



## Former chief whip Hasanat Abdullah's son placed on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Serniabat Moinuddin Ahmed, son of former chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, on five-day remand in a case over the death of Jubo Dal leader Shamim Mia in the capital's Paltan on October 28 last year.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ragib Noor passed the order after investigation officer Tonmoy Kumar Biswas, a sub-inspector of Paltan Model Police Station, produced him before the court with a 10 day remand prayer.

Moinuddin, whose father is a cousin of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, was shown arrested in the case after the IO had submitted an application in this regard. His name was not included in the first information report (FIR).

In the remand prayer, the IO said

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-uz-Zaman met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday when he briefed Yunus about his recent visit to the United States and Canada.

PHOTO: PTD

## Decision on traditional Kundubari Fair today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

The decision to hold the 250-year-old traditional Kundubari Fair in Madaripur's Kalkini upazila will be decided at a meeting today.

Initially, the Shariatpur district administration decided to cancel the fair due to protests from a group of locals. However, the announcement to cancel the fair sparked significant backlash on social media.

The week-long fair was scheduled to commence on October 31 in Bhurghata village, coinciding with the Kali Puja festivities. The fair, named after the Kundu clan, is organised on the premises of Kundubari temple.

On October 16, about a dozen locals submitted a written request to the Kalkini upazila nirbahi officer, urging the cancellation of the fair due to alleged "anti-social activities" associated with it, according to local sources and officials.

On October 22, the Kalkini upazila administration decided to halt the fair, as confirmed by UNO Utthom Kumar Das.

"Some locals approached me on October 16, requesting to stop the fair, although I am not aware of their political affiliations," he stated.

"Subsequently, we convened a meeting with the local residents. On October 22, we made a preliminary decision to cancel the fair to prevent any potential violence or undesirable incidents," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

## Iran says

FROM PAGE 1  
the border yesterday.

Confirming its own strikes after explosions and anti-aircraft fire echoed around Tehran, the Israeli military said it had hit Iranian missile factories and military facilities in several regions.

The "retaliatory strike has been completed and the mission was fulfilled", while Israeli aircraft "returned safely", a military spokesman added.

Iran confirmed Israel had targeted military sites in Tehran province around the capital and other parts of the country, saying the raids caused "limited damage" but killed two soldiers.

**DIRECT ATTACK**  
Israel had vowed to retaliate after October 1, when Iran fired around 200 missiles in only the second-ever direct attack against its arch-foe. Most of those missiles were intercepted, but one person was killed.

The Israeli retaliation drew condemnation from Hamas, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, which warned against further escalation. Jordan stated that Israeli jets had not used its airspace. Turkey was one of the most outspoken critics, calling for an end to "terror created by Israel".

## US court stays

FROM PAGE 1  
The development comes a day after US District Judge Carl J Nichols had issued "bench warrants for the arrest" of Salehuddin and Ahsan, whom a power company wants to testify, as it seeks to enforce a collective \$31.9 million in arbitration awards against Bangladesh.

The judge directed the US Marshals Service to detain the two as they were visiting Washington to attend the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group, held on October 21-26.

The court had ordered the clerk to issue the warrants as a contempt sanction against Bangladesh.

"The US court had no jurisdiction to issue such arrest warrants for these officials. However, through the stay order of the court, the issue has been suspended," said Mushfiqul.

The interim government cannot take responsibility for the misdeeds committed by the previous regime, he said on Facebook, adding that those who tried to put the issue under carpet should face action.

Law360, a New York-based legal news publisher, reported on Friday that the move by the US court prompted an immediate appeal from the Bangladesh government.

The Bangladesh government said it is "unprecedented" that a Washington, DC federal judge ordered the arrest of two high-ranking Bangladeshi officials to force their depositions in a power company's lawsuit.

The motion said, "Petitioner did not cite a single example of a court enforcing a sanctions order against a foreign state, much less ordering the arrest of high-ranking foreign government officials during a diplomatic visit to the United States. The lack of precedent is not surprising, as such an action is, or at least was, unimaginable."

Bangladesh condemned the judge's decision, Law360 said.

The dispute has its origins in 1997, when Smith Cogeneration signed a power purchase agreement with the Bangladesh government and its Power Development Board that provided for the construction of a barge-mounted power plant in northern Bangladesh.

Smith Cogeneration told the DC court in its 2006 enforcement petition that the government agreed to provide the company with all the required permits to complete the project, according to the Law360 report.

However, the government nixed the project in 1999 and never provided the company with the necessary permits, Smith Cogeneration claimed.

## A good example of a bad plan

FROM PAGE 1

start within this fiscal year. The country is now spending from its coffers to bear these expenses.

Prof Selim Raihan, executive director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling, said the policymakers had not properly discussed how necessary a tunnel was at this particular site to connect the port city and Anwara upazila.

Since the project cost is high, there is doubt it will ever give expected return, he said.

The tunnel earned Tk 37.45 crore from 14.12 lakh vehicles since its inauguration. But the government spent Tk 134.46 crore for its operation, the data shows.

Of the vehicles that used it, almost 77 percent were light, and 12 percent were trucks.

The daily traffic exceeded 10,000 vehicles only on three occasions in the 359 days since it was opened.

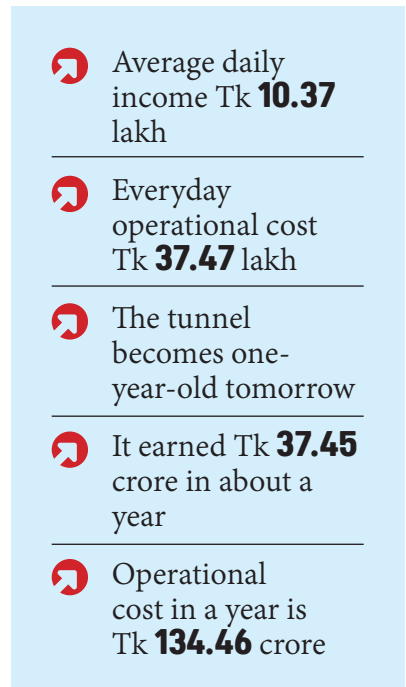
Abul Kalam Azad, deputy director of the project, said the government and private development projects on either side of the tunnel have not been implemented.

The tunnel design was based on the vision of "one city two towns", similar to Shanghai in China, he said.

"It was part of a strategy to connect the Mirsarai Economic Zone with Matarbari Deep Sea Port. There were plans to expand the Chattogram port jetty in the southern side of the Karnaphuli, proposals to establish thousands of local and foreign

industrial units in Anwara. But none of that materialised. The result is, fewer vehicles than expected at the outset," he added.

Spending on the tunnel will



significantly rise once the loan repayment starts early next year, he told The Daily Star.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, former first vice president of the BGMEA, said the authorities had not taken the initiative to build industries that would have depended on the tunnel.

## BNP yet to be on board, Jamaat is

FROM PAGE 1

unity while ensuring effective governance, he said.

The BNP leaders took note of the two other issues raised by the students, but did not say anything about those.

Hasnat said they would also sit with the Gono Forum, the 12-Party Alliance, and the Gono Odhikar Parishad to discuss these issues today.

Earlier on Thursday night, a delegation of the student movement and nagorik committee went to BNP leader Salahuddin's house, where BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi was also present.

Sources said the leaders of the two platforms argued in favour of their demand for the president's removal. They said President Shahabuddin had misconducted himself and so should be removed. If action were not taken, the interim government's legitimacy would be called into question, they added.

Earlier, on October 23, three top BNP leaders, including Salahuddin, met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and warned of a potential constitutional crisis as

a consequence of the president's removal.

After yesterday's meeting, Hasnat said they sat with the Jamaat and the Islami Andolan in the last two days, and both parties clarified their stance, agreeing on the demand for the president's removal.

Some parties and alliances, including the Ganatantra Mancha, the Jatiyatabadi Somomona Jote, Bangladesh Jatiya Party led by Andaleev Rahman Partho, have backed the BNP on its stance that a constitutional crisis should not be created by removing the president.

The October 25 meeting with the Jamaat took place at its central office in Moghbazar, where Jamaat Secretary General Mia Ghulam Parwar, Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher, and Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad were present.

Meeting sources told The Daily Star that the Jamaat agreed in principle with the demand for the president's removal but emphasised that any action should be based on political consensus.

Five movement leaders, including Hasnat, met Islami Andolan Ameer

"The need for industrialisation had not been considered before building the tunnel," he added.

Over the past few years, businesses were not interested in making new investments because of the state of the economy, he said.

Noted economist Moinul Islam said traffic through the tunnel would be heavier after the construction of the 230-km marine drive road.

"It won't be fully utilised in the next few years, and it won't be possible to pay loan instalments from its earnings. However, we'll see benefits when the Matarbari deep sea port and bay terminal are fully operational," he said.

Prof Selim Raihan said the tunnel is far from the heart of the port city.

However, there is a plan to develop a township in Anwara with Chinese funds, he said.

In November 2015, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Enec) approved the tunnel project at a cost of Tk 8,446.64 crore. Later, the cost rose to Tk 10,689.42 crore. It was estimated at the time that the daily average traffic through the tunnel would be 28,305 vehicles by 2025 and 37,946 by 2030.

Of the fund, the Exim Bank of China committed \$705.80 million or Tk 5,913.19 crore with 2 percent interest and 0.20 percent service charge, while the Bangladesh government funded the rest.

The Chinese loan needs to be repaid in 15 years, including a five-year grace period.

Syed Muhammad Rezaul Karim, Presidium member Ashraf Ali Akon and Senior Joint Secretary General Gazi Atnaur Rahman at Purana Paltan yesterday.

Besides the demand to remove the president, the student leaders raised the topic of constitutional reforms.

According to sources, the Islami Andolan believes that President Shahabuddin has violated his oath by allegedly falsifying information about the resignation of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and, therefore, cannot remain in office.

About rewriting the constitution, the party said it did not want comprehensive constitutional changes, rather it favoured cancelling the amendments made by the Awami League between 2009 and 2024.

It also insisted on annulling the three elections held between 2014 and 2024.

Regarding potential constitutional complications in case of removing the president, the party's Joint Secretary General Atnaur told The Daily Star, "The prime minister's sudden departure did not create a crisis. Also, the current president was appointed by the ousted prime minister."

## Tabith takes over the reins at BFF

FROM PAGE 12

a grassroots football organiser who conducted his campaign mostly through text messages and phone calls from Dinajpur.

While incumbent vice-president Imrul Hasan was elected unopposed as the senior vice-president, there was competition among the six candidates for four vice-president posts.

Radiant Pharmaceuticals owner Nasser Shahrear Zahede (115 votes), Wahid Uddin Chowdhury Happy (108), the elder brother of BNP leader Shahid Uddin Anny, Brothers Union's member secretary Sabbir Ahmed Aref (90) and K-sports owner Fahad Karim (87) clinched those four spots, while former national footballers

Rumman Bin Wali Sabbir (66) and Shafiqul Islam Manik (42) missed out.

Fifteen candidates were voted to member positions, completing the 21-member executive committee that will govern the game's local body over the 2024-2028 period.

In his victory speech, Tabith said, "We always believe we need challenge in everything and change is needed. So, we think with the combination of new and old, we can take some new initiatives."

"We can expect modern football and we want to keep Bangladesh united with football. We also believe we can bring happiness through football," the new president added.

Tabith's ascension to power coincided with the end of Kazi

Salahuddin's four consecutive terms, spanning 16 years. Arguably one of the greatest footballers of the country, Salahuddin had taken over the reins in 2008 and made lofty promises but failed to deliver on many of those.

Although Salahuddin had managed to keep top-tier football running and had some success with women's football, the show was mostly concentrated around the capital as the district leagues became irregular. Allegations of corruption, some of which were later proved, dogged Salahuddin's regime as sponsors started to turn away from football, further debilitating the state of the once-popular sport in the country.

## Old guard to give way

FROM PAGE 1

On the other hand, JCD has long been known for keeping aged people and irregular students in its committees for years — an issue that made headlines on numerous occasions.

Since the political gamut of Bangladesh is undergoing reforms to ensure that rules are followed properly without any discrimination, the student groups also feel the need for change.

Those interviewed for this report said their organisations are also seeking to replace the aged leaders with young ones in keeping with the rules, and the positive vibe brought in by the student-led mass uprising.

Mahbub Alam Shahin, a 2012-13 session student of DU, was made JCD's Shahidullah Hall unit president in 2020. He could not stay there because BCL did not allow him to enter it. He still cannot stay there as he is no longer a regular student.

The 25 other presidents and general secretaries of 13 JCD hall units are also not allowed in their halls as Shahin is the youngest among them, while all the rooms are occupied by regular students.

"It's high time we brought changes in line with the general students' expectations. The high command should form committees with regular students," said Saidul Islam, general secretary of JCD's Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall unit.

Like Shahin, Saidul cannot go to the hall to engage in political activities.

Not just the hall unit leaders, JCD DU unit President Ganesh Chandra Roy Shahosh and General Secretary Nahiduzzaman Shipon are also irregular students from the 2010-11 and 2011-12 sessions respectively. They were named leaders of a seven-member committee on March 1 this year.

"We're mulling the formation of hall committees with regular residential students. We expect we can do it soon," said Shipon.

JCD General Secretary Nasir Uddin told The Daily Star that they got a "strong and clear message" from BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman to establish the hall committees with regular students.

"We've already founded a 38-member team to constitute committees in all the units, including universities. The activists engaging

in student-friendly politics on their campuses will be chosen as leaders."

Meanwhile, after around three and a half decades, Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Islami Chhatra Shibir has revealed it had a committee at DU.

The committee's President Abu Shadik Kayem is a 2016-17 session student and Secretary SM Farhad is from 2017-18.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shadik said eight out of the 14 members of their DU unit committee were regular students.

He said they will announce their hall committees with undergraduate students soon because they "respect the common students' expectations".

Some leftist student organisations have faculty-based committees, but most of them do not have hall committees. A faction of the Chhatra Union has a committee at the Jagannath Hall only.

"Chhatra League leaders and activists in the last 16 years occupied the halls and forced the students to engage in BCL politics only. That's why we could not form committees at the halls," Maen Ahmed, general secretary of DU Chhatra Union, told The Daily Star.

"As there's a congenial atmosphere at the halls now, we'll try to form committees there with regular students."

Maen is a student of the 2017-18 session while the president of his committee, Meghmallor Bosu, is from the 2015-2016 session.

Another section of the Chhatra Union also has a committee at DU. However, its Convener Kazi Rakib resigned from his post for personal reasons. Its joint conveners, Mamun Rana and Sala Uddin Amman, are from the 2017-2018 session.

Salman Siddiqui, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (Marxist), hailed the allocation of seats among regular students in the halls by the authorities. "We have to remain alert so that an undemocratic environment is not created."

He said they would form committees with regular students "who will work for the rights of the students".

Armanul Hoque, convener of DU Chhatra Federation, said all the leaders of their 13-member committee are regular students. "We'll follow this trend while forming committees."

## Harris, Trump

FROM PAGE 1

For Republican A.D. Jefferson, a 62-year-old laborer attending Harris's rally in Houston, the Trump turmoil is too much.

"I just think she's less controversial," he told AFP. "I'm a Republican, but I feel like Trump is just too chaotic for me."

Fresh off a high-energy rally in Texas with pop icon Beyonce to highlight Republican restrictions on abortion, Harris heads to Kalamazoo, Michigan where she will court voters by drawing on yet more stardom, this time deploying one of the Democratic Party's most popular emissaries: former first lady Michelle Obama.

Her husband Barack Obama joined Harris on Thursday for a rally in Georgia.

Harris, 60, rallies Sunday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the largest city in the largest of the swing states likely to determine the outcome of the presidential election under the US electoral system.

Trump, who swept the three Blue Wall states in his shock victory in 2016 only to see Joe Biden reclaim them for Democrats four years later, is strategizing that clawing back one or more of the trio and winning the other so-called Sun Belt swing states

would propel him back into the White House.

With just a few thousand votes possibly the difference between victory and defeat in the tightest of swing states, Trump holds rallies Saturday in Michigan and Pennsylvania, where a robust ground game and relentless barnstorming of the battlegrounds could prove decisive.

They follow the release late Friday of the extended, three-hour interview that Trump taped for the Joe Rogan Experience, America's most popular podcast.

He is seeking to woo Rogan's massive, largely male audience, as the Republican candidate hunts for viral moments that tap into his everyman appeal.

**'LIKE THE 1930S'**

Then on Sunday night, Trump performs a campaign quirk: rallying his supporters in Madison Square Garden, the iconic arena in the heart of Democrat-heavy New York.

Analysts have pondered why Trump is campaigning in his native New York despite virtually no chance of flipping the state. The brash billionaire and onetime reality television star may be keen to orchestrate a spectacle and demonstrate he can fill an arena in a Democratic bastion.

**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

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

Best Financial Institution  
DHL-The Daily Star Business Awards.

**Open your Account from anywhere**

PI Banking - a Pubali Bank apps

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

## Elected govt now a demand of the time

Say BNP leaders Nazrul, Amir Khasru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leaders Nazrul Islam Khan and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday demanded prompt completion of the necessary reforms in order to pave way for establishing an elected parliament and government to restore the country's democratic process and fulfill peoples' aspirations.

The leaders made their remarks while addressing separate events.

Addressing a rally, organised by Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani Anusari Parishad in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, Nazrul Islam, also a BNP standing committee member, said while one aspiration has been fulfilled with the fall of fascism, the other aspiration – that of the restoration of democracy and people's rights – remains to be fulfilled.

He also said democracy needs to be restored in such a way that it cannot be used against the people.

"True democracy and peoples' democracy must be reestablished. It is

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Latika Mandal and her family members prepare mats which they will sell for Tk 500-600 per piece at local markets. During the monsoon, they collect the natural fibres to weave the mats from the nearby canals. The photo was taken from Beel Pabla in Dumuria of Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## Religious unity is crucial for peacebuilding

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday urged individuals of all races and faiths to come together to foster a peaceful nation through religious harmony and tolerance.

They emphasised that without harmony and peaceful coexistence, societal peace is unattainable.

The call was made during a dialogue titled "Religious Harmony: Reality and What Should Be Done," held in Gulshan, Dhaka, and jointly organised by The Hunger Project and the Multi-stakeholder Initiative on Peace and Stability project with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Chief guest AFM Khalid Hossain, adviser to the interim government for the religious affairs ministry, said, "Intolerance leads us into darkness; therefore, we must strive for greater tolerance. Without religious harmony and peaceful coexistence among all faiths, we cannot achieve our national goals."

"Though we may differ in faith, religion, and politics, we all love Bangladesh. We will not do anything that would damage or distort the country's image," he said.

Stressing that social and religious harmony contributes to attracting foreign investment, the adviser said if there is conflict in the country, no foreign investment will come.

Terming those who attack places of worship criminals and wrongdoers, the adviser said these people have no religious identity.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, global vice president and country director of The Hunger Project, said, "This nation was created with a desire to establish a democratic, prosperous, and peaceful Bangladesh, upholding equality, human dignity, and justice. Unfortunately, we have not fully realised this aspiration yet. It is a responsibility we all share, across all faiths, ethnicities, and backgrounds, to make it a reality."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Dengue claims two more lives

UNB, Dhaka

Two more deaths due to dengue were reported in the 24 hours leading up to yesterday morning, raising the total fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 271 this year.

The recent fatalities took place in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and Khulna (out of city corporation).

During this period, 961 patients were hospitalised with the viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Currently, 3,937 patients are receiving treatment in various hospitals across the country. Since January 1, 2024, a total of 55,663 dengue cases have been reported.



## Transfers not enough to punish cops who killed students

Sarjis tells Rangpur rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Transferring the police personnel for their alleged misconducts, including killing students during the July uprising, is hardly enough punishment, said Sarjis Alam, a central coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, yesterday.

Sarjis was speaking at a gathering in Rangpur, marking the sixth anniversary of Rangpur Metropolitan Police.

Referring to the death of Abu Sayed, a student of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, in police firing on July 16, Sarjis called for accountability under the country's legal system for the officers responsible.

"Some police officers continue to act on behalf of certain political factions and party, ignoring the trust deficit created by recent events," he said.

He stressed that without proper punitive measures, Bangladesh could see larger uprisings and more bloodshed in future.

He also expressed concerns regarding

**We will shake the ground of Rangpur, demonstrating how we can crush the collaborators of the fascists on the streets.**



alleged financial exploitation of police through false cases, and disappointment over the continuous cycle of exploitation by the governance system that had allowed one party to rule, while oppressing others.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## 10 get Women of Inspiration Award 2024

STAR REPORT

Ten women have been given Women of Inspiration Award 2024 for contributions to their respective fields.

Junior Chamber International (JCI) Bangladesh organised the award ceremony at a city hotel on Friday, where all JCI Bangladesh members from various local organisations participated, said a press release.

The awardees are: Eshita Sharmin in technology and development, Alsana Zarin in driving inclusion through innovation, Nadia Anwar in changing communities with social business, Barrister Miti Sanjana in ensuring justice through legal profession, Zareen Mahmud Hosein in empowering women, Zyma Islam in Fourth State journalism, Elita Karim in music for social change, Tasnia Farin in breaking stereotypes through entertainment, Firdausi Qadri in improving public health and medical science, and Farah Kabir

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Action needed to keep global warming in check

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The earth will no longer be habitable if global warming exceeds 2 degrees Celsius in the year 2100. There will be no point discussing climate finance at that point, said speakers at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

A new UN Environment Programme report has warned that if current policies continue, global temperatures could rise by a catastrophic 3.1 degrees Celsius by the end of this century.

Therefore, the main focus of all government delegations should be to reduce carbon emissions by 42 percent before 2030, speakers added.

The remarks were made at a seminar organised on the eve of the 29th Climate Conference (COP29) which will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

It was organised by EquityBD at the CIRDAP Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday.

The co-hosting organisations were COAST Foundation, CDP, CPRD, AOSED, BCJF, Manusher Jonno Foundation and CSRL.

Md Shamsuddoha of Center for Participatory Research and Development, also a member of the government delegation at COP29, said no definition of climate finance has been set. As a result, all money – including loans and investments – from rich countries that are responsible for climate change to poor and affected countries, continues to be called climate finance.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Over reliance on AI may reduce critical thinking

Say journo in MRDI survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over half of the 53 journalists from 25 news outlets, who were surveyed, use artificial intelligence, finds a study by Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI).

About two-thirds of the participants found that using AI increased their efficiency and improved their content quality, while 52 percent reported that it reduced their workload.

The report was disclosed at a discussion at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

Maliha Tabassum, assistant professor of Mass Communication and Journalism department of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP), and Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury, associate professor of the same department, presented the findings.

Among the survey participants, 77 percent are male and 23 percent female. Half of the participants represent print outlets, with television channels and online portals accounting for 25 percent and 23 percent respectively.

The report also said 50 percent of participants believe, in the future, AI will improve their journalism quality significantly.



Women are more receptive to AI than men, with 58 percent of women participants using AI in news production compared to 48 percent of men.

Concerns over AI causing job loss are moderate, with most participants rating it 3 out of 5. However, there is a strong concern among journalists that over-reliance on AI may reduce critical thinking and affect the reliability of content.

Key findings of the focus group discussion segment of the study mentioned that journalists show deep-rooted resistance to technological change, especially AI, viewing it as a threat rather than a tool. It also said despite clear evidence of AI's benefits in tasks like translation and fact-checking, newsrooms are barely scratching the surface of its capabilities.

Speaking about the limitation of the survey, the two researchers stated small sample size and high representation of print media may skew findings towards traditional journalism practices.

Saiful Alam Chowdhury, associate professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University, said, "Usage of free AI tools raise concerns about digital safety and security... With the booming of independent journalism, which is likely to happen in the next two or three years, using these free AI tools will put us in a spot of bother."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

**AAA** **প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক**  
সেবাই গণম

**নিরাপত্তায়, নিশ্চয়তায়, নির্ভরতায়**  
**পাশে আছি বিশ্বস্ততায়**

**25** **YEARS**  
**Years of SAFETY, ASSURANCE, TRUST**

৩৪,০০০ কোটি টাকা আমানতের শক্ত ভিত্তি  
২০ লক্ষের বেশি সম্মানিত উদ্যোক্তা এবং গ্রাহক  
সারাদেশে ৩৫০ এর অধিক স্থানে বিস্তৃত ব্যাংকিং নেটওয়ার্ক  
বাংলাদেশের সর্বোচ্চ ক্রেডিট রেটিং 'AAA' ও বিভিন্ন আন্তর্জাতিক অর্জন

২৫ বছরের পয়চলায় প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক পরিবর্তনের পক্ষ থেকে সবাইকে জানাই আন্তরিক শ্রদ্ধা ও কৃতজ্ঞতা।

premierbankld.com ThePremierBankPLC **দি প্রিমিয়ার ব্যাংক পিএলসি.**

N'GANJ-DHAKA ROUTE

# Reduce bus fares: speakers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Passenger Rights Protection Forum, a Narayanganj-based organisation, yesterday announced a series of programmes starting from October 29, demanding bus fare reduction on Narayanganj-Dhaka route.

As per the organisation, the fare on this route for non-AC buses is currently Tk 55, which protesters demand should be reduced to Tk 45. They also demand that the fare for AC buses, which is Tk 80, must be reduced to Tk 65. The demands also included ensuring half-fare for students.

To press home their demand of fare reduction, the organisation has scheduled nine separate events, which will start Tuesday, said the organisation's convener Rafiqur Rabbi at a press conference at the Narayanganj Press Club.

The programmes will continue till November 16, followed by back-to-back half-day strikes from the next day till the demands are met, he added.

"The situation of public transport sector has been anarchic for ages. Every government created syndicates in this sector to give unethical benefits to their associates. The syndicate has been holding passengers hostage for years. This anarchy increased terribly during Sheikh Hasina's regime," said Rabbi.

He also accused former AL lawmaker Shamim Osman and his family of extortion in this sector.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Rowshan Ali, president of Narayanganj District Bus-Minibus Central Owners' Association, said, "Our buses leave from Narayanganj, but they also operate in Dhaka metropolitan area. Our rent is fixed in accordance to that. It is not possible for the owners to reduce fares in the existing reality."



Anjon Bepari, a local farmer, transports a cargo of fresh betel nuts on his boat through a small canal. After harvesting the fruits of the areca palm, he takes them to the village market, where he sells them in bundles of 100 for Tk 250-300. The photo was taken in the Dumuria area of Jhalakathi recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## FAILED LOAN SCHEME

# Halda fishers struggle for survival

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A loan programme intended to offer alternative livelihoods to fishermen affected by the fishing ban in the Halda river has failed to meet its objectives, resulting in a waste of public funds.

The Department of Fisheries (DoF) launched the programme in 2010 under the "Halda River Natural Fish Breeding Ground Development and Management Project (Phase I)", disbursing Tk 2.3 crore in loans to 2,300 fishermen.

Each fisherman received Tk 10,000, with a repayment period of 1.5 years. However, the DoF has been unable to collect the loans.

Speaking with loan recipients and DoF officials, it was revealed that the initiative was poorly planned and lacked follow-up supervision. They said the programme was implemented without a feasibility study on loan disbursement or collection.

The Halda, a vital breeding ground for carp and home to endangered Gangetic dolphins, has been under a fishing ban since 2007. In 2020, a complete fishing ban was enforced, yet no compensation was provided to the 2,000 fishermen whose livelihoods depended on the river.



The affected fishermen, who were already struggling, found the loan amount insufficient to create any sustainable alternative livelihood. Some collect hilsa eggs seasonally, a few find work as day labourers, some pull rickshaws, but most of them just feel forgotten, left behind.

Ananta Jaladas, a fisherman from Madarikul Jelepara village in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila, used the money to buy essentials, saying, "We are still battling poverty to survive, let alone finding alternative means to thrive."

Shafiqul Alam, a Halda researcher, said the DoF finished their responsibilities only by providing loans to fishermen without offering any sustainable solutions.

Sribash Chandra Chanda, Chattogram district fisheries officer, said, "We dropped the loan programme as we don't have the ability to collect the loans. Instead, we have included an incentive programme to create alternative livelihoods for fishermen."

While the DoF has shifted its focus, the long-term impact of the failed loan programme continues to leave the fishermen in financial distress, with no effective alternatives to sustain their livelihoods, said experts.

## Action needed

FROM PAGE 3

The aid money was not given through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), but was channelled through various financial institutions including the World Bank, he added.

Dharitri Kumar Sarkar of the Ministry of Environment and Forests said the discussion and recommendations will be added to the position paper prepared by the Bangladesh government for COP29.

Abul Hasan from the COAST Foundation said in order to make climate

funding need-based and realistic, recipient countries must submit their realistic needs.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury from EquityBD said at least 75 percent of climate finance should be managed through the UNFCCC.

MD Ahsanul Wahed, deputy programme manager of MJF, Dr Fazle Rabbi from Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, Syed Aminul Haque from COAST Foundation and Ziaul Haque Mukta from Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods also spoke.

## 10 get Women

FROM PAGE 3

The keynote speech at the event was delivered by Rasheda K Choudhury, executive director (CEO) of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

Dr Ittekkharuzzaman said, "Women have played a pivotal role in shaping our society, and it is essential to acknowledge their achievements and inspire future generations."

Mukhlesur Rahman Sarker, additional secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, praised the awardees for their accomplishments.

The 2024 National President of JCI Bangladesh, Imran Kadir, also spoke at the event.

## 76 job seekers still await approval Over reliance

FROM PAGE 5

November 2020, the term "recognised universities" was removed.

Despite the amended policy, many candidates (holding certificates from recognised universities) were recommended for final appointments in the 3rd public recruitment notice in 2021. They were also included in the MPO list.

Similarly, in the 4th public recruitment notice, the same types of candidates received final recommendations and were included in the MPO. In the 5th notice, candidates with similar certificates were also recommended.

But these 76 candidates were deprived of the final recommendations, they claimed.

Mohidul Islam, one of the candidates, said, "We

did not find any solution for the 76 candidates despite multiple applications. Now we have been experiencing extreme discrimination and prolonged frustration for over a year. It has already affected most of our families."

Another candidate, Aziz Mia, said under the 2018 policy, assistant maulvi candidates holding honours and master's degrees were recommended and included in the MPO in the 3rd notice of 2021, while many others were recommended in the 4th notice based on their fasil certificates. Some of their fellows even received final recommendations in 5th notice.

However, the 76 applicants have not received any solution despite applying several times over

the past year, he added.

Asked over the matter, NTRCA Secretary Rizwanul Haque said he heard of such a letter submitted by a group of candidates. There were discussions over the matter. He, however, couldn't specifically share any follow-ups regarding the matter.

Contacted, Farzana Rasul, assistant director of NTRCA's education and standard section, said, "There is no such chance to eliminate them from final recommendations without proper grounds. Maybe they did not meet the criteria asked in the circular."

When it was mentioned that other candidates with similar certificates and qualifications were given recommendations, she said the NTRCA authorities would look into the matter.

## 11,286 tea workers

FROM PAGE 5

Contacted, Emdadul Haque, general manager of NTC, said while the company is making every effort to pay the workers' wages, the lack of a fully structured board of directors of the company has hindered its ability

to secure loans from Bangladesh Agricultural Bank.

He hoped that the board will be fully constituted soon and pave way for securing loans to pay the workers' arrears.

## Religious unity

FROM PAGE 3

Dr Mamun Al Mostofa, an associate professor of Dhaka University, said religious and political tolerance in Bangladesh is not satisfactory, even though intolerance and violence have no connection with religion itself.

He opined that reforming the education system, promoting inclusive dialogue, ensuring good governance and accountability, and fostering social and cultural movements based on values can enhance religious harmony in society.

Sukomal Barua, supernumerary professor of DU, and Muhammad Rafiq-Ul-Islam, director of Islamic Foundation, also spoke.

## Work stalled over

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile, the construction site only has several large holes dug with rods placed there for constructing pillars. Rainwater has accumulated in the place, turning it into a breeding ground of mosquitoes.

Locals alleged that the contractors had misappropriated the project's funds in collusion with officials of DHE. They also alleged DHE has been negligent in monitoring the project's implementation.

Mohammad Rezaul Karim, upazla health and family planning officer, said, "The hospital is now being run amid a space constraint, which disrupts the services considerably. The outpatient services are in disarray with more than 200 patient coming in daily while we hardly have much space to accommodate them."

He demanded appointment of a new contractor to complete the construction works.

Contacted, Ziaul Ahsan Titu, owner of contractor firm Ziaul Traders and also former councillor of ward 28 of Khulna City Corporation, said, "Former MP Aktaruzzaman Babu was handling the project under my licence. His delays and eventual disappearance have left us in a difficult position."

Babu could not be reached for comment as his phone was found switched off.

Shahriar Hasan Mohiuddin, executive engineer of DHE in Khulna, said they have cancelled the contractor's work order over delays. He said they are looking into the issue of money mismanagement and fraudulence.

## Elected govt now

FROM PAGE 3

now a demand of the time to establish an elected government and elected rule by completing the necessary reforms," he said.

He warned that the longer the interim government takes to hold the election, the more new organisations and individuals will emerge, claiming to represent the peoples' will, and present various proposals and aspirations.

Recalling the role of Maulana Bhasani, Nazrul said the Awami League regime attempted to erase his name and contributions from the country's history.

Meanwhile, Amir Khasru said the time has come to restore peoples' ownership of the country

through holding a free, fair and acceptable election and restoring democracy.

"People must be ensured their right to vote so that they can elect a parliament and government that will be accountable to them. There's no alternative to this," he said while addressing the 6th national council of Liberal Democratic Party in Dhaka.

Stressing that Sheikh Hasina was removed through a national unity, Khasru said, "We must maintain that unity to achieve our goal of restoring peoples' ownership of Bangladesh." "If politicians fail to understand the nation's aspirations and changes in mindset, then politics will have no future," he warned.

## BCL is banned

FROM PAGE 3

reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

He also addressed recent allegations against police personnel, confirming that some officers are under investigation. He assured that anyone found guilty would face legal consequences.

He said the police force

could not perform its duties due to the actions of a few misguided leaders. He said the current government aims to reform the police to better serve people.

"Cops who wish to engage in politics should resign, and politicians who seek to manipulate the police must refrain from doing so," he said.

## Transfers not enough

FROM PAGE 3

"This is not the Bangladesh the martyrs like Abu Sayed envisioned and gave their lives for," he added.

Amid the widespread protest of Jatiyo Party activists, Sarjis visited Rangpur yesterday, accompanied by IGP Md Moinul Islam, and attended meetings and offered prayers at Abu Sayed's grave.

On October 14, JP officially declared Sarjis and Hasnat Abdullah, both coordinators of the student movement, "unwelcome" in Rangpur for their comment to exclude the party from the national dialogue.

JP leaders and activists staged agitations in Rangpur protesting Sarjis's visit to the city yesterday.

Speaking at another programme at BRUR yesterday, Sarjis said those who legitimised Sheikh Hasina's government

over the past 16 years, particularly during the 2014, 2018, and 2024 national elections, are allies of that fascist regime.

"These members of the Jatiyo Party, these opportunists, take on an opposition role just to get a car, a house in the ministerial area, a salary, an MP seat, or to engage in tender manipulation, and extortion. Now these hypocrites are pretending to be respectable. Each of them must be brought to justice for bringing the country to this state."

Sarjis said a grand rally of students and people will soon be held in Rangpur. "Along with two student advisers, the entire platform of the student movement will shake the ground of Rangpur, demonstrating how we can crush the collaborators of the fascists on the streets."

**OFFICE TO-LET**  
163/2B Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.  
Brand new 14 storied building. Few floor is available for rent. Each floor 4500 sft, 2 parking. 2 gate, 2 lift 2 stair, full backup generator. Multinational Company, NGO, Corporate office preferred. Please contact: 01790-55 77 99

**LAND FOR SALE ON GULSHAN AVENUE (NORTH)**

- 11 (ELEVEN) KATTHAS, 1 CHATTAK, 30 SQ.FT
- CONVERTIBLE FOR COMMERCIAL USE FROM RAJUK
- TWO STORED BUILDING
- NO ENCUMBRANCES OR BANK LOAN, CLEAN TITLE
- ALL RAJUK AND LAND TAX PAPERS UP TO DATE
- ONLY GENUINE BUYERS (NO BROKERS)

PLEASE CONTACT FOR APPOINTMENT:  
02-55052011, 01721-802009

**Apartment for Rent in Baridhara**

Brand New Luxurious Semi/ Furnished Apartment for Rent in Baridhara R/A, (Diplomatic zone) Dhaka .  
6th Floor, 2300 sqft. 3 decorated bedroom 2 en-suite bathroom, 1 common bathroom with drawing, dining, family & utility space. fully air-conditioned, floor to ceiling windows, 4 balconies, western kitchen with oven, water purifier & hot water throughout, separate living for maid with toilet.  
The building provides camera surveillance and fire safety equipment in every floor with rooftop meeting space & garden. Lift with auto generator & 1 car parking, A/C visitor's space, driver's resting area in ground floor.  
(preferably for expatriates/diplomats/ multinationals companies)  
Terms and conditions are applied for rent against Semi/Furnished apartment.  
Contact: 01711542951

**United Nations Development Programme**  
জাতিসংঘ উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচী

**Procurement Notice**  
Quantum Reference UNDP-BGD-00696

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is seeking bids from interested contracting firms/NGOs/Organizations for the following requirements:

**Contracting Firm /NGO/Org for Facilitation and Quality Assurance Livelihoods Skills Training for the SWAPNO II Project.**

**The deadline for submission of the proposal is at 4:30 PM (Bangladesh Local Time), November 07 2024**

The proposal may be submitted on or before the deadline indicated by UNDP in the Procurement Notice. Please visit the link below to learn more about RFP, pre-bid meeting link & submission documents through the quantum platform.

[https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view\\_negotiation.cfm?nego\\_id=26880](https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_negotiation.cfm?nego_id=26880)

For any technical query, please write to us through [bd.procurement@undp.org](mailto:bd.procurement@undp.org) mentioning the reference No UNDP-BGD-00696 in the email subject by October 29, 2024.

**BBS CABLES**  
more than safety

BBS Cables PLC. Address: Advanced Noorani Tower (8th Floor), 01, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.  
Tel: +88 02 222298917, 222288916 Fax: +88 02 222260772 web: www.bbscables.com.bd

**PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

This is for kind information that the Board of Directors Meeting of BBS Cables PLC. held on 26th October, 2024 at 2.00 p.m. at the Corporate Head Office of the Company. The audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June, 2024 has been approved by the Board of Directors. In the said board meeting following price sensitive decisions were taken:

Proposed Dividend	Cash @ 1%
Date and time of the 16th AGM	Monday, 23 December, 2024 at 11.00 AM
Venue of the 16th AGM	Hybrid System
Record date for 16th AGM	Thursday, 14 November, 2024

PARTICULARS	JUNE 30, 2024	JUNE 30, 2023
Net Profits/ (Loss) (Taka)	(13,34,24,418)	97,442,033
Earnings per Share (EPS)	(0.63)	0.46
Net Asset Value per share (NAV)	32.16	32.99
Net Operating cash Flow per Share (NOCFPS)	2.29	2.49

By the order of the Board,  
SD/-  
Md. Golam Habib, CACC  
Company Secretary

Date : 26th October, 2024  
Place : Dhaka

**Attention:** \* Shareholders are requested to check and update their BOID's Bank A/c details along with Routing Number to get Dividend online through BEFTN system.  
\* Provide 12 digit e-TIN to BO A/c and get Tax deduction @10% instead of 15%.

NATIONAL TEA COMPANY

# 11,286 tea workers strike for arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 11,286 workers of the 12 tea gardens under National Tea Company Ltd across the country have continued their strike demanding payment of their six weeks' arrears.

The workers launched the indefinite strike on last Tuesday with numerous programmes, including nationwide work abstentions, human chains and protests within the tea gardens.

On Friday afternoon, thousands of workers in Chandichhara Tea Garden in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj district agitated in support of the strike by blocking the highway through the area.

Workers of tea gardens of NTC also held protest rallies within the gardens on Friday.

"Around 40,000 people depend on the earnings of these more than 11,000 workers of NTC's tea gardens. The strike reflects growing frustration over delayed payments and the impact it has on the workers and their families," said Nipen

Paul, general secretary of Bangladesh Tea Workers' Union.

Ranjit Karmakar, president of the Chandichhara Tea Garden's Panchayat Committee, criticised the garden authorities for failing to deliver on their repeated promises regarding wages and rations for past six weeks.

Tea workers Rita Ganju and Dilip Bhar said they are struggling to make ends meet as they remain unpaid for more than a month.

"The workers get a meagre pay of Tk 170 daily. Even this wage has remained suspended for past six weeks. This has led to a precarious situation. As such, the workers of NTC's tea gardens have not been reporting to work since Monday. The work abstentions will continue unless the workers are paid their wages," said Rambhajan Kairi, former general secretary of the tea workers' union.

Selimur Rahman, manager of Chandichhara Tea Garden, said efforts are being made to settle the workers' dues.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



A farmer and his son return on boat after having their paddy processed at a nearby rice mill. Since the number of rice mills have declined over the years, local farmers often have to make such trips, whether by boat or on foot. The photo was taken in the Mogla Bazar area of South Sunamganj yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## BNP leader accused of attacking minority home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A family from a minority community in Gazipur yesterday alleged that a group of people, reportedly led by a local BNP leader, vandalised their home on Friday.

Following the incident that took place in the city's Bhadun Maizgaon area under ward 41, one Nirmal Mallick filed a complaint with Pubail Police Station yesterday.

Mallick said some armed individuals, led by BNP leader Shahjalal Miah, stormed into their house, and vandalised it.

They also took Tk 2 lakh and four voris of gold.

Contacted, Shahjalal denied the allegations.

Anwar Hussain, president of BNP's ward-41 unit, said while Shahjalal is active in BNP politics, no party leader was involved in the incident, calling it a personal dispute.

Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Amirul Islam said necessary actions will be taken following an investigation.

## KOYRA HEALTH COMPLEX NEW BUILDING

# Work stalled over contractors' fraudulence



DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The construction works of a new four-storey building of Koyra Upazila Health Complex in Khulna have come to a standstill due to negligence and fraudulence by the contractor.

The Tk 10 crore project was initiated by Department of Health Engineering on August 16, 2022 with a nine-month duration to improve the services of the 31-bed health complex.

Contractor firms Ziaul Traders and Shamim Ahsan Traders were given the work order.

However, it came to light that Aktaruzzaman Babu, former lawmaker from Khulna-6 constituency, was implementing the construction work through renting the main contractor's licence.

Later, after failing to secure nomination from Awami League in the 12th national election, followed by the ouster of the AL government, Babu reportedly fled the country, leaving the construction work of the health complex in utter disarray.

So far Tk 1.73 crore of the allocated funds has been withdrawn, but the progress remains stalled at only 18 percent, with supervision compromised and allegations of mismanagement surfacing.

After the construction work began, the old building was demolished. The entire hospital, including administrative activities, was relocated to a smaller building which was originally meant for outpatient services with 19 beds.

At present, the hospital's activities are being conducted in this building amid many limitations.

Many patients were seen being treated on the balcony and stairs. Also, both diagnostic services and surgeries were being conducted amid an acute space constraint on the second floor of the old building.

Hasina Banu of Bedkashi area who got admitted to the health complex recently said, "It was a suffocating atmosphere in the ward with more than 50 patients. I left the hospital and got treatment from a clinic later."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## 6 of a family burnt in N'ganj fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Six members of a family were burnt as a fire broke out at a house in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj on Friday night.

The injured - Md Babul, 40, his wife Sheli, 35, their four children Soheli, 20, Munni, 18, Ismail, 11, and Taslima, 9 - are undergoing treatment at the burn institute in Dhaka.

Babul, Soheli, Ismail and Taslima suffered 55 percent burns while two others 20 to 30 percent burn injuries, said resident surgeon Toriqlul Islam.

The incident took place around 11:00pm when the family was asleep. Police suspect the fire started from a mosquito coil.

## PSTU forms committee to probe graft

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali Science and Technology University has formed a special commission to investigate the financial, administrative, and academic irregularities and corruption at the institution during the Awami League regime.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Kazi Rafiqul Islam formed the 49 member committee and a letter in this regard was issued by Registrar Prof SM Hemayet Jahan on Friday night.

## NTRCA EXAMS 2022

# 76 job seekers still await approval

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Around 76 job seekers qualified under the Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority (NTRCA) were deprived of final recommendations despite meeting government qualifications, according to the applicants.

The applicants, who hold honours and master's degrees in Islamic Studies from recognised universities, claimed they passed the NTRCA exam and qualified for both assistant maulvi and assistant teacher (religion) positions in the 4th public notice in 2022.

However, these candidates alleged that the NTRCA unjustly did not issue a final recommendation to them, which was published in 2023. They also alleged that a total of 55 of their fellow candidates, with the same qualifications as them, were given recommendations.

As a result, these 76 individuals have not been able to join any workplace.

The applicants even submitted

applications to the NTRCA chairman and secretary to the Technical and Madrasa Education division in August and September, detailing the matter, but even that did not bring them any results.

**We did not find any solution for the 76 candidates despite multiple applications. We have been experiencing discrimination and frustration for over a year. It has already affected most of our families.**

MOHIDUL ISLAM, a job seeker

In the letter, they said they passed from recognised universities. When they applied for the circular, the Madrasa MPO policy 2018 mentioned that candidates must be graduates from "recognised universities". However, in a later amendment in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

PRAYER TIMING					
OCTOBER 27					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:00	5:32	7:15	
JAMAAT 5:25	1:15	4:15	5:35	7:45	

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Abdul Karim, alongside his brothers and nephews harvesting red amaranth (laal shakh) in their field. Due to favourable weather and minimal flooding in their area, red amaranth has flourished, allowing farmers to earn a profit of up to Tk 1 lakh per bigha of land. The photo was taken in the Anantapur area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

## Residences by the Lake

### at Uttara Sector 5

*Single apartment per floor  
On southeast corner plot  
Featuring a double-height entrance  
Community space, garden etc.*

**Call: 16687**

01713018405, 01713186944

[www.asset.com.bd](http://www.asset.com.bd)

By **ASSET DEVELOPMENTS**

## Academic Section

Office of the Registrar  
Jashore University of Science and Technology  
Jashore-7408

Date: 24 October 2024

Record Number: 37.01.4101.103.61.423.19.535

### Admission Circular

(Full-time/ Part-time M.Phil and Ph.D Program)

Applications are invited for admission in **full-time/part-time MPhil and PhD programs** for the following departments: **1)** Accounting and Information Systems(AIS), **2)** Finance and Banking(FB), **3)** Management(MGT) and **4)** Marketing(MKT). Applications are invited for admission in **full-time MPhil and PhD programs** for the following departments: **1)** Environmental Science and Technology (EST), **2)** Microbiology (MB), **3)** Fisheries and Marine Bioscience (FMB), **4)** Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (GEBT), **5)** Nutrition and Food Technology (NFT), **6)** Pharmacy (Pharm), **7)** Physics (Phy), **8)** Chemistry (Chem), **9)** Mathematics (Math), **10)** English (Eng), **11)** Agro Product Processing Technology (APPT) and **12)** Climate and Disaster Management (CDM).

Applications are invited for admission in **full-time/part-time PhD program** for the following departments: **1)** Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), **2)** Chemical Engineering (ChE), **3)** Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE), **4)** Petroleum and Mining Engineering (PME), **5)** Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), **6)** Biomedical Engineering (BME) and **7)** Textile Engineering (TE).

Applications are invited for admission in **full-time MPhil program** for the following departments: **1)** Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), **2)** Chemical Engineering (ChE), **3)** Industrial and Production Engineering (IPE), **4)** Petroleum and Mining Engineering (PME), **5)** Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), **6)** Biomedical Engineering (BME) and **7)** Textile Engineering (TE).

This invitation for admission is applicable for January-2025 semester of 2024-2025 academic year.

- General qualifications, conditions and the process of admission form collection and submission of the M.Phil and the PhD program are available in the university website (<https://just.edu.bd>) or in the respective departments.
- The application form has to be filled-up properly and submitted to the respective department by **20/11/2024** (excluding holidays).

GD-800

Egg. Md. Ahsan Habib  
Registrar

## The escapist lure of OTT's bling REALITY SHOWS

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

In a world where the latest news feels like a doomsday clock's countdown and our personal lives consist of work, bills, and endless scrolling on social media platforms, it is no wonder people flock to OTT-based bling reality shows like moths to a Swarovski-encrusted flame. These

glorified exercises in voyeuristic productions like *Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives*, *Selling Sunset*, or even *Bling Empire*, serve a very specific purpose: they remind us that no matter how bad things get in our mundane lives, we can always escape into the sparkly yet vapid vacuum of the ultra-rich behaving badly.

*Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives*, Netflix's current reality juggernaut, has emerged as the reigning queen of this genre, now with an added twist for its third season. As if watching a bunch of well-preserved socialites from Mumbai air-kiss and passive-aggressively compete for social supremacy was not enough, the producers decided to introduce a new element—the age-old Delhi vs Mumbai rivalry is now the focal point of this season because apparently there was not enough “drama” in watching Bhavana Panday, Maheep Kapoor, Seema Kiran Sajdeh and Neelam Kothari Soni bicker over exotic holidays.

Adding a few new faces to this reality circus, the Delhi trio—Shalini Passi, Kalyani Saha Chawla, and Riddhima Kapoor Sahni—was brought to heighten the ante. But instead of the spice and tension the show desperately needed, the Delhi cohort feels more like *claiichi* in *biryani*; unnecessary, disruptive, and slightly irritating. Watching these “high-society” women argue about who throws the better ball is like watching a slow-motion catfight at a garden party. Neither city wins, but they sure do waste a lot of champagne trying.

Let's be real, nobody watches *Fabulous Lives* or similar shows for intellectual stimulation. We do not tune in to learn about art or culture, nor do we expect thought-provoking dialogue. These shows exist to let us, the common folk, gawk at the excessive, over-the-top, and often cringe-worthy antics of the rich and famous. It's the modern version of watching aristocrats parade their wealth

while secretly enjoying seeing them trip over their own egos. *Selling Sunset*, for instance, follows a similar formula. Replace the sarees and Bollywood connections with Los Angeles' multimillion-dollar real estate market, and you have the same guilty pleasure-inducing ingredients of superficially attractive women who somehow find time to sell luxury homes between backstabbing each other over who is wearing the most Louboutins. *Bling Empire*, on the other hand, is Netflix's attempt at blending the aspirational wealth of *Crazy*

trauma of someone making snark comments about our custom-made yacht. We are also hooked because their problems are so trivial that they make our daily grind seem normal.

What makes these shows truly escapist is the fantasy they offer—the fantasy that wealth and status are the ultimate ticket to happiness. But as *Fabulous Lives* and its ilk unintentionally show us, that is not the case. These women, despite their diamonds, designer outfits, and celebrity connections, are as emotionally unfulfilled as the rest of

**The key to the success of these shows is not their depth, which is about as shallow as the infinity pools they feature. Their hook lies in their ability to offer an escape. These bling shows allow us to forget our problems by indulging in the hollow glitz of other people's excess.**



*Rich Asians* with the reality TV chaos of *The Real Housewives*. Here, the Asian elites in Los Angeles flaunt their diamond-encrusted lifestyles while dealing with “relatable problems” like deciding which private jet to take to Paris Fashion Week.

The key to the success of these shows is not their depth, which is about as shallow as the infinity pools they feature. Their hook lies in their ability to offer an escape. These bling shows allow us to forget our problems by indulging in the hollow glitz of other people's excess. It is aspirational content at its gaudiest. Watching these socialites sip champagne in gowns worth more than our yearly rent reminds us that while life may be unfair, at least we do not have to endure the emotional



us. Whether it is Neelam's anxiety over her daughter Googling her or Maheep's endless search for validation, these shows subtly remind us that all the bling in the world cannot buy happiness.

I think the true genius of these shows lies in their self-awareness. They know they are absurd, and they play it up proving their silliness and ability to seem therapeutic. We watch these fabulously empty people live their fabulously empty lives, and we feel better about our own modest existence. We can laugh at Shalini's attempt to play Mother India or at Bhavana's inability to plan a party, and then turn off the TV, safe in the knowledge that we do not have to worry about wearing heels at a pool party in Mauritius.



### Jisshu Sengupta to finally share screen with Shakib Khan in 'Borbaad'

The filming of Dhallywood superstar Shakib Khan's latest movie *Borbaad* is currently underway. Under the direction of Mehdi Hasan Hridoy, the project is being filmed in Mumbai, India.

Rumors hinted at exciting additions to *Borbaad's* cast, and it's now confirmed that popular West Bengal actor Jisshu Sengupta will join the ensemble.

Previously, there was excitement around Jisshu Sengupta potentially starring alongside Shakib Khan in the widely talked about film *Toofan*. However, scheduling issues prevented that collaboration. Now, Jisshu has officially joined the cast of *Borbaad*.

### Jaya Ahsan starrer 'Bhootpori' earns spot at Intl Film Festival of India

Last year, Jaya Ahsan made history at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with five films across three industries. This year, she'll return to the 55th IFFI with *Bhootpori*, selected for the Feature Film segment in the Indian Panorama section.

This year, 20 films have been selected for the Indian Panorama section. Along with *Bhootpori*, two additional Bengali films—*Amar Boss* by the duo Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee and *Aankh Ki Kothin* directed by Saurav Palodhi—will compete in this category.

The IFFI is scheduled to begin on November 20 in Goa and will wrap up on November 28.



## NEWS

### EU stresses polls after reforms

FROM PAGE 12 demonstrate that it is able to take forward reforms. “The ambition is sky high. The pressure from the street is extremely strong and somewhere here there has to be delivery of some quick wins which can still be structural in nature.”

“There has to be a process leading to elections. We think it's very important to get that process right and to give this interim government some time to demonstrate that it can reform,” he added.

The implementation is the most tricky, Miller said, adding that his message to the advisers is that they are not short of resources.

“We're certainly not short of political will. Please tell us what your priorities are, and then let us work very closely with you. We can do a lot.”

As a newcomer arriving at a moment of unprecedented change, Miller now looks forward to supporting the country's transition and reform

ambitions, underpinned by values dear to them both—good governance, democracy and respect for fundamental rights.

**GOOD GOVERNANCE ACROSS BOARD** The first round of negotiations on the new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between Bangladesh and the EU was postponed in August.

The ambassador said they had the sharing of a text for the new agreement between the EU and Bangladesh, which they shared with the Bangladeshi side two weeks ago.

The intention of the PCA is to upgrade EU-Bangladesh relations to include a wider range of policy areas, including climate change and security.

“We are now preparing a high level mission from Brussels, which will come to Dhaka in the first week of November, and where we will not only discuss this new PCA but also which is upgrade, of course, of the treaty, and also the Joint Commission with the interim

government,” Miller said.

There are strong political messages and what is important for the interim government is that the transition has to take place in a smooth manner, he said.

“We wanted to have the ambition to introduce good governance across the board. Of course, this period has to be characterised by respect for the rule of law and human rights, which is what we see,” the envoy added.

He said they look forward to working closely with Bangladesh and can do more together in the international organisations.

“For us, what's happening in Ukraine is absolutely central to European security. So, there is no question that this will continue to dominate the political relationship that we have with our partners, including our close partners.”

In the wider world, the EU and Bangladesh have been working together for many years to promote multilateral solutions to global challenges.

### Mega power deals

FROM PAGE 12 to achieve their interests and the local officials and political parties help them.

“If the Awami League was in power now, they would award the offshore blocks to ExxonMobil. They had increased the profit margin for the foreign companies.”

The state should have the sovereign ownership of all natural resources, he said, adding that the local companies like Bapex should be strengthened in offshore exploration.

If necessary, foreign consultants and contractors should be appointed, he said.

“The national committee demonstrated against the Rampal power plant and Rooppur nuclear plant, but due to the arrogance of the former premier Sheikh Hasina, AL built those plants that will have an adverse impact on the environment.”

The same company that built a nuclear power plant in India for \$5 billion built the Rooppur plant for \$12 billion, he added.

Amending the deals is possible under various international conventions, said Anis Chowdhury, professor emeritus at Western Sydney University in Australia.

The interim government can refuse to pay the debts, he said, adding that Ecuador set examples in this regard.

If the whole system is not changed and just the people, the change will not be sustainable, said economist MM Akash.

People want power and energy at cheaper rates, which should be fixed under a transparent process, he said.

### Jamaat forms all-Hindu union committee

FROM PAGE 12 Sangha; and Prabhash Chandra Barman, an assistant teacher at Deuti School and College. They have been made vice-president, assistant secretary and treasurer respectively.

Before the announcement, Jamaat leaders held a meeting with the local Hindu community. Hafiz Idris Ali, Jamaat's organising secretary of the unit, organised the meeting where the party's Rangpur district unit Secretary Maulana Enamul Haque was the chief guest.

About 200 members of the Hindu community, including Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad leader Bhavesh Chandra Barman, were present at the meeting.

The committee is likely to get more members, who will be Hindu as well, a source present at the meeting said.

Contacted, Jamaat's Publicity and Media Secretary of Dhaka City (North) Ataur Rahman said anyone, even non-Muslims, working for the protection of the country's

independence and sovereignty can become Jamaat members if they abide by the party rules and its political decisions.

“Jamaat ensures equal rights for all in terms of civil rights. As a political party, Jamaat has an ideological stance, but this ideology is separate from civil rights. Jamaat does not believe in depriving individuals, groups, or parties of their civil and political rights,” he said, adding that this is clearly stated in appendix II of their party charter.

### Female students recount years of torment

FROM PAGE 12 my experience. This should have been resolved long ago. Political power acted as an obstacle.”

Mim shared her ordeal at a discussion titled “Testimonies of Harassed Female Students and the Responsibility of Creating a Discrimination-free Educational Environment”, organised by the Education Rights Council at the RC Majumdar Arts Auditorium at Dhaka University yesterday.

The event was moderated by Md Shahnewaz Khan Chandan, member-secretary of the council and assistant professor at JnU's Education and Research Institute.

Among those who shared similar stories were Khadizatul Kubra from JnU, Joyma Moonmoon from Eden College, and Synthia Mehrin Sakal from DU.

Fulpori Khatun, a student of Islamic University, joined the event virtually and spoke about the torture she had to endure by some Chhatra League activists in 2023, which nearly forced her to drop out.

“As a first year student, I witnessed a culture of intimidation and ragging. New students were pressured to greet others [the activists] with ‘salam’ at every step on the staircase. Those who did not, would face dire consequences.”

She remembered being detained and tortured by BCL female activists for four and a half hours, during which

they forced her to write a suicide note stating that if she died, no one would be held responsible.

“If university administrations aren't held hostage by political parties, we can create a safe and secure campus for all students.”

Khadizatul Kubra opened up about her harrowing experience of spending a year in jail under the oppressive Digital Security Act, despite having committed no crimes.

Even while battling kidney disease, she faced relentless setbacks as a Dhaka court repeatedly denied her bail.

“After enduring such injustice, I was deeply disappointed that no one from my department stood by me. The behaviour I received from some teachers hurt me the most. The harassment I faced during the viva board was incredibly painful for me.”

Synthia Mehrin Sokal, a participant in the quota reform movement at DU, said, “On July 15, Chhatra League activists chased me on the campus and struck me in the head with a rod. I heard a loud bang in my ear and then collapsed... I thought I was dying.”

“The people of Bangladesh have freed themselves from a dictatorship, but my suffering continues. I still feel the pain every day. I can't be my lively self anymore; even speaking requires pauses. But I am alive, and that is enough.”

Joyma Munmun shared how the Chhatra League for 15 years had

dominated the university halls, forcing students into political activities and subjecting those who resisted to mental and physical abuse.

Professor M Niaz Asadullah, convener of the Education Rights Council and professorial fellow at North South University, presided over the event.

In his speech, he said, “The education system may be faltering, but the youth remains resilient. That gives us hope. Today, we focused on one aspect of our 14-point agenda. Moving forward, we'll focus on other reforms, ensuring that inclusivity and youth participation are at the heart of all educational endeavours.”

Professor Hosne Ara Begum, former director of DU's Institute of Education and Research, said, “There should be no political influence in the relationship between teachers and students.”

Professor Dr Chowdhury Saima Ferdous, of DU's international business department, said, “I feel ashamed as a teacher after hearing the struggles of the girls at this event. While we knew about the abuses in the dormitories, we were unaware of the details.”

Dr Moninur Rashid, of DU's Institute of Education and Research, said, “To create discrimination-free educational environments, we must ensure good governance. Teachers must fulfil their roles as educators, and we need to dismantle the culture of student politics that fosters dependency.”



Ukrainian rescuers clear debris on the site of a Russian missile strike in Dnipro, eastern Ukraine yesterday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russian missile strikes killed four people including a child in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro Friday night, while a teenager and another person died in attacks on Kyiv and the surrounding region, officials said yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'TERRORIST ATTACK' 10 cops die in south- east Iran

AFP, Tehran

At least 10 police officers were killed in a "terrorist attack" in an area of southeastern Iran long plagued by unrest, local media reported yesterday.

They were killed during an attack on "police vehicles" in Sistan Baluchistan province's Taftan county, the Mehr and Tasnim news agencies reported, without saying how it was carried out.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which occurred some 1,200 kilometres (745 miles) southeast of the capital Tehran.

The official IRNA news agency, citing a police statement, reported the death of "10 personnel in two patrol units" in what it called an ambush.

Sistan Baluchistan borders Pakistan and Afghanistan, and is one of the most impoverished provinces in the Islamic republic.

It is home to a large number of the Baluch minority, an ethnic group spread between Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan who practise Sunni Islam in contrast to the country's predominantly Shiite population.

The province has experienced recurring clashes between Iranian security forces and rebels from the Baluch minority, radical Sunni groups and drug traffickers.

Yesterday's attack was one of the deadliest attacks in the area in recent months.

In early October, at least six people, including police officers, were killed in the province in two separate attacks.

The Pakistan-based Sunni jihadist group Jaish al-Adl -- Army of Justice in Arabic -- claimed responsibility for the two attacks in a message on Telegram.

Formed in 2012 by Baluch separatists, the group is considered a "terrorist organisation" by both Iran and the United States.

## Dozens detained at north Gaza hospital

REUTERS, Cairo

Gaza health ministry has said it regained contact with staff at a northern Gaza hospital that was besieged by Israeli forces, learning that three health workers had been injured and dozens of male medical staffers and some of the patients detained.

Health officials said on Friday Israeli forces had stormed Kamal Adwan Hospital, one of three medical facilities struggling to operate in the area.

Footage circulated by the health ministry - which Reuters could not immediately verify - showed damage to several buildings after the Israeli forces withdrew yesterday.

Medics said at least 44 of the facility's 70-member team of the hospital had been detained by the army. It later said the army had released 14 of them, including the hospital's director.

An Israeli military spokesperson declined comment on the hospital report. On Friday the Israeli military said it operated in the area of the hospital based on intelligence "regarding the presence of terrorists and terrorist infrastructure" there.

Medics said at least two children had died inside the intensive care unit after Israeli fire hit the generators and oxygen station in the facility on Friday.

Medical staffers have refused Israeli army orders to evacuate the hospital or leave their patients unattended. Before the army raid, medics said at least 600 people had been in the hospital, including patients and their escorts.

"The safety and lives of patients who are left inside Kamal Adwan Hospital without medical staff and much needed medication are at risk now," said Marwan Al-Hams of the health ministry.

Three nurses were injured during the raid and three ambulance vehicles were destroyed, the ministry said.

Israeli military strikes on the towns of Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya in northern Gaza have so far killed around 800 people during a three-week offensive, the Gaza ministry added.

Israel says its forces returned to northern Gaza to root out Hamas fighters who regrouped there. The Israeli military said on Friday that three of its soldiers were killed in combat in the north of the Gaza Strip.

'EXTREMELY DIRE'  
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) described the situation in northern Gaza as "extremely dire" and said people wishing to evacuate must be assured safe passage.

"Ongoing evacuation orders, and continued restriction on introduction of essential supplies, leaves the remaining civilian population in north Gaza in horrific circumstances," the ICRC said in a statement on Saturday.

"Hospitals are being told to evacuate, leaving a potential vacuum of medical services for the many civilians who remain, and are critically under-resourced while new patients continue to arrive," it added.

Senior Hamas official Basem Naim said Israel's incursions in northern Gaza and storming Kamal Adwan Hospital were a violation of international humanitarian law that it could not have committed without "the protection of Western countries".

Israel regularly accuses Hamas of exploiting the civilian population and property, including hospitals and mosques, for military purposes. Hamas denies the accusation.

The Israeli military said on Saturday it had expanded the humanitarian designated area of Al-Mawasi in the southern Gaza Strip, where the army has in the past told Palestinians to go when forced to evacuate their homes.

Separately on Saturday Israeli forces killed a Hamas member during a raid in the city of Tulkarm, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Israeli security force said in a statement. It said the man had been planning an imminent attack.

without "the protection of Western countries".

Israel regularly accuses Hamas of exploiting the civilian population and property, including hospitals and mosques, for military purposes. Hamas denies the accusation.

The Israeli military said on Saturday it had expanded the humanitarian designated area of Al-Mawasi in the southern Gaza Strip, where the army has in the past told Palestinians to go when forced to evacuate their homes.

Separately on Saturday Israeli forces killed a Hamas member during a raid in the city of Tulkarm, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Israeli security force said in a statement. It said the man had been planning an imminent attack.

### Israeli forces withdraw from hospital after storming it on Friday

### 3 health workers injured; dozens detained

### ICRC decries 'extremely dire' conditions in north Gaza

### Hamas member killed in occupied West Bank, Israel says

## 50 killed in paramilitary attack in Sudan

AFP, Gedaref

At least 50 people have been killed in a single attack by Sudanese paramilitaries who have besieged and raided villages in al-Jazira state, activists said.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have been at war with Sudan's regular army since April 2023 but have in recent days intensified their

violence against civilians in al-Jazira, south of the capital Khartoum, after their commander in the state defected to the army.

"The villages of al-Sariha and Azraq have been under attack" since Friday morning, the resistance committee in Hasaheisa, one of hundreds of volunteer groups coordinating aid in Sudan, said in a statement to AFP late on Friday.

## Former chief whip

FROM PAGE 2

according to information gleaned from other arrestees, Moinuddin was directly involved in the killing. That is why he should be remanded to identify the other fugitives and ascertain their whereabouts.

The defence submitted an application seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayer, saying that their client was not named in the FIR.

After hearing the prayers, the magistrate turned down

the defence pleas and put Moinuddin on remand.

A team of detectives arrested the accused from a house in the capital's Gulshan around 3:30am yesterday, said Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

According to the case documents, the BNP called a grand rally in the capital on October 28 last year. To foil the programme, the Awami League also called a grand

rally in the city. At one stage, AL goons, with the help of police, attacked the BNP's rally in Nayapaltan, leaving Shamim dead.

On September 14 this year, Abbas Ali, a former member of Jubo Dal central committee, filed a case with Paltan Model Police Station accusing 704 named suspects, including some top leaders of the AL and several police officials, and 12,000 unnamed others over the killing.

## 3 shot as drug gangs clash

FROM PAGE 12

use firearms which were looted from Mohammadpur Police Station during the mass uprising.

Yesterday, local residents, including students, staged a demonstration in front of Mohammadpur Police Station demanding improvement in law and order.

Demonstrators said the law and order situation in Mohammadpur did not return to normal after the fall of Hasina's regime on

August 5. The blamed a lack of police patrol for the poor law and order situation.

Inspector Hafizur said they could not patrol the entire neighbourhood due to a shortage of manpower and vehicles. "We are trying to carry out our duties with whatever resources we have."

### JOINT TEAM LAUNCHES RAIDS

A joint team of Bangladesh Army and the police conducted raids in Rayer

Bazar, Basila, Dhaka Udyan and the adjacent areas from around 6:00pm and detained 45 young people for their alleged involvement in robberies and mugging.

The team was interrogating the detainees to verify their involvement in criminal activities.

"We are trying to identify the real offenders. Once we have evidence of their involvement in criminal activities, we will produce them before the court," Hafizur said.

**THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD.**  
GAZIPUR-1703.

**Local e-Tender for supply of 600 Kgs Sealing Lid and 600 Kgs Sealing Wire.**

Local e-Tender is invited in The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.(SPCBL)'s e-Tender site (<https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>) for procurement of the following item for SPCBL as per e-Tender schedule. Necessary information is given below:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item.	Date of Publish	Last Date & time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for Opening of e-tender
01	10/2024-2025	600 Kgs Sealing Lid and 600 Kgs Sealing Wire	27/10/2024	24/11/2024 upto 11.00 AM	24/11/2024 at 11.15 AM

For more details, Please visit/Contact the followings:

Website : [www.spcbl.org.bd](http://www.spcbl.org.bd)  
Cell : 88-01911064896  
Telephone : 2233755560-567(Ext: 168 & 180), 2233755556  
E-mail : [info@spcbl.org.bd](mailto:info@spcbl.org.bd)  
e-Tender site : <https://spcbltender.bb.org.bd>

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

GD- 796

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
মহাপরিচালকের কার্যালয়  
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, রেলভবন, ঢাকা

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের "ওয়েম্যান" পদে অপেক্ষমাণ তালিকা হতে হৃদায় ফলাফল প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। প্রকাশিত ফলাফল বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের ওয়েবসাইট ([www.railway.gov.bd](http://www.railway.gov.bd)) ও টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর ওয়েবসাইট (<http://br.teletalk.com.bd>) থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

  
এ এম সালাহ উদ্দীন  
যুগ্ম-মহাপরিচালক (অপারেশন)  
ও আহ্বায়ক, বিভাগীয় নির্বাচন কমিটি

টিডি-৭৯৬

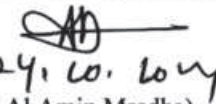
**GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH**  
Department of Immigration and Passports  
E-7, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka  
[www.dip.gov.bd](http://www.dip.gov.bd)

Ref No- 58.01.0000.102.55.001.20(Part-4)- 818 Date:24/10/2024

**Corrigendum**

Subject: Amendment of DIP Tender No. 58.01.0000.102.55.001.20(Part-4)-759, Date: 03/10/2024 For Procurement of 1.5 Million Machine Readable Passport Booklets and 1.5 Million lamination Foil.

Tender No. & Date	Description	Existing	Amended As
58.01.0000.102.55.001.20(Part-4)-759, Date: 03/10/2024	Tender Last Selling Date (Tender Notice SI No. 17)	Tender Last Selling Date: 03/11/2024	Tender Last Selling Date: 06/11/2024
	Tender Closing Date and Time (Tender Notice SI No. 18)	Tender Closing Date: 03/11/2024 Time: 01:00pm BST	Tender Closing Date: 07/11/2024 Time: 01:00pm BST
	Tender Opening Date and Time (Tender Notice SI No. 19)	Tender Opening Date: 03/11/2024 Time: 02:00pm BST	Tender Opening Date: 07/11/2024 Time: 02:00pm BST

  
(Md Amin Mredha)  
Deputy Director (Procurement)  
For Director General

GD- 797

## US approves \$2b arms sales to Taiwan

AFP, Washington

The US State Department on Friday approved a \$2 billion arms sale package for Taiwan including advanced surface-to-air missile systems and radar, a move that could provoke Beijing.

The sale, which awaits approval by Congress, includes several anti-aircraft systems, including NASAMS and 123 missiles totaling \$1.16 billion, according to the agency responsible for the sale.

The agency also announced the sale of radar systems to Taiwan worth \$828 million.

The equipment will be derived from US Air Force supplies.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Economic Relations Division  
Ministry of Finance  
Admin-3 Section  
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207  
[www.erd.gov.bd](http://www.erd.gov.bd)

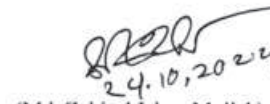
Memo No: 09.00.0000.074.07.009.24/1096 Date: 24/10/2024.

**Tender Notice (e-GP)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of goods and services mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Description of Goods/ work	Tender Document Selling Start	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing Date & Time	Opening Date & Time
1.	1028896	Procurement of Computers and Others Accessories	27.10.2024 at 11.30	11.11.2024 at 12.30	11.11.2024 at 14.30	11.11.2024 at 14.30

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

  
(Md. Zahurul Islam Mollah)  
Assistant Secretary  
Phone: 84111443

GD-799

# The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## We agree with the power adviser

### Capacity charge payments to idle power plants must stop

We are pleased to note that the interim government has decided to terminate agreements with power plants that have been collecting capacity charges without producing electricity. In an interview with this daily, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, who currently oversees three ministries under the interim government, said that this decision was made in the public interest—a sentiment we fully support. For years, we have voiced concerns about the previous government's costly decision to pay idle power plant owners through capacity charges, wasting significant taxpayer funds and channelling resources into the hands of individuals politically connected with the former Awami League regime.

The adviser expressed his surprise at how a five-year agreement was extended to 16 years. He also revealed that a network of corruption had developed within the power sector, rooted in the structure of the Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply Act of 2010. This indemnity law, originally intended to provide short-term relief from power shortages, ultimately became a permanent arrangement. As a result, decisions made under this act lacked proper scrutiny, enabling one-sided benefits for power plant owners at the expense of public interest. According to some estimates, from 2009 to the fiscal year 2023-24, Tk 1,37,000 crore has been paid for capacity charges or rentals without utilising the production capacity. Clearly, the country could ill afford such waste. And even our current economic predicament can, to a large extent, be attributed to this. Which is why the decision by the interim government to not extend any agreement with such power plants was extremely necessary.

Furthermore, according to the adviser, such criminal networks have also established themselves in other sectors of the country. This is what made the Awami League's megaprojects—undertaken without proper consideration of their true benefits—so costly for the public. Such corruption has made nearly all public projects much more expensive than they should have been, while simultaneously creating a corrupt culture that is proving difficult to change.

Despite the enormity of the task of rooting out such corruption, it is essential for the current government to reform these sectors urgently. Given the economic constraints that Bangladesh already faces, it cannot afford to continue losing such exorbitant funds to corrupt practices.

In line with that, while the government's decision not to pay capacity charges is a positive step, it should go further and repeal the power indemnity law that has drained the economy. The government should also amend the regulatory commission law to restore its right to hold meaningful public hearings before any increase in energy prices. At the same time, the commission should work to eliminate inefficiency and corruption to ensure an uninterrupted energy supply without any further unjustified price increases.

## Israel is destabilising the entire region

### Will the US make sincere efforts to diplomatically solve the crisis?

Israel's strikes in Iran on October 26, which it justifies as retaliation against Tehran's strikes on Israel earlier this month, gives rise to fears of further escalation between the two countries and the region. Meanwhile, Israel's genocide in Gaza is unrelenting with a death toll of over 42,000 people, most of them women and children. In the pretext of targeting Hezbollah, the Israeli Army killed more than 700 Lebanese in airstrikes across Lebanon between September 23 and September 27. Among those killed were 50 children and 94 women, according to Al Jazeera. Beirut authorities report that the offensive has resulted in over 2,500 deaths and displaced more than 12 million people.

Thus, we seem farther away from the ceasefire that we had hoped would put an end to these senseless killing of civilians and total destruction of Gaza's infrastructure. Undoubtedly, the US's unconditional support of Israel and lukewarm efforts to broker a ceasefire have given Israel carte blanche to continue its genocide in Gaza and continuously bomb the region without facing any consequences. Despite widespread condemnation from many countries around the world and appeals from the UN Secretary General for an end to the killing of Palestinians and now Lebanese, until the US and its Western allies take a strong and decisive step by stopping its support of Israel's military actions, there will be no end to this genocide. The US has moved its anti-missile defences to Israel along with around 100 soldiers to operate them. US President Joe Biden has made it clear that should Iran choose to strike back after this latest attack by Israel, the US will aid in Israel's "defence."

The double standards of the US and many of its Western allies in how they view strikes by Israel and those by Iran makes it clear that the blatant human rights abuses and crimes against humanity committed by Israel will continue to be white-washed as "defence" operations. History will judge these nations for allowing one of the biggest genocides against an occupied people. But right now, the dangers of greater escalation in the region—even including nuclear powers—is far too close to home for the US and its allies to continue their blind support of Israel. The aftermath of not stopping Israel's aggression and violation of international law could be catastrophic.

#### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

### Sadat and Begin win Nobel Peace Prize



On this day in 1978, Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin of Israel were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for negotiations that resulted first in the Camp David Accords, then in a peace treaty between their countries.

# How has the interim government fared so far?



#### STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (ret'd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

#### SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN

Nearly three months have passed that the interim government (IG) has been in charge of a country devastated beyond comprehension. We the mere mortals, struggling to forget the nightmarish 15 years, can be forgiven for nurturing very high expectations from the new dispensation.

It will do us well to remember that the IG is not the caretaker government (CTG) of the past. It is very unique, given the circumstances in which it came to power—a popular youth-led uprising has validated not only the IG's assumption of power but has also, *ipso facto*, granted approval for any and all legal actions it undertakes to rectify the damage to the nation's institutions and agencies. The mutilation done to the nation would require more than run of the mill actions or traditional approach.

In passing it should be stressed that raising the issue of Hasina's resignation at this point in time is out of place, some may see this as being ulteriorly motivated, and reeking of conspiracy.

It is of no consequence whether a person who assumed power in a dubious manner, was deposed through a popular uprising—there can be no greater mandate than this—and sought exile of their own volition, has tendered an official letter of resignation. We must admit that the president's recent remarks regarding this have mystified us.

The various reform committee gives us a good idea of the sectoral reforms the IG wants to undertake. Unique situation requires unique response that may not necessarily conform to the normal methods and means of administering a country.

But while the IG goes about fixing things, it should keep the people informed about its policies and plan of action for rectification. The IG should keep in mind that although it is not bound by any timeframe and its framework of reference is very wide, its time limit is also not open-ended. And a "reasonable" timeframe is open to various interpretations. What the IG is doing should also be visible.

The first thing that still needs to be fully addressed is the

administration, which seems to be influenced by the lingering presence of the Awami League. Reportedly, many beneficiaries of the past regime continue in important appointments. The longer they stay in the administration the more are the risks they pose to the successful implementation of the IG's reform



Students under the banner of anti-discrimination student movement demonstrate on the High Court premises on October 16 demanding resignations of 'pro-Awami League fascist judges'.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

plans. The significance of the manufactured unrest in the RMG sector, sabotage of oil tankers, and various demands from different professional groups are well-orchestrated actions to nip the plans of the IG in the bud.

Apparently, it would seem that the administration is not moving fast enough for some quarters' liking, and a feature post-revolution is the regime of intimidation and coercion imposed on certain quarters. While that is understandable under the circumstances, making haste while sorting out the muck of the last 15 years may be counterproductive.

The public has certain expectations as well as grievances, and some of these are manifested in the student outburst, demonstrated in their siege of the High Court for removal of judges

appointed during the Hasina regime where personal fealty triumphed over qualification and merit. The latest outburst is against the person in Bangabhaban for reasons mentioned.

One of the gripes the students have, and justifiably so, is the continuation of some senior bureaucrats who thrived under the Hasina regime, and who were complicit in the destruction of the state institutions and misuse of the state agencies for partisan gains. This goes for all sectors.

The education sector was a target of the students too. But witch-hunting is not the answer. Admittedly, the public universities were caderised from the vice chancellor down to the junior most lecturer. Most of them did not meet the minimum requirements of the post. One might say that it

A passing reference was made to this subject in one of my previous columns, but time has come to accord the issue more than a cursory glance. It is my distinct impression that the matter has been deliberately swept under the carpet hoping that, Bangalee memory being short, the matter would be forgotten. Well, not so soon.

A few questions need to be answered by the relevant individuals in positions of responsibility. Feigning ignorance will not sit well with the common man, who feels that allowing those responsible for bringing so much misery to the people—through wanton loot and plunder, siphoning billions out of the country, and particularly those directly responsible for the deaths of a thousand and the maiming of several times more—soils the blood of the martyrs. They must be held accountable.

Of the 17 crore Bangladeshis, only 600 or so sought refuge inside the military establishments. Among them were politicians and senior members of the law enforcing agencies. The question is why. They must have done something wrong that they feared would incur public wrath. In fact, these were the people who would have left the country sooner but somehow couldn't. Some of their more clever and smarter colleagues had abandoned the Awami League boat no sooner than they realised that it had started taking in water.

In fact, abandoning the followers and leaving the country furtively for safer places during hard times has been the hallmark of the party leadership. History will bear out my comments. Therefore, to see the leader living up to the party tradition after August 5 was not a surprise.

My question is: in the future, will highly secured places within the country be used as sanctuaries for those responsible for killing democracy, looting public wealth, and committing the kinds of misdeeds that those seeking protection in the cantonments are alleged to have committed? Additionally, we are still at a loss to explain how many of these individuals managed to leave the country and who guaranteed them a safe exit.

The ultimate goal is to hold a participatory all-inclusive and acceptable election. Having said that, holding elections without fixing the systemic aberrations would take us back to square one. That would denigrate the sacrifice of the martyrs of the Monsoon Revolution. And it shall not be allowed to happen.

# Does the 2024 Nobel-winning economic research tell the whole story?



#### AN OPEN DIALOGUE

Dr. Abdullah Shibli is an economist and works for Change Healthcare, Inc., an information technology company. He also serves as senior research fellow at the US-based International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI).

#### ABDULLAH SHIBLI

The Nobel Prize in Economics for 2024 was awarded to three American economists whose research explained why some countries are rich and others poor. They used theory as well as empirical evidence to argue that differences in economic institutions are the fundamental cause of divergence in long-run economic growth. Simply put: economic growth is a consequence of good governance, property rights enforcement, constraints on power-holders, and relatively lower rent-seeking by power-holders. However, there are some reservations about their findings.

The honourees are Daron Acemoglu, Elizabeth and James Killian professor of Economics in the Department of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); James A. Robinson, a political scientist and an economist, who teaches at the University of Chicago; and Simon Johnson, the Ronald A. Kurtz (1954) professor of Entrepreneurship at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson's work divides institutions into two categories: "inclusive" and "extractive." Inclusive institutions include property rights, democracy, rule of law and order, and curbs

on corruption, while extractive institutions give rise to a high concentration of power and limited political freedom, seek to concentrate resources in the hands of a small elite, and thus stifle economic development.

A book by Acemoglu and Robinson, titled *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (2012) analyses why some countries grow while others are left behind. They raise the question: "what forces or institutions promote or hinder economic growth?" They concede that in some cases it appears that GDP growth is determined by a gift of nature but by and large durable and "welfare-promoting" societal institutions are a pre-condition for lasting prosperity. India is an example. It had a per capita income higher than European countries during the Mogul period, but that did not last beyond a few centuries. It is the conducive political and economic institutions that can account for the secular rise in per capita income and welfare of the majority.

A minor point of interest is that all three of the laureates were born outside the US, where they studied and spent most of their lives. Acemoglu was born in Turkey, while the other two were born in the UK (incidentally, Robinson

grew up in Barbados). I wonder if their migration to the US might have played a role in their choice of topics: in the divergence of economic growth in different countries. Also, all of them had to journey through one of the top US universities during their career, which has been noted with concern by some academicians.

The three economists examined the European colonisation of large parts of the globe. They wrote a seminal paper in the *American Economic Review* in 2001 titled "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation." As is well known, a critical explanation for the current differences in prosperity is the political and economic systems that the colonisers introduced or chose to foster from the sixteenth century onwards in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

Several criticisms of the research by the three laureates have been voiced. First of all, they have a very narrow point of view. Their theory legitimises the processes of imperialism and colonialism and, at worst, absolves racism. Where the Europeans settled, they built good institutions but in Africa and Asia they hindered the growth of autonomy and democracy.

Second, researchers at Harvard and Yale point out that it is not institutions that lead to growth. Rather, growth supports the institutions. Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore had authoritarian governments when they reached peak economic growth. China grew without democratic institutions. Thirdly, their work indicates a bias towards capitalist institutions, inevitably leading to the concentration of wealth and political power among a select minority.

Other economists too challenged the causality. Do political institutions cause economic growth, or do economic growth and human capital development lead to institutional improvement? As indicated above, the causality might have been the opposite of what the trio contends.

Mushtaq Khan, a professor of economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, argues that Acemoglu, Johnson and Robinson's research mainly shows that today's high-income countries score higher on western-based institution indexes, and not that these countries achieved economic development because they established inclusive institutions first.

Also, we lack reliable estimates of "the effect of institutions on economic performance." However, this year's Nobel in economics will boost research into the role of government, wealth inequality, and inquiry into the persistence of poverty.

Regarding the research's relevance for Bangladesh, while the country has experienced significant economic growth, its institutional framework is not considered entirely conducive to sustained long-term growth. Bureaucratic hurdles, corruption, lack of transparency, and weaknesses in regulatory bodies often hinder business operations and investment potential. The recent July-August uprising demonstrated that governance and institutional quality improvements are crucial for Bangladesh to reach its full economic potential. In the last few years, some had hailed Bangladesh as a "Tiger Economy" but it is now clear that all these slogans amounted to hailing the "emperor with no clothes."



# Bangladesh's roadblocks to becoming a successful democracy



Rumel Mahmood, PhD, is a healthcare data analyst and researcher based in the Greater Boston area, U.S.

RUMEL MAHMOOD

Bangladesh has embarked on an ambitious journey to democratise. It is ambitious because successful democracies are rare in the world. Many factors facilitate democratisation, yet public discourse in Bangladesh since the fall of the Hasina regime has focused mainly on one factor.

Bangladesh has never been a successful democracy in its history, yet the public and the interim government believe that an optimal constitutional arrangement can prevent authoritarianism and ensure the maintenance of democracy. However, social science has researched other factors in democratisation for more than five decades. It is important to recognise how these may impact Bangladesh's path to becoming a successful democracy: economics, the order of institutionalisation, the rule of law, and values. Scholars have focused on one of these or in combination.

First, it is probably worth defining what a "successful democracy" is. An electoral democracy is a country in which elections are free and fair. Bangladesh has probably only had four elections which were free and fair, and held under the auspices of a caretaker government. But we can question if those were meaningful free and fair elections even under caretaker governments because the opposition rarely acknowledged the results, even when elections were credible. A party unwilling to serve as the loyal opposition is eliminating important checks and balances. Both the Awami League and BNP are implicated in this abdication of duty.

**In a recent empirical test, it was shown that countries with more citizens who are open to diversity and respect individual rights are more likely to sustain liberal democracies in the long run, while per capita income and trust were not found to have an impact. In this study, the data for Bangladesh reveal low scores on openness to diversity.**

I think the people of Bangladesh want more than just an electoral democracy, though. I think they want a *liberal democracy*. A liberal democracy is one where there are free and fair elections to allow for majoritarian rule, but also protections against majoritarian rule. This entails checks and balances to prevent a government from overreaching civil rights for individuals and citizens. Examples of checks and balances are bicameralism and an independent judiciary—topics that are being discussed. Having civil liberties would also prevent a private citizen from being abducted by the government and tortured in secret, in an Aynaghar for example. In theory, Bangladesh had checks and balances in an independent judiciary earlier in Hasina's regime, but when push came to shove, a Supreme Court Justice was forced to flee the country. This suggests that constitutionalism alone is not enough to prevent authoritarianism, as a forceful leader can overcome constitutional guardrails.

There are also distinctions to be made



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

between different types of authoritarianism. In a closed authoritarian regime, there is no pretext of elections. Under electoral authoritarianism, elections are held but without real competition between parties. Bangladesh under Hasina's rule since 2009 was an electoral authoritarian state. Political scientists have identified a number of these hybrid regime types since the early 2000s, when nascent democracies of the 1990s—also known as "3rd wave" democracies—failed to establish liberal democracy. If anything, there has been a democratic backsliding in the world, where now seven in 10 people live in some type of authoritarian regime, when this number was five in 10 a little more than 20 years ago. Ninety-three percent of South Asians live in some sort of authoritarian regime, only second to the Middle East.

Liberal democracies are rare. As mentioned, and is widely known, there have been only a few dozen or so countries that have become liberal democracies, and most of them are wealthy and in the West. Social scientists have thus focused on the impact of wealth or income on democracy. It has been a finding confirmed over many decades that only rich countries are liberal democracies. While there is a strong correlation between GDP per capita and liberal democracy, from a theoretical perspective, some social scientists are not sure why: does economic growth lead to more education, or does economic growth lead to a growing middle class that demands democracy? Fighting for more meritocratic openings in civil service jobs is a very middle-class demand.

While Bangladesh has seen considerable economic growth over the past few decades, its GDP per capita in nominal dollars is still only around \$2,500. It does mean Bangladesh is richer than one-third of

the world, but poorer than two-thirds. No country at this income level has become a liberal democracy. If official governmental accounting has to be revised, and probably downward, it may mean that Bangladesh is even poorer, putting it in the bottom quartile of countries.

An important concept in the study of democratisation is ordering. We have already looked at one type of ordering: economic

180 countries in 2009, to 149th out of 180 countries last year. This drop might reflect more rampant looting by some elites in the Hasina government, and is unfortunate, but it does not mean Bangladesh was not highly corrupt beforehand. In fact, the highest ranking Bangladesh achieved on this ranking was 136 out of 177 countries, in 2013 during the Hasina regime. There has been a global upward trend in corruption.

that deal with some aspects of the rule of law, such as the judiciary and corruption, but I don't think judicial reforms can stem the widely held belief that citizens can take the law into their own hands. These types of values take decades to change.

We can examine other slowly evolving citizen values that impact democracy. While economic preconditions have been examined in successful democracies since the late 1950s, scholars have also looked at what they have called "political culture" since then as well. The argument is that democracies can only be sustained when people have certain values, like trust and tolerance of differences. The values of "civic culture" seem to change slowly over time, but there are drivers of it. In fact, in a more nuanced view than the economic determinists, the late political scientist Ronald Inglehart and his colleagues argued that economic growth does not lead to sustained democracy directly, but indirectly by improving civic culture, which in turn fosters liberal democracy. The relevant question might then be why some countries see improvements in civic values with economic growth while others do not.

In a recent empirical test, it was shown that countries with more citizens who are open to diversity and respect individual rights are more likely to sustain liberal democracies in the long run, while per capita income and trust were not found to have an impact. In this study, the data for Bangladesh reveal low scores on openness to diversity. This study looks at values by cohort, and the study preceded the release of the most recent survey data it was based on—the World Values Survey; the latest wave in Bangladesh was carried out in 2018. But when looking at the question items that the openness to diversity variable is based on for the 2018 survey results, respect for individual rights is low and there doesn't appear to be any variation in cohorts, with the youngest being 16-29 at the time of the survey. This means that Bangladesh would still score low on the openness to diversity measure, and for its youngest cohort, in the latest wave of this survey.

In sum, social scientists have looked at many different and important predictors of democratisation. There is also a vast literature on social movements, protests, and the overthrowing of regimes. Regime change and transitions to democracy are much more common than successful democratisation. Whether we look at income, the rule of law, or values, Bangladesh ranks low on these predictors of democratisation. Do we need to be deterministic about this and believe a less wealthy country like Bangladesh cannot become a successful, liberal democracy just because of its lack of resources? No, but public discourse should consider seriously why lower-income countries struggle with authoritarianism, corruption, and challenging civic values. On the other hand, while the younger generation's values may not align with more global predictors of democratisation, they are showing some civic values which aren't easily captured by Western social scientists. First, they took many risks, and hundreds of lives were lost during the uprising. And after looters stormed the Gono Bhaban and the Jatiya Sangsad, students stopped them from looting. When the police were afraid to do their jobs, students controlled traffic. When some mob lynching took place, students protested. They helped protect Hindu temples. So, it is possible there is a mismatch between what others have examined over many decades in terms of political values and what we are seeing among the younger generation. But a lack of openness to diversity and respect for individual rights as seen in recent survey data may still serve as an obstacle to Bangladesh becoming a liberal democracy.

growth seems to precede democratisation. However, economic growth would appear to be necessary, but not sufficient for democracy, as there are wealthy and rapidly growing countries that are not democratic, such as oil-rich countries in the Middle East and China. An important ordering to consider is that of democratic institutions and democracy. The view of many is that if you build and maintain democratic institutions—at the minimum, free and fair elections—then democracies can develop, become more liberal, and be sustained. But this is not borne out empirically. Let us also consider the ordering of the rule of law and democracy. Many early democratic countries in the West had established the rule of law *before* they became democratic, meaning before they enfranchised the majority of the population. Some scholars of democratisation thus describe trying to establish a democracy and a rule of law at the same time as amounting to building a car as you are driving it—it is difficult.

Bangladesh ranks very low on the rule of law, but this has always been true. Many critics of the Hasina regime complain that Bangladesh's reputation as a corrupt country has worsened in the past 15 years. While there have been high levels of corruption by elites in the Hasina regime—and the most egregious cases will be investigated and stolen money will be repatriated—corruption in Bangladesh has a long history. Bangladesh was considered the *most corrupt country in the world*, according to the 2005 Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. It is likely that since then Bangladesh's rankings have been helped by the inclusion of even more corrupt countries in the survey. But since 2009, Bangladesh's rankings have dropped only slightly, from being ranked 139th out of

Among many variables, the social science literature on corruption seems to find that low GDP per capita predicts corruption. Can yearly financial attestations then reduce opportunities for corruption? It's possible, but what are the root causes of corruption in the first place?

While Transparency International's rankings are based on perceived levels of corruption at the elite level and by business executives, there are two ways to examine the lack of the rule of law beyond the elite level and at the citizen level in Bangladesh. First, every day citizens encounter corruption in their interactions with lower-level government officials frequently. Indeed, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) finds that nearly 71 percent of households in Bangladesh face corruption. This has not changed much in the past few decades.

Second, there is a lack of rule of law at the individual citizen level as well. There are Bangladeshis who feel it is their right to take the law into their own hands. We have certainly witnessed this since the fall of the Hasina regime, with mob justice and lynching occurring frequently. The interim government has rightly been criticised for not addressing this issue with urgency. But past and more longitudinal accounts published in a report in the *Dhaka Tribune* shows that at least 625 people were killed by mobs from 2013 to 2020. One activist told the daily, "The idea that a person can be beaten to death if he commits a wrong—it has been deeply ingrained in the minds of the people of Bangladesh." So, it is not just the elites who feel they are above the law, but a vast swath of citizens feel they can take the law into their own hands. Again, Bangladesh needs to democratise and establish the rule of law at the same time. The interim government has initiated six commissions

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

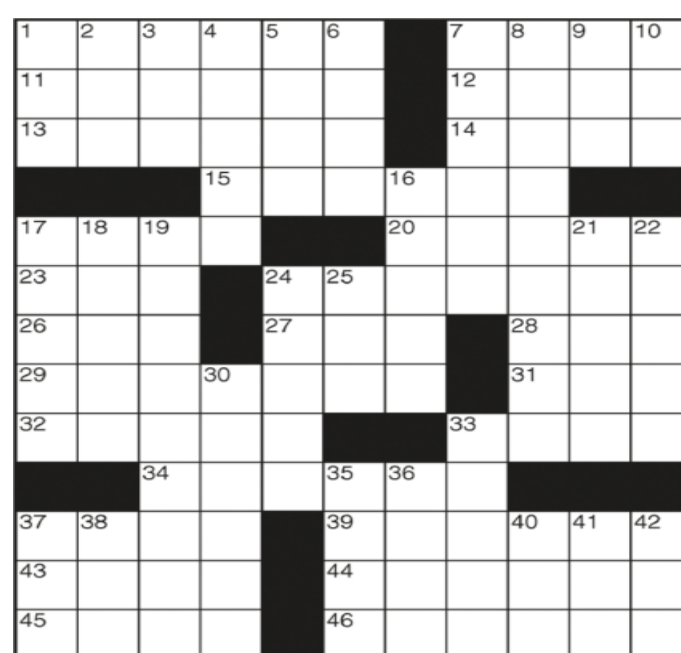
- 1 Wage conflict, maybe
- 7 Basics
- 11 Relaxed
- 12 Detective's find
- 13 Nasty fellow
- 14 Gift-wrapping need
- 15 Pesto ingredient
- 17 Luggage
- 20 Egyptian crosses
- 23 Mess up
- 24 Typographical symbol
- 26 Sheltered side
- 27 Hole in one
- 28 Compass dir.
- 29 Infant outfits
- 31 Cut off
- 32 Declines

### DOWN

- 1 Grier of 'Jackie Brown'
- 2 Had a nosh
- 3 Supporter's vote
- 4 Sides in turf wars
- 5 China setting
- 6 Jury member
- 7 Stage work
- 8 Karate award
- 9 Recipe unit

### 10 Notice

- 16 Bowling spots
- 17 Submerged
- 18 Concert site
- 19 Parks around a city
- 21 Asian capital
- 22 Dance units
- 24 Dagwood's dog
- 25 Sculpting medium
- 30 Spooky gathering
- 33 Heart, for one
- 35 Ultimate
- 36 In the past
- 37 Greek vowel
- 38 Moving truck
- 40 Iron source
- 41 Mob pariah
- 42 Crunch targets



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS





## Renal denervation: A global advancement in managing resistant hypertension

In 2023, the approval of two renal denervation (RDN) systems marked a significant step in treating high blood pressure worldwide, particularly for patients whose condition remains uncontrolled despite lifestyle changes and medications. These innovative procedures use catheter-based techniques to reduce nerve activity in the kidneys, employing either ultrasound (Paradise system) or radiofrequency (Symplicity system) ablation, accessed through the femoral artery.

Clinical studies suggest that RDN can lower systolic blood pressure by an average of 5 mmHg, though results vary between individuals. The procedure seems most effective for patients with more severe hypertension at baseline, but predicting individual long term outcomes remains challenging.

RDN offers hope for those struggling with resistant hypertension, where standard treatments have failed, or for individuals who cannot tolerate multiple medications. However, it is crucial to rule out other causes of high blood pressure before opting for RDN, and it should not be used in cases of significant narrowing of the kidney arteries. More research is needed on its effectiveness for patients with advanced kidney disease.

The risks associated with RDN are low, with serious complications reported in less than 1% of cases. A comprehensive assessment by a multidisciplinary team is recommended to ensure that RDN is the right choice for each patient.

As global access to hypertension care expands, RDN could be a valuable option for managing hard-to-control blood pressure, offering a new path toward reducing the health burden of hypertension worldwide.

# Bangladesh expands life-saving HPV vaccination campaign to protect millions of girls against cervical cancer

STAR HEALTH REPORT

Cervical cancer remains a significant public health concern in Bangladesh, claiming the lives of approximately 5,000 women each year. Yet, this deadly disease is preventable with the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, which has shown to reduce cervical cancer risk by nearly 90% among vaccinated girls. To address this, the interim government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with international partners, launched the final phase of the HPV vaccination campaign on 24 October 2024, targeting 6.2 million girls aged 10-14 across the country's seven divisions: Barishal, Chattogram, Khulna, Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Rangpur. This campaign follows a successful initial phase in October 2023, during which over 1.5 million girls in the Dhaka division received the vaccine.

The campaign is supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, UNICEF, and the World Health Organisation (WHO), which have jointly worked to procure and distribute 6.2 million vaccine doses this year. The initiative is part of a global effort to increase access to the HPV vaccine and to protect girls from cervical cancer. Thabani Maphosa, Chief Country Delivery Officer at Gavi, highlighted the significance of this launch, stating, "Today's launch means millions more girls will be protected against cervical cancer in the years to come."

The final phase of the campaign will run for a month, with vaccination sessions taking place at educational institutions and designated vaccination centres from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM, excluding weekends and public holidays. The campaign targets girls in grades five to nine and out-of-school girls aged 10-14. To facilitate access, vaccination is free of charge after registration on the "VaxEPI" app or the dedicated website.

Dr. Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, emphasised the importance of this public health initiative, stating, "The HPV vaccination



campaign led by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is a life-saving measure that can significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer and protect future generations. Our commitment is clear: to ensure that every girl between the ages of 10 and 14 receives her HPV vaccine during the nationwide campaign in October and November 2024."

The campaign's planning and execution include comprehensive measures to reach marginalised groups, such as out-of-school girls, girls in informal and religious schools, and those living on the streets. UNICEF Representative OIC to Bangladesh, Emma Brigham, praised the government's efforts to ensure that no girl is left behind, noting that the campaign aims to overcome barriers that have previously limited vaccine access.

As part of the initiative, WHO and UNICEF are closely collaborating with the government to manage vaccine logistics, including supply chain and cold chain maintenance, real-time supervision, and safety monitoring. Additionally, efforts are being made to engage female educators, particularly in religious and English-medium schools, to encourage vaccine uptake. Healthcare workers will be deployed in communities where vaccine registration and access have been challenging.

The ongoing campaign builds on the momentum of the initial phase in Dhaka, where more than 1.5 million girls were vaccinated with a single HPV vaccine dose. The goal of the current phase is to cover the remaining seven divisions, furthering Bangladesh's commitment to reducing cervical cancer and protecting women's health.

The initiative aligns with Gavi's broader aim of reaching 86 million girls worldwide with the HPV vaccine by the end of 2025. In 2023 alone, Gavi supported the vaccination of over 14 million girls, including the 1.5 million girls in Bangladesh.

Following the conclusion of the current campaign phase, the HPV vaccine will be incorporated into Bangladesh's routine immunisation program. This will include vaccinating girls in grade five and 10-year-old girls who are not enrolled in the formal education system, ensuring sustained protection against cervical cancer for future generations.

By expanding access to the HPV vaccine, Bangladesh is taking a significant step towards safeguarding the health and well-being of its girls and women, thereby contributing to a healthier and cancer-free future for all.

Source: UNICEF

## Unusual symptoms of diabetes you should not ignore

Diabetes, a condition affecting how the body processes sugar, can manifest through subtle yet unusual symptoms that may go unnoticed. Recognising these signs is crucial for early diagnosis and intervention.

**1. Dark skin patches:** Dark, velvety patches, especially on the neck, can indicate high insulin levels and are commonly associated with type 2 diabetes.

**2. Frequent infections:** High blood sugar can weaken the immune system, leading to recurrent infections, such as urinary tract or skin infections.

**3. Blurry vision:** Changes in vision, like blurriness, occur when high blood sugar affects fluid levels in the eyes, causing swelling.

**4. Lightheadedness:** Feeling dizzy may arise from dehydration due to frequent urination, which can be linked to high glucose levels.

**5. Unexpected weight loss:** Sudden weight loss without changes to diet or exercise can occur as the body begins breaking down fat for energy when it can't use insulin properly.

**6. Itchy skin:** Dry, itchy skin may result from nerve damage and poor circulation caused by elevated blood sugar levels.

**7. Fruity-smelling breath:** Sweet-smelling breath may signal diabetic ketoacidosis, a serious condition requiring immediate medical attention.

**8. Pain in limbs:** Nerve damage from diabetes can lead to pain, tingling, or numbness in the legs and feet.

If you experience these symptoms, consult a healthcare professional. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential for managing diabetes effectively.



# Inclusion or fusion!

TANIA ZARIN KHUSBU

Inclusive education policy seeks to ensure that all children with so-called special needs can study alongside their neurotypical peers in mainstream settings, according to the conventional curricula and academic standards. The strategy aims to promote diversity, empathy, and equality in education, but it may lead to increased stress and anxiety for children with disorders, such as severe autism spectrum disorder.

One could argue with the term 'special needs,' as it implies a separate class of needs that students might have, over and above the class of needs schools automatically cater for. Instead, it might be preferable to use the term 'individual needs,' which emphasises the unique requirements, strengths, and weaknesses of each child, whether they are neurodiverse or not.

Equally, we should perhaps be careful not to judge or put pressure on any child with so-called special needs to follow mainstream educational curricula if they are not ready and to instead encourage them if they have a particular interest in a subject area, like music or mathematics. By encouraging and nurturing their talents in areas where they excel, we can help boost their self-esteem and overall well-being. This approach can also lead to greater success and fulfilment in the long run.

Furthermore, the term 'disability' or 'disorder' implies an imbalance or an inability to perform a task considered 'normal' in our culture. In using terms like 'individual needs,' we can move away from such stigmatising language. This shift in perspective can lead to a more respectful and understanding approach toward all



individuals, regardless of their differences. Perhaps we should challenge our narrow definition of 'normal' rather than the individuals themselves. Embracing diversity and understanding that everyone has unique strengths and challenges can lead to a more inclusive and accepting society.

'Normal is an illusion,' Morticia Addams once said, 'What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly.'

The goal of inclusion should be to bring together different kinds of learning experiences to help people develop, create, and think in new ways. We need to integrate children from diverse backgrounds into inclusive settings, acknowledging their unique strengths and weaknesses, just like their peers. In the classroom and the

community, each person should propose novel solutions. Rather than including them or preparing them to adapt to our skills or system, the power of inclusion lies in blending and forging new fusions. We create a vibrant tapestry of perspectives and talents by bringing all the colours of the rainbow together to propel our society forward. By embracing diversity and fostering an inclusive environment, we can truly harness the collective potential of all individuals to drive positive change and innovation. This fusion fosters a diverse and supportive community that values each individual for their unique contributions.

The writer is a special educator and meditation therapist.  
E-mail: taniazarinkhusbu@gmail.com

# The role of treatable traits in managing moderate-to-severe asthma

Asthma treatment is evolving beyond the traditional one-size-fits-all approach. The "treatable traits" framework offers a more personalised way to manage asthma by focusing on specific characteristics in patients that can be targeted for treatment. These traits include factors such as physical inactivity, smoking, obesity, anxiety, depression, mucus production, and airway inflammation.

A study in Brazil involving 426 adults with moderate-to-severe asthma found that patients who were physically active, walking at least 7,500 steps daily, had better asthma control and experienced fewer symptoms of



anxiety and depression. This suggests that increasing physical activity may improve overall asthma management.

Interestingly, being sedentary or having obesity did not show a direct link to asthma control.

By addressing these "treatable traits," clinicians can help patients manage their asthma more effectively, tailoring treatments to each individual's unique needs rather than relying solely on standardised medication regimens.

Source: The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JACI)



## BENDSTA urges sensible regulations to support harm reduction products

The Bangladesh Electronic Nicotine Delivery System Traders Association (BENDSTA) called for sensible regulations for electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) and other tobacco harm reduction products at a press conference, says a press release.

During the press conference, BENDSTA voiced concerns over the proposed amendments to the Smoking and Tobacco Products Usage (Control) Act, 2005 (amended in 2013). The draft proposal, published for public opinion, includes a provision to completely ban products like e-cigarettes, which the organisation claims could be harmful to public health and the relevant industry. The draft proposal, which was sent out for public opinion in 2022, was sent back to the Cabinet last year (2023) due to a lack of stakeholder input and the need for further review.

Representing major vape importers in Bangladesh, BENDSTA strongly criticised the rushed policy-making process and underscored the critical need for stakeholder dialogue to ensure regulations align with the government's public health objectives and revenue goals.

BENDSTA's president, Schumann Zaman, stated, "We fully support the government's efforts to control smoking and the harmful effects of tobacco. However, there are a lot of misconceptions surrounding vaping. E-cigarettes and vapes should not be placed in the same category as traditional cigarettes. These products do not contain tar, the most harmful substance created by combustion in cigarettes, making them significantly less harmful."

Zaman also addressed misconceptions surrounding vaping. "There is a growing body of international evidence supporting vaping as a safer alternative to smoking.

The UK Health Security Agency has certified that vaping is 95% less harmful than smoking, and countries such as the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, and Sweden are encouraging its use as part of their public health policies. Sweden, for example, has achieved a smoking prevalence under 5%, largely due to policies that support tobacco harm reduction products like e-cigarettes."

Zaman added, "Banning e-cigarettes is an easy but ineffective solution. Countries like India have banned vaping, but usage remains prevalent through illegal channels. Instead of prohibiting these products, we should focus on sensible regulations that can help reduce traditional smoking and support the government's health objectives."

BENDSTA speakers highlighted the potential economic benefits of regulating, rather than banning, e-cigarettes. The UK government, for instance, earned £310 million from the vaping sector in 2021, providing a valuable revenue stream while supporting public health goals.

In closing, BENDSTA reiterated its call for the government to include the association in stakeholder discussions regarding the regulation of vaping products. "We urge the interim government to engage with us in an evidence-based dialogue to craft policies that align with Bangladesh's public health agenda while promoting harm reduction."

Formed in 2016, BENDSTA is committed to promoting tobacco harm reduction products as a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes. The organisation believes that regulated vaping can significantly contribute to reducing the harm caused by smoking and support the public health goals of Bangladesh.

## Sabina uncertainty for Bangladesh before Bhutan semi

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh could be without captain Sabina Khatun for their semifinal clash of the SAFF Women's Championship against Bhutan in Kathmandu today, but coach Peter Butler said he has alternates ready in attack to replace the veteran forward.

The defending champions stormed into the semifinals with a 3-1 win against India after having laboured to a 1-1 draw against Pakistan in their opening match. Sabina, the top-scorer and best player of Bangladesh's triumphant campaign two years ago, was largely ineffective in both matches, playing in deeper role than she is used to playing.

Having been taken off in the second half of the match against India, Sabina drew controversy over a post from her Facebook account, which she soon replaced with an apology post.

She had also spoken to media about 'taking blessings' from former coach Golam Rabbani Choton, which the current coach apparently did not take too kindly.

The 30-year-old forward did not train with the team yesterday, with coach



Butler saying he has 'Plan B in place'.

"Sabina is a bit sick, has a bit of fever. I haven't spoken to her. I just wished her birthday yesterday and I haven't seen her since," the Englishman said after the team's training session at the Army Headquarters Ground.

"If she's sick and has a fever, she

might struggle. I'll have her rechecked tomorrow. But I've got Munki (Akter), Monika (Chakma), (Mosammat) Sagorika - I've got attacking options," Butler added.

Midfielder Maria Manda, however, claimed that Sabina just didn't turn up for training but will be available for the game on Sunday.

With or without Sabina, the Bangladesh coach is keeping his charges focused against an "improved" Bhutan side.

Although the women in red and green beat Bhutan 8-0 in last edition's semifinals, and registered 5-1 and 4-2 wins against the same opposition in Thimphu earlier this year, the Bhutan team have shown much more resolute display during the current campaign, having scored 17 goals and conceding just a single goal in three matches.

Butler is wary of the threat of allowing any complacency against the Himalayan side.

"It won't be as easy as people expect it to be," the former West Ham United player said. "They have improved, so we have got to show them respect, and keep our feet on the ground."

"I think it's really important for us to keep switched on, to be motivated. If we do take anything for granted, I think it will be a reason for that (downfall)."

The match will kick off at 1:45pm Bangladesh time at the Dasharath Stadium before the second semifinal between India and Nepal at 6:45pm.

## Tabith Awal's leadership promises BFF reform

SPORTS REPORTER

After being elected president of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), Tabith Awal stated that the board's focus is on action rather than mere talk, with the goal of advancing the nation's football in the coming days.

Former footballer-turned-organiser Tabith expectedly won the elections with a landslide victory over unheralded organiser AFM Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury by 123-5 votes, as 128 voters out of 133 delegates cast their votes to elect a new committee for the next four years, from 2024 to 2028.

Asked how the BFF, which had previously been run single-handedly by president Kazi Salahuddin, would be governed under his leadership, two-time former vice-president Tabith said, "We believe in action rather than talk, and we will let you know how the committee will run after our first EC meeting."

Tabith, a politician, businessman, and former footballer, also termed their victory "a triumph for the country and its people."

"We don't want to seal this victory for the people; rather, it is our duty to protect their triumph... We can expect modern football [from this committee], and we want to keep Bangladesh united with football and bring some happiness to the country's



people through football," he said.

The newly elected BFF president is also not worried about the challenges ahead of them, even though the country's football has downgraded in the recent past.

"I think no work is a challenge for us because it is our responsibility given by the voters... I am hopeful of meeting the expectations of the countrymen," said Tabith, who thanked the sports adviser Asif Mahmud for creating a proper environment for the BFF elections.

Tabith also emphasised the need for reforming the BFF constitution in the coming days, for the sake of football development.

"We all agree that we want to bring reform to football, and to start it, we want to reform the constitution. At the same time, we want to keep football rolling on the ground so that the standard of the country's football improves."

Newly elected vice-president Nasser Shahrear Zahedee, who received the highest votes of 115 among six vice-president candidates, is optimistic about progressing football in the country despite a financial crisis looming in the board.

"The elections were held with huge enthusiasm among the voters. If we can keep patience, respect, and support among us, then we can present beautiful football locally and internationally, irrespective of politics and opinions."

"I also believe the executive committee can meet the expectations of the country's people. I think if we want the country's football to progress, we need to emphasise district football and ensure playgrounds everywhere, apart from establishing academies at the divisional headquarters," said Zahedee, also the chairman of Radiant Pharmaceuticals.

Replying to a query, he said, "I think there will be a financial crisis in the BFF, but if we want to make a collective effort to popularise football, then there won't be any financial crisis."

## Magnificent Santner ends NZ's 69-year wait

AGENCIES

New Zealand ended their 69-year wait as left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner tore through an explosive Indian batting order for the second time in as many days to catapult the Kiwis to their maiden Test series victory in India.

Santner, with match figures of 13-157, bowled his side to a 113-run win at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Saturday. New Zealand had won the first Test in Bengaluru by six wickets and hence have now taken an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

The Black Caps have been touring India since 1955 and in the 36 Tests they have played in Indian soil before the ongoing series, they lost 17, drew 17 and won only three.

"Immensely proud to be in a position of winning two Test matches here. Proud of the group," New Zealand skipper Tom Latham said of his history-makers.

"Lot of New Zealand teams have come over the past 69 years and 13 series, and to be the first team to win a series here is special," he added.

Meanwhile, India, who had not lost a home Test series since 2012, succumbed to an embarrassing series defeat with one match to go.

"We lost the game and the series, that is hurting," said India skipper Rohit, whose side travels to Australia for a five-Test series starting next month.

"But we won 18 series in India and that means we did a lot of good things [in the past]. I will not think too much into this.



PHOTO: AFP

We had two-three bad innings, but it happens sometimes," added the opener.

Santner's spin proved to be too much for the Indian batters throughout the game. The left arm on the second day had stunned the hosts with career-best figures of 7-53 and the very next day, when Yashasvi Jaiswal had launched into attack, with India chasing 359, Santner shut down the threat.

He dismissed the flashy left-hander for 77 off 65 balls and also claimed the wickets of Rohit (eight), Shubman Gill (23), Virat Kohli (17), Sarfaraz Khan (nine) and Ravichandran Ashwin (18) on his way to claiming 6-104.

Santner's match figures are the third best ever for a New Zealander in Tests, behind Richard Hadlee (15-123 against Australia in 1985) and Ajaz Patel (14-225 against India in 2021).

The 32-year-old left arm spinner bowled 29 overs unchanged from one end, even with a side strain, to ensure New Zealand's victory.

"I found it early on in my spell, but I wasn't going to stop. Every time I got a wicket, it got a little better. It was a bit strange for me, but it was important to contribute in the win," Santner said. The third and final Test will begin on November 1 in Mumbai.



This was New Zealand's first-ever Test series win in India.

The Black Caps ended India's record streak of 18 consecutive Test series wins at home since England won in India in 2012-13.

Mitchell Santner's figures of 13-157 is the third-best Test bowling figures by a visiting bowler in India. Fellow Black Caps spinner Ajaz Patel tops that list with figures of 14-225, which he registered in the second Test of the three-match series at the Wankhede Stadium in 2021. Despite Patel's stellar display, the visitors lost the match by 372 runs.

It was also Santner's first 10-wicket haul in Tests. The 32-year-old had never taken more than three wickets in an innings before this match.

My side is a bit sore. I felt it early on in my spell and then 20 overs on the trot but I wasn't going to stop. But it was the kind of situation of going on for the team and every time I got a wicket, it got better.

Mitchell Santner

## Masood savours 'special win' soaked in sweat and blood

AGENCIES

Pakistan captain Shan Masood said his team showed tremendous character to register back-to-back victories against England and win their first Test series on home soil since 2021.

Smarting from an innings defeat in the series opener, Pakistan levelled the series in Multan before arriving in Rawalpindi where they rolled out a raging turner.

Their spin twins Noman Ali and Sajid Khan claimed 19 of the 20 English wickets to bowl Pakistan to a nine-wicket win that also secured their 2-1 series victory on Saturday.



PHOTO: AFP

**\*This was only the second time that Pakistan have come from behind to win a Test series, with the first being a 2-1 series win after losing the first match against Zimbabwe in 1995.**

"Like London buses they come together," Shan said of their successive victories in the series.

"The first win came after a long

time and it was backed up by a series win. It's special."

England captain Ben Stokes admitted that Noman Ali and Sajid Khan were too good for his team as the irrepensible pair shared 39 wickets in the last two Tests.

"You've got to hold your hands up to say that those two in particular were obviously too good for our batting line-up in those last two games," Stokes said.

Noman and Sajid both came into the side following Pakistan's heavy

defeat in the first Test in Multan, their inclusion proving pivotal in the hosts' 2-1 series triumph.

"Credit to Noman and Sajid, the way in which they bowled in the second Test match and in this game, you know it was very good and challenging," said Stokes.

After losing the opener, Pakistan took a bold selection call by dropping three frontline players - batter Babar Azam and the pace duo of Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi.

"For everyone to stand up and give

their best means a lot," said Shan, who sealed Pakistan's victory with a six off England spinner Shoaib Bashir.

"It is about characters, people you can trust, people you think can bleed for you - Sajid literally bled for us yesterday. To be here and standing as the winning team is the most special thing for us."

The sight of the defiant Sajid, waiting in a blood-stained shirt while a new one arrived after he had cut his chin on Friday, epitomised Pakistan's grit and resilience.

England folded for a meagre 112 in their second innings with only Joe Root (33) looking comfortable against Pakistan's rampaging spinners.

Their usual tactics of swashbuckling batting have looked somewhat one-dimensional and inadequate on turning tracks and against in-form spinners. "The last couple of Tests we've been thrown some challenges, and I think it's pretty easy to assess that we weren't able to stand up to those challenges," said England captain Ben Stokes. "The great thing about sport is that those challenges will always come along, but in the last two games we weren't able to match what Pakistan threw at us."



## Depleted Arsenal face steep Liverpool test

AGENCIES

Injury-hit Arsenal have little room for error when Premier League leaders Liverpool visit the Emirates on Sunday despite losing just once so far this season.

Arsenal were tipped to push Manchester City all the way again this season after twice coming so close to a first Premier League title since 2003/04.

But it is Liverpool who lead the way after a near flawless start to Arne Slot's reign.

The Gunners suffered 2-0 shock defeat to Bournemouth last week and their situation worsened with additions to the injury list.

Arsenal could be without three of their most important players with William Saliba suspended, Martin Odegaard sidelined by an ankle injury and Bukayo Saka a

doubt due to a hamstring problem.

Defenders Riccardo Calafiori and Jurrien Timber could also be missing and Mikel Arteta has called on the Arsenal fans to be the 12th man on Sunday. "The place has to be rocking here against Liverpool to give us all the possible energy that they can," Arteta said.

On the other hand, Liverpool, with 11 wins from 12 matches in all competitions, are flying under their new manager but victory against Arsenal would be the clearest statement yet that they are genuine title contenders.

The Reds (7-1-0, 21 points) earned a gummy 2-1 home win over Chelsea last Sunday and followed that with a 1-0 Champions League victory at RB Leipzig to extend an impressive win streak to eight in all competitions.

THE NATION'S LARGEST ROD MANUFACTURER  
**WITH MORE CAPACITY, WE ARE MORE READY TO BUILD TOMORROW'S BANGLADESH**  
**BSRM**  
 building a safer nation

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

## Jamaat forms all-Hindu union committee in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

In a first, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islam has formed an all-Hindu committee in a Rangpur union yesterday.

Jamaat's Pargachha Sadar Union Ameer Abdur Jabbar disclosed the names of the committee members at the party's union office. Pargachha Upazila Jamaat chief Maulana Mostaq Ahmed also confirmed this to The Daily Star.

All 11 members of the committee are Hindus.

Bhabesh Chandra Barman, an assistant professor at Mirzapur Degree College in the district, has been made president and Bijon Chandra Das, a local pharmacy owner, general secretary of the unit.

Bhabesh did not pick up the call. Bijon confirmed his selection as general secretary.

Other members of the committee include Taposh Chandra Roy, a lecturer at Devi Choudhurani Degree College; Sudharanjan Barman, president of Kismat Jhinia Sanatan

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



A man carries away a child who was rescued following Israeli bombardment on the four-storey Muqat family house in the Zargha neighbourhood in the north of Gaza City yesterday amid the ongoing war in the Palestinian territory between Israel and Hamas.

PHOTO: AFP

## Female students recount years of torment

Discussion held at DU on discrimination-free educational environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qazi Farzana Mim's time at Jagannath University (JnU) became an eight year ordeal after she faced sexual harassment from a teacher.

In her second year, she rejected an inappropriate proposal from him. Upon being rejected, he failed her in his subject and used other intimidation tactics.

Lacking an institutional support, Mim endured constant anxiety, which significantly impacted her mental health and academic progress.

In 2021, when she sought help from the university registrar, he discouraged her and said "those who complain often see their academic life ruined," and then offered her a meal instead.

Disheartened, she left without filing a complaint. However, after being encouraged by her proctor, she eventually submitted a formal complaint.

"After I staged a public protest with a placard near our campus Shaheed Minar, the university finally formed a probe committee," she said.

"Despite the probe report being due in 90 days, the committee contacted me eight months later just to retell

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## CRIME IN MOHAMMADPUR 3 shot as drug gangs clash

45 detained in joint drive; locals demonstrate demanding security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a child, were injured in clashes between armed gangs inside Geneva Camp in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday.

According to locals and police, clashes broke out between several drug dealing gangs around 5:00pm and continued for about three hours, leaving the three shot.

The child, Sajjen alias Rahmat, 13, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hafizur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Mohammadpur Police Station, said they deployed a large number of police personnel in the camp area.

"If necessary, additional police members will be sent there. We will soon carry out combing operations in the area to detain the criminals," he added.

Shamsher Ali, father of Sajjen, said his son went out of home to fetch water from a pump. "He was caught in the gunfight and hit by a bullet on his way back home."

He said that an armed gang, led by Chua Selim, has a longstanding feud with another one led by Bunia Sohel over drug trafficking and establishing supremacy inside the camp.

The Geneva Camp and its adjoining areas have recently become a hotspot of criminal activities such as gunfights, mugging, drug peddling, and murder.

On October 17, one Shanemaj, 37, was shot dead during a gunfight between two feuding groups in Geneva Camp.

On September 29, a joint team of Bangladesh Army, Rab, and police arrested 35 people, including a top drug dealer, and recovered arms and ammo from the camp.

Police and locals say gunfights have been taking place inside the camp almost every day as rival groups are fighting to control the drug sale spots. Many criminals

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## Shanto 'wants' to relinquish captaincy



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh cricket team reached Chattogram yesterday ahead of the series deciding second Test against South Africa starting on Tuesday which could also be the last outing for Najmul Hossain Shanto as the Tigers' skipper.

On Saturday, it was reported by Cricbuzz, a cricket website, that Shanto is unlikely to lead Bangladesh after the conclusion of the ongoing home Test series against South Africa.

However, Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) chief executive officer Nizamuddin Chowdhury, when contacted, said that he had no knowledge about Shanto wanting to step down nor has he received any official letter from the captain in this regard.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Mega power deals must be amended

Energy rights group says criminals in sector have to be tried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mega power purchase agreements signed for the Rooppur, Matarbari, Payra and Adani power plants by the immediate past Awami League regime must be scrutinised and amended, said the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

There is an opportunity to save the predatory cost of Tk 40,000 crore in the power sector, said M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, at a roundtable organised by the committee.

"Of them, Tk 26,000 crore would be possible within a very short period by changing the clauses of paying the payments of the plants with taka instead of US dollar."

The energy criminals must be tried and punished for their crimes under a special tribunal, said Alam, also the dean of the faculty of engineering at Daffodil International University.

"You [the national committee] demanded a trial for Golam Azam [former Jamaat ameer], then why are you not vocal for the prosecution of Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Ahmad Kaikaus,

Abul Kalam Azad [former leaders of the government who engaged with the energy sector]?" he said at the roundtable styled "Power and Energy Sector: Current Situation and What to Do".

The committee -- which was formed in 1998 and was vocal about

**There is an opportunity to save the predatory cost of Tk 40,000 crore in the power sector, said M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, at a roundtable organised by the committee.**

safeguarding peoples' interests in the power sector, natural resources and environmental issues -- was almost inactive after the Awami League government took power in January 2019 except for issuing some statements.

Yesterday, the committee organised the roundtable at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium and placed its six-point demand.

The six-point demand includes bringing down power and energy prices within a short period, enhancing institutional capacity in the power and energy sector through reforms, enhancing capacity building in producing local gas resources and ensuring a competitive bidding process for all renewable energy projects.

To press home the six-point demand, the national committee announced countrywide rallies on November 4.

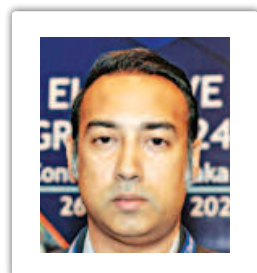
Moshahida Sultana, an associate professor of the University of Dhaka, presented the demands at the roundtable chaired by Julfiqar Ali, Dhaka City Unit coordinator of the national committee.

"Peter Haas [former US envoy to Bangladesh] has proved that the ambassadors basically work for their multinational companies' interests by joining Excelsior Energy as their strategic adviser after his retirement," said Anu Muhammad, former professor of Jahangirnagar University.

The vested groups always try

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## Tabith takes over the reins at BFF



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tabith Awal, a businessman and politician, swept to a landslide victory in the president's position in the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) elections held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Tabith, a two-time former BFF vice-president and leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, secured 123 votes out of 128 cast for the top post, with his only competitor, AFM Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, bagging five votes.

Tabith became the fourth elected president of BFF following Golam Mostafa, SA Sultan and Kazi Salahuddin. It was an expected result as Tabith, a former professional footballer himself, faced little challenge from Mizanur Rahman,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

## EU stresses polls after reforms

Its new envoy in Dhaka says in interview

UNB, Dhaka

Acknowledging the broader support and popularity of the interim government, European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh Michael Miller has said there has to be democratic elections at the end of the process, leading to a new parliament and a government with people's mandate staying mindful of the "rule of law and respect" for fundamental rights.

"For us, these are principles that are at the core of the relationship between the European Union and Bangladesh," the head of the EU Delegation told UNB in an interview after his arrival in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh-EU partnership is seen as fast-evolving and dynamic, and last year, two sides celebrated 50 years of relations.

Miller said the popularity of the chief adviser and interim government is very clear, and the sense of common support across party lines is really very strong.

He said it is a difficult moment and perhaps not everything -- not all reforms -- can happen all at once, but there has to be delivery of some "quick wins".

The EU ambassador said the government has to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



The wreckage of an auto-rickshaw after it collided head-on with a truck on Itakhola-Monohardi Road in Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila yesterday. The accident left six people dead.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Six die as truck, three-wheeler collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narsingdi*

Six people were killed as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a truck on Itakhola-Monohardi road in Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

The accident took place in the Pacharbari area around 1:00pm when the three-wheeler was trying to overtake another auto-rickshaw, said Md Afzal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shibpur Police Station.

The deceased are Abu Bakkar Siddique, 40, of Bailabo village in Shibpur upazila; auto-rickshaw driver Shaheen, 35, of Satapara village in Shibpur; Marufa, 23, of Chakhobdi village in Monohardi upazila; and Mostafa, 48, Faruk Miah, 55, and his wife Nayantara, 50, of Mirzarchar area in Raipura upazila.

All the six were passengers of the auto-rickshaw. They died on the spot.

On information, fire brigade members rushed to the scene and recovered the bodies.

Police seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee, said the OC.

He said the bodies will be handed over to the victims' families after autopsies.