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DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2024

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How an interim

government



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Students selling essentials without profit in Moulvibazar

VOL. XXXIV NO. 278

Justice Zubayer leads EC search committee

Gazette in a day or two, says Asif Nazrul

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In a major development, the interim government vesterday formed a six-member search committee led by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, to constitute a new Election Commission.

The other members of the committee are Justice AKM Asaduzzaman, a judge of the High Court Division; Nurul Islam, comptroller and auditor general (CAG); Mobasser Momen, chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; eminent personalities CR Abrar, executive director of the Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit, and Prof Zeenatun Nesa Tahmida Begum, former Dhaka University teacher and ex-PSC chairman, according to government sources.

In line with the Appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act 2022, two judges were nominated by the chief justice, two eminent personalities by the president, and the CAG and BPSC chairman are in the committee because of their job status.

The government may issue a gazette containing the names of the search committee members "once the chief

> The development comes amid BNP and some other parties calling for a roadmap to the 13th national election.

adviser signs it" in a day or two, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul told reporters after a meeting with Volker Turk, the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, at the Secretariat.

Asif Nazrul said the chief adviser might have even signed the gazette by then.

The development comes amid BNP and some other parties calling for a roadmap to the 13th national election.

Asif Nazrul said, "The interim government has begun its journey towards the next general election. The search committee for constituting a new Election Commission has been formed.

'Previous national elections were fake. So, there is not much to talk about the voter list. The voter list will be updated, and it'll be done through a transparent process. The interim government will hold a proper election." Asked when the election will be held, he said, "It will



Students of seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University demonstrate blocking the Science Lab intersection yesterday demanding transformation of their colleges into a new independent public university. The protest led to heavy traffic congestion in and around the area. Story on page 3. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Don't rush into serious decisions

Tarique tells govt best to go slow with constitutional, security matters

UNB, Dhaka

Stating that the government should not make any hasty decisions regarding constitutional matters, BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday called upon all to maintain national unity at any cost to resist any plot by the evil quarters.

Exchanging greetings virtually with the Hindu community members, the BNP leader said there are ongoing discussions among the political parties and also within the government regarding the formation of the interim government. "Some are raising questions about why the interim government has been sworn in under the rent constitution or whether

Petitions against AL, 10 parties withdrawn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday withdrew the two writ petitions they had filed against the Awami League and 10 other political parties, and the past three general elections.

withdrew the petitions, which were filed on Monday, from the High Court.

He told the HC bench of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur that his clients would not

proceed with the petitions.

PQ New voter list to take 10 months

can be successful

Yunus briefed on pre-polls process BAHARAM KHAN

The Election Commission Secretariat has informed Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser to the interim government, earlier this month about the preparations needed to hold a free and fair election as political parties' calls for polls grow louder.

Usually, the process starts with the chief election commissioner informing the president. Given the absence of a functioning EC, the Adviser's Office Chief informed about was the process, The Daily has learnt from Star people involved with the proceedings. It was conveyed to



Yunus that the first step to holding a credible election would be a comprehensive voter list and preparing

one could take nine to 10 months. If the EC is reconstituted by December, a voter list

could be ready by the end of 2025.

It would take at least one month for data collection, SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Historic chance for genuine democracy Says Volker Turk; OHCHR to open office in Dhaka soon

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN rights boss Volker Turk has said Bangladesh has an historic opportunity to renew and revitalise a genuine democracy after the student-led mass uprising.

The United Nations high commissioner for human rights made the remarks in his speech addressing students

at Dhaka University on the first day of his two-day visit to Bangladesh yesterday. He said youths seized the moment to put the country on a different pathway after struggling



3 student leaders filed those 'without consulting others'

Their lawyer Ahsanul Karim

The bench then rejected the petitions as "not pressed", meaning they were not presented properly.

depend on a number of factors.'

According to the law, once a search committee is formed, it takes no longer than 15 work days to propose to the president the names of 10 individuals, two for each membership of the Election Commission. The president then picks the chief election commissioner and four election commissioners and forms the EC.

The posts of election commissioners fell vacant after chief election commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and four election commissioners resigned on September 5, just a month after a mass uprising led to the fall of the Hasinaled government.

According to Appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners Act 2022, the president forms a six-member search committee led by an Appellate Division judge nominated by the chief justice.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Tarique, who is staying in London, said such questions could hinder the

revolutionary government."

government's dynamism, which may ultimately lead to a diversion from its objectives.

"So, the BNP thinks it is essential to avoid making hasty decisions on matters directly related to national security or constitutional provisions. Instead, a well-thought-out and well-considered approach should be followed, making it easier to address any future challenges.

The BNP leader said some differences among the political parties have surfaced after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's regime on August 5. "But I believe our goal is the same -- establishing a discriminationfree, democratic, and humane Bangladesh. Therefore, BNP does not see any room for misunderstanding among the political parties."

Tarique said he believes that if the people's political and economic

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The lawyer, however, did not disclose the reasons behind the withdrawal.

"My clients have instructed me not to proceed with the petitions before the court. I don't know the reason behind the decision," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Monday, Abul Hasnat aka Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the movement; Sarjis Alam, one of its key coordinators who is now the general secretary of the July Martyrs Memorial Foundation; and Hasibul Islam, an assistant coordinator, submitted two SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

decades. "Bangladesh now has an historic opportunity to renew and revitalise a genuine democracy. To deliver deep reform,"

Through this,

country can start

"process of truth, justice

with divisive politics for



and healing" and ensure that the benefits of development are enjoyed by all people.

This is also an opportunity to rebuild the country on a "foundation of equality – where every voice is heard and valued, irrespective of class, gender, race, political ideology or religion".

He offered some observations in his speech. First, a human rights approach calls for truth, justice, and healing for recent events and past human rights violations.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

ISSUE OF PRESIDENT We will urge govt to form all-party council for advice

Say student movement leaders, Nagorik Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The student movement against discrimination and Jatiya Nagorik Committee yesterday said it would urge the government to form an all-party council, which would advise the interim government about who should be the president.

"The parties will decide who will be the president and in what procedure after reaching a consensus," said Nasiruddin Patwari, convener of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

Two student leaders and four members of the committee met leaders of the Left Democratic Alliance to discuss their proposal.

"We believe all political parties should collectively decide who should be the president. Our only concern is the person assuming the role should not have a fascist agenda," Patwari told reporters after the meeting.

Masud Rana, coordinator of the LDA, said, "One of the critical tasks of this government is to hold discussions with political parties and determine necessary reforms... We don't morally SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Traders have set up makeshift used furniture shops on the footpath right underneath the footbridge near Ideal School and College in the capital's Motijheel, making it difficult for pedestrians to pass. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Info ministry asks BFIU to probe 28 journalists

20 lose press accreditation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The information ministry has asked the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit to probe 28 journalists.

The journalists include nine editors, former editors, and organisational heads.

The BFIU has already sent out correspondences seeking the bank account details of these journalists, according to sources in the unit.

A letter from the information ministry was sent to the BFIU chief on October 22.

The nine current and former editors and organisational heads named in the letter are Naem Nizam, editor of Bangladesh Pratidin, Zahirul Islam Mamun, chief executive officer of ATN News, Syed Borhan Kabir, editor of Bangla Insider, Alamgir Hossain, editor of Samakal, Rezaul Karim Lotus, editor of The Daily Sun, Sheikh Jamal Hossain, editor of Dainik Mukhpatro, Subhash Chandra Singh Roy, editor of ABN News24, Santosh Sharma, editor and publisher of Kalbela, and Rafiqul Islam Ratan, former editor of Swadesh Pratidin.

The list also includes Farida Yasmin, former president of the Jatiya Press Club and Shaban Mahmud, the former government's press minister in New Delhi.

Pentagon warns Moscow over North Korean troops

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia said yesterday it had taken two eastern Ukrainian towns and opensource data indicated that Moscow's forces were advancing at their fastest pace in at least a year amid signs the conflict is drawing in new players such as North Korea.

The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what Russian analysts say is its most dangerous phase as Moscow's forces advance, North Korea sends troops to Russia and the West ponders how the conflict will end.

Russia said its forces had seized control of the town of Selydove, which had a population of 20,000 before the war and had been under sustained attack over the last week.

Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov also congratulated Russia's 114th motorised rifle brigade on taking Hirnyk, which had a prewar population of over 10,000 and lies about 12 km (7.5 miles) from Selydove.



UAE Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdulla Ali Abdulla Khaseif AlHmoudi called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the state Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PTD

Why 38th BCS results should not be reevaluated without quota, HC asks

NEW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why the results of the 38th BCS exams shouldn't be republished after a merit-based re-evaluation of candidates, disregarding the quota system.

The HC bench of Justice Md Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Justice KM Rasheduzzaman Raja issued the rule following a writ petition filed by 120 aggrieved candidates of the 38th BCS exams who allegedly suffered discrimination due to the quota system.

In the petition, they prayed to the HC to order the authorities to re-evaluate the cadre and non-cadre final results of the 38th BCS exams.

The petitioners' lawyer, Salahuddin Dolon, told The Daily Star that the recruitment circulars for the 38th and 40th BCS exams were issued on June 20, 2017 and September 11, 2018.

On October 4, 2018, the government abolished the quota system for entry into Class I and II government jobs due to the quota reform movement.

The final results of the 38th BCS and 40th BCS were released after the notification was issued for the cancellation of the quota system.

While the circulars for the 38th and 40th BCS were released prior to the quota system's abolition, the 40th BCS adopted a merit-based recruitment process, and the 38th BCS continued to use the quota system. preventing many talented individuals from securing positions.

Don't rush into serious decisions

FROM PAGE 1

empowerment is secured, no one will be able to deprive hem of their freedom.

He also said the BNP believes the interim government must succeed as its failure would be a setback for the pro-democratic and pro-Bangladesh forces

He urged the members of different religious communities not to be misled by any conspiracy or rumour spread by the Awami League's associates.

Greeting the members of the Hindu community, Tarique said, "We have just one message: whether you are a believer, non-believer, skeptic, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, or from an indigenous community, this Bangladesh is for all of us. It's not about being a so-called minority or majority; our only identity is that we are all Bangladeshis.

"As citizens of Bangladesh, your rights are just as important as mine. The interests of Bangladesh must come first for all of us. In governance and administration, we will prioritise meritocracy. The principle of the BNP is that everyone in this country will enjoy equal rights," he said.

Narrating the injustices and oppression faced by Hindus and different other communities over constitute the EC. the 15 years of the AL rule, the BNP leader said the pro-Bangladesh forces

Justice Zubayer leads EC search committee Petitions against FROM PAGE 1

A judge of the High Court Division nominated by the chief justice, the comptroller and auditor general, the chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission, two other eminent personalities, including a woman, nominated by the president are to be members of the committee. The search committee can seek names from the political parties and professional bodies.

Yesterday's move comes amid calls from election experts and organisations like Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik for reforms to the law.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik

have been formed after amending the law." he said.

Meanwhile, at least two members of the commission to reform the election system said formation of the search committee took them by surprise.

In 2012, 2017, and 2022, the then presidents formed search committees and then held dialogues with political parties over the formation of the ECs.

After those committees made recommendations, the presidents appointed the election commissioners. The Kazi Habibul Awal-led Election Commission, formed in 2022, was

widely criticised after it held the

"The search committee should found that ballot-stuffing took FROM PAGE 1 place the night before election day at multiple centres in 33 of the 50

City

surveyed constituencies. The Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad-led commission held a one-sided national election in January 2014, in which 153 lawmakers out of 300 were elected unopposed.

The AL-led alliance won all three elections.

VACANT EC

The EC has been vacant for 53 days, the longest ever.

In 2007, following the resignation of then CEC Justice MA Aziz and six commissioners, the ECs remained



From left: Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, Justice AKM Asaduzzaman, Prof Zinnatunnesa Tahmida Begum, Prof CR Abrar, Md Nurul Islam, and Prof Mobasser Monem.

Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, also the head of the government-formed commission to reform the electoral system, yesterday told this newspaper that the commission was ready to hand over its proposals on the law to

election shunned by the major opposition parties early this year. The AL fielded dummy independent

candidates, many of whom were AL leaders, to make the polls appear participatory.

KM Nurul Huda-led The BNP acting chairman Tarique commission held the December 2018 Rahman yesterday said his party always election with opposition parties

vacant for a week.

Aziz resigned a day before the highly controversial January 22 election. Then Justice Mahfuzur Rahman took over as the acting CEC. All five members resigned on January 31.

as the new CEC on February 5.

separate writ petitions through their lawyers.

Óne sought rules to ban all political activities of AL and 10 other parties, and to debar them from all future elections.

It also sought a rule to declare the parties "terrorist organisations for the indiscriminate killings of citizens, destroying democratic institutions, and unconstitutionally taking state power".

The other petition sought a rule to cancel the results of the three national elections held in 2014, 2018 and 2024 under the AL government.

These polls were held without lawful authority and had no legal acceptance, it said.

The petition also sought a rule asking why the MPs elected from these 11 parties in the three elections would not face sedition charges, along with HC directives to cancel the benefits the lawmakers received from the government, including plots and duty-free vehicles.

This newspaper could not reach Sarjis and Hasnat for comments.

Hasibul Islam told The Daily Star. "The petitions were withdrawn but legal actions will be taken in the future after the petitions are edited. "Political parties that sided ATM Shamsul Huda was appointed the students' movement will be many. prevented from political activities."

consultation with other leaders of the movement and the other was that some of the political parties against whom the petitions were filed had actually sided with the students during the movement.

Apart from the AL, the other parties are Jatiya Party (Ershad); Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD); Bikalpadhara Bangladesh; Tarikat Federation; the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB); Liberal Democratic Party (LDP); Jatiya Party (Manju); Ganatantri Dal; Marxist-Leninist (Barua); and the Socialist Party of Bangladesh.

When naming JSD in the petition, they put down the address of the ASM Abdur Rab-led JSD office, while the "Marxist-Leninist (Barua)' had no office address and no such registered political party has this name.

The petitions also did not mention the office address of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh. Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BASAD) uses the Socialist Party of Bangladesh" as their name in English.

Of the parties, LDP, CPB, BASAD and Rab-led JSD had waged movements against the AL government for long and sided with the students during the quota reform movement, and thus their with the Awami League during inclusions in the petitions outraged

are now united to create a state and society where people of all religions and backgrounds will safely celebrate their religious programmes in the future.

"Our message to everyone is clear: religion is for individuals, and everyone has the right to security. So, I humbly urge you not to respond to any provocations from the fugitive dictator and their associates. Please do not listen to any rumours or gossip," he said.

Tarique said that the defeated forces created communal tensions over the last 15 years to serve their own interests.

Hindu Buddhist Bangladesh Christian Kalyan Front organised the event at the Dhaka Ladies Club in the city's Eskaton to greet the members of the Hindu community and exchange views with them on the occasion of the Durga Puja, which was celebrated on October 9-12.

BNP committee standing members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Abdul Moyeen Khan, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, and AZM Zahid Hossain, and Gonoforum General Secretary Subrata Chowdhury, among others, addressed the programme, with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in the chair.

Canada, UK, EU FROM PAGE 12 dealers in 2023.

"The human rights violations taking place across Myanmar, including airstrikes on civilian infrastructure, by the Myanmar military is unacceptable and the impact on innocent civilians is intolerable," junior UK Foreign Minister Catherine West said.

"That is why today the UK is announcing fresh sanctions targeting the suppliers of equipment and aviation fuel to the Myanmar military.

"Alongside the EU and Canada, we are today further constraining the military's access to funds, equipment and resources."

West added the UK remained "steadfast in our support for the Myanmar people and their aspirations for a peaceful and democratic future".

attached the highest importance to ensuring people's voting rights.

"Through voting rights, citizens of the country can claim their ownership to the state," he said.

Jamaat spokesperson Matiur Rahman said his party deemed the existing law "faulty".

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alleging ballot-box stuffing the night before election day.

In January 2019, the Jativa Oikva Front alleged that between 30 and 60 percent of the votes were cast the night before.

The same month, Transparency International Bangladesh in a study

Historic chance for genuine democracy

> here will strengthen our position on human rights," she said.

The establishment of the human rights office will enable direct investigation into areas of human rights violations, Sharmeen added.

The adviser also said political governments did not properly investigate rights violations in the past. And when civil society groups probed rights violations and had the facts out, they came under pressure. She said the UN delegation also asked the challenges the interim government faces and how it looks at the situation now.

"We all said where our challenges are and where the UN Human Rights office can stand by us."

Advisers Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Adilur Rahman, Farida Akter and Nahid Islam were also present.

After a meeting with Law Adviser Asif Nazrul at the Secretariat, Turk said the UN Human Rights Office wanted Bangladesh to revoke the death sentence.

In reply, Nazrul said the interim government saw no scope to do it now. "The Penal Code has provisions for the death sentence. There is no scope for amending it all of a sudden," he told reporters after the meeting.

Turk told the media that he asked for Bangladesh's human rights commission to be strengthened to uphold the rights.

The UN Fact-Finding Mission was giving due importance to human rights violations during the July-August mass uprising, he said and added the UN Headquarters was overseeing the entire matter.

A UN Fact-Finding Mission has been working since mid-September

After the Kazi Rakibuddin-led EC's tenure ended on February 9, 2017, the next commission led by KM Nurul Huda took the office on February 15.

The led by Habibul was formed 12 days after that commission completed its tenure in 2022.

Two other top leaders of the movement, preferring anonymity, mentioned two reasons behind the withdrawal of the petitions.

that the petitions were filed without told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Hasnat and Sariis filed the writ petitions without final discussions with us. We held a meeting after the petitions were filed, and in the face of criticism, a decision was taken to They said one of the reasons was withdraw them," one of the leaders

We will urge govt

FROM PAGE 1

oppose [removal of the president], but we need to discuss the process and the constitutional basis.³

Student movement leaders Hasnat Abdullah and Arif Sohel, Jatiya Nagorik Committee spokesperson Samantha Sharmin, and LDA representatives Mujahidul Islam Selim, Moshrefa Mishu, Razekuzzaman Ratan, and several others attended the meeting.

They also discussed the demand for declaring the last three national were made during the nearly two-hour electionsillegal, said Nagorik Committee meeting.

New voter list

FROM PAGE 1

seven to eight months for registration, 15 days for the draft list and another 15 days for feedback and objections from voters.

For the process to kick off, the EC needs to be formed, and for that, a search committee needs to be formed. According to Article 119 of the

constitution, the EC is responsible for preparing, supervising, directing and controlling voter lists for presidential and parliamentary elections.

The cabinet division serves as the secretariat for the search committee involved in commission appointments, according to the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners Appointment Act, 2022.

The need for a fully operational EC has already been communicated to President Mohammed Shahabuddin, and in response, the Chief Advisor's office has requested the president to initiate the necessary appointments.

Yesterday, Asif Nazrul, the law affairs adviser, announced that a search committee for the EC has already been formed.

"I can tell you one thing -- the process for our government to gear up for the election has begun. You could say that the journey towards the member Ariful Islam Adeeb.

"We proposed that all political parties except the Awami League and its allies come together to form an allparty council," he said.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said, "If the interim government faces any crisis, it should consult political parties.'

He said that no formal decisions

election has started," he told reporters after meeting with Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Once the EC is constituted, the priority will be on updating the voter list to eliminate fake entries allegedly added by the previous government, Nazrul added.

Currently, Bangladesh has over 121.8 million registered voters, of which approximately 62.1 million are male, 59.7 million female and 932 third gender.

The interim government intends to engage in a transparent electoral process and hence wants to compile a new voter list, The Daily Star has learnt from people involved with the proceedings.

Although routine annual updates are conducted as per the Voter List Act 2009, the government is considering an exception to the norm, aligning with public demand.

The Voter List Act 2009 mandates an annual update from January 2 to March 2 and yet allows the EC discretion for special revisions.

Subsequently, the EC is legally required to finalise the updated voter list by March 2 next year.

A budget of Tk 138 crore was allocated for the 2022 voter list update.

Second, at a broader level, Bangladesh has an important opportunity to confront longstanding human rights violations, rebuild an open, diverse

and tolerant civic space, and reform key state institutions. Third, human rights should underpin the democratic process. A human rights approach calls for

a level playing field that enables all political parties to participate freely. Citizens must be able to participate

in democratic governance and have a real say in decision-making.

Free and fair elections require an environment where freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly are respected.

Fourth, this is an opportunity for inclusive, sustainable development policies that benefit everyone, Turk said.

He also offered the students allout support in their initiatives to rebuild the nation.

"My Office is ready to play its part, starting with the Fact-Finding Mission already underway."

"Inequality, cycles of revenge and retribution, marginalisation, corruption, and gross human rights violations must be consigned to the past. There must be no repetition, no going back. The present and future belong to equality, to justice."

Earlier, after meeting Turk at a city hotel, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmeen S Murshid said the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will establish an office in Dhaka soon.

"It is a very important decision. The interim government agreed on the establishment of the UN Human Rights office in Dhaka. Its presence to probe the human rights violations

between July 1 and August 15.

More than 1,695 murder cases, including at least 75 against high profile politicians and businesspersons linked to the Awami League, were filed after the fall of the

regime. Many of the cases were also filed under the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Act which has provisions for the death sentence.

Turk wanted to know more about the ICT Act, said Nazrul. The UN rights boss asked for the draft of the amendments to the ICT Act, which the government will provide.

Those accused in the cases under the ICT Act will be provided with all legal rights to defend themselves, the adviser said.

The adviser said the government may take forensic or technical support from the UN for justice. "There will be no injustice as was the case in the past."

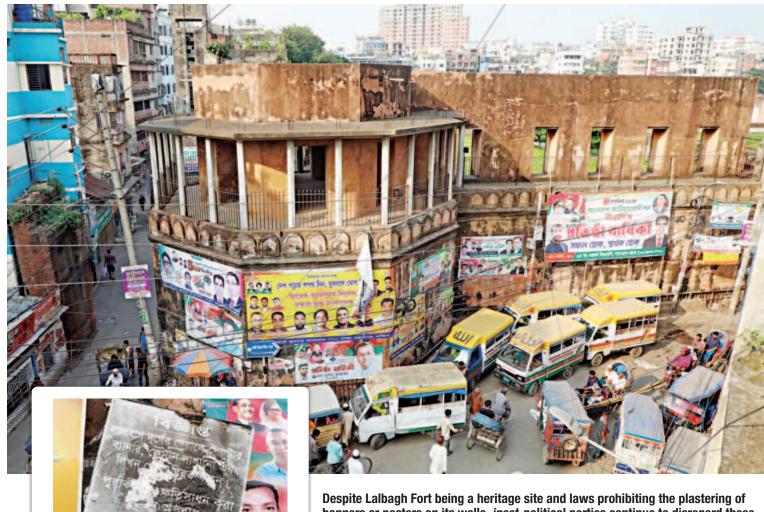
Asked if the Awami League would be able to contest in the next election, Nazrul said, "It is for the people to decide whether this party should have political rights or not.'

After the meeting with Turk, Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury told the media that the UN rights boss asked for the interim government's cooperation to promote human rights issues.

He said the interim government would work as per the recommendations of the UN Fact-Finding Mission report.

Turk also stressed the protection of the victims and witnesses and Jahangir said the government would ensure it.

DHAKA



banners or posters on its walls, inset, political parties continue to disregard these regulations. Previously pasted with Awami League posters, the walls are now covered with BNP ones. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Include them in dev plans

Discussants at seminar STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People with disabilities should also be

included in the overall development of the state, said speakers at a seminar vesterday. Titled "Accessibility to judiciary system

for people with disabilities", the seminar was organised by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF) at The Daily Star Center in the capital.

Speakers said despite national and international laws, as well as policies to

Despite national and international laws, as well as policies to establish a society free of discrimination. none of these are being implemented to boost the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

establish a discrimination-free society,

Prioritise disability issues in media Speakers tell event

efforts, the desired

level of sensitivity

is still lacking in

both the media and

corporate sectors.

Identifying existing

gaps and taking action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

То ensure positive and year-round representation of disability issues, more sensitive policies need to be developed and implemented urgently within the media, said speakers at a discussion vesterday.

They stated that the focus on political and routine topics in media business structures often overshadows social issues.

This causes the coverage of disability issues to primarily be event-driven and centred around specific days, rather than becoming a regular topic of discussion, they added.

While some media outlets have taken steps in this area, the speakers expressed that the

The speakers also pointed out that the absence of a robust information system complicates accurate reporting on these crucial topics.

To improve of disability issues in the media, they recommended increasing sensitivity, formulating and implementing effective policies, and building capacity to handle **Disability is often** disability-related content perceived negatively; with greater awareness. despite some visible

Speakers also recommended creating disability-friendly infrastructure, providing necessary support for hiring people with disabilities in the media, producing content on disability topics, fostering sensitivity among

DU AFFILIATED 7 COLLEGES Commuters suffer as students stage blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City dwellers had to endure immense suffering vesterday as students of seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University blocked the Science Lab intersection for around five hours.

The students blocked the intersection, which is one of the busiest in the city, around 12:15pm, demanding the formation of a separate autonomous university for their institutions.

Due to the blockade, vehicular movement through the Science Lab intersection remained halted, forcing many commuters to walk to their destinations, said eyewitnesses.

Aayush, a student at a school in Dhanmondi-3, usually can get back to his home in Segunbagicha from school within 40 minutes via Science Lab, after his school ends around 1:30pm.

However, yesterday, due to a blockade and heavy traffic, he could not move past the Science Lab area.

Then he decided to go home in a different way. He somehow made his way through different roads to reach Farmgate Metro Station and took the metro rail to get home. The entire journey took him around two and a half hours in total.

US opposes religious discrimination in any process Says Matthew Miller DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US opposes any religious discrimination in any process in Bangladesh, said US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller.

He made the comment at a press briefing in Washington on Monday, when asked about reports suggesting that 252 subinspectors of Bangladesh police were dismissed from final recruitment, allegedly excluding all Hindu officers.

When asked if the State Department has any response regarding the religious discrimination in the Bangladesh law enforcement hiring process, Miller said, "So, I haven't seen that report, but obviously we believe

Several other commuters shared a similar plight.

Witnesses said the students first gathered inside Dhaka College campus around 11:00am and later took to the street.

Nayim Hawlader, a student of Dhaka College and one of the organisers of the movement, said, "We demand a separate university as we have been suffering academically and experiencing severe session jam."

"Initially we wanted to get rid of the issues, but the DU authorities did not take any step to free us from the session jam. So, we started demanding the cancellation of affiliation with DU," he said.

demands Their also include immediately forming a commission to establish a university for the seven affiliated colleges, a draft proposal from the commission within 30 days, and assurance from Dhaka University that there will be no session jams until the new university is established.

Meanwhile, commuters may have to suffer again today as the students have threatened to continue their programme and block the intersection for eight hours, starting from around 9:00am.

15TH AMENDMENT HC allows BNP to place arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday allowed BNP to place arguments before it on the rule that questioned the constitutionality of the 15th amendment that scrapped the non-partisan caretaker government system.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury

granted a petition filed by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

> Senior lawver Advocate Zainul Abedin and Barrister Badruddoza Md Badal moved the petition.

The bench scheduled to hold a hearing on the rule today that questioned the constitutionality of the 15th

amendment of the constitution.

The 15th amendment bill was passed by the parliament on June 30, 2011, and signed into law on July 3 of the same year. It abolished the

positive representations

none of these are being implemented to boost the inclusion of persons with disabilities. They discussed the barriers persons with disabilities faced when trying to access the judiciary system.

The social welfare ministry, as well as other ministries, should take the responsibility to include people with disabilities in the overall development of the country, they recommended.

Neelima Akhter, executive director (additional secretary) of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority, said, "We're working to introduce disability-friendly vehicles

Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director of WDDF, presented an article from various researches there.

disability issues still do not receive adequate attention in media.

These remarks were made during the discussion

titled "Disability Equality in the Media," organised by SoMaSHTe, with the support of Unesco at a city hotel.

Noore Jannat Proma. communication and information sector lead at the Unesco Dhaka Office, stressed the importance of strongly including disability in media frameworks.

"Disability is often perceived negatively; despite some visible efforts, the desired level of sensitivity is still lacking in both the media and corporate sectors. Identifying existing gaps and taking action for progress is essential."

policymakers in the media is essential. industry, and adopting NOORE JANNAT PROMA technical measures to Communication and information lead, UNESCO Dhaka ensure that people with disabilities can access and

> engage with media content. The discussion was moderated by Mir Masruruzzaman, executive director of SoMaSHTe.

Partha Shankar Saha, assistant news editor at Prothom Alo; Kamrun Nahar, joint news editor at Views Bangladesh; Rita Bhowmik, senior reporter at Kalbela; Swapna Chakraborty, staff reporter at Janakantha; Atika Rahman, senior reporter at RTV; Tania Rahman, senior reporter at Ekattor TV; and Nilima Jahan, staff reporter at The Daily Star; were present among others.

that the -- well, let me say obviously we would oppose any religious discrimination in any process in Bangladesh or anywhere in the world."

"We believe that the people of Bangladesh should be able to exercise their fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression, the freedom of assembly," he said.

Asked how the State Department is working with Bangladesh authority SEE PAGE 4 COL 6 caretaker government system introduced by the 13th amendment in 1996.

The law also recognised Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation and increased the number of reserved seats for women in parliament from 45 to 50.

Following the amendment, three general elections were held with Sheikh Hasina in the prime minister's office.

Earlier, the HC bench allowed Jamaat-e-Islami to place arguments before this court in connection with the case, the party's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.

Another HC bench led by Justice Naima Haider on August 19 this year issued the rule asking the respondents to show causes as to why the Constitution (15th amendment) Act, 2011 should SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Former agri minister arrested in Dhaka STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former agriculture minister Abdus Shahid was arrested

in the Abdus Shahid capital's Uttara area yesterday.

A team of police arrested Shahid him from a house at Sector-10 of Uttara, Hafizur

Rahman, officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Shahid, former lawmaker from Moulvibazar-4 and also former chief whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, is accused in several cases filed with Uttara west and other police stations, said the OC.

In September this year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) decided to launch an inquiry against Shahid on charges of abusing power, engaging in various irregularities, and amassing wealth through corruption.

DRIVES IN MOHAMMADPUR 108 arrested in last 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of the ongoing special joint operations in the capital's Mohammadpur, the law enforces arrested 29 more suspects for their alleged involvement in mugging, robbery, and extortion.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) and the Police Headquarters (PHQ) in two separate media releases disclosed the updates yesterday.

With the arrest, the total number of arrests has now risen to 108 in the last three days.

The ISPR release said an army team raided the Geneva camp in Mohammadpur on Monday night and arrested seven people, including drug dealer Bunia Sohel.

Two pistols, 20 rounds of bullets, and locally made weapons were recovered from the spot.

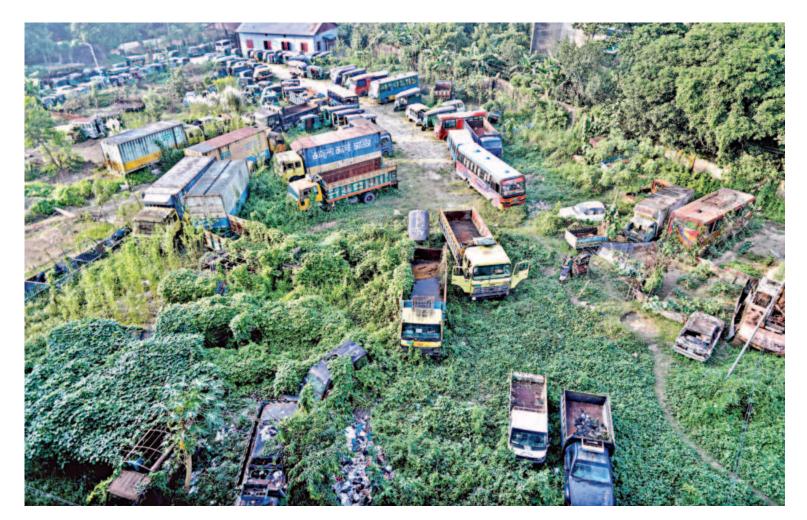
Besides these seven, in separate drives, the police arrested 13 people, and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested nine.

Hafziur Rahman, Inspector (investigation) of the Mohammadpur Police Station, told this correspondent that they have set up two temporary police outposts inside the Geneva Camp to maintain law and order.

There are 20 police members in each outpost, he said.

On Saturday, residents, including students, held a demonstration in front of Mohammadpur Police Station, demanding enhanced security. Locals also gave a 72-hour ultimatum to improve the law and order.

Later on Saturday evening, the joint forces arrested 45 people from Mohammadpur and adjoining areas. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Numerous vehicles lay abandoned across the Mansurabad Police Lines dumping field in the port city. These vehicles were seized due to invalid documentation or for their involvement in certain cases, but now they just take up space and decay in this open field without any proper process for their disposal. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

2nd Edition

Police Station this month

been

However, local sources said

that the mugging incident

every day on Mirpur Road

and Satmasjid Road in

were no police or law

enforcers in these areas

Masud

deputy commissioner of

Ramna Division Police,

told The Daily Star, "Some

during those incidents.

They alleged that there

happening almost

In addition, 16 snatchers

arrested.

Alam,

prompt

alone

have

Dhanmondi.

Md

is

Shahiduzzaman Beltu no more OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Shahiduzzaman Beltu, a

former lawmaker, passed away due



on Monday night. He was -78 Shahiduzzaman was

elected as a member of parliament (MP) four times from the Jhenaidah-4 constituency representing the BNP.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest in his family graveyard in Hashanhati village following three namaz-ejanazas yesterday.





Traffic police stopped and seized all of these rickshaws for illegally plying the VIP road near Manik Mia Avenue yesterday. An initial lack of police presence following August 5 enabled many rickshaw pullers to start plying such roads. Recently, traffic police have started conducting drives against such illegal activities. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

108 arrested

FROM PAGE 3 On Sunday, 34 more people were arrested in different areas of Mohammadpur, of which 22 were arrested in joint drives.

According to sources, ne criminal activities the centring the Geneva camp in Mohammadpur have increased in recent times, especially during the changing circumstances after the fall of the Awami League government on

August 5. The criminal gangs, along with members of the teen gangs, got involved in different criminal offences, including mugging on different roads and areas of Mohammadpur.

Meanwhile, mugging has also been taking place in the neighbouring Dhanmondi area.

According to sources,

incidents may have taken place in Dhanmondi... we have managed to detect and arrest criminals in

some incidents, and we are working regarding the others. We have already increased vigilance and patrolling to ensure visible

five cases of snatching have been filed with Dhanmondi

5 get life sentence

times.

policing

action.

FROM PAGE 5 On September 2, Takir's body was found in a pond near their home. Police arrested Rabiullah

The convicts admitted to abducting and killing Takir to steal a gold chain from his neck.

and

in the area on November Two of the convicts, 3. The other four suspects Rabiullah and Hannan, were arrested at different remain at large.

Shahjalal Islami Bank plg.

Corporate Head Office: Shahjalal Islami Bank Tower, Plot-04, Block- CWN(C), Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh. Phone: +88 02 222283457

TENDER NOTICE

Name of the Work:

Procurement of 04 (four) unit Servers of the Bank.

Shahjalal Islami Bank PLC. is inviting tenders from the reputed firms/suppliers for the above mentioned job. Individual Request for Quotation (RFQ) with detailed specifications, terms & condition of the job will be available at the office of the undersigned on payment of BDT. 1,000/- (One Thousand only) (non-refundable) in cash with a request letter in company's letter head pad from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. of 30/10/2024 to 10/11/2024. The deadline of tender submission is not later than 3:00 p.m. on November 10, 2024 and the same would be opened at 3:15 p.m. on November 10, 2024 in presence of the participating vendor(s) (if any).

Bank reserves the right not to purchase the item(s) from the lowest bidder and to accept or reject any or all of the tender(s) without assigning any reason. Bank also reserves the right to negotiate with all the participating vendors regarding price, warranty and specification of the item(s).

Mahmudul Shamim Talukder

Ex-NSI acting DG

FROM PAGE 5

said the court granted Oahidul bail under the conditions that he must not visit or threaten any witnesses, speak to the media, go outside, leave the country, and that his passport must be kept in court custody.

Oahidul, also a former additional inspector general of police, was arrested on April 24, 2018. He was indicted in a war crimes case on October 16,

2019 after investigation had started on December 5,2016.

Oahidul Chandibardi in Madaripur Sadar upazila, joined the Pakistan Army in October 1966. He was transferred to Rangpur Cantonment as a captain in March 1970,

and was the lone Bangalee officer of Pakistan Army to fight the 1971 war and killed around 500-600 people on March 28 near the cantonment, said Motiur Rahman, the case's

investigation officer. He was then transferred to Pakistan on March

30, 1971. He eventually returned to Bangladesh and joined the army in 1974, before being sent into "forced retirement" as many were aware of his "war crimes". After the political transition in August 1975, he joined the from police force as assistant superintendent in October

1976, and later, became director of NSI, acting DG of NSI and went into retirement in 2005 as an additional IGP.

FROM PAGE 3 to support inclusive and in Bangladesh, he said he add to what he just said.

He was also asked on the recent reports of

US opposes religious using the Anti-Terrorism Act to arrest Bangladesh, and we have non-discriminatory hiring individuals associated practice in public service with the Chhatra League of times from this podium for participating in as well in our bilateral does not have anything to demonstration following engagements," the recent ban of the organisation.

the ruling party is in made that clear a number Miller said, emphasising on the protection of the right to "We believe that is freedom of expression and

Bangladesh police the case no matter who assembly in Bangladesh.

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- · To keep liaison with all regulatory authorities & Banks/Finance Company's.
- · Maintain a deep knowledge of the market and industry in which the company operates.

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- Minimum two (2) years' service as Additional /Deputy Managing Director in any Bank or Finance Company.

Age Limit: Not exceeding Fifty Eight (58) years on the 28th October, 2024 **Educational Requirement:**

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Other Criteria:

- · Subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank, the selected candidate will be appointed on contractual basis initially for three (3) years. The contract may be renewed for further terms subject to satisfactory performance.
- The Evaluation Committee reserve the right to receive or reject any application without showing any reason thereof. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

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HR Manager, at recruitmenthub.bd@gmail.com

Please mention the post applied for in the subject line of the e-mail.

Application Deadline: 12th November, 2024.

FROM PAGE 3

be

not

the rule.

three consecutive saw declared failed elections and it unconstitutional, and why ultimately led to the July the previous actions taken 2024 uprising and the under this act should not fall of the government on be treated as transactions August 5, 2024.

past and closed. The 13th amendment Secretaries at the was incorporated into the ministry of law and Jatiya constitution in 1996 to Sangsad Secretariat have ensure free and fair elections been made respondents to and strengthen democracy. It represented the "will of

HC allows BNP

The rule was issued the people" and a "political following a petition filed consensus and settlement," by five citizens -- Badiul said the petition. Alam Majumdar, secretary Meanwhile of rights organisation the HC bench of Justice Shushashoner Jonno Farah Mahbub and Justice Nagorik, Tofail Ahmed, M Hafizuddin Khan, Md

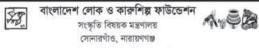
Jobirul Hoque Bhuiyan and Zahrah Rahman --the respondents to explain why the Constitution (15th challenging the legality and Amendment) Act, 2011 constitutionality of the 15th should not be declared amendment. contradictory They submitted the constitution and why the

petition as a public interest litigation to the previous action taken in HC on August 18, stating that following the 15th amendment, the nation

rule after hearing another petition recently filed by Mofazzal Hossan, a freedom fighter and a resident from Narayanpara of Raninagar in Naogaon, challenging the legality of the 15th amendment.

Mobile # 01708519088

B-1+20



লোক ও কারুশিল্প মিডিয়াকর্মী ফেলোশিপ ২০২৪

দেশের সংস্কৃতির প্রতিনিধিত্বকারী, ঐতিহ্যবাহী, পরিবেশ-বান্ধব এবং মূল্য-সাশ্রয়ী কারুপথ্য সম্পর্কে জনসাধারণকে সচেতন করার লক্ষ্যে এ সহক্রান্ত তথ্যসমন্ধ প্রতিবেদন/রিপের্টি তৈরিতে তরুণ সাংবাদিকদের আগ্রহী করে তলতে বাংলাদেশ লোক ও কারুশিল্প ফাউন্ডেশন 'লোক ও কারুশিল্প মিডিয়াকর্মী ফেলোশিপ' প্রবর্তন করেছে। প্রিন্ট ও ইলেকট্রোনিক মিডিয়ায় কর্মরত সাংবাদিকবৃন্দ যাদের বয়স অনূর্ধ্ব ৪০ বছর এবং সাংবাদিকতায় ৫ বছর কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে তারা এ ফেলোশিপের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন। দুইজন মিডিয়াকর্মীর প্রত্যেককে এ ফেলোশিপের আগুতায় এক লক্ষ টাকার চেক ও একটি সম্মাননা সনদ প্রদান করা হবে।

আগ্রহীদের আগামী ৩০ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। 'লোক ও কারুশিল্প মিডিয়াকর্মী ফেলোশিপ কাৰ্যক্ৰম পরিবর্তন এবং বাতিলের সর্বময় ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। আবেদন ফরম ও এ সংক্রান্ত নীতিমালা ফাউডেশনের ওয়েবসাইট <u>www.sonargaonmuseum.gov.bd</u> পাওয়া যাবে। আরও তথ্যের জন্য এ কে এম মুজ্জামিল হক, রেজিস্ট্রেশন অফিসার (ভারপ্রান্ত) এর সাথে (মোবাইল ফোন নম্বরা ০১৭১০- ২৫৫৫২২) যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। ইত্যেপূর্বে যাঁরা আবেদন করেছেন তাঁদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রযোজন নেই।



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& cultural activities.

- Having commendable professionalism in handling challenging educational environment.
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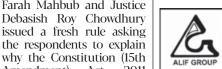
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yesterday,

to

ALIF INDUSTRIES LIMITED

COMPOSITE KNITTING DYEING & GARMENTS Bilquis Tower (9th Floor), House # 06, Road # 46, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212. Tel : +88-02-58815226, 58815227, 58815229, 58815230, 9857660 Fax : +88-02-58815228, E-mail:alifindustries95@gmail.com

Date: October 28, 2024 the

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all concerned that the board of directors of Alif Industries Limited in its board meeting held on 28th October 2024 at 5:00 pm at its registered office Bilquis Tower (9th floor), Road# 46, House# 06, Gulshan # 02, Dhaka-1212 has approved the audited financial statements for the year end June 30, 2024 and took the following decisions:

| | Particulars | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Recommended Dividend: | 10% Stock to all shareholders and 10% Cash (i.e. Tk one per share) to all | |
| 1 | | shareholders excluding sponsors/directors. | |
| 2 | Date and Time of 32 nd AGM | December 30, 2024, 4:00 pm | |
| 3 | Venue of 32 nd AGM | Digital Platform | |
| 4 | Record date | November 21, 2024 | |
| s to I | be noted that: | | |

Stock dividend has been recommended in view to utilize its retained amount as paid-up capital for business expansion. Stock dividend has been declared out of accumulated profit. and

Stock dividend has not been declared from capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of profit earned prior to incorporation of the Company or through reducing paid up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earnings become negative or a debit balance. The Sponsors/Directors hold 13,836,264 no shares out of total 44,251,669 no shares of the Company and the cash dividend to be

payable to the General shareholders is Tk. 30,415,405.00

Comparative Financial Disclosure:

| Particulars: | As on June 30, 2024 | As on June 30, 2023 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Net Profit After Tax | Tk. 103,980,037 | Tk. 79,658,152 |
| Earnings Per Share (EPS) | Tk. 2.36 | Tk. 1.80 |
| Net Asset Value (NAV) | Tk. 1,086,675,662 | Tk. 1,026,418,113 |
| Net Asset Value per Share (NAVPS) | Tk. 24.56 | Tk. 23.20 |
| Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) | Tk. (0.61) | Tk. 2.42 |

Note

- EPS has increased mainly due to increase of production, sales as well as devaluation of currency

NOCFPS has decreased significantly due to delayed sales proceeds collection due to global market condition. NAVPS has increased due to increase profit.

The board has also decided the following things:

- Execution of amalgamation of Alif Manufacturing Company Ltd with Alif Industries Ltd. as previously declared to be continued
 Execution of amalgamation of Alif Industries Ltd. and C&A Textiles Ltd. as previously declared shall be on hold. After discussion with BSEC, review application has been filed to BSEC to reinstatement of AIL Convertible Bond worth of BDT 300 crore and Capital Raise of AIL worth of BDT 200 crore since these two are integral part of reviving C&A Textiles Ltd. as per the proposal of
- Alif Group approved by BSEC on October 07, 2021. The board is expecting a positive response from BSEC in this regard. 3. Refer to earlier news disseminated on February 27, 2024; the board has decided to take over Royal Denim LTD.(RDL) a public limited company (non-listed), producing 100% export-oriented denim fabrics with the present capacity of 750,000 yard/month, located at Comilla Export Processing Zone (EPZ). In this regard, the board has signed an MOU with Royal Denim Ltd. After successful takeover, RDL is expected to add BDT 216 crore in revenue and BDT 20 crore in net profit to AlL. The mode of financing shall be from own and bank financing. As per clause 3.08 of MOU, till the completion of takeover, AlL shall run business operation and marketing of the company, adopt business strategy, take care and attend necessary all monthly overhead and payment from outstanding dues, if required. Revenue/ cost/ expenditure / direct and indirect expenses and all are financial transactions will be done through AIL, until the completion of the takeover. By order of the Board By order of the Board

Md. Mahfuzur Rahman Company Secretary (Acting)

pursuance of this law should not be declared illegal. The bench issued the

semi-furnished offices located on Rd # 6/A in Dhanmondi are available

for rent.

Office Rent 2000 sq.ft and 1000 sq.ft



Kali Haldar and Sumita Haldar catch crabs during high tide in the Jhapjhapia River near their home. Every day, they bring fishing nets to the river, bundling the crabs they catch to sell at Tk 60 per kg in the local market. This photo was taken near the Pankhali Ferry Ghat in Dacope upazila, Khulna yesterday. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A market without profit

Students selling essential commodities at lower prices in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Students under the banner of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement have launched a temporary, nonprofit market in Samshernagar area of Moulvibazar, selling around 15 essential commodities at lower prices.

The move comes as a respite to many low-income families who have been struggling to make both ends meet amid spiralling prices of essentials in recent times triggered by market manipulation and mismanagement.

Visiting the market recently, this correspondent observed that residents were able to purchase various vegetables and shrimps at significantly lower prices.

Potatoes and brinjals were being sold at Tk 20-30 less prices a range of 15 products, including compared to local shops and essential vegetables and shrimp,



Appreciating the initiative, Setara Begum, local resident

506 more Rohingyas relocated to Bhasan Char



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A total of 901 Rohingyas were taken to Bhasan Char in Noakhali's Hatia upazila from different refugee camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar yesterday, resuming relocation of the refugees after a pause of seven months.

Of them, 506 were sent for the first time, while 395 were previously sent to the island but left it later on due to different reasons, said Mohammad Samsuddauza Nayan, joint secretary and additional commissioner for refugee relief and repatriation.

They reached Bhasan Char yesterday afternoon on two Navy ships from Chattogram, said Md Abu Jafar, officer-incharge of Bhasan Char Police Station.

Earlier on Monday morning, the Rohingyas gathered at the temporary transit point set up at Ukhiya Degree College, and were taken to Chattogram at night.

Abul Kalam, 27, who was going to Bhasan Char with his family from Rohingya Camp-15, said "Criminal activities have escalated in the camp. I don't feel safe to live there with family, so we are leaving for Bhasan Char."

With this, the total number of Rohingvas in Bhasan Char shelter rose to 37,946.

According to sources at the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Office, more than 35,000 Rohingyas were earlier transferred to Bhasan Char in 24 phases.

Last on March 1 this year, some 1,242 Rohingya were taken to Bhasan Char.

The Bhasan Char Shelter Project was implemented on 13.000 acres with 120 cluster villages at a cost of Tk 3,950 crore from the government's own funds to accommodate a total of 1 lakh displaced Rohingvas from Myanmar.

| 'WAR CRIMES' | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ex-NSI acting | | (mill | (the | গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার | | | | |
| DG Ohaidul | | (2) | | পেটেন্ট, শিল্প-নকশা ও ট্রেডমার্কস অধিদণ্ডর শিল্প মন্ত্রণালয় | | | | |
| | | | | ৯১, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ | | | | |
| gets bail | - | ম্বর-৩৬.০৮.০০০০.০ | | <u>www.dpdt.gov.bd</u> ৩৮১.২২.১১৬(১) তারিখঃ ২৯-১০-২০২৪খ্রিঃ | | | | |
| STAFF CORRESPONDENT | 1944 | 49-09.08.0000.0 | 02.04.1 | e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি | | | | |
| The International Crimes Tribunal | পেটেন্ট, | শিল্প-নকশা ও ট্রেডমা | ৰ্কস অধি | নগুর (ডিপিডিটি) এর নিমুবর্শিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। | | | | |
| yesterday granted bail | SI No. | e-Tender ID No. | Name | e of goods | | | | |
| to Oahidul Haque, former acting director general of the National Security Intelligence, in | Image: Second system Image: Organization of the system | | | | | | | |
| a case filed for allegedly committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the 1971 Liberation War. The three-member tribunal, led by its | আয়হী প্র জিক্তি-চনম | ভিষ্ঠানকে <u>www.e</u> p | orocure | .gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। স্রিক্র্যান্ট্র মোঃ জিল্পুর রহমান পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ) ফোনঃ ২২৩৩৫ ৭৮০১ | | | | |
| chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order following | 6 | <u>**</u> <u>*</u> | র দপ্ত | র আর্মি সিকিউরিটি ইউনিট, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস স্বরুর কিল্পি | | | | |
| a petition filed by Oahidul's lawyer Abdus Sattar Palawan. | < | | | <u>দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি</u> অর্থ বৎসর ২০২৪-২০২৫ | | | | |
| "We were able to convince the tribunal | ১। দ | ফতরের নাম | 1 | কমান্ড্রান্ট, আর্মি সিকিউরিটি ইউনিট, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস | | | | |
| that the previous government initiated | | | | | | | | |

Ex-NSI a DG Oha gets bai STAFF CORRES The Inte Crimes yesterday gra Oahidul former acting

а

kitchen markets.

Coriander leaves were being sold at Tk 100 per kg, brinjals Tk 60, shrimp Tk 40, chillies Tk 130 and cucumber Tk 30.

The platform currently offers prices for customers.

while continuing to explore ways to expand its offerings.

Zakaria Emon, a coordinator radish Tk 40, gourd and pumpkin of the platform in Moulvibazar, benefit the consumers. Tk 30, pointed gourds Tk 40, emphasised that their efforts aim to support consumers struggling with inflated prices, and ensure fair

The People's Republic of Bangladesh

National board of Revenue

expressed hope that the initiative will also include other necessities like fish and meat at fair prices to

Sadek Hosain, another local, called for better market supervision to prevent exploitation and ensure affordability.

this case as part of motivated politically harassment," he said. Oahidul, 78, has been in custody for six and half years in the case

despite his poor health,

the lawyer also said. "We preser presented medical records showing his condition, and based on his health, age, and long-time custody, the tribunal decided to grant him bail," he added. The defence lawyer

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

5 get life sentence for killing boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A Munshiganj court vesterday sentenced five people to life imprisonment in a case filed for the murder of a boy In the verdict, Judge Dr Mohammad Alamgir also fined Rabiullah, Hannan Mia, Abul Hossain, Maina Mia, and Anwar Hossain Tk 10,000 each; in default, they will have to serve an additional year in jail, according to court sources.

According to the case, the parents of Takir left him at home on August 31, 2010, in Fultala, Sadar upazila, and went to a market in Munshiganj town. Upon their return around 4:00pm, they could not find the 10-year-old. Following this, his mother, Jharna Begum, filed an abduction case with Sadar Police Station on September 1.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/২০২৪/৬৪৪

GD-824

23/30/28

| 21 | কাজের নাম | | ১। ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বৎসরের বাজেট কোড (কোড নং ১১৯০৬০১১০৪২৩০/৩২৩১ প্রশিক্ষণ (এটিজি সাধারণ)) হতে উপ-বরাদ অর্থ দ্বারা নিয়বর্ণিত খাতে দ্রব্যাদি রুয়/সংজ্ঞারঃ ক। সুষ্ঠ প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সদর দপ্তর এএসইউ এবং শাখা এএসইউ এর নৈমিন্তিক প্রশিক্ষণ সহায়ক সামগ্রী রুয়, স্টেশনারী রুয় বিভিন্ন প্রশিক্ষণ / ক্যাডার পরিচালনার প্রশিক্ষণ সক্ষমতা বৃদ্ধি, ফায়ারিং সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যায়ভার বহন, প্রশিক্ষণ ও অনুশীলনের ক্ষতিপূরণ ও শস্যহানী এবং প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য বির্বাহ বাবদ। নোটঃ সুত্র নং ২৩.০১.৯০১.০২৬.০২.০১৪.০১.২৫.০৭.২৪/এএসইউ তারিখ ২৫ জ্বলাই ২০২৪। খ। সুষ্ঠ প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সদর দপ্তর এএসইউ তারেখ ২৫ জ্বলাই ২০২৪। খা সুষ্ঠ প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সদর দপ্তর এএসইউ তারেখ ২৫ জ্বলাই ২০২৪। খা সুষ্ঠ প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সদর দপ্তর এএসইউ তারেখ বাধা এএসইউ এর প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্ষার, প্রশিক্ষণ নাঠ সংস্কার, শারীরিক প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত সামগ্রী ক্রয় ও মেরায যাবন্তীয় প্রশিক্ষণ স্থাপনা ও সুবিধাদির উন্নয়ন/সংক্ষার/রকন্যবেক্ষণ, বিভিন্ন ক্যাতার/প্র পরিচালনা, ডিএমএ ও প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত অন্য যে কোন রক্ষনাবেক্ষণ, বিভিন্ন ক্যাতার/প্র পরিচালনা, ডিএমএ ও প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত অন্য যে কোন রক্ষনাবেক্ষণ বায় নির্বাহ বাবদ। নোটঃ সুত্র নং ২৩.০১.৯০১.০২৬.০২.০১৪.০১.২৫.০৭.২৪/এএসইউ তারিখ ২৫ জ্বলাই ২০২৪। গা সুষ্ঠ প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকল্পে সদর দপ্তর এএসইউ এবং শাখা এএসইউ এর ক্রীড় সমুহের খেলোয়াড়দের অতিরিক্ত খাদ্য ডাতা, খেলোয়াড়দের জন্য বিজয় সন্দ্রানী, গ | | |
|-----|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | প্রতিযোগিতার ব্যয়, ক্রীড়া দলের বেসামরিক প্রশিক্ষণ কোচ ও অন্যান্য ব্যক্তিবর্গের ম সম্মানী এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যয় নির্বাহ বাবদ। নোটঃ সুত্র নং ২৩.০১.৯০১.০২৬.০২.০১৪.০১.২৫.০৭.২৪/এএসইউ তারিখ ২৫ জুলাই ২০২৪। ২। ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বৎসরের বাজেট কোড (কোড নং ১১৯০৬০১১০৪২৩০/৩২৩১ প্রশিক্ষণ (এটিজি সাধারণ)) হতে উপ-বরান্দ অর্থ দ্বারা নিয়বর্শিত খাতে দ্রব্যাদি ক্রয়/সংস্কারঃ ক। সদর দপ্তর এএসইউ এর সুষ্ঠ প্রশিক্ষণ নিশ্চিতকম্পে প্রশিকণ স্থাপনা নির্মাণ, সংস্ক উন্নয়ন এবং এডসসংক্রান্ত বিবিধ বায় নির্বাহ বাবদ। | | |
| 01 | দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য | 1 | নোটঃ সুত্র নং ২৩.০১.৯০১.০২৬.০২.০১৪.০১.১৭.০৯.২৪/এএসইউ তারিখ ১৭ সেন্টেম্বর ২০২৪। উদ্ধেখিত দ্রব্যসামগ্রী ক্রয়/স্থানীয় ছাপার নিমিণ্ডে ৭৫০/- টাকা (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য, প্রত্যেক সিভিউল জন্য) নগদ প্রদান পূর্বক সদর দগুর আর্মি সিকিউরিটি ইউনিট হতে সিভিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। | | |
| 81 | জামানতের পরিমান | 1 | দর্গন প্রদানকালে মোট টাকার ২.৫% টেডার নিরাপন্তা জামানত হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ ব্যা তফসিলভূক্ত যে কোন বানিজ্ঞিক ব্যাংক হতে ইস্যূকৃত অবিনিমেয় ব্যাংক ড্রাফট্/পে-অর্ডার কমাং আর্মি সিকিউরিটি ইউনিট এর অনুকূলে জমা করতে হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে চেক গ্রহণযোগ্য হবেনা। জা বিহীন দরপত্র তাৎক্ষনিকভাবে বাতিল করে দেয়া হবে। | | |
| ¢I | দরপত্র ক্রয়ের আবেদন পত্রের সংগে দাখিলযোগ্যে সনদপত্রাদি | 1 | ক। সিভিউলে বর্ণিত দ্রব্যের একক মৃল্য ও মোট মূল্য সম্বলিত থাক্ষরিত অফার (সকল মূল্য বাংল টাকায়া উল্লেখ আবশাক)। খ। বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি)। গা। বৈধ টিআইএন সনদপত্র (ফার্মের টাাব্লের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি)। ঘ। প্রস্তুতকারী কর্তৃক অথরাইজেশন পত্র (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)। ৬। কারিগরী তথ্য (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে)। চিপূর্বে বিদেশ থেকে আমদানীকৃত চালান এবং কাষ্টম পরিশোধকৃত ডাউচারের সত্যায়িত ফটে (যদি থাকে)। | | |
| હા | দরপত্র বিক্রমা ক্রু ও শেষ তারিখ | : | জাতীয় পত্রিকায় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞন্তি প্রকাশের দিন হতে আগামী ১৪ নডেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ ১৪ ০০ শ পর্যন্ত। | | |
| 91 | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ | 1 | ১৭ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ ১১০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত এবং উল্লেখিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ হবেনা। | | |
| ۱۹ | দরপত্র দাখিলের স্হান | 1 | ঃ ক। আরপি গেইট, সদর দগুর আর্মি সিকিউরিট ইউনিট। খ। সভাপতি, ক্রম্য কমিটি বরাবর দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। | | |
| 91 | দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ | 1 | ১৭ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখ ১১৩০ ঘটিকা সকল দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হবে। | | |
| 106 | কাজ শেষ করার তারিখ | 1 | কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের তারিখ হতে ১৫ দিনের মধ্যে। | | |
| | অন্যান্য শৰ্তাবলী | 1 | দরপত্র তফসীলে বর্ণিত বিষয়সমূহ যথাযথভাবে পালন পূর্বক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। | | |

টরিটি ইউনিট ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

| কমান্ড্যান্ট |
|--------------|
| আর্মি সিকিউ |

Project Director Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization Email: pdnsw.nbr@gmail.com

GD-820

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity project 1: National Single Window Implementation and strengthening Customs Modernization

IDEB Bhaban (10th floor),160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo no. 1(192) Active items/ Hardware /NSW/2024/2265

Date: 29.10.24

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

Addendum No. 6

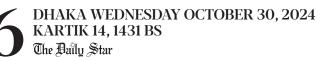
This is for the information of all Bidders concerned that the following amendments have been made for the procurement mentioned in the subject above;

| Ref | Existing Entry | Amended entry |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Sl No. of 6, SPN ITP-23.1& 26.1 | The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: October 30, 2024, Time : 14.00 hours. | The deadline for Bid Submission is: Date: November 28, 2024, Time : 14.00 hours. |
| | Date & Time for Bid Opening October 30, 2024, Time :14:30 hours | Date & Time for Bid Opening November 28, 2024, Time :14:30 hours |

All the terms and conditions of bidding Documents (RFB) NBR-GD2A.1 shall remain unchanged. This Addendum No. 6 shall be considered an integral part of the Bidding Documents and shall be binding on all Bidders who have obtained or will obtain the Bidding Documents from the Purchaser.

3mi Long

(Jewel Ahmed)



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MOUSUMPS wait for 'Noya Manush' comes to an end

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mousumi Hamid is all set to make her return to the silver screen with *Noya Manush*, directed by Sohel Rana Boyati. This new film, marking her comeback after a long hiatus, has recently received clearance from the Film Certification Board.

In a recent interview with The Daily Star, Mousumi shared her excitement, stating, "I'm eagerly awaiting the release of this new film. It feels wonderful to have a new project of mine hitting cinemas again after so long. Audiences will get to see a new side of myself in *Noya Manush*."

She continued, "We went through a lot of hard work to bring *Noya Manush* to life—not just me but the whole team. Filming in the *char* area was especially challenging, and we had to immerse ourselves in the lives and culture of the locals. It was an experience that demanded dedication from everyone involved."

Reflecting on the project, she added, "We had to travel to the *char* area multiple times for filming. The role itself was quite demanding, adding yet another defining moment to my career."

"I had the opportunity to observe their lives (Char community) closely. They're wonderful people. During the shoot, they embraced us warmly, and their kindness will stay with me for a long time," the actress recalled.

She also praised her co-star, saying, "Rawnak Hasan *bhai* delivered an exceptional performance. Our director has put his heart into this film, and as a debutante, his dream has come to life through *Noya Manush*."

Addressing her fans, she added, "To be honest, the true heart of any film is its audience. As an artiste, I am already endlessly grateful to them for all the support they have given me. I urge everyone to watch the film in theatres when it's released." The film is expected to be released next month.

At the moment, Mousumi is also busy filming a new television series. "Next month, I'll begin shooting for another new series," she shared, giving a glimpse into her busy schedule.

She also completed shooting for a new musical project, set in the scenic locations of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar and directed by Tasnova Tabassum Atoshi. While the film's title is yet to be finalised, the actress shared her thoughts on the experience, saying, "We were completely immersed in nature while filming. The storyline is wonderful as well."

In addition to cinema, the actress has been actively working on OTT platforms, with several of her performances receiving a warm reception from audiences. She hinted at more OTT projects on the horizon, adding, "There's a good chance I'll be working on something new for OTT soon. I'm hopeful it will turn out to be something special."

Wrapping up the conversation, Mousumi shared her unwavering dedication to acting, saying, "I dream of creating work that audiences will remember forever. I've been fortunate to receive so much love, and I hope to hold onto that always."





'Mirzapur' film announced, fanfavourite characters to return

The hit Amazon Prime Video series *Mirzapur* is expanding into a movie, thrilling fans, especially with the return of the beloved character Munna *bhaiya*, portrayed by Divyenndu.

Last Monday, the series' creators announced plans for a *Mirzapur* movie, promising a fresh storyline that brings back iconic characters like Kaleen *bhaiya* (Pankaj Tripathi), Guddu Pandit (Ali Fazal), and Munna Tripathi.

Created by Puneet Krishna and directed by Gurmmeet Singh, the series will be adapted into a standalone film, slated for release in 2026.

Eight weeks after its theatrical release, the film will stream on Amazon Prime in India and over 240 regions.

Produced by Excel Entertainment, the series premiered in November 2018, followed by a second season in October 2020 and a third in July 2024.



Mehazabien starrer 'Kajal' now streaming on Amazon Prime

Mehazabien Chowdhury starrer drama *Kajal* has joined Amazon Prime's Bangladeshi lineup, premiering on October 28 with English subtitles for international viewers.

Directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, the story centres on the poignant relationship between a father and daughter, featuring veteran actor Tariq Anam Khan in a key role.

The drama includes the song *Mamoni*, written by Jony Haque and performed by Pallabi Roy and Payel Tripura.

Originally released on February 13, 2022, on Cinemawala's YouTube channel, *Kajal* adds to the growing list of Bangladeshi projects on Amazon

Prime, which includes notable titles like *Rickshaw Girl* and *Made in Bangladesh*.



Shilpakala Academy announces weeklong Jatra festival

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is all set to launch a sevenday Jatra Festival, celebrating the enduring tradition of *Jatra Pala*, a folk theatre form deeply rooted in Bengal's cultural heritage. Recognised as a powerful medium of reflection on rural life and social realities, Jatra remains beloved for its unique blend of entertainment and societal introspection.

In the spirit of post-July Revolution rejuvenation, Shilpakala Academy seeks to reinvigorate cultural expressions across all social layers. With the theme "In fear, we falter; in defiance, we are Bangladesh," the festival will run from November 1 to November 7 at Mukto Moncho in Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

Each evening from 6pm to 9pm, seven registered Jatra troupes from around the country will present a variety of plays focused on historical themes and socially relevant topics, showcasing the depth and vibrancy of this art form.

The festival's opening ceremony on November 1 will feature key figures in the cultural community, including Israfill Mazumdar, a leader from the 1969 mass uprising, esteemed Jatra artiste Anima Dey, Shilpakala Academy Director General Dr Syed Jamil Ahmed, and Theater and Film Department Director Faiz Zahir.

The festival will open with the play *Nihoto Golap* by Surubhi Opera, written by Agontuk and directed by Kabir Khan.

On November 2, New Shamim Natya Sangstha will present *Anarkali*, penned by Prasad Krishna Bhattacharya and directed by Shamim Khandakar.

November 3 will feature *Meghe Dhaka Tara*, performed by Bongo Bani Opera. Nor-Narayan Opera will perform *Lalon Fakir* on November 4. Bondhu Opera will showcase *Apon Dulaal* on November 5. *Phoolan Devi* by Sharmin Opera is set to take November 6 while the last date has been provided to Jatrabandhu Opera to perform *Nawab Sirajud-Doula.*

OTT platforms prepare for a spooky Halloween night

REAR KABIR HEEMEL



RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Halloween is upon us, and we've lined up some spine-tingling releases to make your October 31 even more haunting. From two chilling Bangladeshi OTT originals to a lineup of global horror projects that promise to keep you up all night, here's what's in store:

'Adhunik Bangla Hotel' (Chorki)

Following the success of *Pett Kata Shaw*, *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* on Chorki is set to deliver another chilling experience. Mosharraf Karim takes on three eerie personas across this anthology series, where local delicacies carry sinister twists.

The first episode, **Boal Macher Jhol** (Boal fish curry), debuts at midnight on October 31, with subsequent episodes **Khashir Paya** (goat trotters) and **Hasher Salun** (duck curry) releasing over the following two weeks, each one peeling back layers of dark secrets.

'Bibhabori' (Deepto Play)

Deepto Play's highly anticipated horror project **Bibhabori** dives into supernatural suspense, inspired by Anish Das Apu's **Moddhorater Khabar**. The story follows Neetu, a young student from a low-income family, as she navigates eerie happenings and takes on

a babysitting job during a lunar eclipse—a night rumoured to summon hungry spirits. Her rare "golden blood" attracts attention from something sinister, setting the stage for a terrifying ordeal.

Streaming begins on Deepto Play this Halloween, October 31.

'Nikosh Chhaya' (Hoichoi)

The second instalment of Hoichoi's **Bhaduri Mosha** series, **Nikosh Chhaya**, directed by Parambrata Chattopadhyay, follows occult expert Niren Bhaduri (Chiranjeet Chakraborty) as he confronts a dark tantric who commands the demon Genu. This season escalates into brutal supernatural battles



and terrifying rituals, plunging viewers deep into the shadows.

Releasing on October 31, *Nikosh Chhaya* is packed with bone-chilling visuals and intensity.

'Don't Come Home' (Netflix)

Netflix's Thai horror series **Don't Come Home** tells the story of Varee (Woranuch Bhirombhakdi) and her daughter Min as they encounter unexplainable horrors in the haunted Jarukanant mansion. When Min vanishes without a trace, pregnant police officer Fah (Pitchapa Phanthumchinda) begins investigating, only to uncover a web of terrifying secrets within the mansion's walls.

Premiering October 31, *Don't Come Home* is a must-watch for fans of atmospheric horror.

You can thus prepare for a Halloween filled with scares and supernatural suspense, streaming across diverse platforms to stay engrossed through the night.

INTERNATIONAL

60 killed in Israeli strikes on Lebanon's Bekaa Valley

REUTERS, Beirut

Israeli strikes on Lebanon's Bekaa Vallev overnight killed more than 60 people across a dozen towns, the district governor said yesterday, the deadliest day yet in the area in more than a year of hostilities.

Rescue workers were still pulling bodies out of the rubble yesterday morning.

Israel has ramped up its air strikes across Lebanon over the last month, saying it is targeting Lebanese armed group Hezbollah. Lebanese officials, rights groups and residents of affected towns say the strikes are indiscriminate.

No evacuation orders were given for any of the towns struck overnight. District governor Bachir Khodor said 67 people had been killed and more than 120 wounded and the death toll was expected to rise.

> Hezbollah elects Naim Qassem as head to succeed Nasrallah

"That's only the people who've been removed from under the rubble and we still don't have the final toll. This is the most violent day for Baalbek in the last year," Khodor told Reuters.

The toll included nine people killed in Ram, its mayor Nazih Noun said, including a woman and her four children.

"It's quiet now, but we don't know how we can carry on with the funerals given the security situation," Noun told Reuters. Large swathes of the Bekaa Valley are Hezbollah strongholds.

Meanwhile, Hezbollah said yesterday it had elected deputy head Naim Qassem succeed Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli air attack on Beirut's southern suburb over a

month ago. The group said in a written statement that its Shura Council had elected Qassem, 71, in accordance established with its



A woman carries a child while crossing from Lebanon into Syria, as she flees the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, at the Masnaa border crossing, Lebanon. The photo was taken on Monday and released yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Israeli strike kills 93 in north Gaza town

20 children among dead; dozens injured; fears grow over Israel's ban on UN aid agency

> Doctors forced to evacuate

Kamal Adwan Hospital

Healthcare system in

to 43,061

north Gaza collapsed

> Death toll in enclave rises

Video footage obtained by

Reuters showed several bodies

wrapped in blankets on the

ground outside a bombed four-

storey building. More bodies and

survivors were being retrieved

from under the wreckage as

REUTERS, Cairo

At least 93 Palestinians were killed and missing and dozens wounded in an Israeli strike on a residential building in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya yesterday, the Gaza health ministry said.

Medics said at least 20 children were among the dead. "A number of victims are still

under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defense crews cannot reach them," the territory's health ministry said. Later yesterday, Ismail Al-

Thawabta, the director of the government media office, put the number of fatalities at 93. There was no immediate Israeli

neighbours rushed to help with comment. The Israeli military has rescue. frequently questioned figures on death toll published by the Hamas (dead) - tens of displaced people Israel's Western allies who fear often exaggerated.

warning. As you can see, martyrs are here and there, with body parts hanging on the walls," Ismail Ouaida, a witness who was helping to recover bodies, said in the video.

The health ministry said yesterday those wounded in the strike could not receive care as doctors had been forced to evacuate the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital.

The death toll from Israel's retaliatory air and ground onslaught in Gaza has risen to 43,061, the Gaza health ministry said.

Yesterday's strike came a day after Israel's parliament passed a law to ban the UN relief agency UNRWA from operating inside "There are tens of martyrs the country, alarming some of

GD

Houthis target 3 ships in Red Sea, Arabian Sea REUTERS

Yemen's Houthis said on Monday that they targeted three ships in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea, attacks they called part of their efforts to enforce a naval blockade on Israel.

military Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a televised address the vessels were targeted for attempting to approach ports bound for Israel.

According to the latest data from LSEG, all three targeted vessels were Liberia-registered. One of the vessels, identified by the Houthis as Motaro, was last seen off Yemen's western coast in the Red Sea, en route from Egypt's Suez Canal to Shanghai.

Another vessel, the SC Montreal, was reportedly targeted in Arabian Sea while travelling from Port Victoria to Salalah, Oman.

US PRESIDENTIAL RACE For many, economy is personal and they blame Democrats

REUTERS, Detroit

Tiesha Blackwell, 24, voted for Joe Biden in 2020 but says she is casting her ballot for Republican former president Donald Trump this year, and high food and housing prices are a chief reason.

Blackwell, who lives southwest of Detroit in the battleground state of Michigan, says she has a better job now, but her rent has since doubled after she was forced to move, and her grocery and utility bills have soared.

"I'm not worse off than I was four years ago," Blackwell said on the sidelines of a rally featuring Trump's running mate JD Vance in Detroit this month.

"But compared to then, things are really, really high out here. I went from paying \$575 to now I pay \$1,100 just for rent. I remember ground chuck was \$2.99 a pound. Now it's \$4.99. Everything is higher."

The United States' post Covid-19 economic recovery has been the envy of the developed world, with strong consumer spending and business and federal investment helping the economy dodge a predicted recession.



Stock markets are at record highs, jobs and wages are growing fast, unemployment is low and inflation is now below January 2020 levels after a spike in 2022. But prices for food, rent, utilities and treats like dining out are all well above

2019 levels, because of complex factors the US government has limited impact on, like labor costs, lack of competition and supply

Many Americans are in a constant state of

sticker shock. That may explain why voters in the seven battleground states that will determine the winner of the November 5 election have a negative view of the economy, with 61 percent saying it is on the wrong track in a Reuters/Ipsos poll this month, and 68 percent saying the cost of living was on the wrong track.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, and Trump have proposed different fixes.

Harris has promised to fight price gouging and boost a child tax credit, while Trump has proposed cutting taxes on overtime pay, imposing blanket tariffs on imports that he says will bring manufacturing back to the US and mass deportation of immigrants.

Trump's proposed tariffs and deportation threats will drive up prices for goods and services, many economists say, while Harris' price-gouging ban is untested on a federal level.

Still, when asked which candidate had the better approach on issues, Trump led on the economy - 46 percent to 38 percent, this month's Reuters poll showed.

People who study economics say they feel voters' frustration even if they don't think Trump's plan will help.

mechanism for choosing a secretary general.

media office, saying they were were living in this house. The it will worsen the already dire house was bombed without prior humanitarian situation in Gaza.



Rescuers recover the body of a person from under the debris of a private house which was hit by a Russian missile strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine yesterday. The Russian army advanced 478 sq kms into Ukrainian territory in October, a record since March 2022 in the first weeks of the war, according to an analysis. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indian army kills 3 rebels in J&K

AFP, Srinagar

Indian troops shot dead three suspected rebels in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) hours after gunmen sprayed a military convoy and an ambulance with bullets, the army said yesterday.

Muslim-majority Kashmir has been divided between rivals India and Pakistan since their independence from British rule in 1947 and is home to a long-running insurgency.

Gunmen fired on the army convoy in the early hours of Monday in the mountainous southern Akhnoor area, near the unofficial border with Pakistan.

Soldiers launched a hunt for the attackers and reported that three militants had been killed.

"After round the clock surveillance throughout the night, an intense firefight unfolded today morning resulting in a significant victory for our forces," the army's White Knight Corps said in a statement.

"Relentless operations and tactical excellence has led to the elimination of three terrorists."

At least 500,000 Indian troops are deployed in Kashmir, battling an insurgency that has killed tens of thousands of civilians, soldiers and rebels since 1989.

Earlier this month, gunmen killed seven people near a construction site for a strategic road tunnel to Ladakh, a high-altitude Himalayan region bordering China.

On Friday, Indian officials said five people -- including three soldiers -- were killed in an ambush on an army convoy. New Delhi regularly blames Pakistan for arming the militants and helping them launch attacks, an allegation Islamabad denies.

The army says more than 720 rebels have been killed since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government cancelled the territory's limited autonomy in 2019. In early October, Kashmir held its first elections since 2014 for a regional assembly for the territory of some 12 million people.



"Establishment of Facilities for the Development of Light Engineering Sector and E-waste Processing"-Project, BCSIR Dr. Qudrat-I-Khuda Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

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| 3. | Procuring | entity name | Project Director, "Establishment of facilities for the development of light engineering sector and e-waste processing" | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Procuring | entity district | Dhaka | | | | | | | | |
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| 6. | Invitation | ref. no. | 39.02.0000.034.014.002.24.031, 39.02.0000.034.014.002.24.032 | | | | | | | | |
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EDITORIAL A radical economic shift is needed to save the planet

Shamir Shehab

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sustainability, and development. He is

Transformation (CaST) Network.

SHAMIR SHEHAB

intersection of climate change, environmental

managing partner at Catalyzing Sustainable

slowdown persist Govt must stabilise the economy, restore business confidence

Don't let the growth

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

As expected, Bangladesh recorded its lowest economic growth in five quarters during the final quarter of the 2023 24 fiscal year, as the government implemented contractionary monetary and fiscal policies to address dwindling foreign exchange reserves and high inflation. According to the latest quarterly data published by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), GDP grew by only 3.91 percent from April to June this

This slowdown should not come as a surprise, given that the interim government inherited an economy devastated by the Awami League regime's corruption and mismanagement. In a recent interview, the Bangladesh Bank governor accused tycoons linked to the former administration of siphoning off \$17 billion from the banking sector–a massive outflow that may be a global record for any country. Recovering from such severe setbacks will require substantial time and effort. Another important factor to consider is the mass data manipulationincluding of GDP figures—under the previous regime, making comparisons with past data potentially misleading.

Nevertheless, if we look at the previous quarter, the GDP grew by 5.42 percent, down from the 6.12 percent announced by the previous government. This suggests that economic growth did suffer a significant setback. And that was primarily due to tightening monetary and fiscal policies to control inflation and prevent a further decline in our foreign reserves. However, beyond these measures, the government must address other bottlenecks driving high prices, such as possible market manipulation by syndicates, high transportation costs, supply chain constraints, and supply shortages. Simultaneously, it must work swiftly but judiciously to recover stolen assets siphoned abroad by AL-linked individuals, confiscate their domestic assets for resale, and renegotiate costly, one-sided deals with foreign entities. Such measures could boost foreign reserves and increase fiscal flexibility.

Reportedly, imports of raw materials declined by 15.9 percent in the last fiscal year, while imports of capital machinery fell by 23.86 percent. While some of this reduction may be linked to a decrease in illicit financial outflows, much of it points to declining economic activity, further evidenced by downturns across the service, agriculture, and industrial sectors over the past year.

It should be noted that part of this decline has been influenced by political instability, reduced business confidence, and decreased consumer spending. Therefore, while implementing structural reforms across various sectors, including the economy, the interim government must prioritise restoring political stability and business confidence. To achieve this, it should increase private sector engagement in its decision-making processes-including by potentially appointing an adviser from the private sectorto explore ways to boost economic activity in the short to medium term.

Restore canals, check prolonged flooding

Plight of canal in Habigani calls



At The New York Times Climate Forward, an event held in New York in September this year that discussed the climate threats faced by Bangladesh, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus was quite direct in saying that the current economic system is driving global environmental destruction and climate breakdown. This is a remarkable stance given that only a handful of world leaders dare to call out the big elephant in the room or even discuss this inconvenient truth.

Yunus termed the current framework economic "wrong" because it rewards destruction. The fundamental problem, according to him, is that modern economies are built around one destructive principle: maximising profit, even at the expense of the environment. The endless cycle of "buy, buy, buy" inevitably leads to waste, which is the very engine of the economy, while it's also driving environmental and climate crises. Every purchase fuels the fire that's burning down our home. For example,

our current economic structure, we ignore the immense cost of the environmental damage being inflicted on the planet. Six out of the nine planetary boundaries-critical thresholds that keep Earth habitableare already overshot beyond their safe operating limits. These boundaries

In the relentless pursuit of profit in our current economic structure, we ignore the immense cost of the environmental damage being inflicted on the planet. Six out of the nine planetary boundariescritical thresholds that keep Earth habitable-are already overshot beyond their safe operating limits. These boundaries are interconnected, meaning a breach in one area affects other areas.

increase in the GDP, but it destroys ecosystems too. Similarly, tiger prawn farming in Bangladesh's southwestern as climate change, biodiversity loss, coastal districts, promoted for export earnings, has wreaked havoc on the environment and local livelihoods by increasing soil salinity. This illustrates how destructive practices are justified in the name of economic growth, even as they threaten the very foundations of sustainable life and livelihood.

deforestation may contribute to an are interconnected, meaning a breach in one area, such as change in land use, affects other areas such freshwater contamination, etc. This interconnectedness underscores the urgent need to rethink how we design our economies, lifestyles, and consumption patterns that can have positive effects across these nine boundaries, not just reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit

boundaries stays long beyond their Giorgos Kallis and others argue that safe limits, the future of our planet is in jeopardy.

The chief adviser also noted that the current economic model has created staggering wealth inequality: a tiny group of elites are hoarding unimaginable wealth while the majority struggle to survive. The richest one percent has more wealth



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

than the bottom 95 percent of the world population. In Bangladesh, both income and wealth inequalities have been exacerbated over the years; the top 10 percent of the population controls 41 percent of the country's total income, while the bottom 10 percent earns a measly 1.31 percent. It's a disgraceful and dangerous imbalance, and Yunus didn't shy away from calling out this disparity a "shame." His critique extended to the Paris Agreement, which he believes will fail as long as we operate within the same flawed profit-driven economic framework, which will never save us from ecological collapse as it is hardwired for failure. The so-called solutions we're pursuing currentlygreen growth, incremental reforms, greenwashed policies, non-binding international agreements, etc-are nothing but Band-Aids slapped on a gushing wound.

Growth and consumption cannot continue infinitely on a planet with finite resources; hence, GDP is not the right reference for us-it's a broken measure of success that celebrates destruction. Experts like Jason Hickel, who is a proponent of degrowth, argue that beyond a certain point, GDP growth is no longer correlated In the relentless pursuit of profit in climate change. If the breach of these wealthy nations in the Global North. new Bangladesh.

the current consumption level and growth projections in the Global North will make it impossible to meet the Paris Agreement's goal to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Several reports and scientific models support this grim forecast that our current global effort is far off the track in limiting temperature rises. Continuing along the current trajectory, even with green growth, will lead to warming far above two degrees Celsius, threatening ecological collapse and the sixth mass extinction.

What, then, is the way out of the current destructive economic model? It's simple: we need to discard GDP growth as the sole measure of progress and adopt a more holistic indicator that accounts for social, ecological and economic well-being. Beyond GDP or well-being, the approach to development that prioritises

equality and holistic progress, rather than simply increasing wealth for a select few, is gaining traction among economists and experts in other fields, who are calling for a new measure-

one that values human well-being and planetary health over the bloated bank accounts of billionaires.

In Bangladesh, a student-led mass uprising has brought the Yunus-led interim government to power. They enjoy a broad mandate to implement sweeping reforms to rebuild the nation. Unlike elected political governments, which are less likely to pursue such reforms for transformative change, the interim government has a unique opportunity to lay the groundwork for a new economic system that Yunus called for at The New York Times event.

By establishing a commission on "well-being economy," the interim administration could lead the charge in developing a new metric to replace GDP as the primary measure of social, economic, and political progress. The chief adviser has influential friends and allies around the world, who would be ideal candidates to serve on such a commission. A new economic system focused on social, ecological, and economic wellbeing-rather than GDP growth that exacerbates inequality, environmental degradation, and climate breakdowncould align with the hopes and aspirations of 17 crore people of the with well-being, particularly in country, paving the way for a truly

for proper interventions

Irrespective of where a canal or river is located in the country, hardly any waterbody has managed to escape the reach of land grabbers, especially those with political connections. The story of a canal within the haor region of Habiganj's Lakhai upazila is no exception. Over the last 20 to 25 years, nearly 15km of this 20km canal has been filled in and overrun with shops, houses, and other structures. This has compromised the natural drainage system of the haor, which connects to the Sutang River, causing waterlogging and inundating adjacent croplands for prolonged periods.

According to a report in this daily, most of those who encroached on this canal are local Awami League leaders and their cronies. The former chairman of the Lakhai upazila parishad, currently a fugitive following Sheikh Hasina's fall on August 5, had even built an approach road to his house occupying part of the canal. Unfortunately, when it comes to the encroachment of waterbodies and other natural resources, there seems to be hardly any difference between AL and BNP, with the names of two BNP men and their relatives coming up among the alleged grabbers.

However, with a non-political government now in place and Syeda Rizwana Hasan, an environmentalist of considerable repute, serving as the adviser for environment, forest, and climate change, there is renewed hope that the authorities will take drastic actions to restore the canal, and all such bodies, by evicting the occupiers and removing illegal structures. Influential individuals sometimes exploit the vulnerability of locals as a pretext for encroaching on waterbodies, but such excuses should not impede eviction drives. In a climatevulnerable country like Bangladesh, restoration of water bodies such as canals is becoming increasingly crucial. The prolonged flooding witnessed this year in the eastern region, where clogged and encroached waterbodies prevented floodwaters from draining, should serve as a warning call for us.

So, we urge the government to take urgent steps to restore these local waterbodies. However, a proper eviction process with sufficient notice issued to the occupiers must be followed. At the same time, ensuring post-eviction monitoring to prevent grabbers from reoccupying the canal area—a practice observed frequently under the previous regime-is also crucial.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Ottoman Empire signs treaty with Allies

On this day in 1918, aboard the British battleship Agamemnon, anchored in the port of Mudros on the Aegean island of Lemnos, representatives of Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire signed an armistice treaty marking the end of Ottoman participation in World War I.

We need to protect depositors from bank boardroom misuse

Farhan Masuq is lecturer of law at Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) Khushnuma Khan is a barrister-at-law

FARHAN MASUQ and KHUSHNUMA KHAN

We need to protect depositors from bank boardroom misuse

In recent times, we have had a barrage of reports showing how, during the tenure of the Awami League regime, politically influential or affiliated directors in private banks abused their power to misappropriate general depositors' savings through illegal or unethical practices. These include sanctioning loans without due diligence, waiving or writing off loans and their interest, extending or rescheduling loans without reasonable grounds, making bank investments without proper feasibility studies, etc. Such poor governance resulted in an unprecedented misappropriation of depositors' money over the last decade or so.

While most malpractices in the banking sector stem from inadequate supervision and poor accountability practices by the central bank, the loopholes within the existing legal framework on banking governance also play a significant role. Corrupt individuals and their allies managed to legalise their wrongful actions by using some flawed provisions of the Bank Company Act, 1991 (amended up to 2023)-the primary legislation governing the banking sector. To identify the weaknesses in the legal provisions regarding accountability and transparency, it is crucial to understand the functions and powers of a bank's board of directors.

highest decision-making body in a bank, responsible for formulating and implementing policies, risk management. internal controls. internal audits, and compliance. In short, the board oversees all business and administrative actions of a bank. So having a well-balanced and accountable board is paramount, especially as a bank holds and manages the funds of depositors. However, malpractice in the banking sector often begins when influential individuals take control of the board. The question is, does the current

banking legislation prevent a bank from falling under the control of

out of seven members on a board to be from a single family or its affiliated companies, allowing it to control the board. Such a concentration of control within a family raises ethical and legal concerns. For instance, appointing family members and associates to key positions in a bank could lead to conflicts of interest, where personal interests might overshadow depositor interests. Moreover, favouritism and incompetence may lead to poor compliance and thereby increase the risk of financial mismanagement and misappropriation.

Furthermore, according to an amendment to the Act passed on June

While most malpractices in the banking sector stem from inadequate supervision and poor accountability practices by the central bank, the loopholes within the existing legal framework on banking governance also play a significant role.

vested interests? The answer is somewhat affirmative.

Section 14Ka of the Act states that the shares of a bank cannot be accumulated in the hands of an individual, particular family, or company-and it bars them from acquiring more than 10 percent of shares in a banking company. Moreover, Section 15 restricts the number of directors from one family to three at a time, while Section 23 allows two additional directors from the same family's affiliated or controlled company or institution.

But since a bank, being a public limited company, must have at least three members on its board, including at least two independent

21, 2023, an individual can serve as a director for 2 consecutive years and may be reappointed after a three-year break. Such a lengthy tenure can allow directors to entrench themselves and

misuse their position for personal gain rather than safeguarding depositor interests. All these vague and legally tenuous provisions of the Bank Company Act can open avenues for vested interests to amass control

over banks. Beyond the formation of the board, the most critical issue is ensuring transparency and accountability among directors. The Act mandates that directors, managing directors or chief executives, and senior management officials disclose the

Legally, a board of directors is the directors, it is legally possible for five "name, address, and other details of their commercial, financial, agricultural, industrial, and other businesses," along with details of family business interests, to the board annually. However, Section 18 does not require this disclosure to be submitted to Bangladesh Bank, creating a transparency loophole. A board plagued by vested interests will naturally like to shield its members. Additionally, the Act requires directors and members of senior management to notify the board if they have a relationship with anyone bound or about to be bound in a significant contract with the bank. While this provision initially appears well-suited to promote transparency, the vague term "significant contract" leaves room for misinterpretation and manipulation.

> Beyond the formations and functions of bank management, the 2023 amendment to the Act also raised concerns by granting substantial concessions to loandefaulting companies. It stipulates that if one company within a group defaults, other companies within the same group or linked to the same individuals won't be classified as defaulters. This will also not affect their ability to secure new loans. Economists believe these changes risk increasing intentional loan defaults, further worsening bank governance issues.

> What becomes clear from the above discussion is that existing legal provisions can, and do, allow for malpractice within banks. To protect general depositors' interests and restore good governance in the sector, we must reform the legal framework for board formation and its transparency.

The Daily Star Reg. No. DA 781

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Mahfuz Anam Printed by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd at Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial Area, editor@thedailystar.net Registered & Head Offices: The Daily Star Centre 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215 Phone: 09610222222

Newsroom: Fax- 58156306 reporting@thedailystar.net

Advertisement: 01711623910 advertisement@thedailystar.net GPO Box: 3257

Subscription: 01711623906

thedailystar.net bangla.thedailystar.net

GEOPOLITICAL INSIGHTS DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30, 2024 KARTIK 14, 1431 BS The Daily Star Who will win the US elections?



lives much beyond its borders.

really just up in the air with many probable

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Ramisa Rob landslide even, but so could Harris.

Alternatively, it could be a tight election, with a marginal win for either Harris or Trump. It could be a tie, too, and go up to the House of Representatives, which is majority Republican, so that would mean that Trump will win. Yet, it could be a repeat of the debatable Bush vs Al Gore presidential race in 2000, where a close election result could

the "Republican Accountability Pact," where

former Trump supporters in Michigan say that they will not be voting for Trump because of the insurrection on January 6, 2021. These strategies, presumably by the Harris campaign, haven't been under the media spotlight as much. The Trump campaign's tendency to use AI and woo voters-such as the fake image of Trump surrounded

with Biden.

But it must be noted that Arab Americans are not a large enough population in the swing states to drastically affect the outcomes. It could also be that many Arab Americans will still vote for Harris over Trump on the issue of Palestine, as the latter is more favoured by right-wing extremists in Israel and incendiary in his rhetoric against Palestinians. The

outcomes. Trump may very well win, with a messages from unknown numbers paid by or not voting for Harris, who's been complicit It is not impossible for Donald Trump to win the popular vote, and it is not impossible for Harris to win the Electoral College but not the popular vote, which just reflects that this election is truly in uncharted waters. It could very well be that it's the 2016 or 2020 movie all over again, but it could also be a different script altogether.

When predicting elections, political scientists historically considered incumbency as an advantage. Between 1986 and 2012, of 14 sitting US presidents seeking re-election, 11 did indeed win. But the US, like most other countries, is in a different era now where the conventional political wisdom does not apply anymore. It's an era of profound political distrust and dissatisfaction. In 2020, antiincumbency fervour against Donald Trump favoured Joe Biden, especially for the disaster that was Trump's handling of the Covid pandemic.

But the incumbency theory cannot be applied in this election either; it's an election between a notorious former president who lost re-election four years ago, and the current questionable vice-president after the incumbent president dropped out. Technically speaking, Kamala Harris is the incumbent as she did not distance herself from the Biden-Harris administration, and failed to address the shortcomings of the current policies to offer people with a new package deal. Biden's track record could work against her. But one can also look at it differently: Harris is a woman of colour, the first female vice-president, and she is not in her 80s. The idea of Kamala Harris as the president of the US offers a fresh image. Yet, this could also work against her as racism and sexism prevail. One can pull out many scenarios, even bizarre ones, and the conversations can go in circles till November 5. The reality is that we will only know the predicted winner only after the maps of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin go red or blue.

The uncertainty surrounding a global phenomenon such as the US elections is amplified in the current times, as there's an answer to everything on social media; the mainstream media too, is filled with predictions and probabilities like a game. But despite all these thorough political analyses of all different scenarios, we can still say we just don't know. If one is sure that "Trump will win" or "Harris will win," it is nothing but



Presidential Candidate Milk Chocolates sold in Hudson stores at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York, US, taken on October 25, 2024.

lead to weeks of recounting and go up to the Supreme Court to be settled.

One reason why it's so difficult to predict the outcome or even form a remotely trustworthy gut instinct is because Trump has somewhat rusted and Kamala Harris has run an unexpectedly centrist campaign, bringing in old school Republicans like Liz Cheney and talking about owning guns more than student debt forgiveness, to win over Republican voters in swing states. By contrast, she has championed populist economic policies like reduced healthcare and housing costs for the middle class.

There's also a black hole regarding strategies deployed by both candidates to mobilise voters. A registered Democrat in Michigan revealed they receive text

by Black voters-is more documented, but we still don't know the extent of their disinformation campaign, which previously proved ridiculously successful in convincing many MAGA supporters that the Democratic election of 2020 was rigged.

For resident voters, domestic issues such as the economy and healthcare matter more than foreign policy. But foreign policy is an issue on voters' minds. For example, 70 percent of Trump voters and 54 percent of Harris voters listed it as a major factor for their votes, according to a survey by Pew Research Center in September. Many who deeply care about the genocide perpetrated by Israel, especially Arab Americans who have lost family members in Gaza or Lebanon, also see it as a decisive factor for not voting at all

game changer for Harris would only occur if large numbers of Arab voters along with the youth and Black voters in the swing states decided to vote for Trump or pro-Palestinian independent candidate Jill Stein, or not vote at all.

The national sentiment as a whole is unclear; even the popular vote is up in the air. Trump lost both popular votes against Joe Biden and Clinton, who he defeated in the Electoral College, which historically favours Republicans. Trump has made substantial gains in non-competitive states like New York and California, where Harris, though leading, is underperforming as a Democrat. Republicans also won the House popular vote for the midterm elections in 2022, in less competitive states including California. a guess.

Venezuela's experience with democracy

As Nicolas Maduro secured a third term in Venezuela in July 2024, despite claims and evidence that the opposition leader won, Freddy Guevara, former vice-president of the Venezuelan Parliament and a key opposition voice against Maduro's dictatorship, speaks with Sarzah Yeasmin, contributor to Geopolitical Insights, in an exclusive interview sharing why the nation could not successfully transition to a democracy.



that allowed Chavez, an authoritarian takes patience, and often people aren't

was formed by the national assembly to restore democracy and challenge the government of Nicolas Maduro-the successor of Hugo Chavez-who was accused of committing election fraud by Juan Guaidó, who declared himself the interim leader. It was a "double state situation" as Maduro was still in power. The interim government's main mandate was to bring down Maduro and restore democracy, but it was only a constitutional and political tool without the power to fully govern. The constitutional framework of Venezuela allows for the interim government to exist for transitional leadership, but its application can be contentious and politically charged. In 2022, the interim government was dissolved. Earlier in 2021, Freddy Guevara was arrested for crimes against the state and sent to solitary confinement. After his release, to this day, Guevara continues to be one of the most prominent voices against Venezuela's dictatorship.

By late 2022, the Maduro government of Venezuela became more popular than the interim government. What were the forces at play?

The Venezuelan interim government operated under a unique set of challenges. It gained popularity in Venezuela for several reasons: many Venezuelans were frustrated with Maduro's government, which faced allegations of corruption, economic mismanagement, and human rights abuses. Guaidó represented a potential alternative. There was initial international support: the interim government received backing from the United States and many Latin American nations, which added legitimacy to Guaidó's claim. But as it was formed while Maduro was still in power, the interim government never had full control of the country's institutions.

Over time, two major issues led to the interim government's downfall. First, every year that we failed to oust Maduro, the interim government had to extend its mandate. As the next presidential election approached, political leaders became concerned that Guaidó was using his position to prolong his stay in power, potentially to run for president himself. This fear was one of the key reasons for the dissolution. Second, there were accusations corruption within the interim government, which created distrust and

Freddy Guevara

internal opposition forces.

It's important to note that the forces at and internal opposition struggles. These dynamics ultimately caused the collapse of the interim government and transparency in fragile political transitions. led to the loss of popular support for the interim government, even though most Venezuelans still wanted Maduro out.

democratic and thriving Venezuela into a dictatorship?

We can look at examples from various countries: Venezuela, Tunisia, Bolivia, of Hugo Chavez, who quickly dismantled Nicaragua, and Egypt. These nations democratic institutions, leading us down experienced a democratic transition but later reverted to authoritarian rule. While the specifics differ, there are common and ensured that political actors agreed trends. First, the role of security forces is to share power, but the system stopped critical. In many countries, if the armed forces are not committed to the rule of law realities, particularly when our oiland democratic governance, they become dependent economy collapsed. Instead of accomplices to authoritarianism. So it's evolving, the political landscape became essential to cultivate a democratic culture rigid, preventing innovation. As economic within security institutions.

Second, the independence of key institutions like the judiciary and electoral bodies is vital. These institutions provide neutral role, began promoting anti-system were amplified by the Maduro regime and checks and balances and hold leaders leaders. All of this created a perfect storm

accountable. When they are compromised, it becomes easier for authoritarian regimes play included both authoritarian influences to hijack the system. Third, transitional governments need to focus on delivering tangible results. It's not just about the institutional framework but also about underscored the importance of unity and addressing the population's immediate needs. Finally, all major political actors The combination of unmet expectations, and societal stakeholders-such as unions, internal conflicts, and external pressures students, and the media-need to be included in the democratic process. When there's a shared commitment, it's harder for one party to dominate.

In Venezuela, take the case of 1998, What marked the tipping point of a when failure to update our political agreements and economic inequality, combined with the media's detachment from democratic norms, led to the election the path to dictatorship. Initially, the *El* Pacto de Punto Fijo pact provided stability adapting to the changing economic inequality and corruption increased, many people grew frustrated with the system. The media, which should have played a

leader, to rise to power.

What arenas of public policy should an interim government address, and what would democratic reform look like in its initial stages and in the long term? The role of an interim government isn't to create long-term development because they won't have the time and resources to achieve that. The first goal should always be to improve people's perception of democracy and show them that this shift can benefit their lives. For social and economic rights, interim governments should be focusing on a segment of the population where the government can have the most impact. This could involve just two or three key measures in sectors that are politically and socially significant. It might sound pragmatic, even Machiavellian, but I believe that for an interim government, it's about survival and transitioning towards democratic stability. If a country is in a war, democratic processes. Instead, it becomes

willing to wait. They become frustrated and seek faster, more authoritarian solutions.

What role can international actors and allies play to help create democratic institutions in countries like Venezuela, which are prone to one-party rule?

We're now dealing with global powers and economic alliances that have far-reaching impacts. For example, in Venezuela's case, sanctions from the US have affected citizens more than the regime, which still manages to amass resources. When it comes to authoritarian governments, international support-whether active or passive-can be critical. The biggest issue arises when international actors view a country as a battleground for their own geopolitical interests. If any other country for that matter, finds itself in the middle of a power struggle between giants, the focus shifts away from the country's development or

Democracy requires people to be willing to make tradeoffs. Every political system involves trade-offs, but in a democracy, those trade-offs are often more visible and painful because they involve giving up things that may feel existentially important to you. People have to be willing to accept that their goals may take time to achieve, and they have to pursue them within the system's rules. This takes patience, and often people aren't willing to wait.

the economy and policies are all centred around winning that war. The same logic applies here.

It's important to remember that democracy isn't just about the mechanics of voting-it requires a society that's willing to compromise. And that's the hard part. It demands patience, time, and a willingness to acknowledge that sometimes you won't get everything you want. Authoritarian systems, by contrast, impose decisions from the top down, so they often seem more efficient or decisive.

There's more to it: democracy requires people to be willing to make trade-offs. Every political system involves trade-offs, but in a democracy, those trade-offs are often more visible and painful because they involve giving up things that may feel existentially important to you. People have to be willing to accept that their goals may take time to achieve, and they have to pursue them within the system's rules. This needs and stabilise their populations.

about serving the interests of foreign powers.

I hope that democratic nations will recognise their responsibility to support legitimate democratic movements. Take Tunisia, for example. During one of our conversations, Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki mentioned that while the international community was providing institutional and technical support for democracy, what Tunisia really needed was financial help to support its people. If people don't see immediate improvements in their quality of life, they lose faith in the democratic process. Democratic transitions need both moral and financial support. It's not enough to simply back the idea of democracy; the international community has to understand that interim governments or new democratic regimes need financial aid to address immediate

PHOTO: COURTESY



ACC chairman

FROM PAGE 12

Commission, acknowledged the challenge ACC would face following the resignations.

"But this was expected. It was widely recognised that the Moinuddin-led commission failed to work independently, and there was no hope for future independence under the leadership of the commission."

When asked how the activities of the ACC could be managed in the meantime, Iftekharuzzaman said the government could appoint a widely accepted, politically unaffiliated, and capable chairman temporarily to deal with the situation.

"The government can also choose to wait for the report from the ACC Reform Commission."

Asked about the deadline for the report, the TIB boss said they would submit it within the three-month stipulated time.

Moydul Islam, who served as the ACC director general from 2015 to 2019, told this newspaper that the

ACC cannot undertake crucial tasks like investigating allegations, filing cases or charge sheets, without a full commission.

the "Therefore, resignation letters need to be accepted soon, and an acceptable chairman and commissioners should be appointed within 30 days or before to fill the vacuum left by the resignations."

Before resigning, the three performed their official duties in the morning.

They were scheduled to meet the ACC Reform Commission at 3:00pm, but news broke around 1:00pm that the meeting had been postponed.

Sources said they submitted their resignation letters and left the ACC Segunbagicha headquarters around 2:30pm yesterday.

On March 3, 2021, Moinuddin was appointed ACC chairman and Jahurul commissioner (investigation). Asia Khatoon joined the anti-graft body as commissioner (inquiry) a year and a half later.

Khaleda, if able

FROM PAGE 12

facilities. We hope to complete all the formalities soon so that madam can travel abroad promptly.

Prof Zahid, also BNP standing committee member, added that the foreign ministry has already been informed about her treatment abroad, including the details of doctors, nurses, and relatives who will accompany her.

Sources said Khaleda may fly to London on November 5 and from there she may go to the US or Germany.

Family sources said the sevenmember medical team of Khaleda will also accompany the former prime minister. Her younger son Arafat Rahman Koko's widow Sharmila Rahman and assistants Fatema and Rupa will also be with her.

She has long been suffering from various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and issues related to kidney, lung, heart, and eyes.

On October 26 last year, three US specialist doctors completed the hepatic procedure, known as the transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS procedure), to stop water accretion in Khaleda's

her liver. Sources said Khaleda's liver needs to be transplanted and that's why

stomach and chest, and bleeding in

her family members are in close communication with the specialist doctors in the US and Germany. been doctors have Her

recommending sending her abroad since she was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in November 2021.

Khaleda was sent to Old Dhaka Central Jail on February 8, 2018, after a special court sentenced her to five years in prison in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

On October 30, 2018, the High Court raised her punishment to 10 years. Later, she was convicted in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the then Awami League government temporarily freed Khaleda from jail after 776 days through an executive order suspending her sentence on March 25, 2020, with conditions that she would stay in her Gulshan house and not leave the country.

After the fall of the AL government, the BNP chairperson was completely freed by an order of President Mohammed Shahabuddin on August 6.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

BTTC wants duty free rice imports

FROM PAGE 12

According to data from the Department of Agricultural Extension, two recent floods between August 16 to October 15 have disrupted the production of 8.39 lakh tonnes of rice. Earlier on October 20, the NBR reduced the import duty on rice

to 25 percent from 62.5 percent to encourage imports and increase supply in the local markets. The NBR said that the duty cut

would help lower the import cost by Tk 14.4 per kilogramme. However, after the duty cut, the

importers ordered the import of only 26 tonnes of rice so far, the BTTC report mentioned.

Amid this situation, necessary rice imports will only be encouraged if the duties are exempted as part of efforts to stabilise the market prices, the BTTC report said.

The report also said that local producers are unlikely to suffer if rice is imported at the price of the international markets, which will keep the price of imported rice above the price of the locally grown rice.

Bangladesh annually needs about 3.7 to 3.9 crore tonnes of rice, most of which are met through domestic production.

Trump courts religious voters FROM PAGE 12

people in Michigan, where Harris arrived on Monday.

Harris visited Corning Inc's Hemlock Semiconductor facility to talk to workers and tour the assembly line and talk about the importance of investing in manufacturing jobs.

The company recently received a preliminary investment of up to \$325 million via the Chips and Science Act, which a Harris campaign official noted Trump had criticized and Harris helped pass.

"When we can find a way to have meaningful partnerships with the private sector, with industries, but to do the kind of work that is happening here, everybody wins," she said.

Trump has argued his stewardship of the economy was stronger than that of President Joe Biden and Harris, despite major job losses at the end of his term at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

AL govt put finance adviser, BB governor

FROM PAGE 12 their legal counsels.

"The process of cancellation [of deal] was followed properly. But our attorneys advised us at the time that we don't attend the arbitration court," he said.

The Daily Star has also seen a Smith Cogeneration letter dated November 7 last year to Nasrul Hamid, former state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, and Habibur

Info ministry

FROM PAGE 1 Three journalists from DBC News have been included in the list – Head of News Zayadul Ahsan Pintu, Special Correspondent Aditya Arafat, and

Masud Ibny Ayub Karzon. Two journalists from Bangladesh Pratidin on the list are Mirza Mehedi Tamal, their city editor, and Zulkarnain Rano, their chief reporter.

From Jugantor, Abdullah Al Mamun, their former special correspondent and Sheikh Mamunur Rashid, their special correspondent, were named.

Two journalists from News24 were on the list, namely, Rahul Raha, executive editor, Ashiqur Rahman Shraban, deputy chief news editor and head of digital.

In addition to Mamun, another journalist from ATN News. Tawhidul Islam Shouray, was included.

Rahman, former power secretary. The company had demanded \$20.1 million in that letter.

"Smith Cogeneration has and continues to sustain severe damage as a result of this dispute. In addition to the recourse available to us under Unconditional Guarantee, the please be advised that it is our understanding that under US law a court will find no legal distinction between the PDB and the GoB

for purposes of enforcing the UK Judgment," the letter said. Nasrul Hamid has gone into

hiding since the fall of the Hasina government on August 5.

Habibur Rahman was in office till October 6, when he went on postretirement leave. His phone was found switched off.

Harold E Patricoff, a lawyer for Smith Cogeneration, did not respond to our email.

Ekattor TV, Shakil Ahmed, the

station's former head of news,

and Farzana Rupa, its principal

Chowdhury, editor of The Daily

Obsever, Shyamal Dutta, editor of

the Dainik Bhorer Kagoj, Munni

Saha, chief news editor at ATN

News, Nayeemul Islam Khan, editor-

in-chief of Amader Shomoy.com,

of Dhaka Times, Abul Kalam Azad,

former managing director of BSS,

and Pranab Saha, editor of DBC News,

accreditation are Zafar Wazed,

former director general of the Press

Institute of Bangladesh, and freelance

journalists Mithila Farzana and Syed

The others who lost their press

have also been revoked.

The cards of Iqbal Sobhan

correspondent.

The list also includes Haider Ali, Haque Babu, editor-in-chief of executive editor of Kaler Kontho, Moinul Islam, executive editor of Amader Shomoy, Abul Khair, city editor of Dainik Ittefaq, Madhusudan Mondal of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Ashok Chowdhury of Boishakhi Television, journalists Azmal Hossain and Shyamol Sarkar. The letter was signed by the information ministry's Deputy Secretary Mohammed Masud Khan. In addition, the press accreditation Mohammed Arifur Rahman, editor

cards of 20 journalists were cancelled, as per another directive issued by the information ministry on October 28.

They include seven from the 28 mentioned in the letter to the BFIU: Ashok Chowdhury, Farazi Azmal, Naem Nizam, Farida Yasmin, Shaban Mahmud, Jamal Hossain and Subhash Chandra Singh Roy.

The others include Mozammel Borhan Kabir.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী এর কার্যালয়, সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, বরগুনা। ফোন+৮৮০২৪৭৯৯৩০১২৭ E-mail: eebargu@rhd.gov.bd

ম্মারক নং- ৪-৬৬/১৭৯৯

তারিখ ঃ ২৭.১০.২০২৪ ছি.।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি/ লাইসেন্স নবায়ন বিজ্ঞন্তি (২য় পর্যায়)

এতম্বারা সংগ্রিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বরগুনা সড়ক বিভাগ কর্তৃক পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের মাধ্যমে প্রতিক্ষেত্রে ৫০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত প্ৰাৰলিত মৃল্যের অভ্যন্তরীণ ক্রয়কার্য (NCT-Works) সম্পাদনের লক্ষ্যে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরের জন্য ঠিকাদার তালিকাভুক্তি করা হবে। সিপিটিইউ কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরগুনা অথবা উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ, বরগুনা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে সরবরাহ করা হবে। ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ডাফট নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিডাগ, বরগুনা এর অনুকুলে জমা প্রদান করে অথবা মানি রিসিম্টের মাধ্যমে ১০০০.০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা পরিশোধ করত: আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংগ্রহ করতে পারবে। নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সঠিকভাবে পুরণ পূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদিসহ আগামী ১৭/১১/২০২৪খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকেল ৪.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে এ অফিসে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি প্রয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৬৩ অনুসরণযোগ্য এবং এ তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ, দরপত্র আহবান/কাজ প্রদানের নিশ্চায়তা বিধান করে না।

উল্লেখ্য যে, ইতিপূর্বে অন্র দপ্তরে তালিকাভুক্তি ঠিকাদারগণ ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরে লাইসেন্স নবায়ন ফি বাবদ টাকা ২০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) মাত্র + ১৫% ড্যাটসহ বিনা জরিমানায় আগামী ২৮/১১/২০২৪খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে অত্র দপ্তরে জমা প্রদানপূর্বক লাইসেন্স নবায়ন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(কুমারেশ বিশ্বাস)

প্রিন্সিপালের কার্যালয় বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী

স্মারক নং-বিপিএ/প্রশাসন/৭৩৭০

NEW

তারিখঃ ২৯/১০/২০২৪খ্রিঃ

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ সালে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীর ২য় কোয়ার্টারের অশ্বত্থাদ্য ছোলা এবং বিপিএ হাসপাতালের চিকিৎসা সামগ্রী সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে শর্ত সাপেক্ষে পুনঃদরপত্র'আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ-

| ۵. | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | স্থরাই মন্নগালয় (জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ)। | | | | | |
|--------|--|--|--|-----------------|--|--|--|
| 2. | সংছা | বাংশাদেশ গুলিশ। | | | | | |
| ٥. | আর্থিক কোড | | ৩২৫১১০৬- মৎস ও প্রাণি খাদ্য ক্রয় ৩২৫৫১০৫-চিকিৎসা ও শল্য চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি | | | | |
| 8. | সংগ্রহ বরুরে নাম | জিনিপাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ | ণ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজ্ঞ | গাহী। | | | |
| ¢. | সংগ্রহ স্বস্ত্রার ঠিকানা | থ্রিনিপালের কার্যালয়, বাংল | াদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, স | ারদা , রাজশাহী। | | | |
| ა. | দরদাতার যোগাতা | নি নি হ'ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের ব্যবসায়িক ট্রেড লাইসেশ (হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত) থাকতে হবে। খ) দরদাতা/প্রতিষ্ঠানের একক নামে হালনাগাদ বাংক স্বক্ষশতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। খ) নিজ নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুক্লে টিআইএন নণ্ডরম্ব আয়করাদাতা হিসেবে সনদপত্র ও ভ্যাটদাতা হিসেবে ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে (হালনাগাদ ও নবায়নকৃত)। ঘ) পিপিএ/২০০৬ একং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক শিউউলৈ বর্ণিত যাবতীয় শর্তাবলী পালন ও কাগজ/দলিলপত্রাদি দরণাত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করার সক্ষমতা থাকতে হবে। | | | | | |
| ٩. | সংগ্রহের পদ্ধতি | উনাক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OT | (M) | | | | |
| ۶. | দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা | ১) প্রিনিপালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহী। ২। রেম্প্র ডিআইজি'র কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী। ৩। পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, রাজশাহী। | | | | | |
| ъ. | দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা | ১। প্রিন্সিপালের কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশার্হী। ২। রেঞ্চ ডিআইন্দ্রির কার্যালয়, রাজশার্হী। | | | | | |
| 30. | দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা | প্রিলিপালের কার্যালয়, বাংল | াদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী , সা | | | | |
| ۵۵. | দরপত্রের বিবরন ও প্যাব্দেজ নম্বর | দরপত্র সরবরাহের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময় (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত) | দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও (২.৩০ ঘ | | নার তারিখ ও সময় কা দরদাতা বা তার উপস্থিত থাকতে ণারবেন) | দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারি ও সময় (কনফারেগ রুম ১১.০০ ঘটিকা) | |
| | প্যাকেজ নম্বর-১ | ১০-১১-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ | >>->>->> | 22-2 | ১-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ | ১৪-১১-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ | |
| | প্যাকেজ নম্বর-২ | ১০-১১-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ | >>->>-२०२८ खिः | >>> | ১-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ | ১৭-১১-২০২৪ খ্রিঃ | |
| ۶۹. | টেন্ডার সিঞ্চিউরিটি | প্রত্যেক গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে পৃথক পৃথকভাবে কাজের নামের বিপরীতে ১২ নং অনুচ্ছেদের উল্লিখিত জামানতের টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/ পে-অর্ভার প্রিন্সিপাল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ একাডেমী, সারদা, রাজশাহীর অনুকুলে দরপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করতে হবে। | | | | | |
| so. | দরপ | ত্রের বিবরণ | | প্যাকেজ নম্বর | দরপত্র শিডিউলের মূল্য | টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি মা | |
| ছালা ৷ | (উন্নতমানের) (ভাঙ্গানো ও পরিবহন চার্জ সহ | () (পুনঃদরপত্র) | | 2 | 900/- | .000,000/- | |
| | দশ পুলিশ একাডেমী হাসপাতালের চিকিৎসা : | | (1000000) | 2 | 2.000/- | 2,00,000/- | |

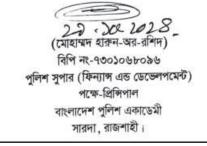
বিশেষ শর্তাবলী ঃ

১) অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত দিনে বা সময়ে দরপত্র দাখিল/গ্রহণ বা খোলা সম্ভব না হলে দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক দরপত্র দাখিলের ও খোলার/গ্রহণের পুন্যনির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময় বির্জ্ঞগুর মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অবহিত করা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখে যদি কোন কারণে অফিস বন্ধ থাকে তা হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে যথাসময়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

২) দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত যে কোন আইটেমের পরিমান বৃদ্ধি অথবা কমানোর বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষ পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

৩) দরপত্র শিষ্টিউল ক্রয়ের সময় প্রিলিপাল, বিপিএ সারদা, রাজশাহী বরাবরে নিজন্ব প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে হবে।

- ৮রপত্র গিপিএ/২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর/২০০৮ মোতাবেক সকল শর্তাবলী কার্যকর হবে।
- ৫) কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরপত্র ব্যক্তিন করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।



GD-819

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (চঃদাঃ), সওজ সড়ক বিভাগ, বরগুনা।



ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আন্ডারহ্য্যাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১৯ সন থেকে ২০২২ সন পর্যন্ত মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান এবং ২০২৪ সনের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের মধ্যে যারা ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে বিভিন্ন ইউনিটে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ করে কেবল তারাই ২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্গে আডার্ক্ম্যান্ডুয়েট প্রেক্সামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবে।

ভর্তি প্রার্থীরা ০৪/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০টা থেকে ২৫/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ রাত ১১:৫৯ মি: পর্যন্ত Dhaka University Admission Website (https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd)- এর মাধ্যমে অনলাইনে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদন ফি ১০৫০/- (এক হাজার পঞ্চাশ) টাকা এবং আইবিএ ইউনিটের আবেদন ফি ১৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা। চারটি রট্রোয়ত্ব বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের (সোনালী, জনতা, অর্যাণী, রূপালী) যে কোন শাখায় অথবা অনলাইনে ডেবিট/ক্রেডিট কার্ড, মোবাইল ফিনালিয়াল সেবা ব্যবহার করে শিক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন ফি জমা দিবে।

শিক্ষার্থীরা নিম্নোক্ত ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি ইউনিটে আবেদন করতে পারবে। আবেদনের যোগ্যতাসহ ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিশ্বরিত তথ্য ওয়েবসাইটে প্রদন্ত সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিটের ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লেখ থাকবে।

| বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট | বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদ, ফার্মেসী অনুষদ, আর্থ এন্ড এনভায়রনমেন্টাল সায়েন্সেস অনুষদ, ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড টেকনোলজী অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ এবং সংশ্রিষ্ট ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য। |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ক্ষ্ণা, আইন ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট | কলা অনুষদ, আইন অনুষদ, সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট ইনস্টিটিউটে ভৰ্তির জন্য। |
| ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা ইউনিট | বিজ্ঞনেস স্টাডিজ অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য। |
| চারুকলা ইউনিট | চারুকলা অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য । |
| আইবিএ ইউনিট | আইবিএ ইনিস্টিটিউটে ভর্তির জন্য। |

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপ:

| ইউনিট | পরীক্ষার তারিখ | বার | সময়সূচি |
|---|----------------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| কলা, আইন ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট | 20/03/2020 | শনিবার | সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত |
| বিজ্ঞান ইউনিট | 05/02/2020 | শনিবার | সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত |
| ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা ইউনিট | 08/02/2020 | শনিবার | সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত |
| চাক্লক্লা ইউনিট (সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও অঙ্কন) | 08/03/২০২৫ | শনিবার | সকাল ১১:০০টা থেকে ১২:৩০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত |
| আইবিএ ইউনিট | 00/03/2020 | শুক্রবার | সকাল ১০:০০টা থেকে ১২:০০ মিনিট পর্যন্ত |

চারুকলা ইউনিট এর ভর্তি পরীক্ষা (সাধারণ জ্ঞান ও অঙ্কন) একই দিনে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে বিধায় এই ইউনিটের এবং আইবিএ ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষা শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা কেন্দ্রে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

কোটায় ভর্তি, সমতা নিরূপণ ও ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি https://admission.eis.du.ac.bd ওয়েবসাইটে দেখার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো। উন্দ্রেখ্য জাতীয় পর্যায়ের খেলোয়াড় কোটায় ভর্তি বিজ্ঞন্তি পৃথকডাবে পত্রিকায় প্রকাশ করা হবে।

প্রশাসনিক ভবন ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় णका-2000 তারিখ ঃ/২০২৪

রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাণ্ড) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়



T SPORTS hat to & GTV Bangladesh vs South Africa Second Test, Day 2 Live from 9:55 am

Bangladesh upbeat about defending SAFF title

SPORTS REPORTER

Star

Bangladesh are upbeat about defending their SAFF Women's Championship title as they square off against Nepal in today's final at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, with the match kicking off at 6:45pm Bangladesh time.

Bangladesh's disappointing 1-1 draw against Pakistan in their tournament opener and midfielder Monica Chakma's subsequent comments to media regarding the team's head coach had apparently reflected an unhappy family.

However, everything started changing with the crucial match against India where coach Peter Butler kept his faith on the experienced guns, who totally outclassed the five-time champions to step into the semifinals with a big 3-1 win before storming into the final with a 7-1 thrashing of Bhutan.

"Having crossed different odds, the girls have come to this stage and I always try to motivate them and try to keep them united on the ground. I think there will be no shortage of anything on the ground tomorrow [Wednesday]

and we will be trying to play the way we have played in the last three matches," captain Sabina Khatun said yesterday.

"I think the crowd will enjoy the match because it will not be easy for either side. It will be a tough match -- a 50-50 game," said the experienced campaigner.

Coach Peter focused on the process to be right in the final.

"A lot of respect to the opposition Nepal in terms of their unity. I think there

will be a lot of our factors involved in the game tomorrow but our belief is that we go with the right attitude and the right focus and talents," the Englishman said.

Bangladesh are just one hurdle away from being crowned back-toback champions and proving that their maiden title two years ago was not a fluke.

Former coach Golam Rabbani Choton's charges were not the favourites two years ago either, but they did beat the

Women's Championship despite playing in five finals before.

Bangladesh played in two finals before – losing to India in 2016 and beating Nepal in 2022.

Bangladesh have only one victory against Nepal in 12 meetings, with five draws and six matches won by Nepal.

home side, cheered on by a vocal crowd, 3-1 to win the title for the first time. These two teams have played against each other three times since, all of those matches ending in draws.

Nepalese forward Sabitra Bhandari, who scored the equaliser against India in the semifinals, is expected to a be big threat for Bangladesh. However, the suspension to on-form Nepalese forward Rekha Poudel will be a big relief for the women in red and green.

while the two spinners Taijul (30) and

Miraz (21) had to account for most overs.

Part-time spinner Mominul Haque had to

chip in with four overs, further proving

that the Tigers were missing a fifth regular

bowler who could have made things a

lot easier for the other four bowlers in

Proteas wickets to fall on the day

removing stand-in skipper and opener

Aiden Markram (33 off 55) and Stubbs

(106 off 198) late in the day to end a

massive 201-run stand with De Zorzi, who

Although the concussion of Jaker Ali

Anik and Liton Das' fever at the eleventh

hour had an impact on the selection

process in the Chattogram Test, it was

Taijul was the one to take both the

Chattogram's batting paradise.

remained unbeaten on 141.

BCB asked to amend constitution

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) is set for an important meeting today with many important discussions to be held. The board is currently operating without any standing committee since Faruque Ahmed took charge of the BCB presidency following the resignation of Nazmul Hassan Papon.

Two separate letters have been sent to the BCB on October 28 and 29 from the National Sports Council (NSC), asking for clarification. The one sent on October 28 sought clarification on how many directors' positions are vacant due to absence from three consecutive board meetings, according to Clause 15.2 of the BCB constitution.

Following the fall of the Awami League government, many BCB directors have remained absent. The NSC also sought to learn whether any steps have been taken regarding fulfilling the vacant posts, according to section 13.4 of the BCB constitution.

In another letter dated October 29, NSC wrote that it feels the need for forming a sub-committee to reform the BCB constitution. The NSC letters mentioned that issues discussed in the said letters are very important.

The board is also expected to discuss the issue of Shakib Al Hasan's selection for the upcoming ODI series against Afghanistan in UAE. The allrounder was set to play in his final Test in Mirpur but was advised not to come to the country by Sports Adviser Asif Mahmud. Shakib, who had already travelled to Dubai to return to the country, left without playing his final Test.

Shakib had said that he would bid goodbye to international cricket with the 2025 Champions Trophy. However, selectors remained unsure whether to pick him for the upcoming series in UAE until discussion with the board and the BCB president.

Meanwhile, all-format skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto had expressed wish to step down from captaincy and the BCB is yet to officially comment on the issue.

Naeem and Co grind out draw **for Rangpur**

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Division remained second in the NCL standings after the second round following a draw against Dhaka Division on Day Four at BKSP Ground 3 yesterday.

Rangpur were 101 for five in the 57th over but aeem Islam pl aved a heroic knock under p

Safe approach pegs **TIGERS BACK ONCE AGAIN**

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN from Chattogram

A penchant for opting for a safe approach once again forced Bangladesh onto the backfoot on the opening day of their series-deciding second and final Test against South Africa in Chattogram yesterday

Having taken little to no lesson from selecting a batter-heavy eleven during their seven-wicket defeat in the first Test, the Tigers once again opted to go with just four regular bowlers and eight genuine batters in their side for this series' final World Test Championship fixture - a game that Bangladesh must win to level the series.

Given the historical trend of the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium offering batting-friendly wickets coupled with the fact that the weather in the port city has been very hot and humid in the last few days, the Tigers' selection process made very little sense. Even the Proteas showed in the last Test, played in a much slower Mirpur surface, that having a properly balanced side was key their pacers scalped 13 wickets in that game while Hasan Mahmud, Bangladesh's sole seamer, was left ruing for not being able to bowl from 'both ends'. Bangladesh did add one more pacer for the Chattogram Test -- pairing Hasan with Nahid Rana. However, the Tigers' choice of opting for only two spinners all-rounder Mehedi Hasan Miraz and leftarmer Taijul Islam -- was just as baffling as





it was logical for South Africa to go with three pacers and two spinners.

When Bangladesh's newly-appointed coach Phil Simmons was made to answer queries as to what led to such a selection, things got clearer that it was the fear of batting collapse and the defensive mindset of preparing for 'a draw' from the onset saw the Tigers repeat such a questionable approach.

"It was [done after] a lot of consideration. There was a lot of talk about it [the team] combination], and this what we came up with at the end," Simmons told reporters in Chattogram vesterday.

"There was a thought [given] to go

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

with a fifth bowler. First of all, you can win a Test. And if you get to a stage where you can't win it then you must be able to save it. This came into the equation and we decided to go this way," Simmons added, making it apparent where the priorities

Unsurprisingly, South Africa batters made hay on Day 1 with opener Tony de Zorzi and Tristan Stubbs notching maiden tons to power the tourists to 307-2 at stumps, frustrating the Bangladeshi bowlers the entire day under scorching heat

Bangladesh pacers Hasan and Nahid bowled 13 overs each, staying wicketless, clear that the defensive approach of the team management has once again seen the Tigers on the back foot just after Day 1.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Bangladesh vs South Africa

2ND TEST, DAY 1

South Africa 1st innings: 307 for two (De Zorzi 141 not out, Stubbs 106, Markram 33, Bedingham 18 not out; Taijul 2-110, Miraz 0-95, Mahmud 0-47)

notching 75 off a whopping 246 deliveries. Tanbir Havder helped close down one end, remaining unbeaten on 21 off 126 deliveries. After Naeem's dismissal, Rishad Hossain scored an unbeaten 19 off 58 deliveries to help seal the draw as Rangpur reached 165 for seven in 101 overs in their second innings. Earlier, Rangpur had managed 253 in the first innings before Dhaka had posted 327 in the first innings.

Suvagata Hom was the pick of the Dhaka bowlers with two wickets for 18 runs in 16 overs. Day 1 of the four-day match had seen no play due to wet outfield.

In another drawn second round game at Sheikh Abu Naser Stadium, Barishal opener Abdul Mazid hit 134 as they reached 287 for three against Khulna Division, who had declared their first innings at 408 for nine.

LIST OF WINNERS

Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri (Esp/Man City) Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmati (Esp/Barcelona)

Johan Cruyff trophy: Carlo Ancelotti (Ita/Real Madrid)

Johan Cruyff trophy: Emma Hayes (Eng/Ex-Chelsea women's coach)

Gerd Mueller trophy: Kylian Mbappe (Fra/ex-PSG), Harry Kane (Eng/ Bayern Munich)

Raymond Kopa trophy: Lamine Yamal (Esp/ Barcelona)

Lev Yashin trophy: Emiliano Martinez (Arg/ Aston Villa)

Socrates Prize: Jenifer Hermoso (Esp/Tigres Monterrey)

Best men's team: Real Madrid Best women's team:

Barcelona

Rodri's Ballon d'Or: Deserved or not?

NABID YEASIN

Rodri becoming the first Manchester City player to win the Ballon d'Or award for the best player in the world on Monday did come as a surprise to many, and with ample reasons too as he pipped favourite Vinicius Junior of Real Madrid and Brazil to lift the most prestigious individual award in football.

While Vinicius' claim to the award can not be undermined -- given he had been the most influential player for Real Madrid in a season that they won the Champions League, LaLiga and Super Copa -- doubts could not be made about the City star's credentials.

It's just that the Ballon d'Or award has been dominated so much by attacking players over the years that seeing a midfielder bag it, especially when he was not even made favourite to win it while running against a prolific attacker like Vinicius, was bound to raise eyebrows.

Central midfielders don't often appear in the race for the Ballon d'Or. let alone win it - a fact that could easily be established that in the last 17 years, only two midfielders won the award. The last one to win was Croatia and Real Madrid midfielder Luka Modric in 2018 and before him, it was Brazil's Kaka in 2007 -- and Kaka was hardly a traditional midfielder.



"This cannot be achieved alone, I am very lucky to be surrounded by players who make me better every day. Thanks to the staff, to the club workers. without you we would not achieve so much success."

Barcelona and Spain star Aitana Bonmati said on Monday after winning her second successive women's Ballon d'Or, having led her club to a historic continental quadruple of titles and claiming the Nations League with her country.

Not only midfielders, the criteria just from the matches he missed -- in for winning the Ballon d'Or award is the nine games Rodri didn't feature, such that it sort of creates a barrier City won just five, losing four of them. for any player other than a forward to win it -- the last defender to win the competitions for City, Rodri had 22 award was Fabio Cannavaro in 2006 and the only goalkeeper to ever win it was Russia's Lev Yashin in 1963.

The main three criteria for the in a single campaign.

d'Or, and the first

award include individual performances, decisive and impressive character; team success. performances and achievements; and player behaviour, class and fair play. And, in that regard, a strong case for Rodri winning it could be made.

Rodri was one of the main figures for City in 2023-24, starting more matches (50) than any of his teammates, while he also played the most minutes (4,325) to help the English side an unprecedented fourth successive Premier League trophy. He was also named the best player at the Euro 2024, propelling Spain to a record-extending fourth title.

How pivotal Rodri was for Pep

Playing 50 games in all goal involvements (9 goals, 13 assists), having never previously register more than seven goals or over seven assists

Passing is the ultimate trait of a midfielder and Rodri became the first-Rodri dominated ever Manchester City in that aspect as player to win the Ballon well, averaging 111.2 passes per 90 player from the Premier minutes with an League to do so since accuracy of 92.3% which accounted Cristiano Ronaldo in to more passes per 2008 when he was at 90 than any other Manchester United player from Europe's top five leagues in all competitions.

> Rodri also set a new Premier League record (since 2003-04) for successful passes (3,359) and successful passes in the opposition's half (2,122) in a single season last year.

Hence, a deep look at Rodri's credentials might just be able to make things a bit clear as to why the journalists from 100 top-ranked FIFA nations voted him in ahead of Vinicius even though choosing a winner in a Guardiola last season could be gauged voting method is never free of bias.







BTTC wants duty free rice imports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) has requested the government to temporarily withdraw import duty on rice to increase the supply and, in turn, contain the price of this staple food in the local markets.

To this end, the BTTC sent a report to the commerce ministry, food ministry, and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, food inflation has remained above 10 percent for six consecutive months since April this vear

Although the price of fine rice remained unchanged over the last month, medium and coarse varieties, which are consumed the most, saw a 1.74 percent and 1.9 percent increase, respectively, over the same period, said the BTTC report.

A reason for the increase can be attributed to the back-to-back floods and inclement weather that have caused damage to standing paddy crops across the country.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



A Palestinian boy cries as he carries the body of a child, who was killed in Israeli strikes, at AI-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir AI-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

ACC chairman, **2** commissioners quit their jobs

DIPAN NANDY and MD ABBAS

Chairman and two commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission resigned vesterday.

ACC Chairman Moinuddin Abdullah, commissioners Asia Khatoon and Zahirul Haque stepped down, citing personal reasons, said sources at the anti-graft body.

This development came roughly a month after the interim government formed the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission, led by Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

The commission has been tasked with proposing essential reforms to enhance the effectiveness, independence, and impartiality of the ACC.

According to section 10 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2004, the commission members submit their resignation letters to the president through the Cabinet Division, Aktarul Islam, ACC deputy director and public relations officer, told journalists.

Under the ACC Act, any member wishing to resign must submit a letter of resignation to the president at least one month in advance.

The resignations of the Moinuddin-led commission have raised a question about how the commission will function until the reform commission submits its report.

There had been allegations against the commission that it failed to hold politically influential people involved in money laundering and corruption accountable.

Contacted, Iftekharuzzaman, chief of the ACC Reform

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BETTER TREATMENT Khaleda, if able, to leave for London soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will be taken to London first and then to another country for advanced treatment very soon, if her condition allows, her personal physician Prof AZM Zahid Hossain said yesterday.



Trump courts religious voters

> Harris talks jobs as millions vote early



REUTERS, Atlanta

Republican Donald Trump on Monday evening appealed to religious voters in the southern swing state of Georgia as his campaign distanced itself from racist remarks by supporters that could alienate key voter groups.

Millions of Americans have already cast their vote before the November 5 election, which national polls including the latest one from Reuters/Ipsos, and surveys in swing states, show is a close race between Trump and his Democratic rival Kamala Harris.

AL govt put finance adviser, **BB** governor in legal trouble

ASIFUR RAHMAN and SUKANTA HALDER

The immediate past Awami League government's failure to settle an international arbitration claim has left Bangladesh in a legal tangle in the US, leading to a surprise judicial order against two top officials of the interim government during their official visit to Washington last week.

The judicial order for Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur to appear before a US court to testify has since been recalled following an appeal by the Bangladesh government.

The issue goes back to the first tenure of the Awami League government led by Sheikh Hasina. The dispute with Smith

"All the procedures were followed during the cancellation process," incumbent PDB Chairman Md Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star yesterday.

Smith Cogeneration failed to meet the deadline, he said, adding, "Even, no instruments or materials were found at the construction site at the time. There were no activities, which was why the deal was cancelled."

On March 1, 1999, Smith filed a lawsuit at the **International Court of** Arbitration against the PDB and the government of Bangladesh, claiming

The verdict said, "Smith has established a claim against the PDB for lost profits, lost development costs and lost fees in the sum of \$10.42 million. The Tribunal orders that the PDB shall pay costs of the arbitration assessed by the ICC at \$6.2 lakh and the sum of \$5.2 lakh toward the legal costs and disbursements incurred by Smith."

The court also slapped a 4 percent interest until the payment was completed.

Since then, Smith Cogeneration tried multiple times to get the money in vain, leading to the current amount of \$31.9 million including interest.

The company also went to multiple courts in the US as well as the Court of Session in Scotland's Edinburgh to recognise and enforce the UK verdict.

Latest on October 16, it wrote to the

In Georgia, where in-person early voting ahead of Election Day is expected to total up to 70 percent of ballots, Trump courted religious voters during a National Faith Advisory Board event.

"I think this is a country that needs religion," Trump said. "They're trying to stymie you, this new administration, this new radical left group of people."

But he faces pressure over his rally in New York on Sunday, where a comedian called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage," prompting a backlash from Latino celebrities and criticism from both Republican and Democratic politicians. The Trump campaign has said the joke did not reflect their views.

Some 46 million Americans have voted already, according to the Election Lab at the University of Florida, including some 2.8 million people in Georgia and 1.9 million

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Cogeneration, a US power company involves a \$1.5 million performance bond that was forfeited by the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) two decades

In 1999, the PDB forfeited the bond money after cancelling the contract with the company for setting up a 100MW barge-mounted power plant in Haripur, Narayanganj.

PDB officials justified the move. They said Smith Cogeneration, which was awarded the job on October 14, 1997, failed to start the construction work within the scheduled commercial operation date (COD).

The company had sought a revision of the deadline, but the PDB rejected the plea, cancelled the deal and forfeited the bond money.

\$35.02 million in damages.

He said he came to know about the long sage only this month after taking office. THE ARBITRATION

On March 1, 1999, Smith filed a lawsuit at the International Court of Arbitration International Chamber of under Commerce (ICC) against the PDB and the government of Bangladesh. It claimed \$35.02 million from Bangladesh damages.

The court, located in the UK, gave its verdict on October 30, 2003, after several hearings between 2002 and 2003. No representatives from Bangladesh attended the court proceedings.

PDB, asking the finance adviser and the BB governor by name to appear before a US court to testify on October 23.

The court on Thursday issued "bench warrants for the arrest" for the two officials, who were on an official visit there to attend annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group.

The warrants were subsequently stayed. Asked about latest letter, the PDB chief said, "Upon receiving the notice from Smith Cogeneration, we have appointed lawyers in the US but they could not prepare the documents before the hearing of October 23."

He said both the PDB and the previous Bangladesh governments decided to skip the court proceedings on instructions of SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

"Considering her health, we have started preparations to take her to a multidisciplinary hospital abroad as quickly as possible," he said while talking to journalists.

"As part of the process, we are securing a long-haul specialised air ambulance and making necessary communications. She [Khaleda] will initially be flown to London, where, after a brief stopover, she will be taken to the country where there are multidisciplinary medical SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Canada, UK, EU slap new sanctions on Myanmar

AFP, London

The EU, UK, and Canada yesterday announced fresh sanctions targeting the Myanmar junta's access to "military materiel, equipment and funds".

The new curbs, against entities supplying aviation fuel and equipment to Myanmar's military, were aimed at constraining its "ability to conduct airstrikes on civilians", according to Britain.

It said the month of August saw the highest number of airstrikes on record by the Myanmar military, killing dozens of civilians and amounting to "gross human rights violations".

The sanctions -- the latest by Western countries since a February 2021 military coup ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's government -- target six entities involved in providing aviation fuel or restricted goods to the junta.

They bolster several previous rounds of curbs against suppliers of aviation fuel to the military and arms

CHAMPION

EYES ON THE PRIZE: Bangladesh captain Sabina Khatun and her Nepalese counterpart Anjila Tumbapo Subba pose for a photograph with the SAFF Women's Championship trophy at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu on Tuesday as they gear up for today's grand finale. Bangladesh, the defending champions, will want to repeat their final victory against the same opposition at the same venue two years ago while the hosts will look to end their final jinx with a first-ever title. PHOTO: SAFF

Nasa finds 'green spots' on Mars

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has found shocking "green spots" on Mars. On Earth, those spots can be a mark of the activity of microbes. Nasa cautioned that there is nothing to indicate the same is happening on Mars - but noted that it was an interesting and unexpected feature in the rock

that could be an important find on the planet. The discovery was made when the Perseverance rover scraped away at a bit of the rock on the Martian surface. The 5 centimetre patch that it left showed what Nasa called a "striking array" of colours in the rock, with white, black

and green patches.

One of the biggest surprises was the dark green coloured spots that were found in the patch. They are made up of dark-toned parts with fuzzy and light-green rims around them.

On Earth, we have red rocks that are made that colour from oxidised ion, which is the colour of rust or the red in our blood. In similar rocks to those on Mars, green spots of this kind can be seen, and form when water runs through the sediment before it hardens into rock, which changes the chemical reaction and leaves behind a different, green colour chemical.