

TRUMP IS BACK

Swing states turn red; GoP takes control of Senate

AGENCIES

Donald Trump was elected US president, capping a remarkable comeback four years after he was voted out of the White House and ushering in a new American leadership likely to test democratic institutions at home and relations abroad.

Trump, 78, recaptured the White House yesterday after a campaign marked by dark rhetoric that deepened the polarisation in the country, prevailing after two attempts on his life and a late decision by Democrats to run Kamala Harris when President Joe Biden withdrew from the race in July.

Harris, the US vice president, called Trump to congratulate him for winning the 2024 presidential election, one of her senior aides said.

She is expected to deliver her concession speech around 6:00pm (2300 GMT).

The former president's victory in the swing state of Wisconsin pushed him over the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the presidency. As of 8:00am ET (1300 GMT) Trump had won 295 electoral votes to Harris' 226 with only two states yet to be counted, Edison Research projected.

He also led Harris by more than 5 million votes in the popular count.

"America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate," Trump said early yesterday to a roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Centre in Florida.

Trump prevailed despite persistently low approval ratings. Impeached twice, he has been criminally indicted four times and found civilly liable for sexual abuse and defamation. In May, Trump was convicted by a New York jury of falsifying business records to cover up hush money payments to a porn star.

Trump's political career had appeared to be over after his false claims of election fraud led a mob of supporters to storm the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, in a failed bid to overturn his 2020 defeat.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Donald Trump gestures to the crowd while accompanied by his wife Melania at a victory rally at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida, yesterday. Trump thanked American for electing him as the 47th president of the US.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Harris calls Trump, concedes

AGENCIES

Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris called Donald Trump yesterday to congratulate the Republican leader on his US presidential election win, two aides to Harris said.



The call formally ends the bitter contest between the vice-president and the former president.

The aides said she emphasised the importance of a peaceful transfer of power and being a president for all Americans.

"President Trump acknowledged Vice President Harris on her strength, professionalism, and tenacity throughout the campaign, and both leaders agreed on the importance of unifying the country,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

What second term will mean for US, world

REUTERS, Washington

A Donald Trump presidential election victory would have huge implications for US trade policy, climate change, the war in Ukraine, electric vehicles, Americans' taxes and illegal immigration.

While some of his proposals would require congressional approval, here is a summary of the policies he has said he would pursue in his second four-year term in office:

MORE TARIFFS

Trump has floated the idea of a 10 percent or more tariff on all goods imported into the US, a move he says would eliminate the trade deficit. But critics say it would lead to higher prices for American consumers and global economic instability.

He has also said he should have the authority to set higher tariffs

on countries that have put tariffs on US imports. He has threatened to impose a 200 percent tariff on some imported cars, saying he is determined in particular to keep cars from Mexico from coming into the country.

MASS DEPORTATIONS

Trump has vowed to reinstate his first-term policies targeting illegal border crossings and to forge ahead with sweeping new restrictions.

He has pledged to limit access to asylum at the US-Mexico border and to embark on the biggest deportation effort in American history, which would likely trigger legal challenges and opposition from Democrats in Congress.

DRILLING AWAY

Trump has vowed to increase US production of fossil fuels by easing

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Prof Yunus congratulates Trump

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday congratulated Donald Trump for his historic win in the US presidential election.

"I am delighted to convey, on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh, my heartfelt felicitations to you on your victory in the US Presidential Election 2024," he said in a congratulatory message.

"Electing you as the US President for a second term

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



NEW TRUMP ERA Dhaka needs to be more proactive

Say foreign policy analysts

PORIMOL PALMA

The victory of Donald Trump, who focuses more on America's domestic interests than on anything else, means the recent trend of progress in Dhaka-Washington ties might slow down, foreign policy analysts said.

Trump has secured 295 votes in the Electoral College so far, beating Democratic candidate Kamala Harris.

The analysts, however, said Dhaka does not need to worry; instead, it should work more proactively than before in getting what it needs from Washington.

"After Donald Trump's previous victory

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TIB expresses concern over press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing serious concerns over press freedom in the country, Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said persistent attacks, ill-motivated lawsuits and widespread harassment are not conducive to an anti-discriminatory "new Bangladesh".

In a press statement, the graft watchdog urged the interim government to implement strict measures to curb these "alarming trends" to ensure a congenial environment for journalists and the media.

In 14 years during the previous regime's rule, Bangladesh's position in the World Press Freedom Index fell by 42 notches, with all standards of media freedom consistently declining, said TIB Executive Director Ittekkharuzzaman.

He said the sacrifices made by students during the July-August mass uprising presented the nation with a unique opportunity to build a "new Bangladesh".

However, despite the interim government's repeated commitments to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Don't indulge in activities disliked by the people

Tarique urges BNP leaders, activists

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday



urged his party leaders and activists to avoid activities disliked by the people and focus on earning their trust and love instead of becoming overconfident about electoral victory.

Speaking at a discussion, he also stressed the need for the people's political and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Star INTERVIEW

'Business-friendly environment remains elusive'

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

A congenial business environment is yet to be restored under the interim government, said Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Pharmaceuticals.

Until that happens, fresh investment or business expansion plans would be on hold, Chowdhury told The Daily Star in an interview recently.

"Square Group also has plans to expand the group's business both at home and abroad, but this is not the time for investment as the congenial and business-friendly environment is absent now."

Regarding the recent labour unrest, he suggested minimising the communication gap between the factory owners and workers.

"There should be regular interactions between the workers and owners – if there is any grievance of the workers, their views should be heard."

Only police and the army cannot manage the problem of worker unrest, he said, adding his pharmaceutical factory was also attacked during the time of weak law and order situation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Tapan Chowdhury



School students had to carefully tread on bricks on their way back home as the capital's Mugda road was waterlogged yesterday after rain the evening before. Due to the poor drainage system in the area, the road gets waterlogged even after little rain.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

স্মরণ

এনসিসি ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এর অন্যতম
উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক ও সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান
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গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করছি এবং বিদেহী
আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এক ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ

এনসিসি ব্যাংক
আপনার সর্বোচ্চ স্বপ্নের



Clockwise from left, Supporters of Donald Trump celebrate after the Fox Network called the election in his favour at his rally at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach, Florida yesterday. Tearful supporters react to election results during an election night event for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris at Howard University in Washington, DC. People react to early election results during US Presidential Election Night Watch Party, at Manuel's Tavern, in Atlanta, Georgia.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

Business-friendly

FROM PAGE 1
Chowdhury is also a director of the Nirapon, which was earlier the North American garment factory inspection and remediation platform Alliance.
Nirapon has been urging the local factory owners to implement a living wage and ensure freedom of association through trade unions.
However, international brands and retailers are reluctant to raise the prices such that the factory owners could pay a living wage to workers.
“When the question of price hike is raised, they [the international clothing retailers and brands] say that they cannot do it as it is a matter of competition.”
Chowdhury gave an example of freedom of association and industrial relations.
“Many years ago, at our Pabna industrial plant, the workers demanded a salary hike and the then chairman of the group Samson H Chowdhury doubled the salary although the workers demanded half of the salary hike. That made the workers very happy. It was possible because of a warm relationship between the workers and owners.”
Similarly, whenever and whatever the workers demanded something, the chairman honoured that.

“People think the majority of businessmen made money in the wrong way – that perception needs to be changed. Businessmen are seen as villains here. It is true that many have done bad things but all are not bad. Few big groups of companies made money through corruption and they did these things in connivance with the government and in public. They do not represent the whole business community.”
But it is also true that many factory owners do not pay their workers on time.
“But they are buying new cars and enjoying the life of luxury.”
About the banking sector, Chowdhury questioned the logic behind having so many banks.
“In which country are there so many banks?”
With the money deposited by poor people, some are claiming themselves to be bank owners.
“Had the government not patronised them, they wouldn’t have had the chance to become such monsters.”
Chowdhury also touched upon the health sector, which is going through a tough time.
“It is difficult to negotiate with the current government as they do not know what is the priority of the government and there is a huge gap between businessmen and the government.”
For instance, the government has been reforming the pharmaceutical industry, which may affect the prices of medicines.
“Many things are being touched in many areas simultaneously. You cannot do reforms in one day – reforms should be made step by step. Why are the people going to private hospitals? The government should realise it. This government did not do anything to revive the government hospitals. The hospital which was supposed to be built with Tk 500 crore was made with Tk 1,000 crore and no doctor could be found in those hospitals. The government should address it.”

Harris calls Trump
FROM PAGE 1
said Trump’s campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung.
Harris was expected to deliver her concession speech at 2300 GMT.
Meanwhile, Democratic US President Joe Biden yesterday called to congratulate Donald Trump on his presidential election victory and invite him to meet at the White House.
The White said Biden will address the nation today.
The White House, in a statement, said Biden also committed “to ensuring a smooth transition and emphasised the importance of working to bring the country together.” Biden has also spoken with Harris, it added.

Trump is back

FROM PAGE 1
But he swept away challengers inside his Republican Party and then beat Democratic candidate Harris by capitalising on voter concerns about high prices and what Trump claimed, without evidence, was a rise in crime due to illegal immigration.
Republicans also won a US Senate majority, but neither party appeared to have an edge in the fight for control of the House of Representatives where Republicans currently hold a narrow majority.
Major stock markets around the world rallied following Trump’s victory, and the dollar was set for its biggest one-day jump since 2020.
Voters identified jobs and the economy as the country’s most pressing problem, according to Reuters/Ipsos opinion polls. Many Americans remained frustrated by higher prices even amid record-high stock markets, fast-growing wages and low unemployment.
With the Biden administration

Don’t indulge in activities disliked by the people

FROM PAGE 1
economic empowerment to ensure the sustainability of democracy, development, and state reforms.
“I call upon the party leaders, activists, supporters, and well-wishers to earn the trust and love of the people, and stay with them.”
The BNP hosted the programme at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.
Tarique said the BNP would surely emerge victorious if people could exercise their voting rights in a free and fair election.
The BNP leader said the head of the Awami League regime fled the country after rendering all state institutions dysfunctional and making the country dependent on imports. “But people are still bearing the brunt of the consequences of 15 years of misrule.”
Through the defeat of the AL on

Prof Yunus congratulates Trump

FROM PAGE 1
reflects that your leadership and vision have resonated with the people of the United States of America. I am confident that under your stewardship, the United States will thrive and continue to inspire others around the world,” the message read.
Yunus said Bangladesh and the US share a long history of friendship and collaboration across numerous areas of mutual interest, reported BSS.
The relationship continued to grow in depth and breadth during

What second term will mean for US, world

FROM PAGE 1
the permitting process for drilling on federal land and would encourage new natural gas pipelines. He has said he would reauthorize oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.
TAX RELIEF
Along with his trade and energy agendas, Trump has promised to slash federal regulations that he says limit job creation. He has pledged to keep in place a broad 2017 tax cut that he signed while in office, and his economic team has discussed a further round of individual and corporate tax cuts beyond those enacted in his first term.
NO FEDERAL ABORTION BAN
Trump appointed three justices to the US Supreme Court who were part of the majority that did away with Roe v. Wade’s constitutional protection

taking much of the blame, a majority of voters said they trusted Trump more than Harris to address the issues.
Hispanics, traditionally Democratic voters, and lower-income households hit hardest by inflation helped fuel Trump’s election victory. His loyal base of rural, white and non-college educated voters again showed up in force.
World leaders from Europe to Asia congratulated Trump, whose victory will have major implications for US trade and climate change policies, the war in Ukraine, Americans’ taxes and immigration.
Harris fell short in her 15-week sprint as a candidate, failing to galvanise enough support to defeat Trump, who occupied the White House from 2017-21, or to allay voters’ concerns about the economy and immigration.
Harris had warned that Trump wanted unchecked presidential power and posed a danger to democracy.

August 5, it has been proved once again that there is no alternative to a greater unity among Bangladesh’s nationalist forces to safeguard the freedom of the country and its people, the BNP leader said.
He said people expect the government to take effective steps to build a safe and prosperous Bangladesh for the future generations.
The conspiracies by the associates of the Hasina regime have not stopped, and attempts are being made to turn the interim government into a failed one, Tarique said.
He said the AL government made efforts to brand Bangladesh a militant country to cling to power. “The defeated forces of August 5 are once again making sinister attempts to portray Bangladesh as a communal country.”
He urged the pro-Bangladesh forces to stay alert to the conspiracies of the

Trump’s previous term in the office, he said.
The chief adviser said he firmly believes that the possibilities are endless as the two friendly nations work towards exploring newer avenues of partnership.
“... Aligning with our commitment to a peaceful and inclusive society, the government and the peace-loving people of Bangladesh look forward to partner and collaborate in your efforts in addressing the global challenges in the pursuit of peace,

for abortion. He likely would continue to appoint federal judges who would uphold abortion limits.
A PUSH TO END WARS
Trump has been critical of US support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, and has said he could end the war in 24 hours if elected – although he has not said how he would achieve this. He has suggested Ukraine may have to yield some of its territory if a peace deal is to be struck, an idea Ukraine has consistently rejected.
Trump has also said that under his presidency the US would fundamentally rethink “Nato’s purpose and Nato’s mission.”
He has backed Israel in its fight against Hamas in Gaza but has urged it to wrap up its offensive. Trump has said if he becomes president, he will “stop the suffering and destruction in Lebanon,” but has not said how he

Nearly three quarters of voters say American democracy is under threat, according to Edison Research exit polls, underscoring the polarisation in a nation where divisions have only grown starker during a fiercely competitive race.
Trump ran a campaign characterised by apocalyptic language. He called the United States a “garbage can” for immigrants, pledged to save the economy from “obliteration” and cast some rivals as the “enemy within.”
His diatribes were often aimed at migrants, who he said were “poisoning the blood of the country,” or Harris, whom he frequently derided as unintelligent.
Despite legal woes and controversies, Trump is only the second former president to win a second term after leaving the White House. The first was Grover Cleveland, who served two four-year terms in the late 1800s.

defeated forces.
Tarique said three months may not be enough to assess the success and failure of a government.
He said it is crucial to strictly control the prices of essentials, particularly to alleviate the hardships of the farmers, daily wage workers, low-income people, and the lower-middle class families.
He warned that if the government fails to bring commodity prices within the reach of the ordinary people, all its reform efforts would be questionable.
BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said the nation was freed from the AL’s fascist rule on August 5 through the student-led mass uprising. “We must now proceed with caution to resist the plots of the fascist forces.”
He urged the interim government to complete state reforms to promptly hold a credible national election.

harmony, stability, and prosperity for all,” Yunus said.
His Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam at a media briefing at the Foreign Service Academy in the evening said, “We welcome this [his win]. We hope Bangladesh-US relations will be deepened and relations will reach a new height.”
Responding to a question on Trump’s remarks on Bangladesh recently, Shafiqul said he was probably misinformed, reports UNB.

will achieve that.
INVESTIGATING ENEMIES
Trump has pledged at times to use federal law enforcement agencies to investigate his political foes, including election officials, lawyers and party donors.
Along that line, Trump has said he will consider appointing a special prosecutor to probe Biden, though he has not specified the grounds for such an investigation.
PURGING THE BUREAUCRACY
Trump would seek to decimate what he terms the “deep state” – career federal employees he says are clandestinely pursuing their own agendas – through an executive order that would reclassify thousands of workers to enable them to be fired. That would likely be challenged in court.

Allow Maulana Saad to attend Ijtema

Demands faction of Tablighi Jamaat loyal to the Indian scholar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Tablighi Jamaat loyal to Maulana Saad Kandhalvi yesterday demanded that the Indian scholar be allowed to attend the upcoming Biswa Ijtema and lead the first phase of the annual congregation.
The demand came in response to a nine-point demand issued by Ulama Mashayekh Bangladesh at the capital’s Suhrawardy Udyan on Tuesday, calling for a ban on Maulana Saad and his followers at Bishwa Ijtema.
Ulama Mashayekh Bangladesh is reportedly aligned with Zubair ul Hassan, another Indian Islamic scholar and the fourth amir of Tablighi Jamaat in India.
In a press conference, the pro-Saad group also proposed an open debate involving Islamic scholars to address “confusion” and “misinformation” allegedly propagated by the rival Zubair faction.
Azim Uddin, the khatib of Kakrail Mosque and a supporter of Maulana Saad, said their group was operating under the banner “Dawat and Tablighi’s Ulama and General Members,” which is apolitical and follows peaceful principles.
Azim Uddin accused the Zubair faction of “influencing scholars and using madrasa students to create discord,” which he claimed undermines religious harmony.
He also criticised the Zubair faction’s gathering at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, alleging that “false and misleading statements” were made, leading to public confusion. According to Azim, the pro-Saad group had called for unity on November 3, but “provocations from the Zubair faction” have fueled division within the Tablighi Jamaat.

TIB expresses concern over press freedom

FROM PAGE 1
ensure media freedom and protect it from external influences, the assault on media and journalists is continuing, he added.
“TIB notes with deep concern that various self-interested groups are intensifying attacks on certain media organisations, engaging in slander, threats, and intimidation.
“It appears that attempts are being made to suppress the media, harass journalists, or manipulate coverage whenever it challenges the interests of powerful factions. Such incidents serve as a troubling signal for the future of a free press in Bangladesh,” Iftekharuzzaman said.
He questioned if the media’s freedom amount to a hollow assurance. He said the attacks reflect negatively on the “new Bangladesh.”
“Arbitrary threats, attacks, sieges, and, in certain instances, trivial lawsuits designed to resolve personal disputes or the complete revocation of accreditation cards are unmistakable indicators of an anti-people authoritarian regime.”
He said efforts to regulate the media, and echoing the practices of the fallen authoritarian regime contradict the ethos of free thought and the anti-discrimination principles that characterise the “new Bangladesh.”

Dhaka needs

FROM PAGE 1
in 2016, we saw how he shifted the focus on domestic issues, including the anti-immigrant legislations and withdrawal from international agencies. Now that he won by a bigger margin, he’s likely to do the same again,” said Munshi Faiz Ahmad, former ambassador and chairman of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.
He said the Biden administration has been providing full support to Bangladesh’s interim government in carrying out reforms, development activities and climate change adaptation, and also for the Rohingyas.
“I think these will slow down. We’ll need to be proactive to pursue these in the future,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh’s export to the US is over \$10 billion a year and an estimated 5 lakh Bangladeshis live in the North American country. They are a top source of foreign remittance flow to Bangladesh.
Prof Amena Mohsin, of Dhaka University’s international relations, said Trump is anti-immigrant and there is a possibility he will be strict on immigrants’ family reunion scheme.
“He also spoke of imposing tax on remittance that Americans sent to their countries of origin. This will have negative impacts on countries like Bangladesh.”
The Biden administration had been focused on democratic values and human rights. Sanctions on Rab and announcement of visa restrictions were part of it. After the fall of the Awami League regime, Washington has been fully supporting the reform initiatives in Dhaka. At the same time, Bangladesh-India relations have somewhat strained since Hasina’s taking shelter in India.
“The fact is that Narendra Modi has a personal friendship with Donald Trump, [and so,] Modi will try to influence the US on its Bangladesh policy,” Amena added.
Though Munshi Faiz too said this was a possibility, he added that Trump might not change the US policy on Bangladesh as it is working to make significant reforms in its institutions.
Both analysts said Bangladesh is

“The suppression of dissent and the insecurity experienced by the media will inevitably lead to the resurgence of authoritarianism.”
Iftekharuzzaman said, “TIB thinks that journalists accused of specific criminal acts or those actively involved in the past authoritarian regime should be thoroughly probed. However, incidents such as arbitrary cases against journalists labelling them as the associates of the fallen authoritarian government; the cancellation of permanent and temporary press accreditation cards given by the Press Information Department, threats, and dismissals do not convey any positive message regarding media freedom in the country.
“Rather, they serve the interests of those who follow the perilous theory that dissent is the friend of tyranny.”
The TIB does not believe that any journalist should be penalised for engaging in journalism, he said.
The graft watchdog urged the interim government to act swiftly and forcefully to establish a fearless atmosphere for independent journalists. “If not, there is a serious chance that media freedom may turn into an empty promise.”
The TIB also urged journalists and the media to maintain ethical journalistic standards and prevent the abuse of their authority.

strategically important for the US, and it was during Trump’s previous tenure when the US designed the Indo-Pacific Strategy, which experts say, is aimed at countering China.
“Trump will continue its anti-China policy including through tariffs and other measures,” said Munshi Faiz.
The trade with Bangladesh is not likely to be affected, the analysts said, adding that the GSP facility that was suspended by the US in 2013 may be reinstated if Trump, who is more focused on trade and commerce, finds it economy-wise more beneficial for the US as it is likely to reduce imports from China.
During his election campaign, Donald Trump spoke of ending the Russia-Ukraine war.
“He may start negotiating with both Ukraine and Russia for ceasefire. In that case, the economic shockwaves caused by the war may be eased. This will have positive impacts on the global economy, including that of Bangladesh,” Munshi said.
Amena, however, thinks the European NATO allies will not want a ceasefire with Russia holding vast swathes of Ukrainian territories. “So, we need to wait to see what comes.”
Both the analysts said Trump, who was behind the Abraham Accord during his previous term to ease relations between Israel and Arab Muslim countries, will possibly not be able to facilitate any ceasefire between Israel and Hamas or Hezbollah.
“The Palestinians will not accept any ceasefire with the Israeli forces occupying large part of Gaza,” said Amena.
She said she is worried over Trump’s relations with the authoritarian regimes.
“When a president of the US takes nationalistic, racist and authoritarian policy, it is not a good sign for the world.
“It’s important for Bangladesh to diversify its trade, strengthen its capacity, train its people and explore markets in various parts of the world ... We have to be more pragmatic and proactive in terms of trade, economy and diplomacy.”

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Speakers at a roundtable titled “Fostering Gender-Sensitive Climate Actions for Marginalised Communities,” held at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Address plight of women in climate-hit areas

Speakers stress gender-inclusive solutions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Victims from climate-hit coastal areas at an event yesterday said they are facing worsening erosion, frequent floods, excessive rainfall, droughts, increased salinity, and fog – issues that impact women the most.

They also said many men from these areas have had to leave their homes due to a lack of local employment opportunities that often led to not returning, leaving their wives and children abandoned and struggling to survive alone.

The victims shared their experiences at a roundtable discussion titled “Fostering Gender-Sensitive Climate Actions for Marginalised Communities,” held at The Daily Star Centre.

Fahmida Nasreen, a student from Lalmonirhat, said her parents used to say in the past that floods would occur two or three times a year.

“Now, we experience floods at least six or seven times annually. This year, we have faced floods at least six times already,” she said.

She said river erosion in their region has become a severe issue.

Maria Murmu, a middle-aged woman from Dinajpur, said they now struggle regularly with excessive cold, unseasonal rains, and droughts.

“Amid this situation, we can’t go fishing. If we try to find other work, there’s nothing available, and we end up paying brokers Tk 50 just to get day-labour jobs,” she said.

Durga Mandal, a resident of Satkhira, said

everything she owned, including her house, was washed away during Cyclone Sidr. “Since then, we have been struggling just to survive, let alone provide an education for my children,” she said.

Mamun Hossain Mithu, a youth volunteer from Satkhira, echoed these struggles, saying women in his area face serious health issues, including menstrual and reproductive issues, due to the haphazard cultivation of shrimp and crabs.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Women and Children Affairs Adviser Sharmeen Murshid urged researchers to explore new solutions to address the crises faced by coastal communities.

She emphasised the need to increase advocacy efforts and raise voices on a global level.

“Climate change often causes male partners to leave, leaving women to survive alone with their children and making their economic conditions even more vulnerable,” she said.

The adviser advocated for a comprehensive policy on shrimp and crab farming by designating specific areas for cultivation and conservation.

Prof Tania Haque of Dhaka University’s Women and Gender Studies Department stressed the importance of identifying specific vulnerabilities of women in coastal areas.

“The climate crisis has placed a double burden on women, worsening their vulnerability in an already challenging situation,” she said.

Dilurba Haider, programme specialist for DRR, Climate Change, and Humanitarian Actions at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

HC starts hearing in 10-truck arms haul case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has begun hearing on the death reference and appeals in the sensational 10-truck arms haul case in Chattogram.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Nasreen Akter began the hearing on Tuesday with Deputy Attorney General Sultana Akter Rubi reading out from the paper book, that contains all the details of the case including trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and other documents.

After yesterday’s proceedings, the HC set today for resuming further hearing on the case.

If a lower court sentences any person to death in a case, its judgment is examined by the HC through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

RHD issues directives again, but will they be enforced?

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) has issued a six-point directive, including removing illegal vehicles and structures from or along the highways to reduce road crashes and congestion.

The department yesterday gave the directives to all of its field and project offices following a recent letter from the Public Administration Ministry.

The ministry sent the letter after its senior secretary Mokhes ur Rahman made some observations about road problems and gave suggestions after visiting several districts.

However, many of these directives were given on several earlier occasions, but those were not implemented properly, leaving the roads unsafe and prone to congestion.

“I have received those directives, and thus I have forwarded those to all my field offices. We will try to implement those with the help of other government agencies,” RHD Chief Engineer Syed Moinul Hasan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Replying to a question about the non-

implementation of some of these directives earlier, he said, “There are some things that you can’t fix quickly. But we are trying.”

On October 24, Public Administration Ministry wrote a letter to the Road Transport

DIRECTIVES
➤ Deployment of law enforcers
➤ Drives against encroachers
➤ Actions against slow-moving vehicles
➤ Shifting markets from highways
➤ Ensuring vehicle lights at night
➤ Installing traffic signs, boundary fences

and Highways Division and the Public Security Division.

In the letter, the ministry said operations of non-motorised and slow-moving vehicles

on national highways and other highways were seen obstructing long-route vehicles and increasing the risk of road crashes.

Unplanned markets (Hat, Bazar) and illegal commercial establishments along the highways were seen causing congestion, resulting in wastage of fuel, delays in reaching destinations, and obstructing emergency services.

Lack of proper road maintenance is causing traffic congestion, it wrote, adding that lack of enough traffic signs and post markings was causing an increasing number of road crashes.

The senior secretary gave six suggestions. Those are – deployment of at least six police or ansar members round the clock for uninterrupted and safer vehicular movement; carrying out regular mobile court drives to evict unplanned and illegal commercial establishments; shifting markets from along the highways; taking legal action against non-motorised and slow-moving vehicles on highways; ensuring that the vehicles operating at night have necessary indicator lights and removing illegal lights from vehicles; and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Media freedom key to democracy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Media freedom and active engagement of citizens in holding authorities accountable are key to democracy, said analysts at an event marking the US presidential election yesterday.

They also said that disinformation and fake news have become threats to democracy, which suggests that fact-checking is critical in the digital age.

The US Embassy in Dhaka hosted the presidential election watch party at the American Center, offering a unique opportunity for Bangladeshi youth leaders, journalists and civil society to experience the US electoral process firsthand.

The event featured interactive activities, such as a mock election where attendees voted for their favourite American sweets; two panel discussions; and two speakers from the US.

“The US electoral process is a testament to democracy in action,” said US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires, a Megan Bouldin.

“By engaging Bangladeshi youth in this experience, we are fostering a better understanding of democracy and the importance of civic engagement,” she added.

During a panel discussion, Shameem Ara Sheuli, Bangladesh country representative at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Bangladesh now a transit for cocaine smuggling

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A sharp rise in the smuggling of cocaine, which mainly enters Bangladesh from African and South American countries, has become a new headache for authorities.

Law enforcers have seized around 48,358 kilogrammes of cocaine in the first six months of this year alone, according to the Annual Report 2023-2024 of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC).

There has also been a rise in the number of seizures this year compared to the previous two years.

The annual report shows that around 13kg of cocaine was seized in 2023, while the figure was 4.57kg in 2022.

On January 25 this year, DNC, along with Airport Armed Police Battalion (APBn), seized 8.3kg of cocaine at Dhaka Airport, a record bust in the country.

The DNC officials found that the smugglers were transporting cocaine to India through Bangladesh from certain East African countries for years. Law enforcers arrested a Malawian, four Nigerians, and a Tanzanian for their involvement in the smuggling at that time.

DNC officials said the international narcotics syndicates are exploiting Bangladesh as a smuggling route and that the majority of cocaine consignments came from Nigeria, Tanzania, Malawi,

Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.

Tanvir Momtaz, director (operations & intelligence) of the DNC, said, “Cocaine is mainly entering the country through air routes from African countries. The smugglers are using Bangladesh as the transit.”

“The cocaine consignments are then smuggled out of the country, mainly towards India, since we share a porous border,” he added.

DNC officials believe that cocaine currently has no market in Bangladesh due to it being highly expensive, as each kg of cocaine sells for around Tk 10 crore.

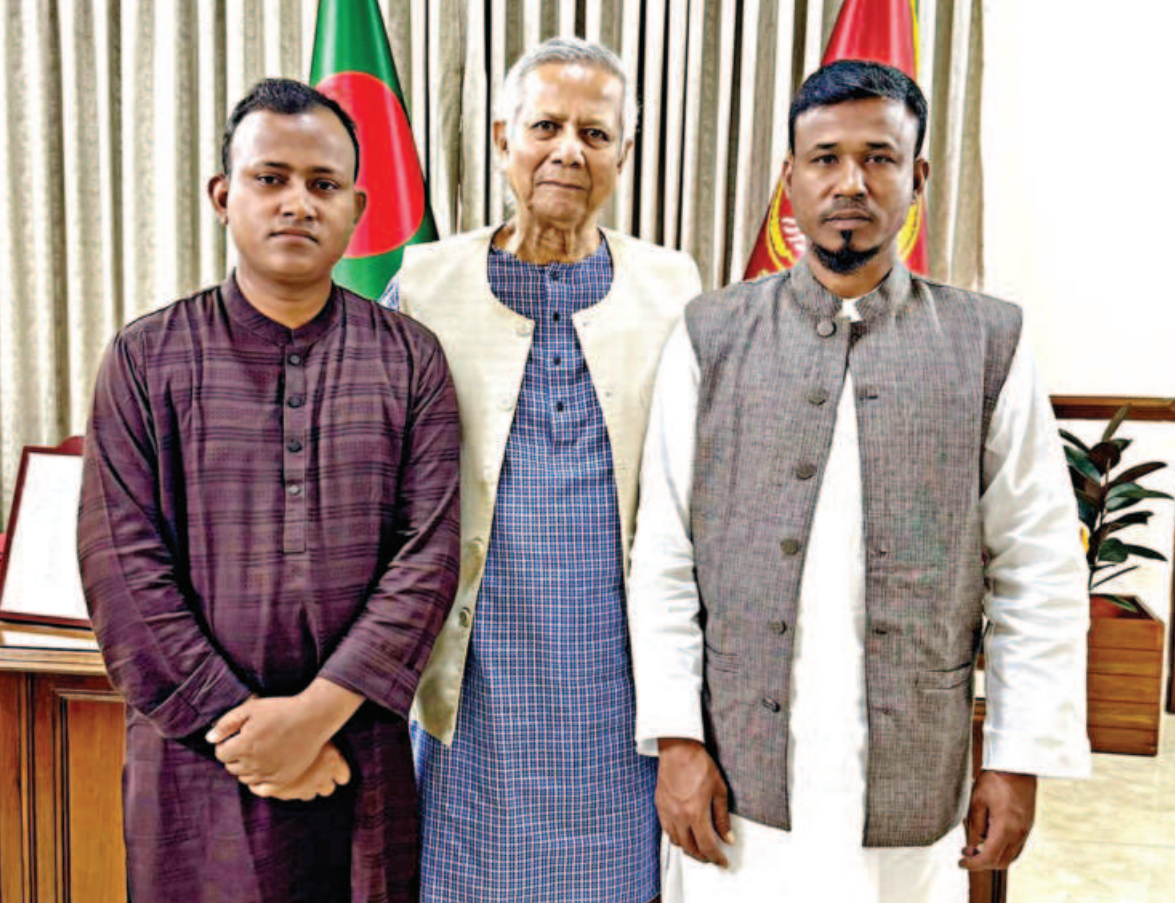
Besides cocaine, three other major narcotics – yaba, phensedyl, and heroin – which enters from neighbouring countries are also harming Bangladesh, said Khondoker Mostafizur Rahman, director general of the DNC, while addressing a seminar at the Dhaka district administration office.

According to DNC Annual Report 2023-24, law enforcement agencies recovered around 700kg of heroin in 2023, which is double the amount seized in 2022 – around 338kg.

In the first six months of this year, already 357kg of heroin have been seized. However, reports show a decrease in yaba and phensedyl seizures.

The DNC annual report shows that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Ramzan Ali and Abu Hossain, brothers of Abu Sayed, met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday. Abu Sayed was shot dead by police on July 16 during the mass uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina-led government. At the meeting, Prof Yunus assured the two of all possible support for their family. He said the interim government has ordered the police to expedite the investigation into Abu Sayed murder and ensure justice.

PHOTO: BSS

EU to help govt with its reform initiatives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union is ready to support the interim government in “every possible way” in its reform initiatives and fight against corruption.

Paola Pampaloni, director of Asia and Pacific Department at European External Action Service, expressed their keenness to support the government during a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at his office in the capital’s Tejgaon yesterday, according to a statement issued by the chief adviser’s press wing.

Michael Miller, the ambassador and head of delegation of the EU to Bangladesh, was also present.

“The message is very clear. The European Union is with you. We want to support your reform,” Pampaloni told Prof Yunus,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Media freedom

FROM PAGE 3
Internews Network, said free media is the lifeline of democracy.
Referring to an evidence-based media reporting on the vote rigging in the 2018 elections, she said that reporting prompted other media outlets to report on vote irregularities in that polls.

“Thus, there are many examples of how media played critical role in holding authorities accountable,” she said at the discussion moderated by Centre for Governance Studies Executive Director Zillur Rahman.
Saiful Alam Chowdhury, associate professor at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University, said media needs to be free from the political and commercial influence, which very much exists in the country at present.

Address plight

FROM PAGE 3
the UN Women’s Bangladesh office, advocated for increased women’s leadership at the community level.

She also called for a stronger focus on community adaptation over mitigation.
Shahariar Sadat from Centre for Peace and Justice at BRAC University highlighted that women lack access to health, education, financial and social services, and justice.
“To address this, we need to invest more in women’s health and education and provide psychosocial support for all,” he added.
Researcher Pavel Partha from BARCIC emphasised the need to make rehabilitation centres more gender-sensitive.
He also advocated for the inclusion of non-economic losses faced by women in the loss and damage fund, which

remains an overlooked area.
Aasha Mehreen Amin, joint editor at The Daily Star, said research is invaluable to the media, as it supports the development of news and narratives on pressing issues.
Max Stille, executive director at NETZ, cautioned that global warming is accelerating rapidly and that by 2050, global temperatures are projected to rise by 2 degrees Celsius.
“Bangladesh, despite contributing little to climate change, remains highly vulnerable, with women and marginalised communities disproportionately affected,” he said.
He recommended a gender-sensitive action plan and the use of local conflict-resolution methods.
Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGOs & Foreign Missions at The Daily Star, moderated the event.

Years of neglect leave Dumki post office crumbling

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The Dumki Upazila Post Office in Patuakhali is in a state of disrepair, with large cracks appearing throughout the building due to years of neglect and lack of renovations.

Rainwater leaks through the old roof, forcing staff to use plastic sheets to protect important documents. Both employees and visitors endure the hazards and inconvenience of the deteriorating structure.

Built in 1987, the single-story post office was funded by the postal department, with its foundation stone laid in January 1981. Behind the main building, a family quarters for the postmaster, constructed on the same roof, have also been abandoned due to unsafe conditions.

During a recent visit, signs of severe damage were visible: cracks ran through walls, plaster peeled off the roof, beams, and walls, and rusted rods were exposed.

Despite these issues, post office activities continue in the main room, while a computer training centre operates in the north-side room, and a Bank Asia branch



occupies the south side.

Every day, hundreds of people visit the post office.

According to Ibrahim Howladar, a post office runner, the building has reached a dilapidated state from years without renovation. “We work here in constant fear,” he said.

Bank Asia Dumki Branch Managing Director Ahsan Roni emphasised that the building serves multiple purposes, providing traditional and digital postal services along with a Ministry of Information and Technology-

backed computer training programme.

Around 30 students regularly attend training sessions here, despite the conditions, he said.

Rubel Ahmed, a regular visitor, said, “It’s frightening to enter because of the cracks in the roof. The building needs major repairs or complete replacement.”

Dumki Postmaster Mojibur Rahman said, “Falling plaster puts us at risk, and although repairs were made to the roof a few years ago, leaks resumed shortly afterward.”

Deputy Post Master General Mahabubur Rahman said they have reported the building’s condition to higher authorities.

RHD issues directives again

FROM PAGE 3
ensuring enough traffic signs, post markings, lights, and boundary fences. Upon receiving the letter, RHD yesterday gave the directives, said RHD Chief Engineer Syed Moinalul Hasan.

SIMILAR DIRECTIVES BEFORE, BUT NO IMPLEMENTATION
National Road Safety Council and Road Transport Advisory Council in the last decade took decisions to remove small, illegal, and locally made slow-moving vehicles.

The ministry in August 2015 even banned the operation of three-

wheelers on 22 major highways, but the ban was not implemented properly, allegedly due to political influence and corruption of a section of law enforcers.

Meanwhile, Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister of the previous Awami League government, on many occasions directed to remove illegal and unplanned roadside structures, including markets, but to no avail.

In some cases, illegal structures were removed, but they were re-established after a few days.

Similar directives

were also given to ensure enough traffic signs, posts, markings, lights, and boundary fences on many occasions, but those were not implanted properly.

Ensuring that vehicles operating at night have necessary indicator lights and removing illegal lights from vehicles is not under RHD’s jurisdiction.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority and police are mainly responsible for it, a RHD official said.

Deploying police on the road is under the jurisdiction of the home ministry and police, he said, wishing not to be named.

EU to help govt

FROM PAGE 3
confirming the support of the 27-country block.

Pampaloni said there would be “no shortage of funds” for the reforms, and they would also provide technical support.

The chief adviser appreciated the gesture and recalled his meeting with European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, when the two discussed ways and means for supporting Bangladesh.

He pointed out that Von der Leyen had pledged to help Bangladesh

combat corruption and the country’s transition towards renewable energy with the EU’s vast experience in the fields.

Pampaloni said the EU had supported many other countries with its technical expertise and funds.

“We were listening to your statements in UNGA carefully and resolved that now we have someone who can be worked with in Bangladesh. You don’t need to feel alone. We are really keen to support,” she said.

The EU official urged Bangladesh to create more investment opportunities, which would create more jobs and increase trade.

Bangladesh now

FROM PAGE 3
the law enforcers seized around 4.29 crore pieces of yaba in 2023, while the figure was 4.58 crore in 2022. They also seized around 82.8 litres of phensedyl in 2023, while the figure was 286 litres in 2022.

DNC Director Tanvir Momtaz believes that there is a decline in yaba and phensedyl seizures as narcotic addicts are now gradually shifting to new drugs like crystal meth.

“But the smuggling of yaba and phensedyl remains a concern for us, and we are working tirelessly to prevent it,” he explained.

DNC officials have

identified four main bordering points for smuggling narcotics into Bangladesh from neighbouring countries like Myanmar and India.

Regarding this, Rahman said, “The narcotics are entering the country through the borders in Teknaf, Rajshahi, Jashore, and Brahmanbaria. But it also comes from various other border areas.”

Dhaka Deputy Commissioner Tanvir Ahmed also stressed community empowerment and social awareness to control narcotics.

বাড়ি বিক্রয়

গুলশান-২ এ, ৫ কাঠা জমির উপর ৬ তলা দক্ষিণমুখী কমান্ডারিাল বিল্ডিং বিক্রয় করা হবে।
যোগাযোগঃ 01712 021072

PRAYER TIMING

NOVEMBER 7

Faaz Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-00 12-45 3-45 5-25 7-00
JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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(মোহাম্মদ মামুন মিয়া)
পরিচালক (নিয়োগ শিক্ষা)
(অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)
মহাপরিচালকের পক্ষে
ফোন : ০২-২২৬৬৪৪০৪

GD-886

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তারিখঃ ০৪/১১/২০২৪ খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি এর জিএমডি চট্টগ্রাম (উত্তর) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID No	Ref No	Name of the work	Publication Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1028887	27.21.1537.670.07.051/001.24.1124; Date:23/10/2024	Oil leakage repair and maintenance work of 230/132 kV MT-01 Transformer, 132/33 kV T-01 and 132/33 kV T-02 Transformer at Hathajari 230/132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Chattogram (North), Power Grid.	05-Nov-2024 12:00 PM	21-Nov-2024 12:00 PM

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মোঃ মঞ্জুর মোর্শেদ
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি-চট্টগ্রাম (উত্তর)

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District:Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No-46.02.7500.000.07.007.24-3541
Dated: 05/11/2024.

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)
e-Tender Notice No-21/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No	Tender ID No	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time of Tender Submission	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	1031387	LTM	LGED/GOBM/Noa/24-25/RW-19 Periodic Maintenance of Dhanyapur Bc Road to Dhanyapur Pry.School Road from Ch. 00m-890m [Sonaimurj] Road ID: 475885084.	24-11-2024 16:00pm	25-11-2024 13:00pm	25-11-2024 14:00pm
2	1031388	LTM	LGED/GOBM/Noa/24-25/RW-20 Periodic Maintenance of Dalbari brdg-Ekata market-Dighirjan-Abdullah hat-Kazirhat Road from Ch.00m-1200m [Sonaimurj] Road ID: 475885028.	24-11-2024 16:00pm	25-11-2024 13:00pm	25-11-2024 14:00pm
3	1031389	LTM	LGED/GOBM/Noa/24-25/RW-21 Periodic Maintenance of Sonaimuri-Ramgong (BSR)road to Banglabazar west side Choto kagna bridge pry.school (Notan) Patowary bari via Batpara Dahaiara Satra Road from Ch.00m-1000m [Sonaimurj] Road ID: 475885271.	24-11-2024 16:00pm	25-11-2024 13:00pm	25-11-2024 14:00pm
4	1031390	LTM	LGED/GOBM/Noa/24-25/RW-22 Periodic Maintenance of Char Jublee UP-Pankhar bazar via Panditbarhat Road From Ch. 4000m-5580m [Subarnachar] Road ID: 475883001.	24-11-2024 16:00pm	25-11-2024 13:00pm	25-11-2024 14:00pm
5	1031391	LTM	LGED/GOBM/Noa/24-25/RW-23 Periodic Maintenance of Thanahat GC- Mohammadpur School-Bottoli Bazar Road From Ch.123m-2704m [Subarnachar] Road ID: 475885034.	24-11-2024 16:00pm	25-11-2024 13:00pm	25-11-2024 14:00pm
6	1031392	LTM	LGED/GOBM/Noa/24-25/RW-24 Periodic Maintenance of Vanga Pool-Babul Market road-Kukis Market-Char Kazi Mokhles road upto Uttar Boarder of Subarnachar Upazila From Ch.1075m-3075m [Subarnachar] Road ID: 475885017.	24-11-2024 16:00pm	25-11-2024 13:00pm	25-11-2024 14:00pm

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

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(মোহাম্মদ আজহারুল ইসলাম)
Executive Engineer
Phone:0321-61340
E-mail: xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd

Man stabbed to death in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A man was fatally stabbed, and another was injured by relatives in a family dispute in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday, said police.

The deceased, 45-year-old Sordhen Shill, from Laxmipur village, was attacked during a confrontation with his father-in-law, 75-year-old Bijoy Shill.

The attack occurred around midnight when Sordhen arrived at his in-law's house to meet his wife. Upon opening the door, Bijoy was assaulted by Sordhen with a sharp weapon.

Hearing Bijoy's screams, other family members rushed to the scene and, in turn, stabbed Sordhen.

A police team from Birganj Police Station took the injured men to the Birganj Upazila Health Complex.

Sordhen later succumbed to his injuries, while Bijoy was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for treatment, said Abdul Gafur, officer-in-charge of Birganj Police Station.

Indonesian national drowns in Karatoa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

An Indonesian national was found dead after he drowned in the Karatoa river in Ghoraghat upazila, Dinajpur yesterday.

Faijur Rahman, 48, went missing while he was bathing in the river at Kulanandapur Ghat in Ghoraghat around 8:30am, said police.

Ataur Rahman, station officer of Ghoraghat Fire Service and Civil Defence, said a group of divers from Rangpur found his body around noon.

Police said Faijur came here with a team of Tabligh Jamaat a couple of days ago. A few other members of his group are staying at Kulanandapur village.

University staffer suspended for 'harassing student'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole*

An employee of Jashore University of Science and Technology has been suspended following an allegation of sexually harassing a female student in a university bus recently.

The action came as the student filed a complaint against Moniruzzaman, a lab assistant, with the proctor yesterday.

According to the complaint, Moniruzzaman sexually harassed her in the university vehicle on Monday.

Following the incident, the university students demonstrated in front of the administrative building on the campus, demanding exemplary punishment for the accused.

Proctor Dr Md Amjad Hossain said a five-member committee was formed to investigate the incident. The committee was asked to submit its report within the next three working days.

Further action will be taken as per the report, he said.

Moniruzzaman was not available for comments as his mobile phone was found switched off.



Workers take sacks of fertiliser from a ship and load them onto trucks after walking on a flimsy wooden platform. They are paid Tk 7 for each bag they load onto the truck and earn around Tk 700-800 per day on average. The photo was taken from Khulna Ghat 7 yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Two students die in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Two college students were killed and two injured when a CNG-run auto-rickshaw they were travelling in hit a tree beside Bhanugach-Sreemangal road at Battola in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday.

The deceased — Sayem Mia, 18, and Amit Sutrathar, 18 — were students at Kamalganj Degree College.

They were rushed to the upazila health complex where Sayem was declared dead.

Amit succumbed to his injuries at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, said Kamalganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Syed Iftekhar Hossain.

He said the other two injured were admitted to the hospital.

Incomplete bridge poses safety risks

S DILIP ROY, *Lalmonirhat*

The construction of a bridge over the Ratnai river in the Durakuti area on Lalmonirhat-Moghalhat road has stalled, creating significant challenges for local residents and traders.

Although the project contract stipulated completion by November 7 this year, only 20 percent of the bridge work is finished.

The delay is primarily due to unresolved land acquisition issues for the bridge's connecting road, which has halted construction for an extended period.

As a result, residents are forced to use the existing, deteriorating bridge, which poses safety risks.

The old structure is limited to light vehicles, preventing heavy traffic from passing through and forcing traders to take lengthy detours. This not only increases transportation costs but also complicates the movement of goods in the region, said Monoranjan Roy, a local college teacher.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) reported that the bridge, measuring 47 metres in length and 10.3 metres in width, was designed to cost Tk 9 crore.

The project, led by construction firm Mainuddin Banshi, began in October 2022. However, land acquisition complications have stalled



progress. RHD's Executive Engineer in Lalmonirhat, Abdul Momen, said the allocation for land acquisition has been approved and payments to landowners will be made soon.

He said the construction will resume shortly. "We hope to complete the project within the next six to seven months."

Work together to save rivers Says Rizwana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

"We must save rivers and stop pollution caused by mills and industries. However, the entire responsibility cannot be imposed on the government. Everyone must work together," said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

"In a democracy, everyone has a stake. Preservation of the environment will only be successful when everybody participates," she said.

The remarks were made while addressing an environmental conference organised by Sabuj Prithibi, a voluntary environmental organisation, in Tangail.

Regarding the illegal encroachment and pollution of the Louhajang river in Tangail, she said, "Environmental organisations and mass media should play a role in this regard. They will reshape public opinion against occupiers. Only then will the hand of the government be strong."

Four more die of dengue

STAR REPORT

At least four dengue patients died in the last 24 hours, while 1,109 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Of the deaths, two were in Dhaka city and one each in Chattogram and Khulna divisions.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new deaths and cases, the death toll rose to 330 while the total number of cases rose to 68,247, of which 39,988 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 1,934 patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals in the capital, while 2,298 across the country. A total of 63,685 patients have been released till yesterday.

8-yr-old girl dies as train hits her

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

An eight-year-old girl died as a Jamalpur-bound train hit her while she was playing near the railway track in Sarishabari upazila, Jamalpur yesterday.

The incident happened around 11:30am at Jamtala intersection in Satpoa village.

The deceased is Jara Akter, daughter of Yunus Master from Degree Bando village in Doil union, said Chan Mia, officer-in-charge of Sarishabari Police Station.

She was first taken to Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex from where she was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. She succumbed to her injuries on the way to MMCH.



A group of boys have climbed this tree and are engaged in their own creative games. Away from the screens that dominate most a city dweller's life nowadays, these kids are a reminder of how one can creatively keep themselves entertained. The photo was taken from the Mugolgaon area of Sylhet yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহাখালী ফ্লাইওভারের ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত Expansion Join সমূহ প্রতিস্থাপন কাজ চলমান রয়েছে। ০৫/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি: হতে ১১/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি: পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন রাত ০৯:০০ টা হতে সকাল ০৮:০০ টা পর্যন্ত জাহাঙ্গীর গেট হতে কাকলী অভিমুখি যানবাহন সমূহ শুধুমাত্র ফ্লাইওভারের নিচ দিয়ে চলাচল করবে। ১২/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি: হতে ১৮/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি: পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন রাত ০৯:০০ টা হতে সকাল ০৮:০০ টা পর্যন্ত কাকলী হতে জাহাঙ্গীর গেট অভিমুখী যানবাহন সমূহ শুধুমাত্র ফ্লাইওভারের নিচ দিয়ে চলাচল করবে।

আদেশক্রমে

ঢাকা উত্তর সিটি কর্পোরেশন

GD- 890



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-2)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.201.07.001.21.248


Date: 05/11/2024

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1015890	Supply of Spare and Consumables for BOP	22-Oct-2024	19-Nov-2024 14:00 PM	20-Nov-2024
2	1030832	Procurement of General tools and Consumables	04-Nov-2024	03-Dec-2024 15:30 PM	04-Dec-2024

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Engr. Md. Asad Halim
 Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
 Sirajganj 225 MW CCPP (Unit-2)
 NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD- 887



ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Appointment of C&F Agents for Chittagong Seaport

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by EDCL for appointment of C&F and Carrying Agents according to tender schedule of Chittagong. Seaport as mentioned below :-

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Particular	Earnest money	Cost of tender schedule	Last date & time of closing	Date & time of opening
01.	EDCL/PURCHASE/C&F/LT/2024/445 Dated- 06/11/2024	Appointment of C&F Agent (as per tender schedule) for Chittagong Seaport with carrying of goods to EDCL's Dhaka, Bogra, Khulna & Gopalganj Plant.	Tk. 3,00,000.00 (Three lac) only refundable/adjustable with USD	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two thousand) only non-refundable	09/12/2024 at 11.00 AM	09/12/2024 at 11.15 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the from of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Essential Drugs Company Limited" without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B: This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd

(5 X 4)


**General Manager
Procurement(CC)**
 For : Managing Director.

I want to focus on small screen for now: KEYA PAYEL

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Keya Payel has quickly established herself as a popular face with her lively performances in TV dramas. Audiences have loved her on-screen chemistry with Tawsif, Apurbo, and Jovan. From comedic roles to emotional dramas, she has showcased her versatility across various genres. The actress has also ventured into modeling. At present, she is immersed in the filming of her new drama, *Ami Nah Amra*, and with a packed schedule lined up for the coming month.

Just yesterday, she began shooting a one-hour drama directed by Rafat Mozumder Rinku, with Jovan as her co-star. Coincidentally, she wrapped up another one-hour drama with Jovan a few days prior, in which he also played her love interest.

Speaking about her new drama, Keya shared that it's a family piece designed to entertain while delivering an educational message. "I love dramas with a little bit of everything. This one will make you laugh and leave you with a valuable lesson," she said. "It's a complete package, and I'm sure audiences will enjoy it."

Keya and Jovan, a fan-favourite duo, have starred together in over 60 dramas, including *Shesh Bhalobasha*, *Dekha Hobe Bondhu*, *Prothom Premier Moto*, and *Second Love*, among others.

"Jovan *bhai* is always punctual and incredibly supportive. He's down-to-earth and a wonderful person," she remarked. When asked if anything about him ever annoys her, she laughed, "There's nothing negative to say. He's a positive person and a talented actor—that's why we've worked together so often. The audiences have appreciated those projects as well."

For now, Keya's focus is on dramas rather than films or OTT projects. "I want to stay occupied with dramas. I have plans to film some special projects for Valentine's Day and the end of the year," she said. Discussing her career goals, she added, "Since the beginning, I've been dedicated to quality work, and I aim to continue delivering meaningful roles with strong stories."

Keya recently returned from a personal trip to London, describing it as "a wonderful time" full of new experiences. Now that the year is winding down, she's fully back in action. "I am back shooting in full swing," she shared. "I've coordinated with several directors, and my schedule is set for the next month with exciting dramas ahead for the audience."

In her downtime, Keya makes it a point to review her own performances, even if she misses the original broadcast. "Watching my work helps me learn and improve," she noted. She also prepares thoroughly for each role, often studying her character at home. "I always make sure I'm well-prepared," she says.

Looking forward, Keya expressed her aspiration to create memorable work that resonates with audiences, saying, "My goal is to create lasting impressions with each role that will resonate with the audience."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Sabrina Carpenter registers highest voters in 2024 presidential election



Sabrina Carpenter has registered more voters than any other artiste for 2024 US presidential election during her *Short n' Sweet* tour. Collaborating with HeadCount, she signed up 35,814 new voters and engaged an additional 263,087 people through registration checks, polling information, giveaways, in-person events, video boards, and mailers.

Lucille Wenegieme, HeadCount's executive director, highlighted that the organisation's partnerships with over 100 artistes, including Carpenter, Green Day, and Ariana Grande, helped register over 450,000 new voters and engage more than 3 million others in voting efforts, marking a record-breaking year.

Carpenter's collaboration with HeadCount included a sweepstakes offering fans a chance to attend her tour by verifying their voter registration status. Winners will be flown to San Francisco for her November 9 concert.



'Rong Dhong' to hit theatres this Friday

Ahsan Sarwar's directorial film *Rong Dhong* is slated for release on Friday (November 8).

The film features an ensemble cast, including well-known actors such as Tariq Anam Khan, Arman Parvez Murad, Lutfur Rahman George, Shadhin Khasru, Faruque Ahmed, Shabnam Parvin, Ejajul Islam, Jamil, Pran Roy, and Shohel Mondol.

Produced by Blackshine Limited, the film's soundtrack boasts an impressive lineup of musical talents, with contributions from Foad Nasser Babu, Pantha Kanai, Mahmudul Hasan Ronju, Shamim Alam Bulbul, and Tasnub. The soundtrack features vocals from Pantha Kanai, Kishore, Sumit, Jamil Hossain, and Adi.

NEWS

Tigers implode, get hammered

FROM PAGE 12
with Mahmudullah Riyad (2 off 5) the next to follow suit when star leggie Rashid Khan bamboozled him with a googly, shattering his stumps, in the very next over.

With the Tigers already gasping for breath, Ghazanfar tightened the noose further by removing Mushfiqur Rahim (1 off 3), Rishad Hossain (1 off 2), and Taskin Ahmed (0 off 1), in the following over to leave Bangladesh tottering at 138 for eight after the 33rd over.

It did not take long for the Afghans to wrap things up, with Rashid shattering the stumps of Towhid Hridoy (11 off 21) with yet another googly before Ghazanfar hammered the final nail in

the coffin by cleaning up Shoriful Islam (1 off 4) inside the next two overs.

Ghazanfar was adjudged player-of-the-match for returning a career-best six for 26 in just 6.3 overs.

Bangladesh's shaky top-order, however, was able to produce runs as Soumya Sarkar and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto contributed with scores of 33 and 47, respectively.

The catastrophic collapse of the middle and lower-middle order that followed not only saw Bangladesh suffer yet another humiliation but also cemented the worries regarding the faltering batting line-up in a series being played as part of the preparation for the upcoming

Champions Trophy, scheduled to begin in February next year.

Earlier, pacers Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman gave Bangladesh a brilliant start after being asked to bowl. They shared five wickets between them, leaving Afghanistan struggling at 71 for five after 20 overs.

However, a 92-ball 52 from skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and a 79-ball 84 from all-rounder Mohammad Nabi helped Afghanistan fight back and put up a commendable 235 all out in 49.4 overs.

Taskin and Mustafizur took four wickets each, only to see their efforts spoiled by yet another shambolic batting display.

US 'blind support'

FROM PAGE 12
At least 43,391 Palestinians have been killed in more than a year of offensive in Gaza, the authorities in Gaza said yesterday, and much of the territory has been reduced to ruins.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), internationally mandated to monitor and report on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territory, has called for Israel to end its illegal occupation "as concluded by the International Court of Justice".

"Israeli forces' regular recourse to unlawful lethal force in the occupied West Bank is a horrifying escalation of an already explosive situation," it said on X.

Israeli security forces killed eight Palestinian men using live ammunition, air strikes and other heavy munitions during operations in Tammun and Qabatiya in the West Bank, it added.

Amu arrested

FROM PAGE 12
house on fire.

The fire was discovered when firefighters went there to extinguish the blaze. They informed the army and police, who then arrived at the scene and found several pieces of luggage stashed with money.

On August 17, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit instructed all banks to freeze accounts of Amu and his daughter Sumaiya Hossain.

It also asked the banks to block all transactions through the accounts they maintain.

It ruined basic structures of constitution

FROM PAGE 12
After concluding the day's proceedings, the HC bench fixed today for resuming the hearing.

Earlier yesterday, lawyer Sharif told the HC that the caretaker government system is consistent with the constitution's basic structures and it became a part of the charter as the system was introduced to ensure free and fair elections and strengthen democracy.

But this amendment was scrapped and an "authoritarian scheme" was introduced in the country, he said.

The lawyer said the 15th amendment was brought in a wholesale manner as 64 changes were made to 54 articles of the constitution.

He said the caretaker government system is essential for democracy like the Supreme Judicial Council is for the independence of judiciary.

49 arrested

FROM PAGE 12
court under section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, said court sources. Earlier, he was taken into safe custody by police after the attack on his shop.

According to witnesses, those who launched the attack were mostly outsiders.

Following the clash and the joint forces' drive, a tense situation has been prevailing in the area.

During a recent visit to the Hazari Lane area around 1:00pm yesterday, this correspondent found all the jewellery and medicine shops closed.

Police presence was seen at two entry points of the lane.

Many locals alleged that joint forces charged batons on agitators to bring the situation under control.

Hazari Lane is home to many jewellery-gold markets and wholesale medicine shops. Most of the residents belong to the Hindu community.

At a press briefing at the CMP Headquarters yesterday afternoon, CMP Deputy Commissioner Rais Uddin said, "During our initial investigation, we confirmed that ISKCON supporters were involved in the attack. We are trying to verify their identities."

At another press briefing at the 34th Construction Brigade in the city's Wasa area, Lt Col Ferdous Ahmed, spokesperson for the Task Force-4, said, "Shops were sealed off [in the

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in a verdict on October 20 revived the Supreme Judicial Council to remove SC judges for incapacity or misbehaviour.

The Appellate Division in its short verdict in the 13th amendment case observed that the next two parliamentary polls could be held under the caretaker government system, but those elections were not held under the system, Sharif told the HC bench yesterday.

The court said abolition of the caretaker government system was in direct contradiction to the apex court's short verdict.

Sharif further said that article 7(A) of the constitution which deals with the offences of abrogation and suspension of the charter is contradictory to its basic structures as it has curtailed the people's fundamental rights to express

dissenting opinions.

The writ petitioners' lawyer prayed to the HC to scrap the 15th amendment.

The 15th amendment bill was passed by the Jatiya Sangsad on June 30, 2011, and it was signed into a law by the president on July 3 that year. The amendment abolished the caretaker government system which was introduced through the 13th amendment in 1996.

The scrapping of the 13th amendment had sparked outrage among the opposition parties.

The HC on August 19 this year issued the rule following a petition filed by Badiul Alam Majumdar, secretary of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik, Tofail Ahmed, M Hafizuddin Khan, Md Jobirul Hoque Bhuiyan and Zahrah Rahman, challenging the legality and constitutionality of the 15th amendment.

Those giving Chhatra League publicity will face action

FROM PAGE 12
before the public and that several media platforms and journalists were trying to normalise it.

He said they were doing it as if the AL lost power in a systematic way and was now an opposition party, adding that they were to publish statements of AL and Chhatra League as opposition voice.

He further said they forget the mass killings that took place in Bangladesh between July and August. Many students, children, women, and workers lost their lives in the mass uprising, and many others were maimed.

Nahid said the AL still threatens to harm people.

The party now faces trial for mass killings, yet various forces are trying to re-establish it in the society in different ways, he added.

The adviser said the AL's fall came at the cost of many lives.

The sooner its sympathisers accept this and begin working for the people, the better for everyone. "The struggle is ongoing, and we are always ready," he added.

Home adviser pledges zero

FROM PAGE 12
The adviser identified the rise in illegal roadside shops and unauthorised vehicles, such as battery-operated rickshaws, as significant contributors to Dhaka's traffic woes.

"Instructions have been given to remove illegal shops from roads, and measures are underway to restrict battery-operated rickshaws," he said, noting that the Ministry of Power, Energy, and Mineral Resources would play a role in regulating the charging facilities for these unauthorised vehicles.

Expressing concern over escalating extortion, the adviser said strong actions would be taken to curb the practice.

To address challenges posed by new law enforcement personnel unfamiliar with Dhaka's network of alleys, he requested patience among the people.

"Job rotation for the police was a public demand in Dhaka. These personnel will need time to adapt and

Proposal likely to be placed

FROM PAGE 12
On November 4, Nahid Islam, adviser to the posts, telecommunications, and information technology ministry, said the CSA will be nullified within a week and all cases filed under the act will be withdrawn.

"Not only this law [CSA], but all laws that hinder freedom of expression are under review."

As of August, 5,818 cases filed under the CSA were with eight cyber tribunals nationwide. Of these, 1,340 cases related to speech offences,

with 461 under investigation and 879 pending with court, data from the law ministry show.

Asked how the trial of offences related to cyber security would be held, an official of the ICT division said a new ordinance is in the making to ensure cyber security. "By scrapping the act [CSA], the government wants to demonstrate its intention to fulfil people's desire and aspirations."

On October 3, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul voiced strong support for the CSA's repeal.

US ELECTION 2024



Left, Supporters of Donald Trump celebrate as election results coming in at a Republican watch party at Ingleside Hotel in Pewaukee, Wisconsin yesterday. Right, Tearful supporters react to election results during an election night event for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris at Howard University in Washington, DC yesterday.

Trump's return brings criminal cases to a halt

REUTERS, Washington

Donald Trump's win in US presidential election will essentially end the criminal cases brought against him, at least for the four years he occupies the White House. The first former US president to face criminal charges, Trump for much of this year faced four simultaneous prosecutions, over allegations ranging from his attempt to cover up a hush money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels during his 2016 campaign to his attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat. A New York jury in May found him guilty of falsifying business records tied to the Daniels payment, making him the first former US president convicted of a felony.

Trump, a Republican, told an interviewer on October 24 that he would fire US Special Counsel Jack Smith – who led the federal prosecutions over his attempts to overturn his election defeat and retention of classified documents after leaving office – “within two seconds” of being sworn in. Trump pleaded not guilty to all charges and cast the prosecutions as politically motivated. “The American people have heard these Democrat prosecutors’ cases against President Trump and they’re still going to elect him anyway,” said Mike Davis, the founder of the Article III Project, a conservative legal advocacy group. Davis is the former Chief Counsel for Nominations to Senate Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley.

How did Trump pull it off?

REUTERS

Republican Donald Trump has won over Democrat Kamala Harris in the US presidential election, avenging his own loss to President Joe Biden four years ago. How did Trump pull it off? He had the fortune of running when Americans were frustrated by high prices and, to a lesser extent, illegal immigration across the US southern border. Those were Trump's signature issues, ones that proved to be anvils that weighed down Vice President Harris' candidacy. The result was a quicker-than-expected set of returns that placed Trump on the cusp of securing the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House. Here are some takeaways from the exit polls and results: **TOUGH SLEDDING** The national exit poll of voters conducted by Edison Research

underscored what public opinion surveys had long shown: Voters are in a bad mood and have been for some time. Three-fourths of voters surveyed by Edison said the country was going in a negative direction. Of those voters, 61 percent went for Trump. Of the voters who called themselves “angry,” 71 percent backed the Republican. Voters who believe abortion should be a legal procedure in most instances surprisingly only backed Harris 51 percent to 47 percent, suggesting Trump's efforts to blur his position may have partially negated one of her largest advantages. Trump said he opposed a federal abortion ban but that

states are free to pass laws as restricted or unrestricted as they choose. **VOTERS OF COLOR** The Trump campaign put a great deal of effort into persuading Black and Latino voters to defect from Democratic Party – and there were some indications those efforts paid off. In North Carolina, exit polls showed Trump boosting his share of the Black vote to 12 percent, from 5 percent in 2020. He garnered the support of 20 percent of Black male voters, the poll said. According to the Edison national poll, Trump's support among Latino male voters jumped 18 percentage points from four years ago. **A GENDER GAP?**

Harris' campaign was looking to exploit a large gender gap in the electorate, with the hope that legions of women voters would flock to the vice president because of issues such as abortion rights. But Trump seemed to hold onto the support of at least white women voters, according to exit polls. Black women overwhelmingly supported Harris. In Pennsylvania, Trump was maintaining close to the same level of support among white women voters that he enjoyed in 2020. That was also true in Georgia. **AN AGE GAP** The national exit poll showed Trump slightly edging Harris among men between the ages of 18 and 44 and beating her solidly with men 45 and up. In Michigan and Wisconsin, Trump was up 5 percentage points with overall voters under 45 compared with four years ago. In Nevada, he jumped 6 points with those voters.

Americans must wait for first woman president

AFP, Washington

For the second time in eight years, a woman has won the Democratic nomination for US president, only to come up short in a campaign where gender was a central issue. Like Hillary Clinton in 2016, Kamala Harris had a shot at becoming the first woman to occupy the Oval Office but stumbled at the final hurdle. While the charisma of their opponent – Trump, in both cases – clearly played a role in these historic defeats, many observers also saw misogyny as a factor. In their dueling campaigns, Harris and Trump laid out starkly different visions for women's status and rights. Trump, who has faced multiple

accusations of sexual assault he denies, sought to broadcast a hypermasculine image, appearing alongside mixed martial artists and offering praise for autocratic world leaders. Harris did not campaign heavily on female celebrities such as Beyonce, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga and Oprah Winfrey, betting that they would help her reach even conservative women voters. Harris did not campaign openly on the fact that she would have been the first female president of the United States. But she made the defense of women's rights, and abortion in particular, one of the cornerstones of her campaign. This does not appear to have won over enough moderately conservative women.

“The US elections are not really our business... We made the necessary predictions before and there will not be change in people's livelihoods.”

Iran's govt spokesperson
FATEMEH MOHAJERANI

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK PLC.
(A State Owned Commercial Bank)

Public Relations Department

Reference: 02.1/1052 Dated: 06/11/2024

Tender Notice No:BDBPLC/PRD/OTM/2024/01-02 (e-Tender)

E-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following Goods.

S/N	e-Tender ID	Description	Method of Procurement	Last Date & Time of Selling Document	Last Date & Time of Receiving Document	Date & Time of Tender Opening
01	1031794	Supply of Wall Calendar with Envelope-2025 Tender reference: BDBPLC/PRD/OTM/2024/01	(OTM)	21 st November, 2024 12:00 PM	21 st November, 2024 2:00 PM	21 st November, 2024 15:00 PM
02	1031798	Supply of Diary with Box-2025 Tender reference: BDBPLC/PRD/OTM/2024/02	(OTM)	21 st November, 2024 12:30 PM	21 st November, 2024 2:30 PM	21 st November, 2024 15:30 PM

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted 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. 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 up to banking hours on.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31). (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

- Sd -
(Md. Jasim Uddin Khan)
Deputy General Manager
Tel : 223387620

GD-888

JAMMU & KASHMIR ASSEMBLY

New MPs seek restoration of partial autonomy

REUTERS, Srinagar

Newly-elected lawmakers in India's Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) territory yesterday passed a resolution demanding New Delhi restore the partial autonomy of the Himalayan region, a contentious move Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is likely to reject.

Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's partial autonomy in 2019, splitting the state into the two federally administered territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The decision was opposed by opposition parties, and many people were detained in 2019 to forestall a backlash against the shock move.

Modi's government also imposed months of curbs on communications in the Kashmir Valley.

Yesterday, J&K's newly-elected ruling alliance passed the resolution seeking the restoration, despite protests by BJP lawmakers. "This legislative assembly re-affirms the importance of the special status and constitutional guarantees which safeguarded the identity, culture and rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and expresses concern over their unilateral removal," it said.

World pledges to work with Trump

AFP, Paris

World leaders raced to congratulate Donald Trump yesterday as he triumphed in a stunning US election victory over Kamala Harris. European leaders in particular were quick to extend their best wishes and offers of cooperation, in contrast to a much cooler reaction when Trump won for the first time in 2016. There were some exceptions, such as Russia, where the foreign ministry frostily commented on the outcome but let it be known that no congratulations would be forthcoming from President Vladimir Putin. Here are yesterday's reactions, with many being expressed even before the election win was confirmed: **China: 'mutual respect'** Without directly mentioning Trump, foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular briefing that China hopes for "peaceful coexistence" with the United States. "We will continue to approach and handle China-US relations based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and win-win cooperation," she said. **Russia: 'no illusions'** "We are under no illusions about the American President-elect," Moscow's foreign ministry said, adding that it will "work with" a new US administration and prioritise achieving its "set goals" in Ukraine. It said its "conditions" on ending the conflict "are unchanged and are well known in Washington". **India: 'heartiest congratulations'** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed a "historic election victory" offering his "heartiest congratulations" to Trump, describing him as "my friend." "As you build on the successes of your previous term, I look forward to renewing our collaboration," he said in a statement. **Israel: 'powerful recommitment'** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described Trump's win as "history's greatest comeback" as well as a "new beginning for America and a powerful recommitment to the great alliance between Israel and America."

Ukraine: hopes 'just peace' closer President Volodymyr Zelensky congratulated Donald Trump on his "impressive victory" and said he hoped his presidency would bring a "just peace in Ukraine closer." "I appreciate President Trump's commitment to the 'peace through strength' approach in global affairs," Zelensky said on social media. **Nato: 'peace through strength'** Nato chief Mark Rutte said Trump's return to power would help keep the alliance "strong". "His leadership will again be key to keeping our Alliance strong. I look forward to working with him again to advance peace through strength through Nato," Rutte said in a statement. **EU: 'strong transatlantic agenda'** "I warmly congratulate Donald J. Trump," European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen wrote on X. "We are bound by a true partnership between our people, uniting 800 million citizens. Let's work together on a strong transatlantic agenda that keeps delivering for them." **United Nations: 'work constructively'** The UN is "ready to work constructively with the incoming administration to address the dramatic challenges our world is facing," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. **Britain: 'historic election victory'** Prime Minister Keir Starmer congratulated the 78-year old on his "historic election victory." "From growth and security to innovation and tech, I know that the UK-US special relationship will continue to prosper on both sides of the Atlantic." **France: 'respect and ambition'** French President Emmanuel Macron congratulated "President Donald Trump", saying he was ready to work together "with respect and ambition" like "we managed to do for four years". In a post on X, Macron said that the relationship with Trump would "take account of your convictions, and mine", adding: "For more peace and prosperity."

North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certified
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Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.007 Date: 06/11/2024

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders have been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	1028342	Spare parts for Control System and Field Instrumentation	27/10/2024	24/11/2024, 15:45	25/11/2024
2	1030844	Supply of different high pressure and temperature steam and water pipes	06/11/2024	27/11/2024, 15:45	28/11/2024

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 (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Brojendra Kumar Sarker
Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer)
Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1)
NWPGL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

GD- 891

A momentous day in US elections

Trump’s victory has implications for wider world, including Bangladesh

The unbelievable has happened. Despite various odds, Republican Donald Trump has won the 2024 US presidential election that will see him return to the White House come January 20, 2025. This is indeed a remarkable comeback in the history of US politics – “a phoenix from the ashes,” as a Fox News anchor has described it—as Trump overcame a criminal conviction, indictments, apparent assassination attempts, and accusations of authoritarianism on his path to re-election. In so doing, he also avenged his loss to President Joe Biden four years ago. As of this writing, he secured 277 votes in the Electoral College, with Republicans taking control of the Senate and possibly the House of Representatives, with votes still being counted after early projected wins in key battleground states.

What does a second Trump presidency mean for the world, and indeed Bangladesh? While the world braces for potentially disruptive or far-reaching impacts on global policies, Bangladesh, too, has its share of concerns that it will seek clarity on soon. To understand some of the concerns, it is crucial to consider Trump’s past policies and recent statements. Experts say a Trump presidency is likely to bring some, if not substantive, changes to the US foreign policy for Bangladesh, with potential ripple effects on issues such as trade, political dynamics, climate policy, and Bangladesh’s relations with regional powers. It may be recalled that Trump, before the election, commented on the “barbaric violence” against Hindus, Christians, and other minorities in Bangladesh—a portrayal that is both unfair and unfounded. There is a concern among some that the US may be prompted to view Bangladesh through India’s lens, and we hope such concerns will be duly addressed in the coming days.

A Trump presidency may also emphasise more transactional diplomacy, echoing his “America First” stance, which could potentially impact Bangladesh-US trade. The US is our biggest trading partner. But given Trump’s history of raising tariffs and protectionist policies, Bangladesh’s dependence on exports to the US could, theoretically, face challenges. Climate change is another issue of concern. Trump’s earlier stance on climate change, marked by US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and reduced engagement with climate initiatives, was alarming for vulnerable nations like Bangladesh that depend on climate adaptation financing. His track record with the WHO shows potential for strained relations with global health bodies, which could potentially impede Bangladesh’s access to international health resources.

It remains to be seen how the nature of relations between our interim government and the upcoming Trump presidency shapes up. For its part, the interim government has been quick to congratulate Donald Trump on being elected as the 47th president of the United States, expressing optimism for strengthened bilateral ties and future cooperation. Going forward, we hope the government will properly engage with its US counterpart to ensure that our interests are protected.

What future awaits the hi-tech parks?

Hold to account all involved in corruption, mismanagement

We are concerned about the future of the hi-tech parks that the ousted Awami League government planned to establish across the country with the goal of transforming Bangladesh into a global hub for information and communication technology. Reportedly, the government invested Tk 1,473 crore on three hi-tech parks, three software parks and four incubation centres, envisioning them as ICT and business innovation hubs that would create tens of thousands of jobs, generate billions of dollars, and position Bangladesh as a leading digital nation. However, an investigation by *The Daily Star* has found that due to faulty planning, corruption, poor execution and the lack of a supportive ecosystem, these projects have yielded negligible returns, falling far short of expectations.

Former State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak boasted in 2016 that the IT park in Kaliakoir would employ up to a million people over 10 years. Eight years later, after spending around Tk 600 crore, the 355-acre Bangabandhu Hi-Tech City has created only 1,500 jobs. The situation is similar at the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech Park in Sylhet, a project taken up at a cost of Tk 324 crore with the goal of generating 50,000 jobs. Today, fewer than 100 people are employed there. Despite the project being expected to be completed long ago, it is still not fully operational. Similarly, the Bangabandhu Hi-Tech Park in Rajshahi and the Sheikh Hasina Software Technology Park in Jashore have failed to attract significant investment. In the former ICT state minister’s constituency, several overlapping projects were also undertaken haphazardly and without proper planning.

Reportedly, despite extremely low returns, Palak continued to promote the ventures as successes, paving the way for the approval of over 80 similar parks across the country. Currently, another dozen projects are underway, with an estimated cost of around Tk 7,000 crore in public money.

The question is, what future awaits these costly hi-tech projects? Since all these initiatives were riddled with corruption, the interim government must conduct thorough investigations into them and hold accountable all involved in the design, planning, budgeting, approval and implementation of these projects. The government should also assess whether the completed projects have any potential for new job creation. With the country grappling with high unemployment, the ICT sector could provide valuable job opportunities for our youth if managed with efficiency and transparency.

However, the government should also make prudent decisions regarding the incomplete projects. Such ventures should be frozen to prevent further losses until they are objectively re-evaluated and properly redesigned to ensure value for money, as Dr Iftekharuzzaman, head of the interim government’s Anti-Corruption Reform Commission, has suggested.

Bold, pragmatic measures can revitalise the health sector



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Bangladesh, with a population of over 17 crore, is the eighth most populous country in the world. With the annual population growth rate of around one percent, it is likely to stabilise at around 240-250 million, posing considerable challenges for Bangladesh given its small land area and other resource constraints.

From high fertility (TFR of over six) until the mid-1980s, fertility declined to 3.3 during 1994-2000, and further to 2.3 by 2011. However, it has stalled at that level since then. The family planning programme achieved commendable success until 2011, with the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) rising from around four percent in the 1960s to 61.2 percent in 2011, but it has remained almost unchanged (64 percent in 2022, according to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey) since then. This is on account of several factors, including, but not limited to: i) decline in the relative share of longer-acting and permanent methods (LAPM), from 32 percent of modern method use in 1994 to only 14 percent in 2022; relying on temporary methods rather than accepting LAPM by women who have completed their family size poses a major problem for the efficiency of the programme; ii) Relatively high unmet need for contraception (10 percent); if users of traditional methods (nine percent) are considered, the total unmet need for modern methods was 19 percent in 2022; iii) relatively high discontinuation, implying huge system loss for the programme (around half of the users stop using a method within 12 months of starting its use; and iv) erratic interruptions in supplies of contraceptives.

Since independence, Bangladesh has achieved considerable success in most health indicators, though there are inequities based on the socioeconomic status of the population. The infant mortality rate (IMR) declined from 144 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1971 to 25 in 2022, though it is higher than in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan. The under-five mortality rate declined from 223 to 31, but it is higher than in Sri Lanka and Maldives. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) declined from 574 deaths per 100,000 live births in

1990 to 176 in 2017, but it is higher than the average MMR in South Asia (157 in 2017), and also higher than in India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives. Over the past five decades, there has been a rise in life expectancy from 45 years to around 74 years, but it is lower than in Sri Lanka and Maldives.

Between 1990 and 2019, the total number of people with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) increased from 9.55 crore to 14.5 crore. Deaths due to NCDs increased, with 14



FILE VISUAL: **SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON**

of the top 20 leading causes of death in 2019 due to such diseases, with stroke at the lead. If this trend continues, management of the increased burden of NCDs will be a considerable challenge for the country’s healthcare system. Cost-effective, multisectoral efforts are needed to prevent and control NCDs, promote healthy lifestyle, and prevent premature mortality and disabilities. There has been a substantial decline in deaths due to communicable diseases—malaria, dengue, AIDS, tuberculosis and diarrhoea—though they still remain significant causes of illness and premature deaths. Bangladesh is also a high-risk country for emerging communicable diseases as a result of its high population density and poverty.

Although there has been considerable decline in child and maternal malnutrition, it continues to be a serious public health problem in the country. Also, there are sharp differences in child malnutrition based on mothers’ education and household

income.

Women of reproductive ages are vulnerable to chronic energy deficiency and malnutrition, the major risk factors for adverse birth outcomes. The double burden of malnutrition is becoming more prevalent among Bangladeshi women. Those with uneducated husbands, those with little or no education, and those belonging to less well-off households, especially from rural areas, are more likely to be underweight than women in other groups, while overweight is higher among the educated and those belonging to relatively well-off households. High rates of maternal malnutrition and low birth weight (LBW) can lead to a high burden of NCDs in adult life. The prevalence of LBW in Bangladesh is around 16 percent, similar to that in India and Pakistan, but higher than in Nepal and Sri Lanka. LBW is inversely associated

wastage, and gaps in service delivery; vi) bifurcation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare into two divisions, thereby further hampering coordinated service delivery from the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS); vii) lack of effective coordination between the health ministry and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, thereby adversely affecting urban healthcare delivery services; viii) lack of effective monitoring and supervision; and ix) lack of transparency and accountability at different levels of the programme.

Bold and pragmatic reform measures should be undertaken to revitalise the entire health sector to overcome the constraints identified above in order to improve access, quality, and sustainability of healthcare services to people, with special consideration given to the poor and the needy. Investment in the health sector must unquestionably be enhanced to around two percent of GDP, together with enhanced spending capacity of the programme with the objective of major overhauling of the sector, wherever needed, such as in human resource-related issues, procurement, and helping reduce OOP. Likewise, allocation to the education sector should be enhanced to raise not only enrolments but also—and more importantly—to improve quality of education at different levels, with special consideration given to female education. The latter will help reduce child marriage and raise child-bearing age as well as female employment.

The outdated health and population policies should be updated, taking into consideration both demographic and epidemiological changes as well as socioeconomic changes that have occurred during this period. Pragmatic mechanisms should be put in place to ensure effective monitoring and supervision, meaningful coordination among all actors and stakeholders in the programme, including between the health and local government ministries, and address issues related to the lack of accountability and transparency at different levels of the programme. To give further impetus to political commitment, a high-level body—a national health council—should be formed under the leadership of the head of the government, to review progress and constraints, and provide oversight to programme activities, at least biannually. The council should include concerned stakeholders, including high-level professionals from relevant disciplines.

COP29 must see a scale-up of Loss and Damage Fund



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After years of continuous negotiation and bargaining efforts last year, the COP28 summit in Dubai ended with a comprehensive agreement to operationalise the loss and damage fund for climate change affected countries. The World Bank is presumed to host the loss and damage fund in conformation to the agreement at COP29 and simultaneously a competent board shall shape policies, structures, and governance to operationalise the fund. This fund is designed to support vulnerable countries dealing with the impacts of climate change that surpass human adaptability, such as loss of livelihood due to rising sea levels and salinity intrusion or loss of lives, homes, and other infrastructure due to extreme floods and cyclones. It is essential to understand the nuances and dynamics of loss and damage at the micro level from the local community perspectives for successful implementation of the COP29 agenda.

Bangladesh is the poster child for climate change holding the seventh position on the Global Climate Risk Index 2021. The southern region of Bangladesh, which lies in the coastal belt, is highly susceptible to various rapid-onset hazards including

cyclones, coastal erosion, and seasonal flooding, as declared by Mamun Hawladar from Sonnasi village, Khaulia Union, Morrelganj, Bagerhat. Mamun informs that the area faces two to three cyclones annually and a minimum of one tidal inundation per month during monsoon. Frequent and intense cyclones and floods produce recurring losses and damages in the agriculture related sectors. He further stated that during June of this year, Cyclone Remal flooded and washed away the autumn rice crops. Mamun lost Tk 45,000 at that time and the recent seasonal floods destroyed his winter rice crops as well.

Besides rapid-onset hazards, slow-onset hazards like salinity intrusion, sea level rise, and global warming are extensively present in coastal Bangladesh. Particularly, due to climate change induced sea level rise and frequent inundation, salinity has been intruding into the soil and water in coastal Bangladesh at a higher rate than earlier. Abul Hossain, one of the salinity-affected farmers from the Khaulia Union, Morrelganj, stated that “In our community, salinity increases largely during mid-February to mid-June (Phalgun, Chaitra, Baisakh, and Jaishtha in Bengali calendar

months).” Hossain additionally recalls that “During my childhood, I saw my parents used to harvest two times a year, but now we cannot yield crops even once a year due to salinity intrusion. We encounter recurring losses and damages in crop production every year. Salinity intrusion damages paddy fields, seedbeds, and vegetable gardens. This year we could not yield any rice and vegetables.”

Likewise, aquaculture practices and livestock rearing are also under threat due to salinity intrusion. Hossain further divulged that due to salinity intrusion a significant decrease in the populace of fish in the ponds has been noted. Livestock has also been suffering from more diseases. Unfortunately, losses and damages incurred by slow onset events as such are not well recognised in the current loss and damage discourses and frameworks. To recapitulate, rapid and slow onset climatic events both produce recurring loss and damage in the affected communities concurrently. There are minimum existing adaptation initiatives and they fall short of adapting to current and imminent climate change impacts due to the increasing frequency and intensity of climatic events. Further, financial constraints due to shrinking funding, pose hurdles in the adaptation process.

Consequently, existing adaptation gaps leave unavoidable long-term loss and damage in affected communities, further affecting food security, health and nutrition of the affected communities. While some economic and financial damages are repairable to an extent, the shadows of certain loss and damages are irreparable

and persist generationally. This loss and damage cycle requires holistic, integrated, and continuous climate financing urgently from local, national, and international government and non-government actors.

Amid the COP29, most affected communities conclude to put forth their demands to world leaders. Affected communities urge all stakeholders to unify in efforts to build on the momentum and commit to a coherent and collective action plan to address loss and damages in vulnerable countries and regions.

First, leaders must come to COP29 prepared to scale up financial pledges to the fund to address climatic change induced loss and damage effectively and efficiently.

Second, concerned stakeholders must unify to formulate and strengthen policies, mechanisms, and governance to ensure compensation and reparation for current and past losses and damages, incurred by both rapid and slow onset climatic events.

Third, considering the principles of distributive justice, equity-based sectoral financing is urgent in the most affected sectors rather than single-sector financing.

Fourth, there must be strengthening of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms at the regional and local levels for operationalising the loss and damage fund and governance.

Lastly, it is urgent to facilitate collaborative research, create data driven evidence on loss and damage at the community and national level, and accordingly integrate advocacy efforts for viable environment, climate justice, and climate finance from various sources at various levels.

THE US GOES RED

Another round of Trump presidency



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RAMISA ROB

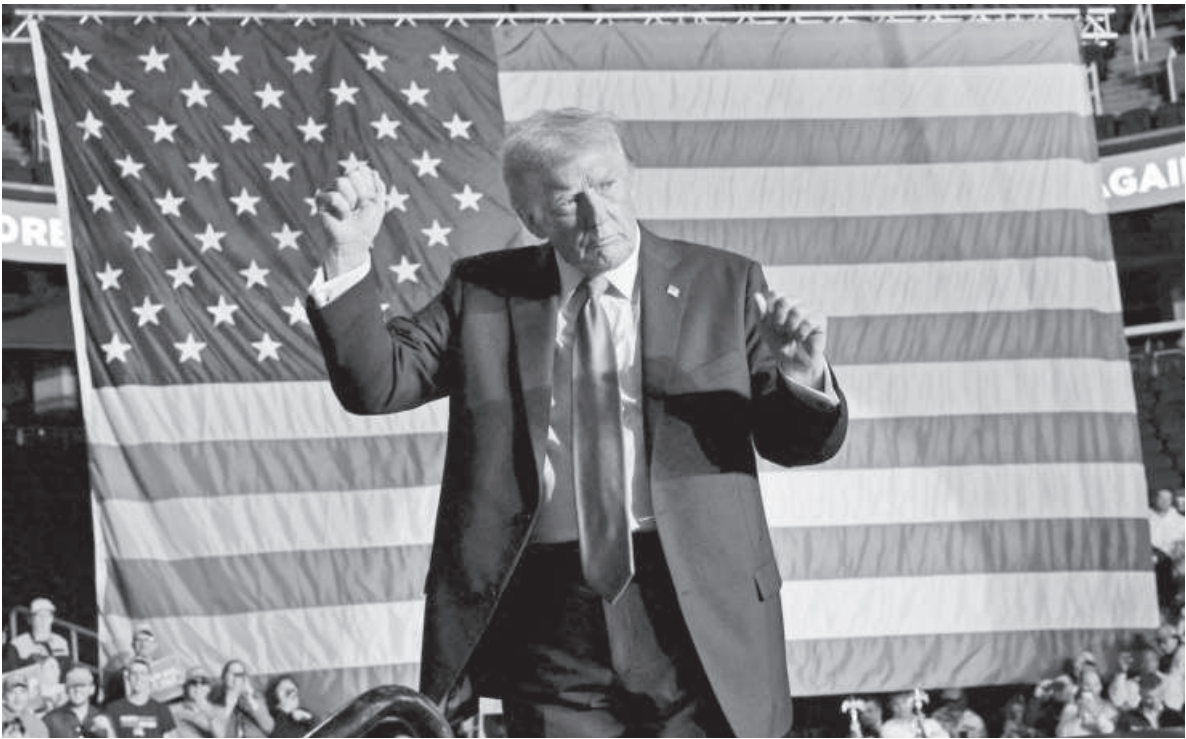
The night started off, as it does, with red states. But unlike 2020, there was no confusion. The percentage of votes counted quickly began to show a clear picture: Donald Trump’s victory.

Trump won the presidency through the electoral system and the popular vote, which has not happened in the past two decades. He overperformed in several states, following the trends of the previous two elections that polls underestimated his voters. In three consecutive election cycles, pollsters have not gotten a grip on Trump supporters. The media has engaged in many satirical theories to understand the mass support for Donald Trump in the US. What’s clear is that the US media and institutions in general need to figure out what can aptly be described as a shift to the far-right. No comparisons with Hitler, no cases, could stop him.

In 2016, when Hilary Clinton lost, precisely the same way by losing the “Blue Wall”—Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin—the underlying reasons behind Trump’s victory were not addressed. Rather, the analysis focused on the glass ceiling and Clinton’s loss. Doing so for this election would be the gravest mistake. While it could be true that Harris’s

gender has a part to play in her loss, it is well known that Joe Biden would have lost against Trump as well. When asked in several interviews what Harris would change about the Biden-Harris administration, she reverted to her pride, steering clear of showing how she would drastically differ from her boss.

While a comprehensive major picture of the voter turnout is yet to emerge, the early voter turnout—more than 80 million US citizens cast their votes before November 5—was high. As it happened in 2020, mail-in ballots proved to switch the game for Biden; we waited days as votes were being counted during the pandemic. The high turnout, especially early, when juxtaposed with the sheer number—not just in the Electoral College—of votes for Donald Trump and the fact that he might also win the popular vote, is telling of the national sentiment in the US. While a lot is to be seen in the coming days, it’s clear that the US is shifting to the far-right. It’s incumbent on all of us to reconcile, as hard as it may be for some, that US politics has moved to a state that an imprudent person is preferred over diplomatic human beings.



Donald Trump has won the presidency through the electoral system and the popular vote, which has not happened in the past two decades.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Kamala Harris underperformed in commonly Blue counties in the battleground states, where her boss, President Joe Biden, performed better in 2020. For example, in upscale Detroit, Michigan, Harris performed much worse than Biden in 2020. Though the causes of her underperformance will emerge more in the coming days, and data needs to be gathered to understand where Harris went wrong—one fact is

clear: Harris’s centrist campaign in a polarised US simply did not work. In many ways, it was a clever strategy on paper: reviving the John McCain and Mitt Romney type of Republican. But for now, it can be concluded that centrism is hardly reading the room in a country so polarised. In North Carolina, for example, where Trump won, several counties shifted left while others shifted right, according to The New York Times.

Standing in the middle ground, the classic case of trying to please every party undoubtedly played a role in Harris’s unexpectedly disappointing performance in the elections.

And whatever strategy the Democrats have deployed in electioneering along with their policies now stands to be proven as outdated. It must be noted that the Republican turnout machine—largely powered by allied conservative

groups—focused on getting reliably conservative voters back to the polls for Trump. And it worked.

Republicans took over the Senate, retaking the chamber for the first time in four years. The House is also poised to be Republican. Everything, from the president-elect’s policies on taxes to healthcare, will depend on the makeup of the two chambers of Congress. The Senate is solely responsible for confirming a president’s cabinet officials and judges—from the federal, district and Supreme Court. Four of the nine justices—other than Trump’s appointees—are in their 70s.

A Republican-led Senate would boost Trump’s far-right presidency, and it was the only institution that provided the necessary logjams for Trump’s loyalist tendencies and his “I can do whatever I want” mindset as the leader of a democratic nation. Though there are moderate voices in the Senate, including Senator Susan Collins of Maine, who was outspoken against Trump, this Senate is more likely to defer to him, who will be all the more recharged with a second term in the White House.

The implications for a Trump victory are far-reaching for the turbulent political atmosphere in the US. Donald Trump is a man who openly favours loyalty over the country, yet he is still favoured by citizens, for whatever reasons. A second Trump term, along with the Republican sweep, means we are possibly looking at a completely new version of US politics. The country is in need of some soul-searching, now more than ever.

Exploring BRICS and global governance



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We fought two world wars because of economic nationalism, the driving force behind the warring powers. The Bretton Woods Conference (1944) attempted to counter that by establishing an exchange rate and monetary system for trade and investment under the surveillance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It also established the World Bank (former International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) to recover from the scourge of war and tender a platform for equitable global development. Later, the United Nations and World Trade Organization (former General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) joined the global arrangement for peace, economic growth, and trade.

These institutions have established a world order incorporating economic stability, relative peace, universal values, liberalisation, democratisation, and globalisation. Over the years, the order has benefited the West more than other nations in a systemic manner, increasing the income and wealth gap. Apparently, the West enjoys a monopoly in global governance. Its agenda is backed by a military alliance: NATO. It is likely to favour the status quo over change.

This leads us to BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), which has been around for 15 years. It represents 45 percent of the world population and 37 percent of the global GDP, while the West represents 10 percent of the world population and 28 percent of the global GDP.

BRICS has laudably opposed the monopolisation of power and rightfully noted that the world needs plurality, better governance, equitable development, and multilateral security. Their assessment concurs with the observation of the majority of the world, but has the organisation been able to offer realistic change in global governance? Specifically, has the organisation made the world a safer place to live or a better place to trade? How is it contributing to global economic development? Let’s explore.

Since the late 1990s, the rise of the emerging markets has been phenomenal. Their economic growth rate was double that of the Western economy. The BRICS countries contributed to half of the global growth. The Western response to the rise of the emerging markets depended on how these countries affected the hegemony, as a group and individually. The West

accommodated the group with a new platform: G20 in 1999. Individually, the initial five members of BRICS got different responses from the West. Brazil and South Africa are regional players and do not seriously affect the hegemony. This is also true for the new members. Another regional player, India, was drawn into the global platform for hegemonic interests.

With 143 million people, almost one-eighth of the global landmass, huge resources, veto membership, and nuclear capabilities, Russia stands as a strong power. However, the country also has an inherent

power, pursuing its united Russian World doctrine (*Russkiy Mir*).

Meanwhile, economic growth, a huge population base, skilled and disciplined labour force, party command structure, advanced technology, modernised military, and grandeur image have prepared China as a formidable power. Despite the trade dependency, it is the “rising power” that can truly challenge the US, the “established” power (Thucydides Trap). The West responded to China with a containment policy. They seem to have been quite successful in undermining China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), challenging its military capability (helped by Pacific nations and India), reducing its economic growth/expansion, and neutralising its diplomatic influence. China is busy managing its own economy and has less opportunity to attend to global affairs.

With regard to India, Modi’s vision is of a technologically advanced country with a strong military

BRICS conference, which concluded in October, is directly engaged in Ukraine, and the US/West is strongly backing both Ukraine and Israel. The US support has given a competitive advantage to Israel in implementing its military goals, and China and Russia are not in a position to make any serious contribution to Middle East peace. The UN system has fallen behind in inclusivity, participation, and power-sharing. The veto system is an outdated postulation, incompatible with the current economic and political reality. Thus, BRICS shall have to do more to accommodate the Global South’s voice.

Besides, the current financial system is governed by the IMF with a quota system that BRICS supports. IMF endorses an exchange rate system based on the US dollar. This has given global economic leadership to the US since the Bretton Woods. India does not support de-dollarisation. In Kazan, BRICS discussed the four components of the international monetary and financial system: payments, investments, reserves, and global financial safety. An alternative BRICS currency is not a reality at this time. The BRICS Pay, BRICS Clear, and BRICS Bridge are new initiatives. Some are partially functional. BRICS encourages the use of local currency in international transactions, but it is too early to evaluate these institutional arrangements. We will have to see how they evolve and mature.

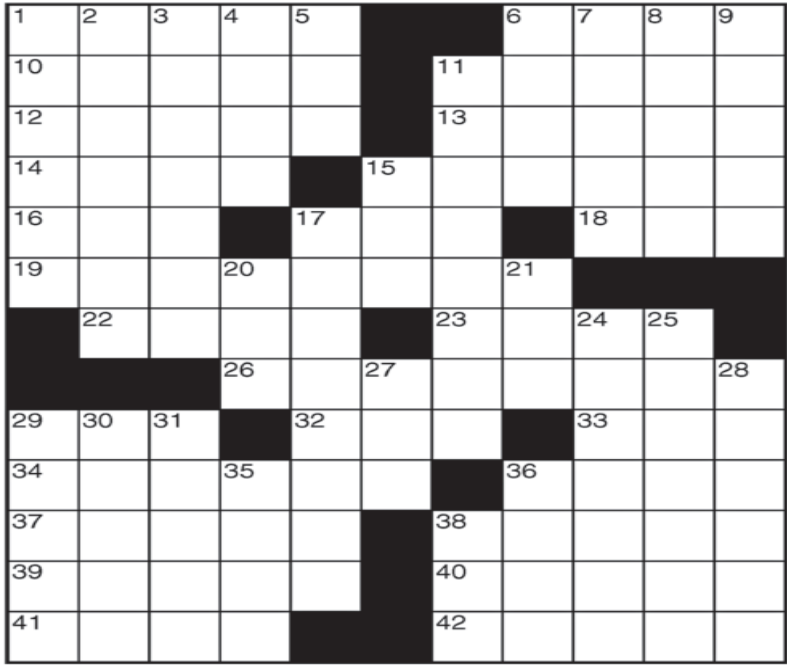
Although BRICS has, over these years, evolved into an emerging markets club following G7 and G20, it is neither a trade bloc like the EU nor a military bloc like NATO. Evidently, the geopolitical, economic, and social agendas of the members are quite diverse and are not as unified as the EU or NATO. By ostracising Russia, containing China, embracing India, and keeping other members at bay, the West has limited the BRICS members’ ability to take a unified stance.

No doubt, global governance needs reform. It can be addressed from within by the UN member countries where BRICS can play a significant role. It can also be an alternative platform to supplement plurality, security, and newer financial structures. So far, the organisation has distributed some funds to developing countries via the BRICS Development Bank. Its contribution to global peace is limited and its initiatives, in terms of trade and financial governance, are at an early stage. We will have to see how they survive the market test.

Under the current hegemonic condition, both China and Russia will continue to get hurt economically, politically, and socially. The situation may force them to enter a military alliance, which would definitely be a “game-changer” in the hegemonic relationship and global governance, but will face strong opposition from the West.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
1. Rocker David
6. Location
10. Chris of “The Avengers”
11. Be penitent
12. Grazing groups
13. City near Chicago
14. Base group
15. “Wild, man!”
16. Maui souvenir
17. Suffering
18. 007, for one
19. Ramadan’s 30
22. Quaker pronoun
23. Umpire’s call
26. 2005 Gus Van Sant movie
29. Small rug
32. — Angeles
33. Catch
34. Beginning
36. Poll numbers
37. Gambling mecca
38. Sacred song
39. Bumbling
40. Stand
41. Corn units
42. Accords
DOWN
1. Sake
2. Act the glutton
3. Balmy
4. Annual race, for short
5. Snaky shape
6. Mix up
7. Some shirts
8. Outdo
9. Irritable
11. Shrinks
15. Neighbor of Ga.
17. Visionary
- 20 — Aviv
21. Down in the dumps
24. Extremist
25. It may start with “E”
27. Junior, to senior
28. Declares
29. Studio work
30. Place for a game
31. Bengal cat
35. Openings
36. TV explorer
38. Atlas page



3-22

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

P	A	G	E	S		C	A	S	A	S
A	T	O	L	L		A	S	T	R	O
C	O	O	K	I	E	S	H	E	E	T
E	N	D		P	A	T		R	A	H
D	E	S	P	O	T	S		I	R	E
			I	N	S		B	L	U	R
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T	H	A	T	S		T	E	N	S	E
S	I	L	A	S		O	R	D	E	R

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO
dsopinion@gmail.com.

THE SHELF

Post-July remembrance

Articles, chapters, and words after violence



ILLUSTRATION: AMREETA LETHE

One of the most galvanising forces of the movement in July had not only been the images of bloodied student protestors and their deaths at the hands of law enforcement and BCL, but also the images that came after.

ALIZA RAHMAN

With the departure of an autocrat and the period of semi-expected still-frightening chaos after, comes the period when we have to sit down to think of what comes ahead, know what we must not do, and get some direction on how we are supposed to go on. In light of this, the following articles and/or chapters have been curated for perspectives that might be needed in this unprecedented situation we’ve found ourselves in.

Forget Kathmandu
Manjushree Thapa
Motilal UK Books of India, 2005

“People do live in dictatorships of all kinds—perhaps they do not live fully, but they do live”

2001 is the year we remember as the time when the Twin Towers fell in New York. However, 2001 was also the year Nepal saw its royal family brutally murdered inside their own palace.

Nepal, much like Bangladesh, has not only seen its voice being stifled by forces within it, but also saw the nation being ignored in international media—except for specific cases, as much as

Bangladesh was and has been.

Manjushree Thapa’s *Forget Kathmandu* needs reading in its entirety, but the chapter ‘The Postmodern Democracy’ is particularly relevant in this time, not only in terms of the political parallels, but the emotional aspects of having to come to terms with such a violent change. From the blurring of political and personal history to the actions of vested groups trying to take advantage of a power vacuum to asking whether we really ought to protect the rights of groups that use violence to achieve their means—Thapa’s account of this period in Nepal’s history feels in many ways like an account of life in Bangladesh at this period in time.

“Reading war photographs: The 1971 India-Pakistan war in the Anglo-American press”
Shehram Mokhtar
Sage Journals, 2019

“While celebratory photos elide the complexity of the past, pictures of defeat demonstrate the potential of images to unsettle official narratives. It is images like these that echo in the face of unnerving silences and elisions”.

The piece has its issues, with Bangladesh’s 1971 Liberation war being labelled as a “crisis”, a word that deeply trivialises the war that unfolded and took millions of lives. However, it retains its value in how it analyses the commemorations of the event in the three contentiously intertwined countries. Bangladesh’s celebration, Pakistan’s “eerie silence”, and India’s “tongue-tied” approach all engage in forms of erasure of their own, and makes it vital for us to seek out sources such as images.

One of the most galvanising forces of the movement in July had not only been the images of bloodied student protestors and their deaths at the hands of law enforcement and BCL, but also the images that came after. These include images of the Prime Minister visiting vandalised places at a time when the number of children who died from bullet wounds were at a bloodchurning level. Eventually, she met with the families of the injured and martyred in hospitals and elsewhere after criticism had seeped into the corners of the Bangladeshi internet.

The piece speaks of war photography, but it is immensely teachable in how it

analyses the various pictures taken of the 1971 Liberation War, from revenge killings of traitors to how dead bodies are portrayed when the dead belongs to a poorer country versus a more developed country; how the gaze of the perpetrator and the victim informs our understanding of the brutality of the war; how the violence of war reaches every person, regardless of whether they are in the enemy camp or otherwise. While the visceral reaction we have to shocking incidents hold their own truths, much remains to be gained in learning to adopt different ways of seeing.

Directly confronting the fluid nature of the past, this piece contends with the issues that lie at the heart of our attempts to memorialise events of collective trauma.

“The Past in the Present: Memories of State Violence in Contemporary Latin America”
Elizabeth Jelin

Memory in a Global Age
Palgrave Macmillan, 2010

“When the past is one of political conflict and involves harsh repression, attempts multiply to find closure, to ‘solve’ and suture the past wounds and ruptures, to ‘come to terms’ with the past”.

Elizabeth Jelin’s recounting of the 30th anniversary of Argentina’s 1976 military coup consists of a flurry of items bearing stark resemblance to how we have tried to reconcile with the aftermath of the uprising: “exhibitions, lectures and seminars, special issues and supplements of magazines and newspapers, films and television programs, as well as statements by survivors, victims, political leaders and parties, universities, and cultural agents”. The dizzying list seems to be the path that comes naturally to a nation grappling with shockingly abrupt structural change.

Jelin states that nations have various ways of confronting the past. Of the various actors that come out vocally in a power vacuum, a war of narratives may emerge. In such cases, reconciliation becomes charged. Among other matters, we struggle with the spectre of the victims and their families whom we do not know how to assist, and many of the ones who make an attempt may do so for political leverage. A war of narratives emerges in how the past is presented, packaged, and preserved to the public. As Jelin writes, “At any moment, different actors express their will to present ONE narrative of the past, trying to make their own interpretation

the hegemonic, legitimate, ‘official’ or normal one, with the hope that it will become part of ‘collective memory’, accepted by all.” This is one of the many challenges currently facing us, and one we must keep our eyes peeled for.

Violence work: Policing and power
Micol Siegel
Duke University Press, 2018

“Police realise—they make real—the core of the power of the state. That is what calling police ‘violence workers’ can convey.”

One of the fundamental shifts in public perceptions has been that regarding the police force. Ubiquitous and previously an ordinary part of civilian life, the police did not elicit much critical thinking. Their behaviour was divided along the class lines that determine life in Bangladesh. Much may have changed after July, but we must be vigilant about a return to the former “normal” regarding the police.

Even now, after all this bloodshed, we have to contend with the fact that among the people we live amidst, there are those who not only wish for protection from the police, but “desire state violence” as Micol Siegel writes. This can be the case even if they themselves are marginalised along one or more lines.

Siegel’s line that “policing is in fact the human-scale expression of the state”, is one of the clearest statements explaining the odd position occupied by the police in our society. As we saw in July and August, this was one of the most powerful state machineries being indiscriminately unleashed on the populace on orders of the government.

Through the concept of “violence work”, we get to see the police in a light that is more revelatory of their function in the modern world. Who does the police really assist? Why is violence from the police considered legitimate? Do we as a population know what it means to live alongside people “whose work rests on a promise of violence” as Siegel writes? These are questions we need to keep asking, not only because the current law and order situation is making some uncritically ask for a return of the police, but because the new form of the police, once their image has been rehabilitated and the people are able to move on to a degree, may take on a more sinister form should we let our guards down.

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BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

Sad men behaving badly

Pankaj Mishra’s long-anticipated return to fiction fizzles

SABRINA FATMA AHMAD

In January 2023, I was sitting in the crowd, listening in on a panel at the 10th and possibly the final edition of the Dhaka Lit Fest. Sheikh Hasina had already been in power for almost 15 years, and it felt like the sun would never set on Awami League, at least not in my lifetime. Inside the Bangla Academy, Booker winner Shehan Karunatilaka was talking about the disillusionment of the presidential coup in Sri Lanka. Also present at the panel was acclaimed essayist and novelist Pankaj Mishra, who is known for his critique of the dark underbelly of India’s economic growth and the deeply problematic rise of Hindu nationalism. Where Karunatilaka’s focus was on the anarchy that thrived in the power vacuum that appeared immediately after

young men who achieve the holy grail of entry into the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), viewed by swathes of the populace as a chance to rewrite their faiths. In the novel’s harrowing opening scene, the three are subjected to a horrific and casteist hazing ritual, which binds them in their journey forward. True to the promise of IIT, the three are actually able to shake off their impoverished backgrounds and elevate their stations. Virendra, the Dalit subject of the worst of these rituals, becomes a Wall Street tycoon. Aseem, another of their circle, lands in the media and becomes a celebrity pop-intellectual. Arun, our narrator, initially takes a different path, living in Himalayan village and eking out his living as a translator. While the three are transforming their lives, Modi is voted into power and begins pushing



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

It is through these three characters that Mishra attempts to make his point about how a broken system can only churn out broken individuals who continue to repeat these problematic patterns.

the Aragalaya, Mishra, whose novel *Run and Hide* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022) marked his return to fiction after 25 years, opined that systems broken by the legacy of colonialism cannot hope to function normally.

Two months since the July revolution and with the fatigue setting in from the messy process of living in a broken country trying to rebuild itself, it felt like a good enough time to crack open my copy of *Run and Hide* that had been gathering dust on my TBR.

The story traces the journey of three

forward his nationalistic agendas while abroad, the US enters its Trump era and the UK inches towards Brexit.

Woven into this narrative are glimpses of Arun’s humble past, and these are the parts where the book really shines. Mishra draws a rich, nuanced portrait of poverty, one that manages to retain a range of human emotions and everything he wants to convey about the desperation that marks the journey out of impoverishment—the lack of employment options, the brutish caste discrimination, and so forth—he manages

with the kind of subtlety one wishes he maintained in other parts of the book.

The three male leads are never quite able to shake off the psychological scars left by their impoverished beginnings and the casual cruelty and the constant panic of discovery amidst the dog-eat-dog atmosphere of their IIT days because of it. This is evidenced in their empty and blinkered later lives, filled with sexual debauchery and conspicuous consumption, be it Virendra’s obsession with expensive prostitutes or Aseem’s incessant boasting about his sexual prowess. Initially, it seems like Arun, at least, escapes these temptations through his hermit-like tendencies, but as the novel progresses, which is written as one long confessional missive to an abandoned lover, we learn that Arun’s modus operandi has always been to run and hide. He runs from his past into IIT, where he hides his true caste. He runs away

from his family responsibilities afterwards, preferring the mindless drudgery of the rat race in Delhi, even when it is clear that his mother and sister need his support. He even hides from the temptation of success by running off with his mother to the Himalayas, and then runs away when she becomes gravely ill. When he begins his ill-timed affair with Alia, the old money liberal activist, he hides his true self from her and her glittery set, roleplaying his way through life before eventually abandoning her as well.

It is through these three characters that Mishra attempts to make his point about how a broken system can only churn out broken individuals who continue to repeat these problematic patterns. I say ‘attempts’ because the rest of the novel fails to live up to the glimmers of a few chapters.

Critics of the novel have pointed out how the characters are poorly written to the

point of being cartoonish. Whether we’re reading about the hypocrisy of Aseem bloviating in public about violence in Kashmir, or the mistreatment of the Dalit community but rubbing shoulders with the “villains” in his narratives, or Arun’s abusive father who in his later days becomes one of those Facebook trolls, or even Alia’s glittering set soapboxing about the world’s inequalities at their fancy parties—there is little to no nuance in any of the characters. Others have pointed out the large chunks of exposition where Pankaj Mishra the novelist takes a backseat to Pankaj Mishra the social commentator, to the detriment of the integrity of the novel as a work of fiction (sorry, Mister Mishra, but Sally Rooney did it better). These are all very legitimate observations, but if I had to pick my personal peeve about the novel, it is this: the tired old trope of sad men behaving badly has long outstayed its welcome. There has to be more to the Künstlerroman than some flawed character that refuses to evolve, but must somehow be pitied.

Pankaj Mishra has famously been critical of what he calls Salman Rushdie’s ‘selective humanism’, but in *Run and Hide*, at least, he fails to deliver something that rises above the most superficial criticism of the systems that maintain these inequalities. If you’re looking for an epistolary novel that does the subversion of the class and caste systems in a more satisfying way, Arvind Adiga’s *White Tiger* (Free Press, 2008) is still the one to beat.

Sabrina Fatma Ahmad is a writer, journalist, and the founder of *Shri Tales*.

Star SPORT

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What to WATCH

SONY SPORTS 1
Europa League
Galatasaray vs
Tottenham
Live from 11:45 pm
SONY SPORTS 2

Olympiakos vs
Rangers
Live from 11:45 pm
Man Utd vs PAOK
Live from 2:00 am
(Friday)

My wicket made the difference: Shanto

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto took accountability for the batting collapse after his team's 92-run defeat to Afghanistan in the first of three ODIs in the UAE yesterday.

Everything was going according to plan for the Tigers at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium when, in pursuit of Afghanistan's 235, Shanto and Mehedi Hasan Miraz put on a 55-run stand for the fourth wicket. Afterwards, though, their batting fell apart like a house of cards, bundling out for 143.

Shanto and Miraz took the score to 120 for two, with the former looking increasingly comfortable with his scoring shots. However, Shanto was lulled into a sweep shot by Mohammad Nabi, who had removed the man at deep square-leg to invite the shot.

Once Shanto departed for 47 off 68, Bangladesh's last seven wickets fell for just 11 runs.

"I think my wicket made the difference in this game. I was the set batter, and even Soumya [Sarkar] and Miraz got 30s and 40s, and in these kinds of conditions we needed to bat longer, and that was the main issue with today's [yesterday's] batting," Shanto said at the post-match presentation.

Miraz's ability to read the ball out of the hand has seen him promoted up the order on many occasions against Afghanistan in the past, but this time, having reached 28 after a sluggish start, he swept off-spinner Allah Mohammad Ghazanfar and was holed out at fine-leg by Azmatullah Omarzai, who took a terrific diving catch.

With Miraz gone, no amount of experience in the middle order could prevent a collapse. Mahmudullah Riyad fell to a Rashid Khan googly, castled through a gate between bat and pad for two. Another veteran, Mushfiqur Rahim, was stumped for just one after failing to read Ghazanfar's carrom ball.

Ghazanfar, who had made the initial breakthrough with Tanzid Hasan Tamim's wicket, finished off the Bangladesh batting with a career-best 6-23. That bit of mystery and a lack of skill in reading the ball from the hand saw Bangladesh fall to a bitter end.

"Afghanistan always have mystery spinners, and he [Ghazanfar] bowled really well," Shanto said.

Afghanistan were at one point 71 for five, but the Tigers let it slip as Nabi's 84 ensured the Afghans reach a challenging score.

"We started well in the first 15-20 overs. But we didn't execute our plans in the middle overs. Nabi batted brilliantly. We didn't need to attack more. The wicket had enough help for the bowlers," said the Bangladesh captain.



Afghanistan all-rounder Mohammad Nabi celebrates getting to his 17th ODI fifty during the first of the three ODIs against Bangladesh at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the UAE yesterday. Nabi smashed a 79-ball 84 and starred in a 104-run stand with skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi, who also hit a fifty, to help the Afghans get to a commendable total. [Bottom] Bangladesh pacers Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed were on song, scalping four wickets each, but a rescuing act from Nabi and Shahidi was complemented by a superb bowling display by off-spinner AM Ghazanfar to see the pace duo's work undone in the end.

PHOTO: ACB

Fizz shows venom with the new ball

SPORTS REPORTER

Mustafizur Rahman pointed to the sky knowingly, a smile spread across his face. The delivery to Rahmat Shah, only his second of the first ODI against Afghanistan, got him a wicket. But it was the satisfaction in execution of his plan that brought assuredness for Bangladesh's 'cuttermaster', who managed his first four-for in ODIs yesterday in over a year's time.

The last-moment cocking of the wrist, just before the point of delivery, angled to leave the right-hander from over the wicket, worked its charm. The delivery moved just slightly outward, taking the edge and through to Mushfiqur Rahim's gloves. The other important bit in that delivery, of course, was the length.



that nipped back in sharply, the length again full enough to induce the drive but movement also sharp enough to trap the batter in front. The 29-year-old pacer made it three wickets in two overs with another gem of a delivery, which moved away sharply from Azmatullah Omarzai, taking the nick through to the wicketkeeper. All three deliveries that got him wickets had that wrist position to thank for.

Since the start of the 2023 ODI World Cup, Mustafizur's form has been under scrutiny. In 11 matches he has averaged 50, his strike-rate just short of 50. His career average of 25.98 and strike-rate of 30.1 show that the champion pacer has suffered greatly during this period.

He went wicketless in four World Cup matches but it was the expensive spells

against the big sides that hurt the left-arm pacer. But what possibly was becoming a point of concern was how ineffective he often looked with the new ball, bar that one match against New Zealand in Chennai at the World Cup. In the 11 matches from the start of that World Cup in India, the left-arm has managed more than one wicket just twice.

Yesterday, his first three wickets had come with the new ball. He and Taskin Ahmed left Afghanistan in trouble at 71 for five in 20 overs.

Mustafizur, allowed to attack with the new ball, found a new avenue where he did not altogether have to rely on the cutters.

A 104-run stand between Hashmatullah Shahidi and Mohammad Nabi allowed Afghanistan to get out of trouble. It would be Bangladesh bowlers' only negative in the match as they were not able to break that all-important partnership sooner. Both Taskin and Mustafizur went for over 50 runs but Shoriful Islam, the other pacer, kept things nice and tight.

From Afghanistan's point of view, despite Taskin and Mustafizur's four-fors, the fightback had been effective, especially how Nabi managed to keep Taskin at bay.

Nabi and Shahidi would have hurt Bangladesh more in the death overs had Mustafizur not removed the Afghan skipper in the 41st over as Afghanistan were eventually bowled out for 235 in the final over.

More than the four-for, however, Mustafizur would be keen on building on his work after the ball did the talking for him in Sharjah.



BPL governing council aims for greater impact

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League's (BPL) governing council is aiming to elevate the scale of the upcoming season by involving the wider public across the country, expanding the tournament's reach beyond the on-field action.

"We don't want to confine this BPL only to the field. We want it to be used socially and to have a positive impact on cultural and business sectors as well," BPL member secretary Nazmul Abedeen Fahim told reporters during a BPL 2025 title sponsor declaration ceremony in Mirpur on Wednesday.

"I think this is now the only occasion for which people eagerly wait. There are a lot of criticisms about the tournament, but people still have interest. We want to capitalise on this interest and use it for the betterment of society, and we will try to do so," he said, adding that they are planning to arrange nationwide programmes for the 11th edition of the tournament, scheduled to get underway on December 30.

"Along with the game, there will be many programmes nationwide. A total of nine ministries will be involved in the tournament. Many organisations are expected to participate, making this BPL unique from other events. It will be tough to make it happen, but we are trying our best to make it possible," he added.

SHORT CORNER

Asalanka to captain Sri Lanka against New Zealand

Sri Lanka named their squads Wednesday for two T20s and three ODIs at home to New Zealand, with Charith Asalanka captain in both formats. Sri Lanka are sixth in the ICC rankings in ODIs, a spot behind New Zealand.

Six years on from 'Sandpaper-gate', Warner back as captain

Six years on from the Newlands ball-tampering scandal, former Australia batter David Warner has been appointed captain of Big Bash League's Sydney Thunder. Warner's life ban from leadership roles in Australian cricket due to his role in 'Sandpaper-gate' was lifted last month.

Mclroy hopes Trump election victory helps end golf rift

Rory Mclroy feels that with Donald Trump sweeping the US presidential elections, a resolution in the PGA Tour-LIV Golf stand-off might be in sight. Media reports this week suggested that the Public Investment Fund (PIF), the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia and backers of LIV Golf, had reached an agreement with the PGA Tour to invest over a billion dollars in the newly formed PGA Tour Enterprise.

**Read full stories on The Daily Star website*



Like Luiz Diaz after netting a hat-trick in a 4-0 Champions League thrashing of Bayer Leverkusen at Anfield on Wednesday, Liverpool are soaring, sitting atop both the Champions League and Premier League tables. The Reds' main architect behind this surge is their new manager Arne Slot, who led the club to 14 wins in 16 games in all competitions since taking over from Jurgen Klopp.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Written on the wall'

REUTERS, Lisbon

As Ruben Amorim was being hoisted into the air by his Sporting players after an outstanding 4-1 victory over Manchester City in the Champions League on Tuesday, fans of Manchester United would have had double reason to be smiling broadly.

The fact that Sporting's victory was masterminded by Amorim, the coach who will begin his Manchester United reign next week after agreeing to become Erik ten Hag's replacement, will have made it extra special for United fans. Amorim's Sporting side were outplayed for the opening 35 minutes by City but showed great resolve, flair, and intelligence to hit back from a goal down to sweep to victory and move into second place in the Champions League.

It was a magical way for the 39-year-old to mark his final home game in charge and he will bid a final farewell at the weekend away to Braga as Sporting try to make it 11 wins from 11 in the Portuguese top flight.

"Looking at the game, it was written on the wall. I couldn't ask for a better farewell," Amorim said.

Tuesday's win would have already earned him some kudos among the Manchester United fans but he faces a huge test of his credentials with the club languishing in 13th place in the Premier League table after 10 games.



AC Milan's Malick Thiaw set the tone with his first goal for a dominating display in their Champions League encounter against holders Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu yesterday. Leaky defence and a misfiring frontline, including Kylian Mbappe, saw Los Blancos get hammered 3-1 by the Rossoneri to succumb to their second straight home defeat after being thrashed 4-0 in the Clasico against Barcelona at the end of last month. Real Madrid, who are nine points adrift of leaders Barcelona in LaLiga, have now lost two of their four matches in the Champions League and are in the middle of the table, provisionally 17th, one place above Milan.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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Those giving Chhatra League publicity will face action

Says Adviser Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Adviser Nahid Islam yesterday said action will be taken against those who facilitate media publicity of banned organisations, genocide suspects, and fascists.

“The Awami League always has double standards. On the one hand, it uses criminals and fascists to kill people, make people disappear, and torture them. On the other, it legitimises fascism through civil society members, intellectuals, journalists, and cultural activists,” he wrote on his verified Facebook account around 9:30pm.

Nahid, also adviser to the posts, telecommunications, and information technology ministry, said propagandists brought leaders of banned Chhatra League, student wing of Awami League,



SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Mushfiqur Rahim's wicket was one of the seven wickets that Bangladesh lost in a huff to go from 132 for three to 143 all out in just 34.3 overs, succumbing to a mammoth 92-run defeat against Afghanistan in the first of their three ODIs at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Amu arrested in the capital

He faces 15 cases over murder, other offences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested former industries minister and Awami League advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu in the capital.

He was held from a house in the West Dhanmondi area around 1:30pm, said Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Police said Amu stands accused in at least 15 cases on various charges, including murder.

Amu, also the coordinator of the AL-led 14-party alliance, was elected member of parliament six times from Jhalokathi-2 constituency.

Like many other AL leaders, Amu had been in hiding since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

The next day, a joint team of army and police recovered Tk 5 crore in local and foreign currencies from Amu's house in Jhalokathi after a mob set the



SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

CTG MARKET CLASH

49 arrested, trader sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In a drive early yesterday, the joint forces detained 82 people over Tuesday night's attack on a shop and law enforcers at Hazari Lane Market in Chattogram city.

Of the detainees, 33 were released as their involvement was not found.

The attack took place after a trader allegedly made a post on Facebook, criticising ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), a Hindu religious organisation. It sparked anger among the local Hindu community, said police and local sources.

Meanwhile, Kazi Tarek Aziz, additional deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said Kotwali police filed a case yesterday, accusing 49 named and 400 to 500 unidentified people on charges of assaulting police and barring them from discharging duties by hurling brick chunks and chemicals (used to purify gold) on them.

The trader in question was sent to jail after police produced him before a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

US 'blind support' for Israel must end

Says Hamas after Trump wins

AGENCIES

A senior Hamas official told AFP that the United States under Donald Trump, who won in the US presidential election, must end its “blind support” for Israel in the offensive in Gaza.

“This blind support for the Zionist entity must end because it comes at the expense of the future of our people and the security and stability of the region,” Bassem Naim, a member of Hamas's political bureau, told AFP.

Meanwhile, Palestinian media outlets reported yesterday that an Israeli drone attack on a group of people near al-Aqqad School in Khirbet al-Adas, north of Rafah city.

At least three people were killed in the attack, the reports said.

Northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya town and the Nuseirat refugee camp in the centre of the enclave have been the focus of Israeli attacks since dawn, according to the news outlets.

Egypt has joined a call led by Turkey and backed by dozens of countries, urging the UN to halt arms deliveries to Israel, reports Al Jazeera online.

A Foreign Ministry statement on Tuesday said Egypt joined the call as part of “international efforts to pressure Israel to cease its continuous violations of international law and international humanitarian law”.

Unicef in the MENA region has warned that “the Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza has become a besieged war zone”, adding that the last neonatal intensive care unit remaining in the area had been damaged in heavy attacks in recent days.

- » Egypt joins Turkey call to UN for arms embargo on Israel
- » Kamal Adwan Hospital now a besieged war zone: Unicef
- » Death toll in Gaza now 43,391

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Tigers implode, get hammered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sudden collapse, instigated by Afghanistan off-spinner AM Ghazanfar, saw Bangladesh lose impetus and suffer a 92-run hammering in their first of three ODIs at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the UAE yesterday.

In chase of a 236-run target, the Tigers looked to be in control till the end of the 30th over, needing 105 more runs to win in 120 balls with seven wickets in hand. However, a dramatic implosion saw Bangladesh lose their last seven wickets in the space of just 23 deliveries and 11 runs to get bundled out for 143 in just 34.3 overs.

Brought back into the attack in the 31st over, Ghazanfar turned out to be the wrecker in chief of the Tigers' innings as he removed a set batter in Mehedi Hasan Miraz (28 off 51) with his fourth delivery of the over. Miraz, trying to force a sweep from outside off, top edged to see Azmatullah Omarzai take a brilliant diving catch in the deep.

That wicket had set the domino effect in motion,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

15TH AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

It ruined basic structures of constitution

Counsel tells HC hearing on petitions challenging scrapping of caretaker govt system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 15th constitutional amendment has destroyed the charter's basic structures, democracy, right to vote, and free and fair polls, Sharif Bhuiyan, principal counsel for the five writ petitioners who challenged the constitutional amendment, told the High Court yesterday.

The 15th amendment annulled the 13th amendment which had introduced the nonparty caretaker government system.

Sharif said people's opportunity to cast votes was ruined, and “midnight elections”, “auto pass elections” and “dummy elections” took place in the country due to the abolition of the caretaker government system through the 15th amendment.

Terming it a “motivated amendment”, he said the 15th amendment was brought so that a particular political party can remain in power for successive terms.

Sharif, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, was presenting arguments before the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury during the second day's hearing on the rule that questioned the constitutionality of the 15th amendment.

Barrister Reduanul Karim assisted Sharif.

During the proceedings, the HC bench said this is a case of all citizens as it is related to holding national elections.

The bench said this after pro-BNP lawyers Zainul Abedin and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told the court that they wanted to present arguments as the BNP was earlier allowed to place arguments.

The two attorneys are likely to present arguments today.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Home adviser pledges zero tolerance for crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday pledged a zero-tolerance policy towards crimes, saying that political affiliations would not shield any criminal from legal action.

“No matter which party the culprit belongs to, they will be arrested and brought under the law,” he said at a press briefing at the Secretariat after a special meeting to assess the law and order situation in Dhaka.

The meeting, attended by senior officials from the military, police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Rapid Action Battalion, and intelligence agencies, focused on bolstering security in the capital, according to a home ministry press release.

Jahangir said the law and order situation was better than before, but added there was scope for further improvement.

He said successful measures applied in areas like Mohammadpur would be replicated across the city to curb crimes.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Webb reveals rapid growth of primordial black hole

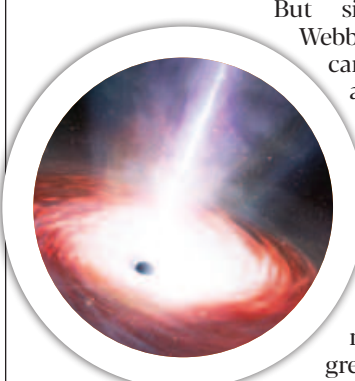
REUTERS, Washington

At the heart of our Milky Way galaxy lurks a supermassive black hole about four million times the mass of the sun, called Sagittarius A*. In fact, these objects, which increase in mass over time by eating material that wanders too close, reside at the center of most galaxies.

But since Nasa's James Webb Space Telescope came online in 2022, astronomers have been surprised to find supermassive black holes inhabiting the early universe - earlier than they had thought possible considering the time needed to gather such great mass.

New observations of one such primordial black hole is offering insight into how this may have occurred - through episodes of supercharged growth.

Black holes are extremely dense objects with gravity so strong that not even light can escape. With their immense gravitational pull, they grow in mass by sucking in material such as gas, dust and stars unfortunate enough to stray nearby.



A police official checking the documents of a bus on Manik Mia Avenue yesterday as part of drives to enforce discipline on the roads and reduce traffic congestion in the capital. Buses without valid documents were fined.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SCRAPPING OF CSA

Proposal likely to be placed before advisory council today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A proposal to repeal the controversial “Cyber Security Act-2023” is likely to be placed before the advisory council meeting today.

Sources at the Information and Communication Technology Division said drafting of a new ordinance to replace the CSA is underway.

“The new ordinance will focus on safeguarding cyberspace and protecting citizens. It will be finalised soon,” said a top official with knowledge of the matter.

“The proposal for repealing the act [CSA] would be placed before the advisory council meeting tomorrow [today].”

Replacing the Digital Security Act, the CSA was enacted by the Awami League government last year. The act drew widespread criticism from journalists, civil society, and the international community who said that many elements of the DSA that curtail freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of the press remain in the CSA.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1