



Now coal power plants scaling back production

People in rural areas suffer as fuel shortage hits generation

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Coal-fired power plants are dialling down production or even shutting down due to financial, legal or technical issues, leading to power cuts across the country, especially in the rural areas.

Gas-fired power producers have already been in this state since June.

The country's seven coal-based power plants, with a combined capacity of 7,099 megawatts (MW), are producing around 3,199MW.

India's Adani Power Jharkhand Ltd, the single largest power source of Bangladesh, halved its supply last week. Bangladesh owes it about \$846 million.

On October 24, Matarbari 1,200MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fired Power Plant ran out of coal, according to the data of Power Grid Bangladesh PLC. It was running at half its capacity for the previous couple of weeks.

Officials said it may not be possible to restart the plant before December.

"Coal procurement process is underway. We hope that the power production will be restarted when the coal arrives in mid-December," said Md Adnan Ibrahim, executive engineer (procurement) of Coal Power Generation Company Bangladesh Ltd.

He said his company has floated tenders for procuring around 3.5 million tonnes of coal. The plant needs around 10,000 tonnes a day.

Ibrahim said a change of coal supplier sparked legal issues that caused delays in purchasing coal.

The Barishal 307MW power plant, meanwhile, is down for maintenance, according to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB).

Rampal and SS Power have been producing at half their capacities for a long time due to coal shortage.

A source at the PDB said the plants are running low on coal and producing less electricity mainly due to dollar crunch.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Coal Plants	Capacity	Production
Rampal	1,234MW	620MW
Matarbari	1,150MW	0MW
SS power	1,224MW	350MW
Barishal	307MW	0MW
Barapukuria	444MW	235MW
Adani	1,496MW	750MW
Payra	1,244MW	1,244MW
Total	7,099MW	3,199MW



Around a decade ago, illegal establishments built by encroachers lined the banks of the Shitalakkhya. However, a government initiative to build a 52-km walkway on the sides of the Buriganga, Shitalakkhya and Balu rivers has changed the entire outlook of the spot as encroachers are now unable to grab the banks to build any structures. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Admin was hostage to politicians

Debapriya says after meeting bureaucrats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politicians aided by loyal bureaucrats were behind irregularities in development projects taken and implemented when the Awami League was in power, secretaries and other officials told a whitepaper panel.



"The administration was hostage to politics," Debapriya Bhattacharya, chief of the panel, told reporters after a meeting yesterday.

The interim government formed the panel to prepare a whitepaper on the state of the economy.

The panel yesterday consulted the high-level government officials at the planning ministry.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Harris, Trump run toe to toe

75m people already cast early ballots

AFP, Gastonia

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump duelled across the swing states yesterday in the tensest US election of modern times, with the Democrat urging voters to "turn the page" on the Republican's scorched-earth brand of politics.

Seventy-five million people have already cast early ballots as the hours tick down to the Election Day climax tomorrow.

The country -- and the world -- could then face a nail-biting wait to know whether Harris becomes the first US woman president or Trump secures a spectacular return to power after his unprecedented and at times violent campaign to overturn his 2020 reelection loss to

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TOMORROW

Joe Biden.

The rivals literally crossed paths, with Harris's official vice presidential Air Force Two and Trump's personal jet sharing the airport tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Both held rallies in North Carolina, while Harris also spoke to supporters in Georgia, another of the seven swing states seen as the keys to victory in an otherwise dead-even nationwide contest. Trump added in a stop in Virginia.

The rounds of high-stakes speeches before thousands of people at each stop were due to continue yesterday when Harris was due to hold multiple events in the swing state of Michigan and Trump

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Don't think about 'minus 2 formula' again: Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday warned that no one should think of the so-called "minus two formula" again or engage in any actions excluding the party as part of a plot.

Speaking at a memorial meeting, he said there were failed attempts to depoliticise and implement the "minus two formula" during the 1/11 political changeover of 2007.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



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MY DHAKA

The rhythm of musical instrument hub in Science Lab

REHNUMA SHAHREEN

Mirpur Road's Science Lab area is best defined to the average Dhaka resident through its cacophony of honking cars, buzzing markets, and unrelenting traffic, where people are often caught in the gridlock. But just beyond the congestion of the streets exists a different kind of chaos, one that might help you.

We are talking about the largest hub of musical instrument stores in Dhaka, a place where every note carries the weight of someone's dreams, where aspiring musicians find hope in the strings of their first guitar, far removed from the stressful world just outside. So, if you are looking for your first instrument, or simply bold enough to abandon the struggle and slip out of the traffic's grip, you can stroll around these shops; you never know, you might just find one of your favourite musicians out there.

These stores have a story of their own that stretches back a long time, with the oldest shop in the area, Surasree, moving from the lanes of Shankhari Bazar to the Science Lab area shortly after Bangladesh's independence. Since then, this area gradually became Dhaka's musical



PHOTOS: SHADAB SHAHROKH HAI

heartbeat, with more and more stores popping up, serving generations of artists and aspirants with instruments.

The owner of Adi Surasree, Sumon Sarker, said, "Bacchu bhai bought his first electric guitar from us. Back then, everyone used to import from Singapore, until we started importing products from China. Other than China, most of the instruments here are imported from India, providing affordable options, whereas, higher-end pieces are sourced from countries like the US, Indonesia, and others upon pre-order.

Step into one of these shops, and

you're likely to find a college student strumming their very first ukulele, while a group of friends huddle around acoustic guitars, debating which one sounds "just right". The owners, too, are well aware of their customers' needs.

"The primary customers are students. We understand their sentiment, they walk in with their saved-up pocket money to buy their desired instrument, so we generally aim for limited profit," said Ali Rezwan, the brand ambassador of ZS Music Zone.

Throughout the years, as the music scene evolved, so did the youth's preference for beginner instruments, shifting from the reign of harmoniums

and tablas to guitars and ukuleles.

In this context, Rony Barmon, the manager of Surasree, said, "Back then, harmonium and tabla were the go-to instruments for beginners. Only a few, interested in modern music, would play the Hawaiian guitar. Then in the 90s, the Spanish guitar became very popular. And for a few years, ukuleles have gained popularity among young customers because of how budget friendly it is."

Whether you prefer the hand-carved dotara, with its roots in local folk traditions, or the sleek acoustic guitar or piano that catches your eye, Science Lab offers a rich variety of instruments to explore. From violins and cajons to mandolins and flutes, the options are endless.

Business, as they put it, hasn't been the same in recent times. According to the owners, for the past couple of years, it has been on the decline, and the recent political unrest has made matters worse.

Yet, even in times of uncertainty, the store owners are somewhat optimistic. For now, business may be slow, but the spirit of these shops is far from defeated.

The owners hope that this difficult time, much like every other crisis in Dhaka, will eventually pass. And much like Dhaka's music scene, these instrument shops, despite the disruptions, hold onto the hope of finding their rhythm once again.

REMARK ON UPRISING Key student coordinator given show cause notice

DU CORRESPONDENT



Hasib Al-Islam

Hasib Al-Islam, a key coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, has been served a show-cause notice for his remarks that the July revolution could not have been easily achieved without the arson attacks on metro rail stations or the killings of police officials.

The notice, signed by Abdul Hannan Masud, chief organiser of the platform, read, "It has been observed that Hasib Al-Islam made an objectionable comment regarding setting fires to metro rail [stations] and [killing] police in a talk show of a private television channel recently. This has stirred a lot of criticism on social media."

In the notice, Hasib was asked to provide a logical explanation of his remarks within three working days.

The video of the talk show, titled "Projotone Bangladesh," in which Hasib made the remarks, was released on television channel DBC's YouTube page on Saturday.

The discussion was on "How much of a challenge is national unity?" and featured BNP leader Nilufar Chowdhury Moni alongside Hasibul.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Hasib said, "I am aware of the notice and will provide an explanation..."

55 ex-cops sued for firing on BNP activists in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A total of 55 former policemen have been sued in a case filed over the alleged indiscriminate firing on BNP leaders and activists in Habiganj in 2021.

The accused include S.M. Murad Ali, former district superintendent of police, and Masuk Ali, former officer in charge of Sadar Model Police Station.

Shamsul Islam, a member of the district unit BNP and also a lawyer, filed the case with the Habiganj Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court Judge Delwar Hossain yesterday afternoon.

Confirmed the matter, Nazmul Hossain, court inspector, said the judge had accepted the case and scheduled a hearing for November 5.

According to the case statement, the incident occurred on December 22, 2021, when the BNP organised a public rally in Shayestanagar, Habiganj, to demand the immediate release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Now coal power plants scaling back

FROM PAGE 1

Two of the three units of Barapukuria power plant are in production and have been producing around 235MW, against the combined capacity of 444MW. The largest 275MW unit has been producing around 170MW due to mechanical problems, the PDB said.

Only Payra power plant has been producing at capacity.

The PDB has been producing around 11,000MW during day-time peak hours and around 13,000MW in the evening peak hours, which are about 1,000MW short of the demand.

Barishal has the blessing of Payra. It is the only division that is not experiencing power cuts.

Bangladesh's total power generation capacity is 27,086MW, including Adani's plant.

Since early June, gas shortage was

the major concern for the PDB after one of the two floating storage and regasification units faced technical problems.

Bangladesh has been able to regasify only 600 million cubic feet of imported liquefied natural gas a day (mmcf) till late September, instead of the usual 1,100 mmcf.

The regasification has improved to 900 mmcf. Still, only 5,500MW is being produced from gas-based power plants which have a total capacity to produce 12,064MW.

Khandaker Mokammel Hossain, member (generation) of PDB, said they have increased gas supply to power plants, but now they have shortage of coal.

"Procedures must be followed to import coal. If I want to import now, it is not possible. We need time to complete the procedures," he told

The Daily Star.

Rabiul Islam, an onion wholesaler at Hilli of Dinajpur, said he lost half of his imported onions due to frequent power outages over the last couple of days.

"Due to the loadshedding, it was not possible to run the fans inside my warehouse resulting in the onions going bad," he said.

He said there were almost an hour-long power cuts every three to four hours during the day.

Abdul Hannan, a rice miller in Shambhuganj area of Mymensingh, said his mill's output has dropped significantly because of the power cuts. He said his mill experienced four to five hours of power outages a day.

[Mokammel Shuvo, of Cox's Bazar, and Kongkon Karmakar, of Dinajpur, contributed to the report]

Harris, Trump run toe to toe

FROM PAGE 1

rallies with supporters in Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Most polls show Trump, 78, and Harris, 60, within the margin of error from each other across the swing states.

However, there was a surprise boost for Harris when one of the most respected pollsters in the country dropped a new survey in the Des Moines Register that shows the Democrat three points ahead of Trump in Iowa -- a state he won easily both in his victorious 2016 presidential campaign and again in his narrow 2020 defeat.

Reflecting Harris's drive to hit every possible target before tomorrow, her plane unexpectedly took a detour to New York for an appearance on the legendary Saturday Night Live television comedy show.

For Harris, a key electorate is women

voters angered over the ruling by justices appointed by then president Trump to the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v Wade, ending a decades-long constitutional right to abortion.

"Donald Trump's not done. He will ban abortion nationwide," Harris said in Atlanta, Georgia. She painted Trump as "increasingly unstable, obsessed with revenge" and "out for unchecked power."

"We have an opportunity in this election to finally turn the page on a decade of Donald Trump who spends full time trying to keep us divided and afraid of each other," she said.

Trump, stirring up his right-wing base, continued to deliver increasingly dark rhetoric.

In Salem, Virginia, he began his speech by saying "I've come today with a message of hope for all."

But he was soon back to conjuring the apocalyptic vision he'd laid out hours earlier in North Carolina.

Calling his opponent "low IQ" and "stupid," he said Harris would usher in an economic "depression," asking the crowd: "Do you want to lose your job and maybe your house and pension?"

In later remarks, he dipped into far-right rhetoric with a promise to "keep American for American citizens."

"We're going to have American people in our communities now," he said.

Trump has worked hard to appeal to men, appearing on podcasts with martial artists, spending time in barbershops and meeting with crypto entrepreneurs. With Harris getting a surge in support from women, some predict a dramatic gender gap in the results.

Admin was hostage to politicians

FROM PAGE 1

At least 32 senior secretaries and secretaries and 53 other high-level officials attended the meeting.

Debapriya said the top bureaucrats emphasised capacity building and creating a congenial environment for the government officials.

"They hope there will be no injustice in their profession," he added.

Some of the officials told the panel that they could stop irregularities to some extent by speaking up.

Some others said their career took blows for showing courage against irregularities. But the associations of officials did nothing to protect them because those were also politicised, he

said. The officials discussed the administration's role in embezzlement in the name of projects.

Many development projects were taken, designed, implemented and even evaluated by bureaucrats who benefited from the government, business people, and politicians.

Many projects taken on political consideration were revised multiple times, causing delays and rise in costs. Flawed projects were taken and feasibility studies were not properly done.

The banking sector, the government role in appointing bank directors, Karnaphuli tunnel, a high-tech park,

and issues facing the energy sector, and social safety were discussed.

The whitepaper panel has identified irregularities that took place while awarding contracts and purchasing equipment. Many completed projects have yielded little to no economic return.

Debapriya said more professionalism and capable, independent, and efficient officials are essential for the country's development.

Requesting anonymity, a member of the panel said the whitepaper may be submitted to the chief adviser by this month.

Adani dues to be cleared fast

FROM PAGE 12

no matter how powerful they are," he added.

UNB reported that Adani Power has cut back on power supply due to outstanding dues and has set a deadline for the Bangladesh government to clarify the situation regarding the dues, which total nearly \$850 million.

Earlier, Adani Power had set an October 31 deadline for the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) to settle the outstanding amount and provide a letter of credit (LC) of \$170 million to ensure secure payment.

Although the BPDB attempted to issue an LC for the overdue amount through Bangladesh Krishi Bank, the effort did not align with the terms of the power purchase agreement, as reported by Times of India. A shortage of dollars was mentioned as one of the reasons.

From October 31, the Adani power plant in Godda, Jharkhand reduced its supply from October 31, worsening the existing power shortages in Bangladesh.

As per the latest update on the Power Grid Bangladesh (PGB) website, on November 1, the Adani plant supplied 724 megawatts against an installed capacity of 1,496 MW.

The Adani plant is the largest supplier of electricity, followed by the Payra (1,244 MW), Rampal (1,234 MW), and SS Power 1 (1,224 MW) plants.

Adani has not publicly commented on the situation, but senior executives have expressed hope for a resolution, according to the media report.

The decision to snap supply will also impact the Godda plant's viability as Bangladesh is the sole power purchaser and Adani Power Jharkhand has had to leave one of the two 800 MW units idle.

Preferring anonymity, a top official

of BPDB told UNB that Adani Power requested Bangladesh to pay dues through a letter a few days back.

"Adani has not demanded full payment of \$800-\$850 million in seven days. We are cooperating fully and collaborating with BPDB to resolve any issue," the Indian company told The Daily Star through its PR firm in Dhaka.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), however, said the government of India has no role in this contract.

"This issue is between two parties. There is a contractual obligation between them: one is a private organisation and the other is the government of Bangladesh. The government of India has no role in this contract," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters while responding to a question during a weekly briefing on Saturday.

FROM PAGE 1

"No one should even think about following that path. We want to make it clear that you should not try to do anything to exclude the BNP as part of any plot because the people of Bangladesh will never accept it," Fakhru said.

He said the Awami League had tried to split the BNP in various ways but failed, and no one will be able to do so in the future.

Without naming anyone, he said an adviser to the interim government made an "unexpected and unwarranted" comment suggesting that politicians are restless to go to power. "This is very unfortunate. We do not expect an individual of his stature to make such remarks."

The Dhaka South City unit of the BNP organised the programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, to mark the fifth death anniversary of Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the former mayor of the undivided Dhaka City Corporation and BNP vice-chairman.

Earlier on Saturday, Road, Transport and Bridges and Energy Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan said, "There's no money in the banks. Politicians seem desperate to go to power, and we, too, wish to return to our work."

Fakhru said politicians not only aspire to return to power, but they have also sacrificed their lives, endured repression and suppression, and worked tirelessly to free Bangladesh from Sheikh Hasina's grip.

He said they are advocating for the prompt restoration of democracy by holding national elections, as the longer the government delays the polls, the greater the chance Hasina and her cohorts will have to revive.

"I would like to repeat it: create an atmosphere for holding the elections quickly by removing garbage from the state institutions. You have been given that responsibility, and we are cooperating with you. Now, you should cooperate with us. Don't try to mislead people by claiming that we are anxious

to return to power," the BNP leader said.

As a political party, he said, the BNP aims to return to power, with its leaders and workers actively engaging in politics to run the country and ensure the welfare of the people.

Describing how BNP leaders and workers faced repression and sacrificed their lives during Awami League rule, Fakhru said the immense sacrifices of the BNP cannot go in vain.

He urged the BNP leaders and workers not to engage in any actions that could tarnish the party's image or lead to criticism of the party. "Don't let anyone do that. Keep it in mind."

The BNP leader observed that Bangladesh still seems to be trapped even after the fall of Hasina since "the government of the people has not yet been established."

"We have been freed from the grasp of an awful monster, but there is no relief," he said.

Fakhru said they have extended their support to an interim government headed by a respected figure like Professor Muhammad Yunus, which will oversee the government until the election is held.

He said the BNP and its Chairperson Khaleda Zia, like the entire world, have always respected Chief Adviser Yunus.

"You (Yunus) have been entrusted with the task of restoring democracy in Bangladesh, which means you must hand over power to an elected parliament and government by conducting a fair and acceptable election," Fakhru said.

He said the Awami League has devastated the country and its economy over the past 15 years by plundering and siphoning off public funds abroad.

"The greatest damage has been done to the morale of the people of Bangladesh, and now thieves are everywhere, from banks to other offices."

He recalled Khoka's contributions to the country's Liberation War, nation-building, and the strengthening of the BNP.

From head to toe, Fakhru said, Khoka embodied the spirit of a politician genuinely friendly and approachable to his workers.

The BNP leader said they feel the absence of a charismatic leader like Khoka during any national and political crisis.

14 govt hospitals

FROM PAGE 12

renamed include Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eye Hospital and Training Institute in Gopalganj, now Gopalganj Eye Hospital and Training Institute. Sheikh Lutful Rahman Dental College Hospital in Gopalganj, now Gopalganj Dental College Hospital. Sheikh Sayera Khatun Medical College Hospital in Gopalganj, now Gopalganj Medical College Hospital, and Sheikh Sayera Khatun Trauma Center in Gopalganj, now Gopalganj Trauma Center, the circular read.

Additional name changes include Sirajganj 250 Bed Bongamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib General Hospital renamed to Sirajganj 250 Bed General Hospital, Shaheed Sheikh Abu Naser Specialized Hospital in Khulna to Khulna Specialized Hospital, and Bangabandhu (Daldalia) Union Health Sub Center in Kishoreganj now Daldalia Sub Center Health Sub Center, it added.

Furthermore, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical College Hospital in Faridpur is now Faridpur Medical College and Hospital. Sheikh Hasina Medical College in Tangail as been named Tangail Medical College Hospital. Colonel Malik Medical College Hospital in Manikganj has become Manikganj Medical College Hospital. Sheikh Hasina Medical College Hospital in Jamalpur is now Jamalpur Medical College Hospital, and M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur is now Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

This followed an earlier decision on October 31 to rename six medical colleges, removing the names Mujib and Hasina, to align them with their respective districts.

Probe NBL loans to Bashundhara HC asks ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission and other authorities concerned to probe whether the National Bank gave undue privileges to Bashundhara Group regarding a loan of Tk 3,859 crore in violation of the banking rules.

The court asked the authorities to come up with a report in four months on the progress of the probe.

The order was issued to the finance and cabinet secretaries, chairman of National Board of Revenue, governor of Bangladesh Bank, chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit.

The HC also issued a rule asking 22 respondents to explain why the inaction of these six officials in conducting the probe should not be declared illegal.

Besides the six aforesaid officials, the other respondents to the rule are chairman of National Bank Limited; Abdur Rouf Talukder, former governor of Bangladesh Bank; managing director of National Bank Limited; managing director of Bashundhara Paper Mills Ltd; managing director of Bashundhara Multi-paper Industries; Bashundhara Industrial Headquarter; managing director of Meghna Cement Mills PLC; managing director of Bashundhara Industrial

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

When Israeli aggression claims a Bangladeshi life

Airstrike kills Nizam Uddin in Lebanon; family mourns; expats in fear

PORIMOL PALMA and MASUK HRIDOY

For over a year now, parents in Palestine have mourned their children, families have grieved over their homes turned to dust, as thousands were killed by Israel's genocide on the Gaza Strip.

This year, Lebanon has also become a target of relentless Israeli airstrikes, similar to the devastation in Gaza.

Now, for Bangladesh, this tragedy has hit home — Mohammad Nizam Uddin, a migrant worker from Brahmanbaria, has fallen victim to the violence in Lebanon.

Nizam, 38, went to Lebanon over a decade ago, leaving behind his family in Kharera village.

On the morning of his death, he had stopped at a small coffee shop on his way to work at Al Hayat Hospital in southern Beirut. It was a routine, an ordinary stop that, tragically, became his last.

Nearby, a motorbike shop was the intended target of an Israeli airstrike.

In seconds, everything nearby was reduced to rubble due to shockwaves from the blast, killing Nizam.

Back in Bangladesh, his elder sister, Saira Begum, now faces the painful reality of his loss. "He went to Lebanon 12 years ago to change our fate," she said, struggling through tears. "But that dream remained elusive. Now he is just a memory. How can we accept it?"

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus with the members of NDC and AFWC courses of National Defence College at his office in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

Declare Nov 3 as mourning day

Says Sohel Taj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj, son of Bangladesh's first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad, submitted a memorandum yesterday calling for the state to observe November 3 as Jail Killing Day and designate it as a National Mourning Day.

The memorandum was handed to the Chief Adviser's assistant private secretary, Shabbir Ahmad, near the InterContinental Hotel in Dhaka

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Committed to bring back laundered money

Says press secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While retrieving laundered money is a challenging task, the interim government is fully committed to the effort, said Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, yesterday.

He made the remarks during a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy.

Bangladesh is currently engaged in discussions with various heads

of state, international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the United States to facilitate the recovery of funds siphoned from the country.

According to Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, between \$12 billion and \$15 billion

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Search committee seeks names for CEC, ECs by Nov 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The search committee has invited political parties, professional bodies, and individuals to propose names for the positions of chief election commissioner and election commissioners by November 7 for the formation of the next Election Commission.

A circular, signed by Md Nazrul Islam, joint secretary of the Cabinet Division, was issued in this regard yesterday.

"Political parties and professional organisations can

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Four more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



At least four dengue patients died in the last 24 hours, while 1,306 patients were hospitalised as of yesterday morning.

Three of the deaths were reported in Dhaka city, and one in Chattogram division.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the new deaths bring the toll to 314, while the total number of cases has risen to 64,471, with 37,567 of these from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 4,112 dengue patients are undergoing treatment, including 2,196 outside Dhaka.

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Search committee

FROM PAGE 3

propose a maximum of five names for the positions of chief election commissioner and other election commissioners by 5:00pm on November 7. Interested individuals may also submit their names," according to the circular.

Nominations, along with complete bio-data, should be sent directly to the Cabinet Division or via email at gfp_sec@cabinet.gov.bd, the circular said.

The circular further added that under Section 3 of the Election Commission Appointment Act 2022, the search committee is responsible for recommending candidates for the positions of CEC and other ECs.

Before the first meeting of the search committee, Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid told journalists that the new EC would consist of "honest, fearless, and efficient individuals".

"I am not a member of the search committee, but we will provide administrative support as needed," he added.

The cabinet secretary explained that the committee has discussed its approach and will outline the next steps in forming the EC.

When asked about the timeline, he said the committee is required to submit its

recommendations within 15 working days, after which the president will finalise the appointments.

On October 31, the interim government published the gazette notification for the six-member search committee tasked with proposing names for the next EC.

The committee is headed by Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Its other members include Justice AKM Asaduzzaman of the High Court Division, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh Md Nurul Islam, Public Service Commission Chairman Mobasser Momen, former Dhaka University Prof CR Abrar, and former PSC chairman Prof Zeenatun Nesa Tahmidia Begum.

Probe NBL

FROM PAGE 3

Complex Limited; Bashundhara Food and Beverage Industries Ltd; managing director of Bashundhara Oil and Gas Company Ltd; managing director of Bashundhara Multi Food Product Ltd; Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, chairman of Bashundhara Group; and his sons Sadat Sobhan, Sayem Sobhan Anvir, Sifat Sobhan Sanvir and Safwan Sobhan.

The HC bench of Justice Mohammad Ullah and Justice Foye Ahmed issued the order and rule on October 29 following a petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Sarwar Hossain.

Sarwar filed the petition after Prothom Alo on September 15 reported that Bashundhara Group enjoyed special privilege just four days before the Awami League government fell.

Committed to bring

FROM PAGE 3

has been illegally transferred out of Bangladesh annually over the past 15 years.

"Bringing back the laundered money is a tough job. However, the government has implemented extensive measures to recover these public funds, which, if returned, could be used for the betterment of the people," Shaiful said.

He said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus addressed the issue during meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly summit, where the recovery of siphoned funds was a key agenda item.

Shaiful confirmed that discussions were held with Western ambassadors, including the US ambassador, UK high commissioner, and the Swiss

envoy, regarding this matter.

The Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit is actively working on the issue, collaborating with the FBI.

He said the interim government recognises the significant contributions of the four national leaders - Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and M Mansur Ali - who were killed in jail on November 3, 1975, and played vital roles during the Liberation War.

Regarding a recent attack on the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Shaiful condemned all forms of violence and said that the government has ordered a probe into the incident.

He also condemned recent attacks on the Jatiyo Party office, affirming that law enforcement is addressing these issues.

HC allows

FROM PAGE 5

permission to prepare the paper book.

A Dhaka court on October 29, 2018 convicted Khaleda and sentenced her to seven years imprisonment in the corruption case.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on August 8, 2011, accusing four people, including Khaleda, of abusing power to raise funds for the trust from unknown sources.

Khaleda, who was under house arrest for the last five years, was released on August 6 this year after the president pardoned her punishments, a day after Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country in the face of a people's uprising.

On that day, President Mohammed Shahabuddin, exercising his power under Article 49 of the constitution, granted Khaleda clemency in two cases based on the law ministry's recommendation and ordered her release.

Khaleda Zia on February 8, 2018, was sent to the Old Dhaka Jail after a special court in Dhaka sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. The High Court later doubled her five-year jail term.

In the same year, the same special court in Dhaka sentenced Khaleda to seven years in jail in the case.

Declare Nov 3

FROM PAGE 3

around 5:00pm. Sohail Taj expressed his hopes that the chief adviser would consider his appeal.

"The private secretary has received a memorandum from me. He will present my demands to the chief adviser, who will read them and give me feedback on his opinion," he said.

In his three-point demand, Sohail Taj urged for April 10 to be observed as Republic Day and for Jail Killing Day to be marked with full state honours. He also demanded that the contributions of national leaders and the complete history of the Liberation War be incorporated into the national curriculum.

Earlier in the day, activists from Prohori 71 staged a demonstration near Paribagh Supermarket, displaying placards to support Sohail Taj's demands. The area was under police surveillance, with officers stationed around the demonstration and on Minto Road.

Meanwhile, the Awami League alleged that police, alongside Jamaat Shibir supporters, had cordoned off Banani graveyard from early morning to prevent gatherings.

In a Facebook post, the AL claimed the move was an attempt to obstruct their planned observance of Jail Killing Day, during which they intended to honour national leaders by placing

flowers at their graves in Banani and Rajshahi and holding prayers for the Liberation War martyrs.

The post read, "The people of Bangladesh will not accept the stance taken by anti-independence forces."

Meanwhile in Kapasia, Gazipur, the home of Tajuddin Ahmad, unknown youths allegedly attempted to interfere a tribute ceremony organised by local freedom fighters marking the day. Despite this, the event preceded with a brief discussion and prayer session in honour of the four national leaders.

Three killed

FROM PAGE 5

The victim was identified as Alim Uddin, 27, from Jhorbaria Khanbari area in Phulbaria. Quoting locals, Phulbaria Police Station OC Mohammad Rukunuzzaman said the accident occurred around 2:00pm. Police recovered the bodies and handed those to the families. Separate cases were filed.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:55 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:15
JAMAAT 5:30 1:15 4:15 5:34 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Jubo League leader

FROM PAGE 5

children hostage, and raped her. The woman filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Chatkhil Police Station. During the trial, 14 witnesses testified before the court.

Following the acquittal, the victim expressed her dismay, saying, "Sharif tortured me and my two children. Despite the

testimony of 14 witnesses, he got away scot-free. I have been deprived of justice. If Sharif is released, I will be in great danger."

She has called on the government for protection.

Sharif reportedly faces eight or nine other cases, including charges of extortion, possession of arms, embezzlement, murder, and violence against women.

When Israeli

FROM PAGE 3

Anwar Hossain, first secretary at the Bangladesh embassy in Beirut, confirmed the circumstances leading to his death.

The Bangladeshi community in Lebanon is struggling to process the loss of one of their own, he said.

A LIFE OF STRUGGLE
Nizam, son of late Mohammad Abdull Quddus, was the youngest among two brothers and three sisters. Their father passed away when Nizam was only six. Their mother passed away five years ago.

He spent approximately Tk 7 lakh to migrate to Lebanon, but he struggled to secure regular employment. Lebanon's political and economic crises over the last few years, coupled with the impact of the pandemic, hindered his ability to earn a stable income.

Parul Begum, another elder sister of Nizam, said he could not earn a decent living because he lacked a fixed job and faced significant danger due to his lack of valid documentation.

"At home, he could build only a small tin shed house for his mother," she said.

Since their mother's death, the family had been eagerly waiting for Nizam's return. "Now, we are waiting for his body," Saira Begum sobbed.

A COMMUNITY IN FEAR
This marks the first casualty of a Bangladeshi since the Israeli attacks against Hezbollah began in late September, though some other Bangladeshis have been injured earlier.

"This death has created a sense of fear within our community," said Abdul Karim, president of the Lebanon Prohashi

Bangladeshi Sramik Union in Beirut.

Anwar Hossain, first secretary of the Bangladesh embassy in Lebanon, advised the Bangladeshi community to exercise caution when going out and to avoid areas at risk of being targeted by Israeli forces.

There are approximately 1,00,000 Bangladeshis in Lebanon.

Since September, around 3,000 have sought refuge in temporary shelters provided by Bangladeshi community organisations and Lebanese charities.

The Bangladesh embassy is also supporting them with food supplies.

In the initial phase, about 1,800 Bangladeshis have registered for repatriation, and approximately 350 have already returned under a joint initiative by the Bangladesh government and the International Organization for Migration.

"Initially, we have arranged repatriation for those with all necessary documents. Eventually, we will also assist those without work permits or passports," Anwar Hossain said.

He said the Lebanese home ministry has waived fines for undocumented workers and halved exit visa fees.

NO LAST GOODBYES?
However, while repatriation efforts continue, Nizam's siblings may not be able to see his body one last time due to the suspension of flight operations at Beirut airport.

An official from the Bangladesh embassy in Beirut said Nizam had been living in Lebanon with his wife.

"We have informed her that repatriating his body to Bangladesh may not be possible," he said.

Dengue patient

FROM PAGE 5

which they believe led to her death. "The nurses and staff did not attend to her properly," said one of her relatives.

In response to the complaints, Abu Hena Mohammad Jamal, superintendent of Munshiganj General Hospital, acknowledged the high patient load but assured that staff had been

trying their best under the circumstances.

"We have formed a four-member committee to investigate the claims," he said.

Jamal also said he would file a formal complaint with the local police regarding the assault on hospital staff.

Currently, 35 dengue patients are being treated at Munshiganj General Hospital.

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

- Program Officer - NCD and Mental Health

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:
<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
(বেদেশিক সংগ্রহ শাখা)
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
www.mofood.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-১৩.০০.০০০০.০৪৪.০৭.০০৫.২২-৪১ তারিখঃ ০৩.১১.২০২৪খি.

বেসরকারি পর্যায়ে চাল আমদানির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বেসরকারি পর্যায়ে চাল আমদানির জন্য আশ্রয়ী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। আবেদন দাখিলের সর্বশেষ সময়: ১৪ নভেম্বর, ২০২৪খি। আবেদন অবশ্যই Online-এ করতে হবে। সরাসরি কোন আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না। খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটের www.mofood.gov.bd ন্যাগরিক ই-সেবাসমূহ বেসরকারি পর্যায়ে চাল আমদানির জন্য অনলাইন আবেদন লিংকে প্রবেশ করে ফরম পূরণ করতে হবে অথবা <https://www.mv.gov.bd/services/info?id=BDGS-1675338584> লিংকে প্রবেশ করে আবেদন করা যাবে।

উল্লেখ্য, বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পূর্বে যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান চাল আমদানির জন্য আবেদন করেছে, তাদেরকে পুনরায় নতুন করে আবেদন করতে হবে।

স্বাক্ষর: মুহম্মদ আব্দুল মুতসিব
খাদ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

ইমেইল: sasep@mofood.gov.bd

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the District Controller of Stores (Stores Section), Pahartali
Bangladesh Railway
Pahartali, Chattogram
E-mail: dcosph@railway.gov.bd

Memo No. 54.01.1543.122.07.002.24 Date: 29.10.2024

e-Tender Notice No. 01/2024-25

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

Tender ID	Package No.	Description of goods and tender method	Documents last selling date and time	Tender proposal closing date and time
1014031	54.01.1543.122.07.002.24	Procurement of Office Furniture OTM (NCT)	18.11.2024, 17:00	19.11.2024, 12:30

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

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

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

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

S(24)(224)

Signed
Md. Shazzadul Islam
District Controller of Stores (Stores Section), Pahartali
Bangladesh Railway, Chattogram

GD-854

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
Procurement of TIB Booklet & PACTA Brochure Printing & Supply
(IFT Ref no: TIB/Proc/IFT/2024/58 Date: 04 November 2024)

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is hereby inviting all bona fide traders or suppliers for participating in tender process for printing and supplying of TIB Booklet and PACTA Brochure as per the specification mentioned in the tender document.

Interested vendors are requested to download IFT document from the following link of TIB website or collect hard copy from **Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), House 5, MIDAS Centre, 4th Floor, Road 16 (new) 27 (Old), Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1209.** For any clarifications or queries, please contact at ariful@ti-bangladesh.org. Hard copy of Tender documents must be submitted to the above address on or before 5:00 PM, 17 November 2024.

Download Link: ti-bangladesh.org/articles/tender/all

বরিশাল ক্যাডেট কলেজ
বরিশাল

আবাসিক ভবন নিলামে বিক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্র.সং.	নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	তারিখ
১	২০২৪/০৩	২০২৪/০৩
২	২০২৪/০৩	২০২৪/০৩
৩	২০২৪/০৩	২০২৪/০৩
৪	২০২৪/০৩	২০২৪/০৩
৫	২০২৪/০৩	২০২৪/০৩

ক্র.সং.	নিলামের বিবরণ	শিডিউলের মূল্য (অফারযোগ্য)	বাণিজ্যিক টার্মস/সম্মতীয়তা
১	০৩ (তিন) তলা বিশিষ্ট আবাসিক ভবন (মহলা) ড্রেন এগ্রোসিস সর্বমোট ট্রিগ এরিয়া ১৮৯৫ বর্গফুট (গ্রাউন্ডিং ও বৈদ্যুতিক ফিটিংসহ) যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে।	১০০০/-	দাখিলকৃত মূল্যের শতকরা ১০ (দশ) ভাগ
২	০৩ (তিন) তলা বিশিষ্ট আবাসিক ভবন (মহলা) ড্রেন এগ্রোসিস সর্বমোট ট্রিগ এরিয়া ৩৩৫৫ বর্গফুট (গ্রাউন্ডিং ও বৈদ্যুতিক ফিটিংসহ) যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে।	১০০০/-	দাখিলকৃত মূল্যের শতকরা ১০ (দশ) ভাগ

বিশেষ নির্দেশনা
১) প্রতিদিন সকাল ০৮:০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১৪:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সরেজমিনে এসে ভবনটি দেখা যাবে। ভবনটি যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থাতেই নিলাম করা হবে।
২) নিলাম মূল্যের উপর সরকারী বিধি মোতাবেক আয়কর ও ভাট পরিশোধ করতে হবে।
৩) বাণিজ্যিক টার্মস, বরিশাল ক্যাডেট কলেজ এর অনুমূল্যে থেকেই নিলামের ব্যাংক থেকে ডিমাঙ্ড ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে। বাণিজ্যিক টার্মস বাস্তবায়নকৃত দরপত্র বাস্তবায়নকৃত গণ্য হবে।
৪) সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতাকে ভবনটি আবার অর্ধদশ প্রদানের ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিলামের সম্পূর্ণ টার্মস পরিশোধ করতে হবে। অন্যথায় বাণিজ্যিক টার্মস বাস্তবায়নকৃত গণ্য হবে। কার্যালয়ের তালিকা হতে ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে ভবনটি ভেঙ্গে সকল মাল্যমান কলেজ কাশাসানের বাহিরে নিয়ে যেতে হবে।
৫) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাস্তব করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। সর্বাবস্থায় কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত গণ্য হবে।
৬) বিজ্ঞপ্তি www.bcc.army.mil.bd ওয়েবসাইটে দেখা যাবে।

আইএসপিআর/সেমা/২০২৪/৩৫৭
৩/১১/২৪

অধ্যক্ষ
বরিশাল ক্যাডেট কলেজ

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২
(ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং উইং)
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা
Website: www.bb.org.bd

ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তিকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-সিএসডি-২(ইইএস)ঃ ২৪/এইচও/ইলেকট্রিক্যাল/কন্ট্রোল/এনলিটমেন্ট/২০২৪- তারিখঃ ৩০/১০/২০২৪

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ও শাখা অফিসসমূহে বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ, স্থাপন, মেরামত, সার্ভিসিং ও রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ কাজের জন্য লাইসেন্সপ্রাপ্ত এবং বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক ধারা পরিচালিত যে সকল ঠিকাদার/ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান অনুরূপ কাজে বর্তমানে নিয়োজিত রয়েছে এবং বিগত ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরে একক এ্যাওয়ার্ড অব কন্ট্রাক্টে কমপক্ষে ৮৮,০০,০০০.০০ (টাকা আট লক্ষ) মাত্র মূল্যমানের সরবরাহ ও স্থাপন কাজ এবং ৮৫,০০,০০০.০০ (টাকা পাঁচ লক্ষ) মাত্র মূল্যমানের মেরামতি কাজ সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী/খায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের অধীনে সন্তোষজনকভাবে সম্পাদন করেছেন; শুধুমাত্র তাদের নিকট হতে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। এ প্রেক্ষিতে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়ে তালিকাভুক্তির তারিখ হতে পরবর্তী ০৩ (তিন) বছর মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্ত ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের মধ্যে অর্ধিক ৮১০,০০,০০০.০০ (টাকা দশ লক্ষ) মাত্র মূল্যমানের বৈদ্যুতিক কাজের জন্য সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি অনুসরণে দরপত্র আহবান করা হবে।

আবেদনকারীকে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ এনিসি ইলেকট্রিক্যাল কন্ট্রোল্টারী লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর ও ভ্যাটের সনদপত্র, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদপত্র, প্রাকৌশলী ও ইলেকট্রিশিয়ানদের নিয়োগপত্র ও বায়োমেট্রিক, বৈদ্যুতিক যন্ত্রাদির বিবরণ ইত্যাদিসহ আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।

জামানত বাবদ ৮৫০,০০০.০০ (টাকা পঞ্চাশ হাজার) মাত্র পরিচালক (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-ইলেকট্রোমেکانিক্যাল), কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুমূল্যে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলি ব্যাংক হতে সংগ্রহপূর্বক আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করতে হবে। কৃতকার্য আবেদনকারীর জামানত হিসেবে দাখিলকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার ব্যাংক সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। যা পরবর্তীতে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি হিসেবে গণ্য হবে। অকৃতকার্য আবেদনকারীর জামানত হিসেবে দাখিলকৃত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আবেদন সাপেক্ষে ফেরত প্রদান করা হবে।

তালিকাভুক্তি সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র দাখিল কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২ (ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং উইং) হতে প্রত্যহ অফিস কর্মদিবসে সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৬:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নাগালে ৮৫০০.০০ (টাকা পাঁচশত) মাত্র প্রদানপূর্বক আবেদনকারীর নিজস্ব প্যাকে আবেদনপত্র মাধ্যমে আপামী ১৭/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। তালিকাভুক্তি দাখিলে সংযোজিত প্রক্রম যথাযথভাবে পূরণকরতঃ যাচিত ও সংযুক্ত কাগজপত্রাদিসহ আপামী ১৮/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি কমন সার্ভিসেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-২ এর পরিচালক (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-ইলেকট্রোমেکانিক্যাল) মহোদয়ের অফিসে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বক্সে (৮ম তলা, ৩০ তলা ভবন) দাখিল করতে হবে এবং একই দিনে বেলা ২:১৫ ঘটিকায় উক্ত স্থানে উপস্থিত আবেদনকারী/মালেনীত প্রতিনিধির সম্মুখে যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে। উল্লিখিত স্থানে। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে তালিকাভুক্তির যে কোন আবেদন আংশিক বা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাস্তব করার এবং তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম তালিকা হতে বাস্তব করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। এ ব্যাপারে কোনরূপ আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২৪-২৭২৭
তারিখঃ ০৩/১১/২০২৪

স্বাক্ষর: **সুধাংশু কুমার সরকার**
পরিচালক (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং-ইলেকট্রোমেکانিক্যাল)
ফোনঃ ০২-৯৫৩০৪৯০

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হারানির শিকার হলে কিভাবে কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

Fishers ready to set sail for hilsa

22-day fishing ban ends in the south

STAR REPORT

The 22-day ban on catching hilsa in rivers ended at midnight today, bringing relief to thousands of fishermen in the country's southern districts, who have been living amid much strain during this time.

Officials concerned of the Fisheries Department said the initiative to impose the ban during the hilsa spawning season was successfully implemented.

Visiting the fishing village in Shibpur union under Bhola Sadar upazila yesterday, our correspondent saw fishermen were busy preparing nets and boats to go to the river. "At least 10,000 fishermen in the village have been eagerly waiting for the ban to end so we could go to the river for fishing. Finally, tomorrow [today] is the day," said Mokshed Majhi, a fisherman and resident of the village.

A similar situation was observed in the fishery ghat area of Cox's Bazar, with fishermen gearing to resume fishing soon after the ban is lifted.

Around 50,000 fishermen in the district have taken preparation to this end, said Mostak Ahmad, organising secretary of District Fishing Boat Owners' Association in Cox's Bazar.

"Before the ban was imposed, we did not catch a lot of fish due to inclement weather. Then, during the ban, we had no work and no money to remain afloat. The government assistance was inadequate to keep our families fed, so many had to take loans. We have only been hoping for better days to come," he added.

"Bhola is the main migration route of hilsa to the rivers. We had a target of harvesting 1.85 lakh tonnes between July and September, but only 38,367 tonnes were netted during this time," said Mohammad Anisuzzaman, senior assistant director of Barishal Divisional Fisheries Office.

He also said the fishing ban was successful, with more raids and better monitoring compared to before.

According to Barishal Divisional Fisheries Office sources, the migration of hilsa through the rivers was less, so fewer eggs might have been released compared to previous years, but it will take a few more days to fully learn the situation.

A total of 3,19,830 tonnes of rice was distributed among 4.21 lakh registered fishermen in Barishal division during the ban period as assistance under the VGF programme.



With the 22-day ban on catching hilsa being lifted, thousands of fishermen are busy preparing their nets and boats since yesterday morning. For many, the ban being lifted has left them with a sense of relief, as they were struggling to make ends meet during those 22 days. The photo was taken from Dhania union in Bhola. PHOTO: STAR

Tabligh Jamaat calls for unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tabligh Jamaat Bangladesh has called for a resolution to differences and disagreements regarding Tabligh issues.

In a press release signed by Imam Muhammad Azimuddin of the Kakrail Markaz yesterday, it highlighted that divisions and discord among members can deprive them of Allah's blessings and can result in irreparable damages.

Following the "July Revolution", calls for unity have emerged from various Islamic circles, inspiring the nation and its people towards a renewed sense of purpose, the release added.

Azimuddin said, "We hope that scholars and leaders within the Tabligh community will remain vigilant and refrain from actions that could create an atmosphere of division."

The press release also mentioned an upcoming gathering of scholars and leaders scheduled for November 5 at Suhrawardy Udyan and said all should remain cautious so that divisions and disagreements do not escalate.

Meanwhile, a meeting will be held this morning at the home ministry regarding the upcoming Bishwa Itjema. The home adviser will preside over it, said a press release signed by Faisal Hasan, ministry's senior information officer.

The meeting will address matters related to setting the date for Itjema, maintaining law and order, ensuring overall security, and other issues concerning the two groups of Tabligh Jamaat (Jubair and Saad).

Harmony in hard times

Music brings joy to underprivileged children



MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

In the Najirartek area of Cox's Bazar, 14-year-old Riya Moni finds solace and happiness in the tunes of her penny whistle, a small flute-like instrument.

Whenever she feels down, she plays to lift her spirits, ease her worries, and bring her peace.

"Playing music makes me forget the difficulties of our tiny home," she said. Her talent has sparked admiration among her classmates, who ask where she learned to play and even express interest in learning themselves.

Her mother, Fatema Begum, feels both pride and joy watching Riya perform. "We lost everything and had to leave Kutubdia after a cyclone," Fatema recalls, explaining how her family settled in Najirartek in search of stability. "Our house is small, and life is tough, but when Riya plays, it feels like our sorrows disperse away."

Supporting Riya and children like her, a local NGO, Yasid, in partnership with Peace Through Music International (PTMI), runs a music programme for children in Najirartek, as well as for orphans in Cox's Bazar.

According to Pinal Kanti Shil, the programme coordinator, this "peace through music" initiative aims to empower vulnerable and

underprivileged children through music education.

In the heart of Najirartek, where nearly 10,000 climate refugees from Maheshkhali and Kutubdia have resettled over the past 34 years, the music school stands as a small haven.

Most of these families, who work as day labourers, fishermen, or rickshaw drivers, face daily struggles to make ends meet. For their children, the music school offers a rare escape.

During a recent visit, around 25 children, including 11-year-old Ashique, were seen immersed in learning musical techniques, scales, and rhythms.

"It feels incredible when I can play a tune on my flute," he said. Classes are held twice a week, and students often eagerly await their sessions, he added.

The programme's innovative approach also involves training local youth in instruments like the penny whistle and ukulele, who, once trained, become instructors for the children. This way, the children receive training on par with international standards, including how to read music notes and rhythms so they can play in harmony with others.

According to Shil, the programme has trained over 400 children and 100 volunteers in music.

CORRUPTION CASE

HC allows Khaleda to prepare paper books for appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday allowed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to prepare the paper books of Zia Charitable Trust corruption case at her own cost for moving the appeal that challenged her conviction and seven years' jail sentence in the case.

The paper books, which contain all the details of a case including trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and other documents, are needed for HC hearing of the appeal against any lower court verdict.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Syed Enayet Hossain passed the order following a prayer moved by Khaleda's lawyers Zainul Abedin and Kayser Kamal seeking its

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

NOAKHALI RAPE CASE

Jubo League leader acquitted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Noakhali court yesterday acquitted Jubo League leader Majibul Rahman Sharif in a case filed over the rape of a woman while holding her children hostage at knife-point on October 21, 2020.

Judge Abdur Rahim of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 of the Noakhali District and Sessions Judge Court delivered the verdict, acquitting Sharif, 32, convener of the Noakhali Union Jubo League unit in Chatkhil upazila, said Public Prosecutor Harunur Rashid Lovel.

According to the case, the 29-year-old victim lived with her two children. Around 5:00am on October 21, 2020, Sharif allegedly broke into her house, held her

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

MUNSHIGANJ HOSPITAL

Dengue patient's death leads to attack on staff

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A dengue patient died at the 250-bed Munshiganj General Hospital yesterday, sparking allegations of negligence from her family.

Sixty-year-old Hajera Begum from Paschimpara village in Mirkadim Municipality passed away around noon.

Following her death, family members reportedly assaulted hospital nurses and staff, accusing them of negligence. Four people, including two nurses, sustained minor injuries.

Hajera's relatives allege that upon her admission on Saturday afternoon, hospital staff failed to provide adequate medical attention,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Three killed in road accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Three motorcyclists were killed in separate road accidents in Kishoreganj and Mymensingh yesterday.

In Kishoreganj, two teenagers were killed when their motorbike hit a roadside tree in Mothkhola area of Pakundia upazila.

The victims – identified as Polash, 17, son of Kamal Hossain and Riad, 18, son of Asad Mia from Charkhama village in Pakundia – died on the spot, said Pakundia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shakhawat Hossain.

In Mymensingh, a businessman was killed as his motorbike collided head-on with a Mymensingh-bound CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Mymensingh-Phulbaria road in Doshmile area under Phulbaria upazila.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Public Administration
Department of Printing and Publications
Government Printing Press
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208
www.dpp.gov.bd/gppress

Memo No. 05.83.0000.010.07.001.2024-2025/79

Date: 03-11-2024

Re-Tender Notice-07/2024-2025

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No. & Invitation Reference No.	Description of works	Tender/proposal document last selling	Tender/proposal closing date and time	Procurement method
1	1031813	e-Tender/GPP-15/2024-2025 No: 05.83.0000.010.07.014.20 24-2025/77, Date: 03-11-24	Supply of 5 items including Desk Top Computer.	17-Nov-2024 16:25	18-Nov-2024 11:25	OTM
2	1030977	e-Tender/GPP-07/2024-2025 No:05.83.0000.010.07.007.20 24-2025/78, Date: 03-11-24	Supply of 3 items including LD (For CTP Machine)	17-Nov-2024 16:53	18-Nov-2024 11:00	OTM

- This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd>).
- Samples must be submitted in the PE office during office time before opening date and time of the invited tender.

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

GD-858



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

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স্মারক নম্বর: ১২.০৭.০০০০.১১১.০৭.০৩৯.১৫.৭৪৮

তারিখ: ০৩/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

e-Tender Notice

বিষয়: Procurement of Stationary Items for Cotton Development Board, Headquarter

This is to notify that the following tender has published through e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) as following:

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of the goods	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
1031656	APP GR 05	Procurement of Stationary Items for Cotton Development Board, Headquarter	18/11/2024; 5:00 PM	19/11/2024; 11:00 AM

This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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


(জাফর আলী)

উপপরিচালক (স:দ:)

তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

ফোন: ৪২০২৫৭৭১

GD-856

গজল আপিকে বাংলা গান
অনুব্র

বাঞা মজুমদার X গালিব হাসান

BAPPA MAZUMDER'S odyssey lives on

Bappa Mazumder's journey into the world of music seems almost predestined. Born into a family deeply rooted in classical music traditions, his childhood was filled with melodies and rhythms that shaped him, even though his heart once dreamt of becoming an architect. But as fate would have it, music took over.

DOWEL BISWAS

Bappa, who has just welcomed a baby girl with his wife, actress Tania Hossain, is overjoyed with the arrival of his second daughter. "As parents, this is an incredibly meaningful moment for us. We believe that the arrival of a girl brings immense blessings to a family. With the birth of our second daughter, our hearts are filled with joy, love, and laughter. We truly feel fortunate."

For over three decades, Bappa has been an invaluable asset to the country's music industry, and he continues to work on several projects, including his latest song *Shohor Chokh*. Additionally, the musician launched a Bangla Ghazal album, titled *Onubhob*, just yesterday.

hours of practice for his students. I may not have practised as rigorously as them, but living in a household so immersed in music prepared me in ways I couldn't fully understand at the time," he recalls.

Growing up in Dhaka, Bappa was surrounded by a lineage of musical excellence. He mastered the craft from his parents without needing formal training. His early lessons in music were as natural as breathing as his foundation in classical music was cultivated by his father and mother.

"When it comes to creating music, I always need to have the lyrics in front of me. Whether I'm composing, tuning, or singing, the words must resonate with me first. If a lyric touches my heart, the composition naturally flows for it."

However, Bappa's life doesn't follow a set script. He muses, "I live in the moment, letting my emotions and instincts guide me, wherever they might lead."

"From lyrics to tunes, compositions to performances, I've always tried to explore different approaches," Bappa confides. Experimentation has defined his art, but one thing remains consistent—his refusal to compromise on quality. In a world tempted by fleeting fame, Bappa has always chosen to march to the beat of his own drum.

It all began with a guitar; Bappa's entry into music wasn't as a singer but as a guitarist. He played for various artistes, contributing behind the scenes, and shaping his identity through each note. His first solo album, *Tokhon Bhor Bela* (1995), marked his official arrival as a solo artiste. Soon after, he co-founded the iconic band Dalchhut in 1996 with poet and songwriter Sanjeeb Chowdhury. Together, they influenced a generation's musical taste, blending folk and rock.

Over the years, the musician released 10 solo albums, including *Rater Train*, *Dhulo Pora Chithi*, and *Janina Kon Montore*. His songs like *Din Bari Jay*, *Shurjo Sname*

Chol, and *Tumi Amar Bayanno Tash* have become timeless hits, etched into the consciousness of his fans.

But his work extends beyond just his solo career. The band Dalchhut, now 28 years old, has endured the test of time, even after the untimely passing of Sanjeeb in 2007.

Bappa's life doesn't follow a set script. He muses, "I live in the moment, letting my emotions and instincts guide me, wherever they might lead."

Their latest album, released after a decade, is titled *Sanjeeb*, an emotional tribute to the late musician who had been the band's heartbeat.

Now, Bappa is exploring his love for Bangla Ghazal with *Onubhob*. He shares, "I've always had a deep desire to sing ghazals. After nearly eight years of planning, I'm finally embarking on a project called *Onubhob—Bangla Songs in the Ghazal Style*. While my roots are in classical music, I've always explored different genres and feel ready to expand further at this stage in my career."

Excited about the album, Bappa reveals, "The Ghazals are written by Syed Galib Hasan, and two songs have already been completed, along with their music videos. Besides me, Konal and Tanvir Alam Sajib have lent their voices to the project. We're still in the process of selecting a few more singers, preferably those with a classical background, but I'll keep those names under wraps for now."

For Bappa, music is much more than a profession. Even in today's fast-paced, social media driven world, the artiste stands firm against fleeting fame. "It scares me to see

how shallow social media has become, promoting fame without substance. What are we teaching our children? Does popularity come easily? That's not how I see it. True art takes time, effort, and soul," he shares.

His philosophy is simple: "I believe in hard work, in honing your craft through years of practice. Instant fame is no substitute for the deep sense of fulfilment that comes from creating something meaningful." Though he has strong opinions about social media's impact on music, he's not entirely against it. "I just don't believe in shortcuts," he says firmly.

Clarifying his stance on autotuning in the digital music scene, Bappa notes, "There's often a misunderstanding around autotuning in music. When recording digitally, autotuning is essential to harmonise different tonalities and instruments. The problem arises when it's overused or misused, and that's where I have some reservations."

Reflecting on the rise of instant fame in today's music scene, the singer expressed his concern, stating, "There have always been songs with simple, commercial appeal, and they don't pose a threat to us as musicians. But my fear is that if this trend isn't kept in check, it could gradually steer public taste away from what I believe is 'real' or 'pure' music."

Regarding his fans' expectations, the musician shares, "Every festival, every special occasion, there's an expectation from fans. I try to meet that but in my own way."

At the heart of it all, Bappa remains a man devoted to his art, a torchbearer of a musical legacy that spans generations. "My parents wanted me to have a job alongside my music. For a while, I did both. But eventually, music became my everything," he says. For his fans, Bappa's "everything" continues to be the melodies that fill their hearts, making him a true maestro of his time.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

As the son of legendary classical musicians Ustad Barin Mazumder and Ila Mazumder, Bappa reflects on his deep roots in music. "My father would insist on endless

NEWS

Ministry decides

FROM PAGE 12

The move came amid widespread allegations that many projects were undertaken by the previous Awami League government at inflated costs without carrying out proper feasibility studies.

However, the Kalurghat road-rail bridge project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) on October 7 with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in the chair.

The approval came following a decade of planning to build a new bridge over the Karnaphuli river at Chattogram's Kalurghat to replace the century-old bridge there.

Of the total cost, South Korea will provide Tk 7,125.14 crore as soft loan while the government bear the rest.

The deadline of the project is December 2030. Construction of the dual-gauge double-line rail plus double-lane road bridge aims at reducing bottleneck on Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar rail corridor.

Built in 1931, the existing metre-gauge single-line rail bridge at Kalurghat

was reconfigured in 1962 so that vehicles could use it too.

With time, the bridge has become unsafe, and the authorities had to repair the bridge occasionally. The bridge was repaired last year when Bangladesh Railway launched Dhaka-Cox's Bazar train service via the bridge.

However, the process to replace the bridge started in 2014 when the government decided to build the new bridge and decommission the British-era single-lane rail and road bridge there.

A feasibility study, financed by South Korea, was conducted in December 2015 that recommended building a two-lane road and single-line rail bridge.

A Development Project Proposal (DPP) for the new bridge with an estimated cost of Tk 1,163.27 crore was placed before an Ecne meeting in August 2018, which decided that it would build a dedicated rail bridge with double lines. The DPP was not approved at that time.

BR submitted a fresh DPP this year following a new study and conceptual design by consultants of South Korea last year, estimating the project cost at

Tk 1,560.77 crore.

BR sources said that as per the DPP prepared in 2018, the bridge was supposed to be dual-gauge single-line road-rail bridge, and the length of the proposed bridge was 700m along with a 3.8km embankment.

But the new one would be a dual-gauge double-line road-rail bridge.

In 2018, the vessel clearance (vertical limit) was 7.62 metres, but now the vessel clearance must be 12.2 metres following the directive of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Due to the rise in vessel clearance, the railway authorities have to build a total of 6.20km long (3.32km + 2.88km) viaduct on both sides of the 700m long main bridge, raising the project cost many folds, the BR sources added.

Moreover, a sharp rise in the US dollar exchange rate and prices of construction materials were the other reasons behind going up the project cost, they said.

A BR official, wishing anonymity, said the review would have been done before approval of the project, because it would cause delay in starting the work.

the Constitution Reform Commission has decided not to involve in the reform process the individuals, organisations, agencies, institutions, or parties who were against the July-August uprising and supported the killings and repression, or helped legitimise the "fascist actions".

He said the commission is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the constitution to establish a representative and effective democracy to empower the people.

He also outlined seven objectives of constitutional reforms.

These include the establishment of a democratic state free from discrimination, based on the ideals of the Liberation War, which promised

equality, dignity, and social justice; reflection of the people's aspiration for a participatory democratic state as revealed by the student-led mass uprising in 2024; and ensuring people's effective participation at all levels of politics and governance.

The other objectives are preventing the emergence of any future fascist regime; ensuring separation of three branches of the state—executive, legislative, and judicial—to maintain a balance of power; decentralising the state power and adequately empowering institutions; and ensuring the effective independence of autonomous, constitutional, and statutory organisations.

All the commission members were present at yesterday's press conference.

government has a defence ministry, which is essentially a "war ministry", no one has a peace ministry.

"If your aim is peace, shouldn't you have a peace ministry?" he questioned. Observing the need for self-defence, he emphasised that governments worldwide should have both a peace ministry and a war ministry.

He proposed incorporating peace initiatives into foreign relations alongside defence efforts.

He said the irony is that while every

Dream and drive change

FROM PAGE 12

today's young generation is the most powerful in human history—not just because of their intelligence, but because they have technology at their fingertips.

"The student revolution is all about technology. Students could communicate instantly with each other, without any command structure," the chief adviser said.

Speaking about the student-led

Graft was biggest hurdle in drawing

FROM PAGE 12

Strengthening the financial sector, especially foreign currency management, alongside reforms in infrastructure and energy, will support business expansion and attract large-scale investments. A clearer path for ownership and profit transfer is also crucial for foreign investors, he added.

Chowdhury said he is adopting a multipronged approach to improve ease of doing business, with digitalisation at the centre. "We are streamlining processes, improving land access and ensuring policy consistency," he said.

One of the key initiatives will be the launch of the D-Nothi (digital file management system) in November to simplify approval processes and improve coordination with other government agencies to deliver a more integrated investor experience, he said.

BIDA, the government's apex investment promotion agency, has been ramping up efforts to attract FDI through targeted sectoral promotion and direct engagement with industry leaders, according to him.

"We are building a positive narrative by showcasing success stories and competitive advantages. We're using digital engagement platforms to facilitate virtual investment opportunities and organise site visits tailored to investor interests. Our facilitation goal is to build direct connections between high-value businesses and decision-makers."

"We are working closely with international chambers of commerce and industry associations to address concerns and offer customised solutions. We are also enhancing our communication channels to deliver timely and accurate information to investors," he said.

In the coming days, BIDA and BEZA will focus on enhancing capacity and leveraging private-sector expertise, he said. "We want to be the top government agency for investment in the next year by providing a positive experience that inspires people to become ambassadors for Bangladesh."

In order to ensure accountability, BIDA is enhancing its monitoring and evaluation systems and collaborating

closely with other government agencies to expedite critical processes such as land acquisition, environmental clearances, and utility connections.

He believes together, these efforts, along with a stable policy framework, will create an environment more conducive to private sector investment, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Chowdhury was an investment banker at HSBC Singapore, specialising in infrastructure and sustainable finance.

He began his banking career at Standard Chartered and headed finance at American Airlines, covering Europe and Asia. He has also advised the Grameen Telecom Trust.

Chowdhury has an MSc in finance from the London Business School. He got his BBA in finance and economics from the Institute of Business Administration at Dhaka University.

A chartered financial analyst, Chowdhury is a certified skydiver and holds the Guinness World Record for the longest freefall with a flag. He is also a private pilot licensed in the UK.

Interim govt okays merger of 2 divisions

FROM PAGE 12

Division oversees police matters, while the Security Services Division is responsible for immigration—a function also handled by the police. The merger is expected to resolve such overlaps and improve departmental efficiency, said the source, requesting anonymity.

Sources from the home ministry noted that the ministry was initially divided into two divisions on January 19, 2017, to enhance functionality. Two secretaries were given charge of both divisions.

Since then, there has been a disagreement between the Public Security Division and the Security Services Division over the facilities and responsibilities.

Sources said that Mohammad Abdul Momen, senior secretary of the Public Security Division has already given the responsibility of the Security Services Division. After getting the responsibility, Momen held a meeting with the officials of

the Security Services Division, where the issue of the merger was discussed.

A ministry official, requesting anonymity, said the merger of the two divisions will remove internal tensions and speed up functions.

According to the database, presently the Bangladesh Police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Force, Bangladesh Coast Guard, Investigation Agency of the International Crimes Tribunal, and National Telecommunication Monitoring System are under the jurisdiction of the Public Security Division.

On the other hand, the Department of Immigration and Passport, Prisons Department, Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, and Department of Narcotics Control are under the jurisdiction of the Security Services Division.

According to sources, the two division officials were at odds over the lack of overseas posting

opportunities. There are Bangladeshi passport offices abroad, and dissatisfaction always revolved around the posting.

The work of issuing passports is done by the Security Services Department, so the employees of the division used to get the opportunity to work abroad.

At one stage, a circular was issued to allow employees of both divisions to go abroad equally, according to sources.

Another source said that police members conduct passport verification and immigration works under the Security Service Division. However, the Public Security Department is in charge of the deploying the police.

This is another reason for the discomfort and dissatisfaction between both divisions, and the proposed merger is expected to eliminate these conflicts by consolidating responsibilities under a single unified division.



Left, Democratic presidential nominee and US Vice President Kamala Harris applauds during a campaign rally in Charlotte, North Carolina on Saturday. Right, Republican presidential nominee and former US president Donald Trump gestures on the day of a campaign rally in Greensboro, North Carolina, US on Saturday. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Keep Calm-ala' before election

Harris urges US during 'Saturday Night Live' TV comedy show

REUTERS, New York

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris appeared on the 'Saturday Night Live' TV comedy show on Saturday evening, adding a surprise jolt to the US presidential election just two days before her showdown with Republican Donald Trump.

Harris portrayed herself, appearing in a mirror opposite the actor who plays her on the show, Maya Rudolph, who was nervously preparing for a campaign speech. Dressed identically in a black suit and pearls, the two traded variations on Harris' first name, saying Americans want to "end the drama-la" in politics "with a cool new stepmom-ala."

"Keep Calm-ala and carry on-ala," they said in unison. "I don't really laugh like that, do I?" Harris asked, after Rudolph imitated her distinctive chortle. "A little bit," Rudolph responded.

Harris was making her first appearance on the show, which has had other presidential candidates over its decades-long run. "It was fun," she told reporters on the tarmac before flying to Detroit in the battleground state of Michigan.

Only seven states are seen as truly competitive, but a poll released on Saturday showed Harris holding a surprise lead in Iowa, a state Trump won easily in the last two elections.

Trump appeared on SNL during his first presidential bid in 2015, where he poked fun at his tendency to exaggerate and steer clear of policy specifics. He also appeared in 2004. A Trump aide said on Saturday he did not know whether he had been invited to appear this year.

Earlier on Saturday, Harris' and Trump's planes shared the tarmac in Charlotte, North Carolina, as the two candidates held dueling events in the southern state, one of a handful that will determine the outcome of tomorrow's election. It was the fourth day in a row that the candidates campaigned in the same state.

More than 75 million Americans have already cast ballots, according to the Election Lab at the University of Florida, in a sign of voter enthusiasm.

A poll released on Saturday showed Harris holding a surprise lead in Iowa

The US polls by numbers

AFP, Washington

Here are key moments as candidates Trump and Harris edge towards Election Day tomorrow.

TRUMP THE FELON "Trump Guilty," is splashed across the world's front pages. On May 30 the Republican becomes the first former US president to be convicted of felony crimes - 34 counts to be exact.

The ordeal pulls him from the campaign trail, but huge media attention ensures he keeps the spotlight - even if it is on his criminality. Nothing in US law prevents Trump from running for the White House after the guilty verdict.

ASSASSINATION BID A sun-baked Trump rally in Pennsylvania on July 13 provides the election campaign's most shocking moment yet. Popping sounds ring out, Trump touches his ear, sees blood, and drops to the stage floor. Within seconds Trump is helped back to his feet. Trump's base is galvanized.

BIDEN SAYS 'BYE' At 1:46 pm on Sunday, July 21, Biden announces in a tweet that he will not seek reelection. Kamala Harris, the first female, Black and Asian-American to serve as US vice president, gains Biden's endorsement to replace him in the campaign.

'A landslide' or 'lot of fraud'

Trump voters see only two outcomes from US polls

AFP, Salem

One day before the US presidential election, supporters of Donald Trump are ready to reject the results - unless their man wins.

"I really wouldn't believe it if they told me she won," Brandon Dent, 22, told AFP, referring to Trump's rival, Vice President Kamala Harris.

"He'll take it in a landslide," the delivery driver said, observing the thousands of fellow Trump supporters lining up to see the president speak in the Virginia city of Salem, nestled among gentle mountains brushed in red and orange by the fall foliage.

The Republican candidate has spent his 2024 campaign preemptively casting doubt on the integrity of tomorrow's upcoming vote, reprising the rhetoric surrounding his failed 2020 reelection bid - which culminated in his supporters storming the US Capitol in a deadly riot to "stop the steal."

After three presidential runs and nearly a decade of Trump on the US political scene, his signature brand of skepticism or denial has thoroughly set in among swaths of conservative voters, across age, race and occupation.

"Kamala's going to be president, but I think Trump is going to win" the real vote count, said Jace Boda, an engineer at a nuclear facility.

"I suspect there's going to be a lot of fraud."

While Trump has been quick to whip up fears of fraud on the campaign trail, the Republican National Committee and allied groups have also pressed such claims in courts, filing lawsuits targeting ballot-counting procedures, voting machines, voter registration, absentee ballots, the certification of results and a host of other issues.

While many of the suits have been dismissed, observers worry that they could further muddy the waters around what people believe about this year's vote, especially with Trump so insistently repeating his false claim that the 2020 election was stolen from him.

"I've been skeptical since the last election of the Democrats," said Olen, a rallygoer who, like many others, declined to share his last name with the media.

Trump has spent his campaign preemptively casting doubt on the integrity of upcoming vote

Taiwan detects 37 Chinese aircraft near island

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan said it detected 37 Chinese fighter jets, drones and other aircraft near the self-ruled island yesterday as Beijing carried out "long distance" training flights.

China has ramped up military activity around Taiwan in recent years as Beijing pressures Taipei to accept its claims of sovereignty over the island.

The Chinese aircraft were spotted from 9:00 am (0100 GMT) and 35 of them crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, which separates mainland China and Taiwan, and entered Taiwanese airspace on their way to the Western Pacific Ocean, the defence ministry said.

Taiwan's military responded by deploying aircraft, naval vessels and shore-based missile systems, the ministry said.

RECORD POLLUTION Pakistan shuts schools in Lahore

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's second city of Lahore will close primary schools for a week over record pollution, government authorities said yesterday, to avoid exposing millions of children to smog several times above levels deemed dangerous.

For days, the city of 14 million people has been enveloped by smog, a mix of fog and pollutants caused by low-grade diesel fumes, smoke from seasonal agricultural burning and winter cooling.

The air quality index, which measures a range of pollutants, exceeded 1,000 on Saturday - well above the level of 300 considered "dangerous" - according to data from IQAir.

The Punjab government also recorded peaks of over 1,000 yesterday, which it considered "unprecedented".

FLOOD-HIT VALENCIA Angry crowds throw mud at Spain's king

AFP, Valencia

Furious locals pelted Spain's royals and premier yesterday with mud and cries of "murderers!", forcing officials to cut short their visit to the town worst hit by the floods which have killed more than 200.

The angry crowd in Paiporta focused most of its wrath on PM Pedro Sanchez and the head of the Valencia region, both of whom were whisked away by security. King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia were hit in the face and clothes with mud as they tried to calm the angry crowd, AFP journalists saw.

Broadcast on Spanish television, the extraordinary scenes underscored the depth of the anger in the country over the response to the nation's worst such disaster in decades.

"Europe cannot bear the burden of [the war] alone, and if Americans switch to peace, then we also need to adapt..." Hungarian PM Viktor Orban says ahead of US polls



SIDON CITY IN LEBANON

3 killed, 9 hurt in Israeli strike

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's health ministry said three people were killed and nine others wounded in an Israeli strike yesterday on Haret Saïda, a densely populated area near the southern city of Sidon.

"The Israeli enemy's raid on Haret Saïda resulted in an initial death toll of three people killed and nine others injured," the ministry said. The strike was not preceded by an Israeli evacuation warning.

Also yesterday, an Israeli strike hit the town of Ghaziyeh, south of Sidon, the official National News Agency (NNA) said.

That strike hit a residential building, according to an AFP correspondent, who said a child was rescued from beneath the rubble. The health ministry did not provide a death toll.

Several Israeli strikes also hit near a governmental hospital in Tebnin, a town in the south Lebanon district of Bint Jbeil. Strikes have previously been reported in the Bint Jbeil area since war between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah began more than a month ago.

The latest strikes caused significant damage to the hospital facility, according to Tebnin mayor Nabil Fawaz. Fawaz told AFP that the hospital may be put of service as a result of the damage but an official decision has yet to be taken.

Yesterday's raids on south Lebanon came without an evacuation warning. The Israeli army yesterday had called for the evacuation of the eastern Baalbek region ahead of expected strikes there.

Israel escalated its air raids on Hezbollah strongholds in south Lebanon, Beirut and the eastern Bekaa Valley from September 23, after a year of cross-border fire.

Table with 2 columns: Item/Service and Price/Details. Includes items like 'মালমাল ক্রয়', 'সেবামত ও হ্যাভলিং কাজের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি', 'কোর এ্যান্ড কোম্পানী (বাংলাদেশ) লিমিটেড', 'মালমাল ক্রয়', 'সেবামত ও হ্যাভলিং কাজের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি', 'বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং', 'ক্রয় পদ্ধতি', 'অর্ধবিল উৎস', 'টেন্ডার শ্যাকের নং', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়ের স্থান', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট গ্রহণের স্থান', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট (দরপত্র) বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট (দরপত্র) দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট (দরপত্র) বাস্তবায়নের তারিখ ও সময়', 'দরপত্র নাম খোলার স্থান ও সময়', 'দরপত্র নাম খোলার স্থান ও সময়', 'বিশেষ নির্দেশনা', 'দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা', 'বিবরণ', 'পরিমাণ', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় মূল্য (অক্ষেরতমোধ্য)', 'টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি', 'ক) পিলকার গ্রুপ আউটরিচিং ক্যাপ ক্রয় (পুনঃ দরপত্র)', 'খ) Microbs (Microbial Culture) ক্রয়', 'গ) মদের বোতলের বডি সেলেক ক্রয়', 'ঘ) ব্যালার, টারবাইন ও ব্যালিং হাউজের স্টীম পাইপ লাইন এবং বালার এয়ার ভাউচ ও প্যান বডি মালমাল সরবরাহের লাইসেন্স ক্রয়', 'ঙ) সার স্কীমশপ ও চিনি বস্তা হ্যাভলিং কাজের টিকাদার নিয়োগ'.

Table with 2 columns: সূত্র নং and বিবরণ. Includes details about the Bangladesh Supreme Court tender for 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি'. Includes items like 'মালমাল সূত্র নং', 'বিবরণ', 'পরিমাণ', 'টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের (সিডিউল) বিক্রয় মূল্য (অক্ষেরতমোধ্য)', 'টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি', 'ক) পিলকার গ্রুপ আউটরিচিং ক্যাপ ক্রয় (পুনঃ দরপত্র)', 'খ) Microbs (Microbial Culture) ক্রয়', 'গ) মদের বোতলের বডি সেলেক ক্রয়', 'ঘ) ব্যালার, টারবাইন ও ব্যালিং হাউজের স্টীম পাইপ লাইন এবং বালার এয়ার ভাউচ ও প্যান বডি মালমাল সরবরাহের লাইসেন্স ক্রয়', 'ঙ) সার স্কীমশপ ও চিনি বস্তা হ্যাভলিং কাজের টিকাদার নিয়োগ'.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Focus on reclaiming stolen wealth

Systemic reforms needed to prevent future financial crimes

The extent of corruption that occurred under the former Awami League regime is truly astonishing, and a recent example highlights this issue. According to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman, various incidents indicate that an estimated \$12.15 billion has been laundered from Bangladesh annually, over the past 15 years. Although he admitted that finding the exact amount may be impossible—and many believe the total could be much higher—even this conservative estimate suggests that between \$180 billion and \$225 billion has been laundered out of the country during AL's tenure.

Of the \$15 billion laundered, \$3 billion was reportedly sent abroad through trade misinvoicing and by foreign citizens working in the country. Around \$2.2 billion was laundered by unscrupulous manpower brokers who sent money abroad to secure visas and work permits for overseas jobseekers. Additionally, approximately \$7.5 billion was laundered each year through mobile financial services, according to the TIB chief. What's even more worrying is the fact that the Bangladesh Bank, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the Office of the Attorney General allegedly used to facilitate the laundering of money.

So, instead of these institutions working to prevent serious financial crimes, they actually ended up enabling them. This goes to show to what extent our various governance institutions were corrupted by the former regime. Further aiding these criminals were certain countries that, by introducing golden visas and second home options, made it easier to launder money. This is precisely how a former Bangladeshi minister was able to purchase over 300 properties abroad, which is suspected to be only the tip of the iceberg.

Although it may be possible to recover some of this laundered wealth, the complexity of the process makes it extremely challenging. And this is where we believe the interim government should urgently focus its efforts. Bangladesh should immediately enact a law and seek to sign agreements with other countries for the repatriation of the smuggled money. State agencies such as the ACC, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the attorney general, and the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) should pursue a coordinated approach to achieve this goal.

Moreover, the government should immediately begin reforming these institutions to prevent future laundering of wealth. For example, the agencies currently working to retrieve the laundered wealth took absolutely no action against major launderers during AL rule. Therefore, going forward, these institutions must be strengthened and granted the independence needed to carry out this important work. And corrupt individuals who worked within these institutions should be held accountable for their inaction or illegal activities.

Beef up banks' cybersecurity

BCSI's detection of illegal transactions is worrying

The security breach detected by the Bangladesh Cyber Security Intelligence (BCSI), which has recently occurred in some cardholders' dual currency credit cards, is deeply concerning. The BCSI found that cybercriminals carried out some unauthorised transactions using several dual currency credit cards of different banks by illegally obtaining data from social media ad management platforms.

The gravity of the situation is reflected in Bangladesh Bank's (BB) recent circular issued through its information and communication technology department cautioning commercial banks about the rise of cyber and malware attacks. Thankfully, the central bank also mentioned 17 cybersecurity measures for banks including one-time passwords for each transaction, multi-factor authentication, and limiting the number of log-in attempts. Sadly, the previous regime, under the guise of improving cyber security and stopping cybercrimes, focused solely on suppressing dissent. As a result, our cyber security agencies have not been able to develop the capacity to adequately address cybercrimes, considering the frequency and sophistication of the attacks we witness nowadays in particular. However, it is never too late to take steps in the right direction, which the BB has recently done. The financial watchdog not only alerted banks and financial institutions but also delegated an official to oversee the implementation of the cybersecurity measures it suggested.

While we welcome the central bank's actions, we also urge the banks and financial institutions to be more proactive in ensuring the financial security of their customers. Measures such as keeping their cybersecurity systems updated or using artificial intelligence or machine learning to detect unusual trends in bank identification number attacks are not enough. They also need to educate their customers about the potential risk of sharing personal data online and suggest ways to protect their data online. However, given the sophistication of technology that cyber criminals apply, it is not realistic to expect that simply raising users' awareness about cybersecurity can prevent such digital financial crimes. Banks and financial institutions have to invest in better online technology and enhanced security protocols to prevent cyber and malware attacks. The government, on the other hand, should revisit and ensure that our laws and regulations on online financial crimes prioritise and protect consumers' interests and guarantee compensation to victims.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Bangladesh constitution adopted



On this day in 1972, the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was adopted by a constituent assembly. It was implemented later on December 16.

Why is there no education commission yet?



Dr Manzoor Ahmed is professor emeritus at BRAC University, chair of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN), and adviser to Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). Views expressed in this article are the author's own.

MANZOOR AHMED

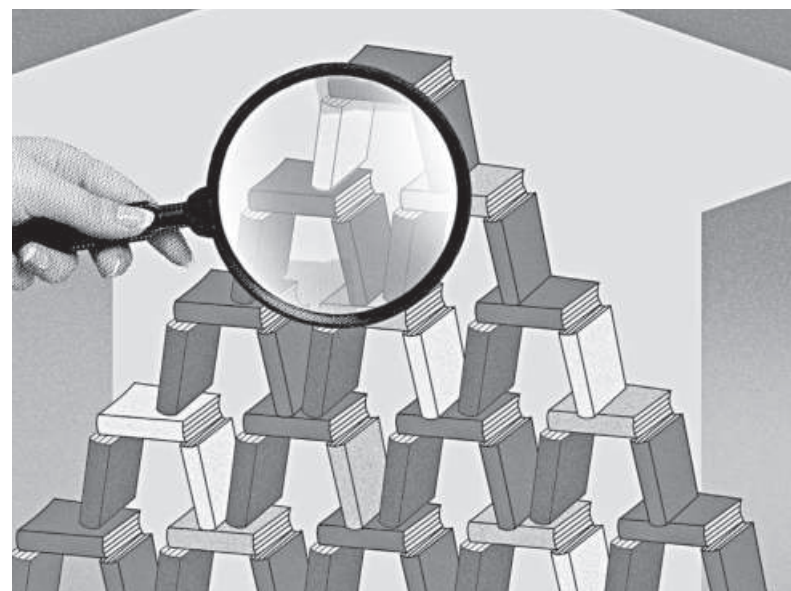
The interim government installed on August 8, 2024 through a youth-led popular uprising, and headed by the most globally acclaimed living Bangladeshi, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, is committed to pursue an agenda of "state repair." Students and the public, *chhatra-janata*, who toppled the oligarchic and kleptocratic regime, want to ensure that the state in the future serves the people, not a self-serving cartel.

In a speech on September 11, Prof Yunus announced the formation of six independent commissions to introduce reform in the constitution, electoral system, judiciary, police, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), and public administration. The commissions have been asked to provide their recommendations in three months regarding actions, which will be followed by public dialogue on the recommendations. On October 31, formation of five more commissions were announced, for reforms in health, mass media, workers' rights, local government, and women's affairs. The 11 commissions are expected to address major areas of state policies, responsibilities and services, which are vital elements of state repair.

In the face of dysfunctionality in all areas of public services, other various reform efforts have been initiated by the respective authorities, such as the committee to prepare a white paper on the economy and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) task force on income tax law. On September 30, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education appointed a consultative committee to advise on improving primary and non-formal education quality, pedagogy and management structure. This author has been named the convener of the committee.

We might remind ourselves that the student-led uprising originated from discriminatory rules for public service jobs, and more broadly education and training not paving the path to decent jobs and livelihood for a majority of students. Because of various streams with unequal standards and access to these based on family economic status, education is not a ladder for intergenerational transition to a better life. Instead, schools have become a way of entrenching existing disparities, limiting opportunities and prospects for most children.

A broadly accepted education policy formulated in 2010, still supposed to be operational, envisaged unified school experience of acceptable quality for all children, motivated and capable teachers, and decentralised and responsive education governance. The policy also foresaw relevant middle- and higher-level skills development and preparing competent professionals, academics and researchers through expanding higher education of acceptable standards. The policy made compromises by accepting the multiple streams of school education of



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

varying standards and serving varying objectives. It also remained vague about how its objectives might be realised. And like its predecessors, the regime that was in power since 2009 did not make any systemic and serious effort to implement the policy.

Education development, therefore, remained fragmented, lacking a comprehensive vision, characterised by partial and reactive response to the ongoing operational problems. On top of it, narrow political and factional interest led to decisions and actions, which had little to do with realising and serving the goals of education and the interest of children and the nation.

The consequences of the disarray in the system are that, as people can vent their grievances now, students, teachers and various vested interests are raising all kinds of demands,

sometimes forcibly and resorting to violence. Some of these demands call for urgent action, others need to be considered judiciously, but all have consequences for the whole system which cannot be ignored. Cases in point are abandoning unfinished parts of this year's HSC exams, wholesale forsaking of recent curricular work and textbooks and returning to 2012 learning materials, appointments made in public universities in the old ways rather than with transparency and publicly stated and applied criteria, and decision-making dominated by ministry bureaucrats. Some of them have little understanding of the nuances of education or are keen to pursue a self-seeking agenda as in the old regime. Just sending out circulars and orders from the capital to all corners of the country is still the preferred solution to problems. The people and their habits have not changed.

Why is there no commission yet for

characteristically did not want such a public spotlight on its activities. Perhaps it could appoint a commission with its own chosen people that would not serve public interest, as happened with other statutory bodies. The interim government need not and should not follow this tradition. Shoving critical problems under the carpet should not be the way.

A commission on education, chosen with care, can advise the interim government and serve the nation in the following areas, among others:

i) Guiding the discussion and steps towards an education sector plan with a 10-year time frame and greater specificity for five years. Initial work was done in this respect with both the ministries' participation and with support from UNESCO and Global Partnership for Education in 2020, but the government failed to follow it up.

ii) The sector plan would pay special attention to a time-bound programme and strategy for universal primary and secondary education, effective and market-linked vocational education and training, employment-responsive four-year colleges under the National University, and university expansion rigidly applying quality criteria.

iii) New thinking about teachers and education workers for school education with the aim of attracting to and retaining the best talents in teaching.

iv) Responsive, accountable, and decentralised education governance and management with effective use of education resources and substantially increased public investment.

v) Helping articulate government position on external assistance areas and priorities aligning with the proposed sector plan and strategies for various subsectors.

vi) How the education budget for FY25, the first budget prepared by the interim government, should reflect the spirit and the goals in education of the youth-led state repair agenda.

The education commission should probably function somewhat differently in two ways. First, the government can seek its advice and rely on its deliberation on various ongoing sensitive issues, such as the demands of the seven government colleges in Dhaka for redressing their various long-ignored grievances. Secondly, anticipating a permanent education commission, the committee appointed now could have public dialogue on the nature, role and composition of said permanent body and continue to serve as a commission until a permanent commission is formally established.

The formation of an education commission would be a way to honour and repay a small part of the debt owed by the nation to the martyrs and those injured in the July-August uprising.

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SHAMIMA PARVEEN and SOHANUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh is experiencing a profound moment of change, with the anti-discrimination movement, a new interim government, and accelerating climate change. Our nation is poised to enter a new era. A golden opportunity for reform in law and order, justice, government accountability, engaged and civically minded communities, and an equitable society for both women and men, has emerged.

We call on the new government to eliminate gender-based violence and advance the status of women and girls to encourage equitable economic development for people of all genders.

Although the former government signed onto international agreements such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, it held reservation on Articles 2 and 16.1c, which articulates a commitment to eliminating institutionalised sexism and inequitable spousal rights in marital relations. The female population in Bangladesh is suffering,

approximately 51 percent of females are married before the age of 18 and over half of them have experienced physical and/or sexual violence. This is a horrifying violation of their right to safety, mental well-being, and bodily autonomy.

Despite the powerful role of women and girls in the anti-discrimination movement, a majority of youth in leadership roles have been male. This

equitable society.

As communities across the nation grapple to address the deep challenges of past decades—high unemployment rates, rapidly escalating climate change vulnerability, and economic inequity—it will be all too easy to fall into old patterns and traps. Creating a better, more equitable future requires action by government, religious leaders and other influential social actors, as

Despite the powerful role of women and girls in the anti-discrimination movement, a majority of youth in leadership roles have been male. This is consistent with the patriarchal composition of government structures. While the interim government has consulted with a coalition of feminist civil society groups and leaders, it remains to be seen how the men in positions of authority will act.

is consistent with the patriarchal composition of government structures. While the interim government has consulted with a coalition of feminist civil society groups and leaders, it remains to be seen how the men in positions of authority will act. It's time for men to become agents of change and lift up their sisters, mothers, daughters, and wives.

Now is a moment for the people's power. We must advocate for change—a future where people from all walks of life live in an inclusive, democratic, and

well as organisations providing social services. Women and girls need us to unify and voice our demands loud and clear.

A brighter future for Bangladesh depends on: i) a government that will allocate specific gender-centred budgets to support programmes that advance the wellbeing of women and girls, regardless of background; ii) empowered, engaged civil society and community groups working in complement to government services; iii) climate adaptation solutions

How to ensure pedestrian safety with innovative approaches

Using co-design and behaviour change models

Dr Mohammad Shaheen Sarker, superintendent engineer at the Roads and Highways Department (RIID), is additional project director at Bangladesh Road Safety Project, jointly financed by the government and World Bank.

MOHAMMAD SHAHEEN SARKER

Road crashes claim nearly 11.9 lakh lives globally every year, with two to five crore people suffering non-fatal injuries (as of 2023 data). Among these, vulnerable road users (VRUs)—including pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists—account for over half of all traffic-related deaths. Pedestrians, in particular, face significant risks as they lack protection when sharing the road with vehicles. Crossing the road is especially hazardous, with many incidents occurring in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where inadequate infrastructure exacerbates the danger.

Bangladesh is not immune to these challenges. Roadside environments near schools, factories, and commercial centres generate high volumes of pedestrian crossings, especially along major highways. Without proper infrastructure, crossing the road can be life-threatening; the road traffic fatality rate in the country is alarmingly high, at 102.1 fatalities per 10,000 vehicles—over 10 times the Southeast Asian average. In 2018, massive student protests erupted in Bangladesh after two high school students were killed in a road crash, highlighting the urgency of

drivers, the users themselves frequently point to inadequate and unsafe facilities. However, ensuring road safety, particularly for vulnerable users such as students and workers commuting across highways, requires shared responsibility and collaboration between authorities and the public.

The Safe System approach emphasises that authorities are primarily responsible for providing safe infrastructure. However, road users' needs and behaviours must also be considered to create effective and lasting solutions. Unfortunately, these user-centred elements (i.e. understanding pedestrian behaviour and promoting positive change) are often overlooked in the design of road interventions in Bangladesh.

A recent study examined the institutional design practices in Bangladesh and explored the benefits of using a participatory design process, known as co-design, alongside a behaviour change framework to enhance pedestrian safety. The study's goal was to identify how these methods could improve the effectiveness of road safety interventions, reduce injuries and fatalities, and promote shared responsibility among stakeholders.

In Bangladesh, professionals from local road agencies first proposed conventional design interventions at four highway sites known for high pedestrian traffic. Focus group discussions were then held with students and workers—those most at risk while crossing these highways. Following these discussions, four co-design workshops were conducted,



The road traffic fatality rate in Bangladesh is alarmingly high, at 102.1 fatalities per 10,000 vehicles, according to a study.

FILE PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

In developing countries like Bangladesh, the debate over pedestrian safety often revolves around two main points: poor infrastructure design and road user behaviour. While road authorities and professionals often attribute pedestrian injuries and fatalities to the reckless actions of pedestrians and drivers, the users themselves frequently point to inadequate and unsafe facilities.

improving pedestrian safety. Traditionally, highway agencies have implemented at-grade crossings like zebra crossings or built footbridges and underpasses, but pedestrian usage of these facilities remains low.

In developing countries like Bangladesh, the debate over pedestrian safety often revolves around two main points: poor infrastructure design and road user behaviour. While road authorities and professionals often attribute pedestrian injuries and fatalities to the reckless actions of pedestrians and

allowing road users to collaborate with professionals in creating safety interventions. To further enhance the design process, a behaviour change model, COM-B (Capability, Opportunity, and Motivation influencing Behaviour), was integrated into some of the workshops. The study's methodology involved comparing interventions created solely by professionals with those developed through co-design, as well as evaluating the added benefits of incorporating the COM-B model. The efficacy of each intervention was assessed

through safety evaluations and stakeholder feedback.

The results were striking. Co-designed interventions—created in collaboration with road users—demonstrated significant improvements in usability and safety compared to conventional designs. The participants contributed valuable insights into the practical challenges they face, enabling the creation of more intuitive and effective infrastructure. Incorporating the COM-B model yielded even more positive outcomes, addressing not only design flaws but also encouraging safer crossing behaviour among pedestrians.

Perhaps one of the most critical findings was the shift in perception among stakeholders. Interviews revealed that co-design fostered a sense of shared responsibility, breaking the blame cycle where authorities and road users point fingers at each other. By involving users in the design process, stakeholders gained a better understanding of the challenges faced by pedestrians and began working collaboratively to find solutions.

Bangladesh is not alone in its struggle to protect vulnerable road users. Worldwide, VRUs, especially in LMICs, are disproportionately affected by road crashes. Pedestrians in these regions often rely on outdated or poorly designed infrastructure, while intervention strategies from high-income countries (HICs) primarily focus on vehicle passengers and may not be applicable in LMIC contexts. Designing effective solutions requires an understanding of local injury patterns and the unique challenges faced by pedestrians.

The Safe System approach, widely advocated in HICs, emphasises authorities' responsibility to ensure road safety through proper design and infrastructure. However, in many LMICs, the gap between user behaviour and infrastructure use remains unaddressed. As the study in Bangladesh highlights, interventions that fail to consider user behaviour are unlikely to succeed, no matter how well-designed they may appear on paper. By combining co-design with behaviour change models like COM-B,

authorities can create interventions that not only meet safety standards but also encourage proper usage.

The findings of this study underscore the potential of co-design and behaviour change models to transform road safety for vulnerable users. By involving pedestrians in the design process, authorities can ensure that crossing facilities are both safe and intuitive to use. Furthermore, the integration of the COM-B model helps address behavioural factors that influence road safety, leading to more effective and sustainable interventions.

In Bangladesh and other developing nations, where resources for road safety are often limited, these innovative approaches offer a cost-effective solution. Co-design promotes shared responsibility, while behaviour change models help bridge the gap between user behaviour and safe infrastructure use. As Bangladesh moves forward, adopting these strategies could significantly reduce pedestrian injuries and fatalities, creating a safer road environment for all.

UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Finding balance and peace with nature



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KAZI AMDADUL HOQUE

However, we are aware that deforestation across the world due to agriculture has caused about 12-15 percent of global CO2 emissions, which is equivalent to the emission of the entire transportation sector. Around 10 million hectares of forest were lost during the period of 2015-2020. The global reforestation effort could sequester around 205

to the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), investment in biodiversity and ecosystem restoration could yield up to \$9 for every \$1. Sustainable practices like renewable energy, smart agriculture, and conservation could create 395 million jobs across the world by 2030.

The 15th Amendment to the Constitution of Bangladesh (2011)

Improving our relationship with nature is the best way at the moment to address the consequences of climate change. The ecosystems around us, such as forests, wetlands, and mangroves, are natural machines for mitigating climate change. Forests alone absorb about 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually, which is one-third of the CO2 released by burning fossil fuels.

The 16th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) wrapped up on Saturday in Cali, Colombia. This was the first biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at COP15 held in Montreal, Canada in December 2022. The parties (governments) and other stakeholders will review the state of implementation of the GBF and show the alignment of the respective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the framework. A major focus of COP16 was on capacity-building, monitoring, and advanced resource mobilisation for the GBF. The event also saw the adoption of a multilateral mechanism on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. In addition, the parties provided updates on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

Improving our relationship with nature is the best way at the moment to address the consequences of climate change. The ecosystems around us, such as forests, wetlands, and mangroves, are natural machines for mitigating climate change. Forests alone absorb about 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO2) annually, which is one-third of the CO2 released by burning fossil fuels. Besides, mangroves and seagrass meadows can store five to ten times more CO2 per hectare than terrestrial forests. Forest restoration and wetland



In a densely populated country like Bangladesh, convincing locals to spare land for biodiversity has been challenging.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

conservation could reduce up to 37 percent of the emissions to meet the Paris Agreement targets by 2030. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the importance of the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems to remove an additional one billion tonnes of CO2 from the atmosphere by 2050.

gigatonnes of carbon. Over \$44 trillion of global GDP (approximately half of the world's economic output) is mostly dependent on ecosystem services, i.e. water filtration, climate regulation, and pollination, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF). However, biodiversity loss could reduce global GDP by \$2.7 trillion annually by 2030. According

affirmed the state's responsibility for biodiversity preservation. We then went on to enact several legal instruments, such as the Ecologically Critical Areas Management Rules, 2016, Protected Area Management Rules, 2017, and the Bangladesh Biodiversity Act, 2017. As a result, the country now has 13 ecological hotspots and 22 protected areas to

conserve biodiversity. We also have a National Conservation Policy (2016-2031) in place to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources, including biodiversity. The government's eighth Five-Year Plan (2020-2025) and the long-term Delta Plan 2100 integrate water, land, environment, and biodiversity to mitigate climate change risks and reduce biodiversity loss.

The National Adaptation Plan (2023-2050) prioritises biodiversity conservation and climate action, nature-based solutions, and the establishment of forest and coastal zone policies. These reflect the country's long-term commitment to preserving biodiversity. Bangladesh established its National Biosafety Framework in 2006 to regulate biotechnology and manage risks associated with genetically modified organisms (GMOs), in line with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The policy interpretation and implementation acceleration remain a challenge. The biodiversity fiscal and biodiversity literacy along with common understanding across all ministries and stakeholders are the major turning points. The government may consider implementing tax exemptions on investments in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation activities and subsequent income to accelerate the momentum.

Bangladesh, like all other countries in the multi-stakeholder review process, has updated the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) for 2021-2030 based on

the Global Biodiversity Framework. The updated NBSAP will include a multilateral mechanism for equitable resource-sharing, documentation of local knowledge, community and civil society engagement, a data repository blueprint, and guidelines for digital sequence information (DSI). However, it should simplify reporting mechanisms to avoid overburdening resource-limited sectors and be integrated into the National Development Planning (NDP). The alignment of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and relevant reporting related to other frameworks and conventions may enable efficient reporting.

The spirit of local knowledge, open source of information, and universalising access to technologies should be the foundation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Global action through the exchange of understanding with local communities is needed to understand the short- and long-term benefits of their involvement in biodiversity conservation. In a densely populated country like Bangladesh, convincing locals to spare land for biodiversity has been challenging, as they prioritise living, farming, and grazing more. However, mobilising communities, local government, academia, and the Forest Department in restoration has brought in significant outcomes, bringing a win-win balance between nature and community in protection, livelihood, and ecosystem.

Impact of social media on our unhealthy eating habits

Social media has a powerful influence on our food choices, often making certain products seem more appealing and “normal” to consume. A study published in PLOS Digital Health analysed millions of posts mentioning food and beverage brands, finding that fast food and sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) dominate social media discussions. This steady exposure could encourage unhealthy eating, especially among young users, who are highly active online.

The study found that fast food mentions made up over 60% of these posts, while SSBs made up about 30%. Such frequent exposure shapes what people view as desirable or socially accepted food choices, which can influence eating behaviours and attitudes toward health. Interestingly, the research noted



that men were more likely to engage with these posts, revealing differences in how food advertising reaches and resonates with different audiences.

Given how social media is deeply embedded in daily life, researchers suggest policies to create a healthier digital food environment. For instance, limiting ads for unhealthy products or promoting more balanced dietary choices on these platforms could counteract the normalisation of fast food and sugary drinks. Since early exposure shapes lifelong habits, such changes may protect young people from developing unhealthy eating patterns influenced by their online environment.

Balancing content could support healthier choices, contributing to long-term public health improvements.

Source: PLOS Digital Health



A global push for early detection and comprehensive BREAST CANCER CARE

STAR HEALTH DESK

Breast cancer is the most common cancer globally, with around 2.3 million new cases diagnosed every year. It represents one in eight cancer cases across both sexes and accounts for a quarter of all cancers in women. Alarmingly, around 70% of breast cancer deaths occur in resource-constrained settings. Various barriers within health systems and among patients—such as low levels of awareness and knowledge—contribute to the inadequate uptake of early detection services. As a result, many individuals receive late-stage diagnoses, leading to poor outcomes. In many low-resource settings, breast cancer also impacts a relatively younger population, significantly contributing to premature mortality and maternal orphans.

To address this critical issue, the World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) in 2021. The goal is to reduce breast cancer mortality rates by 2.5% annually until 2040, which could save 2.5 million lives through three key pillars of action: health promotion for early detection,

timely diagnosis, and comprehensive management of breast cancer. Every October, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM), the world comes together to create awareness about this disease. This year, the emphasis was on the importance of early detection, timely diagnosis, comprehensive treatment, and the need for support for individuals with lived experiences, including patient navigation.

The objectives of BCAM include raising awareness and driving behavioural change by promoting advocacy and communication strategies to increase the uptake of breast cancer screening and early diagnosis, particularly in resource-constrained settings. Additionally, BCAM serves as a platform for sharing information and facilitating partnerships aimed at strengthening breast cancer control.

Another crucial objective is to support the national adoption of WHO's Global Breast Cancer Initiative. Countries are encouraged to implement this initiative with a focus on early detection, timely diagnosis, and comprehensive care.

Highlighting the importance of patient-centred care is also essential, as it includes medical, emotional, psychological, and social support via patient navigation systems. This approach addresses the gender and socioeconomic disparities that affect access to breast cancer care.

It is vital to acknowledge the challenges faced by individuals battling this disease. The impact of breast cancer extends beyond diagnosis and treatment; it significantly affects families and communities. Creating a supportive environment where individuals do not have to face breast cancer alone is essential for fostering resilience and hope.

Through increased awareness, advocacy, and collaboration, it can be ensured that no one faces breast cancer alone and that all individuals have access to the care and support they need. Together, we can make strides toward a future where breast cancer is detected early, treated effectively, and supported comprehensively, ultimately saving lives and reducing suffering.

Source: World Health Organisation

MANAGING MPOX Vaccine effectiveness and treatment insights for global health

During the mpx outbreak, there was limited availability of the modified vaccinia Ankara Bavarian Nordic (MVA-BN) vaccine which led Canadian health authorities to recommend a single dose for high-risk individuals. Researchers later analysed the effectiveness of this single dose by comparing 3,204 vaccinated and 3,204 unvaccinated people, with a median age of 35 and 22% living with HIV. Results showed that mpx infection occurred less frequently among the vaccinated group, with 21 cases versus 50 in the unvaccinated group, indicating 58% effectiveness for a single dose.

In the United States, tecovirimat—a medication stockpiled for smallpox treatment—was also made available for mpx under a special access protocol due to its effectiveness against similar viruses in animal models. An observational study followed 1,043 mpx patients, where the majority were male, 52% were co-infected with HIV, and 4% were severely immunocompromised. The data revealed that 15% of patients had been vaccinated with MVA-BN. Hospitalisation rates were 4% across all patients but rose to 43% among severely immunocompromised individuals. For most people, lesions healed within 14 days of treatment, though 20 individuals died, 18 of whom were severely immunocompromised.

These findings highlight the effectiveness of even a single vaccine dose in reducing mpx risk, particularly for high-risk populations, and the critical role of targeted antiviral treatments like tecovirimat for severe cases.



The empowering benefits of being a weekend warriors

STAR HEALTH DESK

In the hustle and bustle of modern life, many individuals struggle to find the time for regular exercise, often juggling work commitments, family responsibilities, and social obligations. However, a growing movement known as the “weekend warrior” phenomenon is gaining attention. Weekend warriors are those who concentrate their physical activity into just one or two days each week, making the most of their limited time to reap significant health benefits.

At first glance, cramming exercise into a couple of days may seem counterintuitive. How could intense bursts of physical activity be as beneficial as more frequent workouts? Surprisingly, research suggests that weekend warriors can enjoy the same advantages as those who exercise regularly throughout the week. Engaging in physical activity over the weekend can lead to improved cardiovascular health, enhanced mental well-being, and even lower risks of chronic diseases.

The beauty of being a weekend warrior lies in its flexibility. For those who may feel overwhelmed by the idea of daily workouts, this approach allows them to set aside dedicated time for fitness without the pressure of squeezing in multiple sessions during the week. It is an empowering way to embrace a healthier lifestyle on one's own terms.

Weekend warriors often discover that these concentrated workout sessions can be invigorating and uplifting. Whether it is hitting the trails for a long run, joining a weekend yoga class, or participating in a team sport, the joy of movement can be a powerful motivator. The thrill of achieving a personal best in a race or the satisfaction of completing a challenging hike can leave participants feeling accomplished and rejuvenated.

Moreover, exercising on the weekends fosters a sense of community and social connection. Group workouts, local sports leagues,

or even casual meetups with friends at the gym can enhance the overall experience. These social interactions not only make exercise more enjoyable but can also provide the necessary encouragement to maintain this weekend commitment.

The benefits extend beyond physical health. Regular physical activity has been shown to boost mood, reduce stress, and combat anxiety and depression. For weekend warriors, dedicating time to exercise can serve as a much-needed escape from the pressures of daily life. The endorphins released during exercise create a natural high, leaving individuals feeling more balanced and focused.

While some may worry about the risks associated with intense exercise sessions after a week of inactivity, the key is to listen to one's body. Weekend warriors can avoid injuries by gradually increasing their activity levels and prioritising warm-ups and cool-downs. It is essential to find a balance that respects personal fitness levels and limitations.

For those hesitant to embrace the weekend warrior lifestyle, it is important to recognise that every bit of movement counts. Whether it is a brisk walk, a bike ride, or a dance party in the living room, engaging in physical activity—even in shorter bursts—can contribute to overall health. The emphasis should be on finding joy in movement and making it a regular part of life, even if that means dedicating just one or two days a week to exercise.

In conclusion, the weekend warrior phenomenon offers a practical and empowering approach to fitness. By focusing on quality over quantity, individuals can achieve remarkable health benefits without the constraints of a rigid weekly schedule. So if your weekdays are packed, do not fret. Embrace the weekend warrior spirit and discover how fulfilling it can be to prioritise your health on your own terms. After all, it is not just about the frequency of exercise; it is about making the time you do have count.



FUTURE IN FOCUS

Committing to accessible family planning for youth

STAR HEALTH REPORT

The 9th National Youth Conference on Family Planning 2024 in Dhaka brought together over 500 young advocates, health experts, and policymakers dedicated to advancing reproductive health rights for Bangladeshi youth. Organised by SERAC Bangladesh, the two-day event began on October 29 and centered on the theme, “Empowering Youth: Ensuring Access to Family Planning through Expanded Reproductive Health and Education, Improved Nutrition and Health, Life Skills, Climate Justice, and Gender Equality,” highlighting a comprehensive approach to adolescent health.

In his opening remarks, Md Saifullahil Azam, Director General of the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), urged the youth to work actively toward achieving FP2030's commitments, emphasising their crucial role in meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNFPA's Dr Iliza Azyei added that reaching the “three zeros” of zero unmet family planning needs, zero preventable maternal deaths, and zero gender-based violence was pivotal, with young people positioned as essential players in this mission.

International voices reinforced this message of partnership and collaboration. Patricia Mengech, Director of the Population, Health, and Nutrition Office at USAID Bangladesh, stressed that lasting success in adolescent health requires collective effort. Edward Cabrera from the Canadian High

Commission highlighted Canada's commitment to inclusive family planning services, describing access as “essential for a healthier, equitable future.”

Youth speakers were a highlight, presenting innovative, community-driven solutions. Md Nazmul Hasan shared insights into the Volunteer Peer Leader (VPL) model under USAID's Shukhi Jibon project, showcasing how youth-led approaches empower adolescents to advocate for their family planning rights.

A vibrant exhibit zone

natural disasters, while Marie Stopes Bangladesh advocated inclusivity by focusing on family planning access for adolescents with disabilities.

In a life skills education session, FP2030 and Dr Muhammad Munir Hossain from UNFPA Bangladesh highlighted the importance of equipping youth with the tools to make informed health choices.

Representing the Bangladesh Medical Students Society, Itikhar Ahmed Sakib, and BYHAN's Songita Sarker advocated for policy changes to remove barriers

Dr Md Shamsul Haque discussed how proper nutrition supports both mental and physical health, forming a foundation for a stronger generation.

UNICEF and the Global Financing Facility addressed mental health and financing youth health programmes.

The conference concluded with a scientific poster presentation showcasing youth-led SRHR innovations.

Dr Abu Jamil Faisal received the Lifetime Achievement Award, while Tasnia Ahmed was recognised for Youth Excellence, Md Masum Billah as Adolescent Champion, and UNFPA Bangladesh for Exemplary Partnership.

This landmark conference was powered by partners such as USAID's Adolescent Health Activity, Global Affairs Canada, Bangladesh Youth Health Action Network, Coalition of Youth Organisations in Bangladesh, FP2030, Global Financing Facility, HealthBridge Foundation, Ipas Bangladesh, Jhpiego, Mott MacDonald, Marie Stopes Bangladesh, Pathfinder International, Share-Net Bangladesh, Youth Coalition for Climate Justice, and UNFPA Bangladesh.

As the event concluded, attendees left with a renewed dedication to championing accessible family planning for Bangladeshi youth, with the momentum from these discussions and collaborations set to drive policy changes, strengthen partnerships, and inspire young advocates to shape an empowered and equitable future.



transformed health education into an engaging experience. Partners like Ipas, Share-Net Bangladesh, SERAC, Pure Earth, Jhpiego, and Marie Stopes Bangladesh facilitated interactive activities, including a reproductive health-themed Ludo game and a puppet show, which captivated attendees and deepened their understanding of health issues.

Throughout the conference, various sessions covered pressing topics. Pathfinder International led a session on climate resilience and the role of youth in SRHR during

to reproductive health for youth, engaging attendees to pursue broader youth-focused health solutions.

At the conference, USAID's Adolescent Health Activity panel, moderated by Dr Nayan Chakravarty of Mott MacDonald, focused on empowering youth in health decision-making.

A new addition this year was a session on adolescent nutrition led by NutriTeens and International Adolescent Health Week (IAHW2024). Experts like Dr Md Saiful Islam, Asfia Azim, and

The hidden challenge for seniors with diabetes: Food insecurity and blood sugar risks

For seniors managing diabetes, the daily task of keeping blood sugar levels stable can be challenging. Now imagine adding another hurdle: not having reliable access to food. Food insecurity, in all its forms, complicates diabetes care in ways that often go unnoticed.

When we think about food insecurity, we usually think of financial difficulties—the inability to afford enough nutritious food. But there is another aspect that affects many older adults:

the physical challenges of shopping or preparing meals. Both types of food insecurity can be risky for people with diabetes, especially when missed meals or delayed eating lead to dangerously low blood sugar levels, also known as hypoglycemia. Without the certainty of

regular meals, some seniors face serious health risks. Blood sugar can dip suddenly, resulting in dizziness, confusion, or even passing out, which requires immediate help. In fact, many older adults end up in emergency situations simply because they did not have food at the right



time. Addressing this issue requires more than just financial support; it means finding ways to make food accessible and safe for all. By understanding and supporting the diverse needs of older adults, we can help prevent unnecessary health crises and ensure that managing diabetes does not feel like an uphill battle.

Source: Journal of General Internal Medicine

'A GREAT MOMENT'

This was only the second time that India were whitewashed in a home Test series, the only other instance coming back in 2000 when South Africa won 2-0 against India.

This, however, is the first time that India have been whitewashed in a home series of three or more Tests.

New Zealand became the fourth side to whitewash India in a series of 3+ Tests after England (4), Australia (3), and West Indies (1).

It is also the first time that New Zealand won three Tests in a series home or away and the first instance of the Kiwis winning three successive away Tests.

New Zealand defended 147 to win the third Test -- the second-lowest total ever defended by the Kiwis in Tests.

AGENCIES

Coming in after a harrowing 2-0 Test loss in Sri Lanka, New Zealand defied all expectations on Sunday to whitewash a strong India, a side that had won each of their last 18 series at home since 2012 when England won 2-1.

Chasing 147 for victory in the third and final Test, India were bowled out for 121 in 29.1 overs on day three, and it was Mumbai-born spinner Ajaz Patel who took six wickets to help New Zealand to a thrilling 25-run win at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium.

New Zealand's Tom Latham, who was appointed as the new Test captain after the outing in Sri Lanka, cherished the win that came on the back of their eight-wicket win in first Test and a 113-run victory in the second.

"It's obviously a great moment for New Zealand cricket, probably one of New Zealand cricket's greatest series wins I think," said Kiwis' skipper Latham.

"Again, all we can do is keep playing cricket and keep playing our brand of cricket. We've felt a lot of support over the last couple of weeks, which is really special."

Latham went on to praise his side



for being able to adapt to the host of conditions on display, from the seam and movement in the opening Test to the turn in the subsequent two games.

"Just being able to adapt to each ground. There is no one way of doing

things - the seamers did the job in Bangalore, different guys stood up at different times. More contributions we were looking for. Last week it was Mitch, this time it was Ajaz," he said.

Ajaz ended with a match-haul of 11

wickets at a venue where he created history by claiming all 10 wickets in a Test innings in 2021. He scalped a total of 25 wickets in the two Tests at Wankhede.

In a tricky chase on a turning pitch, New Zealand reduced India to 29-5, before the left-hander Rishabh Pant (64 off 57) counter-attacked with his half-century.

Ajaz, after lunch, had Pant caught by wicketkeeper Tom Blundell, a decision denied by the on-field umpire but successfully reviewed by New Zealand. An unconvinced Pant trudged back.

"If we say something, it will not go down well. If the decision is not conclusive then the decision has to stand with what the on-field umpire calls," said India skipper Rohit Sharma.

"I don't know how that decision was overturned."

Rohit also took the blame for India hitting the nadir.

"This will be a very low point in my career, having lost three games at home," Rohit told reporters. "I fully take responsibility for that."

Meanwhile, India legend Sachin Tendulkar called for "introspection" following a humiliating series loss which he said was "a tough pill to swallow".

Two tons, one fifer in NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Khulna Division off-spinner Mahedi Hasan claimed 5-62 to help his side bowl out Dhaka Metro for 210 in their first innings on day two at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Sunday. Khulna, with a 166-run first-innings lead, enforced follow-on on Dhaka Metro, who scored 12 for no loss at stumps.

Earlier, resuming on 358 for six, Khulna could add only 18 runs to their overnight score.

In Bogura's Shahid Chandu Stadium, Sylhet Division, who resumed at 24 for no loss, were bundled out for 189, taking a narrow 31-run lead in their first innings against Rangpur Division.

Rangpur later witnessed a batting collapse in their second innings as Sylhet's Tofael Islam took three wickets to reduce them to 66-5 at stumps.

At the Cox's Bazar's Academy Ground, Sazzadul Hoque struck 139 off 185 balls -- his maiden first-class ton -- while Parvez Hossain Emon missed out on his hundred by just five runs as Chattogram Division made 371 runs in their first innings against Dhaka Division after resuming on 107-1.

Dhaka finished the day at 22-0, still trailing Chattogram by 349 runs.

The other game in Cox's Bazar between Barishal Division and Rajshahi Division got underway on day two after play was not possible on opening day due to wet outfield.

Iftekhar Hossain Ifti struck his maiden first-class ton -- a 205-ball 116 -- but his Barishal side could only make 205 in the first innings. Rajshahi, playing just one delivery, didn't open their score at stumps.

City, Arsenal slip as Liverpool go top

AFP, London

Manchester City suffered their first Premier League loss since December as Bournemouth stunned the champions, while Arsenal were rocked by Newcastle and Liverpool seized top spot on Saturday.

City were unbeaten in their previous 32 league games, dating back to a defeat at Aston Villa last year. But Pep Guardiola's second-placed side saw that streak come to an unexpected end in a 2-1 loss on England's south coast.

Bournemouth recently damaged Arsenal's title hopes with a 2-0 win at the Vitality Stadium and they inflicted pain on City.

City were rocked in the ninth minute when Bournemouth winger Antoine Semenyo drilled one home. Evanilson doubled Bournemouth's lead in the 64th minute with a composed finish. Josko Gvardiol's header reduced the deficit in the 82nd minute, but it was too late to save City from a second defeat in four days.

Meanwhile, Newcastle put a huge dent in fourth-placed Arsenal's title aspirations with a 1-0 win at St James' Park.

Alexander Isak scored a 12th-minute header as Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, runners-up to City for the past two years, have taken just one point from their last three games and are seven points adrift of first place. At Anfield, Liverpool were in danger of a surprise loss of their own before regrouping to take advantage of their rivals' stumbles with a 2-1 win over Brighton.

Ferdi Kadioglu gave Brighton the lead in the 14th minute with a fierce strike but Cody Gakpo bagged the equaliser in the 69th minute before Mohamed Salah put Liverpool ahead three minutes later.

In Arne Slot's first season in charge, Liverpool are two points clear of City after their eighth win in 10 league games.

Tigers in a bid to regain lost ODI mojo

SPORTS REPORTER

After a disastrous Test series against South Africa, Bangladesh are now bracing themselves for a new challenge, this time in the ODI format, when they take on an in-form Afghanistan in a three-match series scheduled to start in Sharjah on November 6.

The second and last group of the Bangladesh contingent left for the UAE yesterday, a day after the first group, to feature in their first 50-over series in more than six months.

Historically, Bangladesh have an edge over Afghanistan in this format, with 10 wins and six losses which also includes three victories in the 2015, 2019 and 2023 editions of the ICC World Cup.

The Tigers also boasted off a perfect record against Afghanistan in bilateral ODI series until July last year, when they lost to the Afghans 2-1 in Chattogram, a series defeat which initiated a lean period for Bangladesh in what is widely accepted as their strongest format.

Although the team managed to make it to the Super Four of the following Asia Cup, they failed miserably in the ODI World Cup, finishing eighth among 10 teams, and also lost three more bilateral series -- two against New Zealand and

one against Sri Lanka.

The recent poor results in other formats, their lack of ODIs this year, foreign conditions and Afghanistan's red-hot form means that Bangladesh could arguably be considered underdogs in the upcoming series.

The Afghans recently clinched their maiden ODI series victory over South Africa, beating them 2-1 in the UAE and possess a strong squad covering all the basis required to excel in those conditions.

Dependable opener Ibrahim Zadran is out as he is still healing from an ankle surgery and uncapped Sediqullah Atal has been named in his place in their 19-member squad.

Sediqullah, who made 368 runs in five innings at a strike rate of 147.79 and played a significant role in Afghanistan's recent triumph in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup in Oman, is expected to open the innings with Rahmanullah Gurbaz, another in-form batter who struck 194 run in three innings in the series against the Proteas.

Afghanistan also possess an impressive line-up of all-rounders in Azmatullah Omarzai, Mohammad Nabi and Gulbadin Naib, and also have their leg-spin maestro Rashid Khan on hand, who is more than handy with the bat.



Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto receives a bouquet as the first Bangladesh contingent reach their team hotel in Dubai on Saturday night ahead of their three-match ODI series against Afghanistan, set to begin from November 6. The second contingent was scheduled to reach the UAE late last night. PHOTO: ACB

The pace unit will be led by left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi and left-arm leg-spinner Noor Ahmad will add variety to this very potent bowling attack.

The fact that Bangladesh are arriving

in the UAE just days before the series whereas the Afghans have been training for a good amount of time, would also be a challenge for the Tigers -- one of the many they have to overcome if they want to regain their lost mojo in ODIs.

Pak seek balance as Aussies look for fiery start

AGENCIES

With their eyes set on the ICC Champions Trophy next year, Pakistan will begin their three-match ODI series today against hosts Australia under new captain Mohammad Rizwan.

Appointed as the new white-ball skipper, Rizwan said that he hoped to find the right combination for the ICC tournament next year with a number of ODI series scheduled for the team ahead of it.

"We are scheduled to play a good number of ODIs before the next year's ICC Champions Trophy back in Pakistan," Rizwan said in a statement released by PCB.

"The forthcoming series beginning with Australia, then Zimbabwe, South Africa, and the home tri-nation tournament will help us assemble the right combination going into the mega event."

Pakistan have also announced their playing XI for the first ODI, with Muhammad Irfan Khan and Saim Ayub making their debut.

Pakistan will also see the return of their out-of-form star batter Babar Azam, who

was dropped for the second and third Tests against England in October after scoring just 35 runs across both innings in Pakistan's defeat in the first Test. Pakistan went on to win the series with wins in the last two games.

Meanwhile, Australia, who also named their playing XI for the first ODI, have given their new opening pair of Matt Short and Jake Fraser-McGurk a license to attack the new ball.

The duo are in direct competition for the role of Travis Head's opening partner in the Champions Trophy next year.

"Both of them in T20 and one-dayers have been pretty scary to bowl at so that's our message to them," Australia skipper Pat Cummins said ahead of the first ODI in Melbourne. "My preference would be they give it a good crack for sure."

Former Victorian teammates Short and Fraser-McGurk will open the batting together for the first time in national colours on Monday in their hometown of Melbourne, with Cummins also returning for his first ODI since last year's World Cup final triumph.

SPORTS REPORTER

Since Bangladesh's maiden triumph in SAFF Women's Championship two years ago, there have been strong recommendations for taking necessary initiatives to take the country's women's football beyond the South Asian region, a demand that has only been strengthened following the successful title



BFF'S DEMANDS

Dedicated ground

BKSP-like Academy

Playing at least 5-6 FIFA friendlies

Financial support for training camp

Financial support for coaching staff



defence in Nepal a few days ago.

Bangladesh Football Federation's women's wing chairman Mahfuza Akter Kiron believes taking women's football beyond South Asia is not possible without the financial and infrastructural help from the government as she feels the game's local governing body has been struggling to run training camp and holding league and FIFA friendly matches over the years.

"We don't have any infrastructure. We don't have ground for women's football; we even can't do practice properly. In this context, it is a miracle for the women's football team to become back-to-back champions in South Asia," Kiron told reporters at the

BFF House yesterday.

"We don't have shortage of effort to develop women's football. We also asked the previous government for financial and infrastructural support. Without the support, we will not be able to take football to the next level. We also make the same demands to the interim government," said Kiron, who returned from an AFC Congress on Saturday.

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus on Saturday accorded a reception to the SAFF winning team at the State Guest House, Jamuna, and asked the players to present their individual demands in written.

Thanking the chief adviser for the reception and financial

incentive for the women footballers, Kiron said, "We know the Chief Adviser promised to address the players' individual demands but we, the BFF, also want to place a development proposal before the interim government after discussing the matter with the newly elected executive committee."

"We can't roll competitions for women's football regularly for the lack of the grounds, so we want a dedicated ground for women footballers," Kiron said. "If the government provides us with a BKSP-like academy and a training ground, it will be useful towards the development of women's football."

Kiron also said that they would seek financial help for the coaching staff including foreign coaches and help for arranging FIFA friendly matches.

"The women's team don't often get opportunity to play FIFA friendly matches due to shortage of fund, so if the government supports us to play at least five to six friendly matches in the FIFA window every year, it is possible to go beyond the South Asian level," said Kiron.

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Star INTERVIEW

Graft was biggest hurdle in drawing FDI over last 15yrs

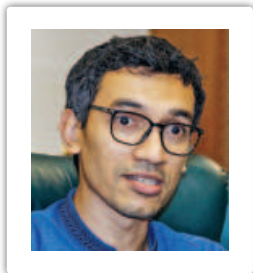
Says head of gov't's key investment promotion agencies BIDA, BEZA

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Corruption and policy inconsistencies have posed significant challenges to attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) in Bangladesh over the past 15 years, said Ashik Chowdhury, the first private sector leader to head the government's key investment promotion agencies.

"Countries such as India and Vietnam have successfully attracted FDI by shifting away from protective policies," the new executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) said.

"In Bangladesh, the gap between policy and execution will be bridged by promoting a results-driven, investor-focused approach," he said in an interview with The Daily Star.



Ashik Chowdhury

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Monsoon brings fortune for Kaushalya Thikadar as the swollen waterbodies in the Dumurtala village of Jashore's Abhaynagar become the perfect hosts for the growth of waterlilies, locally known as shapla – the stems of which are winter delicacy in the country. She collects around 25-30 shapla sticks from different canals and beels every day and sells them at Tk 10 per bundle of seven to 10 sticks. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Dream and drive change Yunus urges youth



BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday encouraged the youth to set their minds and dream of bringing positive change to the country.

"I especially encourage young people to set their minds, envision, and dream. A dream is the beginning of change. If you dream, it can happen; if you don't, it never will," he said while addressing members of the NDC and AFWC courses at his office in Teigaon.

He emphasised that SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

HOME MINISTRY Interim govt okays merger of 2 divisions

The move aimed at streamlining duties

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Chief Adviser's (CA) Office has given in-principle approval for merging the Public Security Division and the Security Services Division under the Ministry of Home Affairs, a move expected to improve coordination and reduce costs.

A letter signed by AKM Moniruzzaman, director of the CA Office, was sent yesterday to the Cabinet Secretary, instructing the next steps for the merger. The decision aims to streamline responsibilities and enhance efficiency given the overlapping functions of both divisions.

Confirming the development, a source at the CA Office told The Daily Star, "The chief adviser has given the nod following a request from the home ministry. Now, further review will be conducted by the secretary-level committee, finance ministry, and public administration ministry."

The two divisions have often faced issues with coordination.

The Public Security SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

KALURGHAT ROAD-RAIL BRIDGE Ministry decides to review cost 17 days after approval

Committee to reassess Tk 1,156.77cr project

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The railways ministry has decided to review the cost of the Kalurghat road-rail bridge project, 17 days after the interim government approved the Tk 1,156.77 crore project.

It has formed a four-member committee, led by ASM Ashraful Alam, additional secretary (audit and ICT) of the ministry, to submit a report reviewing the estimated project cost, said officials.

The body will have representatives from the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Bridges Division, and Buet, reads the ministry circular issued on October 24.

"Following the directive of our adviser [railways ministry adviser], the committee was formed to review the component-wise cost of the project," Railways Ministry Secretary Abdul Baki told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the committee will check whether any unwanted component was added to the project or cost was inflated irrationally.

Although the body has been asked to submit its report within seven working days, the RTHD named its representative HM Salauddin Monzu, a senior assistant secretary, for the committee on October 30.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Adani dues to be cleared fast

Says CA's press secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will accelerate the payment of the dues of Adani Power after the Indian power giant threatened to cut off electricity supply if its outstanding amount is not cleared by November 7.

"We are trying our best to accelerate the payment as our reserve is swelling... Now we are able to make international payment without digging into the main reserves," said Shafiqul Alam, the chief adviser's press secretary, at a briefing yesterday.

The government is expediting the payment to Adani.

"We are hopeful we will be able to repay about \$700 million to Adani as soon as possible," he said, adding that the backlog of dues to Adani was created by the previous government as it did not pay the bills on time.

He, however, said the power ministry has not received any correspondence from the Indian power company about suspending electricity supply over payment issues.

"If it is true then, we are dismayed and shocked. We will not be hostage to any individual power producer,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CONSTITUTION'S FATE Decision after proposals, talks

Says head of reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Constitution Reform Commission will seek proposals from political parties and other stakeholders and then decide whether the constitution should be amended or rewritten.

"We will reach out to political parties, and request them to submit written opinions and specific proposals. We will not sit with them, but we will discuss with other stakeholders regarding reforms," Prof Ali Riaz, chief of the Constitution Reform Commission, said this during its first formal press conference held at the LD Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday afternoon.

The government, not the commission, will talk with political parties about their proposals, he added.

Prof Riaz said, "Every written proposal and opinion submitted by political parties and other stakeholders will sincerely be reviewed by the commission, and efforts will be made to reflect those in the commission's recommendations as much as possible."

Later, the commission will consult with experts, lawyers, representatives of civil society organisations, prominent civil society figures, representatives of professional organisations, young thinkers, and representatives of cultural organisations and seek written proposals from them.

The commission will also hold discussions with representatives of the Anti-discrimination Student Movement and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee.

Responding to journalists' questions whether the constitution will be amended or rewritten, Prof Riaz said, "We cannot say yet what kind of proposals we will receive... We will decide whether the constitution will be amended or rewritten after getting the proposals."

He said the commission will begin discussions with stakeholders next week.

Besides, the commission will gather views and proposals of the people through its website, which will be functional from tomorrow.

He added that the website address will be shared with the media through a press release.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Prof Ali Riaz

4 die in bike collision near Padma Bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

Shariatpur

Four people died in a head-on collision between two motorcycles near the Padma Bridge's South Toll Plaza in Jajira upazila of Shariatpur last night.

The deceased are Nabil Farazi, 18, Sayem Madar, 19, Arman Dhali, 18, and Khidir Madar, 20, all of whom are from Jajira, said Md Ahsan Habib, additional superintendent of police in Shariatpur.

He said the incident occurred around 9:00pm on the road adjacent to Sheikh Russel Cantonment near the toll plaza.

Locals along with law enforcers from the South Padma Bridge Police Station rescued and sent them to a hospital. "They died on the way," said Habib.

Quoting locals, he mentioned that both motorcycles were unregistered and driving at high speeds.

The police official said the bodies have been sent for autopsies.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) reported at least 4,153 deaths in 4,494 road crashes nationwide between January and September this year. In comparison, those figures were 4,016 and 3,727 in the first nine months of last year.

14 govt hospitals renamed

Major facilities in Dhaka among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry has renamed 14 government medical college hospitals and other healthcare institutions across the country after the names of their respective districts.

A circular signed by MA Akmal Hossain Azad, senior secretary of the ministry's Health Services Division, issued yesterday announced the name changes.

In Dhaka, the Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute will now be known as the National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, and the Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute and Hospital has been renamed the National Gastroenterology Institute & Hospital.

Other institutions SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Palestinians mourn near the bodies of their relatives, who were killed during Israeli bombardment, in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli attacks kill 31 Palestinians in Gaza

Four children among dead; Egypt hosts post-offensive talks on Gaza as part of truce efforts

REUTERS, Cairo

At least 31 people were killed during Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip yesterday, Palestinian medics said, with nearly half of the deaths in northern areas where the army has waged a month-long campaign it says aims to prevent Hamas regrouping.

Palestinians said the new aerial and ground offensives and forced evacuations were "ethnic cleansing" aimed at emptying two northern Gaza towns and a camp of their population in order to create buffer zones. Israel denies this, saying it is fighting Hamas who launch attacks from there.

Medics said at least 13 Palestinians were killed in separate attacks on houses in Beit Lahiya town and Jabalia, the largest of the enclave's eight historic refugee camps and the focus of the army's new offensive.

The rest were killed in separate Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City and in southern areas, including one in Khan Younis, which health officials said had killed eight people, including four children.

Israel has not commented on its military actions in Gaza yesterday.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) said four children were among six people wounded Saturday in a strike on a polio vaccination centre in northern Gaza.