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Rab wants to shed its dark past

The force now wants to rebrand itself thru reform, regulations

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Since its formation nearly two decades ago to curb organised crime and terrorism, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has been dogged by serious allegations of human rights violations. Rights activists and critics accused it of morphing into a "government death squad" that operated with impunity.

From the infamous seven-murder case in Narayanganj to the killing of Cox's Bazar municipality councillor Akramul Haque in a so-called gunfight, the force has earned quite a notoriety, eventually inviting US sanctions on its top officials in 2021.

Over the last 15 years, the specialised crime busting unit became a household name for alleged extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture of opposition political figures and government critics. During this period, numerous reports from international rights bodies detailed Rab's rights abuse, including

- Rab seeks to change name, logo, uniform
- Preparing a draft law to regulate its activities
- ASK found its involvement in at least 467 crossfire from 2015-2023
- Action taken against 4,000 members since its inception
- Rights activists want reform, even dismantling of the force

extrajudicial murder by some of its trigger-happy members.

Some of them could even be hired by willing parties, as proven in court in the Narayanganj seven-murder case. For years, rights organisations from home and abroad called for its reform, and the call intensified after Sheikh Hasina's fall on August 5 in the face of a mass uprising.

Against this backdrop, Rab is planning to change its name, logo and uniform and is drafting a new law to regulate its operations. Currently, there is no separate law for the force, and it operates under the police ordinance.

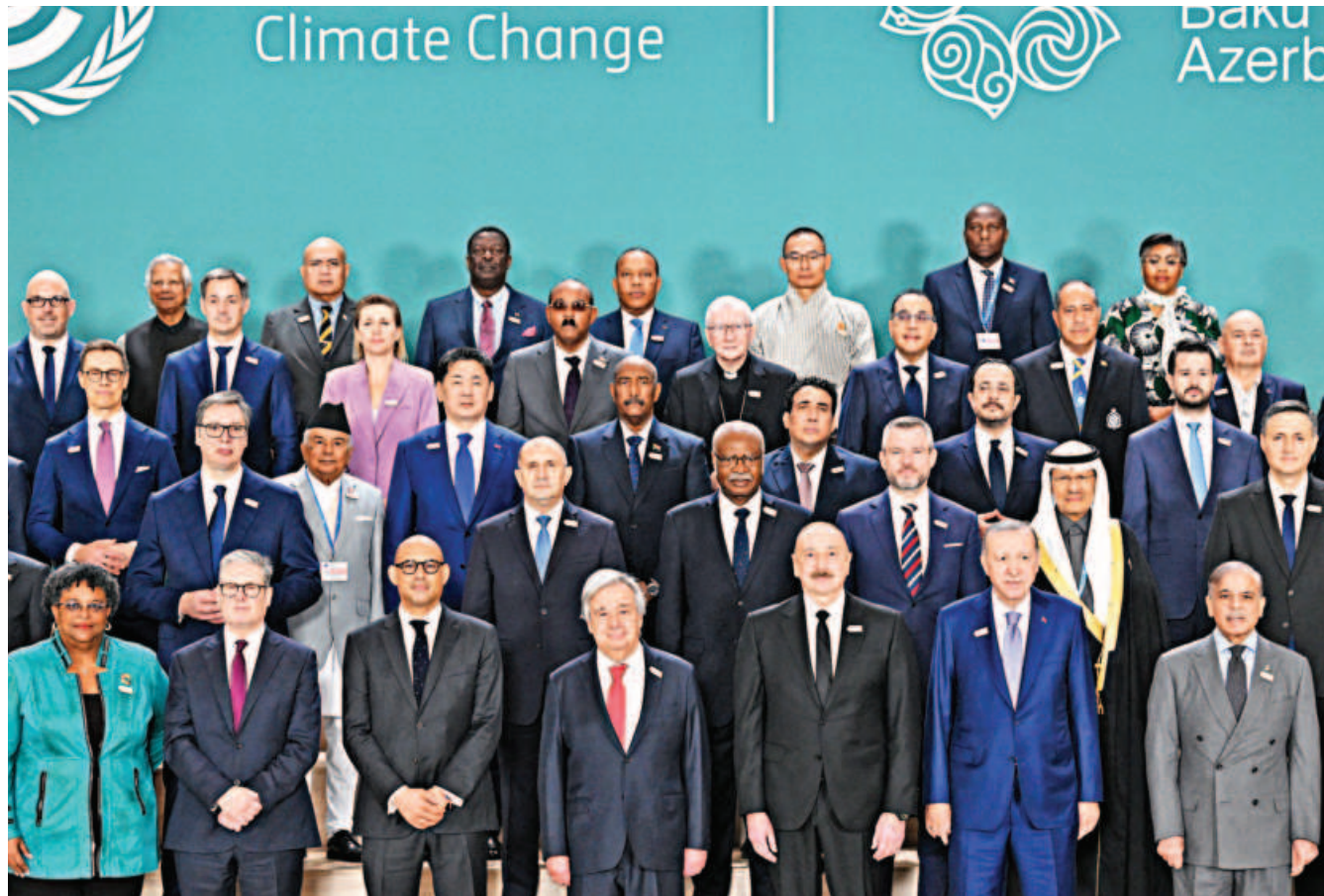
"We have taken steps to reform the force, including changing its name, rules and dress," AKM Shahidur Rahman, director general of Rab, told The Daily Star recently.

"We have already made a draft for changing the name and dress. We have also taken steps to make a new law for the force, which is in the drafting stage," he said.

Some rights activists, however, call for dismantling the force.

"Rab should be abolished because there is no need for encounter or extrajudicial killing. Police have three to four departments, and are enough to ensure peace," said ZI Khan Panna, a noted Supreme Court lawyer.

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, along with other world leaders, poses for a photo in Baku, Azerbaijan, during the United Nations climate change conference, known as COP29, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Limon files case with ICT against eight ex-Rab men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Limon Hossain, who was shot by Rab 13 years ago and subsequently lost his left leg, filed a complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday accusing eight former Rab personnel and an ex-army officer.

Among the accused are Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, former security affairs adviser to ex-prime minister Sheikh Hasina; Maj Gen (sacked) Ziaul Ahsan, former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC); and Major Rashed, ex-company commander of Rab-8 in Barishal.

The other named accused are ex-Rab-8 deputy assistant director Lutfor Rahman, corporal



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WB points out myriad issues in healthcare

Commits \$400m to Dhaka for the next five-year plan

- Non-communicable diseases account for 68pc deaths
- Half the facilities offer services for non-communicable diseases
- 14pc adults are diabetic, 29pc have hypertension
- Only 18pc women receive quality antenatal care

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD ABBAS

The World Bank has committed to giving Bangladesh \$400 million for implementing the next five-year plan for the health sector, which is estimated to cost around \$9 billion.

The government expects \$2.3 billion of it to come from multilateral and bilateral partners, including the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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Media should play due role in fighting misinfo

Info adviser says media now free of govt pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Adviser Nahid Islam yesterday urged the media to play a key role in fighting misinformation and stated that there is no government pressure on the media.

"The media should present objective news as it is free from government pressure," Nahid said at a views exchange meeting with editors and senior journalists of daily newspapers at the information and broadcasting ministry.

He said the lack of accurate information is allowing rumours and misinformation that create



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Red notice sought for Hasina's arrest

ICT chief prosecutor's office writes to Interpol through IGP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal has requested police to seek Interpol red notice for the arrest of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam's office on Sunday wrote to the Interpol through the inspector general of police (IGP).

Hasina is accused of committing crimes against humanity and she is a fugitive, he told reporters in front of his office yesterday, adding that the IGP would forward the letter to the international organisation which facilitates worldwide police cooperation.

"There is an arrest warrant for her [in Bangladesh].... We requested Interpol to arrest her or at least issue a red notice," he said.

A red notice is a request to law enforcement worldwide to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action, according to the Interpol website.

Over 100 complaints of crimes against humanity have been filed against Hasina, said prosecutors.

Tajul said the tribunal also issued arrest warrants for four absconding police officers on charges of committing atrocities in the capital's Jatrabari during the mass uprising.

"Journalists and citizens filmed how a young man, injured in the leg, was rescued by his colleague

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Scrapping of accreditation cards threat to press freedom

Says Editors' Council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Editors' Council have expressed concern over the recent cancellation of press accreditation cards of 167 journalists.

The council in a statement yesterday said the organisation and its members were worried about the scrapping of the accreditation cards of many professional and active journalists and editors.

The platform believes

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The Shyampur Road in the capital has been in a dismal state for nearly a month now due to a leak in a Wasa pipe and poor drainage in the area. This has not only damaged the road but has been causing heavy traffic jams there. Despite the plight of the locals, the authorities concerned are yet to take any measures. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Star INTERVIEW

Political consensus needed to make reforms sustainable

Says BNP Vice-Chairman and business leader Abdul Awal Mintoo

SOHEL PARVEZ

Without proper institutions, it's not possible to prevent abuse of power, prevent corruption, and improve public life, said business leader Abdul Awal Mintoo.

"It is not the job of an adviser, not the job of a minister, not the job of a political party to do all that," he told The Daily Star in an interview recently.

During the Awami League's 15-year rule, self-interested groups took control of public institutions, which ultimately served their purposes instead of providing services to people and businesses, said Mintoo, a former president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Those groups used to get all the privileges in almost every sector during the Awami League's last three terms.

"You can call them oligarchs, you can call them cronies, you can call them their allies. It doesn't matter which name you are going to use."

AL-affiliated groups particularly captured the banking, energy, road, and transport sectors, said Mintoo, also the chairman of Multimode Group, which has interests in agriculture, banking, insurance, consumer goods, energy, hospitality, food and beverage, manufacturing, real

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Ekushey Boi Mela can't be in Suhrawardy Udyan

Public works ministry says it'll be on Bangla Academy premises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla Academy has been instructed to organise the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela, the country's largest book festival, at the academy premises only, and not in Suhrawardy Udyan.

The Ministry of Housing and Public Works sent a letter addressing the academy authorities on November 6 with the request.

It said, according to the decision of the meeting held on November 21, 2023, Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2025 should be organised on the premises of Bangla Academy instead of Suhrawardy Udyan.

The letter was sent from the Administration Department of the ministry, and signed by Deputy Secretary Farida Yeasmin.



Top world leaders meet Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. *Left*, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo'an. *Top right*, Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of the Al-Azhar Al Sharif. *Bottom right*, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahiyani.

PHOTOS: PTD



14 RMG factories closed as workers resume protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least 14 readymade garment factories in Gazipur remained closed yesterday over a dispute between authorities and workers over payment of arrears and other benefits, said police.

Of them, five factories are owned by TNZ Group namely -- TNZ Apparels Limited, Basic Clothing Limited, Apparels Plus, Basic Knitwear Limited, and Apparel Art Limited, said Mosharrar Hossain, assistant superintendent of Gazipur Industrial Police.

Demanding arrears, workers of these factories had been protesting on the street since Saturday morning, blocking the Dhaka Mymensingh highway.

Although the workers withdrew from the highway Monday night, the five factories remained closed yesterday, said police and workers.

Meanwhile, workers of two factories--MM Knitwear Ltd and Mamun Knitwear Ltd -- in the Konabari area started work abstinence around noon yesterday, demanding the reinstatement of the workers who were recently sacked.

Workers of Swadhin Garments in the Konabari Zarun area, who have been protesting for the last three days, demanding arrears, took position in

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Red notice

FROM PAGE 1

and was being taken away, when Zakir Hossain, then officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, went close to them and shot him in the chest to ensure his death," he said.

The tribunal has also granted permission to the prosecutors to interrogate Maj Gen (sacked) Ziaul Ahsan, now in jail, for a day.

The three-judge panel of the ICT led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder gave the permission.

The date of Ziaul's interrogation will not be revealed for security concerns, he said.

"He was involved in numerous murders and enforced disappearances. The ICT probe body has evidence," he said.

Limon files case

FROM PAGE 1

Mazharul Islam, constable Md Abdul Aziz, Nayek Mukhtadir Hossain, and soldiers Prahlad Chanda and Kartik Kumar Biswas. Limon also accused six unnamed individuals of the incident.

Speaking to reporters after filing the complaint, Limon said, "I could not get justice for 13 years during the rule of Sheikh Hasina's government. I have now filed the complaint with the International Crimes Tribunal, hoping that justice will be delivered."

Demanding compensation from the government, he said, "Rab has been accused of numerous human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, killings, and extortion. As I think it is a terrorist organisation, I demand its disbandment."

Limon said he faced difficulties in taking legal actions against those responsible for the 2011 shooting incident during Hasina's rule.

"We faced many obstacles and threats. Tarique Ahmed Siddique, then Rab 8 camp commander Major Rashed, and former NTMC director general Ziaul Ahsan are among those who couldn't be accused."

He also said that his treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation was hampered due to directives by then home minister Sahara Khatun.

His treatment later continued at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in the capital's Dhammondi, said Limon, adding that he received support from Gonoshasthaya and Bangla daily Prothom Alo for his education.

Taking Limon for an aide of a notorious criminal they were looking for, Rab-8 members from Barishal shot him in Satriya village of Jalakathi's Rajapur upazila on March 23, 2011.

Rab had claimed that the shooting took place during a raid to arrest the criminal. Limon, then 16, was picked up and sent to a hospital. The force filed two cases against him the same day.

Four days after the shooting, Limon's left leg had to be amputated below the knee.

His mother filed an attempted murder case with a Jhalakathi court on April 10, 2011.

Limon completed his HSC in 2013, earned a bachelor's degree in law in 2018, and a master's (LLM) degree in 2019.

The government on July 9, 2013, decided to withdraw both the cases against Limon following a request from then National Human Rights Commission chairman Mizanur Rahman.

Limon has been serving as a lecturer in the law department of Gono University in Savar since 2020.

ICT Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud said they have received the complaint.

"The International Crimes Tribunal has the jurisdiction to hold the trial of such cases," he told The Daily Star.

Rab wants to shed its dark past

FROM PAGE 1

Rights activist Nur Khan Liton supports him.

"In my opinion as a rights activist, the force should be dismantled, and I have said this in the past as well," he said.

Liton, also a member of Enforced Disappearance Enquiry Commission, said, "Their [Rab] actions are beyond imagination. After the seven murders in Narayanganj, there should not be any sympathy for them."

The Enforced Disappearance Enquiry Commission was formed on August 28 by the interim government. So far, the Commission received 172 complaints -- the highest against any force -- of enforced disappearance linked to Rab.

As of October 31, the five-member Commission received some 1,600 complaints. Of them, the Commission scrutinised 400 complaints and interviewed 140 people.

The Commission was formed to identify the victims of enforced disappearance by intelligence and law enforcement agencies from January 1, 2010 to August 5, 2024.

Sharing the findings of the Commission with this newspaper, Nur Khan said, "We have found a diary inside a cell operated by the Rab. The cell measures just 3.5 feet by 4 feet... there was no source of light, except a small peephole, and no sanitation system except an open drain, forcing the detainee to perform all basic functions there."

The detainees were able to identify the beginning of a new day when they were provided a piece of bread for breakfast, he said.

"We have found a countdown on

the cell's wall till 180 to 190 days... a feeling for families that reads 'I love my family'. Keeping victims in such unbearable conditions is a serious issue of torture," he added.

According to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra, Rab was involved in at least 467 crossfires between 2015 and 2023.

Rab was founded on March 26, 2004, during the BNP government, with members from eight forces, including the police, army, navy and air force.

The force was initially praised for its swift operations against organised crime and militancy.

The force now has 15 battalions across the country, operating under a director general, who is a police officer of additional inspector general rank.

Tawohidul Haque, associate professor at Dhaka University's Institute of Social Welfare and Research, said Rab is not solely responsible for its controversial role, and that it has some positive contributions in maintaining law and order.

"It also depends on how those in the government, who are in charge, have used the force," he told The Daily Star.

He also called for an impartial investigation and subsequent legal actions for any wrongdoing by its members, including for enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

DRAFT LAW

The draft of the new law seeks to ensure accountability of the force in line with the constitution, existing criminal laws and principles of universal human rights.

Political consensus needed

FROM PAGE 1

estate, textiles, transportation, chemicals and fertilisers, plastics, IT, and telecom.

"For instance, the Public Service Commission was supposed to hire government officials based on merit, but it did not do its jobs properly. And the central bank allowed a few to loot public money. That is why institutional reforms are needed to make them functional, independent, and untouchable by political parties."

Mintoo's comments come as the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government formed 10 commissions for reforms in areas of constitution, judiciary, police, election, anti-corruption, and public administration, among others.

He, however, urged the interim government to sit with political parties after getting the reform proposals and come to a consensus on what type of reforms it should initiate and what proposals it should keep for the next elected government.

"Otherwise, reforms may not be sustainable," said Minto, also a vice-chairman of BNP.

The previous caretaker government headed by Fakhruddin Ahmed took up an initiative to reform as many as 189 laws, and the deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina also committed to implementing those.

Only six of those were passed into law, and even then, those were changed so much that they were worse off than before, he said.

"So, if you do something for six months and it is not sustainable, then there is no use for reforms -- it is just a waste of time. What we need is a kind of new social contract between the citizens and the state as well as the politicians."

Scrapping of accreditation

FROM PAGE 1

that the information ministry has the right to review any misuse of the accreditation cards. But such a step of wholesale cancellation without any proof to support specific allegations or evidence of wrongdoing are a threat to press freedom and an obstacle to ensuring a democratic environment, read the statement signed by its President

Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud.

These steps risk fostering a climate of exerting control, including censorship, over the media, which also contradict the main spirit of the July-August uprising, it added.

According to the council, it sees the move as a repetition of the undemocratic practices of the previous authoritarian

Management and supervision of administrative and operational activities, recruitment, posting and discipline in the force will also be regulated by this law, Rab officials said.

The law will also specify statutory powers of preventive measures, arrest of the accused and investigation of offences under the jurisdiction of Rab.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a top Rab official said that in response to the 2021 US sanctions, efforts are already underway to train their members on human rights.

"A counter-intelligence approach is used to prevent Rab members from engaging in unlawful activities. In cases where Rab members are found involved in such activities, appropriate actions are taken through the internal investigation cell," the official added.

Another official of the Rab Headquarters, requesting anonymity, said, "We have taken actions against 4,000 members of the force since its inception for their involvement in different crimes like seven murders in Narayanganj."

Citing their own data, the officials said they arrested 1,460 murder and rape suspects from January 1 to October 31 this year. During the same period, 617 people were arrested for robbery, 680 for mugging, 500 for kidnapping, 248 for cheating and 35 for human trafficking.

Since its inception, Rab arrested some 6,531 murder and rape suspects. Additionally, 3,783 were arrested for robbery, 11,855 for mugging, 5,628 for kidnapping, 7,641 for cheating and 1,802 for human trafficking, according to Rab data.

way the Bangladesh Bank is trying to control prices spike.

Whenever there is inflation, the authorities in general look to contain the money supply.

"But there is another side to it. Once you restrict the money supply, production will drop, demand will drop, and thereby prices will go up," he said, adding that there are 18 factors that influence prices and inflation.

One of them is the inability to open LCs to import raw materials owing to margin requirements by the central bank and shortage of dollars, said Mintoo, also the chairman of National Bank.

"If the factories cannot produce for shortage of raw materials, there will be a shortage of products. If there is a shortage of products, the price will increase."

Except for jute mills, almost all the industrial sectors have to import most of their raw materials to produce goods for domestic and export markets.

In addition, the rising interest rate, which is now almost 16 percent, will increase the financial cost of businesses, and it will ultimately be passed on to consumers.

"So, prices will go up."

The overall growth of the economy may be lower than the four percent projected by the World Bank.

"Consumption has shrunk for two reasons: first, you don't have any money. Secondly, because of the price increase, you cannot buy enough. Inflation has been well above the wage rate growth for nearly three years, and it has affected consumption."

Besides, public expenditure has been reduced, which is clear from the low implementation of the Annual Development Programme.

structure.

Given the circumstances, the Editors' Council has urged the information ministry not to take such wholesale action without specific allegations and proof of wrongdoings. It also called upon the ministry to take steps to stop all kinds of attacks on the media and to ensure independent and democratic journalism.

Access to credit

FROM PAGE 1

accessible to farmers.

Farhana Haque Rahman, senior vice president of Inter Press Service and executive director of IPS Noram, said that currently 550 million small household farmers feed two billion people around the world.

Prof Yunus said farmers can be entrepreneurs if they are given access to credit.

"Every business needs money and investment," he said, adding that a farmer not only grows crops but also sells them to market.

"If he [a farmer] was given access to credit, he could buy crops from other farmers and sell them to improve his life."

The chief adviser said the countries should redesign the banking system by following the Grameen Bank model to make credit accessible to farmers, a considerable number of whom are women.

At an earlier event of the COP29 yesterday, he advocated for Least Developed Countries to get preferential treatment due to their unique circumstances and development needs.

He said most vulnerable countries with limited decarbonisation capacity need adequate financial and technical support to develop green industries, according to the chief adviser's press wing.

"International collaboration is required to foster economic growth and create new job opportunities in emerging markets, supporting a just and inclusive transition," Prof Yunus told the High-Level Climate Club Leaders Meeting, jointly hosted by Germany and Chile.

Today, he will address the Opening Session of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit at the conference.

Yunus said carbon leakage can dilute incentives for innovation in low-carbon technologies globally, as some sectors might prioritise cost over sustainable practices.

To mitigate these risks, he said policies such as carbon border adjustments and international cooperation are essential to balance decarbonisation efforts with economic stability.

"Conversely, these policies can affect the competitiveness of the companies of particularly vulnerable developing countries like Bangladesh, as strong emission policies will cause higher production costs, making them less competitive globally."

He also said many decarbonisation technologies require significant upfront investment. "These high capital costs can be a barrier for industries, particularly in most vulnerable developing countries like Bangladesh, with limited access to financing."

He stressed financial support for

Media should play due role

FROM PAGE 1

confusion among the people, said a press release of the ministry.

"The media will have to play a leading role in preventing such rumours and misinformation."

Mentioning the media's role during the movement against discrimination, he said it should publish the stories of the sacrifices of those who were killed and injured during the movement.

The adviser said the media could not publish facts out of fear during the previous fascist government's rule. But that era of media gagging is over.

He urged journalists to do reports on all misdeeds of the previous government, including enforced disappearances and corruption.

Welcoming any constructive criticism, Nahid said the interim government believes in a free press.

Regarding media reforms, the adviser said the government already formed a commission. The reforms will be based on the commission's report.

The release added that the editors and representatives of the newspapers said there is no government interference

private sector industries of developing countries from developed countries to accelerate innovation and shared learning.

CA MEETS GLOBAL LEADERS

Prof Yunus met at least 20 top world leaders and heads of international agencies, including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

President Erdogan invited him to visit Turkey and assured Bangladesh of all possible help in its journey to carry out deep reforms and build a prosperous country.

Yunus also invited the Turkish president to Bangladesh.

He also met UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahiyani and thanked him for releasing the 57 Bangladeshi nationals who were imprisoned for staging protests in solidarity with the students in July.

The chief adviser met and greeted Shehbaz Sharif, prime minister of Pakistan; Mohamed Muizzu, president of the Maldives; Tshering Tobgay, prime minister of Bhutan; and Ramchandra Paudel, president of Nepal.

Yunus has been calling for the revival of the SAARC as a top platform for South Asia's eight countries.

He also met FIFA President Gianni Infantino and invited him to join the youth festival in Bangladesh in January. Infantino accepted an invitation.

Prof Yunus briefed him about the festival and sought his help in bringing reputed women's football teams to Bangladesh.

While calling on Prof Yunus, Ahmed el-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of the Al-Azhar Al Sharif, said Bangladesh would prosper and grow under the leadership of Yunus.

He invited the Yunus to deliver a speech at the millennium-old institution, saying the Al-Azhar University would announce new fully funded scholarships for Bangladeshi students.

Prof Yunus also invited the Grand Imam to visit Bangladesh and to see for himself the profound changes brought in by the student-led mass uprising.

The chief adviser handed him a copy of the Art of Triumph, the art book on the wall murals and graffiti painted during the revolution.

Among others, Prof Yunus also met the prime minister of Belgium; the president of Ghana; the prime minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina; the president of Rwanda; the prime minister of Albania; the president of Montenegro; the prime minister of Barbados; the vice presidents of Brazil and Iran; the environment minister of Brazil; the director generals of the International Organization for Migration and World Health Organization; and the chief of International Monetary Fund.

in the media at present.

Emphasising the media's role in establishing good governance, they said fascism could not have emerged in the country if the media had been allowed to play its role over the last 16 years.

They also demanded the formulation of a separate guideline for English newspapers.

Editors and representatives from various newspapers, including Alamgir Mohiuddin of the Naya Diganta, Matior Rahman Chowdhury of the Manab Zamin, Hasan Hafiz of the Kaler Kantho, Shamsul Haque Zahid of the Financial Express, AMM Bahauddin of the Inqilab, Mokarram Hossain of the New Nation, Sajjad Sharif of the Prothom Alo, Golam Mortoza of The Daily Star Bangla, and Mustafa Mamun of the Desh Rupantor, were present at the meeting.

Also in attendance were Mahbuba Farjana, secretary of the information and broadcasting ministry, Abul Kalam Mohammad Shamsuddin, director general of the directorate of film and publications, and Muhammad Abdullah, managing director of the Bangladesh Journalists Welfare Trust.

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Empower women-led green SMEs

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Innovative financing and collaboration with financial institutions is needed to support climate-resilient small and medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly those led by women in vulnerable communities, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The event, titled “Climate-Resilient Cooperatives to Green SMEs: Enabling Resilience for Climate Vulnerable Women,” was jointly organised by UNDP’s LoGIC project and The Daily Star at the newspaper’s office.

Presenting the keynote, AKM Azad Rahman, project coordinator of LoGIC, highlighted the role of collaborations in fostering socio-economic empowerment and climate action.

“Under this project, 247 Climate Resilient Cooperatives have been formed across seven districts, pooling capital through shares and savings to start green businesses,” he said.

“Of these, 99 cooperatives have invested in green businesses, 219 have developed green business plans, and 55 green enterprises are operational. In total, Tk 30 million has been invested in green

businesses, with 14 cooperatives currently generating BDT 500,000 in revenue.”

Maliha Mujammel, climate change specialist at UNDP Bangladesh, said UNDP is working closely with the SME Foundation, Bangladesh Bank, and the Securities and Exchange Commission to identify financial barriers and design an innovative blended finance facility to support resilient green SMEs in vulnerable areas.

Sonali Dayaratne, UNDP Bangladesh’s deputy resident representative, stressed the importance of involving youth in sustainability efforts, which she said are critical for the long-term success of climate-resilient enterprises.

She also called for support from international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and Islamic Development Bank to scale proven models through concessional loans.

Nayoka Martinez Backstrom, first secretary at the Embassy of Sweden, highlighted the transformative impact of the LoGIC project and suggested collaboration with government sectors like Agriculture and Fisheries, which are



Speakers at the event, titled “Climate-Resilient Cooperatives to Green SMEs: Enabling Resilience for Climate Vulnerable Women” yesterday. The discussion was jointly organised by UNDP’s LoGIC project and The Daily Star at the newspaper’s office.

PHOTO: STAR

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Child labour, wage discrepancies, and serious health risks -- these are the issues our team observed during a visit to the biri factories (hand-made cigarettes) in Barishal earlier this year. In the last report of this two-part series, we focus on health hazard and wage discrepancies these workers face.

Toiling their lives away in SMOKE AND SHADOWS

The plight of Barishal’s biri workers



PHOTO: TITU DAS

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Dalia Begum, 65, has spent decades rolling biri at a factory in the Kashipur area of Barishal.

Her late husband, Jalal Howlader, also worked in the same industry until he died of tuberculosis a few years ago.

Today, Dalia often feels feverish, relying on tablets her son brings from a nearby store. “My husband died of tuberculosis, and now I feel sick, too,” she said.

“We live from hand to mouth and can barely afford three square meals a day, so, undergoing medical tests is a luxury we can’t simply afford,” she added.

Dalia’s story is far from unique; the biri factories in Barishal have seen numerous cases of illness among workers.

Rahima Begum, another worker, was found at the factory with her two young children. She has been coughing up blood for months. “I don’t know what’s happening to me, but I’m taking medicine as the doctor advised,” she said.

Barishal division became a hub for handmade biri production over 45 years ago, with Barishal city housing three factories and Jhalakathi district home to four more.

Together, these factories employ between 5,000 and 6,000 workers.

Despite the serious health risks, factory conditions go unmonitored, and there is little accountability from owners.

During a week-long investigation early this year, The Daily Star interviewed over a dozen workers at a Barishal biri factory.

INSIDE A BIRI FACTORY

Child labour, constant coughing, cramped spaces and the smell of tobacco -- overall, the inner walls of a tobacco factory portrays a picture of an unforgiving environment where even basic facilities are a distant dream.

The Daily Star has already covered how children are exploited inside these factories. But this doesn’t mean the women or men working inside have it easier.

Karikor Biri, the oldest among seven biri factories in Barishal division, epitomises the traditional, labour-intensive process of handmade biri production.

Stepping inside one of its branch factories in Sadhur Battala area, this correspondent was immediately struck by the acrid stench of tobacco that filled the air.

The smell was overpowering, creating a feeling of suffocation that made breathing a conscious effort.

Under the dim light, hundreds of workers, mostly women, moved quietly, filling and packing biri sticks by hand.

During short breaks, the silence was pierced by the sound of persistent coughing.

Ventilation in this 10,000-square-foot shed is minimal: only four small windows and a single entrance allow fresh air to enter, leaving the cramped space damp, and dark.

Light barely filters in, and the artificial bulbs are too dim to ease the atmosphere.

The factory’s sanitary conditions are equally alarming. Of the two washrooms, neither is maintained adequately; they are



SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CONSTITUTION Reform commission meets eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second meeting of the Constitutional Reform Commission was held yesterday with the country’s eminent citizens on reforming the constitution.

The meeting was held at the cabinet room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

During the meeting, discussions were held regarding different aspects of the reformation, said a press release.

Prof Ali Riaz chaired the meeting while Prof Tofail Ahmed, Prof Mahbub Ullah, Mufti Muhammad Abdul Malek (Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque), Khushi Kabir, Subrata Chowdhury, Musa Al Hafeez, Shaheen Anam, Shahidul Alam, and Mufti Sakhawat Hussain Razi shared their views.

Constitutional Reform Commission members Prof Sumaiya Khair, Imran Siddiq, Prof Muhammad Ekramul Haque, Sharif Bhuyan, M Moyeen Alam Firoze, Firoz Ahmed also attended the meeting.

WHOLESALE CASES

It’s embarrassing for government

Says Asif Nazrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Adviser Asif Nazrul yesterday said common people, particularly the political victims and rivals, are still filing wholesale cases against others since August 5, which is embarrassing for the current government.

“During the regime of the fascist government, ghost cases were filed against people. The then government itself used to file such cases. Our government is not filing such cases,” he said.



Asif Nazrul made the remarks while talking to reporters after a meeting with the members of the judiciary reform commission at the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) in the capital.

Asif Nazrul said he requested the members of the judiciary reform commission to provide suggestions to the government regarding how to deal with this crisis.

He also said the interim government is working to formulate a law for the appointment of High Court judges.

In 2008, an initiative was taken to make a law for the appointment of HC judges, but it was cancelled during the Awami League’s regime.

At the meeting, Asif Nazrul appreciated the progress of the judiciary reform commission’s activities.

He said the government is optimistic about the commission’s way of working despite limitations.

Members of the commission, including its chief, Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, were present at the meeting.

DHAKA-CUMILLA CHORD LINE

Hope revives as BR resumes studies, designs

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has resumed the feasibility study and detailed design for a chord line from Dhaka to Cumilla via Narayanganj.

The line will reduce the distance between Dhaka and Chattogram by 90 kilometres and travel time by two hours, say BR officials.

The authority also resumed the study and designing for a bridge parallel to the existing century-old Hardinge Bridge over the Padma river.

“We have resumed the studies following the ministry’s directive,” Project Director Abidur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

The development came around six months after the railway authorities halted the study following the directive of the previous government reportedly over a financial crisis.

The previous government in June 2020 approved a Tk 235.37-crore Technical

Assistance Project, with the Asian Development Bank providing Tk 167.14 as a loan for feasibility studies and designs of 11 potential projects.

In February last year, a joint venture firm was hired to carry out preparatory works for upcoming projects, including the chord line and second Hardinge Bridge.

After carrying out some work, the firm proposed four possible alignments for building the chord line.

In March this year, the then prime minister directed to postpone the study for the chord line and second Hardinge Bridge, citing financial crisis, BR sources said.

On March 12, the railways ministry directed the project director to suspend the study and detailed design of the two components.

After the political changeover on August 5, discussion for resuming the studies for both

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Prof AK Azad Khan gets Rotary SEED Award



STAR REPORT

The Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka Foundation has honoured National Prof AK Azad Khan with the “Rotary SEED Award 2024” for his contributions to education, health, and the development of a primary prevention programme for diabetes in Bangladesh, said a press release.

The award includes a gold medal, a cheque for Tk 2 lakh, and a citation.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founding president of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, presented the award at the installation ceremony for the newly elected board members of the club at a city hotel recently.

Controversial

FROM PAGE 5
“I thought the portrait had been taken down from the Darbar Hall, where photos of all the presidents are displayed. Actually, the photo was removed from another office,” he said.

“Under Sheikh Hasina’s fascist regime, a law had been enacted obligating everyone to display a portrait of Sheikh Mujib. Fascist laws should have no effectiveness. I am sorry for the unwarranted remark.

PRAYER TIMING	
NOVEMBER 13	
Fazr	Zohr
AZAN 5:00	12:45
JAMAAT 5:35	1:15
Asr	Maghrib
3:45	5:22
4:00	5:25
Esha	
7:00	7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION	

EDUCATION REFORM

USAID promotes student voices

STAR REPORT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) recently hosted a panel discussion as part of USAID’s “Amio Jitte Chai” campaign, aimed at gathering student insights to improve educational standards in Bangladesh.

Organised by Democracy International, the event took place at JU’s Selim Al Deen Muktamancha, said a press release. Addressing the event, JU’s History Professor ATM Atiqur Rahman criticised faculty politics and lack of merit-based hiring.

Associate Professor Syed Moynul Alam Nizar from Philosophy and National Citizen Committee member Mushfiq Us Saleheen also spoke. The event was moderated by Shaila Rahman Ema. Democracy International’s Aminul Ehsan presented the awards.



Empower women-led

FROM PAGE 3
developing climate-resilient products and techniques.

“Women must be empowered to negotiate with government actors independently for the project’s sustainability,” she said.

Syed Matiul Ahsan, development programme adviser at the Embassy of Denmark, proposed frameworks to ensure long-term sustainability and market access by leveraging government support, private partnerships, and technology.

“Certification is crucial for green products to gain credibility,” he said.

Involving men and other stakeholders is necessary to foster broader community acceptance, he added.

Dhaka University Professor Tania Haque said, “A gender-neutral market system is essential to provide women with equal access, and impact analysis is crucial to measure effectiveness.”

She called for a shift towards a green and gender-equal mindset.

Mousumi Poervin, senior climate change officer at ADB, underscored the importance of improving the value chain to ensure fair prices for women in remote areas and highlighted the need for advanced green

technologies, continuous capacity building, and networking opportunities to help women-led SMEs thrive.

Other speakers included Nazim Hossain Sattar, general manager at the SME Foundation; Syed Muntasir Ridwan, co-executive director of Bangladesh Youth Environmental Initiative; Shakhawat Hossain, joint director of Bangladesh Bank; Esrat Karim Eye, founder of Amal Foundation; and Tahmina Islam, M&E analyst at UNCDF.

The event was moderated by Tanjim Ferdous, in-charge of NGO and Foreign Mission at The Daily Star.

Smoke and shadows

FROM PAGE 3
unsanitary and heavily worn down from overuse.

Outside, a tubewell stands broken, further inconveniencing workers.

This branch employs around 532 permanent workers, each assigned a weekly quota of 16,000 to 32,000 biri sticks.

The demand for handmade biri has decreased, so most workers complete their tasks in three days, leaving the factory idle for the rest of the week.

Essential safety measures, such as providing masks and gloves could significantly mitigate health risks for workers and their children, said experts.

None of the factories visited by this correspondent saw such measures at place.

AN EXPLOITATIVE SYSTEM

In the biri industry, the wage disparity between factory owners, permanent workers, and subcontracted labour reveals a deeply inequitable system.

A factory owner packages 1,000 sticks into 40 packets of 25 biris each, which sell wholesale for around Tk 800.

However, permanent workers receive only Tk 90 for the same 1,000 sticks.

By the time the biri packets reach consumers, they’re sold at retail prices ranging between Tk 22 and Tk 24 per packet – multiplying the revenue that never trickles down to the labourers who craft the products by hand.

Orders for rolling biris are distributed

according to seniority, with veterans given the highest production targets of up to 32,000 sticks per week.

To stretch their earnings, these “permanent” workers resort to subcontracting most of their work to local women and children, while they pull rickshaws and work in local tea stalls to earn extra money.

The subcontracted workers are paid a paltry Tk 35 for every 1,000 biri produced, while the permanent workers are left with a net profit of Tk 55.

The process is broken into three stages: assembling the biri sticks, filling them with tobacco, and sealing and packaging them.

Subcontractors get just Tk 16 for rolling the biri sticks, Tk 3 for filling, and Tk 16 more for final packaging.

Abdur Rashid, general secretary of the Karikor Biri Workers Union, voiced concerns about stagnant wages amid rising costs of living. “Prices are climbing, but our wages remain unchanged. Many of us are lucky if we earn between Tk 5,000 and Tk 12,000 monthly,” he said.

A VICIOUS CYCLE
Meanwhile, in Barishal’s biri factories, generations of workers – mothers, daughters, grandmothers – persevere through suffocating conditions for meagre wages.

These stories of multi-generational toil capture a sad reality: the cycle of poverty that has entangled entire families within these smoke-filled sheds for decades.

In the first part of this

series, we told the story of 19-year-old Fatema Akther, who spends long hours packing biris holding her 13-month-old son.

Her own journey in this industry began much the same way – guided by her mother, Minara Begum, who, at 40, still works here, her health rapidly declining. “I sometimes need an inhaler, and my body swells up during the hotter months. But this is all I know,” said Minara.

Despite the toll, she cannot afford consistent medical care; her wages, barely Tk 150-200 for two to three days’ work, rarely stretch beyond basic necessities.

Shila Halder, a mother of one, holds a master’s degree, yet finds herself here, rolling biris alongside her four-year-old daughter, who sits patiently beside her, absorbing the grim routine that may one day be her own.

Shila’s mother, Dipali, who has been working in the factory for over 30 years, suffers from chronic chest pain. “I can’t afford a doctor,” she says, rolling yet another biri.

Rina Begum, 40, has worked at the factory for 25 years. Despite suffering from allergies and asthma, she hasn’t seen a doctor in years. “I earn Tk 80 for packing 5,000 biris a day,” she said.

Rina rents a house near the factory for Tk 2,000 a month.

Shah Alam, a worker since 1975, says he starts to cough soon after entering the factory. “But this [rolling biri] is the only thing I know. What else can I do?”

Rahul Dey, a director at Karikor Biri, said considering the health hazards, the factory plans shifting to food production. But relocating workers to new roles will take time, he said.

He said government support is necessary for workers to transition effectively.

SIMILAR CONDITION EVERYWHERE

The Karikor Biri’s second

branch at Fishery Road, employing 275 permanent workers, reveals a similar pattern.

Many workers, particularly women and children, suffer from breathing problems and other physical complications due to the toxic environment.

Parul Begum, 40, has been working in the factory for 30 years. Despite seeing a doctor two years ago, who prescribed an inhaler and advised against tobacco factory work, she feels trapped by her circumstances.

She said she earns just Tk 160 for packing 10,000 biris in three days, making it hard to afford medical treatment.

Sonali Akhter, a 24-year-old, helps her father, Zakir Sikder, pack biris after he developed chest pains. Sonali packs 5,000 biris a day.

Maksuda Begum, 65, has worked at the factory for 30 years.

Struggling with breathing issues, she earns Tk 96 for packing 6,000 biris a day. Like many of her colleagues, she relies on local store medicine, unable to afford regular medical visits.

Most biri-makers live in the Palashpur and Kala Kha slums of the city.

Their homes, cramped and dilapidated, are often little more than single-room shelters with leaky roofs, providing barely enough space to accommodate all family members.

Firoza Begum, 65, resides in the Palashpur slum I. She began rolling biris after her husband’s death. She makes just Tk 32 for 2,000 sticks.

Parul Begum, another resident, makes up to 25,000 sticks a week, earning only Tk 16 per thousand sticks.

The situation is no different in Kala Kha, where Chan Banu, 65, has spent over 40 years in the profession. Her home is a small, dark room with worn-out walls.

She continues her work despite suffering from waist

pain.

HEALTH HAZARD

There is a significant correlation between exposure to harmful environments in tobacco factories, and an increased risk of respiratory diseases, including tuberculosis.

Research has shown that workers in such environments are particularly vulnerable to respiratory conditions due to long-term exposure to tobacco dust and poor air quality, which weakens their immune systems and heightens susceptibility to infections like TB, said experts.

Siddiqur Rahman, a former professor at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in Barishal, treats around 2,000 TB patients annually, with over 60 percent caused by direct or indirect impacts of tobacco.

Saiful Islam from BRAC said 70 percent of people carry TB germs, and its symptoms often surface when the immune system is weakened. Exposure to tobacco increases the chance of TB infections.

WHAT AUTHORITIES SAY
Osman Gani, deputy director of the Barishal divisional department of labour, said, “We held awareness meetings last year, advising workers to use masks and gloves, but they do not follow these guidelines.”

Gani also mentioned that around 1,000 workers from different sectors received free treatment as part of the government’s initiative last year, but biri workers showed little interest.

Abdur Rashid, general secretary of the Karikor Biri Workers Union, said workers have not received any safety or medical facilities in the last 40 years.

Meanwhile, Rahul Dey, director of Karikor Biri, said the factories are managed by local union workers, with the company only collecting the completed biri packets.

“Even then, when we hear any complaints, we try to solve those immediately,” he claimed.

আইডিয়াল স্কুল অ্যান্ড কলেজ
মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০২৫ শিক্ষাবর্ষে মতিবিল, বনশ্রী ও মুগদা ব্রাঞ্চে বাংলা মাধ্যম ও ইংলিশ ভাষানে বিভিন্ন শ্রেণিতে ছাত্র-ছাত্রী ভর্তি করা হবে।
১২/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ থেকে শুরু হয়েছে ৩০/১১/২০২৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য এবং অনলাইন আবেদন শুধুমাত্র <https://gsa.teletalk.com.bd> এর ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

অধ্যক্ষ (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
আইডিয়াল স্কুল অ্যান্ড কলেজ, মতিবিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/24-25-T04

North South University is inviting sealed offer from bona fide printing firm/ reputed supplier for printing & supplying of various printing items for North South University for upcoming year-2025 as described in the tender schedule.

Detail of the items mentioned below:
1. Note Book-2025 2. Desk Calendar-2025 3. Pocket Diary-2025
4. New Year Greeting Card with Envelope-2025 5. Gift Carry Bag-2025

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender from **Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka** within the banking hour on all working days till **November 20, 2024** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the quoted price in the form of Pay Order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of **North South University** along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **November 21, 2024 by 2:15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

Director, Internal Affairs
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
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Fax: +88-02-55668202
www.procurement@northsouth.edu | web: www.northsouth.edu

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. NSU/24-25/T-05

Construction of Boundary wall at North South University New Campus Project site in Purbachal-Rupganj.

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide, reputed, experienced civil contractors for the construction of a boundary wall (approx. 3520 meters) along with the perimeter of the 100 acres of NSU’s new campus project site at Rupganj, located 1.4 kilometres South of Sector-3, Purbachal.

Interested Bidders may collect a schedule of tender from **Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, Dhaka-1229**, within the banking hours on all working days till **Sunday, November 24, 2024**, by paying the non-refundable amount of **Taka 5,000.00 (Five Thousand)** in cash for each schedule. The bidder has to bid for all works mentioned in the Tender schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of the total quoted price in the form of a Pay Order/ Bank Guarantee issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favour of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on **Monday, November 25, 2024, by 2:15 p.m.** at the office of the undersigned. The offers will be opened at 2:30 p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

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Appointment of HC judges to be transparent

Says chief justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed has said that necessary initiatives will be taken soon to introduce a transparent and accountable process for appointments of High Court judges.

“The Supreme Court has already revived the Supreme Judicial Council to ensure the independence of the judiciary. Steps will be taken soon for the implementation of e-judiciary to bring transparency in the judicial process along with the modernisation of the judiciary and increasing the accessibility of the judicial system,” he said.

He said this while addressing as keynote speaker at a regional conference in Thailand’s Bangkok on Monday. The conference, organised by UNDP, Thailand Institute of Justice, UNEP, IDLO, Unesco, Unicef, UN Women Asia and the Pacific, Pathfinders, and World Justice Project, was attended by representatives from different countries and Pacific region, an SC press release said yesterday.

Take effective steps to prevent dengue: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government and Dhaka city corporations to take all necessary and effective measures to prevent rapid spreading of dengue and other diseases infected by mosquitos in the capital as well as the whole country.

The authorities concerned have been asked to submit a report before the HC after complying with the directive in 30 days.

In response to a petition, the HC asked the authorities to form a high-powered committee with the national and international experts in 60 days for exploring and suggesting a permanent solution on the matter of prevention, control and eradication of dengue and other diseases infected by mosquitos.

The court also issued a rule asking the officials concerned of the government and DCCs to explain why their inaction in preventing spread of dengue and other diseases infected by mosquitoes should not be declared illegal.



Dengue patients are being treated on the floors of Khulna Medical College Hospital amid a shortage of available beds and no designated dengue ward. Khulna is presently witnessing a surge in the number of dengue patients every day. Currently 145 dengue patients are being treated, up from an average of 80-100 patients from last week.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

KMCH struggles to cope with dengue patients

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Khulna is witnessing a surge in the number of dengue patients every passing day.

Now, Khulna Medical College Hospital is grappling with the surge of dengue patients getting admitted.

The hospital currently has 145 dengue patients being treated, up from an average of 80-100 patients last week.

However, KMCH authority has not appointed any specialist doctor to treat these patients and there is no separate ward for them.

Visiting the hospital recently, this correspondent observed that dengue patients were being treated across six different units in the Medical Ward. Amid an acute shortage of beds, many patients are being treated on the floors.

Some patients and their relatives also complained that they are being compelled to buy medicines themselves. Lovely Khatun, a local, recently went

to Dhaka for a recruitment test, and fell ill. After seeking treatment at Islamia Hospital in Motijheel, she was diagnosed with dengue. Lovely then returned to Khulna and was admitted to KMCH last Friday. However, a shortage of beds has left her receiving treatment on the floor.

Lovely said although her platelet count has dropped to 42,000, the hospital has not been providing medication and saline, so she had to purchase those herself.

Halima Begum, another patient, was laying there without a mosquito net. “It is very hot, but there is no fan here, so I removed the net,” she said.

“My oxygen level and hemoglobin have been dropping since yesterday. The hospital hardly provided any medicine. I have spent Tk 3,700 already for medicines and tests,” she alleged.

According to KMCH sources, patients diagnosed with dengue or dengue symptoms have been coming from

across the city, different upazilas and neighbouring districts.

This year, 850 dengue patients have so far been treated in the hospital, while 13 died, the sources added.

Dr Suhash Ranjan Halder, focal person (dengue) at KMCH, said dengue patients were being kept separately, but pressure of incoming patients left them struggling to isolate them from others.

“We instructed to keep them inside mosquito nets, but some patients and attendants have not been listening,” he added.

Dr Muhammad Nurul Islam, deputy director of KMCH, said they are working to prepare a separate ward for dengue patients if the number increases further.

“There are some 1,600-1,700 patients being treated against the available 500 beds. As such, there is not enough medicine for all. However, we are providing free medicine to dengue patients as much as possible,” he added.

Controversial people shouldn’t be given charge

Says Fakhrul; Rizvi regrets comment on Bangabandhu’s portrait removal

STAR REPORT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday urged the government to refrain from appointing those whose actions may provoke controversies.

“We must remember that the opportunity created through the recent student-led mass movement towards reforming the state must not be missed. Missing this opportunity will endanger our identity as a nation,” the BNP leader said.

Fakhrul made the remarks at the inauguration of the Shaheed Zia Memorial Football Tournament, organised by the Lalmonirhat district BNP at Borobari College.

He called for a strong movement if necessary, noting that the current government, which came to power during a crucial phase following the uprising, is not like previous caretaker administrations.

Fakhrul stressed the importance of both elections and reforms across various sectors.

“The government should be given time, and we must demonstrate patience while cooperating with them,” he added.

Meanwhile, hours after stating that Bangabandhu’s photo should not have been removed from Bangabhaban, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi reversed his stance and expressed regret yesterday afternoon.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর

দরপত্র/ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এ কর্মে সকলকে অবগত করা যাচ্ছে যে, নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কর্তৃক নিম্নে ছকের বর্ণনা এবং দরপত্র/ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তির শর্ত মোতাবেক সীলমোহরকৃত খামে উপযুক্ত দরদাতার নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	কাজের বিবরণ	দরপত্রের হকপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	দরপত্রের হকপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	দরপত্রের হকপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র হকপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	দরপত্র হকপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়
২৫/১০/২৪-২০২৫ ১২/১১/২০২৪খ্রি	বি.স.ক. দপ্তরের ২২১ ফিট ৬ ইঞ্চি পুরাতন বাউজারী ওয়াল	সদর রেজ, সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর		১০০০/- টাকা			
২৬/১৪-২৫ (২য় বার) ১২/১১/২০২৪খ্রি	পুকুর/জলাশয় ইজারা	সদর, মধ্যপাড়া ও চরকাই রেজ	২৭/১১/২৪খ্রি অফিস চলাকালীন পর্যন্ত	৪০০/- টাকা	২৮/১১/২৪খ্রি সকাল ১০.০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১.০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত	নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় ও জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, দিনাজপুর	নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় ২৮/১১/২৪খ্রি বিকাল ২.০ ঘটিকা
২৭/১৪-২৫ (২য় বার) ১২/১১/২০২৪খ্রি	আম/লিচু মহাল ইজারা	সদর, মধ্যপাড়া, ও ঠাকুরগাঁও রেজ,		৫০০/- টাকা			
২৮/১৪-২৫ (৪র্থ বার) ১২/১১/২০২৪খ্রি	গ্রামসাগর জাতীয় উদ্যানের অভ্যন্তরস্থ শিত পাক ইজারা	সদর রেজ এবং তত্ত্বাবধায়ক, গ্রামসাগর জাতীয় উদ্যান		১০০০/- টাকা			

মোঃ আনোয়ার হোসেন সরকার
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
সামাজিক বন বিভাগ, দিনাজপুর

জিডি-৯৩৮

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন আইন বিভাগ

কক্ষ নং-৪৩৬, নগর ভবন, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০।

স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০৪.২০.১৯.১০৪৩.২০২৪. তাং-১০/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি.।

আইনজীবী প্যানেলভুক্ত করণের নিমিত্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন (ডিএসসিসি) এর পক্ষে/বিপক্ষে উচ্চ আদালত ও নিম্ন আদালত সমূহে মামলা পরিচালনার নিমিত্তে আইনজীবী প্যানেল তৈরীর লক্ষ্যে আইন পেশায় নিয়োজিত নিম্নোক্ত যোগ্যতা ও দক্ষতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা
১.	ক) উচ্চ আদালতের তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবী	<ul style="list-style-type: none">স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে এলএলবি এবং এলএলএম/বার-এট-ল ডিগ্রী।আইনজীবী হিসেবে মহামান্য সূপ্রীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে ১০ (দশ) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ঢাকা শহরে নিজস্ব বা ভাড়ায় চেম্বার থাকতে হবে। তবে সূপ্রীম কোর্টের আপীল বিভাগে তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীগনকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।
২.	খ) নিম্ন আদালতে তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবী	<ul style="list-style-type: none">স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে এলএল.বি এবং এলএলএম/বার-এট-ল ডিগ্রী।আইন পেশায় নিম্ন আদালতে ১০(দশ) বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসহ ঢাকা শহরে নিজস্ব বা ভাড়ায় চেম্বার থাকতে হবে। তবে হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে তালিকাভুক্ত বিদ্র আইনজীবীগনকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)

(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সশরী হোন এবং সময়মত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

সুন্ধাচার চর্চা করি সমৃদ্ধ সোনার বাংলা গড়ি

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বালিয়ে রাখা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref. No. 28.16.9100.097.07.002.24/87 Date: 12-11-2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have published through National e-GP Portal: <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>

SL. No.	Tender ID, Package No. & date of publishing	Name of the goods	Tender last selling and closing date & time
01.	Tender ID: 1035364 Tender Package No. 28.16.9100.097.07.002.24/07 Date of publication: 12th Nov, 2024	Procurement of Stationery and Cleaning Materials for Jalalabad Gas	Tender document last selling date & time: 26-Nov-2024; 17:00 Tender closing date & time: 27-Nov-2024; 15:00 Tender opening date & time: 27-Nov-2024; 15:00

The interested tenderer may visit the website <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the detailed tender notice and to purchase the tender document.

This is an OTM 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/e-GP help desk: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd

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gml.pl@jalalabadgas.org.bd

GD-937

শর্তাবলী

ক) প্যানেল আইনজীবী ডিএসসিসির স্বার্থ আছে এমন কোন মামলায় ডিএসসিসির বিপক্ষে প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা করতে পারবেন না।

খ) নিয়োজিত প্যানেল আইনজীবীকে মামলার হালনাগাদ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন মামলার তালিকাসহ ডিএসসিসির নির্দিষ্ট ছকে প্রতিমাসে আইন বিভাগে দাখিল করতে হবে।

গ) কোন মামলার রায় ডিএসসিসির পক্ষে/বিপক্ষে হলে তাৎক্ষনিকভাবে পরবর্তী করণীয় বিষয়ে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে মতামতসহ আইন বিভাগকে অবহিত করতে হবে।

ঘ) প্যানেলভুক্ত আইনজীবীগন ডিএসসিসির বিদ্যমান নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী ফিস (সরকারী ভাট ও ট্যাক্স ব্যতীত) প্রাপ্য হবে।

ঙ) বিজ্ঞ প্যানেল আইনজীবীর পেশাগত কার্যক্রম সন্তোষজনক না হলে কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে তাঁর নিয়োগ বাতিল/স্থগিত করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষন করেন।

চ) আবেদনপত্রের সাথে ২(দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, সংশ্লিষ্ট বার এনরোলমেন্ট সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপি, ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের কপি, চেম্বারের স্বপক্ষে ভাড়ার চুক্তি/নিজে মালিক হলে ট্যাক্স পরিশোধের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

ছ) অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন বাতিল বলে গন্য হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন আবেদন বাতিল করতে পারবেন।

জ) আবেদনকারী অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে তালিকাভুক্ত থাকলে তার বিরবণ/প্রমামক দাখিল করতে হবে।

ঝ) আবেদনকারী ক্রমিক ১ ও ২ এ উল্লিখিত পদের যে কোন ১(এক)টি পদে আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

ঞ) আবেদনকারীর নাম, (স্পষ্টভাবে বাংলায় ও ইংরেজীতে), পিতা/মাতার নাম, ছায়া ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, আইনজীবী হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিলে তালিকাভুক্তির সনদ ও সংশ্লিষ্ট আইনজীবী সমিতির সদস্যভুক্তি সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের কপিসহ পূর্ণাঙ্গ আবেদনপত্র, আইন কর্মকর্তা, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, কক্ষ নং-৪৩৬, নগর ভবন, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০ বরাবর আগামী ২৬/১১/২০২৪ খ্রি. তারিখের মধ্যে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।

১০-১১-২০২৪

আইন কর্মকর্তা

ফোন নং-০২২২২৩৩৫০৯৬৬
কক্ষ নং-৪৩৬, নগর ভবন, ফুলবাড়িয়া, ঢাকা-১০০০।
ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১১৭/২০২৪-২০২৫

Reminiscing Humayun Ahmed’s most unforgettable characters

Humayun Ahmed, Bangladesh’s beloved “magician of words,” crafted stories that transcended the pages of his books to become an integral part of Bangladeshi cinema and television. With a unique talent for creating compelling characters, he left behind a legacy that continues to captivate audiences even years after his passing. Today, on what would have been his 76th birthday, we journey through some of Humayun Ahmed’s most iconic characters. From rural dreamers to philosophical minds, his creations have not only entertained but also stirred deep emotions, etching unforgettable memories in the hearts of fans.



Each character, whether a fearless freedom fighter or a philosophical wanderer, adds to the profound impact the writer has had on the audience.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Moti: A symbol of rural spirit
In *Srabon Megher Din* (1999), Humayun Ahmed introduced Moti, a simple village man portrayed by Zahid Hasan. Set in the lush countryside, this film struck a chord with audiences and became one of Ahmed’s most successful cinematic ventures. Moti’s character, though initially popular among readers, gained even more fame on screen, where Zahid Hasan’s portrayal brought Moti’s innocence and resilience to life, leaving an indelible impact on audiences and Zahid Hasan’s career alike.

Shuvro: The brilliant outsider
Shuvro, the central character from novel *Daruchini Dwip* (1991), embodies a unique blend of brilliance and vulnerability. A young man from a wealthy family with impaired vision, Shuvro is a fan-favourite character whose popularity grew after Tauquir Ahmed adapted the novel into a film in 2007, with Riaz Ahmed taking on the role. Though readers often prefer the literary Shuvro,

the cinematic adaptation gave new life to this character, solidifying Shuvro’s legacy as one of Ahmed’s cherished protagonists.

Badiul Alam: The unyielding freedom fighter
Humayun Ahmed brought the intensity of Bangladesh’s Liberation War to life with his debut film *Aguner Poroshmoni* (1994), and Badiul Alam became a poignant figure in the portrayal of a freedom fighter. Asaduzzaman Noor’s performance struck a deep emotional chord, moving viewers to tears and capturing the courage and heartbreak of those turbulent times. Badiul Alam’s story remains a testament to Humayun Ahmed’s skill in crafting characters that embody strength, resilience, and patriotism.

Misir Ali: The iconic detective
Among Ahmed’s creations, Misir Ali stands out as the quintessential problem solver, a character who relies on logic above all else. A professor by trade, Misir Ali is often sought after to untangle the mysteries and dilemmas of others. First portrayed by Abul Hayat on television, Misir Ali made a memorable comeback on screen in Anam Biswas’ *Debi* (2018), where Chanchal Chowdhury breathed new life into the role. Misir Ali’s contemplative nature and deductive prowess have made him a beloved figure in Bangladeshi fiction, particularly among readers drawn



to psychological intrigue.

Baker bhai and Muna: An unforgettable pair
No character in Bangladeshi television has sparked as much conversation as Baker *bhai*, portrayed by Asaduzzaman Noor in urban drama series *Kothao Keu Nei* (1990). This iconic character’s eventual execution was met with national outrage, with fans even staging protests in response. His complex relationship with Muna, played by Suborna Mustafa, was another highlight of the show. Muna’s unwavering loyalty to Baker *bhai*, even in his final moments, deepened the emotional impact on the audience.

Himu: The philosophical vagabond



PHOTOS: COLLECTED

Perhaps the most beloved of Ahmed’s characters, Himu has fascinated readers for years. Known for his philosophical wanderings and refusal to adhere to social conventions, Himu captivated fans who eagerly awaited each new sequel of the novel about his adventures. Although Himu rarely appeared on television, Fazlul Kabir Tuhin’s portrayal in *Nokkhotrer Raat* (1996) gave audiences a glimpse of the character’s enigmatic appeal, further fueling his popularity.

Anis: The quirky, naive intellectual
In the wildly popular drama *Aaj Robibar* (1999), Zahid Hasan’s Anis charmed audiences with his wit and eccentric mannerisms. Anis’s quirky dialogues have recently found new life on social media, with memes and

clips reintroducing the character to a younger generation, making him a fan favourite all over again.

Nilu: A reflection of Humayun’s strengths

The character Nilu from Humayun Ahmed’s debut drama serial *Eishob Dinratri* (1985) resonated with viewers as a reflection of the writer’s ability to create relatable, multifaceted women whose stories touch upon the joys and struggles of everyday life.

The character was portrayed by veteran actor Dolly Zahur, which remains to be one of the most celebrated roles of the actress. The drama was aired on BTV and later adopted as a novel in 1990w with the same title.

Beyond these notable figures, Ahmed’s work also includes unforgettable characters like Yunus from *Matir Pinjira* and Dhotara



Chacha, played by Challenger, in TV drama *Urey Jay Bok Pokkhi*. Each character, whether a fearless freedom fighter or a philosophical wanderer, adds to the profound impact Humayun Ahmed has had on Bangladeshi audience. His legacy, immortalised through these characters, continues to inspire, entertain, and connect with audiences to this day.

NEWS

Veteran actor Manoj Mitra passes away

FROM PAGE 12
partition, the Naxalite movement, the tyranny of the ruling class, and religious fundamentalism, among other major social and political issues.
Mitra was born December 22, 1938, in a village in Satkhira district of undivided Bengal. His father was a government officer.
Though plays were enacted at his family home during the festive days of Durga puja, children were not allowed to watch them. Backdrops, props, costumes, and other articles associated with the staging of plays stored at home kindled his passion for plays.
Mitra permanently moved to India from erstwhile East Pakistan at the age of 12. He completed his Master of Arts degree in Philosophy in 1960.
During the college and university days, he wrote short stories and plays. However, after his play “Mrityur Chokhe Jal” earned him first prize at

a statewide competition, he focused only on this field. His acting prowess mesmerised veteran actors of that time as the 21-year-old youth effortlessly metamorphosed into an elderly man in “Mrityur Chokhe Jal”.
When Mitra was in his 40s, he immortalised the character of the 90-year-old protagonist Banchharam in Tapan Sinha’s 1980 film “Banchharamer Bagan”. This dark comedy on the oppression of the peasants by the zamindars was adapted from Mitra’s play “Sajano Bagan” (1977). He bagged the Filmfare Award for Best Actor for the movie.
Some of his notable major full-length plays are: “Narak Guljar”, “Aswathama”, “Chakbhanga Madhu”, “Mesh O Rakhshash”, “Galpo Hakim Saheb”, “Rajdarshan”, “Alokanandar Putra Kanya”, “Sajano Bagan”, “Chhayar Prashad” and “Jene Shune Bish.” Some of his famous one-act plays

are: “Mrityur Chokhe Jal”, “Chokhe Angul Dada”, “Ami Madan Bolchi”, and “Taksak”.
Mitra also acted in more than 80 films, including Satyajit Ray’s “Ghare Baire” (1984) and “Ganashatru” (1989), Tapan Sinha’s “Adalat O Ekti Meye” (1982) and “Wheel Chair” (1995).
After the 1984 hit Bengali commercial film “Shatru”, Mitra was reportedly offered an opportunity to act in Bollywood films but rejected that proposal, fearing it might affect his commitment to the stage. Mitra was conferred with the Sangeet Natak Award (1985) and the Asiatic Society Award (2005) for his overall contribution to theatre, among numerous other awards.
Mitra, along with his friends at the Scottish Church in Kolkata, set up the theatre group “Sundaram” which he later headed for many years. He was a professor of philosophy at a college in West Bengal.

14 RMG factories closed

FROM PAGE 2
front of the factory’s main gate around 11:30am yesterday and resumed their demonstration.
Workers of Quasem Lamps Ltd in the Konabari Baimail area, who have been protesting for the last two days, demanding their due benefits, including overtime allowance and attendance bonus, also resumed their agitation programme yesterday morning.
Authorities of these four factories announced a general holiday

immediately after the workers resumed protesting yesterday, said workers and police.
However, the specific reason for the closure of five other factories could not be known, said Mosharraf Hossain.
But Superintendent of Police (Gazipur Industrial Police-2) Md Sarwar Alam told The Daily Star that the factories were closed as the owners could not reach consensus over workers’ demands.
Later in the evening, traffic slowed

down on Dhaka-Tangail highway, when workers of Beximco Industrial Park Factory started demonstrating at Chakraborty Bus Station area in Kashimpur around 7:00pm, demanding due salaries.
The agitating workers set fire to tyres on the road and partially vandalised one of the gates to the factory, said SP Sarwar.
“We’re talking to workers to try and get them to withdraw from the road,” he told The Daily Star around 8:30pm last night.

Trump picks China hawks for top posts

FROM PAGE 12
fulfilling his key domestic promise of mass deportations of undocumented migrants.
US media also reported that Stephen Miller, the author of Trump’s so-called “Muslim ban” immigration policy during his first term, was set to be his deputy chief of staff with a broad portfolio.
New York congresswoman Elise Stefanik, a hardline defender of Israel, got the nod for UN ambassador,

Trump’s transition team said in a statement.
In a further announcement, Trump’s team said Lee Zeldin, an early political ally, would be proposed as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chief with a mandate to slash climate and pollution regulations that are considered red tape by businesses.
Top nominations, including for Stefanik, Zeldin as well as the secretary of state, would need

approval by the Senate, but Trump is hoping to bypass oversight from the upper chamber by making appointments while it is in recess.
He has turned the issue into a loyalty test, insisting Saturday that any Republican seeking to be the leader of the Senate “must agree” to recess appointments.
The three senators jockeying for the post immediately issued statements saying they supported the move, or were at least open to the idea.

WB points out myriad issues

FROM PAGE 1
According to finance ministry officials, negotiations with the WB were completed on Monday, and the first round of talks with the ADB and JICA also concluded.
Officials of the Economic Relations Division of the finance ministry said they would soon finalise each development partner’s contribution to the plan. The government would foot the rest of the bill.
The plan, titled “Health, Nutrition, and Population Sector Development Programme (HNPSDP)”, is renewed every five years. The current plan is set to expire in June next year.
Experts said the existing budget for health is insufficient and that the sector has struggled to effectively use the funds allocated to it.
In recent review of the health sector, the WB said, “Bangladesh’s Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) sector faces numerous challenges, including maintaining immunisation coverage, improving child nutrition, enhancing the quality and reach of services, reducing socio-economic and regional disparities, addressing emerging health challenges, and strengthening financial management in the health sector.”
Syed Abdul Hamid, health economics professor at Dhaka University, said the current health system is ineffective, preventing people from truly benefiting from it.

“The main issue is that the sector lacks sufficient funding. We are unable to even fully utilise the limited funds. The money is often inefficiently spent,” he told The Daily Star, adding that corruption was a major issue too.
The World Bank has identified several challenges, including the slow pace of poverty reduction amid widening inequality, as well as malnutrition.
It noted that even though the maternal mortality ratio has declined to 143 per 100,000 live births, it is still more than double the global Sustainable Development Goal target of 70.
It observed that malnutrition threatens health outcomes and human capital. Nearly one in five women in Bangladesh is undernourished, one in three women aged 15-49 is anaemic, and one in six babies is born with a low birth weight, it said.
Improving the quality of antenatal care by including measures like multiple micronutrient supplementation could help prevent these poor outcomes, stated the WB.
Action is urgently needed as Bangladesh is also vulnerable to climate change, which threatens to exacerbate malnutrition and increase the risk of climate-sensitive non-communicable diseases, it said.
“Underlying these trends is a low-quality health system,” the WB said, adding that maternal health services suffer from poor quality, with issues like inadequate midwife support during

childbirth, overuse of cesarean sections, and ineffective referral systems for timely care of complications.
The WB further mentioned that “primary healthcare facility performance is about 60 percent”, contributing to a high rate of preventable complications, increased reliance on more expensive and climate-intensive services, and a high out-of-pocket payment rate of 68.5 percent.
Prof Syed Abdul Hamid held the sector’s inefficient management accountable for these issues and suggested that recruitment for managerial positions needs to be overhauled, with rigorous training provided for both managers and supporting staff.
He advocated for block allocations for public hospitals to address emergency crises and recommended involving the private sector for repairs of machinery.
Hamid also called for streamlining the medicine supply chain, strengthening Essential Drug Company Ltd., increasing dedicated drug storage capacity, overhauling the rural healthcare sector by consolidating health and family planning services under a single framework, and establishing primary healthcare services in urban areas.
To reduce out-of-pocket expenses, he suggested lowering medicine consumption, regulating pharmacies, and controlling drug prices.

SC stays order to appoint receiver

FROM PAGE 12
has filed the leave to appeal petition with the Appellate Division of the SC in September this year seeking scrapping of the HC directive.
In the appeal, the company (Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited) said the HC has committed error of law fact in failing to take into account that there is no specific allegation of mismanagement or damage to any property of the company and without allegation of jeopardy, wastage or destruction to property, the court cannot direct for appointment of receiver and attachment of property based on mere apprehension and therefore, the “impugned order” is

liable to be set aside.
On Monday, the Appellate Division bench headed by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam fixed today (Tuesday) for passing order on the leave to appeal petition after concluding hearing on the matter.
Following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Masood R Sobhan, the HC on September 5 this year that directed the Bangladesh Bank to appoint a receiver to manage the companies of Beximco Group and attach all the properties belonging to the companies for six months.
The HC also ordered the central bank to recover the money obtained by Salman F Rahman, founder of

Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, from different banks and bring the money back to Bangladesh from abroad and issued a rule to this effect.
According to Investopedia, a receiver is a person appointed as custodian of a person or entity’s property, finances, general assets, or business operations. Receivers can be appointed by courts, government regulators, or private entities.
In compliance with the HC directive, the central bank on November 10 appointed its Executive Director Md Ruhul Amin as receiver to Beximco Group in order to manage the financial affairs and assets of the troubled conglomerate.

HC clears Gias Uddin Al Mamun

FROM PAGE 12
The accused walked out of jail on bail on August 6 this year after spending 17 years behind bars.
Sabbir Hamza Chowdhury, the lawyer for Mamun, told The Daily Star that the HC acquitted his client on the ground that he could not submit his wealth statement as he was in the law enforcers’ custody in 2007.

Besides, the ACC’s notice seeking his wealth statement was illegal as it had given him only 72 hours to do so instead of seven days, he said.
The lawyer added that his client was accused in 22 criminal cases. Of them, 19 were filed during the military-backed caretaker government and the rest during the Awami League government.

Mamun, who has been convicted in five cases, got bail from the HC and lower courts concerned in all the 22 cases, he said.
The accused was picked up by the joint forces on January 26, 2007. He was shown arrested in a case on March 26 that year.
Md Ashif Hassan appeared for the ACC during yesterday’s hearing.

11 killed in airstrike on teashop

Says Myanmar ethnic armed group

Eleven people were killed when a teashop in Myanmar was hit by a military airstrike in the town of Naungcho in the northern Shan state yesterday afternoon, a spokesperson for a local ethnic armed group said.

The attack, shortly before 3:00pm local time, comes as the junta battles widespread armed opposition to its 2021 coup and its soldiers accused of bloody rampages and using air and artillery strikes to punish civilian communities.

"They were civilians who came to drink tea and sitting at the shop," Lway Yay Oo, a spokesperson for the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) said.

At least four civilians were wounded and were receiving treatment in a hospital, she said.

Judge pauses proceedings in Trump hush money case

A New York state judge has paused proceedings in President-elect Donald Trump's already decided criminal case on charges stemming from hush money paid to a porn star, a document made public yesterday showed.

The judge, Juan Merchan, had been set to decide by yesterday whether Trump's conviction could be vacated due to the Supreme Court's July decision on presidential immunity.

Trump had also been scheduled to be sentenced on November 26.

Prosecutors with Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office sent Merchan an email on Sunday asking him to pause the proceedings due to Trump's November 5 election victory and inauguration in January 2025. Trump had asked the office to agree to the delay, prosecutors wrote.

"The People agree that these are unprecedented circumstances," prosecutors wrote.

Merchan paused all proceedings in the case through November 19.

Meanwhile, Trump announced new members of his incoming administration on Monday, and was expected to pick Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state. The 78-year-old Republican tycoon has vowed his second stint in power will result in a radical shake-up of the federal government.



Palestinians displaced from shelters in Beit Hanoun cross the main Salaheddine road into Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip following Israeli army evacuation orders yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Israeli air strikes hit Beirut suburbs

15 buildings destroyed; drone from Lebanon hits kindergarten yard in Israel



REUTERS, Beirut

The Israeli military pounded Beirut's southern suburbs with airstrikes yesterday, mounting one of its heaviest daytime attacks yet on the Hezbollah-controlled area after the defence minister ruled out a ceasefire until Israeli goals were met.

Smoke billowed over Beirut as around a dozen strikes hit the southern suburbs from mid-morning. They followed an Israeli army warning identifying 12 sites in the area and saying it would take action against them soon. The warning, posted on social media, told residents they were near Hezbollah facilities.

In northern Israel, people were forced to take shelter as attack drones were launched from Lebanon, the military said. One hit the yard of a kindergarten in a Haifa suburb, where the children had been rushed into a shelter, meaning none were hurt, rescue workers said. TV footage showed damage to the building.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in Beirut.

Residents have largely fled the southern suburbs since Israel began

bombing it in September. Footage of one strike shared on social media showed two missiles slamming into a building of around 10 storeys, demolishing it and sending up clouds of debris. Yesterday's strikes destroyed 15 buildings in the southern suburbs, security sources said.

Meeting with Israel's general staff for the first time, Israel's newly appointed Defence Minister Israel Katz said on Monday there would be no ceasefire in Lebanon until Israel achieves its goals.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said earlier on Monday there had been "a certain progress" in ceasefire talks, whilst adding the war was not yet over. The main challenge facing any ceasefire deal would be enforcement, he said.

Despite the blows it has suffered, Hezbollah has said it is ready for a long war against Israel.

Israel's offensive has driven more than 1 million people from their homes in Lebanon, causing a humanitarian crisis.

Hezbollah rocket fire into northern Israel has forced tens of thousands of people to evacuate the area over the last year.

Gaza aid far from enough, UN warns

14 Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes

AFP, Geneva

The UN warned yesterday that already low levels of aid trickling into Gaza had dwindled further, with the situation in the besieged north especially "catastrophic".

The warning from UNRWA, the United Nations agency supporting Palestinian refugees, came as Israel said it was opening an additional aid crossing into Gaza on the eve of a US-imposed deadline to improve humanitarian conditions in the war-ravaged territory.

Asked about whether there were signs the situation had improved ahead of yesterday's deadline, Louise Wateridge, an UNRWA emergencies officer, highlighted that "aid entering the Gaza Strip is at its lowest level in months".

Speaking to a Geneva media briefing via video-link from Gaza, Wateridge said that "the average for October was 37 trucks a day into the entire Gaza Strip... That is for 2.2 million people".

"Children are dying. People are dying every day," she said, stressing that "people here need everything".

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said yesterday that at least 14 people were killed in Israeli strikes on the Palestinian territory.

Israel's military campaign has levelled much of Gaza and killed at least 43,665 Palestinians since the offensive began in October last year, Gaza health officials said.

Wateridge also said that testimonies from the north painted "an endlessly horrific" picture that was becoming "more critical" by the hour.

"Hospitals have been bombed, the doctors inform us that they have run out of blood supplies, they have run out of medicine... there are bodies in the streets," she added. No food was permitted to enter besieged northern Gaza for an entire month, Wateridge said, adding that UN requests to access the area have been repeatedly denied.

Death toll in Palestinian enclave rises to 43,665

HIT-AND-RUN ATTACK

35 killed, 43 hurt in south China

REUTERS, Beijing

A hit-and-run attack at a sports centre in the southern Chinese city of Zhuhai killed 35 people and severely injured 43, local police said yesterday.

The incident happened at 7:48 pm (1148 GMT) on Monday, when a small off-road vehicle was driven into a large group of people exercising outside the sports centre.

Zhuhai police said in a statement yesterday that the suspect, a 62-year-old man surnamed Fan, was being treated at a hospital after hurting himself with a knife in his car.

A video of the scene following the attack, verified by Reuters, showed at least 20 people lying on the ground. Cries of "terrorist" could be heard as ambulances arrived to take the injured to hospital.

Fan was apprehended by police at the scene after attempting to flee, police said, adding that he had self-harmed using a knife, causing severe neck injuries. Police said their preliminary investigation suggested the incident was triggered by Fan's discontent following a divorce.

President Xi Jinping, cited by Chinese state television CCTV, ordered all-out efforts to treat the injured and demanded severe punishment for the perpetrator. The central government has dispatched a team to provide guidance on handling of the case, CCTV said.

Violent crime is rare in China due to tight security and strict gun laws. However, a rise in reports of knife attacks in large cities has drawn public attention to safety in public spaces.

ABUSE SCANDAL

Justin Welby resigns as Archbishop of Canterbury

REUTERS, London

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby resigned "in sorrow" yesterday, saying he had failed to ensure there was a proper investigation into allegations of abuse by a volunteer at Christian summer camps decades ago.

Welby, the senior bishop of the Church of England, had faced calls to resign after a report last week found he had taken insufficient action to stop a person it described as arguably the Church's most prolific serial abuser.

"The last few days have renewed my long felt and profound sense of shame at the historic safeguarding failures of the Church of England," Welby said in a statement. Welby resigned five days after the independent Makin Report singled him out for criticism over his handling of abuse allegations dating back to the 1970s.

Legal Notice
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 1312 OF 2024
IN THE MATTER OF: An application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and Section 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 **AND**
IN THE MATTER OF: Mr. Kamran Hyder **-VERSUS-**Petitioner
Registrar Joint Stock Companies and Firms and another Respondents
Dear Mr./Ms.
Please take notice that on behalf of the Petitioner namely Mr. Kamran Hyder, having his address at 26, Shah Saheb Lane, Narinda, Dhaka that an application under 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding Annual General Meeting of **Gregorian Alumni Club Limited**, for the calendar year of 2022, 2023 & 2024 have been filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon preliminary hearing, the Hon'ble Company Bench, comprising his Lordship **Mr. Justice Ahmed Sobel** vide an order dated 10.11.2024 was pleased to admit the application and directed to file an affidavit-in-compliance within 1 (one) week from the date of publication of this notice. Any person or persons having interest in the said application may appear either personally or through duly authorized Advocate on or before the date so fixed. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of required costs. Yours faithfully
(Dewan Faisal), Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Barrister, Lincoln's Inn Head of Chamber, Legality A13, Navana FH Solaris, 65, Bijoy Nagar, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD
POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES.
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Memo No. 27.12.2637.225.02.015.24.188
Date: 11-11-2024.

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

For the convenience of the tenderers the Notice Published for the e-Tender ID No. 1026022, 1026020, 1026019, 1025587, 1025586, 1025585, 1025584, 1024996, 1024973 & 1026025 in the daily প্রথম আলো & The Daily Star on 06/11/2024 for electric line construction/ up-gradation under MCEP project (Memo No. 27.12.2637.225.02.015.24.151; Date: 31-10-2024) is hereby amended. The corrigendum is as follows:

e-Tender ID	Field	Existing Value	Extended (Corrected) Value
1026020	Online (e-GP System) Tender Publication Date & Time	06-Nov-2024 15:00 (BST)	14-Nov-2024 09:00 (BST)
	Tender Document Last Selling Date and Time	20-Nov-2024 16:00 (BST)	27-Nov-2024 16:00 (BST)
	Tender Closing Date and Time	21-Nov-2024	28-Nov-2024
		13:00 (BST)	10:00 (BST)

The above mentioned corrigendum is only for e-Tender ID No. 1026020. Tender publication, Tender Selling and tender opening/ closing dateline for other tenders of the same notice will remain unchanged.

বাংলাদেশ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board

বাপরিবো/জন (২৪১১-৬৫) ২০২৪-২৫

Superintending Engineer
Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
Dhaka Zone (South), Executive Building,
Nikunja-02, Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229.
E-mail : sebrebdkhsouth@gmail.com.

GD- 939

Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি)
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৩য় তলা), ১ আব্দুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।
Web site : www.dpdc.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the national e-GP portal for the following procurement of works/goods.

e-Tender ID	Name of Works	Closing & Opening Date & Time	Procuring Entity/ Contact Persons
1026513	Maintenance Work including Pole strengthening, Garbage Removal, Safe Clearance for ROW of Kamrangirchar to Lalabag and Kamrangirchar to Kamrangirchar-2 Double Circuit O/H 33kV line under Grid North-1, DPDC.	26-Nov-2024 12:00 Noon	Tapon Kumar Mondal Superintending Engineer Grid O&M Circle (South), DPDC. Kamlapur Railway Colony GIS Sub-Station Bhaban, Shahjahanpur, Dhaka-1217. Phone: +880248317691 Email: segs@dpdc.gov.bd

The interested persons/firms/organizations may visit website (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) to get the details.

DGM (HR) Public Relations, DPDC

Protect Bhabadaha from waterlogging

Govt should implement TRM to resolve this long-standing issue

We are gravely concerned by the persistent waterlogging in Jashore's Bhabadaha area following the heavy rains in August. This area, in fact, has been plagued by waterlogging since the early 1980s, primarily due to the construction of embankments and sluice gates that disrupted the natural flow and dried up nearby rivers. In recent years, waterlogging has not only deteriorated in Bhabadaha but also spread to neighbouring areas. Currently, at least 300 villages in Jashore's Abhaynagar, Manirampur, and Keshabpur, Khulna's Dumuria and Phultala, and Satkhira's Sadar and Tala upazilas are grappling with severe waterlogging, affecting around 10 lakh people.

Reportedly, over 200 schools in these areas have been inundated, depriving thousands of children of education, while around 50,000 farmers in 10 upazilas of the three districts are facing uncertainty over growing the Boro crop this season, as about 96,000 hectares of farmland remain waterlogged. The situation is dire and requires proper interventions.

Unfortunately, the authorities have allowed this problem to persist for decades despite a proven solution being available: the Tidal River Management (TRM). Since 1982, the Bhabadaha Water Drainage Movement Committee has advocated TRM to policymakers, yet their calls have largely gone unheeded. Local influential figures, benefitting from shrimp farming in the waterlogged areas, have also obstructed efforts to address the issue, leaving farmers and ordinary residents to bear the brunt. Although the previous Awami League government implemented several projects spending crores of taka, these were not scientifically sound and failed to provide lasting solutions.

Pumping out water from the affected areas and dredging nearby rivers can offer only temporary relief, so locals need a permanent solution. That's why implementing TRM is crucial. Under this method, a canal, which connects a river to a beel, is dredged to allow river water to flow into the beel so that the sediment is carried in and the low-lying area is elevated. Some sediment is then carried back into the sea during low tide. This approach allows water to enter the beels for gradual land reclamation. Over time, the raised land within the embankment becomes higher than the surrounding riverbed. Local communities have previously implemented TRM in some beels with successful results, but political influences, including those of shrimp businessmen, have repeatedly hindered this approach.

Reportedly, if waterlogging continues even for a few more days, it will severely impact Boro crop cultivation for the next season. Therefore, immediate action is needed from the government. For a long-term solution, the government should begin implementing TRM in the region. It is promising that Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the environment ministry, has pledged to resolve the issue. We hope her words will soon translate into action.

A welcome move for migrant workers

Dedicated airport lounge highlights the critical role of remittance earners

We applaud the opening of an exclusive lounge for migrant workers at the Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. Long demanded by migrants to ensure seamless journey, this step by the interim government aligns with other reassuring measures it has taken since August 8, including securing pardons for 57 jailed Bangladeshi migrant workers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and initiating talks with Malaysian authorities for re-recruiting Bangladeshi workers.

Reportedly, migrant workers, whose remittances form the backbone of Bangladesh's economy, are often subjected to neglect and harassment at the airport. Although fancy displays were installed inside the airport during the last regime, hardly any arrangements were made to ease migrant workers' travel experience. Many workers travel from remote parts of the country, enduring long journeys and the anxiety of venturing abroad, only to face unkind treatment from airport staff upon arrival. The same poor reception greets them when they return home.

The newly opened lounge provides much-needed rest and relief for the workers—before they embark on another long and sometimes hectic journey—as well as subsidised snacks priced lower than the typically overpriced airport food. Moreover, 100 volunteers sponsored by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will assist them at the airport. These efforts, however, should not diminish the need for training regular airport staff to ensure better treatment for our remittance earners.

Given that remittances are one of our primary sources of foreign currency, it is extremely important for the government to prioritise this sector, especially in light of the country's foreign currency debt. Authorities should also address other key issues faced by migrant workers including high cost of migration, recruitment irregularities, wage theft, abuse by foreign employers, and inadequate support from Bangladeshi missions abroad. Expanding into new labour markets through diplomacy, or expediting recruitment in established ones like Malaysia and UAE, should remain our priorities, but not at the cost of workers' rights.

We hope the government will continue to take meaningful steps to support them in their journey to earn remittances, and ensure that they are treated with the respect and dignity they deserve, both at home and abroad.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Nevado del Ruiz volcano erupts

On this day in 1985, Mount Ruiz in the Cordillera Central of the Andes, in west-central Colombia, erupted twice, burying the town of Armero on the Lagunilla River and killing an estimated 25,000 people.

The case for internal reforms in political parties



Shamim A Zahedy is a journalist. He can be reached at szahedy@yahoo.com.

SHAMIM A ZAHEDY

When a country's politicians seek nationality or residency rights in foreign countries, it signals that its politics has reached an impasse—a dead end—with leaders hedging their bets with an exit strategy should their careers become untenable. This disturbing tendency has become evident in Bangladesh after a report revealed that 24 politicians who served as ministers, advisers or members of parliament during the tenure of the ousted Awami League government hold foreign citizenship or residency cards. They have allegedly acquired these privileges by concealing information, which constitutes a breach of both the law and Bangladesh's constitution. Article 66 of the constitution clearly states that a person who acquires foreign citizenship or pledges allegiance to a foreign state cannot serve as a member of parliament.

This disregard for the people and country they were supposed to serve can be attributed to the erosion of the electoral system, breakdown of good governance, pervasive financial corruption, and unchecked money laundering over the 15-plus years under deposed autocrat Sheikh Hasina. Her misgovernance displayed traits commonly associated with fascism, such as curtailing electoral democracy, stifling political and cultural liberalism, establishing family-centred rule, using security forces for personal and crony interests, and scapegoating political or social groups to deflect blame for any national failure or crisis. Above all, there was an extensive personality cult built through state-funded propaganda.

In Bangladesh 2.0—following Sheikh Hasina's fall and her subsequent refuge in India on August 5, 2024—the state reform drive of the interim government has focused on various areas, including the electoral system, constitution, judiciary, civil administration, and media. However, one of the most essential components of state reform—politics and political parties—has been relatively absent in the reform agenda or even public discourse.

In the case of politicians who have shown divided or no loyalty to Bangladesh by secretly obtaining foreign citizenship, their parties must also share the blame, as there

is currently no effective monitoring process for nominating parliamentary candidates or even vetting aspirant party members. Sadly, the charters and rules of political parties are often not aligned with national laws and electoral procedures.

Public discourse has long highlighted the need for MPs to exercise independent judgement in their legislative duties, calling for amendments to Article 70 of the



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

constitution, which reads, “A person elected as a Member of Parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party; or votes in Parliament against that party.” Many argue that MPs should be allowed to vote independently—except in cases of no-confidence motions and finance bills—to strengthen democratic practices. However, Bangladesh's major political parties, including the BNP and Awami League, lack internal democracy. Therefore, before considering constitutional amendments, it is crucial to reform party charters to promote internal democracy.

In recent decades, major political parties have increasingly placed absolute trust in their top leaders, elevating them to near-unchallenged

sometimes turning violent—are likely to continue in today's changed political scenario.

Even the nomination process for party tickets in parliamentary or local elections resembles a quasi-feudal system, where grassroots leaders or aspiring candidates have minimal influence. A select group of central leaders decides on nominations based on criteria known only to themselves.

Considering the gravity of all such undemocratic intra-party practices, political parties in Bangladesh need to reconsider their governance structures, taking cues from liberal democracies around the world. They should embrace internal democracy at every level of decision-making, moving away from practices that centralise power among elites or family dynasties.

Politics should be seen as a mission,

Further reforms should be made to the Representation of the People Order, 1972. Key positions within political parties must be elected by secret ballots in councils, ideally under the Election Commission's supervision, to prevent unopposed or uncontested selections. The commission should also audit party finances annually, mandating transparency in political funding by requiring parties to disclose their donors.

Finally, we must ask: should individuals who lack absolute loyalty to Bangladesh be barred from joining political parties? Should parties voluntarily revoke membership of individuals with foreign citizenship or residency permits, given that they cannot legally run in national elections? The answers should not be difficult to reach.

ACHIEVING SDG 10

Can we reduce income inequality by 2030?



Dr Nawshad Ahmed, a retired UN official, is an economist and urban planner.

NAWSHAD AHMED

The first target under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #10 reads, “By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.” This calls upon all nations to bolster the income of the bottom 40 percent of the population by promoting economic, social and political inclusion of all people, irrespective of their sex, age, physical conditions such as disability, religion, race, class, ethnicity, etc. The achievement of this global target requires creating appropriate and equal opportunities, empowerment of women, and reduction of poverty and inequality. The ongoing work of the interim government's public administration and constitutional reform commissions needs a focus on these aspects so that the future elected government may work to fulfil SDG 10, as Bangladesh has only six years in hand to establish substantial improvements on this global goal.

There are data challenges with regard to having a proper understanding of the income inequality situation in Bangladesh. According to UNDP data, the income share of the bottom 40 percent of the country's population

is 11 percent. In sharp contrast, for the top 10 percent, the income share is 43 percent. Based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), 2022, the income of the bottom 40 percent population grows at 7.7 percent per annum, while the annual growth rate of income of the total population is 9.1 percent. The HIES 2022 shows that the top 10 percent of households increased their share of wealth to 40.91 percent, around 2.83 percent rise since 2016. The bottom 50 percent of the households had 19.05 percent of the total income in 2022, which came down from 20.23 percent in 2016.

Even though the country achieved progress in poverty reduction, the income Gini coefficient has been on the rise. It increased from 0.458 in 2010 to 0.499 in 2022. During the same period, consumption Gini coefficient increased from 0.321 in 2010 to 0.334 in 2022. The data from surveys over the last two decades clearly shows that income and wealth inequality is growing in Bangladesh. Whether we consider the well-known measure, the Gini coefficient, or an alternative measure like the Palma ratio, and compare the income share of the top 10 percent with the income

share of the bottom 40 percent, we get the same result, which demonstrates that inequality is consistently rising in our society.

The constitutional commitment of ensuring social and economic equality among the citizens of the country can sustain without resulting in major social and political unrest. However, there is no reason to assume that income and wealth inequality will come down automatically. The common strategic options that are available to reduce inequality are participatory planning and inclusive development, pro-poor budget formulation and implementation, skills development, progressive taxation of income, adoption of appropriate legislation, scrapping of discriminatory laws, realistic minimum wage fixation, improved governance, effective measures against corruption, containment of inflation, promotion of social protection measures, investment in small and medium enterprises, and greater investment in the social sector.

In Bangladesh, the major challenges hindering the achievement of economic and social equality are: low public expenditure on education, training, health, rural development and social protection; poor direct tax collection and a culture of tax evasion; high level of selection error in social protection schemes; and high percentage (12.6 percent) of female-headed households with limited assets and means of production. The benefits of economic growth in the country have gone to the upper-income groups while the poor

remain marginalised. The “pro-poor growth” concept is not being applied properly. Programmes and projects that benefit the poor need to be taken up in a greater number. Micro credit and SME loans should be increased to help accumulate assets of small entrepreneurs and create additional employment in the formal sector. The high inclusion and exclusion errors in the social protection programmes must be corrected through a bold and one-time correction of the beneficiary list. Irregularities in the banking sector, money laundering, and tax evasion must be curbed with a strong hand. Health and nutritional services must be freed from corruption and mismanagement, so that the vulnerable population gain access to the benefits of these public services.

A vital issue that exacerbates inequality is the overwhelming centralisation of the decision-making process. The politician-bureaucracy nexus is strong, and this keeps people out from participating in the governance process. Unless the attitude of the politicians, bureaucrats and policymakers change towards a more people-centric approach in planning and development as well as local governance, the level of inequality is unlikely to come down in the near future. Additionally, the political parties should be committed to the greater good of the general people instead of continuing the culture of benefiting a select few, and adopt social-democratic norms for economic development with strong emphasis on securing socioeconomic equality in the country.

How will Donald Trump’s foreign policy affect the world?



Mahadev Ghosh
is an independent researcher
based in the UK.

MAHADEV GHOSH

Trump became the second person ever to become the president of the United States twice in non-consecutive terms, and the first convicted felon to be president. Running for a third time, he also won the popular vote this cycle—which he claimed in his victory speech as a “historic mandate” given to him by the American people, with Republicans taking control of the Senate as well. Although this brings a time of reflection for the polarised country as well as the Democratic Party—which hasn’t faced such a vacuum in its leadership in over 20 years—the question of what it will mean for the rest of the world is something that has been widely speculated on, especially in regard to China.

China has been at the forefront of Trump’s narrative during the election campaign, just as it was in the previous one. Trump has maintained a strong rhetoric, blaming China for economic abuses and promising to impose tariffs. This has been extremely controversial with economists arguing that the real cost will be passed down to the consumers as the tariffs will end up leading to persistently higher prices with minimal impact on the exporters themselves. During his previous presidency, Trump began a trade war with China that he hopes to reenact at a greater order, even going as far as to float the idea of replacing federal personal income tax with import tariffs. China itself battles economic woes, although its government maintains that it will continue to work with the US on the basis of mutual respect.

But markets reacted quickly and accordingly to Trump’s victory, with the yuan taking a dive against the dollar. Furthermore, Trump’s previous secretary of state announced in 2020 that it had rejected Beijing’s maritime claims in the South China Sea, boosted US Navy patrols in the Taiwan Strait, and increased arms sales to Taiwan. But he continued to maintain the bizarre claim that the island should pay for US protection. His transactional view of allies—who are seemingly not paying their fair share—is extended to NATO as well.

During his first term, Trump frequently criticised various members of NATO for being “delinquent” and having failed to meet the two percent defence spending threshold. In 2020, Trump reportedly told European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen that “NATO is dead.” During this campaign, he recounted a story of telling a NATO member country, “You didn’t pay? You’re delinquent,” adding that he would not protect them in case Russia invaded. He went on to even say, “In fact, I would



FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

Though we can gauge what may happen from Donald Trump’s rhetoric and past actions, only time can tell what awaits the world.

encourage them to do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay. You gotta pay your bills.” His comments received sharp rebuke from NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who said that such rhetoric undermined the security of the entire alliance, including the US and its soldiers.

Congress does have a guard rail to prevent the NATO-sceptic president-elect from leaving NATO, but as Politico has reported recently, he does have a way around it. In 2023, senators Tim Kaine and Marco Rubio authored a legislation that requires that any presidential decision to exit NATO must have either two-thirds Senate approval or be authorised through an act of Congress—and this was passed as part of the FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act. President Joe Biden signed it into law. But Trump has used presidential authority to bypass congressional restrictions on foreign policy decisions, such as treaty withdrawals. According to legal scholars, if he declared that

first Trump presidency showed, he can also go against his cabinet to make a decision.

Trump’s general disdain for multilateral cooperation also extended beyond NATO, most famously manifesting itself in the form of the US pulling out of the Paris Agreement on climate change during his first term. This time, too, he has called the climate crisis “one of the great scams,” while promising to increase fossil fuel production and exiting the agreement for the second time. On November 11, at COP29, the current US climate envoy, under the Biden administration, vowed that the US would tackle climate change “with commitment and passion and belief,” despite Trump’s victory. Trump has recently picked Stephen Miller, a longtime Trump immigration aide and a staunch public critic of the Paris Agreement, as deputy chief of staff for policy in the White House.

During his victory speech, Trump notably thanked his ally, environmental lawyer Robert

F Kennedy Jr, and said, “Bobby, leave the oil to me..We have more liquid gold than any other country in the world.” Trump further aims to annex Biden’s flagship climate policy, which provides tax credit and subsidies for clean energy products and electric vehicles. His plan to bring down inflation is backed by promises of removing delays and bureaucratic hurdles to fossil fuel production. He hopes to “unleash” the US’s energy supply, increase

be regarded as “unified power” in the US, the stakes are high for Ukraine. Nevertheless, assumptions must not be conclusive as the president-elect is hardly, and very rarely, predictable. In the upcoming meeting that Joe Biden has called with Donald Trump for the transition of power, it is reported that the current president will try to push the future president to back Ukraine, with the pitch that walking away from Ukraine means walking away from Europe.

Trump has also continued to vow to end the war in 24 hours without providing any specifics as to how he plans to do so, extending the rhetoric to the Middle East. He had promised to bring peace without delving into any possible ways into exactly how or what his plans entail. Regarding Gaza, the rhetoric that “Trump will end all wars” seems to have factored into the choice of many Americans, as demonstrated by public Q&As by Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez—though the fact is not significantly proven, as the economy inarguably played the largest role in Trump’s win and Kamala Harris’s loss. But it’s important to note that Donald Trump shares a cosy relationship with Benjamin Netanyahu as well as extremists in the Israeli cabinet, who reacted with joy to Trump’s victory. The signs of the war worsening, especially for Palestinians, are already showing. Prime Minister Netanyahu has appointed Yechiel Leiter to be Israel’s new ambassador to the United States. Leiter is a prominent advocate of formally annexing the West Bank, where occupation skyrocketed since Trump greenlit Netanyahu’s annexation policy during his first administration.

With Trump’s victory, the world is potentially looking at a foreign policy shake-up. Though we can gauge what will happen from Trump’s rhetoric and past actions, much of what is to be seen remains uncertain. The president-elect did indeed go head-to-head with Iran, but he did stop when he needed to. Only time will tell what awaits for the rest of the world with a second Trump administration.

With Donald Trump, everything is an assumption based on what he says. But as he showed with the national abortion ban during his campaign, he can switch when his policies become too popular. On the other hand, as the first Trump presidency showed, he can also go against his cabinet to make a decision.

Give women opportunities, and they will deliver greatness



Zareen Tasneem
is student at North South University.

ZAREEN TASNEEM

The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women’s Championship took place from October 17 to 30 at Dasharath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, featuring teams from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. The teams showcased the growing talent and commitment of women footballers across the region. Constrained by limited opportunities and societal roles imposed by patriarchal structures, the Bangladesh team’s success in clinching the 2024 SAFF

in sports.

Football has been a male-dominated sport in South Asia for decades, leaving few opportunities for women to play this wonderful sport professionally. However, the outlook is somewhat improving. Football in the women’s circuit has received a welcome boost from some inspiring examples from the international football stage, as many players, having come from difficult backgrounds, have shown special skills in overcoming the hurdles. Against this background, the



Bangladesh beat Nepal with a score of 2-1 to win their second SAFF Women’s Championship tournament.

PHOTO: BFF

models for the upcoming generations of girls who want to take up football.

The SAFF tournament, with its 12 matches, was an exceptional fixture. In the finals, held on October 30, Bangladesh defeated Nepal by a score of 2-1, thereby conferring its second SAFF title. The teams commenced the tournament in a round-robin format before going on to the knockout rounds, leading to the grand finals. While four of the semifinals sprinted for one-time title-bound glory, Bangladesh’s women’s football team’s achievement was entwined with the hope and resilience of Bangladeshis during the championship.

However, even as the celebrations erupted, a gloomy shadow was on the horizon. The coach of the Bangladesh team, Peter Butler, announced his resignation immediately after their victory. Butler emphasised the issues of delayed payment and some other problems during his term, saying that he had

not been paid his salary for three months. The news caused ripples in the women’s sports fraternity, with debates on the need for transformation. While winning the SAFF championship symbolises a monumental win, it marks a wake-up call too. Studies show that women’s sports receive only four percent of the total media coverage, which thankfully has been increasing in recent times. Similarly, sponsorship for women’s sports is less than one percent in most countries.

Lack of financial support directly affects team performance. If the coach or players feel unappreciated, this will show in their performance and results. To realise the full potential for women within sports, there is a need to deal with opportunities and gaps; support includes timely salaries for coaches and funds for training and development for young female athletes. The transitions from amateur to professional opportunities can be

enhanced by paying scholarships, creating mentoring programmes, and providing support for women in coaching. Community participation and consciousness-raising campaigns are taking centre stage in the quest to change stereotypical representations of women within sports.

There is a call upon sports associations, governments and corporate sponsors to put women’s football at the top of their priority lists and invest in it most preferentially. The gap in funding compared to men’s sports is glaring. Investing in women’s sports could yield considerable economic returns and social benefits such as increased community engagement and improved health outcomes for women.

Supporting women’s football doesn’t simply break down into just fair salaries for coaches and pay for players; it’s about building an arena wherein women can flourish, free of financial insecurity. If barriers to the success of women in football can be removed, women can do everything they want. In the course of dismantling the stereotype, and opening up opportunities by allowing women into football, society will empower these women to fulfil their passions and realise their fullest potential.

The learnings from this championship transcend the boundaries of the football field and point towards the various supporting systems needed to empower women across all disciplines. It starts with early education. The message is clear: give women opportunities, and they will deliver greatness.

With each roar of encouragement from the gallery, with each goal, with each moment of camaraderie, the barriers that once confined women begin to crumble and the domain becomes open to young girls who have started to come out onto the fields, inspired by the victory of the Bangladesh women’s national football team.

Supporting women’s football doesn’t simply break down into just fair salaries for coaches and pay for players; it’s about building an arena wherein women can flourish, free of financial insecurity. If barriers to the success of women in football can be removed, women can do everything they want. In the course of dismantling the stereotype, and opening up opportunities by allowing women into football, society will empower these women to fulfil their passions and realise their fullest potential.

Women’s Championship is an immense motivation for all women and girls in the country, and it embodies the spirit of courage and zest. More than just a sporting victory, this is a liberation from the societal expectations and decades-long obstacles that have restricted women’s participation

SAFF Women’s Championship has piqued audience interest, with seasoned players aligned with emerging talents: India’s Ashalata Devi, Bangladesh’s Sabina Khatun, and Nepal’s Renuka Nagarkoti. As women’s football seems to be finally hitting the mark in the region, these sportswomen are role

How soon should you switch careers?

If you have been working at the same job for 5-7 years or more, you should be seen as an experienced professional; someone regarded as highly valuable in your field by new and old employers alike.

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

Switching careers—for both new professionals and seasoned veterans—is a risky decision to take. While burnout and lack of salary increments contribute towards experienced jobholders looking for better opportunities, a less roughened employee will want to switch to either upskill or explore a different field.

So, for both the new and old alike, when is the optimal time to consider switching careers? Let's take a look.

Pulling the trigger too early or too late

Career switchers are often judged by their work history and skills from previous roles. This is more so the case if you're new in your industry and haven't built a reputation for yourself yet. If you are changing jobs too frequently, it will be difficult for you to build expertise in one field, which will in turn make employers hesitate to choose you for a higher-level job or a possible promotion.

Keep in mind that growth in any career usually takes time. When you change too early, you risk leaving just before a potential promotion, specialised training sessions, or the experience of working on a major project that could enhance your skill set.

On the other hand, staying in one job for a long time can turn both physically and mentally straining for certain individuals. If you have been working for over 4 years without a major promotion or significant salary increase, it would be professionally sound on your part to start exploring other options in your field or push towards a better role in the same workplace.

Nonetheless, whether you are new or old in your field, it is always a wise idea to consult someone more experienced than you, so you can gain insight into how far your industry-relevant skills have developed and how well you can potentially fare in a completely new



ILLUSTRATOR: ZARIF FAIAZ

work environment.

Finding that 'sweet spot' for the switch-up

The question "How soon should you switch careers" does not have a one-size-fits-all answer. However, the 'sweet spot' typically tends to be between 3 to 7 years. This is because 3 years is often enough time to master fundamental skills and showcase your potential. By then, you are likely to know if this field resonates with you.

If you have been working at the same job for 5-7 years or more, you should be seen as an experienced professional; someone regarded as highly valuable in your field by new and old employers alike. At this point

in your career, you should also have enough financial security to afford a potentially risky career switch - something less experienced employees will not have the comfort of.

At the end of the day, you should not consider a career switch before extensive, thorough self-assessment. Do you have a strong enough reason to switch? Have you researched the new industry/position? Can you leverage any existing skills? Remember, when it comes to switching careers, the timeframe is never as important as the strategy and preparation you put towards it. A thoughtfully considered move can lead to a fulfilling career and a brighter professional future.

OpenAI to shift from non-profit to for-profit company: report

NEXT STEP DESK

OpenAI is reportedly in discussions with the California attorney general's office to change its corporate structure to a for-profit model, according to Bloomberg News. This potential shift would mark a significant change for OpenAI, which was originally established as a non-profit research organisation in 2015.

The move, which follows earlier reports from

September, would align OpenAI's business structure with its growing appeal to investors. Microsoft, a major backer, has previously supported OpenAI's rapid development and commercialisation efforts.

Sources indicate that OpenAI's core business could soon become a for-profit benefit corporation, while its non-profit branch would continue to operate with a minority stake in the new entity, states a follow-up report by Reuters.

Nvidia becomes first company to surpass \$3.6 trillion market value after Trump's election win

NEXT STEP DESK

Nvidia Corp has made history as the first company to reach a stock market valuation of \$3.65 trillion, surpassing Apple's previous record of \$3.57 trillion. The surge in the chipmaker's stock comes as Wall Street celebrates renewed optimism following Donald Trump's recent return to the US presidency, with expectations of tax cuts and reduced regulatory measures.

On Thursday, Nvidia's shares rose 2.2%, driven by investor confidence in the tech sector's potential under a pro-business administration. This

performance helped Nvidia's market value outpace Apple's, which also saw gains, with its stock climbing 2.1% to a value of \$3.44 trillion.

Nvidia's extraordinary rise has been bolstered by its dominance in the artificial intelligence (AI) chip market. The company has benefited significantly from a technological arms race among industry giants like Microsoft, Alphabet, and other major players, who are striving to expand their AI computing capabilities. As a result, Nvidia's stock has skyrocketed, tripling in value since the start of 2024 and posting a 12% gain in November alone.

Disney to form new business unit dedicated to AI: report

NEXT STEP DESK

Disney is stepping up its AI efforts with the creation of the 'Office of Technology Enablement', a new business unit to drive tech integration across its film, TV, and theme park divisions, according to a Reuters report.

As per an official memo seen by Reuters, the new office will be helmed by Jamie Voris, Disney's former film studio CTO, known for his work on Disney's app for Apple's Vision Pro mixed reality headset. Voris will now report

directly to Disney Entertainment Co-Chairman Alan Bergman, who emphasised the strategic importance of AI in the memo.

Disney's approach with this business unit is to coordinate AI and XR projects across various divisions without centralising them, says the report. The Office of Technology Enablement will launch with a core team and is expected to expand to approximately 100 employees, which will guide the aforementioned AI integration.

5 top YouTube channels to learn Figma for UI/UX designers

MARWAN KHADEM

Whether you are an absolute beginner or a seasoned UI/UX designer wanting to brush up your Figma skills, YouTube is a goldmine of knowledge. Here are five YouTube channels that will not only help you learn Figma but also share valuable UI/UX wisdom with you. Let's dive into it.

Flux Academy

This channel stands out for its extensive approach to Figma and UI/UX design. Here, you will not only find thorough tutorials but also real-world projects, and understand how to apply design principles in real-life situations. It can be a go-to channel for UI/UX designers to build a strong foundation as it focuses on both technical skills and creative thinking.

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma tutorial for Beginners: Complete Website from Start to Finish, Design Tips & Tricks

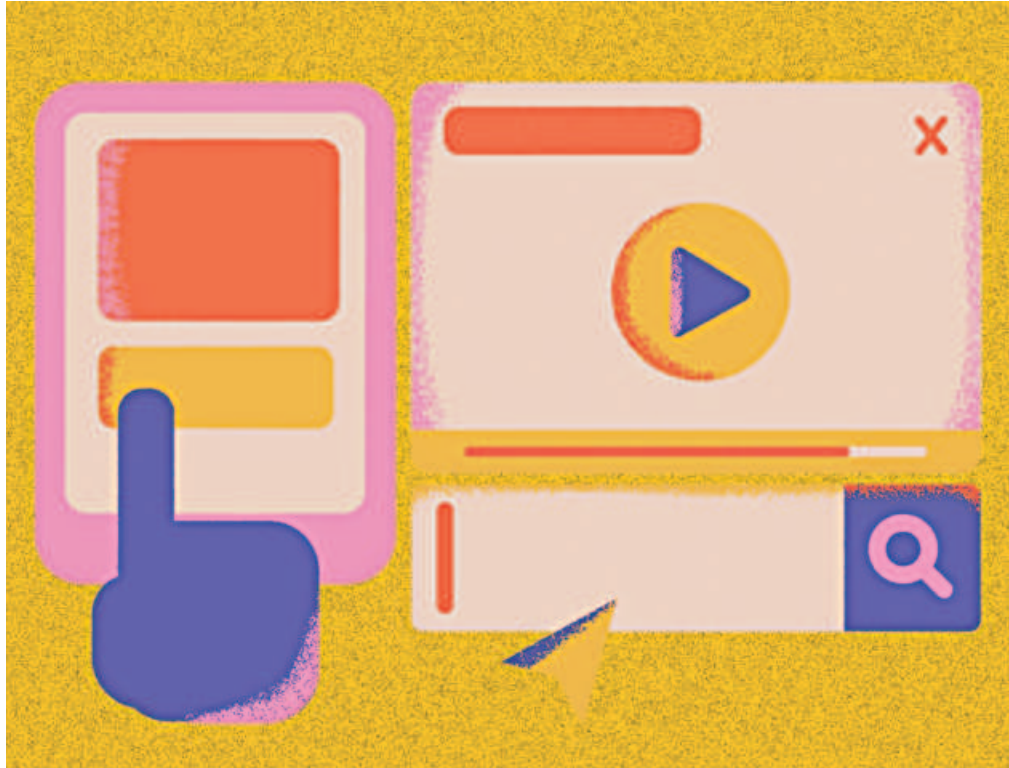
Mizko

Anyone who is looking to deepen their knowledge of UI/UX design and Figma should check out this channel, where you can find engaging tutorials on real-world applications. The content is easy to follow, and you will end up creating your own portfolio projects in no time. The style of teaching will help you to understand difficult concepts while having fun.

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma Masterclass Course 2024 | Figma Tutorial for Beginners, Design System Series - Figma

Aliena Cai

Aliena Cai provides a fresh take on learning Figma and UI/UX design through her blend of practical advice and creative thinking. You will find the content to be relatable as she shares her journey with insights that focus on the importance of storytelling in design. She will motivate you to think critically about design choices and help you develop a deeper understanding of user experience.



ILLUSTRATOR: ZARIF FAIAZ

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma UX Tutorial by Aliena, If I started UX in 2024, I'd Do This

DesignWithArash

Arash does an excellent job of offering practical tutorials and industry insights, with several lessons on how you can make the best use of Figma. You will be surprised to see how fast you are learning complex design concepts as his content is easy to follow. This channel will help you build a strong understanding of design principles while encouraging your creative thinking.

Must-watch videos/playlists: Figma Tutorials, UI/UX Design Tips

JOBS SPOTLIGHT

BRAC Bank



Associate Manager, Identity and Access Management Security

Deadline: November 16

Eligibility: Prior experience in Information Security or IT experience with access management, with a strong application/database security focus.

Minimum experience: 5-8 years

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ActionAid Bangladesh

Project Manager

Deadline: November 30

Eligibility: Postgraduation in Social Science, Anthropology, International Relations, Development Studies, Peace and Conflicts, or any other relevant discipline.

Minimum experience: 4-5 years

Asset Developments & Holdings Ltd.



3D Visualiser

Deadline: November 18

Eligibility: Prior experience as a 3D visualiser with architectural firms or in the real estate sector.

Minimum experience: 5 years

Square Pharmaceuticals PLC.

Executive, Production/Quality Assurance

Deadline: November 16

Eligibility: Bachelor in Pharmacy from reputed universities, with relevant experience preferable.

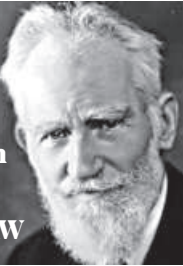
Minimum experience: 2 years

FOR MORE DETAILS AND THE APPLICATION LINKS, SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW.



“A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing.”

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



Booters confident about win against Maldives

SPORTS REPORTER

Inspired by the success of women's team, Bangladesh men's football team are looking to pull off a good result against visiting Maldives in the first of two FIFA Friendly matches at the Bashundhara Kings Arena today.

The match is scheduled to kick off at 6:00pm.

Nearly two weeks after Bangladesh defended their SAFF Women's Championship title, the women footballers are still the talk of the country's football fans. The fans will now expect a similar performance from the men's team against Maldives.

Coach Javier Cabrera and stand-in captain Topu Barman don't want to disappoint the countrymen while facing a strong Maldives side, who are 22 places ahead of Bangladesh in FIFA ranking.

"First, I want to thank the women's team for their achievement. Now it is our job, it is our opportunity at our home ground. We will definitely have to produce a good result and all the players have belief in brining good results. We have to win both matches



against Maldives," Topu said at the pre-match press conference yesterday.

"The preparation has been good and we have had good practice matches against Fortis FC to prepare the boys for the Maldives matches. We are excited and everyone is looking forward and eager to play for our fans. We are very confident but we also have responsibility to deliver good performance and give

our best performance in tomorrow's game. We are convinced about giving our best and win the match," said Cabrera, under whom Bangladesh beat Maldives twice, drew once and lost once.

In September, Bangladesh played two friendly matches against Bhutan in Thimphu in a bid to improving their FIFA ranking but their performances were not up to the mark as Cabrera's

charges won the first match and suffered a defeat in the second.

Topu and Co will definitely face more challenge against Maldives but they will have the advantage of playing in front of their own crowd and in familiar environment where stronger teams like Australia and Palestine also struggled.

"These two matches are very important for us and the players have to prove themselves on the pitch. If we can apply our game plan correctly, we will win the match," hoped the centre-back.

Maldives head coach Ali Suzain said that they are confident about winning the match despite not having proper preparation since there has been no competitive tournament in Maldives for the last one year.

"Definitely Bangladesh are strong on this ground, which our players are also familiar with because majority of Maziya players have played here four to five times. It is a good pitch for passing and moving (the ball) and it will be advantageous to our players," said Suzain.



Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh's interim government, met with FIFA President Gianni Infantino on the sidelines of COP29 in Azerbaijan's capital Baku yesterday. Infantino accepted an invitation extended by the CA to attend a youth festival, a proposed nationwide sporting festival across Bangladesh centring Bangladesh Premier League T20 tournament, in January next year. Yunus also sought support from the FIFA President to bring reputed women's football teams to Bangladesh.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S OFFICE

BPL yet to find solid ground: Faruque

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board president Faruque Ahmed admitted yesterday that the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the country's premier franchise T20 tournament, is yet to find solid ground after 10 seasons.

With that in mind, Faruque addressed the limitations of the BPL that put the tournament's overall standard into question and said he would aim to make improvements in the upcoming edition, starting on December 30, and broaden the scope of the BPL in future editions.

"Ten BPLs have passed but we haven't been able to find a solid platform for the tournament," Faruque said in a video message on BCB's official Facebook page on Tuesday.

BCB also revealed the fixture of the upcoming BPL yesterday.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW BPL FIXTURE



Bangladesh's batting evolution stuck in limbo

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were mulling a change of approach in white-ball batting before the 2023 ODI World Cup. However, the very topic now appears so outdated that it begs the question of whether any lasting progress has actually been made.

Against South Africa in March 2022, when Shakib Al Hasan started his hitting early -- just after the 30-over mark -- he successfully disrupted the Proteas' tactic of saving Kagiso Rabada's overs for the death. Usually, Bangladesh build until the 40th over and, depending on wickets in hand, go for late blows, but Shakib was going against the grain of what is considered the norm for the Tigers, who snatched the ODI series 2-1.

Bangladesh's batting was once again in the limelight due to the approach taken by the whole unit in the just-concluded series against Afghanistan. The Tigers were missing a few key players in one match or another during the three-match ODI series, but overall it provided a chance to refresh the approach.

Soumya Sarkar and Tanzid Hasan Tamim became the latest opening batters, the 14th different opening pair within a period of two years. Soumya showed promise in getting runs, but, just like the opening pair -- which perhaps changed to accommodate Liton Das' injury -- there has been no continuity of ideas in terms of approach.

The openers started the third ODI on the front foot, both looking in form, but once they departed, the innings quickly lost momentum. Neither Zakir Hasan nor



Towhid Hridoy appeared to play to their potential.

Bangladesh appeared a few runs short despite Mahmudullah Riyad and Mehedi Hasan Miraz's heroics, simply because team management had believed the wicket would behave differently, favouring the bowlers under lights. When that did not happen, the result became a forgone conclusion as there were simply not enough runs to make Afghanistan

take more risks.

The three ODIs in Sharjah almost appeared to be from a different era, not what is usually the norm in ODIs played today. There were no 300-plus scores from teams batting first. Generally, that favours the Tigers, especially as seen over the years when they played in Mirpur, where 240 has been a challenging score.

Before last year's ODI World Cup in India, where venues in Mumbai, Hyderabad, and others had scores over 360, there was talk about a more attacking approach under Chandika Hathurusingha. Mushfiqur Rahim had been demoted to number six, Hridoy had been promoted, and Shakib appeared to be setting a tone during that South Africa series. There was talk of focusing on acceleration in the middle overs.

Yet, when push came to shove, without some of their more recognised profiles in Mushfiqur or Shakib present, and also without skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto in the third ODI, their approach reverted back to familiar territory -- targeting 250 scores. Meanwhile, no players have seized opportunities when regular batters in the ODI setup have been absent.

In terms of continuity, they have not carried forward the gusto from 2023 with which they wanted to take on an attacking approach. Also, despite much talk of improving practice and match wickets to 'boost batters' confidence, little has changed under the new board president. If this approach is to change, it starts with getting into the flow of how modern white-ball cricket is played. However, the Tigers still look well off the mark.

Farhad signs off as Rangpur climb to 2nd spot in NCL

SPORTS REPORTER

Rangpur Division beat Rajshahi Division by 101 runs in the fourth-round match of the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) at the Shaheed Kamruzzaman Stadium in Rajshahi yesterday in the final first-class game of Rajshahi batter Farhad Hossain.

Rangpur bowlers took less than a session on the final day as they took the remaining four wickets for 99 runs to bowl out Rajshahi for 161 in their second innings after they resumed on 62-6. The win helped Rangpur climb to the second spot.

Rajshahi batter Farhad, who scored 9065 runs and also took 165 wickets in 161 matches after making his debut in 2005, was accorded a felicitation programme following the game where the 37-year-old cricketer was presented with a Rajshahi Division shirt signed by all the players and a commemorative crest from the Bangladesh Cricket Board.

Meanwhile, at Cox's Bazar Academy Ground, Mohammad Mithun struck an unbeaten 102 off 108 balls -- his 16th first-class ton -- while Imrul Kayed (71), Anamul Haque (54) and Nurul Hasan Sohan (50 not out) all scored fifties as Khulna made 296-3 in their second innings in a stalemate fixture against league leaders Sylhet Division.

Meanwhile, the Sylhet Academy Ground witnessed a late drama in the game between Dhaka Metro and Dhaka Division. The match seemed to be headed for a dull draw after Dhaka Metro set a target of 259 runs and Dhaka reached 93-2 in the final session of the game. However, brilliant bowling performances from Dhaka Metro bowlers Rakibul Hasan (4-38) and Abu Hider Rony (3-45) reduced their opponents to 147-8 in 41.5 overs.

However, due to bad light, the umpires had to call it off just after 1.1 overs as the game ended in a draw.

Politics vs cricket leaves Champions Trophy up in the air

AGENCIES

The fate of the upcoming Champions Trophy still hangs in the balance as India refused to travel to Pakistan for the tournament, with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Tuesday asking the International Cricket Council (ICC) for clarification regarding Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) refusal in sending its team across the border.

"The PCB has responded to last week's ICC letter seeking clarifications for the Indian board's decision not to travel to Pakistan for next year's Champions Trophy," Sami-Ul-Hasan told AFP.

It marks another instance of politics between these two nuclear-armed nations interfering with cricket. India and Pakistan have not played a bilateral series for over a decade -- squaring off only in ICC multi-nation events. India last visited Pakistan in 2008, for the Asia Cup.

The neighbouring countries have fought three wars since being carved out of the subcontinent's partition in 1947 and that rivalry is often reflected on the cricket field.

Pakistani media reported on Tuesday that the PCB would be unwilling to accept security reasons for India's refusal to visit.

New Zealand have toured Pakistan three times in the past two years, with England visiting twice and Australia once in the same period.

Pakistan also visited India for last year's ODI World Cup and the PCB had expected the gesture to be reciprocated for the Champions Trophy.



Last year's Asia Cup in Pakistan took place under a hybrid model with India playing their matches -- including the final -- in Sri Lanka.

The Champions Trophy is slated to be played across three venues -- Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi -- from February 19 to March 9 next year.

But a final schedule due to be announced this week has been postponed over the stand-off -- which PCB chairman Mohsin

Naqvi termed disappointing.

"Almost every country wants the tournament to be played in Pakistan and it will be disappointing if they don't come," Naqvi said last week.

Naqvi previously ruled out the possibility of a hybrid event that would see India play its matches at neutral venues, for example in the United Arab Emirates.

Meanwhile, with BCCI, which holds great sway in the ICC, unwilling to tour Pakistan, the cricket's governing body will likely have to find a solution to satisfy both parties, especially since the involvement of these two arch-rivals provides the most lucrative broadcast deal.

However, without a permanent solution for the issue, avoiding such chaos ahead of major events is inevitable as Naqvi already mentioned that Pakistan would consider pulling out of future events in India as response to BCCI's current stance.

"Pakistan has shown great gestures to India in the past, and we'd like to say clearly India shouldn't expect such friendly gestures from us every time".

India is due to host the women's ODI World Cup and Asia Cup next year and will co-host the Twenty20 World Cup with Sri Lanka in 2026.



Bangladesh Navy swimmers Samiul Islam Rafi and Juthi Akter show off their medals and crests after becoming the best male and female swimmer, respectively, in the Max Group 33rd National Swimming, Diving and Water Polo Championship at the Syed Nazrul Islam Swimming Complex in Mirpur yesterday. Rafi won five gold and a bronze medal, setting three new records, while Juthi made two records on way to winning four gold and a silver medal. Navy, meanwhile, finished top of the medals tally with 32 gold, 26 silver and 12 bronze medals. Bangladesh Army finished second with 10 gold, 15 silver and 23 bronze medals.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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Pay up or face climate disasters

Warns UN chief; host nation Azerbaijan defends fossil fuels

REUTERS, Baku

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres yesterday told world leaders at the COP29 summit to “pay up” to prevent climate-led humanitarian disasters, and said time was running out to limit a destructive rise in global temperatures.

Nearly 200 nations have gathered at the annual UN climate summit in Baku, focused this year on raising hundreds of billions of dollars to fund a global transition to cleaner energy sources and limit the climate damage caused by carbon emissions.

But on the day of the summit designed to bring together world leaders and generate political momentum for the marathon negotiations, many of the leading players were not present to hear Guterres’ message.

After victory for Donald Trump, a climate change denier, in the US presidential election, President Joe Biden will not attend. Chinese President Xi Jinping has sent a deputy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is not attending because of political developments in Brussels.

Smoke billows over Beirut’s southern suburbs after an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing hostilities between Hezbollah and Israeli forces, as seen from Baabda, Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Veteran actor Manoj Mitra passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangalee theatre personality Manoj Mitra, best known for writing and directing farces and fantasies to highlight social and political issues, has passed away. He died yesterday morning at a hospital in Kolkata’s Salt Lake due to age-related ailments. He was 86.

The legendary actor had around 100 one-act and full-length plays to his credit besides film scripts. Mitra’s plays prominently highlighted the Bengal

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‘BANGLADESHI INFILTRATION’ Multiple sites in West Bengal, Jharkhand raided

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India’s top anti-money laundering probe agency yesterday raided multiple locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand states to examine money laundering activities tied to suspected unlawful entry of Bangladeshi nationals.

Ranchi office of the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids at 17 places in the two states yesterday, a day before today’s first phase of polling in Jharkhand where illegal immigration dominated the campaign.

The raids also came a day after the National Investigation Agency (NIA) -- India’s anti-terror probe forum -- conducted searches at multiple locations across six states, including Assam and West Bengal, in connection with the alleged activities promoted by some Bangladeshi nationals as part of the banned terror group al-Qaeda’s conspiracy to “destabilise” India.

In a statement posted on its official X handle, ED said it has recovered “incriminating” items like fake Aadhaar cards, forged passports, illegal arms, immovable property documents, cash, jewellery, printing paper and machines and blank proformas used for forging Aadhaar cards during the raids.

Searches are continuing, reads the post.

The agency launched this probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in September to investigate the alleged trafficking of Bangladeshi women into Jharkhand, which allegedly generated illicit funds.

During recent election campaigns, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other BJP leaders accused the Jharkhand state government of “letting” such infiltration, impacting the demographic balance in the tribal areas of Santhal Pargana and Kolhan.

At a rally in Seraikela, Jharkhand, on Monday Indian Home Minister Amit Shah said if BJP returns to power in the state, a committee would be formed to identify and drive out infiltrators from the state and reclaim land grabbed by them.

HC clears Gias Uddin Al Mamun of graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted Md Gias Uddin Al Mamun, a businessman and close friend of BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, of corruption.

He was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment in the graft case during the rule of the previous military-backed caretaker government (2007-08).

On April 5, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission lodged the case with a Dhaka court on charges of not submitting his wealth statement to the commission within the deadline.

Yesterday, the HC also scrapped the trial court’s judgment that convicted Mamun on June 7, 2007, and handed him the punishment.

The bench of Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah delivered the verdict after hearing an appeal filed by Mamun challenging the trial court judgment.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Israel fails to meet US aid demands

Say int’l aid groups on easing Gaza catastrophe

REUTERS, Geneva

International aid groups said that Israel had failed to meet a series of US demands intended to improve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza by a deadline that ended yesterday.

The United States told its ally Israel in a letter on October 13 that it must take steps to improve the aid situation within 30 days.

If not, it could face potential restrictions on US military aid.

“Israel not only failed to meet the US criteria that would indicate support to the humanitarian response, but concurrently took actions that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in northern Gaza,” a group of eight aid groups including Oxfam, Save the Children and the Norwegian Refugee Council said in 19-page report.

For more than a month, Israeli forces have been pushing deeper into north Gaza, surrounding hospitals and shelters and creating fresh waves of displacement in an operation they say is designed to prevent Hamas fighters regrouping there.

On Friday, global food security experts released a rare warning of

imminent famine in parts of northern Gaza unless immediate steps were taken to ease the situation.

Israel said on Monday it had met most of the US demands. Some things remain under discussion and they touch on safety issues, an Israeli official told reporters.

During a summit of Arab and Muslim countries in Riyadh on Monday, Hamas called on the Arab leaders to translate their pledges of support into action and take measures to stop Israeli aggression.

Arab and Muslim leaders demanded that Israel withdraw from occupied Palestinian territories as a precondition for regional peace, while denouncing “shocking” Israeli crimes in Gaza.

Israel’s military campaign has levelled much of Gaza and killed more than 43,665 Palestinians, Gaza health officials said.

Palestinian and United Nations officials say there are no safe areas in the enclave, home to more than 2.1 million people and now largely in ruins.

Yesterday, residents said Israeli tanks advanced deeper in Beit Hanoun and besieged four displaced families before ordering them to leave towards Gaza City.

- » Experts warn of high risk of famine in north Gaza
- » Hamas urges Arab nations to force Israel to stop its aggression

Trump picks China hawks for top posts

Rubio tapped as his secy of state, Waltz as security adviser

AFP, Washington

US President-elect Donald Trump has picked Senator Marco Rubio as secretary of state and Congressman Michael Waltz as National Security Advisor (NSA), reports said yesterday.

Marco Rubio

Michael Waltz

Both Rubio and Waltz have notably hawkish views on China, which they see as a threat and challenge to US economic and military might.

The two would be appointees, both from Florida, are key architects of Trump’s “America First” foreign policy, with the incoming president having promised to end the wars raging in Ukraine and the Middle East, and avoid any more US military entanglements.

The 78-year-old Republican tycoon has vowed his second stint in power will result in a radical shake-up of the federal government.

Trump announced immigration official Tom Homan as the country’s “border czar” on Monday, tasking him with

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

As the waterbodies in Ghazirhat Baghmara village in Khulna’s Dighalia upazila come alive with snails when it rains, Saraswati Goldar uses the opportunity to earn some money. She and many others in her village collect around 25-30kgs of snails every day and sells them at Tk 10 per kg. Snails are usually in high demand as food for ducks or fish. The photo was taken recently.

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MORE NEWS

KMCH struggles with dengue patients
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For more information Please contact Deputy Director Mr. Md. Ashraf Uddin of UCEP Bangladesh Cell # 01977-200108).