at Tongi," said Kulsom.

"My daughter has got good results, but what will I do with good results if my daughter is no more? This result will remain as her last memory," Kulsom said, breaking down in tears.

**SM Ali's 31st death**

FROM PAGE 3  
Service, and nephew of famous litterateur Syed Mujtaba Ali.

Ali started off as a reporter with the Pakistan Observer while he was a student at Dhaka University. He went on to hold important positions in various publications in Pakistan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore.

He was the managing director of The Hong Kong Standard and The Bangkok

**FARM HOUSE TO BE SOLD**  
At Rajendrapur, Kapasia,  
Area: 7.037 Bigha  
Cell: 8801713032561

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme, SEDP

Directorate of Madrasah Education  
Technical and Madrasah Education Division, Ministry of Education

**Invitation for Tenders**

**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education/ Technical and Madrasah Education Division
2	Agency	Directorate of Madrasah Education, Bangladesh
3	Procuring Entity Name	Scheme Director, Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Transport Services on Hiring for Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme
7	Invitation Ref No	সিইএইচ/ক্ষ/সিইডেমস/মানবাধ/২০২৪-১১২
8	Date	16 October 2024
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Fund, GOB
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	NA
12	Scheme Code	320000108
13	Scheme Name	Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme
14	Tender Package No.	SD-6
15	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Transport Services on Hiring for Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme
16	Tender Publication Date	17 October 2024
17	Tender Last Selling Date (must be the date prior to the day of Tender Closing Date)	30 October 2024 (During Office Hour)
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	31 October 2024 02:00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time (within one hour of Tender Closing)	31 October 2024 02:30 PM
20	Name & Address of the office(s)	Selling Tender Document (Principal) Address CDME, Directorate of Madrasah Education, Guide House (7th & 10th floor), New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000. Selling Tender Document (Others) N/A
21	<b>NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS</b>	
22	Receiving Tender Document CDME, Directorate of Madrasah Education, Guide House (7th & 10th floor), New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000. Opening Tender Document CDME, Directorate of Madrasah Education, Guide House (7th & 10th floor), New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000.	
23	INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
24	Eligibility of Tenderer a. The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in contracting industries in public sector as Prime Contractor/Sub Contractor shall be 05 years. b. The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor in providing non-Consultant Service of at least TWO contracts of similar nature, complexity and methods/ technology completed over a period of three (3) years each with a value of at least of Tk 50 lac shall be required. Contract for providing service will be treated as similar nature	
25	Brief Description of Services Procurement of Transport Services on Hiring (01 Jeep & 02 Microbuses*) for Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme	
26	Price of Tender Document (Tk) 1000.00 (One Thousand); Non-Refundable	
27	Package No	Identification of Package
28	SD-6	Procurement of Transport Services of Hiring (01 Jeep & 02 Microbuses*) for Capacity Development of Madrasah Education (CDME) Scheme
29	PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
30	Name of Official Inviting Tender Habibur Rahman Designation of Official Inviting Tender Scheme Director Address of Official Inviting Tender CDME, Directorate of Madrasah Education, Guide House (7th & 10th floor), New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender 0241030159	

(Habibur Rahman)  
Scheme Director (Additional Secretary)  
Capacity Development of Madrasah Education Scheme  
E-mail: sd.cdme@dmme.gov.bd

**The ministers**

FROM PAGE 3

ACC also filed a case against Monir Hossain, former APS of Home Minister last Thursday over amassing around Tk 50 crore illegally.

Meanwhile, a complaint submitted to ACC against Liku alleged that he purchased several hundred bighas of land in his wife's name under Messrs Rafi Agro and Fisheries in Ramdia Kashiani.

He also bought a flat in Madhu City, Mohammadpur and illegally acquired a government plot in Uttara.

The complaint also accuses Liku of buying 10 decimals of land in Gopalganj, building a five story house on ancestral land, and constructing six-story and 10 story commercial buildings in his brother-in-law's name.

He reportedly owns Ocean Blue Resort in Kuakata and various properties under his relatives' names.

Meanwhile, ACC sources revealed that Harun Or Rashid Biswas and Monir Hossain were key players in a bribery syndicate, allegedly led by former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

They reportedly took bribes for the appointments of district superintendents of police, and other positions.

Shamim Ahmed, APS to Enamur Rahman, is accused of owning several business ventures, including an agro park, and properties in Trishal, Mymensingh. He allegedly built a fish farm on 100 bighas and an institute named "Bela" on 100 bighas in Porabari and owns two flats in Savar and an office in Navana Tower, Gulshan.

Bashar, former APS to Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, reportedly formed a monopoly at BWTA after the 2018 elections.

Construction

FROM PAGE 5

many now operate in plainclothes. Officer-in-Charge Md Jakir Hossain denied allegations of ineffective policing, attributing the gridlock to construction related obstructions and drivers not following traffic rules.

"We're working to keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible," he said.

**Shamsher**

FROM PAGE 3

"I've travelled abroad many times before and never needed clearance. The immigration police told me they couldn't let me go because they hadn't received instructions from higher authorities. They then advised me to seek permission from the top level of the interim government," he added.

Mobin said he showed a 2010 court ruling saying that he should not face any obstacles when travelling abroad, but that was ignored. He was advised to contact higher authorities.

He then reached out to an adviser of the interim government, who told him to speak to either the home adviser or the home secretary. When he contacted the home secretary, he was informed that there was no official restriction on his travel.

"By then, the flight had already left. One official later informed me that while I couldn't travel abroad, my wife was allowed to," said Mobin.

An additional superintendent of police on duty at Dhaka airport around 11:30pm declined to comment on the incident, directing inquiries to the Police Headquarters.

Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of Dhaka airport, said, "I don't know about the matter. But if he had clearance from the Special Branch, he should have been able to fly."

Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, a former vice chairman of the BNP, resigned from all BNP positions in 2015. He later joined Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh in 2018 and, in September 2023, became the chairperson of Trinamool BNP, which was registered as a political party before the last national elections.

**Govt doesn't consider**

FROM PAGE 3

manner. They stayed in power by suppressing people's voting rights, through enforced disappearances, killings, and even genocide.

Therefore, whatever they declared -- whether calling someone the Father of the Nation or designating a national day -- such continuities will not remain in the new Bangladesh."

He also bought a flat in Madhu City, Mohammadpur and illegally acquired a government plot in Uttara.

The complaint also accuses Liku of buying 10 decimals of land in Gopalganj, building a five story house on ancestral land, and constructing six-story and 10 story commercial buildings in his brother-in-law's name.

He reportedly owns Ocean Blue Resort in Kuakata and various properties under his relatives' names.

Meanwhile, ACC sources revealed that Harun Or Rashid Biswas and Monir Hossain were key players in a bribery syndicate, allegedly led by former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

They reportedly took bribes for the appointments of district superintendents of police, and other positions.

Shamim Ahmed, APS to Enamur Rahman, is accused of owning several business ventures, including an agro park, and properties in Trishal, Mymensingh. He allegedly built a fish farm on 100 bighas and an institute named "Bela" on 100 bighas in Porabari and owns two flats in Savar and an office in Navana Tower, Gulshan.

Bashar, former APS to Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, reportedly formed a monopoly at BWTA after the 2018 elections.

Construction

FROM PAGE 5

many now operate in plainclothes. Officer-in-Charge Md Jakir Hossain denied allegations of ineffective policing, attributing the gridlock to construction related obstructions and drivers not following traffic rules.

"We're working to keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible," he said.

Shamsher

FROM PAGE 3

"I've travelled abroad many times before and never needed clearance. The immigration police told me they couldn't let me go because they hadn't received instructions from higher authorities. They then advised me to seek permission from the top level of the interim government," he added.

Mobin said he showed a 2010 court ruling saying that he should not face any obstacles when travelling abroad, but that was ignored. He was advised to contact higher authorities.

He then reached out to an adviser of the interim government, who told him to speak to either the home adviser or the home secretary. When he contacted the home secretary, he was informed that there was no official restriction on his travel.

"By then, the flight had already left. One official later informed me that while I couldn't travel abroad, my wife was allowed to," said Mobin.

An additional superintendent of police on duty at Dhaka airport around 11:30pm declined to comment on the incident, directing inquiries to the Police Headquarters.

Group Captain Kamrul Islam, executive director of Dhaka airport, said, "I don't know about the matter. But if he had clearance from the Special Branch, he should have been able to fly."

Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, a former vice chairman of the BNP, resigned from all BNP positions in 2015. He later joined Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh in 2018 and, in September 2023, became the chairperson of Trinamool BNP, which was registered as a political party before the last national elections.

**Govt doesn't consider**

FROM PAGE 3

contributed to the struggles of this land. Our history didn't start in 1952 alone.

We have the anti-British struggle, the movements of 1947 and 1971, as well as those of 1990 and 2024. We have many founding fathers. It is through their struggles that we achieved independence."

The information adviser also commented on the cancellation of certain national days, saying, "The national days being cancelled were imposed by the Awami League. This was fascist behaviour. The government considers them unimportant, which is why they are being cancelled."

He said a new national day might be established to commemorate the mass uprisings.

In another development,

Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan, adviser to the Ministries of Youth and Sports and Labour and Employment, wrote in a personal Facebook post yesterday that it is the people of a country who

will determine who their Father of the Nation is, not any fascist political party.

"If the people of the country truly considered Sheikh Mujibur Rahman the Father of the Nation, the revolutionary students and masses would not have destroyed his statue on August 5. Sheikh Mujib is not the Father of the Nation; rather, he is a symbolic tool for establishing Awami fascism," he wrote.

However, in an immediate reaction to the cancellation of March 7 as a national day, prominent economist Prof Anu Muhammad said March 7 does not belong to the Awami League, nor is the historic speech of that day a personal matter of Sheikh Mujib.

"March 7 is undoubtedly a significant part of our history. Sheikh Mujib is a political figure, and of course, there will be criticism and analysis of his role, but attempts to erase history will not be tolerated," Prof Anu Muhammad said.

**35,384 killed in accidents**

FROM PAGE 3

11,593 were motorcyclists, 1,915 were bus passengers, 2,511 were passengers in goods carrying vehicles (trucks, pickups), and 1,544 were passengers in private vehicles (cars, microbuses).

During this period, 587 waterway accidents claimed 1,021 lives, injured 582, and left 369 missing.

Meanwhile, 1,403 people were killed and 1,269 injured in 1,228 railway accidents.

The RSF report, based on data from nine national newspapers, seven online

news portals, electronic media, and its own sources, highlighted the significant toll accidents have taken on the country.

Accident statistics by road type revealed that 36.48 percent of accidents

occurred on national highways, 35.73 percent on regional roads, 15.46 percent on rural roads, and 12.14 percent on urban roads.

Among the victims,

**World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates**

# CITY

## Nafisa's HSC result the last memory left with her mother

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

When the HSC results were published on Tuesday, Kulsum Begum, mother of 17-year-old Nafisa Hossen Marwa, found out that her daughter had secured GPA 4.25.

The news that was supposed to bring joy for Kulsum only brought her pain, as on August 5, Nafisa had gone to participate in a student procession towards the Gono Bhaban, never to return again.

She was a science group student at Sahajuddin Sarkar Model Higher Secondary School in Tongi.



Sand is being extracted from within Raghunandan Hill Reserve Forest area in Habiganj, posing serious threat to its biodiversity. Locals allege that a gang of influential people are involved in this illegal activity due to lax monitoring of the authorities concerned. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

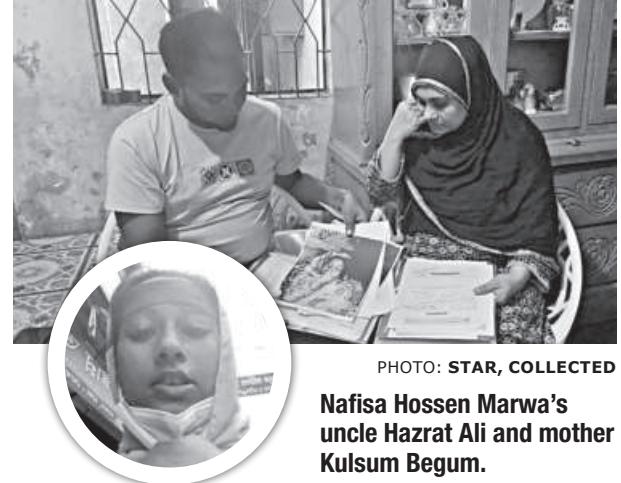


PHOTO: STAR, COLLECTED  
Nafisa Hossen Marwa's uncle Hazrat Ali and mother Kulsum Begum.

On August 5, she was shot and killed in the Pakija area of the Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Savar.

Kulsum is an expatriate worker in Kuwait. Nafisa used to stay with her father, Abul Hossen, in Tongi. On July 31, Nafisa had gone to visit her maternal grandfather's house in Savar's Bakhtarpur area. From there, Nafisa participated in the protests.

While visiting Nafisa's grandfather's house yesterday, this correspondent found Kulsum and her uncle Hazrat Ali sitting in a room looking at Nafisa's hospital report, death certificate, and various education certificates.

"Nafisa had studied here [in Savar] until her SSC. She had joined protests at Jahangirnagar University on August 4 with her classmates. The next day, on August 5, she left home around 8:00am. I requested her not to join the movement, but she wouldn't listen," said Nafisa's uncle.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## RAGHUNANDAN HILL IN HABIGANJ

# Illegal sand mining puts forest at risk

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Illegal sand extraction in the Raghunandan Hill Reserve Forest in Habiganj is posing a severe threat to its biodiversity, particularly in areas such as the Satchhari National Park and the surrounding tea gardens, which house diverse flora and fauna.

Locals allege that poor monitoring by the authorities has allowed a group of sand grabbers to use excavators at around 20 locations, including Panchhari. This extraction has intensified soil erosion, heightened the risk of landslides, and damaged local infrastructure, including roads.

Jabed Mia, a local, said the illegal extraction is increasing the vulnerability of tea workers and

others living in the foothills to landslides during rains.

A recent visit to the area revealed visible damage caused by the sand extraction. Excavators were seen in operation over an estimated 20-acre area.

Locals, speaking anonymously, accused an influential figure, Amjat Ullah from Panchhari, and his associates -- Mahfuz Mia, Bablu Mia, Kawsar Mia, and Saidur Rahman -- of leading the operation. They allegedly conduct sand extraction at night to evade detection, threatening anyone who protests against their illegal activities.

Additionally, the smuggling of extracted sand to industrial and construction sites is allegedly carried out by locals including Kalam Mia, Faiz Mia, and Bashir Mia.

Contacted, Amjat Ullah, Mahfuz Mia, Bablu Mia and Kalam Mia acknowledged their involvement in illegal sand mining.

"I am engaged in sand business since it is profitable," said Kalam.

Heavy trucks transporting the sand have worsened local roads, but the Roads and Highways Department has not yet acted, said resident Hasnat Mia.

Haripad Chandra Das, inspector at the Department of Environment in Habiganj, confirmed that about 12 gangs are engaged in illegal sand mining and promised legal action once further investigations are completed.

Chunarughat Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ayesha Akhtar said regular drives are being conducted to curb the illegal activities.

## HATIKUMRUL INTERCHANGE

# Construction work worsens traffic woes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ongoing construction of the Hatikumrul interchange in Sirajganj has recently caused severe gridlock on the highway connecting Dhaka with the northern districts.

The situation worsened over the past few days, particularly on Sunday, as vehicle movement surged due to the return of passengers after the



four-day Durga Puja holidays. The intersection connects 16 northern districts with the capital via the Jamuna Bridge, making it a vital route for thousands of passenger buses daily.

The interchange, once completed, is expected to ease traffic on the four major highways that converge at the intersection, leading to Rajshahi, Rangpur, Pabna, and the Jamuna Bridge.

However, the construction has blocked sections of the road with materials and equipment, causing long standstills during peak hours. "When the number of vehicles increases, traffic comes to a halt for hours," said Md Ishraque Ali, a bus driver on the northern route.

Another driver, Md Rajab Ali, blamed the highway police for not managing the intersection effectively. He alleged that police presence has been lacking since August 4, when a mob attacked the Hatikumrul Highway Police Station, looting weapons and injuring officers.

Although police personnel have resumed work,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



This discarded tyre lies in a puddle and stagnant water accumulates inside it, providing an ideal breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes. Some traders store and sell such tyres in the Signboard area of Narayanganj. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFCL), A Company of Petrobangla
3	Procuring Entity	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFCL)
4	Procuring Entity Code	.....
5	Procuring Entity District	Brahmanbaria
6	Invitation Reference No.	Tender Ref. No. BGFCL/GOODS(FP)/224 Dated October 15, 2024
7	Invitation for	Procurement of Special Tools of Waukesha Gas Engine Model: 16V275GL+
8	Procurement Method	Single stage two-envelope open tendering (International Competitive tendering)
9	Budget & Source of Fund	Own Fund of BGFCL
10	Tender Publication Date	October 16, 2024
11	Tender Selling Date & Time	<p>a) Tender documents will be available between 09:00 hrs &amp; 15:00 hrs (BST) on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from October 17, 2024 to November 27, 2024. No extension in closing date for selling of tender documents will be allowed.</p> <p>b) <b>Place:</b> BGFCL's Liaison office at Petrocentre (14th Floor), 3 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka.</p> <p>c) <b>Price of Tender Document:</b> Tender documents will be sold on payment of USD 20.00 or BDT. 2,400.00 (Non-refundable)</p>
12	Tender Closing Date & Time	<p>a) <b>Date &amp; time:</b> Tender documents will be received on November 28, 2024 up to 11:30 hrs (BST).</p> <p>b) <b>Place:</b> BGFCL Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400.</p>
13	Tender Opening Date & Time	<p>a) <b>Date &amp; time:</b> Tender documents will be opened on November 28, 2024 at 12:00 hrs (BST) in presence of the Tenderer's representatives, if any.</p> <p>b) <b>Place:</b> BGFCL Head Office, Meeting room at 2nd floor, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400.</p>
14	Date, Time & Place for Pre-Tender meeting	Not Applicable
15	Eligibility of Tenderer	Reputed firms, manufacturers and suppliers from all countries except Israel with the following international experience: (a) Overall 05 (five) years of experience. (b) If the tenderer is not the manufacturer himself, the tenderer has to submit the Manufacturer's Authorization Letter from the manufacturer or manufacturer's authorized distributor to prove the quoted materials are genuine. (c) Tenderer shall have experience in supplying similar materials to other than the Tenderer's own country within last 5 (five) years. (d) Offered materials manufacturer shall have minimum 10 (ten) years of experience in manufacturing the same products. (e) Manufacturer shall have valid ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 certificates as well as tenderer shall have valid ISO 9001 certificate..
16	Description of Goods	Special Tools of Waukesha Gas Engine Model: 16V275GL+.
17	Tender Security Amount	USD 3,100.00 or BDT. 3,70,000.00
18	Delivery Time	In the form of Bank Guarantee only 120 days from the date of L/C opening
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Shahidur Rahman Chowdhury
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Technical Services)
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd. (BGFCL), Head Office, Birashar, Brahmanbaria-3400, Bangladesh, Telephone no. 02334428141 E-mail: prbgfcl@gmail.com/dgmpf@bgfcl.org.bd
22	Special Information	<p>i) Tenders must remain valid for 120 (one hundred twenty) days from the date of closing of the tender.</p> <p>ii) The tender security must remain valid for 148 (one hundred forty eight) days from the date of closing of the tender.</p> <p>iii) In case of any unavoidable circumstances such as strike, civil commotion, Govt. declared holiday, etc. tender will be received and opened on the following working day.</p> <p>iv) Tender(s) submitted after the deadline for receiving of tenders will be rejected and returned unopened to the tenderer.</p> <p>v) Tender submitted by e-mail will be rejected. Likewise photocopy of e-mailed tenders will also be rejected.</p> <p>vi) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all tenders or annul the tendering process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected tenderers.</p> <p>vii) This tender will be conducted as per the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rule 2008. The aforesaid notice is also available at CPTU website @ http:// www.cptu.gov.bd. Petrobangla website @ www.petrobangla.org.bd and BGFCI website @ www.bgfcl.org.bd</p>

28.10.1213.876.09.059.24, FP  
(11"x4 কলাম)

GD-710

Dr. Mohammad Mofizur Rahman  
Deputy Director  
(Deputy Secretary)  
E-mail: dd.gpp@dpp.gov.bd

15/10/2024  
Engr. Md. Shahidur Rahman Chowdhury  
General Manager (Technical Services)

**Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation (BSEC)**

A State-Owned Enterprise Under Ministry of Industries, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Address- BSEC Bhaban, 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215

Phone: 02-48110427

E-Mail: bsecheadoffice@gmail.com

বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
অস্তর্জিত কর্মসূল  
লেন সংস্থা বাহিনী

বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ সরকার

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

আস্তর্জিত অপরাধ ট্রাইবুনাল, তদন্ত সংস্থা

১১/এ কর্মসূল ফরহাদ সড়ক, বাড়ী নং-৮৭

ধানমন্ডি আবাসিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২০৯।

www.ictbdiinvestigation.gov.bd

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী

০১ জুলাই থেকে ০৫ আগস্ট ২০২৪ সময়কালে বৈষম্য বিরোধী ছাত্র জনতার আবেদন দমনের লক্ষ্যে তকনোলীয় সরকারের বিভিন্ন বাহিনী এবং বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ নেতৃত্বাধীন জোড়াকূক দলসমূহ, সহযোগী সংগঠন, অনুগত বা নিয়ন্ত্রিত অবেদ্ধ অস্তর্জিত, অপরাধী ব্যক্তি বা গোষ্ঠী কর্তৃপক্ষ সংস্থাটি হত্যাকার, গুরত্বপূর্ণ জখম, অয়স্যসহযোগ, বৃত্তরাজ এবং অন্যান্য অপরাধ সংক্রান্তে কানো কোন তথ্য, ডকুমেন্ট, ছবি, অডিওভিডিও ক্লিপ ইত্যাদি থাকল তা উক্ত অপরাধ প্রমাণের জন্য ব্যবহার করার লক্ষ্যে তদন্ত সংস্থা, আস্তর্জিত অপরাধ ট্রাইবুনাল, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা অফিস মোকাবীয় করার জন্য সর্বসাধারণের প্রতি বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে। এ সংক্রান্তে প্রয়োজনীয় শোপনীয়তা রক্ষণ করা হচ্ছে।

## যোগাযোগ :

ই-মেইলঃ coordinator@ictbdiinvestigation.gov.bd

অবস্থা

মোবাইল ফোন নং (অফিস চলাকোনা সময়ে)

০১৭১-৯০৫৬০৩, ০১৬১-৯০৫৬০৩

মো. মাজহারুল হক, পিপিএম

কো-অর্ডিনেটর

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নৌপরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়

নৌশিক্ষা ও প্রশিক্ষণ শাখা

বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

www.mos.gov.bd

তারিখ: ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ খ্রি।  
তারিখ: ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ খ্রি।  
নম্বর: ১৮,০০,০০০০,০১৭,২২,০০৩,২৪-২২৭

## নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নৌপরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন বাংলাদেশ সেবিন একাডেমি, চট্টগ্রাম, পাবনা, বরিশাল, সিলেট এবং রংপুরের রাজস্ব খাতৰুক্ত নিয়োগী ছাত্রী/অস্থায়ী পদসমূহে অস্থায়ীভাবে সেবানুর নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে পদের পাশে বর্ণিত শর্তে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে অনলাইনে (<http://mos.teletalk.com.bd> অয়েবাসাইটে) দরবার্খাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন ক্ষেত্র (জা.বি. ক্ষেত্র, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	বয়সসীমা	পদের সংখ্যা	প্রয়োজনীয় মোগ্যতা
১	২	৩	৪	৫
১.	কোর্মান গ্রেড-১১ টাকা ১২,৫০০-৩০,২৩০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৪ (চার) টি	কোনো শীকৃত ইনসিটিউট হতে যাত্রিক, শক্তি কৌশল, সিলিন বা অটোমোবাইল প্রক্রিয়াশে ০৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা।
২.	ইনসিটিউট অপারেটর গ্রেড-১১ টাকা ১২,৫০০-৩০,২৩০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৫ (পাঁচ) টি	কোনো শীকৃত ইনসিটিউট হতে ইনসিটিউশন টেকনোলজি-তে ৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা।
৩.	হিসাবকরক গ্রেড-১৪ টাকা ১০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৪ (চার) টি	ক. কোনো শীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্য অনুষ্ঠানকৃত কোন বিষয়ে অনুন্নতিক্রমী বা সমানুর সিলিপিএ-তে মাত্রক বা সমানুর ডিপ্লোম; খ. কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে অনুন্নত ৬ (ছয়) মাস মেয়াদি বেসিক কম্পিউটার প্রোগ্রামাশৃঙ্খল।
৪.	ড্রাইভস্যামান গ্রেড-১৪ টাকা ১০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৫ (পাঁচ) টি	কোনো শীকৃত ইনসিটিউট হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোম।
৫.	সট্যুডিও-কাম-কম্পিউটার অ্যাপেটর গ্রেড-১৪ টাকা ১০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	১৭ (সতের) টি	(ক) কোন শীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অনুন্নত বিভাগীয় শ্রেণী বা সমানুর সিলিপিএতে মাত্রক বা সমানুর ডিপ্লোম; (খ) কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষতা; (গ) সট্যুডিও সেবনার গতি প্রতি মিনিটে বাংলা-৪৫ শব্দ, ইংরেজি-৭০ শব্দ থাকতে হবে; (ঘ) কম্পিউটার মুদ্রাকর-এ সবসিন গতি (প্রতি মিনিটে) বাংলা-২৫ শব্দ, ইংরেজি-৩০ শব্দ থাকতে হবে; (ঙ) কম্পিউটারে ওয়ার্ক প্রেসিসিং, ই-মেইল, ফ্লাই মেশিন ইত্যাদি চালনার দক্ষতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
৬.	চিকিৎসা সহকারী গ্রেড-১৪ টাকা ১০,২০০-২৪,৬৮০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	৮ (চার) টি	ক. কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে বাণিজ্যিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা ইনসিটিউট হতে কোর্স সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ডিপ্লোম প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট; খ. সংশ্লিষ্ট শেখান অনুন্নত ১ (এক) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।
৭.	রেফিউজেটর মেকানিক গ্রেড-১৫ টাকা ৯,৭০০-২৩,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৫ (পাঁচ) টি	কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে উচ্চ উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট।
৮.	মেশিনিস্ট গ্রেড-১৫ টাকা ৯,৭০০-২৩,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৪ (চার) টি	কোনো শীকৃত ব্যবহার করে বাণিজ্যিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট।
৯.	মেকানিক গ্রেড-১৫ টাকা ৯,৭০০-২৩,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৪ (চার) টি	কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে উচ্চ উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট।
১০.	ইনসিটিউট মেকানিক গ্রেড-১৫ টাকা ৯,৭০০-২৩,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৫ (পাঁচ) টি	ক. কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে-হস- অ. কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট; বা. আ. "এ" বা "বি" শ্রেণির তত্ত্ব লাইসেন্স; বি. ই. প্রযোক ড্রেড লাইসেন্সের অধিকারী হিসাবে অনুন্নত ৩ (তিনি) বৎসরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।
১১.	ইলেক্ট্রিক ফিটার গ্রেড-১৫ টাকা ৯,৭০০-২৩,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৫ (পাঁচ) টি	ক. কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে-হস- অ. কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট।
১২.	মোটর ড্রাইভার গ্রেড-১৫ টাকা ৯,৭০০-২৩,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০১ (এক) টি	কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে ড্রেড কোর্স সার্টিফিকেট।
১৩.	গুদাম রক্ষক গ্রেড-১৬ টাকা ৯,৩০০-২২,৯৪০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৪ (চার) টি	ক. কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে-হস- খ. কোনো শীকৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে অনুন্নত ৬ (ছয়) মাস মেয়াদি বেসিক কম্পিউটার প্রোগ্রামাশৃঙ্খল।
১৪.	হিট প্রিমেয়ে ওয়েজের/স্লাইথ গ্রেড-১৭ টাকা ৯,০০০-২১,৮০০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বৎসর	০৪ (চার) টি	ক. কোনো শীকৃত নেটওর্ক হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক সার্টিফিকেট বা সমানুর প্রার্থীকায় উত্তীর্ণে-হস- খ. প্রযোক প্রেসিসিং লাইসেন্সের অধিকারী হিসাবে অনুন্নত

## INTERNATIONAL

## Israel's plan to respond to Iran attack is ready: source

CNN ONLINE

Israel's plan to respond to Iran's October 1 attack is ready, a source familiar with the matter told CNN, without providing further information.

CNN has reached out to the Israeli ministry of defense for comment.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, have assured the US that a counterstrike on Iran would be limited to military targets rather than oil or nuclear facilities, according to a source.

Iran launched dozens of missiles toward Israel in retaliation for the killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh and others. Netanyahu had vowed Iran would "pay" for the attack.

Meanwhile, Iran's atomic energy agency spokesperson Behrouz Kamalvandi said yesterday the probability of an attack on Iran's nuclear sites remains low but any potential damage would be "quickly compensated".

**SIKH KILLING**  
Clear signs India violated Canada's sovereignty  
Says Trudeau

AFP, Ottawa

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday there were "clear indications" that India had violated Canadian sovereignty, as the countries row over the killing of a Sikh separatist on Canadian soil last year that Ottawa blamed on New Delhi.

Trudeau's latest charge came two days after India and Canada expelled each other's ambassadors as Ottawa alleged that Indian involvement in a campaign against Sikh separatists went beyond what was previously known.

Tensions have soared since Canada accused the Indian government of involvement in last year's killing outside a Sikh temple of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, an advocate for an independent Sikh state who had immigrated to Canada and become a citizen.

At a hearing on foreign interference on Wednesday, Trudeau addressed Nijjar's murder, as well as what he termed a broader campaign by Indian government representatives targeting Canadian citizens inside Canada.

## A firebrand politician falls silent

FROM PAGE 1  
She died from a cardiac arrest in a hospital in the capital yesterday at the age of 82.

After earning the moniker "Agni Kanya" (daughter of fire) in the mid-60s due to her rousing speeches during the movements leading up to the Liberation War, Matia had become a household name.

She played a significant role in organising the war, and was also at the forefront in leading the mass uprising against military dictator HM Ershad.

In her six-decade long illustrious political career, Matia made history by becoming the first female president of a student organisation -- the leftist Bangladesh Chhatra Union, backed by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) -- and serving as a general secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU).

She switched from the Marxist National Awami Party (NAP) to the nationalist Awami League, and became a lawmaker and a cabinet member later on.

Throughout her life, she remained uncompromising in her integrity and maintained a reputation for honesty. Even amid the toxic political culture of the country, Matia commanded



Palestinian children queue to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. The UN Palestinian refugee agency is close to a possible breaking point for its operations in the Gaza Strip due to increasingly complicated conditions, its head said yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Pak calls for expansion of BRI at SCO summit

Indian FM supports regional cooperation but stresses mutual respect as well as territorial integrity

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif yesterday called for the expansion of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to enhance regional cooperation at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Islamabad.

He was addressing a heads of government meeting of the SCO, a Eurasian security and political group formed in 2001, being attended by officials from 11 countries, including host Pakistan, China, Russia and India.

Flagship projects like the Belt and Road Initiative of President Xi Jinping... should be expanded focusing on developing road, rail and digital infrastructure that enhances integration and cooperation across our region," Sharif said in his speech as the chair of the meeting.

The BRI is a \$1 trillion plan for global infrastructure and energy networks that China launched a decade ago to connect Asia with Africa and Europe through land and maritime routes. More than 150 countries, including Russia, have

signed up to participate in BRI since Xi unveiled it. Also in attendance was India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, who is the first Indian foreign minister to visit Pakistan in nearly a decade with ties between the nuclear-armed rival neighbours continuing to be frosty.

No bilateral meeting has been planned, both sides have said, although Sharif and Jaishankar did have a short talk when the Indian official attended a dinner hosted by the premier last night.

Jaishankar, in his speech at the meeting, congratulated Pakistan on the presidency of the SCO's Heads of Government Council and extended India's "full support" to Islamabad.

He said India supported regional cooperation but added that mutual respect as well as territorial integrity and sovereignty were essential.

"If activities across borders are characterized by terrorism, extremism and separatism, they are hardly likely to encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges in parallel," he said in his speech.



1.4m apply to join army  
Says North Korea amid tensions with South

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korean state media said yesterday around 1.4 million young people had applied to join or return to the army this week, blaming Seoul for a provocative drone incursion that had brought the "tense situation to the brink of war".

The fiery rhetoric comes after North Korea last week accused Seoul of sending drones over Pyongyang that scattered a "huge number" of anti-North leaflets. The North then blew up inter-Korean roads and rail lines on its side of the border.

The young people were determined to fight in a "sacred war of destroying the enemy with the arms of the revolution," the official KCNA news agency said.

Russia launches 130 drones over Ukraine: Kyiv  
Industrial facility hit

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched one of its largest drone salvos at Ukraine in recent months, targeting Kyiv and other cities and igniting a fire at an industrial facility in the western region of Ternopil, officials said yesterday.

Air defences shot down 51 of 136 drones used in the attack, the air force said in its readout. Twenty drones were still in the air and 60 were unaccounted for, possibly after being intercepted by electronic warfare systems, it added.

Almost 50 firefighters put out a "large-scale fire" in the Ternopil region, the military administration wrote on the Telegram messaging app. "There were no injuries," it said.

The air force said Russia also fired two missiles at the northern Chernihiv and eastern Donetsk regions, but did say what happened to them. There was no immediate comment from Russia on its latest strike. The drone attack caused a fire at a private residence in the region outside the capital and damaged several other buildings, according to governor Ruslan Kravchenko.

FREEDOM HOUSE REPORT  
Myanmar, China have lowest internet freedom

AFP, Washington

Myanmar and China have the world's worst internet freedom, with declines reported in a number of other countries led by Kyrgyzstan, a study said yesterday.

The further deterioration in Myanmar, a Beijing ally where the military seized power in 2021, marks the first time in a decade that any country has matched China for the lowest score in the Freedom on the Net report.

The report by Freedom House, a pro-democracy research group funded by the US Congress but run independently, found that internet freedom fell for the 14th straight year globally, with more countries seeing declines than rises.

In Myanmar, the junta has harshly cracked down on dissent since ending a decade-long experiment in democracy, with systematic censorship and surveillance of online speech.

Freedom House pointed to new measures imposed by the junta in May to block access to virtual private networks (VPNs).

China has developed a sweeping "great firewall" meant to root out content that poses a threat to the ruling Communist Party.

Asked about the report yesterday, Beijing insisted its people "enjoy various rights and freedoms in accordance with the law".

## Five police units

FROM PAGE 2

Despite the major reshuffle in the top positions, the Special Branch, Industrial Police, and Tourist Police are functioning without Addl IGP who head the units.

The Special Branch is without a chief as Shah Alam retired on October 3. The Industrial Police has

## AL says it's bid to kill spirit

FROM PAGE 2

The state apparatus is being misused to suppress pro-liberation forces, and mass arrests are being made in false charges," the statement read.

It stated that the greatest achievement of the Bangalees is the establishment of an independent and sovereign Bangladesh under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The contributions of his trusted colleagues, his family, and the freedom-loving people to this end are immense.

"But we can see that individuals

been without a head since August 22 when Mahbubur Rahman was sent into forced retirement. The Tourist Police has been without a boss since September 2 when Mir Rezaul Alam was asked to retire.

The Highway Police had been without a chief since October 9 when Shahabuddin Khan was forced to retire.

and institutions related to the liberation struggle are being subjected to the government's vengeance. In continuation of that, the government is excluding the national days related to the father of the nation and national history. The party strongly condemns such decisions.

"The nation rejects any attempt to erase the history of Bangalees by creating division ... Imbibed by the spirit of the Liberation War, the people will unite to give a fitting response to such actions," the statement added.

## Egg prices dip slightly

FROM PAGE 12

market resumed sales on Tuesday night after a two-day pause.

Wishing anonymity, a staffer of Al Amin Traders, an egg wholesale outlet, yesterday said that they would not sell eggs during the day for fear of being fined by mobile courts.

"The leaders of the Tejgaon Egg Merchants' Association have instructed us to sell eggs only between midnight and early morning," the staffer told The Daily Star.

The shop, however, was selling eggs exclusively to its regular customers.

Another shop, Alamgir Traders, was seen selling 100 eggs for Tk 1,250-Tk 1,400, up from the government-fixed rate of Tk 1,100.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mohammad Amanat Ullah, former president of the Tejgaon Egg Merchants' Association, said they

could not sell eggs at the government-fixed prices due to high purchase costs.

"We sold 100 eggs for Tk 1,220-1,230. We have reached a consensus with four major farms, the government, and the other stakeholders on bringing down the prices. As per the consensus, the two farms will supply 20 lakh eggs to the wholesale egg markets every day -- 10 lakh to Tejgaon and 10 lakh to Kaptan Bazar," said Amanat Ullah.

He said the supply is supposed to begin within a day or two. "Once we receive the supplies, we will start selling eggs at the prices fixed by the government."

Stating that the daily demand for eggs in the capital is about 1 crore, Amanat Ullah said 12 more companies have promised to supply eggs to the wholesalers.

## Shakib to return today for his Test swansong

FROM PAGE 12  
adviser Asif Mahmud and the Bangladesh Cricket Board showing a more welcoming approach, eventually culminating in Shakib being named in the 15-member squad for the opening Test which was announced yesterday.

Selector Hannan Sarkar informed that they have picked Shakib only for the first Test, and not for the second Test, which will start in Chattogram on October 29.

"We all know that Shakib will retire from the Mirpur Test. There is nothing

more about the second Test," Hannan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Later, in a video message, Hannan expressed hope that the talismanic all-rounder, who has served Bangladesh for more than 18 years, would make his mark in his farewell Test.

"We know that there was a government issue as well as an issue of the cricket board. We tried to take clearance from everywhere before selecting him. When the cricket board gives clearance that a player is available, then we make the selection

procedure," Hannan said. "It's a matter of great joy that such type of a cricketer can retire from Mirpur, which we also call 'home of cricket'. It's a great moment for him as a player and for the people of Bangladesh."

It will be the first homecoming of Shakib since the fall of the Awami League government on August 5.

The last time Shakib came to Bangladesh was after the end of the T20 World Cup in late June but after a short stay, he left for USA on July 2. The all-rounder then travelled

to Pakistan in August to represent Bangladesh in a two-match Test series, which the Tigers won by 2-0 margin. Shakib flew from the UK to India last month for a two-match Test series against the hosts, where he announced his retirement plans and spoke of his security concerns before the second Test.

The all-rounder, who played 71 Tests, scoring 4609 runs and taking 246 wickets so far, left India for the USA after a 2-0 defeat in the Test series.

## Take steps to ensure our food security

Extreme weather events are affecting food supplies

As the country struggles with soaring food prices, the government's response so far has largely focused on addressing immediate challenges through various measures, including price caps, import tariff reductions, efforts to cut middlemen from the supply chain, etc. If properly executed, these initiatives will offer some relief, but there are larger factors posing threats to our food security that demand equal attention. This is according to a report by this daily that highlighted how extreme weather events are causing a chain reaction that is proving harder to recover from. These events have caused massive agricultural and financial losses as well as production shortfalls which, combined with supply chain disruptions and manipulations, are jeopardising food supplies and driving up prices.

Since May 2023, Bangladesh has experienced more than a dozen extreme weather events—four cyclones, nine incidents of flooding, and multiple spells of heavy rains, heatwaves, and cold waves. These events have severely affected farmers as well as overall crop production, with the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) estimating the damage of four to 15 percent of crops in seven to 50 districts. For example, the two recent floods in Chattogram, Sylhet, and Mymensingh divisions damaged an estimated yield of about 10 lakh tonnes of Aman just before the plants were to flower. The unprecedented flooding in the eastern region in August-September was also quite damaging, with the agriculture and forestry sector alone suffering a loss of Tk 5,169.71 crore. Through these floods and Cyclone Remal in 2024, the DAE estimates that the total damage to crops amounted to Tk 6,968.95 crore.

Because of these losses, experts fear that the government's crop production target for this year may not be achieved, which only means further risks to our food security. The question is, how do we minimise the impact of extreme weather events on our agricultural production and food supplies? Given the current trend of climate change, these events will likely grow in number and frequency in the coming years, so the government must plan accordingly. True, Bangladesh has decades of experience in dealing with natural disasters, but we must align our disaster response with our agricultural goals to ensure that our food security is not threatened under any circumstances.

Experts have recommended various measures that can help us—and our farmers—which deserve careful consideration. For example, they have urged the government to consider reducing import duties on essential agricultural commodities, including farm inputs. Ensuring uninterrupted access to agricultural loans, seeds, and fertilisers for farmers is crucial as they are at the centre of our food security. We also should adopt more resilient crop varieties that can withstand extreme weather, and enhance our early warning system. These are just some of the measures that can be taken considering the gravity of the challenge facing us.

## Create opportunities for educated youth

Education and private-sector reforms vital to address job crisis

The World Bank's latest report on Bangladesh draws a grim picture of the country's employment scenario, especially among the tertiary-educated youth. It shows that the unemployment rate has tripled among graduates in the last nine years. Moreover, job losses and wage cuts may push nearly 12 lakh people below the poverty line this year.

The report points to the lack of job creation in the formal private sector as a major reason for joblessness among the educated youth. Even the readymade garment sector—which generates nearly half of the country's total firm revenues—provides only 1 out of every 12 formal private sector jobs. While employment stagnation in large industries is a crucial factor, many employers also do not find the skills they look for among the graduates. Unfortunately, we have not seen any significant shift in our education policy to produce graduates with up-to-date and industry-specific skills. Over the years, private and public tertiary educational institutions have mushroomed without much thought as to the demands of the local and global industries.

Obtaining a tertiary-level degree remains largely a path to social status, rather than one to help in a specific career. There is also little encouragement for the educated youth to become entrepreneurs. Too many bureaucratic obstacles, combined with financial constraints, corruption, nepotism, and political instability, are also discouraging entrepreneurial pursuits. These also prevent small and medium enterprises from expanding and creating lucrative job opportunities for the educated youth. The employment situation is even worse for female graduates, as per the WB report. It is, therefore, not a surprise that a large section of graduates look for government jobs that offer better security and benefits.

Unfortunately, government jobs absorb only less than five percent of the total workforce, and as such, cannot be the solution for our unemployment crisis. We have recently written about this issue while discussing the recommendation to increase the entry age limit for jobs in the public sector. While this may address some concerns among the educated youth, providing them with upskilling opportunities in collaboration with industries would be the better way to tackle the perennial unemployment problem. In the long run, the objective should be to initiate reforms that lead to job creation in the private sector, encourage entrepreneurship, and restructure the education system to better prepare graduates and align their skills with the demands of employers.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Benazir Bhutto returns from exile

On this day in 2007, after eight years of self-imposed exile, Benazir Bhutto—who, as two-time prime minister of Pakistan, was the first woman leader of a Muslim nation in modern history—returned to her home country, and hours later she was nearly killed when her motorcade was bombed in Karachi; she was assassinated in December.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

# Poverty reduction requires long-term solutions



Dr Khondaker Golam Moazzem  
is research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). He can be reached at moazzem@cpd.org.bd.

KHONDAKER GOLAM MOAZZEM

Events like the Covid pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war are completely unexpected for developing economies like ours, and we are not prepared for such events in advance. As a result, these occurrences affect the economy in various ways, which leads to a risk of more people falling below the poverty line. Right after the Covid outbreak in 2020, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) put forward some assessments mentioning that poverty had risen. However, the latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES 2022) shows the proportion of the population below the poverty threshold to be 18.7 percent. At the time of the survey, the Russia-Ukraine war had just broken out. As it continued, it had an impact at the global level, which is why our import costs increased. Consequently, the availability and prices of essential food items, which are import-dependent, went up. That impact continued and resulted in high inflation, which reduced real income for people. So, it's not surprising that more people are at risk of falling below the poverty line.

We may not have the exact data on poverty right now, but it is likely increasing, and it is not unexpected. Over the past year, there has been persistent high inflation, limited job opportunities, slower growth in export-oriented industries and then, more recently, political instability. When we consider all these factors together, there is a significant risk of more people falling below the poverty line.

In terms of statistics, what we need is reliable data to understand whether more people have indeed fallen below the poverty line. The latest data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is from 2022 and outdated; it shows that the proportion of population below the poverty line decreased to 18.7 percent (roughly 32 lakh) from 24.3 percent in 2016, which was an improvement. We know that the previous government tried to expand the coverage of social safety net programmes (SSNPs), despite some shortcomings and weaknesses.



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

At least there has been a gradual expansion in areas like food aid, financial support, and increased work opportunities. Per the HIES 2022, about 37.6 percent of the population under the poverty line benefited from the SSNPs. So, that was a significant achievement during that time.

However, there were also complaints that many people who did not actually qualify for SSNPs were included due to their political connections while some eligible individuals were left out.

Our own research showed that about one-third of the population enrolled in SSNPs weren't eligible, but they were included due to political favour or connection to the local ruling party leaders and administration. So, as poverty rises, expanding the social safety nets could be an initial step. But we also must remember that poverty has various dimensions and characteristics, so the same strategy may not work everywhere. For instance, poverty rates are higher in three particular regions—Barishal, Mymensingh and Rangpur—compared to the national average of 18.7 percent. In Barishal, it's nearly 26.9 percent, in Mymensingh 24.2 percent, and in Rangpur 24.7 percent. These poverty pockets need to be specifically addressed. Instead of distributing aid

Providing one-time food aid is not enough for them; they need something more sustainable, such as job-related training or skills education, so they can access work opportunities throughout the year. Younger individuals, particularly those aged between 15 and 30 years, are also more likely to be poor because they lack experience, skills and market networks. Therefore, it's important to create work opportunities for this group and help them avoid unemployment.

In addition, there are various minority communities, vulnerable groups and people with disabilities who face societal discrimination and mistreatment, which also increases their risk of falling into poverty. Targeted initiatives for these groups are necessary as it is difficult to reach these populations solely through general SSNPs like financial aid or food support.

Our previous research showed that even the allocations for these target populations were often insufficient, which means they receive only small amounts that don't meet their needs. If we truly want to sustainably lift them out of poverty, we need to provide them with access to employment, training and other such opportunities, while addressing the mistreatment they face

in areas like education and healthcare. These systematic, long-term strategies should guide us in reducing poverty over time.

In terms of immediate relief, the government is already working within the existing structure, offering food assistance or employment programmes. The government has around 142 SSNPs, such as benefits for disabled individuals, lactating mothers, freedom fighters, and the elderly. However, these programmes have two major weaknesses: their coverage is limited, and the financial support provided is very small. For example, some programmes offer only Tk 500-600 per month, but if the price of rice is Tk 60 per kg, Tk 600 would only buy 10 kg of rice. For a family of four that consumes two kg per day, this rice would last just five days. This equation shows how inadequate the assistance is.

If the government wants to act immediately, they could expand the coverage and increase the allocations within the existing programmes, focusing on specific target populations like those in certain geographic areas or sectors of employment, such as agriculture or transport workers, where poverty rates are higher. However, the government faces a challenge because financial resources are limited and the food reserves are relatively low.

One strategy can be to reduce leakage in these programmes. A recent study showed that about 30 percent of resources allocated to social safety nets are lost due to inefficiencies or corruption. If this leakage can be addressed, these resources could be redistributed to reach more people.

Governments often tend to focus on immediate needs, which is understandable, but we also need to ensure that long-term poverty reduction efforts are being developed parallelly. This should be a priority for the government, and even interim or caretaker governments must keep long-term plans in mind while addressing immediate needs.

I hope that the committees currently working on poverty alleviation will provide guidance to the government on both short-term and long-term strategies. There is also a talk of wage policies and future planning, and the government is considering taking action in these areas. The committees working on these issues should incorporate both short-term relief and long-term solutions into their recommendations.

## To achieve progress, we need bureaucracy-academia synergy



Dr Mohammad Kamrul Hasan  
is a public administration researcher and practitioner. He can be reached at mkmiraz@gmail.com.

MOHAMMAD KAMRUL HASAN

Sound partnership between bureaucracy and academia is essential for establishing a strong governance framework. Bureaucracy, frequently regarded as the driving force behind policy execution, provides practical administrative experience, while academia offers research-driven insights and innovative concepts. Enhancing this partnership is crucial for fostering informed decision-making, effective policy execution, and comprehensive national advancement.

Bureaucrats are tasked with the implementation of laws, formulation of policies, management of public services, and supervision of national development initiatives. They act as intermediaries between political authorities and the citizenry, ensuring that government efforts yield concrete results.

Unfortunately, government jobs absorb only less than five percent of the total workforce, and as such, cannot be the solution for our unemployment crisis. We have recently written about this issue while discussing the recommendation to increase the entry age limit for jobs in the public sector. While this may address some concerns among the educated youth, providing them with upskilling opportunities in collaboration with industries would be the better way to tackle the perennial unemployment problem. In the long run, the objective should be to initiate reforms that lead to job creation in the private sector, encourage entrepreneurship, and restructure the education system to better prepare graduates and align their skills with the demands of employers.

and evidence-based approaches. Bureaucrats, who frequently depend on anecdotal evidence or political mandates, stand to gain significantly from the data, analyses, and research produced by academics. Conversely, academics can acquire valuable insights into the operational challenges and limitations encountered by bureaucratic entities, resulting in research that is more grounded in reality. Free from the daily operational pressures of governance, academics are positioned to think creatively and propose innovative solutions to national challenges. Bureaucrats can then tailor these innovations to fit local contexts, ensuring their practicality and feasibility.

In Bangladesh, while the benefits of collaboration between bureaucracy and academia are clear, several obstacles have emerged as well. There is a notable absence of formal mechanisms that promote consistent engagement between bureaucrats and academics. Often, any collaborative efforts that do take place are irregular and unstructured, which diminishes their overall impact. Importantly, the academic community in Bangladesh, similar to many other nations, tends to be detached from practical issues. Researchers may engage in theoretical inquiries that don't necessarily yield practical solutions for policymakers. Concurrently, bureaucratic entities frequently function within a closed

framework, where hierarchical systems and strict protocols restrict outside engagement. Additionally, academics typically adopt a long-term perspective, concentrating on systemic challenges, whereas bureaucrats are often motivated by immediate objectives, such as executing the current government's policies. This disparity can also obstruct effective collaboration.

Global evidence underscores the necessity for such partnerships. For example, in the United States, the collaboration between government and academia has a rich history, particularly through think tanks like the Brookings Institution, RAND Corporation, and the Heritage Foundation. These organisations serve as intermediaries, offering research-driven policy recommendations that connect academic insights with bureaucratic needs.

For example, the RAND Corporation has significantly shaped US policies in areas such as defence, education, health and labour through its data-driven research and analysis. South Korea, too, exemplifies a successful model of governance and economic advancement that is closely linked to institutional collaboration between bureaucracy and academia. The Korea Development Institute (KDI) stands out as a key institution, established to deliver research-informed guidance to the government on critical issues including economic growth, industrialisation and educational reform.

Drawing from global experiences and local contexts, we can formulate specific strategies. Bangladesh might consider establishing formal channels for continuous dialogue between bureaucracy and academia. This could take the shape of joint committees, policy think tanks or task forces that unite both sectors to address particular national issues. Additionally,

the creation of independent or semi-autonomous research institutions that act as intermediaries between academia and bureaucracy could facilitate ongoing collaboration. Such think tanks would provide evidence-based recommendations for policymaking while maintaining political impartiality. Moreover, the establishment of dedicated policy research units within bureaucratic agencies would further institutionalise the partnership with academia. The existing Reform Management and Policy Research Unit of the government should be effectively implemented across all ministries, receiving the necessary attention it deserves.

The government has the opportunity to finance collaborative research projects that unite bureaucratic institutions and universities. Such projects would promote teamwork on critical national issues. Establishing knowledge hubs or centres of excellence where academic and bureaucratic entities work together on research, policy formulation and innovation would also cultivate a spirit of partnership. These centres could act as venues for policy discussions, joint research efforts, and the sharing of knowledge. Furthermore, government agencies and funding organisations could motivate academic researchers to engage in policy-relevant studies by providing grants, accolades, and recognition for research that aids national development.

In Bangladesh, the synergy between bureaucracy and academia holds significant promise for advancing national progress. By leveraging the unique strengths of both sectors, the nation can formulate more effective policies and stimulate innovation. Enhancing this collaboration will not only improve governance quality but also support sustainable national development in Bangladesh.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Benazir Bhutto returns from exile

On this day in 2007, after eight years of self-imposed exile, Benazir Bhutto—who, as two-time prime minister of Pakistan, was the first woman leader of a Muslim nation in modern history—returned to her home country, and hours later she was nearly killed when her motorcade was bombed in Karachi; she was assassinated in December.



## ESSAY

# Han Kang's Nobel Prize win could not have come at a more significant time



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

RAIAN ABEDIN

As of writing this article, the official death count in the Palestinian genocide has surpassed 42 thousand lives. In my room, I quietly sit and read excerpts from Han Kang's *The Vegetarian* (Portobello Books, 2015) in celebration of her winning the Nobel Prize in Literature. These two events share nothing in common, but they are connected—if only in the loosest sense.

Writers, to me, are either never capable or willing to dive deep into the violence entrenched in our humanity.

For sure, many have attempted, but few manage to put the cruelty of our existence so starkly on display. This "humanity" that we are all a part of has led to horrific events, it has led to ongoing genocides and state-sponsored killings everywhere. And when I look at writers addressing the issue, very rarely do I find them succeeding in connecting our history to our grief, to our desire, to transcend it all. This is perhaps why it feels so completely justified for Han Kang's literature to win such an award in what has been one of the darkest years in our history.

This is the perfect time for everyone to sit still and contemplate the nature of cruelty and ask ourselves if that is what connects us as a species.

Born in Gwangju, a 10-year-old Han had to witness as the South Korean military butchered, raped, and tortured its own people—innocent university students and regular citizens alike—in what became known as the Gwangju Uprising. In her interviews, she has addressed the violence of the massacre and the deafening, outrageous silence that followed in her soft-spoken voice that betrays a wound she has

carried ever since. While *Human Acts* (Portobello, 2016) is perhaps the most explicit demonstration of this wound—her literature is seeped deep into it.

In all four of her books that are currently available in English, Han meditates on grief that comes from the world around us, from the systems that exploit or oppress us, and from our own birth. 'Aching prose' is not a phrase I use lightly when I describe her work, and yet even that doesn't cover exactly how I feel about her words.

The first time I ever read *The Vegetarian*, I was roughly 16. It's difficult for me to forget that experience—the extreme violence that hid so neatly under her simple prose. What had this author seen for her to write like this? I wondered. More than that, however, I questioned what the book was really about. Split into three parts, the increasing uncertainty of the narrative filled me with a sense of surreal beauty mixed with dread. By the time the final pages had come along, the book ceased to make any sense to me.

It was only after re-reading it a whole year later that I managed to absorb more meaning out of it. The story of *The Vegetarian* follows Yeong-hye who, upon having a nightmare of human beings and their cruelty, decides to stop eating meat. The results are devastating for her family and the culture they've built for themselves around the consumption of meat. This is the foundation Kang uses to explore the idea of removing oneself from the violence that very much has defined humanity in so many ways. The systems of oppression, the cultural normality of violence, and the passive ways we all allow them to exist—the book does not attempt to answer questions regarding any of these. If anything, it seems to beg the reader to see and to wonder if this violence is what defines us.

Her poetic style of prose is, again, on full display in *The White Book*

(Portobello Books, 2017) — the collection of poems that work not just as an obituary but as a meditation on the nature of violent grief birthed from innocence lost. It's a sobering read, and as the story of *The White Book* chronicles the life of Han in tandem with the death of her sister, I am left with a single question: How does our guilt intertwine with our grief?

At no point in her literature (at least, in the ones that are available in English) does Han Kang attempt to answer the questions she raises, nor does she really find closure to explain her grief away. In many ways, I see this as a resolution within herself. The author cannot answer for humanity's cruelty, so she carries the grief that comes with it as a reminder. It is only due to these reminders that she is able to meditate, time and again, on the nature of violence that resides in us. In a weird way, I think what she has arrived at is what I would call the true essence of our humanity: hope, despite the terror.

After the news came out of her win, Han Kang took a clear stance in not holding a press conference or celebrating her prize. In her own words, "With the war intensifying and people being carried out dead every day, how can we have a celebration or a press conference?"

Today, the meditations on grief, on histories of violence, and of our tendencies to carry it all with us feel more important than ever. This is not merely a moment of celebration, though it needs to be noted that Han Kang is the first Asian woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature. Her win works as a reminder that we must carry on, with the horrors all around us acknowledged and accepted. It is only then that we can fight.

Raian Abedin is a poet, a student of Biochemistry, and a contributor to The Daily Star.

## 'Huckleberry Finn' through THE EYES OF JIM

A review of 'James' (Doubleday, 2024) by Percival Everett

SHAHRIAR SHAAMS

Everett's breezy, fast moving retelling of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) is about putting in some due respect. *James*, shortlisted for the 2024 Booker Prize, is a play of language, an account of the power of words. Written as a first-person account of the runaway slave Jim from Twain's novel, Everett reimagines the enslaved population in antebellum America to be putting on an act. The "slave-talk" that we associate with them is merely

**James flees at the start of the novel when he hears rumours he will be sold off and finds Huckleberry on the run too, who had heard his abusive father has returned to town. The both of them grow friendly.**

a disguise to ward off white people's suspicions. Jim is not the mild-mannered stereotype, but an introspective thinker, who can read and write. He has conversations in his head with Voltaire and John Locke. He plans to write his own story, going to great lengths to procure a mere pencil to tell his tale. A pencil that leads to the torture of his fellow enslaved, but one James keeps with him throughout his journey thereafter.

James flees at the start of the novel when he hears rumours he will be sold off and finds Huckleberry on the run too, who had heard his abusive father has returned to town. The both of them grow friendly.

But James is wary of letting go of his slave-talk and continues to act dumb in front of the young boy. He explains the reasons behind this act: "White folks expect us to sound a certain way and it can only help if we don't disappoint them."

This decision by the author inevitably adds a layer underneath Mark Twain's original story, and much of the comedy in the novel comes through knowing Twain's memorable characters from a new perspective. Everett takes white entitlement to the extremes of hilarity when James, at one point of his adventures, finds himself sold to a group calling themselves the Virginia Minstrels. He realises he has to pretend to be a white man pretending to be black in blackface and sing, as the previous tenor had up and left. "Never had a situation felt so absurd, surreal and ridiculous," says James, "And I had spent my life as a slave." Everett's *James* here hits to the core ludicrousness of a society that finds nothing at

fault with chattel slavery.

Everett's prose freewheels through much of the action with ease. There are many brushes with death, ill executed plans with swindlers, boat crashes, and raids. The violence is ever present but never is it treated casually nor does it overwhelm the reader. In *James*, we find a natural story-teller able to temper the readers' expectations much like any modern protagonist.

Huckleberry Finn comes and goes throughout the book, his reunions with James are often taken as good news for the latter, who realises he cares for the boy much more than he wishes to admit. Huck's boyish sense of adventure is a naivety that can well ignore the brutal reality of slavery. With the American Civil War beginning, James and Huck see soldiers march by. Huck marvels at the sight, "A war. Can you believe it?" he says. For Huck, it does not matter which side of the war one fights in as long as the romanticism of war can be experienced. He says this point blank:

"What difference does it make?"

This is the luxury that James cannot have. Even as he is suspicious of white men from both sides of the conflict, only on one end lies heavily the hopes for his freedom.

Everett's *James* is charming in ways one wishes Twain's Jim had been. Right till the end, he keeps the readers shocked with revelations that may or may not be true. Perhaps Everett overdoes it a tiny bit when we see James rescuing others with dialogues such as "I am the angel of death, come to offer sweet justice in the night," but as a whole *James* is a rare retelling that goes beyond derivative spins of modernity on a classic. It is a novel that necessitates serious and needed conversations of the classics we often grew up admiring.

Shahriar Shaams has written for The Business Standard, Dhaka Tribune, and The Daily Star. Find him on Instagram @shahriar.shaams.

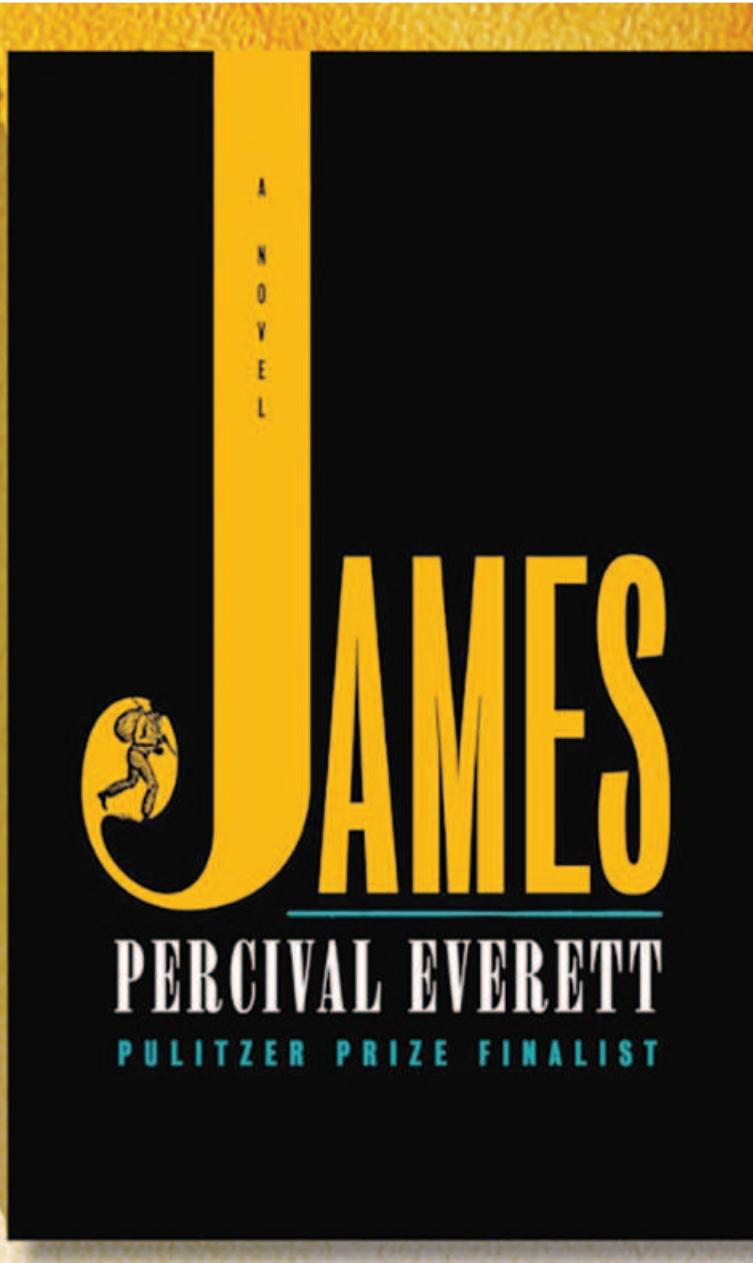


ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

### 'Hopeful of leaving behind bad India series memories'

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) selector Hannan Sarker said he wanted the Tigers to channel in the good memories from their Test series triumph in Pakistan and forget the bad ones from the India tour earlier this month as the hosts gear up for a two-Test series against South Africa, starting on October 21.

"If you look at the two previous series, we did really well against Pakistan. Then against India, we couldn't perform as expected," Hannan said in a video message on BCB's official Facebook page yesterday.

"There are ups and downs and we want to forget our bad memories and channel the good ones from Pakistan [series].

"The players are working on both mentality and technique despite not getting enough time to shift from one



**Bangladesh's newly-appointed head coach Phil Simmons had his first interaction with the Tigers' squad and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto after joining the training session in Mirpur, just hours after arriving in the country earlier in the morning yesterday. Simmons, whose appointment was announced after the Bangladesh Cricket Board parted ways with former coach Chandika Hathurusingha on Tuesday, will have very little time to get things sorted as the Tigers prepare for the upcoming two-Test series against South Africa, who also arrived in the country on the same flight as Simmons. The first match will begin on October 21 in Mirpur.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED/BCB



#### BANGLADESH SQUAD

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

series to another.

"I am very optimistic that we will leave behind the bad memories of the India series and make a good comeback in this series."

It has been a rollercoaster ride for Najmul Hossain Shanto's side in the past three months. The Tigers were on cloud nine, having sealed a historic 2-0 Test series in Pakistan in August, but were soon handed a reality check in the following India tour in which they got hammered 2-0 in the Test series followed by a 3-0 mauling in the T20I series.

The positive thing about the build-up to the South Africa series is that it is taking place at home and will begin with the first game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur, the Tigers' favoured venue for giant-killing.

It is set to be a challenge for Bangladesh's newly-appointed head coach Phil Simmons as well, given the West Indian has very little time to get a grasp of proceedings before the ball starts rolling.

Simmons, who arrived yesterday morning, took no time in his attempt to settle in as he met a few players a few hours later, including skipper Shanto, during a training session in Mirpur.

The only change in the squad is pacer Khaled Ahmed, who was dropped for the series as the Tigers announced a 15-member squad after being part of the 16-member squad that toured India.

## SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

### Curtain rises with India-Pakistan clash

SPORTS REPORTER

The curtain on the 7th SAFF Women's Championship is set to rise today at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, with the seven South Asian nations eager to show their potential and vie for the prestigious title.

India, who had established their supremacy in the regional championship by becoming champions five times in a row, are set to renew their old rivalry with Pakistan in the opening match of Group A at 5:30pm Bangladesh time.

#### KEY FIXTURES

Bangladesh vs Pakistan	Oct 20
Bangladesh vs India	Oct 23
Semifinals	Oct 27
Final	Oct 30

While India are ahead both in terms of record and depth of squad, Pakistan can pose threat to their neighbours, thanks to the inclusion of Saudi Arabia-based midfielder Maria Khan, Canada-based goalkeeper Rumaysa Khan and USA-based forward Isra Khan.

Paying respect to their opponents, both India coach Santosh Kashyap and Pakistan coach Adeel Rizki expected a very exciting opening match.

However, it is the defending champions Bangladesh who are expected to grab

most spotlight in Group A as well as in the championship, especially after the way they outshone subcontinent's powerhouses India and Nepal two years ago to clinch their maiden title at this very venue.

Since the introduction of the championship in 2010, Bangladesh have advanced to the knockout stage in all but the 2012 edition. The two-time finalists are being considered as one of title contenders this time around too, given the fact that they have taken nearly three months of preparation under Peter Butler.

At the pre-tournament conference in Kathmandu yesterday, all participating teams disclosed their desire goals and promised to offer fight in each and every game. Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun believes all the players and all the teams are excited for the tournament.

"I think everyone feels excitement for SAFF Women's Championship and every team have come here with good preparation," Sabina said. "We have been preparing for this tournament for

a few months and we have taken a good preparation and our team is ready for the tournament."

Pakistan captain Maria was excited ahead of their 'World Cup' campaign.

"I'm excited and we are ready to complete and excited. This is our World Cup and we are very excited for it," said Maria.

Tournament favourites India's coach Kashyap rated Bangladesh, Nepal and other participants highly ahead of the tournament.

"All the teams are very close in terms of quality, and they fight hard. Whether it's the men's or women's teams, we can't afford to think we are the favourites and will win easily. It won't be like that for sure and we have to battle for every moment in every match."

"I have also seen Bangladesh and Nepal play, and I expect all the games to be closely contested. So, what happens on match day can be unpredictable. It depends on how the players perform under pressure and other factors," said the India coach.

**The 37-year-old Lionel Messi provided an emphatic reminder of his enduring quality with three clinical finishes, two assists, and some of his trademark creativity throughout the game during Argentina's 6-0 win over Bolivia in a 2026 World Cup qualifier in front of the home crowd at Buenos Aires' Monumental Stadium on Tuesday. Messi's 10th international hattrick -- joint-highest with rival Cristiano Ronaldo of Portugal -- inspired Argentina to bounce back from their defeat against Colombia last month and a draw with Venezuela last week. Meanwhile, Brazil also romped to a 4-0 home win over Peru in Brasilia. [Inset] Raphinha converted a penalty in each half while Andreas Pereira and Luiz Henrique scored late goals, helping Brazil maintain their fourth position in the standings with 16 points from 10 games, six behind leaders Argentina.**

His appointment has not been universally welcomed as the Daily Mail labelled Tuchel's arrival as a "dark day for England".

The Sun printed the English fans' chant "it's coming home" in German on its front page.

Meanwhile, England's decision to appoint Tuchel as manager was termed as a 'bold move' by former captain Alan Shearer.

"We need a trophy -- it's as simple as that. We need a manager who can deliver that," Shearer told "The Rest Is Football" podcast shortly before Tuchel was confirmed.

"There's no doubt he has an incredible CV, but this is going to be a very different test for him. It's a bold move from the FA, there's no doubt about it."

However, hailing Tuchel's appointment was England captain Harry Kane, who was signed by Bayern last year and scored 44 goals in 45 matches under his tutelage.

"I think it's a really great appointment. I worked closely with him last season and think he's a really top, top coach and also a great person," said Kane.

## Tuchel targets trophies as England manager

AFP, London

Thomas Tuchel said he must rise to the challenge of ending England's wait for a first major trophy since 1966 as the German was unveiled as the new manager of the Three Lions on Wednesday.

Former Chelsea boss Tuchel will start his new job from January 1, 2025 on an 18-month deal to the conclusion of the 2026 World Cup.

The 51-year-old, who has been out of work since leaving Bayern Munich at the end of last season, succeeds Gareth Southgate as permanent coach and becomes the third foreign England manager after Sven Goran Eriksson and Fabio Capello.

"The offer came in the absolutely right time," Tuchel told a press conference at Wembley.

"Now I have to live up to it of course. I know that there are some trophies missing in the federation and, of course, I want to help to make it happen."

Tuchel, who has also coached Borussia Dortmund and Paris Saint-Germain, has the trophy-winning pedigree that the FA is seeking to help end a 58-year wait to win a



major tournament since the 1966 World Cup on home soil.

The highlight of the German's career to date came during his spell in English football when he won the Champions League with Chelsea in 2021.

However, the FA's move has drawn criticism over their unwillingness to trust an Englishman with its top job, overseeing a richly-talented generation of players.

FA CEO Mark Bullingham said English candidates were among 10 interviewees but that Tuchel represented the best chance of delivering success.



PHOTO: AFP

## 2025 CHAMPIONS TROPHY 'Contingencies available' if India don't travel to Pakistan

REUTERS

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chiefs are confident a solution can be found if India do not travel to Pakistan for the 2025 Champions Trophy, adding that India's participation is necessary to protect the tournament's broadcast rights.

Pakistan, who won the last edition of the Champions Trophy in England in 2017, will host the Feb. 19-March 9 tournament.

Due to their soured political relations, India have not visited Pakistan since 2008.

Pakistan also hosted the Asia Cup last year but eventual winners India played all their matches in Sri Lanka under what the organisers called a "hybrid model".

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) vice president Rajeev Shukla said last month the final decision over whether India will travel to Pakistan would be taken by the country's government.

"I know Pakistan are expecting India to travel," ECB chief Richard Gould told reporters on Wednesday. Gould and ECB chair Richard Thompson are in Pakistan for England's three-Test series and have met with Pakistan Cricket Board officials.

"There are lots of different alternatives and contingencies available if that doesn't happen. I wouldn't have thought (it would be played without India), because if you play the Champions Trophy without India the broadcast rights aren't there, and we need to protect them."

"Hopefully, we can have the fullest possible competition in Pakistan."

## SHORT CORNER

### Kohli hails Hall of Famer de Villiers

India great Virat Kohli has led the plaudits for ICC Hall of Famer AB de Villiers, penning a letter to the South African legend upon his induction. Joining England great Alastair Cook and Indian women's pioneer Neetu David in the latest class of inductees, de Villiers finished his career with over 20,000 runs across the three international formats, and is regarded as one of the first true three-format batting greats.

### Gabba dropped for Ashes opener

Perth will stage the first Test in the 2025-26 Ashes, it was announced Wednesday, ending Brisbane's almost 40-year run of hosting of the opener of the Australia-England series. England's bid to win back the historic Ashes urn will begin at Perth Stadium on November 21, 2025, with the second day-night Test to be played at Brisbane's Gabba, Cricket Australia said.

### Rain washes out day one of India-NZ Test

Rain washed out the opening day of the first Test between India and New Zealand in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The southern Indian city has been lashed by rain for the past 48 hours and more wet weather is forecast in the coming days. New Zealand's one-off Test against Afghanistan near New Delhi was abandoned last month without a ball being bowled after five days of rain.

\*Read full stories on The Daily Star website



**BSRM FAST BUILD**

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

**SHAH CEMENT**

**BANGLADESH'S**  
**NO. 1 CEMENT BRAND**

## Five-day Eid vacation, two-day holiday for Durga puja

Proposal to be placed before advisory council today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering extending the Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha public holidays to five days each and Durga Puja holidays to two days.

Currently, there are three day public holiday for each Eid and one day for the Durga Puja.

A proposal in this regard is likely to be placed at the advisory council meeting today, said sources at the Chief Adviser's Office and the public administration ministry.

Another proposal on raising the age limit for joining government jobs may also be put forward at the meeting, the sources added.

According to officials, the ministry has sent a proposal on extending the public holidays to the Cabinet Division. If the proposal is approved by the advisory council, an official announcement will be made

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Shakib to return today for his Test swansong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a lot of speculation and drama, ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is set to return to Bangladesh today to play his final Test -- the first Test of a two match series against South Africa in Mirpur from October 21 to 25.

A Bangladesh Cricket Board official yesterday confirmed to The Daily Star that Shakib will start training alongside the rest of the squad tomorrow.

The former Awami League lawmaker had expressed his desire to play his final Test in Mirpur, prior to the Kanpur Test in India last month, but with a murder case filed against him with a Dhaka police station, there was not much assurance provided initially from authorities back home.

However, the environment changed considerably since a public apology from Shakib on Facebook last week, with both the youth and sports



SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus looking at graffiti on a wall on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The graffiti, drawn by young artists, depicted the mass uprising of July-August.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

## Diverse income streams needed for poverty alleviation

Say speakers at a roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Households with diverse income streams, both farm and non-farm, are more resilient and can escape poverty faster, said experts yesterday.

Research over the last 20 years on the impact of microcredit indicates, both nationally and internationally, that pure microfinance will not have a sustainable impact on poverty alleviation, said MA Baqui Khalil, professor and dean for the School of Business at the University of Asia Pacific.

This is because poor people need insurance, savings, health expenses and other non-financial services beyond credit, he said at a roundtable styled "Pathways to prosperity for extremely poor people (PPEPP)".

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), the European Union and The Daily Star jointly organised the event to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

"People with multiple income opportunities



**"Poverty and inequality are two different things -- don't mix them up. What we are doing now is dealing with poverty, not inequality. Poverty is not only a lack of money -- it means many more things."**

Zakir Ahmed Khan  
PKSF chairman

Commonwealth  
(FCDO) and the EU.

The project aims to eradicate extreme poverty for approximately 250,000 households (about 1 million people) in selected poverty-prone districts across the northwestern char areas, the southwestern coastal belt and the

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

are less vulnerable to poverty and can graduate out of it at a faster rate," Khalil said.

If a household has both farm and non-farm activities, it can absorb shocks, and income from multiple sources contributes to savings.

The creation of wage employment is important as an alternative to farm employment to reduce extreme poverty.

"These issues were reflected in the PPEPP project of the PKSF," he added.

In 2019, with lessons learned from various extreme-poverty projects, PKSF undertook a multi-dimensional initiative titled PPEPP with funding from the UK's Foreign, and Development Office

Former DNCC mayor Atiqul arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Atiqul Islam was arrested at Mohakhali DOHS yesterday evening.

He is accused in many cases filed after the fall of the Awami League government, said Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Atiqul, owner of Islam Group of Industries Ltd, is also a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

After the death of Anisul Haq, the first mayor of DNCC, Atiqul was elected mayor with Awami League nomination in 2019. He was re-elected the next year.

Both the elections were fraught with allegations of irregularities.

After the fall of AL, Atiqul went to the DNCC office in Gulshan on August 18.

As protesters gathered in front of the building, he escaped through the fire escape stairs behind the Nagar Bhaban.

On August 19, the interim government removed all city mayors from their posts.

## Israeli air strikes hit Beirut, south Lebanon

Mayor among 6 killed in Nabatieh; Hezbollah fires 50 rockets at Israel

REUTERS, Beirut

An Israeli airstrike yesterday destroyed the municipal headquarters in Nabatieh, a major town in south Lebanon, killing the mayor and at least five others as they met to coordinate aid for those suffering from war.

The attack raised fears that Israel's expanding air campaign, designed to crush Iran-backed Hezbollah, could increasingly

include public officials and buildings, which so far have been spared.

The Israeli military said it struck dozens of Hezbollah targets in the Nabatieh area and dismantled underground infrastructure. Its navy forces, meanwhile, have struck dozens of Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon, in cooperation with troops on the ground, Israel's military said.

Hours earlier at least one Israeli strike hit Beirut's southern suburbs, Reuters witnesses said, after the US said it opposed the scope of Israeli attacks in Lebanon's capital.

Reuters witnesses heard two blasts and saw plumes of smoke emerging from two separate neighbourhoods. It came after Israel issued an evacuation order early yesterday, which mentioned only one building.

Separately, the Israeli military said Hezbollah in Lebanon fired around 50 projectiles targeting sites in Israel early yesterday, without any reports of casualties.

Israeli military evacuation orders now affect more than a quarter of Lebanon, according to the UN refugee agency. The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, said civilian suffering was reaching an unprecedented level after the Israeli strike on Nabatieh.

Egg prices dip slightly as supply goes up

SHAIKH MOLLAH

The prices of eggs dropped slightly yesterday after the supply increased in the capital's kitchen markets.

Brown eggs were sold for Tk 160-180 per dozen yesterday, down from Tk 180-200 the previous day.

However, the prices are still higher than those set by the government.

Under the pricing set by the government, each egg should be sold for Tk 10.58 at the producer level, Tk 11.01 at wholesale, and Tk 11.87 at retail.

This means the consumers should be able to purchase eggs for Tk 142.44 per dozen.

Visiting the capital's Tejgaon wholesale egg market yesterday afternoon, The Daily Star found that most of the shops were shut.

Wholesalers at this



Fishing trawlers lie idle at the Fisheries Ghat in Chattogram city as this year's 22-day ban on hilsa fishing came into force on October 13. The ban has been imposed every year since 2007 to protect mother hilsas during the spawning season. The photo was taken yesterday.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## 147 die as fuel tanker explodes in Nigeria

50 hurt; cops say driver lost control of vehicle causing it to overturn

REUTERS

A fuel tanker overturned late on Tuesday in Nigeria's northern state of Jigawa after the driver lost control of the vehicle, spilling petrol which exploded and killed at least 147 people, police and state emergency services said yesterday.

The accident is one of the worst in recent times in Africa's most populous nation, which is battling with widespread security threats and a cost of living crisis.

Haruna Mairiga, head of Jigawa state emergency services, put the death toll from the accident at 147.

Local police spokesperson Lawan Shisu Adam said the tanker was travelling from the ancient city of Kano to Yobe State in the north, when the driver lost control near Majia town in Taura local government area, about 530 kilometers north of the capital Abuja, causing it to overturn and spill fuel.

Adam said that villagers attempted to scoop petrol from the spillage, resulting in a fire that engulfed the area, reportedly leading to many deaths.

Adam added that 50 others were wounded and have been taken to local hospitals, in Ringim and Hadejia towns where they were being treated.

A mass burial was held for the dead yesterday, Mairiga said.