



A penchant for unwanted surprises

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Trump's victory and why the Democratic Party failed

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World must better adapt to 'climate calamity': UN

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Unapproved college section puts students in jeopardy

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CSA getting scrapped

Advisory council okays draft of Cyber Security Act (Repeal) Ordinance 2024

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday decided in principle to repeal the Cyber Security Act which has been used to curb press freedom and suppress political dissent.

The decision was made at a meeting chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office.

The advisory council gave provisional approval to a draft of the Cyber Security Act (repeal) Ordinance 2024, which the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division will now examine before it is finally approved by the advisers, according to a Cabinet Division statement.

The law ministry with secretarial and technical support from the ICT Division will come up with a separate law on ensuring safety and security in the cyberspace, said the statement.

In September 2023, the Awami League government passed the CSA in parliament, replacing the Digital Security Act (DSA) 2018.

Rights defenders and journalists pointed out at the time that the provisions used to repress dissent were carried over from the DSA to the CSA.

There were barely any qualitative or significant changes

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A man melting steel at a factory in South Keraniganj. In the absence of any safety gear, workers like him are prone to burn injuries and various other health risks. Though the lack of workers' safety has been a longstanding problem, the authorities concerned still seem too reluctant to care. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Govt won't tolerate any attacks on newspapers

Says CA's press secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not tolerate any attacks on newspapers, said Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam.

"No newspaper, TV channel or news website has been shut since the interim government took office," he said at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

Shafiqul said there had been no phone calls from the government or the intelligence agencies requesting news outlets to take down or upload any news article. They also did not give any directive regarding speakers of talk shows and barring reporters from certain assignments, he added.

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A law that GAGGED

Victims express relief

ZYMA ISLAM and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Some made a differing comment, some drew a political cartoon and some made a joke online – and they all ended up in jail, in some cases for months. This is how the Digital Security Act (DSA) and later the Cyber Security Act (CSA) were used to gag freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

Until recently, people were afraid to voice their opinions on digital platforms because of the harsh law. But yesterday victims of the "draconian" law expressed relief after the government decided in principle to abolish the law.

Naval Architect Golam Mahfuz Joarder, now convener of the DSA Victims Network, is one of them. He was in jail for 10 months simply for voicing concerns in social media over extrajudicial killings.

"Extrajudicial killings were rampant in 2018-19. At the time, I posted on Facebook opposing these killings. On December 26, 2019, a Rab team detained me, accusing me of writing against the force and gathering data on crossfire," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

His explanation to the law enforcers that he only posted information from published news reports did not work, he said. His bail petition was rejected seven times before he was granted bail.

He was not alone.

Between October 2018 and August 2024, at least 3,208 named and 2,080 unnamed people have been sued under the DSA. Another 372 people have been prosecuted

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3 MONTHS OF INTERIM GOVT

Start of reform process reassuring

TANIM AHMED

The much talked about reforms are finally under way as the government completes its three months in office. There has been a unanimous agreement across the political spectrum about the necessity of reforming institutions that had been rendered into partisan instruments during the 15-year Awami League regime. That the commissions have begun their assignments is heartening.

Since it will be through these reforms that the incumbents will have a lasting impact in Bangladesh, it is imperative that the reforms are done well with due deliberation. It will be based on the platform these reforms provide that the election roadmap will have to be designed. While there have been some indications about a route to the next elections, incumbents will have to present a more concrete roadmap sooner, rather than later. The call for a concrete election roadmap from the political quarters will only become louder and stronger with time. Thus, it will only

allay apprehensions and reassure the people that the country is indeed headed towards an election.

Three months on, law and order continues to be the government's main concern with crimes rising across Dhaka and elsewhere. The ruling interim government had taken over the reins of Bangladesh after a people's uprising spearheaded by the students. Essentially a campaign against reservations in government jobs, the uprising was characterised by excessive violence from law enforcers who killed at least 874 protesters – the government is yet to confirm the final number. Following the hasty departure of the former premier and consequent fall of the dictatorial regime, the police had largely deserted their posts fearing attacks.

Since then, law enforcement has been ailing the incumbent government. The police resumed operations only after reassurances of safety and initially had to be escorted by military personnel. But they have yet to regain their morale. The

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While there have been some indications about a route to the next elections, incumbents will have to present a more concrete roadmap sooner, rather than later.

Trump win worries global partners ahead of COP29

Biden calls for calm and promises orderly transfer of power

REUTERS, Washington

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election has darkened the outlook for a strong deal at the COP29 global climate summit next week and will heap pressure on Europe and China to lead international progress in curbing planetary warming, according to climate negotiators.

Trump, who has called climate change a hoax, has said he plans to withdraw the US from the landmark 2015 Paris climate agreement at the start of his second presidency, and his policy advisors have floated removing the US from the underlying UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ratified by the US Senate in 1992.

Climate negotiators and observers preparing for the COP29 conference from Nov 11-22 in Baku, Azerbaijan, said Trump's decisive win over Vice President Kamala Harris in Tuesday's poll deals a blow to the ability of countries to agree on a new global finance target or increase the pool of countries that should contribute – top goals for the summit.

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- COP29 conference to begin on Nov 11 in Baku
- Trump has called climate change a hoax
- US is expected to withdraw again from Paris deal

Raft of measures soon to tame inflation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has decided to double the amount of rice against one crore family cards and change the market monitoring strategy to tame inflation.

The decision came yesterday at a meeting attended by Finance and Commerce Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed; Planning and Education Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud; Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Adviser Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan; and Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur at the Secretariat.

Considering the global market situation and measures taken

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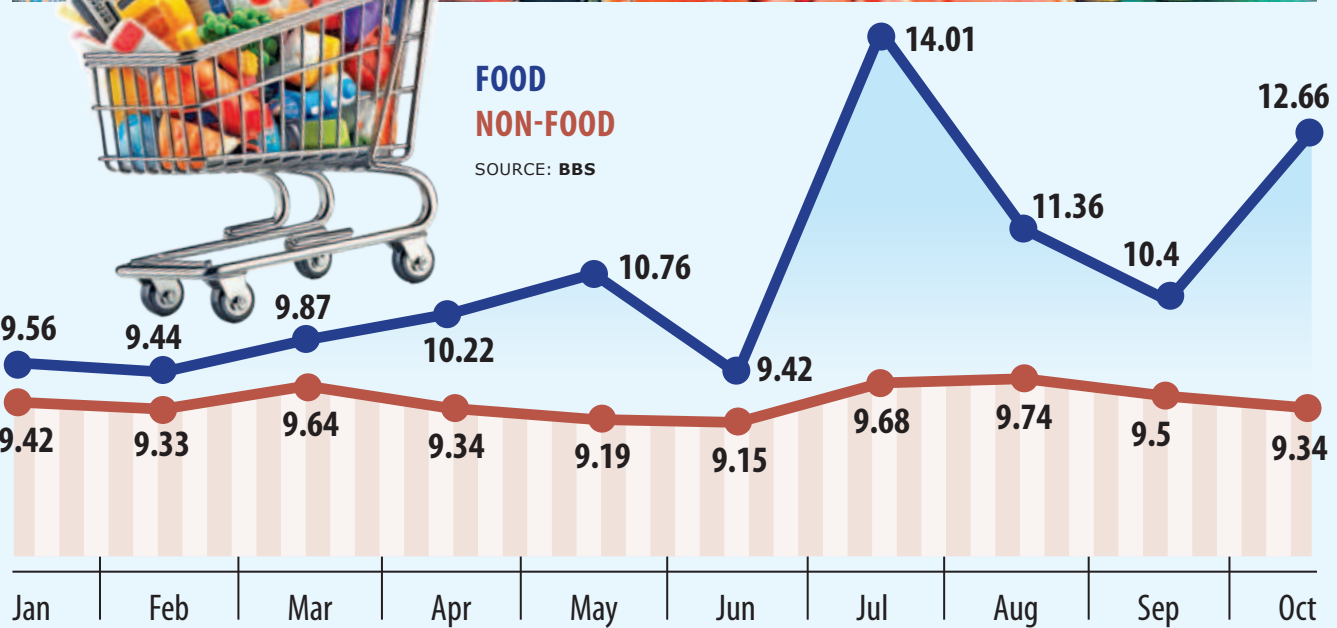
PKSF-TDS ROUNDTABLE

Pathways to prosperity for extremely poor people

Check out the special two-page roundtable supplement on Pages 8 & 9! Some of the country's brightest minds came together at the roundtable, offering valuable insights into strategies for transforming the lives of those living in extreme poverty.



TREND OF INFLATION IN 2024 IN %



Inflation hit three-month high in October

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inflation hit a three-month high of 10.87 percent in October thanks to the soaring food prices, especially the staple rice and vegetables.

Last month, food inflation hit 12.66 percent and non-food inflation declined 16 percentage points to 9.34 percent, according to the latest published data from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The elevated price level comes despite a hawkish policy by the Bangladesh Bank to combat inflation.

In its quarterly report titled "Inflation Dynamics in Bangladesh", the central bank said domestic products accounted for 74 percent of the overall inflation in September.

In contrast, the contribution of import-dependent items to inflation fell to 26 percent in September from 39 percent in June.

In the latest edition of its flagship Asian Development Outlook, the Asian Development Bank projected that inflation this fiscal year would hit 10.1 percent, 3.1 percentage points higher than its previous projection in April.

However, the World Bank, in its latest edition of the Bangladesh Development Update in October, projected that inflation would decline to 9 percent this fiscal year from 9.7 percent in fiscal 2023-24.

"The elevated inflation is generally very painful

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NHRC chairman, 5 members quit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed, along with the commission's five other members, resigned from their positions yesterday.

They submitted their resignations separately to President Mohammed Shahabuddin, citing section 6(4) of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009.

Those who resigned include full-time member Selim Reza. The others are members Tania Haque, Biswajit Chanda, Kongjari Chowdhury, and Aminul Islam.

The president appointed Kamal as chairman of the commission for a three-year term on December 10, 2022, with a rank equivalent to a justice of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Kamal had previously served as a full-time member of the commission in an earlier term.

The commission was formed in December 2008 after the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2007 was promulgated with effect from September 1, 2008.



Kamal Uddin



A destroyed building in a neighbourhood of Beirut's southern suburbs after Israeli strikes. Hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces continued in Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Delhi sees Hasina as a former PM

Says Indian foreign ministry spokesperson

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India yesterday said it considers Sheikh Hasina as a former prime minister of Bangladesh.

"We have repeatedly said that she [Hasina] is a former prime minister, that is where it stands," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told the weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

He made the remarks after an Indian journalist pointed out that the Awami League in its congratulatory statement to Donald Trump described Hasina as "Bangladesh PM". The journalist wanted to know if India considers Hasina a former PM or a "PM in exile".

On the recent events in Chattogram, he said "extremists" were behind the recent "attacks on Hindus and their properties". He urged the Bangladesh government to take action against the perpetrators and strong measures to ensure the safety of the minorities.

Jaiswal claimed there have been "incendiary" social media posts targeting the Hindus that triggered "the attacks" in Chittagong. "It is understood that extremists are behind the incidents," he added.

In Chattogram, police on Tuesday took a trader into custody after a mob attacked and vandalised his shop on Hazari Lane over a Facebook post.

The man allegedly made the post criticising ISKCON

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Party offices silent, abandoned

FROM PAGE 16

polls held on January 7 are facing a completely different reality, with many of the offices found to be empty or padlocked.

The activists of the parties – six of which are members of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance – are avoiding public gatherings, fearing potential arrest and harassment.

Top leaders of many of the parties either went into hiding or have severely restricted outdoor movements. The Daily Star has learnt from people close to the individuals.

Their activities, in fact, are limited to issuing statements on various issues, they added.

The correspondent visited the central offices of 13 parties on four days late last month and found the central offices of five parties – Jatiya Party, Trinamool BNP, Bangladesh Nationalist Movement (BNM), National Awami Party, and Jatiya Party (JP) – padlocked.

Offices of Tariat Federation and Ganatantri Party do not exist now as their landlords rented the spaces out to others. The leaders of the parties have not turned up since August 5.

The headquarters of the immediate past ruling party Awami League on Bangabandhu Avenue now looks like an abandoned building.

With its entrance littered with ash, shattered glass, and charred wood. The building had been vandalised and torched on August 5 and later.

Last Sunday, makeshift cots used by street vendors were seen stacked against the main gate. Posters of Jamaat-e-Islami highlighting incidents of violence since October 28, 2008, and several Gono Odhikar Parishad posters now cover parts of the office walls.

No AL members returned to the building since August 5, according to nearby shopkeepers.

This correspondent could not contact any AL central leaders.

LOCKED OFFICES

The central office of the Jatiya Party, the opposition in parliament for three consecutive terms since 2014, in Kakrail was found locked around 4:30pm on October 27.

Insiders said the number of outdoor political programmes of the party dropped significantly since August 5 and most of the activities are indoors.

A few days later, on November 1, the building was set on fire and vandalised by a group of people marching under the banner of "Anti-fascist students, workers, and masses".

Abdur Rahman, president of Sramik Odhikar Parishad, an associate body of the Gono Odhikar Parishad, said activists of his party were marching with lit torches when some people from the Jatiya Party office building threw brick chunks at them from upstairs.

Contacted, Jatiya Party Secretary General Mujibul

Haque Chunnu said the central office was locked as all the leaders and activists were at the party chairmen's office in Banani.

He claimed that the number of the party's political programmes did not drop.

He, however, said that the party had organised one outdoor programme across the country to protest the filing of cases against its leaders.

"We are holding meetings with all affiliated organisations regularly," he added.

Trinamool BNP's central office at Meherba Plaza on Topkhana Road was found locked the same day. There was no signboard there either.

Locals said they hardly saw party activities there since August 5. The situation worsened after the arrest of party chairperson Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury on October 18, they said.

The party has ceased activities at the office for some days as its staff left, said Taimur Alam Khandaker, general secretary of Trinamool BNP.

He could not say for how long there have been no party activities.

"We will think about political programmes after analysing the situation and when political activities resume in the country," he said.

Central offices of the Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) in Dhanmondi and Jatiya Party (JP) in Lalmitia were found locked. Locals said the offices of the parties – components of the 14-party alliance – have been closed for many days.

"We open our party office from time to time due to the current political situation. Many activists were scattered and that's why political activities came to a halt," said Ivy Ahmed, president of NAP.

The main gate of the BNM's central office in Mohammadpur was found padlocked. The office is in a flat owned by party Chairman Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar.

Zafar said they have instructed all party leaders and activists to go to their localities.

"They visit the central office twice and thrice a week. We don't have any political programmes now. We are analysing the situation," he added.

The Supreme Party and BNM got registration with the Election Commission before the January polls, sparking criticism with many terming them "kings party".

"We are not a King's Party as we were critical of Awami League," Zafar said.

OFFICES DON'T EXIST

The central offices of two 14-party alliance components, Bangladesh Tariat Federation in Dhanmondi and Ganatantri Party in Purana Paltan, do not exist anymore.

Md Nuruzzaman, the caretaker of the building where Tariat's office was housed, said the party leaders left the office on August 5

with their documents.

He said the party activists paid the rent and did not come to the offices except to collect their belongings.

The phones of the party's chairman Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandary and Secretary General Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpur were unreachable.

Meanwhile, locals in Purana Paltan said no members of the Ganatantri Party went to its office housed in Israt Tower since August 5. The building owners leased the space out to a lawyer as the party did not pay rent for months.

The building authorities kept the party's belongings, including chairs and tables, stacked in a corner on the floor.

Enam Ali, manager of the building, said they could not settle financial issues with the Ganatantri Party as the leaders were unreachable.

Ganatantri Party President Arash Ali did not pick up his phone and its general secretary Shahadat Hossain's phone was unreachable.

ALMOST EMPTY

In mid-September, party men reopened the central office of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, which was vandalised. Workers Party is also a key member of the 14-party alliance.

When the correspondent visited the office, two staffers were present.

Party President Rashed Khan Menon was detained on August 22, and its general secretary Fazle Hasan Badshah was abroad for medical treatment, leaving the party activities limited to issuing statements, according to party people.

Acting president Mahmudul Hasan Manik said he was in touch with the party offices. "Our activists are hesitant to return due to fears of harassment," he said.

At the Samyabadi Dal's central office in Topkhana, ailing central leader Sunil Sen was there as he resides in the office. Locals said they did not witness any political programmes recently and hardly any top leaders shows up there anymore.

Since August 5, the party's General Secretary Dilip Barua visited the office only to enquire about Sunil's health. Dilip Barua's phone was unreachable.

On October 25 around 5:30pm, a security guard at the Bangladesh Supreme Party office in Mirpur-1 said the office was empty. The building also houses the Dhaka Zila Committee.

Party office secretary Ibrahim Miah explained over phone that they were in the process of moving to Naya Paltan, which is why no one was present at the Mirpur location.

Only two people including Bangladesh Sangiskritik Mukhtijote's General Secretary Shahjamal Amirul were present at its central office on Mazar Road in Mirpur on October 25 evening. Amirul said that they were not holding public programmes but running their activities online.

"We will launch a public programme soon," he said.

Trump win worries global partners

FROM PAGE 1

The EU and US had planned to push China and rich Gulf states to start paying into UN climate funds.

"Pushing for more ambitious climate finance is going to be almost impossible without the US buy-in, which will de-motivate developing countries from taking seriously the climate ambitions of the West," said Elisabetta Cornago, a senior research fellow at the Centre for European Reform.

Jennifer Morgan, Germany's state secretary for international climate action, said it will be up to Germany and the European Union to maintain leadership in the climate finance discussions to ensure an acceptable result.

Failure to land a strong climate finance deal would be a particularly big setback for the 45-country group of Least Developed Countries in UN climate negotiations, which is demanding countries pay up.

One climate minister from Latin America said that while the return of pro-oil drilling Trump and his likely Paris withdrawal are a setback to global climate efforts, the deployment of renewables is attracting trillions of dollars in investments and will continue despite his political manoeuvres.

"The election feels like a slap in the face to climate progress, but it won't stop the global push for clean energy," the official said. "Sticking with fossil fuels is a dead end."

Any weakening in the US' stance on tackling climate change, however, would

make it vital for Europe and China to hold firm. The US, China, and the 27-country European Union are the world's biggest historical polluters.

"If one of the three-legged pillars is wobbling or uncertain, the other two need to hold fast," a European diplomat told Reuters.

Li Shuo, director of China Climate Hub at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said the loss of US China political leadership at COP29 and in the future needs to be filled by China and the EU.

"A strengthened climate alliance with Europe and China at the centre is our best hope for the next few years," he said.

US states and cities, meanwhile, are planning to step up and fill the US void at the upcoming climate summit to encourage other countries to keep working toward Paris climate goals.

The US Climate Alliance, America Is All In and Climate Mayors will send delegations to COP29. The groups were formed in 2017 after Trump withdrew the US from the Paris agreement the first time, a move the Biden administration reversed. They represent nearly two-thirds of the US population and three-quarters of US GDP.

A report by the University of Maryland in September found that if Biden administration climate laws and policies are rolled back, non-federal entities like states and cities can achieve a 48 percent emissions reduction by 2035 - falling short of previous US

commitments to reduce greenhouse emissions at least 50 percent compared to 2005 levels by 2030.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden urged Americans to "bring down the temperature" yesterday following Trump's election victory and sought to console fellow Democrats who were alarmed by the former president's stunning comeback.

"Setbacks are unavoidable. Giving up is unforgivable," Biden said at the White House Rose Garden as he addressed staff who were disappointed in Vice President Kamala Harris' defeat. "A defeat does not mean we are defeated."

Biden said Tuesday's election had proven the integrity of the US electoral system and pledged an orderly transfer of power – an implicit rebuke of Trump, who sought to overturn his 2020 defeat to Biden and raised baseless claims of fraud during this year's campaign as well.

Biden invited Trump to come meet at the White House – a courtesy Trump did not offer to Biden in 2020 – and Trump's campaign said the president-elect would go. In the weeks ahead, Trump will select personnel to serve under his leadership.

Trump's victory, surprisingly decisive after opinion polls had shown a neck-and-neck contest, underscored how disenchanted Americans had become with the economy – in particular inflation – along with border security and the direction of the country and its culture.

CSA getting scrapped

FROM PAGE 1

in the provisions that curtailed press freedom, they said.

"The fascist Awami League government transformed the Digital Security Act into the Cyber Security Act last year, but the law had the same objectives," Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told a press briefing at Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

The interim government will formulate a new law keeping in mind the security of women, children, and financial transactions on the internet, he said.

The CSA was used to sue and harass many people from the minority communities, he said, adding that the law the interim government is going to formulate will ensure the safety of vulnerable groups.

"The law adviser earlier assured that cases filed to curb freedom of expression would be cancelled. These cases should be cancelled," Shafiqul said.

But cases related to pornography, women's safety, and actual cyber security issues would not be dismissed, he added.

Contacted, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said he welcomed the decision to do away with the draconian law.

"We would hope that measures will be duly taken as early as possible to withdraw all cases lodged under the [CSA and DSA] acts," he said, adding that he expected the interim government to compensate the victims of these acts.

A law to combat cybercrimes is needed in every country, he said.

But the new law should

be drafted in a fully participatory process and should be called anything but CSA "because the very name creates a sense of insecurity among the people".

"The law's objective and scope should be limited only to ensuring safety on the internet."

Rights expert Prof CR Abrar, said, "We welcome the decision. This is another achievement of this government. Amending [the CSA] would not have been possible. It should be scrapped not because it was wrongly applied, but because it was applied in a way it was meant to be."

About the law which would replace the CSA, he said it would not be prudent to draft such an important law in a hurry.

As of August, at least 5,818 cases filed under the CSA and its predecessors ICT Act and the DSA were pending in the country's eight cyber tribunals, according to a press release issued by the law ministry on September 30.

Since the fall of the Awami League government in August, demands for repealing or amending controversial laws have been growing.

On November 4, Nahid Islam, adviser to the information ministry, said the CSA would be repealed within a week and pending cases under the act dismissed.

The government is also reviewing other laws that curb freedom of expression.

Many people accused under draconian laws were freed on bail after the interim government took office.

Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul earlier said the CSA would be repealed.

Raft of measures soon

FROM PAGE 1

domestically, inflation will decline, Mansur told reporters after the meeting at the secretariat.

"However, this could take time. The step taken to tighten monetary policy usually takes 12 to 18 months to have an impact on controlling inflation. We have to have patience and will implement the policy with patience," he said.

It was decided at the meeting that each family cardholder would get 10 kilograms of rice instead of 5kg, said Finance Secretary Khairuzzaman Mozumder.

Besides, the number of family card-holders and beneficiaries of open market sales (OMS) will also be increased, he said.

A decision has been taken to withdraw the margin for opening letters of credit to import six to seven essential food items, Mansur said, adding that the notification on this would be issued on Sunday.

Also, the limit for importing essential items will be relaxed for at least two to three months ahead of Ramadan so that the supply remains smooth.

The import price and selling price of the goods in the domestic market will be monitored, he said, adding

that the markets will not be monitored forcefully since it could have adverse effects.

Mansur identified three reasons behind the rise in inflation: the recent floods, workers' wage hikes and the base effect.

Since July, the government has been releasing inflation data without control.

"Now, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics releases data freely. When data is released freely, there could be some changes in percentage, which is known as base-effect," he said.

Due to this effect, inflation may remain high in the next few months, which is known as a statistical artefact, Mansur said.

"The good news is that prices of goods in the international market are declining. Besides, the government has taken several measures. So, inflation will decline for sure."

For example, although the price of rice is high, it is not as high as it was last year, Mansur said.

This time last year, the price of rice was Tk 5 to Tk 6 more for a kilogram.

Besides, the rice price in the local market is lower than in the international market. As a result, importers are not importing rice despite the zero duty on the staple.



Beyond this lake in the Tentulia area of Panchagarh district is the rare sight of Mount Kangchenjunga of the Himalayas. Only under the right weather conditions can this beautiful mountain be spotted from Bangladesh. As the sun sets, the white mountaintops emit a soft reddish hue that relaxes the soul of any who looks upon it. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Amu's lawyer assaulted in courtroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-BNP lawyers yesterday assaulted Swapan Krishna Roy Chowdhury, a lawyer for Awami League advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu, at the courtroom in the presence of a Dhaka magistrate during a remand hearing in a murder case.

With this, at least four incidents of assaulting defence lawyers have taken place on the premises of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka since August 14. Of them, two incidents occurred in the courtrooms.

Witnesses said Swapan was attacked at the courtroom around 11:45am while Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shahin Reza was hearing a 10 day remand prayer for Amu, in a case filed over the death of a trader, Abdul Wadud, in Dhaka's New Market area. The lawyer was also driven out from the courtroom, they added.

While the public prosecutor was speaking in favour of granting Amu's remand, Swapan commented that the state lawyer's speech was political. At that time, some unruly lawyers physically assaulted him and threw him out of the courtroom.

A LAWYER WHO WAS PRESENT IN THE COURTROOM

"While Dhaka metropolitan public prosecutor Omar Faruq Faruqi was speaking in the courtroom in favour of granting Amu's remand, Swapan commented that the state lawyer's speech was political," said a lawyer who was present during the hearing.

"At that time, some unruly lawyers physically assaulted him and threw him out of the courtroom," he added.

On the court premises, Swapan told journalists that the lawyers from the state attacked him in presence of the magistrate when he said the state lawyer was giving a political speech in the remand hearing.

"I did not get security in court for defending my client," he alleged.

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EU looks to develop ties with Bangladesh

2-day meeting on PCA concludes

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the European Union have completed the two-day introductory meeting on the Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) on Wednesday.

"These discussions signified a landmark in the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and the European Union," said a statement from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The PCA meeting was postponed on July 31 amid the student protests that eventually led to the fall of Awami League government on August 5.

Md Nazrul Islam, additional foreign secretary of the ministry, led the Bangladesh side, while the EU delegation was led by Chief Negotiator Paola Pampaloni, deputy managing director, Asia and Pacific Division, European External Action Services.

Ambassador of Bangladesh to Belgium and Permanent Representative to the EU, Mahbub Hasan Saleh, also joined the discussion virtually from Brussels.

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15TH AMENDMENT

AL passed it to stay in power for a long time

BNP lawyer tells HC hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League government passed the 15th amendment to the constitution, which scrapped the nonparty caretaker government system, to remain in state power for a long time, BNP's lawyer Zainul Abedin told the High Court yesterday.

Being politically motivated, the then government abolished the 13th amendment, which had introduced the nonparty caretaker government system, to bring the 15th, he said.

Through this amendment, the AL government also assassinated several fundamental rights of citizens by using the judiciary, he added.

Zainul Abedin, a senior lawyer of the Supreme Court, made the comments while presenting arguments on behalf of BNP before the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury during the third day of hearing on the rule that questioned the constitutionality of the 15th amendment.

After concluding yesterday's proceedings, the bench fixed Sunday for further hearing.

During yesterday's hearing, Advocate Zainul Abedin also said during the hearing on the appeal in the 13th amendment case, a seven-member bench of the SC Appellate Division headed by the then Chief Justice ABM

Khairul Haque heard expert opinions from eight prominent lawyers as amici curiae (friends of the court) on the constitutionality of the caretaker government system.

Seven of the eight amici curiae had placed opinions in favour of the caretaker government system before the SC bench, he said.

The apex court bench on May 10, 2011 delivered a short verdict in the case.

In the short verdict, the seven-member bench of the apex court, by

a majority view, has scrapped the caretaker government system; however, it observed that the next two elections might be held under the caretaker government.

But these observations are absent in the full text of the judgement, which was released on September 16, 2012.

A judge of the same SC bench termed the exclusion of the observation in the full judgement as judicial misconduct, Advocate Zainul Abedin said.

The lawyer also prayed to the HC bench to scrap the 15th amendment of the constitution.

Advocate Farzana Sharmin Putul, who also placed arguments on behalf of BNP, told the HC that the AL government has established fascism by bringing the 15th amendment to the constitution.

Yesterday, Barrister ASM Shahriar

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Students, teachers regained freedom of thought thru uprising

Prof Yunus tells DU event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the country's student teacher community has regained their freedom of thoughts and the practice of freethinking through the student-led mass uprising.

"Along with this, we must now add the capability to contribute to global science. With high aspirations, this can be achieved through daily learning and research," he said.

He was addressing an event at Dhaka University on the centenary of the Bose-Einstein condensate.

He said the fruits of the uprising have equipped the interim government with the necessary reforms and the readiness to create the conducive environment required for this purpose.

"We need demands and suggestions from all dedicated to this cause. If we have confidence in ourselves, we can do it — just as Bose had confidence in himself, which allowed him to write to Einstein even though he was a complete stranger."

"Always, we must nurture trust in each other, so that we don't have to go to the world, but the world comes to us," he said, adding, people must instill faith in the country's youths that "we are the world". "Today, we are celebrating the centenary of that very aspiration."

Recalling the early days of Dhaka University and the city, Prof Yunus said the peaceful little town, the green

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Deputy commander of US Indo-Pacific calls on army chief

BSS, Dhaka

A delegation led by deputy commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command Lt Gen Joshua M Rudd paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz Zaman at Army Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the existing good relations between the two countries and various issues of cooperation for future progress, said an ISPR release. The army chief also thanked Joshua M Rudd for the meeting.

Govt to document spending of Mujib Borsho celebration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has decided to document the expenditure of public funds on the celebrations marking Mujib Borsho, the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

At a press conference following a meeting, Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said ministries would compile details of how and where money was spent during the celebrations. "Several thousand crores of taka were wasted in these state-sponsored events. These are public funds," he said.

He added that private companies were pressured to contribute financially, including setting up Mujib Corners and constructing sculptures of the leader.

The celebrations, initially scheduled for March 17, 2020, to December 16, 2021, were extended by nine months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the extended timeframe, concerns have arisen about the financial implications of the celebrations, leading to calls for transparency.

In addition to the Mujib Borsho review, the advisory council announced the formation of a taskforce to assess the prices of essential drugs. The government currently regulates the prices of 117 essential medicines, and discussions will

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Bury all divisions for national interests

Jamaat ameer urges political parties

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman yesterday urged the political parties to work together for the sake of the country, burying all divisions.

He was speaking at an event marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, organised by the Dhaka Metropolitan Unit of Jamaat, at Al Falah auditorium in the capital's Moghbazar.

He called upon everyone to work together to build a discrimination-free society and a new Bangladesh.

"If we still think of divisions among us, there will be conspiracy, and a bigger danger will come," he said.

He told Jamaat activists, "There is no compromise on the question of independence and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

Will continue fight for students' rights

Say anti-discrimination movement leaders at HSTU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement yesterday alleged that politics gets more prioritised than academic activities at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur.

They made the remarks at a student gathering on the HSTU campus yesterday.

Hasnat Abdullah, a central coordinator of the movement, accused many HSTU teachers and officials of focusing more on political agenda than academic responsibilities, which has compromised the students' right to quality education.

"Teachers and officials at HSTU act as full-time politicians while students receive only part-time education," Hasnat claimed.

He alleged that promotions and other benefits for teachers and staffers are more dependent on political connections, rather than academic performance.

Hasnat said he observed such patterns during a visit to the HSTU campus in 2022.

Sarjis Alam, another central coordinator, stated that it takes six years to complete a four-year degree at HSTU as an impact of the alleged administrative negligence.

This delay causes serious setbacks for the students' careers, he said.

Sarjis and Hasnat expressed their determination to continue the fight for an improved and unbiased educational environment at the university.

A large number of HSTU students attended the gathering and underscored their ongoing frustrations with the university administration.



The rickshaw that carried the body of Golam Nafiz, a student killed during the anti-discrimination movement, will be preserved at the July Revolution Memorial Museum. The rickshaw was brought to the Gono Bhaban yesterday. Information Adviser Nahid Islam and special assistant to the chief adviser Mahfuz Alam were present during the time along with rickshaw-puller Nur Mohammad.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Rezaul Karim passes away

STAR REPORT

Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim, founder chairman of Tropical Homes Limited, passed away yesterday, said a press release.

He breathed his last around 4:00pm at Square Hospital in Dhaka.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today after the Juma prayers at Allahu Mosque in Dhaka Cantonment. All are requested to attend the janaza to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

TV channel owners' association election held

STAR REPORT

The 8th annual general meeting of the Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) was held on November 6 at a city hotel.

Anjan Chowdhury, president of ATCO and managing director of Maasranga TV, presided over the meeting, said a press release.

After the AGM, 15 members were elected as the board of directors. They are Anjan Chowdhury, Mohammad Mosaddak Ali (NTV), Mostafa Kamal (Ekattor TV), Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury (DBC News), Abdul Haque (Bangla Vision), Arif Hasan (Desh TV), Zahiruddin Mahmud Mamun (Channel-i), Md Jasim Uddin (RTV), Md Liaquat Ali Khan Mukul (Asian TV), Tipu Alam Milon (Boishakhi TV), Kazi Zahedul Hasan (Deepto TV), Abdus Salam (ETV), Navidul Huq (Nagarik TV), Md Hasan (Somoy TV), Safwan Sobhan (T Sports).

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury was elected as vice president, Arif Hasan as general secretary, and Zahiruddin Mahmud Mamun as treasurer.

As two candidates got equal number of votes for the post of president, the election commissioner will hold the polls for the post later. By that time, the current President Anjan Chowdhury will remain in charge.



As winter draws closer, vendors have already started to prepare for the eventual demand for warm clothes. They have set up shops, featuring children's winter clothes, on the sidewalk on Fazlul Haque Avenue in Barishal city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

JAMUNA RIVER BANK IN PABNA

Govt mulls freeing it from encroachment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Following a decade of rampant encroachment, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority has finally taken the initiative to remove illegal structures from the Jamuna's bank and smooth the operations of Nagarbari River Port in Pabna's Bera upazila.

A large market, locally known as the MP Bazar, currently occupies the river bank, which was established by former Pabna-2 lawmaker Khandaker Azizul Haque.

On September 29, BIWTA Assistant Director Abdul Wakil sent a letter to the Pabna deputy commissioner seeking the removal of the market and allotment of river land for the port's operations.

"A Tk 563 crore construction work is undergoing to build a modern port in Nagarbari. The work will be finished by next year. However, we need more space so that more vessels can unload goods simultaneously at the port," said Abdul Wakil, also the Nagarbari port officer.

With the initiative of the former lawmaker, a group of influential people occupied a huge portion of river land, and filled up the area with sands from the river.

They have been allotting plots in the area for around Tk 1 lakh since 2014.

"The entire land is originally government property, but people have illegally built shops here without any permission from the authority

concerned," said Morshedul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer of Bera upazila.

Local administration earlier tried to remove illegal structures from the river bank, but the eviction drive was halted due to a stay order from the High Court, the UNO said.

However, Abdul Wakil said the Supreme Court dismissed the stay order on July 31, 2023, so there is no bar for removing illegal structures.



Meanwhile, traders at the market have urged the government to not demolish the market.

"Hundreds of traders have invested a lot of money here. There is no other space where we can relocate to. If needed, we can pay certain taxes to the government for the allotment," said Shah Alam, a trader.

Contacted, Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md Mofizul Islam said, "We have asked the UNO concerned to submit a report in this regard. We will take steps following the report."

Govt forms working group to restore canals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed an 11-member working group headed by an additional deputy commissioner (revenue) to restore the flow of canals in Dhaka and reclaim them by tackling encroachment and pollution.

According to a notification of the Ministry of Water Resources issued on Tuesday, the working group will also work to establish a "Blue Network" centred around the canals, developing a time-bound and cost-effective action plan.

It has been asked to submit the finalised action plan to the ministry by November 30.

The other members of the working group include representatives from Water Development Board, BIWTA, Department of Environment, National River Conservation Commission, LGED, DNCC, DSCC, Rajuk, one representative from an NGO or volunteer organisation, and a student representative (selected by the local administration).

BGB seized goods worth Tk 225.88cr in October

UNB, Dhaka

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized arms, ammunition, drugs and other contraband items worth Tk 225.88 crore during anti-smuggling drives across the country, especially in bordering areas in October.

During this period, the paramilitary force seized goods including 986 grammes of gold, 14,302 sarees, 15,023 three-piece/shirt-piece/bed-sheet/blankets, 27,652 metre unstitched fabrics, 2,50,722 cosmetics, 3,149 cft timber, 2,265 kgs of tea leaves, 4,16,711 kgs of sugar, 4,130 kgs of fertilizer, 86,750 cubic feet coal, 20,440 mobile displays, 40,640 glasses, 942 kgs of yarn/current nets, 15,334 kgs of betel nuts, 90,904 kgs of garlic, 1,318 kgs of onion, 22,889 kgs of cumin, four touchstone statues, 21 trucks, 24 pickups, five private cars/microbuses, nine trolleys, 347 boats, 53 CNG/human haulers, 81 motorbikes and 24 bicycles, said a BGB media release signed by its Public Relations Officer Md Shariful Islam yesterday.

Seized arms included two pistols, three firearms, two magazines, one rifle, three grenades, one rocket bomb and 270 rounds of bullets.

Meanwhile, legal action has been taken against 243 alleged smugglers, 345 Bangladeshi nationals and 28 Indians for illegally crossing the border during the period, said Shariful Islam.

Bury all

FROM PAGE 3

sovereignty of the country. You have to live like a tiger, not like a cat."

"We never engage in anti-social activities like corruption, rape, and extortion. But the Awami League always targeted us and banned the party twice. The only reason behind this is our transparency," said Shaheer.

The cancer of corruption must be uprooted, he said, adding, "That is why political parties and leaders have to fix their political character."

Govt to

FROM PAGE 3

explore how to expand this list to protect the poor from rising drug costs.

The council also reviewed the draft of the Smoking and Tobacco Products Use (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2024, and decided to establish a high-level committee, led by Finance Adviser Saleh Uddin Ahmed, to consider various aspects of tobacco control law.

Shafiqul Alam also noted that Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus would attend COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, in the second week of November, with a reduced delegation compared to the UNGA summit in September.

The COP29 conference will take place from November 11 to 22.

Students

FROM PAGE 3

meadows, cannot be brought back, but the glory of the university can certainly be restored in today's independent Bangladesh. "On the centenary of the Bose-Einstein theory, we assert this with conviction," he said.

"Today, as we strive to rebuild the country through a total uprising of the student and masses and aim to re-establish the university as a place for its rightful practice, what could be a more appropriate theme for celebration than the centenary of Bose's discovery?"

"What greater tribute could there be to inspire the students, the heroes of the movement, than this?" he added.

EU looks to develop

FROM PAGE 3

Currently, the bilateral relationship between the EU and Bangladesh is based on the 2001 Cooperation Agreement.

The EU, the largest destination of Bangladesh's exports, has been providing Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) facilities. It has helped Bangladesh's RMG industry flourish.

As Bangladesh is graduating out of LDC by 2026, the EU will eventually phase out such facilities but can also provide incentives under a different scheme -- GSP Plus.

However, more conditions -- more

rights, environment, human rights, democracy, media freedom, and civic space -- will be considered for that.

Meanwhile, the EU also looks to develop political relationships with Bangladesh and support its policies, an EU official told this correspondent.

"The discussions included all aspects of the relationship, including politics, governance, human rights, trade and economy, development, environment, etc. It may take two to three years to conclude negotiation and sign the PCA," a foreign ministry official said.

AL passed it to stay

FROM PAGE 3

Kabir, the lawyer for another writ petitioner, Mofazzal Hossain, who also challenged the legality of the 15th amendment, told the same HC bench that Article 7 of the Constitution, which said all powers in the republic

belong to the people, has been destroyed by the 15th amendment.

Following the petition filed by Mofazzal, a freedom fighter from Naogaon, the HC on October 29 issued a rule questioning the constitutionality of the 15th amendment.

Directorate General Defence Purchase Ministry of Defence New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 Web: navywing@dgdg.gov.bd E-mail: info@dgdg.gov.bd						
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Ser	Name of Item	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Cost of Tender	Tender No
		From	To			
1.	Tester Programmable IC with accessories, (Qty: 01 Set)	07-11-2024	20-11-2024	21-11-2024	BDT 2,000.00	251.07.065.2024
2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available in this Directorate General on payment as per invitation of tender selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0900 hours to 1300 hours on the above mentioned date of selling. The tender can be dropped in the tender box latest by 1200 hours and the same will be opened at 1205 hours on the specified date of opening in the presence of the tenderers (if present).						
আই এস পি আর/বিবি/৪৯৯ ৬/১১/২৪				Commander BN For Director General Directorate General Defence Purchase		
GD- 904						

উইল্‌স লিটল ফ্লাওয়ার স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ						
৮৫ কাকরাইল, রমনা, ঢাকা-১০০০। মোবাইল: ০১৭১৫৩২৩২৭, ০১৮১৮৮৯০০৮৮, ০১৫২১৮৫৭৬২, (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়) web: www.wlfsc.edu.bd, Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/wlfsc1956, E-mail: willes_title@yahoo.com, EILN: 1083359						
ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি						
উইল্‌স লিটল ফ্লাওয়ার স্কুল এন্ড কলেজে ২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে নিম্নে বর্ণিত শ্রেণিতে শূন্য আসনে ছাত্রছাত্রী ভর্তি করা হবে।						
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক নিম্নোক্ত শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করা হবে।						
ক্রম নং	বাংলা মাধ্যম	ইংলিশ ভার্সন (ন্যাশনাল কারিকুলাম)	ফরম পূরণ ও প্রবেশপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ	লটারি অনুষ্ঠানের তারিখ		
১.	১ম শ্রেণি (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী- শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	১ম শ্রেণি (ছাত্র ও ছাত্রী- শুধু প্রভাতি শাখা)	১২/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি. সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা থেকে	১২/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি.	শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ঘোষিত তারিখ অনুযায়ী	
২.	২য় থেকে ৯ম শ্রেণি প্রভাতি শাখা- ছাত্রী, দিবা শাখা- ছাত্র	২য় থেকে ৯ম শ্রেণি প্রভাতি শাখা- ছাত্রী, দিবা শাখা- ছাত্র	৩০/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি. বিকাল ০৫.০০ ঘটিকা	৩০/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি.	শনিবার সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা	
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মাউশি কর্তৃক লটারিতে নির্বাচিত শিক্ষার্থী ভর্তির তারিখ ৪ শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ঘোষিত তারিখ অনুযায়ী						
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৩. ভর্তির ক্ষেত্রে সরকারী নীতিমালা যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।						
৪. অপেক্ষমান অলিকা প্রকাশ ৪ SMS, Facebook page, Website এবং নোটিশের মাধ্যমে যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে।						
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The sealed bids (technical and financial) will be submitted by the bidders in two separate envelopes to the Purchase & Procurement Department. The bids will be received up to **November 20, 2024.** The financial bid must accompany an earnest money (2.5% of the quoted amount) in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favor of Independent University, Bangladesh. The university authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason.

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ল্যান্ড শেয়ার বিক্রয়
বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায় ৭-১৫০০ বর্গফুট ফ্ল্যাটের ল্যান্ড শেয়ার বিক্রয় হবে। শেয়ার মূল্য ৪১ লক্ষ টাকা। প্রকৃত ক্রেতালগ্ন যোগাযোগ করুন।
01715 803853

Land for Sale
55 Katha Land
West, Dhanmondi
20 Katha Land
Sayed Nagar
No media
01969101858
01918401324

Amu's lawyer

FROM PAGE 3

Faruqi, a top leader of a pro-BNP lawyers' platform, said, "No one of my fellow lawyers were involved in assaulting anyone. The assault incident took place between two groups of defence lawyers."

WHAT LAWS SAY
Legal experts say no one is above the law according to the constitution and existing laws of Bangladesh.

"If this assault towards defence lawyers continues, people's trust and respect for the legal profession will be destroyed," a legal expert said.

Article 17 of the Constitution states the right to equality before law -- "All citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law".

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights also says, "All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination."

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 8

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-30 3-45 5-25 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Environmental action plan a top priority

Rizwana tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said that the ministry's top priority is to implement a cost-effective, time-bound action plan to tackle the country's pressing environmental issues.

"We may not be able to complete the work to a large extent, but we will start this work," she said at a seminar organised by the Jatiya Nagorik Committee at the water resources ministry auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Rizwana identified air and noise pollution, soil degradation, and river pollution as Bangladesh's major environmental challenges, saying that Bangladesh faces nearly all types of global environmental problems except volcanic eruptions. "Bangladesh has the most polluted air globally and ranks first in noise pollution," she said.

"Additionally, 78 percent of Bangladesh's soil is contaminated due to excessive chemical use and salinity. Our rivers rank among the most polluted worldwide, and Dhaka is one of the most unlivable cities in the world. How many years will you give me to fix these issues?" she asked.

"This is a mess of 53 years that cannot be fixed in a short period of time," she added.

Rizwana said that the ministry instructed district commissioners to submit plans for the restoration of one polluted, and occupied river in each district, with a focus on cost-effective and timely approaches.

"Two months have passed and we have received plans from 57 districts," she said.



Pedestrians jaywalk across this road amid oncoming traffic near the Sonargaon circle in the capital. Despite foot-over bridges being readily available nearby, most people still choose to riskily cross the street even when vehicles are not stopped for a signal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Students at DU denounce JCD's poster campaign

DU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Dhaka University students brought out a protest rally on Wednesday night after Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists put up posters across the campus, violating the recent ban on student politics.

The posters were set up marking National Revolution and Solidarity Day, which was observed yesterday.

Students from Bijoy Ekattor Hall brought out the rally around 9:30pm. They were later joined by students from other dormitories, including Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman, Kobi Jasimuddin, and Haji Muhammad Mohsin halls.

Taking to different streets across DU, the students chanted slogans, reinforcing the ban on campus politics.

"Despite the campus ban on student politics, Chhatra Dal has put up posters here. They are attempting to bring back student politics in the halls," said Mir Muhammad Asif, a protester, adding that they will continue their movement till the administration removes all the posters from the hall walls.

Criticising the university administration's role, Mossaddik Ali, a co-coordinator of the anti-discrimination student movement, said, "The syndicate has temporarily banned student politics. Most students do not support politics in the halls. How can any political party put up posters in the halls despite the ban?"

The protesters also claimed that Chhatra Dal activists had threatened students for tearing down posters or opposing their campaign.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Ganesh Chandra Roy Shahosh, president of the DU unit of JCD, said while they welcome political criticism and debate, they cannot accept the protest as "democratic criticism," as it did not follow a democratic process.

Raising the issue in this manner and using muscle power is not a democratic approach, he added.

"This kind of political activity reminds us of the trauma of the fascist regime," Ganesh also said.

Visiting Bijoy Ekattor Hall around 11:00pm on Wednesday, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said, "We have not established a final framework for student politics yet. We have no issues with National Revolution and Solidarity Day observance or the posters featuring Ziaur Rahman. Removing the posters would undermine the dignity of individuals. We will take a decision upon further discussion on the matter."

SHEIKH RUSSEL MODEL SCHOOL Unapproved college puts students in limbo

NURAHSAN MRIDUL, Rajshahi

Sheikh Russel Model School under Rajshahi University has expanded its classes beyond grade 8 without necessary approvals, leaving over 100 students in academic uncertainty.

Initially authorised to operate only up to grade 8, the school gradually enrolled students in grades 9 and 10 without formal permission. This year, it admitted 104 students to a newly introduced college section, charging each Tk 7,000.

However, three months have passed without any classes, sparking protests

a university syndicate meeting and subsequent verification by the Rajshahi Education Board.

IER Director Akter Banu said verifications would likely result in rejection due to proximity rules. "Rules state two colleges should be at least 2km apart, but Rajshahi University School and College is located just across the road," she said.

Former IER director Prof Dulal Chandra Bishwas said while he initially opposed the college expansion, teachers bypassed standard procedures by approaching former RU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Golam Sabbir directly.



from students who are now unable to register for the Higher Secondary Certificate exams due to administrative obstacles.

Recently, frustrated students locked the school gates and confined the director of the Institute of Educational Research (IER) of RU, demanding immediate action on the class schedule and exam registration issues.

Documents obtained by this newspaper reveal that the school lacked approval from both the university's managing committee and the IER to establish a college section. Such authorisation requires approval from

"After students were admitted, I tried to start the programme, but delays arose due to the July-August movements," he said. He lacked authority over the final approval, he added.

Former VC Golam Sabbir, however, claimed he could not recall granting such permission. He said he would have followed due process if he had approved the section.

Current RU VC Saleh Hasan Naqib said, "We are considering transferring the students to other colleges."

Rajshahi Education Board Chairman Prof Oliul Ala declined to comment on the matter.

Judiciary committed to protecting human rights

Chief justice tells British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed yesterday reiterated his commitment to establish rule of law in the country and assured that the judiciary is determined to protect human rights.

He said this at a meeting with a two-member delegation including Sarah Cooke, UK high commissioner to Bangladesh.

The delegation made the courtesy call at the chief justice's Supreme Court office.

During the meeting, Sarah Cooke appreciated various initiatives taken by the CJ to institutionalise the independence of the country's judiciary in recent times.

Besides, she expressed interest in working with Bangladesh on various bilateral issues related to judiciary.

The chief justice also emphasised the mutual cooperation and assured of full cooperation in this regard, said a press release.

20 fishers rescued from Arakan Army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) has brought back 20 Bangladeshi fishermen who were detained by the Arakan Army, an armed rebel group in Myanmar, after they had accidentally crossed into Myanmar's waters while fishing in the Naf River two days ago.

The Arakan Army handed over the fishermen to the BGB on yesterday evening, confirmed Lt Col Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB Battalion 2 in Teknaf.

Lt Col Ahmed said on November 5, the fishermen, operating from the Shahparir Dwip trawler ghat in Teknaf, set out for fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

However, they inadvertently crossed the zero line of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border and entered the Naikhongdia waters in Myanmar.

The Arakan Army subsequently detained the 20 fishers along with their boat. Following negotiations and communication with the Arakan Army, BGB was able to secure their release, Lt Col Ahmed said.

The fishermen were then transported to the Shahparir Dwip jetty, where they were handed over to their families, he added.

Seven more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven dengue patients died in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning while 1,209 patients were hospitalised during the same period.

Among the deaths, four occurred in Dhaka South City Corporation, two in Dhaka North City Corporation, and one in Khulna division.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with these new deaths and cases, the total number of fatalities has risen to 337, and the total number of cases to 69,456, of which 40,775 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 4,326 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at hospitals.

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
 (An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
 Website: www.dpdc.gov.bd

Memo No: 87.404.401.08.05.001.2024.163

Date: 05.11.2024

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Name of the Post: Junior Assistant Manager (ICT) - Number of post 06. Please visit www.dpdc.gov.bd for detail job circular.

বি-আর পাওয়ারজেন লিঃ
 (সরকারি বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান)

স্মারক নং-২৭.৩১.০০০০.০০৫.২৩.০১২.২৩.২৮৮

তারিখঃ ০৬-১১-২০২৪খ্রিঃ

বি-আর পাওয়ারজেন লিঃ এ নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পদের নাম	বেতন	পদ সংখ্যা
নির্বাহী পরিচালক (প্রকৌশল) বয়সসীমাঃ সর্বোচ্চ ৬০ বছর	মূল বেতন ১,৪৯,০০০/- এবং কোম্পানিতে প্রচলিত অন্যান্য সুবিধা।	০১ (একটি)

আবেদন গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখঃ ০৮-১২-২০২৪ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। বিস্তারিত দেখতে ভিজিট করুনঃ বি-আর পাওয়ারজেন লিঃ এর ওয়েবসাইট <https://brpowergen.gov.bd>

মোঃ ওয়াহিদুর রহমান
 ডিজিএম (এইচআর ও এডমিন)

GD-900

Three killed in Satkhira road accident

UNB, Satkhira

Three people were killed as a truck hit a motorcycle on Satkhira-Khulna highway in Satkhira Sadar upazila early yesterday, said police.

The deceased are Arizul Gazi, 28, of Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila and Asadul Islam Fakir, 55, and Abdus Selim, 35, of Tala upazila in Satkhira.

Confirming the accident, Sadar Police Station's Sub-Inspector Biswajit Sarkar said a truck rammed a motorbike in Binerpota BSCIC area, leaving its driver and two pillion passengers dead on the spot. After recovery, the bodies were sent to Satkhira Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, he said.

The bodies will be handed over to the families upon autopsy, he said, adding that no one has been detained in this connection so far.

Office of the Chowgacha Paurashava
 Chowgacha, Jashore

Memo No. Chowpau/2024/539

Date: 07-11-2024

Invitation for Tender (IFT For Works)
OTM e-Tender Notice No. 02/2024-2025

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

Tender ID No.	Name of schedule	Last selling / security date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time
1032449	LGCRRP/Chowgacha/2024-25/W-05 A. Construction of RCC Drain from Sutipur Stand, B. Construction of RCC Drain from Md. Dablu house, C. Construction of RCC Drain from Nuruzzaman Garaz, D. Construction of RCC Drain from Md. Moshiar Rahman Master house E. Construction of RCC Drain from Sree Ananda house	27-11-2024 17.00	28-11-2024 13.00

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

Mst. Tasmin Jahan
 Administrator
 Chowgacha Paurashava, Jashore

GD- 903

2024 set to be the world's hottest year on record
Say EU scientists

REUTERS, Brussels

This year is "virtually certain" to eclipse 2023 as the world's warmest since records began, the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said yesterday.

The data was released ahead of next week's UN COP29 climate summit in Azerbaijan, where countries will try to agree a huge increase in funding to tackle climate change.

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election has dampened expectations for the talks.

C3S of the EU said that from January to October, the average global temperature had been so high that 2024 was sure to be the world's hottest year - unless the temperature anomaly in the rest of the year plunged to near-zero.



Firefighters work at the compound of a vegetable warehouse hit by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Germany heads for early polls
Scholz coalition collapses

AFP, Berlin

Germany's conservative opposition heaped pressure on Chancellor Olaf Scholz's crisis-hit government yesterday to allow for speedy elections by calling a confidence vote next week rather than next year.

Christian Democrats (CDU) chief Friedrich Merz made the demand after Scholz's three-party coalition imploded on Wednesday, just as the world was digesting news that Donald Trump is headed back to the White House.

Merz -- whose centre-right alliance with Bavarian sister party CSU is leading in opinion polls -- said Scholz's unhappy alliance with the Greens and the Free Democrats had "failed."

Enter talks to halt 'destruction' of Ukraine
Russia urges West after Trump becomes US president-elect

AFP, Kyiv

Russia yesterday demanded that Kyiv's allies enter into negotiations with Moscow in order to halt its brutish attacks on Ukrainians, as the capital fended off a large-scale drone barrage overnight.

AFP journalists in Kyiv heard Ukrainian air defence units shooting down the Russian drones throughout the night while air raid sirens echoed out over the city.

The head of Russia's Security Council Sergei Shoigu made the call for negotiations, saying the West faced a choice between entering into talks with Moscow on the war or the continuing "destruction" of Ukraine's population.

"Now, when the situation in the theatre of combat is not in Kyiv's favour, the West is faced with a choice," Shoigu said at a meeting with defence officials of other

former Soviet states.

"To continue financing (Kyiv) and the destruction of the Ukrainian population or recognise the current realities and start negotiating," the former defence minister said.

They were among the first comments from a Russian official since Donald Trump, who has boasted he could end the war in a single day, was confirmed to have been elected president of the United States.

And his comments came as Ukrainian officials were taking stock after another night of aerial bombardments across the country and while Moscow claimed the capture of yet another village in

east Ukraine.

Moscow said its forces had wrested control of Kreminna Balka, a village that had a pre-war population of fewer than 50 people in the Donetsk region.

Ukrainian media meanwhile reported that Donetsk region authorities were preparing to announce mandatory evacuations from seven more villages in the region that the Kremlin claimed in 2022 was part of Russia.

Its overnight drone attack on Ukraine damaged buildings in the southern Black Sea city of Odesa where AFP journalists saw residents inspecting destroyed cars and residential buildings as dawn broke.



Brazil's Amazon posts lowest deforestation in nine years

AFP, Brasilia

The Brazilian Amazon experienced its smallest amount of yearly deforestation in nearly a decade, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government reported Wednesday, in line with its promise to combat forest loss.

Deforestation fell by 30.6 percent in the year-to-year period beginning in August 2023, according to the National Institute for Space Research (INPE). During that time, 6,288 square kilometers (2,427 square miles) of forest were destroyed, which INPE Director Gilvan Oliveira said was "the lowest result in the last nine years."

Over the last century, the Amazon rainforest -- which covers nearly 40 percent of South America -- has lost about 20 percent of its area to deforestation, due to the spread of agriculture and cattle ranching, logging and mining, and urban sprawl.

Scientists warn that continued deforestation will put the Amazon on track to reach a point where it will emit more carbon than it absorbs, accelerating climate change.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
Department of Textiles
BTMC Bhaban (9th Floor)
7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
www.dot.gov.bd

Invitation for Tender

Sealed Tender is hereby invited from the reputed Tenderers/Service Providers for "Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide Manpower for Sheikh Hasina Textile Engineering College, Shibchar, Madaripur under Department of Textiles". According to PPA-2006 and PPR-2008, terms and conditions are as follows:

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Textiles and Jute
2	Agency	Department of Textiles
3	Procuring Entity Name	Deputy Director (Finance)
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide Manpower for Sheikh Hasina Textile Engineering College, Shibchar, Madaripur under Department of Textiles
6	Invitation Ref No	24.02.0000.002.07.004.24-599, Date: 07 November, 2024
KEY INFORMATION		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB (Revenue)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
9	Tender Package No.	SR-03
10	Tender Package Name	Selection of Outsourcing Firm to Provide 15 Manpower for Sheikh Hasina Textile Engineering College, Shibchar, Madaripur
11	Tender Publication Date	On or before 10 November, 2024
12	Tender Last Selling Date	24 November, 2024
13	Tender Submission Date and Time	25 November, 2024 upto 2:00 P.M
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	25 November, 2024 at 2:30 P.M
15	Name & Address of the office	Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhaban (9 th Floor), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
- Selling Tender Document		
- Receiving Tender Document		
- Opening Tender Document		
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	Updated Trade License; Updated Income Tax clearance certificate; e-Bin (VAT) registration certificate; Other qualifications as specified in TDS.
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk.1,000/- (One Thousand Taka only) in cash.
18	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Tk. 1,00,000/-(One Lac Taka only) by Pay Order (any schedule Bank) in favour of Director General, Department of Textiles.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
19	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdur Rahman
20	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy Director (Finance)
21	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Department of Textiles, BTMC Bhaban (9 th Floor) 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.
22	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel. No.02-55013202 Fax No.9113545
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	

০৭/১১/২০২৪

Md. Abdur Rahman
Deputy Director (Finance) (Addl. Charge)
On behalf of Director General

(3 col. 8 inch)

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে (www.mocat.gov.bd) "দ্বৈন বিধিমালা, ২০২৪" এর খসড়া প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। উক্ত খসড়ার উপরে আগামী ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে ই-মেইলে (ca3@mocat.gov.bd) মতামত প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

অনুরোধক্রমে,
বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয়

GD-897

Australia to ban children under 16 from social media: PM

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Prime Minister yesterday vowed to ban children under 16 from social media, saying the pervasive influence of platforms like Facebook and TikTok was "doing real harm to our kids".

The tech giants would be held responsible for enforcing the age limit and face hefty fines if regulators notice young users slipping through the cracks, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

Australia is among the vanguard of nations trying to clean up social media, and the proposed age limit would be among the world's strictest measures aimed at children.

"This one is for the mums and dads. Social media is doing real harm to kids and I'm calling time on it," Albanese told reporters outside parliament.

The new laws would be presented to state and territory leaders this week, before being introduced to parliament in late November.

Once passed, the tech platforms would be given a one-year grace period to figure out how to implement and enforce the ban.

"The onus will be on social media platforms to demonstrate they are taking reasonable steps to prevent access," Albanese said, explaining what he dubbed a "world-leading" reform.

NATIONAL HOTEL & TOURISM TRAINING INSTITUTE
Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
(Bangladesh Tourism Corporation)
83-88, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka - 1212
www.nhtti.gov.bd

Admission

1 Diploma in Hotel Management (2-year)
(Course Code: DHM - 37 & 38)

Requirements : HSC or equivalent,
Age Limit : 30 years till admission date.
Fees : Taka 2, 10,000/- to be paid in 4 Semesters
(80,000 + 50,000+40,000+40,000)

Admission Test: 06 December 2024 at 10:00am

2 Diploma in Tourism & Hospitality Management (1-year)
(Course Code: DTHM - 07)

Requirements : HSC or equivalent,
Age Limit : 30 years till admission date.
Fees : Taka 1, 00,000/- to be paid in 2 Semesters
(70,000 + 30,000).

Admission Test: 06 December 2024 at 10.00am

3 Professional Baking Course (1-year) (Friday & Saturday)
(Course Code: PBC - 09 & 10)

Requirements : SSC or equivalent
Age Limit : All can apply (18+ above)
Fees : Taka 1, 10,000/- to be paid in 2 Semesters
(70,000 + 40,000).

Admission Test: 06 December 2024 at 10.00am

4 Diploma in Culinary Arts & Catering Management (1- year,
Friday & Saturday) (Course Code: DCCM - 15 & 16)

Requirements: SSC or equivalent,
Age Limit: All can apply (18+ above)
Fees: Taka 1, 50,000/- to be paid in 2 Semesters
(80,000 + 70,000).

Admission Test: 07 December 2024 at 10:00am

5 Professional Chef Course (1-year)
(Course Code: PCC - 35 & 36)

Requirements: SSC or equivalent,
Age Limit: All can apply (18+ above)
Fees: Taka 1, 20,000/- to be paid in 2 Semesters
(80,000 + 40,000).

Admission Test : 07 December 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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Apply Online:www. nhtti.gov.bd/admission

Last Date of Apply:- 05 Dec 2024
Last Date of Admission: 02 Jan 2025
Course Commencement: 05 Jan 2025

Contact:
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Email: nhttibpc2017@gmail.com
83-88 Bir Uttam AK Khondoker
Road, Mohakhali, Banani Dhaka-1212.

GD-895

Mohammad Moyn Uddin Hayat
Principal

Kamala Harris concedes polls to Trump

Vows to go on fighting for women’s rights, against gun violence

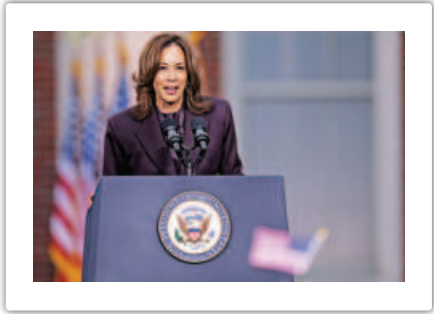
REUTERS, Washington

US Vice President Kamala Harris vowed to keep fighting for the ideals that powered her presidential campaign on Wednesday in a concession speech that acknowledged President-elect Donald Trump’s win while warning of potential dark times to come.

“While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign,” she told supporters, many of them in tears, at her alma mater Howard University, a historically Black college in Washington.

Harris, her voice at times wavering, pledged to continue fighting for women’s rights and against gun violence and to “fight for the dignity that all people deserve.”

She said she had called Trump, congratulated him on his triumph in Tuesday’s presidential election and promised to engage in a peaceful transfer of power.



“The outcome of this election is not what we wanted, not what we fought for, not what we voted for, but hear me when I say - hear me when I say: The light of America’s promise will always burn bright,” she said.

The somber mood was in striking contrast to the homecoming celebration a few weeks ago on the Howard campus when thousands of students and alumni gathered ahead of what they hoped would be the election of the country’s first graduate of historically Black Colleges and Universities as president.

Harris addressed a crowd on Wednesday that included former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, aides in President Joe Biden’s White House and thousands of fans.



A man carries the dead body of a Palestinian at the site of an Israeli strike on a house in Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

‘End the war, save us’

Palestinians urge Trump as the year-long Israeli offensive takes an appalling human toll in Gaza

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Palestinians in Gaza want Donald Trump, who won the US election, to end the Israeli offensive that has devastated their territory.

The offensive that began on October 7 last year attack has taken an appalling human toll in the Gaza Strip, displacing most of its residents, causing widespread hunger and death, and leaving hospitals struggling to cope.

“We were displaced, killed... there’s nothing left for us, we want peace,” Mamdouh al-Jadba, who was displaced to Gaza City from Jabalia, told AFP on Wednesday.

“I hope Trump finds a solution, we need someone strong like Trump to end the war and save us, enough, God, this is enough,” said the 60-year-old. “I was

Abu Mohammed said he saw no reason to believe Trump’s victory would be in favour of the Palestinians

displaced three times, my house was destroyed, my children are homeless in the south... There’s nothing left, Gaza is finished.”

Umm Ahmed Harb, from the Al-Shaaf area east of Gaza City, was also counting on Trump to “stand by our side” and end the territory’s suffering.

“God willing the war will end, not for

our sake but for the sake of our young children who are innocent, they were martyred and are dying of hunger,” she told AFP. “We cannot buy anything with the high prices (of food). We are here in fear, terror and death.”

For Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, where violence has also surged since October last year, Trump’s victory was reason to fear for the future.

“Trump is firm in some decisions, but these decisions could serve Israel’s interests politically more than they serve the Palestinian cause,” said Samir Abu Jundi of Ramallah.

Another man who identified himself only by his nickname, Abu Mohammed, said he also saw no reason to believe Trump’s victory would be in favour of the Palestinians, saying “nothing will change except more decline”.

Trump win a chance for US to reassess ‘wrong policies’: Iran

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday called Donald Trump’s victory in the US presidential election an opportunity for the United States to reassess past “wrong policies”.

Trump, who is set to return to the White House in January after defeating US Vice President Kamala Harris in Tuesday’s election, had pursued a “maximum pressure” strategy on Iran during his first term.

“We have very bitter experiences with the policies and approaches of different US governments in the past,” foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaci was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA.

Trump’s win, he added, was a chance “to review previous wrong policies”.

Iran and the United States have been adversaries since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the Western-backed shah, but tensions peaked during Trump’s first term from 2017 to 2021.

Before Trump was declared the winner on Wednesday, Iran had dismissed the US election as irrelevant.

US, China must ‘get along’ Xi tells Trump

AFP, Beijing



Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday Beijing and Washington must find a way to “get along” in a message to US president-elect Donald Trump, state media reported.

In his first message to Trump since the former president secured a second term, Xi said “history has shown that China and the United States benefit from cooperation and suffer from confrontation”, state broadcaster CCTV said.

CCTV did not specify how the message was conveyed.

What we see more and more is that North Korea, Iran, China, and of course Russia are working together, working together against Ukraine.

Nato chief Mark Rutte

Vatican hopes for ‘wisdom’ from Trump

AFP, Vatican City

The Vatican’s secretary of state congratulated US president-elect Donald Trump yesterday, while expressing doubt that the Republican had a “magic wand” to end conflicts quickly as promised during the campaign.

“We wish him a lot of wisdom because that is the main virtue of leaders according to the Bible,” Italian Cardinal Pietro Parolin told reporters on the sidelines of a conference in Rome.

Asked about Trump’s promise to end the war in Ukraine “within 24 hours”, Parolin replied: “Let’s hope, let’s hope. I believe that not even he has a magic wand.”

“To end wars, a lot of humility is needed, a lot of willingness is needed, it really is necessary to seek the general interests of humanity rather than concentrate on particular interests,” he said.



Abdullah Haroon Pasha, 82, former Secretary, Government of Bangladesh and ex-Chairman Dhaka WASA Board, passed away in the evening of 6th November 2024, at United Hospital, Dhaka.

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Elaihi Rajeun.

He was loved and revered by all who knew him. He leaves behind his wife Dr. Nishat A. Pasha, with whom he shared his life for 54 years, along with 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, and many other loving family members and friends.

His Janaza will be held today, Friday, 8th November 2024 after Jummah prayers at the Gulshan Central Masjid (Azad Mosque). He will be buried at the Banani Graveyard. We request you to kindly pray for his departed soul.

- Family Members

Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Upazila Engineer

Bauphal, Patuakhali

lged.bauphal.patuakhali.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.7838.000.14.001.24-886

Date: 07-11-2024

Invitation for Tender (Works)

e-Tender Notice (REV) No. 01/2024-2025 (PART-3)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-Government Procurement (e-GP) System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of the following works which details are given below.

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing/opening date & time	Tender method
25	1030100	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-026	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
26	1030101	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-027	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
27	1030102	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-028	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
28	1030103	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-029	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
29	1030104	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-030	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
30	1030105	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-031	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
31	1030108	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-032	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
32	1030107	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-033	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
33	1030109	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-034	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
34	1030110	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-035	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
35	1030111	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-036	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM
36	1030112	e-Tender/Revenue/ADP/PTK/BAU/2024-25/W-037	06-11-2024 16.00	21-11-2024 13.00	NCT, LTM

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

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Shyamal Kumar Gain

Upazila Engineer

LGED

Bauphal, Patuakhali

E-mail: ue.bauphal@lged.gov.bd

Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer

Zone-4, Nagar Bhaban, Fulbaria, Dhaka

Ref No. 46.207.007. 24.09. 04. 2024-2025

Re-Tender Notice

Dated: 07.11.2024

e-Tender are invited in e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-4 Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka South City Corporation for the procurement of following package, which will be available at e-GP website from date 07-Nov-2024, 17:00.

Sl. No.	Tender ID, Ref No.	Name of works	Last Selling date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time
01.	1028255 Z4_WD_52_JU_37-RE	Renevation and modernization of central auditorium, construction of toilet at Jagannath University.	24 -11-2024 13:00	24 -11-2024 15:00
02.	1028261 Z4_WD_22_GW-33-RE	Development works of Road including drain of Mazed sarder Road Holding no. 61/3 to 48, Agasadek Road Holding no. 50 to 34, Kayettuly Holding no. 5 to 42, Chankharpul Holding no. 7 to 14 and Nobab Katra Holding no. 67/1 to 54/5 and adjacent lane bylane at ward no. 33 (Road ID No-o433L-1587, o433L-1594, o433L-1585, o433L-, 1452, o433L-1443).	24 -11-2024 13:00	24 -11-2024 15:00
03.	1029224 Z4_WD_24_GW-35-RE	Development works of Road including drain of Golokpal lane, vitorbary Lane, Hazi Abdullah sarkar bylane, Bangshal Boro pukurpur Surrounding road French road bylane at ward no.35 (Road ID No-o435L-2410, o435L-1419, o435L-2417, o435L-2418, o435L-2425, o435L-2422).	24 -11-2024 13:00	24 -11-2024 14:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in E-GP portal and no offline/hard conies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

(Md. Mofizur Rahman Khan)

Executive Engineer

Zone-04 (Nagar Bhaban)

Dhaka South City Corporation

+Ph:223387666.



The Daily Star

Pathways to prosperity for EXTREMELY POOR PEOPLE

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and the European Union in collaboration with The Daily Star organised a roundtable titled “Pathways to prosperity for extremely poor people” on October 16, 2024. Here, we publish a summary of the discussion.

Md. Fazlul Kader, Acting Managing Director, PKSF



The theme of this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is 'Ending Social and Institutional Maltreatment: Acting Together for Just, Peaceful, and Inclusive Societies'. Although there has been significant progress in eradicating extreme poverty, inequality continues to rise globally. While studies indicate a reduction in the number of people living below the poverty or the extreme poverty lines, questions around the vulnerability and potential escape from poverty for these people remain.

According to a World Food Programme report published in 2024, around 30 percent of Bangladeshis experience food insecurity, with this figure rising to 36 percent among low-income groups. This highlights the challenge of defining an income threshold that accurately reflects an escape from extreme poverty. Discrepancies in income threshold criteria have led to the development of various composite indicators, but still we want the poor to come out of poverty sustainably.

PKSF started its journey in 1990 with the Rural Microcredit programme with the sole objective of giving the rural poor people the financial means to find gainful employment opportunities. Initially having targeted the rural enterprising poor, we realised that poverty is highly diverse in nature, especially with growing criticism for not addressing the ultra-poor. PKSF has implemented seven projects supported by different development partners, focusing on



People (PPEPP)', funded by the FCDO and the EU. Since 2022, this project is being supported by the EU which has not only been a key development partner but also has supported PKSF to bring about effective, project-related changes. We adopted a push-pull strategy, which involves pushing people through interventions to strengthen their human capacity, enabling them to undertake larger ventures in alignment with market forces.

Learning from our previous projects helps guide our policy and programmatic actions. Additionally, it motivates the government and other multilateral bodies to adopt effective programme approaches.

the interventions of this project—serve as an outstanding example of how diverse livelihood options can flourish, inspiring the broader community. It is heartwarming to see the smiles on people's faces as they share success stories that are direct outcomes of the project's impact. They not only take pride in their achievements but are also enthusiastic about helping their neighbours replicate their success.

Our focus is on strengthening partnerships between the EU, PKSF, and local governments, all working together to tackle poverty and end social exclusion.

We must consider the cost-effectiveness of poverty reduction efforts and the building of resilient livelihoods. Additionally, we are making progress with initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty among ethnic minority communities in North Bengal. Establishing a supportive market hub for the products of targeted poor communities is crucial, and PKSF has already made headway in this regard. Ultimately, we need to recognise that a three-year project offering short-term grant support cannot fully eradicate poverty. A more effective, sustainable approach is required.

Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director, Innovision Consulting Private Ltd. (Keynote Presentation)



The Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People-European Union (PPEPP-EU) project seeks to eradicate extreme poverty

in Bangladesh through targeted interventions based on extensive data collected over the years.

According to the latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Bangladesh has made notable progress in reducing poverty over the past decade, with the extreme poverty rate officially now at 5.6%. However, this success is marred by rising inequality. The Gini index has risen by 1.1 points. This strain is attributed to weakened private consumption growth and high inflation, according to the World Bank. Despite the overall decline in poverty, it is crucial to determine whether households involved in programmes like PPEPP-EU are better prepared to manage these economic pressures.

Preliminary findings suggest that PPEPP-EU households show greater resilience to inflationary pressures. For example, families of four to five members can consume around BDT 200 worth of food from their own production, helping them weather market fluctuations. They also have improved access to social protection services and local government, facilitating better access to social stipends. Their dignity, social standing, and community engagement have strengthened, with diversified income sources and a more secure asset base, which significantly reduces the likelihood of intergenerational poverty.

This project aims to support livelihoods and income generation (aligned with Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 13), improve nutrition, particularly for women and children

(Goals 2 and 5), and enhance access to social and nutrition sensitive agricultural services within the target communities (Goal 2).

PPEPP-EU adopts a multidimensional approach to poverty alleviation, reaching diverse groups across varied geographic areas through set of tailored interventions. This programme supports households reliant on wage labour, those who are landless or live on government land, and uses flexible targeting criteria drawn from lessons learned in the PRIME project. The average monthly income of targeted households is approximately BDT 2045 (USD 17.11), and they typically reside in thatched or tin-roofed homes with only one earning member.

The project specifically selects households that are female-headed, reliant on child labour, facing consumption rationing, or have members with disabilities. This nuanced approach seeks to improve the financial, human, social, physical, and natural capital of diverse and vulnerable groups through livelihood, nutrition, and community support, and by addressing women's empowerment, disability inclusion, and climate risk. PPEPP-EU provides flexible microcredit, grants, and technical assistance to support households in creating and sustaining pathways out of poverty.

Acknowledging the varied conditions among households, PPEPP-EU classifies them into three groups—vulnerable, transient, and progressive—and offers tailored interventions for each. Vulnerable households face multiple risks, including climatic and health shocks. Transient households have potential but lack financial resources or technical knowledge, while progressive households have resources but need help accessing markets and technical expertise. The interventions—push (project-driven support), pull (market-driven resilience-building), and protect (safety nets and government services)—are designed to meet these specific needs.

PPEPP-EU's flexibility allows it to tailor support based on household needs and regional contexts, offering beneficiaries various combinations of grants, microcredit, and technical assistance. The programme also includes emergency assistance and nutrition-specific services, reflecting a comprehensive approach to poverty alleviation that has yielded significant progress.

Recent data shows impressive results: the number of vulnerable households have fallen from 16% in 2021 to 1%, of transient households decreased from 73% to 38%, and of progressive households increased from 10% to 61% by 2023. The project has expanded households' income sources from 9.3% to 28.5%, improved savings, and enhanced food security. There have also been notable improvements in women's economic empowerment, support for people with disabilities, and access to social safety nets.

Over a four-year period, households receive loans and grants in Year 1, reinvest returns in land and livestock in Year 2, take additional loans for IGAs in Year 3, and by Year 4 achieve self-sufficiency, enhanced nutrition, improved climate resilience, and

elevated social status.

The cost-benefit ratio of PPEPP-EU is 6.58, rising to 19 when considering the consumption value from household production, indicating that each taka invested delivers substantial returns. However, challenges remain, particularly regarding reliance on Partner Organisations and the need for sustained funding.

Looking forward, PPEPP-EU aligns with global poverty alleviation priorities, focusing on poverty, inequality, climate vulnerability, and nutrition. As poverty is a dynamic issue, it requires multi-stakeholder partnerships. The project's push-pull framework underscores the need for coordinated efforts between government and development partners to establish sustainable pathways out of poverty.

Dr Mohammed Helal Uddin, Executive Vice Chairman, Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA)



Microcredit faces challenges, primarily due to its heavy dependence on donor funding and limited access to national savings.

Gaps in mainstream banking and among major borrowers hinder poverty reduction efforts and adversely impact the economy. Addressing these issues requires prioritising the credit-worthy extremely poor, which can support poverty alleviation and drive local economic growth.

Large microfinance institutions lend to smaller ones at 15%, or they may borrow from banks at around 15-16%. Consequently, at the stage of lending microcredit to the extremely poor, the service charge increases to 24%. We are working to address this issue. Microfinance institutions should collect savings at 10% and extend loans to the extremely poor. Ultimately, we must focus on income-generating activities—whether farm-based or non-farm—regardless of land use, to harness economic potential beyond agriculture. This shift is essential for meaningful poverty reduction.

Khursid Alam, PhD, Executive Director, Community Development Centre (CODEC)



PPEPP-EU is undeniably a comprehensive and cost-effective programme, with its core strength rooted in the people we engage—they

gain respect and build confidence in their ability to contribute, which truly defines this initiative.

Another key aspect of PPEPP-EU is the formation of small groups, where we work to institutionalise these communities and amplify their voices at union, upazila, and district levels. Achieving progress requires government support, and it is essential for the government to start offering assistance in these areas.

Lastly, poverty cannot be addressed through short-term projects; it demands a sustained, long-term approach. While immediate eradication is not feasible, we must create a lasting, sustainable pathway forward.

A B M Feroz Ahmed, Livelihoods Adviser, Climate Change & Environment Team, FCDO, British High Commission, Dhaka



B a n g l a d e s h ' s economy is expanding, but this growth remains unevenly distributed. The gap between the top 10% and bottom 10%

is widening, and poverty reduction slowed between 2010 and 2020 compared to previous trends. Poverty is not only an income issue but is also shaped by marginalisation, geographic vulnerabilities, and climate threats such as floods and cyclones.

In designing the PPEPP project, we accounted for these challenges, aiming to create a second-generation graduation model based on insights

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursue a programmatic approach – planned, steered and coordinated at the national level – to expedite extreme poverty reduction.

Address poverty alleviation through sustainable, scalable long-term programmes instead of relying on short-term projects.

Foster stakeholder engagement by involving local governments and communities in designing and implementing programmes.

Expand poverty reduction programmes to new regions affected by climate change fallout, especially following natural disasters.

Educate communities about available government services, including social safety net programme, at the grassroots.

Provide non-financial services such as healthcare, insurance, and nutrition alongside credit to address extreme poverty effectively.

Conduct thorough evaluations of poverty alleviation programmes to assess their long-term impact and sustainability.

Promote inter-agency collaboration to establish market-linked income-generating activities at the grassroots level.

Address macro-economic

policies that impact poverty reduction, ensuring inclusivity in growth strategies.

Establish a dedicated follow-up system to support beneficiaries beyond project completion, particularly in education.

Connect extremely poor households with CMSMES to enable them to access to finance and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Focus on cost-effective strategies for building resilient livelihoods in poverty reduction initiatives.

Shift focus to income-generating activities beyond agriculture to harness broader economic potential.

the extremely poor people. PKSF in 2002 launched the 'Financial Services for the Poorest (FSP)' project supported by the World Bank to more effectively render its services to the extremely poor. This demonstrated the creditworthiness of the ultra-poor, dispelling the myth that they were non-creditworthy.

Building on the success of the FSP, PKSF initiated the Ultra Poor Program (UPP) in 2004 in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh. Two years later, we started the Programmed Initiatives for Monga Eradication (PRIME) project, a landmark project specifically designed to address the seasonal extreme poverty faced by communities in northern Bangladesh. In this project we specially incorporated primary healthcare services with livelihood opportunities to tackle income erosion. From 2007 to 2011, PKSF further enhanced its efforts through the Microfinance Support Intervention for FSVGD and UP Beneficiaries Project, aimed at ensuring food security and improving living conditions for extremely poor households. Subsequently, the EU-funded UPP-Ujjibito project was implemented from 2013 to 2019, directly serving 3,25,000 extremely poor households. In 2019, with lessons learned from various extreme poverty projects, PKSF undertook a multi-dimensional initiative titled 'Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor

Eradicating extreme poverty is not achievable through ad-hoc projects; it is a long-term commitment requiring sustainable interventions so that people can progress consistently and achieve lasting prosperity.

Meher Nigar Bhuiyan, Programme Manager, Resilient Livelihoods, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh



The EU-funded project supports 860,000 people in climate-vulnerable areas of Bangladesh, helping them transition out of extreme poverty by

connecting them with mainstream development and economic opportunities. Such partnerships allow us to contribute directly to improving lives, providing resilient livelihood options and a more secure future.

It is inspiring to witness how small grants and loans, alongside other interventions of the project, are making a genuine difference in people's lives. Despite challenges like salinity ingress, tidal surges, floods, and cyclones, beneficiaries are successfully rearing livestock, cultivating vegetables, and practising fish farming.

The 'Prosperity Houses'— one of

from previous efforts. Our objective was for the Bangladesh government to adopt this cost-effective and sustainable approach to poverty alleviation.

Since its 2019 launch, with continued funding from FCDO and the European Union, we have seen promising results in terms of sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Now, we need to ensure the model's long-term scalability, particularly in the face of rising climate vulnerabilities. Additionally, close collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and other stakeholders is needed to capitalise on prior learnings and expand the model nationwide.

Prof Munshi Sulaiman, *Research Director, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), BRAC University*



The keynote presentation depicts the early PPEPP-EU programme landscape and its evolution. In my view, using this to estimate impact is problematic, both methodologically and ethically. Methodologically

it would have been better to use a control group to measure the effectiveness of the programme. We understand that the current observation is based on internal results-based monitoring system. Hopefully, the project will undertake an impact evaluation using an appropriate control group.

We need more rigorous consideration of counterfactuals, and I believe there are approaches that could help. For example, BIDS has survey data from the same period, which could allow for comparative trajectory analysis. Cross-referencing their data with the project data could yield more accurate estimates. Ideally, creating a synthetic control group by closely matching data would further strengthen the analysis.

Prof Dr Md Taufiqul Islam, *Member, Governing & General Body, PKSF*



The research's purpose and the methodology should always be clearly articulated to enhance transparency. The methodology section of the keynote presentation needs further clarification, in my view. If the data used

here was collected from BBS, the methods for data collection and the overarching research methodology should have been explicitly stated. While numerous findings are presented, the basis for these conclusions should be clearer.

Dr Md Abdul Khaleque, *Associate Professor, Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka*



PPEPP-EU has many essential features, including credit, grants, training, and focus on area-specific issues, making it a comprehensive project. Extreme poverty eradication is progressing

slowly, and PPEPP-EU engages the lowest 35% of the population within the extremely poor category, as identified by BBS, helping them accumulate more assets. However, a major challenge is sustaining traditional poverty reduction methods, such as livestock rearing and small income-generating activities. Addressing business risks and climate risks is also critical. We should prioritise area-specific regions, like char areas, in our long-term development strategies.

Dr Mustafa K Mujeri, *Executive Director, Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM)*



Many extremely poor households lack land access and thus rely heavily on the non-farm sector for their livelihoods. By connecting them with cottage, micro, small, and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), we can enable them to access loans, promoting sustainable livelihoods. For sustainable poverty reduction, it is crucial to ensure these groups can secure loans from microfinance institutions and banks. Among these marginalised populations are several plainland ethnic minority communities that have largely been left out of development initiatives.

When addressing the needs of these marginalised groups, it is essential to understand their unique characteristics. Our research at the Institute for Inclusive Finance & Development (InM) shows that these communities, often overlooked in mainstream development, need tailored, community-based approaches. Additionally, it is vital to distinguish between poverty and inequality, as each requires distinct policies to foster inclusive and effective poverty reduction.

Dr Md Shahid Uz Zaman, *Executive Director, Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO)*



Accurate tracking of extreme poverty is essential, as is examining the methods used for data collection to identify those most in need in both the northern and the other regions of Bangladesh.

Poverty must be recognised as a deep-seated psycho-social trauma manifesting in different forms. Understanding its

connection to historical colonisation and planning a sustainable route out of it is essential for making meaningful progress.

While microfinance can serve as a tool for sustainability, it must be complemented by assured access to government services. This project has effectively integrated support for nutrition and health by linking vulnerable populations with existing government resources. Significant demographic, ethnic, and regional disparities persist, with our northern districts facing severe damage annually but receiving limited attention in mainstream media. Long-term and substantial investment in these regions, rather than short-term or low-cost solutions, is essential.

S. Amer Ahmed, *Lead Economist and Program Leader – Bangladesh and Bhutan, The World Bank*



Grassroots partner organisations play a crucial role in improving targeting and bringing service providers closer to beneficiaries. Creating a control group is also

essential for verifying project outcomes. Given that overseas development assistance is either declining or stagnant globally, and considering Bangladesh's fiscal constraints, the focus must be on the sustainability and scalability of this programme.

Looking ahead, the challenge is to make the programme more cost-effective under financial pressures. One approach could involve outsourcing certain services and linking with other government services that beneficiaries can access. Identifying early on which services could be separated from the core interventions and delivered through existing government or other providers may help lower implementation costs.

Bidowra Tahmin Khan, *Head of Economic Inclusion, Oxfam Bangladesh*



PPEPP-EU aligns well with Oxfam's goals, especially those focused on SDGs 1, 5, and 13, covering poverty eradication, gender equality, and climate action. In the plains, for example, vulnerable

populations face diverse threats, including climate shocks, necessitating customised approaches. Oxfam partners with local organisations to deliver programmes offering transferable and marketable skills, enhancing opportunities for both wage and self-employment. This strategy not only supports income generation but also strengthens community resilience by connecting individuals to market opportunities.

To ensure sustainable change, we assess community structures and target specific improvements. Oxfam collaborates with various groups, including domestic, RMG, and tea workers, both locally and globally. Access to income opportunities, grants, and loans is challenging due to the diversity of these communities, but our nuanced approach allows us to address their unique needs effectively.

Dr Muhammad Abdul Mazid, *Chairman, Social Development Foundation (SDF)*



To uplift the extremely poor, integrating pre-primary education is vital for sustained progress. Education fosters development that extends beyond financial stability.

Our experience shows that beneficiaries often feel unattended once projects conclude.

To tackle future challenges, such as climate change, a dedicated follow-up system or fund is essential for long-term sustainability. Furthermore, all meetings and communications should be accessible to those directly impacted by the programme. Technical jargon and abbreviations can exclude participants, limiting their ability to engage fully. Using simplified language will enhance community engagement and strengthen ownership. Lastly, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness emphasizes on the need for regular evaluations between donors and recipients to ensure the efficient use of taxpayers' funds and the achievement of measurable results.

Dr Monzur Hossain, *Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies*



Poverty rates have declined, but estimates vary by source. BBS reported an extreme poverty rate of 6% in 2023, while a BIDS and InM study recorded it at 13% in 2020, down from 22% in 2010. Identifying the

factors driving this reduction and evaluating interventions' effectiveness are essential.

Many projects address poverty, but without rigorous implementation and robust methodologies, their impact remains unclear. For example, the keynote presentation lacked proper impact analysis methods, making it difficult to assess improvements. Among the 2.5 lakh households within the extreme poverty segment showing progress, the specific factors behind this improvement remain unclear.

Our research indicates that engaging households in both farming and off-farming activities is effective in reducing poverty, with off-farm activities playing a larger role. However, cost-benefit analysis, typically used for investment projects, can

be misleading in poverty eradication efforts.

Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed, *Chairman, Agrani Bank PLC*



The wealthy grow wealthier while the poor get poorer, and the middle class, especially those on fixed incomes, is gradually disappearing. Their savings are dwindling, limiting their access to funds. PKSF

and EU's poverty eradication programme is commendable, helping individuals in these regions achieve financial stability.

Agrani Bank PLC provides products aimed at supporting these communities. For instance, we offer employment generation projects for the rural poor, loan facilities for individuals with disabilities, and small credit programmes for women. Additional initiatives include poverty alleviation schemes, microcredit programmes, special commercial loans, and crop-intensification projects supporting marginal and small farmers. We also provide training and funding, but there is still much to be done. Many people remain unaware of these opportunities, so educating and training them remains a priority.

Dr M. A. Baqui Khalily, *Professor, University of Asia Pacific*



The extremely poor need not only credit but also non-financial services such as insurance, healthcare, nutrition, and savings. Individuals with multiple income sources are less vulnerable and escape

poverty more quickly. PKSF's initiatives are based on accumulated knowledge, aiming for long-term impact, but a full evaluation will take at least five years. Careful monitoring is essential to track how beneficiaries integrate into open markets and build resilience.

It is important to distinguish Results-Based Monitoring (RBM) from impact assessments. RBM tracks ongoing progress, while impact assessments focus on mid- and long-term outcomes, evaluating success in areas adjacent to markets or in isolated regions, like char areas. Moving forward, integrating small and medium enterprises with wage employment is crucial. Given Bangladesh's recurrent floods, building resilient communities is essential. In this project, savings function as a form of insurance, and there is potential to further integrate this within the microfinance model. Development partners should assess programmes for sustainability and effectiveness to ensure their successful application and replication across Bangladesh.

Mohsin Ali, *Executive Director, WAVE Foundation*



When discussing SDGs 1, 2, and the social safety net programme, we must critically examine the recently formulated National Social Security Strategy (NSSS). Unfortunately, it is not

well-aligned with practical needs and is scarcely applicable in its present form. We must thoroughly review the NSSS to ensure the best possible outcomes.

Concerning PPEPP-EU, I would stress that community validation of the project is crucial, and robust documentation is urgently required. While budgets have increased, it is important to assess if or how much that has positively affected poverty alleviation.

Monitoring remains a key concern, as state-level oversight is often inadequate and needs immediate attention.

Dewan A. H. Alamgir, *Independent Consultant*



It is troubling that 30 to 40 million people still live in poverty, lacking access to healthcare, nutrition, and food security. The primary cause of this is poor governance. Although reports may show a decline

in poverty on paper, field observations suggest the contrary, with climate change posing an additional threat. Basic rights to food, shelter, and other essentials have barely been considered. Another significant concern is the intergenerational cycle of poverty, which must be addressed. Regions like the coastal belt, the haor areas, and the Barind tract face severe poverty and need serious policy reevaluation. Persistent high inflation exacerbates the situation, pushing already vulnerable populations deeper into hardship. Considering our Muslim-majority demographic, we should explore the use of Zakat, as the poor often do not engage with the credit system.

Murshed Alam Sarker, *Executive Director, People's Oriented Programme Implementation (POPI)*



We know that PKSF primarily targets poverty-prone areas, yet new regions are increasingly grappling with poverty issues, particularly due to climate change. The recent floods in Noakhali illustrate this point, and we must extend our poverty reduction programmes to cover these affected regions.

As an apex implementing agency, PKSF collaborates with NGOs to execute projects

and programmes, which typically span four to five years. This timeframe often limits the development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods, given our focus on long-term solutions. PKSF has gained recognition for its transparency and is frequently funded by the EU, mainly working with NGOs. However, we must acknowledge that while NGOs provide effective models, they cannot sustain nationwide efforts over time. For more effective poverty reduction, the government must play a proactive role in ensuring coordination.

Dr Sharif Ahmed Chowdhury, *Project Director, PPEPP-EU Project, PKSF*



Regarding the existing recommendations, I wish to underscore that we will conduct a formal midterm evaluation of the project. Our initiatives primarily serve the

extremely poor, employing strategies distinct from conventional approaches. PKSF's efforts in agriculture and microenterprise development have significantly benefited these populations, whereas the service sector remains less developed.

In response to concerns raised about intergenerational poverty, I would emphasise on the critical role of nutrition, which is a fundamental issue that cannot be overlooked.

AQM Golam Mawla, *Deputy Managing Director, PKSF*



The extremely poor people usually do not have a tangible income-generating activities, which severely limits the scope of using their full potential. Through our project, we have increased their engagement with the

local markets at the Union level, enabling them to pursue a stable source of income.

Through coordinated efforts, we have succeeded in alleviating poverty of the targeted households to a substantial extent. It is also essential to note that various government schemes and MFI support are available for these communities. If effectively coordinated, these resources could further contribute to poverty reduction. A key concern remains: there is a need to engage all stakeholders and partners in poverty reduction efforts.

Michal Krejza, *Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh*



Poverty reduction is central to EU development policy, as Article 21 of the EU Treaty mandates fostering sustainable development with a primary focus on eradicating poverty. Despite Bangladesh's progress,

extreme poverty persists, especially in the southern coastal belt, worsened by climate change. Ensuring access to essential services such as healthcare, education, food security, safe drinking water, and sanitation is therefore critical.

Skill development and job creation are crucial for poverty alleviation, particularly among the most impoverished. The EU has contributed 22 million Euros to the PPEPP project, benefiting 215,000 households. In addition, 2,200 households in the coastal and the haor areas now have access to safe water through rainwater harvesting and 17 reverse osmosis plants, thus securing potable water supplies. Our future plans include enhancing climate mitigation and adaptation. Our priorities include enhancing resilience in agriculture, promoting sustainable livelihoods, supporting small farmers, preventing climate-induced migration, and addressing climate change impact on food and nutrition security.

Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, *Chairman, Sonali Bank PLC*



While leading NGOs have made substantial contributions, Bangladesh still lacks a 'big push' framework. Sustainability essentially means integration with market forces; otherwise, even five-

year projects may not yield effective outcomes. Tying programmes to market dynamics can create greater self-employment opportunities. PKSF can act as a special-purpose vehicle, but its initiatives must be recognised and legitimised at the national policy level. Over the past two decades, I have observed numerous projects come and go. The safety net programme, for example, serves as a public service but encounters challenges.

Nationally recognised NGOs frequently receive bulk credit from banks such as Sonali Bank and Agrani Bank to support their microfinance programmes. However, if institutions like PKSF establish a structured approach, NGOs can link these credits more effectively to relevant initiatives, ensuring comprehensive outcomes with proper oversight. This approach would be more sustainable, particularly if directed towards CMSMEs in rural or underserved areas.

Establishing market linkages and managing bulk credit flows effectively is crucial. Simply taking on one project after another does not create lasting solutions. We must avoid complacency by focusing solely on certain indicators and pursue sustainable holistic results.

Merely implementing isolated projects falls short; we need sustainable collaborations with local governments and national policies that legitimise these programmes. Without these measures, long-term sustainability will

remain out of reach.

Dr. Zaidi Sattar, *Chairman and Chief Executive Policy Research Institute*



In our discussion, we focused on micro-level issues, overlooking important macro-level perspectives. Macroeconomic policies have a major impact on national poverty reduction, as

stability and growth are essential for meaningful progress. Growth is a necessary condition for poverty reduction, though not a sufficient condition; therefore, we must examine macro-level strategies, including market orientation and trade openness. Historical evidence shows that restrictive policies hinder growth and, consequently, poverty reduction. Inclusiveness in growth is vital when addressing poverty reduction.

The Gini coefficient, which measures income inequality, rose from 0.39 in 1990 to 0.50 today. Analysts warn that exceeding the 0.50 threshold signals severe income inequality, which can lead to social and political instability.

Institutional factors also play a role; as noted in Daron Acemoglu's Why Nations Fail, our colonial past continues to influence our poverty challenges. The British colonial rule impoverished the region, with Bangladesh's poverty rate peaking at 88% in 1974 during a famine.

While progress has been made—the prevalence of poverty falling from 59% in 1990 to about 18% today, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics—the accuracy of these figures is sometimes questioned. Despite challenges, PKSF's efforts have been remarkable, lifting 25 million people out of poverty over the past 25 years. Although we are no longer seen as a "basket case," there remains substantial work ahead. Institutions like PKSF are dedicated to these goals, and I am optimistic we will achieve them soon.

Zakir Ahmed Khan, *Chairman, PKSF*



Dr. Zaidi Sattar's observations on the interplay between micro and macro levels are essential. Poverty and inequality are distinct issues, and it is essential to avoid conflating the two. At present, we are

more focused on eradicating poverty than ending inequality, as the latter presents a more complex structural challenge. This project has made significant progress, and we have noted its positive impacts.

Poverty is not simply a lack of money; it is closely connected with various political and social factors. Therefore, we must evaluate the project's outcomes with this comprehensive perspective. It should be regarded as a programme rather than a mere project, as the former encompasses a broader scope than the latter does. As Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury noted, such programmes should be steered from the top level to prevent dilution at the micro level. We acknowledge this point and will take steps to address it.

For the time being, we should focus on what we are doing now on extreme poverty eradication. We are encouraged by what PKSF has achieved so far.

Its primary goal is poverty alleviation through employment generation. PKSF maintains continuous communication with its development partners and its partner NGOs, and we are fully committed to achieving this goal.

Mahfuz Anam, *Editor & Publisher, The Daily Star*



The role of journalism in alleviating extreme poverty cannot be underestimated. Although The Daily Star is not currently operating at full capacity in this area, we are dedicated to expanding our contributions in the

future. The Daily Star can play a pivotal role in influencing policy-level discussions.

I encourage PKSF to utilise The Daily Star to bring critical issues to the attention of the policymakers. A significant gap persists between implementers and policymakers, frequently exacerbated by contemporary political dynamics. Breaking this cycle is essential, especially as millions in Bangladesh continue to face poverty. Moreover, as one of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, Bangladesh faces immense challenges. Our achievements are at risk due to climate issues. Politics, corruption, and misallocated funds further complicate the situation, and journalism has a crucial role in addressing these concerns.

We offer our services to all stakeholders and organisations, providing quality content—interviews, roundtables, and articles—that can fuel meaningful discussions.

Tanjim Ferdous, *In-charge, NGO and Foreign Missions, Business Development Team, The Daily Star (Moderator)*



This event, in line with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, focuses on addressing the ongoing challenges of poverty despite progress. We have discussed initiatives like PPEPP that empower communities through microcredit and technical support. Our speakers have explored targeted interventions, data-driven approaches, and long-term strategies to end poverty. Thank you for being part of this vital conversation to shape meaningful change.



SHARMIN JOYA

Lighting plays a crucial role in filmmaking. It sets the mood, directs the viewer's attention, and enhances the narrative. Imagine a movie illuminated only with flat, white light—like the sterile environment of a hospital. It lacks ambience, mood, and emotional guidance for the audience. Behind this essential aspect of filmmaking are the lighting technicians, whose efforts often go unnoticed. In Bangladesh, however, these technicians face an uncertain future, as the industry battles deep financial challenges.

Bimol Das, the owner of Bijoy Media and a veteran in the field, paints a grim picture of the current state of the lighting sector. "Our job is very much dependent on the production, and if there is no project, we have no work," he states. For those in the lighting sector, their livelihood is tied to daily wages, and with fewer projects to work on, it's a struggle to make ends meet.

Das points out that lighting companies in Bangladesh operate on a shoestring budget, and in the current condition, many are relying on their own funds to survive. "Since there are no investments for any big projects since the July Uprising, most lighting companies are trying to cope with their own resources," he explains. To support their staff during this difficult time, companies like Bijoy Media have resorted to providing meals and other forms of assistance. "We're dividing people into rosters to make sure everyone gets the opportunity to earn a minimum wage and survive," Das adds.

However, the problem runs deeper. The technicians in this sector often come from humble backgrounds with limited educational qualifications, and for many, the passion for the entertainment media

is what drew them into the industry. "They may come to this sector out of passion, but their bread and butter come from this work. They can't just switch to another profession," explains Das. As it takes years of experience to become proficient, losing these technicians would lead to a scarcity of skilled labour. Bimol Das divulges he even had to sell property to keep the businesses afloat, while other companies have sold their equipment or shut down altogether.

Das, who has been working in the industry since 1980, has never witnessed a situation as dire as this. "Since I began, there has not been such a bad situation, not even during the pandemic," he recalls. According to him, work has decreased by 75 percent compared to pre-crisis levels, and if investors don't step in, there seems to be little hope for the future. "We need an elected government to intervene and provide hope, otherwise everything will remain at a standstill," he warns.

M Salam Chaudhary, president of the Shooting Light Owners Association and owner of Alomohol, shares similar concerns. "In regular times, each company would supply their best numbers of technicians, up to 100 crew per day to different shooting locations. But now, with fewer projects, there's hardly any work, and not even opportunity for over five to work."

Salam also faces financial strain, as his company must pay Tk 70,000 as rent for office spaces and additionally, there are costs for maintaining godowns even when there is little business. "It's a big challenge for us to survive. Our manpower has been reduced by half of what we had earlier, these crew members are leaving and we are not able to keep them, and many have switched professions," he explains.

He also reveals that the income per project has plummeted. "The contract amount which we previously got for Tk25,000 for each production is now being offered for only Tk10,000. How do we survive like this?"

He shared that he is now striving with bank loans of nearly Tk35 lakhs and living in uncertainty, yet hoping for a good time to return. "There are around 23 shooting lighthouses, and in this critical situation only a few of them such as Bijoy Media, or Light House are surviving, the rest have



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



already either closed down or shrunk their business."

The situation is no better for SM Mujibur Rahman, the owner of Light House (since 1998), one of the largest lighting companies in the industry. "We are unable to clear the payments for our staff, but we're still trying to cope," admits Rahman, who has been a part of the industry since 1995. His company, which employs around 70 people, used to generate an income of Tk 30,000-35,000 per month. Now, that amount has dropped to Tk 15,000-18,000.

Ibrahim Shahriar, the secretary of the Lightman Association, and the owner of SS Media (since 2016), highlights the undervaluation and neglect of technicians in the industry. "The light technicians are the most neglected and discriminated against in the industry. They are often treated poorly, especially when they go for outdoor shoots. They get non-AC cars, hotels with poor facilities and are forced to adjust to extreme conditions," says Ibrahim.

Despite their hard work, many technicians receive only small wages—around Tk 1,000 for small screen projects and Tk 1,200 for larger projects. "Even a decade ago, we were

respected and valued by the fraternity, but sadly it is deteriorating with each passing day."

Shahriar's frustration is evident when he reflects on how financially unsustainable the job has become. "Our call time is at 5am, and we work for 18-20 hours a day. If these technicians pull a rickshaw for half a day, they would earn the same amount, with more time for rest and family," he points out. Many of his skilled workers have already left the industry in search of alternate options, such as rickshaw pulling or selling vegetables, just to make a living. "From a workforce of 50, I'm now left with just 20 people," he shares.

In his career, he has worked in over 200 films, some of which include *Srabon Megher Din*, *Guerilla*, *Joyjatra*, *Alpha*, *Runway*, and *Priyotoma*, among others.

The lack of consistent work and proper compensation has led to a significant depletion of skilled labour, making it harder for companies to maintain their operations. As these technicians are often the backbone of film productions, this loss is a blow to the industry's future. The combination of financial struggles, undervaluation, and poor working conditions has pushed many talented technicians to the brink.

The challenges faced by the lighting sector in Bangladesh reflect broader issues within the media industry, where workers are often underpaid and overworked. Unless there is significant intervention from investors or the government, many fear that this crucial part of the film and television industry may not survive. For now, all the workers and company owners can do is wait and hope for a change—waiting for the light at the end of the tunnel.

NEWS

A law that gagged

FROM PAGE 1
under the CSA, according to data collected by Centre for Governance Studies, a think tank.

These figures do not include the cases filed for sexual harassment, blackmail and fraud.

Of the 5,000 plus accused, nearly half (2,308) was prosecuted for social media posts deemed as critical of the government, office holders or elected representatives. Of them, at least 219 named and more than 200 unnamed people were charged for criticising former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, the CGS data show.

Journalists and opposition political party leaders suffered the most under the law.

For example, one in every three of those accused under the DSA and one in every four of those accused under the CSA were journalists. At least 239 journalists were prosecuted under the DSA specifically for publishing news or for social media posts, according to CGS data.

About a third of the accused under DSA and more than half of the accused

under CSA are politicians.

The DSA had a section that criminalised "hurting religious sentiments" with non-bailable provisions. Out of the 99 people charged for this offence, 44 percent belonged to the religious minorities, particularly those from the Hindu community.

As of August 2024, at least 5,818 cases were ongoing with eight cyber tribunals throughout the country, according to a law ministry press release issued on September 30.

Of them, 1,340 cases are related to "speech-based offence" – 879 under trial and 461 under investigation, the press release said.

For instance, activist Didarul Alam was arrested after his social media post about the disparity in the government relief distribution during the coronavirus pandemic in 2021. Didarul said he was interrogated blindfolded for seven hours. He languished in jail for five months.

Separately, 11 people, including writer Mushtaq Ahmed (who died in prison), cartoonist Ahmed Kabir

Kishore, Swedish-Bangladeshi journalist Tasneem Khalil who runs Netra News, US-based journalist Shahed Alam, were charged with "spreading rumours and carrying out anti-government activities".

Jagannath University student Khadijatul Kubra did not even post anything on social media.

She was arrested at the age of 17 simply for hosting a Facebook webinar, where a guest, Delwar Hossain, a retired army officer, made some critical remarks. Delwar, an expatriate, was also accused in the case.

She languished in jail for nearly 15 months, and walked out of jail on November 20, 2023, after the Supreme Court finally granted her bail.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, she described her ordeal during the time, saying it seriously affected her study and her life's trajectory.

She termed the government decision to abolish the law as a victory for the victims who suffered under the law.

"We hope that all such draconian laws will be abolished," she said.

Govt won't tolerate any attacks

FROM PAGE 1
"There had been such a practice over the last 15 years, but the interim government did not say anything. If we thought that a news item was wrong, we mentioned it politely."

The press secretary said some journalists have spread rumours intentionally, but the interim government is not bothered by it at all.

"We are fully committed to the independence of the media. We did

not ask anyone not to file a report or why a particular report was published."

Asked about the removal of 64 district correspondents of Bangladesh Television and cancellation of accreditation cards of some journalists, Shafiqul said the BTV authorities will be able to say about it.

He said accreditation cards are scrapped by the information ministry which will be able to mention the

specific reasons.

About threats to some newspapers, Azad Majumder, deputy press secretary to the chief adviser, said the Editors' Council issued a statement in this regard which is being reviewed by the government.

These threats are being issued by a quarter, and the government has already noticed it, Shafiqul said, adding that they have already provided them with security.

expatriates.

The unique strength of the interim government almost wholly due to the global goodwill and admiration of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has been its absolute claim to legitimacy within Bangladesh and beyond. That the Nobel peace laureate is held in high esteem could not have been more evident than at the events during the UN General Assembly in New York in September. He was greeted and embraced by world leaders who pledged their full support for the father of social business as the leader of Bangladesh. The incumbents would do well to leverage their legitimacy and proceed quickly with the reforms leading to an election.

Typhoon Yinxing slams into northern Philippines

AFP, Manila

Typhoon Yinxing slammed into the northeast tip of the Philippines yesterday, uprooting trees and sending building materials flying, weeks after another storm left at least 150 people dead.

More than 21,000 people across 200 villages in Cagayan province were evacuated in the hours before the mid-afternoon landfall, provincial disaster official Rueli Rapsing said.

"There is debris flying all around. Here in Gonzaga, an entire hamburger stand flew off and the winds are ripping open the shop doors at the

public market," Rapsing told AFP by phone from Gonzaga, a town near coastal Santa Ana.

Yinxing is the third storm in less than a month to threaten the Philippines after Severe Tropical Storm Trami and Super Typhoon Kong rey together left 158 people dead, the national disaster agency said, with most of that tally attributed to Trami.

Packing maximum sustained wind speeds of 175 kilometres (109 miles) per hour and gusts up to 240 kph, the typhoon struck the coastal town of Santa Ana and nearby areas, unleashing heavy rain and ripping off parts of houses.

Jubo League leader

FROM PAGE 16
an electricity pole and beat him up with sticks and iron rods, said witnesses.

Later, Saidur's family members rescued him in critical condition. He was rushed to Natore Sadar Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, Saidur was moved to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on November 2 where he died around 5:30pm on Wednesday, said his family members and police.

His family and AL men alleged that Kabir Hossain Kangal, vice-president of Natore Jubo Dal, the youth front of the BNP, led the attack on Saidur.

"We learnt that Kabir led the attack on Saidur, who was tortured brutally. Many people were present there at that time. But none dared to rescue Saidur. We want a fair investigation into the incident and seek justice,"

Delhi sees Hasina

FROM PAGE 2
(International Society for Krishna Consciousness), a Hindu religious organisation. It sparked anger among the local Hindus, said police and local sources.

Locals attacked the trader and when law enforcers went there to rescue him, the crowd hurled brick

chunks and chemicals at them injuring nine policemen and five army personnel.

At least five locals were also injured when security forces charged truncheons to disperse the mob.

On Wednesday, Kotwali police arrested 49 people in this regard.

Major change

FROM PAGE 16
The foreign adviser said, "Let's not speculate. We'll watch for the first two months. Then we'll see what steps the Trump administration takes and work with the US based on that."

He said the various issues, related to the US-Bangladesh ties, that were discussed with the Biden administration were also discussed with the previous Trump administration of 2017-2021.

"Let's see. First we'll establish communication and then we'll see how it goes."

About his attendance at the Ministerial Session of the High-Level Conference on counter-terrorism in Kuwait on November 2-3, he said there are increased anti-terrorism activities but there has also been a rise in terrorist activities.

"We need to remove the root causes of terrorism."

BNP vows to safeguard


FROM PAGE 16
On this day in 1975, during a period of political unrest, soldiers and civilians jointly freed then-Chief of Army Staff Ziaur Rahman from captivity in Dhaka Cantonment, clearing the way for him to assume power.

Fakhrul said the fascist Awami League government had repeatedly plotted and resorted to repressive actions to eliminate the BNP.

He alleged that the Awami League had falsely implicated 60 lakh people, subjected around 700 to enforced disappearance, and killed several thousand others in its efforts to establish a one party rule and fascism. "But by the grace of Allah, fascism and hegemonic forces have been defeated for the third time in Bangladesh through the student-led mass movement in 2024," Fakhrul added.

In response to a question, Fakhrul said the interim government indeed played an effective role over the past three months.

"They have done many things and continue to do so. If we all cooperate with them, they will be able to hold the election at the appropriate and logical time to meet the challenges facing the nation," the BNP leader said.



Department of Sociology University of Dhaka

ADMISSION NOTICE
Masters in Sociology and Social Policy (MSSP)
3rd Batch 2024-2025

The Department of Sociology, University of Dhaka invites applications for admission to the Masters in Sociology and Social Policy for 2024-2025 session. The one-year Master's program is designed to provide well-grounded academic and professional training in theory and methods relevant to sociology, development, and social policy.

Program features:

- The program runs for the first time in Bangladesh at the postgraduate level, blending an interdisciplinary approach to social policy and related social sciences subject.
- It prepares graduates to meet the demands of government organizations, local and international NGOs, and private sectors.
- Key focus on Social Policy, Sociology of Development, and Research - gender, health, population, nutrition, education, media, urban and regional planning, criminal justice, environment, migration, and indigenous issues.
- The program places a strong emphasis on developing social science research skills- both quantitative and qualitative methods

Eligibility: Bachelor degree in any discipline, with at least 2nd class/CGPA 2.5 or equivalent on a 4.0 scale. Students with a Third division/class or "D" grade in their academic career will not be considered.

Class time: On weekends and one working day during evening, starting from first week of January 2025

Selection procedure:
Admission test on Friday, December 13, 2024, at 10am (Room: 516, Social Sciences Faculty Building, Level 4).
The written test will be comprised of language and communication, quantitative aptitude and writing skills.
The qualifying examination will be of 100 marks: written 80 & oral 20.

How to apply:
Application forms can be collected from the Sociology Department office (From 09am - 4.00pm, Sunday - Thursday) at a cost of Tk. 1200, and to be submitted to the office by **December 7, 2024.**
Visit- <https://du.ac.bd/body/SOC> to download the application form.
Contact address: Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences Building (Level 4), University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000. Phone: +861900 Ext. 6576.
Contact: +8801720567517; +8801534856513; +8801689325801, E-mail: msspdu@gmail.com

GD-894

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

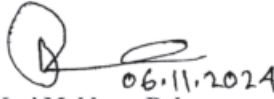
Department of Youth Development
Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
Jubo Bhaban
108, Motijheel, C/A, Dhaka-1000
www.dyd.gov.bd

Corrigendum Notice

It is notified for all concerned that the following amendments are hereby made in the Invitation for Tender (IFT Memo No. 34.01.0000.046.26.055.24-222, Dated: 08/10/2024) of 'Hiring of vehicle rental service for PMU officials', Package Number-S-2.2, as given below:


Item	Existing	Amendment
Tender last selling date and time	10/11/2024 (Office Hour)	17/11/2024 (Office Hour)
Tender closing date and time	11/11/2024 at 11.00am	18/11/2024 at 11.00am
Tender opening date and time	11/11/2024 at 11.30am	18/11/2024 at 11.30am

All other terms and conditions of the IFT will remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall be a part of the IFT.



Kazi Moklesur Rahman
Project Director (Joint Secretary)
Economic Acceleration and Resilience for NEET (EARN) Project
Department of Youth Development
5th Floor, Jubo Bhaban, 108, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000
Tel: +880-02-55101121 e-mail: pd.earn@dyd.gov.bd, Website: www.dyd.gov.bd

GD-898



Jahangirnagar University


Department of Microbiology

Savar, Dhaka 1342, Bangladesh

Invitation for Tenders

Ref No. JU/Microb/DGHS/OTM-3	Date: 08.11.2024
1. Division/Ministry	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
2. Agency	Directorate General of Health Services
3. Procuring entity name	Dr. Nafisa Azmuda, Professor, Project Director, "Assessment of vaccine candidate strainsanalysis and immunogenicity studies" Project, Department of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342.
4. Invitation for	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment, Reagents, Media, Chemicals, Consumables, etc.
5. Invitation Ref. No.	JU/Microb/DGHS/OTM-3
6. Procurement method	National Competitive Tender
7. Budget and source of funds	Open Tendering Method Bangladesh Govt.
8. Tender Package No.	Microb/DGHS/OTM-3
9. Tender package name	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment, Reagents, Media, Chemicals, Consumables, etc.
10. Tender publication date	08.11.2024
11. Tender last selling date	24.11.2024
12. Tender closing date and time	24.11.2024
13. Tender opening date and time	25.11.2024
14. Name and address of the office(s) Selling tender document (principal and others)	Dr. Nafisa Azmuda, Professor, Project Director, "Assessment of vaccine candidate strainsanalysis and immunogenicity studies" Project, Department of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342.
No conditions apply for sale, purchase or distribution of tender documents	
15. Eligibility of tenderer	The Tenderer shall have: The Tenderer shall have a minimum of three (03) years of overall experience in Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning Laboratory Reagents, Media, Chemicals, etc. The Tenderer shall have satisfactorily completed similar Goods/ works/supply/establishment of a minimum of 13,50,000.00 (Taka thirteen lakh fifty thousand) under a single contract in the last three (03) years, i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. Only Completion Certificate will be considered. The Tenderer shall have a minimum amount of liquid assets, working capital, or credit facility of 12,00,000.00 (Taka twelve lakh).
16. Brief description of goods or works	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Laboratory Equipment, Reagents, Media, Chemicals, Consumables, etc.
17. Price of tender document (Taka)	Cash 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) non-refundable.
18. Lot No.	Identification of lot
19. 01	Supplying, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Equipment, Reagents, Media, Chemicals, Consumables, etc.
20. Name, address & designation of official inviting tender	Professor Dr. Nafisa Azmuda, Project Director, "Assessment of vaccine candidate strains analysis and immunogenicity studies" Project, Department of Microbiology, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342.
21. Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: 02224491045-51, Ext.-1566 Fax: 02224491052 E-mail: azmuda@juniv.edu
22.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

GD-896



বিএসএমআর মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ

(বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র পাবলিক মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি)
১৪/৬-১৪/২৩, পল্লবী, মিরপুর-১২, ঢাকা-১২১৬

২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিএসএমআর মেরিটাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি, বাংলাদেশ-এর মেরিটাইম গণ্ডার্পাণ্ড অ্যান্ড পলিসি, শিপিং অ্যান্ড মিনিস্ট্রেশন, আর্থ অ্যান্ড ওশান সায়েন্স এবং ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অ্যান্ড টেকনোলজি ফ্যাকাল্টিসমূহের বিভিন্ন বিভাগে স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তিগ্রহণকৃত বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের কাজ থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে অনলাইনে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে যে সকল শিক্ষার্থী ২০২১ অথবা ২০২২ সালে মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২৩ অথবা ২০২৪ সালের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছেন কেবল সে সকল শিক্ষার্থী ২০২৪-২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে ভর্তি জন্মা আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

ভর্তি পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	১। ফ্যাকাল্টি অব আর্থ অ্যান্ড ওশান সায়েন্স <ul style="list-style-type: none">বিএসসি (অনার্স) ইন ওশানোগ্রাফিবিএসসি (অনার্স) ইন মেরিন ফিশারিজ (ক) বিজ্ঞান শাখা হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমান এবং মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম G.P.A- 4.00 সহ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।(খ) উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় গণিত, ইংরেজি, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন এবং জীববিজ্ঞান এ পাঁচটি বিষয়ের মধ্যে যেকোন ২টিতে "A" Grade এবং অন্যান্য সকল বিষয়ে ন্যূনতম "B" Grade থাকতে হবে।(গ) ইংরেজি মাধ্যম এর শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে-O-Level এ গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান এবং রসায়ন সহ ন্যূনতম পাঁচ (০৫) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে।(দুই) ০২ এর অধিক বিষয়ে "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।(ঘ) A-Level এ গণিত, জীববিজ্ঞান এবং পদার্থবিজ্ঞানসহ ন্যূনতম তিন (০৩) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে। একের অধিক "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।	৩। ফ্যাকাল্টি অব মেরিটাইম গণ্ডার্পাণ্ড অ্যান্ড পলিসি <ul style="list-style-type: none">এলএলবি (অনার্স) ইন্ মেরিটাইম ল' (ক) যেকোন শাখা হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের এবং মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম G.P.A- 3.5 সহ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে এবং সকল বিষয়ে ন্যূনতম "B" Grade থাকতে হবে।(খ) ইংরেজি মাধ্যম এর শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে-O-Level এ ন্যূনতম পাঁচ (০৫) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে।(দুই) ০২ এর অধিক বিষয়ে "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।(গ) A-Level এ ন্যূনতম দুই (০২) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে। একের অধিক "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।
	২। ফ্যাকাল্টি অব ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অ্যান্ড টেকনোলজি <ul style="list-style-type: none">বিএসসি ইন নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার অ্যান্ড অফশোর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (ক) বিজ্ঞান শাখা হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের এবং মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম G.P.A- 4.00 সহ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।(খ) উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ইংরেজি, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন এবং গণিত এ চারটি বিষয়ের মধ্যে যেকোন ২টিতে "A" Grade এবং অন্যান্য সকল বিষয়ে ন্যূনতম "B" Grade থাকতে হবে।(গ) ইংরেজি মাধ্যম এর শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে-O-Level এ গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান এবং রসায়ন সহ ন্যূনতম পাঁচ (০৫) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে।(দুই) ০২ এর অধিক বিষয়ে "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।(ঘ) A-Level এ গণিত, রসায়ন এবং পদার্থবিজ্ঞানসহ ন্যূনতম তিন (০৩) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে। একের অধিক "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।	৪। ফ্যাকাল্টি অব শিপিং অ্যান্ড মিনিস্ট্রেশন <ul style="list-style-type: none">বিবিএ ইন পোর্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট অ্যান্ড লজিস্টিকস্ (ক) যেকোন শাখা হতে উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের এবং মাধ্যমিক/সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম G.P.A- 3.5 সহ উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে এবং সকল বিষয়ে ন্যূনতম "B" Grade থাকতে হবে।(খ) ইংরেজি মাধ্যম এর শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে-O-Level এ গণিত সহ ন্যূনতম পাঁচ (০৫) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে।(দুই) ০২ এর অধিক বিষয়ে "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।(গ) A-Level এ ন্যূনতম দুই (০২) টি বিষয়ে কৃতকার্য হতে হবে। একের অধিক "C" Grade আবেদনকারীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।


ভর্তি পরীক্ষার পদ্ধতি	ক. ফ্যাকাল্টি অনুষঙ্গী বিষয়সমূহ: <ul style="list-style-type: none">আর্থ অ্যান্ড ওশান সায়েন্স এর জন্য- ইংরেজি, গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন এবং জীববিজ্ঞান।ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অ্যান্ড টেকনোলজি এর জন্য- ইংরেজি, গণিত, পদার্থবিজ্ঞান, রসায়ন এবং আইসিটি। খ. পরীক্ষার পদ্ধতি- নৈর্ব্যক্তিক।	ক. ফ্যাকাল্টি অনুষঙ্গী বিষয়সমূহ: <ul style="list-style-type: none">মেরিটাইম গণ্ডার্পাণ্ড অ্যান্ড পলিসি এবং শিপিং অ্যান্ড মিনিস্ট্রেশন এর জন্য- ইংরেজি, আইসিটি, Analytical Ability & Critical Reasoning এবং গণিত/হিসাববিজ্ঞান/লগারিথম জ্ঞান। খ. পরীক্ষার পদ্ধতি- নৈর্ব্যক্তিক।
	গ. সময়- ৯০ মিনিট এবং পূর্ণমান- ১০০।	গ. সময়- ৯০ মিনিট এবং পূর্ণমান- ১০০।

গুরুত্বপূর্ণ তারিখসমূহ

- অনলাইনে আবেদনের সময়সীমা : ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ - ০১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪
- যোগ্য পরীক্ষার্থীদের ডালিকা প্রকাশ : ০৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪
- Admit Card উত্তোলনের সময়সীমা : ১৫ - ১৯ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪
- ভর্তি পরীক্ষা : ২০ - ২১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪
- স্বাশ আদত (সন্তোষ্য) : এপ্রিল ২০২৫

ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ ও সময়	ফ্যাকাল্টি অব মেরিটাইম গণ্ডার্পাণ্ড অ্যান্ড পলিসি	২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রি, শুক্রবার সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা
	ফ্যাকাল্টি অব শিপিং অ্যান্ড মিনিস্ট্রেশন	২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রি, শুক্রবার বিকাল ১৫:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৬:৩০ ঘটিকা
আবেদন ফি	ফ্যাকাল্টি অব আর্থ অ্যান্ড ওশান সায়েন্স	২১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রি, শনিবার সকাল ১০:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা
	ফ্যাকাল্টি অব ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং অ্যান্ড টেকনোলজি	২১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ খ্রি, শনিবার বিকাল ১৫:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১৬:৩০ ঘটিকা
আবেদন পদ্ধতি	প্রতি ফ্যাকাল্টি-এর জন্য আবেদন ফি ৮০০/- (প্রসেসিং ফি সহ টাকা আটপাত মাত্র)। নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফি মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং (নেগদ/বিকাশ/রাবোট/নাই কাশ/টি-কাশ ইত্যাদি) এবং ডেবিট/ক্রেডিট কার্ড (VISA, Master Card) এর মাধ্যমে প্রদান করা যাবে।	আবেদনকারীকে নির্ধারিত ওয়েবসাইট (applyonline.bsmrmu.edu.bd) এর মাধ্যমে ১০ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ হতে ০১ ডিসেম্বর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি নির্দেশনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে (www.bsmrmu.edu.bd)।
	ভর্তি পরীক্ষা নিয়ুবর্ণিত ০৫ টি কেন্দ্রে একযোগে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে (ভর্তি আবেদন ফর্মে পছন্দের কেন্দ্র উল্লেখ করতে হবে)।	
ভর্তি পরীক্ষার কেন্দ্র	(ক) ঢাকা (খ) চট্টগ্রাম (গ) রংপুর (ঘ) খুলনা (ঙ) রাজশাহী	
	মোবাইল: ০১৭৯৯-১০১০১৫ (সহকারী অধ্যাপক, ওশানোগ্রাফি), ০১৭২১-১২২৫৮৮ (প্রভাষক, নেভাল আর্কিটেকচার অ্যান্ড অফশোর ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং), ০১৭৩৬-০১১২২৯ (সহকারী অধ্যাপক, পোর্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট অ্যান্ড লজিস্টিকস্), ০১৭০১-২১১২২২ (প্রভাষক, এলএলবি) ও ০১৭৫০-১১২২৫০ (প্রভাষক, মেরিন ফিশারিজ)	
প্রোগ্রাম সম্পর্কিত তথ্যের জন্য	০১৮৪৭-১৯৮৯৫৭, ০১৭৮০-৪৪৬৩০০ (সফটওয়্যার সার্ভিস প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান), ০১৮২৭-২৬৭৪৮৫ (প্রোগ্রামার, বিএসএমআরএমইউ)	
	ইমেইল: admissioninfo@bsmrmu.edu.bd	
ভর্তি সফলত বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্যের জন্য	০১৭০০-৮৩৭৮৮৭ (সদস্য সচিব) ওয়েবসাইট: www.bsmrmu.edu.bd উক্ত ওয়েবসাইটে ভর্তি এবং ইউনিভার্সিটি সম্পর্কে বিভিন্ন তথ্যাদি জানার জন্য FAQ with Answer ও Prospectus দেখাও।	
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GD-901



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh


Chief Adviser's Office

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority

Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project

House # 19/D, Road # 06, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205.

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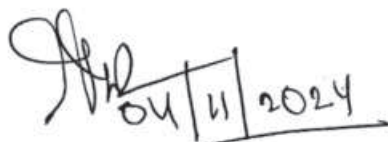
e-Tender Notice

Reference No. 03.06.7895.325.14.98.24- 4 1 7 Date: 04 November 2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) under Development Budget of Patuakhali Export Processing Zone Project, BEPZA for the procurement of following works:

Sl	Tender ID	Description of Works	Package No.	Publication Date	Document Last Selling/ Downloading Date and Time	Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	1032540	Construction of Mosque at rehabilitation area in Patuakhali EPZ project.	PEPZ W-46	12-Nov-2024	27-Nov-2024 17:00	28-Nov-2024 12:00
02	1032545	Construction of Primary School at rehabilitation area in Patuakhali EPZ project	PEPZ W-47	12-Nov-2024	10-Dec-2024 17:00	11-Dec-2024 12:00
03	1032558	Construction of boundary wall for Patuakhali EPZ project	PEPZ W-13	12-Nov-2024	10-Dec-2024 17:00	11-Dec-2024 12:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches. 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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GD- 899

Govt must do more to ensure free press

Robust protections for journalists and media houses essential

In our pursuit of a fair, anti-discriminatory Bangladesh, few values are as vital as press freedom. We are therefore concerned by the persistent intimidation, harassment, and censorship faced by journalists in the country, which shows how the media landscape remains fraught with obstacles. The alarm raised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and the Editors' Council in this regard recently underscores the urgency of addressing these challenges, and the responsibility for this falls primarily on the interim government. This is not to detract from journalists' duty to uphold ethical standards, but a free press, by definition, comes without any restriction or condition, regardless of its outcomes.

Unfortunately, journalists today still face physical attacks, threats, slander, intimidation, and frivolous lawsuits. In their statements, both TIB and the Editors' Council also criticised the escalating rhetoric and even threats of siege by certain quarters targeting certain media houses, including this daily. Such attempts to suppress or manipulate coverage whenever it challenges powerful interests hark back to the abuses witnessed under the previous regime, whose actions over 14 years led to Bangladesh's ranking on the World Press Freedom Index plummeting by 42 positions.

For its part, the government did take some positive steps aligned with its commitment to ensure media freedom. It has moved to repeal the much-criticised Cyber Security Act (formerly Digital Security Act), with plans to withdraw all cases filed under this law. It has undertaken measures to revitalise state media organisations and established a media commission to drive reforms in the sector. However, it is its failure—or lack of action—to safeguard journalists from ongoing attacks and harassment that has raised concerns. Recent statements from top government officials, including the information adviser, warning media outlets about coverage of banned or “fascist” organisations such as the Awami League's student wing, Chhatra League, only deepen these worries. The abrupt revocation of accreditation cards for many journalists, reportedly for similar reasons, further contrasts with the commitment to press freedom.

This approach, we must say, not only dismisses journalistic independence but also weaponises the media's duty to cover all sides of the political spectrum. It also risks robbing any media reform agenda of its credibility. The government, thus, can be held accountable for both its actions and inactions. Against this backdrop, the priority is to end ongoing assaults on journalism and restore confidence in media independence. A “new” Bangladesh cannot thrive if its media remains shackled by fear and intimidation. The government must ensure robust protections for journalists and unequivocally condemn any attempts to silence or manipulate the press through coercive tactics.

Ensure transparency in law enforcement

Hold to account all accused of tampering or planting evidence

It is alarming to learn from a recent report that some members of a law enforcement agency, allegedly connected to a local Awami League leader in Dhaka, may have planted evidence to implicate an individual in a firearms possession case. The plight of such victims, and the apparent ease with which evidence can be manipulated, underscore the urgent need for accountability within our law enforcement agencies.

The case details show that on the night of March 30, a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) team arrested two men in the capital's Madhya Pinerbagh area, accusing them of fleeing on a motorbike while in possession of a firearm. However, security camera footage from that night, a written statement from a Rab member present at the scene, a witness account, and allegations from one of the arrestee's family members present a different story. These sources indicate that the men were allegedly picked up in a microbus by several Rab officers from another location, and were not attempting to flee on a motorbike. In fact, footage shows two Rab members (later identified by their team) riding a motorbike that belonged to one of the arrestees.

One of the arrested men alleges that he was detained, handcuffed, and transported to another location in a microbus. He claims that Rab officers later instructed him to lift the seat of his motorbike, which they had brought there, where he then found a revolver and bullets allegedly placed there by the officers. His mother also accused Rab officers of framing her son at the request of a local Awami League leader, his business rival. In April, she filed a case against several Rab members and the leader in question. In response to her complaint, Rab also formed a three-member committee to investigate the incident.

This disturbing case of “arms recovery” echoes numerous reports from the previous regime where evidence was tampered with or planted to falsely implicate innocent individuals. Given the interim government's commitment to enhancing law and order, it is imperative that all such cases are thoroughly investigated or re-investigated, with strict disciplinary action taken against guilty officials. Besides, the authorities must ensure that instances of arbitrary arrests and frivolous cases do not recur. They should also thoroughly reform the accountability mechanisms within all law enforcement agencies, not just the police. Allegations of this gravity should be handled by independent investigators rather than internal committees, as the latter often failed to meet public expectations for impartiality in the past.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Super Typhoon Haiyan strikes Philippines



On this day in 2013, the Philippines endured what many consider its worst natural disaster when the country was struck by Super Typhoon Haiyan, one of the most powerful cyclones ever recorded to strike land.

‘Karnaphuli tunnel is a white elephant for Bangladesh’

Dr Md Shamsul Hoque, professor of civil engineering at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), talks about the practicality of undertaking megaprojects like the Karnaphuli tunnel in an exclusive interview with Monorom Polok of The Daily Star.

What prompted the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) to undertake the Karnaphuli tunnel project?

The Karnaphuli tunnel project was, frankly, a decision taken on a whim. The bridge authority moved forward without a proper feasibility study. We already had a bridge over the Karnaphuli River—the Shah Amanat Bridge—so the argument was that a second bridge would create congestion and disrupt the river flow due to the gathering of silt around bridge pillars. Thus, the decision to build a tunnel was made to avoid these issues, with much hype about it being South Asia's first underwater tunnel. But the decision wasn't well-thought-out or technically sound. The ambition of being the first at something outshined the need for the conversation about feasibility.

Why do you think there are challenges in bridge construction in Bangladesh?

Bangladesh has yet to master modern bridge construction. Most of our bridges are built with short spans and many pillars, which isn't ideal. This results in structures that interfere with river navigation, especially as vessel sizes and river traffic increase. In countries like Vietnam, bridges are constructed with spans exceeding a kilometre. Here, however, even major bridges like the Padma and Jamuna bridges have spans of only 150 to 200 metres. This limits clearance, hinders river traffic, and reflects the outdated design. It's almost impossible to call these structures “modern bridges” in the 21st century.

What are the specific advantages of bridges over tunnels in a river environment like the Karnaphuli?

Bridges are advantageous because they use natural elements, making them more sustainable and easier to maintain. For example, a bridge benefits from natural ventilation, sunlight, and rain drainage, reducing the need for energy-intensive maintenance. If a bridge gets wet, rainwater drains off naturally, while exhaust disperses into the open air. Tunnels, however, require constant maintenance for ventilation systems, lighting, drainage, and emergency firefighting equipment, among other things, which is also costly. Essentially, a tunnel is on life support from day one. The need for artificial lighting,

ventilation, and drainage makes it far more resource-intensive than a bridge.

When tunnels were built in the past, there was less emphasis on sustainable development, but that has changed. Now, everyone is focused on green development with minimal carbon footprints. The Karnaphuli tunnel, however, runs contrary to this goal, which is why it's so costly and difficult to maintain. In fact, its operation is causing us a daily loss of Tk 27 lakh. It is akin to being a “white elephant” for the country.



Dr Md Shamsul Hoque

Was there sufficient planning for the tunnel's long-term maintenance and revenue generation?

No. A tunnel requires continuous ventilation, lighting, and firefighting measures. Moreover, the revenue potential is limited due to certain vehicle restrictions. For example, vehicles carrying hazardous materials or those powered by CNG are not allowed to enter, which narrows its use. This decision makes the tunnel less accessible, which impacts revenue.

On top of this, toll rates for the tunnel are much higher than those for the Shah Amanat Bridge, which deters many vehicles, particularly commercial ones, from using it. Private cars, which don't generate substantial revenue, may still use it, but commercial vehicles will seek cheaper alternatives. This combination of high maintenance and limited revenue doesn't bode well for the tunnel's future.

Why are bridges considered more

efficient for revenue collection, and how does the Karnaphuli tunnel fare in comparison?

Typically, tolls from commercial vehicles like buses and trucks drive revenue for infrastructure projects like this. These vehicles prefer routes that are both affordable and accessible. Here, the high toll and restrictions on certain vehicle types reduce the tunnel's attractiveness and revenue potential. Since it was costly to construct and is expensive to maintain, the toll rate is considerably

better practices in the future.

Was the idea of building a “twin city” around the tunnel realistically considered?

The notion that this tunnel would enable a “twin city” across the river is overly simplistic. We have seen no such development even with long-established bridges, such as the Jamuna Bridge. In other countries, twin cities are built around integrated road networks and thoughtfully planned infrastructure on both riverbanks. Creating a twin city requires much more than just building a tunnel or bridge; it demands accessible transport systems for all types of vehicles, including pedestrians, cyclists, and local modes of transport.

However, such plans need close collaboration between the BBA and the Chattogram Development Authority to create cohesive urban development. This coordination is absent, and without it, the idea of a twin city remains just a vision.

What further planning and coordination issues have you observed in the tunnel project, and what could be improved in future projects?

There were various critical oversights in planning this project. For one, the bridge authority doesn't have a dedicated planning or research department, so they have always relied on external consultants rather than building internal expertise. It also treats these infrastructure projects as isolated tasks rather than as part of a larger transportation network. For instance, even when a bridge or tunnel is completed, the approach roads are often still under construction, which makes them inefficient. Ideally, approach and exit roads should be part of the planning from the beginning, with consideration given to traffic flow, multiple access points, and connections with other transport systems. For future projects, Bangladesh needs to consider sustainable, long-term solutions that integrate bridges or tunnels with other infrastructure. This may mean consulting international experts in infrastructure planning or sustainable development. As a small, densely populated country, Bangladesh has limited resources and land, so every development must be three times more efficient and carefully planned. Sustainable development should be the guiding principle.

How can we realise our innovation potential?



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Innovation elevates productivity by introducing novel concepts, methods, and technological advancements that contribute to efficacy. This results in higher production from the same or fewer inputs, which is essential for economic growth. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) publishes the Global Innovation Index (GII), which ranks countries based on their innovation capabilities and outcomes, considering institutions, human resources and creative outputs. It has seven pillars that offer a comprehensive framework for evaluating global innovation performance, and two sub-indices: innovation input and innovation output.

In the GI 2024, Bangladesh's score reflects a mixed narrative—steady although constrained progress in certain innovation sectors, and systemic challenges in others. In addition, out of the 133 economies, the country stands at 106. It is also ranked 22nd out of 38 lower-middle-income economies. There is disparity between the innovative input and output which reveals a crucial component of Bangladesh's innovation ecosystem: although the country can produce innovative ideas, it finds it difficult to establish an atmosphere that encourages long-term innovation.

In addition, the country is ranked considerably low by the GI in categories like business sophistication and human capital and research. These areas are directly related to the aptitude

of businesses and sectors to conduct research and development (R&D), integrate cutting-edge technology, and create environments that are conducive to innovation. Additionally, limited participation in global value chains, the lack of R&D partnerships with universities, and an absence of knowledge network integration are the primary hurdles at the firm level. Expenditure on research, education, and skills development is still sparse in Bangladesh.

While discussing innovation in contemporary sectors, access to digital infrastructure is essential, but instead, Bangladesh performs poorly in terms of fixed broadband and 5G access. Digital transformation requires better connectivity, especially as Bangladesh aims to boost its low-level, stagnant high-tech exports. To integrate data analytics, increase operational effectiveness, and link with global value chains, firms require a strong digital infrastructure. Accelerated investment in broadband infrastructure is necessary to ensure that businesses and industries outside of urban areas are not left behind. However, furthering this involvement at the corporate level is now a challenge, particularly in sectors like manufacturing, agribusiness, and textiles.

A potential solution for tackling the disparity involves expanding funding for advanced industries such as automation, artificial intelligence, and sophisticated procedures for

manufacturing. For instance, firms in the RMG industry may leverage automation technology and more advanced digital supply chains to reduce inefficiencies and increase their competitiveness. In a similar vein, agribusiness firms may employ precision agricultural technologies to boost crop yields and resilience, potentially promoting economic growth and innovation.

Bangladesh requires immediate action to improve knowledge absorption, innovate connections, and stimulate the growth of knowledge-intensive jobs. Constraints without immediate remedies may prevent firms from engaging even in activities that have been regarded as beneficial to innovation, such as R&D collaborations with foreign or academic partners. Creativity in innovation clusters, coupled with collaboration among firms, universities and governments, are prerequisites to develop sophisticated skills. To optimise knowledge-sharing, these clusters should concentrate on sectors where Bangladesh excels, such as digital finance, clean energy, and textiles.

The expansion of Bangladesh's venture capital market is necessary to allow startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to undertake risks, invest in new technology, and develop. This might create a source of funding for high-growth companies by offering incentives for private equity investment in emerging industries.

Bangladesh, which ranks 128th globally in human capital and research, is also experiencing a significant human capital crisis. Limited funding for education, particularly in STEM disciplines, and a shortage of skilled labour slow down industry innovation. Better education and vocational training are essential to produce a workforce capable of working in high-value industries, research, and entrepreneurship.

Moreover, the problem of missing or outdated data, especially in the high-tech, education, and research and development sectors, is a key revelation from the GI 2024 report. Nine of the indicators in Bangladesh have out-of-date data, while 13 indicators have missing data. This dearth of reliable data makes it more difficult to accurately evaluate Bangladesh's capacity for innovation as well as for businesses and governments to identify those areas that need adjustment. A more robust innovation ecosystem can be fostered by making well-informed policy decisions, which will require strengthening the data infrastructure.

In addition, Bangladesh's institutional quality (for which the country is ranked 108th) emphasises the necessity of changing regulatory frameworks to foster an atmosphere that is more conducive to business. Businesses frequently encounter administrative roadblocks and a lack of defined, uniform policies that foster creativity. Innovation potential in businesses could be greatly increased by streamlining the patenting and intellectual property protection processes, cutting red tape, and improving governance.

The GI 2024 provides a road map for Bangladesh's transition from small-scale innovation enhancements to becoming a regional innovation leader. Firms and industries in the country need to work more to encourage innovation, even though they are efficient at transforming innovation inputs into outputs. This will require higher R&D expenditures, more sophisticated business operations, and a workforce skilled to use new technologies. By utilising sectoral strengths and addressing structural shortcomings, Bangladesh can realise its full innovation potential. Ultimately, this would improve the country's long-term economic growth and competitiveness globally.

Trump’s victory and why the Democratic Party failed



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SARZAH YEASMIN

The American people have spoken this time to turn their country back to the Trump-era—the lesser of the two evils for the majority of Americans who voted in this election. The president-elect has outperformed himself compared to his runs in 2016 and 2020 and made history by being the first convicted felon to be elected to the highest office in the US. Regardless of what the post-mortem analysis reveals, there is one clear thesis that emerges out of this election: a star-studded, billion-dollar campaign cannot suffice for the lack of moral and ethical leadership at the top, and history has repeated itself so soon after the 2016 loss of the Democratic Party because the party elites refuse to learn lessons. Their dismissiveness frankly cost them the election. Harris’s concession speech may be the best message the campaign delivered; the humility might have helped the party this cycle if it had been part of their messaging. The other part of the story is that in its 248 years, the US has never had a

Kamala Harris, a qualified, seasoned politician with a robust track record in public service as a prosecutor, senator and a vice-president, may have offered a promise for some. But it was a change in appearance and not substance, and that alienated voters who vote based on principles. The Clintonian politics of refined rhetorics and compromised principles has failed the Democrats time and again. Harris, unfortunately, is a prodigy of the same brand. She may not have been a figure as polarising as Hillary Clinton, who evoked strong disdain among opponents, but she was clearly seen as a candidate who would carry Biden’s legacy with the ongoing economic woes and genocide in the Middle East on her shoulders—enough to throw off voters whose advocacy for peace have fallen on deaf ears. Harris’ campaign also failed to build on Biden’s support base. A party loses credibility among voters when there is no clear stance or direction; not that the current Republican

equipping and protecting the police, lowering prices, increasing energy production, imposing tariffs to make domestic products competitive, and bringing the “American dream” back. This time around, Trump was able to court prominent Muslim and Arab community leaders in key battleground states like Michigan with his promise to end war in the

without communicating their policy stances. People vote based on issues, not identity. The Democratic Party has long been out of touch with the everyday socioeconomic realities of the people it claims to represent. Ordinary citizens care about gas and grocery prices. They do not study the mechanics of inflation and what causes it; they do not see the

up of people being considered for key positions, such as Robert F Kennedy, Jr, known for his anti-vaccination and controversial healthcare-related advocacy, to have substantial authority over federal health agencies. We should not forget about the Fauci days in the White Office, when misinformation triumphed over expert guidelines.

weapons permits, removing the US from Paris Agreement, implementing work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries, and making federal workers at-will employees thereby removing civil service protections for federal employees. Now, with the Republican Senate majority, the House leaning red, the court packed with conservative judges, with the checks and balances tilting in one direction, the pathway to accomplish these policy goals lies open. One factor that may have surprised the pundits is how fast the outcome of this election became clear, and that is because of the wide margins of gain and loss. Clearer victory also signals a peaceful and orderly transition of power—which should not be taken lightly given the January 6 attack on democracy during the last transitional period. Allan Lichtman, a historian and political analyst renowned for his accurate predictions of the US presidential elections since 1984, predicted that Harris would win this election based on his 13-point predictive model, which assesses factors such as short-term economic challenges, policy changes, social unrest, foreign and military successes and failures, and other issues that determine electoral outcomes. Even analysts overlooked hard economic realities. The Democratic Party’s wobbly stance has deactivated the voter base the party usually relies on. Fewer women, fewer communities of colour showed up for Harris compared to their turn out for Biden and Clinton.

Harris, a qualified, seasoned politician with a robust track record in public service as a prosecutor, senator and a vice-president, may have offered a promise for some. But it was a change in appearance and not substance, and that alienated voters who vote based on principles. The Clintonian politics of refined rhetorics and compromised principles has failed the Democrats time and again.

woman president, which is reflective of the broader unyielding social order and persistent racism and sexism that have now acquired a new dynamic with the resurgence of conservative leanings in younger population, particularly Gen Z men who are concerned about the economy.

Party or the Trump campaign has a strong suit in gaining credibility, but Trump’s two-word promises are direct and blunt and delivered in sizeable bites. Trump 2.0 promises a new golden age for the US, which begins with closing the southern border, mass deportation of migrants,

Middle East. He did broker the 2020 Abraham Records for a normalisation of relationship between Israel and several Arab nations, but he also ordered the “Muslim Ban” upon taking office in 2017, and recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and announced plans to relocate the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. So, it is unclear how, when and if Trump will act on his promise to the Muslim voters who supported him. The blue party has lost mid-western industrial counties, along with college towns in the battle ground states that went for Clinton and Biden in the previous election cycles. The past three US elections should drive this point home: political parties cannot capitalise on identity politics

time it takes to form and implement policies and the time it takes for them to have an impact. Inflation during the previous Trump administration was averaging 1.9 percent, while the US experienced one of the highest inflation rates since early 1980s during Biden’s presidency. But we seem to forget that Biden inherited the Covid economy with major disruptions in global supply chains and energy price hikes. The US is not taking an uncharted path by choosing Trump. The upcoming Trump administration will be tethered to the ideas and rhetoric on which the previous Trump administration ran. The epoch of political scandal, chaos and quick turnovers may be back, especially given the line-

Climate concerns that are global will also receive pushback due to erosion of environment legislation and advocacy agencies. In his victory speech, Trump highly praised X and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who is also rumoured to be playing a key role in the upcoming Trump administration. While the clout of the radical Project 2025 has declined, a new organisation has appeared on the scene with a policy agenda for the new administration: The America First Policy Institute, a right-wing think tank with direct links to Trump’s official transition team. Some of the key policy goals of the organisation include defunding Planned Parenthood, establishing nationwide reciprocity for concealed

Kamala Harris said as she conceded, “This is not a time to throw up our hands; this is a time to roll up our sleeves.” While the election outcome is sealed, she affirmed that the bigger fight is not over. But the question is: which fight is the right one? The Democratic Party needs to grow beyond quick fixes and have a bold, progressive agenda based on principles. The party cannot have its foot in two different boats. The ethos of strong moral compass and clear vision that Biden’s acknowledgement letter states in relation to Harris’s run for president needs to be more than just rhetoric if the Democratic Party hopes to craft a bold and unified progressive agenda and truly represent the people.

Will Trump’s return change Bangladesh-US ties?

In the aftermath of Donald Trump’s victory in the 2024 US presidential election, Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center, speaks to Ramisa Rob of The Daily Star about the implications of this win for Bangladesh at large.

What does a second Trump administration and the change in US leadership mean for Bangladesh—in both the short and long terms?

There won’t be any notable implications in the immediate term when Trump takes office in January. But I do recognise that in itself is an implication and change for Bangladesh, because the country is experiencing significant challenges, especially on the economic front, and it won’t really have the US to check in on them.

There are several things to remember. For one, the relationship between Bangladesh and the US, during the first Trump administration, saw many strategic partnerships. It was during that period that the Trump administration launched the Indo-Pacific policy, and considered Bangladesh to be a big part of that. Trade between Bangladesh and the US went up as well. Now, the question is: what do those experiences tell us about what could happen over the next four years?

Here, one has to acknowledge that a lot has changed in Bangladesh; there’s now a new leader, Dr Muhammad Yunus, who was quite critical of Donald Trump previously. But now he’s leading the interim government so his reaction is obviously very different: a cordial letter was issued to congratulate Trump. I also think the question we should be asking is how Trump would look at the state of the relationship and whether he would want to refashion the current relationship, which I think he will as I don’t think he will prioritise the US robustly embracing development assistance, and so on.

How exactly would he refashion the development assistance?

The current messaging that the US wants to help Bangladesh in strengthening its economy and engaging in reforms and with that new agreements, including a USAID agreement that commits new funding to Bangladesh, would probably change. The way Trump looks at foreign policy is very transactional and pragmatic, and he also takes an approach of burden sharing with allies and partners. So I don’t think Trump would be interested in continuing the current dynamic. But now, if we are to



Michael Kugelman

contemplate the possibility that the Trump administration would want to pull back on the commitments that have been made so far by the current Biden administration, I don’t think we should overstate the deleterious impact that it could have on Bangladesh, because it is a country that has a lot of friends, partners and multilateral donors around the world.

Just days before the election, Trump posted an incorrect, incendiary tweet about Bangladesh. Can we anticipate the rhetoric to continue?

My view is that it doesn’t necessarily reflect his actual positions, but rather the US electoral politics at play. There have been several prominent Hindu American activists who have said publicly that Trump’s statements were a product of their advocacy, and these activists are essentially Modi supporters as well. The comments that Trump made were not only directed at Bangladesh—he did mention he looks forward to working with his good friend, Narendra Modi. But yes, the Bangladesh-US relationship will have a tricky start when Trump takes office because his comments must have left a bitter taste in the mouth for the Bangladesh government. From a public diplomacy standpoint, there has been a pushback against this disinformation about Bangladesh since August, and Trump embracing that rhetoric would have affected

it. But it’s something that can be worked through. It’s clear to me that Dr Yunus wants this relationship to work and the onus will be on him and the interim government to get through to the Trump administration that it wants this to work. I don’t expect to see initiations from the Trump administration towards Bangladesh.

What is the current relationship exactly, and how will that tangibly change, especially in the context of Bangladesh-India relations as well?

Well, it is very clear that Dr Yunus’s politics don’t align with that of Donald Trump. For his work as an economist and pioneer of the microfinance industry, many Western liberals and members of the Democratic Party respect Dr Yunus. We know when Yunus took office, the Biden administration

don’t think that would affect Bangladesh as the US and Bangladesh have a trade partnership—the US being a top destination for exports—and that does not concern India. Regarding the great power competition, Trump’s ideologies—given that he doesn’t change it—would very much align with what India would like to see: the Bangladesh government does not get closer to China. On the other hand, the new reality is that you’re not going to have a US president who would go out of his way to strengthen the relationship with the current interim government. In the context of the current state of Bangladesh-India relations, that would be more reassuring for India.

Given Trump’s hardline position on China, how would that affect the relationship between Bangladesh and the US?

There are several things to remember. For one, the relationship between Bangladesh and the US, during the first Trump administration, saw many strategic partnerships. It was during that period that the Trump administration launched the Indo-Pacific policy, and considered Bangladesh to be a big part of that. Trade between Bangladesh and the US went up as well.

responded very positively, which was significant given that we had seen tensions creep into the Bangladesh-US relationship in the last few years of the Sheikh Hasina government. When the chief adviser was in Washington for the UNGA, he was hosted by the Clinton Foundation. So obviously, that will all be different now because Donald Trump embodies a very different type of worldview. But the personality differences between the two leaders in due course can be overcome when you look at the broader interests. Trump would recognise that there is a significant trade partnership between Bangladesh and the US, and based on geopolitical considerations, the US should not back away too much from Bangladesh, and drive the nation even closer to China.

Getting to the India factor, it’s very clear to me that Donald Trump and Narendra Modi have a good rapport, and their ideological views are in many cases convergent. But I just

If Trump takes a hardline position on US-China competition—he likely will do that, but you never know with him—he may try to push Dhaka to sort of move away from the Indo-Pacific Outlook, a document that was passed by the previous government in Bangladesh to balance the relationship between the US and China. He could be more direct that Dhaka has to work more with Washington. But Trump is a maverick. While you can make inferences based on what he’s done in the past, we can’t rule out the possibility that he could decide, after taking office, to reach some sort of understanding with President Xi Jinping. Let’s not forget that during his first year in office during his last term, he did suggest that he saw China as a friend. So if we were to have this sort of “black swan” development and Trump decided that he wants to tone down the US-China competition, it would be very helpful for Bangladesh-US relations

and Bangladesh’s geopolitical interests on the whole.

Trump’s campaign presented protectionist economic policies, so would that hamper the trade relationship with Bangladesh?

If you look at the data compared to 2022 and 2023, there has been a notable reduction in trade volume. Though not significant, there also has been a reduction in the US foreign direct investment (FDI) to Bangladesh. It is honestly because of the economic slowdown we’re seeing in Bangladesh. So if Trump starts making recommendations on tough tariff policies, it would certainly impact the Bangladesh-US commercial relations. But it’s important to know there are other ways to pursue commercial relations, through the development-finance corporation (DFC). If Bangladesh is able to strengthen its labour rights, then DFC theoretically would be able to provide support to its infrastructure projects and so on. Bangladesh is not authorised yet on DFC because of labour rights concerns that US officials have had, but if that were to change, it would be good for Bangladesh. And it could change, as I don’t know if a Trump administration would be as strict regarding labour concerns compared to a Democratic administration.

Regarding the Rohingya issue, how would Trump’s victory affect the mounting crisis in Bangladesh?

Given the situation in Myanmar, the Biden administration has been firmly behind Bangladesh in terms of committing and maintaining assistance, mainly for USAID. By contrast, the Trump administration probably won’t be as generous to disperse resources. But if Dhaka presented the issue less as a humanitarian issue, and more as security and stability concerns, it could get the Trump administration’s attention. Dr Yunus did try to get the world’s attention on the Rohingya issue, suggesting relocation but Trump would not be a supporter of relocating Rohingya to a third country, and certainly not to the US, given his politics on immigration. So that could be a challenge when you look at the possibilities of easing the burden on Bangladesh.



CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

The reality of the right to education in Bangladesh

As Bangladesh considers a constitutional reform after the July revolution, it may be the right time to evaluate the inclusion of education as a fundamental right. Given the nation's socio-political development since independence, it is an opportune moment for the state to rethink the position of education within the country's legal framework.

NOWSHIN MUSTAFA

Recognising education as a human right is crucial for both individual and societal development. The right to education is a universally recognised right, enshrined in various international human rights documents, including Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), International Covenant on Economics, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). These frameworks mandate the compulsory nature of education and set a global standard for ensuring equal access to education for all. They emphasise education not only as a fundamental human right but also a pathway to equality and empowerment. However, in Bangladesh, the vision remains more as an aspiration than a reality. Although the state has woven threads in expanding educational access, a question persists: 'Is education truly a right or merely a privilege?'

'Education' is mentioned in Article 17 of our Constitution which directs the State to establish a uniform, mass-oriented education system that is universal and free for all children. However, it has been classified as one of the Fundamental Principles of State Policy, meaning it acts more like a guiding principle than a right to be legally enforceable through the judiciary. Since these principles are not enforceable in a court of law, per Article 8(2), this right lacks the same legal

weight as a judicially enforceable fundamental right mentioned in the Constitution. This creates hardships for the citizens to hold the government accountable for depriving them of this right and its lapses in fulfilling its relevant commitments. In contrast, education is constitutionally recognised as a Fundamental Right in many countries, including our neighboring ones such as India and Nepal. India, for instance, recognised education as a fundamental right by incorporating Article 21A through a constitutional amendment in 2002. A measure of this magnitude has led to the enactment of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, placing a binding obligation on the government to ensure free and compulsory education for all children aged between 6 to 14. Similarly, Nepal's Constitution explicitly recognised education as a fundamental right in 2015 and guaranteed free and compulsory education up to the secondary level. Despite taking notable progressive steps including stipend programs and school feeding programs, Bangladesh has yet to undertake such specific constitutional approach or legislative measures.

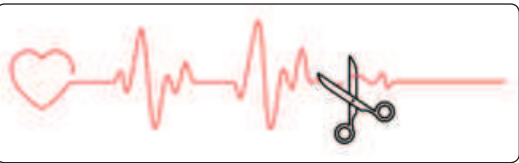
Primary education has been made free and compulsory through the Primary Education (Compulsory) Act, 1990, but this only scratches the surface of the problem. According to a report by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic, the number of students' dropout rate rose by more than threefold from 2019

to 2023. The underlying reasons for such increase includes, financial burden faced by many families, particularly in the rural areas. These families struggle to afford the hidden costs of "free" education.

Furthermore, merely providing access to education without ensuring quality is insufficient. Indeed, the government initiated the adoption of the National Education Policy 2010 to establish a standardised educational system across the country. Drawing on Sustainable Development Goal 4, the policy aimed at creating a uniform and inclusive system that addresses the educational needs of all across different socio-economic groups. Despite all these efforts, the implementation of the policy remains in challenges. These limitations are evident in the inconsistent policy enforcement due to the accountability deficit. Neither the law nor the policy outlines a clear accountability measure, resulting in required impact. At the core of these issues, lie the absence of constitutional protection for the right to quality education.

As Bangladesh considers a constitutional reform after the July revolution, it may be the right time to evaluate the inclusion of education as a fundamental right. Given the nation's socio-political development since independence, it is an opportune moment for the state to rethink the position of education within the country's legal framework.

The writer is an Apprentice Lawyer at Dhaka Judge Court.



LAW AND MORALITY

Legality of 'assisted suicide' in Bangladesh

ABUZAR GIFARI

The concept of 'euthanasia' or intentionally ending a person's life to relieve suffering, is not new. The term was first coined by Francis Bacon, referring to a situation where a doctor helps a patient to end their life. There are different forms of euthanasia. 'Voluntary euthanasia' implies a situation where the patient gives consent to end their life, while in case of 'non-voluntary euthanasia,' no consent is taken. Euthanasia can also be classified as 'active' or 'passive.' Active euthanasia involves using lethal methods, like giving a toxic dose of medication, while passive euthanasia involves withdrawal of treatment or life support, allowing death to occur naturally.

Several countries have legalised euthanasia in different ways. In Netherlands, doctors can perform euthanasia for patients experiencing unbearable suffering and petitioning for the same, provided that another doctor must confirm that all legal requirements are met. Minors aged 12 and above may also request for euthanasia under strict conditions. In Belgium, similar rules apply, but euthanasia is also allowed for patients with psychiatric conditions or chronic illnesses, not just terminal illnesses. In 2014, Belgium extended the law to allow euthanasia for minors in certain cases. Canada legalised euthanasia in 2016 under the Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) law, which allows adults with severe, incurable conditions to request assisted dying. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *Carter v Canada* (2015) that denying the right to assisted suicide is unconstitutional.

In India, the Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia under certain conditions in the *Aruna Shanbaug* case in 2018. The court gave guidelines for when life support could be withdrawn, but the decision must be made by close family members or doctors and approved by a medical board and a judicial magistrate. However, critics argue that allowing a spouse to decide could be risky, considering the high number of spousal murders in India.

In Bangladesh, current criminal laws impose penalties for intentionally causing someone's death, regardless of whether the person consented. If a doctor performs euthanasia without consent, it may be deemed justifiable under section 92, though this section does not permit a doctor to intentionally cause death. The idea of legalising euthanasia in Bangladesh faces some additional challenges. Apparently, the prevalent social and religious values strongly oppose taking a life, even with consent. In addition, the right to life, as guaranteed in the constitution, is not seen as including the right to die. In his book 'Constitutional Law of Bangladesh,' Mahmudul Islam argues that the 'right to life' does not include the right to die, but rather ensures the right to live with dignity. This viewpoint mirrors the ruling in the *Pretty v United Kingdom* (2002), where the European Court of Human Rights determined that the "right to life" cannot be interpreted as encompassing a right to die, whether through the involvement of a third party or with the assistance of public authorities.

Indeed, the issue of euthanasia remains a contested one— one where law and morality meet and at times, part ways.

The writer is Research Officer at the International Institute of Law and Diplomacy (IILD).

RIGHTS WATCH

Ensuring judicial oversight in lawful interception

NAFIUL ALAM SHUPTO

During the July-August mass uprising in Bangladesh, there were widespread concerns among citizens that phone calls and internet activities were under government surveillance, sparking fears of potential detention by the law enforcement based on information so acquired. While spyware refers to malicious software designed to gather information about a person or organisation and send it to another party, often violating the user's privacy, lawful interception involves the authorised, legally approved monitoring of telecommunication services by the government agencies. It is crucial to review the current legal framework for lawful interception in Bangladesh and emphasise the urgent need for judicial oversight to ensure compliance with these standards.

Lawful interception has become an important tool for the law enforcement agencies and other government services around the world for investigating and prosecuting criminal activities and terrorist operations. The concept of lawful interception has been introduced in Bangladesh by amending the Bangladesh Telecommunication Amendment Act 2001 in 2006. The newly inserted section 97A of the Act allows the government, in the interest of national security or maintaining law and order, to authorise law enforcement, intelligence, or national security agencies to intercept, record, or collect information



from telecommunications service providers. The service providers are legally required to comply with these orders. This provision overrides any conflicting regulations in other laws. Notably for the purpose of this section, the government implies the Ministry of Home Affairs. Although our law allows lawful interception and also has established a monitoring center, still there is no discussion regarding judicial oversight mechanisms for lawful interception activities. Judicial intervention is crucial because the right to privacy is enshrined as a fundamental right under Article 43(b) of our Constitution. It has been echoed in the *Aynunnahar Siddiqua and Others. v*

Bangladesh (2016) that, the right to privacy is an essential foundation of the freedom of dissent. So, this right cannot be undermined in the name of surveillance. The Supreme Court of India's 2017 ruling in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* case further highlights that any interception must meet the criteria of legality, necessity, and proportionality to avoid infringing on individual privacy rights.

Furthermore, there are genuine reasons to be concerned over the deployment of such surveillance mechanisms without any judicial oversight as we have experienced plenty of allegations of abuse of authority against members of our law enforcement agencies.

Over the last 15 years, rights groups have listed plenty of cases in which people have been charged with sedition for criticising the government activities on social media. Without legal safeguards, putting in place such surveillance systems aimed at suspected anti-state activities carries serious risks of innocent victims being harassed.

Additionally, under the comprehensive telecommunication licensing guidelines introduced by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), surveillance is not limited to social media activity but extends to a wider array of telecommunications, allowing interception of various forms of communication across multiple diverse platforms.

It is undeniable that lawful interception is

It is undeniable that lawful interception is essential for national security however when it does not meet the test of legality, necessity, and proportionality it raises serious concerns. In this scenario, it is recommended that a specific legal framework is established whereby surveillance activities are made subject to the said principles.

essential for national security however when it does not meet the test of legality, necessity, and proportionality it raises serious concerns. In this scenario, it is recommended that a specific legal framework is established

whereby surveillance activities are made subject to the said principles. Currently, in practice, the Ministry of Home Affairs holds the sole authority to issue lawful interception orders. However, the legal framework does not clearly outline the process for issuing such orders or provide guidelines on related matters. It is essential to ensure judicial oversight when fundamental constitutional rights are at stake. To introduce accountability in the interception process, a review committee can be formed with representatives from higher judiciary judges, senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs, and law enforcement agencies. This committee would review interception orders, and if an order is deemed unjustified, it could mandate the destruction of intercepted materials. A clear timeline should also be set for the committee to review such orders to ensure timely oversight.

The writer is Associate at the Legal Circle.

The Tiger brand: A penchant for unwanted surprises

NABID YEASIN

Bangladesh batters have an abundance of tricks in their basket to surprise the audience.

The latest trick that they pulled out of the bag was in the first of the three ODIs against Afghanistan in Sharjah on Wednesday. Nicknamed the ‘Tigers’, Najmul Hossain and Co showcased a non-Tiger-like phenomenon – retreating from a position of strength to collapse dramatically as they lost seven wickets in the space of 23 deliveries and 11 runs, suffering a 92-run hammering.

Batting meltdowns are such a regularity in Bangladesh cricket that it takes some special ability to astound the avid fans even with such repeated mediocrity. And, Bangladesh players have a mastery on the subject, reflecting the true brand of the Tigers’ cricket as opposed to the one they usually blabber about at pressers.

In chase of a regulation target of 236 runs, the initial fear was regarding the fragile top order. However, that concern was banished when Bangladesh managed to get a decent start. They managed to cross the 50-run mark without losing more than one wicket – a rarity considering that in the 10 previous games, they had lost two or more wickets before the team hit fifty on six occasions.

While the aforementioned stat portrays the fragile nature of the top order, the fact



that the middle and lower-middle order crumbled in under four overs makes one wonder whether Bangladesh batters, regardless of their position, have a special affinity towards causing self-harm.

Till the beginning of the 31st over, AM Ghazanfar and Rashid Khan had bowled four and six overs, respectively, and were unable to inflict much harm on the Bangladesh batters despite a few close calls here and there. But from that point onward, suddenly the Afghan spin duo was made to look unplayable by the Tigers in a brief disastrous period that brought

an end to the game in a huff.

Batting collapses can happen in cricket, albeit not at the high frequency that Bangladesh experience. However, it is the manner in which a team can handle and get out when pushed to a corner that determines the true cricketing quality of a side.

The likes of Shanto, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah Riyad, and Towhid Hridoy would not need to look far to get a glimpse of how game readability and sensible shot selection by batters can turn things around after a

shaky period – their opponents had done it just hours ago in the previous innings when skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and all-rounder Mohammad Nabi scored fifties to rescue Afghanistan from the depths of 5-71 to posting a respectable total.

Following the game, Bangladesh skipper Shanto took the blame for the defeat against Afghanistan. He mentioned that he should not have gotten out the way he did after being set at the crease.

Shanto probably knew what he had done to give his wicket away after scoring 47 runs. When Afghanistan removed a player from deep square and brought in a second slip, Shanto gave in to the temptation of sweeping Nabi – just as Afghanistan had wanted – and top edged a catch to the man at short fine-leg.

Not only Shanto, but all the Bangladesh batters who threw their wickets away have played cricket at this level long enough to realise what they could have done differently – and they probably do know where it had gone wrong.

The question is why they keep on collapsing and easily fall prey to the opponents’ discernible plays time and again. As unfortunate as it may sound, it probably is the only way left for the Bangladesh batters to surprise their fans now that they keep on hitting new lows in every format.

Mushy also a doubt for WI Tests

Liton to join team in UAE

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh star batter Mushfiqur Rahim has been ruled out of the ongoing ODI series against Afghanistan in the UAE with a finger injury that also makes him doubtful for the upcoming Tests in a full series against the West Indies.

Mushfiqur suffered a fracture in the tip of his left index finger while keeping wickets in the first ODI against Afghanistan in Sharjah on Wednesday. Mushfiqur’s recovery is set to take a minimum of four weeks, making the wicketkeeper-batter a doubt for the Test series in the Windies, beginning on November 22.

“Mushfiqur’s injury is slated to take four to six weeks to recover. It will be considered when the Test team is declared,” a BCB official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mushfiqur had opted out of West of Bangladesh’s last Test tour of West Indies in 2022 to perform Hajj.

Following two Tests, Bangladesh will also play three ODIs and as many T20Is against the Windies.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh have not named a replacement for Mushfiqur for the remaining two ODIs against Afghanistan, to be played on November 9 and 11. It was learned that batter Liton Das, who was initially left out of the squad due to fever, will be heading to the UAE to join the team. However, Liton will not be part of the ODI squad until he fully recovers.

“Liton will be there but we are not considering him as part of the ODI team at the moment. He is still not well but if anything extreme happens, a decision may be taken [on his inclusion],” a member of the selection panel informed yesterday.

Part of the initial 15-member squad for the Afghan ODIs, spinner Nasum Ahmed and pacer Nahid Rana, who had faced visa complications and could not travel earlier, had left for the UAE yesterday.



‘Free Palestine’ banner slammed

REUTERS

French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau on Thursday criticised the unveiling of a giant ‘Free Palestine’ banner at PSG’s Champions League fixture against Atletico Madrid, saying it was “unacceptable.”

Asked if he would seek sanctions against PSG, Retailleau told Sud Radio: “I am not ruling out anything. I will demand explanations from PSG.”

European soccer’s governing body UEFA, however, said Paris St Germain will not face disciplinary proceedings.

On Wednesday night, fans from PSG’s Auteuil Kop unveiled the banner before kick-off, eight days before France take on Israel in Paris in a Nations League game.

“War on the pitch, but peace in the world,” a message underneath said.

‘India series fortunate IPL platform’

REUTERS, DURBAN

A four-match T20I series against India comes at an opportune time for South Africa’s cricketers as it provides an additional stage to highlight their skills before the Indian Premier League auction later this month, said captain Aiden Markram.

South African cricketers have been dotted around IPL franchises over the years but those who have not secured contracts can enhance their chances of being hired for next year’s competition if they impress when the two countries meet in their week-long series, starting in Durban on Friday.

“As we all know, a lot of things can fall into place for players and we’re fortunate that we play in a series against (India) pretty much just before the auction happens,” Markram told a press conference on Thursday.

“So that would pretty much be the bonus of doing well, firstly, collectively and for the individuals that put their hands up.

“I don’t think it’s your motivation to do well when you play for your country but it’s the bonus that potentially could follow.”

The IPL and other T20 competitions worldwide have proven a lucrative revenue source for cricketers.

Faulty electronic timer leaves swimmers frustrated again

ANISUR RAHMAN

The 33rd National Swimming Championship is set to begin on Saturday at the Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur and for the fourth straight edition, the electronic timer installed at the venue in 2019 will remain unused as the authorities are yet to mend the malfunctioning device.

The timer was installed in late 2019 at a cost of around Tk 4 crores but is yet to be used in any event, triggering much frustration among the swimmers.

Some 550 swimmers from 52 teams are expected to take part in the four-day championship which will feature 38 events and the timings will be recorded using hand timers, an unusual practice in the modern sports.

Due to the use of hand timers, chances are that many national records will be broken like in the previous editions, the swimmers will not get to know their precise timings and subsequently struggle at international meets.

The swimming federation lodged many complaints about the electronic timer to the National Sports Council, the body responsible for its installation, and had also appealed to the parliamentary standing committee on youth and sports, but the matter did not get resolved.

Just like in the official press briefings

before the last three editions, the organisers were asked yesterday whether the competition was going to feature the electronic timer and the answer, just like the previous three times, was ‘no’.

“We have talked to the sports adviser about the electronic timer and handed a letter to the secretary of National Sports Council. At the moment, we see no solution, so we are going to hold the



national championships using hand timing this time too,” acting general secretary of Bangladesh Swimming Federation Selim Mia said at the official briefing at the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) auditorium yesterday.

Thus, leading swimmers are preparing to take part in the championship with an eye on improvement and with disappointment in their hearts about the absence of an electronic timer.

Soniya Akter, Olympian and the best female swimmer of last edition, said, “We

time and again express our disappointment about the electronic timer, the media also writes about it every time, the federation has been trying to fix it for years but we don’t know why it is not fixed yet.

“The reporters may know the difference between electronic timing and hand timing but the general public might not. So, when the media writes about good and bad results based on hand timing, we feel uncomfortable seeing the reaction of the people,” said Soniya, who last season bagged six gold medals, created one national record and also improved her timing in the Paris Olympic Games.

Samiul Islam Rafi, also an Olympian and national record holder in three events, said, “We usually focus in the national championships to improve our timing as well as create records but we are not getting the real timing and it is always disappointing.”

“Using hand timing is a disadvantage for us because we can’t improve our timing,” the 19-year-old swimmer from Bangladesh Navy said, “The rankings of swimmers and the federation could have improved if we could have inserted our electronic timings in the national championship in the FINA website. Thus, we are also not making a good impression at the international arena.”

Inter’s defence ‘a source of great pride’ for Inzaghi

REUTERS, Milan

Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi praised his side’s defending after they shut out Arsenal in the Champions League on Wednesday, just as they did against Manchester City earlier in the competition.

A controversially-awarded penalty converted by Hakan Calhanoglu on the stroke of halftime proved enough for a 1-0 victory that left Inter on 10 points from four group games.

What is more they are yet to concede a goal – a feat only matched by Serie A rivals Atalanta.

“We had a great performance, zero goals conceded to Arsenal and City. It’s a source of great pride but now we need to continue like this,” Inzaghi said.

Arsenal had 21 goal attempts to Inter’s seven but rarely looked like

scoring as Inzaghi’s side performed a defensive masterclass with Yann Bisseck outstanding.

“Bisseck was very good but he doesn’t have to prove anything to me,” Inzaghi said. “I know how good he is

know how good he is.”

Inter, beaten in the final by Manchester City in 2023, were under siege in the second half but showed great resilience to put themselves in a healthy position in the table.

They are one of four teams on 10 points behind leaders Liverpool who have a maximum 12 points.

“The best thing about this match is the three points, then the team spirit and the desire to fight that we put out on the pitch,” Inter skipper Lautaro Martinez said.

“These matches are very important for the league table. We didn’t concede any goals, and this is positive because in the (domestic) league we conceded too many.

“We must continue to raise the level. We want everything, the history of this club says so. I want to win everything.”



and he has played two great games against teams like Man City and Arsenal this season. His only problem is that we have other great defenders so he cannot play all the time, but I

Lewandowski one away from 100 UCL goals

Striker Robert Lewandowski scored a goal in each half to help Barcelona secure a comprehensive 5-2 win at Red Star Belgrade in the Champions League on Wednesday. It was another commanding victory for LaLiga leaders Barcelona who are in an imperious vein of form, scoring 24 goals in six successive wins in all competitions, including thrashings of Bayern Munich and Real Madrid. Barca climbed to sixth place in the 36-team Champions League table with nine points. Red Star languishing in 35th spot with no points from four games.

Robert Lewandowski is just one goal away from reaching a century of goals in the UEFA Champions League after he netted a brace against Red Star Belgrade yesterday.

Only Cristiano Ronaldo (140) and Lionel Messi (129) are ahead of the 36-year-old on the list of most goals in the competition’s history.

With five goals – the joint-most so far – across the opening four matchdays of the ongoing season of the Champions League, Lewandowski took his total UCL goal tally for Barcelona to 13. That means that he is just the second player in Champions League history to score 10+ goals for three different clubs after Cristiano Ronaldo.

Barca winger Raphinha, who netted once against Red Star Belgrade, took his tally to five goals in Champions League and also has two assists to his name so far.



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for more than
20
YEARS

**SHAH
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BNP vows to safeguard democracy

Says it will resist hegemonic forces

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said party leaders and activists have taken a fresh vow to resist hegemonic forces to protect democracy, independence, and sovereignty in the country.

"We've vowed to resist fascism together with the people. We'll launch a strong movement, if necessary, to protect democracy and preserve the country's independence and sovereignty," Fakhrul told reporters, after paying homage at the grave of BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

He also expressed hope that the interim government would be able to hold the national election within a reasonable time and expressed confidence that the people would unite to reinforce the spirit of the student-led revolution.

Earlier, Fakhrul, accompanied by thousands of leaders and activists, placed wreaths and offered prayers at the grave of Ziaur Rahman, marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Leaders and activists of the BNP and associate bodies at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday to pay homage to the party founder on the occasion of National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Major change unlikely after Trump's win

Says foreign adviser on Bangladesh-US ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Affairs Adviser M Touhid Hossain believes there will be no major change in Bangladesh-US ties after Donald Trump assumes the oval office.

"It won't be right to think there will be any major change in our relationship with the Trump administration. The relations between the two countries aren't based on any particular party, but on the two states," he told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Trump had a landslide victory in the November 5 election, beating Democrat contender Kamala Harris.

The Biden administration, in which Harris is the vice president, has been supporting Bangladesh's interim government and its reforms process.



M Touhid Hossain

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Party offices silent, abandoned

HQs of several parties, including AL, see almost no political activities since Aug 5; many leaders, activists on the run



Photos show the locked offices of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal (M-L) in the capital. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Before August 5, the central office of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) led by its President Hasanul Haq Inu was abuzz with activities.

Leaders and activists of not only the JSD, a member of the 14-party alliance, but its ally organisations like the Krishak Jote, the Sramik Jote, the Jubo Jote, and the Nari Jote would gather at the two-story party office for discussions.

But on August 5, with the fall of the Awami League government, the party office fell silent and now wears a deserted look.

A portion of the office was

found to be locked, with only a person seen inside a room reading a newspaper when this correspondent paid a visit recently.

He, however, said he had no connection with the party and that he came to the office after finding it open and was waiting for someone.

As the correspondent was leaving, a man claiming to be a central leader of JSD said their party office was "grabbed by" some people who were former members of the party. He did not agree to divulge his name.

"But we got back to our party office after several days. Leaders and activists refrain from visiting

the office in fear of arrest or harassment," he said.

Many central leaders of the party went into hiding after the arrest of JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu on August 26.

Contacted over the phone, JSD Executive President Rabiul Alam said party activists come to the office in the evening. "Right now, we have no political programmes but we are issuing statements," he said.

JSD represents just one of many parties affected by the political changeover.

Since August 5, all 28 political parties that participated in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Jubo League leader beaten to death

Fingers pointed at group led by Jubo Dal leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A Natore Jubo League leader, who was tied to an electricity pole and beaten up allegedly by BNP and Jubo Dal activists a week ago, died Wednesday afternoon while undergoing treatment at a hospital.

Saidur Rahman Babu of Darappur village in Natore Sadar upazila, was the president of Jubo League's ward-8 unit of Laxmipur Kholabaria union. Jubo League is the youth wing of the Awami League.

Locals and his family members said Saidur's home came under attack hours after the ouster of the AL government on August 5.

Saidur and his two brothers went into hiding after that.

On October 30, a group of people saw Saidur in Natore town, caught him, and took him to Darappur Bazar. They tied Saidur to



Saidur Rahman

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Israeli strikes hit Hezbollah's main bastion

Missile explodes next to Beirut airport; Hezbollah fires at military base near Tel Aviv

AFP, Beirut

Israel conducted air strikes on Hezbollah's main bastion in south Beirut yesterday, with one raid hitting an area near Lebanon's only international airport.

The pre-dawn raids came after Hezbollah claimed a slew of attacks on Israel, including a missile strike targeting a military base near Israel's Ben Gurion International Airport.

Also later on Wednesday, the health ministry said Israeli strikes on the Bekaa Valley and the densely populated ancient city of Baalbek in east Lebanon, where Hezbollah holds sway, killed 40 people.

Four UN peacekeepers were wounded in another Israeli air strike in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon that also killed three civilians, the Lebanese army said yesterday.

The strike near the Beirut airport caused heavy damage to a heater factory warehouse, an AFP photographer reported.

Transport Minister Ali Hamie said the airport continued to operate as normal, with planes taking off and landing with no issue. The raid caused minor damage to some of the airport's buildings, including

flag carrier Middle East Airlines' premises.

The terminal building was safe, an airport official told AFP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to media.

While some in Lebanon had hoped Tuesday's US presidential election might offer a reprieve, Hezbollah's leader said in a speech broadcast later on Wednesday that the vote would have no bearing on the future of the conflict.

He also warned that Hezbollah had tens of thousands of trained militants ready to fight, and that nowhere in Israel was "off limits" to attacks.

Israel's airports authority said Wednesday that operations at its main airport near commercial hub Tel Aviv were not affected after Hezbollah claimed it fired missiles at a military base nearby.

In Lebanon, the overnight strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs were so intense many residents of the city were unable to sleep.

"We've had to flee our homes several times. Sometimes we sleep in the car," said Ramzi Zaiter, a resident of south Beirut. "Death has become a matter of luck. We can either die or survive."

- 40 more Lebanese killed around Baalbek
- Four UN peacekeepers hurt in Israeli strikes in Sidon
- Thousands of militants ready to fight: Hezbollah



OUR GENTLE GIANTS

Two Asian elephants, the largest living land mammal in Asia, cozy up to each other while taking a stroll on a grassland in Sherpur. These gentle giants are known for their sociable behaviour, high intelligence and ability to feel grief and compassion. Distributed throughout the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, these elephants are primarily herbivores, consuming about 150kg of vegetation per day. While the Asian elephants, owing to their large size, need over 4,000sqkm of continuous habitat to survive, they are now restricted to just 10 percent of their historical range. Furthermore, they have been victims of rampant habitat degradation, poaching, and unnecessary human attacks. Despite their environmental importance – when they move in herds, they create wide paths and mud wallows and also play a crucial role as seed dispersers and forest gardeners – their numbers have been dwindling since as far back as 1986, when they were listed as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List. Today, fewer than 50,000 Asian elephants are estimated to survive today and the need for their conservation escalates every day.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

A REMARKABLE LEADER AND
A GREAT ENTREPRENEUR

Dr. Md. Rezaul Karim, MBBS, Ph.D.
Founder Chairman, Tropical Homes Limited
(1 Jul 1944 - 7 Nov 2024)

We are deeply mourned
by the demise of our honorable Chairman Sir.

His Namaj-e-Janaja will be held today (Friday 8th November, 2024) after
Jumma Prayer at 'Allahu'- Mosque, Dhaka Cantonment.

TROPICAL HOMES