



Have patience for election

Yunus urges people in address marking 100 days of interim government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the government would issue a roadmap to the election as soon as decisions on electoral reforms are made.

In a televised address to the nation, marking 100 days of the interim government, Yunus said that the reforms may delay the election by a few months.

Several reform commissions are working, and they will hopefully submit their reports between December and January. The government will then discuss the recommendations with political parties.

"The reform proposals will be finalised based on

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'The train to the election has started rolling. It will not stop.'

PROF MUHAMMAD YUNUS

- Election may be delayed by a few months for reform
- Govt to demand repatriation of Hasina from India
- Ensure justice for misdeeds committed in last 15 years



People from low-income groups waiting in line, while some scramble to get their share of kitchen essentials at a subsidised rate from TCB truck on the Darus-Salam Road in the capital. Though each TCB truck brings in packages of essentials for 350 consumers, more people appear, which often leads to fights and many leaving empty handed. Traders said that some people cut the lines and infuriates those who wait for hours for their packages.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CA'S SPEECH 'No mention of election roadmap unacceptable'

Says BNP's Khasru; Jamaat for giving govt time for reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three political parties gave mixed reactions to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus' speech urging people to have patience and promising a polls roadmap as soon as electoral reforms are carried out.

"It's unclear to me what he meant by 'additional time'. It is not a roadmap, rather an open-ended statement, which is unacceptable when it comes to state affairs," Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP standing committee member, told The Daily Star.

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Bad loans hit alarming record

AL-linked groups' loans turn sour after Hasina's fall

MD MEHEDI HASAN and AM JAHID

Awami League-affiliated businesses had already put the country's banking sector in trouble with huge bad debts, but the loans disbursed through irregularities to these companies turned sour even at a more alarming pace after the party's ouster.

The result: bad debts in Bangladesh's banks hit a record Tk 284,977 crore at the end of September, less than two months after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

The figure includes a staggering Tk 73,586 crore defaulted in just three months. Between July and September, bad debts soared by 34.8 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

When compared with last year's figure, the picture is even grimmer: soured loans increased by an eye-watering 83.4 percent.

Some large borrowers, including S Alam Group, Beximco Group and Bashundhara Group, defaulted heavily after the Awami League's fall, pushing up the total to an unprecedented level.

Of Beximco's Tk 23,000 crore loans with Janata Bank, Tk 19,000 crore turned bad during the July-September quarter, The Daily Star has learnt from the state-run bank's officials, who

DEFAULTED LOANS DURING AL'S 15-YEAR RULE (IN TK CR)

*2024	2,84,977	2016	62,172
2023	1,45,633	2015	59,400
2022	1,20,656	2014	50,160
2021	1,03,273	2013	40,580
2020	88,734	2012	52,730
2019	94,331	2011	22,640
2018	93,911	2010	22,710
2017	74,303	2009	22,480

SOURCE: BB

*AS OF SEPT

spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Hasina's close collaborator Salman F Rahman, who advised the former prime minister on private industry and investment, is the vice-chairman of Beximco Group.

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London to help Dhaka retrieve laundered money

UK minister tells Yunus

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Britain expects the interim government to lay out the vision of how it will restore peace, democratic governance, and promote national reconciliation, said UK Minister for the Indo-Pacific Catherine West.

"We expect Prof Yunus to lay out his vision for how all that will unfold. The UK will seek to support the people of Bangladesh as they move forward in the next phase," she told reporters after a meeting with Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain at the foreign ministry.

West, who arrived in Dhaka on Saturday for a two-day visit, is the first UK minister to visit Bangladesh since the formation of the interim government following the ouster of the Awami League regime.



Catherine West

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Star INTERVIEW

The wrongs of past 15yrs must be righted

Says Mirza Fakhrul

Having been the main opposition camp over the last 15 years, the BNP has been advocating for quick reforms followed by elections. The Daily Star's **Golam Mertoza** caught up with the party's Secretary General **Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir** to talk about a host of issues ranging from elections to media freedom.

TDS: As the secretary general of one of Bangladesh's largest political parties, what are your thoughts on the current political situation. A successful mass uprising has taken place, and an interim government has taken over. Your party has been calling for elections within a timeframe that is both "quick" and "reasonable." Could you clarify what you mean by "quick" and "reasonable"?

Fakhrul: Over 15 years of authoritarian



rule destroyed the bureaucratic and political structures of Bangladesh. The institutions essential for a democratic state have been systematically ruined. As a result, following the student-led mass uprising, public expectations have skyrocketed. The primary expectation now is that this government will hold a fair and credible election, enabling people to form a parliament and government of their choice.

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Students of Dhaka Residential Model School and College yesterday blocked the Mirpur Road in front of their institution to demand the admissions from classes three to 11 be done on merit instead of by lottery. The protests went on for around 45 minutes.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Indo-Bangla ties can't be limited to a single issue

Indian envoy tells session of Bay of Bengal Conversation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mutual cooperation between Bangladesh and India is multidimensional and cannot be restricted to a single issue, said Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Kumar Verma.

He made the remark yesterday addressing the second session of the Bay of Bengal Conversation symposium, organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon in Dhaka.

"Our relations can't be restricted to a single agenda or a single issue. The reality of our interdependence and mutual benefit will keep asserting itself

over and over again regardless of the change in political will.

"Regardless of how it [the relations] may be characterised, we [India] believe it's a people-centric relationship ... India will continue to seek a stable relationship for the sake of the people," he said.

"We issue more visas than any other diplomatic missions here," Verma said, additionally noting that visa operations are currently limited.

He added that Bangladesh's zero tolerance for terrorism and refusal to harbour Indian anti-insurgency elements are important to India.

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Share BUSINESS

Graft biggest obstacle to doing business

More than 16 percent of businesses identified corruption as the biggest obstacle to their operations, found a survey conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) between April and July of this year. Foreign currency instability, inefficient bureaucracy, high inflation and limited access to finance are other top hindrances, it said.

STORY ON BI

Excellence in Banking

Dhaka Bank's remarkable achievements have earned three prestigious awards at the 2024 Mastercard Excellence Awards, recognizing the bank's innovation, business excellence and exceptional growth.



DHAKA BANK PLC.



Jhilpar Park: a small respite in Dhaka

Ashif Ahmed Rudro

The cramped city of Dhaka comes with a default setting of stress and traffic. But there are a few places where people still sit down, sip a cup of tea and share their woes. Jhilpar Park on South Badda road is one such place.

The elephant in the room

In this case, the elephant is on the road. Jhilpar Park stands right beside the “Elephant sculpture”, which is also marked on google maps as “Hatichottor”. The four elephants that consist this sculpture face the Hatirheel link road, forever staring into the infinite traffic. This sculpture can be your landmark when you are trying to get to the park.

A breath of fresh air

The park stands right on the bank of Gulshan lake. Which means that there is a consistent gentle breeze that can fill your lungs with fresh air and rejuvenate your soul. Standing here in the evening, under one of the trees and taking in the cool air is nothing short of therapeutic. The trees, combined with green lights here and there, creates a verdant cocoon on this small roadside-island surrounded by roads all around, but still, you feel like you can just sit here and relax for a while.



PHOTO: STAR

There's a view of the lake, just on the other side of the road, which might as well be an extension of the park. There are benches facing the lake where one can stare into the lake. The swelling waves on the water body as boats pass by, the cool air creating tingles on the skin, and the scenic view of a busy city in the distant is a picture-worthy moment.

Fancy a snack?

The appeal of street food in Dhaka is strong, and Jhilpar Park will not disappoint.

Have patience for election

FROM PAGE 1

everyone's consensus,” he said.

The question of when the next election will take place is on everyone's mind. “It is on our minds too.”

The government is taking the steps necessary to arrange the election. The new Election Commission will be formed in a few days, he said.

The EC will start updating the voter's list. For the first time, the government is working to find a way for expatriate citizens to vote through postal ballots, Prof Yunus said.

But forming an EC does not end the government's responsibility. “Reforming the state system is a key commitment of this government. You have given us this mandate.”

One of the six reform commissions is the Electoral Reform Commission. The recommendations of the Constitutional Reform Commission are essential for political parties and people so that they can reach a consensus on election-related matters.

“Based on the consensus... electoral laws will need to be amended.

“I am not sure how much opportunity we will have to implement the proposed reforms. However, I assure you, if you allow us, we will make some necessary reforms and hold the election you desire. Until then, I request you all to be patient.

“We want to create an election system that will be in place for generations. This will protect our country from political crises. For this, I am requesting the necessary time from you. Once decisions on electoral reforms are made, you will get the election roadmap fast.”

The interim government should not deprive the nation of the fulfilment of its aspiration of a new political environment.

“The train to the election has started rolling. It will not stop. But as we move forward, we need to do a lot of work. The train will reach its final station depending on how quickly we can lay down the tracks, and this will happen through consensus among the political parties.”

Additional time may be needed to reach a consensus on other important reforms. “We will continue to ask the public and political parties what reforms they want ahead of the election. Some reforms may occur during the election process.

“The election may be delayed by a few months to implement the reforms.”

The most important task is to organise a free and fair election and let the winner take over.

The government maintains regular communication with political parties. “We take their opinions on various issues. These opinions are largely reflected in our decisions. Their opinions are considered in the reform process.”

At the beginning of the 34-minute speech Prof Yunus remembered the martyrs of the Liberation War and the martyrs of the July uprising.

The interim government took office when the country was in utter chaos, he said.

Around 1,500 students and others were killed and 19,931 were injured during the uprising. Their rehabilitation and treatment will be ensured.

“We will surely bring justice for each killing. The efforts for justice regarding the July-August killings are progressing. We will demand the repatriation of the fallen dictator, Sheikh Hasina, from India,” he said.

The government will ensure justice for all the misdeeds committed in the last 15 years. “Innumerable people have been victims of enforced disappearance or killed during this period.”

The commission for enforced disappearances has information on 1,600 instances of enforced disappearances. The commission believes this number will exceed 3,500, he said.

Many are still scared to report enforced disappearances. “Please report to the commission with full confidence. No one has the power to harm you again.”

The testimonies the commission received from the victims are heart-wrenching.

Those involved in these crimes will face justice. No matter how powerful the accused are, or which force they belong to, there will be no mercy, he said.

The interim government has taken steps to hold the trial of enforced disappearances and July-August mass murders to the International Criminal Court.

The government is trying to boost the morale of the police. There has been visible progress in this regard, he said.

When the government took charge, there were attempts to spread fear among religious minorities.

“In some cases, they became victims of violence. But the propaganda surrounding this was exaggerated. The little violence that occurred had political connections.”

Six floods had damaged crops and disrupted supply chains, pushing up the prices of vegetables and other essentials.

“We are doing our best to keep the prices of essentials reasonable.”

To keep the supply and price stable in Ramadan, government authorities are meeting traders. Policies are being adopted to curb inflation; fuel prices have fallen a bit, and steps have been taken to increase the gas supply to industries to ensure uninterrupted production.

Efforts are being made to stop extortion in the transport sector, bring hydropower from Nepal

To help free the judiciary of bribery, the Supreme Judicial Council has been reinstated. The government is committed to protect all sectors from corruption.

Restructuring of the Anti Corruption Commission is almost in its final stages; a list of 150 influential individuals accused of corruption and money laundering has been prepared, and investigations have begun against 79.

At least 19,084 government officers and employees have been promoted, 13,429 transferred, and 12,636 punished. The readymade garment sector became unstable, but the government managed to resolve discontent without major violence.

When the interim government took office, foreign exchange reserves were at “rock bottom”. But the economy is now stronger, he said.

Reserves are improving. Without drawing from the reserves, the government managed to pay off nearly \$ 2 billion in foreign debt.

“Ambassadors from different countries who visited me reiterated their governments' pledges of support. They have already started working on a new framework for assistance.”

Twenty ambassadors from 20 European Union countries whose stations are in Delhi and seven ambassadors of seven EU countries will meet him, he said.

The World Bank, IMF, and other donor agencies and friendly nations have already pledged nearly 8 billion dollars in loans and grants, he said.

Once the aid starts flowing in, the country's economy will become strong, encouraging foreign investors to come here.

The fallen government and its accomplices have syphoned off \$ 12-15 billion from the country every year. The interim government is trying to bring back the money.

“If we succeed, it will give a significant boost to our economy.”

He urged expatriate citizens to invest in the private sector of Bangladesh.

Referring to the Awami League, he said, “They are trying to present themselves in various forms as your favourites. Stay away from the conspiracies of the defeated forces, and keep the country free. Be firm.”

There is a “massive plan” at home and abroad to destabilise and break the morale of the interim government. “A major effort is being made to divide us. The leaders of the fallen government... are trying to come back to the country using ill-gotten wealth.

“Do not let them succeed. Their success would mean the nation's demise, the end of our identity as a nation. Remain vigilant.”

The interim government will leave power in a short period of time.

“But the historic opportunity created for the nation must not be lost, and I strongly call on everyone... to stay firm in ensuring that this opportunity is not lost.”

The wrongs of past 15yrs must be righted

FROM PAGE 1

There is also another expectation -- to right all the wrongs done during this long bout of misrule.

TDS: How would you define a reasonable timeframe?

Fakhrul: There are a few minimum requirements. For instance, the electoral system needs to be reformed to enable free and fair elections. The heavily politicised bureaucracy must be overhauled to make it neutral and capable of facilitating a credible election. Similarly, the judiciary, which has been politicised, needs to be reformed to the extent possible. Complete reform might not be achievable immediately, especially at the grassroots level, but these steps are critical.

TDS: Your acting chairperson, Tarique Rahman, has also spoken about this logical timeframe, making it clear that there's no rush. However, some of your party leaders have mentioned that elections should be held by March or April, leading to some confusion. What is BNP's official position on this?

Fakhrul: We don't want to specify exact dates or deadlines because, as a party, we're being pragmatic. There may be some flexibility with the timeline, but elections must be held as quickly as possible for the good of the country and its people.

Having been in government ourselves, we understand that reforms require some time. However, we insist on timely elections because only an elected government can ensure legitimacy. The mandate of an elected government is entirely different from that of an interim administration. When we interact with foreign stakeholders, investors, and industrialists, they often express concerns about investing during the tenure of a temporary government. Timely elections will resolve many of these issues.

TDS: Regarding the interim government, particularly the current one -- there is a suggestion that although it lacks electoral legitimacy, it came to power after a mass uprising involving students and the public, with active participation from all political parties, including the BNP. Doesn't that give this government a mandate derived from the uprising?

Fakhrul: The uprising undoubtedly aimed for reforms. But that doesn't mean this government can operate indefinitely, like what we saw during the 1/11 period [indicating the government that took power on January 11, 2007] or similar situations in the past. An unelected government must not exceed its logical timeframe. Prolonged tenure creates various complications, including difficulties in maintaining international relations. Additionally, anti democratic and fascist forces often take advantage of such transitions. During 1/11, the government's attempts at reforms ultimately failed, forcing them to hold elections and leave.

TDS: As someone who has spent the entire life in politics, would you say that the BNP, as a major political party, practises democracy internally?

Fakhrul: I won't claim we do it perfectly well, but we are practising democracy. Our standing committee sits four times a month. Decisions are made collectively. The current situation has prevented us from holding councils everywhere, but we

“We come here often. It's on my way home from university and we love the street food options here. It's really convenient because without this place, you have to get a rickshaw and go all the way across the lake,” says Shawon Bhuiyan Rahi, a third-year student at Manarat International University. His friend Sifat Ahmed agreed, and one can see why.

There are the usual options, such as halim, fuchka, pani puri, jhalmuri, and boiled eggs, but that's just the beginning. For street food junkies who like to treat their tastebuds, there's kebabs and rolls, soup and noodles, dosa and, hold on to your seat, live pizza!

If you are still looking for more, there are carts that make chittoi pitha on the spot, and if you've ever tasted these delicacies with chilli chutney, your mouth should be watering by now.

If you want to elevate your street food experience and get fancy, there is also a restaurant here that offers Thai, Chinese, and Indian food, along with a juice parlour where you can get a refreshing drink to forget the terrible weather these days.

And finally, to finish things off, there's ice cream, and who can so no to ice-cream really?

So, if you are around Hatirheel this week, why not drop by for a chat?

will address that.

Abolishing the caretaker government system was the greatest mistake. Elections under a caretaker government fostered democratic practices. In contrast, there has been no accountability in the last three elections. A country's democratic culture influences its political parties, and all of us must work together to strengthen it.

TDS: Are you concerned that the current government may delay elections or avoid them altogether?

Fakhrul: At this point, I don't see any indication of that. We've had both formal and informal discussions with the student leaders, and I haven't felt that they intend to delay or avoid elections.

TDS: You are advocating for elections, and the government is too. You're suggesting elections at a reasonable time, while the government wants reforms first. But the government hasn't openly stated any intent to hold on to power indefinitely. Doesn't this align the BNP, the anti discrimination student movement, and the government to some extent?

Fakhrul: There isn't much difference in principle. However, several fundamental issues need clarification. For instance, some are suggesting rewriting the constitution rather than amending it. Even Dr Ali Riaz, who heads the reform committee, has stated that the constitution will be rewritten.

It remains unclear whether the constitution will be rewritten or drafted anew, or simply amended.

TDS: What's your stance on this?

Fakhrul: We've also formed a committee on constitutional reform, which we'll share with the government. We're willing to cooperate in making the necessary amendments to the existing constitution for governance. However, fundamental changes to the constitution should be entrusted to the people. Only their representatives can undertake such tasks.

TDS: But it was the people who carried out the uprising.

Fakhrul: Who exactly are “the people” behind the student-led uprising? Whose voices will you prioritise?

TDS: Those who led it.

Fakhrul: How do you determine that? This issue is being debated from many perspectives.

TDS: You were indirectly aligned with the movement. While you may not have been formally involved, the students led it, and the world witnessed that. Isn't that clear?

Fakhrul: We aren't denying that. We embrace it. We were also part of it. Our point is that any constitutional change requires the people's mandate. This government is not a revolutionary government.

TDS: Do you think they should form a party?

Fakhrul: That's not for me to say.

TDS: If they form a political party, shouldn't they leave the government?

Fakhrul: They absolutely should. Otherwise, the government becomes biased. You claim the government will remain neutral, establish a neutral Election Commission, and conduct impartial elections. But if you simultaneously run a political party and hold government power, doesn't that create a direct conflict of interest? If you want to discuss revolutionary change, then form a revolutionary government and run

Hindu man ‘beaten to death for relationship with Muslim girl’

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A Hindu man was beaten to death over his alleged relationship with a Muslim girl in Nowabad Bhuiyan Bazar of Kishoreganj's Karimganj upazila early Saturday.

Ridoy Rabi Das, 21, worked at a hair salon in Nowabad Bhuiyan Bazar.

Locals said he had a relationship with a 16-year-old girl.

Lt Col Riazul Karim of Karimganj army camp said locals brought him there after he was beaten up. “He fell ill during interrogation. We hospitalised him.”

The cause of his death could be known after autopsy and viscera reports, the army officer said.

Dr Kamrul Islam of President Abdul Hamid Medical College Hospital said army personnel brought Ridoy to the hospital around 2:15am on Saturday and he died an hour later. He had injury marks on different parts of his body, he said.

Locals said Ridoy and his cousin Shakil Rabi Das were brought to a club by the girl's relatives on Friday.

Local UP Chairman Mostafa Kamal, member Jahangir Miah, and Nowabad Bhuiyan Bazar committee President Manzil Miah were present at the club, said Shakil.

Shakil alleged that their phones were taken away and they were beaten up.

“After an hour, we were taken to a nearby army camp in an auto-rickshaw. At the camp, we were interrogated separately. I don't know what happened to Ridoy,” he said.

Chairman Mostafa denied the allegation of beating up Ridoy. He said they just checked Ridoy's phone and sent him to the army camp.

students, its ban has been justified. Yet, the BNP seems to believe that the decision was not right. Why is that?

Fakhrul: No one from our party has said that banning Chhatra League was unjustified. What we've said is that the decision to ban any organisation should be made by parliament.

TDS: Allegations have surfaced that BNP leaders are now engaging in the same extortion and land-grabbing that AL leaders were accused of. What's your take on this?

Fakhrul: You can't generalise such claims. Yes, there have been isolated incidents, and we've acted decisively. Over 700 members have been expelled for misconduct. We're well aware of the issue and remain vigilant.

TDS: Final question. There seems to be a growing narrative against certain media outlets in Bangladesh, particularly The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo, labelling them as accomplices of fascism, with even calls from some quarters to shut them down. Though this sentiment may not be widespread, it does exist. As the secretary general of a major political party, what is your stance on this, and what do you think should be done in this regard?

Fakhrul: Our position is very clear: we strongly believe in the complete freedom of the press. It was Ziaur Rahman who first brought this principle forward.

That being said, media freedom must be exercised with responsibility. For example, some time ago, a newspaper published a report claiming that all arrangements had been made for Begum Khaleda Zia to leave the country, but she refused to go. This was utterly baseless and a completely false report. The media must refrain from publishing such unfounded news, especially when it concerns national leaders. There must be a solid basis for such claims. Baseless reporting should not happen.

Right now, the media's most significant responsibility is to contribute towards ensuring that this government quickly holds fair elections. Another crucial role for the media is to avoid maligning the parties that are genuinely involved in the movement for democracy. These are our expectations. There may be differences of opinion, and that's fine, but deliberate misrepresentation is unacceptable.

We're vocal about press freedom. For instance, we welcome the decision to repeal the Digital Security Act and Cyber Security Act. This is a very positive step, and it is what we've been advocating for. However, we also want everything to be done with a sense of responsibility. In a democracy, rights are essential, but so is accountability. Everyone must act responsibly.

As for the calls to shut down media outlets or burn them down, we're entirely against such actions. Some isolated incidents may have occurred, but we've protested against them to the best of our ability.

TDS: Thank you very much for your time.

Fakhrul: Thank you as well. We're always in support of ensuring that you can continue to speak the truth freely.

[Visit The Daily Star website for full transcript]

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at a meeting with UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Indo-Pacific Catherine West at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Banker killed as rickshaw crushed in bus-truck collision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and another injured when a battery-run rickshaw was crushed following a head-on collision between a bus and a truck in Dhaka's Paltan area early yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Jakir Hossain, was a manager (operations) at Mercantile Bank's Kankirhat Branch in Noakhali's Senbagh, said Md Arifullah, a sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station.

The identity of the rickshaw driver was not confirmed immediately.

Quoting witnesses, the SI said that the accident occurred around 5:00am when a bus of Unique Paribahan and an onion-laden truck collided head-on, causing both vehicles to swerve aside. The rickshaw was crushed between the two vehicles during the collision, SI Arifullah said.

Jakir, the passenger, SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Decentralise power, adopt provincial govt system

Speakers tell constitution reform commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of various professional organisations, young intellectuals, and cultural activists yesterday proposed introducing a federal system of government and amending the constitution through consensus among political parties.

The proposed federal system of government would decentralise power by introducing provincial governments, unlike the current unitary system in Bangladesh, where power is concentrated in the central government.

This change aims to ensure equitable regional development and greater autonomy for local governance, they added.

At a meeting with the constitution reform commission in the cabinet room of the national parliament building,

they also suggested a direct election for the president and a balance of power between the president and the prime minister.

Currently, Bangladesh follows a parliamentary system where the premier holds executive power, and the president, elected indirectly by parliament, serves as a largely ceremonial head of state.

Speakers also proposed a provision in the constitution requiring political parties to nominate 25-30 percent women in national polls, scrapping the existing system of reserved seats for women. Other proposals included the restoration of the caretaker government system and the introduction of referendums for making critical government decisions.

"We proposed establishing a separate secretariat for the judiciary as part SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

KEY PROPOSALS

- Federal system of govt
- Direct presidential election
- Power balance between PM, president
- Bicameral parliament
- Withdraw Article 70

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16216
দিন-রাত ২৪ ঘণ্টা যে কোন ফোন থেকে

 **ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক**
আপনার বিশ্বস্ত সহযোগী

53 accused in 7

FROM PAGE 5
units respectively in Chattogram; Nurul Amin, former president of Shibir's Vatar unit in Dhaka; Alamgir Hossain of Bogura's Sherpur; Delwar Hossain of Noakhali; and elder brother of Kamaruzzaman, former president of a union level unit of Shibir in Jhenaidah's Ratanhat.

Abdullah Al Noman, prosecutor of ICT, confirmed the matter.

Saiful, one of the complainants, recounted his harrowing ordeal during captivity at a press briefing on ICT premises yesterday.

"I was blindfolded and had my hands tied 24 hours a day. They did not allow me to use the bathroom, forcing me to urinate in the same bottle used for drinking water. I had to empty the bottle, then reuse

it for drinking," he said.

He also said that they only allowed him a minute or two to eat after serving food.

"If I failed to eat during the limited time, they used to beat me, and then take away the food," he added.

Abdullah Al Noman, Shibir's law affairs secretary, said, "Four complainants were maimed or lost limbs after being tortured by law enforcers. Kamaruzzaman, who disappeared in 2017, remains unaccounted for. One individual returned after three and a half years of disappearance, while another after being missing for three and a half months."

So far 17 similar complaints have been filed with the tribunal, involving 16 Shibir activists and one non-affiliated student, he added.



Some individuals seen stealing rods from the debris of a road being reconstructed near an entrance to Bangabandhu Stadium in the capital's Gulistan. The lack of supervision over the dug-up site has led to such theft. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Decentralise power, adopt provincial govt

FROM PAGE 3
of ensuring full independence of the judiciary," said Mahbub Uddin Khokon, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

He emphasised the need for consensus and commitment among political parties to pass constitutional amendments in parliament once they come in power after an election. Additionally, he advocated for provincial governments to ensure the development of all regions of the country.

Kader Gani Chowdhury, secretary general of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, suggested establishing a bicameral parliament to eliminate the risk of one person rule in the future.

He also proposed withdrawing Article 70

from the constitution and incorporating provisions for referendums and an ombudsman.

A bicameral parliament would consist of two separate chambers, typically a lower and an upper house, to provide a more balanced representation and prevent the concentration of power in one body, whereas Bangladesh currently has a unicameral parliament with a single house, the Jatiya Sangsad.

Meanwhile, Article 70 of the current constitution prevents members of parliament from voting against their party's position, effectively limiting their independence; the proposal to withdraw it would allow greater freedom for MPs to vote according to their conscience.

Adil Mohammed Khan,

president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, also endorsed the use of referendums, arguing that major divisive decisions, such as the construction of the Rampal power plant, should be decided through a vote by the people.

He further suggested that the term "founding fathers" could be adopted in the constitution instead of the "Father of the Nation" concept to recognise and honour the contributions of other significant figures in the Liberation War.

Representatives from different professional organisations also shared their views on constitutional reforms. They included Nasrin Begum, chairperson of the Arbitration Tribunal of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry; Kabir Hossain, convener

of the Interim Central Convening Committee of the Institution of Diploma Engineers; Anjan Das, vice president of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Sanghati; Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, president of Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha; and Nirupa Dewan, a member of the CHT Nagorik Committee.

BELA for saving

FROM PAGE 5
Rangpur city till Mahiganj (Rail Bridge). According to the Cadastral Survey (CS) records, the canal spans 41.39 acres across its both sides.

The canal, once vital for waterlogging management during monsoon, as well as for livelihood of around 5,000 local fishermen, now faces significant threats due to land grabbing and severe pollution, the notice said.

It highlighted how waste dumping, including by the RCC itself, and illegal grabbing, have turned the canal narrow, disrupted its water flow, and left it choking with wastes, polythene bags and other pollutants, according to a survey by BELA officials.

Although a list of 117 grabbers of the canal was previously compiled, no substantial action has yet been taken to reclaim it from them, according to the notice.

Echoing local residents' repeated urge to save Shyamasundari canal from the brink of ecological collapse, BELA, in the legal notice, demanded the authorities concerned to take prompt and effective measures for its rejuvenation to original state, eviction of its land grabbers, and an end to its pollution.

The addressed officials are to inform BELA within seven days about the measures taken to address these issues, it added.

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বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংক ম্যানেজমেন্ট (বিআইবিএম)
প্লট নং-৪৮, মেইন রোড নং-১, দেবদাস-২, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২১৬

অডিট কার্ম নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সোসাইটিস অ্যাণ্ড ১৮৬০ এর অধীনে নিবন্ধিত বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংক ম্যানেজমেন্ট (বিআইবিএম) এবং বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংক ম্যানেজমেন্ট এমপ্লয়ীজ প্রভিডেন্ট ফান্ড এর ২০২৪ সালভিক হিসাব নিরীক্ষার জন্য বহিঃনিরীক্ষক (external auditor) নিয়োগ/নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের এ-গ্রেড ডলিকার্ড অডিট ফর্মসমূহের নিকট হতে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে সীলমোহরকৃত আগ্রহপত্র (Expression of Interest) আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

- ১। সোসাইটিস অ্যাণ্ড ১৮৬০ এর অধীনস্থ প্রতিষ্ঠানে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত প্রত্যয়নপত্র আগ্রহপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ২। আগ্রহপত্র নিরীক্ষা কি অবশ্যিকভাবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। নিরীক্ষা ফি উল্লেখ করা না হলে আগ্রহপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ৩। নিরীক্ষা ক্ষিপ্ত উপর বিধি মোতাবেক ভ্যাট ও আয়কর প্রযোজ্য হবে।
- ৪। আগ্রহপত্র দাখিলের ক্ষেত্রে আইসিবিবি কর্তৃক প্রণীত নিয়মাবলী অনুসরণ করতে হবে।
- ৫। কার্য সম্পাদনের বিস্তারিত শর্ত উল্লেখপূর্বক কার্যদেশ প্রাপ্তি ৩০ (ত্রিশ) কর্মদিবসের মধ্যে নিরীক্ষা কার্য সম্পাদন করে চূড়ান্ত প্রতিবেদন বিআইবিএম এর মহাপরিচালক বরাবর দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৬। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকে যে কোন আগ্রহপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা বিআইবিএম সংরক্ষণ করে।

উপর্যুক্ত প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য সম্বলিত আগ্রহপত্র আগামী ১৭/১২/২০২৪ তারিখ অফিস সময়ে মধ্যে বিআইবিএম-এর নির্ধারিত বক্সে জমা দেয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

(এ. কে. এম. রেজাউল করিম)
পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও হিসাব), বিআইবিএম

ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অফ টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)
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সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গত ১৪-১১-২০২৪ তারিখের সূত্র নং: নিটার/প্রশাসন/অনুলি নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপত্র/২০১৯৩৮/২০২৪/৮৪০ এর আলোকে প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন করে পূর্বের বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদসমূহের সাথে নির্দিষ্ট/নির্দিষ্ট পদসমূহের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

১) অ্যাপালক/ সহযোগী অ্যাপালক/সহকারী অ্যাপালক (টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যাপালক মাস্ট্র), ইন্ডাস্ট্রিয়াল এন্ড প্রোডাকশন ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, ফ্যানস ডিজাইন এন্ড অ্যাপালক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং, কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং)। ২) গ্রজুয়েট- টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং (অ্যাপালক মাস্ট্র)। ৩) জুনিয়র অফিসার (হিসাব ও অডিট শাখা)। বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্যের জন্য ভিজিট করুন- www.niter.edu.bd/career। আগ্রহপত্রের শেষ তারিখ: ২৮-১১-২০২৪

- পরিসল (ভারপ্রাপ্ত), নিটার

USAID BANGLADESH
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Position Vacancy Announcement
Position: Project Management Specialist (Nutrition), FSN-11

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Bangladesh is seeking applications from qualified Bangladeshi nationals for the position of **Project Management Specialist (Nutrition), FSN-11** in the Office of Population, Health, and Nutrition (OPHN) Location: USAID/Bangladesh, Deadline for application submission: December 18, 2024; 04:30PM.

For a complete job description, required qualifications and detailed information on how to apply please visit [USAID/Bangladesh website: http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers](http://www.usaid.gov/bangladesh/work-with-us/careers) and www.bdjobs.com

D-32

Banker killed

FROM PAGE 3
died on the spot, while the rickshaw driver suffered critical injuries and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"Jakir Hossain used to go to his house in Dhaka after office on almost every Thursday. After passing two weekends with family, he returned to his branch on Sunday morning," said ASM Mohiuddin, manager of Mercantile Bank's Kankirhat Branch, told The Daily Star.

"He met the accident on his way to office in the morning," he said.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers fled the scene, the SI added.

PRAYER TIMING
NOVEMBER 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:05	12:45	3:45	5:21	7:00
JAMAAT 5:40	1:15	4:00	5:24	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Tender Notice for sale of running Textile Machineries, Electrical Equipment, Utility, Spare parts and other materials

A renowned Textile Company invites tenders in sealed envelopes from various individuals or organizations for the sale of textile machineries, Electrical Equipment and Utility, spare parts and other materials (as is where is basis) situated at the factory premises.

Terms & conditions of Tender:

1. For inspecting the items for sale and for detailed information and instructions regarding the tender, please contact Mobile No. 01841-117370, 01979-170001.
2. BDT 10,000 (non-refundable/non-adjustable) to be deposited as Earnest Money.
3. Tenders must be submitted on or before 30 November, 2024 in sealed envelopes. A pay order of BDT 5 lakh (refundable/adjustable) to be submitted as security along with the tender documents.
4. Tenders to be dropped in the Tender Box kept at A. K. Khan & Company Limited, Head Office, Ambagan, Batali Hills, Chittagong-4000, Bangladesh.
5. The Authority reserves the right to modify or cancel the tender or tender notice without assigning any reason.

Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College Dental Unit
(A project of Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital)
02-33331457/02-333310534/02-333310536/02-333315822/02-333311432 (Direct)
Fax: 88-02-333317799 E-mail: cmoshmedicalcollege@gmail.com Website: www.cmoshmc.edu.bd

Wanted

1. Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor (Dental Pharmacology/Periodontology & Oral Pathology / Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery / Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics / Prosthodontics / Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics / Pedodontics & Dental Public Health).

Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.

2. Lecturer (Dental Pharmacology/Periodontology & Oral Pathology / Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery / Conservative Dentistry & Endodontics / Prosthodontics / Orthodontics & Dentofacial Orthopedics / Pedodontics & Dental Public Health).

Candidate should have educational qualification and experience as per BM&DC rules. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience.

Candidates are requested to apply to the undersigned with full curriculum vitae, details of BM & DC qualifications, experiences and copies of publication with 2 copies of passport size photo within 21.11.2024. The application form is available at the college office.

Mohammed Rezaul Karim Azad

Managing Trustee, Trustee Board, CMOSH Trust and
Chairman, Governing Body,
Chattagram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Medical College
Agrabad, Chattogram.

NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

TENDER NOTICE
Tender No. NSU/24-25-T03

North South University is inviting sealed offers from bona fide/ reputed organizations/ suppliers/ engaged in water production and interested to supply drinking water at North South University as described in the tender schedule.

Detail of the items mentioned below:
Drinking water (in standard jar sizes as per specifications)

Interested bidders may collect a schedule of tender within banking hours from Southeast Bank Ltd. Bashundhara Branch, on all working days until **November 27, 2024** by paying non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (One Thousand) in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit fixed **earnest money of Tk. 2,50,000.00 (Two lac fifty thousand)** 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 28, 2024** by 2:15 p.m. at the office of the under-signed. **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
Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
Phone : +88-02-55668200, Ext. 1204, Fax: +88-02-55668202
E-mail to: procurement@northsouth.edu, www.northsouth.edu

Dhaka North City Corporation
Office of the Executive Engineer (Mechanical)
Mechanical Workshop
Adjacent to Pump House (Sluice Gate)
Gabtoli Balurghat, Mirpur, Dhaka

Memo No. 46.10.0000.039.07.006.24 Date: 17.11.2024

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID & Ref. No.	Name of works
1	Tender ID: 1032254 Ref. No.: 46.10.0000.041.26.014.24	Supply of Filter for Asphalt Plant (INTRAME, RM-120) (Package No: GZ-12)
2	Tender ID: 1032869 Ref. No.: 46.10.0000.039.26.004.24	Supply of spare parts/goods and repair works of Pick-up and Sedan Car (Total No. of vehicle: 37) under framework agreement method (Package No: GZ-02).
3	Tender ID: 1038186 Ref. No.: 46.10.0000.042.26.010.24	Supply of spare parts/goods and repair works of Tyre Finisher and Paver Finisher (Total No. of equipment: 03) under framework agreement method (Package No: GZ-08)

i) This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
ii) To submit e-Tender, registration is required in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).
iii) The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank.
iv) Tender Security to be submitted according to Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank in favour of "Administrator, Dhaka North City Corporation".
v) Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-976

Maksud Alam
Executive Engineer (Mechanical)
Dhaka North City Corporation

KUTUBDIA LPG TANKER FIRE Probe finds crew negligent, rules out sabotage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The fire that broke out on two LPG tankers at Kutubdia anchorage last month was caused by inefficiency and negligence of the crew, a probe committee has found.

The committee ruled out any act of sabotage or intentional misconduct.

The Tanzania-flagged mother vessel Captain Nikolas and the receiving tanker B LPG Sophia caught fire early on October 13 during the sensitive operation of lighterage (ship-to-ship transfer of liquefied petroleum gas).

Several members of the nine-member probe body, formed by the Chittagong Port Authority to investigate the incident, disclosed that the report highlighted a series of operational failures behind the incident, including incompetence of the mother tanker's crew, negligence in conducting the ship-to-ship operation, and improper mooring arrangements.

Led by CPA member (Harbour and Marine) Commodore M Fazlar Rahman, the committee submitted its findings to CPA Chairman Rear Admiral SM Moniruzzaman on Thursday. CPA, however, has yet to make the report public.

The crew failed to act promptly when improper mooring of Captain Nikolas led to all 12 mooring ropes snap one by one within 25-30 minutes due to intensified tidal currents, causing the lighter tanker B LPG Sophia to drift away.

This in turn exerted pressure on the gas discharging hose, and resulted in a forceful gas leak that quickly spread to the decks of both vessels, Commodore Rahman said citing the report.

Despite warnings from the crew of B LPG

Sophia, the crew of Captain Nikolas did not shut down the gas discharge operation promptly, when the first sign of fire was detected on its deck before it spread to the lighter vessel as well, he also said.

To prevent recurrence of similar incident, the committee recommended for providing proper training to gas tanker crew to ensure safe lighterage operations,

KEY ISSUES

➤ Improper mooring arrangements

➤ Delayed action during gas leaks

➤ Operational incompetence during lighterage operations

RECOMMENDATIONS

➤ Proper training for gas tanker crews

➤ Adherence to safety protocols and Joint Plan of Operation

➤ Ensuring competent staffing and proper vessel mooring during ship-to-ship operations

adhering strictly to a well-defined Joint Plan of Operation in compliance with all local and international regulations while conducting ship-to-ship operations within port limits, and ensuring competent staffing, operational diligence, and proper vessel mooring during these critical operations.

SHYAMASUNDARI BELA for saving Rangpur canal Serves legal notice to 13 govt officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) has issued a legal notice to 13 high-ranking officials of different government organisations, urging immediate action to save Shyamasundari canal in Rangpur from pollution and grabbing.

Tanmay Sanyal, regional coordinator (Rajshahi and Rangpur) of BELA, confirmed the matter.

The four-page notice, signed by BELA lawyer S Hasanul Banna and sent yesterday via postal mail, was addressed to: secretaries to the ministries of water resources, land, environment and climate change, and fisheries and livestock; chairman of the National River Protection Commission; directors general of the Department of Environment and the Bangladesh Water Development Board; deputy commissioner of Rangpur; superintendent of police of Rangpur; administrator of Rangpur City Corporation; and upazila nirbahi officer of Rangpur Sadar.

The 16-kilometre-long Shyamasundari canal originates in Kellaband area and flows through

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Sellers at a stall during a traditional village fair marking the beginning of the Bangla month of Agrahayan in Barishal. The photo was taken at Kurapur in Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Tributes pour in for Bhasani in Santosh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Thousands of people gathered in Tangail's Santosh yesterday and paid tributes to Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, a legendary politician of the subcontinent, on his 48th death anniversary.

Prof Anowerul Azim Akhanda, vice-chancellor of Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University, along with teachers and students of the institution, paid homage to Bhasani by placing wreaths at his grave around 7:30am.

Later, Bhasani's family, different political parties, socio-cultural organisations and educational institutions paid tributes at his grave.

BNP later organised a rally there, where central BNP leaders Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Ataur Rahman Dhali and Sayeed Sohrab spoke among others.

Bhasani, a dreamer of independent Bangladesh, fought against imperialism and oppression by the Pakistani rulers, earning the title "Mazlum Jana Neta". He played a significant role in the 1969 mass movement, and later led the historic Farakka Long March in 1976.



Bhasani founded the Pakistan Awami Muslim League and later formed National Awami Party. He passed away on November 17, 1976 and was buried in Santosh.

53 accused in 7 complaints filed with ICT


STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Seven separate complaints were filed against at least 53 persons with the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday, over allegations of torture and enforced disappearance of seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The accused include members of law enforcement agencies, as well as activists of Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League.

The complainants are: Johnny Islam, a Shibir activist from Rajshahi University; Abdul Karim and Saiful Islam, of Shibir's Banshkhali and Rangunia

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

 Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank Head Office, Rajshahi Information and Communication Technology Department Tel: +88-02588-820082 E-mail: dgmiict@rakub.org.bd, Website: www.rakub.org.bd					
Ref No. RAKUB/HO/ICTD-96 (PART)/2024-2025/555			Date: 14.11.2023		
e-Tender Notice					
The following e-Tenders is invited in the e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement Computer Software/ Oracle Database Devices and its related services:					
SL No.	e-Tender ID No.	Tender Reference No.	Description of work	Last selling date & time (TIME: 24HR FORMATE)	Closing date & time (TIME: 24HR FORMATE)
01.	1016810	RAKUB/HO/ICTD-96(PART)/2024-2025/544	"Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Oracle Database and its related services for Core Banking Solution in Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Banks Data Center (DC)."	19-Dec-2024 12:30	19-Dec-2024 17:00
This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of the tender from the e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any registered banks' branches up to abovementioned date and time.					
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GD-971			Sd/- Md. Abul Kalam Deputy General Manager		

 সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (A Company of Petrobangla)		বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অধ্যক্ষিকার
সূত্র নং - ২৮.২০.৯২৫৩.০৮৪.০১.০১০.০২৪/কনডেম/বিবিধ		তারিখ: ১২-১১-২০২৪
পুনঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (এসজিএফএল) এর বিভিন্ন ফিল্ড/স্থাপনায় রক্ষিত অকেজো ওয়েলিং জেনারেটর, ক্যাটারপিলার গ্যাস জেনারেটর, টিউবিং পাইপ, কেসিং পাইপ, গাড়ীর টায়ার, ইলেকট্রিক্যাল ও ইলেকট্রনিক সামগ্রী, আসবাবপত্র, ট্রান্সফরমার, এমএস রড, এমএস পাইপ/শিটের টুকরা, ক্যাবল ট্রে, টারবাইন পাম্প, কার্ভার ডেউটিন, ষ্টীল/প্রান্তিকের খালি ডাম, টুল বক্স, ব্যবহৃত লুব অয়েল ইত্যাদি মালামাল 'বেশানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে' নিলামে বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে আগ্রহী দরদাতা/ক্রেতাদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। খামের উপরে অবশ্যই দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ এবং খোলার তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।		
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ
০২	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ স্বেচ্ছা, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)।
০৩	নিলামকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)।
০৪	নিলাম পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএস)।
০৫	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	২৮.২০.৯২৫৩.০৮৪.০১.০১০.০২৪/কনডেম/বিবিধ তারিখ: ০৭-১১-২০২৪
০৬	দরপত্র তফসীল এর মূল্য	প্রতি সেট ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার) টাকা (অফারতমমূল্য)
০৭	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	প্রতিটি গ্রুপের মালামালের বিপরীতে উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শেতকরা ১০ ভাগ) অর্নেস্টম্যানি/টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি "সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড" এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসীলভুক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
০৮	নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রস্তাবিত মালামাল	বিভিন্ন ফিল্ড/স্থাপনায় রক্ষিত বিভিন্ন ধরনের পুরাতন অকেজো মালামাল।
০৯	দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি স্থান	(ক) ব্যবস্থাপক (ক্যাপ এন্ড ব্যাংক), হিসাব ও অর্থ বিভাগ, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর- চিকনাগুণ, সিলেট-৩১৫২ (খ) হিসাব শাখা, কৈলাশাটলা গ্যাস ফিল্ড, গোলাপগঞ্জ, সিলেট। (গ) হিসাব শাখা, রাশিদপুর গ্যাস ফিল্ড, বাহবল, হবিগঞ্জ। (ঘ) ঢাকা লিয়ারেজ অফিস, পেট্রোসেটার (13 th floor), ৩ কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা। (ঙ) হিসাব বিভাগ, আঞ্চলিক অফিস, বাপেঙ্গ, পিসি রোড, সরাইশাড়া, পাছাডকলী, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	২৪-১১-২০২৪ হতে ২৩-১২-২০২৪ পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন)।
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	টিএস বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, সিলেট।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪-১১-২০২৪ তারিখ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৩	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান তারিখ ও সময়	২৪-১১-২০২৪ বেলা ১২:১৫ ঘটিকায় দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন), টিএস বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট।
১৪	ক্রেতা/দরদাতাদের ঘোষণা	নিলামে অংশগ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ অয়কর পরিশোধ সনদের ডকুমেন্ট ও ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৫	শর্তাবলী	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য।
১৬	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা :	
(ক)	দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।	
(খ)	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ দিন ও খোলার দিন কোন কারাবশতঃ কার্যবিবস ব্যাহত হলে পরবর্তী প্রথম কার্যবিবস একই সময়ে দরদাতাপদের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে।	
(গ)	মূল দরপত্র দলিল দরদাতা কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষর ও সীল মোহরসহ দাখিল করতে হবে।	
(ঘ)	বিলম্বে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।	
(ঙ)	সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা দরপত্র আহ্বান প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।	
(চ)	এ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.sgfl.org.bd), পেট্রোবাংলার ওয়েবসাইট www.petrobangla.org.bd) এবং Central Procurement Technical Unit এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.cptu.gov.bd) -এ দেখা যেতে পারে।	

GD- 969

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‘ADHUNIK BANGLA HOTEL’ Where culinary obsession meets chilling horror



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Despite this being his first foray into the anthology format, Mosharraf Karim, being the fine actor that he is, blends seamlessly into his roles.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN

After *Pett Kata Shaw*, this was one of the web-series I was really looking forward to, especially because Mosharraf Karim plays not just one but three different characters. Although it's an anthology series, there are no interconnected episodes. The series, *Adhunik Bangla Hotel*, boasts a group of talented actors whose powerful performances elevate the narrative, even as the story is full of imperfections.

At the heart of the series is an intriguing

obsession with local foods, reflected in the carefully chosen episode titles. Each episode was released on Thursdays, starting with the first episode at midnight on Halloween and the last on November 14. The episodes come with unique names such as *Boal Macher Jhol* (Boal fish curry), *Khashir Paya* (goat trotters), and *Hasher Salun* (duck curry).

What truly stands out in the series is its stunning cinematography. The serene landscapes of rural life, framed by vivid skies and lush green sycamore trees, create a visual feast that captivates from the very beginning. The first episode, rather than shocking the audience, evokes a sense of tranquility and calm. Nature plays a central role, with elements like drifting white clouds, a gloomy moon, and sudden bursts of thunder becoming symbolic voices for the unspoken tragedies awaiting the characters.

Despite this being his first foray into the anthology format, Mosharraf Karim, being the fine actor that he is, blends seamlessly into his roles.

In the opening episode, a retired professor (Gazi Rakayet) visits an old student, Aziz (Mosharraf Karim), to hear ghost stories and enjoy *Boal macher jhol*. While fishing by the lake, Aziz recounts a tale of a village where the dead rise as soon as they're buried. The line between story and truth blurs as the mystery unfolds. Though the ending is predictable, the episode remains faithful to its psychological horror, fantasy, thriller, and mythology roots.

The second episode is one of the weakest in the series. While Mosharraf Karim and the young child actor did a commendable job, the plot didn't seem to make much sense to me. It was full of repetitive tropes and jump scares, to the point where it became annoying.

The story follows Rafique, a middle-aged man who has never lived alone and loves *khashir paya*. When a boy asks him for money to buy the dish, Rafique refuses, and strange events begin to occur. Despite starting with an intriguing premonition, the latter half fails to build the story, making it tedious and illogical.

Hasher Salun redeems the disappointing aftertaste of the second episode, by introducing us to a serial killer named Mozaffor Gayen, alias Moju, who murders people without mercy. After being severely injured, he stumbles upon a mysterious hotel called *Adhunik Bangla Boarding*. Then the question arises—who are the hotel's tenants, and why is Moju unable to leave?

After each murder, Moju indulges in *chaler ruti* (traditional rice flour flatbread) with *hasher salun* (duck curry) and traps pigeons in his cage. This episode, like the first, features impressive cinematography, sharp dialogues, and Mosharraf Karim's flawless portrayal of a morally complex character, which will make you simultaneously admire and hate him. The lighting and colour work in this episode fit perfectly into the series. While not particularly scary, this episode is packed with suspense and thriller.

However, the mystery of who Moju works for and his true motives remains unsolved till the end.

One of the greatest parts of the series is its supporting cast—Gazi Rakayet, Salahuddin Lavlu, Shilpi Sharkar Apu, AK Azad Shetu, and Nidra Dey Neha. All did a fantastic job, but I was particularly blown away by Salahuddin Lavlu. He played a character completely opposite to what fans are used to seeing from him. In *Hasher Salun*, he plays a mysterious and nonchalant receptionist whose presence adds layers to the plot right up to the end.

Overall, director Kazi Asad did a commendable job, though I hope future seasons focus on quality storylines with fewer loose ends and perhaps more episodes. If you're a fan of Mosharraf Karim, this anthology series is definitely worth a try. All episodes of *Adhunik Bangla Hotel* are available for streaming on the OTT platform Chorki.

‘Priyo Maloti’ officially selected for IFFI 2024



Mehazabien Chowdhury starrer *Priyo Maloti* has been officially selected for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), one of Asia's oldest and most prestigious festivals.

Known in English as *Whispers of a Thirsty River*, the film is directed by Shankha Dasgupta. It will represent Bangladesh in the Cinema of the World category at

IFFI's 55th edition, which will take place from November 20 to 28 in Goa, India.

The official selection, confirmed on the festival's website, features 71 films from various countries. *Priyo Maloti* will be screened at Panjim Auditorium-4 on November 27.

Earlier, the film was selected to compete in the World Cinema category at the Cairo International Film Festival (CIFF).



RUNA LAILA launches official YouTube channel

Legendary singer Runa Laila marked her 72nd birthday yesterday by launching her official YouTube channel titled, @TheRunaLaila, offering fans access to her extensive music collection.

The channel debuted with the iconic track *Shilpi Ami Tomaderi Gaan Shonabo*, originally aired on BTV, and followed by *Hello Hi*, from her 1982 album *Superuna*.

With over 10,000 songs in 18 languages in her repertoire, Runa Laila's channel offers a mix of Bollywood hits, Bengali folk, and patriotic songs.

She expressed gratitude for the love and support that has been pivotal in her career spanning over 60 years.

NEWS

London to help Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier, she met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guesthouse Jamuna.

She told him the UK government would extend full support to Bangladesh in its efforts to bring back billions of dollars that was laundered.

Yunus said returning the money laundered by corrupt politicians, oligarchs, and bureaucrats is a top priority of the interim government, and quoted a recent Transparency International Bangladesh report saying over 12 billion dollars were annually siphoned off abroad.

According to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing, Prof Yunus said the reforms undertaken by the government are aimed at ensuring free and fair polls in the country, and to break away from the rampant vote rigging practiced by the previous regime.

West told him that Britain would like to see vibrant debates on the key aspects of electoral, judiciary, and constitutional reforms.

"Debates are very important," she said.

Yunus also reiterated his call for creating a "UN-overseen safe zone" for communities in Myanmar's violence-

plagued Rakhine so that they don't have to flee across the border to Bangladesh.

The chief adviser and UK minister discussed geopolitical issues, minority rights, ties with South Asian neighbours, and Bangladesh's recent 40-megawatt energy deal with Nepal.

Yunus said his government has fully backed the creation of a South Asia electricity grid to bring power from hydroelectricity-rich Nepal and Bhutan.

He said Bangladesh can ease off its reliance on fossil fuels if it can import renewable energy from the two Himalayan countries, adding that Bangladesh needs collaboration with India to this effect.

At the meeting with Touhid Hossain, West conveyed British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer and Foreign Secretary David Lammy's greetings. She also underscored UK's priorities on migration, maritime cooperation, and cyber security.

Touhid sought the international community's support for the Rohingyas and said the only solution to this crisis lies in their safe and sustainable repatriation to their homeland in Myanmar.

With regard to the Point-based

Immigration System, he called for the arrangement of mutual recognition of qualifications.

Responding to a reporter's question on BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman's return, West said they did not discuss individual cases but they want to support the government because it is in a period of transition.

"We want to support the interim government in all the works that it is doing,"

She announced £10.3 million of UK grant support for the Rohingya and host communities affected by natural disasters in Bangladesh.

West also had a meeting with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and discussed various issues of mutual interest between the two nations, reports UNB.

The hour-long meeting, which began around 4:30pm, was held at the British High Commissioner's residence in the capital's Baridhara, said BNP media cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke, BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and its Organising Secretary Shama Obed were present at the meeting, he said.

Biman to be sole ground handling

FROM PAGE 12

expectation of quality ground handling services at Terminal-1 and -2. Our hope was that we would be able to provide international standard services at Terminal 3," he also said.

No international airport in the world has a single ground handling service provider, he said.

CAAB had appointed International Finance Corporation, a concern of the World Bank Group, as a transactional adviser. It submitted a report in favour of appointing multiple service providers at the third terminal for better service.

Mofidur said the number of passengers and carriers serving Dhaka will increase after the third terminal is properly launched, and multiple ground handling service providers would be needed to ensure quality service.

"In Bangladesh, no one has the ability to deal with the cargo handling job at the third terminal. I can guarantee that no one in Bangladesh has the ability to operate these facilities as they are totally automated," said the former CAAB chief.

The third terminal, funded with Japanese loans, requires efficient revenue generation to meet debt repayment obligations, and any lapses in ground handling could jeopardise this goal.

The third terminal project, with a budget of Tk 21,300 crore, began on December 28, 2019. The government contributed Tk 5,000 crore, while the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided the rest.

Aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam said monopoly in ground handling will benefit Biman, but passengers will suffer.

Wahidul also said, "Foreign airlines will not have any other option than to become hostages to Biman."

Wishing anonymity, officials of several foreign airlines said they do not want to remain hostages to Biman.

"We want multiple ground handling service providers at the third terminal for ensuring better services through competition," said a top official of a foreign carrier.

CAAB Chairman Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan recently told the media that operations of the third terminal were likely to start next year.

The 230,000 square metre terminal has 115 check-in counters, 66 departure immigration desks, 59 arrival immigration desks, and 3 VIP immigration desks.

HSIA's annual passenger and cargo handling capacity is expected to double when the terminal is properly operational.

The annual passenger handling capacity of the HSIA would be 24 million (including the old terminals). At present, the Dhaka airport can handle 8 million passengers and 500,000 tonnes of cargo each year.

A major portion of Biman's income comes from ground-handling services. The airlines earned around Tk 1,500 crore from this in 2023.

Baggage handling remains a thorn in passengers' sides. Many complain of delayed baggage delivery, damage to

their belongings, and theft.

Public hearings at the airport highlight these issues, reflecting poorly on Biman.

Foreign carriers have consistently complained about Biman's services. Several airlines told this correspondent that despite paying for ground handling service, they often receive insufficient support from Biman.

In some cases, the carriers deploy their own people at the airport to maintain service quality.

"We need to deploy 30 to 40 staffers at the airport during departures of flights and for cargo handling. It is Biman which is supposed to carry out these jobs," said an official of a foreign carrier.

Biman, however, said they are prepared for the third terminal. In addition to recruiting and training Biman's personnel, new equipment is being purchased.

"Several types of equipment have already been added to Biman's Ground Support Equipment (GSE). Over the next few months, approximately 70 types of equipment will be given to Biman's GSE," Bushra Islam, general manager, public relations, Biman said in a message.

Due to the adoption of modern technology and strong management initiatives, there has been a significant improvement in service quality, she said.

Bushra said outsourcing this responsibility to any external entities would result in a substantial loss of national revenue and harm the country's interests.

BJP wants Manipur

FROM PAGE 12

hateful divisive politics," Kharage said.

He also said at least 17 people have lost their lives since November 7, adding new districts are being added to the list of strife-torn regions and the fire is spilling over to bordering northeastern states, reports The Indian Express online.

Meanwhile, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah has cancelled his election rallies in Maharashtra in view of the escalating violence in Manipur.

Protesting against the death of six hostages from Jiribam, a mob tried to barge into the personal residence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Saturday evening, reports NDTV online.

Earlier Saturday, protesters attacked the residences of at least three state ministers and six lawmakers, prompting the government to impose prohibitory orders in five districts for an indefinite period and suspended internet services in parts of the state.

Women key to Bangladesh's economic progress

FROM PAGE 12

economic empowerment," said Bouldin. "When women succeed in business, their families, communities, and economies thrive."

Bouldin also announced an additional \$30,000 grant to fund a business pitch competition among 140 participants from all AWE cohorts.

"We are thrilled to announce this funding, which will allow women from all cohorts to compete for multiple \$5,000 awards to support their entrepreneurial ventures," she added.

Bouldin presided over the event, reaffirming the US government's commitment to women's economic empowerment and fostering economic growth that is both gender-inclusive and provides opportunities to religious and other minorities across the country.

The ceremony celebrated the achievements of 78 exceptional women entrepreneurs from across Bangladesh—including Sylhet, Cumilla, Barishal, Khagrachari, Jashore, Chattogram and Dhaka—who successfully completed the second cohort of the US government-funded

AWE programme.

During the ceremony, six top business pitch winners from the latest cohort were awarded for their outstanding business proposals.

The event featured a mini-fair and exhibition where participants showcased and sold their products, demonstrating the entrepreneurial skills they developed through the programme.

Many participants come from marginalised and minority communities, exemplifying their resilience and determination throughout their entrepreneurial journeys.

The AWE programme, a global initiative of the US Department of State, equips women with essential business knowledge and skills, according to the Embassy.

Delivered in partnership with Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management and the Freeport McMoRan Foundation, the programme uses the DreamBuilder platform to provide online learning resources and soft-skills training.

This year's cohort included 90

participants from Dhaka, Chattogram, and Sylhet, with priority given to women from indigenous, minority, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The three-month course, conducted in Bangla by industry experts, emphasised sustainability, peer-to-peer learning, and networking—creating a solid foundation for business growth.

The US Embassy's partnership with BRAC University's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development reflects a shared commitment to fostering sustainable programs that address the needs of underrepresented women entrepreneurs and promote the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh.

The AWE initiative aligns with the US National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality, promoting women's full economic participation and supporting a future where women from diverse backgrounds can contribute meaningfully to global economic growth, strengthening the prosperity of their communities and industries.

Humans, not AI, should control nuke arms
Biden, Xi agree during APEC talks in Lima

REUTERS, Lima

US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on Saturday that human beings and not artificial intelligence should make decisions over the use of nuclear weapons, according to the White House.

“The two leaders affirmed the need to maintain human control over the decision to use nuclear weapons,” the White House said in a statement. “The two leaders also stressed the need to consider carefully the potential risks and develop AI technology in the military field in a prudent and responsible manner.”

An official Chinese government summary of the meeting echoed this point.

Xi also vowed to work with the incoming US administration of Trump.

“China’s goal of a stable, healthy and sustainable China-US relationship remains unchanged” after Trump’s election, Xi said as he met Biden, acknowledging “ups and downs” between the countries. “China is ready to work with the new US administration to maintain communication, expand cooperation and manage differences.”

Biden told Xi that the two leaders have not always agreed but their discussions have been “frank” and “candid.”

It was not clear whether the statement would lead to further talks. But it marks a first-of-its-kind step between the two countries in the discussion of two issues on which progress has been elusive: nuclear arms and artificial intelligence.

Israeli strikes pound south, central Beirut
Hezbollah media head killed; new salvo of projectiles fired from Lebanon at Israel’s Haifa area



AGENCIES

An Israeli strike on a building in a densely populated district of central Beirut yesterday killed Hezbollah’s media relations chief Mohammad Afif, two Lebanese security sources told Reuters, though there was no immediate confirmation from Hezbollah.

The Israeli military declined to comment in response to questions from Reuters. There was no evacuation order for the area published on the Israeli military spokesperson’s account on social media platform X before the strike.

The strike hit the Ras al-Nabaa neighborhood where many people displaced from Beirut’s southern suburbs by the Israeli bombardment had been seeking refuge.

The security sources said it struck a building where the offices of the Ba’ath Party are located, and the head of the party in Lebanon, Ali Hijazi, told Lebanese broadcaster Al Jadeed that Afif was in the building.

The broadcaster later also said Afif had been killed.

Earlier, the Israeli air strikes hit the southern suburbs of Beirut yesterday, AFPTV images showed, shortly after the Israeli military warned people to evacuate the area.

Columns of smoke were seen rising over the capital’s southern suburbs, where Lebanon’s only international airport is located. Further south, Israeli air strikes and shelling hit the flashpoint town of Khiam, the NNA reported.

Following the bombardment, the Israeli army said about 20 projectiles were seen crossing from Lebanon into Israel, and that some of them were intercepted at Haifa Bay.

Israel has escalated its bombing of Lebanon since September 23 and has since sent in ground troops, following almost a year of limited, cross-border exchanges of fire begun by Hezbollah militants in support of Iran-backed Hamas in Gaza.

Indian police battle Maoist rebels
5 killed; 2 cops hurt

AFP, Raipur

Indian security forces have killed five Maoist rebels in jungle clashes, an officer said yesterday, as security forces seek to quash the decades-long insurgency in the central regions.

Gun battles took place in the Abujhmad forests of Chhattisgarh state on Saturday, taking the toll of the conflict in 2024 to around 200, one of the highest in years.

More than 10,000 people have died in the insurgency against the Maoists – known as the Naxalite movement, who say they are fighting for the rights of marginalised indigenous people.

“In the gun battle five Maoists have been killed,” police officer P. Sunderraj said, adding that two of the rebels were women.

The clash took place in regions bordering Kanker and Narayanpur, with police seizing rifles and ammunition from the corpses. Two officers were wounded in the clash.

India’s government has warned the insurgents to surrender, with Amit Shah, the interior minister, saying in September that he expected the rebellion to be defeated by early 2026.

World looks to G20 for breakthrough in COP29 talks

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Diplomatic tensions over global warming will take center stage at the G20 summit in Brazil this week, as negotiators at UN talks in Azerbaijan hit an impasse on climate finance that they hope leaders of the world’s 20 major economies can break.

Heads of state were arriving in Rio de Janeiro yesterday for the G20 summit that will spend today and tomorrow addressing issues from poverty and hunger to the reform of global institutions. Still, the ongoing UN climate talks have thrown a spotlight on their efforts to tackle global warming.

While the COP29 summit in Baku, is tasked with agreeing a goal to mobilize hundreds of billions of dollars for the climate, leaders of the Group of 20 major economies half a world away in Rio are holding the purse strings.

G20 countries account for 85 percent of the world’s economy and are the largest contributors to multilateral development banks helping to steer climate finance.

They are also responsible for more than three-quarters of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. “All countries must do their part. But the G20 must lead,” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told COP29 last week.

Reaching such an accord may only get tougher with the return to power of US President-elect Donald Trump, who is reportedly preparing to again pull the US out of the Paris climate accord.

Trump is also planning to roll back landmark climate legislation passed by the outgoing Joe Biden, who will become the first US president to visit the Amazon rainforest when he makes a stop there on his way to Rio.



Indo-Bangla ties

FROM PAGE 1

“Bangladesh sits at the intersection of most of India’s foreign policy decisions. Our peace, progress, and security are interlinked.”

Meanwhile, Dr Sreeradha Datta, professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs at OP Jindal Global University, said, “Integration in South Asia can only happen surrounding the India-Bangladesh caucus. That’s how important it is.”

The relationship between the two countries has been under pressure after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina sought refuge in India following her ouster on August 5.

Indian Foreign Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told the Rajya Sabha on August 6 that Hasina had sought approval to come to India on a “short notice”.

The Indian media had reported that upon crossing the India-

Bangladesh border, Hasina’s exit flight was escorted by two fighter jets. She is reportedly staying at a safehouse in New Delhi.

The International Crimes Tribunal has asked Interpol to issue a red notice for Hasina’s arrest in connection with the deaths of hundreds of protesters during the mass uprising against her in July.

Meanwhile, speakers at the conference also spoke about Indo-Pacific security and prioritising sovereignty.

Responding to a question about how the Chinese-built submarine base in Cox’s Bazar’s Pekua impacts Indo-Pacific security, the Acting High Commissioner for Australia Nardia Simpson said, “The question isn’t about who was involved but about whether [Bangladesh’s] sovereignty was prioritised.”

She went on to say that Bangladesh must act for itself and not be acted upon.

Simpson added that security for the Indo-Pacific means a position “where a larger country cannot dominate and where all countries’ sovereignty is respected.”

David Brewster, senior research fellow at the National Security College in Australia, said Bangladesh holds the unique position to stabilise the increasingly fractured relations concerning the Indo-Pacific. “It can check major powers to make sure no one dominates.”

He added, “It has long puzzled me why Bangladesh has not been a larger player in the region. Bangladesh has vital interests, but in recent years it has not sought to shape the strategic interests concerning the region in line with its own policy.”

No mention of election roadmap

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat-e-Islami, however, opined that the interim government should be given the time it requested for reforms.

“People’s aspirations must be fulfilled by completing sustainable reforms and paving the way for an election. For this reason, the nation must exercise patience,” Jamaat General Secretary Mia Golam Parwar told this newspaper over the phone.

He, however, said the timeline for the reforms should neither be too long nor too short.

“It’s a good sign that he [Prof Yunus] gave a hint about the election. He has spoken about holding the election after carrying out necessary reforms, which

align with the nation’s aspirations. Reforms should be done in a way so that a free, fair, and credible election can be held,” said the Jamaat leader.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), said setting a timeframe for the electoral system reform and announcing electoral roadmap are very crucial right now as various crises may develop otherwise.

“Our first priority is to reform the electoral system and chart out a roadmap for elections. Regarding other reforms, [the government] can create a framework and begin preliminary work, if able,” Prince said.

He said other reforms can start

only if political parties collectively determine that these are urgent, and it requires certain time.

“Decisions must be finalised based on discussions and agreements with political parties.”

The CPB leader further said the interim government can carry out some reforms in public interest and these must be visible.

“But at this moment, given the rising prices of essentials and the absence of any indication of resolving the people’s crises, discussions on other issues are irrelevant. Such discussions will only be relevant if there are tangible actions and a positive outcome...”

Bad loans hit alarming record

FROM PAGE 1

Around Tk 8,000 crore of loans of another of Hasina’s close allies, S Alam Group, with Janata Bank has gone bad during the quarter.

As a result, Janata’s bad loans rose to Tk 60,000 crore at the end of September, which is the highest in the banking sector.

Two concerns of Bashundhara Group have defaulted on their loans amounting to Tk 416 crore with IFIC and Rupali.

Defaulted loans have increased in the majority of the banks, including some Shariah-based lenders who saw their boards reconstituted after Ahsan H Mansur took charge as Bangladesh Bank governor in mid-August.

One of the reasons behind the increase in defaulted loans is the central bank’s adoption of a new method to calculate bad loans following global best practices, said BB spokesperson Husne Ara Shikha.

As per the new method, the grace period for term loans has been reduced to three months from the previous six months.

“We are assuming that this is one of the reasons behind the increase in bad loans in the July-September quarter.”

Besides, some entities had filed writ petitions with the High Court about their bad loans. Some of the writ petitions were vacated recently and those disputed loans were marked as bad.

Janata has the highest volume of bad loans: Tk60,000cr

Bad loans increased by Tk73,586cr in just 3 months since June

Some large borrowers including S Alam, Beximco, Bashundhara Group defaulted

Bad loans increased due to lacklustre loans recovery amid economic slowdown

director and chief executive officer of Mutual Trust Bank.

Borrowers were already struggling before July-August due to challenges such as insufficient electricity and gas supplies, which reduced production and exports.

This was further compounded by the foreign exchange crisis, high inflation and an unfavourable local investment climate.

Additionally, the central bank’s directive for greater transparency has led banks to disclose more accurate figures, including previously concealed bad loans, Mahbubur added.

The actual amount of the defaulted loans would have been higher if the other stressed assets, including written-off loans, had been taken into consideration, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the private think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue.

“Unfortunately, there is no shortcut to reducing the high amount of bad loans – most of the big defaulters are on the run.”

Fahmida, who was recently appointed a director of the central bank, suggested strengthening the money loan court both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Cases should be filed over the bad loans, she said, adding that the attorney general may form a special bench to settle the large default cases.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food

Directorate General of Food

Procurement Division

16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka

Website: www.dgfood.gov.bd

No. 13.01.0000.093.46.006.24-393

Date: 17/11/2024

International Tender Notice for Import of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice (Package-03, FY 2024-2025)

International tender in sealed cover are invited from bonafide traders for supply of 50,000 (Fifty thousand) (5%±) Metric Tons of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice. The particulars of international tender are furnished below:

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
1	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Food
2	Agency	:	Not applicable
3	Procuring entity name	:	Director Procurement
4	Procuring entity code	:	Not applicable
5	Procuring entity district	:	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	:	Procurement of 50,000 MT (5%±) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice
7	Invitation Ref. No. & date	:	13.01.0000.093.46.006.24-393, Dated: 17/11/2024
KEY INFORMATION			
8	Procuring method	:	International Open Tender Method
FUNDING INFORMATION			
9	Budget and source of fund	:	GoB fund
10	Development partners (if applicable)	:	Not applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11	Project/ programme /code (if applicable)	:	Not applicable
12	Project/programme name (if applicable)	:	Not applicable
13	Package No.	:	Package-03
14	Package name	:	Procurement of 50,000 MT (±5%) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice
15	Notice publication date	:	18 November, 2024
16	Selling of tender schedule	:	18 November, 2024 to 1 December, 2024 up to 4.30pm (BST)
17	Date and time of closing	:	02 December, 2024, upto Time 1.00pm (BST)
18	Date and time of opening	:	02 December, 2024, Time 2.30pm (BST)
19	Name and address of the office(s):	:	
Selling tender documents		:	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
Receiving place of tender		:	1) Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. 2) Office Chamber of Joint Secretary, Room No. 114, (1st Floor), Building No. 04, Ministry of Food, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.
Opening place of tender		:	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.
20	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	:	Not applicable
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
21	Eligibility of tenderer	:	Necessary papers to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender documents.
22	Brief description of goods or works	:	50,000 (±5%) (Fifty thousand) MT. of Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice at Chattogram (60%) and Mongla (40%) port on CIF Liner Out term. Cost of the Cargo, Insurance and Freight including Stevedoring, Overseide Handling and Lightering are on seller's account. Single price per MT is to be quoted in US\$.
23	Brief description of related services	:	Not applicable
24	Price of tender document (Tk.)	:	Tk 5,000 (five thousand) or USD 100 (One hundred) non-refundable by Pay Order/Bank Draft drawn in favour of Director General, Directorate General of Food.
Mode of payment		:	Through Letter of Credit (L/C).
Crop year		:	2024 or latest
Validity of the offer		:	17 December, 2024 upto 5.00pm (BST)

25 Quality & Specification:

Quality parameters	Specification	Margin of tolerance with claim for deviation beyond specification	Rejection
Moisture (maximum)	13.5%	14.0%	above 14.0%
Broken grain (Maximum)	5.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 2%)	6.0% (Rice of size 3/4th and below will be considered as broken and less than 1/4th broken should not be more than 3%)	above 6.0%
Foreign matter (Maximum)	0.3%	0.5%	above 0.5%
Dead, damaged & discoloured grains (Maximum)	3% in total	4.0%	above 4.0%
Radio-Activity (maximum)	50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)	50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs (Relaxable for the crop of SAARC and South-East Asian country)	above 50 Bq/Kg of 137Cs/134Cs

All the parameters must be limited to percentage mentioned against each item individually and separately.

Pack. No	Identification of shipment	Country of origin	Location	Tender security amount (US\$)	Shipment period
Pack-03	50,000 MT (±5%) Non-Basmati Parboiled Rice on CIF Liner out term	Any country of the world except Israel	Chattogram port-60% and Mongla port-40%	US\$ 3,00,000 in favour of Director General of Food for 50,000 MT Parboiled rice (±5%) in the form of a Bank Draft/Pay-Order (No Bank Guarantee is allowed)	40 (forty) days from the date of opening of the L/C. Note that at least 50% of the total quantity must be shipped within 25 days of opening of the L/C.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

26	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Moniruzzaman
27	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Procurement)
28	Address of official inviting tender	Office Chamber of Director, (Procurement), Room No. 501, Directorate General of Food, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka
29	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone: +88-02-41050178 E-mail: dproc@dgfood.gov.bd
30	(i) Incomplete, conditional tender and alternate offer shall not be considered. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. (ii) Tenderer who has been awarded two NOAs (Notification of Award) waiting for signing the contract or has signed two contracts but shipment under any of the contracts has not yet set sailed for destination, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender; (iii) Tenderer who has been awarded NOAs (Notification of Award) earlier but could not execute contract by submitting PG (Performance Guarantee) on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the next two tenders; (iv) Tenderer whose bid-bonds had been forfeited twice for not submitting PG or signing contract on time, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from the bid-bonds so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not; (v) Tenderer whose whole PG (Performance Guarantee) had been forfeited for non-supply of the contracted quantity, shall not be eligible to participate in the tender for the rest period of the current financial year, whether the money accruing from PG so forfeited is deposited to the Government treasury or not.	

Md. Moniruzzaman
Director
Procurement Division
Directorate General of Food
Phone: +88-02-41050178
Email: dproc@dgfood.gov.bd

GD-970

Ensure compensation for road crash victims

BRTA must fast-track the process to ease suffering of the affected

In a country where so many people are killed or injured in road crashes—with the Bangladesh Passengers' Welfare Association citing 105,338 deaths and 149,847 injuries from 2014 to September 2024—the importance of compensation for the victims cannot be overstated. Yet, it is disheartening to see this basic measure of justice being denied to most victims or their families. For the families losing their primary breadwinners, the effect is particularly devastating as they have to grapple with the financial and emotional tolls of a tragedy simultaneously.

Why, then, is the BRTA failing to deliver compensation promptly, even after the ouster of a regime that prioritised the interests of transport bosses over those of ordinary passengers? According to a report, despite the establishment of a fund under the Road Transport Act in January last year—mostly with contributions from vehicle owners—bureaucratic delays and inefficiencies have slowed the process to a crawl, with only 592 of the 1,940 victims or their families that have applied for compensation receiving it. During this period, at least 22,855 people have been killed or injured in road crashes, all eligible for compensation.

It goes without saying that a compensation denied or delayed effectively doubles the suffering for the affected families. Our report cites the case of Mohiuddin Mal, a ride-sharing driver who was killed in an accident last year. As the sole earner, he provided for his four-member household, including two school-going children. Now, his family is in dire straits. Despite filing an application for compensation as well as a case with the local police station about a year ago, the family is still waiting, with no financial relief or justice in sight. This is also the story of thousands of families ruined by road accidents.

What this shows is how complex and exclusionary the compensation process has been—something we cautioned about when the rules were first formulated. This is further exacerbated by delays in the application, inquiry and disbursement processes. For example, the BRTA's inquiry committee, tasked with verifying compensation claims, often takes far longer than it should. All this also discourages victims from even applying, which defeats the very purpose of the fund, while many do not even know about it.

We have recently called for the establishment of a commission to address our road safety issues holistically. Such a commission, besides bringing necessary reforms to improve road safety, could also ensure that crash victims receive justice as well as fair compensation. This is an issue that deserves utmost priority. Moreover, since the BRTA itself is at the centre of most problems in the transport sector, it must be overhauled so that it can perform better. The government must take these issues with the seriousness they deserve.

Proper data vital for sound policymaking

Govt must build a robust data governance structure

Details of the economic distress left by the Awami League's authoritarian regime are still surfacing as more instances of data falsification come to light. From inflating export figures to including luxury items in inflation baskets in order to manipulate the Consumer Price Index, few economic indicators could escape the misrepresentation that was designed to improve the regime's image.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, who heads the white paper committee on the economy, is the latest to join voices reinforcing concerns about the AL's inflated economic growth narrative, particularly its reported GDP growth rates. At a recent event, he pointed out that the six to seven percent growth claimed by the AL government over the years doesn't align with the low private and public investment or the stagnant tax-GDP ratio observed during the same period. Recent media reports have also exposed how a syndicate of officials at the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), under the then Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, fabricated data to paint a misleadingly rosy picture in line with the AL's growth and progress narrative.

Beneath this dubious account, however, default loans surged more than 13 times in 15 years, and billions of dollars were laundered abroad. While the regime's megaprojects reshaped the skyline, essential sectors like health, education and social services languished from low investment. According to Dr Bhattacharya, a pro-corruption alliance of certain businesspeople and politicians sprang up in the country, which led to the rise of oligarchs. He warned that reforms would not be possible if these oligarchs' grip on our banking and energy sectors and the capital market was not broken.

These words demand consideration as we try to move beyond AL's shadow. Thankfully, the interim government has initiated several positive measures to address the country's financial challenges and revive the banking sector, which was left on the brink of collapse. The government's plan to separate the National Board of Revenue's tax policymaking and tax collection wings is also a step in the right direction. However, it is also very important that we reform our data collection, analysis, monitoring, reporting, and evaluation processes, as sound policymaking is not possible without proper data. Of equal importance is overhauling the BBS and other relevant agencies to prevent future data manipulation and politicisation.

Moreover, the government should prioritise investment in this area to ensure accurate, comprehensive data from all sectors and social strata, enabling the crucial economic and social welfare reforms that Bangladesh urgently needs.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Mickey Mouse launched



On this day in 1928, Walt Disney released Steamboat Willie, the first animated film with sound to feature Mickey Mouse. The huge success of the cartoon helped make Mickey an iconic character and led to the Disney Company's dominance over the animated film market.

A moment of truth for BNP



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

SHAMIM A. ZAHEDY

In an otherwise high-profile meeting attended by diplomats from 38 countries and organisations, senior leaders from various political parties, teachers, journalists, intellectuals, and prominent citizens, held in Dhaka on November 14, BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman declared that, if elected to power, his party would not establish a family dynasty like the Awami League. Speaking virtually from London, Rahman pledged to build a prosperous and happy nation based on the 31-point agenda his party had unveiled in July 2023. He also committed to implementing a policy that would prevent any individual from serving as the prime minister of the country for more than two consecutive terms.

In the brain-storming session titled “BNP's 31-Point Outline to Reform the State Structure,” 56-year-old Rahman said no individual, including the prime minister, can abuse power or act arbitrarily in the future Bangladesh. “Accountability will be ensured at every level of government, from the highest ranks of the state down to every government tier. If BNP takes charge of governing (the country), we aim to restore freedom of expression for all citizens, regardless of party affiliation,” he said.

“Our goal is to build a state structure where no one will be harassed for expressing their thoughts on platforms like YouTube, Facebook, or other online mediums, even when commenting on the prime minister or other prominent figures. The mainstream and social media will not be compelled to conceal the truth, nor will the government pressure anyone to spread false information.”

The promises are both welcome and reassuring against the backdrop of the fall of the autocratic Hasina government, brought down by a mass uprising reflecting the public's aspiration to reform the structure of Bangladesh's state and society.

With the Awami League—the immediate past ruling party and the BNP's chief rival—being forced to retreat from the political process, at least for the time being, after party chief Sheikh Hasina fled to India, the responsibility now rests on the BNP and its acting chairman, Tarique Rahman, as the major political force to lead the reforms demanded by both the youth and the broader public for an inclusive and democratic Bangladesh.



VISUAL: SALMAN SAKIB SHAHRYAR

Given the fact that the previous ruling party displayed traits of a fascist regime, the BNP leadership's pledge that no future head of government will abuse power or act arbitrarily must also be reflected within the party itself. Without genuine internal reform, such declarations risk being dismissed as mere rhetoric. As the saying goes, charity begins at home.

Notably, the powers and authority granted to the party chairman, as outlined in the BNP constitution available on its website, should be consistent with the state reform proposals the party advocates. Organisational culture flows from the top down, and for the BNP's reform agenda to gain sustainability, it must simultaneously demonstrate a commitment to internal accountability and inclusivity.

Having examined BNP's constitution, it is evident that the party chief wields near-absolute authority, calling all the shots, attracting all the spotlight, and essentially doing or undoing anything he or she wishes. For instance, the 19-member standing committee, the party's most powerful policymaking body, has the authority to revoke or temporarily suspend membership or take punitive measures against anyone charged with misconduct, breaching discipline, or engaging in anti-party activities. However, if convening a meeting of the standing committee

matters. The constitution explicitly states, “The aggrieved person may appeal to the Chairman against the penalty, but the decision of the Chairman will be considered final.”

Moreover, according to the party charter, all metropolitan and district executive committees require approval from the secretary-general, who acts on the chairperson's advice. This provision starkly undermines internal democracy within the BNP.

The BNP chairperson is entrusted with immense power, enabling the leader to make key decisions and both enforce and reverse actions at will. For example, the party constitution grants the chairperson the authority to dissolve the 470-member national executive committee, the national standing committee, thematic sub-committees, and other committees. The chairperson may reconstitute these bodies, provided the decision is ratified by the next council.

Additionally, the party chief is empowered to fill vacancies in the national standing committee, the national executive committee, and thematic sub-committees. The chief may even alter the number of members in the national executive committee in special cases, though the total number of members cannot exceed the limit by more than 10 percent.

The party charter also allows for the creation of one or more

Party may amend the constitution, but the said amendment must be accepted by a majority at the next meeting of the National Council.”

Given such provisions, it is imperative for the BNP to prioritise internal democracy and foster a culture of collective decision-making.

At the high-profile meeting on November 14, one speaker cautioned that if the state reform promises were not fulfilled, the BNP would be labelled by the public as a failure.

It is, however, reassuring that the BNP is not only discussing reforms now, but has been proposing state structure reforms since 2016. This consistent advocacy raises hope that the BNP is serious about implementing these proposals.

The BNP should remember that Bangladesh is on the verge of transitioning from authoritarian rule to a path of democracy, achieved through the sacrifices and blood of hundreds of people. This transformation is rooted in the sacrifices of the students and people during the July uprising, as well as the BNP's prolonged struggle enduring imprisonment and oppression. BNP leaders and activists have also faced extrajudicial killings and thousands of lawsuits. Certainly, no one made these sacrifices for yet another authoritarian and undemocratic regime.

COP29 and the future of our RMG sector

RMG NOTES



Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE).

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

COP29 offers a unique opportunity for global stakeholders to accelerate the transition toward sustainable practices in sectors that heavily impact the environment. One sector where this transformation is particularly urgent is the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) industry in Bangladesh. The RMG sector, which accounts for a significant portion of our GDP and is a vital employment source, faces mounting pressure to adopt circular and sustainable practices. As Bangladesh joins the world at COP29, here I look at how this conference could shape the future of circularity and sustainability in our RMG sector.

Bangladesh is the world's second-largest garment exporter, supplying major fashion retailers in the US and Europe. However, the industry's contribution to the economy is accompanied by equally significant environmental challenges, including high levels of water consumption, pollution, waste, and carbon emissions. Furthermore, its linear production models, focused on high-volume, low-cost outputs, have resulted in considerable textile waste, with limited infrastructure to support recycling and reuse.

The concept of circularity entails moving from a “take-make-waste” linear model to one where resources are used, reused, and recycled, reducing waste and environmental

harm. For the RMG sector in Bangladesh, circularity could mean designing garments for longevity, adopting sustainable materials, recycling textile waste, and building infrastructure that supports garment reuse.

COP29 could potentially play a critical role in establishing universal standards and frameworks for circular economy practices across industries. For the Bangladesh RMG sector, such frameworks could create clear guidelines and benchmarks for sustainable production, helping manufacturers align with global expectations and attract more eco-conscious international buyers. With standardised metrics for circularity, companies could potentially better measure and report their environmental performance, which could further increase their competitive edge in the global market.

One of the key outcomes anticipated from COP29 is an increased commitment to climate finance, which could open doors for Bangladeshi RMG manufacturers to access funding for green technologies and circular infrastructure. Why does COP29 not propose a Circular Transition Fund? This could be used to support the garment industry's shift towards the circular economy which will be a costly process. Climate finance will be key to support small

and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which make up a significant portion of the RMG sector, adopt circular practices despite resource constraints.

For Bangladesh's RMG sector, international collaborations could provide access to new technologies and knowledge in circular textile practices. Partnering with countries

COP29 could potentially play a critical role in establishing universal standards and frameworks for circular economy practices across industries. For Bangladesh's RMG sector, such frameworks could create clear guidelines and benchmarks for sustainable production, helping manufacturers align with global expectations and attract more eco-conscious international buyers.

that have advanced recycling systems, for example, could enable Bangladesh to improve its waste management processes and develop the capacity to recycle textile waste on a large scale. This cooperation could also promote skills exchange, where Bangladeshi workers learn techniques for sustainable garment production, ultimately benefiting the sector's sustainability efforts.

Effective policy support is crucial for driving the shift to circularity. As COP29 may influence Bangladesh's

policy direction on sustainability, it's possible the government could introduce incentives to encourage RMG manufacturers to adopt circular models. For instance, tax breaks for companies that use recycled materials, subsidies for sustainable technology adoption, or grants for eco-friendly infrastructure could make circular practices more feasible for manufacturers.

As Bangladesh aligns with COP29 goals, it's essential to ensure the transition to circular practices also benefits the millions of workers in the RMG sector. This includes providing training for green jobs, ensuring safe working conditions, and fair wages. COP29 could serve as a platform to push for labour practices that support social sustainability alongside environmental objectives, ensuring a just transition for RMG workers.

One important aspect to consider is consumer behavior. To succeed in a circular economy, brands, and retailers must educate consumers on the importance of sustainable fashion and encourage responsible consumption. However, if Bangladesh seizes the opportunities presented at COP29, the RMG sector could emerge as a leader in sustainable fashion, providing a model for other developing economies. By embracing circularity, the sector could reduce its environmental impact while increasing resilience to global supply chain disruptions.

I believe COP29 holds major promise for the future of circularity and sustainability in Bangladesh's RMG sector. Through climate finance, partnerships, policy support, and a commitment to worker well-being, the conference could help cement meaningful change in how garments are produced, consumed, and disposed of.

We must improve transparency and openness of the budget process

Reflections from the Open Budget Survey 2023

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M ABU EUSUF and MD RABIUL ISLAM RABI

Enhancing the transparency, accessibility, and inclusiveness of the budget process in Bangladesh is a key policy question. Insights from the Open Budget Survey (OBS), conducted by the International Budget Partnership, a non-profit organisation that analyses national budgets, can help address this as it evaluates how openly governments share budget information, encourage public participation to strengthen accountability, and facilitate oversight by institutions such as legislatures and audit offices. The results of the latest OBS were released in 2024, assessing 125 countries. Given Bangladesh's performance in the latest OBS, there is room for the country to enhance transparency and openness in its budget process.

The transparency section of the OBS measures the public's access to information on how the government collects and spends its resources, assessing eight critical budget documents. Bangladesh scored 37 out of 100 on transparency, reflecting a modest improvement from its previous score of 30. This

score is below the global average score of 45. A transparency score of 61 or above indicates that a country is likely publishing enough material to support informed public debate on the budget.

To further improve, Bangladesh should ensure timely online publication of essential documents, such as the pre-budget statement, in-year reports, and a single, comprehensive year-end report. A pre-budget statement outlines the broad parameters of fiscal policies ahead of the executive's budget proposal, providing an economic forecast, anticipated revenue, expenditures, and debt levels. In Bangladesh, a pre-budget statement is not published. The pre-budget statement can encourage civil society to get involved in the budget process early and influence policy plans before detailed funding decisions are made.

Timely publication of the year-end report as well as the mid-year report should be considered. The year-end report describes the government's accounts at the end of the fiscal year. But this report should also adopt

an analytical lens by evaluating the progress made towards achieving the budget's policy goals. This can help serve as evidence for reflection and improvement in the budget formulation to its execution process. The year-end report should consolidate budget data, be more accessible, and be available within a

Open Budget Survey evaluates formal opportunities for the public to engage with the executive, legislature, and supreme audit institution across the four stages of the budget cycle. In this aspect, Bangladesh scored 11 out of 100. This low score is mainly attributed to the lack of clarity on what has been

The Finance Division should also proactively involve vulnerable and marginalised communities, either directly or through organisations that represent them.

The OBS evaluates the roles of legislatures and supreme audit institutions (SAls) in the budget process, assessing the level of

Bangladesh, also known as Jatiya Sangsad, provides limited oversight during the planning stage of the budget cycle and weak oversight during the implementation stage. To improve oversight, it is important to prioritise the following: i) the budget proposal should be submitted to legislators at least two months before the start of the budget year; ii) legislative committees should examine the budget proposal and publish reports with their analysis online; and iii) a legislative committee should examine in-year budget implementation and publish reports with their findings online.

In practice, it is important to ensure that the legislature is consulted before the executive shifts funds specified in the enacted budget between administrative units, spends any unanticipated revenue, or reduces spending due to revenue shortfalls during the budget year.

To strengthen independence and improve audit oversight by the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General in the country, it is imperative to ensure that audit processes are reviewed by an independent agency.

If implemented, the above-mentioned improvements will not only align Bangladesh with global standards of fiscal openness, but also foster greater accountability, ensuring that public funds are managed effectively to serve the country's needs.

Institutional reform needed for an inclusive Bangladesh



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SHAMSUL ARIFEEN KHAN MAMUN

This year's Nobel laureates in economic sciences—Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson—have demonstrated the importance of societal institutions for a country's prosperity. Societies with a poor rule of law as well as exploitative institutions struggle to generate growth or improve living standards. The Nobel laureates' research helps us understand how Bangladesh, trapped in extractive institutions inherited from its colonial past, failed to achieve the desired magnitude of prosperity after independence.

Extractive institutions, which concentrate power and resources among a select few, often hinder widespread economic opportunities. These institutions prioritise the interests of political elites, military leaders or certain economic groups, creating a system where wealth and decision-making authority are hoarded at the top. In such settings, most people are excluded from the economic and political benefits that promote growth and innovation. As a result, inequality grows, social mobility diminishes, and opportunities for broader development are stifled. In Bangladesh, the economic system of the past 16 years served as an example of such extractive institutions, where the primary beneficiaries were a handful of citizens and their descendants—political elites, bureaucrats and business conglomerates who maintained control over the country's resources. This era largely ended in August this year. To understand how extractive institutions might transition to more inclusive ones in Bangladesh's context, we can look at students' movements that, by protesting against discrimination and demanding equal socioeconomic opportunities, have challenged economic and power structures.

Historically, popular uprisings and social movements have played a vital role in shifting extractive institutions toward inclusivity by amplifying the voices of marginalised groups and pressuring governments to implement changes. For example, the 1952 Language Movement, which secured Bangla as the official language, and the

1990 movement, which led to the end of military rule and restored democracy in the country, are both pivotal in Bangladesh's history as they highlight the role of youth activism in confronting entrenched power structures. Most recently, students mobilised around critical issues such as road safety in 2018 and civil service quota reforms in 2018 and 2024.

The 2018 Road Safety Movement began after two students were tragically killed in a hit-and-run incident. It quickly grew into a nationwide outcry against the poor governance of our roads. The civic community became

inequality, and corruption, they are essentially calling for a shift from extractive practices to more inclusive systems. The success of these movements hinges on their ability to connect with other discontented groups and sustain pressure on the government.

In countries like Tunisia, Egypt and South Korea, student-led movements became catalysts for regime change and reforms when they gained momentum and aligned with other social groups. In Bangladesh, the potential for such a shift exists. As student movements continue to grow, they could play a crucial role in transitioning the country to a more inclusive and participatory society. The outcome of this transition would depend on the resilience of these movements and the willingness of the ruling elite to compromise or face political and economic upheaval.

Ultimately, the battle between extractive and inclusive institutions is not just a fight over resources; it is a fight over the future direction

Extractive institutions, which concentrate power and resources among a select few, often hinder widespread economic opportunities. These institutions prioritise the interests of political elites, military leaders or certain economic groups, creating a system where wealth and decision-making authority are hoarded at the top. In such settings, most people are excluded from the economic and political benefits that promote growth and innovation. As a result, inequality grows, social mobility diminishes, and opportunities for broader development are stifled.

increasingly vocal about the negligence, corruption, and lack of accountability in the transport sector. Similarly, during the 2018 and 2024 quota reform protests, students successfully pressured the government to reform the civil service recruitment system, reducing job quotas reserved in favour of certain groups. These quotas, which disproportionately benefited certain families and politically connected individuals, were seen as barriers to merit-based recruitment and career advancement. The quota reform movements were a small but meaningful step towards a more inclusive system that aims to level the playing field for all citizens, regardless of their background.

Bangladesh's student movements are more than just isolated incidents of unrest—they symbolise a broader, structural challenge to the extractive institutions that dominate the political and economic landscape. If student movements continue to push for reforms addressing employment opportunities, social

of the country. Inclusive institutions tend to foster economic growth, innovation, and political stability by allowing broader participation in decision-making and ensuring that opportunities are available to all citizens. For Bangladesh, which continues to grapple with high levels of inequality, corruption and governance challenges, the student movements represent a beacon of hope for more inclusive, equitable development.

By challenging the status quo—whether in economics, education, governance, or public safety—students in Bangladesh are confronting the extractive nature of the system. If these movements garner broader support and align with other social forces, they could lead to reforms that make institutions more transparent and accountable. This mirrors the broader theoretical process in which social mobilisation, crises, elite conflict, and external pressures contribute to the transformation from extractive to inclusive institutions.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

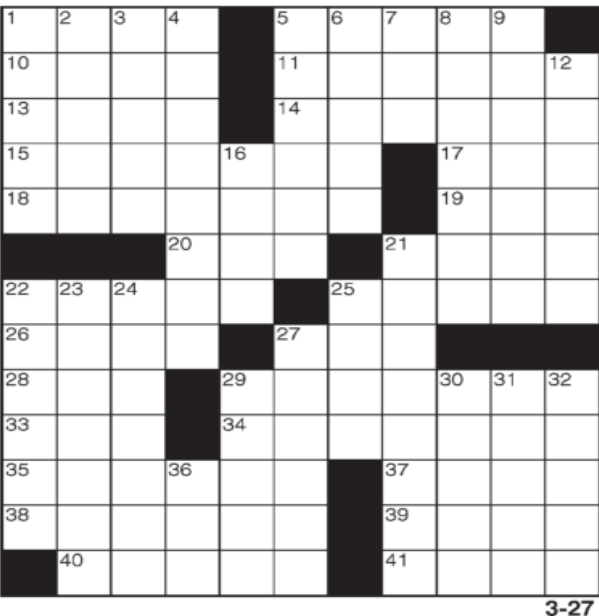
ACROSS

- 1 Highway exit
- 5 Old poets
- 10 On the ocean
- 11 Ark's landing site
- 13 Relaxing resorts
- 14 Prof's protection
- 15 Emotional strain
- 17 Hosp. workers
- 18 Dish, perhaps
- 19 Cambridge sch.
- 20 Distress signal
- 21 Painter Magritte
- 22 Take, as advice
- 25 More tender
- 26 Murder
- 27 Computer heart, for short

DOWN

- 1 Dreadlocks wearer
- 2 Rockies resort
- 3 Intended
- 4 Forwards
- 5 Conductors' needs


- 6 Sports spot
- 7 Sprinted
- 8 Ringo, for one
- 9 Fish in a can
- 12 Fragrance counter bottle
- 16 Privy to
- 21 Brings together
- 22 Augments
- 23 Slow pots
- 24 Ship in 1912 headlines
- 25 Whirl
- 27 Bureaus
- 29 Brief job
- 30 Make blank
- 31 Metal fastener
- 32 Luges
- 36 "The Matrix" hero



FRIDAY'S ANSWERS



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Logistics Branch, Quartering & Ordnance Directorate, Dhaka

Reference No. 44.02.1205.010.03.251.24/77/Q

Dated: 17 November 2024

e-Tender Notice (Open Tendering Method)

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


Package No.	Name of work	Tender ID
3253102/2024-25/Q/78	CAPS WATER PROOF (2ND)	1031923

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

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

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

4. The Tender Notice will be available on the website: www.bgb.gov.bd



Samiul Abad Khan
Director
For Director General

GD-972

BREAKING BARRIERS

The Journey of British-Bengali Women in Higher Education

For many young women, university life fostered intellectual and political engagement, and a heightened awareness of social and racial justice issues, which contributed to re-evaluating their Bengali heritage.

BERENICE SCANDONE

In recent years, British-Bengali women have made significant strides in higher education, challenging stereotypes and overcoming systemic barriers. Drawing on in-depth interviews, this article delves into their journey, highlighting the challenges and achievements of these young women as they navigate their way through university and beyond.

The Bangladeshi diaspora is one of the largest, spanning across various countries including the UK, the US, Canada, Australia and Italy. In the UK, the Bangladeshi community has grown considerably since the mid-20th century. According to the 2021 Census, there were 652,535 residents of Bangladeshi origins, accounting for around 1% of the total population. Most live in the once-industrial London's East End and North England cities of Birmingham, Oldham, Luton and Bradford, where Bangladeshi immigrants hailing mainly from Sylhet, Chittagong and Comilla found employment in the second post-war period. The 1970s textile industry collapse left many unemployed while others turned to the restaurant trade, with 'Indian' restaurants becoming a staple by the early 2000s. Despite facing high levels of income poverty and employment challenges, this community has shown remarkable resilience and has made notable advancements in education and employment.

Over the past three decades, the school achievement of pupils of Bangladeshi background has surpassed that of white British pupils and the number of those accessing university has increased at higher



Bangladeshi children in East London, 1986

family placed on education and how this shaped their upbringing.

"[My parents] have always been into education. Even when we were younger, they always encouraged us to work even at home, do extra work and stuff like that. So, I think [university] was just one of those things we were going to go into anyway." (Fauzia, BSc

university as part of a broader family project for social mobility, drawing on intergenerational experiences and aspirations to achieve better prospects despite significant challenges. Shay's picture representing what it meant for her to be Bengali (Figure 1) illustrates this shared perspective. This picture portrays the Bangladeshi market in

women's experiences reveal how these norms are evolving. Older relatives play a pivotal role in setting educational trends, making what was once exceptional now common and valued. Beyond family, social networks like teachers, education practitioners, and friends significantly influence educational aspirations by providing information and motivation. For those who are the first in their families to study at university, this support system is especially vital.

Despite high aspirations, British-Bengali women often face significant challenges in higher education and beyond. They are less likely to attend prestigious universities and more likely to drop out than their white British peers. Even when they graduate, they often find themselves in jobs that do not match their qualifications. Participants from working-class families highlighted the additional challenges they faced compared to other students in accessing learning resources like course materials and private tuition. The lack of teaching staff of minority ethnic origins within universities also affected these women's experiences, by influencing the ideas and discourses that students

finding innovative ways to balance professional ambitions with personal responsibilities.

Educational institutions are also pivotal to these women's experiences. Schools and universities that provide supportive environments and foster inclusivity can make a significant difference in their academic and personal development.

For many young women, university life fostered intellectual and political engagement, and a heightened awareness of social and racial justice issues, which contributed to re-evaluating their Bengali heritage. Kanta exemplifies this shift, saying: "Now, when I get more involved in social activism and issues of social justice, I always remember the colonial parts of Bangladesh. And when I remember it, I feel like that's something I can't let go of and I have to keep hold of that part of my identity."

This process of re-evaluating their Bengali origins was common among the women interviewed, supported by the accumulation of social and cultural resources and increased reflexivity through higher education. Sadia's experience and the picture representing what it meant for her to be Bengali (Figure 2) illustrate this journey.

"When I was young, I used to really like [henna] and I'd always want to wear it, then during my teenage years I was kind of embarrassed by it, and now again I really like putting it on, and I think that also reflects my attitude towards the Bengali culture... I really want to re-claim my culture. I think just learning about it in terms of society that we're in, just reading... you have all these people of colour embracing their culture, and it's more liberating when you own it."

Jamila's narrative underscores the importance of peer networks and engagement with other British-Bengali students in promoting interest in one's cultural background. Her involvement in the university's Bangladeshi Society deepened her appreciation for her heritage, leading her to visit Bangladesh after ten years. She explained: "Only recently I've started learning more about Bangladeshi history, its culture, and accepting that I'm Bangladeshi and being proud about it". About the picture representing what it meant for her to be Bengali (Figure 3), she said: "That picture for me represents sort of home in a sense, and not forgetting our ties with it".

These women's narratives evidence how, for young people of minority ethnic origins, university environments can foster a sense of



Figure 1



Figure 3

rates than for those of white British background. While educational attainment has improved, British-Bengali women continue to face unique challenges. Despite high aspirations, they often encounter barriers in higher education and the job market. These include higher university dropout rates, and difficulties securing high-paying jobs even with comparable qualifications to their peers. Common misconceptions attribute these challenges to cultural and religious norms, but the reality is far more complex. In-depth interviews with 21 British-Bengali women attending universities in London reveal a diverse range of experiences. These young women, aged 18-24, spoke about their aspirations, challenges, and the interplay of class, ethnicity, and gender in shaping their journeys.

For these women, attending university was a natural and expected part of life, regardless of their parents' educational and professional backgrounds. Their families and communities also shared and supported this expectation. Chandi, who pursued a BSc in Economics, said for example: "I always thought I would go to university. It's one of the norms of our culture". Echoing this sentiment, Farhan, who studied BA Sociology, explained: "My decision to go to university, it was just kind of a rule... Because education is seen as a very big thing in my family."

Even those who were the first in their family to attend university emphasized the high value that their

Mathematics)

Despite facing challenges from their minority ethnic background and, for some, their working-class origins, these women saw higher education as key to their personal growth and professional career, a belief that was rooted in their parents' struggles and sacrifices during migration and settlement. In this shared narrative, the value of education is linked to overcoming the difficulties their parents faced and seizing new opportunities. Sultana, studying BA Youth Studies, highlighted her mother's desire for her to take advantage of the educational prospects that her mother lacked due to racial and gender barriers. Kanta and Shirina reflected on their parents' migration hardships, stressing a sense of duty to succeed academically as a tribute to their parents' perseverance.

Experiences of racism and discrimination in the labour market further underscore the necessity of higher qualifications for Bangladeshi women to compete with their white British counterparts. Flora, whose father was a UK-trained doctor, shared that his experiences of racism motivated her to excel academically. Similarly, Sadia and Zainab discussed their ambitions to challenge the white, male, middle-class dominance of certain academic and employment fields by increasing the presence of women of minority ethnic, working-class background.

These narratives highlight a collective determination to pursue

Whitechapel, in London's East End, and includes in the back the buildings of 'the City', the financial district of London. Shay explained that this symbolises the drive for upward mobility of those of Bangladeshi origins:

"I had to get the big buildings in the back, so the Gherkin and the Shard. Because obviously we are from a poor background, we are not really privileged, but we can work our way up to the top. We can work, we are determined, and we always want to be at the top ... Because in our background Bengalis don't really have that opportunity to get a degree and to get a good career, so coming over here to the UK where you have the opportunity to get a degree, they want to take full advantage of it." (Shay, BSc Pharmaceutical Chemistry)

Family support plays a crucial role in British-Bengali women's educational journey. Many parents, despite having limited educational qualifications, are determined to provide their children with better opportunities. Participants emphasised their parents' emotional and time commitment, and their investment of even very limited financial resources to support their children's education. While those of working-class origins faced additional hurdles, such as financial constraints and limited guidance, they stressed the efforts that their parents made.

"My parents were first generation immigrants, so they barely knew English themselves... But I still remember when it came to homework my dad would hover behind me... they would try and help me as much as they can. They used to put us in after school club... And my brother, when he was struggling, my mum got a Maths tutor... My parents spent their wage." (Sadia, BA Geography)

While higher education is increasingly seen as a norm in the Bangladeshi community, these



Figure 2

encountered.

Differential access to resources and perceptions of fit shaped these young women's career aspirations, expectations and pathways, often along lines of class, race, and gender. Known routes and the experiences of similar individuals—by gender, class, race, ethnicity, and religion—made certain pathways more visible and feasible. Schools and universities played a crucial role by providing access to information, contacts, and experience essential for actualizing these aspirations. Yet, anticipating discrimination based on gender, class or ethnicity could deter these women from certain types of job.

Notwithstanding these challenges, the women I spoke with demonstrated resilience and adaptability. They negotiated their identities and aspirations within the framework of their cultural and familial expectations, often

pride and connection through social and intellectual engagement.

The achievements of British-Bengali women in higher education are a testament to their determination and resilience. However, there is still much work to be done to address the structural inequities that hinder their full potential. Policy makers, educational institutions, and communities must work together to create an environment where these young women can thrive. The journey of British-Bengali women in higher education is a powerful narrative of aspiration, resilience, and transformation. By understanding and addressing the unique challenges they face, we can pave the way for more inclusive and equitable societies.

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Sports Adviser’s mild wake-up call for Faruque and Co

ASHEFAQ-UL-ALAM

Yesterday, the most important figure in the country’s sports administration at the moment, youth and sports Adviser Asif Mahmud, openly spoke about the ‘haphazard’ manner in which the top brass of the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), headed by president Faruque Ahmed, is running its operation – a scenario that was technically impossible even a few months back.

“It’s true that it [BCB] is running in a haphazard way because many directors are not present,” Asif told the media in a press conference held at the secretariat yesterday, where he spoke about the many activities and achievements of the youth and sports ministry in the first 100 days of the interim government.

This scenario – the honcho of the sports ministry taking indirect jabs at the BCB top brass – was impossible before August 5, when the student-led people’s movement led to the fall of the Awami League government, as till then the top post of the sports ministry and the BCB was held by the same man – Nazmul Hassan Papon.

The former Awami League lawmaker Papon went into hiding after the change in government and his 12-year tenure as BCB president ended unceremoniously on August 21, with the National Sports Council (NSC) nominated director and former Bangladesh captain Faruque taking his place.

Faruque took charge of a BCB that was practically at a standstill with many



directors in hiding and rest unsure about what the future held for them.

It has been almost three months since then and although the board is accomplishing its routine work, the BCB overall still feels stagnant. The Faruque-led committee is yet to form any standing committees which has severely impacted the internal operations of the board.

There are currently only 12 board directors active in the BCB as on October 30, the board accepted the resignation of three directors and cancelled the directorship of 11, including Papon’s.

With no standing committees in place, the role of the board directors

seems unclear at the moment and Faruque, as board president, has become the impromptu leading figure in every department, which Asif pointed out as an issue.

“New directors have to be added following the constitution of the BCB. We face many challenges in doing that. The reformation work of sports bodies is still ongoing. After it’s completed, we can appoint new directors in a systematic manner. The matter of distributing departments of the BCB is still there. By doing so, we can further mobilise BCB’s activities,” the Adviser said.

Aside from that, Faruque is yet to

lay out a long-term plan for the board – keeping things running rudderless in the different sectors, including women’s cricket, age-level, and regional cricket.

Other than Faruque, the only other BCB director who has been a prominent presence in recent months is his fellow NSC-nominated director Nazmul Abedeen Fahim, who, on October 30, was named the convener of the BCB constitution amendment committee, which has not had any visible activity since.

Faruque’s most publicised activity since assuming control has been the removal of Chandika Hathurusingha from the position of Bangladesh head coach.

But the manner in which he showed Hathurusingha the door – suspending and sending him a show-cause notice for a disciplinary incident in last year’s World Cup without once speaking with the coach – felt less like an executive decision and more like an act of personal vendetta.

On October 30, before the third board meeting in his tenure, when reporters asked Faruque about the many issues of the board, he was almost dismissive and accused the media of being impatient, saying, “Yes, there are agendas [to be discussed in the board meeting], but the way you are asking, it’s as if five-six months have gone by.”

But now, it seems that it’s not just the media that is losing its patience, especially now that even the Sports Adviser addressed the fixer-upper that is BCB.

Changes aplenty for Portugal in Croatia trip

AGENCIES

With already a spot in the Nations League quarters confirmed, Portugal are set to make a host of changes on Monday when they visit Croatia, who still need a single point to be absolutely certain of their place in the knockout stages.

Portugal, who top the table with 13 points from four wins in five games, are on a high after dismantling Poland 5-1 in Porto in their previous group game. The game saw skipper Cristiano Ronaldo rewrite the history books even at the age of 39 – scoring a stunning overhead kick for his 910th career goal and also surpassing Sergio Ramos to become the player with the most international wins (132).

Coach Roberto Martinez has allowed a few of his stars in Ronaldo, Bernardo Silva, Pedro Neto, and Bruno Fernandes – who is suspended for Monday’s game anyway – to head back to their clubs early.

Sure to make an abundance of changes for Monday’s game, the Portugal boss could introduce the likes of Joao Felix, Joao Cancelo, and Vitinha into the Portugal XI.

Swiss face Spanish test

Meanwhile, Spain, already in the quarters, will be welcoming a struggling Switzerland in their final League A Group 4 game on Monday.

Group leaders Spain will provide a stern test to a Swiss side who are already relegated to League B.

Spain have scored 10 times and conceded just twice in their five matches in the section, winning each of their last four matches.

On the other hand, Switzerland have only ever beaten Spain on two occasions – a famous 1-0 victory in the 2010 World Cup and a win over La Roja in the 2022-23 UEFA Nations League.



Martin wins first MotoGP world title

AFP, Barcelona



Spanish rider Jorge Martin claimed his first MotoGP world championship title after finishing third in the season-ending Barcelona GP on Sunday.

Defending two-time champion Francesco Bagnaia, who started the race 19 points behind Martin, took the chequered flag for the 11th time this season but it was not enough to wrest the title from the Spaniard.

“It sounds amazing,” said an emotional Martin after being addressed as a world champion for the first time.

“I don’t know what to say, I am completely shocked.

“This is for my people, for my family, for the people who are supporting me. I started crying at the end, it was a very emotional race. I hope we can keep improving and enjoy the moment.”

Martin, who will be leaving his Ducati satellite team Pramac for Aprilia next season, had made himself the favourite for the title with a remarkably consistent season.

He had only won three grand prix all season, but his third-place on Sunday was the 32nd time this season across the 40 sprints and grand prix that he made the podium.

After finishing third in Saturday’s sprint he knew he had only to finish in the top nine to secure the title.

Don’t see improvement under Cabrera, says Alfaz

ANISUR RAHMAN

With a month and a half left to Javier Cabrera’s extended contract, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) is yet to take any decision whether to extend with the Spaniard or look for a replacement.

The national team management committee, headed by BFF president Tabith Awal, will analyse his performance over the last three years before taking a final decision but Mohammedan coach Alfaz Ahmed feels Cabrera has failed to turn Bangladesh into a team during his tenure.

“To be honest, he could not make Bangladesh a team, something George Kottan did during his two-year stint. That is why Bangladesh had emerged SAFF champions and then finished second in the following edition under Kottan,” Alfaz told The Daily Star.

“Can you show me a new player Cabrera brought that can represent Bangladesh in next four to five years? He could not find a striker to solve the goal-scoring problem of Bangladesh,” the former national striker said, further asking whether there was any



PHOTO: STAR

problem in fielding a good striker from the Bangladesh Championship League.

Former coach Jamie Day was dismissed due to deteriorating performances of the team, which was reflected in downward movement in FIFA ranking. The Bangladesh Football Federation and its former president Kazi Salahuddin had appointed Cabrera with a target of making progress in ranking through

improved performances on the pitch.

However, Cabrera could improve barely improve the team’s rankings in three years as his team won only eight out of 29 matches during this period, drawing six and losing 15 matches. The figures are quite similar to those under Day, who had helped Bangladesh win nine matches, draw five and lose 15 in 29 matches.

When Cabrera took responsibility,

Bangladesh’s FIFA ranking was 186 and it fell further to 192 in December, 2022. The Spaniard saw a bit of improvement as the team climbed to 184th at the end of the following year. The men in red and green moved up a place in February this year 2024 before slipping back to 185 in November.

Alfaz said that there is still no replacement for veteran defender Tapu Barman or midfielder Sohel Rana.

“It’s acceptable if you don’t get results initially but there must be signs of improvement. But unfortunately I did not see any such signs and still don’t see Bangladesh improving in the future under his guidance,” added Alfaz.

Alfaz also criticised the ambiguity of the Spaniard’s game plan during the last match against Maldives where he could not exploit his speedy wingers in absence of genuine striker.

Whether BFF retains Cabrera or not, the game’s local governing body must think about grooming technically and tactically sound players from grassroots level, instead of giving emphasis on the senior team if it really wants the team to climb up in ranking.

Seven-star Germans’ ‘good fun’

AGENCIES

Germany dismantled visitors Bosnia and Herzegovina 7-0 – the heaviest in the six-year history of the Nations League – on Saturday with two goals apiece from Florian Wirtz and Tim Kleindienst to secure top spot in their Nations League group A3 with a game to spare.

The Germans, who had already qualified for next year’s quarter-finals of the competition, are on 13 points with Netherlands in second place on eight, and are eager to re-establish themselves as an international force ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

“It was good fun tonight. After a couple of goals, we did the work defensively and then everything came together offensively. The more that happens, the more fun we have on the pitch,” German attacker Jamal Musiala told UEFA’s website.

Musiala opened the floodgates after two minutes with a header before Kleindienst scored his first goal for Germany in the 23rd minute and Kai Havertz made the game safe eight minutes before the break, slotting home after a slick one-two with Florian Wirtz.



Wirtz then made it four on 50 minutes with a sublime swerving free-kick from wide on the left, before doubling up seven minutes later.

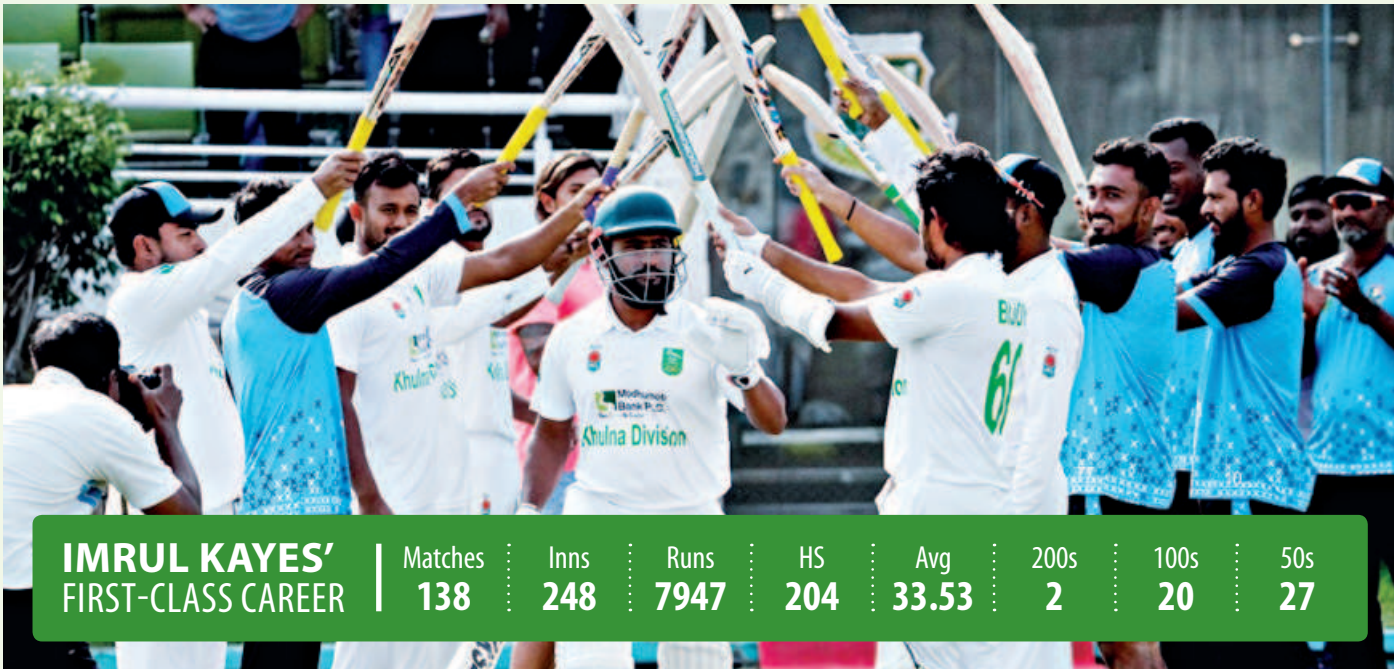
Substitute Leroy Sane scored Germany’s sixth in the 66th minute and Kleindienst completed the rout just over 10 minutes from time..

Meanwhile, Netherlands outclassed Hungary with a 4-0 victory in their winner-takes-all encounter. Netherlands and Hungary went into the match tied on five points each and with the winner set to join Germany in ensuring their progress from Group A3 to the quarterfinals.

First-half penalties by Wout Weghorst and Cody Gakpo sent the Oranje on their way, before Denzel Dumfries and Teun

Koopmeiners made the game safe in the second period. The match at the Johan Cruyff Arena was briefly interrupted in the seventh minute following a medical emergency on the Hungarian bench as assistant coach Adam Szalai received treatment after fainting. Szalai, 36, was stretchered off and the Hungarian FA later released a statement saying he was “conscious” and in a “stable condition” at an Amsterdam hospital.

END OF IMRUL’S RED-BALL CAREER



IMRUL KAYES’ FIRST-CLASS CAREER

Matches	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	200s	100s	50s
138	248	7947	204	33.53	2	20	27

PHOTO: BCB

A very familiar figure in Bangladesh’s cricket, Imrul Kayes played his final red-ball game yesterday, ending a 17-year-long career. The swansong of Kayes, once a regular face even in the national team, did not go as well as he would have expected. The Khulna Division batter lasted only two deliveries, scoring just a solitary run in his final innings on Day 2 of a fifth-round National Cricket League (NCL) game against Dhaka Division at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. He scored 16 in the first innings of the game.

Imrul also made his first-class debut against Dhaka Division in an NCL game back in 2007.

Imrul scored his maiden first-class double ton in 2014 when he made 204 for South Zone against North Zone in a Bangladesh Cricket League game.

His second came five years later when he scored an unbeaten 202 for Khulna Division in an NCL game against Rangpur Division.

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Deadline for tax return submission extended to Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for individual taxpayers to file their tax returns has been extended by a month by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The previous deadline was November 30. In a notice issued yesterday, the tax administration said it would continue to accept personal income tax returns until December 31.

The time has been extended due to demands from various professional bodies, the NBR said in the press release.

Individual taxpayers can also submit their income and wealth statements both online and in person without being subject to any fines.

The release added that the NBR was taking measures to encourage taxpayers to file returns online, adding that 3.75 lakh taxpayers had filed their returns electronically so far.

Earlier, the NBR made the online filing of tax returns mandatory for government officials under tax zones of the Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur city corporations.

It also asked all bankers and officials of mobile network operators to file returns electronically for the current assessment year.



A massive fire burnt 37 business establishments to ashes in the Akmal Ali Ghat area of Chattogram city. Firefighters said the blaze originated from a mosquito coil at a shop where fishing nets were kept and it spread to other establishments. The fire, which broke out around midnight, was still smouldering when the photo was taken around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Women key to Bangladesh's economic progress

Says US envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Chargé d' Affaires at the US Embassy in Dhaka Megan Bouldin yesterday said women have a critical role to play in Bangladesh's economic development.

She congratulated the remarkable women who completed the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) programme this year.

"You are paving the way for future generations of women entrepreneurs and proving that women have a critical role to play in Bangladesh's economic development," said Bouldin.

The US Embassy, Dhaka, in partnership with BRAC University's Centre for Entrepreneurship Development (CED), celebrated 90 aspiring women entrepreneurs on their completion of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) program at the university's campus in Badda on Sunday.

"The AWE programme is not just about entrepreneurship—it's about SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

HSIA THIRD TERMINAL

Biman to be sole ground handling service provider

Stakeholders worry about service quality, cite poor record, question capability

RASHIDUL HASAN

As Biman is set to take charge of ground handling for the third terminal at Dhaka airport for two years, stakeholders are raising concerns about its ability to manage such a large terminal.

Director (investment promotion) of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority of the Office of the Chief Adviser recently issued a letter announcing the decision to award Biman the job.

The ground handling job involves passenger boarding, baggage handling, cargo handling, and all types of aircraft services. Biman is currently providing ground handling services to around 40 foreign carriers at the airport.

Given the track record of Biman, and criticism by carriers and passengers alike over poor service at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, a monopoly over ground handling operations at the new terminal will not ensure quality service, aviation experts said.

They said Biman is struggling to run Terminal-1 and -2 of HSIA and does not have the necessary and trained manpower to operate the third terminal.

Biman should not be entrusted with the ground handling work as a single entity, they said.

The ousted Awami League government in 2023 had decided in principle to operate and maintain the third terminal by a Japanese consortium under a public-private partnership.

The PPP authority in its letter said if Biman failed to meet expectations in the two years, then a reputed foreign company should be given the responsibility of ground handling as a second company.

Former chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) Md Mofidur Rahman told The Daily Star that everyone wants the quality of ground handling services at the third terminal to be world-class, satisfying carriers and passengers.

"The airlines operating at the Dhaka airport are not happy with the way the ground handling services are being provided at Terminal-1 and Terminal-2, and they raised their dissatisfaction at different forums," he said.

He said in a survey conducted by the HSIA authority, 93 airlines opined for keeping multiple ground handling service providers at the third terminal, paving the way for competition and better services.

"We have failed to meet the passengers' SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Biden allows Kyiv to use long-range US missiles

REUTERS, Washington

President Joe Biden's administration has authorised Ukraine to use long-range American missiles to strike deep into Russia, two US officials and a source familiar with the decision said yesterday, in a significant reversal of Washington's policy in the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Ukraine plans to conduct its first long-range attacks in the coming days, the sources said, without revealing details due to operational security concerns.

The move comes two months before President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20 and follows months of pleas by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to allow Ukraine's military to use U.S. weapons to hit Russian military targets far from its border.

The change comes largely in response to Russia's deployment of North Korean ground troops to supplement its own forces, a development that has caused alarm in Washington and Kyiv, a US official and a source familiar with the decision said.

The White House and the State Department declined to comment. The Ukrainian foreign ministry and president's office did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Russia has warned that it would see a move to loosen the limits on Ukraine's use of US weapons as a major escalation.

Ukraine's first deep strikes are likely SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Dozens killed, hurt in Israeli strikes

Say Gaza medics; residential building, refugee camps targeted in attacks

AGENCIES

Dozens of Palestinians were killed or injured in an Israeli strike on a multi-storey residential building in northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya yesterday, medics told Reuters.

There was no immediate figure for how many people were killed. The Palestinian Civil Emergency said around 70 people have lived in the property.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office put the number of those killed at 72, saying the strike hit a residential building that housed members of six families.

The Israeli military said several strikes were conducted overnight on "terrorist targets" in Beit Lahiya with everything possible done to avoid civilian harm.

"All information released by the Hamas-run Ministry of Health should be treated with caution, as it has been repeatedly proven unreliable in previous incidents," it said.

The Israeli army sent tanks into Beit Lahiya and the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Jabalia, the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight historic

refugee camps, last month in what it said was a campaign to fight Hamas waging attacks and prevent them from regrouping.

Earlier yesterday, an Israeli air strike killed at least 10 people in the Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip, when a missile hit a house, medics said. Four other people were killed in the nearby Nuseirat camp, they added.

The Gaza health ministry said at least 43,846 people have been confirmed dead since October 7, 2023, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, three suspects were arrested, Israeli police said yesterday morning, after two flares landed near Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's residence in the central town of Caesarea.

The speaker of Israel's parliament, Amir Ohana, accused anti-government protesters of being behind the incident, reports AFP.

The Israeli military issued call-up notices to more members of the ultra-Orthodox community yesterday to bolster its forces as it fights on its southern and northern borders, a move that may further inflame tensions between religious and secular Israelis.

» Suspects arrested after flares shot targetting Netanyahu's home

» Israel sends draft orders to more ultra-Orthodox

» Death toll in Gaza rises to 43,846

BJP wants Manipur to burn

Says Congress as mob tries to storm state CM's home amid rising violence

AGENCIES

As fresh violence erupted in the Indian state of Manipur, the Congress renewed its attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of "deliberately" keeping Manipur burning.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, in a long post on X said, Manipur, since May 2023 has undergone "unimaginable pain", "division and simmering violence" which has destroyed the future of its people.

"We are saying it with utmost responsibility that it looks that the BJP deliberately wants Manipur to burn, for it serves its SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



The bodies of Palestinians, killed in an Israeli strike, are put into the boot of a car and brought to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital for funeral in Deir Al-Balah in the Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Volcanoes erupted billions of years ago on dark side of moon

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

For decades, scientists have been puzzled by the geological makeup of the far side of the moon, the mysterious hemisphere that faces away from Earth. But now, a breakthrough has shed light on this unexplored region.

US and Chinese researchers have discovered that supervolcanoes erupted billions of years ago on the far side, similar to those on the near side, creating massive craters in the moon's surface.

The ground-breaking findings came from 2kg of lunar rocks and soil collected by China's Chang'e-6 mission—the first spacecraft in history to successfully land and launch from the far side, an area whose geology differs dramatically from the hemisphere visible from Earth.

Two independent teams of scientists identified volcanic rock fragments that are approximately 2.8 billion years old. One fragment, however, is even older, dating back to about 4.2 billion years.

This discovery provides further evidence that the Moon's volcanic activity was not limited to the side we see from Earth.

